

# BY S. J. ROW.

## CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1870.

#### Annual Message of

JOHN W. GEARY. Governor of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN :- From the days of William Penn, the great and pious founder of our Commonwealth, it has been the universal custom of my predecessors, when making their annual communications to the General Assembly, to acknowledge their gratitude to, and dependence upon the Great Lawgiver of the Universe. In imitation of their noble example, let us earnestly invole H s bless ing and guidance in our efforts to perform the great work of legislation now before us, in such manner as to meet His approbation. as well as that of our common constituents. In transmitting to you the seventy-ninth

annual message since the organization of the present State government, it affords me the highest gratification to congratulate you and fellow citizens generally on their enjoying, to an unusual degree, the blessings of health and unstinted prosperity; and that our principles and institutions-the pride and boast of every true hearted patriot-although tried again in the crucible of a heat ed political contest, the heavings of popular passion, and the collision of parties, from which we have just emerged, remain unim-paired and vital in every part.

Under such auspicious circumstances you have assembled, for the purpose of discharging the important duties, and assuming the special responsibilities which devolve upon you. It is extremely difficult, even with the greatest caution in your deliberations, to en- inst., to wit act laws that will fully meet the expectations and approbation of all the people ; but much of this difficulty may be overcome by avoid ing legislation for personal and special inter-ests, and not being unmindful of the magni-

tude of the interests of the State, and of its rapidly advancing population, wealth and influence to destinies beyond the reach of human vision. A nobler heritage was never given to man than that which we possess ; geographically and politically of the greatst importance; an area of more than forty four thousand square miles ; diversified with mountains, valleys, plains, rivers; moun-tains covered with majestic forests of valua ble timber of almost every variety; plains dotted with comfortable homesteads, and presenting well cultivated farms and luxuri ent fields marked by the advancement of agriculture-the parent, supporter and stimu-lator of every species of industry, exchange and commerce : hills and valleys with teem ing mines of all the varieties of cool, ir n, oil salt and other minerals; with farmers, man ufacturers, mechanics, wool growers, coal and iron miners, oil producers, and mer chants full of activity and confidence; with thousands of miles of railroads, and canals atories, the collection of properly imposed 1877, interest 5 per cent. \$3,934,400 00;

Commissioners delivered all the obligations of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, being third mortgage bonds, to the Allegheto our penitentiaries, lunatic asylums, and ny Valley Railroad Company, and received other charitable and beneficial institutions, therefor thirty five second mortgage bonds of one hundred thousand dollars each, mawithout requiring from those who receive king in all three million, five hundred thousand dollars.executed by the said Allegheny the objects intended. This is wrong, and Valley Railroad Company, and guaranteed by the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., the Nor-thern Central R. R. Co., and the Phil'a and Erie R. R. Co., payable to the Common-thern Central R. R. Co., and the Phil'a and Erie R. R. Co., payable to the Commonand every year, beginning January 1, 1875, and so continuing annually thereafter until the said sum of three million, five hundred thousand dollars shall be paid, with inte, est thereon from January 1, 1872.

The citizens of Pennsylvania have always borne taxation not only patiently but cheerfully, and they are still as willing as ever to contribute to the payment of all the obligations resting upon the State : but they expect their public servants who are intrusted with the management of their affairs, to set upon the most prudent and economical basis. In a word, they demand reform in the man-agement of the financial affairs of the State, islature through whose influence the appropriations are represented to be prorured. and, as far as possible, the retrenchment of all unnecessary expenditures.

For many years the general appropriation bills have been signed on the day of the the honor to acknowledge the receipt, thro' the clerk of your honorable body, a copy of the following resolution, passed on the 12th

'Resolved, That the Governor be requested to submit some plan to the Senate to se cure the State from los, by the accumulation ensuing year; or call an extra session of free recommended that the indigent chil of large amounts of surplus funds in the Treasury.

