GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Represe tives of the Commonwealth of Penn-

GENTLEMEN:-From the days of William Penn, the great and pious founder of our Commonwealth, it has founder of our Commonwealth, it has been the universal custom of my predecessors, when making their annual communications to the General Assembly, to acknowledge their gratitude to and dependence upon the Great Lawgiver of the Universe. In imitation of thier noble example, let us earnestly invoke His blessing and guidance in our efforts to perform the great work of legislation now before us, in such manner as to meet His approbation, as manner as to meet His approbation, as vell as that of our common constitu-

In transmitting to you the seventy-In transmitting to you the seventyninth annual message since the organization of the present state government,
it affords me the highest gratification
to congratulate you and our fellow-citizens generally on their enjoying, to an
unusual degree, the blessings of health
and unstinted prosperity; and that our
principles and institutions—the pride
and boast of every true hearted patriot
although tried again in the crucible of —although tried again in the crucible of a heated political contest, the heavings of popular passion, and the collusion of parties, from which we have just emergiate in the collusion of parties, from which we have just emergiate in the collusion of parties. ged, remain unimpaired and vital in

Under such auspicious circumstances you have assembled, for the purpose of discharging the important duties, and assuming the special responsibilities which devolve upon you. It is extremely difficult; even with the greatest caution in your deliberations, to en-act laws that will fully meet the expectations and approbation of all the peo-ple; but much of this difficulty may be overcome by avoiding legislation for personal and special interests and for personal and special interests and not being unmindful of the magnitude of the interests of the State, and of its rapidly advancing copulation, wealth and influence to destinies beyond the reach of human vision. A nobler heritage was never given to man thanthat which wepossessgeographically and politically of the greatest importance, an area of more than forty four ance, an area of more than forty thousand square miles; diversified with mountains, valleys, plains, rivers; mountains covered with majestic for-ests of valuable timber of almost every mountains covered with majestic forests of valuable timber of almost every variety; plains dotted with comfortable homesteads, and presenting well cultivated farms and luxuriant fields marked by the advancement of agriculture—the parent, supporter and stimulator of every species of industry, exchange and commerce; hills and valchange and commerce; hills and valchange and commerce is hills and valchange and commerce of all the valchange and commerce of all the valchange are contained in the Dreasury. The balance now in the Treasury might be rendered productive by being invested in the bonds of the State, bearing six per cent. Interest; and to the message of January 6, 1869, where I remark, 'whenture—the parent, supporter and stimu-lator of every species of industry, ex-change and commerce; hills and valmechanics, woolgrowers, coal and iron miners, oil producers, and merchants full of activity and confidence; with thousands of miles of railroads and canals to transfer vast products to mar-ket, and accommodate the travel of four millions of happy and properous people. Nor should we be forgetful of ducation in all its branches, of the public charities, prisons, reformatories, the collection of properly imposed tax-es the speedy reduction of the State debt, the preservation of order, and the more certain protection of life, business and property. All these interests and perhaps others of equal importance, demand legislation of the most enligh-tened, liberal and comprehensive char-

In conformity to the requirements of the Constitution, I proceed to invite your attention to such measures as are deemed necessary for your consideracalculated to advance the prosperity of Commonwealth.

From the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, the following statement has been carefully prepared, and exhibits the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1869:

Reposints

Total in the Treasury during the year ending Nov. 30, 1869...... 6.254,636 65

Disbursements.

Ordinary expenses paid during the year ending Nov.

. \$2,485,114 27 Loans, &c redeemed at

Balance in Treasury, Nov 30.1862 ... 1,400,862 49 that part of the loans and part of the interest are paid at the Treasury, and part of both by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. This produces a complication of accounts; which in orcial statement, I recommend that au-Commissioners with the whole amount of the State debt, and also with all the money applicable to the payment there-

The following is a statement show-ing the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, on November 30,

f, and that they alone be credited with

all payments on both principal and in-

Funded debt, viz: 6 per cent, loans...\$25,311,180 00 5 per cent, loans... 7,277,384 38 4i per cent, loans... 112,000 00

Amount of public debt, Nov 30, 69 32,814,540 95

Reduction of the Public Debt. At the commencement of the present administration in January, 1867, the total outstanding indebtedness of the State was thirty-seven million, seven

Assets in Sinking Fund.

