are, in my opinion, the legitimate fruits of our system of special and omnibus legislation. In deed, the truth of these propositions is too palpable to admit of argument. It is manifested in every year's experience, and in some instances the government, as a consequence, has been forced into the humiliating position of becoming a litigant against her own creatures. Its demoralising influence is marked and admitted on all hands, and imperiously demands an efficient remedy. That the present General Assembly may be distinguished and blessed for applying the axe at the root of the evil, and marking the era of its final determination, is my sincere hope.

A prolific source of mischief consists in the practice of passing a number of laws, entirely dissimilar in their characteristics, in the same bill, or in what is familiarly known as the "Omnibus System." The inevitable, and indeed the frequently lamented effect of this mode of legislation, has been to facilitate the passage of bills through the General Assembly, and to secure the sanction of the Executive without that critical examination so indispensable to a clear comprehension of their true import. In illustration of the difficulties which the practice imposes upon this branch of the government, it is only necessary to state, that within two days preceding the final adjournment of the last Legislature, no less than one hundred and six bills were presented for Executive consideration, containing three hundred and thirty-four different subjects. Some of these bills contained as many as twenty dissimilar items of legislation; and of these, same were not even indicated by the transcribed title.

In addition to the difficulty of comprehending the import of such a heterogeneous mass of matter, the Executive frequently finds himself forced into the dilemma of signing a law which his judgment rejects, or returning another which he really approves. Neither alternative, you will agree with me, is in strict accordance with the mandates of the Constitution. Great inconvenience also results to the people, under this system, in the payment of the enrollment tax upon private laws. In bills such as I have already described, may be found a number of items, some taxable, and others not, and the bill must be enrolled under the proper number, and the tax, will, in my opinion, reach every imaginable case. Its provisions should not be infringed, for the subject belongs most legitimately to the courts.

I can see no reason why the power to designate election houses should not be confided to the commissioners of the several counties. These officers are usually familiar with the localities, and can readily determine what arrangement would best subserve the convenience of the electors. In addition to the fact, which will not be disputed, that this business receives but partial consideration in the Legislature, it is objectionable, because of the great space it annually occupies in the journals and laws. I am aware, however, that it has been suggested that the laws of the United States provide that the places for holding the elections for Members of Congress shall be fixed by the Legislature of the several States, and that, therefore, the end in view cannot be attained. In answer to this objection, it may be remarked, that the Legislature having in other instances delegated doubtful powers, such as the right to make paper money, it is scarcely necessary to raise the question of the right to delegate a function so expressly conferred.

A large number of the laws of the last session consist of special acts to incorporate companies to construct plank roads. This object, right and proper in itself, might, it seems to me, be reached by a general law, authorising the association of any number of citizens to construct these highways on proper conditions.

In former communications I have held the doctrine, that but little legislation of any kind was essential to the ends of mere business enterprise; to promote objects understood by all, and within the reach of moderate means; and that most certainly, whatever might be deemed expedient should be general in its character. That the Legislature had no moral right to grant special advantages to one citizen and deny them to another; and I have declined to approve any act on this subject, where the corporators were not made liable in their individual estates for the debts of the corporation.

No clearer evidence, it seems to me, can be furnished to show that much of this special legislation is sought and is valuable only because it is special, that is found in its ownlibitory. It will be remembered by many of you, that during the administration of Governor Shunk, numerous applications were made for special acts to incorporate manufacturing companies, and that the Governor refused to give his assent to their passage. In 1849, a general law to encourage manufacturing, liberal in its provisions, was adopted, and you will be astonished to learn that at this time there are not a dozen companies in existence under it During the sessions of 1852 and 1853, much time was consumed in the consideration of special acts to incorporate mining companies. Near the close of the last session, a general law on the subject, applicable to all the counties in the State except six, was passed, and although this law is as favorable in its terms as the special acts solicited, but a single application has been made under it for mining purposes; and even in this instance operations have not been commenced These are significant facts, and in my opinion will fully justify the rejection of all special acts on the subject in the future. I can see no reason why this general law should not be extended to the balance of the State if the people desire to have it; but no special act to organize companies within the counties not included in the general law, can receive my approval and such as are now in my possession of this character, will be returned without the Executive sanction.

