E. R. Hooper

DORCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EDITED AND PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING,
By George W. Sherwood.

TERMS:—Two dollars and fifty cents per annum payable within the year. No subscription will be discontinued until all arrearages are settled, without the approbation of the publisher.

☞ ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion, larger ones in the same proportion.

☞ All communications to insure attention, should be post paid if sent by mail.

☞ Postmasters will please give us prompt notice of any refusal to take the paper from their office.

POET'S CORNER.

"To charm the languid hours of solitude,
He oft invites her to the Muse's lore."

The following truly poetic and thrillingly beautiful song we find in an exchange paper without credit; but we think we are right in ascribing it to the gifted pen of Mr. Bedinger, member of Congress elect from the Jefferson district in Virginia. Besides being one of the most popular political debaters among the democracy of the Old Dominion, Mr. Bedinger's warm and open heart has patented in poetic ... honor to any writer.—*Mansfield (O.) Shield and Banner.*

"GOOD BYE."

Farewell! farewell! is often heard
From the lips of those who part;
'Tis a whisper'd tone—'tis a gentle word,
But it springs not from the heart.
It may serve for the lover's closing lay,
To be sung 'neath a summer's sky;
But give to me the lips that say
The honest words—"Good bye!"

Adieu! adieu! may greet the ear,
In the guise of courtly speech;
But when we leave the kind and dear,
'Tis not what the soul would teach.
Whene'er we grasp the hands of those
We'd have forever nigh,
The flame of friendship bursts and glows
In the warm, frank words—"Good bye!"

The mother sending forth her child
To meet with cares and strife,
Breathes thro' her tears, her doubts and fears,
For the loved one's future life.
No cold "adieu," no "farewell" lives
Within her closing sigh;
But the deepest sob of anguish gives—
"God bless thee, boy! Good bye!"

Go watch the pale and dying one,
When the glance has lost its beam—
When the brow is cold as the marble stone,
And the world a passing dream;
And the latest pressure of the hand,
The look of the closing eye,
Yield what the heart must understand—
A long, a last "Good bye!"

From the American Republican.

VERSES ON LOVE.

BY SEBASTIAN SALADE.

There is a love whose soul consists,
In now and then a smile;
Such love as this, I'll tell you girls,
Is hardly worth our while.

She *might* love me—she *could* love him—
The difference is but small;
Oh! give me deeper, truer love,
Or give me none at all.

Oh! for the love whose every wish,
In *me* is satisfied;
And would not be if *all the world*
Were offered her beside.

Give me the love—the tender love—
(The thought of it is bliss—)
That knows *my footsteps* when I come,
And smiling claims a kiss.

Give me the love, when I am sad,
And on my brow's a frown,
Would smile—and with her gentle hand
Come smooth the wrinkle down.

The love, when slander wrongs my name,
From me wants no defence;
But, as of erst, looks in my eyes
With loving confidence.

The love who'd bathe my feverish cheek,
As pillow'd on her breast,
And know, and *do* each peevish wish
Before it was expressed.

The love—if death the warning gave
That I from her must part,
Would make me sure that when I'm gone,
I'd still live in her heart.

This world to me is very bright
With woman's starry eyes;
Where woman loves—where woman smiles
I find a paradise.

Miscellaneous.

THAT TARNAL RAILROAD.

AS SPOKEN AT THE FULTON INSTITUTE.

Je whiticans, Whew! Wal, just manufacture me up into a double refined spinning jenny and set me agoing in fifty acres of cotton, if ever I come across such a rarin, tarin, ripping, snorting, double-revolving piece of machinery, from creation down to my most marvelous deliverance just now, as the one give me a chase down your railroad. I hearn some time ago that there was rich doings goin on at the 'Fulton Institute' so as I like things that open rich, I made things about right round hum and broke for here. I come across through the country, and struck your railroad, and was plying it about 4 knots the hour. Now I had hearn tell of locomotives, but never dreamed of seeing one alive and kicking; but about two miles from here, I hearn something behind me coffin, sneezing and thundering, and I looked around; sure enough here she come down after me, pawing the airth up and splittling the road wide open, with more smoke and fire a flying than or'to come out of a hundred burning mountains, with about a dozen wagons follerin arter her, and to save her tarnel black smoky, noisy neck, she couldn't get clear of them. I don't know whether they scared her up or no, but here she come foaming at the mouth—with her teeth chock full of burnin' red hot coals, and she pitched right strait at me as if she was going in-

Easton Star.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS, ADVERTISING, ETC.

