Terms of Publication.

The Somerset Herald

is published every Wednesday Morning at $2 00 per annum, if paid in advance; otherwise $2 50 will invariably be charged.

No subscription will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid up. Postmasters neglecting to notify us when subscribers do not take out their papers will be held liable for the subscription.

Subscribers removing from one Postoffice to another should give us the name of the former as well as the present office. Address

Somerset Printing Company.

JOHN I. SCULL,
Business Manager.

The Somerset Herald.

ESTABLISHED, 1827.

VOL. XXIV. NO. 31. SOMERSET, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1876. WHOLE NO. 1279

Business Cards.

W. H. POSTLETHWAITE, ATTORNEY at Law, Somerset, Pa. Professional business respectfully solicited and punctually attended to.

WILLIAM H. KOONTZ, ATTORNEY AT Law, Somerset, Pa., will give prompt attention to business entrusted to his care in Somerset and the adjoining counties. Office in Printing House Row.

F. J. KOOSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Somerset, Penna.

VALENTINE HAY, ATTORNEY AT LAW and dealer in real estate, Somerset, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care with promptness and fidelity. aug. 12-ly.

J. O. OGLE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Somerset, Pa. Professional business entrusted to my care attended to with promptness and fidelity.

A. H. COFFROTH. W. H. RUPPEL.
COFFROTH & RUPPEL, ATTORNEYS AT Law. All business entrusted to their care will be speedily and punctually attended to. Office—On Main Cross street, opposite the Mammoth Block.

JOHN H. UHL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Somerset, Pa., will promptly attend to all business entrusted to him. Money advanced on collections, &c. Office in Mammoth Building.

DR. E. M. KIMMEL will continue to practice Medicine, and tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and surrounding country. Office at the old place, a few doors east of the Glade House.

DR. H. BRUBAKER tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and vicinity. Office in residence, one door west of the Barnet House.

JAMES L. PUGH, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Somerset, Pa. Office, Mammoth Block, up stairs. Entrance Main Cross St. Collections made, estates settled, titles examined, and all legal business attended to with promptness and fidelity. july15

JOHN O. KIMMEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Somerset, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care in Somerset and adjoining counties with promptness and fidelity. Office in Mammoth Block. feb. 18 70-ly

HENRY F. SCHELL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, and Bounty and Pension Agent, Somerset, Pa. Office in Mammoth Block. jan. 11-ll.

E. MCHELGAITHER. PAUL H. GAITHER.
GAITHER & GAITHER, Attorneys at Law, Somerset, Penn'a. All professional business promptly attended to. Office in Baer's Block, up stairs. oct-72

W. J. & H. L. BAER, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Somerset, Pa. will practice in Somerset and adjoining counties. All business entrusted to them will be promptly attended to.

DR. WM. COLLINS, DENTIST, Somerset, Pa. Office in Cassebeer's Block, up stairs, where he can at all times be found prepared to do all kinds of work, such as filling, regulating, extracting, &c. Artificial teeth of all kinds, and of the best material, inserted. Operations warranted.

S. S. GOOD,
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON,
SOMERSET, PA.
Office in Mammoth Block. oct 72

DR. W. M. MARTIN,
RESIDENT DENTIST,
SOMERSET, PA.
Having several years' experience, is fully prepared to perform all operations upon the teeth.—Artificial teeth inserted on all the improved plans from one to an entire set. Preservation of the natural teeth a specialty. Office two doors west of the Somerset House. Satisfaction guaranteed. apr14

DR. A. G. MILLER, after twelve years' active practice in Shanksville, has now permanently located at Somerset for the practice of medicine, and tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and vicinity.—Office in his Drug Store, opposite the Barnet House, where he can be consulted at all times unless professionally engaged. Night calls promptly answered. dec. 11 '71-ly.

PROFESSIONAL. Dr. George B. Fundenberg, of Cumberland, Md., informs his friends that he has this day associated with himself in the practice of medicine and surgery, his son, Dr. Walter F. Fundenberg, late the resident surgeon of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Special attention will be paid to the diseases of the Eye and Ear. mar4

LAW NOTICE.—Alexander H. Coffroth has resumed the practice of law in Somerset and adjoining counties. Office in Mammoth Building. jan. 25, '76.

DR. J. K. MILLER has permanently located in Berlin for the practice of his profession.—Office opposite Charles Krissinger's store. apr. 22. '74-tf.

JOHN BILLS,
DENTIST.
Office in Coffroth & Neff's new building. Main Cross Street, Somerset, Pa. nov21

ARTIFICIAL TEETH!!
J. C. YUTZY.
DENTIST
DALE CITY, Somerset Co., Pa.
Artificial Teeth, warranted to be of the very best quality, Lifelike and handsome, inserted in the best style. Particular attention paid to the preservation of the natural teeth. Those wishing to consult me by letter, can do so by enclosing stamp. Address as above. jy12-72

THE SOMERSET HOUSE.
Having leased this magnificent and well known Hotel property from Mrs. E. A. Flick, the undersigned takes pleasure in informing his friends and the public generally that he will spare neither pains nor expense to make this house all that could be desired. Accommodating clerks and obliging waiters will attend to the wants of customers, and the table will at all times be laden with the best the market affords. Mr. G. H. Taylor may at all times be found in the office. D. LAVAN. mar23

DIAMOND HOTEL.
STOYSTOWN PA.
SAMUEL CUSTER, Proprietor.
This popular and well known house is at all times a desirable stopping place for the travelling public. Table and Rooms first-class. Good stabling. Hacks leave daily for Johnstown and Somerset. mar11.

