

The Commonwealth Democrat.

"WE JOIN OURSELVES TO NO PARTY THAT DOES NOT CARRY THE FLAG AND KEEP STEP TO THE MUSIC OF THE UNION."

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senate and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with that provision of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which makes it the duty of the Governor, from time to time, to give to the General Assembly information of the State of the Commonwealth, I am happy, on this occasion, again to congratulate the representatives of the people upon the highly favorable condition of the finances of the State.

The receipts of the State Treasury, from all sources, for the year ending on the 30th of November, 1859, were \$3,326,350 14, to which add balance in Treasury, December 1st, 1858, \$892,027 78, and it will be seen that the whole sum available for the year, was \$4,218,377 90. The expenditures, for all purposes, during the same period, were \$3,879,054 81. Leaving an available balance in the Treasury, on the 1st day of December, 1859, of \$339,323 09. Included in the expenditures for the fiscal year, are the following items, viz: Loans redeemed, \$840,302 30; Relief notes cancelled, 4,137 00; Interest-certificate paid, 4,844 40.

Making the public debt actually paid, during the year, the sum of \$849,282, 60. The funded and unfunded debt of the Commonwealth, on the 1st day of December, 1859, was as follows:

FUNDED DEBT.	
6 per cent. loans	\$145,180 00
5 do. do.	38,420,905 67
4 do. do.	398,200 00
4 do. do.	160,000 00
Total funded debt	\$38,514,385 67

UNFUNDED DEBT.	
Relief notes in circulation	\$101,213 00
Int. certificates outstanding	18,512 82
do. unclaimed	4,488 98
Domestic creditors	802 50
Total unfunded debt	\$124,817 30

Making the public debt on the first day of December last, \$38,639,202 97.

Since the close of the fiscal year, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have redeemed of the five per cent. loans, the sum of \$160,000, leaving the real debt of the Commonwealth, at this time, funded and unfunded, \$38,479,202 97. It is to be deducted from this sum the amount of bonds received by the State, for the sale of her public works, and now held by her, as follows: Bonds of Pennsylvania Railroad Company, \$7,300,000 00; Bonds of Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, 3,500,000 00; Bonds of Wyoming Canal Company, 281,000 00.

Total, \$11,081,000 00 we have \$27,398,202 97, the remaining debt of the Commonwealth, the principal and interest to be provided for, from the ordinary sources of revenue.

It will be observed, that from the 1st day of December, 1858, to the 1st day of December, 1859, a period of thirteen months, besides all the ordinary demands upon the Treasury, there has been actually paid, on the principal of the public debt, \$1,009,282 60.

When it is remembered, that during this period, the law reducing the State tax upon real and personal estate, from three to two and a half mills, has been in full force, and that nothing for the past year has been received from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, on account of tax on tonnage, making the receipts, from these two sources of revenue, less by four hundred thousand dollars, than they were for the preceding year, it is a source of congratulation, that, under such circumstances, a result so favorable has been produced by the ordinary operations of the Treasury.

For nearly two years past, the State has been entirely free from the ownership or management of canals and railroads, and the gratifying result, thus far, is that her public debt is now less than it has been since the year 1842, and is decreasing at the rate of nearly one million of dollars annually. It is now morally certain, that nothing but the most judicious management of the financial interests of the State, can prevent its sure and speedy extinguishment. Why should not Pennsylvania press onward until she is entirely free from debt? She is no longer engaged in the construction of great works of internal improvement, nor in the management of railroads and canals. Relieved of these, governmental action is greatly simplified, and is now happily limited to subjects of a purely governmental character. Having ceased to be interested in ordinary business pursuits, it is a plain duty to devote her best energies to relieving her people from the burden of an enormous debt. When this great result shall have been accomplished, the necessary expenditures of an economical administration of the government, can be readily met without the imposition of a State tax on real or personal estate—the remaining sources of revenue being more than sufficient for all legitimate purposes. Until that end, so anxiously looked to, is secured, true wisdom, as well as sound policy, dictates, that our resources should be carefully husbanded—that none of our present sources of revenue should be cut off, or diminished—that all departments of government should consult a proper economy—that all extravagant and unnecessary appropriations should be avoided—and that every new scheme for embarrassing the Treasury should meet with marked condemnation.

