

# THE POTTER JOURNAL

## AND NEWS ITEM.

Jno. S. Mann, Proprietor.

S. F. Hamilton, Publisher.

VOLUME XXIV, NO. 26.

COUDERSPORT, PA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1873.

\$ 1.75 A YEAR

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COUDERSPORT, PA. (Office in Olmsted Block.)

TERMS: \$ 1.75 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

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### Poetry.

#### A Christmas Rhyme.

One Christmas Evening, long ago—  
Just how long I forget  
The friends of Santa Claus ran low,  
So he ran into debt.  
Could he his usual gifts bestow  
And all those bills he met?  
He pulled his beard and scratched his head  
And set his cap awry.  
"There are things in the world," he said,  
"That money cannot buy—  
Things useful as one's daily bread;  
This year those gifts I'll try,  
And so to one he gave a friend  
And to another he did give.  
And then he thought of the beautiful end  
Of blessings won by stow;  
Toward what sure these gifts bestow  
Who too much haste for woe?  
For one he won a husband's life  
Back from the drunkard's doom;  
And for another he gave a wife  
Back from the miser's gloom.  
Through many a village tank with strife  
Back from the miser's gloom.  
One sorrowful soul he made so brave  
That fight the victory won;  
With tears upon a new-made grave  
Back to a widowed man he gave  
An errand, sorrowing son.  
He thought to many a household band  
A weaver's loom he sent,  
To more than one the heart-true hand  
Of love he saved the bent.  
To work-worn frames, through all the land,  
The blessed boon he sent.  
An opening rose-bud, sweet as June,  
Smiles on the poor child's face,  
A strain from some forgotten tune  
Revives the twilight glow.  
What days, whose minutes fled so soon,  
Enriched the long ago.  
"A good day's work!" cried Santa Claus,  
"Yet how he little fun!  
Men took his gifts like Nature's laws,  
Not heeding whence they came.  
As some are given they are used,  
Their magic was so tame.  
For one who own small store of gold  
I have a word to say:  
Great blessings are found hands you hold  
To golden Christmas Day,  
Shine ever cannot be bought and sold  
Of kindness that way.  
For should no other soul be blest,  
If our wish with pure grow,  
And each of his shines be your best,  
If such gifts you bestow,  
For Christ will be your Christmas guest,  
Beholding Heaven below—  
"Let's go!"

#### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Owing to the disarrangement of the office occasioned by moving, the publication of the message of the Governor was unavoidably postponed last week. It is now ready for issue. It is necessary to omit some parts of it in this issue. We give what seems most valuable.  
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:  
GENTLEMEN: In obedience to the requirements of the Constitution I have the honor of transmitting to you my sixth annual message. Since your last meeting the general course of events, both State and National, has been so propitious as to afford abundant cause for mutual congratulation, and of thanksgiving to that Almighty Providence whose will controls the destinies of all. While we have been exempt from the calamity by fire that has befallen the metropolis of a great sister State, her misfortune has incurred to the benefit of our people by the enthusiasm of that sympathy for the suffering which is one of the most ennobling sentiments of the human heart. The seasons, though not so favorable for the productions of our soil as in some past years, have been sufficiently fruitful; and no general epidemic has appeared to disturb the pursuits, or fill with sorrow the hearts of our population. Our mining industries, manufactures and internal commerce are being constantly enlarged and extended, and their enterprising proprietors are generally receiving remunerative returns.

A great political conflict has occurred, resulting in a signal triumph of the same principles that were asserted in the restoration of the Union, the amendments of the Constitution, and the reconstruction of the States.

The victory in Pennsylvania was decisive of the victory in the Nation; and will ever be remembered as an inestimable contribution to the harmony, prosperity and glory of the country.

The election of the soldier, who "is first in war," to the office that makes him "first in peace," was an appropriate exhibition of national gratitude, and it inspires the deepest feelings of satisfaction in the hearts of his countrymen.

While the Constitution wisely withholds from the Governor all power of interference in legislation, it imposes upon him the duty of laying before the General Assembly such information of the state of affairs, and recommending to their consideration such measures as he may deem expedient and important to the public welfare.

I am happy to inform you that peace and good order have been maintained by the enforcements of just and equal laws, and the legitimate exercise of authority continues to find an enduring basis of support in the intelligence, affections and moral sense of the people.

FINANCES. The credit of the State remains unquestioned abroad, because her public faith has been inviolably maintained at home.

