

4th.

The Governor pardons Henry Smith. (See Record of Pardons.)

6th.

The Governor received the Report of Thomas J. Rust, Sterling Thomas, and Joseph Haines, commissioners for the sale of the Live Stock scales, and for the erection of new ones, under Act of 1852.

7th.

The Governor being waited on by a Joint Committee of the two Houses of the General Assembly, informing him of the organization of that Body and of its readiness to receive any communication he might be pleased to make, replied that he would communicate in writing to that honorable Body, and thereupon transmitted the following Message by the hands of John Randolph Quinn Esquire, Secretary of State:

Fellow Citizens of The

Senate and House of Delegates.

We are deeply indebted, and I hope, profoundly grateful to a Merciful Providence for the continuance, during the past year, of all those special blessings which, as a State and a Nation, we have enjoyed almost uninterruptedly from the beginning. At no period since its first settlement, has this Country ever received a greater measure of prosperity and happiness than it now possesses. Peace with all the world, and a perfect contentment at home, are the choicest temporal gifts which the Divine Mercifullness can bestow upon a people. If we add to those, the innumerable blessings perennially flowing from the fountain of our free Government, and the extraordinary advantages meeting us at every point on this noble Continent, which has been confided to our Stewardship for the present relief and future greatness of mankind, we cannot fail to perceive and acknowledge the singular favor manifested in our regard by Divine Providence; neither can we prove unmindful of the corresponding obligations which rest upon us.

I earnestly invite your attention to the recommendations which I made to the General Assembly, at the Session of 1852, in reference to the criminal laws of the State, and the necessity for defining and enlarging certain powers of the Executive. In consequence of the pressure of other more important business, the Legislature, at that and the succeeding Session, omitted to give to the subject the attention which I think it demands. The experience of every day since has confirmed me in the views I