Encouraging, as are the results of the past two years, it must not be forgotten, that we have but just commenced the payment of the principal of our debt; and that to prevent a misapplication of the public finances, and thereby insure a continuance of its reduction, from year to year, is manifestly the first duty of those placed by the Constitution in charge of the Public Treasury, and to whom belongs the exclusive right, and to whom belongs the exclusive right, of appropriating the public revenues. I earnestly commend this whole subject to the careful attention of the Legislature—entirely satisfied, that, as it is the most vital of all the interests committed to the charge of the General Assembly, it will receive that consideration which its importance so eminently demands.

In my last Annual Message I communicated to the General Assembly all that, up to

that period, had been done under the act, entitled "An Act for the sale of the State Canal," approved April 21st, 1858. Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, satisfactory evidence having been given to me, of the compliance of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, with the conditions mentioned in the third section of the act referred to, the State Treasurer, under my direction, has delivered to the Company, the Canal bonds for two millions of dollars, deposited in the Treasury under the provisions of the said act.

The railroad company has also become entitled to, and has received, one million of dollars, of the mortgage bonds referred to in the sixth section of the same act; leaving mortgage bonds amounting to two and half millions of dollars, still remaining in the Treasury of the Commonwealth, to be delivered to the company, from time to time, *part passu*, with the progress of the work, as ascertained by the returns and estimates of the chief engineer, of the said company. When the bonds, last mentioned, shall have been surrendered to the company, as directed by law, the State will still hold, as absolute owner, three and a half millions of dollars of the mortgage bonds of the company, payable in the year 1872, and in the six succeeding years as mentioned in the act of Assembly, with interest, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, on the thirty-first days of January and July of each year. Interested, as the Commonwealth is in the early completion of this important thoroughfare, it affords me great pleasure to be able to inform the General Assembly, that the progress of the work, for the past year, has been highly satisfactory.

The Eastern division of the road, extending from Sunbury, in the county of Northumberland, to Whelan, in the county of Clinton, a distance of eighty-one miles, is finished; passenger and freight trains passing over it daily. The Western division, extending from the city of Erie to the borough of Warren, in Warren county, a distance of sixty-six miles, is also completed, with regular passenger and freight trains running over it daily. One hundred and forty-seven miles of rail road, along the first of the route, that have already been brought into practical operation—one hundred and seven miles of which, exclusive of sidings, were finished during the past year. On the intermediate portion of the line, between the borough of Warren and Whelan station, a distance of one hundred and forty miles, fifty-five and a half miles are graded, leaving but forty-four and a half miles yet to be graded, to place the whole of the unfinished portion of the road in a position to receive the superstructure. If no untoward event shall delay its vigorous prosecution, another year will not pass before the entire line of the road will be finished and in use, affording a direct and continuous communication by railroad from the city of Philadelphia to the City of Erie.

By the twenty-second section of the act approved the 13th day of April, 1846, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Pennsylvania Railroad Company," it is provided "that all tonnage, of whatsoever kind or description, except the ordinary baggage of passengers, loaded or received at Harrisburg or Pottsville, or at any intermediate point, and carried, or conveyed, on or over, said railroad, more than twenty miles, between the 10th day of March and the 1st day of December, in each and every year, shall be subject to a toll or duty, for the use of the Commonwealth at the rate of five mills, per mile, for each ton of two thousand pounds; and it shall be the duty of said Company, between the 20th and 30th days of July, in each and every year, to file with the Auditor General, a true and correct statement, exhibiting the amount of said tonnage, so loaded or received, and the distance so carried, and covered, during the respective periods intervening between the said 10th day of March, and the 20th day of July, and between the said 20th day of July and the 1st day of December, in each and every year; and said statement shall be verified by oath or affirmation of the receiving or forwarding agent or agents, or other proper officer or officers of said Company, having knowledge of the premises; and at the time of filing said statement, or on or before the said 20th day of July, and the 10th day of December, in each and every year, the said company shall pay to the State Treasurer, the amount of said toll or duty, so accruing, for the use of the Commonwealth, during the respective intervening periods as aforesaid." And in a supplement to the act just referred to, passed on the same day, it is further provided, "that in any case the said company shall, at any time fail to pay the toll or charge on tonnage, which may accrue or become due to the Commonwealth, under the provisions of said act, the same shall be and remain a lien on the property of the said company, and shall have precedence over all other liens or incumbrances thereon, until paid."

