PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

Governor's Message.

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

FELLOW CITIZENS:—In obedience to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, you have assembled to discharge the important and responsible duties that devolve upon you. To protect the rights and privileges of the people, advance their interests, and promote the welfare and prosperity of the State, should be the aim and end of all your legislation. In the discharge of my duties, it will be a pleasure to co-operate with you in the accomplishment of these objects.

The past year has been one of unusual prosperity. The bounties of a kind Providence have not been withheld from our Commonwealth. A plenteous harvest has rewarded the labor of the husbandman. Honorable industry, in all its departments, has been encouraged. No financial embarrassments—no commercial distress—no political or social evils, have interrupted the progress, or checked the energies of the people. The great interests of education, morality and religion, have been cherished and sustained.—Health and peace, with their attendant blessings, have been ours. To Him "who rules the Nations by his power, and from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift," are we indebted for these mercies, and to Him should be given the homage of our devout gratitude and praise.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth is highly satisfactory. Every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly met and paid, without the aid of loans. The operations of this department will be exhibited in detail in the report of the State Treasurer.

For the fiscal year ending November 30, 1856, the receipts in the Treasury (including the balances in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1855, of $1,248,697 88) have been $6,621,937 64. The total expenditure, for the same period, were $5,377,142 22. Balance in the Treasury, December 1, 1856, $1,244,795 42.

Excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first of December, 1855, the receipts from all sources, were $5,378,240 83. The ordinary expenditures for the same period, were $4,113,144 77, showing an excess of receipts over ordinary expenditures of $1,265,095 66.

The extraordinary payments for the same year were $1,263,997 45, as follows, viz: To the completion of the Portage railroad, and for the payment of debts previously contracted on work, $181,494 11; to the North Branch extension, $122,728 52; to re-lay the south track of the Columbia railroad, $267,000; for motive power in 1855, $118,040 42; to enlarge the Delaware division of the Pennsylvania canal, $13,960; for general repairs in 1853-'54-'55, $63,065 11; to domestic creditors, $161 63; to old claims on the main line, examined by the commissioners, and paid under the act of May 22, 1856, $130,512 09; to the redemption of loans, $557,624 47; and relief notes cancelled, $38,217 00.

The interest on the funded debt which fell due in February and August last, was then paid, and that which becomes due in February next, will be paid with equal promptness, out of available means now in the Treasury. The punctuality with which the interest on the public has been paid, and the ability of the Treasury to meet all legitimate demands upon it, have inspired public confidence in our securities, and contributed largely to establish and sustain the credit of the Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of the sinking fund report the sum of $722,432 93 as due by the Treasury to that fund. This amount will be applied to the redemption of relief notes now in circulation, and to the payment of the funded debt. Heretofore the available means in the Treasury have been applied to some extent, in payment of outstanding temporary loans, which bear an annual interest of six per centum. It being deemed advisable as a matter of economy to pay those loans rather than the funded debt, which bears a much less rate of interest. It is expected that the balance of the temporary loans will be paid before the close of the current year, and the operation of the sinking fund resumed and continued as directed by law.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State, including temporary loans, on the first day of December, 1855, as per reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, was as follows, viz:—

FUNDED DEBT.

6 per cent. loan	$516,154 93	
5 do do	38,903,445 04	
4½ do do	388,200 00	
4 do do	100,000 00	
Total funded debt		$39,907,799 97

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Relief notes in circulation	$258,773 00	
Interest certificates outstanding	29,157 25	
Domestic creditors	1,264 00	
Bal. temporary loan April 19, 1853	525,000,00	
Bal. temporary loan May 9, 1854	346,000 00	
Total unfunded debt		1,160,194 25
Total debt Dec. 1, 1855		41,067,994 22

The funded and unfunded debt at the close of the last fiscal year, December 1, 1856, was as follows:

6 per cent. loan	$511,781 00	
5 do do	38,886,994 50	
4½ do do	388,200 00	
4 do do	100,000 00	
Total funded debt		$39,886,975 50

