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BY M'CLURE & STONER.

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## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN: The past year has afforded us new cause of thankfulness to the Almighty for the moral and material blessings which he has bestowed upon us.

The balance in the Treasury November 30, 1862, was.....	\$2,172,844 10
Receipts during fiscal year ending November 30, 1863.....	4,289,451 65
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending November 30, 1863.....	6,462,295 75
The payments for the same period have been.....	4,314,964 05
Deficits in Treasury Nov. 30, 1863.....	\$2,147,331 70

The operations of the sinking fund during the last year have been shown by my Proclamation of the 8th day of September last, as follows:

Am't of debt Commonwealth reduced as follows, viz:	\$554,720 40
By the Loan Act May 4, '62 \$1,000,000 00	
Five per cent.....	790,718 50
Four and one-half per cent.....	63,000 00
Relief notes cancelled.....	963 00
Domestic creditors' certificates.....	13 00
Interest certificates paid.....	27 90
	\$554,720 40

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania as it stood on the 1st day of December, 1862.....	\$40,448,213 82
Deficit amount reduced at the Treasury during the fiscal year ending with November 30, 1863, viz:	
Five per cent stocks.....	\$388,493 78
Four and one-half per cent stocks.....	63,000 00
Relief notes.....	109 00
Domestic creditors' certificates.....	8 25
Cates.....	13 00
Interest certificates paid.....	27 90
	\$517,117 74

Public debt December 1, 1863.....	\$39,931,096 08
Funded debt, viz:	
Six per cent loans.....	\$400,000 00
Five per cent loans.....	\$5,790,968 45
Four per cent loans.....	289,200 00
	\$6,480,168 45

Unfunded debt, viz:	
Relief notes in circulation.....	\$97,251 00
Interest certificates outstanding.....	15,286 63
Interest certificates unclaimed.....	4,448 38
Domestic creditors' certificates.....	724 32
	\$117,780 33

Military Loan per Act of May 1, 1861.....	\$36,496,598 78
	3,000,000 00
Total indebtedness.....	\$39,496,598 78

By the act of 15th May, 1861 authorizing the military loan of \$3,000,000, a tax of one half mill was laid on real and personal property, to furnish a fund for redeeming the same. I recommend that the commissioners of the sinking fund be directed to invest the proceeds of the tax in State loan, so that it may be drawing interest, to be in like manner invested, or that they should apply such proceeds directly to the purchase of certificates of the military loan, and cancel such certificates as shall be purchased.

Although our finances are still in a healthy condition, it is necessary to invite the serious attention of the Legislature to the consideration of the means of maintaining them unimpaired in future.

By the act of 12th June, 1840, it was provided that the interest on the State loans should always be paid in specie or its equivalent, and that whenever the funds in the Treasury should be or less value than specie, the difference in value should be ascertained and certified to the Governor, who should thereupon issue his warrant to the agents or banks authorized to pay such interest on behalf of the Commonwealth, to allow such difference to parties receiving the interest, or at the option of the parties to pay the same in specie.

By the act of 11th April, 1862, it was provided that for the purpose of paying in specie or its equivalent, all interest that should thereafter be due by the Commonwealth as required by the act of 12th June, 1840, the several banks who should avail themselves of the provisions of that act, (of 11th April, 1862,) and who should refuse to redeem their notes in specie, on demand, at any time within ten days upon or after the time when such interest should become due, should thereafter, when required by the State Treasurer, by notice in writing, pay into the State Treasury, in proportion to the capital stock paid in of each bank, their ratable proportion of such premium for gold or its equivalent, as should have been actually paid by the State.

By the act of the 30th January, 1863, it was provided that the State Treasurer should exchange with the banks an amount of currency sufficient to pay the interest on the State debt falling due on the first days of February and August, 1863, for the same amount of coin, and should give to the banks specie certificates of exchange, not transferable, pledging the faith of the State to return said coin in exchange for notes current at the time, on or before the first Monday of March, 1864, such certificates to bear interest at the rate of 21 per cent per annum.

Under the provisions of the act of 1862, certain banks paid into the State Treasury \$140,768 39 as an equivalent for coin for the payment of interest on the public debt.

Under the act of 1863, specie certificates have been given to the banks, amounting in the whole to \$1,968,904 97, which with the accruing interest, will fall due on the first Monday of March next.

As the provisions of this act were of a temporary character, the only acts now in force on the subject are those of 1840 and 1862, above mentioned, under which it will be the duty of the State authorities to pay the interest on the 1st February, 1864, and thereafter, in coin or its equivalent, and look to the banks that may be liable under the act of 1862 for reimbursement of the premium paid by the Commonwealth.

