

dant share of His favor, with which He has been pleased to bless our state during the past season.

Plenty has crowned our harvests; enterprise, industry and skill, on the part of our individual citizens, have added largely to our wealth and prosperity, and the blessing of health were never more generally enjoyed.

It is truly gratifying to contemplate such scenes, and the pleasure of this interesting retrospect is heightened by the opportunity now afforded, of congratulating you upon it, and by the confident reliance to be placed upon your wisdom, patriotism and virtue, to preserve and perpetuate these blessings, so far as depends upon you, to us and to posterity.

By ancient and approved custom, it becomes our duty, upon the assembling of the Legislative Representatives of the people of Maryland, to render an account of our proceedings in the discharge of our Executive duties, and to make such suggestions upon the general interests and concerns of the state, as appear to us to be called for, and proper for your consideration.

In relation to the special duties enjoined upon us by Laws and Resolutions, we beg leave to state, in general terms, that they have all received our respectful attention, and such action upon them, respectively, as appeared to us necessary and proper for carrying into effect the intentions of the General Assembly. And we proceed to a more particular notice of such of them, as from their importance or character seem to require it, or as relate to subjects proper for your attention, and for further legislative action.

By the Resolution of the last General Assembly, in relation to the Sounds which run parallel with the Sea Coast between Cape Charles and Lewis Town Creek, with a view to their connection by such canals as may be found necessary to effect a safe and direct Navigation through the said Sounds, it seems to have been considered very desirable to obtain the aid of an experienced Engineer from the United States corps, to aid in making