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FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE OF ANDREW G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania, to both Houses of the Legislature, read January 8, 1862. To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN: It has pleased Divine Providence, during the last season, to give us abundant crops, unbroken peace within our borders, unanimity among our people, and thus to enable this Commonwealth to do her full duty to the country, to herself and to posterity. For these blessings we have cause to be grateful. The balance in the Treasury on the 30th Nov., 1860, was \$681,433.08

Table with 2 columns: Description of financial items and Amount. Includes 'The receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1861, were as follows: From ordinary sources, \$5,017,645.57' and 'Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1861, 7,424,958.10'

Having received notice from the company that the bonds so delivered to the company or their proceeds had been appropriated in accordance with the provisions of the law, on the 21st of June last I appointed John A. Wright as Auditor to examine and to report to me whether said bonds or their proceeds had been appropriated to the purposes required by the act. His report has not yet been received by me.

By the act of the 21st April, 1858, for the sale of the State canals to the Susquehanna and Erie railroad company it was provided that if that company should sell said canals for a greater sum in the aggregate than three and a half millions of dollars, seventy five per centum of such excess should be paid to the Commonwealth by a transfer of so much of such bonds and securities as said company should receive for the same and payable in like manner.

The company sold the canals and reported that the share of the price on such sale, to the Commonwealth was \$281,235 of which \$250 was paid in cash and for the remaining \$281,000 the Commonwealth received coupon bonds of the Wyoming canal company to that amount being a portion of bonds for \$900,000 issued by that company and secured by a mortgage on the Erie and Susquehanna canal, formerly called the Lower North Branch canal. These bonds bear an interest of six per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the 15th of January and July, and the interest was paid by the company to January last inclusive. The interest due in July last has not been paid.

A plan has been suggested for the assent of the stock and bond holders, which contemplates a sale of the canal under lawful process and a purchase of the same for the purpose of forming a new company of which the capital stock shall be one million of dollars divided into twenty thousand shares of fifty dollars each, of which each assenting holder of a mortgage bond for one thousand dollars, shall be entitled to eighteen shares, and each assenting holder of fifty shares of stock of the Wyoming canal company shall be entitled to nine shares.

which the United States have agreed to take and pay for at cost. Arrangements have been made with the general government for the reimbursement of the military expenses of the State since the 27th of July last. The bills as paid are forwarded to Washington and partial repayments have already been made.

It will be observed that the receipts from ordinary sources of revenue for the year 1861 have decreased, but as payments have been made on some of them since the settlement at the end of the fiscal year on the 1st of December, and more may reasonably be expected in addition to the payments to be made by the National Government as hereinafter stated the balance available in the treasury will be largely increased.

I refer to the reports of the State Treasurer and Auditor General for the details of the financial affairs of the Commonwealth. The reports of the Surveyor General and State Librarian will exhibit the state of the Department under their care.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund during the last spring received from Philadelphia and Erie (late Sanbury and Erie) Railroad Company forty bonds of that Company for \$1,000,000 each and a mortgage to secure the same, executed in conformity with the third section of the act of March 7th 1861. That company has also deposited in the State Treasury its bonds to the amount of five millions of dollars in accordance with the 6th section of the same act.

On the 9th of May last I granted my warrant authorizing the Treasury to deliver to the said company one thousand of said bonds, being to the amount of one million of dollars. This warrant was issued in conformity with the law, the five per cent bonds mentioned in the fifth section of the act (except those belonging to the State and now in the Sinking Fund) having been previously considered and cancelled and satisfaction entered on the Record of the Mortgage mentioned in said fifth section.

By the act of the 21st April, 1858, for the sale of the State canals to the Susquehanna and Erie railroad company it was provided that if that company should sell said canals for a greater sum in the aggregate than three and a half millions of dollars, seventy five per centum of such excess should be paid to the Commonwealth by a transfer of so much of such bonds and securities as said company should receive for the same and payable in like manner.