In the face of all difficulties, this Commonwealth, actuated by a sentiment which does its people honor, has hitherto paid its interest in coin or its equivalent.

Existing circumstances make it necessary to consider now the fair extent of her just obligations.

The exigencies of the times have compelled the Government of the United States to issue large amounts of Treasury notes for circulation, which are not redeemable in coin, and which form the great mass of our circulating medium.

It is our duty as a loyal State—it is our interest as a State whose welfare, and even safety, depend emphatically upon the maintenance of the credit and the success of the military operations of the general government—to do nothing to impair its credit or embarrass its measures. On the contrary, we owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to give an active support to its efforts to quell the monstrous rebellion which is still raging,



Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX.

The Hon. Schuyler Colfax was born in the State of New York on the 23d of March, 1813. He is lineally descended from Gen. Schuyler and Capt. Colfax, of Revolutionary celebrity. A more honorable ancestry no one could desire. Of the early boyhood of Mr. Colfax we have no account, but that it gave promise of his future excellence there can be no doubt. All the subject education he received was obtained before he reached the age of ten years. With such meagre advantages it would scarcely be presumed that Mr. Colfax was now considered to have one of the best cultivated minds of any among our public men: yet such is the fact.

At the age of thirteen Mr. Colfax removed to the State of Indiana, where he entered a printing-office. It was while supporting himself by his labors in this capacity that he acquired the most of his education. In this respect the example of his great prototype, Benjamin Franklin, is scarcely more brilliant. The advantages which even an inferior position on a public journal give to industrious and aspiring youth, are shown in this case, as well as in many others of men who have occupied or now hold distinguished positions in our country.

At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Colfax became editor and proprietor of the South Bend Register, a political organ advocating the principles of the Whig party. A young man without means in early life except such as he was enabled to acquire by his own industry and energy, certainly must have possessed no small share of those qualifications to attain a position of such commanding influence at so early an age. In European countries we often hear of the precocity of certain men of genius who have startled the world by efforts in the way of poetry and other departments of literature at an early age. To obtain control of a, at that time, leading newspaper in the part of the country where it was published, and to have the ability to conduct it properly, are evidences of an unusual precocity of talent.

At this date the political life of our subject may be presumed to have commenced. His position was a very influential one, and he so discharged its duties as to secure universal esteem. Still he was compelled to labor assiduously, for the patronage of his journal was not very considerable. Yet his energy, his integrity and his temperate, even abstemious habits, added to his considerable natural and acquired gifts, caused his reputation rapidly to increase, and he was regarded by all who knew him as one destined to arrive at considerable distinction.

In the year 1848 Mr. Colfax, then twenty-five years of age, was sent as a delegate to the Whig National Convention. Of this body he was elected Secretary, a position of importance for one so young, and showing how far Mr. Colfax had even at that early age ingratiated himself into the favor of the people. In 1850 he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Indiana, and though but twenty-

seven years of age had no little influence in securing the preparation and adoption of the excellent Constitution of his State. In 1851 he was the candidate of the Whig party in his district for Representative to the National Congress. He was defeated by only 238 votes, though the minority of his party in the district was considered to be much greater. In 1852 he was again sent as a delegate to the Whig National Convention, of which also he was appointed Secretary.

In the year 1854, Mr. Colfax was elected to Congress, generally considered to have passed from the stage as a distinct political organization, and the Republican party had to some extent supplanted it. To the interest of this party Mr. Colfax devoted his political energies, and of its principles he was one of the earliest as he has been one of the most and most faithful supporters. From the year 1854 until the present date, Mr. Colfax has constantly occupied a seat in the National Councils. His Congressional career has made him well known to all intelligent Americans.

At the opening of the Thirty-fourth Congress occurred the memorable contest for the Speakership resulting in the election of N. Banks to that position. In this Congress Mr. Colfax took his stand as one of the most prominent of our parliamentary debaters. His speech upon the then all-absorbing topic of the extension of slavery and the aggressions of the slave power was a masterly effort,

and stamped him as one of our most effective Congressional orators. That speech was widely circulated all over the country, and was used as a campaign document by the Fremont party during the canvass of 1856. During that exciting campaign Mr. Colfax labored zealously for his particular personal friend, John C. Fremont. The result of that contest is well known, yet Mr. Colfax and his coadjutors had the satisfaction of witnessing the triumph of their principles in the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency in 1860.

In the Thirty-fifth Congress Mr. Colfax was elected to fill the important position of Chairman to the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads, and that place he continued to hold until his election to the Speakership. He has for some years acted as one of the Regents to the Smithsonian Institution.

On the 7th of December, 1863, Mr. Colfax was elected Speaker to the House of Representatives of the Thirty-eighth Congress. He was elected on the first ballot, and by a vote of 101 to 81.

