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cheap as at any other place.
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will receive prompt attention.

Poetry.
A Christmas Hymn.
One Christmas Evening, long ago—
Just how long I forget—
The family of Santa Claus ran low,
So he ran into debt.
Could he his usual gifts bestow
And all those things be met?
He pulled his beard and scratched his head
And set his cap on tight.
"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 lent,
And showed a third the beautiful end
Of blessings won by staid;
Toward what some loss their foot-taps tread
Who too much haste for wealth.

For one he won a husband's life
Back from the drunkard's doom;
And for another he gave a wife
Opened the peaceful home;
Through many a village rank with strife
Bade flowers of peace bloom.
One sore-tried soul he made so brave
That light the victory won;
With tears upon a new-made grave
Saw sister legs begin to run.
Back to a widowed in-ager gave
An erring, sorrowing son.

He brought to many a household band
A welcome like a guest;
To more than one the heart and hand
Of love he saved the best.
To work-worn fathers, through all the land,
The blessed boon of rest.
An opening rose-bud, sweet as June,
Smiles one poor sinner's way;
A grain from some forgotten trow
Revives the twilight glow.
When lips, whose music died so soon,
Enchant the air once again.

"A good day's work," cried Santa Claus.
Yet you he'll give a gift;
Men look his gifts the Nature's laws,
Not lending words to their gift;
And some averted eye had cause—
Their gift was so simple.

To you who own small store of gold
I have a word to say;
Great blessings in your hands you hold
To golden Christmas Day.
Since over count the silver and sold
Of kindness throw away.

For, should no other soul be blest,
Your own who part grow,
And each at 4 A.M. think of your best,
If such gifts you bestow;
For Christ will be your Christmas guest,
Bedding Heaven bestow independence.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.
Owing to the disarrangement of the office, or-
dained by moving, the publication of the mes-
sage of the Governor was unavoidably postponed
and we, and the publishers, are sorry to be
sorry 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 inured to the
benefit of our people by the enlistment
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 sor-
row the hearts of our population. Our
mining industries, manufactures and
internal commerce are being constantly
enlarged and extended, and their enter-
prising 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 amend-
ments of the Constitution, and the recon-
struction of the States. The victory
in Pennsylvania was decisive of the
victory in the Nation; and will ever be
remembered as an inestimable contribu-
tion 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 na-
tional gratitude, and inspires the deepest
feelings of satisfaction "in the hearts
of his countrymen."

While the Constitution wisely with-
holds 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
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 enforcement 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 un-
questioned abroad, because her public
faith has been invariably maintained at
home. The following condensed state-
ment of the receipts, expenditures and
indebtedness of the Commonwealth is
respectfully submitted:

Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1871, \$1,476,808 59	Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1872, 7,488,674 49
Total in Treasury during year ending Nov. 30, 1872, \$8,965,483 08	Disbursements: Ordinary expenses paid during year ending Nov. 30, 1872, \$2,996,661 65
	Loans etc., redeemed, 2,476,328 09
	Interest on bonds paid, 1,706,622 88
	Total disbursements, \$7,179,612 62
Balance Treasury, Nov. 30, 1872, \$1,785,870 46	

Public Debt.	
Public debt on Nov. 30, 1871, was, \$28,960,071 73	
Add Chambersburg certificates, 259,748 91	
Add Agricultural College Land Scrip fund, held in trust, as per Act approved April 3, 1872, 500,000 00	
Less amount paid by Commission-ers of the Sinking Fund during the year ending Nov. 30, 1872, 2,476,328 09	
Public debt, Nov. 30, 1872, \$27,303,494 64	
Deduct assets in Sinking Fund, \$9,399,000 00	
And cash balance in Treasury, 1,482,456 61	
Amount assets and cash, 10,781,456 61	
Balance public debt unprovided for, \$16,522,038 03	
Which can be extinguished in ten years by the annual payment of \$1,590,000.00.	

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, 472,466 18
Do, 1870, 1,795,879 66
Do, 1871, 2,131,301 47
Do, 1872, 2,476,328 09
Total payments, \$10,992,026 54

being a little over twenty-nine per cent. on the debt due December 1, 1866, which was then \$37,704,469.77.

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 im-
provements.

However wise our predecessors were in opening avenues for trade and com-
merce, 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 differ-
ent. 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 1855, reached its maximum, \$41,524,875.37. The interests, premiums and other ex-
penses that had been paid upon the debt, from its inception to Nov. 30, 1872, sum to \$76,845,744.99; and make the entire expenditure on account of the public works \$118,370,620.36.

