

GOV. GEARY'S MESSAGE.

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

GENTLEMEN: For the harmony and general relations of comity and friendship existing between Pennsylvania and all the other States and Territories of the National Union, for the present prosperity and glory 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 duty to offer you my hearty congratulations, and to tender you a cordial 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 at large. Your wisdom, integrity, judgment and disinterestedness will undoubtedly rely for the effecting the largest interests and gravest responsibilities, and for a continuation of even an increase of that prosperity which has hitherto been so signally enjoyed.

It is not without consciousness of the great responsibility resting upon the Legislature, that I undertake the performance of a constitutional duty, requiring that the Governor shall submit from time to time to the General Assembly a statement of the state of the Commonwealth, and of the measures which he shall consider expedient. In conformity with this requirement, your attention will be called only to such matters of public interest as in my judgment deserve careful consideration and action on your part during the present session.

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 of the Auditor General and State Treasurer shows that:

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1868, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1867, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1866, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1865, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1864, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1863, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1862, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1861, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1860, \$1,015,415.27

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Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1850, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1849, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1848, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1847, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1846, \$1,015,415.27

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Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1801, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1800, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1799, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1798, \$1,015,415.27

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Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1788, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1787, \$1,015,415.27

Total Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1786, \$1,015,415.27

been rendered unnecessary for the present.

money hereafter, the recommendations of

therein given are respectfully referred to

and renewed. Whenever there may be

plus funds in the Treasury, they can, with

safety and benefit to the State, be employed

in the purchase of outstanding bonds, and

in saving the interest on them which would

accumulate prior to their maturity.

I regret to state that the last Legislature,

though fully forewarned, in regard to the

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 an ordinary

honor, by the enactment of such a law,

strong and efficient for the purpose indicated,

and the employment not only of the ap-

propriation, but the permanent gratitude of

every citizen.

Notwithstanding the satisfactory reduction

of the public indebtedness, as shown

in the foregoing statements, an immense

two million of dollars are required nearly

the interest accruing upon it annually to

extinguishment at the earliest practicable

interest, is of the highest importance, and

not inconsistent with other public

every tax-payer.

I strongly urge the strictest economy and

restraint in every department.

Retrenchment is emphatically demanded

by the people, in legislative expenditure, as

well as in every other branch of the gov-

ernment. Their eyes are open to investi-

gate every transaction, and by their ballots

either to strike down those who

will not take effective action in favor of

positive and radical reform, or in favor

of the Treasury is the property of the

people, every one of whom has a just right

to hold the Treasury to a strict ac-

countability 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.

Four successive years the general appropri-

ation bills have been signed on the sixth

of April, being about the time of ad-

journment. The Governor has been forced

to sign the bills without proper inves-

tigation, notwithstanding any objections

may have; suspend the means to defray the

operations of the government for the ensu-

ing year, or call an extra session of the Leg-

islature, the result of which is earnestly de-

sired that the Legislature should be

taken up, discussed and passed at an ear-

ly period during the session to

enable it to receive that thorough examina-

tion which its importance demands."

COMMON SCHOOLS.—The annual report of

the Superintendent of Common Schools

exhibits the condition of that department in

a highly satisfactory manner. Within the

State there are 1,918 school districts, 13,778

schools; 73 county, city and borough super-

intendents; 16,771 teachers; and 800,515

pupils. The cost of tuition for the year

was \$3,273,289.49; of building, purchasing

and renting school houses, \$1,012,132.85;

of contingencies, \$854,253.21. These three

items, with expenditures for all other pur-

poses connected therewith, amount to the

aggregate sum of \$5,140,675.55.

These facts are exhibited with great satis-

faction, as they show the average annual

cost for the tuition of each pupil to be about

seventeen cents. The average amount paid to

each teacher is about one hundred and fifty

cents. The average amount paid to each

pupil is about one cent and a half. This is

a small salary to secure the services of com-

petent teachers; and I am fully con-

vinced that the necessity of increased com-

pensation. It is but just, and it will have a

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