UNFUNDED DEBT, VIZ:

Relief notes in circulation	$220,556 00	
Interests certificates outstanding	24,691 37	
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,448 38	
Domestic creditors	1,164 00	
Balance of temporary loan, April 19th, 1853	400,000 00	
Balance of temporary loan, May 9, 1854	184,000 00	
Total unfunded debt		834,859 75
Total debt, December 1, 1856		40,701,835 25
Total debt, Dec. 1, 1855		$41,067,994 22
do do 1, 1856		40,701,835 25
Decrease		366,158 97

It thus appears that during the past fiscal year the sum of three hundred and sixty-six thousand one hundred and fifty-eight dollars and ninety-seven cents has been paid in liquidation of the public debt. This, taken in connection with the fact, that during the year ending November 30, 1855, six hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and one dollars and two cents were paid on the same account, exhibits the gratifying fact, that the process of reducing the public debt has commenced; and, unless checked by reckless mismanagement and extravagant expenditure, must continue until the people and the Commonwealth are relieved from the debt and taxation with which they are burdened. In addition to this reduction of the public debt, large appropriations and payments were made for the completion of the Portage railroad and for debts previously contracted on that work; for old and unsettled claims recently adjusted by the commissioners appointed under the act of last session; for re-laying the south track of the Columbia railroad; for enlarging the Delaware division of the canal, and for other purposes. These extraordinary demands upon the Treasury have ceased, or will soon cease, with the necessity that created them; and then leave a still larger portion of the revenue to be applied in payment of the public debt.

A careful examination of the financial condition of the Commonwealth—her sources of revenue and the probable future expenditures, has inspired the hope that the time is not far distant when the public debt will be fully paid, and this without increasing the subjects or ratio of taxation. It has already been shown that the revenues of the past year exceeded the ordinary expenditures one million two hundred and sixty-five thousand ninety five dollars and fifty-six cents. The estimated receipts and expenditures for the current year, which will be presented to you in the report of the State Treasurer, show that the excess of receipts, over ordinary expenditures, may reach the sum of one and a half million of dollars. These estimates, although approximations, will not be far from the true result. Allowing, then, four hundred thousand dollars for annual extraordinary expenditures—and under a wise system of economy in no probable contingency can they exceed that sum—we will have at least one million of dollars to be appropriated annually for the payment of the public debt. With the rapid development of the wealth and resources of the Commonwealth—the increase of population—of the value of real estate, and of the amount and value of property of every description, the revenues must and will continue to increase.—This national and necessary increase of revenue will supply every deficiency and every demand upon the Treasury that falls within the range of probability. If, then, the sum of one million dollars be appropriated annually in liquidation of this debt, and the accruing interest on the sums paid be applied in the manner of a sinking fund, the entire indebtedness of the Commonwealth will be extinguished in less than twenty-three years. If these premises are correct—and their correctness can only be impaired by unwise legislation, or the imprudent management of our finances—the truth of the proposition is susceptible of the clearest demonstration. Assuming the public debt on the first day of December, 1856, to be, in round numbers, forty millions five hundred thousand dollars, and that at the end of each fiscal year one million dollars, with the accruing interests on former payments, will be paid, unerring calculation will determine the result to be as before indicated. Thus, before the expiration of the year 1879, Pennsylvania may stand redeemed from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be released from a taxation imposed to meet its accruing interest, and to maintain the faith and credit of the Commonwealth. These views are not Utopian. By practising strict economy in all departments of the government—avoiding extravagant expenditure—refusing to undertake any new schemes of internal improvement, and holding to a rigid accountability the receiving and disbursing agents of the State, their realization may be anticipated with confidence.