The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follows, viz —Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, six million, three hundred thousand dollars. Agreeably to an act dated March 30, 1869, the Sinking Fund Commissioners delivered all the obligations of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, being third mortgage bonds to the Allegheny Valley Rail-

Assets in Sinking Fund.

so continuing annually thereafter until the said sum of three million, five hundred thousand dollars shall be paid, with interest thereon from January 1,

The citizens of Pennsylvania have always borne taxation not only pa-tiently but cheerfully, and they are still as willing as ever to contribute to the payment of allthe obligations resting upon the State, but they expect their public servants who are intrusted with the management of their affairs, to act upon the most prudent and economical basis. In a word, they demand reform in the management of the financial affairs of the State, and has far as possible, the retrenchment of all unneces-

On the 30th of January last, replying to a resolution of the Senate, I

receipt, through the Clerk of your Honoroble body, a copy of the follow-ing resolution, passed on the 12th inst.,

"Resolved, That the Governor be requested to submit some plan to the Senate to secure the State from loss by the accumulation of large amounts of

change and commerce; hills and valleys with teeming mines of all the varieties of coal, iron, oil, salt and other minerals; with farmers, manufacturers, mechanics, woolgrowers, coal and iron miners, oil producers, and merchants in saving the interest on them which would accumulate prior to their ma-

> Since making these suggestions, and maturely deliberating upon the subject, I have seen no reason to change my mind in relation thereto; and now submit the same plan, more specifically set forth, based upon the following statement of the loans of the Common-wealth, viz:

Amount of coverdue, loans including bank charter loans and relief notes unredeemed \$ 359.482 25

surplus funds in the Treasury could, with great propriety, be applied. This indebtedness is held in bonds bearing interest; and it will readily be per-ceived that this interest will be saved to the State upon whatever amount of these bonds may be redeemed, and the State be saved from all risks of loss by the accumulation of large amounts of

A few illustrations will show the beneficial workings of this plan. At the termination of the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868, there was an unexpended balance in the Treasury of \$1,012,915.38. If the suggestions heretofore made had been carried out, by the investment of one million of dollars, at that time, in the five per cent, bonds that will fall due July 1, 1870, and which I am credibly informed could then have been purchased at something less than their par value, the interest on the same, from November 30, 1868, to July 1, 1869, would be seventy-nine thousand, one hundred and sixty seven dollars and sixty-seven cents, which has been lost to the State. Again, on the 30th of November, 1869, there was in the Treasury an unexpended balance of \$1,400,-862.49. If one million, four hundred thousand dollars of this sum had been invested in the same kind of bonds at

par, on the 1st day of December, 1869, the interest for the seven remaining months, ending July 1, 1870, would be \$40,833.35, but which, in consequence of non-conformity to this plan, will be lost to the Commonwealth. I cannot reiterate too strongly my recommendations on this subject, and would, therefore, recommend that a law be passed making it the duty of the Com-missioners of the Sinking Fund to invest all surplus funds as rapidly as they accrue in the Treasury, in the purchase of the bonds of the Commonwealth next falling due.

I beg, once more, to remind the Legislature that the salary of the State Treasurer should at least be equal to that of the Governor. It is only seventeen hundred dollars, a sum entirely insufficient to command the services of any responsible man, who is required to furnish a bond with good and approved sureties, for eighty thousand dollars, and to run the risk of hand-ling at least five or six million of dollars per annum, without the unlawful use of the State funds, and subsidies from sources that dare not be revealed to the public because they are positively prohibited by law, under penal-ties of no ordinary magnitude. Yet there are but few men who have held this office, however poor they may have been when they took charge of it, who have not become rich. There is certainly some advantages to be gained by the holding of the position of State Treasurer, unknown to the public, but which readily accounts for the disgracfal scramble, and for the political and moral debauchery which the people of hundred and four thousand, four hun-dred and nine dollars and seventy-seven to witness, in the election of that officer; cents. Since then, and up to Novemand because of the disgrace it brings ber 30, 1869, the sum of four million, upon their representatives, the people ber 30, 1869, the sum of four million, eight hundred and eighty-nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty eight dollars and shame. Then, in the name of the good eight hundred and sixty eight dollars and shame.

ing November 30, 1869, amounts to of elections, whatever may be his posifour hundred and seventy-two thousand four hundred and six dollars and eightionor pretensions. And then every one who shall have performed his whole duty to sustain the true interests of the who shall have performed his whole duty to sustain the true interests of the State and to maintain the high dignity of her character, may return uppolluted and with a clear conscience to dren in these schools has been remarkty of her character, may feet in unpol-luted and with a clear conscience to his constituen's, who will receive him with open arms, and with the joyful exclamation of "well done good and faithful servant."

