

only secure reliance of a free people for protection against an insurrection or
aggression is upon the Militia — upon themselves. What regulations are to be
binding upon the Militia, unless they be constantly kept up, in a certain degree of
order and discipline; it presents I cannot be said to have within — how soon we may
have occasion for both, none can tell.

It is not, perhaps, attainable, nor does it appear to be essential that the
whole body of the Militia should be drilled, or even detailed, instructed in the duties
of the Camp or of the Field, but it appears to me that a system might be devised
which, by providing effectually for the enrollment of all the citizens subject to
Militia duty, and for the exercise and instruction of the commissioned Officers,
in Camp and Field duty, would insure to us all the essential benefits of a
well organized Militia, without in the least encroaching upon the time or
convenience of the great body of the people or exacting of the commissioned Officers
any sacrifice which their patriotism would not be forward in making for
so desirable an object.

The State of our Affairs will be made known to you
by the Pacquet of the Western Shore, in the performance of the duties
devolved upon him by the General Assembly. That excellent and
valuable public servant will lay before you a particular and
detailed report upon this subject, from which you will learn all
material facts in relation thereto, and by which you will be enabled
to judge more correctly than from any suggestions of ours, of the nature
and extent of the public exigencies and resources. A prudent economy
in all our expenditures, is so obviously proper as to need no recommendation
from us.

There is no subject upon the mention of which the patriot
will more freely expand, or upon which the enlightened republican
man more delights to dwell, than the Education of the rising generation.
Upon them, and upon their wisdom and virtue, shall greatly depend
the liberty, prosperity, and happiness of thousands unborn. They are destined
to fill the places of each, and all of us; they are to be the heirs of all our
possessions; the first objects of our affections: let them be also the first as
well as last objects of our bounty.

In vain do we boast of a Government of equal Liberty if a
portion of our fellow citizens be incapable of appreciating its advantages.
do we talk of equality, while the light of Science the yet beams upon
few only of our Citizens. In vain do we calculate upon the perpetuation
of a free and happy form of Government if those who come to us
unlettered to learn from the instructive page of history its
comparative advantages. The strength, prosperity, and general
of all Republics, emphatically depend upon the virtue and industry
of the great body of the people; and in a Government so purely
as ours, where it is not only their right but their duty
interval to exercise his full and equal share of
would seem to be peculiarly true in this respect.