Volume 7 No. 22. EASTON, MD.—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1845. Whole No. 282.

to me like a thous[illegible] of brick—I couldn't stand it any longer, so I wheeled round and broke [illegible] road and began to make gravel dy[illegible] every direction. No sooner had I [illegible] than she splight right after me, [illegible] jump I made she squealed like [illegible] and wild cats! She begin to gain [illegible] coomin' up a little hill, but we come [illegible] point to a strait level in the ro[illegible] thinks I, I'll gin you ginger, a[illegible] on a dead level; so I pulled to [illegible] got myself under full speed; t[illegible] yelp and howl and co[illegible] and cough and stamp and c[illegible] and made the hull airth sh[illegible] kept on before her, boun[illegible] that I got feet every non till I [illegible] under such headway that I couldn't turn, so I tumbled head over heels down a bank by a house and landed with my head and shoulders co-smillick right into a *swill barrel*, and my feet stuck out behind, and up in the air! Just at the time the locomotive found I had got away from it, it commenced spitting hot water into me, and just litterly spattered all over the part of me that was left sticking out of the barrel. I thought in my soul that Mount Vesuvious had busted some place in the neighborhood. But do you suppose I staid there long? No, Sir! I just walked right through that barrel and come out the other end so quick that it really looked ashamed of itself.

Now, here I am, a rale self-propelling double-revolving locomotive Skolly Goster, ready to attack anything but a combination of Thunde-lightning-smoke-railroad iron and hot water.

I'd like for some of your gals to give me a chance to play Hop Scotch among your hearts, and if I don't play the swill barrel game by walking right strat through your tarnel prejudices into your young affections, then help me Jozey.—*Cin. Com.*

AGE OF POETS. Are poets destined to a long life? It is rarely the case that they live to the common age of man, although instances are on record, where they have lived to fourscore years and upwards. If manual exercise is united with close study, a man may lengthen his days to a good old age. It is the disregard of what produces ill health and endangers life, that cuts down so many talented men in the flower of their days.

Ariosto died at the age of 59.

Burns died at the age of 38; Byron at the age of 36; Brainard at the age of 32; Butler at the age of 68.

Cowley died at the age of 49; Collins at the age of 55; Cowper at the age of 69; Camocus at the age of 55; Carter at the age of 42.

Dryden died at the age of 70; Dante at the age of 56.

Fessenden died at the age of 66.

Goldsmith died at the age of 44; Gray at the age of 57.

Hogg died at the age of 63; Hemans at the age of 45.

Logan died at the age of 40.

Milton died at the age of 66; Metastasio at the age of 34; Mellen at the age of 44; Moore at the age of 89.

Pope died at the age of 56; Petrarch at the age of 68; Pellok at the age of 29.

Rickwell died at the age of 24.

Shenstone died at the age of 56; Spencer at the age of 46; Scott at the age of 61.

Thomson died at the age of 48.

Vesso died at the age of 52.

White died at the age of 21; Watts at the age of 75; Woodsworth at the age of about 60.

Young died at the age of 84.

ANECDOTE.

The following is an anecdote of Commodore Decatur. It occurs in a late number of the Nautical Magazine:

"Before the war, Captain Carden and the Macedonian were at Norfolk; Decatur was there, too, and a warm intimacy soon joined in friendship two kindred hearts.—While discussing naval affairs one day, Carden said, 'Decatur, your ships are good enough, and you are a clever set of fellows; but what practice have you had in war? there's the rub. One of these days we will probably have a 'brush' together, and if I catch your ship at sea, I will knock her into a cocked hat, Stephen.'—'Will you,' says Decatur; '*I will bet you a hat* on it.' The bet was agreed on, and the conversation changed.

"But a few months elapsed ere the war that had been threatening commenced, and the two captains, by some singular coincidence, *met*. The results of the action are known. Capt. Carden, on going on board the United States, was received by a lieutenant at the gangway, to whom he tendered his sword. 'Not to me, sir,' said the officer, 'but to the Captain.' 'And where is the Captain?' said the embarrassed Englishman. 'He is standing aft there; that is the gentleman, sir, in a tarpulin hat and round jacket.'

