# DAILY POST.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6, 1844.

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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

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

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| In the year 1841, | $ 35,922 60 |
| " 1844, | 62,500 00 |
| " 1846, | 3,686,342 02 |
| " 1847, | 72,335 06 |
| " 1850, | 1,600,000 00 |
| " 1853, | 2,000,000 00 |
| " 1854, | 3,000,000 00 |
| " 1856, | 2,783,161 88 |
| " 1858, | 7,070,661 44 |
| " 1859, | 1,250,000 00 |
| " 1860, | 2,648,688 00 |
| " 1861, | 128,000 00 |
| " 1862, | 2,265,400 00 |
| " 1863, | 200,000 00 |
| " 1864, | 3,385,076 66 |
| " 1865, | 1,829,600 00 |
| " 1868, | 2,524,900 00 |
| " 1870, | 1,946,215 65 |
| Loan payable at the expiration of certain bank charters, | 569,563 50 |
| | $36,469,393 87 |
| Interest due 1st August, 1842, for which certificates of stock were issued, redeemable in 1843, | 866,625 53 |
| Interest due 1st February, 1843, redeemable in 1846, | 873,988 00 |
| Interest due 1st August, 1843, redeemable in 1846, | 873,988 00 |
| | $39,084,000 40 |

Upon this debt the annual interest to be paid amounts to $1 941,927 23, to wit:

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| Permanent loan at 6 per cent., | $ 1,946,944 33 |
| " loans at 5 per cent., | 32,683,189 86 |
| " loan at 4½ per cent., | 200,000 00 |
| Relief notes at 1 per cent., | 1,457,628 68 |
| do. at 6 per cent., | 171,636 00 |
| Arrears of interest due to our loan holders in August, 1842, and February and August, 1843, at 6 per cent., | 2,614,601 53 |
| | $39,084,000 40 |

There is also due to Domestic Creditors, on certificates issued by the Auditor General, the sum of $206,461 00.

For the interest of annually accruing, and for the temporary debts and liabilities of the State, provision should be immediately made. The resources of the State are abundant, and all that is required is the right disposition, and a judicious and proper selection of the mode in which these resources are to be rendered available.

The amount of taxes levied and paid into the State Treasury, under the existing tax laws, was as follows: In the year 1841, the amount levied, was $416,794 85—there was paid into the Treasury during that year $33,292 77. In 1842, the tax levied was $659,515 47—the amount paid in the same year, was $486,632 86. In 1843, the amount levied cannot be ascertained with accuracy, in consequence of failures on the part of the Commissioners in several counties to make returns to the proper office; but making an estimate from the best data that can be obtained, it will not fall short of $945,000 00. The tax paid into the Treasury the past year, was $553 911 33. The assessment for ensuing year, may be fairly estimated at what it amounted to the past year, provided the Legislature repeal the proviso to the 16th section of the Act of 27th July, 1842, entitled, "An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of the Government—payment of the interest upon the State debt," &c., which limits the assessment to and collection of that tax, our financial difficulties must be increased, and the consequences be most disastrous to our State credit.

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

The whole receipts from our public improvements, beyond the payment for repairs, and the expenses of their charge and management, during the past fiscal year, amount to $482,657 34.

The current expenses of government, including the permanent appropriation to Common Schools and other purposes, may be estimated at about $750,000 00. The resources of the state, independent of taxation, and the receipts from the public improvements, at about $400 000 00. From an examination of all these receipts and liabilities of the state, supposing the tax levied, under existing laws, to be punctually collected and paid over, there would be an annual deficit of about $350,000 00, independent of the balance due to Domestic Creditors; for the punctual payment of all which, the state is bound by every obligation of faith and honor. After a most careful consideration of the whole subject, I have been unable to devise any other mode of meeting this responsibility than that of a augmented taxation.