Wedden to the second

Liberal appropriations are made annually to our penitentiaries, lunatic aroad Company, being third mortgage bonds, to the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, and received therefor thirty five second mortgage bonds of one hundred thousand dollars each, making in all three million, five hundred thousand dollars, executed by the said Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, and guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Northern Central Railroad Company, and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company payable to the Commonwealth as follows, viz:

The principal of one of said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each and every year beginning January 1, 1875, and so continuing annually thereafter until sylums, ond other charitable and benmonwealth. I, therefore, recommend that a law be passed requiring all per-sons who receive and disburse State appropriations, to take proper vouchers for all moneys so expended by them, and to make quarterly settlements of the same in the Auditor General's office. This is important, not only to protect the interests of the State, but also the good name of those who receive and disburse the money, and of the members of the Legislature through whose influence the appropriations are represented to be procured.

For many years the general appropriation bills have been signed on the day of the adjournment of the Legislature and I here repeat my suggestions of last year on this subject. The Governor has been forced either to sign the

bills without proper investigation, notwithstanding any objections he may have; suspend the means to defray the operations of the government for the ensuing year; or call an extra session of the Legislature. It is there-fore earnestly desired that the appro-priation bill be taken up, discussed and passed at a sufficiently early period during the session to enable the Gov-ernor to give it that thorough examination its importance demands."

Common Schools.

The peculiar interest which is al-

ways manifested by the people in the subject of education, is an inducement to lay before you, more at length than would otherwise be done, the principal statistics of the system drawn from the report of the Superintend-

nt of Common Schools.

There are within the State 1,971 school districts; 13,936 schools; 2,445 graded schools; 12,900 school directors; 76 superintendents; 17,142 teachers, and 815,753 pupils. The average cost of tuition for each pupil is ninty-seven cents per month. The whole cost of tuition for the year is \$3,500,704,26. Total cost including expenditures of all kinds during the year \$6. tures of all kinds during the year, \$6,-986, 148,92. Estimated value of school property \$14,015,632.

Notwithstanding the fact that our

school law was made gen ral in the year 1848, it is remarkable that there still remain five districts within the State which have not yet conformed thereto. Hopes are entertained that 2.820,750 00 4.907,150 00 92.850 00 7.999,600 00 3.934,400 00 321,000 00 321,000 00 321,000 00
400,000 00
90
1,185,950 00
112,000 00

ander the control of the Economites," having a good school of its
own, will probably not adopt the public school system so long as the present
organization of that society exists. It

> entitled to assume the front rank.— Their flourishing condition may be un-derstood from the following statistics: The whole number of students that have attended the four Normal schools have attended the loar Normal schools is 10,237, of whom 321 have graduated. During the past year there were in these institutions 76 teachers, and 4,-178 students. Since my last annual communication, a State Normal school has been fully established and recognized at Bloomsburg, Columbia country. Like halldings are of the most fine. ty. Its buildings are of the most fin-ished and substantial character, and it auspicious circumstances. Another is now in a state of preparation at Cali-fornia, Washington county, and will

> Your attention is again invited to the fact that there are about seventyfive thousand children in the State that do not attend schools of any description, and who are permitted to grow up in ignorance and without employment, and, in many instances, from lack of industrial and educational training become not only the votaries of vice, but a prolific source from which the inmates of our prisons and penitentiaries are supplied.
>
> The number of children throughout

the State attending private schools, is

estimated at eighty-five thousand.

The aggregate of the educational condition of the children of the Common-

Many of the recommendations contained in the report of the Superintendent are of the utmost importance, and eminently deserving of serious attention and legislative action. The facts above set forth illustrate most forcibly the practical value of our most admi-rable common school system, and bear testimony that cannot be misunder-stood, to the wisdom and liberality by which it has been conceived and so successfully carried into effect.

