

Annual readily recognized & fully appreciated by you, and the truth of the proposition will not be con-  
Message tentioned that the substitution of biennial for annual sessions of the Legislature will impose  
upon the Executive additional responsibilities, and the necessity of increased vigilance & con-  
labour in enforcing the prompt & general observance of the revenue laws of the State is  
it could (or may) inability) to appreciate the wisdom of that legislation, which increases the res-  
ponsibility & labour of the Executive, and at the same time, takes away the compensations  
heretofore allowed to that officer or Gentlemen, a sense of public duty compels me to speak  
plainly to you upon this subject at the hazard of having attributed to me the disposition to  
overrate the importance, responsibility & labours of the position, which I now occupy & re-  
member that the law under consideration, which destroys the executive compensation, does  
not affect the present incumbent, and bear in mind, that I only desire to refer to the duties of  
the executive office, in view of their bearing upon the public revenue, and I shall be rel-  
ieved from the suspicions of self-interest, and I hope excused for the apparent egotism,  
(necessarily) incident to the consideration of this subject by me.

I will, therefore, Gentlemen, without reserve, invite your consideration of two propos-  
itions, which will embrace all I desire to say upon this important subject. The first is, that the  
collections of the public revenue, and consequently the credit of the State; depends upon the  
efficiency of the Executive, and the second is, that the law of the last session, now under  
consideration, reducing the executive compensation, is not calculated to secure such  
efficiency. In reference to the first of these propositions I need only say, that experience  
has demonstrated the inutility of adequate revenue laws, unenforced by executive  
energy & firmness, and that the restored credit of the State, and her ability to resume  
the payment of her liabilities, are not more attributable to the responsibility assumed  
by the Executive, in recommending, and by the Legislature of 1844 & 1845, in establi-  
shing the present revenue system, than to the constant attention & unceasing efforts of  
the Executive to enforce the execution and general observance of the laws so recom-  
mended and passed. But, gentlemen, I will not trespass on your patience with an  
argument to sustain a position, the truth of which you recognize as fully as I do. You  
know, that if the Executive Department of the Government is placed in inefficient  
hands, the non-payment of the public dues in some portions of the State, will certa-  
inly follow, and you know, that the people of every portion of the State, will be found  
unwilling to submit to the onerous taxation now cheerfully borne by most of them,  
when they find the great object of that taxation unanswered, and their beloved State  
thrown back from the elevated position she now occupies, into the position of  
helpless indigence, from which she has but recently been extricated. In reference  
to the second proposition, a difference of opinion may be entertained, but I cannot  
doubt, that proper reflection will lead you to the almost unanimous affirmance  
of its truth. Under the old constitution, a Governor & five members of the executive  
council, constituted the State Executive, who were elected annually by the Legis-  
lature. The salary of the Governor was \$2,666 <sup>2/3</sup> and of each member of the Council  
\$500, which with the salary of the Clerks to the Council, and that of the Stewards of  
the Governor, made the cost of the Executive Department, under the old constitution  
\$6,916. The Governor & Members of the Council were not required to reside at the  
seat of government, and were permitted to pursue their various business avocations,  
which were scarcely interfered with by the discharge of their executive duties,  
consisting, almost exclusively, in the exercise of the appointing power.