"Carden went aft, and his feelings on meeting, under such circumstances, his old friend, may be imagined. As he offered his sword to Decatur, that officer said, 'No, Carden; I never take the sword of a brave man; you have fought gallantly.'—'But,' said he, laying his hand on the other's shoulder, 'I will *take that hat* my dear fellow.'

"In transferring to the United States the suite of Capt. Carden, a fine band was included. In the afternoon, when dinner was announced in the cabin, Capt. Carden said to Decatur, 'those musicians are very skilful, and I have always had them on deck while at my dinner. 'Very well,' said Decatur, 'we will have them up.' The band was ordered on deck to play, and Com. Decatur was asked what air he would like to hear. 'Let them play 'Britannia rules the Waves,' said he, with a sly laugh."

Col. Richard M. Johnson.

The Union has been politely furnished by the writer with a copy of the following letter addressed to the President of the United States.

WHITE SULPHER, Scott county, Ky.
August 2d, 1845.

DEAR SIR: [illegible] every day [illegible] that Mexico has declared war against the United States!! And for what? Because of the annexation of Texas!! Future ages will scarcely credit this folly and rank recklessness and injustice, when we recollect and connect with it the late treaty entered into by Mexico and some of the functionaries of Texas, by which Mexico agreed to the independence of Texas, if the latter would refuse to become a part of the United States, from which Texas had been separated, by a mysterious want of sagacity *in sagacious men*, upwards of twenty years ago. Thus Mexico withdrew her less than shadow of a claim to Texas, with a proviso hostile to the United States for which she deserved our indignation and our execration, if we did not know that she was acted upon by France and Great Britain; and, in her desperate condition, like a drowning man catching at straws, acted the automaton of these great European powers. What was it to Mexico, whether Texas became a part of the United States, or remained independent?—The United States had never wronged her, but had connived at injuries received from Mexico, out of our sympathy for a power adjacent, which exhibited some desire for liberty, and to imitate the United States in her glorious and free institutions; and Mexico knows that she has no such kind feeling in the bosoms of the kings of foreign States, except that which arises from a conviction of advantages in commerce, or a similarity of kingly power and institutions. Then it is more than evident that our cause is just—no shadow of doubt, thank God, remains upon the most common minds, as to the right being on our side, and a most wanton violation of friendship and peace on the part of Mexico towards us.

This is another proof if (another is wanted) to satisfy us that the U. States can never enjoy tranquility, prosperity, happiness and peace, so long as we are surrounded by other nations *not republics*, and the colonies of foreign States. This is our condition. Let us not grieve or repine, but trust in that God who has given us the victory in two wars with one of the most powerful nations of the earth. *If war is declared against us by Mexico*, in total disregard of right, of justice, of friendship, and the laws of nations, I now tender my services to you, in behalf of my country whom you represent, to your credit and honor. I do not wish to enter the regular army. I do not wish to engage for and during the war, embarressed as I am in my private fortunes; nor do I wish to leave my retirement and the management of my private affairs, so long as it may be our policy to defend our soil alone from the foreign invador. These duties can be discharged without my aid with ease, and without difficulty; but if you should feel it your duty to pursue the policy of carrying war into the enemy's country, to plant our banner at Santa Fe, Vera Cruz, Mexico, or California, and give liberty and stability to free government, where disorder and anarchy now predominate, where no kindred spirit animate those high officers who represent an oppressed people, and who may have precipitated them into war, to preserve power which they seem precariously to hold;—when that time shall arrive, and the policy shall be determined on, then I am ready to raise a corps of Kentucky volunteers, of any number from one to 5 thousand men, to serve twelve months from the commencement of marching orders after organization with a promise to re-engage after the expiration of the year, if the honor and situation of the country require it—men who will make no other promise than this that they will do their duty as citizens and soldiers; and what God has allotted for man to do for his country, they will *try* to do; and if I am again spared to meet the enemies of my country in battle, in a war on our part so just and forced upon us by ignorance, ambition, foreign influence, and selfishness, I will try to see the duties of the citizen soldier handsomely, bravely, and gallantly performed, to the honor of the corps, and to the benefit of our country.

