

made to embrace private bankers and others of that class, whose profits are largely dependent upon the introduction into the State of such a currency. In many instances the notes of our own banks are collected by private bankers and brokers, and with those, with the specie withdrawn from the banks issuing them, they purchase depreciated and foreign bank paper which is paid out at par at their counters. By others large loans are negotiated with banks out of the State, at less than the usual rate of interest, and their notes, often of a less denomination than five dollars, and always at a discount, brought into the State, and put into circulation in the manner indicated, and this, under an agreement with the bank making the loan, that the notes thus paid out shall be kept in circulation. The effect of this system of private banking has been to limit the circulation of the par paper of our own banks, and substitute in its place a foreign, depreciated, and often a worthless currency. In justice to the bank, trust, and insurance companies, paying a heavy annual tax to the Commonwealth for their privileges, and for the protection of the people against these evils, either the provisions of the thirtieth section of the act of 1850, should be repealed, or further extended so as to embrace private individuals and associations who may monopolize and control, to the detriment of the public, this traffic in depreciated bank paper, without restraint and without taxation.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, will exhibit to you the number and condition of the schools—the number of teachers and scholars, and the general operations of the system during the past year. To the valuable statistical information of the report, and the useful suggestions for the improvement of the system, I invite your early and intelligent consideration.

From a small and comparatively unimportant incident of the State Department, the care and management of the public schools of the Commonwealth, with their seventeen hundred districts, ten thousand directors, twelve thousand teachers, and over five hundred thousand scholars, have become the most important and laborious branch of that Department. The increased and increasing business of the system has been met by a corresponding increase of zeal, labor, and efficiency in the officers to whom the law has committed its general direction and supervision. They should be sustained by wise and generous legislation. The magnitude and importance of the system, in its political, social, and moral relations to the present and future of the people, require that it should be done. The guardianship of the mind of the State should occupy a distinct and prominent place among the noble institutions of the Commonwealth. It should receive the efficient aid and encouragement of the government, and be sustained by a virtuous and intelligent people. If the revenue and treasures of a State—her public improvements—her lands and their titles, require and deserve the marked and distinctive care of the government, how much more should her mental and intellectual treasures, richer than gold—the social and moral improvement of her people, more valuable than canals and railways—the titles of her youth to the boundless fields of knowledge; higher than any of earth or aught growing out of its ownership, claim an honorable position, and receive a care and aid commensurate with their greater value and usefulness.

The County Superintendent, wherever it has been committed to faithful and efficient men, has fully vindicated the wisdom and policy of that measure. It is slowly, but surely moving the prejudices and gaining the confidence of the people. Whatever defects time and experience may develop, in this or any other branch of the system, should be promptly corrected. But until the necessity for change is established, the system, in its unity and integrity, should be maintained; and if changed, changed only to render more certain the accomplishment of its noble purposes and objects.

A sufficient number of competent and well-trained teachers, is the great want of the system. In its structure and organization it is as perfect, it is not more so, than any of the systems of our sister States. But the teacher is wanted to give it proper vitality and efficiency—to develop its true force and value—to secure the great object of its creation, i. e. through education of the youth of the Commonwealth. How can this want be supplied? How are teachers to be trained and provided to meet this educational demand? Must we be dependent upon the training schools of other States? Must our system be jeopardized, and its success perilled, by waiting the slow and unaided efforts of voluntary associations to furnish the much needed teacher? Voluntary associations of common school teachers, have accomplished much in their disinterested and noble efforts to remedy this defect. They are worthy the highest commendation—they deserve every encouragement. They can and will do more; but unaided they cannot accomplish the object desired. The Legislature must provide the remedy—they can supply the deficiency.

It should be done promptly and effectually. No subject of greater interest can occupy your attention as legislators—no one appeals more earnestly to duty and patriotism.

In a former communication to the Legislature, the establishment of State Normal Schools for the education of teachers, was urged as indispensably necessary to the perfection of the system. With full confidence in their utility and necessity, I again recommend them. These institutions, with their proper professors and appliances, supported by the State, would meet the wants and elevate the character of our common schools.

Teachers' Institutes, as auxiliary to Normal Schools when in operation, and supplying their place till established, should be aided by the State. One such institute in each county, meeting annually, under the fostering care of the government, would be productive of most beneficial results. Whilst it would improve teachers and prepare them for their important and responsible duties, it would elevate and dignify a profession too long neglected and undervalued by those most deeply interested in their honorable labors. These measures, as an addition to the annual State appropriation for common schools, in an amount limited only by the necessities of the Treasury, would give energy to the system—increase its efficiency—and thus promote the true interests of the people and the Commonwealth.

