THE BRADFORD REPORTER.

VOLUME XI. "MAGNIFICENT IN DENUNCIATION FROM ANY QUARTER." NUMBER 38.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, AT TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., BY E. O'MEARA GOODRICH.

TOWANDA:

Saturday Morning, January 18, 1851.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—A renewal of expressions of gratitude to the Almighty Father, for his manifold mercies and protecting influences during the past year, and the utterance of a prayer "in spirit and in truth," for the continuance of these blessings, well become a people who habitually acknowledge the superintending care of a just and merciful God. The abundant harvest of the late season, the general exemption of the community from disease, the rapidly improving condition of the country, in all things which confer happiness and national contentment, increased facilities of education, and the enjoyment of religious privilege in its purest forms, admonish us anew, that the destiny of the people and government is directed by the power of a Supreme Ruler, whose kindly providences are continually exerted for their welfare, and well being.

The melancholy duty devolves on me, of formally announcing to the General Assembly, the fact of the decease of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, the venerable Zachary Taylor, who died at the City of Washington, on the Ninth of July last.

The soldier whose brilliant achievements in arms added new lustre to the military fame of the country, and the Statesman whose policy, as shadowed forth in his recommendations to Congress, was that of the wisest and most generous patriotism, died in the full possession of his great mental faculties, surrounded by endeared relatives, cherished friends, and patriotic members of government, with the calm resignation becoming a Christian soldier, and founded on the faith, which teaches that death has no terrors for those who faithfully endeavor to do their duty. The American people paid the highest tribute to his memory by united and universal sorrow.

In the purity and disinterestedness of his motives, the patriotism of every impulse as affecting his public conduct, the perfect sincerity of his desire to act justly to all men, his winning gentleness of temper as manifested in his personal deportment, were to be found traits of character which bound closely to him his confidential friends, and gave to their sorrow for his demise a bitterness which no lapse of time or change of circumstances can alleviate;

It is recommended that a suitable expression of respect for the memory of the deceased, and of regret for our bereavement, be made by the present Legislature.

On the death of General Taylor, by the provisions of the Constitution, the powers and duties of the Chief Magistracy were vested, without the least interruption of the public business, in Vice-President Millard Fillmore, whose virtue and patriotism, as manifested in the discharge of former trusts, as well as in the administration thus far of his new functions, justify the confident expectation that the policy of the National administration will eminently promote the best interests of the country. In its avowal of the great principle of protection to American Industry, it has an especial claim to the confidence of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions expressive of the feelings of the last Legislature on the death of the late John C. Calhoun, were transmitted to his family. I herewith transmit the correspondence.

The amendment to the State Constitution, providing for the election by the citizens of the judicial officers of the Commonwealth, having received the sanction of a majority of the people, is now part of the organic law. Your attention is invited to such legislation as may be necessary to carry into complete effect this expression of the popular will. By the terms of the Constitution, the commissions of the Judges will expire on the first Monday of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. It is suggested that it will afford a favorable opportunity to remodel and greatly lessen the number of Judicial Districts. At present there are no less than twenty-four judicial districts, with District Courts in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties. A reference to the vast amount of business transacted in these last named Courts, affords conclusive evidence that the interests of the community demand their continuance. Should a reduction be made in the number of the Common Pleas Districts, the salaries now paid to the Judges ought to be increased to such extent as would be a fair remuneration for the labor performed and the responsibility incurred in the execution of the duties of their high offices. It is no part of the character of our citizens to require the labors of others, without adequate compensation. Fair salaries will best secure the services of honest, intelligent and competent men, in that department of government, in the faithful administration of which every citizen is so deeply interested. An increase of the salaries of the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and District Courts, would demand the extension of the same literality to such gentlemen as may be selected to discharge the higher and more responsible duties of judges of the court of last resort.

Two annual elections appear to impose unnecessary burthens upon the citizens. Expense to the general treasury, and loss of time to the voter, could be well saved by authorizing the elections now held in the Spring to be holden at the general election in October. To such counties as desire to try the experiment, the right might be granted. I have been furnished with a statement of the expense incurred by holding Spring elections in Dauphin county, and if the amount is a fair average of the expense to the other counties, the change indicated will save to the people of the Commonwealth annually upwards of thirty thousand dollars.