I must again call the attention of the Legislature to a subject referred to in my last annual message, in the following terms:

"By the thirty-eighth section of the act of the 16th of April, 1845, entitled 'An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of Government, the repair of the canals and railroads of the State, and other claims upon the Commonwealth,' the Governor was authorized to cause certificates of State stock to be issued to all persons or bodies corporate holding certificates for the payment of interest on the funded debt of the State, which fell due on the first day of August, 1842, the first days of February and August, 1843, and the first days of February and August, 1844, in an amount equal to the amount of certificates so held, upon their delivering up said certificates to the Auditor General. In pursuance of the authority thus given, certificates of State stock to the amount of four millions one hundred and five thousand one hundred and forty dollars and twenty cents, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, on the first days of February and August in each year, and redeemable on or after the first day of August, 1855, were issued. The minimum period fixed by law for the redemption of these certificates, expired on the first day of August, 1855. No provision has been made for their renewal or redemption.

"Although by the terms of the act authorizing these certificates of State stock, as also by the conditions of the certificates issued in pursuance thereof, the time of payment, after the expiration of the minimum period, is optional with the debtor, the Commonwealth, yet a due regard for the credit of the State requires that provision should be made for their renewal or redemption. To redeem these certificates, a loan would become necessary, and as a loan cannot be effected, in the present financial condition of the country, on terms more favorable to the State than those on which these certificates were issued, I would recommend that authority be given to issue the bonds of the Commonwealth in renewal of said certificates, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable on or after the expiration of twenty years; and that the bonds be issued with coupons or certificates of interest attached, in sums equal in amount to the semi-annual interest thereon, payable on the first days of February and August in each and every year, at such place as may be designated. This change in the form and character of the certificates, it is believed, will be so advantageous to the holders, without increasing the liabilities of the Commonwealth, as to induce a willing and prompt exchange, at a premium for the bonds proposed to be issued."

The report of the Canal Commissioners will be laid before you, and will exhibit in detail the condition of the public works—their general operation, and the receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year.

The total receipts at the Treasury, from the public works, for the year ending November 30, 1856, were $2,006,015 66, being an increase over the revenues of the previous year, of $63,638 95. Of this sum $1,018,589 16 were canal and bridge tolls, and $992,426 50, tolls of the Columbia and Portage railroads.

The aggregate expenditures for the same year were $1,348,898 82, being an increase over those of the previous year, $105,105 64, the revenues exceeding the expenditures only $62,118 84.

The increase of the revenues from these works would be encouraging, were it not for the fact that the expenditures have increased in a still greater proportion—the expenditures, ordinary and extraordinary, exhausting almost the entire revenue from this source. The system must be defective, or more care and economy should be exercised in its management.

The receipts at the Treasury from the several divisions, were as follows, viz:

Main line	$1,229,272 86
Susquehanna, North Branch and West Branch	426 820 51
Delaware	349,922 29
Total receipts	2,006,015 66

The extraordinary payments during the year, amounted to $808,892 16; ordinary expenditures, $1,135,004 00; net revenue, (excluding extraordinary payments and for motive power) $871,011 00.

On the main line the tolls received at the Treasury from the Columbia road were $291,676 50; expenditures $528,034 86; tolls on the Eastern division of canal, from Columbia to the Junction $119,718 36; expenditures $53,048 50; receipts from the Junction to Pittsburgh, including the Portage railroad, $117,778 00; ordinary expenditures, $363,702 22. The total receipts on the main line were $1,229,272 86; aggregate expenditures, (excluding $267,000 00 paid for re-laying the south track of the Columbia railroad, and $153,049 42 for motive power in 1855, and after December 1st, 1855,) were $885,835 05, being an excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure of $343,437 21.

Although the receipts from the Delaware division are less than those of the previous year, yet the general result of its operations is satisfactory. The net revenue at the Treasury was $364,095 40. Its management has been characterized by a degree of economy too seldom practiced on some of the lines of our improvements.

However important this division may be to the trade and business of that portion of the State, its proposed enlargement should not be undertaken, unless demanded by reasons of overruling necessity. The experience of the past, as connected with the Allegheny Portage railroad, and the North Branch extension, should warn us against undertaking, without great caution, any new measure of improvement, which may drain the Treasury, without adding materially, if at all, the public interests. If kept in good order by efficient and timely repairs, its capacity will be fully equal to all the demands of its trade and business.

