

Annual introducing salutary amendments. But it is time that the power of Legislation should be separated from
Message. The higher power of regulating the principles and boundaries of Government; and that a permanent Constitu-
tion should be formed by a convention of the People.

There are some who think that the people who lived in the
republic in 1776 deposed themselves and all succeeding generations, of the power to alter the present Con-
stitution, or to make another, except in a prescribed form, and through the agency of the General
Assembly. Those, who believe that the people have made no such surrender of power, are never-
theless of opinion, that the most regular mode of calling a convention, is by means of the Consti-
tuted authorities. The call of a convention might be provided for by an amendment of the present
Constitution, which would remove every scruple; and by the same means the State might be sec-
ured from any additional expences. By omitting one session of the Legislature, and having a
convention to sit in its place, nothing would be added to the ordinary expences.

In the discharge of my official duties, very few things have come to my knowledge, that are deserving of
your attention. Various official reports and communications have been received and will
be communicated. The arms hitherto received from the General Government, have generally
been distributed to militia companies as directed by law and special resolutions. The
muskets lately received from the Ordnance Department, have been retained in the treasury
and these are all that are now fit for service. There ought to be always a supply of arms at
the Seat of Government, for sudden emergencies; but if the old system is continued of distri-
buting them as fast as they are received and of receiving in exchange for them such as are not
worth repairing, it will be better to abolish the armories and quit us of the expence.

Last summer Col. Thurston was ordered out with a part of his regiment to suppress a riot among the
labourers on the Chesapeake and the Canal. No charge has been made for the services perform-
ed, but an account will be presented for the expences incurred which cannot be paid by the
Executive without authority of law.

With the exception of the disturbance on the Canal, which
was promptly suppressed, good order has prevailed in every part of the State. During the past
year there has been a considerable abatement of crime; and very few cases have occurred
of violence or outrage, or of the use of pistols, dukes and knives, with which delinquents of the
peace generally arm themselves. The law in relation to fines and imprisonment requires
some modification. A man not able to pay a fine may be kept on perpetual im-
prisonment, unless he is released by the Executive. There ought to be no necessity for such
interference which might be obviated by providing for the release of the offender after a limi-
ted confinement. A man was sentenced by a District Court of Anne Arundel County to be
imprisoned ten days and fined five dollars, for committing an assault and battery. Not
being able to pay the fine, and being a stranger and without friends, he remained in the An-
napolis Jail fifteen months before his case was brought before the Executive.

The Constitu-
tion of Maryland does not make it the duty of the Executive to recommend measures to