At the date of my last annual message, proceedings were pending in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, to test the right of the Franklin canal company to construct a railroad from the city of Erie to the Ohio State line. The decision of the Court was against the company on the main point, and the opinion of Chief Justice Black shows most clearly that the construction of their road was without authority of law, but the preliminary injunction prayed for by the complainant was refused, on the ground that the Commonwealth could not, under the law, give security for costs. The effect of this decision was to place the privileges claimed by the company within the control of the Legislature. In anticipation of this result, I had suggested to the General Assembly the propriety of taking charge of these valuable rights, and so far as might be practicable, without the exercise of an illiberal principle, render this important link of communication, between the sea-board and the great west, subservient to the interests of the People of Pennsylvania. The subject was considered but not finally disposed of

In May last I received a communication from the president of the company, covering the proceedings of a meeting of the board of directors, in which, after allusion to the action of the Supreme Court and the Legislature, a number of propositions were submitted, indicating the willingness of the company to pay certain rates of taxation for the unrestrained use of the road, until after the coming session of the Legislature, or until that branch of government should act on the subject. Believing that I had no right to make conditions with the company, or even to receive the money which they were willing to pay, I declined to entertain the proposition.— The relations of the company towards the State, therefore, have undergone no change since the adjournment of the last Legislature, except that the Attorney General has recently taken measures to obtain a final decree in the plea for an injunction, and by writ of *quo warranto* to revoke the franchises claimed by the company.

Recent occurrences at the city of Erie evince an intensity of feeling amongst the people, seldom equaled on a question of this kind, indicating not only the propriety. but necessity, for prompt and decisive legislative action, as to the rights of this company.

It must be clear to the impartial observer, that the Legislature never intended, by any previous act, to authorize the construction of a railroad between the city of Erie and the Ohio line. Indeed, the highest judicial tribunal in the State has expressed the opinion, that no such authority can be found in the charter of the Franklin canal company; and, in my opinion, the grant should hereafter be made on such conditions only, as will protect and advance the interests of the people of Pennsylvania, so far as they may be involved in the subject. It so happens that Pennsylvania holds the key to this important link of connexion between the East and the West, and I most unhesitatingly say, that where no principle of amity or commerce is to be violated, it is the right and the duty of the State to turn her natural advantages to the promotion of the views and welfare of her own people.

It may be said that a restriction that would require a break of railroad gauge at the harbor of Erie, would be the use of an illiberal principle. The answer is, that the necessity for a break of gauge between the Ohio line and the seaboard exists, as a consequence of a difference in the width of the New York and Ohio roads. The only question to settle, therefore, relates to the point at which it should occur. I have been able to discover no reasons, founded in public policy, why the break should be fixed at Buffalo, that do not apply with equal force in favor of Erie. Tonnage and passengers can be as well transhipped at the latter, as at the former city.

So far as concerns the benefits to either city, incident to a transhipment, the idea is unworthy of notice. But the effects of a break of gauge, and consequent transhipment east of Erie, upon the business of that harbor, must be paralyzing, if not fatal. It would virtually require shipments to be made either at Cleveland or Buffalo. Scarcely less embarrassing would be this arrangement upon the interest of the Sunbury and Erie road, or any other avenue that may hereafter connect the lakes with the city of Philadelphia.

It may be that neighboring States, possessing similar natural advantages, would give them away for our benefit, but I have not been able to discover any fact in their former policy, to justify such a conclusion. I shall await your action with anxiety.

The subscriptions of the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to the stock of the Pennsylvania railroad, and the prompt payment of the interest on the same, together with the flattering prospects of that improvement, had the effect of extending the belief that municipal subscriptions could be safely made to any similar enterprise—that such subscriptions were in truth, what had been alleged by some, a mere loan of the credit of the respective municipal corporations, and that neither principal nor interest would ever be demanded.

The consequences of this plausible and seductive doctrine were promptly manifested in the form of numerous applications for legislative authority to municipal bodies to subscribe to railroad stocks in various parts of the State These applications were invariably pressed on the plea of promoting public convenience and the general prosperity, and a number of laws of this character were adopted. So far as these apply to cities and boroughs, their operation has been rather successful; but when applied to counties it has certainly been much less so; failing entirely in some instances, and in others leading to violent controversies amongst the people, destructive to the value of the municipal bonds thus created. Viewed in every aspect, as a mere question of expediency, the experiments already made would seem to weigh heavily against the policy of such subscriptions; indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that the aversion I have always entertained towards this principle, and especially its extension to counties, has been greatly strengthened by this experience; and we should now, it seems to me, as a prudent people, profit by this lesson and avoid the practice in the future. Always doubting the policy of such subscriptions, and declaring my views freely against them, I have not felt required to interpose the Executive prerogative against the judgment of the people directly interested in the question; or in other words, to judge for citizens of a particular locality on a subject relating merely to their pecuniary interests, or to resist the wishes of their immediate representatives

In a communication addressed to the General Assembly in March, 1852, on this subject, I remarked, "that the power to subscribe should never be exercised by municipal corporations, unless the interests of the people represented by such authority are directly and certainly identified with the project on which the money is to be expended. The operation of the principle may be equitable, when applied to the people of a city or town, whose interests are identical, but when applied to the people of a county, it may not be so. On the contrary, it may prove most unjust and oppressive—subjecting the people to burthens in the shape of taxes for the construction of public improvements, from which they may never realize benefit, direct or remote The people in one section of a county may derive valuable advantages from the construction of a public work, whilst those of another section, equally taxed for the payment of the interest and principal of the debt, so contracted, may possibly realize no benefit at all" It is to these effects that may be attributed the violent contests that have grown up in certain counties, to which the principle has been extended.