The following condensed statement of the receipts, expenditures and indebtedness of the Commonwealth is respectfully submitted:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Receipts.  |                 |
| Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1871.                             | \$ 1,475,808 50 |
| Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1872. | 7,163,674 45    |
| Total in Treasury during year ending Nov. 30, 1872.            | 8,639,492 95    |
| Disbursements.   |                 |
| Ordinary expenses paid during year ending Nov. 30, 1872.       | 8,298,681 65    |
| Loans and redemptions.   | 4,763,238 00    |
| Interest on loans paid.  | 1,045,432 85    |
| Total disbursements.   | 14,107,352 50   |
| Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1872.                            | \$ 1,482,456 61 |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Public Debt.   |                  |
| Add Chamberburg certificate.   | \$28,000,000 00  |
| Add Agricultural College Land Scrip fund, held in trust, as per Act approved April 3, 1872.                                      | 300,000 00       |
|  | \$ 28,300,000 00 |
| Deduct amount paid by Commissioners of the Sinking Fund during the year ending Nov. 30, 1872.                                    |                  |
| Public debt, Nov. 30, 1872.  | \$ 27,305,494 09 |
| Deduct assets in Sinking Fund.   | 49,300,000 00    |
| And cash balance in Treasury.  | 1,482,456 61     |
| Amount assets and cash.  | 10,782,456 61    |
| Balance public debt unpaid for \$ 16,523,037 09 which can be extinguished in ten years by the annual payment of \$ 1,652,303 71. |                  |

#### During the last six years payments on the debt have been made as follows:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Amount paid in 1867. | \$ 1,794,644 50  |
| Do., 1868.           | 2,414,816 64     |
| Do., 1869.           | 4,425,468 18     |
| Do., 1870.           | 1,702,879 05     |
| Do., 1871.           | 2,131,901 17     |
| Do., 1872.           | 2,472,236 00     |
| Total payments.      | \$ 14,922,945 54 |

#### SINKING FUND.

In remarking upon this subject, I trust it will be instructive to refer, briefly, to some of the facts relating to the accumulation and payment of the public debt, and the origin of the assets arising from the sale of the public improvements.

However wise our predecessors were in opening avenues for trade and commerce, and however great were the benefits resulting to the people from the internal improvements of the State, it is obvious, that while those of other States rarely failed to become sources of revenue, the management of ours was such as to produce results widely different.

A large majority of the tax-payers, therefore, after long and patient endurance, becoming dissatisfied with their management, demanded they should be sold; assuming it would be a measure of economy and would prevent an increase of the obligations.

The construction of the improvements resulted in a public debt which in 1852 reached its maximum, \$ 41,524,875 37. Due interests, premiums and other expenses that have been paid upon the debt, from its inception to Nov. 30, 1872, sum up \$ 76,845,744 99; and make the entire expenditure on account of the public works \$ 118,370,620 36.

In pursuance of the law the State canals and railroads were sold in 1857, for eleven millions dollars in bonds; upon which the State has received \$ 1,700,000 in cash and \$ 9,300,000 remain in the hands of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, as follows:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, secured by the State, and sold to the State, and held in trust for the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., No. 100,000 Central R. R. Co., and the Philadelphia and Erie R. R. Co., payable \$ 1,700,000, being the amount of cash received on the 1st day of Jan. 1, 1872. | 3,500,000 00    |
| Amount of assets.  | \$ 9,800,000 00 |

The Governor speaks of the reduction of the State debt and the reduction of taxation as having "gone hand in hand throughout his administration," and recommends a continuance of that policy. He mentions various items of taxation that might wisely be relinquished, and concludes:

"It is confidently believed that with these proposed reductions, without amount to \$ 1,041,961 51, the State can still pay all her current expenses, the interest on the public debt and make an annual reduction of at least one million five hundred thousand dollars upon the principal.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. Numerous communications, signed by many enterprising and intelligent citizens, continue to reach me on the subject of a geological and mineralogical survey, urging me to commend it to your careful consideration.

In my annual messages of '70 and '71, I laid before the General Assembly the necessity for a continuation of the survey already made, in order that the mineral resources of the State should be more fully and perfectly ascertained; and expressed the opinion that the results would be interesting and valuable, not only to our citizens individually but to the entire country.

