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MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR.

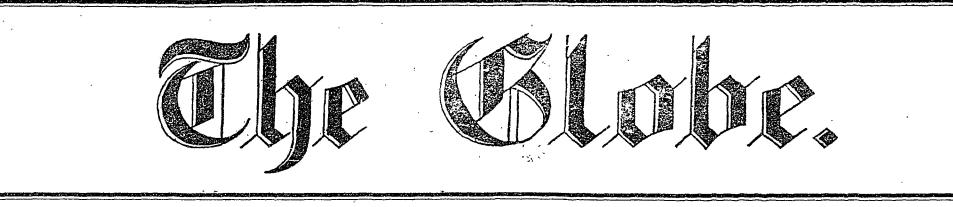
To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

GENTLEMEN :- By the suffrage of your fellow citizens, you have been charged with the duty of representing them, and the interests of the Commonwealth, in the Legislative branch of the Government. The responsibil-ities you have assumed and the duties to be performed should ever be regarded as paramount to every selfish or partizan consideration. The prosperity of the State and the general welfare of the people, should receive your earnest attention, and be the aim and end of your legislative action. To promote these objects, I will cheerfully, in every legal and constitutional manner, during the continuance of my official term, co-operate with you.

The past year, with the exception of recent financial embarrassment, has been one of general prosperity. No foreign wars-no frater-nal strife, has disturbed the peaceful quiet of our homes. Unwonted health, with its blessings, has been vouchsafed to us. Seed time and harvest have not failed—the earth hath yielded her increase, and richly rewarded the labor of the husbandman. The Arts and Sciences have been advanced, and the great interests of Education, Morality and Religion liberally encouraged and sustained. Our nation in its unity—our free institutions in their integrity, with our rights and privileges, civil and religious, have been preserved. Recognizing in these blessings the goodness of Al-mighty God, we should render to IIim the homage of grateful hearts and the devotion of cur sincere praise; and whilst humbly acknowledging his mercies to us as a people, let us still further express our gratitude to Him, by acts of individual charity and kindness to the poor and helpless in our midst.-Sorrow now fills the hearts, and adversity darkens the homes of many of our citizens. Our liberality should be generous; our benefactions munificent; and thus whilst the wants of the poor and suffering are relieved, the generous giver will find a rich reward in the pleasure that results from communicated good.

The finances of the Commonwealth are in a very satisfactory condition. During the past year every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly paid, from the revenues derived from the ordinary sources. The op-erations of this Department will be presented shall consist of the net annual income of pubto you, in detail, in the report of the State lic works from time to time, owned by the Treasurer. For the fiscal year ending November 30th balance in the Treasury on the first day of 795 42) were five millions nine hundred and three dollars and twenty-six cents. (\$5,935, 383 26.) The aggregate expenditures for the same period, were five million four hundred and seven thousand two hundred and seventy six dollars and seventy-nine cents. (5,407,-276 79. Balance in the Treasury December 1, 1857, five hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and six dellars and fortyseven cents. (\$528,106 47.) Excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first day of were four million six hundred and ninety thousand five hundred and eighty-seven dollars and eighty-four cents. (\$4,690,587 84.) The ordinary expenditures for the same period were three million nine hundred and ninetytwo thousand three hundred and seventy dollars and twenty-nine cents (\$3,992,570 29:) exhibiting an excess of receipts over expendi tures of six hundred and ninety-eight thousand two hundred and seventeen dollars and fifty-five cents, (\$698,271 55.) The extraordinary payments for the year, were one million four hundred and fourteen thousand nine hundred and six dollars and fifty cents, (1,-414,906 50,) as follows to wit: To the com pletion of the Portage Railroad, forty-nine thousand sixty-one dollars and ninety-two cents, (\$49,061 92;) to the North Branch extension, one hundred and thirty-eight thousdollars and forty-six cents, (\$91,405 46;) enlarge the Delaware Division, forty-six tho and two hundred and sixty-three dollar (\$46,263 00;) for motive power in 1856, eigh one thousand six hundred and four dolla and twenty-four cents, (\$81,604 24;) for r pair in 1855 and 1856, forty-nine thousan five hundred and sixty-four dollars and se enty-eight cents, (49,564 78;) for the redem tion of loans eight hundred and twenty-thousand and ninety-seven dollars and three cents (\$820,097 03;) damages on the Public Works forty-six thousand five hundred and fifty-two dollars and sixty-five cents, (\$46,552 95;) old claims on the Main Line adjusted under the several Acts of Assembly forty-six thousand five hundred and forty-eight dollars and fifty-seven cents, (\$46,548 57,) and for the new State Arsenal and Farmers High School, forty-five thousand dollars, (\$45,000 00.) The interest on the funded debt, due in ly paid, and that falling due in February next, will be paid out of available means now in the Treasury. By virtue of the provisions of the Act of the 3d of October, 1857, entitled "An Act providing for the Resumption of Specie Payment, by the Banks, and for the Relief of Debtors," the State Treasurer will be enabled to pay the interest due in February, in specie or its equivalent. The credit of the Commonwealth has been fully and honorably sustained. The promptness with which every legitimate demand upon the Treasury has been met has inspired public confidence in our securities ; and although recent and existing financial revulsion may embarrass the operations of the Treasury, ments and maintain her credit, under an

