

MESSAGE

GOVERNOR PORTER.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania.

Fellow-Citizens:—The term to which my eligibility, as the Chief Executive officer of the Commonwealth, is restricted by the Constitution, being about to close, I submit to the Legislature, the last annual message which the duty of my station enjoins upon me. In the performance of this duty, I cannot refrain from invoking your devout acknowledgments, with my own, to the Great Author of All Good, for His constant care and guardianship over the interests and welfare of our beloved Commonwealth. Upheld by His paternal arm, we have been rescued from the most distressing embarrassments and difficulties to which, in a time of peace, any people were ever subjected. Good has sprung out of evil—safety from danger—wisdom from folly—and justice from a spirit of unmerciful detraction. The clouds that for several years past, have hung upon our horizon, are breaking away; and the sunshine of prosperity once more begins to beam upon our path.

The Governor then proceeds to say, that for the last ten years preceding his administration, Pennsylvania had no difficulty in procuring loans of any amount. Then refers to the difficulties that were brought about by an extension of the banking privilege, and states that more than two-thirds of which was wound up and suspended.

The amount paid for unproductive improvements, the Governor estimates at \$9,000,000, and says that not a single dollar has been paid under his administration, for new works.

Shortly after I assumed the Executive duties of the State, I became satisfied that the procrastination of the evil day, when reformation was demanded by the most imperative obligation of duty, could no longer be indulged. Painful as was the alternative, I felt how deeply the honor of the State was involved, and recommended the imposition of a tax which should supply an adequate fund to discharge the interest on the public debt, committing the details to the Legislature. This recommendation I reiterated, in the most earnest manner, and ultimately it received the sanction of the Legislature.

The assessment under the laws, imposing a tax on real and personal property, and the amount paid into the Treasury, are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Amount of tax assessed for (years 1811-1814) and Whole amount assessed for the past four years (\$3,013,724.12). Includes sub-tables for amount received in 1811-1814 and leaving an amount of tax out-standing on the 1st of Dec. last.

subject to exonerations, commissions, &c., which may be estimated at ten per cent.—The balance, it is fair to presume, will be made available the current year. Of the \$751,210.00 paid into the Treasury during the past fiscal year, only \$143,000.00 was received from the tax assessed for 1844, leaving outstanding, for that year alone, over \$600,000.00. The receipts from this source, for the present year, may, therefore, be estimated at about \$1,200,000.00.

The acts which are now in force, provide for the imposition of a tax, which, taking the valuation for 1844, of the real and personal property as a basis, will annually amount to the sum of \$1,453,000.—That valuation, it may be remarked, was considerably below that of 1842. If, therefore, the provisions of the act of 1844 be fairly carried into effect, in the valuation of property, and the collection and prompt payment of the tax, be enforced, the annual revenue hereafter to be derived from that source, will amount to at least \$1,500,000. This sum, with the other resources of the Commonwealth, will be entirely adequate to furnish the necessary amount to discharge the interest upon the public debt, and thus ensure the fidelity of the State to her engagements.

Without expressing the opinion that the details of these laws are, in all their minute particulars, the most equal and just, in the objects selected for taxation, and the rates imposed, I will remark, that they seem to be substantially conformable to public opinion. There is a defect in providing for the punctual enforcement of the laws imposing and collecting the taxes, and I beg leave to recommend, to the consideration of the Legislature, the adoption of some more efficient mode of attaining this end. This might be done by inflicting penalties on the collectors, or other officers, found delinquent in the discharge of their duties. That class of individuals is as little entitled to indulgence or sympathy as any others engaged in the execution of the laws.

The entire amount of the public debt at this time is: Funded debt, 6 per cent stocks, \$5,370,916.21; 5 per cent, \$4,721,634.36; 4 1/2 per cent, 200,000.00; \$10,292,550.57.

Loan (relief issue) per act of May 4, 1841, bearing an interest of one per cent, \$1,175,000.00; six, 171,636.00; five, 91,512.00.

Amount in circulation, \$1,438,178.00; Balance due domestic creditors, on certificates issued by Aud. Gen., 101,581.93; Amounting to the sum of \$10,835,013.60.

