

plete them, and the policy of a continued and protracted delay in completing works, which the state is pledged to accomplish, until the first work done upon them has become useless from decay, has proved disastrous and ruinous on many occasions.

The course heretofore usual, of neglecting to appropriate a sufficient sum for repairs, and that early in the session, has been seriously detrimental to the interests of the Commonwealth. At the last session the Commissioners stated that the lowest estimate for repairs required \$700,000, and the Legislature appropriated \$500,000, a great portion of which was absorbed by debts then due. The result has shown that the Commissioners were right. The fund has long since been exhausted. The necessary repairs have not been completed. Those who have been engaged at them are unpaid, and the Supervisors are without funds to lay in the necessary materials for repairs. The repairs on the lines of Canals in use should ordinarily be made in winter, when they would not interrupt the use of the Canals; and it has usually happened that before the arrival of winter, the officers have no means at their command, and no appropriation bill is passed until late in the session. The whole system of repairs in consequence of the uncertainty of the time of paying the workmen, and those who furnish materials, cost the Commonwealth much more than it would do, were the means of payment, ample, certain, and promptly applied.

The Beaver division of the Pennsylvania Canal is already connected with the public improvements of Ohio, by the Pennsylvania and Ohio canal, a work which has been completed by individual enterprise, aided by public appropriations from both States, and bids fair to be a valuable tributary to our public improvements, and a profitable investment for the stockholders. It has been accomplished at a less cost than any other work of the kind which I have visited, and is a monument of the wisdom of its projectors, and of the skill, prudence, and economy of those charged with its construction.

I respectfully recommend to the Legislature, the enactment of a law authorizing the Canal Commissioners to treat with the authorities of the State of New York, for such a connection of our internal improvements with theirs, as will best promote the interests of the two Commonwealths. The law should limit the terms and conditions, and define the power and authorities of the Commissioners in such manner as on due consideration shall be deemed proper.

The interest of the Commonwealth would also be advanced by entrusting the same board with the power of selling, or leasing, water power created by our internal improvements. There are at many points, and in very advantageous situations, surplus quantities of water, which could be profitably applied to various branches of manufacture, without injury to the due supply of our canals. The tolls on our public improvements would be increased thereby, and a considerable sum realized from such sale or lease.

By an act of the seventh April, 1835, a guaranty was made on the part of the State, for the payment of an interest of five per cent. for twenty-five years on \$200,000, of the capital stock of the B&D Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation company, and by a subsequent act the State has since subscribed \$25,000 to the stock of the company. The whole of the work is completed and in active operation, except the last six miles, on which about one third of the excavation and embankment is made, two locks completed and another nearly completed.—A comparatively trifling sum would finish this work, but the funds of the company are exhausted, and the Commonwealth is annually called upon for the amount of her guaranty, and her subscription is wholly unproductive. It is a very valuable tributary to the State Canal, terminating in one of the richest mineral regions in this or perhaps any other country. Every article coming out of it pays a toll on our State canal for 150 miles to Columbia. I, therefore submit to the better judgment of the Legislature, whether sound economy does not dictate the further subscription of a sum sufficient to finish it; believing that its productiveness will then be amply sufficient to relieve the Commonwealth from any further payment of her guaranty.

There are at present many public improvements in a course of construction in our State by means of private companies, most of which I cannot but think are calculated to benefit Pennsylvania in a very high degree. Among the latter I may particularize the Williamsport and Elmira rail road, as tending with certainty to produce this result. This road will connect the Grand Erie Canal of New York by the Seneca Lake, with the West Branch Canal at Williamsport; and also intersect, at Elmira, the great Southern rail road now being constructed from the Hudson river to Lake Erie at Dunkirk. The advantage likely to result to ourselves, from the construction of this road, will be, that the great amount of tonnage and travel which now annually finds its way from the Lakes through the State of New York to the Atlantic, will thus be brought directly through our own public improvements to Philadelphia; the distance from Elmira to the latter city, by this route, being 74 miles shorter than from Elmira to

the city of New York by any contemplated improvement in that State. Other improvements of a similar character, and perhaps of equal importance, might be noticed.