1857, the receipts at the Treasury, including | ceeds of sale of stocks owned by the State, December, 1856, of one million two hundred | may be designated by law. The said Sinkand forty-four thousand seven hundred and | ing Fund may be increased from time to time | ninety-five dollars and forty-two cents, (1,224,- | by assigning to it any part of taxes or other thirty-five thousand three hundred and eighty- | ordinary and current expense of government, 000.) December, 1856, the receipts from all sources | and should be promptly and faithfully disand seven hundred and ninety-eight dollars and eighty-five cents; (\$138,798 85;) to relay the South Track of the Columbia Railroad, of the last fiscal year, December 1, 1857, was ninety-one thousand four hundred and five | as follows, viz: February and August last, was then prompt- old and unsettled claims adjusted under the and reduce to some extent the revenue, yet the ability of the State to meet her engage-payment and final extinguishment of the honest and economical administration of her | tained by their actual verification. The causes



WILLIAM LEWIS.

VOL. XIII.

HUNTINGDON, PA., JANUARY 13, 1858.

of the State must and can be preserved in- ed, will soon cease to affect injuriously the

tact. The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, report the sum of four hundred and fourteen thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars and twenty-nine cents, (414,920 29) as now adverse circumstances that surround usin the Treasury to the credit of that fund .---This amount will be applied to the redemp-tion of Relief Notes; yet in circulation, and to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of this fund, on the 7th day of September last, reported to me that the sum of one million forty-two thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and sixty-four cents, (\$1,042,857 64) of the debt of the Commonwealth, was held by them, as follows-viz:

'	Loans of 19th April, 1853, over duc, tempo-		
	rary		00
۰İ	Loans of 9th of May, 1854, over due, tempo-		
ļ	rary		00
•	Certificates of stock, loans of April 11, 1848,		
	6 per cent		00
	Certificates of stock, loans of various dates,	-	
'	5 per cent	9,316	64
٠	Relief Notes cancelled and destroyed	373,040	00
.	" " in Treasury, set aside for cancella-		
:	tion	30,000	00
	Total .	1010 957	64

As required by law, I directed the certificates and evidences of this indebtedness to be cancelled; and on the 19th of September, 1857, issued my proclamation declaring the payment, extinguishment and final discharge, of one million forty-two thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and sixty-four cents (\$1,042,857 64) of the public debt.

In addition to the amount reported to be in the Treasury to the credit of the sinking fund, and applicable to the payment of the public debt, the Commissioners of the fund now hold the sum of seven and one half millions of dollars (\$7,500,000 00) bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, pledged by law to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