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

"In expressing my own opinion in favor of a resort to taxation, I do it with no inconsiderable degree of reluctance; but it must be obvious to every citizen of the Commonwealth, that his house, his farm, as this property, are all pledged, beyond possibility of release, to the ultimate payment of the State debt, and the interest thereon accruing, agreeable to the stipulation with the loan holders. Nor is this the worst view of our situation. The state has been actually compounding for years past, from a million to a million and a half of interest annually; and the question is now submitted, whether we are thus to continue adding, half yearly, this enormous amount of interest to the principal of our State debt, and continue in this pusillanimous course of policy, from year to year, of shuffling off the evil day, and entailing this frightful legacy on posterity. It is a reproach on the people of Pennsylvania to suppose that they can be longer kept in the dark, in regard to the situation in which we find them. All they ask to know, to ensure a ready compliance with this indispensable call upon their patriotism, is to know the necessity of the measure. The experience of more than half a century, fortifies us in the belief, that the good sense of the people of this great Commonwealth is rarely appealed to in vain. In assuming the responsibility of recommending this measure, I am fully sensible of what is to be encountered, and aware of the consequences that are to follow; and if, in this expression of the honest convictions of my own mind, and the fearless discharge of the duties incumbent on me, I shall not be borne out by my fellow citizens, I shall at least have the consolation to know, that I have done what I conscientiously believe to be right, and which I think will bear the reflection of after years. The time for evasion is gone: the public mind has been too long fed with miserable expedients. The time for action is at hand. Our country expects every man to do his duty, and he that has not nerve enough for the crisis should give place to those better fitted for the emergency. Neither the present Legislature, nor myself, had anything to do with contracting this debt—it is fixed on us by those who have gone before us: and the same rule of prudence and sound policy, that would govern the conduct of a private individual, holds equally good in the case of the Commonwealth, under this state of things. The private individual would tax his money and his substance—so, also, it seems to me, should the representatives of a wise and judicious people. Taxation would pay the interest—it would eventually constitute a sinking fund to pay off the principal of the state debt, and should be continued till the income of the public improvements would render taxation unnecessary. The crisis demands the exercise of the wisest far reaching sagacity—the calmest judgment and the most fearless patriotism. I am sure the Legislature will meet it in a right spirit, to disarm it of its perils. Coming, as you do, from all quarters of the state, and possessing a more intimate knowledge of the circumstances and wants of the people than I can, I most cheerfully surrender this important subject to you, satisfied that prudence and justice will direct your action upon it."

I used strong terms in speaking to the Legislature on this subject at that time, because it was an hour of darkness, uncertainty and alarm. The explosion of the Banks, the paralysis of the business energies of the country, and the murmurings of those whose ambition seeks no higher aim than that of finding fault, were all calculated to deter even honest men from faithfully performing their duty. So far as I was concerned, I was resolved that both my opinion and my course, should be openly avowed and clearly understood. Four years have now elapsed: time has been given to the excited to become calm, to the timid to become self-possessed, and for factious partizans to see the error of their way. I look back with pleasure on my course, because, as I had no doubt from the beginning, I have been triumphantly sustained by the honest yeomanry of Pennsylvania. They have borne without repining, every burthen that was necessary to maintain the honor of the State, and they are ready to endure yet greater sacrifices, if they be necessary, for the same cause.

It has of late been fashionable, in certain quarters to denounce Pennsylvania, and cite her, as an example in point, to sanction the reproach which has been cast upon the American people, of seeking to carry into practical operation the scheme of repudiating her public debts. Those who have circulated and believed this calumny, betrayed a degree of ignorance, both of the character of our people, and of the course of her legislation, which is truly surprising. On every occasion the liability of the State has been frankly avowed, both by her Executive and Legislative Departments; and although the recommendations of the Executive, to make provision for the payment of her interest, have not been adopted to the fullest extent, yet the Legislature has passed laws imposing a tax, amounting the last year to a little less than a million of dollars, and this has been acceded to by the people, without a murmur from any source entitled to a moment's consideration. The failure to pay the interest has not resulted from a want of disposition to do so, on the part of the citizens of Pennsylvania, but from the general disasters which have overwhelmed and crippled her, in common with almost every other government in the commercial world. We are regaining our energies, and recovering from the embarrassments by which we have unfortunately been surrounded. A very few years will enable us to retrieve all we have lost, and to wipe from our escutcheon every blot with which unexpected misfortune has tarnished it. Whatever the interest of or evil disposed may have asserted to the contrary, there is not an honest citizen of Pennsylvania who does not feel the proud consciousness that her faith and integrity can be held up to the world unsullied.

The valuation of the real and personal property owned by the citizens of the State, ascertained by reference to the valuation as taxed for county purposes, amounts to about four hundred and sixty millions of dollars. The average of the rate of this valuation is, no doubt, considerably below the actual value of the property of the State.

Among the receipts of the Treasury during the last year, there were from tolls exclusive of Motive Power,

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| | $755,155 39 |
| Auction duties, | 59,661 78 |
| Tax on collateral inheritances, | 22,337 05 |
| Dividends on Bridge, Turnpike and Navigation Stocks, | 19,161, 29 |
| Escheats, | 1,010 00 |
| | $857,325 51 |
| To which add the State Tax received, | 553,911 38 |
| | $1,411,236 89 |

This income, derived from the above sources, was specially appropriated to the payment of the interest on our public debt; and on the faith of the State's adherence to its solemn engagements, those from whom the money was obtained, were doubtless induced to make the loan. But, by the resolution passed 7th April, 1842, and the acts passed 27th July, 1842, and 8th April, 1843, those funds were applied to other different purposes, from what was deemed by the Legislature, an imperative necessity induced by the momentary embarrassments to which I have already adverted.

