

In exchanging on the present occasion, the customary duty of submitting to you at the commencement of your Session, such matters of public concern as may seem to demand the consideration of the General Assembly, we cannot refrain in the outset of this communication from congratulating you and the people of the State at large, upon the restoration of peace and quietude within our borders, upon the harmonious and peaceful among our citizens, and upon the praiseworthy desire manifested in every quarter of uniting zealously and with the best spirit for the advancement of the true ^{interests} and welfare of the State.

There is in our opinion no truth more obvious, or scarcely more important to be known and recognized in every well regulated Government, than that the undue prevalence and excitement of the spirit of party, are calculated to disturb the peace of Society, and create permanent and serious evils in the body politic. This salutary lesson is exemplified in the history of all Governments, but is more particularly striking in those whose foundations are based upon Republican principles. If it were necessary to travel beyond the limits of our observation and experience to establish the truth of these remarks, we might show that in the anarchy and consequent destruction of most if not all the free Governments of both ancient and modern times, an inflamed party spirit has been a most prominent and efficient agent. But it is not necessary to do so. In our own times - here - in numerous States, and before our own eyes, have we witnessed the extreme to which the undue indulgence of the spirit of party leads. But happily, in our case the patriotism of the community was aroused to the dangers with which they were threatened, and the issue of the recent occurrences furnishes a practical illustration of the stability of free institutions when supported by a patriotic and intelligent people.

In this connection we would respectfully invite your attention to the Proclamation and Message, which we had the honor to submit to the House of Delegates on the 15th ultimo: Copies of which we have transmitted to the Senate. These documents exhibit the action of the Executive, and the views entertained by us of the further measures necessary and proper to be adopted in relation to the extraordinary occurrences of which they treat. The more we reflect upon this subject, the more strongly are we persuaded that your action concerning it, is a duty of the most weighty and responsible character, and we therefore earnestly hope that you will take into your serious consideration without any unnecessary delay, our election and criminal laws with the view to prevent the recurrence of any similar conduct in all future time.

Among the provisions which will be necessary for you to perform in the passage of such a law as will enable this State to receive its share of the surplus Revenue of the United States. It is possible that these sum which Maryland will be entitled to receive under that