

ecutive Department of the Government during the past year, and to suggest for your consideration such measures as appear to us important to the happiness of our fellow citizens or the prosperity of the republic.

In the outset, we must be permitted to pay a just tribute to the enlightened wisdom of the last General Assembly, who struck out, from the difficulties with which those important subjects had been previously embarrassed, the most happy expedient for giving a new and powerful impulse to our great works of internal improvement, and at the same time providing ultimately an ample fund for general education. Complete success has so far attended the execution of the law then passed on these subjects. The loans have been effected upon even better terms than required by the law authorising them. The states' sinking fund, created from the bonus received, has been invested in her own stocks to an amount more than sufficient, by its own regular accumulations, to discharge the principal debt by the stipulated time of payment. The works are being prosecuted with a zeal, a vigor, and a persevering intelligence which cannot fail of success. Every stroke of the spade, the pick or the hammer seems to develop new sources of wealth, to awaken new and livelier hopes for the future, and to impart fresh vigor and activity to commercial and agricultural community. Other and kindred enterprises are either in progress or contemplation in various directions to connect with these and pour their tribute of wealth through these great channels into our commercial emporium, and Maryland seems now destined by these means to regain all the natural advantages of her local situation, and to advance in her march to greatness with rapid and unfaltering strides. No reasonable doubt, it seems to us, can now be entertained of the sufficiency of the security given to the treasury of the state, for the payment, by the several corporations, of the annual interest upon the respective loans, and still less, with their brightened prospects, of their ultimate ability, and that at no very distant day, to refund the principal sums advanced. It is the appropriation of these sums where so refunded, that gives to this law its most estimable and interesting feature. Great and highly beneficial as the direct results, which will flow from the completion of these stupendous works, must be, yet they are short of the blessings to