The Portage railroad is not fully completed. A small additional appropriation may yet be required to complete, for the fourth time, this road. It is anxiously hoped that this unproductive improvement may soon cease its cormorant demands upon the Treasury. Every year's experience more clearly reveals the impolicy of the State in undertaking this work.

It gives me no ordinary pleasure to inform you that the North Branch extension of the Pennsylvania canal has been so far completed, that boats freighted with coal and other products were successfully passed through its entire length from Pittston to the Junction canal.—This work was commenced in 1836—suspended in 1841—resumed in 1849, and finished in 1856; although its completion was officially announced in 1853. It extends from Pittston to the New York State line, a distance of about ninety-four miles, following the valley of the Susquehanna to Athens, and thence along the Chemung river to the State line, where it joins the "Junction canal," and is thus connected with the New York improvements.

The importance and value of this improvement cannot easily be over-estimated. Passing through one the richest mineral and agricultural portions of the State, it offers to the immense and valuable products of that region, a safe and cheap transit to the markets of New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. In the completion of this canal the difficulties to be overcome, and the labor to be performed, were great. Both these, to a great extent, have been accomplished under the superintendency of Wm. R. Moffet, Esq., to whom this work was assigned.

This canal although completed, and before the close of navigation, used for the purpose of transportation, is not perfect. Sinks in the bottom, from the nature of the formation and soils through which it passes, slides from the hills, and breaches may occur, but these, after a few years of well applied labor, will be diminished, and by vigilance and care entirely prevented.

This improvement, although subject to the rivalry of competing railroads, if kept in good condition, under proper management, will receive its full share of coal and other tonnage. It is anticipated that the revenues, for the current year, will equal, if not exceed the expenditure; and increasing with the facilities afforded and the rapid development of trade, will, instead of its heretofore unceasing demands upon the Treasury, take precedence in revenue over any canal in the Commonwealth.

In relation to the propriety and policy of the sale of the main line of our public improvements, my mind has not changed. Every consideration of public policy, of present and future interest, requires the separation of the State from the management and control of these works. The expenditures on that portion of the line, between the Junction and Pittsburgh, largely exceed the revenues, the excess averaging annually not less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and causes are in constant operation that will still more increase this deficiency. This continual drain upon the Treasury, to sustain a work, so unproductive, should at once be checked. A sale of the main line, for a fair consideration, and upon terms just and liberal to the purchasers, is the proper remedy. Such sale, on terms amply protective of the rights and interests of the people, can, by proper legislation, be effected. In connection with the payment of the public debt, this question becomes deeply important. The sale would constitute a new era in the financial history of the State, and assure a still more speedy reduction of the public debt, than that to which reference has been made. The subject is earnestly commended to your favorable consideration.

The subject of banks and banking capital in its relations to the currency—the general interests of trade and commerce and the industrial pursuits of the citizen, deserve your careful attention. My views expressed in a former communication remain unchanged. The incorporation of new, or the re-charter of old and solvent banks, when actually necessary, and demanded by the wants of legitimate trade in the community where located, should be favored; under no other circumstances should either be permitted. In the creation of banks, the interests of the State and people should be consulted, and a just discrimination as to number, locality and the demands of trade be exercised.

The rapid increase of population, the importance and value of our home and foreign commerce, the constant development of the material wealth of the State, the extent of our manufacturing, mechanical and agricultural industry, the fact that the State is flooded by a depreciated currency introduced by private bankers and brokers, might justify, under the restrictions and limitations indicated, a judicious increase of banking capital within our Commonwealth. This whilst it would aid the operations of trade, and supply the real business wants of the people, would, at the same time, remedy, to some extent, the evils of a depreciated foreign and illegal currency.

By the act approved the 6th day of November last, the thirteenth section of the act of 1850, relating to banks, will be, after the first day of July next, extended to all incorporated saving fund, trust and insurance companies. That section declares "that it shall not be lawful for any of the said banks to issue or pay out any bank notes other than those issued by itself, payable on demand in gold or silver; notes of specie paying banks of this State which are taken on deposit or in payment of debts, at par, at the counter of the bank where paid out; or notes of banks issued under the authority of the act of the 6th of May, 1841, at the option of the person receiving the same."