The project of creating an Agricultural Department connected with the State Government demands the favorable consideration of the Legislature. In such Department might be collected most valuable information for the use of the practical farmer. The recent improvements in the construction of implements of husbandry, the analysis of earths, improved modes of tillage, and adaption of manures and seeds to various kinds of soil, are subjects of absorbing interest to the agricultural classes. Diffusion of knowledge respecting the best breeds of horses, cattle and other stock, with suggestions in an authorized and reliable form, and experimental expositions of the proper modes of rearing and rearing live stock of all kinds, could not fail to act beneficially on the great interest of the Commonwealth.

Should the National Government erect an Agricultural Bureau, in conformity with the suggestion of the President, the State institution would be an efficient auxiliary in the collection of local information, and for the distribution here, at home, of knowledge amassed in the departments from other sources. In this establishment, the claims of the mining, mechanical, and manufacturing interests on the fostering care of the Government, might be equally regarded. A private society in our metropolitan city by its liberality, activity and learning has done much to develope and encourage the arts and sciences, useful in every-day life, and has largely aided our mechanics and manufacturers to gain a reputation throughout the world. By the measure proposed, I desire to accomplish for the advancement of the agricultural, mechanical, and mining industry of the whole Commonwealth, what the Franklin Institute has done for those interests, which have enjoyed the benefit of its discriminating care. County and township institutions would speedily follow the creation of a State department; and by mutual action and counsels, results would ensue, highly gratifying to the patriot, and beneficial to the country.

Should the returns of the seventh census of the United States be transmitted in time, the apportionment of the State into Congressional districts may become part of our duty. In such event, it is hoped the custom heretofore pursued of postponing action on important bills of this description to the last hours of the session will be changed. It is a practice utterly inconsistent with careful and correct legislation, and destructive of the rights of a co ordinate branch of the Government.

The committee charged with the introduction of gas lights into the public buildings, have complied so far as in their power, with the directions of the Legislature. An appropriation to meet these expenses, and to enclose and improve the public grounds, should be made at an early day.

A complete set of ballances, furnished to the State by the General Government, have been deposited in the buildings of the Land Office. The Commissioners of the several counties ought to be required to have the weights and measures, under their care, again adjusted and regulated.

An arrangement of the Geological specimens belonging to the State, in some convenient place for general inspection, and the publication of the Geological reports, are demanded alike by the true interests of the State and a just appreciation of her character for enlightened enterprise.

My attention has been called to the large body of original papers in the State department, connected with the Colonial and revolutionary history of the State, and their extremely exposed and perishing condition. These records are worth preservation, as containing authentic information of the action of our fathers in the struggle for national existence.—In the Capital of Pennsylvania, and with the sympathies of her patriotic people, was independence matured and declared. Her soil has been numerous around the standard of the nation, and there were more battle fields on her soil than in the same area elsewhere. Every memorial of those days of devotion and trial should be faithfully preserved.—There exists a single copy in manuscript of the minutes of the Revolutionary Executive Council, a document by far too valuable to remain longer within the reach of accident or mutilation. It would be gratifying to a large body of our constituents if the Assembly would authorize the employment of a competent gentleman to select and arrange for publication these memorials of an interesting epoch in the history of the Commonwealth.

In the early spring the buildings of the Insane Asylum will be ready for the reception of patients. This work of charity, worthy of the best care of the philanthropist, from its admirable construction and healthful location, cannot fail to answer the ends of its benevolent founders. It deserves the fostering care of the Legislature.

In the performance of your duties, attention is most earnestly directed to the revision of the laws in relation to taverns, restaurants, beer houses and ten-pin alleys. It is alleged that in many instances they are made the common resort of the young, the idle, and the worthless, to the great detriment of the moral well being of the rising generation.