SLATE ROOFS.
Those who are now building houses should know that it is cheaper in the long run to put on Slate Roofs than tin or shingles. Slate will last forever, and no repairs are required. Slate gives the purest water for cisterns. Slate is fire proof. Every good house should have a Slate roof. The undersigned is located in Cumberland, where he has a good supply of

Peachbottom & Buckingham
SLATE
for roofing—the very best article. He will undertake to put Slate Roofs on Houses, public and private, spires, &c., either in town or country at the lowest prices, and to warrant them. Call and see him or address him at his Office, No. 118 Baltimore Street, Cumberland, Md. Orders may be left with
NOAH CASEBEER,
Agent, Somerset, Pa.
WM. H. SHIPLEY.
April 24th, 1875.

HOMES FOR ALL.
I have for sale, on terms within the reach of every sober, industrious individual, houses, lots, farms, timber lands, mineral lands, building lots, &c., in different parts of the county, in parcels of from one-fourth of an acre up to 1,000 acres. Titles warranted. Terms—one fifth in hand and the balance in ten equal annual payments, properly secured. None need apply who is not of sober and industrious habits. Call soon, as some of the properties will be bought at no small price.
D. WEYAND feb24

Banks.

Cambria County
BANK,
M. W. KEIM & CO.,
NO. 266 MAIN STREET,
JOHNSTOWN, PA.,
Henry Schnable's Brick Building.
A General Banking Business Transacted.
Drafts and Gold and Silver bought and sold.—Collections made in all parts of the United States and Canada. Interest allowed at the rate of six per cent. per annum, if left six months or longer. Special arrangements made with Guardians and others who hold moneys in trust. april 16-75.

Ursina Lime Kilns.
The undersigned are prepared to furnish
Prime Building Lime
By the Car Load.
Orders Respectfully Solicited.
R. J. BATZER & CO.
Ursina, June 18.

JOHN DIBERT. JOHN D. ROBERTS.
JOHN DIBERT & CO.,
BANKERS
CORNER MAIN AND FRANKLIN STREETS,
JOHNSTOWN, PA.
Accounts of Merchants and other business people solicited. Drafts negotiable in all parts of the country for sale. Money Loaned and Collections Made. Interest at the rate of Six Per cent. per annum allowed on Time Deposits. Savings Deposit Books issued, and Interest Compounded Semi-annually when desired. A General Banking Business Transacted. Feb. 10.

SEND 25c. to G. P. ROWELL & CO., New York for book (97th edition) containing lists of 3,000 newspapers, and estimates showing cost of advertising. jan13

$5 to $20 per day. Agents wanted. All classes of working people of both sexes, young and old, make more money at work for us, in their own localities, during their spare moments, or all the time, than anything else. We offer employment that will pay handsomely for every hour's work. Full particulars, terms, &c., sent free. Send us your address at once. Don't delay. Now is the time. Don't look for work or business elsewhere until you have learned what we offer. G. STINSON & Co., Portland, Me. jan13

D. KNOX MILLER,
ARCHITECT,
No. 4 SIXTH STREET,
Late St. Clair Street. PITTSBURGH. nov24

THE
Keystone
LIME
COMPANY
having completed their
LIME KILNS,
are now prepared to
Fill all orders for
LIME.
Their Lime is of the
Mountain Lime Stone
Formation, favorably known in other parts of the county as the Peck and Findlay Lime Stones. Its quality is unsurpassed, either for
Building or Agricultural Purposes.
Address all orders to Keystone Junction, Somerset county, Pa.
Keystone Lime Co.
nov24

WANTED—AN ENERGETIC man as general agent in this district, to establish local agencies and control the sales of an article of daily use in every household. A legitimate cash business and a monopoly that will pay. An active man may secure a desirable and permanent position by addressing—with stamp enclosed for answer,
MANHATTAN MANUFACTURING CO.
nov24 147 Reade Street, New York.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.
Estate of David Shaffer, late of Paint township, deceased.
Letters of administration on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to those indebted to it to make immediate payment, and those having claims against it, to present them duly authenticated for settlement on Saturday, the 20th day of Nov., 1875, at the late residence of said deceased.
HIRAM SHAFFER, Administrator. oct6

BULBS, PLANTS AND TREES.
24 Beautiful bulbs of Hyacinths, Tulips and Crocus, sent postage for $1.00.
Fruits & ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Vines. An immense stock for Fall Planting, very cheap! Send for price list.
BEN. A. ELLIOT & CO.,
114 Market St., Pittsburgh, Pa. oct13

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that David Ankeny on the 25th day of October, 1875, made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to the undersigned, all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the said Ankeny will please call at the office of the undersigned, in Somerset borough, and make settlement thereof.
H. L. BAER, Assignee.

