## GOV. GEARY'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN: For the harmony and genother States and Territories of the National Union; for the present prosperous condition of the Commonwealth; for the glad signs of coming political tranquility; and for the success which attends the progress of our free institutions, we owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Divine Providence. In view of the favorable circumstances under which you are now assembled, it becomes my province and duty, as it is my pleasure, to offer you my hearty congratulations, and to tender you accordial welcome to the Legislative Halls of the State. This, indeed, affords me a higher gratification because I participate with your constituents in the confidence manifested by them in selecting you to represent their individual interests as well as those of the Commonwealth. On your wisdom, integrity, judgment and discretion, all will undoubtedly rely for the correct determination of every question affecting the largest interests and gravest responsibilities, and for a continuance, and

even an increase, of that prosperity which has hitherto been so signally enjoyed. It is not without a consciousness of the great responsibility resting upon me that I undertake the performance of a constitu tional duty, requiring that the Governor "shall from time to time give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shail judge expedient." In conformity with this requirement, your attention will be called only to such matters of public interest as in my judgement deserve careful consideration and action on your part during the present

FINANCES. The following is a carefully prepared statement of the financial condition of the State for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1868: The report

is 1800; 1800; le reports of the Auditor General and state Treasurer show that the balance in the Treasury November 30, 1867; was 4,661,836,46
Ordinary receipts during the daca l year
eading November 30,1868.
Depreciated funds in the Treasury, unavailable. 41,032,00

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Ordinary expenses during fiscal year ending Nov. ... \$9,918,918,01

fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1863.
30, 1863.
Loans, &c., redeemed. 4,417,463,64
Olater payments 12,800,00
Interest on loans 1,779,800,91
Depreciated funds unvible 41,632,00

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1853 . \$1.013, 415 37

Sinking Fund.—By an act approved 8,905,492,64 April 10, 1868, the transactions of the Com-missioners of the Sinking Fund were ordered to be thereafter reported annually to the 30th day of November. Their last report, therefore, includes a period of one year and three months.

The following is the "recapitulation" of

the operations of the sinking fund, from September 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868; September 30, 1868; Sept 3,418,992 31

5,156,904 72 

4,222,871 9 Balance in fund Nov. 30, 1868...... \$334,032 76 By the sixth section of the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax of one-half mill on the

743,912 37 169,245 00 Balance in fund Nov. 20, 1868...... \$574,607 87 

... 574 667 37 Drduct balance in Treasury November \$1,508,700 12 1,013,415 37 Balance in favor of sinking fund.... 1495, 284 78

Reduction of the State Debt. By the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund for the year ending September 3, 1867, the 'loans redeemed' amounted to \$1,794,569.50, and by their report from otember 3, 1867, to November 30, 1868, the "loans redeemed" amounted to \$2,414,-816.64, making a total reduction of the State debt, in two years and three months, of four million two hundred and nine thousand three hundred and eighty-six dollars and

fourteen cents. The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follows, viz: Bonds of the Pennsylvanis Company, six million four hundred thousand dollars, and bonds of the Philadel. phia and Eric Railroad Company three million five hundred thousand dollars. These are non-interest bearing bonds and will not mature for many years. I, therefore, recommend to the consideration of the Legislature the propriety of the passage of a law, authorizing the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to sell these bonds at public sale the highest bidder, and direct the proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the State debt.

Public debt ourstanding December 1 1867... \$37,704,409 77
Deduct mount reference at State
Treasury during the Secal year ending November 30, 1868, viz.
Sper cent. loans... \$4 254,203 64
45 per cent. loans... 63,000 00
Retief notes cancelled... 210 00 4.417,463 6 Public debt December 1, 1868...... \$33, 286, 845 13

Statement showing the condition of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth on the first day of December, 1868. sunded debt, viz:
6 p r cent. loans
5 per cent. loans
4 per cent. loan
Total funded

7,749,771 56 112,000 00 Amount brought forward.
Unfunded "Gut, viz:
tellef notes in circulation... \$96,425 CO
nterest certificates out... mener notes in circulation ... \$96,425 CO
Interest testa ficates outstanding ... 12,086 52
Interest certificates unclaimed ... 448 33

creditors' certifi-Total funded and unfunded...... \$33,286,946 13 Which is the amount of the State debt as