Though occupying a position scarcely second to any in this country, excepting that of the President of the United States, Mr. Colfax is only forty years of age. In personal appearance he is rather below the medium height, his dark hair and whiskers a little tinged with grey. He has a quick, flashing eye, and countenance pleasing and intellectually expressive. His person is graceful, and his manner denotes unusual energy.

At the present rate of premium on gold the sum necessary to pay on an amount sufficient to discharge the annual interest on the State debt, would be more than \$1,000,000, and to meet this, additional taxation to that extent would be unavoidable. The demands on the Treasury for other necessary purposes must probably be such as to render it imprudent to throw any part of this expenditure on the existing surplus. To borrow money from year to year to pay the interest on past loans would, of course, be wholly inadmissible. To leave the act of 1862 in force, and attempt to throw the payment of this large premium annually on the banks, would be not only flagrantly unjust, but quite impracticable. I recommend the whole subject to the careful and immediate consideration of the Legislature. Some legislation ought to be had on it before the close of the present month. In my opinion the Commonwealth will have fulfilled her obligations by providing for the payment of her interest in the currency of the Government. If the Legislature should think fit to continue to pay it in coin, it will be their duty to levy forthwith the heavy taxes necessary for that purpose. I must in passing observe that the plan adopted by one of the States of paying coin to foreign, and currency to domestic loan holders, appears to me to be wholly unwise, and founded on no legitimate principle.

At the close of the last session, nineteen bills renewing the charters of certain banks for another period of five years were presented to me. Of these I have (for reasons which will be hereafter communicated,) withheld my signature from one and approved the remainder. I have been led to sign them by the considerations that the banks of the Commonwealth pay a large revenue which the State can ill afford to lose, and that in the present condition of the country it would be impolitic to drive so much capital

out of active use or force it into new employments.

If the National Banking system afford sufficient inducements, capital will voluntarily take that direction. It is proper to observe that the charters of most of the banks in question expire at an early period, while in consequence of the invasion of the State, they have not last summer, they could not have been reasonably expected to give the necessary notice of renewed applications for recharter.

I recommend an extension of the time during which the banks are now relieved from penalties for not paying their obligations in coin.

The increased expenses of living invite attention to the salaries of our public officers. Those of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Auditor General and State Treasurer, and of the Clerks in their employment are, in my opinion, too low, especially as the exigencies of the time have greatly enhanced the labors and responsibilities of all, and in the case of the heads of those departments, enforce a constant attendance at Harrisburg, which was not formerly required.

Under the Act of 16th April, 1862, and its supplement passed 22d April, 1863, the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and Commissary General have been acting as the Board of Military Claims. They have, up to this time, approved claims to the amount of \$166,415 81, and others have been already presented to the further amount of \$322,120 29, which have not yet been acted on.

Under the Act of 22d April, 1863, (P. L. 523,) the Court of Common Pleas, appointed three appraisers to ascertain the damage done in the counties on the Southern border by the militia called into service in September, 1862, by the Anderson Cavalry in the same month, and by the rebels in their raid on the 10th and 11th October, 1862.

The appraisers have not yet completed the performance of their duties. When their

report shall have been made to the Court of Common Pleas and affirmed, in whole or in part, by that court, it will be the duty of the Governor to claim the payment of the amounts from the General Government, and on failure to secure the same, then to report to the next Legislature recommending such action as he may deem just and proper.

The expenses of the Transportation and Telegraph Department during the past year have been as follows:

Paid out of appropriation made by Military Loan act of 1861.....	\$13,638 87
Unpaid (the appropriation being exhausted).....	15,764 79
Outstanding liabilities, estimated at.....	5,000 00
	\$34,423 66

These expenses have been mainly incurred in keeping up the necessary correspondence of the military departments and in the transportation of sick and wounded and the dead bodies of our volunteers, as will be seen by the report of the Chief of Transportation, herewith communicated. I recommend an appropriation to meet the deficiency, and also to carry on the service of this department hereafter.

By the thirteenth section of the act of the 15th May, 1861, the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated to be expended by the Governor for the compensation of such persons as he might require to serve the Commonwealth in the military organization of the State or the General Government, and for the expenses incident to the business in which they might be employed.

I have, according to law, settled annual accounts of the expenditure of this fund in the Auditor General's office, to which the Legislature is referred. The unexpended balance is now \$4,521 98. A further sum should be appropriated in like manner. Out of this fund I have paid the persons whom I found it necessary to employ in the military department, and the expenses of the agency which I was compelled to establish at

Washington to attend to the interest and welfare of our volunteers. The continuance of this agency and the establishment of a similar one in the West are of vital importance to them. I recommend the passage of an act authorizing the appointment of agents at Washington and Nashville, and defining their duties, which should include the collection of all bounties, back pay, pensions, etc., due to Pennsylvanians.

