GOVERNOR's MESSAGE

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Gen-

eral Assembly:
GENTLEMEN:—Whilst the events of the year just closed, present many causes of joy and congratulation, and afford abundant reason for thankfulness to a beneficent Providence for his goodness and mercyour prosperity and happiness, as a people, I regret to say, has not been unalloyed.— The general growth of the country, the progress of the arts and sciences, and other causes of moral and social comfort, have not, it is true, been interrupted; but the loss of valuable lives and property, by the. sual, both in number and extent; and in certain sections of our Commonwealth the afflictions of pestilence and disease have also been sorely felt. Nor should we estimate lightly the suffering that manifestly exists amongst the poor in our cities and towns. The drought of the season deprived the husbandman, to some extent. of the anticipated rewards of his labor, and lessened the means of human subsistence; whilst the depression in monetary and business affairs, has deprived many laborers and mechanics of their usual earnings. The means of subsistence are thus greatly enhanced in value, at the same time that the opportunities of earning them are much diminished. The field for charity is consequently wider than usual; and to meet its reasonable demands on the part of those blessed with abundance, will be to sustain the christian character, and measurably to merit the continued bounty of Heaven.

The operations of the Treasury for the last year, will be presented to you in detail, twelve or fifteen years since, as well as some by the head of that department. The results are highly satisfactory, showing steadily increasing revenue from nearly all the ordinary sources.

The aggregate receipts for the fiscal year of 1854, including loans and the balance in the Treasury, on the 30th November, 1853. amounted to the sum of \$6,664,912 01. The gross payments for the same period, to the sum of \$5,424,983 29; leaving a balance on the 30th of November, of \$1,240,929 72. The extraordinary payments consisted of the following items, to wit: loans repaid, \$235,888 40; to the North Branch canal,

\$206,552 76; to the construction of the new railroad over the Allegheny mountains, \$461,921 03; to the payment of debts on the public works, \$389,946 38. Of the balance remaining in the Treasury, a portion is applicable to the payment of the State debt, and the remainder to current demands. The simple, or ordinary operations of the Treasury for the same period, were as follows, to wit: the receipts exclusive of loans and the balance in the Treasury of the 30th of November, 1853, realized from permanent sources, amounted to the sum of \$5,218,099 00. The ordinary expenditures, including the interests on the State debt and all the payments on the finished lines of the public works, excluding the payments on new works and loans, amounted to \$4,116,744 84; being \$1,101,490,15, less

than the receipts. This statement may be regarded as the workings of the Treasury simplified; and as establishing the gratifying fact, that the present reliable revenues of the State, exed the ordinary or unavoidable expenditures, over a million of dollars; and that, relieved from the demands for the construction of new improvements, the could pay a million or more of the public debt annually. It will also be perceived that the income from these sources is steadily increasing. For instance, in 1846, with the State tax at present rates, and the same extent of improvements in use, with nearly all the present sources of revenue in oper ation, the gross receipts amounted to out little over three and a half millions.

No more reliable estimate of the operations of the Treasury for 1855 can be made, than is furnished in the results for 1854. The ordinary receipts may be safely estimated at a million of dollars above the unavoidable expenditures. A portion of this excess will be required to complete the new Portage railroad, and the North Branch canal; and the remainder should be faithfully applied toward the payment of the The aggregate receipts on the public

works for the past year, as reported by the Canal Commissioners, amounted to the sum of \$1,876,078 00; and the expenditures to the sum of \$1,101,57054; leaving a balance of \$774,50834, from which, however, should be deducted the sum of \$37. 900, properly chargeable to the year, for omotives and other unavoidable expenditures-thus reducing the net profit \$736,608 34. If we add to this, \$131. 000 00 received from the Pennsylvania rail road company for the the three mill tax which is claimed by some as a part of the income from the public works, we find a net revenue of \$867,000; a sum equal to the interest on seventeen millions of the five per cent. debt of the State. The aggregate receipts were \$57,121 less than for the year 1853, and the reduction in expenditures amounted to over \$159,287,00. drawal of the business of the Pennsylvania railroad from the Portage road, readily accounts for this difference.

Viewed in every aspect, this exhibit is gratifying. Few similar systems of improvement in the country can present more favorable picture. Some of them, in other States, have recently been reduced to a condition of virtual insolvency. The in crease of business on the State the two last years, has exceeded our anticipations; and but for the necessity whic seemed to exist for a reduction of tolls to meet surrounding competition, the revenue would have been largely increased. The general movement now on foot amongst railroad companies, to advance these rates may perhaps, relieve the State to some ex tent in this respect.

The Delaware division makes a mos gratifying exhibit. The gross receipts counted \$365,325 07, and the expenditures \$59,738 67, showing a net profit of \$305.-588 40; a sum equal to the interest on six millions of the public debt, and to 20 per cent. on the oiginal cost of the work, including the expenditure for new works.