Assurances have been given by the officers of the "United States Coast Survey" of the great interest they will take in our State, in the event they carry out their intention to cross the country to connect the "Ocean Lines of Coast Surveys." This connection will pass through Pennsylvania and will materially assist in determining and establishing one or more points in each county through which the line will pass, and in triangulating so far as to enable us to rectify our county maps and connect them in a correct map of the State.

And as the State Geologist progresses with his studies and examinations he should cause to be accurately represented upon the correct maps, by colors and other appropriate means, the various areas occupied by the different geological formations and place them in the possession of the people, for their information, prior to the completion and publication of a full account of the survey.

A state map of the kind indicated, with all the discoveries marked in proper colors, would give to the thousands of visitors from our own country and from foreign lands who will attend the

Centennial celebration, some approximate idea of the incalculable wealth beneath the soil of our State; and would have an importance in their sight that could be conveyed to them in no other possible manner.

The expenses of a geological corps, properly organized, and such as would be competent to perform the duties required, have been carefully estimated and will not exceed forty-five thousand dollars for the first year, and need not be quite as much annually thereafter.

In recommending this measure two years ago, I said: "For want of a proper bureau of statistics, and a corps of observation and publication to collate and relate the facts of our geology and mineralogy as they have appeared; the State has already suffered severely. Much valuable information has been lost, never to be recovered; and but little certain knowledge of past mining, and other scientific operations, has been preserved to govern and assist the future engineer."

It is, therefore, neither wise nor just policy to delay this work under the pretext that it may be more perfectly effected at some future time. There is a present necessity for it, though the time never will come when such a work, can be considered perfect.

New developments in mineral resources, as well as additional acquisitions in scientific knowledge, will constantly be made as long as the world exists. The sooner, therefore, in my opinion, a thorough survey is authorized the better it will be for the prospective interests of the State, as well as for its present necessities.

The golden destiny of the Pacific States may well be envied; but our coal, iron, lumber and soil are a much better foundation for wealth and permanent grandness than the products of all their peers, and the transient prosperity they have produced. Let us build upon an enduring basis and the world will forever pay a golden tribute to our products and industry—the true wealth of Pennsylvania.

EDUCATION. With great propriety, the Superintendent, in the opening of his able report, congratulates the people upon the continued growth and prosperity of our public schools.

His progress is clearly indicated by comparing the expenditures of the last six years, with those of the six years prior to 1867, viz:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Total cost for tuition from '67 to '72. | \$ 21,578,258 61 |
| Total cost for tuition from '61 to '66. | 12,745,000 71    |
| Increase.                               | \$ 8,833,257 90  |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Total expenditures of the system from 1867 to 1872. | \$ 19,232,152 11 |
| Total expenditures of the system from 1861 to 1866. | 18,700,149 17    |
| Increase.   | \$ 532,002 94    |

Pennsylvania, less fortunate than many of her sister states, has no school fund. The legislative appropriations amount only to about six hundred thousand dollars annually; but the people, in the several districts, voluntarily vote all other moneys necessary to support the schools. The foregoing statements clearly exhibit the deep and increasing interest entertained in behalf of popular education.

Intelligence and virtue are conceded to be indispensable conditions of the permanent existence and prosperity of any form of government. The necessity of these supports increases in proportion as the area of freedom and privilege is enlarged. It follows, from these unquestioned maxims, that the demand for general education is more imperative here in the United States than in any other country.

Our Constitution recognizes the people as the inherent source of all power. All participate in the great act of creating the country's rulers. The ballot decides all questions of election, and fills all official positions, from that of the chief magistrate of the nation to that of the lowest town officer. This supreme and resistless power of universal suffrage, at once suggests the absolute necessity of universal education. The truth of these premises admitted, no argument is required to establish the conclusion.

The common school system doubtless owes its origin to a common conviction that no people can be properly and permanently self-governing, whose intelligence is unequal to the comprehension of their rights, privileges and responsibilities, or whose virtues are too feeble and imperfect to restrain them from a violation of those duties which they owe to their Creator and to each other.

When the system was introduced thirty-eight years ago, it was generally viewed in the light of an experiment. The act creating it made its adoption dependent upon the vote of the people in their respective districts. Their reluctant and tardy acceptance of the priceless boon is neither matter of surprise to us, nor reproach to them; when all the circumstances are duly considered.

Their present popularity is indicated by the entire absence of complaint, and by a still more significant readiness by the people to assume the expenses requisite for its constant improvement and efficient application. Doubtless many years must elapse before the full fruition of its influences can be received, but meanwhile it will be gradually moulding the popular mind into more perfect conformity with the requirements of our free institutions.