These enactments were intended to protect the community against the evils of a depreciated currency, and prevent its introduction from other States. However well intended they will fail to secure these objects, unless made to embrace private bankers and others of that class, whose profits are largely dependent upon the introduction into the State of such a currency. In many instances the notes of our own banks are collected by private bankers and brokers, and with them, or the specie withdrawn from the banks issuing them, they purchase depreciated and foreign bank paper which is paid out as par at their counters. By others large loans are negotiated with banks out of the State, at less than the usual rate of interest, and their notes, often of a less denomination than five dollars, and always at a discount, brought into the State and put into circulation in the manner indicated, and this, too, under an agreement with the bank making the loan, that the notes thus paid out shall be kept in circulation. The effect of this system of private banking has been to limit the circulation of the par paper of our own banks, and substitute in its place a foreign, depreciated, and often a worthless currency. In justice to the bank, trust and insurance companies, paying a heavy annual tax to the Commonwealth for their privileges, and for the protection of the people against these evils, either the provisions of the thirtieth section of the act of 1850, should be repealed, or further extended so as to embrace private individuals and associations, who may monopolize and control the currency element of the public, this traffic in depreciated bank paper, without restraint and without taxation.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, will exhibit to you the number and condition of the schools—the number of teachers and scholars, and the general operations of the system during the past year. To the valuable statistical information of the report, and the useful suggestions for the improvement of the system, I invite your early and intelligent consideration.

From a small and comparatively unimportant incident of the State Department, the care and management of the public records of the Commonwealth, with their seventeen hundred districts, ten thousand directors, twelve thousand teachers, and over five hundred thousand scholars, have become the most important and laborious branch of that Department. The increased and increasing business of the system has been met by a corresponding increase of zeal, labor and efficiency in the officers to whom the law has committed its general direction and supervision. They should be sustained by wise and generous legislation. The magnitude and importance of the system, in its political, social and moral relations to the present and future of the people, require that this should be done.—The guardianship of the mind of the State should occupy a distinct and prominent place among the noble institutions of the Commonwealth. It should receive the efficient aid and encouragement of the government, and be sustained by a virtuous and intelligent people. If the revenue and treasures of the State—her public improvements—her lands and their titles, require and deserve the marked and distinctive care of the government, how much more should her mental and intellectual treasures, richer than gold—the social and moral improvement of her people, more valuable than canals and railways—the titles of her youth to the boundless fields of knowledge, higher than any of earth or aught growing out of its ownership, claim an honorable position, and receive a care and aid commensurate with their greater value and usefulness.

The County Superintendency, wherever it has been committed to faithful and efficient men, has fully vindicated the wisdom and policy of that measure. It is slowly but surely removing the prejudices and gaining the confidence of the people. Whatever defects time and experience may develop in this or any other branch of the system, should be promptly corrected. But until the necessity for change is established, the system, in its unity and integrity, should be maintained; and if changed, changed only to render more certain the accomplishment of its noble purposes and objects.

A sufficient number of competent and well trained teachers is the great want of the system. In its structure and organization it is as perfect if not more so, than any of the systems of our sister States. But the teacher is wanted to give it proper vitality and efficiency—to develop its true force and value—to secure the great object of its creation, the thorough education of the youth of the Commonwealth. How can this want be supplied? How are teachers to be trained and provided to meet this educational demand? Must we be dependent upon the training schools of other States? Must our system be lonparded, and its success perilled by waiting the slow and unaided efforts of voluntary associations to furnish the much needed teacher?—Voluntary associations of common school teachers have accomplished much in their disinterested and noble efforts to remedy this defect—They are worthy the highest commendation—they deserve every encouragement. They can and will do more; but unaided they cannot accomplish the object desired. The Legislature must provide the remedy—they can supply the deficiency. It should be done promptly and effectually. No subject of greater interest can occupy your attention as legislators—no one appeals more earnestly to duty and patriotism.