During the last eighteen years there has been carried upon the accounts of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, and in their several public statements, "depreciated funds unavailable" to the amount of fortyone thousand and thirty-two dollars, I recommend the appointment of a joint committee, by the Legislature, whose duty it shall be to examine the said depreciated and unavailable funds and dispose of them to the best advantage of the Treasury; or, if found to be worthless, to cancel and destroy them, so that the accounting officers may be relieved from the necessity and responsibility of annually accounting for them.

The large cash balance remaining in the

The large cash online remaining in the Treasury on the 80th of November, 1867, has been used for the payment of the twenty-three million loan for the liquidation of outstanding claims against the State. The

been rendered unnecessary for the present. But in the event of large accumulations of money hereafter, the recommendations therein given are respectfully referred to, GENTLEMEN: For the harmony and general relations of comity and friendship existing between Pennsylvania and all the in saving the interest on them which would

accumulate prior to their maturity.

I regret to state that the last Legislature, although fully forewarned in regard to the insecurity and want of proper and sufficient guards for the safe keeping of the money of the Commonwealth, failed to determine upon any mode by which the Treasury may be effectually guarded against the possibility of loss. The present Legislature has it in its power to secure for itself no ordinary honor, by the enactment of such a law, strong and efficient for the purpose indicated, and the enjoyment not only of the approbation, but the permanent gratitude of every citizen.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory reduction of the public indebtedness, as shown in the foregoing statements, an immense State debt is still upon us, requiring nearly two million of dollars to be collected to pay the interest accruing upon it annually. Its extinguishment at the earliest practicable period, not inconsistent with other public interests, is of the highest importance to every tax-payer. I cannot, therefore, too strongly urge the strictest economy in respect to every expenditure and the utmost retrenchment in every department.

Retrenchment is emphatically demanded by the people, in legislative expenditure, as well as in every other branch of the government. Their eves are open to income ernment. Their eyes are open to investigate every transaction, and by their bailots they are ready to strike down those who will not take effective action in favor of positive and radical reform. The money paid into the Treasury is the property of the people, every one of whom has a just right to hold his representatives to a strict accountability for every dollar that may be appropriated or expended.

I here renew the remark made last year on the subject of "annual appropriations," to which you are respectfully referred. For four successive years the general appropriation bills have been signed on the eleventh day of April, being about the time of adjournment. The Governor has been forced either to sign the bills without proper investigation, notwithstanding any objections he may have; suspend the means to defray the operations of the government for the ensuing year, or call an extra session of the Legislature. I repeat that 'it is earnestly desired that that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed and passed at a sufficient ciently early period during the session to enable it to receive that thorough examinaion which its importance demands." Common Schools—The annual report of

the Superintendent of Common Schools exhibits the condition of that department in exhibits the condition of that department in a highly satisfactory manner. Within the State there are 1,918 school districts; 13,776 schools; 2,382 graded achools, 11,698 school directors; 73 county, city and borough superintendents; 16,771 teachers; and 800,515 pupils. The cost of tuition for the year was \$3,273,269 43; of building, purchasing and renting school houses, \$1,991,152 55; of contingencies, \$54,253 21. These three items, with expenditures for all other purposes connected therewith, amount to the aggregate sum of \$6,200,537 96. aggregate sum of \$6,200,537 96.

These facts are exhibited with great satisfaction, as they show the average annual cost for the tuition of each pupil to be about seven dollars and seventy four and a half cents. The average amount paid to each teacher is about one hundred and ninetyelevating tendency not only upen the teachers but the manner in which their duties are

Your attention is called to the fact that, notwithstanding the ample provision new made by law for the education of all persons between the ages of six and twenty-one years, large numbers of children, principally in our cities do not attend any kind of school. Over twenty thousand of this class are found in Philadelphia, and the number in the State is estimated to be not less than seventyfive thousand. These children grow up in ignorance, frequently without employment, and many of them contract habits of vice, which eventually cause them to be committed to houses of refuge, county prisons or penitentiaries. Humanity and sound public policy demand that something be done to remedy this growing evil, and also that of the neglected condition of considerable num-bers of children in the alms and poor houses

in many of the counties.