I suggest that the Act passed 8th of April, 1861, entitled "An Act concerning the sale of railroad canals, &c.," should be modified so that in all cases in which a debt may be due to the Commonwealth by the company as whose property a public work may be sold, the purchasers thereof shall not be entitled to the benefits and privileges conferred by the Act unless they shall have first paid the debt due to the State, or secured the same by their bonds to the Commonwealth secured by a first mortgage on the work itself.

to protect the interests of the State would, in that case be necessary. The wicked and monstrous rebellion which broke out many months ago, has not yet been quelled. Every sentiment of loyalty and patriotism demands its effectual suppression.

In my messages of the 9th and 30th of April, I set forth at length my views of the character and objects of the reflection which is still pending. Subsequent reflection has confirmed me in the correctness of the opinions then expressed, and to which I refer. In addition it ought to be understood that, looking to the variety and character of the enterprises in progress, her material interest alone would render the preservation of the Union from the present assault upon it indispensable to Pennsylvania. She cannot afford to have a foreign power below or above or bounding her on the Delaware, the Chesapeake or the Mississippi, and she will never acquiesce in such a result as would make her the cost in men and money of her resistance to it.

On the 9th of April last I directed the attention of the Legislature to the necessity which existed for an improved military organization, and on the 12th of the same month the Act entitled "An Act for the better organization of the militia of this Commonwealth" passed, appropriating the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of organizing, equipping and arming the militia. On the 10th of April the President, by proclamation called for a military force of 75,000 men, of which the quota assigned to Pennsylvania was at first sixteen (afterwards reduced to fourteen) regiments to serve as infantry or riflemen for the term of three months, unless sooner discharged. This call was enthusiastically responded to by the people of Pennsylvania. The first military aid from the loyal States, which the Government received at Washington, was a Pennsylvania corps which arrived there prior to the 19th of April. On that day the passage of other corps from this and other States through Baltimore was impeded by force and during nearly two weeks afterwards the communication between Washington and the loyal States was almost entirely cut off. On the 19th I received a request from the War Department that the troops preparing in this State should be clothed, armed, equipped, subsisted and transported by the State in consequence of the then inability of the United States. This request was of course complied with, and twenty-five regiments, (being eleven regiments beyond our quota) comprising 29,175 men from Pennsylvania served for the term of three months under the President's proclamation, but were referred to. As the furnishing of volunteers with supplies was necessary under the circumstances a hurried operation, and as complaints were made in regard to them, and frauds were alleged to have been perpetrated, I appointed a board of commissioners to investigate the whole subject. A copy of their report with the evidence taken by them has been already laid before the public. It is the intention of the Auditor General to open the accounts of such parties as appear by the testimony to have been defrauded, and the same has already been taken in two of those cases.

On the expiration of the term of the three months men in July last, some eight or ten thousand discharged Pennsylvania volunteers were thrown into Harrisburg without notice and detained here, waiting to be paid their arrears of pay. Their tents, camp equipage and cooking utensils, had been taken from them at Williamsport, Md., and they arrived here destitute of all means of shelter and of preparing their food. The Commissary of the United States furnished uncooked rations, and under the circumstances, and inasmuch as I deemed it necessary to make arrangements for aiding in the cooking and baking of the rations, and also for furnishing meals to such regiments as arrived during the night or under circumstances requiring instant relief. The expenses attending these operations amounted, so far as the funds of the State are concerned, to \$74,420, and I recommend that the Legislature make an appropriation to pay them. It ought to be stated that these expenses would have been much larger, but for the liberal and patriotic efforts of the citizens, and especially the ladies, of Harrisburg; that the State has generally been generous and kind to our wearied and hungry soldiers, and to our remembrance and gratitude.

