

thus affording an opportunity of exchanging the products of the two states, and strengthening the bonds of our national union. They will also add largely to the revenue on the works now in use.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the policy of commencing the Erie Extension and north Branch Canals, there ought to be none now as to their speedy completion. They are nearly finished, a comparatively small sum is necessary to complete them, and the policy of a continued and protracted delay in completing works, which the state is pledged to accomplish, until the first work done on them has become useless from decay, has proved disastrous and ruinous on many occasions.

The course heretofore usual, of neglecting to appropriate a sufficient sum for repairs, and that early in the session, has been seriously detrimental to the interests of the Commonwealth. At the last session the Commissioners shewed the lowest estimate for repairs required \$700,000, and the Legislature appropriated \$500,000, a great portion of which was absorbed by debts then due. The result has shown that the Commissioners were right. The fund has long since been exhausted. The necessary repairs have not been completed. Those who have been engaged on them are unpaid, and the Supervisors are without funds to lay in the necessary materials for repairs. The repairs on the line of canals in use should ordinarily be made in winter, when they would not interrupt the use of the canals; and it has usually happened that before the arrival of winter, the officers have no means at their command, and no appropriation bill is passed until late in the session. The whole system of repairs in consequence of the uncertainty of the time of paying the workmen and those who furnish material, cost the Commonwealth much more than it would do: were the means of payment, ample, certain, and promptly applied.

The Beaver division of the Pennsylvania Canal is already connected with the public improvements of Ohio, by the Pennsylvania and Ohio canal, a work which has been completed by individual enterprise, aided by public appropriations from both States, and bids fair to be a valuable tributary to our public improvements, and a profitable investment for the stockholders. It has been accomplished at a less cost than any other work of the kind which I have visited, and is a monument of the wisdom of its projectors, and of the skill, prudence, and economy of those charged with its construction.

I respectfully recommend to the Legislature, the enactment of a law authorizing the Canal Commissioners to treat with the authorities of the state of New York, for such a connection of our internal improvements with theirs, as will promote the interests of the two Commonwealths. The law should limit the terms and conditions, and define the powers and authorities of the Commissioners in such manner as on due consideration shall be deemed proper.

The interest of the Commonwealth would also be advanced by entrusting the same board with the power of selling or leasing water power created by our internal improvements. There are many points, and in very advantageous situations, surplus quantities of water, which could be profitably applied to various branches of manufacture, without injury to the due supply of our canals. The tolls on our public improvements would be increased thereby, and a considerable sum realized from such sale or lease.

By an act of the 7th April, 1835, a guaranty was made on the part of the State for the payment of an interest of five per cent. for twenty-five years on \$200,000, of the capital stock of the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation Company, and by a subsequent act the State has since subscribed \$25,000 to the stock of the company. The whole of the work is completed and in active operation, except the last six miles, on which about one third of the excavation and embankment is made, two locks completed and another nearly completed. A comparatively trifling sum would finish this work, but the funds of the company are exhausted, and the Commonwealth is annually called upon for the amount of her guaranty, and her subscriptions is wholly unproductive. It is a very valuable tributary to the State Canal, terminating in one of the richest mineral regions in this or perhaps any other country. Every article coming out of it pays a toll on our state canal for 150 miles to Columbia. I therefore submit to the better judgement of the Legislature, whether sound economy does not dictate the further subscription of a sum sufficient to finish it; believing that its productiveness will will then be amply sufficient to relieve the Commonwealth from any further payment of her guaranty.

There are at present many public works in the course of construction in our State by means of private companies, most of which I cannot but think are calculated to benefit Pennsylvania in a very high degree. Among the latter I may particularize the Williamsport and Elmira rail road, as tending with a certainty to produce this result. This road will connect the Grand Erie Canal of New York by the Seneca Lake, with the West Branch Canal at Williamsport; and also intersect at Elmira, the great Southern rail road now being constructed from the Hudson river to Lake Erie at Dunkirk. The advantages likely to result to ourselves from the construction of this road will be, that the great amount of tonnage and

travel which now annually finds its way from the Lakes through the state of New York to the Atlantic, will thus be brought directly through our own public improvements to Philadelphia: the distance from Elmira to the latter city, by this route, being 71 miles shorter than to the city of New York by any contemplated improvement in that State. Other improvements of a similar character, and perhaps of equal importance, might be noticed.

Every man is presumed to be present in the Legislature by his representative, and to know what public laws are enacted, and is therefore held to be bound by them from the time of their enactment; this notice however is a constructive one. I would respectfully suggest whether some provision for the immediate publication of all laws of a public nature is not necessary, to give to the people actual notice of provisions by which they may be seriously affected.

