

MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and of the House of Delegates:

Bidding you welcome to the Seat of Government, and invoking upon your deliberations the influence of that Divine Power whose past favor we gratefully remember, I proceed, as required by the Constitution, to inform you of the condition of the State, and to recommend to your consideration such measures of legislation as I think that condition requires.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE CHANGE IN OUR SYSTEM OF LABOR.

You have assembled in conformity to the provisions of the Constitution lately adopted, one year before the time heretofore appointed for your session, but not too soon for the important duties which, under that Constitution, will devolve upon you; I venture to express the hope that you will approach the discharge of these duties in a calm and dispassionate spirit, freed from all prejudice or partizan bias, and that whether heretofore favoring or opposing that important provision in our new organic law by which a most material change in our system of domestic labor has been introduced, now that this change is accomplished, no vain glorious spirit on the part of those who have advocated it, nor rankling animosities of those who opposed it, will be allowed to interfere with the legislation necessary for its successful inauguration. Let every true friend of the State, forgetful of past differences, unite in promoting her interests by perfecting as far as possible the new system introduced, and in repairing, as far as they constitutionally can, any damage, and allaying any irritation which its sudden introduction may possibly have occasioned. If the legislation which the subject requires is undertaken in this spirit, a prosperous future is undoubtedly before us.