Raftsman's Journal.

BY S. B. ROW. CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1858. VOL. 4.--NO. 21.

OUR SISTER'S GRAVE.

She died! 'midst the flowers,
And we dug her a grave,
'Neath the sheltering boughs,
Where the tall trees wave,
Towering majestic above the mound,
Where CLARISSA sleeps in the cold, cold ground.

Each forest king,
To betoken his grief,
In silent sympathy,
Drops down a leaf,
All bespotted, or yellow, or dotted with red,
A token of remembrance to the silent dead.

Sad wailing winds,
Sing a requiem deep,
Over the grave,
Where our sister sleeps,
Like a faded flower or a withered leaf
Her days, alas! were almost as brief.

'Tis as lonely a spot
As can be found,
Amidst the marble
Slabs around;
Yet yer mother loves to linger there,
And weep for her child with raven hair.

That loved one dead,
She found no rest,
For her tender feet;
On the earth's cold breast.
O, early called, and early blest,
Rest, in the ark of safety rest.

Tho' our hearts have been riven,
By the blow which was given,
A bright chain of love
Draws our souls nearer heaven,
Where, by no care nor sorrow oppress,
Peacefully that loved one in glory rests.

Tho' the spot be lonely,
With the dead around,
Still we love to think,
Of HER 'neath the mound;
And her mother loves to linger there,
To weep for her child, now an angel fair.

Brady Tp., Pa., Jan. 5th, 1858. J. R. A.

HOSS HEAD AND THE FOPS.

A HUMOROUS SKETCH.

Hotels have now become so numerous in cities and fare so reasonable, that they are the resort, at times, of nearly all classes of society. The man who can afford to travel from home, can afford to stop at a hotel; and as landlords are smart enough in general to regard the wants of the million as well as those of the millionaires, we find the rich and the poor, the high and the humble, side by side at the hotel tables. Homespun there sports a silver fork with as much gusto as Mr. Broadcloth, and the humble "Sally" is as much entitled to and enjoys as fully the good things of life at the richly loaded table of the hotel as the accomplished Miss Josephine Martha Washington Victoria Maria. Consequently the hotel is a good place to study human nature, for there we see men, and women, too, from all the walks of life, and of all classes of character. "Often extremes meet," and when such is the case, amusing incidents are sure to occur.

Sitting one evening in the office of the O. House, in Cincinnati, my attention was attracted toward two genuine and unadulterated fops who occupied seats near me. A description of them would be uninteresting, for there is no community in this broad land of ours without its fops, and a fop is a fop, and nothing else, the world all over. They admit of one distinction—city fop and country fop; and they differ only in the extent of their dress, or exterior display, it being conceded, I believe, that fops possess merely sufficient brains to make an animal a human. The individuals referred to were city fops, diminutive specimens of humanity, in every regard.

One of them had received a letter from a lady, which he read to his companion, to whom he declared the writer was "chawming beautiful; but as she was without a pwospect, (for a fortune,) he could not return her love." He vowed that the billet doux annoyed him exceedingly, as he disliked to break the dear creature's heart. While they were thus engaged in conversation, a tall, strapping Hoosier entered the hotel. He had a "Buena Vista" on his head, and a red flannel "wamus" on his shoulders, while his lower extremities were in brown linsey pants, and the stoutest hog skin boots. His hair was long and scraggy, his face unshaved, at least for a week, while his whole form was covered with dust, which indicated that he had just arrived by railroad. In one hand he carried a bundle, which was evidently his clothing tied up in a "span new" yellow and red cotton handkerchief, and in the other hand a stout but rude walking stick, not long since from its mother hickory. He had that awkwardness of gait peculiar to countrymen whose days are spent almost entirely on farms, and whose minds are devoted to the one thing most sought after, but not the most desirable, the accumulation of wealth. He paused a moment at the door, glanced at the crowd within, and at once attracted the attention of the fops, who immediately gave a sort of consumptive laugh or sneer, at the homely appearance of the stranger.