Four Normal Schools are now recognized as State institutions. The number of students attending them during the past year was 2,115, of whom eighty graduated. Two additional Normal Schools will prob-Was 2,115, of ably go into operation during this year, one located at Bloomsburg, Columbia county, and the other at California, Washington county. The value of these institutions to the common school system cannot be estimated. Our schools are comparatively worthless withoul qualified teachers, and such teachers can most easily be obtained from the Normal institutes, where the art of teaching is made a speciality.

teaching is made a speciality.

A meeting of the presidents and other authorities of a number of our principal colleges was held in Harrisburg last winter, the object of which was to bring about a closer union of all our educational institutions, and connect by a bond of sympathy, if not of organic structure the common if not of organic structure, the common schools, high schools, academies and colleges. The establishment of such an educational department seems to be desirable. There is no subject more worthy the deliberations of the Legislature than the promotion of the welfare of our common schools. They immediately underlie the characteristic features of our social system; they are fountains of that widespread intelligence, which, like a perennial vitality, pervades the nation, and are nurseries of that spirit to which we are indebted for the purity and preservation of our free institutions. In a republican government education is a sure basis of power and public prosperity. By it the people are taught to discern and estimate the value of their own rights; to distinguish between oppression and the exercise of lawful authority; to discriminate between liberty and licentiousness; to preserve an inviolable respect for the laws, and exercise "eternal vigilance" against any encroachments upon them. It is admitted that a thoroughly educated people alone can be represented to many of the soldiers of our State, and their representatives, from this office, in which their just dues from the United ucated people alone can be permanently free. By educational culture patriotism is

mented, strengthened and adorned. Soldiers' Orphans' Schools .- In his report the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans' Schools exhibits the total expenditure for their support from December 1, 1867 to May 31, 1868, to be \$236,970,26; total number of pupils in the schools 8,491; average cost per pupil \$69,061 for six months, and the average weekly expenses per pupil \$2,65. The fiscal year of these schools, outstanding claims against the State. The \$z,001. The uscal year of these schools, investment of the funds, in one of the like that of the common schools, terminates by law on the last day of May of each year. message, has, therefore, in a great measure,

accordance with an estimate of the Superintendent, presented in my last annual message, exceeded the actual expenses \$6,-

Notwithstanding every possible effort has been, and will continue to be made, to economize in the expenses of the present year, and to keep them as far as possible within the appropriation made by the last Legisla-ture, it will readily be observed that there will be a deficit for the year ending May 31, 1868, the amount of which will be carefully ascertained and presented to the Legislature prior to the close of the present session. The schools are all in good condition and improving, and their usefulness is daily becoming more manifest. They are among the most philanthropic institutions of the age, and reflect high honor on the patriotism of the Legislature by which they have been so liberally endowed and upon our people by whom they are sustained. The children who are the recipients of their benefits are the offspring of brave men who vol-untarily endangered their lives in the cause of their country in the most trying hour of its existence, and who, glowing with patriotic ardor, fought as bravely and as heroically as the noblest men in the world's history. Thousands of them who left their homes in the bloom of health and with the brightest hopes of manhood; now sleep in death, eaving their widows and little ones to the care of the country in whose service they fell, and which promised them its protection. Their children are the wards of this great Commonwealth; and too much praise cannot be awarded its people for the munificent and tender manner in which they have thus far, through their representatives, dis-charged the sacred and delicate trust.