The suggestions and recommendations of former messages in reference to the equalization of Tax laws, payment of portions of the public debt overdue, the currency, and public improvements, are again pressed on your attention. The loan authorized at the last session to redeem the over due public debt, has not been negociated.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth is exhibited in the following statements:

Amount of funded debt, including amount in the hands of Commissioners of Sinking Fund, and also special loan to avoid Inclined Plane at the Schuylkill, on the 30th of November, 1850, was $39 863,914 58

Amount of unfunded debt same date, 912,570 64

Total sum of debt, $40,776,485 22

In this gross sum is included the loan to avoid the Plane at the Schuylkill, as above stated—the avoidance of the Plane authorised the sale of that portion of the Columbia Railroad and Viaduct over the Schuylkill, rendered useless by the construction of the new road. A part of the coal and bridge was sold for $243,200, which amount is to be applied as directed by the 18th Section of the Act of 10th April, 1849, towards the permanent improvement, whereby the Plane has been avoided, the use of the public works much facilitated, and an annual saving of thirty one thousand dollars secured to the Treasury, in the disuse of the machinery and labor necessarily connected with the plane, is shown as follows:

Amount of cost of new road, say	$400,000 00
Deduct price of old road sold,	243,000 00

The Sinking Fund operation is exhibited thus:

Amount of funds received during year,	$197,107 74
Amount of stocks purchased during year,	343,622 98
Amount in hands of Commissioners on 30th Nov. 1850,	6,967 60
Whole amount received since commencement of system,	423,832 75
Whole amount of stocks purchased,	459,122 98
Amount of money in hands on 30th Nov. 1850,	6,967 60

FURTHER EXPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Amount of debt on 30th Nov. 1850,	40,776,485 42
Amount of stocks and cash in hands of Commissioners of Sinking Fund	$465,090 58
Deduct amount of special loan—the interest thereof saved in the discontinuance of the Plane,	400,000 00 865,090 58
	$39,910,394 84
Amount of debt on the 30th of November, 1849	$39,593,250 24
Funded,	1,081,396 60
Unfunded,	
Canal, Railroad, and Mooring debts,	
Five per debts returned in 1849 and 1850, being debts contracted prior to Dec. 1, 1846,	975,891 00
Total Indebtedness,	$40,576,538 84
Actual indebtedness, including Inclined Plane Loan, on Nov. 30, 1850, and excluding amount in hands of sinking fund commissioners,	40,310,394 84
Actual decrease of public debt since 30th November, 1849,	$538,265 60

Within the same period, there has been paid from the treasury appropriations, that may be called extraordinary, as follows:

Towards completion of North Branch Canal,	$148,500 00
To avoid Incline Plane,	309,446 02

If these sums, from the payment whereof the Treasury will be relieved by the completion of the improvements above stated, be added to the actual reduction of public debt above exhibited the condition is clear, that at a very early date, an annual appropriation of nearly one million dollars may be made towards the reduction of the public debt.

Annexed is an estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the present, with the estimate of last year, and the actual receipts at the Treasury.

	Estimate for 1850.	Receipts for 1850.	Estimate for 1851.
Lands,	$20,000	$16,378 68	$16,000
Auction com.	22 000	18,673 75	20,000
Auction duties,	50,000	44,895 22	45,000
Tax on bank div'ds,	30,000	151,877 14	160,000
.... corp'n stocks,	160,000	136,510 14	160,000
.... real and personal estate,	1,330,000	1,317,821 55	1,330,000
Licenses, Taverns,	80,000	107,427 49	100,000
.... Retailers,	160,000	171,083 36	175,000
.... Pedlars,	3,000	2,825 05	3,000
.... Brokers,	12,000	10,228 73	11,000
.... Theatres, &c,	3,000	2,384 50	3,500
.... Bill'rd Tms, &c	5,000	3,845 61	4,000
.... Distillery, &c,	1,500	4,203 91	5,000
.... Eat'g hou's &c	15,000	6 530 97	10,000
.... Pat. medicines	3 000	2,633 04	3,000
Pamphlet laws	500	345 50	500
Militia Fines,	2,000	12,953 73	10,000
Tax on Writs,	40,000	45,409 47	45,000
Tax on Officers,	20,000	14.047 24	15,000
On Col Inheritance,	200 000	102,295 07	150,000
Can'l & Ro'd Tolls,	1,825,900	1,213,818 16	1,800,000
Sale of old mat'rls,	5,000	6,953 51	5,000
Enrollm'nt of laws	11,000	10,270 00	12,000
Premium on Charters,	40,000	59,262 21	40,000
Incl'd Plain Loan,	270,000	270,000 00	
Tax on Loans,	125,000	119,256 39	120,000
Dividends on Turnpike stocks,	2,000	2,160 00	2,000
Nicholson lands,	300		
Accrued interest,	5,000	3 674 32	5,000
Refunded cash,	5,000	13,278 61	5,000
Escheats,	2,000		1,000
Fees of Pub. officers,	2,000	3,687 20	4,000
Miscellaneous,	2,000	1240 93	2,000
Interest on stock purchased,	15,000	13,721 27	30,000
Foreign Insurance Agencies,		2,760 83	3,000
	$4,566,300	4,438,131 51	4,296,000

PAYMENTS.

