

tracted with Jeremiah Hughes for the printing of the House of Delegates, and William M'Neir for the printing of the Senate, on the following conditions:—For printing the Journals, at \$2 00 per page, 1600 copies; Bills, 112 copies, at \$1 00 per page; Reports and Documents, 112 copies, at \$1 00; Broadsides, at \$8 00, 112 copies; and Laws at \$2 50, 1600 copies, with Mr. Jeremiah Hughes.

Which was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Clerk of the Council delivered a communication from the Executive, which was read, and is as follows:—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, December 28th, 1831.

*Gentlemen of the Senate, and
of the House of Delegates :*

The time honored custom of annual communications from Executive to Legislative functionaries, is in accordance with the principles of our Republican institutions, and a suitable mode of accounting to the people for past proceedings, and exhibiting to them the leading views and principles of their Executive Trustees. I shall therefore proceed to render an account of the Executive proceedings of the past year, under the resolutions and directions of the General Assembly, and present to your consideration, my views upon such subjects of prominent interest, as appear to me necessary and proper to engage your attention.

Since your last annual session, a melancholly and unexpected event has devolved upon me the discharge of the duties of Chief Magistrate of our State. His Excellency, the late Governor Martin, at a period of life when he might reasonably have anticipated a long career of usefulness, was, in the wisdom of Providence, suddenly withdrawn from the distinguished station which he filled with great honor to himself, and advantage to the public. No citizen deplored his loss more than myself. The virtuous and manly cast of his character, was necessarily felt by all who approached him, and especially appreciated by those, who, like his councillors, saw his true spirit in friendly and confidential intercourse. This bereavement imposed upon me public duties, from the due execution of which I did not feel myself at liberty to retire; and I am sure that the indulgence and kindness of my countrymen, will extend to me every allowance which so unexpected an occurrence demands.

A communication was made from this department to the last General Assembly, enclosing copies of a letter from the