

bly, so that, the necessary laws might have been first passed and promulgated, no complaint or cavil, whatever, would have been heard. As it is, these objections are but the faint murmurs of a receding storm; which, when once below the horizon, will be forgotten, in the brightness of the new day. The real inquiry is, not so much as to what are the merely architectural merits or demerits of the Constitution itself, but what use will the people make of this great extension of their privileges. They themselves are the most interested in the results; and, it is for them to answer.

In obedience to the requirements of the Constitution, I shall respectfully suggest some of the legislation, which I believe to be necessary. Before doing so, I take occasion to remark, that, I shall be obliged to draw largely upon your patience. It shall be my endeavor to avoid the discussion of useless matters; and, to express my views concisely. At the same time, I shall consider it to be my duty to say all, that may suggest itself to my mind as proper to be said, for the full elucidation of my different subjects. My labor is concentrated; your's will be divided; inasmuch as, the customary reference of the Executive message to appropriate Committees, for their intermediate action, takes from its dry detail much of the tediousness, incidental to such communications. You will remember that, you are about to re-organize the Government, under the new Constitution; and, that, therefore, many subjects must enter into this message, which have not heretofore engaged, and may not hereafter demand the attention of the Legislature.

The entire inapplicability of the existing election laws has been demonstrated. The multitude of offices, now made elective, produce a multitude of candidates. The election, in 1853, will add to the list innumerable Constables, Magistrates and Supervisors of County Roads. The manner and time of making the returns; the division of labor between the Judges; and their reasonable compensation, so as to insure the services of competent men, will form subjects for your early attention. I respectfully advise a complete revision of those laws. I will, here, advert to the too frequent and unnecessary delay, which occurs in the transmission of the returns to the Executive Department, occasioning, in many instances, serious inconvenience and embarrassment; and, often affecting other counties, besides those in default. A summary process should be provided, to enforce prompt returns.

Upon examining the Constitution, you will find that, tribunals have been established for the decision of contested elections, in some cases only; the others are left to your legislation. It will be necessary for you to provide, without delay, for those cases, which have been thus passed over by the Constitution. I have already received official notice of an intended contest, for the seat of one of the recently elected Judges of the Orphans' Court; and, as yet, there is no competent tribunal, in existence, to decide the question.

Article v. Sec. 2, provides that "all elections for State's Attorney shall be certified, and returns made thereof, &c., to the Judges