	Estimate for 1850.	Payments for 1850.	Estimate for 1851.
Public Imp'nts	$610,000	1,488,799 74	$800,000
Exp's of Gov't,	235,000	262 899 71	250,000
Militia,	4,000	16,282 25	15,000
Pensions,	20,000	17,277 91	15,000
Charitable Institutions,	80,000	62,207 85	60,000
Common Schools,	200 000	213,758 49	200,000
Interest on loans,	2,005,000	2,004,714 51	2,005,000
Guaranties,	32,500	32 500 00	32,500
Domestic creditors,	10,000	6,3-7 41	10,000
Dem's on pub. works	20,000	23,068 31	25,000
Special Comm'rs	2,000	2,554 03	2,000
State Library	2,000	1,800 00	2,000
Public Buildings,	2,000	2,002 78	10,000
Penitentiaries,	15,000	19,263 70	15,000
House of Refuge,	6,000	6,000 00	6,000
Nicholson Lands,	300	192 75	300
Escheats,	2,000	1,740 53	2,000
Abat'l on State Tax,	40,000	43,525 04	40,000
Counsel fees and Commissioners,	2,000	5,989 15	5,000
Miscellaneous,	5,000	8,180 44	5,000
Sink'g Fund Com'rs	203,000	318,864 03	250,000
Inclined Plane,	270,000		90,000
N. B. Canal,	150,000		250,000
Renewal of Relief Notes			10,000
Expenses of Revenue Commissioners,			2,500
	$4,434,800	4,563,193 75	4,101,300

In the item of expenditure for public improvements is included $148,500 paid to North Branch Canal, and $286,445 02 to avoid Inclined Plane.

In the amounts received from Canal and Railroad tolls and collateral inheritance taxes, the annual receipts of the last year fall short of the estimates.—In making these estimates, it was supposed the suggestion of a former message in relation to the conveyance of passengers on the Columbia Railway would have been favorably regarded. It would believed that a largely increased revenue would attend the adoption of the changes heretofore recommended. That the collateral inheritance tax is inefficiently and carelessly collected in some of the counties, and even when collected, frequently retained in the hands of the officers longer than necessary, is demonstrable by the fact of the great disproportion received at the Treasury from counties of equal population, business, and wealth. A statement of the amounts received from the several counties during the last four years, will exhibit much valuable information on the interesting question of inequality of taxation on the payment of the public debt. All items of taxation applicable to the sinking fund should be required to result in the Treasury, faithfully under the severest penalties.

A reference to the reports of the Attorney General, Auditor General, Surveyor General, and Superintendent of Common Schools, will afford detailed information of the business of their several departments, and furnish views and suggestions of interest to the general weal.

The school system, although still imperfect, is rapidly improving in its general condition, and promises the beneficial results it was designed to accomplish. The education of the people is the great question of the age, and is such, it cannot fail to command your earnest and enlightened efforts for its speedy and ultimate success.

In the competition for trade and travel, no effort for the full repair of canals and railroads of the State should be neglected. The deteriorating condition of many of these works, admonish us that the system of supervision is ineffectual to secure the return of which their construction gave confident assurance. In a system of divided responsibility in the management, the difficulty evidently exists. On a former occasion I was suggested to divide the State into Canal and Railway districts, and allot to each a Canal Commissioner, in whom the entire control shall be given. This project is again recommended, but should it fail to meet your approbation, the proposition of electing a Superintendent, to whom for his whole time and attention, a compensating salary should be paid, and under whose sole control the public works might be placed, is worthy of consideration. All the evils arising from divided counsels and shifting responsibilities would be avoided, and that energy and skill in their management secured, which cannot be expected under the present system. It is alleged this method is a perversion of public works has succeeded well and beneficially in other States.

