

you. In regard to the militia, we are convinced of the propriety of adopting one of two measures: either to enforce a rigid observance of the laws relating to their training and parades; or to dispense with militia parades entirely. And in the present situation of the country, we express a preference for the latter. The militia parades as now conducted, so far from rendering the militia more expert in military tactics, do not have that tendency; while they draw persons from their useful avocations, often to engage in scenes of dissipation. All who have witnessed militia musters in the country, must be satisfied of their perfect inutility, and of their injurious effects upon the morals of the people. We would not be understood as recommending, by any means, that a strict organization of the militia should not be required; on the contrary, we would say, that severe penalties should be imposed for neglect in making a regular annual enrollment, to be reported at every session of the Legislature. By this course, whenever either of the cases prescribed by the constitution for calling out the militia shall occur, they will be ready to be trained for service, without being subjected to attend militia meetings, as under the present system, where they are neither improved in discipline nor benefited in morals. To provide for emergencies which may occur, when arms might be required earlier than they could be obtained from the Armory, we invite your attention to the propriety of providing, that Brigadier Generals shall be permitted to receive from the Armory, any number of arms that may be considered requisite, to be disposed of in their Brigades, in such manner as they may think advisable, upon their assuming the responsibility to have them kept in perfect order, and to make an annual return of their number and condition to the Adjutant General, to be by him laid before the Legislature. We have been induced to offer these suggestions, from the circumstance of applications for arms having been made to the Executive, to provide for cases which were thought to require promptness of action.

The report of the Treasurer which will be made to the Legislature, presents the finances of the State to be in a far better condition than was anticipated. Upon an examination of this interesting document, it will appear, that on the 1st December 1830, there was in the Treasury the sum of fifty four thousand one hundred and six dollars and eighty eight cents. After deducting appropriations unexpended and chargeable to that fund, the balance at the end of the fiscal year, was twenty nine thousand eight hundred and thirty