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THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

W. Weaver Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of
 the House of Representatives of the General
 Assembly.

FELLOW CITIZENS—A renewal of expres-
 sions of gratitude to the Almighty Father,
 for his manifold mercies and protecting in-
 fluences during the past year, and the utterance
 of a prayer "in spirit and in truth," for the
 continuance of these blessings, will be com-
 mon to a people who habitually acknowledge
 the superintending care of a just and merciful
 God. The abundant harvests of the late
 season, the general exemption of the com-
 munity from disease, the rapidly improving
 condition of the country, in all things which
 confer happiness and rational contentment,
 increase the facilities of education, and the
 enjoyment of religious privileges in its pur-
 est forms, admonish us anew, that the des-
 tiny of the people and government is direct-
 ed by the power of a Supreme Ruler, whose
 kindly providences are continually exerted
 for their welfare, and well being.

The melancholy duty devolves on me, of
 formally announcing to the General Assem-
 bly, the fact of the decease of the Chief
 Magistrate of the Nation, the venerable Za-
 chary Taylor, who died at the City of Wash-
 ington, on the Ninth of July last.

The soldier whose brilliant achievements
 in arms added new laurels to the military
 fame of the country, and the Statesman
 whose policy, as shadowed forth in his recom-
 mendations to Congress, was that of the
 wisest and most generous patriotism, died in
 the full possession of his great mental facul-
 ties, surrounded by endeared relatives, cher-
 ished friends, and patriotic members of gov-
 ernment with the calm resignation becoming
 a Christian soldier, and founded on the faith,
 which teaches that death has no terrors for
 those who faithfully endeavor to do their
 duty. The American people paid the highest
 tribute to his memory by united and universal
 sorrow.

In the purity and disinterestedness of his
 motives, the patriotism of every individual
 affording his public conduct, the perfect sin-
 cerity of his desire to act justly to all men,
 his winning gentleness of temper as mani-
 fested in his personal deportment, were to
 be found traits of character which would
 closely to him his confidential friends, and
 gave to their sorrow for his demise a bit-
 terness which no lapse of time or change of
 circumstances can alleviate.

It is recommended that a suitable expres-
 sion of respect for the memory of the de-
 ceased, and of regret for our bereavement,
 be made by the present Legislature.

On the death of General Taylor, by the
 provisions of the Constitution, the powers
 and duties of the Chief Magistracy were
 vested, without the least interruption of the
 public business, in Vice-President Millard
 Fillmore, whose virtue and patriotism, as
 manifested in the discharge of former trusts,
 as well as in the administration thus far
 of his new functions, justify the confident ex-
 pectation that the policy of the National ad-
 ministration will eminently promote the best
 interests of the country. In its avowal of
 the great principle of protection to American
 Industry, it has an especial claim to the con-
 fidence of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions expressive of the feelings of
 the last Legislature on the death of the late
 John C. Calhoun, were transmitted to his
 family. I herewith transmit the correspon-
 dence.

The amendment to the State Constitution,
 providing for the election by the citizens of
 the judicial officers of the Commonwealth,
 having received the sanction of a majority of
 the people, is now part of the organic law.
 Your attention is invited to such legislation
 as may be necessary to carry into complete
 effect this expression of the popular will.
 By the terms of the Constitution, the com-
 missions of the Judges will expire on the
 first Monday of December, in the year one
 thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. It is
 suggested that it will afford a favorable op-
 portunity to remodel and greatly lessen the
 number of Judicial Districts. At present
 there are no less than twenty four judicial
 districts, with District Courts in Philadelphia
 and Allegheny Counties. A reference to
 the vast amount of business transacted in
 these last named Courts, affords conclusive
 evidence that the interests of the commu-
 nity demand their continuance. Should a
 reduction be made in the number of the Com-
 mon Pleas Districts, the salaries now paid to
 the Judges ought to be increased to such ex-
 tent as would be a fair remuneration for the
 labor performed and the responsibility incur-
 red in the execution of the duties of their
 high offices. It is no part of the character
 of our citizens to require the labors of oth-
 ers, without adequate compensation. Fair
 salaries will best secure the services of hon-
 est, intelligent and competent men, in that
 department of government, in the faithful

administration of which every citizen is so
 deeply interested. An increase of the salar-
 ies of the Judges of the Courts of Common
 Pleas and District Courts, would demand the
 extension of the same liberality to such
 gentlemen as may be selected to discharge
 the higher and more responsible duties of
 judges of the court of the last resort.