The North Branch Canal and the Colum bia railroad also present favorable results

The business and tolls on the former have increased with marked rapidity; and the management on both these branches bear the marks of skill and economy. penses on the Allegheny Portage road have been largely reduced, and the business bet ter regulated than at any former period .-As a whole, I feel constrained t he condition of the public works has been improved during the last year: in no par-ticular, to so valuable an extent, as in the matter of contracting debts, which it seems has been almost entirely avoided. The officers on the respective lines report that they have paid all expenses; and some of them have gone so far as to say to the Canal Board that they will be personally responsible for any debts that may hereafter be discovered. This is truly a great reform the pernicious practice of making debts on the public works; I still think it should be

interdicted by positive law. In my last message I gave my views at length, as to the principles and rules that should control in the management of the State improvements, and I need not repeat State improvements, and I state improvements, them in this. I would respectfully suggest, them in this so much of the law as binds the Canal Commissioners to a fixed rate of pealed. The officers directing the opera- lic.

have greatly exceed the whole amount estinecessary to complete the line; and yet, it is but justice to say, that the Pennsylvania railroad, lying parallel with it, has cost a still larger sum per mile.

nes of this or any other character, to State. No new improvements should be undertaken, upon any pretext whatever. The absorb the surplus revenues of the Treas- productive.

ficient rapidity.
I regret, exceedingly, the necessity of anmore than a year since the Canal Commissioners directed the water to be let into the the price and terms. be in successful operation by the middle of last summer: but their sanguine expectations, as well as those of the people, have, in this respect been sadly disappointed. A variety of unforseen difficulties presented this end. The old work, construed some sections of the new, located on the hill side, near the margin of t', river, when tested by the admission of water, turned out to be orous, and totally insufficient in its material and formation. In some instances concealed under the bottom of the canal hannel, covered only by a few inches of earth; thus presenting but a slight obstruction to the passage of the water out into the bed of the river. This is especially the case in much of the old work, in all such sections or places, no remedy, short of a quiry, duly impressed with its reconstruction of the bottom of the canal, Ten millions of dollars was fixed could prove sufficient; and this was necessarily a tedious and expensive process .-There is still a considerable portion of the work to remodel in this way; but it is confidently believed that it will be ready for use in the early part of the coming season. That the utmost skill and vigilance has at all times been exhibited by the agents of the State, on this line, I do not believe; but the deficiency, in this particular, on the new work, has not been so palpable as alleged by some. Indeed, since May last, great energy has characterized the management on this line; the President of the Canal Board

come all the difficulties that were encountered, with sufficient celerity, to have entirely satisfied public expectation. At the time I came into office, the sum Since that time the matsd at \$772,000. Uanal Board, \$60,000 to put it into com-

Whilst I regret this unforeseen cost and delay, I cannot refrain from repeating my unfaltering confidence in the wisdom of the policy that dictated the completion of this The large increase of business and tolls for the year just closed, on the older portion of the line, indicates what we may salely anticipate from the new; and, I can not doubt, that the gross amount of bus iness it will command, and the revenue it will yield, will exceed the most san guine expectations of its advocates.--The inexhaustible mines of coal with which that section of the State abounds the products of which are destined to pass through this avenue to a limitless market will furnish for it a never failing supply of business and tonnage. Besides, its comple tion will be an act of justice to the industrious and enterprising inhabitants of tha part of the Commonwealth, who have here tofore willingly contributed towards the construction of the other improvements of the State, from which they could derive but little advantage. It will, also, add to the general prosperity of the adjacent country to the value of property, and consequently

to the revenues of the State. At the time of my induction into accrued interest, amounted t Add to this the loan of April, 1852, 850,000 00

Deduct payments as follows: Interest on outstanding certifi-cates, \$50,063 39 Receipts to the sink-...1.057.856 15

Total funded debt..... . \$39,900,537 94 The floating debt and unpaid ap propriations at the period already indicated.

Deduct the available balance then in Tthe reasury. unpaid appropriations, except for repairs after the 1st Decemalance in the Treasury, November 30, 1854, after deducting the amount applicable to the old public debt and the relief issues

then on hand, \$765,929 00 During the same period the following appropris construction of new improvements, to wit: For the re-constructing of the Co-legheny mountains,..... For the completion of the Western 52,388 00 reservoir,..... For the North Branch canal,.... New locks on Delaware division, Sundry special payments,.....

The foregoing figures exhibit the aston-ishing fact, that the Treasury has been annually paying over a million of dollars to wards the construction of new improvements and at the same time accomplished a small reduction of the public debt.