In pursuance of 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 in the hands of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, as follows:

Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, secured by land in the Palmdale and Columbia R. R., \$5,800,000 00	
Three five per cent. of the Allegheny Valley R. R. Co., each for \$10,000,000, guaranteed by the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., No. 10, 10th and R. W. Co., and the Fall and Erie R. R. Co., payable \$1,000,000 annually, beginning Jan. 1, 1873, bearing 5 per cent. interest from date of issue, 3,500,000 00	
Amount of assets, \$9,300,000 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, which 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 citi-
zens, continue to reach me on the sub-
ject of a geological and mineralogical survey, urging me to commend it to your careful consideration.

In my annual messages of '70 and '71, I had before the General Assembly the necessity for a continuation of the sur-
veys already made, in order that the min-
eralogical resources of the State should be more fully and perfectly ascertained,
and express of 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 Sur-
vey" of the great interest they will take
in our State, in the event they carry out
their intention to cross the continent to
connect the "Ocean Lines of Coast Sur-
veys." This connection will pass through
Pennsylvania and will materially assist
in determining and establishing one of
more points mean 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 Geologi-
cal progresses with its studies and ex-
aminations he should cease to be accu-
rately represented upon the corrected
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 comple-
tion and publication of a full account of
the survey.

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

Centennial celebration, some approxi-
mate idea of the incalculable wealth be-
neath 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 re-
quired, 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 bu-
reau of statistics, and a corps of obser-
vation and publication to collate and re-
late the facts of our geology and miner-
alogy 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 pre-
text that it may be more perfectly ef-
fected 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 develop-
ments in mineral resources, as well as
additional requirements in scientific
knowledge, will constantly be made as
long as the world exists. The sooner,
therefore, in my opinion, a thorough sur-
vey 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, ore,
umber and soil are a much better founda-
tion for wealth and permanent great-
ness than the products of all their places,
and the transient prosperity they have
produced. Let us build upon an endur-
ing basis and the world will forever pay
a golden tribute to our products and in-
dustries—the true wealth of Pennsyl-
vania.

EDUCATION.
With great propriety, the Superintend-
ent, in the opening of his able report,
congratulates the people upon the con-
tinued growth and prosperity of our
public schools.

Their 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, \$21,578,238 61	Total cost for tuition from '61 to '66, 12,766,961 71
Increase, 8,811,276 90	
Total expenditures of the system from 1867 to 1872, \$42,822,132 11	Total expenditures of the system from 1861 to 1866, 19,500,149 17
Increase, 23,321,982 94	

Pennsylvania, less fortunate than
many of her sister States, has no school
fund. The legislative appropriations
amount only to about six hundred thou-
sand dollars annually; and the people, in
the several districts, voluntarily vote all
other moneys necessary to support the
schools. The foregoing statements
briefly 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 degree of freedom and privilege is
enlarged. It follows, from these un-
questioned maxims, that the demand
for general education is more imperative
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 choice,
and fills all official positions, from that
of the chief magistrate of the nation to
that of the lowest town officer. This
supreme and irresistible power of univer-
sal suffrage, at once suggests the ab-
solute 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 per-
manently self-governing, whose intelli-
gence is unequal to the comprehension
of their rights, privileges and responsi-
bilities, 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 re-
luctant and tardy acceptance of the
process soon is neither matter of sur-
prise to us, nor reproach to them, when
all the circumstances are duly consid-
ered. Its present popularity is indicated
by the entire absence of complaint, and
a still more significant readiness by the
people to assume the expenses requisite
for its constant improvement and effi-
cient application. Doubtless many years
must elapse before the full fruition of
its influences can be received, but mean-
while it will be gradually moulding the
popular mind into more perfect conform-

ity with the requirements of our free
institutions.

Fortunately the old prejudice against
the system no longer exists; but indif-
ference to a lamentable extent occupies
its place. From the report of the Super-
intendent 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 chil-
dren between the ages of five and fifteen
do not attend school. But more signifi-
cant 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 un-
registered 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 neg-
lect 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 suffi-
cient that the State makes ample pro-
vision. Such measures should be imme-
diately adopted as would secure a uni-
fied participation of the benefit. The
children are not to blame. They natu-
rally 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 meas-
ure, its opponents have already com-
menced to marshal their forces.

In Norway, Sweden and Prussia this
system was first adopted, and such have
been its salutary effects that other
European governments have made haste
to follow their example. Austria, ad-
monished by the defeat at Sadowa,
France by the crushing disaster at Se-
dan, 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 in-
creased prowess in war as well as cap-
acity and integrity for the peaceful pur-
suits of life. And it is a fact of striking
significance that none of the States that
have passed such enactments have aban-
doned or repealed them.

In passing from this topic, of para-
mount importance to the future well-
being of the Commonwealth, I unhesi-
tatingly express the hope that the day
is not far distant when through the Bu-
reau of National Education, seconded
by the concurrent legislative action of
the States, every child in the American
Union, without reference to race, caste,
color or condition, will be thoroughly
and effectually instructed in all the ele-
mentary 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 perman-
ence 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 inade-
quate to enact suitable laws upon this
subject, the Constitutional Convention,
now in session, should not hesitate to
qualify you with such authority,
and thus lend their aid and influence
in making Pennsylvania the vanguard
in the great mission of universal edu-
cation.