Every man is presumed to be present in the Legislature by his representative, and to know what public laws are enacted, and is therefore held to be bound by them from the time of their enactment. This notice, however, is but a constructive one. I would respectfully suggest, whether some provision for the immediate publication of all laws of a public nature is not necessary, to give to the people actual notice of provisions by which they may be seriously affected.

The Report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools, which will shortly be laid before you, will show the progress which the cause of education is making in public opinion, and the state and condition of the Colleges, Academies and Schools, throughout the Commonwealth.

Though the active operations of the Geological Survey are not yet entirely completed, a much greater extent of country has been minutely explored during the past season, than in any former one. The State Geologist, and his corps, were laboriously occupied in the field, their researches extending into various districts, both east and west of the Allegheny mountains. The insight acquired during the progress of the survey, into the more minute features of our Geology, and the true position of our various mineral deposits, has served greatly to increase the accuracy and value of the large body of facts now collected. Throughout several extensive sections of the State, where hitherto, no accurate clue had been discovered by which particular beds of those useful substances, iron ore, coal, marble and limestone, could be traced, much of the obscurity has been removed. Several districts, however, of greater or less extent, yet remain to be explored. Though some of these have been already faithfully examined, one year more will be necessary for unravelling the intricacies of their structure, and enabling the Geologist to arrive at a satisfactory knowledge of their resources. For this purpose an appropriation will become necessary. The amount, however, will be less than the sum hitherto annually expended. The Topographical maps now in a course of construction, are essential as a basis for the Geological map called for by the law. In the chemical department of the survey, as extensive series of ores, coals, cement, fluxes, &c., have been analyzed, resulting in a species of knowledge now becoming every day more important to the growing manufacturing and mining interests of Pennsylvania.

It is an unbounded fact, that the few last years have been a period of pecuniary embarrassment in the business community. It has been consoling, however, to reflect, that during a portion of that time, our husbandmen have been reaping a full reward for their labor in abundant crops, for which, until recently, they have found ready markets, at fair prices. They had not generally been affected with that mad spirit of speculation, which at one time seemed to have seized so large a part of other portions of our citizens, and induced them to engage in almost every visionary scheme in their "haste to get rich."

The causes of this embarrassment have been variously explained, as suited the views of those who undertook the task. My own views upon this subject have been fully and freely expressed in my communications to the preceding Legislatures. No one, however, can doubt, that, when our country is importing large amounts of the luxuries and superfluities of life from foreign countries, and not exporting a sufficiency of our products to pay for them, there must be a constant drain of the precious metals, and hence a scarcity of money to supply the wants of our community at home. A retrenchment among our citizens, of whom plain republican simplicity has ever been a distinguishing characteristic, in the purchase and use of articles of mere luxury, would greatly tend to lessen this cause of pecuniary embarrassment.

The consequences of the embarrassment in our mercantile and manufacturing operations, are now beginning to be felt, also, by our farmers, in the more recent reductions of the prices of their products, although the fact communicated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in his late report is cheering, that during the last year the exports from this country have exceeded the imports by nearly twenty-seven millions of dollars.—This is certainly encouraging, especially when we reflect, that in prior years the reverse was the fact; and that without going back further, in the year 1836, the excess of imports exceeded the exports upwards of sixty-one millions of dollars; in 1837 twenty-three and a half millions of dollars; in 1838, five millions of dollars, and in 1839, forty one millions of Dollars; and that in 1837, the import of the single article of silk, a mere luxury, which our own country is as capable of producing as any other, amounted to twenty-three millions of dollars, while our export of flour, during the same year, was but about seven millions of dollars. It is to be hoped, and the increased confidence growing out of the resumption of specie payments about to take place, warrants the conclusion, that business will resume its accustomed channels, and taking lessons of prudence from the past, our citizens will not again be tempted into those wild excesses which have well nigh led on to bankruptcy and ruin, and the prostration of public and private credit and confidence. Our Commonwealth possesses a fertile

soul, and unbounded agricultural and mineral wealth. We have within ourselves almost all the necessities, and many of the luxuries of life. Within the increase of intelligence and means, we find our farmers augmenting the products of their soil, improving their stocks of domestic animals, and adding to the neatness of their household establishments. No one can pass through our Commonwealth, without being struck with the air of substantial comfort, and increasing prosperity, which pervades the agricultural districts of the State.

