

ing in that undertaking, until our fiscal concerns are restored to a sound and healthy state, I respectfully suggest to the legislature the impolicy of applying the funds of the commonwealth, at the present time, to any other works than the main lines, and their immediate tributaries. It cannot be long before the increasing ordinary revenue arising from the tolls of the canals and railroads of the commonwealth, will defray all the expense necessary to keep them in repair, and pay the interest of the money expended in their construction. Then will the state for all practical purposes, be free from debt, and be fully able to undertake, without fear of embarrassment, the extension and completion of her noble improvement system, until it touches every county within her extensive limits, and returns to their citizens the entire sum of their contributions to the system in its commencement and progressive advance towards their own homes.

I cannot close this brief reference to our system of public improvements, without inviting the attention of the legislature to two subjects, which, though not immediately connected with the leading object of this communication, are yet, so essentially necessary to the full fruition of the benefits to be derived from our main lines of canals and rail roads between the eastern and western sections of the commonwealth, as to awaken the earnest solicitude of every true Pennsylvanian. I allude to the removal of the obstructions to steamboat navigation in the Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, from Pittsburg to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Pittsburg up the Allegheny as far as the same may be found practicable, by the survey authorized under direction of the general government, and to the construction of a continuous rail road from the city of Pittsburg, through, or near the capitals of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, to some point on the Mississippi river, at or near St. Louis.

By the completion of those important undertakings, a great amount of business would be at once thrown upon our improvements. The merchandize of various kinds from the eastern states, and the agricultural and mineral products of the rich and flourishing southern and western states, that would pass through Pennsylvania, must be far beyond any present computation. The rapidly increasing trade of the lakes, too, which is fast outstripping the hopes of the most sanguine, would descend the Allegheny river, and contribute largely to swell the business of our canals and rail roads.

The tolls on our main lines would be so much increased, as to amply sustain the less profitable portions of our system without rendering it necessary to make the slightest addition to the state debt, or to any of the burthens imposed on the people. The trade of the growing and prosperous cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, would be immensely multiplied, and the southern and western states themselves, now feeling the want of such mediums of communications to an unparalleled extent, would receive an impulse of no ordinary influence upon their prosperity and greatness. A glance at the map of the Union, will convince every man, of the importance of these improvements to Pennsylvania, as well as to the vast regions of unsurpassed fertility and mineral wealth which would find the canals and rail roads of the states, their direct highways to market. In order to carry into effect the views herein expressed, I respectfully recommend the propriety of adopting the proper steps to enlist the general government in the project of clearing out the obstructions to the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers by steam boats from Pittsburg, which is a port of entry, to the gulf of Mexico, and also, from Pittsburg up the Allegheny to such point as may be fixed in the survey authorized by act of congress, as the termination of steam boat navigation. The prosecution of such works as these, by the national government, falls directly and properly, within its legitimate power, according to the strictest interpretation of the constitution. And I would also recommend the adoption of measures, either by appointing a committee of the legislature, or by such other mode, as may be thought expedient, to secure the joint and united action of the several states interested in the project of constructing a continuous rail road, communication between Pittsburg and St. Louis. This may be effected by the joint incorporations of a company, or of several companies, with authority for the purpose, or by the states through which the road would pass, undertaking it themselves, upon terms mutually assented to by all. It would afford me great pleasure to transmit to the legislatures of these states, such resolutions or information, as will tend to bring about this desirable result. It may not be amiss to add that the bold and sagacious policy of our southern and northern neighbors, to secure the trade of south and west, is well calculated to admonish Pennsylvania to be on the alert.—When the countless advantages, to which I have barely adverted, may be firmly and securely grasped without the slightest expense or inconvenience to the people, let them not be surrendered by legislative procrastination. The day for action has already arrived.

In reference to the mode of obtaining funds to supply the present wants of the treasury, I am in possession of no further information, than is already before you, in the report of the state treasurer, and in the message of my predecessor. No other alternative seems to be presented, than taxation or loans—of the two, the latter appears

