

GENTLEMEN:—An All-wise Providence permitted you to assemble under circumstances demanding profound gratitude to the Great Lawgiver of the Universe. Your acknowledgments are first due to Him. His bounty has not grown weary in showering blessings in profusion upon the people in every department of their life, crowning their lot with richest rewards.

The circumstances under which you commence the duties of the present session are indeed important, and of no former period in our history has there been greater cause for felicitation upon the inestimable blessings we enjoy, and the happy and prosperous condition of our great and growing Commonwealth.

The meeting of the General Assembly is always a matter of deep interest to the people, and perhaps never more so than now, when an unusual amount of necessary general legislation will be enacted. The most important of these are first due to Him. His bounty has not grown weary in showering blessings in profusion upon the people in every department of their life, crowning their lot with richest rewards.

As first in order a carefully prepared and presented report of the financial condition of the Commonwealth. It affords me pleasure to congratulate the people upon the satisfactory condition of the Treasury. Every demand upon it for ordinary and other expenses has been promptly paid, and the public debt materially reduced.

The following statement shows the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1870.

Table with columns for Receipts and Disbursements, listing various sources and amounts.

The following statement shows the nature and indebtedness of the Commonwealth, November 30, 1870.

On the fifteenth day of January, 1867, the total indebtedness of the State was \$1,000,000. Since then, and up to November 30, 1870, the State has received \$1,500,000 and paid \$1,000,000, leaving a balance of \$500,000.

full share to bear. The farmer is at ease, and runs no risk; whilst the business man, merchant and manufacturer are enabled to do business with confidence upon which the farmer himself must, in a great measure, depend for a realization towards his industry.

These interests are fostered and kept in full operation, all classes of the people will suffer. They are the very life-blood of the State, and should not, in any department of their life, be crowded by overburdening them with taxes, or by the immediate payment of the entire State liabilities.

For these reasons, and many others equally important which might be enumerated, I earnestly recommend that the Convention be convened on the 15th day of August, 1871, to revise and amend the Constitution of the State.

The commissioners to revise the statutes have completed their work. The report of the Commission on the subject of the revision of the laws is herewith submitted. It contains a full and complete statement of the progress of the work, and a list of the laws which have been revised.

This is a progressive period, and our State is undergoing a rapid and healthy change. The law should, therefore, be made to keep pace with the age in which we live. The existing Constitution, however, is not adapted to the needs of the State or Nation, and it is my duty to recommend its revision.

First—Different systems of laws for roads, bridges, schools, elections, poorhouses and many other things, are enacted in different parts of the State, and it is my duty to recommend their unification.

Second—It is impossible for citizens, judges and juries to understand the law, and it is my duty to recommend the simplification of the law, and the removal of all technicalities.

Third—Practically, the whole theory of our Constitution and government is subverted and destroyed by the present system of local enactments. It is my duty to recommend the abolition of all local laws, and the substitution of a uniform system of laws for the whole State.

time or condition, whether in prison and under the supervision of the State, or in the hands of the law, and without the next term of the Supreme Court.

There is absolute necessity for greater security for the public funds, and for their proper distribution. The State Treasurer, Superintendent of Common Schools, and a Lieutenant Governor, the latter to preside over the Senate, and perform the duties of Governor, in case of his absence, sickness or death, should be elected by the people.

The important duty devolves upon you to apportion, in accordance with the last census, the representation to the several counties of the State. This will require a careful and impartial consideration of the interests of every district in the State.

Under the laws of the State it is made the duty of the county commissioners to report to the Governor of the septennial enumeration of taxable property on or before the first day of December.

Common schools. The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools shows that the Commonwealth now within the State, 2,002 school districts; 14,212 schools; 2,302 graded schools; 13,131 directors; 79 county and other school officers; 1,000 teachers; and 828,500 pupils.

Whites of error in criminal cases. At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed, entitled "An Act to amend the act relating to the punishment of offenders in criminal cases."

Soldiers' Orphan's Schools. Your attention is respectfully invited to the report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphan's Schools, for the year terminating May 31, 1870.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. This institution appears to be gradually accomplishing the objects for which it was established, and is doing good service to the State.

MILITARY. Your attention is invited to the accompanying report of the Adjutant General, showing the condition of the military department during the past year.

TELEGRAPH LINES AND RAILROADS. The question of the assumption of the control of the telegraph lines, and the chartering of railroad companies, was partially considered by the Legislature at its last session.

larger number of children than in any former year, and the number of those above stated has, for this reason, necessarily and unavoidably increased.

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of the State, the interests of corporations that are enfranchised by it, and of our citizens who have investments in stocks and bonds amounting to many millions of dollars.

A reliable geological and mineralogical survey would be of incalculable value to the State. Without it we have indefinite ideas of our vast undeveloped mineral wealth, and the expense attending it would be utterly insignificant when compared with the beneficial results.

The Legislature, in 1861, passed an act authorizing the Governor to appoint some competent person to prepare a list of the names of all persons who had been or were in the field during the war of the rebellion.

By the seventh article of a Consular Convention between France and the United States, it is stipulated that the citizens of the respective countries should mutually have the same rights to hold real and personal property in the territory of the other.

The sanitary condition of these children is one of the most remarkable features of the schools. During the five years they have been in operation, 1,239 students have been received into them, and 2,375 are now in the schools.

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from the State, is unconstitutional and void. From this decision it does not appear that the State cannot have such laws enacted as it may deem proper.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING.

Table with columns for Space, Line, and Rate, listing advertising rates for various durations.

Our square, ten lines or its equivalent, for one insertion, \$1.00; for two insertions, \$1.50; for three insertions, \$2.00.

The New England States and New York have examined the experience of fish propagation in the large streams north of us on quite an extensive scale.

Permit me to renew my recommendations concerning the collection and proper recording of statistical information relating to the development and growth of the various resources of the Commonwealth.

The report of the Surveyor General furnishes a detailed account of the Land Office. During the past fiscal year, 3,800 patents were issued, covering 537,800 acres of land.

It should be considered that whatever may be the result of the present generation is so much accumulated for the generation that may follow.

The Quarantine Master's report shows that the performance of his duties, in part of the area of the State, the great amount of work in this department requires several additional clerks.

This careful epidemiological appearance of the epidemic, and its progress, spreading terror through the neighborhood, and causing serious illness among the population.

Upon the death of the Lazaretto Physician and the Quarantine Master, the Board of Health, in its wisdom, has decided to appoint a new physician to fill the vacancy.

Grateful acknowledgments are due to the members of the Board of Health for their constant and efficient services during the prevalence of the epidemic.

Gov. Wm. F. Packard, ex-Governor, died at Williamsport, on the 27th of September last, at the age of 70 years.