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JOB PRINTING,
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Executed in the highest style of the Art, and on the most reasonable terms.

A Fair Trade.

"Get a new beast there, haint you, Jake?"
"Yes—the best horse I ever owned."
"She? Don't look very remarkable, 'spos you paid seventy or eighty dollars for her?"
"Humph! No matter what I paid.—But I wouldn't look at less than three hundred and seventy-five for her!"
"Fiddlestick! Got the spavin in his left hind leg, haint he?"
"Not a spavin!"
"Well, his left hip is lower than the other by two inches."
"No, sir. That's all in your eye. He's the best horse I ever owned, that's saying considerable. Spirited, but gentle—wont bear the whip, though; and perfectly safe for women folks to drive. My wife went to Concord with him last week."
"Indeed!" with an appearance of interest. "Guess I'll get in and try the reins."
Jake Pinkham drew in the reins over the back of the showy looking grey, with a great exhibition of strength, sundry commands to "whoa," and "be easy," and Tom Berry got into the buggy.

Both gentlemen were notorious horse jockies, and each was continually trying to overreach the other.
The horse went well—finely, in fact—Secretly, Berry was better pleased with the animal than anything of the kind he had seen for many a day, and after a great deal of haggling, which would fail to interest the reader, a bargain was struck.
Mr. Berry had a celebrated cow that he was desirous of selling, and Mr. Pinkham happened to want to buy, so a trade was concluded—on these terms:—Pinkham was to give Berry one hundred and fifty dollars for the cow, and Berry was to give him three hundred and fifty dollars for the horse. Berry took the beast home with him, and Pinkham's hired man came down and drove up the cow.

Both were highly delighted with their exchange, and each thought himself the gainer. We shall see which was nearest right.
After tea, that evening, Mr. Berry who was quite a fast young man, and very much of a beau, thought he would try his horse. He would ride down Hawley street, and cross to Jefferson, for just then he was deeply enamored of a fair milliner's girl on the latter street, and most of his peregrinations set that way.

The animal behaved splendidly. Berry began to think himself the most fortunate man in existence. Just opposite the milliner's window he reined up to speak to a friend.
The horse pricked his ears, lifted his fore feet, and commenced backing—Berry exerted all his skill to subdue him, but it was thrown away. The horse was bound to go back. Down through the gutter—up over the pavement—bang, smash and rattle! and the next thing Berry knew, he was flying through the windows of an apothecary shop, scattering the red and blue bottles in every direction! The apothecary flew at him with uplifted pestle, and the assistant pelted the horse with jars and jugs, ad libitum but the brute kept on with courage undiminished.

A glass screen ran along the back of the store, dividing it from Mrs. Apothecary's private parlor, where that lady was, at that moment, engaged in the very interesting employment of spanking a tow-headed juvenile.
A crash, and the buggy went through, and Mr. Berry was pitched head foremost into the lap of Mrs. Apothecary's sister, who was making her a call.

The elder lady sprang to her feet and seizing a Cornes-pole, was about wreaking summary vengeance on the unexpected visitor, but her sister interfered, and Berry hugged her in recompense. Mrs. Apothecary contented herself with throwing a mug of hot water at the horse, which so enraged the animal that he cleared himself from the buggy, and bounded away into the street.

Berry gave a long-legged youngster two dollars to catch him, which was accomplished after a smart run, and having hidden the young lady who had saved him from fate, on affectionate good night, Berry got into his buggy and started for home, promising to call next day to settle damages.

They proceeded in fine style for a couple of miles; and then upon a dreary heath the horse came to a stand still, and refused to budge. Not an inch would he go either backward or forward.
Coaxing and whipping, alike, availed nothing. Berry got down and pulled him by the bridle, stuck pins in him, pushed behind at the wagon, but without avail.

An old woman came along with an umbrella. Berry got her to flourish that at him, but he was immovable.
"Yer bound to stand till yer take yer seat, haint ye?" and she let him have the whole contents of her snuff-box full in the face.