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that an application will be made at the next session of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, for a charter to incorporate a company to be called the "Fair Hope Boom Company," the object of which is, by authority of said charter, to erect and maintain a boom in Will's Creek, at Fair Hope, in Somerset county, Pa., and to use the waters of Will's creek and Brush creek in said county, as far as practicable for floating logs into said boom to be manufactured into lumber.
J. M. MACOMBER, and others. dec1

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.
The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned has this day (8th of December, 1875,) been dissolved by mutual consent.
JOHN A. SIPE.
PETER COLEMAN.
The business will be continued by the undersigned.
JOHN A. SIPE.
Dec 15.

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the next General Assembly of Pennsylvania for the repeal of so much of the game laws of this Commonwealth as relates to the hunting of deer during the month of December in each year in Somerset county. dec8

Miscellaneous.

APPLETONS'
AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA
NEW REVISED EDITION.
Entirely rewritten by the ablest writers on every subject. Printed from new type, and illustrated with several thousand engravings and maps.
The work originally published under the title of THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA was completed in 1863, since which time the wide circulation which it has attained in all parts of the United States, and the signal developments which have taken place in every branch of science, literature, and art, have induced the editors and publishers to submit it to an exact and thorough revision, and to issue a new edition entitled THE AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.
Within the last ten years the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want.
The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the discoveries of science, and their fruitful application to the industrial and useful arts, and the convenience and refinement of social life.—Great wars and consequent revolutions have occurred, involving national changes of peculiar moment. The civil war of our own country, which was at its height when the last volume of the old work appeared, has happily been ended, and a new course of commercial and industrial activity has been commenced.
Large accessions to our geographical knowledge have been made by the indefatigable explorers of Africa.
The great political revolutions of the last decade, with the natural result of the lapse of time, have brought into view a multitude of new men, whose names are in every one's mouth, and of whose lives every one is curious to know the particulars. Great battles have been fought and important sieges maintained, of which the details are as yet preserved only in the newspapers or in the transient publications of the day, but which ought now to take their place in permanent and authentic history.
In preparing the present edition for the press, it has accordingly been the aim of the editors to bring down the information to the latest possible dates, and to furnish an accurate account of the most recent discoveries in science, of every fresh production in literature, and of the newest inventions in the practical arts, as well as to give a succinct and original record of the progress of political and historical events.
The work has been begun after long and careful preliminary labor, and with the most ample resources for carrying it on to a successful termination.
None of the original stereotype plates have been used, but every page has been printed on new type, forming in fact a new Cyclopædia, with the same plan and compass as its predecessor, but with a far greater pecuniary expenditure, and with such improvements in its composition as have been suggested by longer experience and enlarged knowledge.
The illustrations which are introduced for the first time in the present edition have been added not for the sake of pictorial effect, but to give lucidity and force to the explanations in the text. They embrace all branches of science and of natural history, and depict the most famous and remarkable features of scenery, architecture and art, as well as the various processes of mechanics and manufactures. Although intended for instruction rather than embellishment, no pains have been spared to insure their artistic excellence; the cost of their execution is enormous, and it is believed they will find a welcome reception as an admirable feature of the Cyclopædia, and worthy of its high character.
This work is sold to subscribers only, payable on delivery of each volume. It will be completed in sixteen large octavo volumes, each containing about 800 pages, fully illustrated, with several thousand Wood Engravings, and with numerous colored Lithographic Maps.
PRICE AND STYLE OF BINDING.

In extra Cloth, per vol.	$5
In Library Leather, per vol.	6
In Half Turkey Morocco, per vol.	7
In Half Russia, extra gilt, per vol.	8
In full Morocco, antique, gilt edges, per vol.	10
In full Russia, per vol.	10

Thirteen volumes now ready. Succeeding volumes until completion, will be issued once in two months.
**Specimen pages of the American Cyclopædia, showing type, illustrations, etc., will be sent gratis on application.
First class canvassing agents wanted.
Address J. H. WILLIAMSON,
Agent, No. 10½ Sixth St., Pittsburgh, Pa. dec2

New Firm.
SHOE STORE,
SNYDER & UHL
Having purchased the Shoe
Store lately owned by
H. C. Beerits,
We take pleasure in calling the attention of the public to the fact that we have now and expect to keep constantly on hand as complete an assortment of
Boots, Shoes
and Gaiters
BOTH OF
Eastern and Home Manufacture
as can be found anywhere. We also will have on hand constantly a full supply of
SOLE LEATHER,
MOROCCO,
CALF SKINS,
KIPS,
AND LINING SKINS
Of all kinds, with a full line of
Shoe Findings.
The HOME MANUFACTURE DEPARTMENT will be in charge of
N. B. Snyder, Esq.
Whose reputation for making
Good Work and Good Fits
Is second to none in the State. The public is respectfully invited to call and examine our stock, as we are determined to keep goods as good as the best and sell at prices as low as the lowest.
SNYDER & UHL.

JOEL S. GOE,
DEALER IN
HARNESS
TRUNKS,
Ladies' Satchels, &c.
No. 19 FEDERAL STREET,
[near suspension Bridge.]
ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.
Oct 28.

NOTICE.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of Buffalo Valley Railroad Company will be held at the National House, Berlin, Pa., January 10, 1876, (second Monday) for the purpose of electing a President and twelve Directors for the ensuing year.
C. A. M. KRISSINGER, Secretary. dec15

MESSAGE
OF
John F. Hartranft
TO THE
General Assembly
OF
PENNSYLVANIA,
January 4, 1876.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

We have assembled to dedicate ourselves anew to the performance of the duties of the responsible trusts confided to our care. We cannot be unmindful of the magnitude of these trusts and the wisdom and courage necessary to administer them with fidelity and justice, and that we may not be wanting in our conception of, or halt in our efforts to enforce what is right, let us reverently ask for the Divine assistance, that our consciences may be enlightened and our hearts strengthened for the task.