The crisis has arrived; war, I suppose, is declared. We know not who may be at the bottom of it. Our country will soon be a unit, and the voice of treason will not be heard in our land. The discordant notes of the press—whether it was tweedledum or tweedle-dee—will be lost in the general shout and huzza for our country, for victory, for our federal Union, including the additional brilliant star of Texas.

As a citizen, I thank you, and congratulate my country for your prompt action in concentrating the naval and military forces of the United States on the land and on the sea, ready to meet our enemy.

Accept this hasty letter, written in the turmoils and bustle of busy private life from one who wishes you every blessing

[illegible] favor which results from a [illegible] discharge of your public duty to [illegible] country.

[illegible] respectfully.

RH. M. JOHNSON.

[illegible]s K. Polk,
[illegible]nt of the United States,
[illegible]City of Washington.

ADDRESS

[illegible] undersigned were appointed a Committee [illegible] CONVENTION which assembled [illegible] upon the 27th [illegible] promote the cause of [illegible] and *Reform*," to address you upon these important subjects. While it is their privilege, under the sanction of this appointment, to address the whole people of the State, it is their pride to remember, that within the sacred pale of that Convention the voice of party distinction was not heard. The Democrat and the Whig there met under the influence of that feeling of holy patriotism, which is prompt to advise means for the succour of the State in its *time of exigency;* and to sacrifice all, but private honor, for the public good. That time, the members of the Convention felt, had arrived in the history of Maryland; and the question presented to them was, whether the expensive administration of the government and the laws should be retrenched, or the public credit of the State be dishonored? Upon this momentous question the members of that Convention, men of integrity, justice and honor, and imbued with the spirit of these attributes in their constituents, *did not pause to decide*. They felt that in such a condition of public affairs, the path of honest economy was the only one they could pursue. The maxim, which prescribes "that we be just, before we be generous" is as applicable to public as to private affairs, and should ever exert a wholesome influence over both. To speak in the language of daily life, the State is 'living beyond her means;' and every member of the Convention seemed impressed by the duty of *recommending* to you that her expenses be reduced; and that every department be fashioned anew, upon such principles of economy as the public necessity demands. Nor do we believe that the people will suffer, *in any respect*, by the changes which it is proposed to make by a new CONSTITUTION. On the contrary, we shall find economy and efficiency going hand in hand: compensation awarded to public officers according to their services; and the "sinecure-system" (so inconsistent with republican principles) by which one man does the work and another gets the money, will be entirely abolished. It was, no doubt, the pressure of the public debt, which has brought home to the conviction of almost every man in Maryland, the necessity of a change in the Constitution, whereby the government would be administered at less cost, and at the same time, the people have the advantage of establishing anew *their form of government*, with the aid of *experience* derived from *their own history*. As long as it be true, according to our "DECLARATION OF RIGHTS," that "all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole," and "that the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and the police thereof," so long will it be your right to decide upon the expediency of a change, and the nature of the change to be effected. This Right will of course be exercised with caution. PUBLIC TRANQUILITY is an object of such universal interest, that it is better to tolerate defects, and it may be evils, in a form of government, rather than disturb it for light and transient causes; and accordingly, it will be found that the greatest check upon what the OPPONENTS OF REFORM are pleased to describe as the *revolutionary tendencies* of a Convention, will ever consist in the *conservative disposition* of the PEOPLE themselves.