"In reply, I beg leave to direct your at tention to my message of January 8, 1868, in which I say, 'the balance now in the Treasury might be rendered productive by being invested in the bonds of the State, bearing tion its improtance demands." six per cent. interest;' and to the message of January 6, 1869, where I remark, 'when The peculiar interest which is always manifested by the people in the subject of ever there may be surplus funds in the education, is an inducement to lay before Treasury, they can with safety and benefit you, more at length than would otherto the State, be employed in the purchase of wise be done, the principal statistics of the its outstanding bonds, and in saving the in system drawn from the report of the Su-perintendent of Common Schools. terest on them which would accumulate pri-There are within the State 1,971 school

or to their maturity."" Since making these suggestions, and ma turely deliberating upon the subject. I have districts; 13,936 schools; 2,445 graded schools; 12,900 school directors; 76 super seen no reason to change my mind in relaintendents; 17,142 teachers, and 815,753 pupils. The average cost of tuition for tion thereto; and now submit the same plan, more specifically set forth, based upon the following statement of the loans of the Com-monwealth, viz: Amount of over due loans, each pupil is ninety-seven cents per month. The whole post of tuition for the year is 3,500,704,26. Total cost including ex-penditures of all kinds during the year, \$6,986,148,92. Estimated value of school including bank charter loans and relief notes unredeemed, \$369.482 25; smount payable in 1870, interest 5 per cent. \$1.483.815 65; to transfer the vast products to market, and necommodate the travel of four millions of 750 00; payable in 1872, interest 6 per cent. \$2,820,property \$14,045,632. accommodate the travel of four millions of happy and prosperous people. Nor should we be forgetful of education in all its branch its branch law was made general in the year 1848, it is remarkable that there still remain five dises, of the public charities, prisons, reform- est 6 per cent. \$7,909,600 00; payable in

dated March 30, 1869, the Sinking Fund | exclamation of "well done good and faithful | they have been in operation, the whole num | propriations as have been requested by the | mount importance, as they effectually guard | ous and dangerous, unquestionably deserves, ber of deaths has been less than one-third | Adjutant General for that office. of one per cent. per annum. Liberal appropriations are made annually

The entire cost for maintenance, educaand disburse the money any satisfactory ev-idence that it has been faithfully applied to tendent, and amounts to \$500,971 62, to exhibited as follows: In 1866, there were \$400.000 00; Appropriated March 13,1869, \$50,000 00; Total \$456 004 74. Balance unprovided for, \$4',966 88. For which sum there should be a special

than seven months.

burse State appropriations, to take proper vouchers for all moneys so expended by sum appropriated for that year, by act them, and to make quarterly settlements of the same in the Auditor General's office. Superintendent reports the expenses will time and money expended to maintain their To this same defect is attributably the op-This is important, not only to protect the not materially vary from his estimate, there organizations, in which the people are as erations of the number of worthless compainterests of the State, but also the good will therefore be a deficit of \$44,700 for the much interested as the volunteers themname of those who receive and disburse current year, to be provided for during the selves. the money, and of the members of the Leg- present session.

For the maintenance of these schools during the year ending May 31, 1871, it is estimated that \$534,500 will be required. Which sum I recommend to be apropriated, On the 30th of January last, replying to a resolution of the Senate, I said: I have bills have been signed on the day of the adjournment of the Legislature, and I have with the positive understanding that the repeat my suggestion of last year on this subject. "The Governor has been forced We are admonished by the rapid expan We are admonished by the tapid expan either to sign the bills without proper in sion of the system, and by the constantly vestigation, notwithstanding any objections increasing desire to obtain admission into he may have ; suspend the means to defray these schools, that some definite limit should the operations of the government for the be determined upon by law. It is therethe Legislature. It is therefore earnestly dren of Pennsylvania soldiers, who served desired that the appropriation bill be taken in Penn-ylvania regiments, and who died up, discussed and passed at a sufficiently prior to January 1, 1866, from wounds reearly period during the session to enable the Governor to give it that thorough examina of the United States during the late war, shall be hereafter admitted, and mone oth-

> With unsparing patience, well considered measures, and earnestne s of purpose, many defects have been eradicated, and the schools have been advanced to a more perfect and efficient system than that by which they were at first characterized, and elevated to a condition not second to any similar institutions in the country. This humane and philanthropic service is being performed by intelligent officers and faithful teachers, which will be more fully shown by their reports, communicated for the information of

the Legislature. The establishment of these institutions, where the destitute orphan children of the soldiers who lost their lives in the suppression of the late rebellion, are fed, clothed and educated at the public expense, contin-ues to command the cordial support, ap Notwithstanding the fact that our school proval and encouragement of our citizens, and tends to elevate, everywhere, the reputation of Pennsylvania, (the first State to tricts within the State which have not yet conformed thereto. Hopes are entertained that four of these will soon accept the conestablish such schools; ) to the highest degree, for her justice, patriotism and philan-Most heartily have the people endorsed the past action of their representatives in relation to these schools and there exists not a single doubt but that they will most cordially approve all necessary appropria tions for the continuance of the support, education and guardianship of these adopt congratulation that our school system has ed enildren of the Commonwealth. To the honor. State pride and humanity of the Legislature is confided the guarding and maintaining these sacred interests, and in the faithful discharge of this noble duty. you shall receive from me a special and zealous concurrence.