The variety and extent of our water power, give great facilities to the manufacture of our grain into bread stuffs, and for every other branch of manufacture, either needed for the supply of our citizens, or for the employment of their capital.

Had Pennsylvania already reached the full development of her resources, with her present pecuniary responsibilities weighing her down, we might well contemplate our situation, with trembling solicitude. But this is not the case. Throughout the whole extent of her ample territory, there is scarcely a square mile, which does not abound in some or all of the great staples of her mineral wealth. Anthracite and bituminous coal, iron, marble and limestone, have been scattered by nature with a most profuse hand, and have been hitherto worked barely enough to prove, with what prodigality they have been lavished upon us.—The coal field of our Commonwealth embraces more than one fifth of his area, and more than three times as much as belongs to entire Europe. Connected with the coal, which abounds in so large a portion of the Commonwealth, we have large supplies of iron ore, almost in immediate contact with it. In addition thereto, we have, within convenient distances, almost all the other varieties of iron ore found in any part of the world. The adoption of anthracite coal, to the smelting of iron ore, has been followed by its successful and profitable application in the further stages of the manufacture of the metal; and that the same results will speedily follow from the application of bituminous coal, may be looked for, with almost absolute certainty. While the iron manufactured with charcoal will always be wanted for the finer purposes, and the demand for it, increased by the natural increase of the population of the country, that manufactured from mineral coal, will be employed in the construction of rail-roads, and for innumerable other purposes. This discovery must stand as a distinguished era in the annals of our Commonwealth. It cannot fail to add millions of dollars to her active and available capital; and will ere long transfer to our own citizens most, if not all of the large sums that are now annually sent abroad for rail road iron, and other iron-manufactured articles. The manufacture of these numerous and valuable commodities will not only result in enriching Pennsylvania, but will cut off a large item in the imports of this country, tend to emancipate us from European dependence, enable our sister states to complete their rail roads at a cheaper and better rate, and strengthen the National Union, by the strongest of all ties, that of mutual interest.

Nor is there in Pennsylvania a single class of citizens who will not share directly in the advantages. The owners of coal and iron deposits, and those who engage in the manufacture and sale of these productions, will derive the first benefit; but the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant and every other citizen, will feel immediately, the salutary impulse which will be communicated to his own peculiar business. The value of our canals and rail roads must be greatly enhanced, as well as that of all other species of property. With the cheap and ready means which they will afford for the transportation of our various products and manufactures, there can be no doubt, that the trade and business of the state must extend and increase with unexampled rapidity, and by prudence and good management be perpetuated.

In this gradual and certain development of our resources may be found abundant means to liquidate our public debt, and to discharge every other liability, that can justly be cast upon the State. I confess it affords me peculiar gratification to advert to this topic, for it shows more satisfactorily, that though this Commonwealth has been somewhat in advance of the time in extending her improvement system so widely as she has done, the people notwithstanding are destined at no remote period to realize, most amply, all the benefits it was ever expected to produce. The increase of our manufactures will necessarily tend to afford additional sources of employment for the laborer, and furnish increased security against all improper combinations for the reduction of wages.

If any just cause of apprehension has existed, from the attempts in large manufacturing establishments to keep their operatives in subserviency in matters of opinion and the exercise of political rights, let the evil be corrected under adequate penalties. Let the rearing up of children in factories without education be prohibited, and the light of learning and science being diffused, as well among the operatives as their richer employers, the danger of this influence will be counteracted by shaking off the shackles of ignorance and undue dependence either upon the information or the will of others.—Then instead of having a class of human beings in a state of vassalage, we would rear up freemen capable of thought and reflection, and of putting a proper estimate on that spirit of independence which influenced our fore-fathers in achieving our freedom

and which ought ever to pervade the bosoms of their descendants to the latest generation.