As made my duty, by an act of the Le gislature, approved the 27th of April last, providing for the sale of the main line of providing for the sale of the main line of the public works, sealed proposals for its purchase were invited, up to the first Mon-day of July last. No offers were made under this invitation; and public notice was again given, on the 14th of November last, accordance with the 29th section of the act, for proposals, to be submitted to the General Assembly; but none have been re ceived. This improvement is, therefore still the property of the State, subject to such disposition as the Legislature may

deem necessary.

My mind has undergone no change, on the subject of selling the public works, since the period of my last message. I think the policy of the measure depends mainly upon the price that can be obtained, and the con ditions on which purchasers may be willing tolls for the whole season, should be re- to hold these works for the use of the pub With a full and fair consideration, and

o me, definition of the people, in the future enjoy.

The work on the Mountain railroad has progressed slowly, and it is obvious that it will not be fully completed before the summer of 1855. I must confess myself sadly disappointed as to the time and money consumed in the construction of this work.

The expenditures, since I came into office, have greatly exceed the whole amount estitions of the public works should, it seems on terms amply protective of the rights and tion which brought this company into ex- refused to canction any extensive increase of bankterests of the people, in the people in the to guard against the commencement of estate. He would hardly give notice to cessfully with other commercial cities. The casualities of the elements, has been unn. This ought to be the settled policy of the pay such reasonable consideration, they terprise, was the prejudicial effect such a payment of the debt, and that only, should the farms in the country, his was the least It is certainly the wish of many good cit-

named a scheme, to pay the debt, will be necessary. The large annual surplus will that the public works should be sold; but reduce the State's indebtedness with sufficient rapidity. real economy—that it would lessen, without nouncing to you that the North Branch the hazard of increasing, their annual taxes. Canal is not yet in full operation. It is now The realization, of such an object, it must The realization, of such an object, it must be perceived, then, depends entirely upon the price and terms. Those who desire a main trunk of that improvement, and de sale, certainly expect the State to be the clared their confident belief, that it would gainer by such a measure. No other important, or sufficient reason for parting with this property has been assigned. It is usually said that the works should be sold to pay the public debt and lessen the burthens of the people; but it must be themselves in the way of the attainment of observed, that a sale might be made at a price far too low to effect such purpose; and if so, to give them away would be still less likely to produce the desired result. Should the gross sum received, not be equal to that on which the nett earnings would pay the interest, then the effect would be to increase rather than diminish these annual burthens. rocks, roots, trees and stumps have been This is not what the people desire to accomplish by a sale; nor will they be satisfied with such a disposition of their proper

The real value of the public works, is proposition full of difficulty; and I doubt not he General Assembly will approach the in-I'en millions of dollars was fixed, by the law of last session, as the price for the main line. This minimum is said by some to be too high, and the failure to sell, regarded as the con sequence. Others attribute the absence of bidders, to the condition of the money market-to the stringent restrictions imposed upon the saw; and to the efforts that had been previously made to disparage the value of the line. But it is obvious that more than one of these causes may have operated; and a greater than all may have been, the hope of getting this property on better terms, at a future time. I feel very confident that the latter consideration was not without its influence. But, be this as it may, it is cerhaving devoted much of his time to a pertainly wiser to fail to sell from any one of sonal supervision of the work. But it is these causes, than to hazard the works i obvious, no degree of capacity in the State's the market, without any restriction or limit agents, for the last year, could have overtation as to price or conditions. A bad sale would assuredly be a greater misfortune, than no sale at all.

The benefits resulting to the people from and diversified. They have facilitated trade sum of \$1,206;552 72 has been expended, and commerce; stimulated productive indusand it will still require, as estimated by the try in every department; and have not only try in every department; and have not only enabled the farmer to reach a ready market with the fruits of his labor, but have furnished convenient out-lets for the rich mineral treasures of the State. Without them, the miner would be deprived of his occupation, the transporter be left in helpless destitution and the Commonwealth itself be permitted to retain a parsimonious possession of vast masses of natural and unproductive riches Our predecessors were wise in opening these avenues to trade and commerce; and if we wish to be rated wise hereafter, we shall not rashly and hastily throw away the advantages of their future use. This use, to the full ecured by a jealous protection of the right of the people to enjoy it. The very first con litions of such a measure should be, that the works, and every branch of them, be kept at rates of transportation would all times in good order and in operating con-lition, and remain forever public highways, or the use of all persons who may wish to ransport goods or merchandize over them, upon rates not greater than those charged upon other similar improvements. No coration should get possession of these valu ble avenues, on such conditions as would enable it to impose unreasonable burthens on the internal trade and tonnage of the State or in any way to encroach upon the ich results, the powers, privileges and restrictions of any corporation getting the vorks, should be minutely defined. experience suggests these purdential counsels : for we have often seen in this State.