A commercial connection between Philadelphia and Europe by Steamships—an enterprise fully worthy the favoring regards of the whole commonwealth and the countenance and aid of the national government by the extension of mail facilities—the completion of the great Railway communication now in rapid progress of construction to the navigable waters of the West, the thorough repair of the Cumberland Valley road, and the erection of various lines of Railways in the valley of the Susquehanna, must throw an amount of trade on the Columbia Railroad, which will demand for its transit the entire capacity of that thoroughfare in a condition of perfect repair. Every avenue by which the trade of the West, as well as of Central and Northern Pennsylvania reaches Philadelphia, ought to be opened and kept in such perfect condition as to afford all possible facility to business, for in the growth and welfare of Philadelphia, the entire people should feel a lively interest, as identical with the prosperity of the whole State. While the internal trade is poured into our metropolis, and her local authorities are doing their part to promote her commerce, it is our duty to demand from the General Government some portion of its resources for the security and improvement of the harbor of Delaware. Improvement of the navigable rivers and protection of the harbors of the Ocean and Lakes ought to be no longer delayed.

In this connexion I deem it my duty to call your attention to the pending litigation in relation to the bridge over the Ohio River at Wheeling, erected under the authority of Virginia, which, it is confidently asserted, puts in jeopardy large commercial interests. It has been my care to watch the progress of the controversy, and to direct the proper law officer of the commonwealth, associated with the other distinguished gentleman, who professionally represent the State to protect these interests before the judicial tribunal which has cognizance of the case under the Constitution.

In the various Railway projects now severally terminating at Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, the people of the Commonwealth ought never to lose sight of that other great enterprise, which, known as the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, was meant to connect the Susquehanna, the Delaware, and the Lakes. Besides the command of the trade of the Northern Seas secured by its construction, it would bring into market for sale and settlement, vast bodies of unexamined and unimproved lands, and develope measures of inexhaustible mineral wealth now wholly inaccessible.

The large indebtedness of the State, and the necessity for its reduction, forbid the policy on her part of embarking in these various improvements.

The debt of the Commonwealth was incurred in the erection of works which were largely conducive to the settlement and sale of the domain of the United States and while she has received the part of this common inheritance, other States have been liberally aided in the construction of their internal improvements by donations of public lands. It is a right on her part to demand a portion of these lands to aid in the completion of the important works partially completed and in contemplation.

A system of banking, based upon State stocks, under proper restrictions, is recommended to the Legislature. It is thought that the present banking facilities are unequal to the wants of the business community. The large amount of notes of banks of other States found in circulation among our people, the inability of the banks, with safety to their credit, to accommodate at all times the active business demands of the country, and the large operations in the nature of private banking daily transacted on severe terms to the borrower, demonstrate that increased facilities are demanded to secure a healthy development of our resources.—Any considerable extension of the present system is hardly to be anticipated, nor is it desirable, if a more permanent basis for such operations can be devised. Free banking upon a deposite and pledge of public stocks early recommended itself to favor. It is not liable to sudden expansions and contractions—more secure from failure—less obnoxious to counterfeiting and fraud, and offers unbounded security to the note holder. Should the stock required by the loans of the Commonwealth, it would appreciate their value and also have a tendency to withdraw them from foreign countries, to which are annually sent millions of the public money to pay interest. A recall of these stocks, and the discharge of the interest to the resident citizens, would lead to the expenditure of an equal amount at home, thereby affording employment to the people in the improvement of the State, in the erection of industrial institutions, and in various works of beauty and use. This system is generally regarded, as relinquishment of a portion of the interest on the stocks pledged would be directly advantageous to the Treasury.

The confidence felt in these security, and the desire to use the relief notes, when kept in good condition, justify the belief that an issue of small notes from State institutions, loaded on a deposit of stocks, would be highly acceptable to the people.

A reference to subjects, under the control of the National Government, but long formed part of the annual messages of the State Executives, and the custom has found favor, not only in the consonance with the peculiar relations of the States to the General Government, but in the deep solicitude felt by individual citizens in the action of the latter on questions of pervading and direct interest to all.—From the resolves of their Representatives in the council of the States, the opinions and wishes of the people are often well collected, and hence your action is frequently of great moment. In obedience, therefore, to custom, and in order that the sentiments of our common constituency may have expression either through the Executive Message or the action of their representatives, it is proper to refer to some of those questions of general interest, the disposal of which more especially belongs to the National Government.