Performing, as Pennsylvania has always done in an exemplary manner; her duties as a member of the great federal union, of which she has not inaply been denominated the "Keystone," we must never forget, the duties which we, as her immediate functionaries, owe to her own interests, and the necessity of advancing and sustaining them as far as can be done, without interfering with her duties to the General Government.

On the part of the Legislature; nothing is wanted but a careful supervision of her various interests, to place this Commonwealth on a firm basis of pecuniary independence. Whatever course other states may think proper to pursue, let it be the patriotic duty of Pennsylvania to sustain and cherish every effort to develop her resources, and to advance her glory and her renown. Yindicate her character for integrity—fulfil all her engagements faithfully—husband her resources with economy, but not with a false and mistaken spirit of parsimonious liberality—and the fair fame of Pennsylvania will stand before the world without spot or blemish to tarnish it. To maintain this fame unsullied, should be the first and most unyielding duty of every citizen honored with any station, in which he becomes its official guardian. I should deem myself unworthy of the office, with which the people have clothed me, if I proved recreant to this high trust.

By a judicious system of laws, corresponding with the habits and wants of our people, fostering and encouraging enterprise and industry, and enabling our citizens to reap the full reward of their labor and perseverance, we shall fulfill the expectations of our constituents, and be the means under Divine Providence, of perpetuating the blessings which have been so signally showered upon us by the Author of all Good.

The experience of many years fortifies me in the belief, that our greatest error in legislation, is that of legislating too much. Our Legislatures have been holding one extra session after another, and that too in times of profound peace, and when the calls of patriotism are imperiously made in every public functionary to diminish, as far as in him lies, the pecuniary burthen under which the state has been laboring. The consequence has been, an unparalleled increase in the legislative expenses over all other departments of the government. I can recommend no more certain and effectual retrenchment in this matter, than short sessions; still let the conduct of every department of the government be thoroughly scrutinized, and let no important interest of the people be neglected.

The baneful practice of converting the halls of legislation into an arena for the display of political gladiators, which has too long characterized the halls of our national legislature, is a lamentable departure from the course pursued by the band of patriots who composed "the first congress;" and whose example, I hope, for the honor of our common country, has not yet been wholly forgotten by their successors. The pernicious tendency of this practice of the national legislature, will not, I trust, be extended to the legislatures of their respective states; and I am sure, I need scarcely add, I have no apprehensions of its reaching the legislature of this Commonwealth. No public functionary who would yield to its influence need expect to retain the confidence and respect of the people of Pennsylvania.

In conclusion, I shall beg leave to refer you to the views on several subjects contained in my last annual message. That message being the first which I had the honor to communicate at the commencement of a session of the Legislature, I went more into detail on the various topics discussed in it, than I suppose would be again necessary, with a view to an expression of opinion on them, as well for that occasion, as for future reference. I therefore refer you to it for my recommendations on the subjects of reform of the Banking system &c.—the importance of connecting and completing at the earliest day practicable, the disconnected part of our disjointed and unfinished system of internal improvements,—the making of prompt and ample provision for keeping the public improvements in repair,—the necessity of preserving unimpaired the credit of the Commonwealth and promptly meeting all her pecuniary engagements,—the necessary care and caution to be exercised in creating renewing, and supervising corporations,—the subject of education, and as connected with it, that of procuring competent teachers and school books,—the subject of the increase of writs of error and appeals in the Supreme Court, and reporting the decisions of that court,—the militia system, the encouragement of volunteers and the reduction of militia trainings to one day in the year,—the evasion of the laws relative to collateral inheritance tax,—and the revision of the laws relative to the selecting and drawing of jurors. It will afford me great pleasure to cooperate with the Legislature, in these and all other measures calculated to promote the common good of our beloved Commonwealth.

DAVID R. PORTER,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, JAN. 6th, 1841.

It is said that there are 439 applicants for the office of Secretary of State of Ohio, and that 139 of them have been promised the station! "All for principle" used to be their disinterested motto.