prescribed by the law; and we should no fail to profit by the lesson. of May last, providing for the ordinary expenses of government and other purposes. Nimrod Strickland, of Chester county, John Purviance, of Butler county, and John | the annual receipts of the Treasury. Strohm, of Lancaster county, were named as year 1853, it amounted to the sur issioners to settle certain claims and 000, and for the year 1854, to \$131,000. lebts against the Commonwealth. It was alo made the duty of the Governor to supply by appointment, any vacancy in this comwhich might occur. already named having declined to serve, ccordingly appointed William W. William son, of Chester county, William English, o Philadelphia, and John C. Magill, of Wes noreland county, in their stead. After a tedious and laborious investiga ion, these gentlemen have completed the du-

y assigned to them, and the result will be

ommunicated to you. in detail, in their own ne appropriation nearly \$150,000. It is well, however, to see the end of claims of nis character; and having accomplished this it will be prudent to guard against the recurrence of a similar state of affairs. Indeed the practice of contracting debts on the pube works, should be at once and forever abandoned. It has been a fruitful source of wrong upon the Treasury. The right to scatter the credit of the Commonwealth in this unguarded way, is. I venture to assert, lic affairs. Of the many defects in the sysem of managing the State improvements, this has been the most productive of evil.— In my first, as also in my last annual mes age, I most carnestly urged the General As-embly to provide, by law, that no debt should be contracted by the officers on the public works;—that the necessary labor and meterial to maintain these works should be e compelled to settle his accounts promptly

Repeated attempts have been made to repeal so much, of the act incorporating the ennsylvania railroad company, as requires in per centage on the amount of tonnage which may pass over that road as an equivalent for the privileges granted by the Com-monwealth; but the General Assembly have asrepeatedly rejected the proposition; and I sincerely hope, that, so long as the State may need the revenue from this source, all future attempts to accomplish this end, may meet

The examinations just made, demonstrate

still more clearly the necessity for such re-

portions of the State, as well as those of the with the principles of justice and equity, bade such action. On the other hand, it was alleged that the increased business which such an improvement would throw upon the of property adjacent to the proposed road, from which the State would derive increased evenue in the form of taxes—would constiand thus do full justice to the people as the owners of the works to be affected. But a najority of the Legislature concluded that some additional benefits were demanded, and

mpose this charge of three mills per ton upon every species of property which may pass over its road; and in this way it is very readily shown that on coal, iron, lumber and other cheap tonnage, this charge would be too great. But the company are not obliged o assess this tax on all kinds of tennage: nor was it the intention of the act that they should do so. The design was to make an exaction from the nett profits of the company for the use of the public coffers, as a com pensation for a valuable grant, and thereby protect the public improvements from the ompetition of this new rival. The tax on only the mode of ascertaining the sum to be paid, and not the specific tonnage on which it should be charged. When the sum is in this way ascertained, it matters not to the State how the company obtains the money; whether it be by charges on freight, or on Should, therefore, certain kinds be improperly oppressed, the fault is with the company, not in the law. And surely it will not be contended that the protection is unnecessary; -so far from this, the wispany's charter has already been made manifest. The very exigency anticipated by the The very exigency anticipated by the Legislature has arisen; the competition of after to mitigate the evil. main line. Relieved from this restraint; but

But, viewed alone, as a matter interesting to the owners and transporters of tonnage, what guarantee would they have that the were this tax taken off? None whatever .-The company could charge as heretofore and thus realize the amount of the tax in addition to their present profits. If they should not do this their action would differ from that of similar corporations under like ircumstances. But to admit, what is claimed, that a reduction in the charges of transportation to a similar extent, would take place, it must be perceived would duplicate he loss to the State: for she would not only thereby lose the amount of the three mill tax, but be deprived of a very large portion of tonnage which would be attracted to the company's road by this reduction in the rates of transportation. We are thus brought to the simple inquiry, whether the State shall retain this valuable income, to which how difficult it is to confine the operation shall retain this valuable income, to which of these artificial bodies within the limits she is so justly entitled, or whether she shall give it to the railroad company. Most certainly the latter alternative should not be By the 29th section of the act of the 9th adopted, so long as the question of selling an features. The former was rejected because the State improvements remains undecided. As a mere revenue measure, this tax con- which it authorized, and the conflict which per stitutes an important and increasing item in

That this amount will be materially increased hereafter, is self-evident. If this important important item be withdrawn com the sinking fund, there will be but lit tle left to sustain its operations.

I am aware that these views may be me with the plausible argument that trade and commerce should not be thus burthened that the effect is prejudicial to the business of the State. This is true to a certain exadjustment of a question of this character.and commerce should be sustained by contri-I regret to perceive that the accounts so butions from a needy Treasury. On this prin-xamined and settled, exceed the amount of ciple, it could as reasonably be maintained that the State should make no charges what ever for the use of her own works.