Soldiers' Orphans' Schools.

Attention is invited to the report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orhpans' Schools, for the year ending May 31, 1869, in which is exhibited their condition, circumstances and ex-

mitted into these schools from their origin to the 31st day of May, 1869, is large the marked and eighty-nine thousand, six five per cent, the sum of \$244,493 44, in interest, is annually saved to the Commonwealth. Consequently, the total amount of indebtedness of the Possible the Save per possible for thousand, six hirty-five million, eight hundred and sevent for the marked and sevent for the sevent search entry of the sum of \$244,493 44, in the members of the Legislature, without distinction of party, to rise above the much of indebtedness of the Commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed with the necessary commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was four formed and sixty eight dollars and miner of the good of whom three hundred and sixty eight dollars and the state of whom there have dead to the Commonwealth on November 30, 1869, is four thousand, five hundred and sixty eight dollars and the share of the good of whom three hundred and sixty eight dollars and the state of whom there hundred and sixty eight dollars and the state of whom three hundred and sixty eight dollars and the share of the share of whom three hundred and sixty eight dollars and the share of the share of the convenience of the solilers, and the dufferent offices established to whom there hundred and sixty eight dollars and the share of the share of the convenience of the solilers, and the dufferent offices established to the commonwealth of the convenience of the solilers, and the dufferent offices established to the convenience of the solilers, and the dufferent offices established to the convenience of the solilers, and the dufferent offices established to the convenience of the solilers, and the world. This makes the convenience of the convenience of the solilers, a

mates by one hundred and seventy-five. The number of applications for admission on file and not acted on, was

ably good. And from the foregoing statement it appears that during the four years in which they have been in operation, the whole number of deaths has been less than one-third of one per

cent. per annum.

The entire cost for maintenance, education, clothing and general expenses, for the year ending May 31, 1869, dif-fers but little from the original esti-mate of the Superintendent, and

Balance unprovided for ...

For which sum there should be a special appropriation without delay, to meet the pressing wants of the teachers of the different institutions, who have been already compelled to await its payment for more than seven

Superintendent estimated the expenses for the current year terminating May 31, 1870, at \$494,700. The sum appropriated for that year, by act of April 16, 1869, was \$450,000. As the Superintendent reports the expenses will not materially vary from his estimate, there will therefore be a deficit of \$44,700 for the current year, to be provided for during the present ses

For the maintenance of these schools during the year ending May 31, 1871, it is estimated that \$534,500 will be required. Which sum I recommend to be appropriated, with the positive understanding that the expenditures shall

not exceed that amount.

We are admonished by the rapid expansion of the system, and by the constantly increasing desire to obtain admission in these schools, that some definite limit should be determined upon by law. It is therefore recommended that the indigent children of Pennsyl-vania soldiers, who served in Pennsyl-vania regiments, and who died prior to Jan. 1, 1866, from wounds received or disease contracted in the service of the United States during the late war, shall be hereafter admitted, and none

With unsparing patience, well considered measures, and earnestness of purpose, many defects have been eradicated, and the schools have been advanced to a more perfect and efficient system than that by which they were at first characterized, and elevated to a good the strength of the system. condition not second to any similar in-stitutions in the country. This humane and philanthropic service is being per-formed by intelligent officers and faithful teachers, which will be more fully shown by their reports, communicated for the information of the Legislature. The establishment of these institu-

tions, where the destitute orphan children of the soldiers who lost their lives in the suppression of the late rebellion, are fed, clothed and equeated at the public expense, continues to command the cordial support, approval and en-couragement of our citizens, and tends to elevate, everywhere, the reputation of Pennsylvania, (the first State to establish such schools,) to the highest degree, for her justice, patriotism and

Most heartily have the people endorsed the past action of their representation. The way sentatives in relation to these schools, congratulation that our school system has been so universally adopted by the voluntary consent and general acquiescence of the people.

that they will most cordially approve all necessary appropriations for the centinnance of the support, education and guardianship of these adopted As important auxillaries to our common schools, the Normal schools are the honor, State pride and humanity of the Legislature is confided the guarding and maintaining of these sacred interests, and in the faithful discharge of this noble duty, you shall receive from me a special and zealous concur-

