

We regret that the means of paying the expenses of these and other similar services were not at our disposal, and now invite your attention to the subject, in the hope, that you will promptly provide for that object. We would further suggest the propriety of placing permanently at the disposal of the executive, such fund as may be deemed sufficient, to meet contingencies of this sort for the future.

While on this subject, we will call your attention to the organization and discipline of the militia of the state, generally. We suggested, in our last annual communication the propriety of providing more effectually for the enrollment of all the citizens of the state, subject to militia duty, and the exercise and instruction of the commissioned officers in camp and field service; a plan, which it is yet believed, might be carried out in such manner as to afford all the advantages of a well organized and well disciplined militia, without a sacrifice of any portion of the time or convenience of the citizens generally, or requiring more of the commissioned officers than they would willingly yield. Out of the city of Baltimore, with few exceptions, we may now be said to have no organized militia. There is scarcely the semblance of organization in the greater portion of the state. Our militia is, or should be, our chief reliance for protection against outrage and violence, and unless they be kept in a state of, at least, partial organization, we must become dependent upon the federal government, to a degree utterly incompatible with our character or dignity. Those, who hold the greatest stake in the community, should be themselves always, not only willing, but prepared, to defend it. Freemen should ever rely upon themselves alone for protection and defence; then, there would be no fear, that the defenders of the land will become its oppressors. We submit this subject to your consideration, again expressing the earnest hope, that your present session will not be permitted to pass, without its receiving that deliberate attention, its importance seems to demand

We also endeavoured to press upon the consideration of the legislators at its last session, the great importance of providing, more effectually, for extending to the children of every citizen, the blessings of Education, and