Agricultural College. - Before the General Government appropriated public lands to the several States for the purpose of agriculthan its own earnings. History proves that seminaries of learning cannot be efficiently sustained by their own internal resources. The education of youth in the higher branch es of knowledge seems to require the aid of philanthropic contributions. This institu-tion had not these benefits to any adequate extent, and though the board of trustees bestowed upon it the most anxlous care, their zeal and labor, combined with those of its friends, were not equal to a contest with the want of means. Hence the school did not command the confidence of farmers who were able to educate their sons, and who could not forget that the character of the College attached to the character of its graduates; and that its failure would enter into the estimate which the world would place upon the education it bestowed. This feature has now been removed. The people, through their Legislature, have endowed this institution with the interest upon a fund of \$318,500,00, (invested in the United States and Pennsivania State of your cast bonds) parable. siyvania State six per cent, bonds,) payable slyvania State six per cent, bonus, payable to it semi-annually. Last year this interest amounted to \$25,642 78. The residue of the fund, \$48,886 50, has been appropriated, under the law, by the board of trustees, to the purchase of three model and experimentthe purchase of three model and experimental farms; one at the college, in Centre county, for \$8,000 00, one in Chester county for \$17,750 00, and one in Indiana county for \$18,136 50. The board has also recently re-organized the faculty and remodeled the course of studies as a sector down

practical application of both, are so potent for profitable results as in their adaptation to agricultural pursuits. And in this truly practical age it is well worthy of the consideration of parents, whether they should not avail themselves of the benefits of this institution, new so generously endowed by the State.

From the report of the Adjutant General you will learn the condition of the Military partment. The inaclivity in military affairs after the cessation of hostilities and analisation and cossession of the state of t measure been dispelled, and an active martial spirit now prevails throughout the State; more particularly in Philadelphia, where, by a special legislative enactment, the minimum number of men required to form a company has been reduced, and a brigade fund is raised by a tax upon those transact little business outside of the State, it is alleged that foreign life insurance comzation, but liable to the performance of military duty. I recommend the passage of a similar law for the whole State. For the sake of preserving the great interests inand happiness of our people, this is preyou as an important subject for

your deliberation. Every possible encouragement of volunteers has been afforded, and notwithstanding the difficulties indicated it has resulted as follows: In 1860 there were eight volunteer companies in the State; in 1867, thirty eight; and in 1868, seventy-seven, and number of others in preparation for organization.

By a reduction of the number for a company from that now required to an aggregate of fifty officers and men, companies would soon be numbered by the hundred, any of which could be easily recruited to the maximum number if required for active service The State that always maintains the highest degree of preparation, accomplishes mest and suffers least in the conflict of arms; and by being in readiness it often prevents improper encroachments upon her rights. The Adjutant General presents a full and

detailed statement of the disbursements in his department during the year ending November 80, 1868, with an estimate for the necessary appropriations for the current year, and also for such amounts as have been discovered to be due from the Transportation Department, contracted during the State Agency-The existence of the Milli-

tary State Agency at Washington terminated on the 31st day of July last, at which time the appropriation for the payment of its expenses was exhausted. Much benefit resulted to many of the soldiers of our State, States Government were collected and transmitted to them free of charge. In August, free. By educational culture patriotism is expanded, and the principles, manners and sentiments of the whole people are assimilated. Many of the sources of jealousy and prejudice are diminished, social harmony largely increased and the structure of our of them than the late agent, Col. Cook, I remitted him upon ble own offer to close. permitted him, upon his own offer, to close up the business of the office, and to transact any other business for the soldiers of Pennsylvania at one half the fee they are charged by other private agencies in Washington. This arrangement has thus far been carried out, and I am pleased to add, with very general satisfaction. All the books and pa-

pers of the agency will be transferred to the office of the Adjutant General. REGISTRY LAW. At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed known as the "Registry Law," the intention of which was to pro-

therefore, embraces only six months, and reports will be made up to the 31st day of May, annually, hereafter. The special appropriation of February 25, 1868, made in seems to have been so defective in some of fraudulent voting, to which it has for many years been diagracefully exposed. This law seems to have been so defective in some of its provisions as to have received the condemnation of a majority of the Supreme Court, by which it was pronounced "inconcourt, by which it was pronounced "incongruous and unconstitutional." At the election immediately after this decision, it is alleged that frauds were perpetrated, surpassing in magnitude, perhaps, any that have been consummated heretofore in the history of the Commonwealth. These frauds have demonstrated the necessity of the passage of some law, or laws, that will accomplish the desired object, without being subject to the chief of the passage of some law, or laws, that will accomplish the desired object, without being subject to the chief of the passage of some laws. ject to the objectionable features pointed out by the learned gentlemen who pronounced the opinion of the Supreme Bench. There is no subject of such vital importance to the whole country as the sanctity of