The increase in the State Debt, since I assumed the duties of the Executive chair, may be properly understood, when it is stated that the interest which has accrued thereon, since that period, amounts to \$10,292,186.00. The amount of interest guaranteed to private corporations, to 111,540.00. And the amount of appropriations towards the completion of unfinished lines of public improvements, commenced prior to that time, about 4,500,000.00. Amounting to \$15,000,526.00.

The annual interest on the funded debt of the State, payable at the Bank of Pennsylvania, exclusive of interest on certificates issued for interest, \$1,747,480.12, falling due respectively on the 1st of February and August, of which the sum of \$873,515.00, is payable on the first day of February next. It should be determined to pay the interest on the interest on the 1st of February, then the further sum of \$97,860.84, will be required.

The receipts into the Treasury during the fiscal year, ending on the 30th November last, including a small available balance from the previous year, were \$5,111,237.03. The expenditures for the same period, including the amount of relief notes cancelled, were 1,847,285.15. Leaving a balance in the Treasury on that day, of \$663,851.88. There was also an available balance in the Canal Treasury, on the same day, of 39,497.00. Receipts during the month of December, exclusive of disbursements, were 139,681.23. To which may be added the receipts over expenditures, for the present month, estimated at 120,000.00. Making the amount in the Treasury on the 1st of February, about \$903,029.11.

This balance embraces the sum of \$30,000.00 of relief notes, which the State Treasurer withheld from circulation on the 31st of December, and which, if needed, may be applied by the Legislature to the payment of interest on the public debt. From the facts here presented, it is evident that the Commonwealth will be prepared to meet her interest falling due on the 1st of February. Attempts, it is true, have been made to create doubts in the public mind in relation to the propriety of paying the interest on that day, least there should be a deficiency in the Treasury, on the 1st of August. But it must be perfectly evident that the Treasury will be in ample funds, not only on the first of August next, but also on the first of February 1845. And the very fact that the interest is paid on the first of February next, will increase the means and credit of the State to meet its interest in August, and afterwards, when it falls due. While, on the other hand, if when it is estimated that enough money to discharge the interest on the 1st of February, is in the Treasury, applicable to that object, and it is not so applied, with much appearance of justice, subject ourselves to the reproach of our traders, as willfully dishonest, and regardless of the faith and honor of the State. With an exhausted Treasury and tarnished credit, we could plead our necessities in extension of our violation of contracts; but what shadow of excuse could be offered when this necessity has ceased to exist? None, whatever, that good old-fashioned integrity does not brand as disgraceful, and unworthy our character as a sovereign State.

It must be gratifying to every Pennsylvanian to reflect that the credit of this great State, which has been, for upwards of two years, subjected to reproach, will thus be restored to the unsullied purity of character which, until this unavoidable reverse of fortune, she had steadfastly maintained. The claims of all her honest creditors will be punctually discharged, and the gross imputations which have been heaped upon her name wiped out, and the abiding confidence which we have ever felt in the disposition and ability of the State to comply with all her engagements, will be fully realized.

The report of the Canal Commissioners will present to you, in detail, the operations on the public improvements, for the past year. The total collected in 1844, amounts to \$1,167,003.42, being an increase over 1843 of \$172,199.10. The collections for the year exceed the expenditures the sum of \$629,458.82.

The report of the State Treasurer will explain, in detail, our financial condition. That officer estimates the receipts at the Treasury, for the current fiscal year ending 30th November, 1845, at \$3,005,000.00.

To which add balance in Treasury, on 30th November last, \$663,851.88. Also, the amount in Canal Treasury, on the same day, 39,497.00. \$3,038,348.88.

Making a total of \$3,708,348.88. He also estimates the expenditures of the Commonwealth, for the same period, including interest on public debt, at 3,061,013.56.

Leaving a balance in Treasury on 30th November, 1845, of \$647,335.32.

There is, therefore, no manner of doubt that, henceforth, the State will be able to meet, not only the interest on her public debt, but all her other engagements of every description; the taxes now imposed by law, (if their collection and payment into the Treasury be strictly enforced), and the proceeds of the public improvements, with other sources of revenue, constituting a fund amply sufficient for that purpose.

