

pressive of the sense of the loss sustained, and the affection we had for the greatest character either the Antient or Modern world ever produced.—Yes, me thinks I now fee your hearts melting, your eyes filling, and hear your tongues declare—We will not only drop a tear with you, but before we rise, by a legislative testimonial, prove to the world how much we loved and admired the man who was not only truly wise in Council, but great in the field.—Glory to God! We trust our loss is his infinite gain. He died as he lived—Washington lives for ever, and will he not continue to live in the heart of every true American, who has, or shall read or hear his wife, weighty, humble, affectionate and most solemn address to the American people, at the time he withdrew from the Presidency of the United States? Yes, he must—he will. Here let me stop—an awful silence best becomes me—able pens and far more enlarged minds having failed in describing the worth of that excellent man. I have tho't proper to recommend to the civil as well as the military officers of the State upon the melancholy occasion to wear mourning for three months, which I trust will meet your approbation, and also that of the citizens of the state.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and H. of R.*

Notwithstanding the loss our country has sustained, by the departure of our illustrious friend, yet I feel happy in observing that Providence has been and still is kind to us as a nation, we are not left without a man who fears God and works Righteousness. A man eminently distinguished, tried and beloved—Virtuous from principle; great in council and firm in execution—such a man, I trust, now presides over the United States, whose whole soul has been, and I believe still is, engaged in the support of the general government and the happiness of the people, and who I have a firm confidence hath marked the road (and will continue to walk therein) of his late highly favored and exalted predecessor, which leads undoubtedly to immortality and eternal glory.

There is, through the wise and prudent conduct of the President of the United States, a distant glare of hope, that our happy country may yet avoid the calamities attending a state of war, every prudent preventative measure, so far as I am able to form a judgment has been adopted, to produce the desired effect: Yet if the prospect of a continuation of peace

was far brighter than at present, Wisdom's voice proclaims aloud the way to insure it is to be ready to assert our rights, and oppose violence and injustice, let it come from what quarter it may: It is with thankfulness and much pleasure that I can inform you the last season has not been so afflictive to any part of the citizens of the state as the former, kind Providence did not send the Peñitential Rod into any part of our state, which was so severely felt in many of our sister states; neither did our farmers suffer so much in their crops the last, as they did the former year; and it is with much satisfaction I congratulate you on the union and harmony which measurably prevails throughout the state: But while this affords great consolation, and would be a strong resource in any event, yet the circumstances of our national affairs are such, as justifies me in suggesting, the propriety of a *Revision of our Militia Law*, especially respecting the several *Artillery Companies* in the state, whose usefulness must forever be lost, unless they are furnished with field pieces, carriages and apparatus, and also respecting the imposing fines on delinquents, and the mode of collection. As I stand informed, in some parts of the state, the law, as it now stands, as to fines for non-attendance, on muster and field days, by the conduct of some officers, only affect those persons who are conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms in any case, the roll not being called over, or if called over, so managed as to elude the law with respect to others. Again from my information the mode of collecting the fines, as the law now stands, is such from the smallness of the compensation allowed for collection, that renders it impracticable, I believe, and out of the power of the Commissary to get persons who are trust-worthy to undertake the collection. I therefore beg leave to suggest the propriety of putting, by law, the collection of all militia fines into the hands of the Hundred Collectors, to be by them collected on the warrant of the commissary, upon the same terms the county rates and levies are collected. I further beg leave to observe, that in my humble opinion a partial review of the whole brigade in each county, would be far more useful than the reviewing the militia in regiments, supposing the whole attended, and I cannot help expressing a wish that the commander in chief should be unequivocally authorized by the law to review the militia in brigade or regiments, when he

might think the same useful and necessary.

*Gentlemen,*

Since the last session I have received from the Executives of several of the states copies of their laws to be presented by me to you, viz. from the state of Virginia, New-Hampshire, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and South Carolina, the governor of South Carolina has forwarded three copies of their Laws, one for each branch of the Legislature, and one for the Executive, and expresses in his address to me the wish of his Legislature, and his own, that three copies of the laws of this state should be forwarded to him in return. This mode of reciprocating the laws of the respective states, I must own strikes my mind with peculiar force, but shall wait your decision on this subject, before I forward the copy of our laws under the present existing resolution to South Carolina.

Also I have received sundry resolutions from the states of Pennsylvania, New-Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, & Maryland, respecting amendments to the constitution of the United States, and one from Maryland on the subject of Negroes, together with a letter from the governor to me on the subject matter of those resolutions; and I also have received a copy of an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and one of the Legislature of Maryland on the important subject of clearing the navigation of the Susquehanna and opening a communication between the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the River Delaware, through this state. This is a subject, no doubt, that demands your early and greatest attention, as it is one of considerable magnitude, and involves not only the interest of the citizens of this state, but that of a great body, if not the whole citizens of the United States. The several documents and papers above referred to, together with a copy of my answer to the governor of Maryland I have directed the Secretary to lay before you.

*Gentlemen,*

In the last clause of the act entitled "An Act for bailing prisoners, and about Imprisonments," it is declared that no person or persons are bound to answer to any indictment or presentment found against them until a prosecutor's name is endorsed on the same. I have long seen the pernicious effects of this clause in the law, its operation is extremely disadvantageous to the community at large, and from many recent instances, conceive my-