In the State of Ohio, where this dangerous practice also prevailed, a constitutional prohibition has been deemed necessary by the people, and municipal subscriptions cannot now be made, even with the assent of those affected by the measure. The experience of that State, as I have learned, was alike against the practice of making improvements in this way, and that in the end it became inefficient, through the disposition of capitalists and others to rely alone upon municipal corporations for the means of constructing public improvements. I am decidedly of the opinion, that a similar decision would and should be made by the people of this State, when the proper opportunity is presented In the meantime, this insidious and dangerous mode of contracting debts should be guarded against with the utmost vigilance. I shall indulge the hope, that all future applications for legislation of this character, may be rejected by the General Assembly.

It is my duty to inform you that $628,351 of the relief issues of May, 1841, are still in existence, and continue to pollute the channels of circulation. Under the provisions of the act of April last, $121,812 of these notes, of a less denomination than five dollars, have been cancelled, and the whole amount can under this law, be ultimately extinguished. But the process has not been so rapid as was anticipated, nor is it sufficiently so to meet the demands of the public weal. I respectfully suggest, therefore, that the law be so amended as to make it the duty of the State Treasurer to retain from time to time, as near as practicable, the amount, in relief notes, necessary to meet the entire demands of the sinking fund I also recommend the repeal of the act of April 10, 1849, authorising the reissue of this currency.

The occurrences of the past year greatly strengthen the views I expressed in my last annual message, on the subject of the currency.— The dangers of an inflated paper system have been most strikingly manifested in the experience of a number of the surrounding States, and nothing, in my opinion, saved our own metropolis, and possibly other parts of the State, from the consequences of a severe contraction of the currency, but our vast agricultural and mineral productions, and the unusually high prices which these commanded in foreign markets.

I have always held the doctrine, that our country, like all others, must have a system of currency; and whilst, therefore, I have resisted the excessive increase of banking capital, I have not sought to uproot, entirely, the system we have. That it is the best that the wit of man could devise, is not believed, nor is it probable that the authors of this paper system, enjoying the experience of the present age and possessing the vast amount of coin now in existence, would have entailed this evil upon us But we have it, and the best we can do is to mitigate its consequences whilst it endures, and throw it off by degrees. I believe that the Pennsylvania system of paper money, resting on a specie basis, small as it is, and the individual liability of the stockholders, is as safe as any other. I prefer it vastly to the loose plan existing in some of the neighboring States, or to the scheme of free banking adopted in other sections of the Union.

That any system of banking that authorises the emission of small paper as a medium of circulation, must entail evil consequences upon the country, has been too clearly demonstrated by our own experience to need elucidation by argument. It is believed, therefore, that it is the true policy of this and of all the States, to restrict the paper circulation to notes of a large denomination. Those of a small denomination should be gradually withdrawn from circulation, in order to make room for the vast accessions of the precious metals from California and Australia. In vain shall we seek to disseminate coins throughout the country, and induce their circulation at points remote from the Atlantic cities so long as small paper is permitted to exist. If notes of the denomination of five dollars were withdrawn from the channels of circulation, the vacuum thus created would be rapidly supplied with gold and silver, and so also with those of a greater nominal value. But so long as this paper medium is permitted to circulate, it will be impracticable to induce the general diffusion of coin. The people inquire why it is, that with the vast increase of gold so little is seen. The answer is, that bank notes always intervene.— The trader, merchant and others retain the coin and pay out the paper; and the only remedy is to be found in the removal of the latter. There is, perhaps, no principle applicable to this question better settled, than that which proves that two kinds of currency, differing in value, will not circulate together. The least valuable will constantly be obtruded, whilst the more precious will be displaced. The gradual withdrawal of the smaller denomination of paper, presents to my mind, the greatest practical reform that can be applied to our system of currency. The exchange of one paper system for another, and the incorporation of restrictions on this or that point of the one we have, although often right and necessary, can never eradicate the evil.

I would not, however, be understood as favoring a very sudden alteration in our system of currency, regarding, as I do, all violent changes in the policy of government as unjust and oppressive. All the business arrangements of the country are based upon our present plan, and it is so interwoven with the general affairs of life as to forbid its rapid withdrawal. But the beginning should be made, and we should prepare to throw off a system which will in the future, to a greater extent, perhaps, than in the past, render our country tributary to her rivals, and make our people "hewers of wood and drawers of water to other nations." No other reform in the political policy of this nation, I sincerely believe, would have such a direct tendency to promote all the great interests of the American people.

A practical, safe and efficient mode of carrying out this work, is to be found in the gradual extinguishment of bank notes of a small denomination.

