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WILLIAM H. COUNCELL,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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The Easton Gazette.

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ADVERTISEMENTS,

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All orders addressed to the editor, post-paid will receive prompt attention.

For the Easton Gazette.

EVENING.

BY HARRY GRENVILLE.

Brightly beams the evening star
From out the vaults of blue
And myriad twinkling worlds afar,
Sparkle like pearls of dew;
Old Sol has since sunk to rest
Leaving a halo bright,
And from the distant dusky west
Slow fades the golden light.

The noise and bustle—busy hum
Are merged in silence deep.
The song-birds to their nests have come
And now in quiet sleep,
All nature rests while Luna moves
The regal queen of night,
Now hearts congenial seek their loves
And dream of futures bright.

Calmness and quiet o'er earth steal
With nought to mar the scene,
And kindred spirits learn to feel
The magic power of e'en
The gentle zephyrs softly blow
And breathe their sweets around
The limpid streamlets in their flow
Give forth a soothing sound.

ST. MICHAELS, Dec. 29, 1857.

THE following beautiful lines on Prayer, transcribed from another paper, and sent to us by a friend, we readily give place in our columns:

For the Easton Gazette.

TO ONE WHO ASKED WHICH WAS THE BEST HOUR FOR PRAYER.

The hour for prayer? 'Tis when the first faint flush
Mantles the East, like modest maiden's blush;
When, with warm tints, the rosy fingered morn
Hastens, th' awakening landscape to adorn;—
'Tis then the feathered tribes, with cheerful lays,
Tune their glad throats to him their Maker's praise;
Nature rejoices in returning day
And shall not man the same meet tribute pay?

The glow that dawns upon our outward sight
Is but a type of that more glorious light,
Which, from the "sun of righteousness," Divine,
Is sent, upon our darkened souls to shine;—
O then, ere contact with the world and sin,
Damps the pure flame that fiedly burns within,
Ere thou hast meddled with corroding care
Pause, fleshly mortals, gird thyself with prayer.
And from the busy mart, the din of men,
O turn to pastures green, tired pilgrim;
This world is not thy home;—seek then to know
The gushing fonts whence living waters flow;—
Loosen care's coils, shake off the dust of earth,
And slake thy thirst where true joys have birth;—
From life's high noon, with all its heat and glare,
Turn, way-worn traveller, freshen thee with prayer.
When things of earth are fading from thy sight,
And dews of evening usher in the night,
Still praise and pray;—a foretaste, thus, of heaven,
To those who seek aright, is kindly given;—
In sweet communion with the God of love,
O aim to fix thy closing thoughts above;
Thus "evermore rejoice," by night and day,
And dying pilgrim, "Without ceasing, pray."

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1857. C.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF

THOMAS H. HICKS,

GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

Delivered in the Senate Chamber, at Annapolis, January 13th, 1858.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The will of the people of Maryland, whose voice you have to-day declared, has elevated me to the highest office in their gift.—For this great honor, freely bestowed, by a majority almost unprecedented in our State, I desire to express my most grateful acknowledgements; and deeply sensible of the disproportion between my abilities and the responsible duties they have devolved upon me. I must ask beforehand that they judge me with somewhat of the partiality they have already shown, and accept as the best acknowledgement I can make of their confidence, an entire devotion to their interest and the public service

In that service it shall be my highest ambition to reflect, in my official conduct, the will of the people, whose servant I am. And now, at the entrance into that office, whose duties I am charged with, it is due to myself no less than to those who have chosen me, that I should frankly and plainly disclose the purposes they desired to accomplish by their choice, and the principles which will direct my administration of their affairs. Those principles I regard as more vital to our institutions that any that have been called in question since the beginning of our government. That they animate the people of this State is proven by their triumph in three successive expressions of the popular will by majorities constantly and regularly increasing, until now they have filled up every department of political power in our commonwealth with those whose duty it is, each in his sphere, to embody those principles in the administration of the laws, and it may be hereafter in the Constitution of the State.

The people of Maryland have seriously considered those words of the Father of his Country:—"Against the insiduous wiles of foreign influence, I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens, the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."

The administration of that just man was embarrassed by the 'insiduous wiles' against which he warns us: and the lesson taught by his words was founded on his own experience. To us they seem like words of prophecy which in our day have been fulfilled.