the ballot-box, and the protection of all citizens in their right to the elective franchise. This right is our proudest boast. It endows the American citizen with a freedom and a power not possessed by the subject of any other Government. It makes him the peer of his fellow man, whatever may be his rank, station, or position in life. To be deprived of it by any means whatever, his boasted freedom becomes a sham—his especial and exalted prerogative a mockery and a farce. What availed to the citizen that had farce. What avails it to the citizen that he is entitled to a vote, if that vote is to be null-ified by fraud? Such guards, then, should be thrown around the polls as will effectual y, if possible, preserve them from the taint of a single illegal vote. Not only should false voting be severely punished, but false swearing, to obtain a vote, be visited with the pains and penalties of perjury and with perpetual disfranchisement.

The people must be perfectly free to regulate their public business in their own way, and when the voice of the majority is fairly and clearly expressed, all should bow to it as to the voice of God. They are the sovereign rulers, and their will must be the law tural and military education and the mechanic arts, and prior to the time when Pennsylvania endowed the Agricultural College with her share of these lands, it was accordent wholly upon individual influence, and will be followed by a despotism; the mostly a rower of which will be money and perjury. And if this privilege be tampered with, sooner or later the sure and indignant popular condemnation will be rendered and condign punishment administered. All good-citizens, of whatever political opinion. should lend their aid for the accomplishment of any and every measure that may tend to secure to each voter, not only his right to the elective franchise, but the assurance that his vote will not be rendered valueless by illegality, corruption or fraud.
Every proper facility for the naturalization of citizens of foreign birth should be afforded; but the Legislature, in its combined wisdom, can surely enact some mode to prevent the possibility of a single vote being cast upon spurious naturalization papers, and thus fully secure the purity of the

elective franchise REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE. The Commissioners appointed to codify the statute laws of the State have diligently prosecuted the work assigned them, and with every prospect that it will be fully completed within the time prescribed by the legislative resolutions of April 8. 1868; and in further compliance with them, they will cause to be laid before each branch of the General Assembly, at its present session, various titles of bills, with brief ab-

stracts of the several sections of each, which have been matured. INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. companies that frauds are rendered almost impossible, and spurious companies can have no existence. The result of the pro-

foreign companies, thus protected, do an immense business in this State, so little confidence is had in those of Pennsylvania that their business is almost entirely confined within the State limits: and lately some of them have withdrawn their agencies from other States, because no risks will be taken, in consequence of the inadequacy of the laws to afford protection to insurers. To this defect, moreover, may be attributed the operations of it is alleged that foreign life insurance companies alone patd taxes on three millions aight hundred thousand dollars of premiums received in Pennsylvania, a great propor-tion of which would be confined to this State if the same protection was given by law to its citizens as is afforded by other States. The report of the Insurance Department of New York, published in 1867, partment of New York, published in 1867, shows that the companies which were doing business in 1866, in Penasylvania, and alse in New York, had risks in force for more than five thousand millions of dollars; and it is believed that the risks in Pennsylvania.

vania companies which, for want of a proper Insurance Department, cannot be obtained, would swell the amount to over six thousand million. In view of these facts, and of the costly experience of the people who have been imposed upon and defrauded by unsubstantial and ephemeral companies, I repeat the recommendation made to the Legislature at its last session, that an Insurance Department be established, and a Superintenden appointed by law, who shall have supervison and control over all insurance companes, allowed to transact business within the State and annually publish, under oath, full reports of their transactions. The community is deeply interested in this matter, and demands the protection which can thus only

be afforded. NEW HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE. The Commissioners appointed by an act of the last acceion to establish an additional State Hospital for the Insane," have notified me that they will present a report of their proceedings, sometime during the present month, which will be communicated when

DAMAGES BY RAIDS. In accordance with an act of the last session, providing for an investigation and adjucation of the claims of citizens of several damaged or appropriated for the public service, and in the common defence in the war to suppress the rebellion," s commission of three competent gentlemen was appointed, who have performed the allotted duties, and will soon make a full report of their transactions.

