

States. These communications from our sister States will doubtless attract the attention to which they are entitled. We transmit also a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, requesting the passage of a law by the Legislature of Maryland authorizing the erection of Toll Gates on the Western Road leading across the Mountains.

Since the adjournment of the General Assembly the office of Register of Wills for Frederick county became vacant by the death of Richard Butler Esquire. Henry Steiner Esquire was appointed by the Executive to supply the vacancy until the meeting of the General Assembly. The death of William H. Nicholson Esquire having created a vacancy in the same office in Annes Arundel County. Thomas C. Carle Esquire was appointed to supply that vacancy.

It has not been found necessary in the course of the last year to negotiate any loan of money for the use of the State. Some correspondence has taken place between this Department and the Government of the United States respecting the Pay of the Militia called into service in the course of the year eighteen hundred and fourteen and the payment of a considerable part of these claims has been assumed by the General Government. It is believed that the claims of the Militia not assumed by the United States have nearly all of them been exhibited and satisfied.

The fortunate termination of the War in which we had been involved relieved us from the execution of the duties imposed by the act of the last Session intitled "an act for the better defence of the State, and to prevent the frequent calls of the Militia," and rendered unnecessary any further expenditures of public money in the purchase of Arms, Camp Equipage and for other for the use of the Militia.

A Bill for the amendment of our Militia System has been published, as directed by the General Assembly. Although a revision and a correction of our Militia laws is not a matter of so much importance as it was at the last Session, yet it is at all times of moment that the Militia should be well disciplined and prepared to repel any invasion of our Territory. In order to maintain peace and preserve its character a nation should be ever prepared for War; and although it be the especial duty of the United States Government to provide for the common defence yet as in any emergency recourse will be had to the Militia it ought to be the care of the State Government to make them an efficient force.