The Report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools, which will shortly be laid before you, will show the progress which the cause of education is making in public opinion, and the state and condition of the Colleges, Academies and Schools throughout the Commonwealth.

Though the active operations of the Geological Survey are not yet completed, a much greater extent of country has been minutely explored during the past season than in any former one. The State Geologist, and his corps, were laboriously occupied in the field, their researches extending into various districts both east and west of the Allegheny mountains. The insight acquired during the survey, into the more minute features of our Geology, and the true position of our various mineral deposits, has served greatly to increase the accuracy and value of the large body of facts now collected. Throughout several extensive sections of the State, where, hitherto, no accurate clue had been discovered by which particular beds of those useful substances, iron ore, coal, marble and limestone could be traced, much of the obscurity has been removed. Several districts, however, of greater or less extent yet remain to be explored. Tho' some of these have been already faithfully examined, one year more will be necessary for unravelling the intricacies of their structure, and enabling the Geologist to arrive at a satisfactory knowledge of their resources.

For this purpose an appropriation will become necessary. The amount, however, will be less than the sum hitherto annually expended. The Topographical maps now in the course of construction, are essential as a basis for the Geological map called for by the law. In the chemical department of the survey, an extensive series of ores, coals, cements, fluxes, &c., have been analyzed, resulting in a species of knowledge now becoming every day more important to the growing manufacturing and mining interests of Pennsylvania.

It is an undoubted fact, that the last few years have been a period of pecuniary embarrassment in the business community. It has been consoling, however, to reflect, that during a portion of that time, our husbandmen have been reaping a full reward for their abundant crops, for which until recently, they have found ready markets, at fair prices. They have not generally been effected with that mad spirit of speculation, which at one time seemed to have seized so large a part of other portions of our citizens, and induced them to engage in almost every visionary scheme in their haste to get rich."

The causes of the embarrassment have been variously explained, as suited the views of those who undertook the task. My own views upon this subject have been fully and freely expressed in my communications to the preceding Legislature. No one, however, can doubt that when our country is importing large amounts of the luxuries and superfluities of life from foreign countries, and not exporting a sufficiency of our own products to pay for them, there must be a constant drain of precious metals, and hence a scarcity of money to supply the wants of our community at home. A retrenchment among our citizens, of whom plain republican simplicity has ever been a distinguishing characteristic, in the purchase and use of articles of mere luxury, would greatly tend to lessen this cause of pecuniary embarrassment.

The consequences of the embarrassment in our mercantile and manufacturing operations, are now beginning to be felt, also, by our farmers, in the more recent reductions of the prices of products, although the fact communicated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in his late report is cheering, that during the last year, the exports from this country have exceeded the imports by nearly twenty-seven millions of dollars. This is certainly encouraging, especially when we reflect, that in prior years the reverse was the fact; and that without going back further in the year 1836, the excess of imports exceeded the exports upwards of sixty-one millions of dollars; in 1838, fifty millions of dollars; and that in 1837, the import of the single article of silk, a mere luxury, which our own country is as capable of producing as any other, amounted to twenty-three millions of dollars, while our export of flour, during the same year, was but seven millions of dollars. It is to be hoped, and the increased confidence growing of the resumption of specie payments about to take place, warrants the conclusion, that business will resume its accustomed channels, and taking lessons of prudence from the past, our citizens will not again be tempted into those

wild excesses which have well nigh led on to bankruptcy and ruin, and the prostration of public and private credit and confidence.

Our Commonwealth possesses a fertile soil, and unbounded agricultural and mineral wealth. We have within ourselves all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life. With the increase of intelligence and means, we find our farmers augmenting the products of their soil, improving their stocks of domestic animals and adding to the neatness of their household establishments. No one can pass through our Commonwealth, without being struck with the air of substantial comfort and increasing prosperity, which prevades the agricultural districts of the State.

The variety and extent of our water power, give great facilities to the manufacture of our grain into bread stuffs, and for every other branch of manufacture, either needed for the supply of our citizens, or for the employment of their capital.

