

was dependant for Office. Being now elected by the People, and alone responsible for his official acts, he must expect to bear all the public censure, and personal resentment, which may be incurred in the discharge of his duties. He, therefore, owes it to his own character, to the dignity of his office, and to the People, who have honored him with their confidence, to depend, in some degree, upon his own judgment, in all his official proceedings; and to select to office such men, as he believes to be capable of serving the Public, even if others of inferior qualifications, should have stronger claims upon his friendship, or present a greater number of recommendations.

The most painful duty of the Executive is the negative one of declining to interrupt the course of justice. The power of arresting prosecutions and of pardoning criminals is the more liable to abuse, because it is difficult to resist its exercise, when the life or liberty of a fellow creature is depending upon it; and when it is expected that official errors will be readily excused, if they are supposed to spring from feelings of humanity. The power of pardon is, however, a public trust, intended for extraordinary cases, which could neither be distinctly described nor provided for in any general law. It ought, therefore, to be used in such cases only, and not for the gratification of the person invested with it, or for party purposes, or in opposition to the general policy of the Criminal Law; the object of which is to suppress vice, preserve the public peace, and protect every Citizen from injury and violence. It is my intention to act according to the views now expressed, as far as my power and means of information will enable me to do so; and to perform, faithfully, whatever duties are required of me by the Constitution and the Laws.

I enter upon the discharge of my duties with a deep sense of what I owe to the People of Maryland; with an earnest desire to promote their interests; and with the hope that, at the end of my official term, I shall return to private life without having forfeited their confidence.

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Tuesday, January 8th. 1839.

Gov. A. Chiswell this day addressed a letter to Governor Geason resigning the office of Secretary of State.

Attest

Gov. A. Chiswell