By the 4th section of the 11th article of the Constitution, as amended and ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of the State at the general election held on the second Tuesday of October, 1857, it is made the duty of the Legislature at its first session after the adoption of this amendment, to create a Sinking Fund, which shall be sufficient to pay the accruing interest on the present public debt and any additional debt thereafter constitutionally contracted, and annually to reduce the principal thereof by a sum not or any part thereof, and of the income or protogether with other funds or resources that revenues of the State, not required for the and, unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection, no part of said Sinking Fund shall be used or applied otherwise than in extinguishment of the public debt, until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of five millions of dollars," (\$5,000,-

roused to more vigorous action by disaster and defeat, our progress cannot long be checked, nor our prosperity long be interrupted. Confidence, the sensitive, yet pow-erful agency, that binds in unity and strength the great financial, commercial and indus-trial interests of our country and the world, has been suddenly impaired, producing financial and commercial distress, and affect-

with the advantages resulting from the rapid development of our resources during the last quarter of a century—the immensely valua-ble increase of our agricultural, mining and manufacturing industry during the same pe-riod—the abundant harvests of the past year -our completed improvements, and all the elements of material wealth in our midst, its restoration at an early period is not problematical. Returning confidence will be the harded of returning prosperity. Notwith-standing, then, the present embarrassment and gloomy condition of the country, after a careful consideration of the present and prospective condition of the finances and resources of the Commonwealth, I cannot hesitate to re-affirm my belief, "that the time is not far distant when Pennsylvania will stand redeemed from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be relieved from a taxation imposed to meet its accruing interest and maintain the faith and credit of the Commonwealth," and that "by practising strict economy in all departments of the Governmont-avoiding extravagant expenditure -refusing to undertake any new schemes of internal improvement, and holding to a rigid

accountability the receiving and disbursing agents of the State, the realization of these views may be anticipated with confidence." As corroborative of the opinion now and heretofore expressed, a brief review of the operations of the Treasury during the past three years, as connected with the payment of the debt of the Commonwealth, may not be inappropriate. In my first annual mes-sage to the Legislature, the fact was stated, that during the three years, intervening between December 1, 1851, and December 1, 1854, the public debt had been increased one million, five hundred and eighty-four thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine dollars and thirty-four cents; and that the total debt at the close of the fiscal year, December 1, 1854, was forty-one millione, sin hundred and ninety-eight thousand, five hundred and ninety-five dollars and seventy (41,698,595 74.) At the close of the late fiscal year, December 1, 1857, three years later, the funded and unfunded debt, as before shown, was thirty-nine millions, eight hundred and eighty-one thousand, seven hundred and thirty-eight dollars and twenty-two cents, (39,881,738 22,) decrease in three years, one million, eight hundred and sixteen thousand, eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents, (1,816,857 52.) Thus in three years the public debt has been decreased, by actual payment and without resorting to the expedient of temporary loans, one million, eight hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents. If to this be added the sum of four hundred and fourteen thousand, nine hundred and twenty dollars and twenty-nine cents $\$(414,920\ 29)$ now in the sinking fund, and applicable to the payment of the funded debt, the reduction will be two millions, two hundred and thirty-one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars and eight-one cents, (\$2,231,777 81.) These facts are not only gratifying, but encouraging. It has already been stated that there is in the Sinking Fund the sum of seven millions five hundred thousand dollars--bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, bearing interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, and pledged to the payment of the funded debt. If this sum be added to the reduction before stated, we have presented to us a virtual, if not an actual decrease of the State debt, of nine millions, seven hundred and thirty-one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars and eighty-one cents, (9,-731,777 81;) showing the total funded and unfunded debt of the State on the first day of December, 1857, to have been thirty-one millions, nine hundred and sixty-six thousand, eight hundred and eighteen dollars and forty-one cents, (31,966,818 41.) In anticipation of the sale of the Main Line and the decrease in the public debt, the State tax, by an act of the last regular session, was reduced from three to two and one half mills on the dollar; a reduction equal to one sixth of the tax imposed for State purposes prior to that act. These facts speak for themselves. Well may the people be congratulated on such an auspicious beginning \$820,007 55 in the process of liquidation, and well may These statements exhibit the gratifying they with confidence anticipate the day of cial and commercial embarrassment may

The receipts from the Delaware Division are less than those of the previous year. The completion of rival Railroads and other causes have lessened the receipts from this important division of our public works; and it is feared will continue to decrease them.-Its management has been satisfactory, and compared with other divisions of the public improvements, economical. The net revenue, at the Treasury, was \$174,001 87, a decrease of \$90,093 53, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. In addition to the or-dinary expenditures, the sum of \$46,263 was ments, has ceased. Its continuance can only paid for the enlargement and improvement of this division.

