

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Executive Department, Geo. }
November 4th, 1828. }

FELLOW-CITIZENS.—It is my first duty to invite your attention to the signal Providential favours which the State has experienced, in the unusual degree of health enjoyed during the past year by its Inhabitants, and the abundance with which a fruitful soil has so generally rewarded the labour bestowed upon it. In the gradual improvement of the whole State, and in the rapid developement of the resources of the Territory last settled on the Chatahoocchie, there is every motive for mutual congratulations, and united gratitude to Heaven.

“It would have afforded me the liveliest satisfaction to have been able to solicitate you on the arrangement of those questions of interest pending at the adjournment of the last General Assembly. They remain still undecided, and must be the subjects of your deliberation under the changes that have been produced since that period. The line of demarkation between this state and Florida has not been traced, nor has the act of Congress, under a particular provision of which the execution of the work, in conjunction with the United States, was suspended, been repealed or modified. Conforming to the request of the General Assembly, communications were made to the President of the United States, of the claims of the State and the grounds on which they rested.—The President submitted the whole to Congress. Copies of the Reports made by Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives of Congress, and of all the letters to the President of the United States, and to the members of the Delegation in Congress from this State, are submitted for your examination. The Report made to the Senate recommended a postponement of the whole subject until it could be ascertained whether or not an agreement, alledged to have been made by Andrew Ellicot and the Spanish Commissioners, who were appointed to run and mark the line in 1796, was among the archives of the Spanish Government, there being no evidence of its ever having been among the archives of the United States.

The subject was not therefore discussed in the Senate, because a document, the authenticity of which must depend upon its having been presented duly executed to both the Governments of the United States and Spain, was not in the possession of the U. States—a paper the existence of which is matter of surmise, and which when produced can throw no additional light upon the controversy.

The Report made to the House of Representatives remains to be disposed of, at the ensuing session of Congress. The Committee have adopted a conclusion adverse to the State's claim, under a persuasion that the weight of evidence is against us—a conclusion which I cannot suppose will receive the sanction of the Representatives of the people in the Congress of the United States. If any thing were wanted to strengthen the overwhelming evidence of our right, it would be found in the enactment of the first law respecting this Boundary line after the peace of 1782. The act of the General Assembly for opening the Land Office passed on the 17th of February 1783. The 13th section of that act ordains and declares, that the limit, boundary, jurisdiction, and authority of the State, extends from the fork of the Apalachicola, where the Chatahoocchie and Flint Rivers meet, in a