

BEDFORD INQUIRER.

subject of instruction, the natural science, in their relation and application to practical agriculture, will also be taught. The student of the institution will be enabled to test, in his daily occupation, the truth and value of the knowledge communicated.

Much of the land connected with the school has been successfully cultivated during the past year. Orchards of every variety of fruit and hedges have been planted, and many valuable improvements made. A double storied barn, large and convenient, as also the farmer's house and part of the out-buildings have been erected and occupied.

From the report of the trustees we learn that "a contract has been made for the erection of an edifice calculated for the residence of Professors, Lecture Halls, and Dormitories for students, to be built of stone, four stories high, two hundred and thirty-three feet in front, with wings, and to cost fifty-five thousand dollars. This building is already in progress, and it is hoped that a part of it may be put under roof and be so far completed as to enable the Board to make arrangements to receive a few students before the close of the current year." The Legislature, at their last session, appropriated fifty thousand dollars to this institution, one-half of which has been paid; the remaining twenty-five thousand dollars to be paid on condition that an equal sum be realized from other sources, within three years from the passage of the act making the appropriation.

The objects and character of this institution—its relation to agricultural knowledge, and as the pioneer in the great work of agricultural education, command it to the generous patronage of the Legislature, and to the confidence and liberality of the people of the Commonwealth.

The report to be submitted by the Superintendent of Common Schools will present a clear and satisfactory statement of the general operation of the system during the past year.

The separation of the School from the State Department, by the act of the last session, was a just tribute to the importance and value of our common school system. The great educational interests of the State, the care and guardianship of the intellectual, social and moral improvement of the youth of the Commonwealth, should occupy a prominent and independent position among the departments of the government. If the care of the treasure of the Commonwealth, the development of her material wealth, and the advancement of her political-economic interests, have received from the government the marked and distinctive recognition of their importance, how much more should the mind of her youth—with its wondrous activities—itself constantly unfolding energies, and its infinite superiority to the material and physical, claim a still higher consideration, and receive from the representatives of the people, a more honored recognition.

As an independent department, greater efficiency will be given to the system—a more direct and immediate supervision will be secured—the details of its operation more carefully observed—its deficiencies discovered—the accomplishment of its noble purposes and objects rendered more dangerous and decisive influence of political excitement, and partisan prejudice.

The country superintendency, tested by experience, has realized the just expectations of the friends of the measure, and may now be regarded as a permanent and indispensable part of the system. When committed to competent men, it has accomplished a noble work in promoting the success and usefulness of our common schools; and wherever the duties of the office have been faithfully performed, the character of the schools, has been elevated, their number and the number of scholars increased, and the confidence and encouragement of the public secured.

In the hands of incompetent men, these results have not been obtained, but, on the contrary, opposition has been provoked, and the cause of common school education retarded. This office should not be committed to any but men thoroughly qualified by education and experience for the performance of its arduous and responsible duties; and if the school directors of any county, in disregard of their obligations, from opposition either to the system or the office, select an incompetent person for the place, the odium of the act, and of failure to secure the benefits resulting from a proper and intelligent administration of the office, should rest upon them, and not upon the law authorizing the appointment. The defects of the system, when clearly established, should be promptly corrected; but change is not always, reform and innovation, induced by selfishness or prejudice, may endanger its permanency and destroy its efficiency.

The act of the 20th day of May, 1857, providing for the due training of teachers for the common schools of the State, by encouraging the establishment of Normal schools within the districts designated in the law, has received the cordial approbation of all interested in the success of our common schools. The passage of that act inaugurated a new era in the history of common schools education in Pennsylvania. It is a movement in the right direction; full of encouragement and hope for the greater perfection and usefulness of the system. Large and enthusiastic meetings of the friends of education have been held, in many of the districts, to promote the establishment of Normal schools, as contemplated by the act; and liberal sums of money have been subscribed to secure this desirable object. A noble work has been commenced, and sustained by individual enterprise and liberality—encouraged by the State, and vindicated by its own intrinsic merit, it must go on until State Normal schools, in number and efficiency, equal to the supply of well-trained teachers, shall become the just pride and boast of Pennsylvania.

The organic structure of our system is as perfect, perhaps, as human legislation can make it; but it needs the competent and thoroughly trained teacher to give it greater vitality and efficiency, and secure the full accomplishment of the purposes of this creation. The teacher, the properly educated, the well trained, the scientific teacher, is the great want of the system. We need the teaching mind, not the automation movements of mere physical organization or antiquated routine, to direct and control the intellectual energies of the youth of the Commonwealth. We require mind, educated mind, in our schools, that knowledge may be communicated, not only effectively and practically, but that in training the young, they may be taught to think—and how to think—to investigate, and know for themselves, and thus be fitted and prepared for the high and responsible duties of the man and the citizen.

This deficiency can only be supplied by State

Normal schools for the education of teachers. To them we must look. The future is full of hope. Much has already been done to provide for their establishment and support. In connection with honorable individual effort, more legislative encouragement may be required. It should be given cheerfully and promptly. No subject of greater interest can claim your attention; no one appeals with more reason and truth, to duty and patriotism.