Returning to the history of the past six years, what a satisfactory answer does it furnish to the objections of the enemies of Republican Government, against its stability and its honor. Oppressed by personal embarrassments—weighed down by public liabilities—reproached for not doing what the most manful struggles were unable to accomplish, the people of Pennsylvania have still borne themselves steadily in the darkest hour, have submitted to taxation, grievous at all times, and particularly so in convulsions of business, and have at last reached the solid footing which public integrity and public fidelity in the end never fail to attain. The difficulties and embarrassments attending this struggle, will hardly be credited by those who have not shared them; and, I confess, it will ever be to me a source of proud satisfaction to compare the condition of the State, when the helm of Government was put into my hands, with its condition, when I surrender it into the hands of my successor. I say not this to reproach those who preceded, nor to diminish the just credit of those who succeeded me; but as an act of sheer justice to all who embarked with me in the gloomy and perilous voyage we have run since the 15th of January, 1839. It can hardly be possible for such a season of trial ever to occur again; but if unhappily it should, I trust those who are called upon to encounter it, will find something in our example to cheer and enliven them to persevere in the discharge of their duty.

Having thus disposed of the financial concerns of the State, for the last few years, a subject of the deepest solicitude, I shall proceed to submit to you a few special recommendations; for, at the present time, I deem it no more than an act of respectful courtesy to my successor, to leave entirely in his hands those recommendations of a general nature, which are usually expected to emanate from the Executive Department. There are a few topics, however, upon which I feel it to be my duty to offer some suggestions for your considerations. The unexampled commotion and disturbance that recently prevailed in the business concerns of the country, have, in a great degree, subsided, and left us in a state to survey the field of disaster with a calm and experienced eye. The throes and convulsions of the banking system, for a time, menaced all those institutions, with speedy downfall; but most of them have now

outrode the storm. No man could witness the existing state of things, without feeling convinced that this system was essentially vicious, and needed effectual reform.

To make banks useful without depriving them of their power to do good,—to restrain them within their proper sphere, by rigid regulations is an object at which, I think, all intelligent and honest legislation should aim. In this opinion, I presume, there will be no discordance whatever, among well informed men.

The Governor also refers to the late riots in Philadelphia, and states that he was twice compelled to call to his aid the military, in suppressing these outbreaks. He speaks in terms of high commendation of the citizen soldiers, and urges the Legislature to make them some remuneration for their services.

Although the system of imprisonment adopted by Pennsylvania, some years ago, at the establishment of her Penitentiaries, has been justly regarded as the most admirable to be found among all nations, yet there is one department which remains to be provided for, that of establishing, in connection with each of our State Penitentiaries, a department for the charge of the insane inmates. There have been almost every year, since I have been Governor of the Commonwealth, some unfortunate persons confined in the Penitentiary, of this description, who, either were partially insane when committed, or became so afterwards. As the law now stands, there is no remedy for these cases, but to pardon them, or confine them in the same manner as other criminals are confined. Both these modes are often times wrong, and I respectfully urge it upon your consideration to make some provision for redressing the evil in future.

The State debt now consists of thirty seven distinct loans, for each of which, a separate set of books must be kept in the loan office of the Commonwealth. Constant divisions, subdivisions, and transfers of stock, are taking place, and the whole system is becoming daily more laborious and complicated. I recommend an inquiry into the subject, and, if practicable, the consolidation of these loans into some uniform system.

The Governor then speaks of the carelessness in transcribing Bills.—The furnishing the Executive Chamber.—The public grounds at the Capitol, and recommends an appropriation to the Cumberland Valley Bridge.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, will acquaint you with the progress and condition of these institutions during the year, together with his views respecting the improvement of the school system, and the means to be adopted for that purpose. It is highly essential to the success of our system of education, that the appropriation from the State should be fixed and permanent. Uncertainty in this respect, is attended with deleterious consequences, and productive of derangement in the practical operations of the system. Whatever is calculated to promote the cause of popular education, is worthy your most serious and earnest attention.—On it depends, in an eminent degree, the honor of our Commonwealth, the distinction and happiness of her citizens, and the perfection and perpetuity of our political institutions.