Two annual elections appear to impose
 unnecessary burthens upon the citizens.
 Expense to the general treasury, and loss of
 time to the voter, could be well saved by
 authorizing the elections now held in the
 Spring to be holden at the general election
 in October. To such counties as desire to
 try the experiment, the right might be grant-
 ed. I have been furnished with a state-
 ment of the expense incurred by holding
 Spring elections in Dauphin county, and if
 the amount is a fair average of the expense
 to the other counties, the change indicated
 will save to the people of the Commonwealth
 annually upwards of thirty thousand dollars.

The project of creating an Agricultural
 Department connected with the State Gov-
 ernment demands the favorable considera-
 tion of the Legislature. In such Depart-
 ment might be collected much valuable in-
 formation for the use of the practical farmer.
 The recent improvements in the construction
 of implements of husbandry, the analysis of
 earths, improved modes of tillage, and adap-
 tation of manures and seeds to various kinds
 of soil, are subjects of absorbing interest to
 the agricultural classes. Diffusion of knowl-
 edge respecting the best breeds of Horses
 and other stock, with suggestions in an
 authorized and reliable form, and experi-
 mental exhibitions of the proper modes of
 rearing and training live stock of all kinds,
 could not fail to act beneficially on this great
 interest of the Commonwealth.

Should the National Government erect an
 Agricultural Bureau conforming with the
 suggestion of the President, the State insti-
 tution would be an efficient auxiliary in the
 collection of local information, and for the
 distribution, here at home, of knowledge
 amassed in that department from other sources.
 In this establishment, the claims of the
 mining, mechanical, and manufacturing
 interests on the fostering care of the Govern-
 ment, might be equally regarded. A private
 society in our metropolitan city by its
 liberality, activity and learning has done
 much to develop and encourage the arts
 and sciences, useful in every-day life, and
 has largely aided our mechanics and man-
 ufacturers to gain a reputation throughout
 the world. By the measure proposed, I desire
 to accomplish for the advancement of the
 agricultural, mechanical, and mining indus-
 try of the whole Commonwealth, what the
 Franklin Institute has done for those inter-
 ests, which have enjoyed the benefit of its
 discriminating care. County and township
 institutions would speedily follow the crea-
 tion of a State department; and by mutual
 action and counsel, results would ensue, highly
 gratifying to the patriot, and beneficial to
 the country.

Should the returns of the seventh census
 of the United States be transmitted in time,
 the apportionment of the State into Con-
 gressional districts may become part of our
 duty. In such event, it is hoped the custom
 heretofore pursued of postponing action on
 important bills of this description to the last
 hours of the session will be changed. It is
 a practice utterly inconsistent with careful
 and correct legislation, and destructive of
 the rights of a co-ordinate branch of the
 Government.

The committee charged with the intro-
 duction of gas lights into the public build-
 ings, have complied so far as in their
 power, with the directions of the Legislature.
 An appropriation to meet these expenses,
 and to enclose and improve the public
 grounds should be made at an early day.

A complete set of balances, furnished to
 the State by the General Government, have
 been deposited in the buildings of the Land
 office. The Commissioners of the several
 counties ought to be required to have the
 weights and measures, under their care, a-
 gain adjusted and regulated.

An arrangement of the Geological speci-
 mens belonging to the State, in some conve-
 nient place for general inspection, and the
 publication of the Geological reports are de-
 manded alike by the true interests of the
 State and a just appreciation of her charac-
 ter for enlightened enterprise.

My attention has been called to the large
 body of original papers in the State depart-
 ment, connected with the Colonial and rev-
 olutionary history of the State, and their
 extremely exposed and perishing condition.
 These records are worth preservation, as
 containing authentic information of the ac-
 tion of our fathers in the struggle for national
 existence. In the Capital of Pennsylvania,
 and with the sympathies of her patriotic
 People, was Independence matured and de-
 clared. Her soldiers were most numerous
 around the standard of the nation, and there
 were more battle fields on her soil than in
 the same area elsewhere. Every memorial
 of those days of devotion and trial should
 be faithfully preserved. There exists a sin-
 gle copy in manuscript of the minutes of
 the Revolutionary Executive Council a docu-
 ment by far too valuable to remain long
 within the reach of accident or mutilation.
 It would be gratifying to a large body of our
 constituents if the Assembly would author-
 ize the employment of a competent gentle-
 man to select and arrange for publication
 these memorials of an interesting epoch in
 the history of the Commonwealth.