"Is this yer a tavern?" He inquired of the fops.

"A twavern? horrible!" exclaimed one of the fops, holding up both hands.

"A twavern, indeed!" said the other, "he must be from the woods, Chawles," and both renewed their laughter.

The Hoosier gave them an indignant look, and was about to reply, when the clerk, who had observed him, approached and informed him that he was at a hotel, and inquired if he wished to stop.

"Stop? sartin I do," was his response; "you don't reckon a feller wants to pass sich a smart tavern as this yer, without stoppin', do you Kurnell?

"Hardly, sir—will you allow me to take your baggage and furnish you with a room?"

"Just as youve a mind—I'm not at all particular, so I git six feet o' bed, and a hull place at the table. Golly but an't this a scrougin' town?"

"Quite a place, sir. Walk this way if you please, and I will attend to you immediately," said the clerk, as he took the Hoosier's bundle.

"Wall, now, you're uncommon perlite, stranger, but I reckon you make a feller pay for it all in the course of sarcumstances; but as you're sort or human—set right up to a feller what's in a strange country—I'm the chap to square your bill for fodder to figure, when you fotch it up. That's my way o' doin' business, Kurnell."

"I have no doubt of it, sir," said the clerk, smiling and handing him the book for that purpose, asking him to register his name.

"Do what?" inquired the stranger, somewhat astonished.

"Register your residence in this book, sir."

"Right down thar?"

"Yes, sir."

"Cum now, Kurnell, none of your tricks," said the Hoosier; it kind o' riles me to cum across sich critters."

"Oh, sir, no trick, I assure, you. We require it of our visitors, as much for their own as our benefit!"

"You don't tell!"

"Yes, sir, it is a fact."

"Want to know whether they can write, I reckon. Wall that's on a squar. When a feller goes away from hum, he ought to show his ederkation. I only learned to write when a shaver, but got up purty high in figures. I'll give you a specimen of my chickography, as old Squire Smith calls writin', in darned short order;" and the traveller took the pen, squared himself to suit, and leaned over the book to write. His oddity attracted the attention of all in the office, including the two fops, who, amused at his remarks, gathered about him at the clerk's desk. The pen in his hand had touched the book, when he paused, and after reflecting a moment, raised his head, and addressed the clerk in the following style:

"Kurnell, do you want all of a feller's name?"

"We would like to have your name in full."

"Full name! Wall, that's a puzzler. You see my family name is Hempfield, and then my christian name is John Isaiah, that thar's John Isaiah Hempfield isn't it?"

"Yes, sir."

"Wall then, the boys down our way considerin' me a right smart chap, kind a gin me a second cristanin'—they called me Hoss Head."

The information so innocently given, caused a loud burst of laughter from the crowd. Hoss Head participated in it, for he loved a laugh, and could be as merry as the next one.

"A rale smart name, ain't it boys?" he asked, after the laughter had somewhat subsided. "Would you put it down in the book?"

"Certainly, certainly," cried all.

In a few minutes the stranger, after giving his pen many circular movements over the book, and changing his position several times, succeeded in writing his name in full, as follows:

Mr. John Isaiah Hempfield Hoss Head, Persimmon Post Office, Yaller County, Indiana.

He pointed to his specimen of "chickography," with pride, and seemed wonderfully pleased with the fulsome praise bestowed upon it by the gentlemen present.

Expressing a desire to get fixed up, the clerk showed him to the wash room, when the fops who had endeavored to enjoy the Hoosier's greenness were struck with an idea—about such a one as generally racks the addeled brains of men—if men they may be called—of their stamp. Anxious to display their smartness, and create amusement at the expense of another, the fops seized the porter's brushes and giving the crowd a knowing wink, as much as to say we'll make fun for you, approached Hoss Head.

"Shall I bwush you, sirrah?" he asked, endeavoring to play the servant.

