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## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Concluded.  
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 teachers, twelve thousand scholars, and over five hundred thousand scholars, have become the most important and laborious branch of that Department. The increase and increasing business of the system has met by a correspondent 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 the future of the people, require that this 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 the 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 Superintendency, 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 removing 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 cert in the accomplishment of 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, if 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, the thorough 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 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 it 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 importance 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 also 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 ought not to be neglected; nor should the aid of the Commonwealth be withheld from them.

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 wondrous energy, has aided the husbandman in honorable vocation, and professors 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 "Farmer's High School of 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, meet 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 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 repetition 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, obnoxious, when standing alone, to insurmountable objections, is highly censurable and should be discontinued. The attempt thus made to force, by a species of legislative logrolling, 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 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 remodelled, 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 in enforcing 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 depository for public property. The sum of \$30,000, realized from that sale, is now in the Treasury; and by the fifty-fifth section of an act passed the 19th day of April, A. D. 1853, entitled "An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of government," &c., the Governor was authorized to apply the same to the purchase of a lot of ground and to the erection of an arsenal. 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 may be applied to the erection of the necessary buildings; to which sum can be added, if deemed advisable, the amount that may be realized from the sale of the arsenal at Meadville and Harrisburg, is 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 purposes

and upon the terms and conditions contained in the ordinance; and that the sum of \$30,000 be appropriated for the erection of a State arsenal thereon.

On the 6th day of October, 1856, I approved and signed a bill entitled "An Act to re-charter 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 habe, 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 for an injunction refused. Possession of the road was then taken by the agent of the State, as directed by law.

On the 22d 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 15th 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 15th 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 with the company at the earliest practicable period.

It is but proper to state that since the acceptance of the act of the 22d 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 commission 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 22d 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 institution, it cannot be too highly appreciated or carefully guarded. The ballot-box, through which the people speak their will, should be preserved from violation at 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 voter, whatever may be his political affinities 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; or false statements, or false and forged certificates of naturalization, is an evil that deserves the severest condemnation. It prevents an honest expression of the popular will, corrupts the sources 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 brought 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 Union, in their integrity and harmony, has been, and will ever 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 ever 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 attempt 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 their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, then the obstruction of the great National highways to the northern emigrant—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 1850, which abolished slavery within her territorial limits—true to the great doctrines 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 executed by the civilized world—so crowded with horror 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 enthusiasm, 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 slave ship 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 defence. 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 it falls—it will be when liberty and truth, patriotism and virtue, have perished. Pennsylvania tolerates no sentiments of disunion—she knows not the word. Disunion! "Is an after-thought—a monstrous wish—unborn 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 hap-

piness and welfare of the people, and the honor and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

JAMES POLLOCK,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
Harrisburg, Jan. 7, 1857.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

(From the Baltimore Patriot.)  
**POLITICAL FLUNKEYISM.**

The flunkeys are beginning to discover that Mr. Buchanan is a marvellous proper man. Success has a magical influence upon some minds. Faults are lessened, virtues magnified, errors overlooked, and what was yesterday a subject of indignant animadversion, to-day finds its ready apologists in the altered fortunes of the assailed. It is the way of the world. We exult the victor unduly; we hurl barbed spears at the vanquished. At the mature age of sixty-five, Mr. Buchanan suddenly finds himself famous. A few thousand votes less in Pennsylvania, and he would have been nothing more than a poor despised Cincinnati platform. As it is, he is the observed of all observers. Political Mac-Sycophants are croaking "the pregnant binges of the knee" before him. They affect to discover, even in the most common-place remarks that fall from his lips, a profundity of wisdom which they were incapable of fathoming until their mental perceptions were quickened by the hopes of a good fat office. It is an excellent thing to have crossed the *pons asinorum* in safety, but the path beyond is a difficult one to travel, as Mr. Buchanan will find before he reaches the end of his journey.

A Bachelor clergyman is a remarkably lovable individual in the eyes of maiden parishioners matrimonially inclined; but wedlock dispels the illusion in those whose hopes have been disappointed, and the once charming young minister degenerates forthwith into a very common-place personage, short of half his good qualities, and by no means so talented as people imagined.

A President elect, with a hundred thousand offices in his gift, is a gentleman crowned with every good quality; but a President *de facto*, with the offices distributed, suddenly loses his attractiveness in the eyes of neglected aspirants, who begin, for the first time, to discover that the knot of the Presidential white neck-cloth will twist round ominously under his left ear—that there is something peculiarly sinister in the cast of his eye, of which they were previously unconscious, and that the political idol whose praises they have chanted and whose battles they have fought, is so very ill put together, as to be easily shivered into fragments under the blows of inimical iconoclast. But the diary of an admiring office-seeker, in the first flush of ambitious expectation, presents a very different picture from what is subsequently drawn by the same person when he finds his claims upon the government are not likely to be recognized. Let us open a leaf or two, and reproduce what we find written there.

EN ROUTE.  
"Started from Banglow"—credentials all in due form—strongest possible recommendations from B., G., and D. Very confident of a good place—puzzled what to ask for though. Strike for a collectorship, but will take a first class consulate rather than miss.

WHEATLAND, MONDAY.  
Presented by Forney. Extraordinary improvement in Mr. Buchanan since we met last—thought him cold and selfish, facile and unreliable—found him courteous, benevolent, bland and of sterling integrity. Mutually pleased with each other—shall ask for a collectorship.

WHEATLAND, TUESDAY.  
Am more and more struck with the majestic simplicity of the President elect. Talked about the Ostend Manifesto—all a mistake—Administration deceived him—never expected it would see light—moreover, was mesmerized by Soule, and signed it under the influence of his will. Mem: Interesting fact to Psychologists—must write the daily papers all about it.

WHEATLAND, WEDNESDAY.  
Great crowd here. Couldn't edge in a word for a long time, so I stood off and watched the countenance of the President elect—much struck with its remarkable beauty. Even the trifling angular defect, singularly enough, is no blemish, but adds marvellously to the expression. Neck-cloth a spotless white—the type of innocence. Rather like it than not, especially on him. Conversation shifts from politics to religion—His Excellency much animated—speaks warmly of the Presbyterians.

Mem: Mr. B. a Presbyterian—must write that to the newspapers.  
Conversation continued. Anecdote of Mr. B.'s visit to Bedford Springs; met a Methodist Protestant clergyman there; liked him exceedingly; thinks the Methodist Protestant creed undeniably excellent.

Mem: Mr. B. a Presbyterian Methodist Protestants.  
Conversation continued. Refers to his visit to Philadelphia: invited to occupy a seat in the Episcopal Convention; went; didn't like Washington Hunt's remarks; thinks, on the whole, Episcopalianism admirable; knows nothing of his marriage