

To you has been entrusted, by your constituents, the high responsibility of protecting their rights, and of devising such measures as will advance their welfare and happiness, and coming as you do, recently from them, acquainted with their interests and their wishes, you are well prepared to commence your duties, and to perform them in such manner, as to promote the great purposes for which you have been selected.

In meeting on this interesting occasion, it behoves us to tender our unfeigned acknowledgments to a kind and beneficent Providence, for the many blessings bestowed upon our country. Among them, there are surely none more calculated to call forth the effusions of our gratitude, than the enjoyment of peace with all nations. By His bountiful hand, we have been abundantly supplied, also, with the productions of the earth. He has blessed us with a form of Government, the wisest and the best, the world ever saw; and he has allowed us in conformity with it, the inestimable privilege of thus assembling to represent the interests of freemen.

The accountability of public officers, we hold to be one of the wise features of our republican government. It is the salutary check which the people, from whom only, all power is legitimately derived, have over those entrusted with the management of their concerns. In accordance with this principle, we shall proceed to lay before you such acts and proceedings of this Department, as may be either interesting or necessary for your information, growing out of the resolutions of the last General Assembly, or required by the laws of the State.

The resolutions expressive of the high admiration of the Legislature for the gallant conduct displayed by three of our distinguished naval officers in the late war, have received due notice. The swords which were required to be prepared and presented under the resolutions referred to, have not been finished, but according to the agreement, will be ready for presentation in the next month.

In tendering testimonials to the officers, who have done honour to their state, by their bravery and honourable services in the late war, the name of a most gallant gentleman has escaped the notice, no doubt inadvertently, of former Legislatures, and we most respectfully, ask leave, now to introduce it to your attention:—we allude to Capt. George Rogers. The justly celebrated action between the Wasp and the British sloop, the Frolic, is fresh in our recollection. It was in that hard fought battle, Lieutenant Rogers, of the Wasp, evinced the patriotic ardor and naval skill, which entitle him, among others, to the warmest expression of gratitude from the citizens of his native state.

The resolutions Nos. 54 and 55, have been duly complied