

those liable to military service, but the bounds of the brigade, regimental and company districts are, for the most part, unascertained and unknown. The resolutions of the last session, declaring the laws regulating the militia and militia trainings to be in full force and effect, and directing each officer to enroll his command and to provide himself, by a specified day, with the proper uniform of his rank, under pain of forfeiting his commission, have been productive of no other effect than that of relieving the service of a large body of field and company officers. However questionable the policy of militia trainings in time of peace, may be, in reference either to its influence upon popular morals, or its aptitude to impart military knowledge, no one will question the propriety of maintaining, under our institutions, such an organization as will enable the State, should an emergency arise, at once to estimate the numerical strength of the militia force. Apart from other considerations, the act of Congress "for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia in the United States," makes the number of effective militia in each State a basis for the distribution of arms. The quota, annually assigned to Maryland, bears no comparison with the proportion the State would be entitled to receive, if a full enrolment of the militia were procured. The passage of a law requiring the Sheriffs of the several counties and the city of Baltimore, once in every ten years, to make out and return, at the cost of the State, to the office of the Adjutant General, full and complete lists of all persons subject to militia duty in their respective baliwicks, would remove the most serious difficulties now experienced, and in a great measure, obviate the necessity for a more perfect organization.

The laws providing for the tuition of the indigent blind and deaf and dumb, make it the duty of the Governor to report to the Legislature, the amount of money annually expended for the education of these unfortunate objects of the tender care and benevolence of the State. During the year 1848, there was paid, on account of the pupils of the State at the Pennsylvania Institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, \$1,453 35, and for the year 1849, \$1,896 97; there was, also, paid on account of the pupils of the State at the Pennsylvania Institution for the education of the blind, for the first named year, \$841 08, and for the last, \$966 00.

The several resolutions passed at the last session of the General Assembly, requiring action on the part of the Executive, were promptly attended to, in conformity with the directions and meaning of the Legislature.

Resolutions No. 29, in reference to the death of John Quincy Adams, and expressive of the condolence of the General Assembly with Mrs. Adams, upon the occasion of her bereavement, were forwarded to that lady, with an appropriate letter from myself, a copy of which, together with her reply, addressed to the Legislature, will accompany this communication.

Resolution No. 42, tendering the thanks of the State to George Peabody, Esquire, a resident of London, for disinterested services