It is thus shown that about three and a half per cent of the interest could have been paid the past year, but for this subsequent legislation; and that the above sum of $857,325 51, together with a tax of less than three million on the assessed value of the real and personal estate of the citizens of the Commonwealth, would pay the interest on the public debt, beyond all doubt, and place Pennsylvania on that proud eminence which the true character of her people, and the resources she possesses, designed her to occupy. But to satisfy the people of this increase of the tax, assurance should be given that it would be applied to the payment of the interest on the State debt, to the exclusion of every other object.

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

Most of our laws on the subject of taxes and revenue, require revision and amendment. Those relating to collateral inheritances, retailers and dealers in merchandize, auctions and auctioneers, and brokers, require revision and modification to prevent evasion. Indeed there is good reasons to believe the revenue from these sources might be doubled. The county rates and levies are not augmented by them: nor does the State tax derived therefrom, bear any fair proportion to that exacted from the land holder. The inequality and injustice of this matter become manifest when the proceeds derived from each are considered.

The tax necessary for the payment of the interest on our state debt, it has long been apparent to me, should be apportioned among the several counties of the State, and a liberal discount or drawback allowed for prompt collection and payment into the Treasury. The members of the Legislature, coming, as they do, from the several counties, and each watchful of the rights and interests of his immediate constituents, would certainly compose a board every way competent to make that apportionment. A more unequal one than that which now exists, cannot be readily devised. I am aware that each and every object and mode of taxation is more or less objectionable—but that should not absolve us from our duty. I have submitted to the Legislature, my view again and again, on this subject; and that it has at times differed with me, is no cause of complaint—that difference of opinion having proceeded from a conscientious discharge of duty. But, if the suggestions here made, do not seem right and proper, permit me to express the earnest hope that the Legislature will devise some other mode, less objectionable, and that it will not separate until full and ample provision be made for the punctual payment of the interest on our public debt, semi-annually, as it becomes due, and thus smooth the way for those who may come after us in the administration of the Government.

Before quitting the subject of taxation, it may be well to take a relative view of the taxes received at the Treasury, for the last three years, and the amount annually paid out to the several counties, for the purposes of education. The taxes received in

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| 1841, amount to | $33,292 77 |
| 1842, | 486,635 85 |
| 1843, | 553,911 33 |
| | $1,073,840 00 |

The money paid out for the purposes of education, during the same years, amounted, in

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| 1841, to | $365,766 04 |
| 1842, | 315,372 43 |
| 1843, | 403,694 36 |
| | $1,039,832 83 |

So that it appears more money has actually been paid out by the Commonwealth, for educating her people than the amount of State tax paid into the Treasury.

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

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

There is now due from the State to certain banks the sum of $1,467,623 68, on account of the issue of notes under the act of 4th May, 1841, which bears an interest of one per cent. By virtue of the act of Assembly passed the 8th day of April last, entitled "An act to provide for the payment of Domestic Creditors," &c., these notes are to be cancelled at the rate of one hundred thousand dollars a month. The funded debt of the State bears an interest of five and six per cent. payable semi-annually. If this cancellation be continued at the same rate, it is very certain this interest cannot be paid, as a very large portion of taxes and tolls will be paid in funds of this description. It is, therefore, for the Legislature to determine which of the measures it is the policy of the State to pursue.

The revenues derived from the public works during the past fiscal year, although not realizing the estimates which were formed at the commencement of the year, have yielded a very handsome profit to the Commonwealth over the expenditures required for their maintenance. The report of the Canal Commissioners, which will be laid before you, and to which your particular attention is invited, exhibits in detail the receipts and expenditures upon the several lines of canal and railroad. By that document, it appears, that, from the early closing of the canal by ice in the latter part of 1842 and its late opening from the same cause in the following spring, the navigable season of 1843 was rendered about eight weeks shorter than that of the previous year. A combination, likewise, took place among the boatmen on the Delaware Division, which existed for several weeks, putting a stop to transportation, and causing a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth of not less than $30,000. Notwithstanding these impediments, added to that experienced from the high floods on the Juniata in September last, the tolls amount to $1,017,841 12, being an increase over the receipts of 1842 of $77,627 43. An abstract of the receipts and expenditures on the several lines exhibits the following result:

| | *Expenditures.* | *Receipts.* |
|---|---|---|
| Main Line, | $425,036 82 | $857,212 94 |
| Delaware Division, | 22,553 92 | 92,265 41 |
| Susquehanna, North and West Branches, | 59,223 80 | 62,206 06 |
| Beaver, Shenango and French Creek, | 15,410 82 | 6,156 71 |
| | $522,223 36 | $1,017,841 12 |
| Deduct expenditures, | | 522,223 36 |
| Excess of receipts over expenditures, | | $495,612 76 |
| Deduct drawback on flour and pork, | | 22,436 80 |
| | | $473,175 96 |
| Add increase of stock on Columbia Railroad, | | 9,481 38 |
| Clear profit of all the works for 1843, | | $482,657 34 |

