

I have the honor to lay before you the Report of the Adjutant General, with the names of those officers who have reported to him agreeably to the provisions of Resolution No. 121, of last session. The militia law of this state has become nearly a dead letter, and will require your attention. Upon this difficult subject, I would suggest an inquiry of the expediency of repealing the present militia laws, (which from the number of amendments have become intricate, and almost impossible to be understood) leaving the commissioned officers as they are, and passing a new law, plain and easily to be comprehended, and which should place the militia upon a respectable footing. I would mention for your inquiry, whether it would not be proper to furnish each man with arms, and when we consider that the state receives her quota of arms from the General Government, we may be led to doubt whether the plan would not be less expensive in the end than the indiscriminate appropriations of arms in case of emergency. By the adoption of this plan the arms would be in the hands of the people, and although, many would no doubt, be carried beyond the limits of the state, in case of the removal of their possessors, yet they would not be lost to the country, and great advantage would be gained by having the soldier and his arms connected, should any unhappy cause occur for their use.

The Report of the Board of Managers, for removing the free people of color from the state, is also sent herewith; although their operations have been circumscribed during the past year, yet it is believed, that a perseverance in this plan will lead to results of the most pleasing and important consequences. The prosecution of this system, may probably, at some distant day tend to the restoration of the whole of our colored population, to the land of their forefathers.

The five per cent. stock issued by the Executive, on account of the purchase and building of ware-houses, in the city of Baltimore, for the inspection of tobacco, was all redeemed, when it became payable in April last. The only debt now existing on account of said ware-houses, is the loan of \$48,000, obtained by the Treasurer of the Western Shore, which will not become payable until the year 1837. There is a considerable sum now in the Treasury, arising from the inspection of tobacco, which cannot be applied to the extinguishment of that debt, for the payment of which it is pledged, otherwise than by purchase; and I submit to your consideration the propriety of giving authority to the Treasurer of the Western Shore, to purchase said stock.