E. S. GOODRICH, BRITORS.

Wednesday, January 10, 1844.

For President in 1844, COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,

OF RENTUCKY. [Subject to decision of a National Convention

## The Message.

The length of the Governor's message necessarily makes our editorial briet. We shall have to omit some remarks in relation to it until another occasion. It contains a clear and concise exposition of affairs of the commonwealth, deplorable but true. Its suggestions are frank, explicit and with some exceptions wholesome, without any false coloring, or con ecalment of the true condition of our fiscal affairs, and the duty of the Legislature in its action.

The views of the Governor concerning the tariff we do not concur in neither do we see any force or consistency in the reasons assigned for witholding his approval of the State Printers bonds. We will give our views more generally next

## Correspondence from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, January 2. 1844.

This being the day fixed by the Constitution for convening the Legislature, both Houses have met and fully organized. The House met at 11 o'clock, A. Mand elected for their Speaker JAMES R. SNOWDEN, of Venango County, by 13 majority, the Democrats all voting for him, and the Whige voting for Geo. W. Toland, of Philadelphia.

Col. Snowden was Speaker in 1842, and made an excellent officer. No doubt but his experience will enable him to discharge his duties this winter with still greater credit to himself. He is a decided friend of the northern interests, as will be remembered by all who recollect the courtesy extended to the north by him while Speaker before.

His competitor, in Caucus, for the nomina tion, was Gen. Roumfort of Philadelphia Co. who by the by is a first rate man, an able Representative and also friendly to northern interests. Col. Snowden only lead him one vote in the Caucus. Both are excellent men and with either as Speaker the north would have been well treated.

At three o'clock this after-noon the Senate convened and was organized by the election of Col. Biatra, of Clearfield, unanimously,a thing, I believe, never before done in Pennsylvania. He is one of the finest men in the Commonwealth very affable and winning in his manners and popular as a presiding officer .-Every thing at the organization passed off quiedy and pleasently. Almost the first thing, returns to the proper office; but, mak- would govern the conduct of private what was deemed, by the Legislature, after the organization was a move in both houses | ing an estimate from the best data that | individual, holds equally, good in the of the administration are determined to break down the state printers and have the printing let to the lowest bidder, and the whigs. I think. will go with them. Without stopping now to enquire after the manner of having the printing done it is clear that the position assumed by the Govenor in relation to the Printers elect, is erro-

The Clerks, Sergeant at arms, &c in the House will be elected to morrow. In the Senate, those officers will be chosen on Thursday, so that I will not be able to give you the news fill the beginning of next week

The City and County have elected delegates fer Muhlenberg. The contest will be close be tween him and Mr. Shunk. The reform bill of last session has thrown the members all on their beams ends-not a particle of stationary can be furnished by the clerks; not even a knife or a goose quill. If a member wants to write a letter away he must run and buy his own paper, quille, wafers, and rub up his own old jack knife to make his pen. But the worst on documents sent out by the members. If they wish to communicate with their constituents they must either pay the postage out of their own pockets or leave it for their constitucuts to pay. Of course they will not trouble their constituents much with letters or docu-

HARRISSURG. Jan. 4, 1844. The legislature is now "duly organized and ready to proceed to business," and any communication which you or your readers may have to make-any memorials or remonstrances which you may have to present—any public grievances which you may wish to have redressed any unfinished business which you may desire to have completed-will now receive due attention in due time.

A concus was held last evening, for the purpose of mominating the Clerk and other officers of the Senste. The principal competitors for the office of Clerk more John J. McCahen, of Philadelphia, and E.S. Goodrich, of Bradford, the former of whom was nominated by a majority of one. In the nomination for transcribing clerks. E.S. Goodrich and Jacob Ziegler were declared to be the candidates. Ephriam Cornmian, of Cumberland, was now itiated for Ser geant-at-Arms, and R. M. Mattocks for Door Keeper. These nominations were confirmed this morning in Senate.

