

The following Message was adopted, and sent, by the Clerk of the Council, to the General Assembly, viz.

Executive Department

Baltimore January, 1828.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Delegates,

The usual period has again arrived when, by the provisions of our Constitution, the representatives of a free people, selected for their wisdom and integrity, and convened for the purpose of consulting together for the general good of the State, and coming as you do from every part of it, necessarily bring with you a perfect knowledge of the wants and wishes of our common constituents.

That the unavailing distraction which you have received is well merited, and that the confidence of the people will be fully renewed by the wisdom of your measures, we feel the most satisfactory anticipations, and if by an entire co-operation on our part, which we cordially tender you in the public welfare, shall be promoted, and the business of the Session facilitated, it will afford us the highest satisfaction.

The subjects referred to the Executive by the last General Assembly, were but few, and of minor importance, and they have all been attended to.

The weights and measures, directed by an act of December 1825, to be procured, have all been obtained, and delivered in the course of the past Summer to the respective Levy Courts of the several Counties. They appear to have been well made of the best materials, and may be considered correct standards.

We submit, herewith, the Annual report of the Directors of the Penitentiary, which shows that the concerns of that institution have been well conducted.

The additional building authorized to be erected, and which is designed to provide cells for solitary confinement, from which the happiest results are anticipated in the reformation of criminals, is not yet completed. Under the present discipline, (and the building) amounts of no other arrangement, the Penitentiary may be considered a school for vice, where the depravity of some more conspicuous in crime than the rest is freely communicated and impressed upon the minds of those less wicked. Every effort should be made to perfect the Penitentiary System.

Its institutions forming a new era in the criminal jurisprudence of our State, and find its superior humanity and benevolence over the former code, has a natural connection with our republican institutions, every feature of which is at variance with the cruelty of unnecessary sanguinary punishments.

It affords us the highest satisfaction to inform you that the subject of internal improvement, so interesting to the Citizens of this State, begins, at last, to assume a shape that promises speedy beneficial results. The intelligent and enterprising individuals, having the direction of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, aided by the United States Topographical Engineers, promptly furnished them, at their request, by the Government at Washington, have so far completed the examination of the ground between the City of Baltimore and the Ohio River, as to ascertain the practicability of the undertaking, and enable the President of the Company to advertise for materials preparatory to commencing this important work early the next season.

By the provisions of the act of incorporation the State has reserved to itself the right to subscribe for stock to the amount of one Million of dollars, and upon so subscribing to appoint four directors to assist in the management