Teachers' institutes, as auxiliary to Normal schools, should be aided by the State.—Through their agency, sustained by the noble and self-denying efforts of the teachers themselves, much good has been accomplished in educating and training teachers, and in dignifying a profession too long undervalued by those most deeply interested in their useful labors.

In the great work of popular education there should be no retrograde movement in Pennsylvania; no yielding to the impotent clamor of ignorance, selfishness or prejudice, in their attempts to stay its progress. These, and all, may denounce and condemn, but virtue, patriotism, truth, bid you onward. Let the system be maintained in its unity and usefulness; let it be improved and perfected in its details; but let no act of yours impair its strength, or mar the beauty and harmony of its proportions.

Based as our institutions are on the will of the people—dependent for preservation of their virtue and intelligence—knowledge with us should occupy the high position to which it is so pre-eminently entitled. Knowledge founded upon the pure principles of eternal truth, is the crowning glory of the citizen, the safeguard and defense of the State. Education, full and free to all, is the boon we ask for the children of the Commonwealth—it is the duty, paramount to all others, the State owes to her citizens. The aid of the Commonwealth should be liberally bestowed.—The subject, in all its relations, is warmly commended to the generous care and patronage of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and honorable to its author.

The resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, were published as directed by that instrument. In accordance with the provisions of the Act of 12th of May, 1857, the proposed amendments were submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection, on the second Tuesday of October last. The returns of said election have been received, and will be delivered to the Speaker of the Senate, as directed by law, when the fact of their adoption by a large majority, will be officially ascertained and announced.

The fourth section of the first article of the amended Constitution, requires the Legislature, at their first session after the adoption of this amendment, to divide the city of Philadelphia into Senatorial and Representative districts, in Senatorial and Representative districts, in the manner provided in that section. This duty devolves upon you, and should be performed with fidelity and due regard to the interest and rights of the people of that city.

Relieved from the imputation of selfishness, I cannot forbear presenting for your consideration a subject that should claim your earliest attention. At the Seat of the Government, for the use of the Governor of the Commonwealth. The want of a public mansion has been seriously felt by all who have been called to occupy that official station. Whilst almost all our sister States have provided residences for the accommodation of their Chief Magistrates, Pennsylvania, for reasons not creditable to her as the "Keystone State," has refused to incur the expense necessary for the erection of such a building. His blessing upon your official labors—may your acts and the acts of those who may succeed you in the administration of the government, in their character and results, be such as patriotism, demand, and honor, truth and conscience can sanction and approve.

JAMES POLLACK.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—From advices received to-day it appears that the Mormons will not retreat from Utah, as was expected by the Government, but will fight it out where they are. This insures us a bloody war in the operations for the past year.

These institutions, in their objects and results, merit and should receive our warmest approbation. The condition of no class of suffering humanity appeals with more thrilling power to our sympathies, than that of the insane. Ignorant of the frightful malady that oppresses them, shrouded in the fearful gloom of joys of home and friends, the aid of the benevolent and the benefactions of the Commonwealth should be liberally and cheerfully given to them.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, and the Western House of Refuge near Pittsburgh, again ask to share the bounty of the Commonwealth. These schools for the erring, neglected and out-east children and youth of the State—these homes where kindness rules and love subdues the vicious and incorrigible, should not be denied their request.

The "Blind" and the "Deaf and Dumb" Asylums at Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Training School for idiots and feeble-minded children present their annual claim for your sympathy and aid. The darkened eye, the silent tongue, and the weakened intellect, in sorrow and sadness, appeal to the representatives of the people for this boon. It cannot be denied.

My views in relation to "local," "special" and "combinative legislation," have been so frequently expressed, in communications to the Legislature, that their repetition now is unnecessary. Such legislation, often so subversive of private rights—so detrimental to the public interest, and generally so mischievous in its consequences—should not be encouraged or permitted.

The report of the Adjutant General will be laid before you. To its valuable and important suggestions I invite your careful consideration.

I must again call the attention of the Legislature to the subject of revising the militia laws of the State. They are obsolete and imperfect, in many of their provisions, and obscure in some of their enactments, that it is difficult to discover the object intended, or comprehend the duty enjoined. The powers and duties of the respective officers connected with the military organization of the Commonwealth, should be more clearly defined. Greater encouragement should be given to the formation of volunteer companies; the entire system should be remodeled, and placed in a position to become alike honorable and useful to the State.

The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, by an ordinance passed the 7th day of April, 1856, and officially communicated to the Legislature at their last general session, proposed to convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a lot of ground, in that city, for the purpose of erecting an Arsenal thereon. By the act of the 6th of May, 1857, the Governor was authorized to accept from the Mayor of Philadelphia, under the seal of the Corporation, the conveyance in fee simple of the lot of ground proposed to be donated to the Commonwealth, for the purpose indicated.