Indeed, the experiment of popular government is a failure, the moment there is any weight yielded to the argument that there is any danger in the convention of the people. If our institutions be valuable, they owe that distinction, not to the theory, but to the PRACTICE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT; and to use the words of the illustrious *John Marshall*, "on this government, thus depending on ourselves for its existence, will rest our safety, notwithstanding all the dangers depicted" by the timid, the idle, or the selfish. The plan suggested by the members of the Convention to establish a new Constitution has the advantage, however, of silencing all doubts, quieting all fears, and of reconciling honest differences of opinion which may exist among men of patriotism and intelligence, as *to the mode of accomplishing Reform*. THIS plan leads to the *call* of a CONVENTION BY THE LEGISLATURE; this giving a sanction to the wishes of their constituents by their deliberate action to gratify them. With the Convention thus called, will rest the power and the duty of moulding in the forms of highest social improvement, a SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT which shall, *at the least cost*, promote the first object of all government, THE HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE! With every individual energy summoned into action; with ever feeling of the human heart concentrated upon the proper structure of the social fabric—which is to be, *for the present*—A HOME: and *for the future*, a MONUMENT of the wisdom of its makers—with such motives to wisdom in council as every true man shall find in the desire for that best of fame—the fame of being useful—a Convention so to be called could not but succeed in making almost perfect the fundamental law of the State. Upon this new charter of their rights the succeeding Legislature would pass their judgment, and if approved by them, as it would be beyond all question, the next General Assembly would impress upon it the solemn seal of confirmation, and give it being as a CONSTITUTION. By the 1st of January, 1848, all this could be accomplished. No man, however timid, would call this result—a [illegible] would be the exercise of the highest right of the people, under such auspices of deliberation as become the importance of the subject; and THE SYSTEM would exist in the solid and durable mass, while the excitement of the process of its making had long passed away. The power of the Legislature to call such a Convention, no man of intelligence may question. It may surely adopt *any mode* for ascertaining public opinion as a *guide for its future action*, which may insure its full and true expression. And especially may it do so when a question of such grave import, as one involving an alteration in the fundamental law is involved. We put this question as a test question upon this subject—will any man deny the OBLIGATION of the LEGISLATURE to make such changes in the Constitution of the State as may be indicated by the clearly EXPRESSED WILL OF THE PEOPLE? If it be then, as we assume, their manifest obligation to do so, is it not their duty to submit to the award of the ballot-box, upon the invitation of the people for that purpose—the question, WHAT IS THE PUBLIC WILL?

The people are familiar with the exercise of such a power, when it is desired to ascertain the sense of any particular district, county or city, in regard to any matter of local interest. *Let one impressive instance of its exercise suffice.* The law, commonly called the "Registry Law" passed at December session, 1837, by its last section, expressly refers it to the majority of the legal voter of the city of Baltimore, to decide whether that law should go into full force, or whether it should be annulled.

The members of the recent Convention appointed a committee to memorialize the General Assembly at its approaching session, and we invite you to such preliminary as may insure the favorable consideration of the subject. Should our just hopes be disappointed, and the confidence of the people in their ministers be betrayed, the season will *then have some* for such other action as may be best calculated to obtain the object in view. And it will become the duty of the people to exercise their inherent rights with firmness, yet with calmness, with patriotism, and in the spirit of compromise and concord—the *American* spirit.

We desire that public faith should be unsullied—that private rights should be protected, and that every Marylander should proudly stand, as a man and a citizen, before the honest word and say: My JUSTICE and my HONOR are without a stain." Who will not glory to enjoy the moment of such a declaration?

Let it not be said, that we propose, in part, to attain the end of public faith and public credit by violating the public contracts with officers who are engaged in the public service.—They assumed their offices subject to the controlling power of change in the people, for whose benefit their time and talents are supposed to be employed. It was a plain condition of their contract, and the people may surely claim the fulfillment of its performance at their will and pleasure. If their compensation be beyond the value of their service; if the public work can be performed upon an equitable compensation to be awarded for it; the accumulation of immense private fortunes may be stopped, but justice will yet be done to the officers. This is the full measure of their claim, and all beyond it is extravagance, inconsistent with republican simplicity and virtue.

There is one objection which the opponents of Reform make so prominent in their arguments, that we notice it rather to exhibit the essential infirmity of their cause than to admit that it is entitled to consideration. We mean their favorite argument which they press with so much zeal, not to say violence, as to induce the belief that they consider it rather a private than a public controversy, and by which they impute to the Reformers selfish and mercenary motives. Now, in all plainness, we would say, in reply to this argument, that the Reformers must constitute a most peculiar class of men, if they seek to gratify their selfish or mercenary views by a *reduction* of the number of offices, and a *diminution* of their compensation! It is not by such paths that the money-loving or power-seeking aspirants are accustomed to reach their goal!

But the argument must recoil upon themselves. How much of sincere and deliberate opposition would there be to this great movement towards Reform and Retrenchment, but for the incessant efforts of the office-holders, and their dependents? Indeed, the only discordant sounds which break upon the general public voice of approbation, come from official incumbents, and those who, in the joyful hope of their succession, find comfort in things as they are, and bide their time.

