

## M E S S A G E .

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*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*and of the House of Delegates :*

THE earnest devotion to the best interests of our State which has been evidenced by you during the recent special session of your Honorable Bodies, renders it almost unnecessary for me to make to you the usual formal communication at the opening of your regular session.

Your prompt assumption of our proportion of the National Tax is, of itself, a sufficient guarantee that the other subjects which must engage your attention will speedily be elaborated and put in practicable shape. Necessarily, the intricate nature and numerous and delicate details of those subjects will require considerable time for their consideration and perfection. That they will be thoroughly examined in all their aspects, and that they will not be carelessly acted upon by you, I have abundant evidence from what I know of the labor already bestowed upon them by your Committees.

Such care, such patient labor, are indispensable at this time. For the credit and honor of our State, we all sincerely hope that no mistake may be made; but that every act of your Honorable Bodies may be as full and as perfect as possible. To this consummation I earnestly commend you.

The condition of the Finances of the State at the close of the last fiscal year has, I understand, been fully made known to you by the Comptroller of the Treasury Department.