 $f_{i,j} = f_{i,j}$ 

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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

FELLOW-CITIZENS :- The first and most important duty that devolves upon the Legislature, will be to examine into the financial embarrassments of the State, and to make suitable provisions for the discharge of her liabilities.-The entire amount of the funded debt of the State is \$39,084,000 40. This debt is reimbursable as follows:

n.	the year 1841,	\$ 55,922 6
١.,	" 1844,	62,500 Q
<u>.</u>	" 1846,	3,686,342 0
-	" 1847,	72,335 0
		1,000,000 0
	4 1853,	2,000,000 0
	4 1854,	3,000,000 0
	4 1856.	2,783,161 8
	" 1858,	7,070,661 4
	4 1859.	1,250,000 0
	<b>4</b> 1860,	2,948,680 0
	4 1861.	120,000 0
ı.	4 1862,	2,265,400 0
	<b>1863</b> ,	200,000 00
7	1864.	3,485,076 6
1	# 1865.	2,524,000 0
	# 1868.	2,524,000 00
,		. 1,946,215 68
	" 1870,	
-08	n payable at the expire	uon 569 503 50
· 0	regresin bank charlets.	20 2003-200

Interest due 1st August, 1842, were issued redeemable in '43. 866,625 53 ntereat due 1st February, 1843, redeemable in 1846, Interest due 1st August, 1843, 873,988 00 redeemable in 1846,

\$39,084,000 40 Upon this loan the annual interest to be paid amounts to \$1,941,827 23, to wit.

Permanent loan at 6 per cent, \$ 1,946,944 34 32,683,189 86 loans at 5 loan at 43 " Relief notes at 1 per cent, Arrears of interest due to our loan holders in August, 1842, and February and August, 1843, at 6 per cent., 2,614,601 53

\$39.084,000 40 There is also due to the Domestic Creditors, on certificates issued by the Auditor General, the sum of \$506,-

461 00. For the interest annually accruing, and for the temporary debts and liability of the State, provision should be immediately made. The resources of the State are abundant, and all that is required is the right disposition, and a mode in which these resources are to

be rendered available.

into the State Treasury, under existing 85-there was paid into the 'Freasury ures on the part of the County Comobtained, it will not fall short of

to provide for the ordinary expenses of the Government-payment of the interest opon the State debt," &c., which limits the as resement of the increased tax to one year. Unless provision be immediately made for continuing the assessment and collection of that tax. our financial difficulties must be increased, and the consequences be most disastrous to our State credit.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement, that nearly a million of dollars, arising from taxation, remains unpaid; and there is no authority vested in the Executive, by law, to enforce its collection. I have repeatedly recommended to the Legislature, the adopof all is that the State no longer pays postage tion of some legal method of compelling County Commissioners, Collectors and Treasurers. to perform their duties -but, thus far, no legislation has been had upon the subject. In the present defective state of the law, every temptation is held out to delinquents to preserve in setting at naught its injunctions. Permit me again to call the attention of the Legislature to this aubject, and to express the hope that this evil will be remedied.

The whole receipts from our public improvements, beyond the payment for repairs, and the expenses of their charge and management, during the past fiscal year, amount to \$483.657 34.

The current expenses of government. including the permanent appropriation to Common Schools and other purposes, may be estimated at about \$750 .-000 00. The resources of the State. independent of taxation, and the receipts from the public improvements. at about \$400.000 00. From an examination of all these receipts and liabilities of the State, supposing the tax levied, under existing laws, to be punctually collected and paid over, there would be an annual deficit of about yet greater sacrifices, if they be neces-\$850,000 00, independent of the balsary, for the same cause. ance due to Domestic Creditors; for It has of late been fashionable, in