## SHERIFF'S SALES.

BY virtue of sundry writs of alias venditioni exponas, to me directed, will be exposed to public sale at the Court House in Danville, on Monday the 18th of January, 1841, at ten o'clock A. M. the following property, viz:

A certain tract of land situated in Derry township, Columbia county, adjoining lands of William Vanhorn, Thomas Moorhead, Thomas Moorehead jr. and Maria Winchster, containing twenty-one acres, more or less about nineteen acres cleared land, whereon is erected a small

## LOG HOUSE AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

Seized taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of John Moorehead.

ALSO.

A certain tract or parcel of Land situated in Hemlock township, Columbia county; beginning at a post, corner of John Egbert, sen's. land, thence by the same north one degree, west one hundred and four perches and five-tenths to a post a corner of Widow Cox's land thence by land of William Montgomery, south eighty-six degrees, west one hundred and sixty-four perches and sixth-tenth to a chesnut-oak, thence by land of John Egbert, sen; south degrees east, one hundred and thirty-eight perches to a white oak grub, thence by land of Thomas Cole and Christian Clouse north seventy-three degrees, one hundred and fifty-six perches to the place of beginning; containing

113 Acres & 33 Perches,  
be the same more or less, whereon is erected a

## LOG HOUSE, A LOG BARN,

About Twelve acres of Meadow and Sixty Acres of cleared land.

Seized, taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of Samuel Miller.

BY virtue of a writ of levam facias, to me directed, will be exposed to public sale at the time and place aforesaid.

A certain message and tract or piece of land, thereunto, belonging, situate part in Hemlock township, and part in Mt. Pleasant township, bounded and described as follows; viz: bounded by lands of Andrew Melich, the Lancaster company and other lands; whereon is erected

## A DWELLING and several out-houses, a SAW MILL,

And containing Two hundred and eighty-six acres of land, be the same more or less. Seized, taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of Jacob Wagener.

By virtue of a writ of venditioni exponas, to me directed, will be exposed to sale at the time and place aforesaid.

Two certain lots of ground situate in Berwick, Columbia county, adjoining lots of A. B. Wilson, the heirs of William Evans, deceased, and others, whereon is erected a

## FRAME BUILDING,

and numbered in the plan of said town No. 52 and 59.

Seized, taken in execution, and to be sold as the property of Nicholas Seibert.

JOHN FRUIT, Sheriff.  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, Danville, }  
Dec. 26, 1840.

## SHERIFF'S SALE.

BY virtue of sundry writs of alias venditioni exponas, to me directed, will be exposed to public sale at the Court House in Danville, on Monday the 25th of January, 1841, at ten o'clock A. M. the following property, viz:

A certain tract of land situate in Madison township, Columbia county, containing one hundred and four acres, whereon is erected a

## LOG HOUSE, AND LOG BARN,

about ninety acres cleared, and a fine large meadow, a good orchard. Adjoining lands of Richard Fruit, John Swisher, John Funston and others.

Seized taken in execution and to be sold as the property of Phineas Welliver, by

JOHN FRUIT, Sheriff.  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, Danville, }  
Dec. 30, 1841.

## LIST OF CAUSES

For Trial at January Term, 1841.

- Ludwig Leight vs George Mutchler
- Joseph Cavene vs Isaac Musgrave et al
- Isaiah Shuman vs Daniel Cusenboder et al
- B. W. Wapples vs Adam Michael
- William Dale vs Charles Craig
- Benjamin Haywood vs Ellis Hughes et al
- George Feegly et al vs Daniel Sponenberger et al
- Robert Montgomery vs William Swisher et al
- Daniel Gross vs Jacob Hower
- Jacob Wagner vs Dr. Wm. M'Cormick
- West Branch Bank et al vs Thomas Moorehead
- Albert B. Ashton et al vs Christian Ash
- Richard Plinmer vs Theodora Wells
- Same vs Same
- Samuel Brobst et al vs C. A. Brobst
- Jacob Geding vs Peter Miller
- C. A. Brobst vs Jesse Price.