mission of the products of other States thro' her territory to her own markets, and, there-fore, the propriety of relieving the trade and business of the Commonwealth and country The North Branch Extension of the Pennsylvania canal, although so far completed in the fall of 1856, that boats freighted with coal and products, were successfully passed through its entire length from Pittson to the from this tax upon it, is respectfully submit-Junction canal, yet in consequence of a large portion of the "Horse Race Dam" having been carried away by the freshets of last spring, business on the canal was suspended rassment and general prostration of business, the greater part of the past year. It was repaired during the summer, and in the fall the Constitution, an Extra Session of the Legislature, to meet at Harrisburg on the sixth day of October last. Although the rebusiness was resumed along its entire length. Soon after, the same dam was again extensively injured by a sudden and heavy freshet, and the greater part of the canal render-ed useless for business. An appropriation will be required to re-construct the dam. lief provided by this extraordinary session of the General Assembly, was not as ample as the exigency of the case required, yet it was

This canal, although useful and valuable, productive of many beneficial results, and served to allay the intense excitement and alarm that pervaded the entire community. appears to be doomed to failure and disaster. These are the fruits of former mismanagement and fraud in its construction. Every effort has been made to repair the errors of its early management, and to complete and render useful this division of our public law, were required to pay into the Treasury works. Under proper management it can be one-fourth of one per cent. on their capital stock; the amount realized by the payment

successfully accomplished. In pursuance of the act of the 16th of May, 1857, providing for the sale of the Main Line of this bonus has not only defrayed all the expenses of that session, but will leave a balof the public works, after giving the notice required by law, I caused the said Main Line ance in the Treasury of not less than thirtyfive thousand dollars—a result certainly not injurious to the finances of the Commonto be exposed to public sale at the Merchants' wealth. My views expressed in former communica-tions on the subject of banks and banking capital, in their relations to the currency and Exchange, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 25th day of June last, and sold the same to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the sum of seven millions five hundred thousand dollars the highest price bid for the same, and the minimum price fixed in the act. the general interests of trade, remain un-

changed. However diverse our opinions After a full compliance by the purchasers may be on this subject, it must be admitted with the conditions of the act authorizing the sale, and the delivery of the bonds in number and for the amounts equal to and falling ness and commerce of the country, that their due at the time provided for the payment of sudden separation, or a rash innovation, due at the time provided for the payment of the respective instalments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on the 31st day of July, A. D. 1857, as directed by the act, transfer-is pecfect, is not pretended; that it could be red, under the great seal of the State, to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, their successors or assigns, the whole Main Line of the public works between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, together with all the right, title and interest, claim and demand, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to all property, real, personal and mixed, belonging to or used in connection with the same by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and the purchasers having given notice of their readiness to take possession of the said works, possession of the same was accordingly delivered to the Company on the first day of August last, of which notice was given to all Superintendents and Agents of the Commonwealth, by proclamation bearing date the 31st day of July, 1857, as required by the law authorizing the sale. The bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in the sum of seven and one half It is, therefore, that a system of free bankmillions of dollars, were received by the State Treasurer and are held by him for the and coin in such proportion to circulation and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund; the en- deposites as may be deemed sufficient to sctire proceeds of the sale being required by the 12th section of the act to be paid to the Sinking Fund and applied to the payment of the State debt. I cannot forbear congratulating the people of the Commonwealth on the consummation of this sale. Public sentiment as expressed through the ballot-box, and in other forms equally significant, demanded it-public policy and the interest of the Commonwealth required it. It is done. The many approve; few complain, those most who have gained an unenviable reputation by a reckless disregard of the public interests, as exhibited in the extravagant, useless and fraudulent expenditures of the public money for selfish or nartizan purposes. The sale of the Main Line has directed public attention to the importance and necessity of disposing of the remaining divisions of the public improvements, The reasons and policy that required and justified the sale, of the one, apply with equal force to the sale of the other. The propriety of separating the State from the care and control of the public works, is not only evident to all who have given the subject a candid and impartial consideration, but the necessity is clearly established, by the history of their construction and management. They have failed to be a source of revenue to the Commonwealth, and if retained by the State, will require an expenditure in their repair and management, largely exceeding any revenue, that under the most favorable circumstances, can be derived from them. In any phase of the question, this separation is desirable, but in connection with the payment of the public debt, and the reduction of State taxation, it becomes an object of more than ordinary interest. A. sale, at the earliest practicable period, of the whole of our public works, for a fair considcration, upon terms just and liberal to the purchasers, and at the same time amply protective of the rights and interests of the people, should be authorized by the Legislature. Such sale, with the application of the proceeds to the payment of the public debt, would secure its still more rapid entinguishment. The subject is recommended to your unbiased consideration. The law incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad Company imposed a tax of three mills, per ton, per mile, on all tonnage passing over that road, as an equivalent for any decrease in the revenues of the Commonwealth. that might arise from the anticipated competition of the road, with the business of the Main Line of the public improvements. ed an unprecedented demand for our bread-