"Wall, now, by thunder!" exclaimed Hoss Head, as he dropped the soap from his hand and ceased his ablutions. "I always was good at guessin', but this beats all creation. Look yer, Kurnell,—addressing the clerk—"I no sooner seed these fellers to-night than I guessed right out that they was servants."

The boisterous laugh which followed was to the chagrin of the fops.

"They just look," he continued, "as if they warn't made for nothin' else than to scrape the mud from a feller's legs, and do little chores around a tavern. I thunk that when I first seed 'em; and by thunder warn't I right, though? Brush me off? Sartainly! and (with a dignified air) mind you make a clean sweep, or I'll report you to Kurnel, thar."

The fops finding that Hoss Head had put the joke upon them, endeavored to recover; so they informed him that he should not be brushed unless he paid in advance.

"Pay in advance!" was Hoss Head's indignant reply. "Thunder and salvation! don't the tavern pay you for your lazy, trifling work? I reckon you think I'm kinder green, and want to skin me, don't you?"

"Pon onah we don't" replied one. "We ah speaking the truth," answered the other.

By this time Hoss Head was victorious, so far as the spectators were concerned. While they could not sport with the Hoosier's ignorance of city manners, they could but despise the senseless dandies who made him an object of ridicule. Every hit, therefore, which Hoss Head gave them, drew forth loud exclamations for "the gentleman from the country," and giving his head a toss, which threw his hat to one side, he asked:

"Ain't they tryin to skin me, boys?"

"Yes," came from a dozen.

"I thunk so from the start, and therefore was on the look out for 'em. "Squire Jones told me afore I left hum to look out for tavern thieves, and by thunder I've run agin two of 'em right at the start."

"Do you mean to insult us?" asked one of the fops, forgetting the part he had volunteered to play, and feeling that he ought to profess indignation on being called a thief.

"If the shoe fits wear it," was Hoss Head's pointed answer.

"Did you apply the term tavern thief to us?" asked the other fop.

"Sartin, I did."

"Then, sirrah, we will let you know that we only assumed the character of servants. We are gentlemen, sirrah, and insist on yonah taking back the obnoxious appellation, or we will seek redress."

"Yes, sirrah, we will seek redress with our canes, ah," said his companion, as he flourished a slim specimen of a cane over his head.

"What!" exclaimed Hoss Head, drawing himself out to his full length, and giving the diminutives before him rather a scornful look.

"What, you want to fight, do you? Just clear a ring, boys, and stand back, if you want to see me eat them two critters in half a minute. I can do it by any watch in the crowd. Just clear the ring"

"Stop, stop," interrupted the clerk, who saw that matters were going too far, "we can't have any fighting here."

"Then larn your sarvants to be perlite," replied Hoss Head.

"They are not servants, sir, and do not belong to the house. They are not even boarders, and I assure you, sir, I never saw them before this evening."

"Don't belong to the tavern, and trying to skin me?"

"I presume, sir, they only intended to play a harmless joke."

"That's all, pon honah," replied one of the fops, who saw that matters were assuming rather a serious aspect for himself and friend.

"That was all we intended, wasn't it Charles?"

"Pon onah, it was."

"Kinder pokin' fun at me, eh? Wal, now, I can stand a joke as well as the next man on airth, and Kurnell, I'll gin twenty-five cents all in silver, just to carry them ar men out of the house."

"I have nothing to do with them, sir, and you can act at your own pleasure," replied the clerk.

The fops, surmising the intentions of the Hoosier, started for the door, but he seized them and said:

"Hold on! its better to ride when it costs nothing. I've got to tell you a story, and larn you a lesson before you leave this tavern," and grasping both tightly by the collar, he held them as if in a vice. The fops remonstrated, but Hoss Head, to the delight of the crowd, told them that there was no use a talkin' for they could not go until they heard the story. They consented to remain if he would let go of them, to which he did not object.