A revision and alteration of the Revenue laws, so as to give adequate and permanent protection to the industry of the country, are demanded by the prostrate condition of the mining and manufacturing interests. The propriety of affording full protection to domestic industry, in the enactment of Tariff laws has been so fully discussed, that a mere reference to former views, is all that is deemed necessary at this time. In a late effort to amend the present Tariff, its failure may be fully attributed to the omission of the last Legislature to give expression to the perfectly well understood wishes and expectations of the people. It is confidently hoped no such omission will mark the conduct of the present assembly.

A reduction in the rates of postage and the construction of railway communications to the Pacific, were urged heretofore as worthy of friendly regard. Repetition of the views then presented is unnecessary, as time has only strengthened the conviction of the propriety and usefulness of the proposed measures.

In relation to the extension of slavery, and the duty of faithful observance of her Federal obligations by the Commonwealth, the views expressed in former messages remain unchanged. There is nothing in the enactment in the history of the past, nor in the warnings of the future, to justify the abandonment of the principles sacredly regarded from the foundation of the State, of non-intervention in the domestic policy of other communities, and of permitting no interference with her own.—Fidelity in the discharge of duty has distinguished the Legislature and people, and in all opinion expressed in this behalf, it has been intended only to protect our borders, but such is not the fact. It is conceived in error of our true history. Pennsylvania, her people, and her authorities, always have been loyal to the constitution. They wish neither to be assailed nor assailed. They will not permit it to be resisted.

It has been intimated that on questions connected with the institutions of Slavery, and the rendition of fugitives from labor, there have been indications of a disregard of her Constitutional obligations. To the clause of the Constitution relative to fugitives from labor, and the legislation under it, there ever has been in Pennsylvania, with all her avowed aversion to domestic Slavery, implicit obedience.—With an earnest desire that, by a free interchange of moderate and rational opinions, obedience to the law may be made, not only implicit, but cheerful, it is proper to refer to some of the difficulties in relation to the subject now existing in the public mind.

The clause of the Federal Constitution relative to fugitives from labor involves these propositions: 1. That involuntary service or slavery, may exist in the States of the Union by constitutional recognition. 2. That the escape of the person so held shall not operate as a discharge from such service or labor. 3. That on the claim of the party to whom such labor is due, there must be a rendition of the fugitive.

To interfere by legislative enactment, or otherwise to destroy or, in any way affect the right of property recognized in the first proposition, would be a glaring violation of the clear obligations of the Constitution. No human being can pretend that by this Common Wealth, such an interference has ever been attempted. Whatever may be the feelings of the people in opposition to the further extension of slavery and the consequent increase of anti-republican and sectional representation in the National Legislature, no effort has ever been made to disturb or destroy the vested rights of citizens of other States; and when those rights may be endangered by the escape of a slave beyond the limits of the States, where the relation is acknowledged, our citizens have acted on the principle, that no sympathy with individual suffering might ever to weaken their sense of duty to the plain requirements of the organic law.

In the adjustment of rights and official duties under the last proposition, more difficulty has been found to exist. By whose agency is the fugitive to be given up? What force, is to be given to the word "claim," as used in the Constitution? Is not the delivery of the fugitive to made, only through the agency of the National government? These have been vexed and mooted questions. The final decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in a case to which Pennsylvania was made a party, and the recent fugitive slave law, gave a judicial and legislative interpretation to this clause of the Constitution, which cannot be misapprehended.—The power and duty of enacting laws to carry into effect the Constitutional direction, being failed to be in Congress and in Congress only, and interference on the part of the State authorities is unauthorized and without binding force.

If the Constitution implies a duty to be performed by both National and State Government, and vests each with power over the subject, the framers of that instrument failed to express in clear terms, as in other cases, the obligations of the parties. The latitude of construction required to give such powers to the State legislatures, would authorize the passage of laws, and the enactment of regulations upon every delegated power of the National Government, without regard to the action or non-action of Congress. The General Government is admitted to be one of ascertained powers, but it ceases to be so the moment concurrent jurisdiction vests in State Sovereignties. In the practical workings of the system of concurrent jurisdiction, much evil would arise. Thirty one sovereignties might prescribe different rules of action—each meant to make effective national legislation, and the dangers resulting from conflicting enactments, and the consequent destruction of harmony and order could not fail to alarm the patriot. Whenever power over a subject matter is vested by the Constitution in Congress, and the power has been exercised; the authority of the States has been judicially declared, as above stated, merged and abolished. Think the rule of law as well as that of common sense.