An unusual martial activity prevails

throughout the State, but more particularly tion, clothing and general expenses, for the in Philadelphia. The encouragement which year ending May 31, 1869, differs but little has been afforded to the uniformed militia pay which there was an unexpended balance | eight volunteer companies; in 1867, thirtyof \$6,004 74. Appropriated April 11, 1868, eight; in 1868, sixty seven, and in 1869, one hundred and eighty-four. No less than one hundred and seven companies were organized during the year ending Nov. 30, 1859, of which tifty six are in Philadelphia, and good reason why the same accountability pressing wants of the teachers of the differ-should not be enforced against all those who ent institutions, who have already been force, which, in case of riot, rebellion, or ent institutions, who have already been force, which, in case of riot, rebelion, or compelled to await its payment for more other public danger, would be ready at once to imperil itself for the enforcement of the the volunteers such practical aid as would, The report of the Adjutant General will

be found a very interesting document, containing much valuable information and many important suggestions. A careful perusal of its contents, and such section thereon as is recommended. Gen. D. B. M'Creary has been elected to membership in one of your honorable bodies, and with his last report he closed his career as Adjutant General. In losing his valuable services from a position he has so ably filled for more than two years, the hope is indulged that the department will gain an intelligent and devoted friend, and an able and efficient advocate in the halls of legi-lation.

#### MILITARY HISTORY.

The report of the State Historian is deserving of your careful attention. In it you will find a detailed account of the operations of his department from its commencement to the present time. The work entrusted to his care is one of no ordinary character and responsibility, requiring talents of a high order, patient industry, careful research, and unbiased judgment. The labor to be performed is immense, and can only be proper ly appreciated by those fully acquainted with its magnitude. It embraces a faithful account of all the organizations of Pennsylvania troops during the war of the rebellion; the collection and adjustment, in a comprehensive form. of each military organization, and an unprejudiced description of all mili tary transactions of importance, so far as the volunteers of this State are concerned, in the camp and in the field, throughout the most terrific conflict of arms that has ever occurred in the history of the world. The propriety of such a work must be apparent to every intelligent citizen of the Common wealth. Certainly it is due to the citizen soldiers, who offered their lives in the defence of their country, and their names

rendered almost impossible. The greatest part of the world.

benefits would certainly accruc both to the company and policy holders, as has already been demonstrated in the States of New York and Massachusetts, where the subject study and attention, and been reduced to a science which commands the approbation wealth as follows, viz: The principal one of said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no appropriation without delay, to meet the said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no appropriation without delay, to meet the said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each al's office. This is right; and there is no said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each all is said bonds surance companies, is sanctioned by the wisdom of experience. And as I have here- sue. thus affirded, is, that whilst foreign comtherefore, recommond that a law be passed requiring all persons who receive and dis-burse State appropriations, to take proper foreiga companies maintain an ascendency. nies that have suddenly sprung into existence without any solid basis, and as soddenly expired to the injury of those whose confidence they obtained, and to the dishonor of

the Commonwealth. In view of these facts, I earnestly repeat the recommendation made to the Legislature | chinery at the surface, produces a more conseems to be demanded by their importance. at its last session, that an insurance depart- stant current of air, dispenses it more freely ment be established, and a superintendent appointed by law, who shall have supervision in all respects, accomplishes the object deand control over all insurance companies al- sired with better effect; and when the Our laws in relation to life insurance companies are defective and need revision and protected by legislative enactment, are enabled to transact an immense amount of The consequence is, that foreign States. of five hundred dollars to conduct their ex- avenue of ingress and egress. our companies would be sorely oppressed by the imposition of the same license tax in States where their operations are exceedingly limited. And yet these other States have retaliated upon our license law, by adopting its provisions and demanding from our companies the same amount of license in each State that we demand of their companies in This is not only oppressive to our ours own neglected companies, but it fails to fur nish a just and equitable revenue from the various companies for the amount of business transacted. The tax should be made to bear equally upon all com; anies, whether home or foreign, and be adjusted propor-

the interests of the insured, and through their healthy influence, frands and spurious of any other country, whilst our mining incompanies, so common in Pennsylvania, are terests are unequalled by those of any other