In the early spring the buildings of the In-
 sane Asylum will be ready for the reception

of patients. This work of charity, worthy
 of the best care of the philanthropist, from
 its admirable construction and healthful loca-
 tion, cannot fail to answer the ends of its
 benevolent founders. It deserves the foster-
 ing care of the Legislature.

In the performance of your duties, atten-
 tion is most earnestly directed to the revision
 of the laws in relation to taverns, res-
 taurants, beer houses and ten-pin alleys. It
 is alleged that in many instances they are
 made the common resort of the young, the
 idle, and the worthless, to the great detri-
 ment of the moral well-being of the rising gen-
 eration.

The suggestions and recommendations of
 former messages in reference to the equaliza-
 tion of Tax laws, payment of portions of the
 public debt, currency, and public im-
 provements, are again pressed on your
 attention.—The loan authorized at the last
 session to redeem the over due public debt,
 has not been negotiated.]

The financial condition of the Common-
 wealth is exhibited in the following state-
 ments:

Amount of funded debt, including amount
 in the hands of Commissioners of Sinking
 Fund, and also special loan to avoid In-
 clined Plane at the Schuylkill, on the 30th of
 November, 1850, was \$39,852,914 78
 Am't of unfunded debt 1850 912,570 64
 Total sum of debt, \$40,775,485 24

In this gross sum is included the loan to
 avoid the Plane at the Schuylkill as above
 stated—the avoidance of the Plane author-
 ized the sale of that portion of the Columbia
 Railroad and Viaduct over the Schuylkill,
 rendered useless by the construction of the
 new road. A part of the road and bridge
 was sold for \$243,200, which amount is to
 be applied as directed by the 18th Section of
 the Act of 10th April, 1849, towards the per-
 manent improvement of the Columbia rail-
 way. The actual cost of this great improve-
 ment, whereby the Plane has been avoided,
 the use of the public works much facilitated
 and an annual saving of thirty-one thousand
 dollars secured to the Treasury, in the dis-
 use of the machinery and labor necessarily con-
 nected with the plane, is shown as follows:

Am't of cost of new road, say \$400,000 00
 Deduct price of old road sold, 243,000 00
 The Sinking-Fund operation is exhibited thus:

Am't of funds rec'd during year \$197,193 74
 Am't of stocks purchased " 348,622 98
 Am't in hands of Commissioners 5,967 60
 Whole am't rec'd since commen-
 cement of system 428,832 75
 Whole amount of stocks purchas-
 ed, 459,122 98
 Am't of money in hands on 30th
 Nov., 1850, 5,967 60

FURTHER EXHIBITION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.
 Am't of debt on 30th Novem-
 ber 1850, 40,775,485 24
 Am't of stocks and cash in
 hands of Comrs of Sinking
 Fund, \$465,090 58
 Deduct amount of special loan
 —the interest thereof saved
 in the discontinuance of the
 Plane, 400,000 00
 \$39,910,394 84

Am't of debt on 30th Nov. '48.
 Funded, \$39,393,350 24
 Unfunded, 1,081,386 69
 Canal, Railroad,
 and Am't of stocks
 Power debts re-
 turned in 1849
 and '50, being
 debts contract-
 ed prior to 1st
 Dec. 1848, 373,861 48
 Total indebtedness, \$40,848,598 41
 Actual indebtedness, including
 Inclined Plane Loan on 30th
 Nov., 1850, and excluding
 am't, in hands of sinking
 fund Commissioner, \$40,310,394 84

Actual decrease of public debt
 since 30th Nov., 1848, \$438,203 57
 Within the same period, there has
 been paid from the treasury appropriations, that
 may be called extraordinary, as follows:

	Estimate for 1850	Receipts for 1850	Estimates for 1851
Lands, \$20,000	\$16,378 58	\$16,000	
Auction Com. 22,000	19,673 75	20,000	
" " duties, 50,000	44,898 22	45,000	
Tax on bank div'ds, 30,000	154,877 14	160,000	
Tax on Corp'n stocks, 160,000	136,510 14	160,000	
Tax on Real and Personal Estate, 1,330,000	1,317,821 55	1,330,000	
License, Tax \$780,000	107,427 59	100,000	
" Retailers, 160,000	174,082 86	175,000	
" Pedlars, 3,000	2,895 08	3,000	
" Brokers, 12,000	12,228 73	11,000	
" Theatres &c 3,000	2,384 50	2,500	
" Bill'd rooms, 5,000	3,045 81	4,000	
" Distillery &c 1,500	3,808 91	5,000	
" Early &c &c 15,000	6,530 97	30,000	
" Pat medicine 3,000	2,623 04	3,000	
Pamph'l laws 500	345 50	500	
Militia Fines, 2,000	12,953 73	10,000	
Tax on Writs 40,000	45,409 47	45,000	
" " Officers 20,000	14,047 24	15,000	
" " Loans, 125,000	119,356 30	120,000	
On Col. Inher- itance, 200,000	102,295 07	180,000	