Fellow-citizens: We have deemed the foregoing observations appropriate to the advisory character of this address, in order that we might fully disclose to your views the feelings, the motives and opinions, of the Convention which we have the honor to represent. But the important portion of our duty has yet to be discharged. It is not enough to know the nature and extent of the disease: we must advance further, and point you to the remedy. There is no occasion for reserve—our interests and our sympathies are so blended together, that we speak with confidence, what we know you will receive with kindness, if not approval. In the temper then of sincere respect, and with this claim upon your thoughtful examination of the topics we advise, that in your new Constitution your first thought should be to guard against the creation of public debt.—Rejecting, as we do from sad experience, the theory which announces that "a public debt is a public blessing," we would desire that the organic law should so curb the wild and reckless power of Legislation, that no public debt should be created, except on notice of the objects to which it is to be appropriated, and *upon a pledge of specific revenues* for its punctual payment. This is not *policy* merely, it is HONESTY. Without such a prohibition, the property of every individual is uncertain in value and enjoyment: and the darkest clouds of distrust cast upon it a constant shadow. Let us wisely employ the future in enforcing the salutary lessons of the past, and invigorate public faith by lopping off these excrescences of power.

We further advise that a constitutional check be imposed on ALL retrospective legislation.—The principle of special legislation is unsound: its results generally injurious. The *value* of all rights consists in *their certainty;* and it is by the standard of the general law that this should be measured. In many instances, a change of the remedy is as material as a change of the right; and it should not be permitted to the Legislature, except upon terms which would make their interposition fair and just, to unsettle by hasty laws, vested rights, or to afford a remedy which would prevent their full enjoyment.

We propose ONE GREAT MEASURE OF RELIEF in Biennial Sessions of the Legislature, and anticipate your cordial concurrence in its adoption. The public good does not require annual sessions of the legislature. The argument of expense in our present depressed condition is conclusive; but in any state of the treasury, we believe that the business of law-making, like many other kinds of business, may be overdone. It cannot be, that the same people, living within the same territory, and surrounded by the same social institutions, can need annually, either new laws or changes in old ones.

We hold that the landmarks which define the rights of person and of property, ought not so far to decay as to require annual repair or renewal; and we would urgently impress upon you the importance of considering, in all your primary meetings, the expediency of providing that there should be *Biennial Sessions* of the Legislature.

Remember, that by so doing you will in every alternate year, be released from the burden of interest on $1,000,000 of your public debt.

In this connection, we recommend to you a reduction of the number of the members of the Legislature, and a change of the term of Senatorial service. The period of four years is quite long enough for the Senate to be removed from the appointing power. The pressure of the public tie which binds the delegate to the constituent is apt to lose its force by time and familiarity; and should therefore, in republican governments, be renewed at no very distant stages. Upon what scale, the reduction should take place; it will be for the wisdom of the Convention to decide. The committee will only venture the suggestion, that no arbitrary rule of representation should, in their judgement, be applied.

The claims of the smaller counties should be judged with all the sacreed feelings of fellow-ship, which come full and gushing from the memories of common struggle and our common glory. There should be accorded to them a full, aye, generous measure. If from any cause, the relative position and strength of counties have changed, their past relations must not be forgotten. We are of one family; and our discussions must all be in the spirit of such a communion.

We recommend to you the propriety of reducing the pay of the members of the Legislature. No sordid motive can be gratified by the pay as it stands. It is not enough to invite cupidity; and as its design is to indemnify merely against expenses incurred in the public service, it should be brought down to that appropriate limit.

We think that the salary of the Governor is too high for our means, and that it should be reduced to a sum proportionate to the duties of that office, and the extent of our territory.—He has no part in the legislation of the State; and in other states of much larger territory, and where his field of duty and anxiety is much more extended; where the mind of the Governor is employed with the making as well as the execution of the laws, and where the public revenue is rich and unincumbered, the salary is much less.

The public experience for a few years has induced the universal conviction, that the office of Secretary of State is unnecessary; and that as a substitute, it might be well to provide by law for the salary of *a clerk* to the Governor. We recommend this change; and were it not that a statement of many details might seem to transcend the proper character of this address, we might point out other subjects of proper reform, by the abolition of useless offices of lower grade.

Our desire, however, is to call your attention to the more prominent objects of your action. And we believe it therefore to be our duty to advise, that the chancery jurisdiction of this State should be disbursed differently from the present arrangement. The large salary of the Chancellor would thus be saved to the State, and the powers of that

[Conclusion on fourth page.]

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