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The most appalling accidents on record have been traced to unsafe methods of ventilation, and more especially to the employ-York and Massachusetts, where the subject of insurance has received the most careful the shafts. Where the turnace is used, and the smoke carried through a wooden chimney, it seems almost certain that, sooner or and confidence of all who seek its protection: later, by the inevitable accumulation of soot The necessity for such a department, with or carbon upon the frame work, it must ignice from the ascending sparks or from the heat of the furnace, and a conflagration en-To guard against this it should be tofore remarked, the result of the protection made obligatory, if the ventilating turnace be still allowed, to build the chimnies, the ly confined within the State limits ; and here wsure safeguard, for the fire is limble, at any moment, to communicate with the "fee dump" or other gaseous vapors, that, des pite of all known means of prevention, will generate in the best regulated mines. The propriety of dispensing entirely, therefore, with the furnace, has received the serious consideration of scientific miners and engiueers, and the fan in many instances, has been substited, which being worked by mathrough the gangways and chambers, and, lowed to transact business within the State. | shat # and surface buildings are fire proof. The community is deeply interested in this matter, and demands legislitive protection. system of ventilation, with advantages so palpably obvious, will, no doubt, be universally adopted. But the very nature of correction. Without the protection referred to these laws bear unequally upon our own and foreign companies. The latter, being er causes, frequently give way and fill up the gangways so as to render them impassa business within the limits of this Common wealth, whilst our companies, having no such protection, can do but hitle in other sons. Hence it is absolutely necessary, and should be imperatively demanded, that eve-States. The consequence is, that foreign is wine should have more than a single companies can readily afford to pay a license is avenue of inseress and egress. Whatever tensive operations in Pennsylvania, whilst system of ventilation may be approved, or safety lamp adopted, the means of escape from the mines, when danger occurs, will depend very materially upon the provision for the exit of the miner.

The best method of constructing, ventilating and working the mines, should be unhe-itatingly adopted; and the system adopted rigidly enforced. The inquiry, there fore, into the causes which produced this shocking catastrophe-the various theories that have been primulgated concerning it. the remedies for the prevention of similar occurrences hereafter, the construction and ventilation of collieries, and the modes of conducting their operations so that the optionately to the extent of their several oper-ations. This arrangement would be just to imperiling their lives, are proper subjects for legislative consideration,

ah laws as you may anad

taxes, the speedy reduction of the State debt, the preservation of order, and the more certain protection of life, business and property. All these interests and perhaps oth ers of equal importance. demand legislation of the most enlightened, liberal and comprehensive character.

In conformity to the requirements of the Constitution, I proceed to invite your attention to such measures as are deemed necessary for your consideration, and to assure you of my willingness to share with you the anxieties and responsibilities of all legislation calculated to advance the prosperity of the people and the best interests of the Commonwealth.

### FINANCES.

From the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, the following statement as been carefully prepared, and exhibits the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1869 : Receipts : Islance in Treasury, Nov 30, 1869, \$1,012, 225 37; ordinary receipts during the fiecal year ending Nov. 30, 1869, \$5,241,711 28; tal in Treasury during year ending Nov. 30, 1869, \$6,254,636 65. Disbursements : Onlinary expenses paid during the year roding Nov. 30, 1869.\$2 485,114 27; Loans Ac., redeemed at Treasury. \$109,644 09; ns redeemed by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. \$362,762 09; interest paid at Treasury, \$170,655 74; interest paid by Commissioners of Sinking Fund, \$1,725, 587-97; Total, \$4,853,774-16; balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1869, \$1,400,862-49.

it will be observed from the above, that part of the loans and part of the interest regaid at the Treasury, and part of both y the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. his produces a complication of accounts. thich, in order to avoid, and to simplify the financial statement, I recommend that an. plan, will be lost to the Commonwealth. I tho.ity be given by law to charge the Comissioners with the whole amount of the State debt, and also with all the money applicable to the payment thereof, and that ry alone be credited with all payments on ing Fund to invest all surplus funds as rapboth principal and interest of the State debt. idly as they acrue in the Treasury, in the Pablic debt-The following is a statement

showing the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, on November 30, 1869 : Funded debt, viz : 6 per cent, loans, \$25,311,-180 00; 5 per cent. loans, \$7,277,384 38; 11 per cent. loans,\$112,000 00; Total, \$32. 01,364 38. Unfunded debt, viz: Relief otes in circulation, \$96,397 00; interest certificates outstanding, \$13,086 52; interest "Ideates unclaimed, \$4,448 38; domestic treditors' certificates, \$44 67; Total, \$113, 76 57; amount of public debt, Nov. 30, \$69, \$32,814,540 95. The public debt on Nov. 30, 1868. \$33,286,947 13; deduct amount redeemed at the Treasury during the year ending Nov. 30, 1869, viz : 5 per cent. loans.\$472.387 18; relief notes canedled, \$19 00; Total, \$472,406 18; public deht Nov. 30, 1869, as above, \$32,814,540,-

