The Globe.

HUNTINGDON, PA.

Wednesday morning, Jan. 13, 1864.

W. Lewis, Editor and Proprietor.

Our Flag Forever.

"I know of no mode in which a loyal citizen may so well demonstrate his devotion to his country as by sustaining the Flag the Constitution and the Union, under all circumstances, and UNDER EVERY ADMINISTRATION REGARDLESS OF PARTY POLITICS, AGAINST ALL ASSAILANTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD."—STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

A Dead Lock in the State Senate.

As was anticipated, in the absence of Major White, who is confined in a rebel dungeon, the Senate of Pennsylvania is a dead-lock. Let it remain so forever before a Union man shall give way to those who love separation and treason better than union and freedom. The will of a large majority of the people of our loyal State is being overslaughed, and, for the time, the minority rule. Where is the boasted magnanimity the so-called Democrats prate so mech about. If they loved their country half as much as they pretend to, they would not clog the wheels of Government, by thus openly and avowedly supporting the rotten Confederacy over which Jeff. Davis presides against the will of a large majority of those who live within his precincts.—Let "legislation be paralyzed, public business neglected, rather than untie it by submission to the men who are profiting by the sufferings of a brave soldier." Never did the good Old Keystone suffer a greater disgrace.—Never were a loyal people placed in a more humiliating position. What are those men but knaves, poltroons, and traitors. Are they loyal when they reject a resolution of thanks to Gens. Grant and Meade, two of Pennsylvania's "favorite sons," and who are the heroes of many of the hardest fought battles of the war? Away with the man, or set of men, who would, for a moment, reject a resolution of thanks to the very man who drove back the enemy from invading his household and destroying his property. The loyal masses are indignant, and their just wrath will fall heavily upon the heads of those who defy their will.

The House organized on Tuesday last by electing the caucus nominees we gave in our last issue. A. W. Benedict, Esq., was the unanimous choice of the Union members for Chief Clerk. They knew the man. A better man could not have been elected to so important a position.

Free Labor for the South.

It may seem a little singular that sentiments like the following, which we take from the New Orleans *Era*, should be published as far south as Louisiana. Of course it is only very recently that such a thing could take place, but its occurrence now is an unmistakable indication of the direction and progress the sentiment of the south is taking. It is a proof, and with others conclusive to our minds, that a loyal South can only be re-established upon an anti-slavery or radical basis, and to that result things are rapidly tending. There is a great deal of sound philosophy in the extract from the Era, which we give below:

"It has generally been believed, heretofore, that the destruction of slavery would impoverish the South.—But this is one of the popular errors which is destined to be overthrown by the war. The value of slave property was mainly fictitious; for, with the money expended by the planter in feeding and subsisting his slaves, a smart business man would have procured as much, and perhaps more work by paid and willing labor. After the slave-owner had paid his thousand or fifteen hundred dollars for his negro, he must feed and clothe him; and the expense of this would about balance the work he got out of him. Consequently, the use of this thousand or fifteen hundred dollars was about the same as thrown away; and if the negro died or ran off and escaped, it was gone wholly. There are certain principles of common sense that hold good the world over; and some of these have been very strangely overlooked by the advocates of slave labor. Nothing is more self-evident than that a man will labor more willingly, heartily, efficiently, with the prospect of wages than he will under a whip, without such prospect. The negroes do not form an exception to this rule. Enslaved and treated as brutes, possessing neither the feelings, the hopes, nor the rights of human beings, they necessarily become sluggish and debased, and shirk their task as much as possible. Nothing else could be expected; human nature would be false to herself if the result would be different. But treated as a human being, and properly remunerated for his toil, the negro becomes an effective and willing laborer. Experience is establishing this truth on the plantations of Louisiana every day. A planter who loses one hundred negroes may complain that he has lost fifty thousand dollars; but he will learn, if he goes to work properly, that he has really lost nothing. His plans and business may suffer disarrangement for a year; but if he will try the free labor experiment fairly, his supposed loss can work him no further harm."