An opinion has been expressed by men of eminent legal learning and patriotism, that legislative action on the part of the States is expedient, to aid in the execution of the powers of the general government. In this opinion I cannot concur. To admit the position would imply an inability on the part of the part of the national government to execute its powers, and would prove destructive of the theory so zealously maintained by our republican fathers, that the National and State governments are independent sovereignties, each acting within its proper constitutional sphere.

It was doubtless a conviction of the soundness of the foregoing views, which induced my predecessor, Gov. Shunk, to sanction the act of the 31 of March, 1847.

The power to act on the subject of the extradition of fugitive slaves being thus vested, solely in the National Government, it is the plain duty of the citizen to submit to its enactments under the Constitution. To act differently would be clearly rebellion to the Government.

If the word, "claim," was intended to express an ascertained right of property in the person of the fugitive vested in the claimant, then much of the difficulty surrounding the question is settled, and the mere claimant for the person of the fugitive fixes his destiny by the terms of the constitution. His extradition would be determined without proof of ownership on the part of the claimant, and without evidence of the identity or flight of the person claimed. If, however, the term used in the constitution, signifies a challenge of the property belonging to the claimant, and withheld from him—and the enactments on the subject of requiring proof of it, to substantiate the claim, and the concurring decision of the supreme Court, affix this meaning to the term, then the question arises, how, and through whom, shall the claim be made, and by what evidence sustained?

In the adoption of the proper remedy to assert this clear right, patriotic citizens may differ, and the privilege to maintain and express that honest diversity of opinion must not be impaired. To surrender it, under violent threats and denunciatory clamor, would be an abandonment of the deeply cherished privilege of liberty of thought and speech. When the enactments of the National Congress fail to convince the people of their justice and propriety, it is their duty to seek their modification an amendment. The recently enacted fugitive slave law, while it remains a subject demands the support of all the citizens, and unless our written constitutions are worthless parchments, until the judiciary declare it otherwise, must be esteemed a constitutional enactment. As in the cases of such, a power as to warrant the public in arming in amendments.

The part of the law which authorizes the creation of a new and irresponsible tribunal under the name of Commissioners, is liable to exception. Waiving the inquiry whether the Judicial power of the United States can be vested anywhere but in regularly organized courts, with the records of forms, there are objections of serious import to the institution of this tribunal. All history shows, that special tribunals clothed with discretionary power over person and property, are liable to abuse, and have been instruments of injustice.

If in these the early days of the Republic, when no reason of urgent State necessity can be invoked, powers of a high judicial nature over the liberty and property of an individual, are to be vested by the establishment of an inferior tribunal, in an irresponsible person, the security of the life, reputation and liberty of the citizen in after-times, when new political or social emergencies may arise, will depend on a most precarious tenure. The courts of the United States, whose Judges have a pride of character, and over whom a controlling influence is exerted by the impeachment clause of the Constitution, should alone be invested with these extraordinary powers. Rather than hazard the chances of illegal decisions, and the consequent irreparable injury of an individual, result so full of danger to the peace and good order of society, the Judicial power of the Nation might wisely be extended.—If it be deemed expedient to deny a trial by Jury, and lodge the adjudication of this right of property in the breast of a single Judge, the kind of proof required should be indicated, and a full record of the entire proceedings be made and preserved.—Process issued should be returned, and the extradition of any colored person, for whose arrest a warrant had issued without hearing had before the Judge, should be visited with the penalties of kidnapping. These modifications of the law, while they could not interfere with the rights of the owners of the fugitive, would greatly tend to satisfy the minds of citizens anxiously desirous to perform their constitutional duties.

One other matter matter connected with our Federal relations, claims your attention. It is the Union of the States, and the dangers which are supposed to threaten it in connection with the question of slavery. Whether slavery be the cause or pretext of infidelity to the Union, and to what precise extent disaffection exists, it is not my purpose to enquire. There was local disloyalty long before slavery became the immediate source of excitement, and there will be local disloyalty long after slavery and the questions connected with it are finally adjusted. But be the cause what it may, it is in vain to deny that the Union of the States is lightly and irreverently talked of in certain quarters, and made the subject of heated discussion by rash and unreflecting men. I cannot believe, however, that any serious design to disrupt and overthrow the Government, exists to any considerable extent in any portion of the country. The American heart revolts at the idea.