Reduction of the public deb. -At the commencement of the present administra-tion in January, 1867, the total outstanding adebtedness of the State was thirty-seven million, seven hundred and four thousand, four hundred and nine dollars and seventy seven cents. Since then, and up to Nov. 40, 1869, the sum of four million, eight hunned and eighty nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty eight dollars and eighty-two ents have been paid, and at five per cent., the sum of \$244.493 44, in interest, is ansually saved to the Commonwealth. Conquently, the total amount of indebtedness the Commonwealth on Nov. 30, 1869, was thirty two million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand, five hundred and forty dolars and nipety-five cents. The reduction during the year ending Nov. 30, 1869, amounts to four hundred and sev-

uty-two thousand, four hundred and six dollars and eighteen cents.

## ASSETS IN SINKING FUND.

payable in 1878, interest 5 per cent. \$321, 000 00; payable in 1879, interest 6 per cent. \$400.000 00; payable in 1882, interest 6 per cont. \$9.273,050 00; payable in 1882, interest 5 per cent. \$1,185,950 00; payable in 1882; interest 44 per cent, \$112,000 00; amount of loans,\$32,810,047 90.

To the liquidation of these loans the sur plus funds in the Treasury could, with great propriety, be applied. This indebtedness is held in bonds bearing interest; and it will readily be perceived that this interest will be saved to the State up n whatever amount of these bonds may be redeemed.and the State be saved from all risks of loss by the accumulation of large amounts of surplus funds in the Treasury. A few illustrations will show the benefi-

mal schools is 10.237, of whom 321 have cial workings of this plan. At the termination of the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1868, there was an unexpended balance in the Treasury of \$1,012,915 37. If the suggestions heretofore made had been carried out, by the investment of one million of dol lars, at that time, in the five per cent. bonds that will fall due July 1, 1870, and which I am credibly informed could then have been purchased at something less than their par value, the interest on the same, from Nov. 30, 1868, to July 1, 1860, would be seventy-nine thou sand, one hundred and sixty seven dollars and sixty seven cents, which has been lost to the State. Again.on the 30th of November, 1869, there was in the Treasury an unexpended balance of \$1,400,862 49. If one million, four hun-

dred thousand dollars of this sum had been invested in some kind of bonds, at par, on the 1st day of December, 1869, the interest for the seven remaining months, ending July 1, 1870, would be \$40,833 34; but which, in consequence of non-conformity to this cannot reiterate too strongly my recommend ations on this subject, and would, therefore. recommend that a law be passed making it the duty of the commissionres of the Sink bonds of the Commonwealth next failing

due I beg, once more, to remind the Legislature that the salary of the State Treasurer should at least be equal to that of the Governor. It is only seventeen hundred dol lars, a sum entirely insufficient to command the services of any responsible man, who is required to furnish a bond with good and approved sureties, for eighty thousand dollars, and to run the risk of handling at least five or six millions of dollars per annum, without the unlawful use of State funds, and subsidies from sources that dare not be revealed to the public, because they are positively prohibited by law, under penalties of no ordinary magnitude. Yet there are but few men who have held this office, however poor they may have been when they took charge of it, who have not become rich.

There is certainly some advantage to be gained by the holding of the position of State Treasurer, unknown to the public, but which readily accounts for the disgraceful scramble, and for the political and moral debauchery which the people of this State seem to be doomed annually to witness, in the election of that officer; and because of the disgrace it brings upon their representatives, the people hang their heads in indignation and shame. Then, in the name of

shall have performed his whole duty to sustain the true interests of the State and to except six.

ditions of the law, and the remaining one, known as the Harmony District, under the control of the "Economites," having a good school of its own, will probably not adopt the public school system so long as the present organization of that society exists. It is, therefore, a subject worthy of hearty been so universally adopted by the voluntary consent and general acquiescence of the

ople As important auxiliaries to our common schools, the Normal schools are entitled to assume the front rank. Their flourishing condition may be understood from the fol lowing statistics : The whole number of students that have attended the four Nor-

COMMON SCHOOLS.