The increase and decrease of tolls on the different lines, as compared with 1842, were as follows:

| | *Decrease.* | *Increase.* |
|---|---|---|
| Main Line, | | $94,263 46 |
| Delaware Division, | $2,193 67 | |
| Susquehanna North and West Branches, | 13,906 03 | |
| Beaver, Shenango and French Creek, | 536 28 | 16,636 03 |
| Increase in 1843, | | $77,627 43 |

And, on the same lines, the excess of receipts over expenditures and all liabilities, is as follows:

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| Main Line, | $419,220 70 |
| Delaware Division, | 69,711 49 |
| Susquehanna, North and West Branches, | 2,979 26 |
| | $491,911 45 |
| Beaver, Shenango and French Creek, excess of expenditures over receipts, | 9,254 11 |
| Total excess of receipts over expenditures, | $482,657 34 |

From these statements it appears that, with the exception of the small excess on the Susquehanna and North and West Branch Divisions, the profits upon the year's business, have been derived from the Main Line and the Delaware Division. The last named Division has yielded a profit of 5 per cent. upon the cost of its construction, which, but for the loss of revenues sustained from the combination among the boatmen before referred to, and interruption from freshes, would have been increased to over seven per cent.

The Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad exhibits a very gratifying result. The clear profits of the road over expenditures and liabilities the past year amount to $202,065 65—equal to about five per cent. on the original cost of railway and the motive power department.

In pursuance of the provisions of the act of 7th March 1843, a charter was issued, on the 16th day of June last, to "The Erie Canal Company." The company is vigorously prosecuting the work, and gives fair promise of its early completion. That portion of the division from the Ohio River to the town of New Castle, according to the terms of the charter, remains in the possession of the Commonwealth, until the completion of the whole line. A large portion of the expenditures on it during the year, was caused by repairs to the works since transferred.

It is evident from the foregoing abstracts, and from a review of the details, contained in the Canal Commissioners' report, that the Main Line and Delaware Division can at all times, be made sources of profitable revenue to the Commonwealth, by the exercise of a proper vigilance over the disbursements. Much has been done toward introducing a system of strict economy, and dispensing with officers, agents and laborers, whose services tend only to swell the amount of expenditures. If the system thus begun be carried out and perfected, all doubt must vanish as to the value of these two portions of the public works when considered as means of revenue.

To the more general introduction of section boats, in consequence of the State having purchased trucks for their conveyance over the two railroads, may be traced the principal cause of the increase of tolls and tonnage on the Main Line. The experiment has been fully tested to the satisfaction of the most sanguine friends of the system of individual competition in the carrying trade. These boats, during the past year, have prevented combinations, reduced the price of freights, increased the amount of tolls and tonnage, and given to our Main Line a character for cheapness in transportation, which must make it the principal avenue to a market between the waters of the West and the Eastern Atlantic cities. A system of transportation which, in its incipient state, has been productive of such great benefits, and which is so closely identified with the prosperity of the improvements of the Commonwealth, is entitled to the fostering care of the Legislature. In 1843, the amount of tolls paid by section boats was $114,227 47; of which $16,651 65 was for the use of the State trucks. To give efficiency to the system; to meet the demands consequent upon the continued increase in the number of section boats; and to prevent vexatious delays at the railroad ships, an increase in the number of trains of trucks has become absolutely necessary. As these additional trains will be required at the opening of the spring business, the expectation is entertained that an early appropriation will be made to that object. Such an appropriation will give an impetus to the spring trade, by giving assurance of promptness in the delivery of produce, goods and merchandize: hold out inducements to further increase of section boats; place the system upon a permanent basis, and insure to the Commonwealth all the advantages which must necessarily result from this improved mode of transportation over our disjointed lines of canal and railroad. I would further recommend that the appropriation be made direct, and not made payable out of the tolls for the use of trucks, so as to enable the Canal Commissioners to make the purchase on more economical terms than can otherwise be done, and to free the rates of toll, and the method of keeping the accounts, from their present complexity.

