

M E S S A G E .

*Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Delegates :*

WITH profound gratitude to Almighty God, for the protecting arm which has been extended over us, during the rebellion which has desolated so large a portion of our common country, I meet you for the first time in the official relation in which I have been placed by the people of Maryland. It is a source of heartfelt congratulation, that we come together, at such a time, and under such auspices. No event has transpired in the progress of human government, which has created a more hopeful feeling throughout the civilized world, or a more well grounded confidence in the success of Republican Institutions, and the right of the people now and hereafter to control their own destiny, than the overwhelming triumph of free principles, in the conflict which has so recently terminated in the restoration of peace within our borders, by the return of the disloyal States to a common allegiance. The experience of the past with its record of blood and human suffering, will not be without its lesson to those who may question at any time hereafter the power and determination of this Government, to defend itself against designing men, or combinations from whatever quarter, to throw themselves in the way of its success. The Union of these States must be maintained. Civilization and progress, and the claims of human freedom, alike demand, that while we take no step backward, in the great march upon which we have entered, the principles of Republican Government will be steadily persevered in, and all adverse influence, however interposed, whether at home or abroad, will be promptly resisted, by whatever power this government may be able to exert.

REASON FOR THE CALL OF AN EXTRA SESSION.

The Finances of the State, under the extraordinary demands growing out of the rebellion, and the failure to make our credit available under the provisions of the late Bounty Act, upon terms satisfactory to the Treasurer, impose upon me