This reform, however, to be complete, and to give the people the full benefit of its salutary effects upon our commercial operations with other nations, must be common to the whole country. The efforts of a single member of the Confederacy, however thorough and well directed, can achieve but partial success. Even in this point of view they can scarcely exercise a controlling influence. For instance, vacuums in the channels of paper circulation in one State are too liable to be supplied by the issues of others, interdicted, though the circulation of the latter may be, by positive law. These considerations have suggested the importance of a simultaneous action of the States on the subject, which occurred to my mind, that a convention of delegates from each, appointed by the respective legislatures, might be a good mode of directing public attention to the subject, and securing efficient action.

In the mean time, our State can take the lead in this work, as she can also usefully operating in the evil tendencies of The present system, by requiring the institutions now in existence to make more frequent settlements, and render more efficient her present system, by confining the amount of banking capital, as a basis of paper issues, to the lowest point consistent with the demands of legitimate business. I believe the amount we now have comes up to this standard, and that the best interests of the people require that it should not be increased.

Efforts, extensive, energetic, and highly commendable are being made in all parts of the country to advance the interests of agriculture, by the dissemination of correct information concerning this great pursuit, and in this way bestow upon the farmer the blessings of light, which, as well as a greatly refined practical understanding of the noble work in which he is engaged.

Pennsylvania, so eminently an agricultural State, and therefore so deeply interested, cannot be indifferent to the merits of this enterprise. Her best energies may wisely be exercised to secure its success. Already much has been accomplished in the way of removing prejudices heretofore extensively cherished against any system of agricultural education, and by the extinguishment of doubts as to the utility, or even the practicability, of applying the principles of science to the business of farming.

The belief that these principles can be so applied, I am gratified to perceive is rapidly gaining popular favor. Indeed, the experiments which have been made in this country and in Europe, clearly establish the utility of scientific farming, and in both, the necessity for such a system is manifest.

A proper understanding of the constituent elements of the soil—the influence of these in the production of vegetable matter—the means of maintaining these elements in their original strength—the nature of stimulants for the soil, and their proper use—the quality of seeds, and the breed of animals, make up the main features of this system. These subjects will constitute an important part of the course of education, it is believed, would at the same time invigorate the mental and moral condition of professional and mercantile classes, and promote the social and intellectual attainments of the agriculturist, mechanic and laborer, in addition to the vast benefits it would confer upon the pursuit of the farmer.— These considerations, and others, which will doubtless be presented by the advocates of the proposed institution, will commend the subject to your favorable consideration. It is believed that such an institution can be successfully organized under the auspices of the State and county societies

A highly useful institution has recently been organized at Philadelphia, under the auspices of thirteen hundred citizens of that city and of the county, in pursuance of an act of last session, named "The Polytechnic College of Pennsylvania," in which the education of the youth in a practical knowledge of mining, manufacturing and the mechanic arts is united with the ordinary literary studies. Surely, as much can be done to impart a practical understanding of the pursuit of the farmer.

Within a few years past the general government has expended a large sum of money in the construction of a dry dock at the Philadelphia navy yard, with a railway attached, to facilitate the operation of raising and repairing vessels. A survey of the Delaware river has also been made, which justifies the opinion that there is a sufficient depth of water in the channel for vessels of a large class with entire safety. The location of this yard, on the bank of the Delaware, in the southern part of the county of Philadelphia, accessible from all points, surrounded by a vigorous and flourishing population, and blessed with a healthy climate, gives to it advantages not surpassed by those surrounding the navy yards of any other section of the Union There is, then, no reason why it should not receive a full share of patronage from the government. Why it has not been so favored I shall not, at this time, attempt to learn, but that the fact has been the cause of regret and complaint among the people of Philadelphia and other parts of the State, is a circumstance which cannot be disguised No consideration of public interests, which I have been able to discover, would seem to demand this policy. Nothing, in my opinion, is gained by it in economy, efficiency or skill in the construction of vessels. The materials for this work can be as conveniently and cheaply procured at Philadelphia as at any other point in the country, and her mechanics stand as high as any others in point of skill and efficiency in all the branches of this business, and pre eminent in the construction of steam machinery. I feel justified, therefore, in entertaining the hope that a more equal distribution of patronage shall hereafter distinguish the action of the department at Washington.

The consolidation of the city and county of Philadelphia into one municipal government, is a subject that will be pressed upon your consideration during the present session. Without desiring to express an opinion on the policy of the measure, I may say, that I regard it as involving vast considerations connected with the welfare of our metropolis, and consequently to the State at large, and as such it should, as I have no doubt it will, command prompt and anxious consideration.