By the act of the 29th of March, 1848, the tax on tonnage of 5 mills per ton per mile, from the 10th of March to the 1st of December, was commuted to a tax of 3 mills per ton per mile, during the whole year. Subsequently, by the act of the 7th of May, 1855, lumber and coal were made exempt from the tonnage tax.

In pursuance of the provisions of the several acts referred to, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth, the following sums, viz:

For year ending Nov. 30 1851,	\$7,521 93
do do 1852,	16,880 49
do do 1853,	65,328 29
do do 1854,	112,880 50
do do 1855,	129,230 56
do do 1856,	226,018 51
do do 1857,	179,282 75
do do 1858,	222,263 02

Since July, 1858, the railroad company has refused to pay this tax, and consequently there is now due from said company, on that account, exclusive of interest, the sum of \$350,405.

On the 31st of February, 1859, an account was settled by the Auditor General, against the company, for the tax on tonnage, from the 1st day of July to the 30th day of November, 1858, amounting to the sum of \$7,375 82. From this settlement, the company, on the 19th day of April, took an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County, and in the specifications of objections which were filed, it was averred that the tax was unconstitutional, and an

opinion to that effect, signed by eminent counsel, was filed in the office of the Auditor General at the time the appeal was entered. In August last the cause was tried, and after a full investigation and argument, the constitutionality of the law imposing the tax was affirmed by the Court, and a verdict and judgment rendered in favor of the Commonwealth, for the amount claimed, with interest. The appeal since been removed, by a writ of error to the Supreme Court of the State, and will probably be heard and determined, by that tribunal, in the course of the present winter.

On the 25th day of August last another account was settled against the company, for the tax on tonnage, from the 30th of November, 1858, to the 20th of July, 1859, amounting to the sum of \$159,361 68, from which an appeal has also been taken by the railroad company, and which will probably be tried during the present month.

As this question largely affects the revenues of the Commonwealth, and as the principle involved is one of the first importance, I have deemed it a duty to lay before the General Assembly, somewhat in detail, the history of the tax, and the present condition of the legal controversy growing out of its imposition and enforcement. It will be observed that the power of the State to grant charters and rights and corporate privileges to a railroad company, upon the condition that it shall pay to the Commonwealth a portion of its earnings in the shape of a fixed tax on the freight carried over the road, is questioned by the company, and this, too, after the fact has taken effect, and while the corporation is in full enjoyment of all the benefits conferred upon it by its charter. The question is true is a legal one, and its decision, therefore, rests with the judicial department of the government, but I have not the slightest doubt, that the decision, when had, will entirely vindicate the right of the government to impose the tax, and to compel corporations of its own creation, to obey the law from which they derive their existence.

When it is remembered that the tax was originally imposed, in order to identify the State, to some extent, for losses which she was sure to incur, in a competition which was inevitable, between the State and her main line of public works, and that this competition did, not only seriously affect the revenues of the Commonwealth, derived from her public improvements, but ultimately induced the sale of the main line to the railroad company itself, at a price many millions of dollars below its value, it is certainly not to be presumed that the Commonwealth will willingly yield her demand for revenue from this source, until she is fully indemnified for the pecuniary injury sustained in the depreciation of her own property, by her liberality extended to the company which voluntarily entered into, upon a consideration entirely adequate.

The annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, with the tables and documents accompanying it, will exhibit the condition of the vast engine of social improvement to which it relates. The number of pupils in all the public schools in the State, is 634,631; of schools, 11,455; and of teachers, 14,071. The schools have been in operation on an average over the whole State, five months and nine days. The average salary of male teachers, is 24 38, and of female teachers, \$17 70, and the cost of instruction, per pupil, fifty-three cents per month. The average pay for tuition, &c., is about five and a half cents, and for building purposes, about three and one-half cents. The population of the city of Philadelphia, the city of the State, is 204,741; the building expenses, \$531,413 85; and the whole expense of the system, in the State, for the year, \$2,579,075 77.