At the special session of the Legislature which commenced on the 30th of April last I recommended the organization of a reserve corps, to be armed, equipped, clothed, subsisted and paid by the State, and divided into camps of instruction, in anticipation of the exigencies of the country and by the Act of 15th of May last, such a corps was directed to be raised, and a loan of \$3,000,000 was authorized to defray the expenses of that and other military preparations. A more ample statement in number to form two regiments of the Reserve Corps had, previous to the 15th of May been accepted by me in pursuance of a call on me (afterwards rescinded), for twenty-five regiments, and were then already assembled and subject to my control. Most of these men volunteered for the Reserve Corps and were immediately organized. The remaining regiments were rapidly recruited and the Corps was thus completed, and George A. McCall, of Chester county, was commissioned as Major General, and assigned to the command of all the forces raised or to be raised under the provisions of the last mentioned act. The regiments composing the Reserve Corps were instructed in four camps in different parts of the State, until they were taken into the service of the United States. Two of these regiments, under the command of Colonels Charles J. Blidie and Seneca G. Simmons, and two companies of artillery under the command of Col. Charles T. Campbell at the pressing instance of the War Department were sent on the 22d of June last to the relief of Col. Wallace, at Cumberland, and remained for about six weeks there, and in Western Virginia engaged in active operations.

Towards the close of July the whole Corps was called for under requisition, and taken into the service of the United States. Within four days after the disaster at Bull Run eleven regiments, of this fine body of men (armed, drilled, clothed, equipped), and in respect ready for active service) were in Washington. The regiments were composed of companies from Western Virginia and the remaining two regiments making the whole number of fifteen, soon joined them there, and they are all now in service under the command of Gen. McCall, who has been commissioned as a Brigadier General of the United States.

These fifteen regiments contain fifteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-six men, and constitute a division, comprising three brigades a regiment of Artillery and one of Cavalry. The whole expense of raising, clothing, equipping, subsisting and paying

the Reserve Corps (including the expense of establishing and fitting the camps of instruction, of recruiting, and supplying regiments, flags, and the expenses of the camps of the two regiments and companies in Maryland and Western Virginia, which were all defrayed by the State) has amounted to \$855,414.87. This does not include the transportation on Rail Roads, as the appropriation of that account would have been a work of great labor, nor does it include the pay of the two regiments during the campaign, but it does include all the expenses, which were heavy of teams and transportation, not on Railroads, for the two regiments on the campaign above mentioned. Twelve regiments of the Reserve Corps were paid subsistence, &c., by the State to the average date of the 22d July. The two regiments in Western Virginia were paid by the State to the date of their departure from Harrisburg on that expedition. The Cavalry regiment was not paid by the State. It will be perceived that the whole average expense per man was \$33.95.

Previous to the 31st of April last, a regiment had been enlisted in the city of Erie, from Northwestern Pennsylvania. When the call was made on me on that day, for 25 additional regiments, the Erie regiment was ordered to march to Harrisburg. The call was rescinded however, before the regiment reached Pittsburg, and I ordered it to encamp at that city, where it remained until the 30th of June. The national Government declined to muster the regiment into service, as all existing requisitions made on the State were more than filled.

Much apprehension existed in the Western and South western borders of the State and it was deemed prudent to retain the regiment at Pittsburg to meet any emergency that might arise. After the passage of the Act of 15th May, 1861, it was expected that the regiment would form part of the Reserve Volunteer corps; but as the men had been a long time from home and remained inactive in camp, they declined entering the service, and were subsisted and paid up to the 30th of June by the State. Two regiments have since been enlisted from the same part of Pennsylvania at the city of Erie, one of which has been at Washington in service since September, and the other is now ready for marching orders—and it is due to the first Erie regiment to say that most of the men are now in service.

Further requisitions for sixteen regiments of Infantry and two regiments of Cavalry were shortly afterwards made by the War Department. Of these, sixteen have already been raised and are in the service of the United States, and the remaining two are in the course of organization and nearly ready to march.

In addition to the requisitions on the State, the War Department had given authorities to numerous individuals to raise volunteers in Pennsylvania but as that system was found to be inefficient, a general order was issued by the War Department on the 25th of September last, placing all such organizations under the control of the Governor, and shortly afterwards a requisition was made on the State to increase her quota to 75,000 men. These independent requisitions, which were called, thus became Pennsylvania regiments and as completed and sent forward form part of the quota of the State.

