

duties, in very many cases, extraordinary, perplexing and harrassing to an unusual degree ; and I shall be able to leave them with no ordinary amount of pleasure. Whatever may have been my shortcomings in their performance, I am persuaded you will believe me when I assert that, in every case, I have endeavored to do that which I thought was right.

For whatever of good the Great Disposer of events has made me the instrument, and for whatever of error the fallibility of my judgment has led me to commit, during my term of office, I am content to await the just verdict of my fellow-citizens, when peace and sober counsels, experience and calm reason, shall enable them to approve without partiality and to condemn without prejudice.

It affords me great satisfaction, in closing this communication, to be able to congratulate the General Assembly, and the people of the State, that, in these perilous times, the duties of this office are shortly to be discharged by one whose discretion, ability, courage and patriotism insure that he will guide the fortunes of the State with safety and honor to her people.

I earnestly pray that Heaven will abundantly help him and you in the fulfilment of the duties allotted to you ; and that, through your united efforts, no harm may come to the Commonwealth.

THOS. K. HICKS.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }
January 1, 1862. }