graduated. During the past year there were in these institutions 76 teachers, and 4,178 students. Since my last annual communi-cation, a State Normal school has been fully established and recognized at Bloomsburg, Columbia county. Its buildings are of the most finished and substantial character, and it commences its career under the most auspicious circumstances. Another is now in a state of preparation at California,

Washington county, and will probably be completed during the current year. Your attention has been invited to the fact that there are about seventy-five thousand children in the State that do not attend schools of any description, and who are permitted to grow up in ignorance and without employment, and, in many instances, from lack of industrial and educational training become not only the votaries of vice but a prolific source from which the inmates of our prisons and penetentiaries are supplied. The number of children throughout the

State ettending private schools, is estimated at eighty five thousand. The aggregate of the educational condi-

tion of the children of the Commonwealth, may be thus stated : Attending the public schools,815,753: Attending private schools, 85.000 : Not attending schools of any kind, 75.000: Whole number of children, 975, 753. The subject of non attedance by so large a portion of Children, is especially recom-

mended to your consideration. It is true economy on the part of the State, if possible, to save these children from ingnorance, vagrancy and crime. Doubtless in your assembled wisdom you will be able to devise some effectual mode by which this evil exn be remedied.

Many of the recommendations contain ed in the report of the Superintendent are of the utmost importance, and eminently deserving of serious attention and Legisla rive action. The facts above set forth illustrate most forcibly the practical value of our most admirable common school system, and bear testimony that cannot be misun derstood, to the wisdon, and liberality by which it has been conceived and so success fully carried into effect.

#### SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS.

Attention is invited to the report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools, for the year ending May 31, 1869, in which is exhibited their condition, circumstances and expenditures.

The whole number of children admitted into these schools, from their origin to the 31st day of May, 1869, is four thousand, five hundred and nine; of whom three the good people of Pennsylvania, I call up hundred and seven have been discharged on on the members of the Legislature, without order, five hundred and eighteen on age, and distinction of party to rise above the murky- and fifty-three have died ; making a total of ness of the polluted atmosphere of the eight hundred and seventy-eight, which post, to the true dignity of manhood and left three thousand, six hundred and thirtyexalted patriotism, and purify the election of Treasurer as well as that of every other officer within this Commonwealth, and puncharges from the schools have exceeded ish every one who tampers with the purity former estimates by one hundred and sevenof elections, whatever may be his position ty-five. The number of applications on file or pretentions. And then every one who and not acted on, was seven hundred and one; some from every county in the State

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. The establishment of this college was un

doubtedly intended as a progressive movement, and under the impression that it would contribute much to the easy acquisition of a combined knowledge of agriculture, science and literature, and to promote the practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits of life. It has been fostered by the most liberal legis lation, and is endowed with the sum of \$381,-500, invested in United States and Pennsylvania bonds, yielding an aggregate interest this year of \$25,551 90, which has been paid to the trustees of the institution. Thus far the most satisfactory results from the workings of the college have not been But it is now under the direction realized. of a president and six learned professors. It receives for pupils only males over the age of fifteen years, qualified for admission by a good common school education. There are in it at present forty-five students, with a fair prospect of a considerable increase in number. Tuition, board and the ordinary necessaries of life, are there furnished at a less rate than is generally demanded for boarding alone, thus affording an extraordinary opportunity to the youth of the country to acquire an accomplished education with comparatively small expenditures. Under these circumstances the college deserves the indulgent sympathy and support of the people. Three experimental farms are connected

with the college, purchased at an aggregate cost of \$43,886 50. One is located college, one in Indiana county, and one in Chester county. Operations have been commenced upon them under the prescribed programme of a series of experiments with promise of complete success; the results of which are to is reported annually to the Legislature by the Professor of Agriculture. It is confidently expected that the record of these experimental results will prove highly interesting and greatly beneficial to the com-

The military department is one of great importance to the honorable history of the Commonwealth, and to that of her citizens individually. It is the custodian of all the military records of the State, embracing that of every officer and private soldier, and the history of every military transaction performed by the State for the suppression of the rebellion. It has also in its custody all the regimental, State and National flags borne by our soldiers, and many trophies of war won by their valor on the field. All of which should be systematically and carefully

should, at least, receive a place in the archives of the State, toward whose honor and glory their gallant deeds have so largely contributed.

The work of the Historian, when completed, will embrace four large octavo volumes, in which the name of every Pennsylvania volunteer will have its appropriate place. Two of these volumes are already comple-ted, in a manner highly creditable to the Commonwealth. The third is rapidly progressing, and with a generous appropriation on the part of your honorable body the entire history will be executed, if not before; soon after the close of the present year. Most other States are publishing histories similar to this, and it is due to the importance of the subject, and to the credit of the State, that Pennsylvania should not be behind in this patriotic undertaking.