Though the school year ending on the first Monday of June last, was one of unusual difficulty in money affairs, yet the system managed to encounter attention to the same, and an encouraging activity in all its departments, while the rate of taxation, both for tuition and building, would appear, from the official report, to have somewhat decreased. But, it is by a contrast of the present condition of the system, with that of 1854 when the agencies now acting so beneficially were created, that results are most plainly to be seen. Within that period, the whole number of pupils had been increased, nearly one-fourth of teachers, one-third of the number of female teachers, and the others which the official report will exhibit, utterly pointing to the duty, as well as necessity, of the almost exact attention to the present condition and further requirements of our school system, in the Annual Message of last year. It is not, therefore, necessary, to repeat the suggestions and conclusions then presented. They are again, however, commended to your favorable consideration; and the present and experience of the intervening period, having increased the conviction of their propriety.

This is especially the case, in regard to the plan devised by the act of 20th of May, 1857, for the due training of teachers for the common schools of the State. A full supply of competent teachers is admitted by all, to be the great need of the system, and the first want to be provided for. It is, therefore, in every quarter, to set on foot, and to maintain, a system of training, that will produce a more efficient body of teachers, than the present system, for professional improvement, encouraged and sustained by all who duly estimate the value and influence of the great need of the system, and the first want to be provided for. It is, therefore, in every quarter, to set on foot, and to maintain, a system of training, that will produce a more efficient body of teachers, than the present system, for professional improvement, encouraged and sustained by all who duly estimate the value and influence of the great need of the system, and the first want to be provided for.

In the Second Normal District, composed of the counties of Lancaster, York, and Lebanon, an institution, up to the full requirements of the law of 1857, has been established, and its progress, and its establishment, is now in a successful operation as a State Normal School.

For its details, the Legislature is respectfully referred to the annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools; but I would do proper attention—under the careful supervision of the present Librarian, it has, since he had the charge of it, nearly doubled its number of volumes, and now contains in all 22,000 volumes—the largest State Library in the Union, with the single exception of that of the State of New York. The collection of law books, and especially law reports, is considered by those competent to judge, among the best in the country. The Library, from its intrinsic value and importance, and its historic relations, deserves, and I trust it will receive, the continued liberality of the late Legislature.

In my inaugural address, as well as in my last annual message, I expressed the opinion that our present banking system was extremely defective, and that, unless it was radically changed, I should consider it an imperative duty to withhold the Executive approval from all bills creating new banks. Without again giving in detail the reasons which influenced my action on this question, or repeating the suggestions and recommendations heretofore made to the Legislature, it is proper to remark at this time, that my convictions have been confirmed by time and reflection—that my opinions remain unchanged, and that I cannot approve of any increase of banking corporations under existing laws. If corporate privileges for banking purposes are needed, to accommodate the business wants of any section of the State, it is proper that such institutions should be compelled to protect the community receiving its circulation, by requiring that ample security shall be given for the prompt redemption of its notes, the sufficiency of which no act of the corporation could impair. All experience in this State and elsewhere has demonstrated that the present system affords little or no protection to the community, and that the integrity of the officers controlling the management of the several banks, for a full exposition of my views on this question, I respectfully call the attention of the General Assembly to my last annual message.