His apprehensions were aroused by the insiduous wiles of a few emissaries, who strove to poison the minds of our people with principles foreign to our government; and to inspire them with hatred arising, not from injuries to American interests, but from sympathies for a foreign nation.

The disseminators of these prejudices in his time, were few: unimportant in number or influence, sometimes openly avowing their intentions, but not yet daring enough to claim the right, as the representatives of a foreign interest, to control the policy of the nation.

But we, in our day, behold the whole country overflowed by a constantly rising tide of foreign immigration, until it now threatens to change the national character, and to originate methods of government inconsistent with the perpetuation of our free institutions.

Our native population is industrious, enterprising and prosperous; yet their industry is burthened and their accumulation eaten up by the support of foreign paupers, annually cast on our shores, and the comforts and conveniences of life, which energy and thrift secure, are abridged to our industrious mechanics and laboring classes. These are compelled to share their gains, as well as their political rights, with paupers and criminals, whom corrupt and selfish rulers have allowed to come amongst us.

Nor do they only ruinously compete with our native industry and devour its substance. We have seen this swarm of immigrants everywhere elevated, in five short years, to the power and dignity of citizenship: without regard to character or fitness, and ignorant of the habits, laws and language of their new home. We have seen them hunted up on the eve of an election, whose result they are to determine, with all their principles of monarchy or anarchy about them, as foreign in heart as if they had never reached our soil, and openly offering their votes and influence to those who will recognise their claims, as the foreign voting population, to a share in the division of office.

It would be unjust, nor do I design to include in this description, all who have sought our shores.

There are some, and they are not a few, who have, from proper motives, found a home amongst us, and who have not abused nor sold the privileges of their citizenship. There are many of those amongst us, of foreign birth, who have, by a long life of industry and good order, shown their fitness for these privileges—and it is worthy of observation, that this very class are among the most decided in their opinions as to the necessity for some check and restraint upon this indiscriminate naturalization.

But the influence of the first class, as insiduous as ever, is no longer a hidden influence. It is openly recognised and worshipped as a power in the State.

It has determined the result of the Presidential elections, and fixed on more than one occasion the public policy of the Government. Designing and ambitious men humble themselves before it; and some even, in their adulation, profess to prefer and elevate foreign over their fellow-citizens.

The people of Maryland have declared, in a way not to be misunderstood, their appreciation of these evils, and their determination to remedy them.

The right to vote is conferred by our Constitution alone. Its limitations are prescribed in that organic law; and it is evident, from the result of our late elections, that the people of this State think it requires further guards. In providing these guards hereafter, they will doubtless find example and authority for them in the Constitution of the United States, which allows no foreigner to be a Representative till he shall have been seven years a citizen, nor a Senator till he shall have been nine years a citizen, and which excludes all foreign born citizens from the Executive chair.

These provisions the wisdom of Washington approved to guard the nation from foreign influence; and we, warned by his fears, may well find instruction in his example.

The people of Maryland were the first to decree by law the separation of religion and the State. This principle, promulgated while she was yet a Colony, after more than two hundred years of practical interpretation, was embodied in the present Constitution, in the 33d and 35th Articles of the Bill of Rights.

These principles declare that men shall worship free from the control of the State, and that the State shall govern free from the intrusion of religious sects; and these fundamental principles, acquiesced in from the beginning, have been unassailed in Maryland until our own day.

The people of this State have been called on to rebuke, and have rebuked, an insiduous attempt to elude and evade their principles, in the endeavor of certain persons to destroy the public schools of the State; and on their ruins, to erect with the money of the State, *sectarian* schools of opposing religious parties.

To divide the public school fund among the sectarian schools, in proportion to their scholars, is to foster and promote, by means of the public money, religious differences among the people of the State. It is to make religious sects, pensioners on the public treasury. It is at once a bribe in money to religious sects to obtain control of the State, so that their sectarian missionaries may be paid from the public purse.—Yet it cannot be denied that such an attempt has been made by designing men among us against which the result of the late election, has entered the protest of our State. It has equally condemned the policy of those, chiefly foreigners, who shared in, and who have not yet forgotten the practices and abuses permitted abroad: who acknowleege an allegiance superior to the laws and constitution of the State, and who openly violate or silently evade in their system, that principle proclaimed in the 35th article of the Bill of Rights. All history has shown the evils which flow from the accumulation of property and money, in ministerial and sectarian hands. That it then becomes a power for the promotion of religious discord, is dangerous to religious purity, and hurtful to religious freedom.