The State regiments have been numbered, and the last to this date is numbered 115. Two of the three months regiments have continued in service under the late requisition, and retain their original numbers. Deducting the remaining twenty-three three months regiments, there are ninety-two regiments in service and preparing for it. We have also in service and preparing twenty-four companies.

The following table of the existing Pennsylvania volunteer force is given for information: REGIMENTS IN SERVICE. 56 regiments of infantry of which 6 were rifle regiments, 71,189 11 regiments of cavalry, 12,690 1 regiment of artillery, 1,077 COMPANIES IN SERVICE. 7 companies of infantry, 707 6 " " cavalry, 578 6 " " artillery, 936 2,221 Enlistments in other Pennsylvania organizations, estimated, (the officers of which are in course of being commissioned), 6,400 Total in Service, 93,577 REGIMENTS PREPARING FOR SERVICE. 12 regiments of infantry, 13,092 1 regiment " cavalry, 1,136 1 " " artillery, 1,077 15,305 COMPANIES PREPARING FOR SERVICE. 1 company of cavalry, 109 1 " " artillery, 624 733 In service, 93,577 Preparing for service, 16,038 Pennsylvania's contribution, 100,615 Exclusive of 20,175 three months men now disbanded. Two regiments preparing for service are incomplete. Those that may not be filled by the 16th inst. will be consolidated and sent forward. Of these regiments in service the 11th and 15th regiments of Infantry are at Annapolis; the 28th, 29, 31st, 66th, 69th, 71st, 72nd and 106th regiments and one company of Infantry are in the command of Major General Banks; the 45th, 50th, 55th, 76th and 100th regiments of Infantry are in South Carolina; the 48th Infantry is at Fort Monroe; the 108th Infantry and 11th Cavalry are at Fortress Monroe; the 7th, 78th and 79th Infantry, the 7th and 9th Cavalry, one troop of horses, one squadron of Cavalry, two battalions of Artillery are in Kentucky; the 84th and 100th Infantry are in Western Virginia, as are also three companies of Cavalry, five companies of Light Artillery; the 87th Infantry are at Cockey'sville, in Maryland; one company of Artillery is at Fort Delaware; all the remainder of the volunteers are at or near Washington. Upwards of 300 volunteers from Pennsylvania are now prisoners, but as arrangements have been made for the exchange of prisoners, it may be expected that they will soon be released.

see the regiments being on or near the Potomac, I have requested Mr. Cowan, Senator, and Messrs. Grow and Wright, members of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, to present them in the name of the Commonwealth.

The General Government requested that the States would abstain from purchasing arms, as their competition was found injurious in the market, and in view of the large expenditures of money in arming and equipping the volunteer force of the State, provided for the defence of the National Government. I did not purchase any as authorized by the 25th section of the act of the 15th of May, 1861. The State has now quite as many arms as are necessary to arm all the volunteer organizations in existence; but, influenced by the threatening aspect of our relations with foreign Governments, I have directed the Adjutant General to procure arms as soon as it can be done on reasonable terms and without injurious competition with the National Government. Arms have been distributed among the border counties to all the organizations that have been formed there. 1930 arms have been thus distributed. I have also addressed a letter to the commissioners of all the border counties, offering arms to them as soon as military organizations shall be formed to receive them.

As soon as complying with the requirements of the 27th section of the Act of the 15th of May last, I have deemed it prudent to offer five thousand arms to such military organizations as may be found in Philadelphia, on a plan to be offered by me as Commander-in-Chief. Muskets and rifles to be furnished by the State, and to be sent to Pennsylvania volunteers from the State Arsenal. Others have been sent by the United States authorities to arm them before leaving the State. In some cases regiments have gone without arms under assurances from the War Department that they would be armed at Washington or other near designations, and that their immediate departure was required.