PARIS EXPOSITION. I have received, through the Secretary of State of the United States, a bronze medal and diploma from the Imperial Commissioners for the best specimens of Pennsyl.

Vanis anthracite coal exhibited at the Paris

The pardon report will exhibit that in many instances in which Executive elemency important branch of the internal resources of Pennsylvania have been assigned a place among the other valuable relics in the Executive Chamber.

STATE COAT OF ARMS.

State, and for the authority under which punishment upon criminals, the present design was established. It seems that for years past no trace of either the original authority or design could anywhere be found, and it is recommended that the legislature take the necessary steps to supply the omission, by such means as they in their wisdom shall determine.

STATE BENEFICIARIES. A number of benevolent, charitable and other similar institutions annually receive appropriations from the State for their sup-

ort. These appropriations, in most, if not all cases, appear to have been adequate for the purposes to which it was intended they should be applied, and are as liberal as can reasonably be expected in the present condition of the Treasury of the State. THE SUSQUEHANNA FISHERIES. A preliminary report on the busquehanna

fisheries has been submitted by Col. James Worrall, Civil Engineer, Commissioner under the act of the Legislature in reference thereto. There are some facts which should be embodied in the report, but which can not be ascertained until early in January. Permission has therefore been granted to the Commissioner, at his request, to postpone the submission of his regular re-port until the earliest day practicable during the present month. CATTLE DISEASE.

The prevalence of contagious or epidemic discuses among cattle and other animals has been a prolific source of anxiety and alarm meats in many of the States. It was therefore deemed important to call a convention of competent persons to take into consideration the means best calculated to remedy this great and growing evil. This conven-tion, composed of three commissioners each from the fourteen States represented, appointed in accordance with an agreement by the several Governors, assembled at and demand. One of the convicts named has been imprisoned about eighteen years, s herewith presented.

ing my action would be sanctioned by the people's representatives, I appointed Dr. Hiram Corson and Messrs, E. C. Humes and A. Boyd Hamilton, commissioners to represent Pennsylvania in that convention. These gentlemen freely gave their time and experience, and also incurred a pecuniary expense of about three hundred dollars, to defray which I recommend that an appropriation be made.

FIATISTICS.
;In view of the vast amount and great variety of the products of the State, a deak for the collection of statistics, relative to exports and imports, agriculture, manufactures, coal, iron, oil, lumber, cc., might, with propriety and profit be established. This could be accomplished by the employment of a competent clerk, under the super ment of a competent clerk, under the super-vision of one of the present heads of de-partment, whose duty should be to collect and publish such facts as might tend to stimulate and increase our productive ener-gies, instil new life and vigor into our manufacturing interests, and lead to more accurate knowledge of all our internal re-sources and the proper methods for their sources and the proper methods for their development. There is abundant space in the Capitol buildings to be appropriated as a receptacle for books, papers, mineralogical and geological specimens, and other articles that might be contributed appropriate to such a department and which in a few years would form an invaluable collection. Under legislative direction, the good results would be almost incalculable, and are required by the progressive spirit of the age in which we live. age in which we live.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE VERMONT LEGISLA-TURE. r attention is called to the accompanying joint resolutions, passed at the last session of the Vermont Legislature, bearing a just tribute to the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens. Joint resolutions from the same body are also sent you, which I regard as worthy of your consideration, relative to the act of Congress "to establish and protect National Cemeteries," and recommending to the Legislature of the State of Penn. sylvania the passage of an act empowering the Board of Commissioners having charge of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg to transfer all the right, title, interest and care of said Soldiers' National Cemetery to the General Communications to the General Communication to the General Co