Surrounded by such persons as are always found in a hotel office, Hoss Head, with his eyes on the fops, told the following story:

"My old man down in Yaller County owns as nice a farm as lays in all them diggings. On that ar farm he's got an old hoss, he calls him Dick, as good natured a critter as ever rubbed his nose in feed, and all anybody could say of him was that he was right smartly common in looks. One time a rich feller, who lives some whar in this town, was travelin' in a carriage and broke down right agin our farm. He concluded he'd go in the cars, and left his horses with the old man to take care of 'em, and I must allow that a purtier pair of critters never rubbed a brichen. The old man put them in the barnyard along with old Dick, and told 'em to make themselves to hum. Old Dick was monstrous glad to have company and he cum runnin up to them in a neighborly sort of a way, and throwed his head over fust one of their necks and then the other, and was as luvin' as any gal could want her beau to be. The city hosses didn't appear to like this much, and they kinder drawed back, took a good look at Dick, and seein' he was uncommon ugly, they just turned up their noses and flirted their tails and started off.

This kinder riled old Dick, for he knowed he was just as good a hoss as lifted a hoot, and after thinkin' to himself awhile, he determined to have satisfaction on the two upstarts, who tho't they was better than him. So he goes up to them and turns his back to them just this way," and here Hoss Head got down on all fours, with his hind parts to the foes. "After he had stood this way about a minit, he rared and kicked this way," and the same moment one of his feet was in the stomach of each of the fops, and they found themselves sprawling on the floor.

"Old Dick," said Hoss Head, unmoved at what he had done, "keeled them over, and by the time they war up he war thar, and he rared again this way;" and the fops, who had just risen and were making for the door, found themselves on their stomachs. "Our old hoss kept follerin' 'em up," continued Hoss Head, as he moved back slowly on all fours, "until he got the city hosses, who could brag of nothin' but thar purty har and thar hides, right by the bars, and he rared sort o' this way, and sent them both out of the barn yard a kiten," and taking good aim he gave the fops a third and harder kick, which sent them through the open door on the pavement.

As soon as the fops could get up, they ran off screaming murder at the top of their weak feminine voices, which, however, were not loud enough to alarm any one. The spectators of the scene nearly split their sides with laughter, as kick after kick was given, heartily concurring in the opinion that Hoss Head was administering a just and well deserved punishment. After he had given the last and most fearful kick, the Hoosier resumed an erect position, and participating in the general roar of laughter, said:

"Wall, boys, I guess I learned them dandies that the best hoss don't always show the finest har."

The event made Hoss Head quite a lion at the hotel. Invitations to drink were extended to him oftener than was desirable, wine was sent to the table, he was conducted in a carriage through the city to see the sights, and when at length he started for home, the landlord told him he had no bill to pay, and that he could consider his "hat chalked" for that hotel whenever business or pleasure called him to the city.

John Isaiah Hempfield Hoss Head expressed himself highly delighted with the Queen city, and all the people within it, except fops, and left the Western Metropolis a very highly tickled individual. The fops have not been seen since that "ever memorable evening," when for a joke they assumed the character of servants.

A celebrated divine, who was remarkable in the first period of his ministry for a boisterous mode of preaching, suddenly adopted a mild and dispassionate style. One of his brethern inquired what induced him to make a change. He was answered, "When I was young I thought it was thunder killed the people; but when I grew wiser I discovered that it was the lightning so I determined to thunder less and lighten more." Others might profit by his experience.

A DEAD LOCK IN MINNESOTA.—The people of Minnesota have adopted a State Constitution and elected State Officers and a State Legislature. The Government is all ready to go into operation, and the Legislature has assembled at St. Paul, but there matters come to a stand, for the reason that nothing can be done until Congress admits Minnesota as a State. No laws can be passed, for there is no Territorial Legislature, and the State Legislature connot act.

Two Irishmen happened to get into an affray, in which one of them was knocked down. His comrade ran up to him and exclaimed:—"Arrah, Dennis, if ye be dead, can't ye spake?" "I'm not dead, but spachless," returned the other.