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:

The past year has afforded us new cause of thankfulness to the Almighty for the moral and material blessings which he has bestowed upon us.

The balance in the Treasury November 30. 1862, was,	$2,172,844 10
Receipts during fiscal year ending November 30, 1863	4,289,451 65
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1863	6,462,295 75
The payments for the same period have been	4,314,964 05
Balance in Treasury November 30, 1863	2,147,331 70

The operations of the sinking fund during the last year have been shown by my Proclamation of the 8th day of September last, as follows:

Amount of debt Commonwealth reduced		954,720 40
As follows, viz:		
Coupon Loan Act. May 4, 1862	100,000 00	
Five per cent.	790,716 50	
Four and one-half per cent.	63,000 00	
Relief notes cancel'd	963 00	
Domestic creditors' certificates	13 00	
Interest certificates paid	27 90	
		$954,720 40

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania as it stood on the 1st day of December, 1862		$40,448,213 82
Deduct amount redeemed at the State Treasury during the fiscal year, ending with November 30, 1863, viz:		
Five per ct. stocks	$888,499 78	
Four and a half per cent. stocks	63,000,00	
Relief notes	109 00	
Domestic creditors' certificates	8 26	
		$951,617 04
Public debt December 1, '63,		$39,496,596 78
Funded debt, viz:		
6 per cent. loans	400,630 00	
5 per cent. loans	35,709,986 45	
4½ per cent. loans	268,200 00	
		$36,378,816 45
Unfunded debt, viz:		
Relief notes in circulation	$97,251 00	
Interest certificates outstanding	15,356 63	
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,448 38	
Domestic creditors' certificates	724 32	
		$117,780,33
		$36,496,596 78
Military loan per Act of May 15th, 1861		3,000,000 00
Total indebtedness.		$39,496,596 78

By the act of 15th May, 1861, authorizing the military loan of $3,000,000, a tax of one-half mill was laid on real and personal property, to furnish a fund for redeeming the same. I recommend that the commissioners of the sinking fund be directed to invest the proceeds of the tax in State loan, so that it may be drawing interest, to be in like manner invested, or that they should apply such proceeds directly to the purchase of certificates of the military loan, and cancel such certificates as shall be purchased.

Although our finances are still in a healthy condition, it is necessary to invite the serious attention of the Legislature to the consideration of the means of maintaining them unimpaired in future.

By the act of 12th June, 1840, it was provided that the interest on the State loans should always be paid in specie or its equivalent, and that whenever the funds in the Treasury should be of less value than specie, the difference in value should be ascertained and certified to the Governor, who should thereupon issue his warrant to the agents or banks authorized to pay such interest on behalf of the Commonwealth, to allow such difference to parties receiving the interest, or at the option of the parties pay the same in specie.

By the act of 11th April, 1862, it was provided that for the purpose of paying in specie, or its equivalent, all interest that should thereafter be due by the Commonwealth, as required by the act of 12th June, 1840, the several banks who should avail themselves of the provisions of that act, (of 11th April, 1862,) and who should refuse to redeem their notes in specie, on demand, at any time within ten days upon or after the time when such interest should become due, should thereafter, when required by the State Treasurer, by notice in writing, pay into the State Treasury, in proportion to the capital stock paid in of each bank, their ratable proportion of such premium for gold or its equivalent, as should have been actually paid by the State.

By the act of 30th January, 1863, it was provided that the State Treasurer should exchange with the banks an amount of currency sufficient to pay the interest on the State debt falling due on the first days of February and August, 1863, for the same amount of coin, and should give to the banks specie certificates of exchange, not transferable, pledging the faith of the State to return said coin in exchange for notes current at the time, on or before the first Monday of March, 1864, such certificates to bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

Under the provisions of the act of 1862, certain banks paid into the State Treasury $140,763 30 as an equivalent for coin for the payment of interest on the public debt.