I will refer you to my message, returning, with the Executive sanction, a bill entitled "An Act to authorize the Governor to incorporate the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh," for my views in relation to the impolicy of selling or transferring the public improvements to private companies. I deem it however proper to add, that, although my own judgment on this subject is perfectly clear, yet, if a second Legislature deem it advisable to concur with the former in providing for this sale or transfer, I do not know that I will consider the duty incumbent on me of offering further resistance to this project; provided sufficient safeguards be established to protect the public against frauds and collusions in the sale, and to ensure a proper regard for the public interests, on the part of those into whose hands they are subsequently to be transferred.

No report has been made by the Commissioners named in the act entitled "An Act to authorize the Governor to incorporate the Delaware Canal Company," passed 13th April last: nor am I in possession of any official information in relation to the same.

On the subject of the Banks I have little to recommend. My views in relation to the system have heretofore been very fully expressed, and do not now need reiteration. Most if not all the solvent institutions have now resumed specie payments; and, taught by past experience, it is hoped they will so regulate their business and circumscribe their liabilities within the bounds of prudence, that we shall not see a recurrence of the pecuniary embarrassments which have for some years past distressed the community. The gradual restoration of public and private confidence will enable the solvent institutions of the state to furnish a currency as fast as required by the wants of the country, which will be redeemable in specie on demand.

As no bank charters will expire during the remainder of the present executive term, there will be no necessity for enacting laws for their renewal at present. The practice of renewing acts of incorporation long before the expiration of the existing charters, is manifestly wrong, even where it may eventually be considered proper to continue them. Under present circumstances, I think it would not be right to embarrass the administration of my successor, by prematurely legislating upon subjects that will belong to that period of the administration of the government. The situation of the country and its business certainly does not require the granting of any bank charters. Believing that the evils of banking are corrected by the good sense of the community, I congratulate the Legislature upon the prospect of being relieved from the immediate consideration of the subject for the present session at least.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools will exhibit their condition in detail. Every thing calculated to advance the interest of this most important of all our public institutions, cannot be too strongly commended to your attention. The vital interests of religion, morality, and civil liberty itself, are dependent upon the cherishing aid and enlightened support imparted to our Common Schools and higher Seminaries of learning. Here must be implanted the seeds of virtue, of intelligence, and of all that confers distinction upon our citizens.

The report of the Adjutant General will be laid before you. I took occasion, in my annual message of 1840, to say that "our militia system is a tax, to a considerable amount, upon the State Treasury, which might be considerably lessened if the Adjutant General were charged with the duty of personally superintending the system in its details, and properly compensated therefor." In every annual message since, I have urged the importance of some attention to this subject. The office of Adjutant General has been filled for several years by a gentleman of great practical knowledge and experience, who has devoted much time and attention to the discharge of its duties; and it has been a matter of regret that his suggestions have not had the weight with the Legislature, to which they were so justly entitled. By the legislation of the last few years, one description of persons after another has been exempted from the payment of fines, until the amount received at the Treasury, during the past year, falls short of the expenses the sum of $42,448 59. This state of things is so palpably wrong, that nothing more is required than to bring the facts to your notice, to ensure an early correction of the evil.

Pennsylvania has a force of upwards of thirty-five thousand volunteers, that will compare with any troops in this or any other country. I cannot too earnestly recommend them to the fostering care of the Legislature.

Under the act of the 24th March last, entitled "An Act to create permanently the office of State Printer," Isaac G. McKinley and Hutter and Bigler have claimed to be State Printers; the former to do the English, and the latter to do the German printing, of the Commonwealth. The language of the Act of Assembly seemed to me to render the validity of this election doubtful, and I caused the question to be submitted to the Attorney General, whose opinion on the subject is here with transmitted to the Legislature. I concurred with him, and accordingly declined to approve the bonds tendered, informing the parties that the whole matter would be submitted to the early attention of the Legislature. Had the parties interested reason to complain of the course pursued by the Executive, they might have applied to the Supreme Court, during its session in Harrisburgh, for a writ of mandamus, directing the Governor to approve their bonds, which was a mere ministerial duty, unless he could show some legal reason for his refusal. I was at all times ready to have this issue before that tribunal, and have at no time entertained a doubt of the result, or propriety of my course.