The administration of Governor Shunk commenced the cancellation of relief issues and that of my immediate predecessor arrested the process, leaving \$650,163 00 of this unsightly currency in circulation. In the spring of 1853, the policy of cancellation was again resumed; and up to this date, \$485,-384 88 had been received into the sinking fund, applicable to that purpose, leaving the meagre sum of \$154,778 12, to provide for. The gratifying fact is apparent, therefore that, without any further legislation on this subject, the entire outstanding balance of relief notes can be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed during the current year. It is true that these issues have not come into the Treasury as rapidly as the funds for cancellation have accumulated, and that, consequently, a portion of the receipts have not ed: but this difficulty will be obviated in June next, when the law will go

for this State, regardless of the policy of other Commonwealths, to dispense suddenly and entirely with banks of issue, it has been uniformly held that the amount of banking capital as a basis for paper circulation, should be closely limited to the urgent wants of commerce and trade. If the exace of the country is worth any thing at all.

terprise, was the prejudicial effect such a work might have upon the business and profits of the main one of the public improvements. It was urged on the one hand, that the State works had been constructed at the expense of the people of the entire Common wealth—that those residing in the extreme works had been constructed at the expense of the people of the entire Common wealth—that those residing in the extreme profit least by the expansion, are often effected most by the contraction. This is especially the nortions of the State, as well as those of the portions of the State, as well as those of the interior, had, annually, contributed towards the payment of the interest on the debt which had thus been contracted; and, therefore, the Legislature could not, consistently with the principles of justice and equity, with the principles of justice and equity, make a grant that would depreciate the value of property which belonged to all, for the purpose of fostering the growth and prosperity of a particular portion of the State.—
Good faith and correct moral principle forbade such action. On the other hand, It was bade such action. On the other hand, it was alleged that the increased business which such an improvement would throw upon the columbia railroad, and the enhanced value.

excite discontent. Duen a departure from legiti-mate business would demand a prompt remedy at your hands. It may be difficult to confine these institutions to their proper business, with the pros-pect of better profits in other quarters; but they should be made to feel that they have been created for a higher purpose than merely to apprich the for a higher purpose than merely to enrich the stockholders. The crisis is a trying one; but there is still reasome additional benefits were demanded, and hence the adoption of the provision to which I have referred.

The stock was subscribed with a full knowledge of this reservation, and the acceptance of the charter by the company, was the consummation of a solemn agreement between them and the State.

Yet, under the specious plea that it imposes a tax on trade, the Commonwealth is now asked to relinquish this condition; and the case is argued as though it had been the policy of the law, that the company should impose this charge of three mills per ton up-

means may add to present derangements; but can not correct them.

An extensive increase of banking capital and other expedients will, doubtless, be pressed upon your attention: but it is hoped that no such fallacy may find favor. Nor is there any sufficient results that have a constitutioner manifested in son for the alarm and sensitiveness manifested in certain quarters; the real wealth of the country still exists, and the natural elements of prosperity still exists, and the inturn elements of prosperity are no less than heretofore. It is the shadow, not the substance that is passing away. The business community should look the danger in the face, and by their energy, honesty and enterprise, overcome it. Mutual confidence and forbearance should be herished by all, as a means of accomplishing this

In accordance with the provisions of a law pas-sed in April last, a vote of the people was taken, at the October election, on the policy of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors; 158,342 votes were cast in favor of the men sure, and 163,510 votes against it.

The proper regulation of this subject greaty concerns the moral welfare of the people, passengers--on local, or on through topinage. | and for that reason will claim your anxious | consideration. Perhaps no other moral ques-tion within the range of your authority, so deeply interests the people of every class, race and condition. Indeed, the immoderate use of intoxicating drinks is an evil that has left its fatal mark in every vicinage. Its progress, fortunately, has been steadily resisted by indi-viduals and societies, who have employed the power of truth and reason against it. These efforts have done much, and may do more here tious encroachments upon the rights and privileges of every citizen, there is clearly no rea a meagre portion of the carrying trade would be left for that branch of our improvements. son why the influence of a well designed law, regulating and restraining the sale of intoxicating liquors, should not be brought to the aid upon the unfortunate beings committed to unabated solicitude for the success of this of these individual efforts. Although the vote their charge. Nor will it be contended that the Commonwealth does not need this source of revof the people would seem to indicate their aversion to the particular measure of reform proposed, it is not to be inferred, for that reaon they are averse to all attempts at reforma-So far from this, they acknowledge the exist-ence of the evil and the necessity of proper remedies. Our present license laws, to this end, might, in my opinion, be usefully revised —the object of such revision being to lessen the vice of intemperance. That those laws need such revision, is conceded. So far as relates to the city of Philadelphia, they are peculiarly prejudicial to public morals, and seem to have been constructed to promote the convenience of drinking, far more than to restrain its evil consequences. The subject is worthy The subject is worthy of your early and deliberate consideration The report of the Superintendent will exhibit to you in detail, the operations of the Common School system for the year just closed;