least objectionable, because productive of least hardship to the people—is less expensive, and can be carried in to effect with greater facility. That the credit and resources of the state, are ample to extricate her, in the present crisis, from embarrassment, is a fact which no intelligent citizen of Pennsylvania justly looks upon the commonwealth as second to none of the sister states, in the industry, frugality and integrity of her citizens—in the extent, quality and the accessibility of the boundless resources, which nature has scattered throughout her borders with a prodigal hand—in her coal fields—her iron ore—her agricultural productions, and in her stupendous system of internal improvements, connecting together her remotest extremities, unlocking her richest resources, and marked, in its conception, by the comprehensive reach of mind, which entitles its projectors and founders, to rank with the first statesmen of the age. The credit of Pennsylvania resting on this foundation, can be shaken by no convulsion, that does not overturn the government itself, and dissolve society into its original elements. Pecuniary embarrassments, it is true, may arise from ill judged measures, extravagant expenditures, or short sighted policy, but they must of necessity be of temporary duration. Time soon detects fallacies,—exposes errors,—regulates derangements, and corrects misgovernment. One failure to comply with her engagements, on the part of the state, becomes the parent of future precautions against like occurrences; and serves but to show, the faithful fidelity of the people to their obligations, because it is stamped with the seal of universal condemnation or regret.

It is with no ordinary feelings of state pride and satisfaction, that I express my firm confidence, in the abundant means now possessed by the commonwealth, to pay her public debt by the sale of the public improvements in the construction of which that debt was mainly contracted, if such measure was deemed necessary or wise; and also my conviction, equally firm and gratifying, in the increasing value of her means, to meet all future liabilities created by the entire completion of our system of improvements, if, in the achievement of this great undertaking, we follow the dictates of prudence and experience. Nothing but the improvident or corrupt mismanagement of her rulers, can mar the bright prospect that is opening on the destinies of Pennsylvania.

Having recently passed through a period of unexampled excitement and agitation, the people of this great commonwealth are anxious for repose. Social commotions produced by political, pecuniary or any other causes, are destructive to the best interests and substantial welfare of the community. They cripple business of all kinds; retard public improvements; deprive the laboring portion of our fellow citizens of their means of support, and tend directly to unsettle the foundation of our republican institutions. Let us hope that this condition of things is at an end; that henceforth, a spirit of undeviating regard for the public weal, and of unswerving respect for the laws of the state, may be cherished, both by her rulers and by her people. Public opinion, the unfailing corrective of all abuses in a free government, call loudly on every department of ours to direct their strongest efforts to the restoration of that state of tranquility and confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the people, that distinguished the administrations of our early republican predecessors. Let this be done, and repose, prosperity and patriotic concord will again and forever abide in our beloved commonwealth.

In connection with the statement, I have felt it my duty to give of the financial condition of the state, I have thought these considerations, respecting her credit and resources necessary and proper, to prevent misapprehension, and to show, that though monetary embarrassments do exist, yet the foundations of her prosperity and glory are not shaken nor impaired.

DAVID R. PORTER.
26th January, 1839.

From the Chicago Democrat.
COUNCIL BLUFFS, Oct. 15, 1838.
WESTERN INDIANS.

A Little Sioux Girl burnt at the stake by the Pawnees.—The Sioux and Pawnees, only 160 miles from here, are in constant hostility.—This war has continued for about 200 years. So the Indians here (the Pottawatomies, say. The Pawnees, in a war expedition into the Sioux girl only 14 years old, whom they kept about two months, until corn planting, and fattened her as they would a hog. They then determined to make a sacrifice of her. This they kept to themselves. Two days before the sacrifice, a council of eighty of the warriors and head men of the nation met to see whether they would receive the offers of two traders of the American fur company, who offered them valuable presents if they would release her to them, so that they might let her return home. But all would not do. A majority of the council was for a sacrifice—of course those in favor of her release could do nothing. At the breaking up of the council, the prisoner was brought out, and accompanied by the whole council, and was led from house to house; when they gave her a small billet of

wood and paint, which she handed to the warrior next to her, and he passed it on to the next until every wigwam had contributed some wood and paint. On the 12th of April she was led out to be sacrificed, but not until she came upon the ground did she conjecture her fate. They had chosen the place between two trees, which grew within five feet of each other. They then made her ascend the three bars tied across from tree to tree, her feet resting on the bars below where a slow fire kindled beneath, would just reach her feet. Two warriors then mounted the bars, & there standing one on each side of her held fire under her arms pits until she was almost dead. Then at a given signal they all shot arrows into her body so thick that hardly a pin could be placed between them. The arrows were immediately taken from her flesh, and it was all cut from her bones in pieces not larger than a half dollar, and put in baskets.—All this was done before she was quite dead.—Then the principal chief took a piece of the flesh & squeezed it until a drop of blood fell upon the corn that was just planted, and this was done to all they had in the ground.

