

and inform him of the readiness of the senate to receive any communication he might be pleased to make, informed the senate that they had discharged that duty, and that they received for answer, that a message would be transmitted this day at 12 o'clock.

The clerk of the council delivered the following communication from his Excellency the Governor, accompanied by sundry documents, which was read; and on motion of Mr. Herbert, the said documents were referred to the house of delegates.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Delegates:*

The period has arrived, when we have to present a narrative of our proceedings in the course of the current year, and we take advantage of the occasion, to offer our congratulations upon the distinguished evidence of public confidence, which you have received from the hands of the people.

To you has been entrusted, by your constituents, the high responsibility of protecting their rights, and of devising such measures as will advance their welfare and happiness, and coming as you do, recently from them, acquainted with their interests and their wishes, you are well prepared to commence your duties, and to perform them in such manner, as to promote the great purposes for which you have been selected.

In meeting on this interesting occasion, it behoves us to tender our unfeigned acknowledgments to a kind and beneficent Providence, for the many blessings bestowed upon our country. Among them, there are surely none more calculated to call forth the effusions of our gratitude, than the enjoyment of peace with all nations. By His bountiful hand, we have been abundantly supplied, also, with the productions of the earth. He has blessed us with a form of Government, the wisest and the best, the world ever saw; and he has allowed us in conformity with it, the inestimable privilege of thus assembling to represent the interests of freemen.

The accountability of public officers, we hold to be one of the wise features of our republican government. It is the salutary check which the people, from whom only, all power is legitimately derived, have over those entrusted with the management of their concerns. In accordance with this principle, we shall proceed to lay before you such acts and proceedings of this Department, as may be either interesting or necessary for your information, growing out of the resolutions of the last General Assembly, or required by the laws of the State.

The resolutions expressive of the high admiration of the Legislature for the gallant conduct displayed by three of our