> The general law of 1849, with amendments and modifications, was re-modeled by the last Legislature. The most material parts of the old law, which were omitted in the new, were the only districts the conductors. petually arose between the committees and dihostility to the true intent of the common hostility to the true intent of the common school system. These provisions which seemed to contemplate a separate school establishment, under sectarian patronage, although controlled by the common school directors, were originally engrafted upon the acts of 1836 and 1838, and were again re-enacted in 1849. They were very properly stricken from the system by the law of last session. Should efforts be made in the future, at similar innovations common the system of the future at similar innovations. whence they may, it is hoped they may be promptly rejected. The system to be effectual, must be simple and uniform in its operations. Special legislation, inconsistent with the general law, applicable to particular localities or districts to answer temporary or partial ends. districts, to answer temporary or partial ends, always has, and always will embarrass the administration of the general system, and should for this reason, be carefully avoided. The integrity of its forms, not less than the means to sustain its operations, should be constantly maintained, and sacredly cherished by the govrnment.

A new feature in the system, adopted in the law of last session, creating the office of County Superintendent, has not, as yet, been fully ested; and there evidently exists some diverf opinion as to the wisdom of the provi-It is already very obvious at least, tha its beneficial workings must depend mainly upon the character of the agents selected to carry it into operation. Competent and faithful Superintendents may produce the happiest results; whilst the agency of the ignorant or inefficient will be attended by the reverse concerning. In order to give this pay feature sequences. In order to give this new feature of the law a fair trial, it will be necessary,

vinted in June next, when the law will go into operation which forbids the banks and receiving officers of the Commonwealth to pay out these issues, and requires them to be presented at the Treasury for cancellation. My opinion on all questions that concern the currency, have been so often expressed, that they must be well known to the Legislature, and need not be given, at length, in this communication. Without, at any time, assuming it would be wise for this State, regardless of the policy of other Commonwealths, to dispense audienly and entirely with banks of issue, it has been uniformly held with it; and until recently no general and pracwith it: and until recently no general and practicable plan for its removal had been devised.

The plan of granting permanent professional certificates, by officers skilled in the art of teaching, and eminent in literary and scientific acquirements, to teachers who satisfactorily pass a thorough examination in the several the fruits of a loose and unguarded system or branches of study, which the act of May, 1854, legislation. The evil has been one of the great-

and it is believed will do much towards plac-

this state of feeling should not prevail; why the profession of teacher should not rank in honor and profit with the other learned professions; why the science of developing the human intellect—of giving scope and force to mind—of elevating the moral faculties of our race—of controlling the passions and tempering the desires, should not be esteemed as highly as those professions and callings, whose ornaments have received all their capacity and polish at the hands of the comparatively humble and illy rewarded teacher

I earnestly recommend the common achool system to your guardian care, as the most sacred of all our institutions. The offspring of a constitutional injunction on the Legislature—the extension and perpetuity of its usefuluess, is the plain duty of all. Resting at the very foundation of the government, its practical workings should be a true reflection of our republican system, and its blessed opportunities made available to all, regardless of rank, or condition, or persuasion. It should aid the poor, advance the rich, and make the

ignorant wise.
I confidently anticipate for it, a day of greater perfection and water influence. No better object can engage the attention of government, or consume its means, than the education of the people in the most comprehensive sense of the term; embracing the use of let ers, the cultivation of the moral faculties and the diffusion of christian truth. In this we have the surest guarantee for the perpetuity of our republican government, and for the enjoyment of civil liberty and religious freedom. Such an education may be safely laimed as the most potent means of preven ting crime—of increasing individual happiness and national dignity— of promoting christianity and civilization-of extirpating

moral and political evils-of elevating, dignifying and adorning our social condition. Our various charitable and reformatory institutions—so creditable to the state, and which, in their practical operations, have done so much for the relief of suffering humanity-will claim the continued care and bounty of the Commonwealth. The State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg

under its present efficient control and management, meets the just anticipations of its wise and benevolent advocates. and benignant agency in ameliorating the condition of the unfortunate class for whose relief it was designed, can be judged by no ordinary standard. The benefits of such an institution rise above all mere pecuniary estimates. Its purposes address themselves to the best and noblest feelings of our nature, and can only be rated at the price of huma: hone and human reason.