etery to the General Government, upon the completion of the same." IN MEMORIAM. It has been the misfortune of the State during the past year to lose by death two of her representatives in the Congress of the nation, Hon. Thaddens Stevens, of the Ninth, and Hon. Darwin A. Finney, of the Twentieth District. Both were natives of Vermout, but in early life selected Pennsylvania for their home, and identified themselves with her interests, which they were as were with her interests, which they were some involved in the late canvass, and the Ninth, and Hon. Darwin A. Finney, of the selves with her interests, which they were chosen to guard in the Legislature, and the people of the Commonwealth will long re-bitterness of feeling as well as the earnestmember with gratitude their faithful and nemoer with gratitude their faithful and efficient services. The first went down to his grave after a long life of public useful-ness and in well matured honors; the other in the prime of manhood, which gave promise of a scarcely less brilliant career.

PARDONS. The list of pardons during the past year will be found among the papers to which your attention is called. The principal reasons upon which they were based, and the names of some of the prominent tioners are given in every case. That a few of these pardons may have been unworthily granted, through misrepresentations of relatives, friends, sympathizing neighbors and other interested parties, there is no doubt, but in the majority of instances it is certain that the facts not only justified but demanded Executive clemency.

The whole number of applications for pardons for the year has been sixteen hundred and twenty-three. The number of pardons granted in that time has been one hundred and six, which is a little over fifteen per cent. Of those pardoned about five per cent. have been again brought before the Courts in consequence of their return to the commission of crime.

I am fully impressed with the weighty re-Daily beset with powerful and pitiful importunities, as well as conflicting representations, from those in whom he should be enabled to place the fullest confidence, in order to avoid errors in the decision of any case, the Governor is compelled to take into consideration the action of the Court before which the convict has been tried; the majesty of the law which may or may not have cen violated; the condition of the prisoner; his temptation to err; the injury that may be inflicted upon his helpless and dependent relatives, and the arguments and appeals of citizens, whose opinions and wishes he is bound to respect. And however just his decision, and humane and generous his action, either in favor of or against the petitioner for clemency, he must expect to have his motives impugned, his name and character maligned, and to suffer virulent at-

and merciful prerogative.

The pardon report will exhibit that in has been invoked, youthful prisoners, charge with their first offences, and those of a trivial character, have been the re-ciplents. The object of punishment, in all cases, should not be so much to inflict Dilligent but unsuccessful search has been repeatedly made for the coat of arms of the repetition of evil deeds. This fact is frequently lost sight of in imposing

especially when inexperienced youths are shut up in close cells with men hardened in crime, where its aris are daily taught and a romance thrown around its commission. Instead of being improved, they come forth at the expiration of their terms of sentence with the loss of self-respect, their moral sentiments blunted, and prepared to practice upon society the infamous lessons they have learned. Such punishments tend to increase rather than leasen the quantity of crime. When houses of correction and reformatories are constructed, or a proper system of confinement or prison discipline is adopted, there will be a material decrease of crime, and comparatively few cases to demand the exercise of the pardoning power.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES.

There are confined in the Philadelphia county prison the following named convicts, under sentence of death, for whose execution warrants have not been issued: Edward Ford, sentenced May 12, 1851; Jerry Dixon, May 30, 1863; Patrick Finnegan, February 9, 1863; Newton Champion, December 1, 1866; and Alfred Alexander and Hester Vaughn, July 3, 1868. Successive Governors, for satisfactory reasons, have declined to order the execution of these persons. The law requires that they shall be executed in accordance with the sentence, unconditionally pardoned, or held in close con finement in the county jail during life. The latter punishment, with the additional embeen a prolific source of anxiety and alarm bitterment constantly preying upon the among the producers and consumers of mind that a death warrant may at any moments in many of the States. ment be issued, is, perhaps, the severest that could be inflicted. It would be both just and merciful to give the Governor authority to commute the sentence of death in the above named cases to imprisonment, at labor, in the penitentiary, for such a term of years as the ameliorating circumstances may seem to justify r the several Governors, assembled at pringfield, Illinois, on the first of Decembra last, and an account of their transactions herewith presented.

Without legislative authority, but believ-tynesses were also be advisable to justice require the commutation of his sentence in the memory and the ends of justice require the commutation of his sentence in the memory assembled. tence in the manner suggested.