On this subject I refer the Legislature to the report of Colonel R. Biddle Roberts, late Agent of the State, at Washington, herewith communicated and commend it to your careful examination.

On the invasion of the State during the last summer, the President made a call for militia, and with his assent I subsequently made a call for volunteer militia for the defence of the State. Under these calls men were assembled and organized with promptness, after the reality of the emergency came to be understood by our people. The General Government clothed, and subsisted, this force, and agreed to pay it, but as no appropriation for that purpose had been made by Congress, the President and Secretary of War promised if the money should be advanced from other quarters to recommend its immediate repayment on the meeting of Congress. It is understood that steps have been already taken to fulfil this pledge. Several of the banks cheerfully and readily advanced the necessary funds to the amount of \$171,476 43, on my promise to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation to repay them in case Congress should fail to make one. I see a fittingly make that recommendation most emphatically. Should it be necessary, I will hereafter, in a special message, give the details and correspondence relating to this subject.

New York and New Jersey, under the President's call, sent regiments to assist in our defence, for which our thanks are due to those States, our good neighbors.

After the battle of Gettysburg, in which loyal volunteers from eighteen States, including Pennsylvania, were engaged, it appeared to me proper that all those States should unite in establishing a cemetery on the spot, in which their soldiers who had fallen in that conflict should be honorably interred. I accordingly appointed David Wills, Esq., of Gettysburg, my agent, and through him a site was purchased at a cost of \$2,475 87, and the conveyances made to the Commonwealth. On communicating with the authorities of the other States, they all readily agreed to become parties to the arrangement and on the 19th day of November last, the cemetery was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of the President of the United States, the Governors of the States concerned, and other high officers, State and National. On the 19th day of December, on the invitation of Mr. Wills, commissioners representing the States interested in the cemetery, met in Harrisburg and agreed upon a plan for its improvement and care in the future, and the apportionment of the sum of money required, to the several States, which is herewith communicated. The expenses attending the establishment of this cemetery, including the cost of the site and of removing the bodies of the slain, have thus far amounted to \$6,209 38, and an appropriation will be required to pay these expenses, and to meet our portion of those attending its future maintenance. It will appear by the proceedings of the commissioners already incurred are to be refunded by the States on whose account they were made. It is just to say that Mr. Wills has discharged his delicate and important duties with fidelity and to my entire satisfaction.

The act for the relief of families of volunteers in service, as they require some revision. It is alleged that in some parts of the State the county authorities are backward in executing the law. If this be so, the members from the different counties will be aware of the fact, and will be most ready to make such further enactments as may be proper.

I commend to the prompt attention of the Legislature the subject of the relief of poor orphans of our soldiers who have given, or shall give their lives to the country during this crisis. In my opinion, their maintenance and education should be provided for by the State. Failing other natural friends of ability to provide for them, they should be honorably received and fostered as children of the Commonwealth. The \$50,000 heretofore given by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, referred to in my last annual message, is still unappropriated, and I recommend that this sum, with such other means as the Legislature may think fit, be applied to this end, in such manner as may be thought most expedient and effective. In anticipation of the adoption of a more perfect system, I recommend that provision be made for securing the admission of such children into existing educational establishments, to be there clothed, nurtured and instructed at the public expense. I make this recommendation earnestly, feeling assured that in doing so, I represent the wishes of the patriotic, the benevolent and the good of the State.

I invite the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the loyal people of East Tennessee, which is reported to be most deplorable, and appeals with irresistible force alike to your sympathies and your sense of justice. Their whole country has been laid waste by the contending armies of the Government and the rebels. Four times larger armies have passed over that district, destroying or carrying off all that had been gathered for the approaching winter, and now the women and children are left in a state of destitution.

The representations made by sundry gentlemen of the highest respectability, from that State, are of the most heart-rending character. Starvation, actual and present, now exist. Can we, in the midst of affluent abundance, for a moment hesitate as to what our action shall be towards the people whose only crime has been their loyalty and devotion to the Government? Even if a portion of our charity should reach the starving families of those in sympathy with the rebellion, better it should, than that these devoted, self-sacrificing people who have so unhesitatingly adhered to the Government be left to suffer. Whenever pestilence and famine distressed the people of any portion of our country, we have always been foremost in relieving them, and the people of Pennsylvania have extended their open-handed benevolence and broad charity to the starving people of foreign countries. Shall it be said that the appeals of these people for bread fall upon the heart of Pennsylvania in vain, and that we who have so recently given thanks for our abundance have no relief for them in

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