Fortunately the old prejudice against the system no longer exists; but indifference to a lamentable extent occupies its place. From the report of the Superintendent it appears that the number of children in the State, who do not attend school, exceeds 75,000. This criminal neglect is most prevalent in cities. In Philadelphia twelve per cent. of the children between the ages of five and fifteen do not attend school.

More significant and alarming still, of the whole number registered as attendants, forty-six per cent. are absent from the daily sessions. In this State at large the unregistered amount to six per cent., and the absentees to thirty-three per cent. And, as was naturally to be expected, the resulting ignorance from this neglect has proved a fruitful source of crime. Sixteen per cent. of the inmates of the State prisons are unable to read.

Obviously, therefore, it is not sufficient that the State makes ample provision. Such measures should be immediately adopted as would secure a universal participation of the benefit. The children are not to blame. They naturally prefer freedom and amusement to the confinement and studies of the school room. Parents and guardians are the parties with whom the State must deal. She owes it alike to her own peace and security, and to the highest welfare of the children who are to be her future citizens, to see that they shall be rescued from the perils of ignorance.

After careful and anxious deliberation upon all the facts, and their inevitable consequences, I recommend the adoption of a compulsory system of education. That a law to this effect will encounter objections is not to be doubted; for in view of the probability of such a measure, its opponents have already commenced to marshal their forces.

In Norway, Sweden and Prussia this system was first adopted, and such have been the salutary effects that other European governments have made haste to follow their example. Austria, abandoned by the defeat at Sedow, France by the crushing disaster at Sedan, and England by the possibility of a real "battle of Dorking," have decreed by statute that all their children shall be taught to read and write, influenced by a conviction that knowledge gives increased prowess in war as well as capacity and integrity for the peaceful pursuits of life. And it is a fact of striking significance that none of the states that have passed such enactments have abandoned or repealed them.

In passing from this topic, of paramount importance to the future well-being of the Commonwealth, I unhesitatingly express the hope that the day is not far distant when through the Bureau of National Education, seconded by the concurrent legislative action of the states, every child in the American Union, without regard to race, caste, color or condition, will be thoroughly and effectually instructed in all the elementary branches of English education; and that uniform text-books, setting forth the true history and theory of our National and State governments, will be provided and introduced into all the schools of the country. Approximation of thought and opinion of these subjects is of vital consequence to the permanency of the Union and the stability of our republican institutions. Had such a measure been opportunely initiated, the war of the rebellion would scarcely have been possible.

Should you deem your powers inadequate to enact suitable laws upon this subject, the Constitutional Convention, now in session, should not hesitate to abdicate your usual authority, and thus lend their aid and influence in making Pennsylvania the vanguard in the great mission of universal education.

Superintendent will be highly satisfactory to the Legislature and the people: "From the beginning of these schools to the present, the greater part of the children who have received their advantages have been honorably discharged. And from facts in possession of the department it appears that more than ninety-eight per cent. are doing well, and seem likely to become upright and useful citizens."

Among the States of the American Union, Pennsylvania stands pre-eminently in her "care for the soldier who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan children." Her noble scheme for clothing, educating, maintaining and adopting the orphan children of her soldiers who gave their lives in defense of the National Union, is her own invention. In this State at large the unregistered amount to six per cent., and the absentees to thirty-three per cent. And, as was naturally to be expected, the resulting ignorance from this neglect has proved a fruitful source of crime.

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From the report of the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphan schools, and other sources, I feel fully authorized in assuring you they were never before in a more flourishing and prosperous condition.

Every child, legally eligible, and having made application, is now admitted to these schools. The whole number of admissions since 1865 is 4129; the discharge from all causes 2902, leaving in attendance 3527. No larger number will probably hereafter be attained, and it may confidently be expected that this number will be subject to an annual reduction of at least 500, until the system shall have accomplished its mission.

The entire expense of these schools to the State, since they went into operation in 1865, is \$ 3,467,343 11. Their cost during the last year was \$ 475,245 47. It is estimated by the Superintendent that the future expenses, to the period of their final extinction, will not exceed \$ 1,500,000.