Our educational, charitable and reformatory institutions have strong claims upon the bounty of the people, and I cordially commend them to your care and liberality.

The State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, and the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and other kindred purposes at Pittsburg, are noble charities, and deserve the aid and encouragement of the State. The annual reports of these institutions will be laid before you, and will exhibit, in detail their operations during the past year.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, and the Western House of Refuge near Pittsburg, are institutions of great excellence, and their results clearly establish the wisdom of the policy that founded and sustains them. They ought not to be neglected; nor should the aid of the Commonwealth be withheld from them.

The "Blind" and the "Deaf and Dumb Asylums" at Philadelphia; and the Pennsylvania Training School for idiotic and feeble minded children, are institutions that appeal, in silence and sorrow, to the best and purest feelings of the heart, and ask your sympathy and aid. They should receive a generous share of the benefactions of the State.

Agriculture, in its varied departments, is the great interest of the Commonwealth. It is the basis alike of financial and commercial success, and of State and national prosperity. An interest so important should be fostered by the State, and honored by all classes of society. To its promotion and success all should cheerfully contribute. In a former communication I 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, and to encourage scientific and practical agriculture. Science, with wonderful energy, has aided the husbandman in his honorable vocation, and proffers still more help. The State should nerve his arm and cheer him onward in this, the first and noblest pursuit of man. This subject, in connection with an appropriation to the Farmers' High School at Pennsylvania—an institution destined to be an honor to the Commonwealth—is recommended to your favorable consideration.

The Polytechnic College of Pennsylvania, established by the enterprise and liberality of some of the patriotic citizens of Philadelphia, as a school of the applied sciences, deserves honorable mention, and should receive the confidence and patronage of the public. In the teachings of this institution, literature, science and art, in happy union, most to prepare our young men for the practical business of life, for mining, mechanical and civil engineering, and for promoting intelligently and efficiently the great interests of manufacturing and agricultural industry.

The laws on the statute book regulating manufacturing and improvement companies, require revision. They are unnecessarily stringent in many of their provisions, and thus defeat the object of their enactment. They drive capital from the State, instead of inviting its investment here; and instead of encouraging individual and associated enterprise and energy in the development of our immense natural resources, they bind and crush both by severe restrictions, unwise limitations and personal liabilities. The subject deserves careful attention and liberal legislation.

I have so frequently expressed my views in relation to local, special and "omnibus" legislation, that their reiterated now becomes unnecessary. Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation, when the object desired can be secured by general laws, or by the action of the courts,

should be avoided. "Omnibus legislation" cannot, under any circumstances, be justified or approved. Too much legislation is an evil that prevails extensively in legislative halls. Its avoidance would not be injurious to public or private interests.

The practice of delaying the passage of the general appropriation bill until the last days of the session, and incorporating in it provisions incompatible with its general character, and obnoxious, when standing alone, to insurmountable objections, highly censurable and should be discontinued. The attempt thus made to force, by a species of legislative legerdemain, the passage of objectionable measures through the Legislature, and compel their sanction by the Executive, has been too often successful. The practice cannot be too strongly condemned; it cannot receive my sanction.

The militia law of the State is imperfect in many of its provisions, and should be revised. The powers and duties of the Commander in Chief should be more clearly defined; as also of the other officers connected with the military organization of the Commonwealth. This is necessary to prevent a conflict of jurisdiction with other departments of the government, and to give greater efficiency to our military system. Volunteer companies should be encouraged; our entire military system should be reformed, and made to occupy that honorable position which from its importance and necessity it deserves.