consideration of the whole subject. I have been unable to devise any other

than that of augmented taxation. I took occasion in my annual mes sage transmitted to the Legislature on the 8th of January, 1840, to speak upon this subject in the following pointed and unequivocal words. I beg leave to quote them, because I have reiterated, in every annual message to the Legislature since, substantially the same sentiments; and I desire the people of Pennsylvania, and the whole world, to know, if there he ground to charge remissness of duty, to whom the fault

is to be justly attributed: "In expressing my own opinion in favor of a resort to taxation, I do it with no inconsiderable degree of reluctance; but it must be obvious to every, citizen of the Commonwealth, that his house, his farm, and his property, are all pledged, beyond possibility of release, to the ultimate payment of the State debt, and the interest thereon accruing, agreeably to the stipulation with the to the principal of our State debt; and to suppose they can be longer kept in sciousness that her faith and integrity the dark, in regard to the situation in can be held up to the world unsullied. which we find them. All they want to know, to ensure a ready compliance with this indispensable call upon their of the State, ascertained by reference patriotism, is to know, the necessi- to the valuation as taxed for county ty of the measure. The experience of purposes, amounts to about four hunmore than half a century, fortifies me in | dred and sixty millions of dollars .the belief, that the good sense of the The average of the rate of this value, people of this great Commonwealth, is tion is, no doubt, considerably below rarely appealed to in vain. In assum- the actual value of the property of the ing the responsibility of recommending this measure, I am fully sensible of what is to be encountered, and aware of the consequences that are to follow; and if, in this expression of the honest convictions of my own mind, and the fearful discharge of the duties incumbent on me, I shall not be borne out by my fellow citizens, I shall at least have the consolation to know, that I judicious and proper selection of the have done that which I conscientious. To which add the State Tax rely believe to be right, and which I think will bear the reflection of after The amount of taxes levied and paid | years. The time for evasion is gone; the public mind has been too long fed tax laws, was as follows. In the year with miserable expedients. The time 1841, the amount levied, was \$416,794 for action is at hand. Our country expects every man to do his duty, and during that year, \$33,292 77. In he that has not nerve enough for the 1842, the tax levied was \$659.512 47 crisis, should give place to those better -the amount paid in the same year, fitted for the emergency. Neither the was \$486.635 85. In 1843, the present Legislature, nor myself, had amount levied cannot be ascertained anything to do with contracting this with accuracy, in consequence of fail. debt-it is fixed on us by those who have gone before us; and the same missioners in several counties to make rule of prudence and sound policy, that to other and different purposes, from \$945,000 00. The tax paid into the this state of things. The private indi-Treasury the past year, was \$552.911 vidual would tax his industry and his 28. The assessment for the ensuing property, to the utmost, to pay off a year, may be fairly estimated at what debt, and the interest upon it that was t amounted to the past year, provi- consuming the avail: of his industry ded the Legislature repeal the pro- and his substance-so, also, it seems to viso to the 16th section of the Act me, should the representatives of a of 27th July, 1242, entitled "An Act wise and judicious people. Taxation would pay the interest-it would eventually constitute a sinking fund to pay off the principal of the State debt. and should be continued till the income of the public improvements would render longer taxation unnecessary. The crisis demands the exercise of the most far-reaching sagacity-the calmest judgment and the most fearless patriotism. I am sure the Legislature will meet it in the right spirit, to disarm it of its perils. Coming, as you do, from all quarters of the State, and possessing a more intimate knowledge of the circumstances and wants of the people than I can, I most cheerfully surrender