progress, and contributed its full share in producing existing financial and commercial embarrassment, in millions, supplied the means of paying the overwhelming balances against us on our foreign importations. Under the present system of low duties, the excess of imports over exports has been beyond the most extravagant wants of the country. They have been enormous and ruinons-destructive of domestic industry, and involving the home manufacturer and home labor, in one common ruin. We have imported more than we could pay for, and much more than we needed. Pennsylvania abounds in iron Editor and Proprietor. ore. Iron and its manufactures are justly regarded as important elements of her material wealth; and from her abundance, if properly fostered and protected by a wise na-tional policy, could supply the markets of the world; and yet; since the passage of the act of 1846, we have imported of iron and NO. 30. This tax is not imposed upon the Company steel and their manufactures, more than two but upon the tonnage, and is paid by the hundred millions of dollars in value; paid owners of the freight transported over the for in gold or our bonds and stocks, now held road; the company acting as agents in its collection and payment to the State. It is by foreign capitalists-the interest on which but adds to the burdens imposed upon us by our foreign indebtedness. The same is true virtually a tax upon the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth, and upon the comof many other important branches of home merce of other States whose productions seek an Eastern market over this road; and thus industry. Many millions in value of cotton and woolen goods have, during the same pe-riod, been imported, that should have been made in our own workshops, should have by increasing the rate of charges and the cost of transportation the produce of the West is forced upon the competing railroads of been woven on American, and not on British. other States and to other markets than our French or German looms. As an example of the practical working of the system; official documents exhibit the fact, that during the past four years the imbe justified as a revenue measure. It should be the policy of the State to invite the trans-

21+2 Plan

stuffs, and the gold of California, although it may have added to the excitement of our

ports of foreign merchandise, exceeded our exports one hundred and eighty-four millions two thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight dollars; and as a consequence, the drain of the precious metals was correspondingly great. The amount of specie sent out of the country during that period, was two hun-dred and thirteen millions three hundred and sixty-four thousand three hundred and eighty-four dollars-specie imported twenty-six millions nine hundred and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-seven dollars ; leaving a balance against us on specie account of one hundred and eighty-six millions four hundred and thirty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven dollars .---This depleting process, aggravated by exces-sive importations, unsettled the currency and induced an inflated paper circulation, resulting in bank suspensions and financial embar-rassment. But the evil does not end here.— An inflated paper currency, by cheapening By the act providing for the resumption of specie payments by the Banks, all banking the price of money, increases in this country the cost of production, and thus, whilst the American Manufacturer is exposed, under a system of low duties, to a ruinous competition with the cheap labor of Europe, he is paid for his goods in a currency less valua-ble than that paid to his foreign competitor. As a necessary result the home fabric is driven from the market, and the home manufacturer ruined. The operation of these causes, stimulated by low duties, is sufficient to destroy the industrial enorgies of any peo-

> With these facts before us, it is no matter of surprise that our mills, factories and furnaces have been closed, and thousands of honest laborers thrown out of employment: that commerce has scarcely an existence. that bankruptcy and ruin are around us, and our general prosperity paralyzed. To avoid these disasters, to which we have been periodically exposed, reform not only in our syscome indispensable. but in our abiranna laws, be-

revenues of the Commonwealth. Actuated by that indomitable energy that has ever characterized the American people—faltering for a moment, but not disheartened by the ing the revenues of the Commonwealth; but

This being the first session of the Legislature since the adoption of this amendment, the duty therein enjoined devolves upon you, charged.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State. including temporary loans on the first day of December, 1856, as per Reports of Auditor General and State Treasurer, was as follows,

