

limit or guard. It may be necessary to lodge occasional discretion with the Executive to meet emergent cases; but cases of emergency are few, and as the exercise of all discretion is the exercise of a species of despotic power, that power ought always to be regulated with jealousy. It is salutary to prevent all clashing in the discharge of official duties, by defining the course and duties of all public officers; and the diminution of Executive patronage and discretion, is not only a great relief to that branch of the government, but may be a happy protection to the people against possible abuse.

The office of Attorney General is one of highest honor and consideration in the State. If it has no fixed salary annexed to it, it is an office of influential patronage, and ought to be regarded as one of special responsibility; it is, certainly, a station directly leading the incumbent into the way to fame and wealth. Whether the aid to be given to the deputies appointed by the Attorney General, is to proceed from the Executive at their discretion, from whom large additional fees are always expected, or ex-officio, from the Attorney General, who is represented in the several Courts by his own deputed professional agents, is suggested as a question, not altogether unworthy of the attention of the Legislature.

The condition of the public arms in their several locations is a matter that needs the continued and vigilant enquiry of the Legislature. The public has expended a large sum of money in arms; and, exclusive of the pecuniary interest felt, these arms constitute an important and necessary appendage to the State, that should always be in the best state of preservation and readiness. Once in good order they are easily kept so, with but little cost and trouble; but if neglected, the injury and loss may be very extensive. Nothing less than frequent inspections and reports, with the continually renewed attention of the Legislature, can preserve this great interest of the State.

The Militia System of the State has become generally inoperative, as the public sense and public convenience seem to decide against it. Militia musters, as directed by law, have had little effect to make soldiers, or to instruct the citizens in military knowledge. The days allotted to them are rather injurious to the time, the labour and the morals of the community. Such is our situation in relation to all foreign powers, and such has been the precautionary wisdom of the Federal Government in erecting fortifications and defences on our maritime frontier "that there is little danger of sudden invasion." Enjoying a government of mild and