Had Pennsylvania already reached the full development of her resources, with her present pecuniary responsibilities weighing her down, we might well contemplate our situation, with trembling solicitude. But this is not the case. Throughout the whole extent of her ample territory, there is scarcely a square mile, which does not abound in some or all of the great staples of her mineral wealth. Anthracite and bituminous coal, iron, marble and limestone, have been scattered by nature with a most profuse hand, and have been hitherto worked barely enough to prove, with what prodigality they have been lavished upon us. The coal field of our Commonwealth embraces more than one fifth of its area, and more than three times as much as belongs to entire Europe. Connected with the coal, which abounds in so large a portion of the Commonwealth, we have large supplies of iron ore, almost in immediate contact with it. In addition thereto, we have, within convenient distances, almost all the other varieties of iron ore found in any part of the world. The adaptation of anthracite coal, to the smelting of iron ore, has been followed by its successful and profitable application in the further stages of the manufacture of the metal; and that the same results will speedily follow from the application of bituminous coal, may be looked for, with almost absolute certainty. While the iron manufactured with charcoal, will always be wanted for the finer purposes, and the demand for it, increased by the natural increase of the population of the country, that manufactured from mineral coal, will be employed in the construction of rail-roads, and for innumerable other purposes. This discovery must stand as a distinguished era in the annals of our Commonwealth. It cannot fail to add millions of dollars to her active and available capital; and will ere long transfer to our own citizens most if not all of the large sums that are now annually sent abroad for rail road iron, and other iron manufactured articles. The manufacture of these numerous and valuable commodities will not only result in enriching Pennsylvania, but will cut off a large item in the imports of this country, tend to emancipate us from European dependence, enable our sister states to complete their rail roads at a cheaper and better rate, and strengthen the National Union, by the strongest of all ties, that of mutual interest.

Nor is there in Pennsylvania a single class of citizens who will not share directly in the advantages. The owners of coal and iron deposits, and those who engage in the manufacture and sale of these productions, will derive the first benefit; but the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and every other citizen, will feel immediately, the salutary impulse which will be communicated to his own peculiar business. The value of our canals and rail roads must be greatly enhanced, as well as that of all other species of property.

With this cheap and ready means which they will afford for the transportation of our various products and manufactures, there can be no doubt, that the trade and business of the state must extend and increase with unexampled rapidity, and by prudence and good management be perpetuated.

In this gradual and certain development of our resources may be found abundant means to liquidate our public debt, and to discharge every other liability, that can justly be cast upon our state. I confess it affords me peculiar gratification to advert to this topic, for it shows most satisfactorily, that though this Commonwealth has been somewhat in advance of the time in extending her improvement system so widely as she has done, the people, notwithstanding, are destined at no remote period to realize, most amply, all the benefits it was ever expected to produce. The increase of our manufactures will necessarily tend to afford additional sources of employment for the laborer, and furnish increased security against all improper combinations for the reduction of wages.

It is any cause of apprehension has existed, from the attempts in large manufacturing establishments to keep their operatives in subservient matters of opinion and the exercise of political rights, let the evil be corrected under adequate penalties. Let the rearing up of children in factories without education be prohibited, and the light of learning and science being diffused, as well among the operatives as their richer employers, the danger of this influence will be counteracted by shaking off the shackles of ignorance and undue dependence either upon the information or the will of others.

Then instead of having a class of human beings in a state of vassalage, we would rear up freemen capable of thought and reflection, and of putting a proper estimate on that spirit of independence which influenced our forefathers in achieving our freedom, and which ought ever to pervade the bosoms of their descendants to the latest generation.

Performing, as Pennsylvania has always done in an exemplary manner, her duties as a member of the great federal union, of which she has not unaptly been denominated the "Keystone," we must never forget, the duties which we, as her immediate functionaries, owe to her own interests, and the necessity of advancing and sustaining them as far as can be done, without interfering with her duties to the General Government.

On the part of the Legislature, nothing is wanted but a careful supervision of her various interests, to place this Commonwealth on a firm basis of pecuniary independence. Whatever course other states may think proper to pursue, let it be the patriotic duty of Pennsylvania to sustain and cherish every effort to develop her resources, and to advance her glory and her renown. Vindicate her character for integrity—fulfill all her engagements faithfully—husband her resources with economy, but not with a false and mistaken spirit of parsimonious illiberality—and the fair fame of Pennsylvania will stand before the world without spot or blemish to tarnish it. To maintain this fame unsullied, should be the first and most unyielding duty of every citizen honored with any station, in which he becomes its official guardian. I should deem myself unworthy of the office, with which the people have clothed me, if I proved recreant to this high trust.

By a judicious system of laws, corresponding with the habits and wants of our people, fostering and encouraging enterprise and industry, and enabling our citizens to reap the full reward of their labor and perseverance, we shall fulfil the expectations of our constituents, and be the means under Divine Providence, of perpetuating the blessings which have been so signally showered upon us by the Author of all Good.