The establishment of this college was movement, and under the impression that it would contribute much to the easy acquisition of a combined knowledge of agriculture, science and litera-ture, and to promote the practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits of life. It has been fostered by the most liberal legislation and is endowed with the sum of \$381. 500, invested in United States and Pennsylvania bonds, yielding an aggregate interest this year of \$25,551 90 which has been paid to the trustees of the institution. Thus far the most satthe institution. Thus far the most satisfactory results from the workings of the college have not been realized. But t is now under the direction of a president and six professors. It receives for its pupils only males over the ago of fifteen years, qualified for admission by a good common school education.— There are in at present forty-five stulife, are there furnished at a less rate than is generally demanded for board-ing alone, thus affording an extraordinary opportunity to the youth of the Attending the public schools 815.753 country to acquire an accomplished education private schools 85,000 neation with comparatively small expenditures. Under these circumstances

the college deserves the indulgent sympathy and support of the people.

Three experimental farms are connected with the college, purchased at the part of the State, if possible, to save these children from ignorance, vagrancy and crime. To neglect them would be inexcusable, if not criminal. Doubtless in your assembled wisdom you will be able to devise some effectual mode by which this evil can be remedied. an aggregate cost of \$43,886 50. One is life. sults of which are to be reported annually to the Legislature by the Professor of Agriculture. It is confidently expected that the record of these experimental results will prove highly inter-esting, and greatly beneficial to the

The military department is one of importance to the honorable history of the Commonwealth, and to that of her citizens individually. It is the custodian of all the military records of the State, embracing that of every officer and private soldier, and the history of every military transaction performed by the State for the suppression of the rebellion. It has also in its custody all the regimental, State and National flags borne by our soldiers, and many trophies of war won by their valor on tematically and carefully preserved and perpetuated.

neys, but by other States and by the War Department at Washington. All these circumstances, connected with the present flourishing condition of the volunteer militia in the State, induce me to request the continuance of legis-lative favor for the Adjutant General's department, and that it may be gener-erously supplied with such appropriations as have been requested by the Adjutant General for that office.

An unusual martial activity prevails throughout the State, but more particularly in Philadelphia. The encouragement which has been afforded to the uniformed militia has been responded to with alacrity, and is exhibited as follows: In 1866, there were eight vols500,971 62 follows: In 1866, there were eight vol-unteer companies; in 1867, thirty-eight; in 1868, sixty seven, and in 1869, one hundred and eighty four. No less than one hundred and seven companies were organized during the year ending No-vember 30, 1869, of which fifty six are in Philadelphia, and fifty one in other

parts of the State.

This is a small but efficient and well equipped force, which, in case of riot, rebellion, or other public danger, would be ready at once to imperil itself for the enforcement of the laws, and the protection of the lives and property of the citizens. It is, therefore, desirable that the Legislature should give the volunteers such practical aid as would, in some degree, compensate them for the time and money expended to main-tain their organizations, in which the people are as much interested as the volunteers themselves.

The report of the Adjutant General will be found a very interesting docu-ment, containing much valuable infor-mation and many important suggestions. A careful perusal of its contents and such action thereon, as seems to be demanded by their importance, is re-commended. Gen. D. B. M'Creary has been elected to membership in one of your honorable bodies, and with his last report he closed his career as Adjutant General. In losing his valuable services from a position he has so ably filled for more than two years, the hope is indulged that the department will gain an intelligent and devoted friend and an able and efficient advocate in the halls of legislation.

Military History.