itorious institution has recently been established in Philadelphia, for the mental traintonishing results it has already achieved in developing and invigorating the weak and New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, clouded intellect, should secure for it public Connecticut, Georgia and Pennsylvania have confidence and patronage. It commends self to the bounty and care of the State. The institutions for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, and Blind, will also need, as they justly merit, the usual annuity from the | Carolinas, have taken no action on the sub-State. They are in a flourishing condition,

their charge.
As a scheme for correcting and reclaiming wayward and offending youth, the House o Refuge stands pre-eminent; and is every where gaining public confidence. its general influence upon this class of erring creatures is far more effectual and humanizing than that of the ordidary modes of punishment. It takes charge of those whose offences are often the result of circumstances rather than riminal intent; who fall by the influence o ad example, of wicked association, of idle habits or animal necessities; or who sin be perception; who do wrong, rather than right guish between them. For such unfortunate beings, the House of Refuge possesses the advantages of restraint and correction-with moral and intellectual training, as well as of without the disgrace and chilling influence of prison confinement. The results, therefore cured of all moral defection, and competen to fill the place of correct and useful members

During the past summer, the magnificent structure erected under the supervision of certain benevolent gentlemen of Philadelphia, as a new House of Refuge, was completed and thrown open for public inspection. capacity, order, and arrangements, in every y equal to the design of its founders. It is or to them beautiful city in which it is situated; and its good effects in future, under the same syste-matic and wise discipline which so eminently distinguished its past management, will

t be readily over-r ated The Western House of Refuge, situate on the banks of the Ohio river, a short distance below Pittsburg, I am gratified to say, is also completed and ready for inmates. 'Though less imposing, as to size and capacity, that its stately compeer of the east, it possesses all the order, economy of space, and perfect adaptation to the purposes designed, that characterize the more costly structure at Philadelphia; and it is also believed to be quite adequate, as to size, to present wants, while it is built with express reference to future additions, should they become necessary Neither of these buildings have, I presum tors in pecuniary liability, and perhaps loss. The entire State has a deep interest in such truly meritorious institutions; and whatever relief can be given to them by the Legislature, consistently with the condition of the Treasury or our public engagements, should be cheerfully extended.

The interests of Agriculture are ardently commended to your care. Extensive and energetic efforts have been recently made to diseminate correct information concerning this great pursuit, and in this way to confer upon he farmer the advantages of a

of the law a fair trial, it will be necessary, therefore for the directors, in the respective counties, to select Superintendents with sole reference to their adaptation to the duties of the station.

Of the many obstacles in the way of the complete success of our Common School system, the one most prominent, and most difficult to remove, is the want of competent teachers. In some communities, I regret to say, the system has fallen into comparative inefficiency, because good teachers cannot be found. tution can be successfully organized, under the auspices of the State and County agricul tural societies. The practice adopted and maintained

the last General Assembly, in reference omnibus bills and special legislation, is an improvement of such value as to commend this salutary precedent may not be disregar Obscurity, confusion and inaccuracy in the nstruction of our laws, inroads upon privat

rights, and unguarded corporate privileges,

litigation and confusion in the interpretation and administration of our statutes have been

the fruits of a loose and unguarded system of

requires to be taught in every district, and est magnitude, and the remedy should be charalso in the art of teaching—is already obvious—is need with unyielding tenacity. Special legislation has so little to reccommend or sustain it in principle, it is surprising it has and it is believed will do much towards placing the profession upon a high and firm basis.

Normal schools, it is urged, could in addition, to some extent supply the deficiency, but the expenses of such an institution would be heavy.

The source of this difficulty, it is clear, can be traced, in a great measure, to the want of a proper appreciation in the public mind, of the the necessity for special acts, and the proposition is most earnestly commended to your

favorable consideration. favorable consideration.

The omnibus system—a pernicious-mode of legislation, by which the most opposite measures, good and bad, are thrown together in one bill and under one title—was, I rejoice to say, entirely broken down and discarded by the last General Assembly. The volume of laws for 1854 contains no acts of this character. Each law embraces but a single subject, and that indicated by its proper title.

The 55th section of the act providing for

the expenses of Government for 1853, authorized and required the Governor to sell the State arsenal at Philadelphia, and apply the proceeds of such sale towards the purchase of another site and the erection of a new building; and restricting the expenditure to the sum re ceived for the old property. The building and lot were readily sold for \$30,000. The selection of a new location, and the erection of another building, presented a far more difficult task. I readily discovered that the sum thus appropriated was entirely inadequate to ac-complish the end in view. The price of a similar location would leave but a meagre sum with which to erect the building. Under all circumstances, I have not felt authorized to attempt to carry out the law, and would respectfully suggest the propriety of increasing the appro-

riation for this purpose.

The report of the present able and energetic Adjutant general will inform you of the condition of the military affairs of the State. This department of public affairs, I regret to say, ha been in a confused and declining condition for several years.

The public Librarian has called my attention to the fact, that the law reports of twen-ty-two other States have been regularly received by this, and that no provision has ever been made, on our part, to reciprocate this courtesy and generosity. I respectfully suggest the propriety of authorizing some officers of the Government to procure the necescers of the dveriment to produce the heces sary copies of the Pennsylvania reports to supply those States who have so generously added to our library.