I have long believed that the loans of the State should be consolidated into three or four classes and be under the control of the treasury department at Harrisburg. The books are now kept at the Bank of Pennsylvania, where the loans are transferred, reissued and cut up into any shape to suit the wishes of the holder; for which service that institution is claiming a heavy yearly compensation. There would be no difficulty whatever, I am confident, in exchanging new coupon bonds for the certificates of loan now outstanding, without any average extension of the maturity of the loans, at a cost of a few thousand dollars. Indeed, on this point I am entirely certain that the exchange can be made a source of profit to the State above all expenses. This accomplished, and the interest can be paid at the Treasury, and the whole business of that department rendered the more simple and safe.

The financial year commences and closes on the last day of November, and the appropriation and school year on the first of June. The effect of this arrangement is to beget confusion in the business of the several departments of government. Indeed, so completely is this the case, that it is quite impossible for a person not familiar with the subject to comprehend their operation. I suggest the propriety of commencing the fiscal year for all purposes on the first of December. This would bring the Canal, Treasury, School and Auditing Departments into harmonious action, and render their operations concurrent and simple.

I have never felt willing to see our fundamental law changed for light or doubtful reasons, but I sincerely believe that when the proper time arrives it will be wise so to amend the Constitution as to require that each law shall be passed in a separate bill, and receive not less than a majority of votes of each House on a call of the yeas and nays; to provide that all laws of a public nature shall be general in their character and apply to the entire State; that municipal corporations, vested with all the power the Legislature could confer, should not have the right to become subscribers to or holders of the stock of other corporations; to interdict the creation of debt for any purpose except war; to unite some other functionary with the Governor in the exercise of the pardoning power.

In compliance with the provisions of the 55th section of the last general appropriation law directing the Governor to "sell and convey the State arsenal property in Juniper street, in the city of Philadelphia," conditioned that the sum of thirty thousand dollars should be obtained for the same, I caused notice to be given, through the press, that sealed proposals would be received for the same, and naming the minimum price and terms of sale. The highest and only bid received was that of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, naming the sum of thirty thousand dollars. There being no other bidder, the property was accordingly conveyed to that company.

The purchase of another suitable lot and the erection of a new building, presented a service of greater difficulty, the law restraining the entire cost to the price obtained for the old property. I deemed it proper that military gentlemen of Philadelphia should be consulted, as to the location of the new building. The general wish appeared to be the selection of a central site, and at the same time the erection of a building of greater dimensions and cost than the act seemed to contemplate. Recently, however, negotiations have been started for the purchase of a lot of ground, which it is believed will answer the purpose, and give general satisfaction as to location.

The Attorney General, as required by an act approved the 19th of April last, has made diligent efforts to close the claims of the Commonwealth against defaulting agents and public officers.— The result of his labors will be communicated to you at an early day.

In accordance with the 35th section of the appropriation law of last session, I appointed Geo. Blattenberger, Esq. to superintend the removal of certain obstructions out of the craft channel in the Susquehanah river, at Brubaker's Island. He has caused the work to be completed in a satisfactory manner, at a cost of $247 50, leaving $102 50 of the appropriation unexpended, in the Treasury.

I deem it proper to remark in this connection, that there are obstacles in the way of the descending navigation at various points in that stream, the removal of which, by the State, would be but an act of justice to those interested in the navigation, in view of the benefits they have afforded in personal comfort and pecuniary profit, as a consequence of the construction of the public works.

The numerous accidents that have occurred on the railroads of the country, during the past season—the consequent destruction of human life and property; the difficulties that have surrounded efforts for redress, by claimants in their true cause, and to impose upon the delinquents just responsibilities, have suggested the necessity for more specific laws on the subject; and I respectfully recommend the measure to your favorable notice. It is believed that much could be accomplished for the security of travel without any additional precautionary measures in the direction of passenger trains. Our State, it is true, has not been the scene of so many of these disasters as some others: but this may not be the case when speed shall be greatly increased, as is contemplated by some of our railroad companies.

Whatever relates to the cause of education—to the moral and social condition of the people or to the amelioration of human suffering, should command deliberate consideration. All our educational, benevolent, charitable and reformatory institutions are, therefore, commended to your special care.

The State Lunatic Asylum, situate within a mile of the capitol, is now in successful operation and in a most flourishing condition, reflecting to the fullest extent the benevolent intentions of its amiable and benevolent founder; and it is but just to its accomplished superintendent to say, that Miss Dix regards its present organization and management as eminently proper and skillful Upon this institution the State has already bestowed the sum of $206,499, and a small sum may still be required to place it in a condition of perfect self reliance

By the act of April 7, 1853, was incorporated the "Pennsylvania training school for idiotic and feeble-minded children." To this humane and benevolent purpose the Legislature, with the liberality which has ever distinguished the State, has contributed an annual appropriation. The founder, has extended a helping hand. The object of this institution is to discover humanity in its lowest condition of mental and physical weakness and deformity, and elevate it to the dignity of intelligence, order and usefulness.— Its disinterested and benevolent founders have merited the thanks of the christian and patriot

The House of Refuge, in Philadelphia, may possibly require further legislation The board of managers of that truly charitable institution are now creating a spacious and costly building, into which they expect to transfer the inmates of the old house at an early day. Of all schemes for the amelioration of human distress and suffering, none have the redemption of more perfect character, there is no one which more forcibly commends itself to christian sympathy and support than the House of Refuge Having for its sole aim the reformation rather than punishment of the young, whose offences are often the result of misfortune rather than criminal intent; who sin through thoughtlessness and want of moral perception, or from impure associations which have tainted their tract and mislead the young and thoughtless. I cheerfully, and earnestly commend this admirable institution to your fostering care.

