

will, in my judgment, render certain the future enforcement of those laws.

The manifest tendency of this improvident legislation to destrôy the efficiency of the government, which was forcibly adverted to by my immediate predecessor in his second Annual Message to the Legislature, furnishes another cogent reason for the restoration of these appointments to the State authorities, to whom they were originally and legitimately entrusted. To the great body of our constituents, it is altogether immaterial whether this or that individual is appointed to discharge the duties of this or any other office—they are solely interested in having honest, attentive and efficient officers. The people see and know, that under the new system the appointment of these officers is practically thrown into the hands of irresponsible county politicians, attached to the two great parties of the country, who often nominate the candidates for these offices, more in view of the *party* services of the individuals or their supposed local popularity, than in consideration of their fitness for the office; and I think experience has demonstrated that since this innovation, the persons selected have not been more honest or capable than those who were formerly appointed by the Executive. This unadvised legislation originated in the desire of those who advocated it, to promote the political ascendancy of themselves or their party; but in my judgment, politicians were never more mistaken, and the mistake is occasioned by the common error with politicians in placing an under estimate upon the intelligence of the people.

The people of Maryland entirely comprehend the political problem, and recognize as a political truism, that the transfer of the appointment of the officers charged with the execution of the laws from the State authorities to the people of the several counties, would practically destroy the State Government, and build upon its ruins separate and independent county governments, irresponsible alike to the State and to each other. Our constituents desire that the laws passed by *their* representatives should be fully and impartially administered, and will, I am satisfied, approve of no legislation which would deprive *their* government of the powers necessary for that purpose.

Having discharged my duty in bringing distinctly to your notice the inadequacy of the Executive authority to enforce the observance of the revenue laws, and in pointing out the utter inutility of all the laws which have been, or which may be passed unaccompanied with adequate power to enforce them, I submit the subject to your consideration, with entire confidence in your patriotism and judgment, and with the full conviction that you will promptly and efficiently remedy these defects in the legislation of your predecessors.

After providing for the future prompt and certain enforcement of the revenue laws, you will, in my judgment, disregard public opinion, and the well ascertained will of your constituents, if you should omit to fix a day upon which the State shall resume the payment of the accruing interest on the public debt, and from