

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Tallahassee, January 1, 1872. }

SIR: I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report of the official action of this Department for the year ending December 31, 1871 :

All the laws passed at the last session of the Legislature have been indexed and printed under my supervision as required by law. In this connection I would also report that the very valuable Digest of the laws of this State prepared by Hon. A. H. Bush, is now printed and ready for the Binder.

I have also prepared for publication, the thirteenth volume of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Florida, including all the decisions of that Court up to the April term of the Court of 1871, and am happy to state that an edition of five hundred volumes is now printed and ready for binding. This volume I regard as one of the most important ever reported in this State, containing a large number of decisions upon the Constitution of 1868 and subsequent laws, settling many mooted questions of Constitutional law and important questions growing out of the many changes that have taken place within the last ten years, in the proprietary and social relations of the people. Much care and diligence has been exercised in the preparation of the volume for the press, and typographically speaking, I believe will bear favorable comparison with volumes issued by other States. The Legislature of 1871 appropriated the sum of \$2,500 to provide for the cost of their publication. This sum has been found insufficient to cover the cost, as it was thought advisable to include all the decisions unpublished, thereby avoiding the necessity of issuing another volume for some years hence. Although the appropriation was exhausted the State printer completed the work, trusting to the Legislature for appropriation to pay the balance. I would respectfully ask your Excellency to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation of the sum of \$2,000 to meet this deficiency, and the sum of \$600 to meet the expense of binding a portion of the edition.

I would call your Excellency's attention to the fact that there is no law in this State making it obligatory upon Tax Assessors and Collectors to give bonds for the faithful performance of their duties in the safe care and custody of the public moneys entrusted to their charge, all laws upon this subject having in my opinion been repealed by the Revenue act of 1869.

I would also suggest that there is no law in this State providing on the part of the State the manner of appointing Electors of

President and Vice-President of the United States, Chapter 1663 of the Laws of 1868, providing (in my opinion) the manner of election for the year 1868 only; upon common law principles of statutory construction, it might be urged that this law expiring by its own limitation previous laws upon this subject which it repealed would be in force; such would be undoubtedly the case, were it not for a law of this State, (See Thompson's Digest, 22,) expressly prohibiting the revival of any law by implication.

I would also call your attention to the necessity of a law to carry into effect Article 5, of the Amendment to the Constitution, making provisions for calling into the Supreme Court a Judge of the Circuit Court in certain cases therein provided.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I remain sir, with the highest esteem,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES B. C. DREW,

Attorney General.

To his Excellency HARRISON REED,
Governor of Florida.