

of each State in the Union or such persons as he might appoint a complete set of all the weights and measures adopted as standards and to be used at the several Custom Houses. The resolution of December session 1842 the Legislature of this State authorized and directed the Governor to have distributed to each of the several Counties one Standard of the several kinds of weights and measures to be received from the United States. In compliance with this resolution Wm. H. Alexander with whom this commendable and most desirable measure originated was appointed by me the Agent of this State to receive the Standards from the United States and have copies of them prepared for distribution to the several Counties. The Agent has received from the United States Standards of weight of fifty, twenty five, ten, five and one pound avoirdupois, and one pound troy; of measures of length, the yard, and of measures of capacity a half bushel, one gallon, the half, the fourth, the eighth and the sixteenth of a gallon. The measure of length is nearly completed and will be ready for distribution during the present month. Some time must elapse before the copies of the other measures, and of the weights can be prepared with that accuracy which is required, and will be doubtless attained.

That the proper temperature may be had to make the required experiments on the metals to be used in the construction of the whole series of these Standards two years may be required. That the several States might with more facility and at less expense have made copies of the Standards to be distributed. On the 31st of December session 1837 directed the Secretary of the Treasury to have made under the superintendance of Mr. Hapsler one Standard balance for each State. These balances directed will be distributed in the course of the present month when the weights for this State will be commenced, and without delay finally adjusted.

Judging from the mechanical execution of the measure of length and the extreme accuracy which is sought to be attained in its finish we may anticipate that these copies of the United States Standards for diameters will in all respects be equal to the originals and will receive the assent and the State. From the manner in which the agent has so far executed his trust it gives me pleasure to say that he is in every respect amply qualified to perform the duty for which he has been selected.

A protest has been received from Rhode Island against the interference of Congress with the Internal Government and Constitution of that State. Resolutions have been transmitted from several States concerning slave representation in Congress, the annexation of Texas, the repudiation of the State debts or their assumption by the general Government. These several communications will be submitted to your consideration.

The threat of a dissolution of the Union uttered in several of these proceedings are I know altogether misplaced, if intended to influence your judgments on a great question of public policy. We have many instances in the history of the country where language equally intemperate was used as to measures which are now universally approved of. Such impetuous and undigested proceedings did not