THE BUSY-BODY.—He labors without thanks, talks without credit, lives without love, dies without tears, without pity—save that some say, "It was a pity he died no sooner."

A rural poet describing his lady love, says, "she is as graceful as a water lily, while her breath is like an armful of clover."

The year 1858 will be a very eventful one—to every old maid that gets married.

MESSAGE OF GOV. POLLOCK.

The Pennsylvania Legislature met on Tuesday the 5th inst. Mr. Welsh, from the York district, was elected Speaker of the Senate, and Mr. Longaker, of Montgomery, Speaker of the House, (both Democrats.) On Wednesday morning the organization was completed by electing Wm. H. Miller clerk of the Senate, and Capt. Ziegler clerk of the House.

THE MESSAGE.

The Governor commences by reminding the Representatives of the duties they have been charged with by the people, and that those duties should be faithfully performed, and ever be regarded by them "as paramount to every selfish or partizan consideration." He would co-operate cheerfully with them, during his term of office, in every legal and constitutional manner, to promote the prosperity of the State, and the general welfare of the people.

The past year, with the exception of the recent financial embarrassment, has been one of general prosperity, and gratitude to Almighty God is expressed for his numerous blessings.

The finances of the Commonwealth are in a very satisfactory condition. During the past year, every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly paid from the revenues derived from the ordinary sources. For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1857, the receipts at the Treasury, including the balance in the Treasury on the first day of Dec. 1856, of $1,244,795 42, were $5,935,383 26. The aggregate expenditures for the same period, were $5,407,276 79. Balance in the Treasury, December 1, 1857, $528,106 47. Excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1856, the receipts from all sources were $4,690,587-84. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were $3,992,370 29, exhibiting an excess of receipts over expenditures of $698,-217 55. The extraordinary payments for the year were $1,414,906 59, as follows, to wit: To the completion of the Portage railroad, $49,061 92; to the North Branch extension $138,798 85; to re-lay the south track of the Columbia railroad, $91,495 46; to enlarge the Delaware division, $46,263 00; for motive power in 1856, $81,604 24; for repairs in 1855 and 1856, $49,564 78; for the redemption of loans, $820,097 03; damages on public works, $46,-552 65; old claims on the main line adjusted under the several acts of Assembly, $46,548-57, and for the new State Arsenal and Farmers' High School, $45,000 09.

The interest on the funded debt due in February and August last, was then promptly paid, and that falling due in February next, will be paid out of available means now in the Treasury. By virtue of the provisions of the act of the 13th of October, 1857, entitled "An Act providing for the resumption of specie payments by the banks, and for the relief of debtors," the State Treasurer will be enabled to pay the interest due in February, in specie or its equivalent. The credit of the Commonwealth has been fully and honorably sustained. The promptness with which every legitimate demand upon the Treasury has been met, has inspired public confidence in our securities; and although recent and existing financial revulsion may embarrass the operations of the Treasury, and reduce, to some extent, the revenue, yet the ability of the State to meet her engagements and maintain her credit, under an honest and economical administration of her finances, is undoubted. The honor and credit of the State must and can be preserved intact.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund report the sum of $414,920 29 as now in the Treasury to the credit of that fund. This amount will be applied to the redemption of relief notes yet in circulation, and to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

The commissioners of this fund, on the 7th day of September last, reported to me that the sum of $1,042,857 64, of the debt of the Commonwealth, was held by them.

As required by law, I directed the certificates and evidences of this indebtedness to be cancelled; and on the 19th of September, 1857, issued my proclamation declaring the payment, extinguishment and final discharge of $1,042,-857 64 of the public debt.

In addition to the amount reported to be in the Treasury to the credit of the sinking fund, and applicable to the payment of the public debt, the commissioners of the fund now hold the sum of $7,500,000, bonds of the Pennsylvania railroad co., pledged by law to the payment of the funded debt of the Commonwealth.