The effect was astonishing! Berry was laid out on a rock heap—the old woman found herself with a caved bonnet, sitting in the middle of a mud puddle, and the horse was flying home in a cloud of dust.
Berry walked the remainder of the distance, and that night the horse was sent down to him from Pinkham's whither it had flown.

Meanwhile, Pinkham was greatly elated with his cow, which was a very handsome animal, a deep red, with a white strip in her face, and of the Leicester breed.
Mr. Pinkham's wife was a pretended invalid, and Pinkham had a very pretty girl, who acted as a milk maid. Mrs. Pinkham was fearfully jealous of Jenny; and Pinkham stood in mortal horror of his wife's anger, which was more terrible than an army with banners. So he very rarely said anything to Jenny in the house, but when she went to the cowyard to milk, he sometimes stole in, and talked over the "might have beans," provided Mrs. Pinkham never existed.

The first time Jenny went to milk the Berry cow, Mr. Pinkham happened along just at the right moment, and as Jenny took seat on a stool beside the cow, Pinkham took another stool and sat down by her. And Mrs. Pinkham was watching them from behind the stone wall.
"Oh! Jenny!" cried Pinkham—"If I was only single, we'd fly!"
Up went the heels of the cow in the air—over went the pail; over went Jenny, and over went Mr. Pinkham, trampled beneath the hoofs of the bellowing quadruped, who seemed to consider herself the injured party.
Pinkham was the first to recover, and the instant he did so he flew to Jenny.
"Are you hurt? If you are I'll be the death of that cow!"
Mrs. Pinkham bounded over the wall with a stool in her hand, and laid about her with such effect that the cow fled from the yard—Jenny hid in the hay-mow, and Pinkham, on his knees in about two feet of mud, swore never to speak to any other woman as long as he lived.
The cow proved to be a confirmed "kick er." It was utterly impossible to milk her, and Pinkham's only consolation consisted in the thought, that had as she was, that horse was fully her equal.

A few days afterward, he was met by Berry, who facetiously inquired how he liked his cow, and was told that she was fattening for beef. And Berry informed Pinkham that he had put the horse away. And both concluded to make the best of it—considering both had been "sold."

A couple of weeks afterwards, a stylish looking stranger, riding a dark chestnut horse, stopped at Pinkham's to inquire the distance to the next village.—Pinkham's eye was on the horse at once. A conversation about the beast ensued, and the stranger affirmed him to be the best nag in the State. Pinkham offered to buy him, but the stranger indignantly refused. It was his wife's horse and nothing would tempt him to a sale. This only made Pinkham the more anxious to purchase, and he urged the man to name his price.

"Three hundred dollars! not a cent less!" said the proprietor.
Pinkham considered a moment.
"I'll give it," said he, "on one consideration. I see that you are an excellent hand to crack up an article and get a good price for it; and I want you to do me a little favor. I must take you into my confidence, and you shall not lose by it. You see I traded with a neighbor of mine the other day, and got took in tremendously. Bought a cow of him for a hundred and fifty dollars, and the beast isn't worth fifteen! I've got her color changed from red to brown, and if you'll sell her to Tom Berry—down here a couple of miles—for a hundred dollars, I'll give you three hundred for your nag, and ten dollars for your trouble."

The stranger's eyes sparkled, and a curious expression shot across his face.—But Pinkham was too eager to outwit Berry, to pay much attention to mere looks.
The stranger agreed to perform his part of the business—received the money took the cow before him, turned the horse into Pinkham's barn-yard, and trudged off. And two hours afterward, Berry was the owner of the cow he had sold Pinkham, and his pocket was the lighter by a hundred dollars.

That afternoon there came up a smart shower. Pinkham went out to put his new horse in the stable! and behold! there stood the identical grey "backer" he had sold to Tom Berry a fortnight previous; he had been colored, and the rain had washed of the paint!
And about the same time, Berry was looking at his new cow, and had little difficulty in recognizing her as the same quadruped he sold to Pinkham!