FINANCES.

The condition of the finances of the State, as exhibited in the subjoined statements, demonstrates clearly the ability of our people to pay all their indebtedness as it accrues, and is an interesting commentary upon the simplicity and efficiency of our tax system, but likewise as plainly shows the necessity for some modification of existing laws for the distribution of the revenues, if the difficulties that beset legislation at the last session are to be avoided.

Debt redeemed during fiscal year ending November 30, 1875:

Five per cent loan	$94,112 43
Six per cent loan	1,241,362 72
Relief notes	12 60
Interest certificate	10 48
Total	1,335,497 63

Receipts during fiscal year ending November 30, 1875:

Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1874	$1,054,551 65
Receipts	6,480,099 02
Total	7,534,650 67

DISBURSEMENTS.

Ordinary expenses	$3,806,769 29	
Loans redeemed	1,335,497 63	
Interest on loans	1,399,176 48	
		$6,541,443 40
Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1875		993,207 27

FUNDED DEBT.

Six per cent loan	$18,152,380 00	
Five per cent loan	4,869,241 58	
Four and a half per cent loan	87,000 00	
		$23,109,621 58

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Relief notes in circulation	$96,184 00	
Interest certificates outstanding	13,028 54	
Int'est certificates unclaimed	4,248 38	
Domestic creditors certificates	25 00	
Chambersburg certificates outstanding	9,620 00	
Chambersburg certificates unclaimed	109 24	
		$123,516 16
Total public debt		23,233,137 74

SINKING FUND ASSETS.

Bonds of Pennsylvania railroad company, $5,300,000, representing an indebtedness January 1, 1876, as per schedule on file in office of State Treasurer	$5,132,544 36	
Bonds of Allegheny Valley R. R. Company	3,400,000 00	
	8,532,844 36	
Cash in sinking fund November 30, 1875	934,028 49	
		$9,466,872 85
Indebtedness unprovided for		13,766,864 89

The appropriations made for the fiscal year ending November 20, 1875, exceeded the receipts of the general revenue fund five hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and twenty-two cents, and with like appropriations and receipts the deficit for this year would be doubled. It is estimated, however, that the revenue of this year will be five hundred thousand dollars less than that of last year, which would make the deficiency at the end of the current fiscal year about one million five hundred thousand dollars, unless the appropriations can be reduced. The appropriations are already made for that part of the fiscal year embraced between December 1, 1875, and June 1, 1876. Moreover, the principal appropriations, such as for schools and the ordinary expenses of the government, are fixed by the Constitution or by law, except those for public charities, and these will demand unusually large amounts at this session by reason of their failure to receive anything at the last.—It is manifest, therefore, that the appropriations cannot be materially reduced, and the deficiency must be provided for either by the imposition of new taxes or the diversion into the general fund of some of the revenues now flowing into the sinking fund. To levy new taxes at a time when the business and industrial interests are prostrated would be unwise and a great hardship, and would justly meet with public condemnation. The necessity, therefore, of the redistribution of the revenues is obviously a duty that is urgent, and demands your immediate attention.

By virtue of a constitutional amendment, the Sinking Fund was created for the purpose of gradually reducing the public debt at a time when it exceeded forty millions of dollars. An annual reduction of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the payment of interest of the entire debt were its only requirements, and they have been faithfully fulfilled by the Sinking Fund Commissioners since the creation of the fund in 1857. It will also be observed by the following statements, the most sanguine hopes of the framers of the constitutional amendment have been more than realized, during the last eleven years the annual reduction of the debt averaging nearly a million and a half of dollars.

Public debt December 1, 1864	$39,379,603 94
Public debt December 1, 1875	23,233,137 74
Total reduction in eleven years	16,146,466 20
Average annual reduction	1,467,860 56

The appended statement will show the balance of the estimated receipts of the Sinking Fund, at the expiration of the fiscal year after the requirements of the Constitution will have been complied with:

Tax on corporation stocks	$2,100,000 00	
Commutation of tonnage tax	460,000 00	
Allegheny Valley railroad bond	100,000 00	
Int. on Allegheny Val. R. R. bonds	170,000 00	
	2,880,000 00	
Constitutional requirement of annual reduction of public debt	$250,000 00	
Interest on public debt	1,300,000 00	
		1,550,000 00
Surplus		1,280,000 00

It will thus be seen with the present distribution of the revenues, there will remain each year in the Sinking Fund, after the payments which the Constitution requires, over a million and a quarter of dollars, and when it is remembered that the amount of interest to be paid will annually decrease, and the receipts be greater, owing to the natural accretion of the taxes, the amount of this balance will be augmented from year to year. If this surplus is annually applied to the extinguishment of the debt, a careful calculation will show, that in ten years the entire indebtedness of the State will be redeemed. However desirable this reduction may be and gratifying as it certainly would be to the Executive, under whose administration a large portion of it would be made, yet the dimiuation of the taxes in 1873, to the amount of one million of dollars, and the five hundred thousand dollars additional expenses made necessary by the new Constitution in behalf of common schools, the Judiciary and Legislature, and the claims of deserving public charities, forbid this large reduction as the revenues are now distributed. By another calculation it appears that by taking one-third of the corporation tax, which the Legislature assigned to the Sinking Fund, and dedicating this one-third to the uses of the general fund, the whole indebtedness can still be liquidated in fifteen years. Without additional taxation, a fund may thus be created, that with the other revenues of the general fund, will, with prudent management, possibly be sufficient to meet all the necessary and proper expenses of the government, and I recommend that this change be made.