> that prudence and justice will direct your action upon it.' I used strong terms in speaking to the Legislature on this subject at that time, because it was an hour of darkness, uncertainty and alarm. explosion of the Banks, the paralysis of the business energies of the country, and the murmurings of those whose ambition seeks no higher aim than that of finding fault, were all calculated to deter even honest men from faithful. ly performing their duty. So far as I was concerned, I was resolved that both my opinions, and my course, should be openly avowed and clearly understood. Four years have now elapsed: time has been given to the excited to become calm, to the timid, to become self-nussessed, and for factions partizans to see the error of their way. I look back with pleasure on my course, heeause, as I had no doubt from the beginning, I have been triumphantly sustained by the honest yeomanary of Penneylvania. They have borne. without repining, every burthen that was necessary to maintain the honor of the State, and they are ready to endure

this important subject to you, satisfied

faith and honor. After a most careful point, to sanction the reproach which and interests of his immediate constitumode of meeting this responsibility into practical operation the scheme of apportionment. A more unequal one who have circulated and beileved this calumny, betrayed a degree of ignorance, both of the character of our people, and of the course of her legislation, which is truly surprising. On every occasion, the liability of the State has been frankly avowed, both by her Executive and Legislative Departments; and although the recommendations of adopted to the fullest extent, yet the Legislature has passed laws imposing a tax, amounting the last year to a little less than a million of dollars, and this has been acceded to by the people, entitled to a moment's consideration. The failure to pay the interest has not resulted from a want of disposition to Pennsylvania, but from the general disasters which have overwhelmed and loan holders. Nor is this the worst crippled her, in common with almost view of our situation. The State has every other government in the commer- the taxes received at the Treasury, for been acutually compounding, for years cial world. We are regaining our en-past, from a million to a million and a ergies, and recovering from the embar- nually paid out to the several counties, half of interest, annually; and the rassments by which we have unfortun- for purposes of education. The taxes requestion is now submitted, whether we lately been surrounded. A very few are thus to continue adding, half year- years will enable us to retrieve all ly, this enormous amount of interest that we have lost, and to wipe from our escutcheon every blot with which continue in this pusillanimous course unexpected misfortune has tarnished it. of policy, from year to year, of shuf- Whatever the interested or evil disposed fling off the evil day, and entailing this may have asserted to the contrary, there frightful legacy on posterity. It is a is not an honest citizen of Pennsylvareproach on the people of Pennsylvania nia who does not feel the proud con-

> The valuation of the real and personal property owned by the citizens

> Among the receipts at the Treasury during the last year, there were from tolls exclusive of Motive Power. \$755,155 39 Auction duties, l'ax on collateral inheritances, 22,337 05 Dividends on bridge, turnpike and navigation stocks. 19.161 29 1,010 00

553,911 33

\$1,411,236 89 This income, derived from the above sources, was specially appropriated to the payment of the interest on our public debt; and on the faith of the State's adherence to its solemn engagements, those from whom the money was obtained, were doubtless induced to make the loan. But, by the resolution passed 7th April, 1842, and the acts passed 27th July, 1842, and 8th April, 1843, those funds were applied an imperative necessity induced by the monetary embarrassments to which ]

have already averted. It is thus shown that about three and the above sum of \$857,325 51, together with a tax of less than three. mills on the assessed value of the real and personal estate of the citizens of the Commonwealth, would pay the interest on the public debt, beyond all doubt, and place Pennsylvania on that proud eminence which the true character of her people, and the resources she possesses, designed her to occupy. But to satisfy the people of her propriety of this increase of the tax, assurance should be given that it would be applied to the payment of the interest on the State debt, to the exclusion of every other subject.

There has been one objection made against taxation under the present state of things, which appears to be founded in justice, and that is, the manifest unfairness and inequality of the rates of assessment in the different counties. I annex to this message a table showing the assessments in the various counties of the Commonwealth, an examination of which, will at once disclose the evils

that ought to be remedied. Most of our laws on the subject of amendment. Those relating to collaterial inheritances, retailers and dealers in merchandize, auctions and auctioneers, and brokers, require revision and modification to prevent evasions.-Indeed there is good reason to believe the revenue from these sources might be doubled. The county rates and levies are not augmented by them; nor does the State tax derived thereexacted from the land holder. The inequality and injustice of the matter become manifest when the proceeds derived from each are considered.