Under the act of 1863, specie certificates have been given to the banks, amounting in the whole to $1,068,904 97, which, with the accruing interest, will fall due on the first Monday of March next.

As the provisions of this act were of a temporary character, the only acts now in force on the subject are those of 1840 and 1862, above mentioned, under which it will be the duty of the State authorities to pay the interest on the 1st of February, 1864, and thereafter, in coin or its equivalent, and look to the banks that may be liable under the act of 1862 for reimbursement of the premium paid by the Commonwealth.

In the face of all difficulties, this Commonwealth, actuated by a sentiment which does its people honor, has hitherto paid its interest in coin or its equivalent.

Existing circumstances make it necessary to consider now the fair extent of her just obligations.

The exigencies of the times have compelled the Government of the United States to issue large amounts of Treasury notes for circulation, which are not redeemable in coin, and which form the great mass of our circulating medium.

It is our duty as a loyal State—it is our interest as a State whose welfare, and even safety, depend emphatically upon the maintenance of the credit and the success of the military operations of the general government—to do nothing to impair its credit or embarrass its measures. On the contrary, we owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to give an active support to its efforts to quell the monstrous rebellion which is still raging, and thus restore peace to our distracted country.

It is our own Government, and we could not, without gross indecency, attempt to refuse its currency in payment of taxes and other debts due to the Commonwealth.

In 1840 the case was very different. The difficulties then arose from the suspension of specie payments by our State banks, more local and private corporations, and the State very properly by the act of that year, intended to provide against loss to its creditors by reason of such suspensions. An exigency like the present could not then have been foreseen by the Legislature and it is to be inferred therefore that they could not have intended to provide for it.

We derive our system of public loans from Europe, and the true extent of our obligation is to be ascertained by referring to the known established practice of European governments prior to the dates when our loans were effected. I mean of course such of those governments as were held to have maintained their national credit.

It is believed to have been the uniform practice of such governments to pay their interest in paper currency, however depreciated, during a legalized suspension of specie payments. An observable instance of this is afforded by the course of the British Government, which during twenty-five years, from 1797 to 1822, during which the bank was prohibited by law from paying out coin for any purpose, paid the interest on its public debts in bank notes, which during a great part of that time were at a heavy discount, sometimes amounting to 30 per cent or thereabout. Their necessities then were not greater than ours are now.

Among ourselves, at the present time, Massachusetts (whose debt is believed to be very small) pays the interest in coin. Ohio and Indiana pay in currency. In New York it is not known what will be done. Her Legislature, by concurrent resolution, ordered the interest to be paid in coin to foreign stockholders in April last.

At the present rate of premium on gold, the sum necessary to pay on an amount sufficient to discharge the annual interest on the State debt, would be more than $1,000,000, and to meet this, additional taxation to that extent would be unavoidable. The demands on the Treasury for other necessary purposes must probably be such as to render it imprudent to throw any part of this expenditure on the existing surplus. To borrow money from year to year to pay the interest on past loans would, of course, be wholly inadmissible. To leave the act of 1862 in force, and attempt to throw the payment of this large premium annually on the banks, would be not only flagrantly unjust, but quite impracticable. I recommend the whole subject to the careful and immediate consideration of the Legislature. Some legislation ought to be had on it before the close of the present month. In my opinion the Commonwealth will have fulfilled her obligations by providing for the payment of her interest in the currency of the Government. If the Legislature should think fit to continue to pay it in coin, it will be their duty to levy forthwith the heavy taxes necessary for that purpose. I must in passing observe that the plan adopted by one of the States in paying coin to foreign, and currency to domestic loanholders, appears to me to be wholly unwise, and founded on no legitimate principle.

At the close of the last session, nineteen bills renewing the charters of certain banks for another period of five years were presented to me Of these I have (for reasons which will be hereafter communicated,) withheld my signature from one and approved the remainder. I have been led to sign them by the considerations that the banks of the Commonwealth pay a large revenue which the State can ill afford to lose, and that in the present condition of the country it would be impolitic to drive so much capital out of active use or force it into new employments.