The report of the superintendent will exhibit to you the condition of the common schools of the Commonwealth. No department of the government has been a subject of more anxiety to the General Assembly than this, and it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be able to assure you of the flourishing condition of the common school system, and of the unusual interest manifested in every part of the Commonwealth in the cause of education. We should look forward with lively interest to the day when our great Commonwealth, freed, to some extent, from the shackles of debt, can, as she doubtless will, contribute an adequate sum to this cause.

My attention has been called to the condition of the State Library by the officer having charge of it at this time. It is alleged, with evident reason and truth, that the rooms now in use are too small for the purpose; that many of the books are stowed away in boxes, and also that the laws providing for their safety and imposing responsibilities on the Librarian, are quite insufficient. This highly interesting and useful institution will doubtless receive your special care.

It is proper that I should make known to you the progress that has been made on the subject of the erection of a monument at Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, commemorative of the Declaration of Independence.

In October, 1852, the councils of Philadelphia, by unanimous consent, passed an ordinance dedicating the necessary ground in Independence Square, to this patriotic and sacred national purpose, and proposing to give possession of the premises to the representatives of nine of more of the original States

By an act of the Legislature of February last, confirming this ordinance of the councils, the Governor was authorized to appoint a trustee to act in conjunction with the trustees of the other States, in the erection of the monument. I accordingly appointed Albert G. Waterman, Esq., of Philadelphia, the trustee on behalf of Pennsylvania.

Twelve States of New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Connecticut have adopted laws similar to that of this State, and trustees have been appointed in each. Under the terms of these laws, no action can be taken by the trustees, until at least nine of the thirteen original States shall have signified their willingness to participate in the enterprise. There are still four States wanting, and with them the issue must rest for the present.

I am unwilling to believe that an object so entirely proper in itself—so congenial to the feelings of the American nation—so significant in its historic and moral bearing and so touchingly interesting to every American heart, can even be long delayed, much less defeated. It was the magic power of the Declaration of Independence which bound together thirteen sparsely populated, tax ridden and oppressed colonies, and erected them into an independent nation. By it was first proclaimed to the world the equality of all men, and their capacity for, and right of self government. Under the auspices of this great instrument our liberties were achieved, and the thirteen feeble colonies, acting on its benign principles, and guided at every step by an over-ruling Providence, have grown into thirty-one sovereign States—all teeming with the elements of national wealth—all prosperous and progressive—members of one vast confederacy, whose boundaries are marked by the Atlantic and Pacific, and enjoying a commerce co-extensive with the civilized world.— Honored, feared and patronised by all nations; already sustaining a population of twenty-five millions of inhabitants, rejoicing in the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and in a high degree of moral and social happiness. And shall we not have a monument to perpetuate the events from which these manifold blessings have sprung? Some imperishable memorial of our gratitude—an everlasting witness of the great things done amongst and for us—some visible sign to perpetuate the memory of the Declaration of Independence—the Revolution—the heroes who participated in the mighty struggle, and the Constitution that crowned and defined the privileges so nobly achieved. If these deserve not a monument, then all others have been erected in vain.

A structure commensurate with the moral grandeur of the event, its world-wide consequences, is not contemplated; but what can be, and should be accomplished, is the erection of a structure after the plan indicated by the committee—a beautiful and ever-enduring embodiment of the Nation's gratitude to the authors of the Declaration; an imperishable personification of our fidelity to its principles and their natural off spring, the Constitution and the Union.

The location of this political Mecca will be most fortunate. Central to the original States—eligible to the younger members of the confederacy, and planted on the soil of the old Keystone, who never has, and by the blessing of God, never will falter in her fidelity to the national compact, to all its forms and conditions—as in times past, so will she in the future, should the occasion unhappily arise, frown upon the first dawn of discontent against the integrity of the Union, come where it may, or by whomsoever instigated. The weight of her vast moral and political power, I firmly believe, will be wielded to resist the tide of dissension and dissolution, and to keep the political atmosphere around the monument, when erected, purely national.

The present is also an auspicious time for this work of national fellowship. The compromise measures, recently adopted, and sanctified by the approval of Clay, King and of Webster, have quieted the elements of national discord; and to prolong this peace and quiet, it is but necessary to maintain these measures and the requirements of the Constitution; to discountenance in future the agitation of questions settled by the federal compact, and disabuse the country of those who would hazard the peace of the country to gratify prejudice, or to accomplish the ends of personal ambition.