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing subjects have been deemed of sufficient importance to submit at the present time for your information and consideration. Others may occur before the close of the session which may be worthy of special communications. It will be my constant care and determination to co-operate with you in the prosecution of any measures that may tend to preserve and increase the prosperity of the State and the happiness of its people, with the firm belief that your united wisdom will aim constantly

to promote these desirable results. Many of the eyents that have transpired since my last annual communication to the Legisture have been unusually interesting and significant. They have been infinitely more than political, and bear directly upon the great interests and most sacred destinies of the nation. Apart from the vindication of the nation. Apart from the vindication of the principles of the party which sustained the government and the army during the contest for the preservation of the Union, and the election to the Presidency of the first soldier of the age, is the fact that the papels have by triumphant majorities of the next some of the age, is the lact that the people have by triumphant majorities forever settled our controversy upon certain fundamental principles. Parties may and undoubtedly will arise upon other issues, but there can be no future struggle about slavery. Involuntary servitude, as a monopoly of labor, is forever destroyed. The monster obstacle to the national progress has been removed, and henceforward all the faculties of our people can be developed "without let or hinderance." The fair and exuberantly fertile States of the South, heretofore comparatively unproductive, relieved from this terrible curse, with the influx of northern immigration and capital, will soon be migration and capital, will soon be-States in all the arts of peace, and additional markets will be developed in which

to exchange the varied products of the heretofore hostile sections. Hardly less magical has been the effect upon other nations. General Grant's clection has confirmed the hopes of our nation's friends, and the fears of its focs in the Old World. It supplements and seals the verdict of arms and the progress of Republican principles. The downfall of the rebellion in the United States was quickly followed by the great civil revolution in England; the peaceful expulsion of the last of the Bourbons from Spain; the unrest of Cuba; the concession of more liberal principles in Germany; and the necessary acquiescence of the Emperor of the French in the

bitterness of feeling as well as the carnest. ness with which it was conducted, its termination has, happily, met with the acquiescence of nearly the whole people; and at
no time in the history of the nation has
there been opened before us a brighter prospect of continued peace and increasing prosperity; and we have no greater cause universal congratulation than that no differences of opinion now exist that can materially mar our national happiness, relard our onward progress, or threaten the peace or perpetuity of our Government.

In conclusion, permit me to remark that the voice of Pennsylvania, as well as that of a majority of the States, has at the ballot-box proclaimed to the world that all our nabox prociaimen to the world that all our na-tional indebtedness, no matter how heavy the burden, will be paid according to "the letter and spirit" of the agreements made and entered into at the time the debt was and entered into at the time the deet was contracted; and that in this, as in all other respects, our individual and national honor 'must and shall be preserved;' that we are determined, by all honorable means in our power, to secure ample encouragement and protection to each and every branch of Home protection to each and every transmit of riome industry, and every manly enterprise that contributes capital, labor, skill and industry to our material wealth, social adsponsibility of the pardoning power, which ranks among the most difficult and embarmonwealth, being also citizens of the Univancement and political tranquility; that for ted States, we demand the fullest protection, in their persons, their property, and in all their rights and privileges, wherever they may go within the national jurisdiction or in foreign lands; and that whilst our financial policy shall be such as to maintain un-trammelled our national credit, it is to be hoped that it may, at the same time, be such as will sanction the construction of the great railways now in progress and, stretching out their glant arms to grasp the mighty commerce of the Pacific, to develop the untold sources of wealth in the intervening territories, and to connect the most distant portions of our country in a common union, not only with iron bands, but by the still stronger and more indissoluble iles of a common interest and a common brotherhood.

To lessen the burdens of the people, and acter maligned, and to suffer virulent attacks for the exercise of this most important as possible within the limits of its absolute necessities, will always be among the chief objects of wise and just legislation. Let us, then, with a due sense of our obligations and high responsibilities, endeavor so to dis-charge our duties as to secure the greatest good of the community, and merit the approbation of Him by whom our Commonwealth has been so abundantly blessed. JOHN W. GEARY.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, Jan. 6, 1869,