If the National Banking system afford sufficient inducements, capital will voluntarily take that direction. It is proper to observe that the charters of most of the banks in question expire at an early period, while in consequence of the invasion of the State, during the last summer, they could not have been reasonably expected to give the necessary notice of renewed applications for re-charter.

I recommend an extension of the time during which the banks are now relieved from penalties for not paying their obligations in coin.

The increased expenses of living invite attention to the salaries of our public officers. Those of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Auditor General, and State Treasurer, and of the Clerks in their employment are, in my opinion, too low, especially as the exigencies of the times have greatly enhanced the labors and responsibilities of all, and in the case of the heads of those departments, enforce a constant attendance at Harrisburg, which was not formerly required.

Under the Act of 16th April, 1862, and its supplement passed 22d April, 1863, the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and Commissary General have been acting as the Board of Military Claims. They have, up to this time, approved claims to the amount of $166,415 81, and others have been already presented to the further amount of $332,120 29, which have not yet been acted on.

Under the Act of 22d April, (P. L. 529,) the Court of Common Pleas, appointed three appraisers to ascertain the damage done in the counties on the Southern border by the militia called into service in September, 1862, by the Anderson Cavalry in the same month, and by the Rebels in their raid on the 10th and 11th October, 1862.

The Appraisers have not yet completed the performance of their duties. When their report shall have been made to the Court of Common Pleas and affirmed, in whole or in part, by that court, it will be the duty of the Governor to claim the payment of the amounts from the General Government, and on failure to secure the same, then to report to the next Legislature, recommending such action as he may deem just and proper.

The expenses of the Transportation and Telegraph Department during the past year have been as follows:

Paid (out of appropriation made by Military Loan act of 1861	$13,658 87
Unpaid (the appropriation being exhausted	15,764 79
Outstanding liabilities, estimated at	5,000 00
	$34,423 66

These expenses have been mainly incurred in keeping up the necessary correspondence of the military departments and in the transportation of sick and wounded and the dead bodies of our volunteers, as will be seen by the report of the Chief of Transportation, herewith communicated. I recommend an appropriation to meet the deficiency, and also to carry on the service of this department hereafter.

By the thirteenth section of the act of the 15th May, 1861, the sum of $20,000 was appropriated to be expended by the Governor for the compensation of such obedience as he might require to serve the Commonwealth in the military organization of the State or the General Government, and for the expenses incident to the business in which they might be employed.

I have, according to law, settled annual accounts of the expenditure of this fund in the Auditor General's office, to which the Legislature is referred. The unexpended balance is now $4,521 98. A further sum should be appropriated in like manner. Out of this fund I have paid the persons whom I found it necessary to employ in the military department, and the expenses of the agency which I was compelled to establish at Washington to attend to the interest and welfare of our volunteers. The continuance of this agency and the establishment of a similar one in the West are of vital importance to them. I recommend the passage of an act authorizing the appointment of agents at Washington and Nashville, and defining their duties, which should include the collection of all bounties, back pay, pensions, etc., due to Pennsylvanians.

On this subject I refer the Legislature to the report of Colonel R. Biddle Roberts, late Agent of the State, at Washington, herewith communicated and commend it to your careful examination.

On the invasion of the State during the last summer, the President made a call for militia, and with his assent I subsequently made a call for volunteer militia for the defence of the State.—Under these calls men were assembled and organized with promptness, after the reality of the emergency came to be understood by our people. The General Government clothed, and subsisted this force, and agreed to pay it, but as no appropriation for that purpose had been made by Congress, the President and Secretary of War promised if the money should be advanced from other quarters to recommend its immediate repayment on the meeting of Congress. It is understood that steps have been already taken to fulfil this pledge. Several of the banks cheerfully and readily advanced the necessary funds to the amount of $671,476,43, on my promise to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation to repay them in case Congress should fail to make one. I accordingly make that recommendation most emphatically. Should it be necessary, I will hereafter in a special message give the details and correspondence relating to this subject.

