

Of the great importance of education, and a general diffusion of knowledge in a government constituted like ours, you, gentlemen, are no doubt deeply sensible; "for in a proportion as the structure of a government gives weight to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." Under this impression you will no doubt take special care, as far as our resources are adequate, to foster the interests of science, by cherishing and supporting literary institutions for the cultivation and improvement of the human mind; for under every form of government, the intellectual wealth of a nation is of great and primary importance to the advancement of its happiness, prosperity and welfare.

We congratulate the General Assembly upon the happy posture of our foreign relations, and upon the general union of opinion and harmony of sentiment at home, in relation to the ability, integrity and patriotism with which our internal and external affairs have been conducted. The general prevalence of such opinions, and such sentiments, is the highest reward, which our able and virtuous Chief Magistrate, and those associated with him in the management of our national concerns, can receive at the hands of a free and enlightened people; standing upon this high and exalted eminence in popular opinion, scarcely a speck of party has been visible in his selection to office.

It is an abundant source of gratitude to Almighty God that during the current year, we have been spared but by a small portion of those calamities and misfortunes which so frequently fall to the lot of suffering humanity. Our principal commercial City has been happily free from the dread which it was afflicted by the hand of an awakening Providence during the last year; and the earth has been unusually liberal throughout our state in the product of the most necessary and indispensable articles of our home consumption. This bountiful dispensation of an all-wise and good Providence, has considerably mitigated the pressure of our pecuniary difficulties, arising from the depressed state of our foreign commerce, and from other local causes. In aid of this dispensation, alike advantageous to the individual interests of the people, and the commercial prosperity of our state, we respectfully beg leave to recommend to our fellow citizens a laudable spirit of economy in all their expenditures, and the encouragement of those manufacturing interests established throughout our Land, which can only exist and flourish by the fostering support of the community at large.

Upon the subject of internal improvements we would only remark, that while