The experience of many years fortifies me in the belief, that our greatest error in legislation, is that of legislating too much. Our Legislatures have been holding one extra session after another, and that too in times of profound peace, and when the calls of patriotism are imperiously made on every public functionary to diminish, as far as in him lies, the pecuniary burden under which the state has been laboring. The consequence has been, an unparalleled increase in the legislative expenses over all other departments of the government. I can recommend no more certain and effectual retrenchment in this matter, than short sessions; still let the conduct of every department of the government be thoroughly scrutinized and let no important interest of the people be neglected.

The baneful practice of converting the halls of legislation into an arena for the display of political gladiators, which has too long characterized the halls of our national legislature, is a lamentable departure from the course pursued by the band of patriots who composed "the first congress;" and whose example, I hope, has not yet been wholly forgotten by their successors. The pernicious tendency of this practice of the national legislature, will not, I trust, be extended to the legislatures of their respective states; and I am sure, I need scarcely add, I have no apprehensions of its reaching the legislature of this Commonwealth. No public functionary who would yield to its influence need expect to retain the confidence and respect of the people of Pennsylvania.

In conclusion, I shall beg leave to refer you to the views on several subjects contained in my last annual message. That message being the first which I had the honor to communicate at the commencement of a session of the Legislature, I went more into the detail on the various topics discussed in it, than I supposed would be again necessary, with a view to an expression of opinion on them, as well for that occasion, as for future reference. I therefore refer you to it for my recommendations on the subjects of reform of the Banking system &c.—the importance of connecting and completing at the earliest day practicable, the disconnected part of our disjointed and unfinished system of internal improvements,—the making of prompt and ample provision for keeping the public improvements in repair,—the necessity of preserving unimpaired the credit of the Commonwealth, and promptly meeting all her pecuniary engagements,—the necessary care and caution to be exercised in creating, renewing, and supervising corporations,—the subject of education, and as connected with it, that of procuring competent teachers and school books,—the subject of the increase of writs of error and appeals in the Supreme Court, and reporting the decisions of that Court,—the militia system, the encouragement of volunteers and the reduction of militia trainings to one day in the year,—the evasion of the laws relative to collateral inheritance tax,—and the revision of the laws relative to the selecting and drawing of jurors.

It will afford me great pleasure to cooperate with the Legislature, on these and all other measures calculated to promote the common good of our beloved Commonwealth.

DAVID R. PORTER.
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Jan. 6th, 1841.



THE JOURNAL.

One country, one constitution one desti

Huntingdon, Jan. 13, 1841.

Democratic COUNTY CONVENTION.

The friends of GEN. HARRISON within the several townships and boroughs of Huntingdon county are requested to meet at their usual places of holding elections, on or before Saturday the 9th day of January next, and appoint two persons from each township and borough in said county, to meet in convention at Huntingdon on Wednesday evening the 13th January, for the purpose of choosing two delegates to represent this county in the State Convention which will meet in Harrisburg on the 4th of March next, to nominate a candidate for Governor.

BY THE COUNTY COMMITTEE.

County Treasurer.

The County Commissioners, on last week, elected Andrew H. Hirst Treasurer of this County, they could not have selected a man more capable of performing its duties correctly than Mr. Hirst.

We are not in the habit of saying much in favor of public officers, but we feel confident that we express the feeling of the people generally, when we say his appointment meets their approbation.

His office is in the Main street, at the corner opposite and above the residence of the late Robert Allison Esq.

Strange! Werry.

Our readers, by referring to our Legislative proceedings, will see that a very extraordinary circumstance has occurred to A. H. Read, Mr. Porter's able State Treasurer. He has sent a very long report to enlighten the members on the subject of Pennsylvania Finances; and upon examination, it is almost word for word with an old report sent into the Senate in 1832, at which time this same able A. H. Read was chairman of the Committee of ways and means. (We should like to know from what previous report he copied that.) This then is the great A. H. Read. Unable to make a report himself he has copied a few pages of an old Journal, and sent it in as a report of the finances for 1840-1. "Is it not 'strange! werry!'" to suppose that so great a man should have to do so small a business. Perhaps the Treasurer will say first impressions are always lasting; and his first notions of finance were had in '32 and neither time nor circumstance could remove them.

Complimentary to the Poor.

"The Poor Man's vote was gained By means disgusting to the freeman's ear; Aristocratic Europe bought them up, Like cattle in the market, with her gold."