New York and New Jersey, under the President's call, sent regiments to assist in our defence, for which our thanks are due to those States, our good neighbors.

After the battle of Gettysburg, in which loyal volunteers from eighteen States, including Pennsylvania, were engaged, it appeared to me proper that all those States should unite in establishing a cemetery on the spot, in which their soldiers who had fallen in that conflict, should be honorably interred. I accordingly appointed David Wills, Esq., of Gettysburg, my agent, and through him, a site was purchased at a cost of $2,475 87, and the conveyances made to the State.—On communicating with the authorities of the other States, they all readily agreed to become parties to the arrangement, and on the 19th day of November last the cemetery was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of the President of the United States, the Governors of the States concerned, and other high officers, National and State. On the 19th day of December, on the invitation of Mr. D. Wills, commissioners representing the States interested in the cemetery, met in Harrisburg and agreed upon a plan for its improvement and care in the future, and the apportionment of the sum of money required, to the several States, which is herewith communicated. The expenses attending the establishment of this cemetery, including the cost of the site and of removing the bodies of the slain, have thus far amounted to $5,209 38, and an appropriation will be required to pay these expenses, and to meet our portion of those attending its future maintenance It will appear by the proceedings of the commissioners that their due proportion of the expenses already incurred are to be refunded by the States on whose account they were made. It is just to say that Mr. Wills has discharged his delicate and important duties with fidelity and to my entire satisfaction.

The act for the relief of families of volunteers in service may require some revision. It is alleged that in some parts of the State the county authorities are backward in executing the law. If this be so, the members from the different counties will be aware of the fact, and will be most ready to make such further enactments as may be proper.

I commend to the prompt attention of the Legislature the subject of the relief of poor orphans of our soldiers who have given, or shall give, their lives to the country during this crisis. In my opinion, their maintenance and education should be provided for by the State Failing other friends of natural ability to provide for them, they should be honorably received and fostered as children of the Commonwealth. The $50,000 heretofore given by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, referred in my last annual message, is still unappropriated, and I recommend that this sum, with such other means as the Legislature may think fit, be applied to this end, in such manner as may be thought most expedient and effective. In anticipation of the adoption of a more perfect system, I recommend that provision be made for securing the admission of such children into existing educational establishments, to be there clothed, nurtured and instructed, at the public expense. I make this recommendation earnestly, feeling assured that in doing so, I represent the wishes of the patriotic, the benevolent and the good, of the State.

I invite the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the loyal people of East Tennessee, which is represented to be most deplorable, and appeals with irresistible force alike to your sympathies and your sense of justice. Their whole country has been laid waste by the contending armies of the Government and the rebels. Four times large armies have passed over that district, destroying or carrying off all that had been gathered for the approaching winter, and now the women and children are left in a state of destitution.

The representations made by sundry gentlemen of the highest respectability, from that State, are of the most heart rending character. Starvation, actual and present, now exist. Can we, in the midst of affluent abundance, for a moment hesitate as to what our action shall be towards the people whose only crime has been their loyalty and devotion to the Government? Even if a portion of our charity should reach the starving families of those in sympathy with the rebellion, better it should, than that these devoted, self-sacrificing people who have so unhesitatingly adhered to the Government, be left to suffer. Whenever pestilence and famine distressed the people of any portion of our country, we have always been foremost in relieving them, and the people of Pennsylvania have extended their open handed benevolence and broad charity to the starving people of foreign countries. Shall it be said that the appeals of these people for bread fall upon the heart of Pennsylvania in vain, and that we who have so recently given thanks for our abundance have no relief for them in their extremities? I commend the subject through you to the people of the State, as worthy the immediate attention and active exertions of the charitable and the liberal.