WM. BIGLER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, January 4, 1854.

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED BY WHITE & CO.

PITTSBURGH.

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5, 1854.

☞ *READING MATTER WILL BE FOUND ON EACH PAGE OF THIS PAPER.*

☞ PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.—The extensive circulation of our Weekly Gazette offers to our business men the most desirable medium of making their business known to the public. It is between four and five thousand, reaching almost every village and county in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS—Neither the Editorial Rooms nor Printing Establishment of the DAILY GAZETTE, are opened on Sunday. ADVERTISERS who desire their notices to appear in the paper on Monday morning, will please hand them in before 5 o'clock on Saturday

FOR MAYOR OF PITTSBURGH,

FERDINAND E. VOLZ.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—The great length of this document, which was delivered in Harrisburg, yesterday, and which found us in an unprepared state, has prevented our usual variety to-day. Our Pennsylvania readers will find the message an interesting document, in the facts it presents of the condition and prospects of our fine old Commonwealth, which will yet, we firmly believe, overcome all her difficulties, and stand as one of the largest, and the most prosperous, and we trust the most upright and noble, among her glorious sisters.

BY TELEGRAPH.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

HALIFAX, Jan 4 —The steamship Canada, with European dates to the 24th ult., reached here at noon to-day.

The Cotton Market for the week was active, but presented no material change in prices. Breadstuffs are quoted as being less active, but the advances of the week are 6d on Flour and 2d on Wheat, and 1d on Corn. Provisions dull and declining. Money unchanged, but consols declined, and American stocks are dull, and prices nominal

LIVERPOOL MARKETS —Cotton—Orleans fair 6¾, Middling 6, Upland fair 6¾. Middling 5¾, demand active, but no change in prices.

Breadstuffs —Brown & Shipley's Circular reports Breadstuffs as having been active during the week, with a decline at the close, leaving on the week an advance of 6d on Flour, 2d on Wheat, and 1s on Corn; the closing quotations are: Wheat, white, 10s 4d to 11s; red 10s to 10s 4d. Flour, western canal, 37 to 37s 6d; Baltimore, Philadelphia and Ohio brands 37 6 to 38s Corn, white, 46s; yellow 45s, and mixed 44s 6d The imports of the week have been small.

LIVERPOOL, Dec 24 —Provisions —A large business has been done in old Beef at lower prices; sales 700 bbls prime mess at 85s. Pork market continued dull, with limited business at previous rates Bacon a shade higher; sales new at 47s for retail Of Lard a sale had been made at 52s per ton, but the market is dull.

The market at Manchester, and trade and prices have slightly improved.

Breadstuffs.—The unimproved tone reported on our last has been lost; market dull with a declining tendency

London Money Market —Consols for money and account 93¾@93¾, stock market unchanged as regards American stocks Small transactions in United States stocks.

It is reported that the Persians have declared war against Turkey in consequence of a direct promise from the Czar to remit their debt and restore disputed territory. The Shah places 30 000 at the Czar's disposal.

The Palmerston vacancy is still open.

There has been severe weather on the Irish coast, and many shipwrecks have occurred. The ship Niagara went ashore at Wexford. Her passengers, numbering 150, and the cargo were saved.

The ship Pollock, from Mobile for Apalachicola, was damaged at Queenstown.

Mr. Soule fought a duel with Marquis Turgot, the French Minister. Young Soule and the Duke of Alba also fought, but nobody was damaged.

The French, British and Turkish fleets entered the Black Sea on the 10th; their supposed destination is Sebastapol. Three ships of each squadron remained guarding Constantinople — The Czar having frequently declared the entry in the Black Sea, equivalent to a declaration of war, the withdrawal of the Russian Ministers from Paris and London is immediately looked for.

There has been skirmishing on the Danube — Kalafat was attacked on the 4th, but the Russians were repulsed with great carnage on both sides. On the 18th two Russian steamers and gun boats attacked Matschin.

Nothing later from Asia, but the general tenor of the advices indicate the operations to be unfavorable.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON City, Jan. 4

HOUSE —*Yesterday's Proceedings* —Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, offered resolutions calling on the President to inform the House what information the Post Office Department had received relative to the obstruction of the mails by the Erie disturbance. Laid over.

Mr. Churchwell offered a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill giving four years credit to Railroad companies to pay duty on Railroad iron transported for their own use. After other business of little importance, the House adjourned.