At the end of the last fiscal year there remained in the Sinking Fund the sum of nine hundred and thirty-four thousand and twenty-eight dollars and fifty-nine cents. There can be no further redemption of public debt until August, 1877, as all State loans reimbursable prior to that time have been paid; and in the meantime the Sinking Fund, in addition to the above amount, will continue to accumulate a large balance, which there is no authority to invest. I therefore recommend the enactment of a law authorizing the Sinking Fund Commissioners to invest the surplus funds in the bonds of the State or the United States as they deem most advantageous, which in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution, are the only investments that can be made, and that these investments be directed to be made monthly.

EDUCATION.

The prosperous condition of our public schools affords abundant occasion for just pride. The exhibit made in the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is a gratifying illustration of the liberality and public spirit of our citizens and an earnest pledge of what may be expected of them when any great or beneficent object enlist their sympathy and support. Ten years ago the Commonwealth had one thousand seven hundred and forty-three graded schools within her limits; today there are five thousand six hundred and twenty-five. During the last decade the value of her school property has appreciated from five hundred and sixty-four thousand eighty-eight dollars and eight cents to two millions one hundred and fifty-nine thousand four hundred and fifteen dollars and eighty-three cents. In 1865 the State expended upon their public schools three millions six hundred and thirteen thousand two hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty-five cents. In 1875 the outlay for the same purpose was nine millions three hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven dollars and seventeen cents. Thirteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-three teachers attended, during the last year, the Teachers' Institutes held throughout the Commonwealth. In 1865 there were only two thousand seven hundred and sixty-five in attendance upon their sessions. These figures are eloquent of the generosity of our citizens and their ardent desire to facilitate the attainment and promote the progress of education. It is interesting to observe, likewise, that those employed in the instruction of our youth appreciate this liberality of our people and are zealously striving to make our school system so comprehensive and thorough that there will be a fitting and just return for the expenditure incurred. It is an accepted maxim that the education of its youth is the most important subject that can engage the attention of a community. There is no capital more productive, nor any more solid or safer basis for the welfare of a State that the inculation of sound principles and habits of industry among its children. It is as trite as it is a true saying that idleness and vice are great burdens to society and that virtue and industry contribute to its welfare and dignity. Our title to respect and gratitude of posterity will therefore largely depend upon our efforts in behalf of right education, and it is for us to gravely consider whether we perform our whole duty by providing each year for the necessary expenses of the School Department and make no endeavor to extend its usefulness and benefits to new fields of instruction. It is not a reproach upon our wisdom, and when we think of the thousands of neglected children in our midst may it not also be said upon our humanity to expend ten millions of dollars annually upon public education and find thousands of children who will not or cannot avail themselves of its privileges. No people have contributed more to the advancement of human comfort and the abridgement of labor by the application of mechanical principles, or are more prolific of inventions of a useful kind than Americans, and yet few countries give less attention to the development of this genius and the study of these principles in their systems of public instruction than our own. With such capabilities and the opportunities for the application of mechanical principles at our very doors in the unfolding and manufacturing of our great resources, does it seem the part of prudence and common sense to permit all this vast expenditure to be made without embracing in the plan some methods of instruction that will at least fit a small number of children for some special trade or occupation.

My opinions upon the subjects of compulsory and industrial education are well known and it is unnecessary for me again to advance them. They have discovered themselves to me after mature and conscientious thought and investigation, and are founded, I believe, upon principles of sound policy, and as their discussion and necessity are enforcing themselves upon public attention, I respectfully ask if the nature and importance of your trust as legislators do not exact of you some consideration in this regard.

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The methods of teaching have been vastly improved in the last few years, and it is conceded many of these methods are the outgrowth of the Normal schools of the State, the teachers from which have contributed very materially to the character and efficiency of the public schools.—Some persons have a natural fitness for teaching, but in most instances the qualification therefor are acquired, and in no way can they be so readily obtained as by the special preparation and technical instruction received at the Normal school, where the principles and practice of teaching are inculcated by experienced preceptors. The greater the number of these schools, the higher we raise their standard, and the more thorough the instruction imparted within their walls the more widespread will be their influence, and to secure competency and promote the welfare of teachers and pupils alike, I trust the Legislature will extend to the Normal schools whatever assistance may be needed to insure their increased efficiency and usefulness.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.