The above very expressive compliment to the poor we take from the New Year's Address of the 'Venango Democrat,' and for which every poor but honest man who voted for Harrison should return him thanks! Aye thanks, for it tells in what estimation some, at least, of that party hold the poor men. Yes, poor men.—Some of these mighty lovers of the people, say the Poor Man is bought and sold, like cattle in the market, Shame! Shame! We will tell the conductor of that print if he is willing to test the truth of his assertion, to try the virtue of gold in buying poor men's votes, on the first suffering poor man he meets: beg of him to accept your gold, and our word for it, he "will spit out thee, and spurn thee for thy boldness."

Uncalled For.

We regret exceedingly to see an article signed "Wyoming," find its way into that excellent and usually correct sheet, the 'United States Gazette.'

The article alluded to is unwise, uncalled, and withal, ungentlemanly. Why "Wyoming," should deem it necessary to make such a virulent attack upon THADDEUS STEVENS, Esq, we cannot imagine. Had he disliked the course pursued by Mr. Stevens, he should have censured that, and not have seized upon it to make an assault filled with uncounted epithets against the man. We have ourselves expressed our censure of the course, but we are the personal as well as the political friend of Mr. Stevens, and

if he is to stand as a mark, for those who profess to have acted with him in the late great contest, to hurl the old missiles of Loco Focoism at him, we at once say he shall find a warm hearted, if not an able defender in us. We have not, by word or deed, expressed a preference for any man as a cabinet officer, (nor is it much matter whether we do); but above all things we abhor this assailing personally, a man in our own ranks, because either he or his own friends seek promotion; and we ask in the name of our country, is now the time that we should begin to stir up dissensions and strifes? Are we as a party to prove the truth of the charge made by the opposition, that we are so greedy for the 'spoils' that we will worry and tear each other.

"Wyoming" is mistaken when he declares that "whatever popularity Mr. Stevens ever had, has long since disappeared." His name will long live in the remembrance of thousands of his fellow citizens, for his mighty efforts in favor of general education; and such sneers at such a man only tend to bring his friends closer around him, and make them watch with an over jealous eye, perhaps, the source from whence they come.

We wish it to be distinctly understood, that we speak entirely free from any prejudice on the subject, for we claim not to be in any way either friendly or unfriendly to Mr. Stevens. We freely say that we regret that he or his friends considered it necessary to obtain the names of the electors; and we say that we regret still more the violent article of "Wyoming;" and if possible, still more regret that it received countenance from our estimable cotemporary, Chandler.

Governor's Message.

Our readers will find in to-day's paper, the annual Message of the Governor. Common usage has generally called the message of any of our executive officers, an "important document"—an honest regard for truth will not allow us to dignify this one, at least, with that distinction. There is nothing of importance about it. It has more sound than sense, and signifies nothing; and were it not unmanly to speak in such terms of a Governor, we would say it contained more than one—misrepresentation.

For all, or nearly all his views on the subject of the Banks, he refers to his message of last year; and relative to the Banks he winds up his homily with a deep regret that his recommendations did not meet with the approbation of the Legislature. Have the reflecting portion of the people forgotten his second message, wherein he in fact prorogued the following of his recommendation.

In the next paragraph he tells the people "that the day fixed by the Legislature for resumption by the Banks was more remote than he wished." Have the honest men of his own party forgotten that his second message was the cause of the long delay; and that the Governor said "he was regardless of any denunciation that might be poured forth from any quarter" on his course; or do not they know that he had the right to veto the Bill if he did not like it? In the same paragraph he says, "the most active endeavors were made to suppress the use of small notes." There is not an honest man in this State but what must unhesitatingly say that no such active endeavors were made. True, a proclamation was thundered forth directing prosecuting attorneys to prosecute with an unrelenting hand, any man who dare to circulate them. But it was all talk. The State was flooded with small notes; and they were handled as freely by his mighty engines of the law as by others. Does any body believe that the Governor did not know this? We are much disposed to think that this assertion will not satisfy the people.

He next refers to the "unruly assiduity" of his officers on the public improvements. The people of this county can well understand the "pole raisings"—the transportation of "Great Meetings of the people" in a Union Canal boat. The message then says "the improvements are in a much better state of repair, than they have ever been, and but little delay or interruption in business occurred." There is not a boatman who run on this canal in the early part of the season who does not know that there was more detention from breaks and bad management at that time than there ever was before. But this is not the best part of the story. They are now in better repair than ever, yet in the next paragraph he says "great and immediate repairs are indispensable." This, now, is really laughable—the works are in better repair than when they were