The people of Maryland early set forth what should be the policy of their government: and in the latest expressions of their opinion they have warned those who have been concerned in, or who hoped to profit by these attempts, that they are trespassing on a fundamental principle of her constitution.

To you, gentlemen, has been confided the duty of protecting and extending the great right to free instruction of every child in the State, without regard to sectarian differences, in her public schools. The people have shown that they will confer political power on those alone who admit that right free from religious interference; and who refuse to acknowledge any higher authority in such matters than the constitution and laws of the land. They ask of no man his religious creed. They will trust their liberties and laws to no man who does not acknowledge that law as his only rule of political conduct. To those who clamor, for political ends, about "civil and religious liberty," the people of this State answer that *their* laws first proclaimed, and still define what they mean by those words: that they are content to abide by those ancient laws, unaltered in either word or meaning: and they intend that they shall be obeyed.

The illustrious Founder of the nation, when he took leave of the public service, warned us of the danger of sectional agitation.

"In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union," he said, "it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterising parties by *geographical discriminations*, northern and southern, atlantic and western; whence *designing* men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interest and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heartburnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection." These words have ever been the true expression of the opinions, and the policy of the people of Maryland on that great subject of sectional agitation. A slaveholding State by inheritance, usages and laws; a border State between those now forbidding slavery and those retaining it; allied to *all* the States with equal sympathies, and by her various interests? nothing can be indifferent to her people which tends to disturb their Union. To that Union she is indissolubly bound by every tie; by every interest in the present, by every association and memory of the past. Her people therefore have always refused to take part in the struggles for sectional power. Her voice has always been raised for peace and compromise, from the day of the first great settlement of this disturbance down to its unpardonable renewal, and the violation of the sacred compact by which it was settled and silenced.

The people of Maryland have never listened to suggestions of disunion from Southern States, and have denied all appeals to her sympathies from them, as steadily as they have refused all sectional association with States in the North whose misguided councils have forgotten their allegiance to the Union, or attempted to deny the constitutional rights of their equals. The people of this State yet know of *no* grievance for which disunion is a remedy, and they have always, in the words of Washington, discountenanced whatever might suggest even the slightest suspicion that Union can *in any event* be abandoned.

Her people will harken to no suggestion inimical to the slave-holding States, for she herself is one of them. They will listen to no suggestion inimical to union with the non-slaveholding States, for she also has interests identical with theirs; and more than any other State, by reason of her position and the variety of her interests, is deeply concerned in the preservation of the Federal Union. Ever ready to defend by arms her own rights and liberties from any aggression from within or without, she has not yet begun to consider the chances of disunion. Her people are content with the conviction that, however "designing men" may have taught the contrary, no right of any State, North or South, Atlantic or Western, has yet been infringed by the common Government of all. And the attempts of certain partizans to make them think otherwise, are by them looked upon as only "one of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts, by misrepresenting the opinions and views of other districts." They regard such alarmists as political adventurers, who live by subsidizing the fears, and enlisting the prejudices of a sectional party, whose hopes they are the first to betray when they have gained place and power by the cheat.

Holding these views, the people of Maryland have always looked with pride on their share in the great compromises of 1820 and of 1850: and with very different feelings on the flagrant violation of those compromises, and their destruction by "designing men," in 1854. The name of one of Maryland's ablest sons is forever associated with the Missouri Compromise, which made a just partition of the common territory between those States which maintained, and those which had abolished the institution of Domestic Slavery, and further established the principle, that each new State added to the Union, must be admitted equal and sovereign as all the rest, without condition or restriction or limitation upon the right to self-government. The act of 1820 drew a line through the territories to the south of which slavery was established, and to the north of which it was prohibited by Congress, during the territorial condition; but it equally provided for the right of the people of any territory, north or south of the line, to establish or forbid slavery in their State Constitution. And this it did by asserting the absolute right of the people to form their own Constitution, and exclusively control their own domestic policy, and by denying any power in Congress to improve any condition of admission.