I should be glad if the Legislature would make a general revision of our Revenue Laws, with a view to their increased productiveness. It ought to be observed that for a period of more than twenty years, no material change has been made in the Revenue Laws of this Commonwealth. During that time some interests have grown into new importance, and should be made to bear their just proportion of the public expense, since all taxation should as far as possible, press equally upon the property and employments of our people.

Failing such revision, I recommend to the consideration of the Legislature the following suggestions connected with the subject.

1. There are several companies in the State which, in addition to large mining privileges, have the control of the routes of transportation, by which alone the products of the mines of individuals in their respective districts, can reach a market. These companies thus enjoy substantial monopolies by means of which they not only receive the fair profits of their own property, but are enabled to make additional heavy gains at the expense of individuals. In my opinion such privileges ought never to have been granted, but as they exist it appears to be just that the class of companies which enjoy them, should pay therefor an additional specific tax.

2. Very large sums are due to the Commonwealth for unpatented lands Forbearance, clemency, and liberality have been in vain tried in the numerous attempts to procure the payment of at least a part of this debt, from the larger portion of those who are indebted on that account. The continuance of this state of affairs is unjust to the Commonwealth and to the vast majority of her people who have honestly paid for their lands. It has become unendurable. I recommend that the Legislature provide that the Surveyor General shall file of record in the office of the Court of Common Pleas of each county, a description of the lands subject to the lien of the Commonwealth for purchase money, and a statement of the amount of principal and interest now due to the Commonwealth together with the patent fees on each tract and ten per cent on the amount so due for the labor and cost of making and filing such statement, and the aggregate amount thus stated, for each tract, shall be held to be the amount now due thereon to the Commonwealth, which shall bear interest at the rate of twelve per cent per annum, till paid, and shall continue to be the first lien on the land, till paid, and shall not be divested by any judicial or other sale whatever. I also recommend the adoption of a suggestion contained in the Surveyor General's report that a specific tax be laid on all unpatented lands.

3. By existing laws municipal corporations are required to deduct and pay into the Treasury the tax on all loans contracted by them. It is believed that a large addition would accrue to the revenue by the extension of this provision to all counties and to all corporations private or public.

I recommend that it be so extended.

4. A tax on the gross receipts of all railroad and canal companies would it is believed, be productive and not oppressive.

Upon satisfactory reports, according to law, made by Colonel John A. Wright, I have drawn my warrants for the delivery to the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad company of another million of the bonds deposited in the State Treasury. Four millions of said bonds have therefore been now delivered. There can be no reasonable doubt of the early completion of the work, and, when completed, it is confidently expected that the bonds held by the State, secured on the road for $3,500,000, will become good interest-paying securities.

I renew most earnestly the recommendation made in my last annual message of a revision of the militia laws. They are at present shamefully defective. Indeed, if by a militia law is meant a law intended to provide for so enrolling and organizing the military force of the State that it may be put into service when required, we may be said to have no militia law. In each of the last two years I have been obliged to call out the militia, but in fact those who obeyed the call were volunteers and, with some exceptions, were wholly unorganized, so that almost in face of the enemy; time had to be consumed in distributing the men into companies and regiments, in electing officers and in other preparations for effective organization.

In the report of the Adjutant General will be found a list of the Pennsylvania regiments and a statement showing the several armies and departments in which they are now serving. In this connection, I suggest the propriety of legislative authority being given for the preparation of a history of each of our regiments and other organizations, to be preserved among our archives. The necessary documents are now accessible, and as they may in time be lost or destroyed the making of such a record as I propose should not be deferred. It is due alike to the living and the dead that this subject should be promptly acted on.

I recommend that the proposed amendments to the Constitution, giving to citizens in the public service out of the State, the right to vote, be passed promptly and submitted to a vote of the people at as early a day as possible, so that such citizens may exercise their right of suffrage at all future elections. This would be only doing justice to the brave men who are perilling their lives in our defence.