What is the National Union? It is the basis of constitutional right, the guarantee of peace, the security of religion, the bulwark of all law and order. It gives the surest pledge of protection to the oppressed children of other lands who coming from scenes of misery and discord, expect here harmony and peaceful refuge. It is literally "a beacon on the top of a mountain and an ensign on a hill" to the lovers of rational liberty throughout the world. It was an emanation of the same pure spirit of conservative freedom, of justice, and of truth, which conceived, controlled and consummated our revolutionary struggle. It is the perfect work of disciplined intelligence and rational patriotism. It is hallowed by the rich memories of the past, and by the consciousness that its founders were the fathers of the Republic. It is sacred, as the sole remaining memorial of the enlightened labors of the best minds of an age, distinguished for its devotion to the cause of human rights, the elevation of man's social condition, the investigation of political truths, and of revolutionary action against the dogmas and fanaticism of tyrannies and tyrants.

The union of the States is the outer and inner wall, which encircles and guards the temple of our independence. The Union alone secures to our commerce protection on every sea, defence to our citizens on every shore, gives us a proud name among the nations of the earth, and ensures to the Republic an enlarged and glorious destiny. Its preservation ratifies the assurance that man is capable of self-government, and that equal rights, equal laws, and equal privileges, are alone the results of democratic institutions. The dissolution of the National Union would be the beginning of civil war, the strife of sections, of scenes of fraternal discord. It would raise the arm of the bondman amidst the horrors of servile war; and the destruction of a race of men alone would terminate the fearful struggle. It would involve contemporaneous States, acting as jealous strangers, in vexatious disputes about rights of navigation, of tribute, of transit. It would destroy the army and the navy, and with them the proud recollections of their early exploits. The trophies of the nation would be dispersed, and the great communion of thought, of sentiment, and of interest, in which, for more than seventy years, we have gloried, would be gone forever.

Deeply impressed with these considerations, and relying most confidently on the entire sympathies of the General Assembly of a State, which has never known an instant's disloyalty to the Union, I solemnly protest against the utterance of rash and ill-advised thoughts on a subject so dear to our constituency, and more earnestly against all deliberations by means of Conventions, or other modes of action, unknown to the Constitution, and having for their object, either the dissolution of the Union, or the discussion of sectional and hazardous questions, for the decision of which the Constitution has made ample provision. Pennsylvania venerates and cherishes the unimpaired institutions of our fathers.

With the fervent prayer that Almighty God will so direct the deliberations of the General Assembly, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations, the suggestions and recommendations contained in this annual message are respectfully submitted for your consideration and action.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, Jan. 7, '51.

PUNCTUALITY.—A committee of eight gentlemen had been appointed to meet at twelve o'clock. Seven of them were punctual; but the eighth came bustling in with apologies for being a quarter of an hour behind the time. "The time," said he, "passed away without my being aware of it." I had no idea of it being so late." A Quaker present, said, "Friend, I am not sure that we should admit thy apology. It were a matter of regret that thou should'st have wasted thine own quarter of an hour, but there are seven besides thyself whose time thou hast also consumed, amounting in the whole to two hours, and one-eighth of it only was thine own property."

CONFIDENCE IN FRIENDS.—Though nothing can justify ill grounded, uncharitable opinions, yet in cases where we have sufficient information, a wide difference is to be made between what we say in a mixed company, and what we disclose to a particular friend, who is virtually under a covenant with us, not to betray our private conversation. For we cannot forbear to communicate our whole soul, without any reserve to him, who is, as it were, a part of our soul. To be always upon our guard, is like being always in armour; it is cumbersome and uneasy: however we may wear it for our self-defence among enemies, or persons whom we do not know to be otherwise; yet among intimate friends, one chooses to put it off, and to be free and disengaged.

EARLY FRUGALITY.—In early childhood you lay the foundation of poverty or riches, in the habits you give your children. Teach them to save every thing—not for their own use, for that would make them selfish—but for some use. Teach them to share every thing with their playmates, but never allow them to destroy any thing.

☞ Industry and economy will get rich, while sagacity and intrigue are laying their plans.

☞ Virtue forgives injury, even as the sandal tree perfumes the hatchet that fell it.