The tax necessary for the payment of the interest on our State debt, it has long been apparent to me, should be apportioned among the several counties of the State, and a liberal discount or drawback allowed for prompt collections and payment into the Treasury. Parz. the punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters, to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters, to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters, to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters to denounce Pennsylling, as they do, from the several countered to be punctual payment of all which, the certain quarters to be punctually be provided to be provided to

State is bound by every obligation of vania, and cite her, as an example in ties, and each watchful of the rights has been attempted to be cast upon the ents, would certainly compose a board American people, of seeking to carry every way competent to make that repudiating their public debts. Those than that which now exists, cannot be readily devised. I am aware that each and every object and mode of taxation is more or less objectionable—but that should not absolve us from our duty. I have submitted to the Legislature, my views again and again, on this subject and that it has at times differed with me, is no cause of complaint—that difference of opinion having proceedthe Executive, to make provision for ed from a conscientions discharge of the payment of her interest, have not duty. But, if the suggestions here made, do not seem right and proper, permit me to express the earnest hope that the Legislature will devise some other mode, less objectionable, and that it will not separate until full and without a murmuring from any source ample provision be made for the punctual payment of the interest on our public debt, semi-annually, as it becomes due, and thus smooth the way do so, on the part of the citizens of for those who may come after us in the administration of the Government.

Before quitting the subject of taxation, it may be well to take a relative view of the last three years, and the amount an-

1841, amounted to \$33,202 77 1842, 486,635 85 1843, 553,911 38

The moneys paid out for the purposes of education, during the same years, but for the loss of revenues sun amounted, in 1841, to 1842,

tually been paid out by the Common- The clear profits of the road tree wealth, for educating her people, than penditures and liabilities the pair the amount of State tax paid into the

provision for the payment of the semiannual interest, on and after the first of August next. And, to provide for every possible contingency, the State Treasurer might be authorized to borrow, if necessary, a sufficient sum to make up any deficiency, and taxes and other receipts of the State, applicable to the discharge of interest, be pledged specifically for the re-payment of such loan, and applied as soon as received.

The arrears of interest due in 1842, and February and August, 1843, have been funded, in conformity with the acts of Assembly upon that subject. This was the most that could be done for our creditors, under the circumstances, and, if hereafter, provision be made for the punctual discharge of the interest, it will, I believe, be as much as could reasonably be expected by the holders of our

dred thousand dollars per month. The a half per cent. of the interest could funded debt of the State bears an interhave been paid the past year, but for est of five and six per cent. payable this subsequent legislation; and that semi-annually. If this cancellation be continued at the same rate, it is very certain this interest cannot be paid, as a very large proportion of taxes and tolls will be paid in funds of this description. It is therefore, for the Legislature to determine which of these measures it is the policy of the State to pursue.

The revenues derived from the public works during the past fiscal year, although not realizing the estimates which were formed at the commencement of the year, have vielded a very handsome profit to the Commonwealth over the expenditures required for their maintenance. The report of the Canal Commissioners, which will be laid before you, and to which your particular attention is invited; exhibits in detail the receipts and expenditures upon the several lines of canal and railroad. By that document, it appears, that, from the early closing of the canal by ice in the latter part of 1842, and its late opening from the same cause in the following spring, the navigable season of 1843 was rendered about eight weeks shorter than that of the previous year. taxes and revenue, require revision and A combination, likewise, took place among the boatmen on the Delaware Division, which existed for several weeks, putting a stop to transportation. and causing a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth of not less than \$30,-000. Notwithstanding these impediments, added to that experienced from the high floods on the Juniata in September last, the tolls amount to \$1.017,-841 12, being an increase over the refrom, bear any fair proportion to that ceipts of 1842 of \$77,627 43. An abstract of the receipts und expenditures on the several lines exhibits the following result:

Expenditures. Receipts. Main Line. \$425,036 82 \$857,212 94 Delaware division, 22,553 92 Susquehanna, north & west Branches, 59 226 88 62,206 06 Beaver, Shenango & French Creek, 15,410 82