	1,825,000	1,713,848 16	1,800,000
Canal & Road Dolls,			
Sale of old ma- terials,	5,000	6,953 63	5,000
Enrollment of Laws,	11,000	10,270 60	12,000
Premi um of Charters,	40,000	39,262 24	40,000
Inclined Plain Loan,	270,000	270,000 00	
Div'ds on Turn- pike stocks,	2,000	2,460 00	2,000
Nicholson lands, 300			
Accrued interest, 4,000		3,674 12	5,000
Rounded cash, 5,000		13,278 81	5,000
Escheats, 2,000		1,000	
Fees of Public officers,	2,000	3,687 20	4,000
Miscellaneous, 2,000		1,740 33	5,000
Interest on stock purchased, 15,000		13,721 27	30,000
Foreign Insur- ance Agencies		2,260 83	3,000
\$4,566,300 00	4,438,131 51	4,296,000	

	Estimate for 1850	Payments for 1850	Estimate for 1851
Pub Imp'ts, \$640,000	1,488,799 74	\$890,000	
Exp't of Gov't 235,000	262,899 71	250,000	
Militia, 4,000	16,582 25	15,000	
Pensioners, 20,000	17,277 91	15,000	
Charitable Insti- tutions, 80,000	62,267 85	60,000	
Com. Schools 200,000	213,728 49	200,000	
Int'ns loans 2,005,000	2,057,114 51	2,065,000	
Guarantees, 32,500	32,500 00	32,500	
Domestic cre- ditors, 10,000	6,387 41	10,000	
Dam's on pub. works, 20,000	28,068 34	25,000	
Special Com's, 2,000	2,556 03	2,000	
State Library, 2,000	1,000 00	2,000	
Sub. Buildings, 2,000	2,002 78	10,000	
Penitentiaries, 13,000	14,283 79	15,000	
House of Refuge 5,000	6,000 00	5,000	
Nicholson Lands 300	192 75	300	
Escheats, 2,000	1,740 53	2,000	
Abate't of State Tax, 40,000	42,525 04	40,000	
Council fees & Com'm's, 2,000	g,984 15	5,000	
Miscellaneous, 5,000	8,180 44	5,000	
Sinking Fund Com'm's, 293,000	318,864 03	250,000	
Inclined Plane, 270,000		90,000	
N. B. Canal, 150,000		250,000	
None w a l o f Relief Notes, 10,000			
Expenses of Rev- enue Com'm's, 2,500			
\$4,036,800 4,653,193 75	4,101,300		

In the item of expenditure for public im-
 provements, is included \$148,500 paid to
 North Branch Canal, and \$286,446 02 to
 avoid Inclined Plane.

In the amounts received from Canal and
 Railroad tolls and collateral inheritance
 taxes, the actual receipts of the last year fall
 short of the estimates. In making these es-
 timates, it was supposed the suggestion of a
 former message in relation to the convey-
 ance of passengers on the Columbia Rail-
 way had been favorably regarded. It is
 still believed that a largely increased
 revenue would attend the adoption of the
 changes heretofore recommended. That
 the collateral inheritance tax is inefficiently
 and carelessly collected in some of the coun-
 ties, and even when collected frequently
 retained in the hands of the officers longer
 than necessary, is demonstrable by the fact
 of the great disproportion received at the
 Treasury from counties of equal population,
 business, and wealth. A statement of the
 amounts received from the several counties
 during the last four years, will exhibit much
 valuable information on the interesting
 question of inequality of taxation in the pay-
 ment of the public debt. All items of taxa-
 tion applicable to the sinking fund should
 be required to reach the Treasury quarterly
 under the severest penalties.

A reference to reports of the Adjutant
 General, Auditor General, Surveyor General,
 and Superintendent of Common Schools, will
 afford detailed information of the business
 of their several departments, and furnish
 views and suggestions of interest to the gen-
 eral weal.

The school system, although still imper-
 fect, is rapidly improving in its general
 condition, and promises the beneficial results
 it was designed to accomplish. The education
 of the people, is the great question of the
 age, and as such, it cannot fail to command
 your earnest and enlightened efforts, for its
 speedy and ultimate success.