To William Pinckney, of Maryland, is due, in great part, the glory of the vindication and settlement of this principle, and to his fame we look with feelings quite different from those with which we contemplate the action of those Marylanders who took part in bringing on the country all the strife and bitter animosity and ill will which has been the direct result of that ill timed, useless and inexcusable measure known as the Kansas Nebraska bill. The policy of Maryland was utterly opposed to that measure, and her policy has been the policy of all the great men of the Union, from the time of its establishment till 1854. It was adopted when Texas was admitted. It was reported at the organization of Oregon. It was reaffirmed in the compromise of 1850.—It was complained of by no State nor by any respectable body of the people. It restored and secured the peace of the nation for thirty years, and until it was ruthlessly pulled to pieces by a petty conspiracy of political aspirants. It was abrogated with the intention of once more alarming the fears of the South and exciting the prejudices of the North: and was so speciously contrived that it could be used, as it was, for a bribe to the sectional feelings of both the North and the South. The people of Maryland saw with alarm the most powerful sectional and fanatical combination against the interests of the slaveholding States ever known in our history, arise and grow strong, and attempt to control the government of the Union. That rise, and that strength, and that attempt, which nearly succeeded, was entirely due to the passage of that bill. It seemed the success of another sectional faction, which, under pretence of peculiar friendship to the South and southern institutions, has now, when they had an opportunity of showing their devotion, not only completely failed in their promises, but actually betrayed the very interest they professed to befriend.

It is a matter of congratulation, gentlemen, that in the exciting contest which ensued after the violation of that great compromise, and notwithstanding her feelings and prejudices, Maryland remained firm in her conviction and policy, and refused to lend herself to either faction. She preferred to entrust the destinies of the nation to one who had been tried and found not wanting, rather than confide to either of those whose success was only the temporary triumph of a section, and a signal for the renewal and continuance of a fruitless and embittered agitation. She is ready again, and again, to cast her influence and her vote in favor of the party and of the man who shall represent the nation against the factions, and the Union against those who attempt to pick it to pieces.

As her patriotic men in her revolutionary "line" sacrificed all private interests and sectional feelings to the common cause, their sons now recognize the union of these States as the first political necessity—the only reliance and hope for each and all, and the thing which they are resolved to maintain at every hazard, and to the last extremity.

Such have been and are the opinions of the people of Maryland upon these great questions of national concern. Such has ever been her attitude to the Federal government of these States, and such her unaltered devotion to their Union. But her people have quite lately been called upon to express their opinions upon matters which have transpired within her own borders, and which peculiarly effects her domestic tranquility and the rights and liberties of her citizens.

The people of this State have always regarded the military power as dangerous to the public liberty, and yet indispensable, when properly guarded, to the public safety. A proper means to suppress rebellion or repel invasion—utterly unfitted as the instrument of a government of law and order. Regarding it as a thing dangerous in the hand of even constituted authority, they have always been careful to subordinate it to the civil arm. It is when this, and the power of the county, is used and exhausted in vain that the law permits a resort to a means of compulsion so utterly repugnant to the spirit and feelings of our people.

The people of Maryland have beheld with just alarm these fundamental principles of republican liberty infringed, for the first time amongst us in the year that has passed, and in the most populous portion of the State. It has heretofore become necessary to call out the military to repel invasion, and to protect the lives and property of our citizens against the outrage of a mob, but never before in our history has the humiliating spectacle been shown of an enrolment and calling out of the military force of the State with a determination to use it on the day and at the places where peaceful citizens were exercising the highest functions of citizenship.

The result of our last election has emphatically expressed the sentiment of our people upon this occurrence: and I think it my duty, gentlemen, to state to you the rules by which I shall be governed, if unfortunately, against our experience, and my own trust in the sense of justice of the good people of this State, it should become indispensable to resort to military aid to enforce the law or maintain the public peace.

According to my understanding of that provision of the constitution which directs me to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, the Governor is invested with no new or unlimited *power*, but charged with a *duty* to be accomplished by those means which the constitution and laws strictly define. And that clause whereby the Governor is empowered to call out the military to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, and enforce the execution of the law, does not, in my opinion, enable him to select a volunteer force unknown to the law—to charge military officers directly with the execution of the laws—or to assume the duties or discharge the office of a mayor or sheriff, with a military force under his command. And if he call out the military, and by his orders convert citizens into soldiers, when there is neither invasion, insurrection, nor forcible resistance to the law, he, in my opinion, violates the constitution. I will, therefore, do none of these things. Above all, I will carefully abstain from calling out or enrolling a military force on the eve of an election, when political animosities are agitating the minds of my fellow-citizens, and when a display of such kind near the places of voting, forbidden by the laws, could only provoke violence and bloodshed.

