

necessary and expedient. We ought not, perhaps, to extend this address beyond the succinct account before given of our proceedings under the several acts and resolutions of the General Assembly, delegating to us particular duties to be performed during the present year, and the necessary notice of the papers we have transmitted. As, however, the Executive department of a free republic, from the very nature of its official situation, is bound, at all times, to watch over the concerns and interests of the State, over which it presides, with a vigilant and superintending eye, it is hoped, that it will not be deemed officious or intrusive, if we venture to invite the attention of the legislature to a few subjects, which we deem important to the welfare of our political community. On the subject of the foreign relations of the union, of which our State is a member, we shall forbear to offer any remarks. We have the gratifying certainty, that our country is at this time, in the enjoyment of peace with all the world, a blessing which we sincerely pray may long be continued. And if a speck of war is perceived by the over sagacious or the timid, in a particular quarter of the horizon, an event which, although possible, we do not believe to be probable, we have the satisfaction to know that our country is equal to all its trials, and the management of such concerns is in hands, to whose wisdom and fidelity they have been, constitutionally and, we trust, safely, confided. Without stepping therefore, out of our way, in search of subjects, over which we can have no control, it will be enough for this and the other departments of the State government, if ~~within~~ the more limited sphere of interests entrusted to their care, they shall be enabled, by the enactment of wise and wholesome laws, by their prudent and faithful execution, and by the examples of their own lives, to protect every individual of our community in the enjoyment of all his rights, to promote morality and religion, to encourage industry and economy, and thus to increase the sum of general happiness which our citizens now enjoy.

In adverting to the situation of our own State during the year that is past, it is not to be expected, that we should have every thing to rejoice at, and nothing to lament, that every thing should be gay and prosperous, and nothing gloomy or unfortunate. For very abundant crops of two of our principal staples, and one sufficient for our own supply of the other, and for many other bounties which it would be tedious