Near the close of the last session of the Legislature, I transmitted to that body an ordinance passed by the select and common councils of the city of Philadelphia, approved by the Mayor on the 7th of April, 1856, and officially communicated to me, proposing to convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a lot of ground in that city for the purpose of erecting thereon a State Arsenal. Want of time alone prevented action on the proposition then submitted. The ground thus offered to the State is valuable, and its location most eligible for the purpose intended. The conditions of the proposed grant are favorable to the State, and highly creditable to the municipal authorities of Philadelphia, evincing a liberality and public spirit worthy of all commendation. The necessity of a State Arsenal in that city is so apparent that the subject needs no elaboration in this communication. After the sale of the State Arsenal in Philadelphia, the public arms were deposited in an old building, or out house, unsafe and unfit as a depositary for public property. The sum of \$30,000.00, realized from that sale, is now in the Treasury; and by the fifth section of an act passed the 19th day of April, A. D. 1853, entitled "An Act to provide for the public expenses of government," the Governor was authorized to apply the same to the purchase of a lot of ground and to the erection of an Arsenal thereon. This sum was found insufficient for these purposes, and consequently the object intended by the appropriation has not been accomplished. By the session of this lot, the State will be relieved from the expenditure of any money for the purchase of suitable grounds; and the entire sum of \$30,000.00 may be applied to the erection of the necessary buildings; to which sum could be added, if deemed advisable, the amount that may be realized from the sale of the Arsenal at Meadville and Harrisburg, as recommended in my last annual message. These sums would be amply sufficient to accomplish this object.

I would, therefore, again recommend the immediate passage of a bill accepting the conveyance of the said lot of ground from the city of Philadelphia, for the purpose and upon the terms and conditions contained in the ordinance; and that the sum of \$30,000.00 be appropriated for the erection of a State Arsenal thereon.

On the 6th day of October, 1855, I approved and signed a bill, entitled "An Act to repeal the charter of the Erie and North East railroad company, and to provide for the disposal of the same." In pursuance of its provisions, Hon. Joseph Casey was appointed to take possession and have the charge and custody of the road. Before possession was taken, application was made by the company, to one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Pa., for an injunction to restrain the agent of the State from taking possession; and subsequently a cautionary order was made by the Supreme Court, in banc, to stay proceedings under the act. The question then pending before that court were determined in favor of the Commonwealth—the constitutionality of the act sustained, and the application refused. Possession of the road was then taken by the agent of the State, as directed by law.

On the twenty-second day of April, 1856, an act, entitled "An Act supplementary to the act incorporating the Erie and North East railroad company," was passed. By this act the Erie and North East railroad, as originally located and constructed, was legalized and confirmed; and certain changes in the road were directed to be made, and other acts to be done by the company. It was also provided that the Governor shall retain possession of the Erie and North East railroad, under the act of the sixth of October, 1855,

until the provisions of this act shall have been accepted by a vote of the stockholders of the Erie and North East railroad company, at a meeting called for that purpose." On the fifteenth day of May, 1856, at a meeting of the stockholders called for that purpose, the provisions of the act were accepted by their vote. This acceptance, duly certified, was received and filed in this Department on the fifteenth day of July last. Possession of the road has been restored, and it is now under the care and management of the company. A final account for money received from the road, whilst in possession of the State, will be settled by the company at the earliest practicable period.

It is but proper to state that since the acceptance of the act of the 22nd of April, 1856, a writ of error, in the cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, has been issued at the suit of the company by the Supreme Court of the United States, and is now pending in that court.

The commissioner first appointed having resigned, A. K. McClure, Esq., was appointed in his place. The duties of both officers were ably and faithfully performed. Copies of their correspondence and reports, herewith submitted to the House of Representatives, for the use of the Legislature, will furnish information in detail on the subject now under consideration. It is sincerely desired that good faith and honesty of purpose may characterize the conduct of this company in the discharge of the duties assumed by their acceptance of the act of 22nd of April last, and that this much vexed question will not again disturb the harmony or retard the prosperity of the city of Erie, or any other portion of this Commonwealth.

The resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, have been published as directed by that instrument. It will be your duty to take such action in reference to these amendments as will, in your judgment, be most consistent with the wishes of the people. An appropriation will be required to pay the expenses of their publication, and to this your earliest attention is requested.

The important duty of districting the State for the election of Senators and Representatives, will devolve upon you. This duty should be performed faithfully, and with strict reference to the interests and rights of the whole people. Returns of taxables, required to be made by the different counties, have not all been forwarded to this Department, as by law directed. Circulars have been issued to the officers charged with these duties, urging their speedy performance, and the returns will, as soon as received, be transmitted to you.