- 1	V1Z :
۱I	FUNDED DEET.
/	6 per cent. loans\$ 511,781 00
-	5 " "
-	41/14 14 14 388.200 00
	4
1	4/2
- 1	UNFUNDED DERT.
	Relief notes in circulation\$220.556 00
-	Interest certificates outstanding 24,691 37
e l	" " unclaimed 4,448 38
-	Domestic creditors 1,164 00
- 1	Balance temporary loan, April
- (19. 1853 400,000 00
eΙ	Balance temporary loan, May
0	0 1854
- 1	Total unfunded debt 531,859 75
-	LUIM UNITANCE CONTRACTOR
-	\$40,701,835 25
'	•

to	FUNDED DEBT.	1
-	FUNDED DEBT. 6 per cent. loan\$ 445,180 00 5 " " "	l
1S- (5 4 4 4	ł
rs,	41/3.4 4 4	ł
	4 ² ··· ·· ··· 100,000 00	1
ıty	Total funded debt \$39,706,592 52	
rs	UNFUNDED DEBT.	ł
·e-	Relief notes in circulation\$146,421 00	Į
	Interest certificates outstanding 23,473 82	ł
nd	" " unclaimed 4,448 3S	ł
v-	Domestic creditors	ł
	Total unfunded debt 175,145 70	į
p-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ł
IS-	Total debt December 1, 1857\$39,881,738 22	1

		•	
·a l		•	\$40,701,835 25
<i>i</i> 0, 1	mit i lalat Theorem	Ban 1 1956	¢10 501 925 95
	Total deut Decen	Der 1, 1000	······································
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Decrease during late fiscal year

fact, that during the past fiscal year, the pub- their deliverance from State taxation. Finanlic debt has been reduced eight hundred and twenty thousand ninety-seven dollars and postpone, -nothing but unwise legislation, fifty-five cents. During the same period and the imprudent or dishonest management large appropriations and payments were made of our finances, can prevent the early realion account of our public improvements, for zation of their well founded anticipations. act of last session, and for other extraordinary purposes.

The condition of the Treasury prior to the suspension of specie payments by the Banks, justified the appropriation of at least two hundred thousand dollars more in payment of the public debt, and arrangements were made by the Treasurer, under the direction of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to liquidate that amount; but after the suspension, and the consequent financial embarrassment of the country, the proposed payment, from prudential motives, was postponed. Had this payment been made, in addition to the payments already reported, the statements and calculations submitted in my public debts would thus far have been sus- cents, (\$4,107.05). finances, is undoubted. The honor and credit | that prevented their realization, it is believ- | eral Divisions were as follows, viz:

The condition of the public works, their general operation, the receipts and expenditures during the past fiscal year, will be presented to you in detail in the Report of the Canal Commissioners.

The total receipts at the Treasury from the oublic works, for the year ending November 30, 1857, including receipts from the Main Line up to the first day of August last, were one million three hundred and eight thousand five hundred and ninety-eight dollars and sixty-two cents, (\$1,308,598 62.) The aggregate expenditures for the same period were one million three hundred and twelve thousand seven hundred and five dollars and sixty-seven cents, (\$1,312,705 67;) the expenditures exceeding the revenues four thousand one hundred and seven dollars and five

The receipts at the Treasury from the sev-

essentially modified and improved, will not be denied, The present derangement of the currency may and will suggest the necessity of reform, not only in the system itself, but in the management of our banking institutions.

ted for your consideration.

In consequence of the suspension of specie

payments by the Banks of this and the other States of the Union, and the financial embar-

I deemed it my duty to call, as authorized by

institution accepting the provisions of that

Unlimited credits by corporations or individuals have and will ever be an unmitigated evil. They contribute to bank expansions, rash speculations, extravagant living, and excessive overtrading; always sure to be followed by ruinous revulsions. What the remedy should be, I do not deem it my province, under existing circumstances, to sug-gest; but to be permanent and effectual, it must accord with the natural and necessary laws of trade. The currency of the country forms no exception to these laws, and should be left to their operation and control, so far as may be consistent with the public good. ing, based on undoubted public securities, cure their conversion into specie, on demand, with proper limitations and restrictions, is deemed preferable to the present system .--Its introduction would correct many existing abuses not only in the system itself, but in the present mode of banking. These ques-tions, however, with the remedies necessary to prevent a recurrence of the evils under which we now suffer, together with the nature and extent of the relief, if any; that may yet be required by the Banks of the Commonwealth, to enable them to resume the payment of their liabilities in specie, are all referred to the wisdom of the Legislature .--They are practical and important business questions, and as such should receive your intelligent consideration.