In addition to the legal argument presented by the Attorney General, which I regard as unanswerable, there are some other circumstances connected with that election, which make it peculiarly necessary that they should be brought to your most serious consideration. The election was postponed from time to time, from the 27th day of March, the third day after the passage of the law, and on which, according to its provisions, it should have taken place, to the 15th day of April, on which, according to the certificate presented to me, it was made. During this interval of time, and before the day on which the election was consummated, I have been informed, and have good reason to believe, that negotiations were entered into and completed between the said Isaac G M'Kinley, Hutter & Bigler and other persons, supposed to have influence with members of the Legislature, by which large sums of money were paid or contracted to be paid, by the individuals elected, to those third persons, for their aid and influence in procuring their election.—In some instances, as I have been assured, the sum paid, or contracted to be paid, depended upon the number of votes procured by the contracting parties for the successful candidates; and thus was exhibited a scene of scandalous bargaining and selling, alike disgraceful to the parties concerned, and dangerous to the purity of elections. It is not to be presumed that this scheme of office purchasing was known to any member of the Legislature; for, if it had been, the parties concerned would, I have no doubt, been exposed and consequently defeated. As this transaction more immediately concerns the purity and honor of the Legislature itself, I need only call your attention to these circumstances, and have no doubt you will feel it to be your duty to institute a thorough investigation into the frauds, thus practiced upon the Legislature, to procure an election. Should the facts, upon examination, be found to be, as I have the strongest reason to think they are, can it be, that a single member of the Legislature will recognize the validity of an election thus procured? Let it be known that candidates can resort to such means to accomplish their purposes, and there is an end to all confidence and respect for the Legislatures. It is one of the elementary principles of every enlightened system of jurisprudence, that fraud vitiates every contract into which it enters; and, in every stage of completion, these contracts are arrested as soon as the fraud is discovered. There can be no fraudulent practice more odious than one like this, striking at the purity of legislation, and I am confident the representatives of the people will apply a thorough corrective the instant they are made acquainted with the facts.

No inconvenience has arisen thus far, nor detriment to the public interest, from my refusal to approve the bonds offered by the individuals claiming to have been elected. The portion of the law, therefore, pointing out the mode of electing State Printers, not having been complied with, the matter rests with you to make such provision on this subject as you believe the public welfare requires. The frauds practiced upon the public by some of those persons interested with the public printing, the last few years, are too palpable and notorious to passunnoticed, and whatever measure the Legislature may think proper to adopt, will, I trust, provide security against their recurrence.

It is no disparagement to her sister States to assume that Pennsylvania, in her geographical position, and in her mineral and agricultural resources, is surpassed by none in the Union. Her population, for hardy and effective industry, presents a model worthy of all praise, and this industry, devoted to a constant development of her vast mineral wealth, cannot fail, in good time, to produce the most astonishing results.

There is hardly a mountain or valley within her borders, that does not abound in deposites of coal or iron. Our canals and railroads penetrate almost every one of these mineral regions, and furnish them with a cheap and ready highway to market.

If those entrusted with the guardianship of the public welfare are but true to their trust, the day is not far distant when Pennsylvania must become the great workshop of the American Union, for the production of coal and iron, and the fabrics constructed from these materials. If these great interests are surrendered to some imaginary, theoretic, Arcadian scheme of free trade, we may still continue to serve as hewers of wood and drawers of water to foreign capitalists and artisans, and our inexhaustible mineral deposits, may lie useless forages. I trust, however, the people of this Commonwealth will never be seduced into a sacrifice of their dearest rights.

The policy of standing by her own interests, has been, for the last half century, too deeply fixed in Pennsylvania, to be abandoned without a struggle; and those of her public servants who would advise the surrender of any of her staple productions, without the fostering succor of the Government, will soon find on how mistaken an estimate of popular feeling they have relied.—It is idle to talk of reciprocity of trade, when England will not receive our flour under a prohibitory duty of less than three dollars per barrel—for us to receive her coal and iron free, or nearly so, of duty.

Free trade and reciprocity of duty, like the golden rule, are beautiful and benign in theory, and, if universally carried out in practice, would render mankind better and more acceptable to their Maker; but, unhappily, this obligation is voluntary, and is assumed only by the less crafty and grasping of men and nations who are used for their own ends by the rest. This fundamental truth is taught by all history, and was familiar to our fathers. Come what may, we cannot desert the standard of Pennsylvania; and, I, for one, have battled under it too long to see it struck without a manly effort to uphold it. If we are true to ourselves, and those who came after us but do their duty without shrinking, Pennsylvania will soon be placed in her true position.

Our agriculturists, manufacturers, mechanics, and every class of citizens, are alike interested in a steadfast adherence to the policy of protecting and encouraging our own peculiar State productions; for on this policy rests our hopes of future greatness and independence. A permanent home consumption, is, after all, the only market on which our farmers and other producers can always depend for a steady demand for their commodities, without the fluctuations of price that will ever attend foreign markets. It will afford me great pleasure to co-operate with you, in giving the most effective support to it, both in our domestic and national legislation, so far as may be compatible with our duty.