The elective franchise is the highest and most responsible privilege enjoyed by the American citizen. Involving in its exercise the sovereignty of the people, and constituting as it does the substratum of our free institutions, it cannot be too highly appreciated or carefully guarded. The ballot-box, through which to people speak their will, should be preserved from violation of every hazard and sacrifice. Upon its purity and integrity depend the existence of our republican government, and the rights and privileges of the citizen. Every legal voter, whatever may be his political affiliations or party predilections, is deeply interested in this question. Any attempt to sully its purity, or impair its efficiency, whether by violence or fraud, should be sternly resisted and severely punished. Illegal voting, whether founded on forgery or perjury, or both; on false assessments, or false or forged certificates of naturalization, is an evil that deserves the severest condemnation. It prevents an honest expression of the popular will, corrupts the source of legitimate power and influence, and strikes a fatal blow at the cherished rights of freemen. These evils are alleged to exist in our large cities—the rural districts of the State are comparatively free from such corrupting abuses. A remedy, co-extensive with the evil should be provided. Every defence should be thrown around the ballot-box, and whilst the rights of legal voters should be secured and protected, fraud in every form should be prevented and punished. Whether a judicious registry law, or some other measure of reform, adequate to the necessities of the case, should be adopted, is referred to the wisdom of the Legislature.

As appropriate to this subject, the reform of the naturalization laws—the prevention, by the National Government, of the importation of foreign criminals and paupers, and a more careful, rigid and personal examination, by our courts, of all persons coming before them as applicants for admission to the rights of citizenship, would, to some extent, correct existing abuses, and relieve the ballot-box from the pressure of corrupting and dangerous influences.

To the policy and acts of the National Government, affecting, as they do, the rights and interests of the Commonwealth, the people of the State cannot be indifferent. Pennsylvania, occupying a high and conservative position in the sisterhood of States—devoted to the Constitution and the Union, in their integrity and harmony,

has been, and will be, as ready to recognize the rights of her sister States as to defend her own. These sentiments she has never abandoned—these principles she has never violated. Pledged to the maintenance of the rights of the north, as well as those of the south—sincerely desirous to promote the peace, harmony and welfare of our whole country—and disclaiming all intention or desire to interfere with the Constitutional rights of the States, or their domestic institutions—the people of this Commonwealth viewed with alarm and apprehension the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—a compromise rendered sacred in public esteem by its association and connection with the great cause of national harmony and union—regarding it as a palpable violation of the pledged faith and honor of the nation, and as an unwarrantable attempt to extend the institution of domestic slavery to territories then free. This reckless and indefensible act of our National Congress, has not only aroused sectional jealousies and renewed the agitation of vexed and distracting questions, but, as a consequence, it has filled Kansas with fraud, violence and strife—has stained its soil with blood, and by a system of territorial legislation, justly styled "infamous," has made freedom of speech and of the press, a felony, and periled the great principles of liberty and equal rights. If the doctrine of "popular sovereignty" is in good faith to be applied to that Territory—if the people thereof are to be left perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, the obstruction of the great National highways—the employment of the National forces—and the subversion of law and justice alike by the officials in Kansas and Washington, to force slavery upon an unwilling people, cannot be too severely condemned.

Freedom is the great centre-truth of American Republicanism—the great law of American Nationality; slavery is the exception. It is local and sectional, and its extension beyond the jurisdiction creating it, or to the free territories of the Union, was never designed or contemplated by the patriot founders of the Republic. In accordance with these sentiments, Pennsylvania, true to the principles of the act of 1780, which abolished slavery within her territorial limits—true to the great doctrine of the Ordinance of 1787, which dedicated to freedom the north-western territory of the Union—true to National faith and National honor, asks and expects, as due to her own citizens who have, in good faith, settled in the Territory of Kansas, and as due to the industry and energy of a free people, that Kansas should be free.

In this connection, and as consequent upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, reference to a proposition made by some of the leading southern journals, and more recently sanctioned by high official authority in a sister State, to re-open the African slave trade, will not be deemed improper. That such a traffic, declared to be piracy, and execrated by the civilized world—so crowded with horrors in every stage of its pursuit—so revolting to every sentiment of humanity—every impulse of pure and noble feeling, should be advocated or approved, in this nineteenth century, with apparent sincerity, and urged as a measure of political economy and of justice and equality to the southern States of the Union, are facts that find their only explanation and apology in a wild fanaticism, or a still wilder fanaticism that overwhelms alike the reason and the conscience. The wisdom and humanity of a proposition so startling and monstrous, must seek their parallel and illustration in the dungeons of the Inquisition, or in the hold of the lavership, amid the horrors of the "middle passage." Equally repulsive to the intelligent and virtuous sentiment of the south as well as the north, it should receive the indignant rebuke of every lover of his country—of every friend of justice and humanity. The history of the world and of crime does not reveal a traffic more inhuman—an atrocity more horrible. Against a proposition so abhorrent, and against the principles it involves, as the representatives of a free people, and in their name you should enter their unanimous and emphatic protest.