It is highly important that we shall replenish the ranks of our regiments in the field and supply the places of those volunteers whose terms will soon expire and who may decline further service. I am happy to say that a large proportion of our regiments are re-enlisting. Efforts are making by myself and by the people in various portions of the State to procure a sufficient number of volunteers, and with a promise of success, provided a reasonable time be allowed for the purpose. Meanwhile persons professing to be officers and agents from some other States are most improperly endeavoring to seduce our citizens into their service by extravagant bounties and promises.

The 12th section of the act of 15th May, 1861, prohibits any volunteers from leaving the State without the authority of the Governor, and I now recommend the passage of a law imposing penalties by fine and imprisonment on all individuals who shall endeavor to procure or aid and assist in procuring any person in this State to enlist in the volunteer service of any other State. Many of our counties and townships have filled their quotas at a large expense, and in others they are in course of doing the same by offers of liberal bounties and provisions for the families of volunteers, and it is not right that these patriotic efforts should be embarrassed by interference from beyond our borders, especially as we cannot, in these circumstances offer bounties by the State, without the injustice of compelling the counties and townships which have already contributed largely in that way, to assist in paying, by taxation, for the deficiency of others.

I feel it to be my duty to call your attention to the pernicious practice of leaving many bills to be hurried thro' at the close of the session. During the last ten days of the last session, 390 bills were presented for my signature, many of them of the most important character. The whole number of bills presented to me during the session was 715. In consequence of this habit not only are bills passed without an opportunity to either House for a proper consideration of their provisions, but the Executive is compelled either to sign them without examination, or to hold them over perhaps to the public inconvenience. It may often happen that a bill not approved by reason of a single obnoxious clause, might if there were time, be repassed, omitting the objectionable provision. In connection with the subject of Legislation, I must refer to another mischief. General laws have been passed to give relief in certain cases which formerly required a special act in each case. As for instance the sale of lands by executors, administrators and trustees, the adoption of children, the creation of mining and manufacturing corporations, and so forth. These laws were passed to ensure such an examination in each case as would enable justice to be done to the parties and to the public, and also to save the time and expense consumed in private legislation. They have hitherto effected neither purpose, but I do seriously urge on the Legislature the consideration that whoever applies for a special act under such circumstances must either fear the result of an impartial inquiry or (if the application be for a charter) must desire the omission or insertion of some provision contrary to what the Legislature has determined after mature consideration to be just and legitimate.

I refer to the Auditor General's and State Treasurer's reports for the details of our financial affairs, and to the reports of the Surveyor General, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Surgeon General, Agent at Washington, Chief of Transportation and Telegraph Department, and Superintendent of Common Schools, in regard to their several departments.

In May last it was believed from information received, that General Lee intended to invade this State. Communications on the subject were immediately sent to Washington, urging that preparations for effective defence should not be delayed. Accordingly the War Department erected two new military departments, viz: The Department of the Monongahela, including that portion of the State lying west of the mountains, to be commanded by Maj. Gen. Brooks, and the Department of the Susquehanna, comprising the remainder of the State, and to be commanded by Maj. Gen. Couch.

Early in June, Maj. Gen. Couch arrived at Harrisburg and assumed command of his department, which he has since exercised with the soldierlike promptness, energy and discretion which were to be expected from his known character.

The rebels having actually entered the State in some force, and the approach of their whole army being imminent, the President made a requisition for militia from this and some of the neighboring States, and several regiments from New York and New Jersey were promptly sent, and our own volunteer militia began to assemble, but some embarrassments arising, the President assented to a call by the Executive of the State, which was accordingly made. Under these calls 5,166 of the men of Pennsylvania were assembled in the Department of Gen. Brooks, and 31,422 in that of General Couch. To give the details, or even a summary of the operations which ensued, would be impracticable within the limits of a message. It is unnecessary to do so, as I have recommended the adoption of measures for preserving the history of our several regiments and other organizations, and in that history the events to which I have referred will be recorded. It is due, however, to the men who came forward, that I should say now that they made long and laborious marches in parts of this and other States which had been plundered by the rebels, suffered great privations, and were frequently in conflict with the enemy; and on all occasions acted in obedience to military discipline and orders, and with courage and endurance.