By the 4th section of the 11th article of the Constitution, as amended and ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of the State, at the general election held on the second Tuesday of October, 1857, it is made the duty of the Legislature at its first session after the adoption of this amendment, to create a sinking fund, which shall be sufficient to pay the accruing interest on the present public debt, and any additional debt thereafter constitutionally contracted, and annually to reduce the principal thereof by a sum not less than $250,-000, which "sinking fund shall consist of the net annual income of the public works from time to time, owned by the State, or the proceeds of the sale of the same, or any part thereof, and of the income or proceeds of sale of stocks owned by the State, together with other funds or resources that may be designated by law. The said sinking fund may be increased from time to time by assigning to it any part of the taxes or other revenues of the State, not required for the ordinary and current expenses of government, and, unless in case of war, invasion or insurrection, no part of said sinking fund shall be used or applied otherwise than in the extinguishment of the public debt, until the amount of such debt is reduced below the sum of $5,000,000."

This being the first session of the Legislature since the adoption of this amendment, the duty therein enjoined devolves upon you, and should be promptly and faithfully discharged.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State, including temporary loans, was, on Dec. 1, 1856, $40,701,835 25. On Dec. 1, 1857, it was $39,881,738 22. Decrease during the late fiscal year, $820,097 55.

These statements exhibit the gratifying fact that during the past fiscal year, the public debt has been reduced $820,097 55. During the same period large appropriations and payments were made on account of our public improvements, for old and unsettled claims adjusted under the act of last session, and for other extraordinary purposes.

The condition of the Treasury prior to the suspension of specie payments by the banks, justified the appropriation of at least $200,000 more in payment of the public debt, and arrangements were made by the Treasurer, under the direction of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to liquidate that amount; but after the suspension, and the consequent financial embarrassment of the country, the proposed payment, from prudential motives, was postponed. Had this payment been made, in addition to the payments already reported, the statements and calculations submitted in my last annual message, in relation to the early payment and final extinguishment of the public debt, would thus far have been sustained by their actual verification. The causes that prevented their realization, it is believed, will soon cease to affect injuriously the revenues of the Commonwealth. Actuated by that indomitable energy that has ever characterized the American people—faltering for a moment, but not disheartened by the adverse circumstances that surround us—roused to more vigorous action by disaster and defeat, our progress cannot long be checked, nor our prosperity long be interrupted. . . .

As corroborative of the opinion now and heretofore expressed, a brief review of the operations of the Treasury during the past three years, as connected with the payment of the debt of the Commonwealth, may not be inappropriate. In my first annual message to the Legislature the fact was stated, that during the three years intervening between December 1, 1851, and December 1, 1854, the public debt had been increased $1,584,359 34; and that the total debt at the close of the fiscal year, December 1, 1854, was $41,698,595 74. At the close of the fiscal year, December 1, 1857, three years later, the funded and unfunded debt, as before shown, was $39,881,738 22; decrease in three years, $1,816,857 52.

Thus in three years the public debt has been decreased, by actual payment and without resorting to the expedient of temporary loans, $1,816,857 57. If to this be added the sum of $414,920 29, now in the sinking fund and applicable to the payment of the funded debt, the reduction will be $2,231,777 81.

These facts are not only gratifying, but encouraging. It has already been stated that there is in the sinking fund the sum of $7,500,-000—bonds of the Pennsylvania railroad company, bearing interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, and pledged to the payment of the funded debt. If this sum be added to the reduction before stated, we have presented to us a virtual if not an actual decrease of the State debt, of $9,-731,777 81, showing the total funded and unfunded debt of the State on the first day of December, 1857, to have been $31,965,818 41.