The union of the States, which constitutes us one people, should be dear to you—to every American citizen. In the heat and excitement of political contests—in the whirl of sectional and conflicting interests—amid the surging of human passions, harsh and discordant voices may be heard threatening its integrity and denouncing its doom; but in the calm, sober, second thought of a patriotic and virtuous people, will be found its security and defense. Founded in wisdom, and cherished by the intense affection of pure and devoted patriotism, it will stand safe and undisturbed amid the insane rage of political demagogism, and the fitful howling of frantic fanaticism; and when it falls—if fall it must—it will be when liberty, truth, patriotism and virtue, have perished. Pennsylvania tolerates no sentiment of disunion—she knows not the word. Disunion! "tis an after-thought—a monstrous wish—un-

born till virtue dies." The Union and the Constitution—the safe-guard and bond of American Nationality—will be revered and defended by every American Freeman who cherishes the principles and honors the memory of the illustrious founders of the Republic.

Recognizing our responsibility to Him who controls the destinies of nations and of men; and invoking his blessing on your deliberations, may order and harmony characterize your sessions, and with single reference to the public good, may your legislative action, in its character and results, promote the happiness and welfare of the people, and the honor and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

JAMES POLLOCK,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
HARRISBURG, JAN. 7, 1857.

## THE JOURNAL.

CHICAGO, ILL.  
Thursday Morning Jan. 15, 1857.

J. S. MANN, EDITOR.

V. B. PALMER, the American newspaper Agent, is the only authorized Agent for the paper in the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the rates required by us. His receipts will be regarded as payments. His offices are—Boston, No. 140 Broadway; New York, Tribune Building; Philadelphia, N. W. corner of Third and Chestnut streets.

Gov. Pollock's Message, which we publish in this number of the Journal, is an interesting State paper, and abounds with practical suggestions which the Legislature would do well to follow. The Governor is earnest in his devotion to the common school system of the State, and urges an increased appropriation from the State, which is much needed. The school tax in the northern counties, is a heavy burden. True, it is cheerfully borne; but that is no reason why it should be imposed, now that the chances of the State are in a condition to relieve them from it. In fact, if the theory on which our common school system is based, is correct, that the property of the State should be taxed to educate the children of the State, then the school tax should be the same in Potter county as in Lancaster; whereas, under our present system, the school tax in Potter averages about fifteen mills on every dollar of valuation, and in Lancaster less than three mills on the dollar.

"Genuine Enlightened Views."  
The following gem is from the late Lock Haven Democrat:  
"Reading and writing, also, are very poor criterions of intelligence. Thus, in Bradford, Tioga, Potter, and the northern tier of counties in this State generally, which are peopled from New York and New England, and but few of whom have Pennsylvania hearts, almost every body is put down as being able to read and write—(each reading and writing as it is)—yet as regards real intelligence—genuine enlightened views—they fall far in the rear when compared with the other parts of the State."

As to Pennsylvania hearts, verily the paper which is edited by a Baltimore, pro-slavery, know-nothing Democrat, is not entitled to set itself as a judge of that matter. And as to the intelligence of the people of this country, they have too much of it to vote for a man who can write such nonsense as the above. The people of the Northern tier of counties can read, and therefore they repudiate the attempt to laud the Buchanan party as democratic. They prefer the old Jeffersonian principles of Government, to the new Pierce and Douglas plan of subjecting the Nation to the rule of slavery. And the people of Clifton county and the rest of the State, just so fast as they learn to read for themselves will act in unison with the northern tier, where the common school was gladly adopted as soon as passed.

When did Berks county adopt the system of education?  
In Lancaster Co., where the school law has been in active operation for many years, Republicanism is in the ascendant, but in Berks Co., where the people never adopted it, Buchanan democracy is overwhelmingly triumphant. The same is true of all parts of the State wherever the common school law has been thoroughly executed for any length of time, there, Republicanism is received with favor; but in those sections of the State where ignorance is bias, there are found the allies of slavery.

Rev. Theodore Mathew, Amherst College, known as "Father Mathew," died at Cork, Ireland on the 9th of December last.