We have seen, in the metropolis of the nation, on what was once part of Maryland soil, the dreadful results of a military interference at the polls; and the indignation which that act of blood inspired throughout the country, is sufficient to convince me that the hearts of men rise up against such tyranny, even when the letter of the law may be strained to shelter the act.

It will be for you to consider whether there is such omission in our statute book; and whether our laws can be twisted so as to connive at such proceedings. When our people shall contemplate with indifference a reckless exercise of military power; or a perversion of what was ment for defence against foreign aggression into a weapon against our internal peace, they will have degenerated into the tools of military despotism, and deserve the fate of the miscalled republics of Mexico and South America.

The reverence of law and order, and for the ascertained popular will, which has always been the distinguishing honor of the American people, seems to be in danger of utter extinguishment by that violent spirit of party, which can invoke such means to overawe the free right of suffrage, and which may finally attempt to secure to itself the possession or continuance of power at the expense of a civil war. When a violent faction shall have learned that such means may be used to secure success, their leaders will not hesitate to seek or receive assistance from other leaders, in other States, to control elections in their own. Civil war, and not a popular election, will then determine the fate of our community, and the language of the great address I have so often quoted but describes the end. The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissensions, which in different ages and countries, has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.—The disorders and miseries which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual, and sooner or later the chief of some pervading faction, more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of the public liberty.

From these things, which have discredited us abroad and mortified us at home, it is pleasant to turn to other topics, in which as Marylanders we have no less interest, and in which we find some cause for congratulation.

The great agricultural interest, by which we all have bread, has been prosperous during the past year; and although we may have to regret the paralyzation of commercial and industrial pursuits, it is some consolation to remember that our State has not suffered so much as others by the prostration of credit and disturbance of mercantile confidence. If this show a less extent of those interests with us, it is also a proof that those limited operations are not carried on upon so artificial a basis as in more active quarters. If we cannot boast of so extended a commerce as others, we at least are more free from the reverses of wild speculation and mercantile gambling. It becomes us, however, to take a lesson from our misfortunes, and while we extend the relief which may be fairly asked, it will be proper to inquire into the expediency of some checks upon improper expansion of our currency, and its inevitable consequence under rise in prices and too extended credit.

The great mass of the community who live by their daily toil, have a right to some such protection. It is upon them and the hard earned gains of our mechanics and small traders that the deplorable consequences of such revulsions fall with heavier hand than can visit the accumulation of the more fortunate. The recurrence of these convulsions show the mutual reliance of capital and labor; and the legislation which guards the one must benefit the other also: It is matter of concern to find an occasion of this kind which should only call forth acts of forbearance and charity, taken advantage of, some parts of our country, to accomplish a political success at the expense of a war of classes.

The increase of crime and lawlessness is, in my opinion, not more attributable to the want of proper laws to punish crime than to the unwillingness of those whose duty it is to declare the fact and apply the law; and who thus, by an ill-timed lenity, hold out the inducement of easy escape to the criminal. The most stringent provisions are of no avail where mistaken feelings of sympathy, or a postponement, removal, or delay of the trial, can prevent a just and speedy retribution. It is our misfortune, at present, that our fundamental law, in some of its provisions, enables criminals thus to postpone, if not defeat, the action of justice: and it is out of the power of the legislature to remedy the defect. But it is an evil of great magnitude, and the mention of it may serve to awaken an inquiry into the possibility of some measures looking to the relief of the community.

The provisions of our penal code are, in many particulars, believed by those whose opinion is entitled to respect, to be unsatisfactory in their results, and unequal in their application. Under our system which dates back for nearly fifty years, crimes of lesser magnitude are visited with a punishment far heavier than is imposed on others, whose consequences, both in effect and example, work infinitely more injury to the community: while new offences and abuses of conceded rights have become common, for which there is no punishment at all.

