

when they would seem to regard and treat it as a controversy between the Governor and themselves, in which he is the accuser, and they, as members of the Legislature, the accused. The Governor has accused no one in particular, much less the Legislature, or any member of it. He has spoken in his regular message, and again in his response to the Select Committee, of what he considers a great public evil and danger to those people over whose interests and general welfare he has been appointed by themselves to hold "watch and word." To the Legislature, as their more immediate representatives, and possessed of far more ample powers, he, as in duty bound, communicated his apprehensions of the dangers and evils which he believed to be threatening them. His duty done, it devolved upon the Legislature, if they thought the *public safety* or the *public interest* required it, (not otherwise,) to take the subject up, pursue it, and use the higher powers they possess for correction and remedy. They did take it up, they therefore must have thought the public good required them to pursue it, for none can suspect this Legislature of a disposition to trifle, or make sport with the high powers intrusted to them by the people. How, then, can they stop short, and not pursue the subject, till the alarm be proved false, or the danger removed?

This minority have said the Governor accused no one—certainly not the Legislature, nor the majority, nor the minority of either branch of it. He spoke of secret political societies, inculcating dangerous doctrines, and having dangerous tendencies. He designated no individuals, or class, or description of officials, legislators, or others, as belonging to those societies. If by possibility there should be any members in the Maryland Legislature, who are also members of secret political societies of dangerous principles, purposes and tendencies, it would be a most melancholy fact, the disclosure of which would be painfully afflicting to their fellow-members, and to the whole people. The Governor has said no such thing. He has spoken of parties and political societies, the principles, purposes, and practices of which should be always open to the animadversion of all, without just cause of offence to any; and material facts concerning them should be authoritatively made known whenever possible.

The public good requires this. Every man may not know, and many, far too many, do not know thoroughly the principles, purposes, or tendencies of the society or party with which they may be associated, or of which