

Nothing less than frequent inspections and reports, with the continually renewed attention of the Legislature, can preserve this great interest of the State.

The Militia System of the State has become generally inoperative, as the public sense and public convenience seem to decide against it. Militia musters, as directed by law, have had little effect to make soldiers, or to instruct the citizens in military knowledge. The days allotted to them are rather injurious to the time, the labour and the morals of the community. Such is our situation in relation to all foreign powers, and such has been the precautionary wisdom of the Federal Government in erecting fortifications and defences on our maritime frontier "that there is little danger of sudden invasion." Enjoying a government of mild and wholesome rule, whose laws emanate from the immediate representatives of the great body of the people, who justly hold an effectual check over them; and devoted as all are to the preservation of order, and due obedience to constitutional power, the danger of such "opposition to the laws," as would require the interposition of the military, is, happily, not to be anticipated. Nor does there seem to be any demand for a disciplined militia, except in the possible event of "insurrection" for which the volunteer corps that might be encouraged, in the cities and county towns, would be amply sufficient. The laws now in existence, imposing penalties for neglect of military duties, and upon those who are conscientiously scrupulous of performing such duties, having become in-operative, it is with great respect submitted, whether they ought not to be repealed, with such a substitution of volunteer corps, and such a general organization of the militia as would annually give a view of the effective force of the State, without the imposition of unnecessary and useless taxation upon the time and industry of the people.

The annual statement from the Treasurer will present to you an account of the finances of the State,—a complete view of the receipts and expenditures of the year. The department of the Treasury being entirely un-connected with the Executive, we can give no other account of its condition, than what we have received from the able officer who presides over it, and he has informed us that the deficit is not so great as it was the last year. That there should be any deficiency in the Treasury, is a matter deeply to be deplored, and is a subject that will press most importunately upon the attention of the Legislature. The public credit is invaluable and ought to be cherished and maintained with the most scrupulous care.