The report of the State Historian is deserving of your careful attention. In it you will find a detailed account of the operations of his department from f your honorable bodies, and with his

the operations of his department from its commencement to the present time. The work entrusted to his care is one of no ordinary character and responsiof no ordinary character and responsibility, requiring talents of a high order, patient industry, careful research, and unbiased judgment. The labor to be performed is immense, and can only be properly appreciated by those folly acquainted with its magnitude. It embraces a faithful account of all the orbits of the properly appreciated by those folly acquainted with its magnitude. ganizations of Pennsylvania troops during the war of the rebellion; the collection and adjustment, in a compre-hensive form of each military organization, and an unprejudiced description of all military transactions of importance, so far as the volunteers of this State are concerned, in the camp and in the field, throughout the most ter-rific conflict of arms that has ever oc-The propriety of such a work must be apparent to every intelligent citizen of the Commonwealth. Certainly it is due to the citizen soldiers, who offered their lives in the defence of their country, that their names should, at least, receive a place in the archives of the State, toward whose honor and glory

in a manner highly creditable to the Commonwealth. The third is rapidly progressing, and with a generous appropriation on the part of your honorable body the entire history will be executed, if not before, soon after the close of the present year. Most other States are publishing histories similar to this, and it is due to the importance of the subject, and to the credit of the State, that Pennsylvania should not be behind in this patriotic

undertaking.

Home for Disabled Soldiers.

There is, probably, no State in the American Union that has contributed more liberally toward the support of charitable and benevolent institutions than that of Pennsylvania. The appropriations annually made for the benefit of the soldiers' orphans' schools, asylums for the deaf and dumb, blind and insane, and many similar worthy establishments in which the poor, helpless and otherwise friendless are cared and provided for, reflect great credit upon the Legislatures who have support. But there is one other institution needed, and the claims for which are more strongly urged by every principle of humanity and patriotism, than any other now in existence, which has not yet received the attention its vast importance imperatively demands.— This is a home for the soldiers who have "borne the battle" in defence of have as powerful claims upon the gen-erosity and nurturing care of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as those who, upon the battle field, fought to protect it from threatened devastation and destruction, and who in this patriotic service, endangered their lives, sacrificed their health, lost their limbs, and became enfeebled and disabled for life. And yet we daily see these men, and who does not blush to see them?) to whom we owe the preservation of our government, the homes we enjoy, and almost everything we possess, hobbling about our streets upon crutches, with missing limbs, and otherwise so enfeebled as to be entirely unfitted for any remunerative employment, begging their bread from door to door or sitting upon the corners of the streets turning an organ for the few pennies the

charitable passer by may feel disposed to bestow. Every one of these helpless men, whose patriotic devotion to his country has brought him to this de-plorable condition, is a burning reproach to the State for whose welfare he has met the most serious and la-mentable of all misfortunes. All of them appeal, by their wounds and des-titution, to the people of the Commoncontingencies, was promised the soldier of the Union, his widow, and his arand cannot be ignored. And I do earnestly recommend in their name, and in their behalf, that measures be taken by

soldiers, and their relatives and attor- tablishing in the State an insurance depart of soot or carbon upon the frame work, it failed to give the subject that consideration which interests of such magnitude to the people seem to demand. Insurance departments in some of the States are regarded of greatest benefits would certainly accrue both to the companies and policy holders as has duced to a science which commands the ap-trobation and confidence of all who seek its protection. The necessity for such a department, with full powers to organize and examine all insurance companies, is senctioned by the wisdom of experience. And as I have heretofore remarked, the result of the protection thus afforded, is, that whilst foreign companies do immense business in ger. This system of ventilation, with adthis State, so little confidence is had in those of Pennsylvania that their business is almost entirely confined within the State limits; and even here foreign companies maintain an ascendency. To this same defect is attributable the operations of the number of worthless companies that have suddenly sprung into existence without any solid basis, and as suddenly expired to the injury of the gangways so as to render them impassable, as in the more recent calamity at Stockton, which resulted in the death of ten per-

Carette,

he State. The community is deeply interested in this matter, and demands legi-lative

Our laws in relation to life insurance comand foreign companies. The latter, being protected by legislative enactment, are enabled to transact an immense amount of business within the limits of this Commonwealth, whilst our companies, having no such protection, can do but little in other States. The consequence is, that foreign companies can readily afford to pay a license of five hundred dollars to conduct imperilling their operations so that the operations of five hundred dollars to conduct imperilling their lives, are proper subjects for legislative core deration. their extensive operations in Pennsylvania, whilst our companies would be sorely oppressed by the imposition of the same license tax in States where their operations are exceedingly limited. And yet these other States have retaliated upon our license aw, by adopting its provisions and demand ng from our companies the same amount of icense in each State that we demand of their companies in ours. This is not only oppressive to our own neglected companies, but it falls to furnish a just and equitable revenue from the various companies for the amount of business transacted. The tax should be made to bear equally upon all companies, whether home or foreign, and be adjusted proportionately to the extent of their several operations. This arrangement would be just to all—oppressive to none. The atolishment, therefore, of the license law, and the substitution in its place of a reasonable and equitable tax, would meet the approbation of all companies, in favor of equal and exact justice, whether belonging to this or any other State. At the same time is would insure a larger income to the Treasury. For instance, there are thirty-seven life insurance companies from other States do-

ing business in Pennsylvania, who each pay a license of five hundred dollars, making the sum of eighteen thousand and five hundred tributed.