The continued favor of the Legislature to the schools wherein the orphans of our soldiers are maintained and taught, is an agreeable proof of the patriotism of our people. What prouder monument could we erect to the Pennsylvanians who fell in battle than to care for and educate their children? There will be little hope for our institutions, when we cease to be grateful to those who bled or died in their defense. No more responsible charge, and one which does more honor to her head and heart, has been assumed by the Commonwealth than these schools for the support and instruction of our soldiers' orphans; and it is of the gravest importance that this trust should be administered not only in good faith to the State, but with a special view to the comfort and careful education of these unfortunate children. Ten years have elapsed since the close of the war, and many of the children of our deceased soldiers have reached years of maturity. Every year the number for whom the State must provide becomes less, and it is apparent that there is no necessity for the continuance of so many schools of this kind, and that, under the present system, with the number of pupils decreasing each year, and the receipts for their maintenance and instruction correspondingly diminishing, the proprietors of these schools cannot conduct them without loss or necessarily reducing the food, clothing or tuition of the children. These proprietors are paid a stipulated sum for the care, tuition, clothing and food of each child. The sum paid is upon a basis that gives to each school, we will suppose, two hundred children. It is manifest, when this number is reduced to one hundred, and all arrangements have been made for the care and instruction of two hundred, either the proprietors or the children must suffer: and to rescue both from any such misfortune, I recommend that the Superintendent of Public Instruction be directed to select the best schools at the most advantageous points, to which shall be transferred all the children for whom provision is now made, and that this process continue until the last orphan child is educated. Under this system, there will be no temptation to maintain these schools perhaps to the detriment of the children, and the State will be assured that its bounty is properly and fully bestowed.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

There is no political problem that, at the present time, occasions so much just alarm, and is obtaining more serious and anxious thought than the government of cities, whose administration in many sections of the country is fraught with perils, not only to the material prosperity of our people but to the welfare and permanence of the Republic. It is not therefore incumbent upon those who are charged with the conduct of public affairs, as well as those who are concerned for the good and honor of the country, to carefully and diligently inquire into the causes of these mischiefs that attend upon the rule of our cities, and see if they spring from or are the actual development of any inherent defect in the existing system of government, or are the outcome of a merely transient tendency to extravagance, that by its abuse will work its own effectual cure. A glance at the enormous debts and stupendous schemes for public improvements undertaken and in progress, or in contemplation by the numerous cities of the country, is sufficient inducement to this investigation, and will convince the most skeptical that a speedy and radical remedy must be found to arrest these extravagant expenditures or the credit of our cities will be destroyed and repudiation, to which resort some have already been driven, will be the only recourse from ruin. It will not do to mock at the voice of warning and entrench ourselves in the belief that the natural growth of our cities and the consequent accumulation of wealth and appreciation of property therein, will liquidate all the bonds this generation can impose upon the next, for experience and history alike teach that extravagance grows with indulgence, and the only safe, wise and honest course for individuals and communities to pursue is to live within their means and pay as they go.

The exercise of a local jurisdiction by towns and cities had its origin in the remotest antiquity. The vestiges of this power can be traced in the exhumed remains of the ancient cities of Phœnicia and Egypt. In the municipalities of Greece political rights were clearly defined, and each city was sovereign and acknowledged no authority but that of its own creation. Under the rule of Rome we discover our ideal of a modern municipality, as described by a distinguished historian: "A community of which the citizens are members of the whole nation, all possessing the same rights and subject to the same burdens, but retaining their administration of law and government in all local matters which concern not the nation at large." Of like character were the immunities and rights wrested from Feudalism by the cities of the middle ages. There cities of the past were the conservatories of science and art, the abodes of industry and the nurseries of political, moral and religious freedom, and to them we are indebted for the principles of constitutional liberty and a knowledge of the practical methods of government so useful in the administration of our municipal affairs.

The cities of England obtained the right of local self-government about the beginning of the thirteenth century, and their growth in population and wealth kept pace with their independence and freedom from the exactions of the Crown. Their political importance likewise increased as their political power was augmented, and we find them graciously favored by kings and parliaments, in the latter having a representation of their own election. With enlarged privileges and greater prosperity, however, there grew up intolerable abuses, and measures had to be taken to restore them to their original design as institutions for local government to be controlled by those interested, and not by a favored few whose only concern in their management was to accumulate fortune. It was manifest that these corporations had outlived their usefulness, and became a positive evil. All their powers were exceeded; they arrogated to themselves others never conferred; their counsels were self-elected and chosen for life, and their legislation had no sympathy with and never reflected the wishes of the citizens whose rights and property it was to affect. Mal-administration was the rule rather than the exception in their management; property was wasted; money thoughtlessly and extravagantly expended; the officers were the creatures of their irresponsible counsels, and looked to them and not the people for continuance of favor, and every form of corruption, peculation and fraud were the product of a system which was originally inspired by a love of freedom, a desire for equal and exact justice, and a conviction that this local or home rule would best conserve the rights and property of citizens. So flagrant had abuses become in the administration of these cities that in 1835 the English Government appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the condition of her municipal corporations, and upon the report of this commission, which was a painful recital of mal-administration, extravagance, misapplication of revenues, corruption and favoritism, a law was enacted, under the provisions of which these corporations were made to conform to certain uniform regulations, and their powers restricted to the legitimate and useful purposes for which they were created. Our cities, counties and towns are similar to the sub-divisions that for centuries have existed in England, and form a system, which, in the language of a learned American jurist, "seems a part of the very nature of the race to which we belong;" and upon this very point an eminent foreign writer, having in view our Republic, significantly says: "Local assemblies of citizens constitute the strength of free nations. Municipal institutions are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within people's reach; they teach men how to use and enjoy it; a nation may establish a system of free government, but without the spirit of municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty." It is the genius of our institutions to bring the agencies of government as near as possible to the governed, and municipal corporations are the instrumentalities by which this intention is most effectually subserved. Our cities, counties, towns, road and school districts exercise powers of local control, and it is a favorite theory of our political system that those who are immediately and directly interested will be more likely to administer their affairs with intelligence and economy than a central government at a distance, and upon this theory the States have been divested of almost all authority over their municipalities, upon which latter have been conferred most of the agencies by which the government is brought into direct contact with the people. In the distribution of power these corporations having received the potential share in regulating the concerns of a large portion of our people, and their health, comfort, enlightenment and prosperity must depend, therefor, in a great measure upon the wisdom and justice of this local rule.