This is the way they treat prisoners of war out here. The foregoing was told by a trader of undisputed veracity, who was on the ground at the time. In June last, the narrator's wife's brother was taken prisoner by the Sioux and treated in the same manner.—I have visited the Ottos 8 miles from here, and have been forcibly struck with their superstitious burials of the dead. When a warrior of note dies, they kill one of the best horses of the nation on his grave, and then cut off the tail and tie it to a pole 15 feet high and there leave it. They believe the spirit of the horse will serve the spirit of the warrior in the next world.

ANNUAL TEMPERANCE MEETING.

The Columbia County Temperance Society met Jan. 3, 1839, pursuant to adjournment in the Presbyterian Church, in Washingtonville. The President being absent the house was called to order and the meeting organized by Mr. Wm. RICHART, one of the Vice Presidents.

The reports of the different auxiliaries were then called for and the delegates present admitted to their seats, viz:

- Danville Tem. Society
James Donaldson.
- Liberty and Chillisquoque T. Society
John Wilson,
James McMahon,
Joseph Wilson,
James Simington,
- Williamsburg Tem. Society
Daniel Melick,
Azima Vallerechamp,
- New Columbia Tem Society
Not Represented.
- Jersey Town Tem. Society
Clark Dildine,
Thomas Barber,
Wm. McVieken,
Wm. Shultz.
- Bloom Tem. Society
Not Represented.
- Mahoning Tem. Society
Not Represented.
- Fishing Creek Tem. Society
Not Represented.
- Washingtonville Tem. Society
Stephen Bressley,
Thomas Robertson.

Prayer was then offered by the Rev. Mr. Barber, after which the Washingtonville Society was unanimously received as an auxiliary to this society. The reports were then read and adopted. The president not being present and having provided no alternate; On motion.

RESOLVED, That the society request the Rev. Mr. Barber to address the meeting—which was done in an interesting and spirited manner, and followed by Mr. Vallerechamp.

The society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The following persons were nominated and duly elected.

- JAMES C. SPROUL, President.
- JOHN VOIS,
JAMES DONALDSON, } V. Prest's.
- JAMES MAHAN.
- STEPHEN BRERLEY, Treasurer
- AZIMA VALLERCHAMP, } Sect's.
- WM. McVIEKEN

RESOLVED, That each auxiliary be requested to take into consideration the expediency of attempting to raise a fund, to defray the expenses of a general Temperance Agent, for Columbia County, and that each auxiliary be requested to report on the subject at the annual meeting of the society.

RESOLVED, That one person be ap-

pointed in each auxiliary, as foreman of a reporting or executive committee, appointed by each auxiliary to report to this society.

RESOLVED, That the next annual meeting of this society be held, in the Methodist Church, at Mooresburg, at 12 o'clock, noon, on the first Thursday of January, A. D. 1840. The president to address the society, or furnish an alternate.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings of this meeting, be published in all the papers of the county, friendly to the cause of Temperance.

On Motion—The Society adjourned.
AZIMA VALLERCHAMP, } Sect's.
WM. McVIEKEN,

During the great freshet on Saturday last, a small frame store house, situate near the canal at Conshohocken, was swept off by the torrent, in which were five men, who it is said were engaged in attempting to save the goods. The house floated about one mile and lodged upon a small island in the river near Spring Mill. Fearful that the current would carry the house down the stream, the inmates left it and ascended some trees growing upon the island, where they remained some time; when a large canal boat lodged and became fixed; they then descended and entered the boat, where they remained, until rescued on Saturday morning. At the time they were taken off, but one, a M'Carra, was able to speak; the other four were stiff with cold and badly frozen—of one it is feared amputation of the feet will be indispensable.

Awful and Destructive Flood and Reported Loss of Lives.

Reading, Jan. 20th, 1839.

On Saturday last we were visited with one of the most awful and destructive floods which has occurred since the year 1794, as we have been informed by some of our oldest inhabitants. It commenced raining on the night of the 25th, and continued without intermission until the evening of the 26th during which time a large quantity of snow which had fell a few days previous, was washed from the adjoining hills and valleys, into the river Schuylkill, which soon rose to an alarming height, so as to overflow many of our streets fronting the river and both our canals. It was thought, as the water rapidly rose, that the Reading Bridge which crosses the river at Penn Street would be washed away by the flood, ice and canal boats, which had broke loose from their moorings and came floating down the river, all lodging against the Bridge, causing it for a length of time to dam up to a fearful height, and jarring the bridge greatly. But it fortunately weathered all, and was saved with sustaining but little injury. The bridge which crosses the Schuylkill at the old ferry, known as "Siroheker's ferry" was torn half away, and the remainder receiving considerable damage. This bridge was built but a few years ago, and was considered by all as a good substantial bridge. The one that crosses the river near Gen. Wm. High's, and known as the "Popular Neck Bridge," was entirely demolished and carried off by the flood. So great and rapid was the rising of the water that it was with great difficulty for many of our citizens to rescue the inhabitants upon Water and Front streets from their perilous situation. Many of the dams have sustained considerable injury. The "big dam" we are informed has been washed more than half away, and upwards of one hundred canal boats have either gone to pieces or it is thought to be rendered entirely useless. The damage which has been sustained by the canal must be immense, and it is supposed by many that it will take the greater part of the next Spring to repair them. We also learn that many of the bridges which cross the Maiden creek have been swept away.