#### HOME FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS

There is, probably, no State in the Amer ican Union that has contributed so liberally toward the support of charitable and benevolent institutions than that of Pennsylvania. The appropriations annually made for the benefit of the soldiers' orphans' schools, asylums for the deat and dumb, blind and insane, and many similar worthy establish ments in which the poor, helpless and other wise friendless are cared and provided for. reflect great credit upon the Legislatures who have donated the requisite means for their support. But there is one other institution needed, and the claims for which are more strongly urged by every principle of humanity and patriotism, than any other now in existence, which has not yet received the attention its vast importance imperatively demands. This is a home for the soldiers who have "borne the battle" in defence of the honor, integrity and perpetuity of the American Union. No men living bave as powerful claims upon the generosity and nurturing care of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as those who, upon the battle field, fought to protect it against threatened devastation and destruction, and who in this patriotic service, endangered their lives, sac rificed their health, lost their limbs, and became enfeebled and disabled for life. And yet we daily see these men, (and who does not blush to see them ?) to whom we owe the preservation of our government, the homes we enjoy, and almost everything we possess, hobbling about our streets upon crutches, with missing limbs, and otherwise so enfeebled as to be entirely unfitted for any remunerative employment, begging their bread from door to door, or sitting apon the corners of the streets turning an organ for the few pennies the charitable passer-by may feel disposed to bestow. Every one of these helpless men, whose patriotic devotion to his country has brought him to this deplor able condition, is a burning reproach to the State for whose welfare he has met the most serious and lamentable of all misfortunes. All of them appeal, by their wounds and destitution, to the people of the Common wealth for that care which, in such contingencies, was promised to the soldier of the Union, his widow, and his orphan children. It is time that all such promises should be redeemed. The wounded and helpless soldiers have a claim upon the State which should not, and cannot be ignored. And I do earnestly recommend in their name, and in their behalf, that measures be taken by your honorable body, to establish for them a home where they shell be amply provided a nome where they shift de antipy provided with the necessary comforts of life, and no longer be compelled to be pensioners upon the scanty charity of the world. This is a debt the State absolutely owes, and no time

should be lost in its honorable liquidation. INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

In two former communications your attion was called to the importance of estab the War Department at Washington. All lishing in the State an insurance department similar to those existing in other States. But the Legislature has thus far failed to The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follows, viz: Bonds of the Penn'a Railroad Company, six million, three hun-the thousand dollars. Agreeably to an act pears that during the four years in which may be generously supplied with such ap some of the States are regarded of para- which their valuable services, at best labori - certain that it will be completed and ready

therefore, of the license law, and the sub stitution in its place of a reasonable and cartainly be enforced by competent inspect equitable tax, would meet the approbation ors in the mining districts, who should be of all companies, in favor of equal and ex- chosen with strict regard to character, act justice, whether belonging to this or any integrity, capability and scientific knowlother State. At the same time it would in- elge; and whose du ies should be so specifsure a larger income to the Treasury. For instance, there are thirty seven life insurance companies from other States doing business in Penusylvania, who each pay a license of five hundred dollars, making the sum of eighteen thousand and five hundred dollars.

all, oppressive to none. The aboli-hment,

paying an equal tax of say one half of one per cent, upon the amount of their business. This, in the aggregate of the thirty seven companies, is more than five millions of dollars, on which a tax of one half of one per cent, would be twenty-five thousand dollars, increasing the revenue of the State from this source more than six thousand dollars. and at the same time equalizing the tax in accordance with the business done and profits received. An efficient law, establishing an In-urance Department, such as is recommended, would meet this and all matters connected with the subject of insurance, in

Not one of these companies would object to

THE AVONDALE DISASTER.

all its branches.

The recent disaster in the Avondale Coal Mine, in Luzerne county, is still fresh in the minds of the people. It exceed a thrill of horror to spread throughout the country, and even in Europe it has been productive of the most painful emotions and deepest sorrow for the sufferers. Women and children who had been accustomed to regard the occupation of the miner as one of ordinary character, now look upon it as fraught with danger, and part with relatives and friends, when about to pursue their perilous occupation, with fearful forbodings. And even the sturdy miner himself, trembles at his dangerous calling, and demands greater protection than has hitherto been afforded.