The present condition of our Common wealth and country deserves at least a passing remark, A severe financial revulsion has occurred, inducing a suspension of specie pay-ments by the Banks, not only of this Commonwealth, but of all the States of the Union, deranging the currency and affecting disastrously all the great interests of commerce and the industrial pursuits of the citizen .---Labor is without employment, and thousands of strong active men are now asking for work or bread. The causes assigned for these evils are almost as various as the interests or prejudices of those who undertake their explication. To whatever cause or causes they may be referred, it is neither just nor proper to charge all our present financial and commercial distress to the Banks and their management. However much they may have contributed, other causes have operated still more directly and powerfully to produce these results; and among them first in im-portance and influence is the present system of low duties, in connection with the warehousing system, adopted as the policy of the General Covernment in 1856. The abandonment of the protective policy, as embodied in the Tariff act of 1842, was resisted by Pennsysvania with a unanimity almost unparalleled in her history. Her representatives in both branches of the National Congress strenuously opposed the repeal of that act. The evils under which we are now suffering were predicted, as a consequence of such repeal. But other counsels prevailed, the act was repealed, and the industry of the country exposed to a ruinous competition with the cheap labor of foreign nations. The disastrous effects of the repeal, were postponed by the operation of causes well understood by every intelligent citizen. Famine abroad produc-

If the principle of the act of 1852 had been preserved-even if its rate of duties had been reduced, our specie by millions would not have gone into foreign coffers to build up and sustain the foreign manufacturer; home industry would be prosperous, and the cry "we want work," issuing from a thousand lips, in our large cities and manufacturing districts, would not now be heard; nor would a foreign debt of nearly five hundred millions of dollars exist to startle and alarm us .---That system that practically prefers FOREIGN to nome labor,—that keeps our workshops in Europe, instead of building and supporting them here-that takes our gold to pay the wages of the British laborer, whilst our own are without employment and without bread, -that fills the country with foreign merchandise to the exclusion of the home fabric-that lays the British rail upon the road through our iron districts and by our rolling mills, whilst they are silent and deserted, and that invites to speculation and extravagance, is at war with every true American interest and should be at once abandoned.

A period of low duties has always been marked by excessive importations-large exports of specie-overtrading-bank expansions and suspensions, and financial and commercial revulsions. Under the protective policy these peculiar and startling characteristics of free trade have all been wanting .---The history of the country establishes these facts: A well regulated tariff, adjusted to protect the productive industry of the country, is not only the true policy of the Government, but is a better regulator of the currency, and a more certain security against bank expansions, than any system of plans and penalties yet devised for the control of banking institutions, or the operations of capital. To this we should return. Pennsylvania is yet true to her ancient and long cherished partizan pressure may have forced her from her true position. This was her misfortune. not her fault. She sees and feels the wrong, and with an emphasis, intensified by her injuries, will demand redress; protection for herself and the great industrial interests of her people.

The agricultural interests of the country should ever be fostered and sustained by the State. They are first in necessity and usefulness, and constitute the basis of State and National prosperity. Upon their progress and development depend the success of our mechanical, manufacturing and commercial interests.

Agriculture, in its varied and multiplied relations, is the unfailing source of National wealth, and to its promotion all should contribute. Individual enterprise and liberality, State and County associations, have done much to advance this important branch of productive industry; have collected and circulated much valuable information; and encouraged by their honorable exertions, the progress of scientific and practical agriculture. Science and art have nobly proffered their aid-the State should not withhold her encouragement and support.-

I have heretofore recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, in connection with some one of the State Departments, to give efficiency to the collection and diffusion of useful knowledge on this subject. Impressed with the necessity and usefulness of such a Bureau. I again earnestly recommend it to your favorable consideration.

"The Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania," an institution incorporated by the Leg-