

ment, by the custom of Courts, or the provision of law, is for a short limit, of ten, twenty, or thirty days. Before the usual notice can be given, the punishment has frequently been endured. The pardon comes too late. And yet, it sometimes happens, that, such cases, trifling as they may appear, involve the greatest degree of hardship and injustice, calling loudly for the interposition of the Executive. I, therefore, advise that it be enacted, that, upon notice of an intention to apply to the Executive for a pardon, filed in the Court, before which the party shall have been convicted, within a reasonable time after sentence, the execution of the judgment shall be suspended, upon renewal of bail, until the final decision of the Governor shall have been certified to the Court, or to the Clerk of the Court, during recess.

I would, also, respectfully call to your notice a severe grievance in the law, which demands a remedy. In prosecutions for larceny, it frequently occurs that, the property stolen belonged to different individuals, although taken at one and the same time. In such cases, several indictments are found; and, upon each, there is a distinct conviction and sentence. Thus, if a man steals two five dollar bills, which happen to be the property of two different persons, he will be separately indicted and sentenced for each; although, in fact, the culprit may have been, morally, guilty of but one larceny. Whereas, if the two bills had belonged to the same individual, the party would have been sentenced to one term, only, in the Penitentiary. It has, thus, happened that, a man, convicted of two small larcenies, has been made to suffer a longer punishment, than another, whose crime was really much greater in degree. This glaring inequality of punishment is not only unjust and cruel, but, it is productive of the most mischievous consequences. It brings the justice of the State into contempt. Hence, the Executive often feels it to be his duty to moderate and equalize the random sentences of the law; but, his reasons are not generally known to the public. He is, therefore, falsely judged by the Good; whilst, the Bad take courage for evil, from the supposed laxity of administration. It would be well to revise the entire criminal code.

It is, likewise, made your duty to adopt some simple and uniform system of charges, in the offices of the Clerks and Registers, throughout the State. This is a wise provision. There has, heretofore, been a considerable discrepancy in the various interpretations, put upon the acts regulating fees, by these officers, in the different Counties. It would be well, at the same time, carefully to revise the laws, which define their duties. The first section of the tenth Article limits the maximum compensation of all officers, in the State, (the Governor excepted,) to an annual income of three thousand dollars. I presume, by a liberal construction, this will be understood to mean, that sum nett, over and above all necessary expenses, (for clerk hire, &c.,) incurred. If this be so, then it will be expedient to throw guards around this provision of the Constitution; in order that, it may not be made nugatory, in prac-