It was thought wise in these cases not to insist on the arms being sent before the regiments marched, as this would have imposed on the Government an unnecessary expense in freight, and would have been a source of delay which might have been seriously detrimental to the public service. Forty-one pieces of artillery with limbers, caissons, forges, ammunition, and wagons, harness, and all the necessary implements and equipments were furnished by the State. The State has also in the Arsenal at Harrisburg a large amount of accoutrements and ammunition for artillery and small arms. The Adjutant General is successfully engaged in collecting arms throughout the State, and it is expected that the number above stated will be largely increased. Probably, at least 5,000 muskets and rifles and several pieces of artillery will be collected.

The care which has been bestowed upon the comfort of the volunteers, and the goodness and sufficiency of their supplies of all kinds, and the excellent arrangements of the Medical Department under the control of Surgeon Henry H. Smith, are proved by the fact that more than 60,000 men have been sent into the field, and have remained in Camp Curtin since the 19th of April last, and that down to the 1st January instant, there died but forty-nine men at that Camp, viz: forty-four from sickness, two (belonging to regiments from other States,) who had been injured on railroads, two accidentally killed in Camp Curtin and one shot in Harrisburg.

To facilitate the making of allotments of their pay by our volunteers in the field for the support of their families at home, I appointed Hon. Edgar Cowan, Thos. E. Franklin and E. C. Humes, esq., commissioners to visit the camps of our men on and South of the Potomac, and also James Park and M. W. Bellthover, esq., as commissioners to visit those in Kentucky and elsewhere in the western country, to call the attention of the troops to the system of allotment and to encourage them in adopting a practical plan for carrying it into effect.

The several reports of these commissioners are highly satisfactory. For details on the several subjects connected with the military operations of this State, I refer to the reports of the Adjutant General, Surgeon General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General and Paymaster General which accompany this Message. The duties imposed on me were so onerous that I found it necessary to invite the temporary assistance of gentlemen on my staff to aid me to perform them. In this capacity Col. Thomas A. Scott, Gideon J. Ball, and John A. Wright contributed their valuable services from the middle of April until they were called away by other duties. Colonel Scott remaining until he became connected with the War Department, Col. Ball until the first of June, and Col. Wright until the 23rd of July; for the time thus devoted to the service of the State they have retained to receive a compensation. Col. Joseph D. Potts, A. L. Russel, J. Brown Parker and Craig Biddle, were in service up to the 20th of December. The Department of Telegraph and Transportation was under the exclusive control of Col. domestic insurrection. In selecting a site for a National Army, if the public good be alone considered, Pennsylvania will be preferred, as she affords the combined advantages of a central position, abundance of material and skilled mechanics, and a people of undoubted loyalty. I commend to the attention of the Legislature the report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools, the flourishing state of

the temporary arrangement which had been made for its employment was then closed. By the 13th section of the Act of the 15th of May, 1861, I was authorized to draw my warrant on the Treasury for a sum not exceeding \$200,000 for compensation to such persons as might be required to serve the country in a military capacity, &c. Of this fund I have drawn from the Treasury \$8,000, out of which I paid the compensation of my personal staff, also other expenses of the military department, and the actual expenses of persons employed on temporary service, none of whom received any further compensation, and expenses of the commissions appointed to investigate alleged frauds, &c., and the expenses of establishing military patterns in the Maryland line and five hundred dollars on secret service. My account is settled in the office of the Auditor General up to the 1st of December. On that day I had expended \$6,400, and except some considerable payments made since, the balance remains in my hands. The report of the Auditor General will exhibit the items of the account.

An account of military expenditures by the State on behalf of the United States, as far as the same had then been ascertained and settled by the accounting department here, was made up to the 1st day of September, 1861, and presented on the 12th of that month at the Treasury Department of the United States for settlement and allowance. The sum of \$695,000, has been received from the Treasury Department on that account. The repayment by the General Government of the expenses attending the organization and support of the Reserve Corps, may not be provided for by any existing act of Congress. As these expenses were incurred by the State for the benefit of the General Government, and have been productive of the safety of the country, it would be right that an act of Congress should be passed providing expressly for their repayment. It lies with the Legislature to adopt the proper means for directing the attention of Congress to this subject.