The report of the Governor General, the Adjutant General, and the Attorney General, will be laid before you, and will show, in detail, the operations of their respective departments for the past year. Deeply impressed with the belief that the present mode of receiving, keeping and disbursing the public revenues, is entirely unsatisfactory, and inadequate to the complete protection of the interests of the Commonwealth involved, I again respectfully, though earnestly, invoke legislative action on this highly important subject. The receipts and disbursements of the Treasury are each, annually, from three to four millions of dollars. At times there is on hand a balance exceeding one million of dollars. The State Treasurer is held in security to the Commonwealth, in the sum of only eighty thousand dollars. He deposits this money of the State, when and where he pleases, and it is paid out upon his own check exclusively. His accounts are settled by the Auditor General, once a month, and this is apparently, the only safeguard provided by law to prevent the illegal use of the public funds while under the control of the State Treasurer. That the Treasury of the Commonwealth has hitherto escaped from disastrous defalcation, is owing to the integrity of the officer, and not to the efficiency of the law; and while our main reliance, in the future, must be on the honesty of the officers to whom the department is entrusted, it is nevertheless the duty of the government, by proper legislative enactments, to prevent, as far as possible, the illegal, improper or fraudulent use of the funds of the State, by a faithful and disinterested agent. I respectfully recommend, that provision be made by law that no money shall be deposited in any bank or elsewhere, by the State Treasurer, without first requiring security to be given to the Commonwealth, for the prompt payment of the sums deposited. That all checks, issued by the State Treasurer, shall be countersigned by the Auditor General, before they are used—and that daily account of the moneys received, deposited and disbursed, shall be kept in the office of the Auditor General, as well as in the Treasury Department; and that weekly statements, transmitted to the Auditor General, shall be placed in the hands of the Auditor General, and that all checks, issued by the State Treasurer, shall be countersigned by the Auditor General, before they are used—and that daily account of the moneys received, deposited and disbursed, shall be kept in the office of the Auditor General, as well as in the Treasury Department; and that weekly statements, transmitted to the Auditor General, shall be placed in the hands of the Auditor General.

The increasing ease and soundness of our financial condition, will, at no remote period, justify an addition to the common school appropria-tion. The present policy of the State, has been that each district shall raise within itself the main support of its own schools;—but, as an annual, distributable amount among them all, in proportion to population, has also been a part of that policy. The object of this State grant seems to be twofold: First—It is a means of securing regularity in the payment of the salaries of the several districts, so that the Department of Common Schools shall have the requisite information for the due discharge of its functions: And second—It lightens, in some degree, the burden of local taxation, to the relief of the poorer and more sparsely populated districts. An increase of the annual appropriation would enhance both these objects, and, whenever the finances of the government will justify it, commends itself to the favorable consideration of the Legislature.

The aid which the Legislature has hitherto extended to the establishment of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, strongly evinces their high appreciation of the advantages which it is anticipated will grow out of that institution. While it must be admitted that knowledge is as essential to the art of farming as it is to the other employments of life, it cannot be too deeply impressed upon a community so pre-eminently agricultural as we are, should have all the advantages of an education which combines in itself, as well the knowledge of the practical art of agriculture, as scientific acquirements in all those branches of learning which are especially applicable to its profitable pursuit. The agricultural life is not only taught, it is now being taught, in a manner which has been successful operation during the past year; having under its charge one hundred and thirty boys, who are carefully instructed in all those branches of science which are necessary to the practical operations of the farm—fitting them to return to rural life, and to infuse throughout the State an amount and kind of knowledge which will ultimately produce a more beneficial influence upon this most cherished branch of industry. The practical workings of the school for the past year, have impressed the trustees who have the honor to manage it, with the highest hopes of its complete success. The great interest which is everywhere felt throughout the Commonwealth, in the further extension and progress of the institution, commends it to our care and protection.

The State Librarian will report to you the completion of the descriptive and classified catalogue of the books in the State Library, authorized by the act of the 16th of April, 1858—a work from the details of which embraces much labor, but which will greatly facilitate the use of the Library. It will be seen, from his report, that the origin of the Library dates far back in the history of the Provincial government, and that it received the fostering

care of the Commonwealth during the period of the Revolution. It is gratifying that, notwithstanding the waste to which it has been subjected in past years, owing to the want of proper attention—under the careful supervision of the present Librarian, it has, since he had the charge of it, nearly doubled its number of volumes, and now contains in all 22,000 volumes—the largest State Library in the Union, with the single exception of that of the State of New York. The collection of law books, and especially law reports, is considered by those competent to judge, among the best in the country. The Library, from its intrinsic value and importance, and its historic relations, deserves, and I trust it will receive, the continued liberality of the late Legislature.

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care of the colony, as well as those of the State, preceding the adoption of the Constitution of 1790, are now of easy access to the public, and in a condition which renders their entire destruction impossible. I recommend that a suitable sum be paid, by the Commonwealth, to the editor of the "Records and Archives," for the work performed by him since the discontinuance of his salary.