In a former communication to the Legislature the establishment of State Normal schools, for the education of teachers, was urged as indispensably necessary to the perfection of the system. With full confidence in their utility and necessity, I again recommend them. These institutions, with their proper professors, and appliances, supported by the State, would meet the wants and elevate the character of our common schools.

Teachers' Institutes, as auxiliary to Normal Schools, when in operation, and supplying their place till established, should be aided by the State. One such institute in each county, meeting annually, under the fostering care of the government, would be productive of most beneficial results. Whilst it would improve teachers and prepare them for their important and responsible duties, it would elevate and dignify a profession too long neglected and under-valued by those most deeply interested in their honorable labors. These measures, as also an addition to the annual State appropriation for common schools, to an amount limited only by the necessities of the Treasury, would give energy to the system—increase its efficiency—and thus promote the true interests of the people and the Commonwealth.

Our educational, charitable and reformatory institutions have strong claims upon the bounty of the people, and I cordially commend them to your care and liberality.

The State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, and the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the insane and other kindred purposes at Pittsburgh, are noble charities, and deserve the aid and encouragement of the State. The annual reports of these institutions will be laid before you, and will exhibit, in detail, their operations during the past year.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, and the Western House of Refuge near Pittsburgh, are institutions of great excellence, and their results clearly establish the wisdom of the policy that founded and sustains them. They ought not to be neglected; nor should the aid of the Commonwealth be withheld from them.

The "Blind" and the "Deaf and Dumb Asylum" at Philadelphia; and "the Pennsylvania Training School for idiotic and feeble minded children," are institutions that appeal, in silence and sorrow, to the best and purest feelings of the heart, and ask your sympathy and aid. They should receive a generous share of the benefactions of the State.

Agriculture, in its varied departments, is the great interest of the Commonwealth. It is the basis alike of financial and commercial success, and of State and national prosperity. An interest so important should be fostered by the State, and honored by all classes of society. To its promotion and success, all should cheerfully contribute. In a former communication I recommended the establishment of an Agricultural bureau, in connection with some one of the State Departments, to give efficiency to the collection and diffusion of useful knowledge on this subject, and to encourage scientific and practical agriculture. Science, with wondrous energy, has aided the husbandman in his honorable vocation, and proffers still more help. The State should nerve his arm and cheer him onward in this, the first and noblest pursuit of man. This subject, in connection with an appropriation to the "Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania"—an institution destined to be an honor to the Commonwealth—is recommended to your favorable consideration.

The "Polytechnic College of Pennsylvania," established by the enterprise and liberality of some of the patriotic citizens of Philadelphia, as a school of the applied sciences, deserves honorable mention, and should receive the confidence and patronage of the public. In the teachings of this institution, literature, science and art, in happy union, meet to prepare our young men for the practical business of life, for mining, mechanical and civil engineering, and for promoting intelligently and efficiently the great interests of manufacturing and agricultural industry.

The laws on the statute book regulating manufacturing and improvement companies, require revision. They are unnecessarily stringent in many of their provisions, and thus defeat the object of their enactment. They drive capital from the State, instead of inviting its investment here; and instead of encouraging individual and associated enterprise and energy in the development of our immense natural resources, they bind and crush both by severe restrictions, unwise limitations and personal liabilities. The subject deserves careful attention and liberal legislation.

I have so frequently expressed my views in relation to local, special and "omnibus" legislation, that their reiteration now becomes unnecessary. Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation, when the object desired can be secured by general laws, or by the action of the courts, should be avoided. "Omnibus legislation" cannot, under any circumstances, be justified or approved. *Too much* legislation is an evil that prevails extensively in legislative halls. Its avoidance would not be injurious to public or private interests.

The practice of delaying the passage of the general appropriation bill until the last days of the session, and incorporating in it provisions incompatible with its general character, and obnoxious, when standing alone, to insurmountable objections, is highly censurable and should be discontinued. The attempt thus made to force, by a species of legislative legerdemain; the passage of objectionable measures through the Legislature, and compel their sanction by the Executive, has been too often successful. The practice cannot be too strongly condemned: it cannot receive my sanction.