In anticipation of the sale of the main line and the decrease in the public debt, the State tax, by an act of the last regular session, was reduced from three to two and one-half mills on the dollar; a reduction equal to one-sixth of the tax imposed for State purposes prior to that act. These facts speak for themselves. Well may the people be congratulated on such an auspicious beginning in the process of liquidation, and well may they with confidence anticipate the day of their deliverence from State taxation. Financial and commercial embarrassment may postpone—nothing but unwise legislation, and the imprudent or dishonest management of our finances, can prevent the early realization of their well founded anticipations.

The condition of the public works, their general operation, the receipts and expenditures during the past fiscal year, will be presented to you in detail in the report of the Canal Commissioners.

The total receipts at the Treasury, from the public works, for the year ending November 30, 1857, including receipts from the main line up to the first day of August last, were $1,398,598 62. The aggregate expenditures for the same period were $1,312,705 67; the expenditures exceeding the revenues $4,107-05. The receipts at the Treasury from the several divisions were as follows, viz:—Main line, to August 1, 1857, $796,559 83; Susquehanna and North and West Branch divisions 287,718 95; Delaware division 224,829 34.

The receipts from the Delaware division are less than those of the previous year. The completion of rival railroads and other causes, have lessened the receipts from this important division of our public works; and it is feared will continue to decrease them. Its management has been satisfactory, and compared with other divisions of the public improvements, economical. The net revenue, at the Treasury, was $174,001 87, a decrease of 90,093 53, as compared with the receipts of the preceding year. In addition to the ordinary expenditures, the sum of $46,263 was paid for the enlargement and improvement of this division.

The North Branch Extension of the Pennsylvania canal, although so far completed in the fall of 1856, that boasts freighted with coal and other products, were successfully passed through its entire length from Pittston to the Junction canal, yet in consequence of a large portion of the "Horse Race Dam" having been carried away by the freshet of last spring, business on the canal was suspended the greater part of the past year. It was repaired during the summer and in the fall business was resumed along its entire length. Soon after, the same dam was again extensively injured by a sudden and heavy freshet, and the greater part of the canal rendered useless for business. An appropriation will be required to re-construct the dam.

This canal, although useful and valuable, appears to be doomed to failure and disaster. These are the fruits of former mismanagement and fraud in its construction. Every effort has been made to repair the errors of its early management, and to complete and render useful this division of our public works. Under proper management it can be successfully accomplished.

In pursuance of the act of the 16th day of May, 1857, providing for the sale of the Main Line of the public works, after giving the notice required by law, I caused the said Main Line to be exposed to public sale at the Merchants' Exchange, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 25th day of June last, and sold the same to the Pennsylvania Railroad company for the sum of $7,500,000, the highest price bid for the same, and the minimum price fixed in the act. After a full compliance by the purchasers with the conditions of the act authorizing the sale, and the delivery of their bonds in full number and for the amounts equal to and falling due at the time provided for the payment of the respective instalments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on the 31st day of July, A. D. 1857, as directed by the act, transferred, under the great seal of the State, to the Pennsylvania Railroad company, their successors or assigns, the whole Main Line of the public works, between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, together with all the right, title and interest, claim and demand, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to all property, real, personal and mixed, belonging to or used in connection with the same by the Commonwealth; and the purchasers having given notice of their readiness to take possession of the said works, possession of the same was accordingly delivered to the company on the first day of August last, of which notice was given to all Superintendents and Agents of the Commonwealth, by proclamation bearing date the 31st day of July, 1857, as required by the law authorizing the sale.

The bonds of the Pennsylvania railroad company, in the sum of seven and one half millions of dollars, were received by the State Treasurer and are held by him for the commissioners of the Sinking Fund; the entire proceeds of the sale being required by the twelfth section of the act to be paid to the sinking fund and applied to the payment of the State debt.

I cannot forbear congratulating the people of the Commonwealth on the consummation of this sale. Public sentiment, as expressed through the ballot box, and in other forms equally significant, demanded it—public policy and the interests of the Commonwealth required it. It is done. The many approve—few complain—those most who have gained an unenviable reputation by a reckless disregard of the public interests, as exhibited in the extravagant, useless and fraudulent expenditures of the public money for selfish or partizan purposes.