\$522,228 86 \$1,017,841 12 Deduct expenditures,

Main Line,

\$1,089,732 83

There is now due from the State to certain banks the sum of \$1,467,628 68, on account of the issue of notes under the act of 4th of May, 1841, which bears an interest of one per cent. By virtue of the act of Assembly passed the 8th day of April last, entitled "An swell the amount of expenditure. act to provide for the payment of Domestic Creditors." &c., these notes are to be cancelled at the rate of one hun-

further increase of section boats; ph and insure to the Commonweship the advantages which must necess result from this improved mode of interest portation over our disjointed lines canal and railroad. I would further commend that the appropriation be ga

Clear profit of all the works for

The increase and decreuse of w the different lines, as compan 1842, were as follows:

Delaware Division, \$2,193 87. Susquehanna, North & West Branches, 18,906 08 Beaver, Shenango & French Creek, 536 22

And, on the same lines, the excer ver expenditures and all liabili Main Line. Delaware Division Susquehanna, N. & W. branch

Beaver, Shenango and Prench Creek, excess of expenditures

l'otal excess of receipts over ex-

From these statements it appears with the exception of the small ; on the Susquehanna and North West Branch Divisions, the profit on the year's business, have ben rived from the Main line and the ware Division. The last named ion has yielded a profit of fre per upon the cost of its construction, w \$365.766 04, from the combination among the 315.372 43 mon before referred to, and intern 408.604 36 from breaches, would have been ed to over seven per cent.

The Columbia and Philadelphia So that it a ppears more money has ac- road exhibits a very gratifying as amount to \$202.966 65-equal to: five per cent. on the original co It will be entirely practicable to make the railway and the motive power partment.

In pursuance of the provisions of act of 7th March, 1843, a charter issued, on the 16th day of June la "The Erie Canal Company." company is vigorously prosecute work, and gives fair promise of me ly completion. That portion of d ion from the Ohio River to the ton New Castle, according to the term the charter, remains in the posse of the Commonwealth, until the pletion of the whole line. A large tion of the expenditures on it during year, was caused by repairs to the since transferred.

It is evident from the foregoing stracts, and from a review of the tails contained in the Canal Com sioners' report, that the Main line Delaware Division, can, hi sil time made sources of profitable revenue the Commonwealth, by the exercia proper vigilance over the disha ments. Much has been done tore introducing a system of strictecond and dispensing with officers, agents laborers, whose services tend only the system, thus began, be carr and perfected, all doubt must vanish to the value of these two portion the public works when considera means of revenue.

To the more general introducts

section boats, in consequence di State having purchased trucks for the conveyance over the two railroads. be traced the principal cause of the crease of tolls and tonnage on the Va line. The experiment has been fu tested to the satisfaction of the m sanguine friends of the system of vidual competition in the carrying These bodis, during the past years prevented combinations, reduced price of freights, increased the imoun of tolls and tonnage, and giren to Main line a character for cheapness transportation, which must make it principal avenue to a market between the waters of the West and the East Atlantic cities. A system of transp tation which, in its incipient state, been productive of such great bend and which is so closely identified the prosperity- of the improvement the Commonwealth, is entitled 10 fostering care of the Legislature. 1843, the amount of tolls paid by tion boats was \$114,227 47; of st \$15,651 65 was for the use of the trucks. To give efficiency 10 the tem ; to meet the demands conseque upon the continued increase is the nut ber of section boats; and to preve vexatious delays at the railroad an increase in the number of train trucks has become absolutely nece ry. As these additional trains will

required at the opening of the spri business, the expectation is entertain that an early appropriation will be my to that object. Such an appropria will give an impetus to the springing by giving assurance of prompines the delivery of produce, goods, merchandise; hold out inducement the system upon a permanent ha direct, and not made payable out of tolls for the use of trucks, 50 35 to \$495,612 76 ble the Commissioners to make the