Assurances have been received from the Treasury Department that the examination of the military accounts of the state will be proceeded in without delay, so that the state may receive a credit for the balance due in time to apply the same towards the payment of the quota of the direct tax. Assuming the completion of this arrangement, the State shall assume the direct tax for this year, a saving of fifteen per cent, will accrue to her, and no present increase of her taxation will be necessary.

Whether this credit be given or not, I recommend that the payment of the direct tax be made by the State. In case the state assumes the payment of this tax there should be such revision of the tax laws as will hereafter equitably apportion the burden among the various interests now subject, or that can properly be made subject to taxation. The saving of fifteen per cent to the people of the State by this assumption is a matter worthy of thought, but a more important consideration is that it will enable you who represent all the varied interests of the Commonwealth to apportion the tax in such manner as to bear equally upon all.

Personal property as its full proportion but little more than one third of the taxes needed for the ordinary expenditures of the government. By the act of 15th May last the tax on this species as property has already been increased one sixth. Should the State assume to account the United States for the whole burden of it will fall upon the interests, interests too, most unfavorably affected by the war, whilst other kinds of property and other sources of revenue, judged by our laws able to pay nearly two-thirds of the present revenues of the State, would not be called on to contribute one dollar of additional tax.

The militia system of the Commonwealth is very imperfect. I recommend the establishment of a commission to frame and report a system more adequate to the exigency of the times. I earnestly recommend to the Legislature the provision be made for the military instruction of youth. The appointment of a military instructor in the normal schools would in a short period give teachers to the common schools who would be competent to train the boys in attendance on them. It would be generally superior to the usual practice for the purchase or leasing, by the Commonwealth, of a building for military schools, and for employing competent instructors at the expense of the state, requiring the pupils to defray the other expenses. No pupil should be admitted to this school until he has passed a thorough examination in mathematics and all fitting subjects of instruction except the military art proper. I respectfully urge this subject on your early considerations, as one of material, perhaps vital, importance.

I have taken measures to direct the efficient attention of the General Government to the sea-board and the lakes, and arrangements are in the course of being effected which it is hoped will be satisfaction in their results. I send with this message a copy of a communication from General Totten, chief of the Military Engineer Department at Washington. I have also represented to the Secretary of the Navy the necessity for floating defences on the Delaware, and have his assurance that they shall be prepared at the earliest moment. I have had a correspondence with the authorities and some of the citizens of Erie on the subject of the defenseless condition of that city, and the part of the State bordering on the lake. On examination it is found that there are no defences on the lake, and that the ordnance at the city of Erie was withdrawn by the National Government in the middle of April until they were called away by other duties. Colonel Scott remaining until he became connected with the War Department, Col. Ball until the first of June, and Col. Wright until the 23rd of July; for the time thus devoted to the service of the State they have retained to receive a compensation. Col. Joseph D. Potts, A. L. Russel, J. Brown Parker and Craig Biddle, were in service up to the 20th of December. The Department of Telegraph and Transportation was under the exclusive control of Col. domestic insurrection. In selecting a site for a National Army, if the public good be alone considered, Pennsylvania will be preferred, as she affords the combined advantages of a central position, abundance of material and skilled mechanics, and a people of undoubted loyalty. I commend to the attention of the Legislature the report of the Superintendent of the Public Schools, the flourishing state of

and the rapid progress of education are subjects of just congratulation. The reports of the Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg and of Western Pennsylvania, of the House of Refuge at Philadelphia and of the Institutions for the Deaf, Pott and for the blind and the Northern House for Friendless Children at Philadelphia, and of the Pennsylvania Training School for Idiotic and Feeble Minded Children at Media, show that these meritorious charities are well administered, and I recommend that the countenance and aid of the Commonwealth be continued to them.

