

January 13<sup>th</sup> 1852

The Governor this day, being notified that both houses of the Legislature had organized and were ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make, transmitted to the General Assembly the following Message

Fellow Citizens of the Senate  
and House of Delegates:

After a Legislative interval of two years, you have assembled, to counsel together, for the promotion of the honor and prosperity of the State. That it is a high privilege, you will cordially admit, to represent an ancient Republic, which was illustrious as a Colony, and still more so, as a participant in the trials and glories of the Revolution, which made us free, is, indeed, an honor worthy of any degree of personal eminence. I am satisfied, therefore, that you come to the discharge of your severe duties, with feelings chastened by a full consciousness of your responsibility. Under any circumstances, the meeting of the Legislature would be looked to, by your Constituents, with very great interest. But, this present session must, for many reasons, be viewed by them with extraordinary solicitude and expectation. The People of Maryland have been singularly favored, during the period, which has elapsed, since your predecessors were last convened within this Capitol. The land has teemed with the bountiful gifts of Providence. The People have enjoyed, in full measure, every temporal blessing, which the heart of man can possibly desire. And whilst the Earth has yielded its richest fruits, and all nature has ministered to the material wants of our Citizens, they have lived in perfect peace and fraternity, beneath the shadow of that noble edifice, which our Forefathers reared, as a heritage for the Sons of Freedom, of every land and generation. The contemplation of such happiness, and such a destiny, unexampled in the history of the World, beyond the limits of this Confederacy of States, should lift our hearts in gratitude to that great and Merciful Power, in Whom we live, move, and have our being.

The political condition of the State, also, affords us especial cause for gratulation. A great yet peaceful revolution, the result of a long and bitter contest, has finally been accomplished. To those, who can look back to the exciting agitations of 1836, the present organization of the Body Politic wears a marvellous aspect. Compare the present with the past. Remember the storms, which raged around the brave hearts of the "Glorious Nineteen Electors," and those, who united with them in resolute defiance of old and uncompromising prejudices, - and, now, witness the serene sky, which looks down upon the work of their hands! Call to mind the fierce denunciations, which have so recently given way to cordial approval. See the measures, once denounced as revolutionary, agrarian, and destructive, now quietly going into operation, under the solemn sanction of the new Constitution. What a commentary is not this, to be sure, upon the folly of human extravagance and passion; and what a lesson to those, who, from fear or disinclination, may seek, hereafter, to check the onward march of liberal Institutions. I awaken these memories of the past, not that old wounds may be opened, nor, new ones inflicted; but, on the contrary, that we may all learn wisdom from experience, and store it up for future use. We, certainly, shall have need for all we can gather. In 1851, a new Constitution is adopted, by a popular majority of ten thousand, providing, as it does, for reforms, in every department of the Government, far more radical and extensive