Some of the militia called in 1862, and in 1863, were killed and others disabled. In all these cases, where there are no laws for the relief of these men or their families, I recommend the enactment of a law for that purpose

The campaign on our soil was closed by the victory of Gettysburg, gained by the veteran Army of the Potomac, under the command of Major General Meade, the officers and men of which displayed all their accustomed valor and endurance in the conflict and in the forced and rapid marches which immediately preceded it.

Under Divine Providence, to them and to the military genius and unsurpassed energy of General Meade, and the promptness and self-sacrificing gallantry of General Reynolds, we are indebted for success on that bloody field.

We are proud to claim Gen. Meade and Reynolds as sons of our own Pennsylvania.

The first lives to enjoy the most precious of all rewards, the grateful appreciation of his countrymen. The latter fell in the very front of the battle, and we can only pay homage to his memory. Whatever honors have been at any time devised to commemorate the virtues of a patriot—of a true, fearless, loyal citizen and soldier he has abundantly deserved.

His surviving companions in arms claim the right, of themselves erecting a monument to him on the field on which he fell, and it would not be well to interfere with their pious intention. But I hope that the Legislature will place upon the records of the State some appropriate testimony of the public gratitude to him and his surviving commander.

It would be unjust to omit referring again to the loyal spirit of our people, which has been evinced in every mode since this war commenced. Not only have they sent 277,409 men for the general and special service of the Government, and supported with cheerfulness the burdens of taxation, but our storehouses and depots have literally overflowed with comforts and necessaries, spontaneously contributed by them, under the active care of thousands of our women, (faithful unto death,) for the sick and wounded and prisoners, as well as for our armies in the field. Their patriotic benevolence seems to be inexhaustible. To every new call, the response becomes more and more liberal. When intelligence was received of the barbarian starvation of our prisoners in Richmond, the garners of the whole State were instantly thrown open, and before any similar movement had been made elsewhere, I was already employed on behalf of our people in efforts to secure the admission through the rebel lines of the abundant supplies provided for the relief of our suffering brethren. Those of our citizens who have fallen into the habit of disparaging our great Commonwealth and the unsurpassed efforts of her people should blush when they look on this picture.

That this unnatural rebellion may be speedily and effectually crushed, we lie—all—under the obligation of the one paramount duty—that of vigorously supporting our Government in its measures to that end. To the full extent of my official and individual ability it shall be so supported, and I rely heartily on your co-operation. I am ready for all proper measures to strengthen its arm—to encourage its upholders—to stimulate by public liberality, to themselves and their families, the men who give to it their personal service—in every mode to invigorate its action. We are fighting the great battle of God—of truth—of right—of liberty. The Almighty has no attribute that can favor our savage and degenerate enemies. No people can submit to territorial dismemberment without becoming contemptible in its own eyes and in those of the world. But it is not only against territorial dismemberment that we are struggling but against the destruction of the very ground work of our whole political system. The ultimate question truly at issue is the possibility of the permanent existence of a powerful Republic. That is the question to be now solved, and by the blessing of God, we mean that it shall not be our fault if it be not solved favorably.

We have, during the past year, made mighty strides toward such a solution and to all human appearance we approach its completion. But whatever reverses may happen—whatever blood and treasure may still be required—whatever sacrifices may be necessary—there will remain the inexorable determination of our people to fight out this thing to the end—to preserve and perpetuate this Union. They have sworn that not one star shall be rent from the constellation, nor its clustered brightness be dimmed by treason and savagery, and they will keep their oath.

A. G. CURTIN.

A little fellow not more than five years of age, hearing some gentlemen at his father's table discussing the familiar line, "An honest man's the noblest work of God," said he knew it wasn't true; his mother was better than any man that was ever made.