And that night each of the gentleman receive a note which let the cat out of the bag. They ran thus:
"I have sold the horse to Pinkham, and the cow to Berry—and am well paid for doing it. The proceeds are in my pockets. Wouldn't you like to finger them."
JIM BEAN.
The outwitted sharpers pocketed their loss—laughed at Jim's cleverness, and agreed never to trade with each other again.

A Dutchman a few days ago picked up a bound volume of public documents, on the back of which was stamped "Pub. Docs." "Tuyfel," said he, what kinder books will dey brint next. As I lif, here is one on pup togs."

GOVERNOR CURTIN'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:—During the past year the people of this Commonwealth have had reason to be grateful to Almighty God for many blessings. The earth has been fruitful, industry has thriven, and, with the exception of the injury suffered by the citizens of some of our border counties, through the disgraceful barbarity of the Rebel forces which ravaged parts of them, and burned the town of Chambersburg, we have no public misfortune to lament. The year closes with a train of brilliant successes obtained by the armies of the United States, inspiring hope in every loyal mind that the accursed Rebellion will soon be crushed, and peace be restored to our country.

The balance in the Treasury November 30, 1864, was \$2,147,331 70
Receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1864 4,738,313 02
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1864 \$6,885,644 72
The payments for the same period have been 4,938,441 09
Balance in Treasury November 30, 1864 \$1,947,203 63

The operation of the Sinking Fund during the last year have been shown by my proclamation of the 27th day of September last, as follows:
Amount of debt of Commonwealth, reduced As follows, viz:—
Five per cent loan of the Commonwealth \$268,308 03
Interest certificates redeemed 261 47 268,569 50

The fiscal year accounted for in the statement of the Treasury Department embraces the time from the 1st of December, 1863, to the 30th of November, 1864. The sinking fund year commenced the first Monday in September, 1863, and closed the first Tuesday in September, 1864. This will explain the discrepancy between the statement of the Treasury Department as to the reduction of the public debt of the State, and the statement embodied in the proclamation relative to the sinking fund.

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania, as it stood on the 1st day of Dec. 1863 \$39,496,596 78
Deduct amount redeemed at the State Treasury During the fiscal year ending with Nov. 30, 1864, viz:
Five per cent stocks \$104,722 73
Four and a half per cent stocks 10,000 00
Interest certificates 2,270 11 116,992 84

Public debt Dec. 1, 1864 \$39,379,603 94
Funded debt, viz:
Six per cent loans ordinary \$400,630 00
Five per cent loans ordinary 35,605,268 72
Four and a half per cent loans ordinary 258,200 00 36,264,098 72

Unfunded debt, viz:
Relief notes in circulation \$97,251 00
Interest certificates outstanding 13,086 52
Interest cert's unclaimed 4,448 38
Domestic creditors' certificates 724 32 115,510 22

Military loan, per act 15th May, 1861 3,000,000 00
Total public Dec. 1, 1864 30,379,603 94
The Commonwealth holds bonds received from the sale of Public Works amounting to ten million three hundred thousand dollars (\$10,300,000), as follows:—
Pennsylvania Railroad Company bonds \$6,800,000 00
Philadelphia Railroad Company bonds 3,500,000 00 \$10,300,000 00

These bonds are in the Sinking Fund and reduce the public debt to \$29,079,603 94.
The tax on tonnage imposed by the acts of 30th April and 25th August 1864, has yielded something less than \$200,000—a much less sum than was anticipated. I recommend a revision of these acts for the purpose of rendering the source of revenue more productive, and amending other defects in those bills.

The revenue derived from the tax on banks during the year amounted to \$539,606 67, but under the enabling act of the State so many of our banks have become National banks, under the act of Congress, that this source of revenue may be considered as substantially extinguished, and it will be necessary in some way to make up the deficiency from other sources.