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

Every child, legally eligible, and hav-
ing made application, is now admitted
to these schools. The whole number of
admissions since 1865 is 6429; the dis-
charges from all causes 2962, leaving in
attendance 3557. No larger number
will probably hereafter be attained, and
it may confidently be expected that this
number will be subject to an annual re-
duction 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 \$3,467,543.11. 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 vacci-
nation could be adduced. The exam-
plary conduct of the pupils after their
discharge is one of the most gratifying
circumstances connected with their his-
tory. The following statement of the

Superintendent will be highly satisfac-
tory 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 advan-
tages have been honorably discharged.
And from facts in possession of the de-
partment it appears that more than nine-
ty-eight per cent. are doing well, and seem
likely to become upright and useful citi-
zens."

Among the States of the American
Union, Pennsylvania stands pre-em-
inent in her "care for the soldier who
has borne the battle, and for his wid-
ow and orphan children." Her noble
scheme for clothing, educating, main-
taining and adopting the orphan child-
ren of her soldiers who gave their lives
in defense of the National Union, is her
own invention. In this generosity
of her people has been imitated, but
not equaled, by those of any other State.
To her will ever be accorded the leader-
ship in this work of patriotic benevo-
lence. It will form the brightest page
of her history. It will seal the devotion
of her people to the common country;
and our legislators, in view of its benign
influences, will continue to accord a
cheerful and liberal support to a system
so faithful in blessing to the orphan
children of our martyred heroes.

Upon no material interest of the State
is the influence of education more salu-
tory than that of agriculture. Pennsyl-
vania by wise legislation has authorized
the purchase of three experimental
farms, and the establishment of a col-
lege, all of which are now in successful
operation, and the results of the sci-
entific working of the farms have already
added much practical knowledge upon
the general subject.

The Agricultural College has just
closed a most prosperous year—the
number of students being 150—which
exceeds that of any year since the open-
ing of the institution. Any one of three
courses is optional to the students, viz.:
agricultural, scientific or classical, to
all of which is added a general course
of military instruction.

The admission of females, which was
first permitted sixteen months ago, has
thus far worked exceedingly well.—
Thirty young women have avail-
ed themselves of the opportunity thus af-
forded to obtain a first-class education.
All students are taught to regard la-
bor as beneficial and honorable. The
rule of the college requiring ten hours
manual labor per week from students is
cheerfully complied with, and results
advantageously to their health and
comfort.

This State institution is pre-eminent
in the *People's College*. Its preparatory
department receives students at a low
grade, as well as those more advanced.
This school is "cheap enough for the
poorest and good enough for the rich-
est," either in mind or estate; and it
affords healthful exercise, instruction
in useful labor, and free tuition in every
branch of its ample courses of study.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.
The eminent and philanthropic gen-
tlemen 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
question now generally occupying the
attention of statesmen and philantrop-
ists throughout the civilized world;
the condition and treatment of the in-
sane 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 popu-
lation. 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 volun-
tarily devote their time, without com-
pensation, to this noble work of benevo-
lence. 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 examina-
tion, 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 in-
formation, 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 Leg-
islature, and recommend such appro-
priations for expenses and additional
enactments as may be necessary to in-
crease its efficiency.

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

manifested of their general good man-
agement 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 dig-
nity of a science.

Among the circumstances that at-
tracted my attention was the insuffi-
cient number of cells to carry out the
"solitary confinement" principle, and
the incarceration there of a number of
boys and youths for first offences, and
of females untrained in crime. Some-
times two or more in one cell were thus
unavoidably brought into associations
which could scarcely fail to produce con-
tamination of character and morals. I
would, therefore, recommend that the
Legislature enable the courts to sentence
minors and females to the county pris-
ons, where with proper teaching—train-
ing in some hand-craft business—and
with due attention given to discipline,
the object would be more effectually at-
tained; and the penitentiary, thus re-
lieved, 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 a 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 re-
ceived 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" imprison-
ment, 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 represent-
ed, 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 civi-
lized 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 263 acres, in Washing-
ton county, seventeen miles from Pitts-
burg, 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 aban-
donment of walls, bolts and bars for
confining the children; and in an ear-
nest effort govern them through sym-
pathy and kindness, and prepare them for
useful occupations.

The Board will ask an additional ap-
propriation to pay for the land and im-
provements.

SANITARY REGULATIONS.
Of all my official recommendations, I
deem those most important which relate
to the public health. Facilities for the
material development, and the accumu-
lation of wealth, estimated at their
highest value, are of but