I have so repeatedly presented my views to the Legislature of the evils arising from local and class legislation, that it is not necessary again to repeat them. I desire, however, to call the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that we have on our statute books general laws providing for the incorporation of railroad, turnpike, bridge, plank road, gas, water, insurance and other similar companies, and that all corporate powers granted by the Legislature to such companies should be under these general laws, that there may be uniformity in the provisions of similar associations, and that the time of the General Assembly may not be occupied in passing bills of great length when a simple reference to the details of the general laws would answer every purpose.

The practice of sending to the Executive a large number of bills immediately preceding the final adjournment of the General Assembly, is highly objectionable, and ought, as far as practicable, to be discontinued. It necessarily consequences is either to compel the Executive to approve bills which he has not fully examined, to sign them after the final adjournment, or, if he disapproves them, to return them to the next General Assembly with his objections. Thus imposing upon a succeeding Legislature the final disposition of bills, with the origin and passage of which it has no connection. To illustrate the evils resulting from this practice, it is only necessary to inform you that of the large number of bills presented for my approval, within a day or two of the adjournment of the last Legislature, I am constrained, by a sense of duty, to return with my objections, twenty-three to the present Legislature for reconsideration.

It is apparent from the exhibit of the financial condition of the General Government, recently made public, that the wants of the Federal Treasury will demand a revision of the existing tariff laws of the United States, with a view to an increase of the revenue derivable from imports. When this revision shall take place, it is greatly to be desired, that a proper regard for the industrial interests of the country will prompt the Congress of the United States, to place her revenue laws upon such a basis, as to afford to our great mining and manufacturing interests, the largest incidental protection. To substitute specific for *ad valorem* duties, on a certain class of articles which from their nature are of equal or nearly equal value—or to change the foreign to a home valuation—with a moderate increase of the rates now imposed, would, I am satisfied, infuse new life and vigor into all the various departments of industry, and, at the same time, without imposing burden upon the people, afford to the General Government a revenue amply sufficient for all its wants.

The early admission of the Territory of Kansas as one of the sovereign States of the Union, under a Constitution legally enacted, and fully and fairly ratified by the direct vote of the people of the Territory, will remove from the National Legislature a subject which has hitherto, in no considerable degree, attracted the attention of the Nation, and which, from the nature and extent of the discussions in Congress, has been productive of much excitement and division between the various sections of our common country. The Territory, having finally prevailed, in the full, free and fair adoption of the fundamental law of the Territory, according to the wishes of the people, this vexed and dangerous question, in that Territory, may now be considered as satisfactorily and perpetually settled.

Copies of the correspondence between the Governor of Virginia and the Governor of Pennsylvania, on the subject of the recent outrage at Harper's Ferry, are herewith transmitted to the Legislature. The latter address, issued by the Governor of Virginia to the Governor of Pennsylvania was misstated in Harrisburg, Virginia, and hence was not received until the first day of December, one day before the execution of John Brown; and therefore, it was impossible for the Governor of Pennsylvania, in time to reach the Governor of Virginia before the execution. The answer was consequently sent by telegraph, which will secure for its brevity and sententious character.

The recent seizure of the public property of the United States, at Harper's Ferry, and the invasion of the State of Virginia, by a small band of desperadoes, with an intention to incite the slave population to insurrection, have drawn attention to the dangers which beset our federal relations. It is a source of satisfaction to know that the authorities of Virginia possessed the means and the determination to punish offenders, with promptness and justice. That the military force of the United States was a power, immediately available to aid in putting down the outbreak against the public peace—that the slave population were contented with their condition, and unwilling to unite with disorderly whites, in acts of treason and murder; and that the great masses of the people have no sympathy, whatever, with any attack upon the rights and institutions of any of the States, and have a deep and abiding devotion to our great and glorious Union. To us, as Pennsylvanians, it is gratifying to believe, that the citizens of this Commonwealth have not, in any manner, participated in this unlawful proceeding, and to know that when some of the guilty perpetrators were arrested within our jurisdiction, they were promptly tried, and the justice of the offended and injured State.