It has been rumored here by passengers arriving from Philadelphia upon the rail road, that fifteen persons were drowned near Phoenixville, and that one or two houses were washed away with families in them. We however cannot give credit to it yet, as rumors are sometimes found to be untrue. The amount of damage which has been sustained cannot yet be ascertained, but the loss to our county has been very heavy.—We shall endeavor to give the particulars more fully in our next weeks paper.

Jefferson Democrat.

A Fatal Duel with Rifles.—Once more the moral feeling of the community has been shocked by a barbarous appeal to the bloody practice recommended by a false and criminal code of mis-called honor. A duel has been fought with rifles only forty paces, near Vicksburg between Mr. Menifee and Dr. Chung, the former has since died.

An accident occurred on Tuesday morning, on the Halem Rail Road, by which Mr. Daniel Fisher, a valued citizen, lost his life, and several others were more or less injured. Mr. Fisher was one of the proprietors of the New Haven Line of Mail Stages.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1839.

On Friday the 26th ult, the democratic members of the Senate and House of Representatives gave Mr. Bell a dinner expressive of their respect for his character and approbation of his public services whilst a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania.—The dinner was served up in the Saloon of the Exchange, and about eighty sat down to the table besides the members who gave the entertainment. Among the numerous toasts given on the occasion, we select the following well deserved compliment to our old friend Woodward, of Luzerne.

By C. W. Hegins. *George W. Woodward, of Luzerne: A rising star of the first magnitude, whose rays will shed new lustre upon the indomitable democracy of the North.*

The Intelligencer publishes a bill introduced into the Senate by Mr. Frailey, of Schuylkill, for the establishment of a Poor House in this county, and calls upon the inhabitants to suggest such alterations as they may wish to have made to the bill. We will suggest an alteration that we think will render the bill satisfactory to a large proportion of the citizens of the county—strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert—"No Poor House wanted."

A NEW THRESHING MACHINE.

In another column we publish an advertisement for a new Threshing Machine, and having seen it in operation, we can bear testimony to the utility of the invention. The advantages of a Machine of this description consists in its being propelled by one horse with two or three men to tend, therefore, every farmer who possesses one of these machines, can thresh out his grain at his leisure, or as he may wish to make use of the straw. A horse and three men will thresh from 800 to 1000 sheaves of wheat in a day. We understand from the owners of this power, that they have had it in use for the last ten months, and proven the usefulness of it not only to their own satisfaction, but to almost every person who has witnessed its operation.

The Supreme Court has decided unanimously in favor of the appointments made by Governor Porter. Thus has the last official embarrassment attempted by Gov. Ritner, been frustrated.

The Legislature have authorized a temporary loan of 600,000 dollars, to enable the Treasury to meet the payment of the interest on the public debt which fell due on the first inst.

A resolution has passed both houses of the Legislature suspending operations on Thaddeus Stevens' Gettysburg Rail Road, with but few dissenting voices.

Ex-President Jackson was at Nashville, on the 19th ult. His health has improved within the last few months.

Thaddeus Stevens has avowed his determination not to take his seat as a member of the house of Representatives.

Gov. Ritner appointed the 29th of March next as the time for the execution of Wm. Dunlap, jr. who was convicted by the last court held in Lycoming county, of the murder of his wife.

The people of Pennsylvania will learn with surprise that they have been saddled with a debt of \$147,000 incurred by the late Administration, in calling out the troops to sustain them in their foul conspiracy against the Constitution and the laws of the land.

The Governor transmitted a Message to both houses on Tuesday, enclosing a statement of Col. Pleasanton, the paymaster of "the Army," by which it appears, that the expenses of Ritner's War against the people, amount to the above stated sum of \$147,000. What will the people say to this?—Reporter.

The message was referred to a joint committee with power to send for papers and papers.