

to do so, is not within our province to determine. The uncertainty renders it prudent to be prepared for the worst, and notwithstanding the defence of the Union is wisely by the Constitution entrusted to the general Government, yet no one can deny the propriety and importance at all times of a sincere and vigorous co-operation.

We are taught by the Constitution to rely on the militia for our general defence. on sudden emergencies, it is certainly our only resource; It is therefore at all times important, but especially now, to place it on the most respectable footing. My duty for the last twelve months has called me in conjunction with the Council, often to deliberate on this subject, it would be criminal in this crisis of our public affairs to withhold from the Legislature its derangements and imbecility.

In various parts of the State indeed a spirit of patriotism has displayed itself, and the zeal and intelligence of the officers have surmounted the defects of the system; but such temporary effects are not to be relied on. The safety of a community ought not to depend upon the voluntary effusions of a few patriotic men. The law must govern and invigorate the whole. To answer this important and necessary purpose, it is indispensable that it be revised in all its parts, and ample powers given to produce order discipline and obedience.

All men are now satisfied of the propriety of putting the country in a complete state of defence, and in case of actual war, or a remote expectation of it, it would be unbecoming the wisdom of the Legislature to trust the peace and safety of the country on the present weak