The health of the children has been excellent. Their exemption from small-pox, while it was prevailing all around them, is remarkable; and no stronger evidence of good management and the propitious results of systematic vaccination could be adduced. The exemplary conduct of the pupils after their discharge is one of the most gratifying circumstances connected with their history. The following statement of the

manifested of their general good management and excellent discipline. The Eastern Penitentiary has long been deservedly regarded as the model prison, in which the "separate" or "individual treatment" system of imprisonment is applied, and the annual reports of its faithful Board of Inspectors, embracing their observations and investigations, show that they have elevated the subject of crime punishment almost to the dignity of a science.

Among the circumstances that attracted my attention was the insufficient number of cells to carry out the "solitary confinement" principle, and the incarceration there of a number of boys and youths for first offenses, and of females untrained in crime. Sometimes two or more in one cell were thus unavoidably brought into associations which could scarcely fail to produce contamination of character and morals.

I would, therefore, recommend that the Legislature enable the courts to sentence minors and females to the county prisons, where with proper teaching—training in some handicraft business—and with due attention given to discipline, the object would be more effectually attained; and the penitentiary, thus relieved, would have cells sufficient for all ordinary purposes. It is a great mistake in almost all cases of minors convicted for their first, and often trivial, offence, to send them to State's prison; because the punishment is less in its effect than the idea of degradation in the after-life of the prisoner. Such persons should be punished in the locality where the crime was committed, and the disgrace would not be so likely to permanently affect the character after the discharge of the prisoner.

From 1829 to 1871, inclusive, only three hundred and forty-six females were received in the Eastern penitentiary, and of this number one hundred and twenty-seven were minors. These facts would fully justify the propriety of such action by the Legislature as has been suggested.

The Western penitentiary contains ample space for present demands. It is conducted on the "combined" system of "solitary" and "congregate" imprisonment, the workings of which are giving entire satisfaction to all concerned.

The commissioners from this State to the International Prison Congress, lately held in London, England, report that twenty-one governments were represented; principally by men who have made criminal legislation and penal treatment a study. America sent seventy-three delegates, representing penitentiaries, asylums and reformatory institutions.

Among these were many experts in every branch of penology. The deliberations of the Congress occupied ten days. Its results are difficult to estimate; but it is hoped the great interests of humanity involved in the proper treatment of crime will be happily subserved among all civilized nations.

The managers of the "Pennsylvania Reform School" (late the Western House of Refuge) propose to change their location from Allegheny City to a farm, containing 563 acres, in Washington county, seventeen miles from Pittsburg, near the Chartiers Valley railroad, and adopt for its government the best features of what is known as the "family system" of juvenile reformatories.

These will mainly consist in the abandonment of walls, bolts and bars for confining the children; and in an earnest effort to govern them through sympathy and kindness, and prepare them for useful occupations.

The Board will ask an additional appropriation to pay for the land and improvements.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES. The eminent and philanthropic gentlemen composing the Board of Public Charities have carefully investigated a number of subjects which they deemed of sufficient importance to lay before the Legislature. Among them may be specially noticed Prison Discipline—a subject now generally occupying the attention of statesmen and philanthropists throughout the civilized world; the condition and treatment of the insane and the workings of that class of institutions known as local charities, founded and conducted for benevolent purposes. These asylums are located in various parts of the State, mostly, however, in Philadelphia and Pittsburg. They are performing an excellent work—relieving the sick, indigent, infirm and neglected portions of our population.

The General Agent has devoted a considerable portion of his time to their inspection, the results of which will appear in his able report to the Board, in which he exhibited their character and the large amount of private charity bestowed upon them.

This Board was organized during my administration, and I have entertained a deep and lasting interest in its labors. The gentlemen who compose it voluntarily devote their time, without compensation, to this noble work of benevolence. The impress of their intelligent efforts is everywhere perceptible; and the large annual contributions of the State to charitable institutions have, under their supervision and examining board, been properly and systematically applied.

The third volume of their reports will be submitted at an early day. It will present a large amount of statistical information, and many interesting facts and valuable suggestions upon subjects of great importance. I cannot too strongly commend this Board—the great regulator of state charities—to the favorable consideration of the Legislature, and recommend such appropriations for expenses and additional enactments as may be necessary to increase its efficiency.

PENITENTIARIES & REFORMATORIES. From a personal inspection of the penitentiaries I am able to bear testimony to the evidences that were everywhere

manifested of their general good management and excellent discipline. The Eastern Penitentiary has long been deservedly regarded as the model prison, in which the "separate" or "individual treatment" system of imprisonment is applied, and the annual reports of its faithful Board of Inspectors, embracing their observations and investigations, show that they have elevated the subject of crime punishment almost to the dignity of a science.

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