The right of the people to keep and bear arms, which properly understood and exercised, is one of the surest guarantees of a free government, has been abused and perverted into the pernicious custom of carrying concealed deadly weapons; and their exhibition to the terror of, and their fatal use at the sacrifice, of lives of peaceful citizens. Nor are these occurrences confined to occasions of sudden affrays or drunken brawls, but we have seen in the most populous portion of our State, that arms have been unlawfully obtained, and secreted and carried about the person, and unlawfully used on days of election; and peaceful citizens and the officers of the law, in the discharge of their duty have been ruthlessly shot down.

It is no palliation of these crimes to say that they were perpetrated by those who are not sufficiently used to our habits and laws, and have only repeated here the acts of riot and bloodshed to which they were accustomed at home. If we are compelled to receive that material, and submit to its influence in other shapes, while it is becoming assimulated to our own population, we are not prevented from taking measures to secure peaceful elections, the safety of our citizens, and the personal security of officers in the discharge of their duty. The records of our penitentiary house show that from this material and from the vagrant free colored population of our State comes the larger number of those who have filled it to overflowing.

Upon this matter of her free colored population, the State of Maryland is deeply concerned. According to the last census, that class must number more than eighty-five thousand within her limits. Where these can fine employment, chiefly as domestics and laborers as in her populous city and in the more thickly settled portions of the State, and are entitled to all the consideration and protection with which the law guards even the humblest individual, there is but little of the evil of their vagrancy and idleness felt, nor much complaint of its existence.

But in the lower counties of our State, on both sides of the bay, the continuance and increase of this vagrancy and the crime it occasions, and the pernicious effects upon the worthier portion of their class, and upon the servile population, is notorious to all residents there, and has for a long time occupied my attention with a view to some remedy. It is a matter every way worthy our attention, gentlemen, and we may possibly find in the favorite Maryland policy of colonization, and Colonization Society, the means of assistance.

The plan of returning to the country whence their progenitors were taken that class of our population, when their relations to our citizens become changed, and when by their habits or want of proper control they could only remain here as an embarrassment to our industry and a clog upon our progress, has always justly been a favorite with the people of Maryland. Her statute book is filled with the proofs of the care and interest she has always felt in its success. I think while you are continuing to that just and Christian cause the assistance you have heretofore so properly extended, you might usefully inquire whether the aid of the Society might not be had in the correction of a state of things which, if further developed, will insist upon some less agreeable remedy. It might be of advantage to the State to hold out further inducements to this free colored rural population to emigrate to the colony founded in Liberia, and perhaps a condition annexed to furture emancipation in our State should be, either a removal of those who are freed before they be contaminated in their new association, or the payment to the State of a sum sufficient to secure the colonization of our equal number. If some plan could be devised to secure this, and, without infringing on any rights of even the lowliest, we should have the double satisfaction of securing to the State a better population, of lessening the material for crime and vagracy, while we should be extending the usefulness and operations of the the society deserving all that it has ever received from the State and from the charitable and Christian men who support and direct its enterprize. It is no small consideration in favor of such a proposition that it would incidentally aid in the diffusion of Christianity and civilization over a region forbidden to the white man, and among a race who can look for no aid, it seems, from that sect of political philanthropists among us, whose humanity ceases to act at the moment the necessity for it begins. If, indeed, a tithe of the money and labor which has been wasted in trespasses and conspiraces against the peace and property of their neighbors had been expended in this or some kindred cause, perhaps they would have had less time for fanaticism, and we less occasion to complain of insult and violated right.

It is a matter of congratulation gentlemen, that the State finances are in so satisfactory a condition, and her treasury so well provided, from a taxation which the preceding Legislature reduced by one-third to the great relief of the landed interest, and notwithstanding the abolition of an impost which weighed unduly upon the commercial community.

A strict standard of economy in all departments of the public service is an essential element in all good government. Happily our State has long since passed the crises of her more threatening financial embarrassments: but to afford substantial relief to the tax payer at an early day, the reduction of her indebtedness must go on without interruption, and the measure of taxation in the future should not be interfered with, by an over anxiety to anticipate a period of relief, which must soon be realized under a well-directed and judicious system of finance.

Whatever we do in aid of this object, by withholding expenditures and appropriations that may not be demanded by the public exigencies, will hasten the enfranchisement of the people from the burthen of taxation under which they have been so long and patiently suffering.

From the great works of public improvement upon which the State has expended so much, our returns have not been so large as in former years. Perhaps a change in the control of some of them may lead to more satisfactory results. If not, we at least have no responsibility therefor, since all power over them under the present state