The National taxation is heavier, and the local taxes authorized by unwise legislation, and paid by our people, are excessive. In view of these circumstances, we should endeavor to avoid increasing their burdens by making undue appropriations for any purpose.

The act of Congress authorizes the taxation by the State of the stock in the Na-

tional banks in the hands of the holders not exceeding the rate of taxation imposed on other similar property, and part of the deficiency may be thus provided for.
The amount of debt extinguished by the Sinking Fund during the year is unusually small, which is accounted for by the extraordinary expenses which have been incurred. Seven hundred and thirteen thousand dollars have been paid to refund to the banks the money advanced by them to pay the volunteers in service during the invasion of the State in 1863. One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) have been distributed among the inhabitants of Chambersburg suffering by the Rebel destruction of their town. About two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) have been expended under the acts providing for the payment of extra military claims, and in addition to those extraordinary outlays, the amount appropriated to charities was last year larger than usual.

In my opinion this matter of donations to charities is fast running into a great abuse. Houses of Refuge and Insane, Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylums appear to be the proper subjects of State bounty, because their objects are of public importance; and to be useful and well economically managed, it seems to be necessary that they should be more extensive than would be required for the wants of a particular county. But in our system ordinary local charities, and to give the public money for their support is really to tax the inhabitants of all the counties for the benefit of one.

It being alleged that the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company has not in various particulars, obeyed the law by which it was incorporated, the Attorney-General (on the suggestion of parties claiming to be thereby injured) has filed an information in equity against that company, seeking an injunction to prevent a continuance of its past, and the persistence of its intended illegal course.

Since my last Annual Message, on the report of John A. Wright, Esq., that the Sunbury and Erie Railroad was finished, I ordered the bonds remaining in the Treasury to be delivered to the Company.
It is a subject of just pride to the people of this Commonwealth that this great work is completed, and whilst it opens a large and wealthy part of the State to the commerce of the seaboard, and unites capital and enterprise within our borders it secures to the Commonwealth the payment of sums due her from the Company.

In my special message of the 30th of April last, to which I refer, I communicated to the Legislature, in some detail, the circumstances connected with the advance by banks and corporations of the funds to pay the volunteer militia of 1864.
It is not necessary here to recapitulate them at length. The case was peculiar, and it is believed none quite like it has occurred. The call for volunteers was made by the authorities of the United States; but it being found that men could not be got under that call, the form of a call by the State authorities for the defense of the State was, with the assent of the President, substituted. The United States agreed to furnish the arms, subsistence and supplies, but it was alleged that Congress had made no appropriation covering the pay. In this state of things, the emergency being great, the Secretary of War telegraphed me thus:

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1863.—To His Excellency, Governor A. G. Curtin:—Your telegrams respecting the pay of militia, called out under your proclamation of the 27th of June, have been referred to the President for instructions, and have been under his consideration. He directs me to say, that while no law or appropriation authorizes the payment, by the General Government, of troops that have not been mustered into the service of the United States, he will recommend to congress to make an appropriation for the payment of troops called into State service to repel an actual invasion, including those of the State of Pennsylvania.

If, in the meantime, you can raise the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those who made it. Measures have been taken for the payment of troops mustered into the United States service as soon as the muster and pay rolls are made out. The answer of this Department, to you as Governor of the State, will be given directly to yourself, whenever the Department is prepared to make answer.
(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The banks and other corporations refused to loan the money unless I would pledge myself to ask an appropriation from the Legislature to refund it. It will be noticed that the pledge of the President is clear and distinct, but notwithstanding the money was paid and the accounts settled and placed in the hands of the President before the meeting of Congress, no such recommendation as promised me was made, and for that reason the bill introduced for that purpose failed. The men were raised and placed under the command of Major-General Couch and the other United States officers in this Department. The troops were held in service longer than the emergency for which they were called out required. Several of the regiments were marched immediately into the distant parts of the State by order of the officers of the army stationed in Pennsylvania, against my remonstrances.

They were retained, as was alleged, to preserve the peace and enforce the draft.