The militia law of the State is imperfect in many of its provisions, and should be revised.—The powers and duties of the Commander-in-Chief should be more clearly defined; as also of the other officers connected with the military organization of the Commonwealth. This is a subject of great importance, and should receive your early consideration.

The "Pennsylvania Reform School" at Cornwall, established by the benevolent and philanthropic citizens of Philadelphia, and chartered by the last Legislature, deserves the fostering care of the State. Its success, in its first year, has been most encouraging. It is the only institution of the kind in the State, and should receive your liberal support.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, established by the enterprise and liberality of the citizens of Philadelphia, and located in Centre county, is now in successful operation, and should receive the fostering care of the State. Its success, in its first year, has been most encouraging. It is the only institution of the kind in the State, and should receive your liberal support.

The laws of the State, which constitute us one people, should be dear to you—to every American citizen. In the heat and excitement of political contests, the wild fires of sectional and conflicting interests—amid the surging of human passions, harsh and discordant voices may be heard, threatening the integrity and dismembering the Union; but in the calm, "sober, second thought" of a patriotic people, the Union, in their integrity and harmony, has been and will ever be as ready to recognize the rights of her sister States as to defend her own. These sentiments have never been abandoned—these principles she has never violated. Pledged to the maintenance of the rights of the north, as well as of those of the south—sincerely desirous to promote the peace, harmony and welfare of our whole country—and disclaiming all intention or desire to interfere with the Constitutional rights of the states, or their domestic institutions—the people of this Commonwealth view with alarm and apprehension the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—a compromise rendered sacred in the public esteem by its association and connection with the great cause of national harmony and union—regarding it as a palpable violation of the plighted faith and honor of the nation, and as an unwarrantable attempt to extend the institution of domestic slavery to territories then free. This reckless and indefensible act of our National Congress, has not only aroused sectional jealousies and renewed the agitation of vexed and distractive questions, but, as a consequence, it has filled Kansas with fraud, violence and strife—has stained its soil with blood, and, by a system of territorial legislation justly styled "infamous," has made freedom of speech and of the press a felony, and perilled the great principles of liberty and equal rights. If the doctrine of "popular sovereignty" is in good faith to be applied to that Territory—if the people thereof are to be left "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States," then the obstruction of the great National highways to the northern settlers—the employment of the National forces, and the subversion of the ballot-box, should receive the censure of the Congress of Washington, to force slavery upon an unwilling people, cannot be too severely condemned.

Freedom is the true center-truth of American Republicanism—the greatest of American Nationality; slavery is the exception. It is local and sectional, and its extension beyond the jurisdiction creating it, or to the free territories of the Union, was never declared or contemplated by the patriot founders of the Republic. In accordance with these sentiments, Pennsylvania, true to the principles of the act of 1780, which abolished slavery within her territorial limits—true to the great doctrines of the Ordinance of 1787, which dedicated to freedom the north-western territory of the Union—true to her political and National obligations, rights and interests, as she to her own children, in good faith, entered in the territory of Kansas, and gave to the industrious, free-labor loving people, that Kansas should be free.

In this connection, and as consequent upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, reference to a proposition made by some of the leading southern journals, and more recently sanctioned by high official authority in a sister State, to re-open the African slave trade, which the united states, to re-open the African slave trade, which the united states, declared to be piracy, and executed by the civilized world—so crowded with horrors in every stage of its pursuit—revolting to every sentiment of humanity—every impulse of pure and noble feeling, should be advocated or approved. In this nineteenth century, with apparent sincerity, and urged as a means of political economy and of juster and equitable rights to the southern States of the Union, are facts that find for their only explanation and apology in a wild enthusiasm, or a still wilder fanaticism that overwhelms alike the reason and the conscience. The wisdom and humanity of a proposition so startling and monstrous at first sight, find parallel and illustration in the dungeons of the Inquisition, or in the hold of the slave ship, amidst the horrors of the "middle passage." Equally repulsive to the intelligent and virtuous sentiment of the south as of the north, it should receive the indignant rebuke of the lover of his country—of every friend of justice and humanity. The history of the world and of our own does not reveal a traffic more inhuman—an atrocity more horrible, against humanity and civilization, and against the principle it invokes, as the representative of a free people, and in their name, you should vote that the nuisance and its supporters protest.