Until a recent period the municipalities of the country enjoyed and deserved the confidence and favor of our people. They were simple in their constitutions, economical in their expenditures, in the main admirably governed, with men of intelligence, experience, character and property in their councils, who deemed it an honor, without compensation, to assist in their administration, and as the public improvements were limited and only what were necessary, the temptations to avarice and corruption were few, and peculation and fraud unknown. To-day it is humiliating to observe the cities of the United States expose our intelligence and civilization to reproach and compared with the malversation and misgovernment of some of them, the mal-administration of the English cities in 1835 seems respectable. In the management of a few of them justice has simply been mocked, taxation meant confiscation, and debts were accumulated with such rapidity that the annual interest thereon is now greater than was the whole tax levy for all corporate purposes fifteen years ago. The aggregate of the debts of the cities of the United States, according to competent authority, reaches the enormous sum of seven hundred and sixty-nine millions, and this amount is believed to be rather under than above the actual indebtedness. Is it strange that the annual tax levy, instead of being a few mills, now averages in our most important cities two and a half per centum upon the assessed value of property? It is with reasonable apprehension, therefore, that the people are earnestly addressing themselves to the study of the cause of this evil, and the conviction is becoming wide-spread that some remedy must be provided that will go to its very core and work a radical cure.

A tendency to extravagance began to manifest itself in this country in 1867, and was exhibited most conspicuously in the innumerable propositions for public improvement of every conceivable kind. Magnificent parks, extensive water works, splendid city buildings, wide streets, with new and improved pavements, are some of the projects upon which lavish expenditures were made. In the frequent and immense outlays of moneys thus authorized, numerous avenues for fraud and peculation were opened, and officers connected with the disbursement of these great amounts, suddenly grew rich, and having, by reason of their control of these expenditures, scores of adherents, they soon became the arbiters of the taxation of these cities. Irresponsible themselves, they aimed to secure the election of irresponsible men to city council, that their corrupt practices might have the forms of law, and emboldened by impunity and the supineness of respectable citizens, they endeavored to control, and it is alleged in some municipalities did corrupt the channels of justice and shaped its decrees to suit their nefarious ends.

Our cities formerly had but few wants; their charters were simple in their provisions; easily understood, and conferred all the powers necessary for local government. Within the last few years, however, every department of local government from the great city to the small school district, has been constantly applying to the State Legislature for extensions of authority. The rights of taxation and appropriating private property for public use, are extraordinary powers that no government should delegate, except in cases of absolute public need, and the use of the power should be limited by the necessity that invokes its exercise, and yet the Legislatures of the various States, in the last few years, have scattered these extraordinary powers broadcast over the land, and in the hands of inconsiderate and irresponsible men, they have been made, under the specious plea of public improvements, the engines of oppression and robbery. Many of the burdens our people have to bear, have been created by the vicious habit of issuing bonds at high rates of interest for contemplated improvements. Multitudinous national, state, city, county, ward and school bonds have been issued, the smaller imitating the larger local interests in making these drafts on posterity at rates of interest ranging from four and a half to ten per centum per annum, and the payment of the interest on these bonds, and of the bonds themselves, as they mature, necessitates an annual taxation that is oppressive, and a constant drain upon industry and enterprise. The contrast afforded by a comparison of the government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with the government of her cities is curious and instructive. Twenty-five years ago a like spirit of extravagance and mania for public improvements prevailed throughout the State, and her policy was marked by tremendous outlays in behalf of canals and other public works, and was the parent of a debt of forty millions of dollars, and of the corruptions and evil practices that aroused the people to the extraordinary effort which resulted in the constitutional amendment prohibiting an increase of the public debt, and providing a sinking fund for the payment of the interest, and an annual reduction of the principal. How different and gratifying is the spectacle to-day. With a yearly income scarcely exceeding six millions of dollars, and a State with four millions of inhabitants, the taxes have recently been decreased and annually a large portion of the debt paid off, so that now the indebtedness amounts to but twenty-three millions of dollars. Of the revenues for some years past, two million five hundred thousand dollars have been allotted to the payment of interest and the reduction of the public debt, leaving three millions and a half to be devoted to the payment of of the expenses of the government, which include provision for our magnificent system of charities and schools, upon the latter of which alone, common and soldiers' orphans, one million five hundred thousand dollars are expended each year. The debts of our municipalities, on the contrary, have been increasing enormously, and apart from the public improvements for which a large bonded indebtedness has been created, the expenses of our cities and towns have been growing annually with a pace that seems out of all proportions with their necessities. One source of this additional expense is the increased number of officials. The powers of government are too diversified, and require too much machinery. That mechanism is the best which contains the fewest parts, and governments are not exempt from this law.