Nearly, if not quite, one-half the money was paid to troops thus held and after the emergency had expired. Finding that the appropriation was likely to fail in Congress, I laid the matter before the Legislature, just prior to their adjournment, in May last, and an Act of Assembly was immediately passed to refund the money out of the State Treasury, which, as above stated, has been done. I ought to say that the appropriation by Congress was vigorously supported by all the members from this State in both branches.—Having done everything in my power to procure the payment of the just claim of the State. I now recommend that the Legislature take the subject into consideration, with a view to induce proper action by the President and Congress.

By the act of 22d of August, 1864, I was authorized to cause an immediate enrollment of the militia to be made, unless that recently made by the United States should be found sufficient, and to be raised, by volunteering or draft, a corps of fifteen thousand men for the defense of our Southern border. The United States enrollment being found very defective, I directed an enrollment to be made, which is now in progress under the charge of Colonel Lemuel Todd whom I appointed Inspector-General. A draft by the United States was then in progress, and it was not thought advisable to harass our people by a contemporaneous State draft, even if a draft had been practicable under the present law.

Volunteers could not be obtained, there being no bounties, and the men not being exempted by their enlistment in that corps from draft by the United States.—Fortunately the United States placed an army, under General Sheridan, between us and the enemy, and thus provided effectually for our defense. With such adequate protection, as proved by the brilliant campaign of that army, I did not think it right to incur the expense to the State of an independent army, and the withdrawal of so many of our people from their homes and pursuits. Meanwhile arrangements have been made with the authorities at Washington for arming, clothing, subsisting and supplying the corps at the expense of the United States, and an order has been given by the authorities of the United States to furnish such volunteers in the corps so privileged not to exceed 5000 men. It is my intention to raise 5000 men during the winter, and I have already adopted measures to that end. There may occur irruptions of irregular bodies of the Rebels, and it is well to be provided against them.

The number proposed to be raised and put into actual service will, in my judgment, be sufficient, and a regard to due economy require that no more than are sufficient should be placed on pay. The remaining 10,000 will be organized and ready for service in case of necessity. I invite your immediate attention to the very able report of the Inspector-General, which sets forth the defects in the law which he has discovered in his preparation for carrying it into practical effect.

The State agencies at Washington and in the Southwest are in active and successful operation. I communicate herewith the reports of Colonel Jordan, at Washington, and Colonel Chamberlain, agent for the Southwest. The provisions of the law requiring agents to collect moneys due by the United States to soldiers, have been beneficial. A reference to their reports will show the magnitude and usefulness of this branch of their service. I desire to invite the attention of all our volunteers, officers, soldiers, and their families, to the fact that the State agents will collect all their claims on the Government gratuitously, as I have reason to believe that many are still ignorant of that fact, and are greatly imposed upon by the exorbitant commissions charged by private claim agents.

Under the act of the 6th of May, 1864, I appointed Hon. Thomas H. Burrows to take charge of the arrangements for the education of the orphans of soldiers. I communicate herewith a copy of his report on the subject. He has discharged his duties with commendable zeal, fidelity and efficiency. I earnestly recommend that a permanent and liberal appropriation be made to support this just and worthy scheme of beneficence.

I recommend that an appropriation be made for pensions to the volunteer militiamen (or their families), who were killed or hurt in service in the year 1862 and 1863. As soldiers sometimes arrive here who are insane, and who should be protected and cared for, I recommend that provision be made for their being placed in the State Asylum for the Insane, at this place, and kept until notice can be given to the authorities of their respective counties who should be required to remove and care for them.

I feel it to be my duty to invite your serious attention to the evils growing out of the system of passing acts of incorporation for purposes which are provided for by general laws. We have passed acts authorizing charters to be obtained without special legislation. These acts have been generally prepared with some care and contain the provisions which the Legislature thought necessary to protect the Commonwealth and her citizens. If these general laws are not found to answer such purposes, they should be amended and perfected.