I am not aware of any other subject that requires to be specially brought to your notice, although there are a number of minor importance, referred to in my former messages on which no legislative action has been taken. I have discharged my duty by submitting them to the consideration of the representatives of the people, and shall be ready, at all times, to unite with them in the adoption of such measures in relation to them and other matters, as are deemed conducive to the public good.

DAVID R. PORTER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg January 3, 1844.

FOR GOVERNOR,

# FRS. R. SHUNK:

Subject to the decision of
THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.


# The Daily Morning Post.

THOMAS PHILLIPS, EDITOR.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1844.


GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—We present to our readers this morning the Message of Governor PORTER, delivered to the Legislature last Wednesday. It is like most of the regular messages of our Executive, a well arranged document, filled with matter of much interest to every citizen who desires correct information of the condition of our public affairs. There are many matters in it which demand more than a general notice, and to which we will refer when we have more time and space for remarks.

MORE SHUNK NEWS.—The democrats of York county met on last Tuesday evening for the purpose of appointing Delegates to the 4th of March Convention.—The following gentlemen were appointed, and *unanimously* instructed to support FRANCIS R. SHUNK,—*Henry Welsh*, Senatorial; *Hon. George Dare, Henry Lattimer, George Hammond*, Representative Delegates.

This result is as astonishing as it is gratifying, for we understand that the friends of Mr Muhlenberg in the East, counted on York with great confidence.

Adams county has also appointed her delegates, and they too are in favor of SHUNK. The Convention did not instruct, but the delegates are open and avowed *Shunk men*, and will support him in the State Convention. *James Marshall* and *James Patterson* are the Delegates.

CAMBRIA COUNTY.—The democrats of Cambria County, met at Ebensburg, on the 1st inst. and appointed *Robert P. Linton*, Representative Delegate, and concurred in the appointment of *H. N. Lee*, of Armstrong, as the Senatorial Delegate.

The meeting adopted a strong set of Resolutions, instructing their Delegates to support F. R. SHUNK for Governor.

MAYORALTY.—Remember the Mayor's meeting at the Washington Hotel to-night. Go in crowds and let it be a *rouser*.

HARRISBURGH, Jan. 2, 1844.

GENTS:—The democratic members of the House, in caucus this evening, nominated Mr J. B. ANDREWS for Clerk. The vote stood, on the first ballot, for Andrews 32, for Jack 24. For Sergeant-at-Arms, Stedman had, on the 3d ballot, 34, Geo. A. Kurtz 22. For Door Keeper, Andrew Krause was elected on the first ballot.

Yours, &c.

## THE MAYORALTY.

Pursuant to public notice, a large meeting of the Democratic citizens assembled at the Washington Hotel on Thursday evening, the 4th inst. On motion Mr. RICHARD HUGHES was called to the Chair—ROBT PATTERSON and WM. M. EDGAR, Vice Presidents—*John Taylor and Thos. O'Niell*, Secretaries.

On the call of the meeting being read, it was on motion, unanimously *Resolved*, That a Committee of nine be appointed to report resolutions for the consideration of the meeting; whereupon the Chair appointed the following persons said Committee, viz:

Charles Barnett, Hiram Kuhn, John Cormack, Wm. Bryant, John McFarland, Wm. J. Reed, John W. Blair, Dr. Geo. Watt and John W. Burrell, who having retired for a short time, (during which the meeting was addressed by Messrs. Kingston, Hoffman and Queen,)

The Committee having returned, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTIONS.

*Whereas*, The period is now close at hand when the Mayor is to be chosen, and believing that the security, peace and respectability of our city requires that a firm and energetic officer should fill that station; and as in the selection of a candidate, reference should be had to such qualifications as will secure a rigid adherence to the ordinances made for the government of our municipal affairs: Therefore

*Resolved*, That we will most cordially support Capt JOHN BIRMINGHAM for the office of Mayor of the city of Pittsburgh; knowing him to possess in an eminent degree, those qualities which will ensure a prompt and unflinching discharge of the duties of the office.

*Resolved*, That the present posture of our city concerns, requires a thorough change and reformation, and that Birmingham is the man through whose election we can best obtain such reform.

*Resolved*, That we pledge ourselves, unanimously, to support the nominee of the democratic city convention, not less as a sound democrat, than as a candidate who will, if elected, faithfully discharge [illegible]

*Resolved*. That we earnestly call the attention of the public generally, of all political parties, wh[illegible] for an administration of our city affairs upon principles as will secure order and obedience to the [illegible] and retrenchment in the financial department of the city government, to rally to the support of Mr BIRMINGHAM, by whose election all these objects [illegible] effectually secured.