The deplorable condition of some cities that are overburdened with debt and with public improvements unfinished, that must be completed, is the result largely of the undue and strained assistance accorded to these municipalities by the State governments. Legislatures voted them the largest possible grants of power, Executives approved them, and the judiciary in some of the States have sustained every grant of power to tax, where the amount to be raised was to be dedicated to a public improvement, even if the benefit was remote and contingent, as in the construction of railways, at a distance from a city to divert trade to its marts and other like projects. A well known and able writer asserts, that our cities are the prey of jobbers, and the curse and puzzle of our civilization, and that this is more the result of the system than the fault of the city officials. Honest men cannot be made by legislation, but the power for evil of those who are dishonest or careless a limit can and should be fixed. The principal source of abuse is not in disposition to do wrong, but in the license to peculate and plunder. It is the power to do that which is done and not those who do it, wherein we must find the evil. Displace those in the present local legislatures, and others will take their positions who will soon be given to like practices.

We must not forget that there is a grave difference between the conscience of the individual and the public conscience. A man will hesitate, unless he is thoroughly dishonest, before he takes advantage of his neighbor, but the same man will not scruple a moment when his approval is asked for a project, which under the guise of a public improvement, is to despoil the whole community of a part of its property. Again, it is an admitted fact that every public enterprise always costs more, and sometimes twice as much as a private one, and the cost to administer the several departments in our cities is a striking illustration of this truth.

Is there any good reason why the cost of the management of these departments should in some instances be four or five times in excess of the amount paid fifteen years ago, while compared therewith the increase of population and appreciation of property has been merely nominal.

Does the indifference and inertness with which this subject of the government of cities has been heretofore regarded, forbid the hope that there can be unanimity of sentiment among citizens to devise and enforce measures that will emancipate our cities from the inevitable consequences of these reckless expenditures, or will they await until their property is irremediably mortgaged, and their honor and fair fame smutched with the stains of bankruptcy. The immunity from criticism and investigation which these schemes for public improvements enjoy, gives encouragement and protection to every invention of fraud and plunder, and people who are taxed and who supinely submit year after year to these exactions, are to a great extent responsible therefor.

The bulk of taxation in our great cities falls upon the property holders; the mass of the citizens do not feel its burdens, and are unconcerned about the public expenditure or rejoice therat and approve them when they minister to their enjoyment, as do the parks, or add to their protection and benefits as do the police and schools. This mass of citizens forgetful of that cardinal principle of our institutions, "that those must vote the tax who pay it," control the elections and send men to the municipal Legislatures, who, like themselves, frequently bear none of the public burdens, and are consequently improvident and wasteful. A large portion of our population is therefore taxed without representation, for no sane man will contend that this sort of representation is the right for which our fathers waged a seven years' war with England. Can laboring men believe that persistence in this policy will not work them serious and permanent injury? Does it require much foresight to see that this appropriation of private property by means of taxation, will drive manufactures, trade and wealth from our cities to more congenial localities? Capital and enterprise will seek channels where the fullest freedom and the greatest profits can be obtained, and it is suicidal thus to dry up the very sources of our prosperity.

This sketch of the municipalities of other countries and our own will, I hope, serve to show how essential they are to republican institutions and how liable they are to abuse, and admonishes us that the question of their government is a delicate one, the consideration of which should be approached with the greatest caution.

We must take care that our efforts to mitigate the evils we feel do not beget others equally oppressive, and we will thus have change without benefit. Fortunately, the charters of municipal, unlike other corporations, are subject to alteration by the Legislature, and that body can amend them at pleasure. In view of the importance of the proper regulation of our cities, because of the vital relations they sustain to the trades and manufactures of our most thriving communities, and the welfare and happiness of their citizens, I recommend that the Legislature authorize appointment of a commission of experienced persons to examine into the condition of our municipalities and prepare such legislation for the consideration of the Legislature as will, in their opinion, meet the abuses sought to be remedied. It is my candid opinion that all the legislation upon the statute books referring to municipalities should be repealed and a comprehensive and uniform code enacted, the main features of which will not be the subject of perennial alteration.

Appended to this message will be found a detailed statement of the debts of a number of prominent cities of the country in 1867 and 1875, which affords a striking contrast and is an instructive context to the discussion herein made. The table also shows the cost of the several departments of these city governments and is a valuable help to a proper understanding of the expenditures of the various cities named. The materials for the statement were kindly furnished by the authorities of the several cities.

Whatever the misgivings have hitherto possessed the public mind about the success of the Centennial, are now happily dissipated, and it is evident the country has awakened to the conviction that the exhibition instead of being merely local, with which character the indifferent and distrustful would have invested it, will transcend in dignity and magnitude any of the expositions that have preceded it in Europe.

It becomes Pennsylvania, therefore, to bestir herself and strive to have a full representation of her resources and industries on exhibition. The Commonwealth has made vast contributions of means, and the energies of many of her best citizens have been ceaselessly devoted to the promotion of the enterprise, and she will be false to her best interest if the display she makes is not creditable to her people and in keeping with her position among the States. Every

(Continued on page, 4.)