If any company desires to be incorporated with greater privileges than are conferred, or to be relieved from any of the conditions imposed by these acts, it appears to me that it should be required first to ob-

tain a charter under the general laws, and then apply to the Legislature for an act making the changes which are desired. The attention of the Legislature will thus be drawn to the specific object, and a judgment can be formed of its propriety. I would also observe that great evil results from the habit of granting privileges to corporation by a mere reference to some former private act relating to other corporations, sometimes without even giving the date of these acts.

All these practices are bad, and although they may sometimes be pursued by parties having no bad intentions, yet they certainly originated in the design of surprising the Commonwealth into grants of privileges which it was known could not be obtained if their extent were understood, and they are often followed now for the same fraudulent purpose.

I strongly recommend the repeal of the act passed the 18th day of July, A. D. 1863, entitled "an act relating to corporations for mechanical, manufacturing, mining, and quarrying purposes."
Its provisions are found to be practically so inconsistent with the due protection of the citizens and with the just policy of the Commonwealth, that it ought not to be allowed to stand longer on our statute books. I approved the act in question with great reluctance, and subsequent reflection and observation have satisfied me of its mischievous character.

I also recommend the repeal of an act passed the 22d day of July, A. D. 1863, entitled "A further supplement to an act to enable joint tenants and tenants in common, and adjoining owners of mineral lands in this Commonwealth, to manage and develop the same."
This act allows foreign corporations to hold three hundred acres of land in this State for mining purposes. It was passed it is believed, for the purpose of enabling companies near our border, engaged in the manufacture of iron, to hold lands as ore banks.

But under the idea that the sinking of an oil well is mining, it is believed that companies have already been organized under the laws of other States, and that more will be, for the purpose of holding land and carrying on the oil business in this State. It would be better to remove all doubt on this question by repealing the act. These companies, being foreign corporations, are not within the control of our laws to the extent that they ought to be for purposes of taxation and regulation.

The immense development of wealth in some of our western counties, by the discovery of oil, has added vastly to the resources of the Commonwealth.
I have made efforts to ascertain the value of this product during the last year, but have failed in procuring information sufficiently accurate to justify me in estimating its amount. It is already vast, and is rapidly increasing.

The productions and manufactures of the State have become so diversified and abundant that some measure should be taken for accurate ascertainment of them, so that their extent may be generally known, and also that the necessary taxation may be intelligently imposed. I recommend for these purposes, the creation of a Bureau, of which the Auditor-General and State Treasurer shall be members, and the head of which shall be a new officer, to be styled Commissioner of Statistics, or designated by any other appropriate title.

The act of 25th August, 1864, providing for the voting of soldiers, should be carefully examined with a view to its amendment, and, indeed, a revision of our whole election laws would seem to be desirable, with a view to the essential objects of—1. The admission of legal and exclusion of illegal votes at the polls; and 2d. Faithful and correct returns of the votes actually polled. I communicate herewith the opinion of the Attorney-General on the conflicting returns for the Sixteenth Congressional District, which will show some of the practical difficulties which arise under the existing system.

Without undertaking to recommend the adoption of any particular plan, I submit the whole subject to your careful and earnest consideration in the hope that in your wisdom you will be able to devise some measure which will produce the result so essential to the existence of a free Government—that votes shall be fairly taken in the first instance, and fairly counted and returned afterwards.

I have endeavored since I came into office to exercise as cautiously as possible the power confided to the Executive, and avoid usurping any. I shall endeavor to persist in this course to the end.

A new call has been made by the President for three hundred thousand men. This renders it proper that I should invite your attention to the evils which have resulted from abuses of the system of local bounties which was begun in the emergency, by the voluntary and generous loyalty of our citizens, before the passage by Congress of the Enrollment act, and has since been continued by sundry acts of Assembly.

The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens, and unproductive of corresponding benefit to the Government. In some counties and townships it is believed that the bounty tax during the last year exceeded the average income derived from the land. The large sums offered in some places in the competition for men have demoralized many of