Under the joint resolution of 16th May last, commissioners have been appointed to revise our revenue laws, whose names will be forthwith submitted for the advice and consent of the Senate. It is hoped that the commissioners will be able to report during the present session of the Legislature. Considering the great labor imposed on them, and the vast importance at the present time of an able and efficient performance of the duties of the commissioners, I suggest that the compensation provided for by the joint resolution should be increased to an adequate amount.

It was evident, long since, that it would be impossible for the banks to continue to redeem their obligations in coin, in the face of the large issues of paper, the necessity for which was imposed on them and the Government by the exigencies of the times. No surprise, therefore, was felt at the suspension of specie payments by the banks, which took place on Monday, the 30th of December last. Under the circumstances, I recommended that they be believed from all penalties for this breach of the law.

Pennsylvania has made great efforts to support the Government. She has given more and better clothed, and better equipped men than any other State, and has far exceeded her quota of the military levies. The sons of our best citizens, young men of education and means, fill the ranks of her volunteer regiments. Their gallant conduct, whenever an opportunity has been afforded to them, has done honor to the Commonwealth. The universal movement among our people, signifies that they are loyal to the Government established by their fathers, and are determined to quell the present insurrection and preserve the Union, and that they will not tolerate any plan for either the dissolution or reconstruction of it.

When Secretary Seward indicated the words, "They will be cheerfully liberated" Your Lordship will please indicate the "time and place for receiving them," he placed upon history's page, a record of weakness and imbecility which will astonish, while it amuses the world. He could not have humbled the Nation more, had he said to the British Minister: "Sir, we are on the verge of ruin. We are too weak, and too imbecile to maintain what we have already endorsed and applauded. We are your slaves, kick us, beat us insult us if you please, we will crawl, like the whippersnapper, at your feet." We have neither the courage to assume a responsibility, nor the power to maintain the right. "Why did not Mr. Seward use plain language, and state his case in these words. They convey no more than what he has said, and would not have consigned him, and his government to the fate of being written down "the political mountebank."

When Mason and Sidel escaped from the South Mr. Seward was very active in adopting measures for their apprehension, sent out vessels to intercept them. By a circumstance, which Mr. Seward no doubt considered fortunate at the time, the rebel Ministers were secured, brought into port, and by order of the United States, consigned to Fort Warren. Subsequently Congress passed resolutions instructing the President to confine the prisoners in jail's cells, as an act of retaliation for similar treatment to Federal prisoners now in the hands of the confederates. Thus endorsing the capture in the most positive terms. At the same time some of the leading newspapers, known to be exponents of government policy—the echo, as it were, of the Administration—not only applauded the act, but hurled defiance in the face of the British government, and protested that the prisoners would be retained at all hazards.

The Administration was apparently stiff in the knees and ready to do its duty. The finale however, shows that all our bragadoles was mere clap-trap. Our government now looks very much like a small cancan, who, while he feels safe behind his covert grows and barks most furiously at his next door neighbor; but the moment said neighbor shows a disposition to invade the sanctity of his retreat, he lowers his crest and slinks a way to a safe distance, cowardice depicted on his supplicating countenance, and nozing forth from his shaking limbs. Our government was never in a more ridiculous posture than now. It shows cowardice at every turn. At first, it was afraid to disavow the act of its officer in seizing the rebel Ministers, for fear of its own citizens; now it virtually disavows the act by the order of 18th of January. It always yields before the most formidable enemy. Like the "Home Guards," its mission seems to be "always to retreat to the next place of safety." War with England is sure to come. England has decided to interfere in this struggle. Her "neutrality" is but a name for cowardly hostility. War is inevitable! And we are told—on good authority—that this fact is well understood at Washington. Then why is it necessary for us to crawl upon our bellies before the English throne? Why must Mr. Seward degrade the very name of his office? Is by a name and cowardly acquiescence, in the domineering demands of a government which has been preparing for a war with us for six months? Away with such cowardly dotards. Seward has shown himself incompetent for the most ordinary diplomacy. He is not even able to stand the first fire of the enemy, but must needs turn upon his heel and run the moment he sees the muzzle of his gun—Carbon Democrat.