The meeting was then eloquently addressed by [illegible] Saml. W. Black and J. W. Burrell, in favor [illegible] nomination of Capt. Birmingham.

On motion the following committees of [illegible] was appointed for the several Wards, viz:

COMMITTEES.

*First Ward.*

| | |
|---|---|
| John McFarland | Thomas Owston |
| John Burrell | Thomas Kerr |
| James Anderson | D Fickeisen |
| James Irvin | John Armstrong |
| Francis Nicholson | Henry Stafford |
| James Gray, 4 st. | Bernard Grant |
| James Crawford | Boudder Hart |
| Anthony Beelin | James May |
| James E Kilbourne | |

*Second Ward.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Wm Alexander | John Cormick |
| John Irwin | H S Magraw |
| J L Newhouse | John Herring |
| R H Patterson | John Savage |
| Patrick McKenna | T Roads |
| Wm Bryan | J C Duvvis |
| Jos Oliver | A P Anshutz |
| C H Kuhn | Anthony Bosenaffont |
| Jas C Barclay | |

*Third Ward.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph Cupples | R N Haslett |
| Dr W Kerr | John Hague |
| Wm M Edgar | Martin Lytle |
| Thos O'Neill | George Thompson |
| Ewd Keens | Wm Gilmore |
| James Fitzpatrick | A Hunker |
| Matthew Patrick | J Watt |
| John R Day | John M'Claren |
| John Dunn | Geo Watt |
| Wm Paul | A Getty |
| Thomas Hamilton | A Fulton |
| B Dougherty | Robert Paul |

*Fourth Ward.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Joseph O'Brien | Robert Duffy |
| Chambers McKibben | John Armstrong |
| Wm McKever | Samuel Black |
| Thomas Scott | J W Blair |
| Robt Galway | R H Kerr |
| Isaac Cruse | David Sands |
| George R White | John Ferral |
| Geo W Jackson | Bernard McKenna |
| Joseph Watt | John Hanna |
| James P Stuart. | |

The meeting adjourned to meet at the Public Schoolroom, in the Fifth Ward, on Friday evening, and the Washington Hotel, on Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock.

[Signed by the officers.]

## EIGHT OF JANUARY CELEBRATION.

In pursuance of a resolution unanimously adopted at the Democratic meeting held on the 7th ult., "to celebrate the Eighth of January next, at the house of James Armstrong," the undersigned, a Committee of Arrangements, respectfully invite the republican citizens of Allegheny county, to a Public Supper, to be held at the Washington Hotel, on Monday the 8th of January, at 7 o'clock P. M., to commemorate the anniversary of the glorious battle of New Orleans.

| | |
|---|---|
| E D Gazzam | James Cunningham |
| Thos Hamilton | James McKelvey |
| M Smith | Jos Birmingham |
| J R Hague | Samuel Black |
| C Johnson | Ewd Thompson |
| A J Gribben | Robt Donaldson |
| And McIlwaine | Josiah Young |
| John Dunn | James Johnson jr |
| John Turbett | W G Hawkins |
| Thos Patterson | John Stevenson |
| Uzziah Stewart | John Sturgeon |
| S Snowden | Jos F McCabe |
| Thos Miller | Hugh McClaren |
| Wm Ferral | John McCalister |
| John Welsh | Andw Pinkerton |
| James Garvin | John O'Neil |
| R Galway | C Paulson |
| H McCullough | Andw Cress |
| M Kane jr | James Crawford |
| Samuel Keller | John Watt |
| P McKenna | Richard Hughes |
| J Cormick | Thomas Farley |
| James Anderson | Wm Sheehy |
| Hugh Toner | John McClaran |
| Thomas Kerr | B McKenna |
| E Trovillo | B McDevitt |
| H Ingram | Geo A Kurtz |
| George Stewart | Wm McElroy |
| Andrew Erwin | Stewart Thompson |
| Martin Connolly | Wm B Conlogue |
| Thos McDonough | S W Black |
| P McSteen | Wm Paul |
| Jas Dignam | J Savage |
| C Arbuthnot | J W Blair |
| John Magee | F Marrion |
| M McCloskey | J Ivory |
| Thos Gibson | H Cassidy |
| B Good | R H Kerr |
| Jos McVeery | John Brier |
| John O'Brien | Wm Gilmer |
| Felix Lafferty | M O'Hanlon |
| S Gillespie | P J Shaffer |
| J hn Taylor | Jas Fleming |
| John McFarland | S Kingston |
| Isaac Cruse | Samuel Snee |
| G R White | J R Day |
| Jacob Tomer | F Timons |
| Fredk Yost | Jas Hamil |
| John Rea | J Corry |
| Jas Gray |