

Mr. Taney and Mr. Sappington from the joint committee appointed to wait on his Excellency the Governor, and inform him of the readiness of the Senate to receive any communication he might deem it proper to make, stated that they had discharged that duty, and the Governor had requested them to say he would transmit a message this day at one o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Sappington, leave was given to bring in a bill, to be entitled, an act relating to administrations and testamentary bonds

Ordered, That Messrs. Sappington, Reid and Pigma, be a committee to prepare and report the same.

The clerk of the council delivered the following message from his Excellency Governor Howard, accompanied by sundry documents. The message was read, and on motion of Mr. Claude, the documents were referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and they were accordingly sent.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *Annapolis, December 28th, 1831.*

Gentlemen of the Senate and
Of the House of Delegates,

The time honored custom of annual communications from the Executive to Legislative functionaries, is in accordance with the principles of our republican institutions, and a suitable mode of accounting to the people for past proceedings, and exhibiting to them the leading views and principles of their executive trustees. I shall therefore, proceed to render an account of the executive proceedings of the past year, under the resolutions and directions of the general assembly, and present to your consideration my views upon such subjects of prominent interest as appear to me necessary and proper to engage your attention.

Since your last annual session, a melancholy and unexpected event has devolved upon me, the discharge of the duties of chief magistrate of our state. His excellency, the late governor Martin, at a period of life, when he might reasonably have anticipated a long career of usefulness, was, in the wisdom of providence, suddenly withdrawn from the distinguished station which he filled with great honor to himself and advantage to the public: No citizen deplored his loss more than myself.

The virtuous and manly cast of his character was, necessarily, felt by all who approached him, and, especially appreciated, by those who, like his councillors, saw his true