The work of the Historian, when completed, will embrace four large octave volumes, in which the name of every Pennsylvania volunteer will have its appropriate place. Two of these volumes are already completed, in a manner highly creditable to the Companies to the companies would of the companies would of one per cent upon the amount of their business. This, in the aggregate of the thirty-seven companies, is more than five millions of dollars, on which a tax of one half of one per cent, would be twenty five thousand dollars, increasing the revenue of the State from this source more than six. business done and profits received. An embed business done and profits received and profits done and profits done and profits received and profits done and profits received. Some time during the present session, the board will present to the Legislature. The profits received and profits received. An embed business done and profits received. An embed business done and profits received. An embed business done and profits received and profits received and profits received and profits received. An embed business done and profits received and profits received

and even in Europe it has been productive of the most painful emotions and deepest sorrow for the sufferers. Women and children who had been accustomed to regard the occupation of the miner as one of ordinary character, now look upon it as fraught with danger, and part with relatives and friends, when about to pur-ue their perilous occupation, with fearful forebodings. And even the sturdy miner, himself, trembles at his dangerous calling, and demands greater

prosecute their avocation. None of them anticipated danger as they descended the fatal shaft; not one supposed that he was entering a tomb in which he was doomed to be buried alive. But the destroying angel dovered over them, and the shaft, construct ag become junited. ing become ignited from some cause yet undetermined, was soon a sheet of flame, and huge burning timbers came tumbling from above, choking up with fire and smoke of sa'ety, but it was not to be found. They eried for succor, but no earthly arm cou'd give them help; hopeless they huddled to gether, and clasped in each others arms, met death in one of its most frightful and Whilst this fearful scene was transpiring

below the immense wooden structure above the shaft took fire, and burning with frightful rapidity, was soon reduced to a crumb-ling mass. Thousands of men, women and children soon surrounded the place, and being unable to afford the slightest relief to their suffering hierds below, filled the air with lamentation, appalling even to the stoutest hearts. Never before was a scene more heart rendering witnessed within the limits of this Commonwealth, and it is trust ed that through your prompt and efficient The mines in many cases are constructed

and managed in the most selfish and parsi-monious manner, the owners exacting the largest amount of profit from them, from the least possible outlay; consequently some of them, like that of Avondale, are nothing but underground man traps, without any titution, to the people of the Common-wealth for that care which, in such these constantly liable to become blazing

volcanoes, through which e-cape is impossible. The lives of so useful a class of men as our miners should not, and must not be phan children. It is time that all such promises should be redeemed. The permitted to be thus sacrificed upon the all wounded and helpless soldiers have a ter of human cupidity. Yet a repreheusi wounded and helpiess soldiers have a ter of human cupidity. Yet a reprehensical claim upon the State which should not ble neglect to give them that protection by laborious and dangerous, unquestionably de serves, renders our mining system worse

ment similar to those existing in other States. But the Legislature has thus far failed to give the subject that consideration which interests of such magnitude to the people seem to demand. Insurance departments in some of the States are regarded of chimnes, the sides of the shaft, and the buildings surrounding it at the states are in the states are regarded of chimnes, the sides of the shaft, and the buildings surrounding it at the states are in the states are regarded of chimnes, the sides of the shaft, and the buildings surrounding it at the states are regarded. paramount importance, as they effectually buildings surrounding it at the top with inguard the interests of the insured, and through their healthy influence frauds and spurious companies, so common in Penn-yl vania, are rendered almost impossible. The with the "fire damp" or other gasecus vapors, that, despite of all known means of prevention, will generate in the best regulaalready been demonstrated in the States of New York and Ma-sachusetts, where the subject of insurance has received the most careful study and attention, and been reinstance, has been substituted, which being worked by machinery at the surface, produces a more constant current of air, dispenses it more freely through the gangways and chambers, and, in all respects, accom-

vantages so palpably obvious, will, no doubt, be universally adopted. But the very na-ture of mining operations subjects them to other dangers. The walls and roofing of the mines, from the effects of blasting and other causes, frequently give way and fill up the gangways so as to render them impassa-ble, as in the more recent calamity at Stocksis, and as suddenly expired to the injury of those whose confidence they obtained, and to the dishonor of the Commonwealth.