In my last annual communication to the General Assembly, my sentiments were fully expressed in reference to reform in the naturalization laws, and the admission of applicants to the right of citizenship—to the preservation of the purity of elections, by the prevention and punishment of fraudulent and illegal voting, and the enactment of a judicious registry law—to freedom as the great centre truth of American republicanism—the great law of American nationality—to the rights of the States, as Independent Sovereigns, and the power and duty of the General Government to prevent the extension of the institution of slavery to the free territories of the Union—to the wrongs of Kansas, as exhibited in the violation of the doctrine of popular sovereignty by the General Government, in its attempts, by the military power of the country and otherwise, to defeat the will of the majority in that territory, wrongs still existing and aggravated by recent outrages on the rights and privileges of that people, and approved by high National Executive authority.

To the views then presented, you are respectfully referred.

By the expiration of the constitutional term, my official connection with the Government of the Commonwealth will soon cease. The powers, under the constitution, vested in me by the people, will be transferred to another of their own selection; and with my warmest wishes for its success, I will, relieved from the cares and anxieties of official place, retire to private life. In the discharge of the duties devolved upon me, I have endeavored to the extent of my ability, to promote the interests and honor of the Commonwealth, and the virtue, the happiness and prosperity of her citizens. If not successful, I have at least labored to deserve success;

fifty feet in depth. The foundation walls of stone, are solid and massive. The cost of construction did not exceed the appropriation. It is a substantial and elegant structure, and will be a safe depository for the public arms—an ornament to the city, and a credit to the Commonwealth.

One of my predecessors, in his annual communication to the Legislature, immediately after the close of the late war with Mexico, recommended the erection of a monument to the memory of those citizen soldiers, from Pennsylvania, who died in the service of their country in that war. It is due to them, that some public acknowledgment of their patriotic services should be made by the State. Concurring in the sentiments expressed in the communication to which reference has been made, I would also invite your attention to the propriety of erecting, in the public grounds of the Capitol, a suitable monument to their memory—and thus honor those who by their undaunted bravery and invincible valor, honored our Commonwealth.

The publication of the Geological Report of the State, under the superintendence of Prof. Rogers, is rapidly approaching completion.—The engravings and illustrations are nearly completed, and the first volume now in press, which he expects will be ready for delivery soon after the meeting of the Legislature, and the second and last volume before its adjournment or immediately thereafter. The style and general execution of the work will be equal, if not superior, to that of any similar publication by our sister states. It will fully sustain the reputation of the distinguished Geologist, by whom the surveys were made, and who has deserved so much care and attention to its publication. The large geological map of the State, which will accompany the volumes, will not be finished before the close of the year. Great care has been taken to make it perfect in all its details. The whole work will be a valuable addition to geographies, as well as geological, scientific, and will be alike useful to the citizens of the Commonwealth, and honorable to its author.

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and in surrendering the trust committed to me, by a generous people, my only regret will be, that I have not been able to serve our noble Commonwealth with a zeal and ability equal to the interest I feel in her progress and welfare. Whatever of merit, or desert, may attach to my administration, whatever may be the opinions entertained of my conduct of the affairs of State, I can at least claim from my fellow citizens, with a full consciousness of its right, the award of good intention, and will enjoy in my retirement, the proud satisfaction of knowing that no act of mine, or of my administration, in tendency or act, injured or corrupted the public morals, retarded the prosperity, or tarnished the fair fame of my native State. I will surrender to my successor the cares and responsibilities of the office I now hold with greater cheerfulness than I assumed them; and will return, without a murmur, to the society and companionship of those, who can approve without selfishness, and ensure only at the bidding of truth and friendship. To the judgment of impartial history I commit my administration and its acts, without a fear of the result; and when time shall have softened the asperity of partisan feeling—healed the bitterness of disappointment and corrected the errors of prejudice, truth will sustain the judgement and justice approve the record.

Our beloved Commonwealth, rich in all the elements of material greatness, her broad and fertile fields—her lofty mountains, filled with inexhaustable mineral wealth—her rivers and her streams—her internal improvements, her colleges, academies, and her noble system of common schools—her churches and charitable institutions—her population, enterprising, energetic, intelligent and prosperous—all these are justly the pride of every true-hearted Pennsylvanian. Our mighty republic, "the heart least's hope and home"—the Constitution and the union of the States—the civil and religious privileges of the people—the right of conscience and freedom of worship—the great and essential principles of liberty and free government, have enjoyed, and our American Nationality, founded in a true and single devotion to home and country, are objects that fill with patriotic emotion, the heart of every American citizen. May they be cherished and defended until patriotism ceases to be a virtue and liberty be officially ascertained and announced.

The true glory and greatness of a nation consist, not alone in the number, privileges or intellectual superiority of her people, her material wealth or physical strength, her political position or form of government. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," and "happy is that people whose God is the Lord." Our fathers trusted in Him, and were not disappointed. Recognizing Him as the Sovereign Ruler of Nations and Men, invoking a continuance of His watchful care over the interest of the Commonwealth, and His blessing upon your official labors—may your acts and the acts of those who may succeed you in the administration of the government, in their character and results, be such as patriotism, demand, and honor, truth and conscience can sanction and approve.

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