In the competition for trade and travel, no
 effort for the full repair of the canals and rail-
 roads of the State should be neglected. The
 deteriorating condition of many of these
 works, admonish that the system of super-
 vision is inefficient to secure the return of
 which their construction gave confident as-
 surance. In a system of divided responsi-
 bility in their management, the difficulty evi-
 dently exists. On a former occasion it was
 suggested to divide the State into Canal and
 Railway districts, and allot to each a Canal
 Commissioner, to whom its entire control
 should be given. This project is again re-
 commended, but should it fail to meet your
 approbation, the proposition of electing a
 Superintendent, to whom for his whole time
 and attention, a compensating salary should
 be paid, and under whose sole control the
 public works might be placed, is worthy of
 consideration. All the evils arising from
 divided counsels and shifting responsibilities
 would be avoided, and the energy and skill
 in their management secured which cannot
 be expected under the present system. It is
 alleged this method of superintendence of public
 works has succeeded well and beneficially
 in other States.

now in rapid progress of construction to the
 navigable waters of the West, the thorough
 repair of the Cumberland Valley road, and
 the erection of various lines of Railway in
 the valley of the Susquehanna, must throw
 an amount of trade on the Columbia Rail-
 road which will demand for its transit the
 entire capacity of that thoroughfare in a con-
 dition of perfect repair. Every avenue by
 which the trade of the west, as well as of
 Central and Northern Pennsylvania reaches
 Philadelphia, the entire people should feel
 a lively interest, as identical with the pros-
 perity of the whole State. Whilst the inter-
 nal trade is pouring into our metropolis, and
 her local authorities are doing their part to
 promote her commerce, it is our duty to de-
 mand from the General Government some
 portion of its resources for the security and
 improvement of the harbor of the Delaware.
 Improvement of the navigable rivers and
 protection of the harbors of the Ocean and
 Lakes ought to be no longer delayed.

In this connection I deem it my duty to
 call your attention to the pending litigation
 in relation to the bridge over the Ohio River
 at Wheeling, erected under the authority of
 Virginia, which, it is confidently asserted,
 puts in jeopardy large commercial interests.
 It has been my care to watch the progress of
 the controversy, and to direct the proper law
 officer of the Commonwealth, associated with
 the other distinguished gentlemen who pro-
 fessionally represent the State, to protect
 these interests before the judicial tribunal
 which has cognizance of the case under the
 Constitution.

In the various Railway projects now seri-
 ally terminating at Philadelphia, Harris-
 burg, and Pittsburg, the people of the Com-
 monwealth ought never to lose sight of that
 other great enterprise which, known as the
 Sunbury and Erie Railroad, was meant to
 connect the Susquehanna, the Delaware, and
 the Lakes. Besides the command of the
 trade of the Northern Seas secured by its
 construction, it would bring into market for
 sale and settlement vast bodies of untena-
 ted and unimproved lands, and develop
 treasures of inexhaustible mineral wealth
 now wholly inaccessible.

The large indebtedness of the State, and
 the necessity for its reduction, forbid the pol-
 icy on her part, of embarking in these vari-
 ous improvements.

The debt of the Commonwealth was in-
 creased in the erection of works which were
 largely conducive to the settlement and sale
 of the domain of the United States, and
 while she has secured no part of this inheri-
 tance, other States have been liberally aid-
 ed in the construction of their internal im-
 provements by donation of public lands. It
 is a right on her part to demand a portion
 of these lands to aid in the completion of the
 important works partially completed and in
 contemplation.

A system of banking, based upon State
 stocks, under proper restrictions, is recom-
 mended to the attention of the Legislature.
 It is thought that the present banking facili-
 ties are unequal to the wants of the business
 community. The large amount of notes of
 banks of other States found in circulation
 among our people, the inability of the banks,
 with safety to their credit, to accommodate
 at all times the active business demands
 of the country, and the operations
 in the nature of private banking, transacted
 on severe terms to the borrower, demon-
 strate that increased facilities are de-
 manded to secure a healthy development of
 our resources. Any considerable extension
 of the present system is hardly to be antici-
 pated, nor is it desirable, if a more perma-
 nent basis for such operations can be de-
 vised. Free banking upon a deposit and
 pledge of public stocks early recommended
 itself to favor. It is not liable to sudden ex-
 pansion and contractions—more secure
 from failure—less obnoxious to counterfeit-
 ing and fraud, and offers undoubted securi-