The several States of this Union are independent sovereignties, except so far as they have granted certain enumerated powers to the Federal Government. In cases not provided for in the Federal Constitution, the several States, in their relations to each other, ought to be governed by the principles which regulate the conduct of civilized nations. These principles forbid, in all nations, every evil practice tending to excite disturbance in another State; and are founded on the maxim, that "different nations ought, in time of peace, to do one another all the good they can, without prejudicing their real interests." This maxim, recognized by all civilized governments, applies with peculiar force to the several States of this Union, bound together, as they are, by a sacred compact, for mutual

support and protection; and, therefore, any attempt in one State to excite insurrection in another, is an offence against all the States, because all are bound by the Constitution, to put down such disturbances; and the act of Congress authorizing the President of the United States to call out the militia of the several States for the purpose, is a high offence against the peace of our Commonwealth, for disorderly persons within our jurisdiction, to combine together for the purpose of stirring up insurrection in any of the States, or to induce the slaves in the Southern States to abandon their masters; and it would be proper, in my judgment, for the General Assembly to consider whether additional legislation may not be necessary to insure the prompt punishment of such offenders against our peace and security.

In determining our relative duties towards our sister States, the morality of servitude is an open question, for we are bound by the legal and moral obligations of the compact of the Union, under which we have brought into existence, and preserved as independent States, as well as by the principles of international law, to respect the institutions which the laws of the several States recognize, and in no other way can we faithfully fulfill our obligations, as members of the Confederacy.

While I entertain no doubts that the great Republican sentiment on this continent, so happily commenced, and carried forward to its present exalted position, in the eyes of the world, will continue, under the Providence of God, to be successful to the latest generations, it is the part of wisdom and patriotism to be vigilant and ready, and to carefully guard a treasure so precious. Let moderate counsels prevail—let a spirit of harmony and good will, and a national fraternal sentiment be cultivated among the people, everywhere—North and South—and the disturbing elements which temporarily threaten our Union, will now, as they have always heretofore, assuredly pass away.

Pennsylvania, in the past, has performed her part with unflinching firmness—let her now, and in the future, be ever ready to discharge her confederate duties with unflinching integrity. Then will her proud position entitle her, boldly and effectually, to rebuke and avert an crushing treason, whether it shall arise first in the South, or in the guise of a fraternal and irrepressible conflict between the North and the South; or assume the equally reprehensible form of nullification, secession, and a dissolution of the Union. Her geographical position, stretching from the bay of Delaware to the lakes—her three million of conservative population—entitles her to say, with emphasis, to the plotters of treason on either hand, that neither shall be permitted to succeed—that it is not in the power of either to disturb the perpetuity of this Union, cemented and sanctified as it is, by the blood of our patriotic fathers; that, at every sacrifice, and at every hazard, the constitutional rights of the people and the States shall be maintained—equal and exact justice shall be done to the North and to the South—and these States shall be forever united.

As, as a people have great reason to acknowledge the Providence of God, who rules over the nations of the earth. Under His guardianship, liberties so signally enjoyed, we feel an unabated confidence in the permanence of our free government, and look forward, with cheerful hope, to a future glorious destiny. In the blessings that have crowned our own Commonwealth the past year—in the success that has accompanied all our industrial pursuits; in the steady advance of our educational institutions; in the peace and order of our domestic homes; in all that can adorn and exalt the life of a happy and happy nation; we recognize the hand of the Great Giver of all Good.

WM. F. PACKER.

Correspondence between the Governor of Virginia and the Governor of Pennsylvania, referred to in the foregoing Message.

[Governor Wise to Governor Packard.]

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 25th, 1859.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania:—I respectfully send to you the information contained in a letter to the President of the United States, and which is enclosed a copy. I submit it to you in the confidence that you will faithfully co-operate with the authorities of this State in preserving the peace of our confederate borders. Necessity may compel us to pursue invaders of our jurisdiction into your; if so, you may be assured that it will be done with no disrespect to the sovereignty of your State. But this State expects the confederate duty to be observed of guarding your territory from becoming dangerous to our peace and safety by affording places of depot and rendezvous to lawless desperadoes who may seek to war upon our people.

With the highest respect,
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY A. WISE.

[Governor Wise to Jas. Buchanan, President of the United States.]

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 25th, 1859.

To His Excellency, James Buchanan, President of the United States:—