SENATE —After the reading of the documents submitted by the President in regard to the Clayton and Bulwer Treaty, Mr. Clayton made a speech in reference to a review by Lord Clarendon of a speech delivered by him at the last session, on the said Treaty

Mr. Cass announced his intention of speaking on the subject. The Senate then adjourned

SENATE—January 4th.—The resolution of Mr. Seward relating to the question whether Mr. Phelps, of Vermont, is entitled to a seat in the Senate, was taken up and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The resolution giving the President authority to confer the Brevet title of Lieut. General was referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

Mr. Chase's resolution directing inquiry as to the expediency of constructing a Railroad from the Western States to California was amended and referred to a select committee of nine. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The resolutions giving the thanks of Congress and a sword to Gen. Scott for services in the Mexican war, were passed.

The Speaker appointed a Select Committee to inquire into the expediency of withdrawing the funds of the Smithsonian Institute and investing the same in sound stocks, on motion of Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Bailey, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill for the ascertainment and satisfaction of the claims due American citizens for French spoliations. Referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Cutting called up his resolutions, submitted yesterday, calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for the correspondence referred to in his letter to Collector Bronson, of New York, and all letters that may have passed between himself and Mr. Bronson relating to matters at issue between them.

Mr. Cutting said the subject was one which had occupied the public mind more than any other question of the kind which has ever occurred. His purpose now was simply to move the adoption of the resolution, and on that motion as the time for debating the question had not arrived, he moved the previous question. The resolution was finally tabled by a vote of 104 to 66.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 4.—The Steamer Louisiana has arrived, with Texas dates to the 29th. The new Governor was inaugurated The Pacific Railroad bill has been signed by the Governor.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4.—The Pennsylvania Railroad will pass free all Delegates elected to the soldiers convention.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 4 —Flour $5 55, quiet but firm. Whiskey 19 to 19½. Somewhat of a panic in the Hog market to-day; sales 8000 at $4.—50@$4 65. Provisions depressed; buyers generally withdrew. Sales 300 bbls Mess Pork at $12. Bulk meat offered at 4¾@5¾ for shoulders and sides, no buyers. Keg lard declined, with a sale of 1000 kegs at 8¾; sale 200 bbls at $8 30, subsequently the latter was offered freely at $8¼; sales 1000 green Hams at 6¾ Other articles quiet. Money very scarce. River stationary; weather warm.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4.—Cotton quiet; sales limited. Flour firm; sales 5,000 bbls mixed and good brands at $7 25, and 600 bbls Brandywine at $7 50. No inquiry for Rye Flour. Corn Meal firmer; small sales Penna. at $3 50. A good demand for Wheat and prices looking up; sales 2,000 bus at $1 60 for red, and white at $1 75, all in store. No Rye here. Corn held firmly; sales 2,000 bus new yellow at 69@70, Whiskey scarce, in bbls 29c and in hhds 28.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—Cotton heavy, declined ¼ Coffee; sales 250 bags Rio at 12. Sugar, Orleans; sales 850 hhds at 5¾, steady. Molasses, 41. Pork, prime mess 100 bbls, at 27 for new. Flour; sales 8,000 bbls state at $7 62@7 75; Ohio $7,—68@7 81; market dull 12½ c declining tendency, declined 12c; sales 700 bbls Southern at $7 75@7 87, firm. Wheat quiet; holders demand an advance not generally conceded Corn sales 60,000 bus mixed at 88, yellow 82; a large export demand. Provisions; sales 500 bbls Pork at $18 50, prime $11 87½ for old, buoyant. Mess Beef; sales 200 bbls at $16 50, heavy. Lard; sales 200 bbls at 10, steady. Whiskey; sales 250 bbls prison at 21½. Iron quiet.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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CITIZENS and strangers who wish to obtain accurate, artistic and life like likenesses, at a moderate price, will find it to their interest to call at this well known establishment, where entire satisfaction is guaranteed, or no charge made. Having one of the largest and best arranged Side and Skylight rooms constructed for the purpose, with instruments of the most approved kind, and having adopted the system of Daguerreotyping, as now practiced by the celebrated Rocktaschel, Philadelphia and New York, I feel no hesitation in offering my services to the patrons of the Art, a style of Daguerreotypes, either singly or in groups, which has never been surpassed.

Rooms open and operating, in all weathers, from 8 o'clock A. M. to 5 P. M. ma9-dawly

☞ There are few things which afford us greater pleasure than sitting down to write a notice of the celebrated Richard German Bitters, because we are fully conscious we are conferring a public benefit, and our heart tells us that by our notices many have been induced to take these Bitters, and been rescued from death by Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, &c., for the cure of which it is certain, this preparation is unequalled. Sold by R. C. M. Jack son, at the German Medicine Store, No. 120 Arch-st Philadelphia. de23-2w

☞ Lyon's Kathairon—For preserving, restoring, cleansing and beautifying the hair, alleviating nervous head-ache, and curing scrofulous diseases of the skin. Its reputation, co-extensive with the civilization of the globe, makes all praise superfluous, all exaggeration impossible, and all description futile. Discovery has found no substitute, to