In view of these facts, I carnestly repeat the recommendation made to the Legislature at its last session, that an insurance department be established, and a superintendent appointed by law, who shall have supervision and control over all insurance companies allowed to transact business within the State. The community is deenly interfrom the mines, when danger occurs, will depend very materially upon the provision

made for the exit of the miner.

The best method of constructing, ventilapanies are defective and need revision and ton and working the mines, should be un-ton these laws bear unequally upon our own and foreign companies. The latter, being into the causes which produced this shock-

for legislative cors deration. Such laws as you may enset can most certainly be enforced by competent inspectors in the mining districts, who should be cho-sen with strict regard to character, integrity, capability and scientific knowledge; and whose duties should be so specifically de-fined that they cannot be misunderstood.

I, therefore, most respectfully and earn-estly recommend that this whole subject re-ceive the attention its importance demands, and that a law be passed, so general in its character and so stringent in its provisions, that the people of this Commonwealth will never again be appalled by a calamity with-

in her limits, so sad as that of Avondale.

Board of Public Charities. Board of Public Charities.

In accordance with an act of the last Legislature, a Board of Public Charities has been appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz: Gen. Thomas L. Kane, for five years; F. B. Penniman, Esq., four years; Hon. G. Dawson Coleman three years; George I. Havisen Forman and the control of years; George L. Harrison, Esq., two years; and ganized by electric Geo. Kane, President, and Hon. Wilmer Worthington, Secretary and General Agent. From the establishment of this board, and especially from the high character and qualifications of the gentlemen who have consented to assume

thousand dollars, increasing the revenue of the State from this source more than six.

A thorough review of all the establishments receiving appropriations from the State by this board, will give an assurance equalizing the tax in accordance with the business done and profits received. An efficient law contains the grant of the state of the

The Arondale Ligaster.

The recent disaster in the Avondale Coal Mine, Live-the country, is still fresh in the minds of the people. It caused a thrill of horror to soread throughout the country; the commendations as may be deemed necessary; and, therefore, no information concerning them, except the annual reed necessary; and, therefore, no informa-tion concerning them, except the annual reports of the superintendents, will at present be laid before you.

Geological Survey.

Many prominent citizens have represent-

ed that there exists great necessity for a more complete geological and mineralogical survey of the State than at present exists. There is no doubt but the developments of mineral wealth that would result from

ting the office of inspector of gas and gas metres for the county of Allegheny; and in accordance therawith, I have appointed an

The necessity for such a law has been long and extensively felt, and it has been carnestly demanded by a large number of highly respectable citizens, whose opinions are emineutly worthy of consideration. I therefore respectfully recommend that the just and equitable provisions of the Allerheny county law be extended to other counties in which gas is largely consumed.

Revision of the Civil Code.

The law on this subject does not contemplate a full report from the Commissioners

to revise the general statutes of the State, before the session of 1871. It may, however, be important to state that this work has so far progressed as to make it almost certain that it will be completed and ready for the press so soon after the close of the present session as will allow time to bring within the code such of your enactments as may with propriety be incorporated. The Commissioners will report for your consideration, the revised school laws, as the present edition is exhausted, and it would be inexpedient to re-print them,

in the course of the current year.

A general road law, and one for the support and maintenance of the poor, have hereto ore been reported but not definitely acted upon, and the frequent demands made for such enactments to correct many exist-ing abuses, and supply a common public want, render it desirable that these enact-ment should receive your early attention.

The State census will be taken during the year, and the law for its regulation having in it some provisions not now required, a revised bill will be presented by the Com-missioners for legislative action. In view of the changes which the revised