

municated to the General Assembly at the last session in a memorial, praying for aid to re-build it. The prayer of the memorial has not yet been granted but we hope it will receive your favourable consideration during the present session.

Experience has satisfied us, that some small alterations of the Constitution might be made, which would save unnecessary trouble, as well as facilitate the transaction of public business. At present it is required that the laws be signed by the Governor in the presence of both Houses of the General Assembly. Was this requisition dispensed with, and the laws authorised to be signed by the Governor in the Council Chamber and attested by the Clerk of the Council, it would conform more to the modern improvements in the science of Government and contribute greatly to the convenience of the Legislature. The great seal of the State, we would respectfully suggest ought to be in charge of the Executive; and we recommend an alteration to that effect, and further that all commissions and executive acts now required to be attested by the Chancellor, be attested by the Clerk of the Council. This alteration would relieve the Chancellor from much interruption; and the more appropriate duties of that able and faithful officer are sufficiently arduous without his being diverted therefrom to participate in executive labours; and it would at the same time give more symmetry to our constitution.

We submit herewith for your consideration a communication from the Honorable Nicholas Brice, Chief Judge of Baltimore City Court, stating the necessity of a revision of our criminal code, which from the importance of the suggestions it contains, deserves your serious consideration.

Considerable excitement prevails at this time throughout the country in relation to a contemplated change in the present tariff of duties upon foreign importations. This excitement is the natural consequence of our free institutions which properly impose no restraint on the freedom of speech or the liberty of the press.

In a country extensive as is our, embracing every variety of climate, capable of almost every production, and filled with an enterprising skillful population doubling itself in less than a quarter of a century, we must expect considerable diversity of views and contentions among its citizens in relation to the measures to be adopted for the promotion and protection of the general interests of the country.