

Proceedings of the Executive Department of the State of Maryland.
Philip Francis Thomas, Governor.

State Department

January 3rd 1848.

This being the day appointed by the Constitution of the State of Maryland for the Governor elect to qualify agreeably thereto, and the Laws thereof, the Honorable Philip Francis Thomas proceeded from the Executive chamber at 12 o'clock M. to the Senate Chamber and after taking the oaths of office required by the Constitution and Laws of the State in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature delivered the following inaugural address.

Inaugural Address.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates.

Selected by the people of Maryland to preside over the Executive Department of the Government for the ensuing three years, I enter upon the discharge of the important duties pertaining to that station, with, I trust, a just estimate of the responsibility I am about to incur, and with a determined purpose, to the utmost of my ability, to support the constitution and laws, and to maintain, unimpaired, the honor and faith of the State.

Among the topics introduced most prominently into the late political canvass, and to the consideration of which popular intelligence was earnestly invoked, none enlisted a larger share of public interest and attention than the question of Constitutional Reform. That grave measure, in all its aspects and bearings, was freely and unreservedly discussed in every County of the State, before large and intelligent assemblages of the people, and to its advocacy there is reason to believe the result of the recent gubernatorial election is mainly attributable.

For many years past, the subject of Reform in the organic Law of the State, through the agency of a Convention of Delegates, to be chosen immediately by the people for that purpose, has agitated the public mind. Formed at an early period of the revolutionary war, and in the midst of the excitement incident to so eventful a struggle, the product of the united wisdom of the purest and most patriotic men of that memorable epoch, the constitution of Maryland, although far from illustrating the perfection of Republican government, was, nevertheless, as well adapted to the exigency of the times as could ~~reasonably~~ have been expected; and all things considered, was doubtless the very best of which existing circumstances allowed.

More than seventy years have elapsed, since the adoption of that instrument. Within that period three generations have passed away, and the social condition of the people, has undergone a total change. Large portions of territory then barely known and wholly uninhabited, have since been erected into counties, and become densely populated. The gigantic hills and beautiful valleys of Western Maryland, no longer a trackless wilderness, but placed everywhere in subjection to the art of man, now teem with abundant harvests, the rich rewards of the skill and toil of a numerous, intelligent and thrifty population. Baltimore, the emporium and pride of Maryland, at that time scarcely more than a village, has expanded into a majestic city, the seat of science and the arts; ranking in importance as the fourth commercial mart of the country - numbering a population of more than a hundred thousand souls.