

MESSAGE.

STATE OF MARYLAND, }
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT; }
Annapolis, February 26th, 1858. }

To the House of Delegates of Maryland.

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with the request contained in an order passed by your House on the 6th inst, I wrote at once to the Governor of Maine, asking the information desired in regard to the operation of the Prohibitory Liquor Law

I have to-day received a reply thereto, enclosing certain statistical information and tabular statements in relation to two of the counties of the State of Maine, whereby the inquiries made in your order are answered, so far as it is in the power of the Governor of Maine to give such answer. And taking these two counties, one the most populous and commercial county, and the other an agricultural county, as examples over the State.

I am further informed that the Prohibitory Law was enacted in 1851, amended in 1853; further amended in 1855, repealed in 1856, and the present License system substituted instead.

That the whole number of convicts supported in prison in the county of Cumberland, in the year 1853, was 319, at a cost of \$1,678.50, and for the year 1857, was 1047, at a cost of \$5,256.33. In the county of Kennebec, the whole number supported in 1853, was 108, at a cost of \$1,003.76; and in 1857, was 204, at a charge of \$1,998.66.

Of the 319 convicts in Cumberland county in 1853, 154, were, committed for drunkenness; and of the 1047 committed in 1857: 732 were for drunkenness.

Of the 108 in Kennebec, in 1853, 25 were for drunkenness and of 204, in 1857, 84 were for the same cause.

In both counties there appears to be a proportionable increase in the number of convicts for offences of assaults and batteries, in the year 1857.

The amount of cost and charges for criminal prosecutions in