The sale of the main line has directed public attention to the importance and necessity of disposing of the remaining divisions of the public improvements. The reasons and policy that required and justified the sale of the one, apply with equal force to the sale of the other. The propriety of separating the State from the care and control of the public works, is not only evident to all who have given the subject a candid and impartial consideration, but the necessity is clearly established, by the history of their construction and management. They have failed to be a source of revenue to the Commonwealth, and if retained by the State, will require an expenditure in their repair and management, largely exceeding any revenue, that under the most favorable circumstances, can be derived from them. In any phase of the question, this separation is desirable; but in connection with the payment of the public debt, and the reduction of State taxation, it becomes an object of more than ordinary interest. A sale, at the earliest practicable period, of the whole of our public works, for a fair consideration, upon terms just and liberal to the purchasers, and at the same time amply protective of the rights and interests of the people, should be authorized by the Legislature. Such sale, with the application of the proceeds to the payment of the public debt, would secure its still more rapid extinguishment. The subject is recommended to your unbiased consideration.

The law incorporating the Penn'a railroad company, imposed a tax of three mills per ton, per mile, on all tonnage passing over that road, as an equivalent for any decrease in the revenues of the Commonwealth, that might arise from the anticipated competition of the road with the business of the main line of the public improvements. This tax is not imposed upon the company, but upon the tonnage, and is paid by the owners of the freight transported over the road; the company acting as agents in its collection and payment to the State. It is virtually a tax upon the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth, and upon the commerce of other States, whose productions seek an eastern market over this road; and thus by increasing the rate of charges and the cost of transportation the produce of the west is forced upon the competing railroads of other States and to other markets than our own. The necessity that required this tax, as regards the Commonwealth and her improvements, has ceased. Its continuance can only be justified as a revenue measure. It should be the policy of the State to invite the transmission of the products of other States through her territory to her own markets, and, therefore, the propriety of relieving the trade and business of the Commonwealth and country from this tax upon it, is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

In consequence of the suspension of specie payments by the banks of this, and the other States of the Union, and the financial embarrassment and general prostration of business, I deemed it my duty to call, as authorized by the Constitution, an extra session of the Legislature, to meet at Harrisburg on the sixth day of October last. Although the relief provided by this extraordinary session of the General Assembly, was not as ample as the exigency of the case required, yet it was productive of many beneficial results, and served to allay the intense excitement and alarm that pervaded the entire community. By the act providing for the resumption of specie payments by the banks, all banking institutions accepting the provisions of that law, were required to pay into the Treasury one-fourth of one per cent. on their capital stock. The amount realized by the payment of this bonus has not only defrayed all the expenses of that session, but will leave a balance in the Treasury of not less than thirty-five thousand dollars—a result certainly not injurious to the finances of the Commonwealth.

My views expressed in former communications on the subject of banks and banking capital, in their relations to the currency and the general interests of trade, remain unchanged. However diverse our opinions may be on this subject, it must be admitted by all, that the banking and credit systems are so intimately interwoven with the business and commerce of the country, that their sudden seperation, or a rash innovation, would produce consequences of fearful magnitude. That the present system of banking is perfect, is not pretended; that it could be essentially modified and improved, will not be denied. The present derangement of the currency may and will suggest the necessity of reform, not only in the system itself, but in the management of our barking institutions.

Unlimited credits by corporations or individuals have and will ever be an unmitigated evil. They contribute to bank expansions, rash speculations, extravagant living and excessive over-trading; always sure to be followed by ruinous revulsions. What the remedy should be, I do not deem it my province, under existing circumstances, to suggest; but to be permanent and effectual, it must accord with the natural and necessary laws of trade. The currency of a country forms no exception to these laws, and should be left to their operation and control, so far as may be consistent with the public good. It is, therefore, that a system of free banking, based on un-