The union of the States, which constitutes us one people, should be dear to you—to every American citizen. In the heat and excitement of political contests—in the wild fires of sectional and conflicting interests—amid the surging of human passions, harsh and discordant voices may be heard, threatening the integrity and dismembering its dome; but in the calm, "sober, second thought" of a patriotic people, the Union, in their integrity and harmony, has been and will ever be as ready to recognize the rights of her sister States as to defend her own. These sentiments she has never abandoned—these principles she has never violated. Pledged to the maintenance of the rights of the north, as well as of those of the south—sincerely desirous to promote the peace, harmony and welfare of our whole country—and disclaiming all intention or desire to interfere with the Constitutional rights of the states, or their domestic institutions—the people of this Commonwealth view with alarm and apprehension the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—a compromise rendered sacred in the public esteem by its association and connection with the great cause of national harmony and union—regarding it as a palpable violation of the plighted faith and honor of the nation, and as an unwarrantable attempt to extend the institution of domestic slavery to territories then free. This reckless and indefensible act of our National Congress, has not only aroused sectional jealousies and renewed the agitation of vexed and distractive questions, but, as a consequence, it has filled Kansas with fraud, violence and strife—has stained its soil with blood, and, by a system of territorial legislation justly styled "infamous," has made freedom of speech and of the press a felony, and perilled the great principles of liberty and equal rights. If the doctrine of "popular sovereignty" is in good faith to be applied to that Territory—if the people thereof are to be left "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States," then the obstruction of the great National highways to the northern settlers—the employment of the National forces, and the subversion of the ballot-box, should receive the censure of the Congress of Washington, to force slavery upon an unwilling people, cannot be too severely condemned.

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The militia law of the State is imperfect in many of its provisions, and should be revised.—The powers and duties of the Commander-in-Chief should be more clearly defined; as also of the other officers connected with the military organization of the Commonwealth. This is a subject of great importance, and should receive your early consideration.

The "Polytechnic College of Pennsylvania," established by the enterprise and liberality of some of the patriotic citizens of Philadelphia, as a school of the applied sciences, deserves honorable mention, and should receive the confidence and patronage of the public. In the teachings of this institution, literature, science and art, in happy union, meet to prepare our young men for the practical business of life, for mining, mechanical and civil engineering, and for promoting intelligently and efficiently the great interests of manufacturing and agricultural industry.

The laws on the statute book regulating manufacturing and improvement companies, require revision. They are unnecessarily stringent in many of their provisions, and thus defeat the object of their enactment. They drive capital from the State, instead of inviting its investment here; and instead of encouraging individual and associated enterprise and energy in the development of our immense natural resources, they bind and crush both by severe restrictions, unwise limitations and personal liabilities. The subject deserves careful attention and liberal legislation.

I have so frequently expressed my views in relation to local, special and "omnibus" legislation, that their reiteration now becomes unnecessary. Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation, when the object desired can be secured by general laws, or by the action of the courts, should be avoided. "Omnibus legislation" cannot, under any circumstances, be justified or approved. *Too much* legislation is an evil that prevails extensively in legislative halls. Its avoidance would not be injurious to public or private interests.

The practice of delaying the passage of the general appropriation bill until the last days of the session, and incorporating in it provisions incompatible with its general character, and obnoxious, when standing alone, to insurmountable objections, is highly censurable and should be discontinued. The attempt thus made to force, by a species of legislative legerdemain; the passage of objectionable measures through the Legislature, and compel their sanction by the Executive, has been too often successful. The practice cannot be too strongly condemned: it cannot receive my sanction.

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