The registration hot, I respectfully suggest, has essentially failed to accomplish the end

lesigned, and should be repealed or amended. A record so incomplete and imperfect can do no good; but may really do harm. It has already cost the State about \$25,000, to which there must be annually additions. The object is a desireable one, but I am confident it can never be attained by the mode contembut I am confldent it plated in this law. It is a subject of constant complaint by registers and physicians, and only such registration is made as is compulsory, in order to legalize letters of adminis-

By the 67th section of the appropriation law of last session the Secretary of the Comnonwealth was authorized to continue the ublication of the Archives to the year 1790. Under this authority the selection of documents from 1783 to 1790 has been made, and the tenth volume, containing this matter, will be ready for distribution before the close of the session. Two additional volumes will complete the work as originally designed. The councils of Philadelphia, by an ordi-

nance passed in October, 1852, dedicated the tive of the Declaration of Independence; and the representatives of hine or more of

original States.
Since that time, the States of New York, signified their willingness to accept the propsition on the terms indicated by the coun eils, and to participate in this patriotic work. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the two

I cannot refrain from again expressing my

single event worthy of commemoration by a monument, the Declaration of Independe is that event. In moral grandeur it is with out a parallel, and stands above all others for the mighty influence which it has exert ed upon the political, religious and social condition of mankind. It has been justly said, it ushered in a new member into the family of nations and electrified all Europe. It opened new revelations of liberty, and changed the relations of people and government, by teaching the one how to resist and conquer oppression, and the other the absolute necessity to its own continuance, of recognizing and respecting the rights of huma-nity. From that time forth, a new, vital and quickening spirit has pervaded the world. hrones have been shaken, empires have been overturned, society has been convulsed, blood and carnage have desolated the earth; but still the intelligence and souls of the peo-ple of all Christendom have been so vivided, elevated and expanded, to a comprehension of their rights, as will never be obliterated ro forgotten; but will advance, enlarge and inrease, until that moral and social preparation for the appreciation and enjoyment of liberty shall be effected, which, in the divine economy is so indispensable, to the perman-

ence of free institutions.

As the third generation of that posterity, for whom the men of the revolution chiefly labored and suffered, and died, it is peculiarly fitting that to God and the world, that we appreciate and rev rence, and would cultivate and disseminate the mighty truths and infinciples which brought our nation into existence, which constitute its very life, and of which it seems designated by providence to be—the special defender and protector.

I believe we should have a monument to perpetate the transparence of the great value of the constitution o

I believe we should have a monument to perpetuate the remembrance of the great event, from which such manifold and inestimable blessings have sprung; some imperishable memorial of our gratitude to the authors of the Declaration of Independence; to the lieroes who participated in the mighty struggle; an enduring witness of the great things done amongst us and for us; an embodiment of the origin; and principles of our government; some distinguishing mark of the place of the nation's birth; a consecrated temple of libarty, about which unborn generations of America may meet and renew their assurances of fidelity to the principles of the Declaration and to their natural offspring—the Constitution and the Union. I am for this work most earnestly; and I trust that Pennsylvania will not permit it to fail; but that it may be pressed upon the attention of the original thirteen States, until each and all 'shall evince a willingness and determination to participate in the willingness and determination to participate in the erection of this glorious structure. To this end I rection of this glorious structure. To this end I respectfully suggest to the General Assembly, the propriety of again calling the attention of the original States to the subject, by resolution or oth-

In closing my last communication to the General Assembly, and terminating my official relations with the people of my native Commonwealth, I may be indulged in a brief and general reference to her present proud position as a member of the great iamily of States, and to the patriotism, integrity, and general prosperity other citizens. The advantageous geographical position of Pennsylvania, with a fine harbor open to the Atlantic, and another connecting her centrally with the magnificent chain of western lake navigation—her long branching rivers, spreading their arms and arteries through every portion of her territory—all adding to her fertile soil and exhaustless deposits of valuable minerals—present a combination of the natural elements of greatness, scarcely equalled in our own or any other quarter of the globe.—These have made her an attractive field for the science, industry and enterprise of man; and all her natural advantages have been cherished and cultivated, until she has reached a condition of varied wealth and positive prosperity. Her system of internal improvements will safely compare with those of any sister State, whether in regard to completeness in construction, or the extent of country which they triveres. Nor have the higher rwise.
In closing my last communication to the Generthose of any sister State, whether in regard to completeness inconstruction, or the extent of country which they traverse. Nor have the higher hopes of humanity been disregarded by our statesmen, and the people at large; as the liberal provisions for common schools, Academies and Colleges, and our numerous crowded Churshes; attest: while, at the same time, the various Asylums for the insane, and for the united at the conditions, and Houses of Refuge, for the resembling of the wayward and erring, silently, yet ation of the wayward and enting, silently, ye [CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]