The history of this terrible calamity seems to be as follows: Early on the morning of the 6th of September last, one hundred and eight men entered the Avondale Mine to prosecute their avocation. None of them anticipated danger as they descended the fatal shaft; not one supposed that he was entering a tomb in which he was doomed to be buried alive. But the destroying angel hovered over them, and the shaft, constructed principally of combustible materials, having become ignited from some cause, yet unde termined, was soon a sheet of flame, and

hage burning timbers came tumbling from above, choking up with fire and smoke the only avenue of escape. Sensible of their peril, the unfortunate men sought a place of succor, but no earthly arm could give them help ; hopeless they huddled together, and clasped in each others arms, met death in one of its most frightful and agonizing forms. While this fearful scene was transpiring below, the immense wooden structure above the shaft took fire, and burning with fright ful rapidity, was soon reduced to a crumbling Thousands of men, women and chil 11188. dren soon surrounded the place, and being unable to afford the slightest relief to their suffering friends below, filled the air with

lamentations, appalling even to the stoutest hearts. Never before was a scene more heart-rending witnessed within the limits of this Commonwealth, and it is trusted that through your prompt and efficient legislative action, another such will never be permitted to occur. The mines in many cases are constructed

and managed in the most selfish and parsi monious manner, the cwners exacting the largest amount of profit from them, like that of Avondale, are nothing but underground man traps, without any other outlets than wooden chimnies, and these constantly liable to become blazing volcances.

through which escape is impossible. The lives of so useful a class of men as our miners should not, and must not be permit-

ically defined that they cannot be misunderstood

I, therefore, most respectfully and earn estly recommend that this whole subject receive the attention its importance de mands, and that a law be passed, so general in its character and so stringent in its provisions, that the people of this Common wealth will never again be appalled by calamity, within her limits, so sad as that of Avondale.

BOARD OF PUBLC CHARITIES.

In accordance with an act of the last Legislature, a Board of Public Charities has been appointed, consisting of the tolhas been appointed, consisting of the for-lowing gentlemen, viz: Gen. Thomas L. Kane for five years; F. B. Penniman, Esq., four years; Hon. G. Dawson Coleman, three years; Goerge L. Harrison, Esq., two years; and generation one year. The toard organized by cheering Gen. Kane, Decider and the cheering Gen. Kane, President, and Hop. Wilmer Worthington. Secretary and General Agent. From the establishment of this board, and especially from the high character and qualifications of the gentlemen who have consented to assume its important trusts and responsibilities, we have reason to hope for the most beneficial results. This change in the man-agement of our charitable affairs is deemed of the highest importance by many persons intimately conversant with the work ings and management of these institutions. A thorough review of all the establish ments receiving appropriations from the State by this board, will give an assurance to the Legislature and the people, which they have never heretofore possessed, that their benefactions will be worthily bestowed

and properly employed. Some time during the present session, the board will present to the Legislature, a re port of the condition and requirements of the various inststutions that have been recipients from the State, with such recommendations as may be deemed necessary : and, therefore, no information concerning them, except the annual reports of the superintendents will at present be laid before 3'00.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Many prominent citizens have represented that there exists great necessity for a more complete geological and minerlogical survey of the State than now exists. There is no doubt but the developments

safety, but it was not found. They cried for of mineral wealth that would result from such a survey would be immense, and the beneficial returns to the State would many times more than reimburse the Treasury for the expenses attending it, including the printing of reports, maps, &c., sufficient for the information of the people.

Should the Legislature concur in these views, and pass a law authorizing such a survey, it will meet with Executive approval. INSPECTION OF GAS.

At the last session a law was passed erea ting the office of inspector of gas metres for the county of Allegheny ; and in accordance therewith, I have appointed an inspector possessing the necessary scientific qualifica

The necessity for such a law has been long and extensively felt, and it has been ear nestly demanded by a large number of high ly respectable citizens, whose opinions are eminently worthy of consideration. I therefore respectfully recommend that the just and equitable provisions of the Allegheny county law be extended to other counties in which gas is large'y consumed.

REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE.

The law on this subject does not coutent. plate a full report from the Commissioners to revive the general statutes of the State,

# munity. MILITARY.

preserved and perpetuated. During the last three years all the staff

officers rendered necessary by the war, and the different offices established for the convenience of the soldiers, have been discontinued, and the duties performed by them, which as well as the official books and papers, have been transferred to the Adjutant General's department. He is, therefore, the only military officer remaining, to whom recourse is constantly had for statistics and information, not only by the soldiers and their relatives and attorneys, but by other States and these circumstances, connected with the present flourishing condition of the volunteer