The report of the Adjutant General will be submitted to you, and will exhibit particulars in relation to the militia system. During the last session of the Legislature, an act was passed to reduce the expenses of the militia system, and provide a more rigid mode for the collection of militia fines. The provisions of this act are found to be highly beneficial in their operation, and it is believed, will enable the system to sustain itself without having recourse, as heretofore, to the Treasury of the State for aid. The amount of fines assessed the last year, for non-performance of militia duty, is more than sufficient to defray the expenses of the same. The brief period from the enactment of the law, until the collectors were required to accomplish their duties under it, was not sufficient for them to complete their collections. The outstanding fines of the past year however, may be collected with those of the present, and thus a sum obtained sufficient to meet the expenses of both.

I cannot too strongly recommend to your care and encouragement, the volunteer troops of our Commonwealth. They will lose nothing when compared with the troops of this or any other country. Their courage and efficiency as soldiers have been tested and established, and they have deservedly become favorites with the people. In cases of exigency, we must chiefly depend upon them to protect from injury and destruction our individual property, our national honor, and our political liberties.

In my last annual message I informed the Legislature that in pursuance of the act of the 7th of March, 1843, a charter had been issued to the Erie Canal Company, and possession given to that portion of the public improvements from the town of New Castle, to the harbor at Erie. On the 18th of December last, the necessary proof having been had before me, that the work had been completed, and was in actual use for the transportation of merchandise throughout its whole length, I directed, in conformity with the terms of the act, notice to be given to the superintendent of the line, to deliver the company possession of the Beaver River to New Castle.

The Governor also refers to the act giving the public printing to the lowest bidder, as being a great saving to the Commonwealth. Before I conclude this communication, I will call your attention to a subject in which, I believe the State of Pennsylvania has a deeper stake than in any other now pending, or likely to be brought, either before her own Legislature or the Legislature of the Union. I refer to the maintenance, in all substantial points, of the existing revenue laws of the Union, more generally known as the tariff laws. The great variety and complexity of interests in the different quarters of the Union, render the adjustment of any tariff system, an extremely difficult and delicate undertaking. Could the people of every section of the Union, survey the entire circle of national interests, with a perfectly cool and unprejudiced eye, this difficulty and delicacy would almost entirely vanish. But while certain sections of the Union are wedded to certain notions, without regard to their foundation in reason and in truth, it will be almost impossible to expect from any body of men, assembled in Congress, a perfectly free and unprejudiced examination of this exciting question. We must deal with men and things, as we find them, and not as we would desire to have them. In a conflict where prejudice and self-interest bias the judgment, it behoves the representatives of every section, while they yield a due regard to the claims of others, to stand firmly by their own. I have, from year to year, in addressing communications to the Legislature, referred to this subject, not so much for the pur-

pose of inducing action in the National Legislature, as to keep it before the citizens of the Commonwealth, to familiarize it in their minds, and to prepare them to unite in maintaining their own interests. I was assured when I first took this high ground in defence of the welfare of Pennsylvania, from various quarters, and denounced for advocating doctrines to which the majority of the people of this State were asserted to be opposed; but, regardless of these idle and futile assaults, I have reiterated the same sentiments, and have the satisfaction of knowing that, in the recent Presidential election, in which the tariff was believed to be involved, both political parties, nearly to a man, assumed the same positions I had taken, and advocated the same doctrines which I had endeavored to enforce upon the consideration of the Legislature. I advert to this matter now, not so much to justify myself, as to prove, whatever has been alleged to the contrary, that there is but one party on this question in Pennsylvania, and that party is nearly the entire mass of her citizens. I hazard nothing in asserting that neither of the Presidential candidates could have voted in this State, had not his claims been based upon the assurance that he was friendly to the continuance of the present tariff laws, substantially as they stand.

The iron and coal interests in this State great as they have been considered to be, are yet in their infancy. Deposits of these minerals, scattered throughout almost every hill and valley in the Commonwealth, are exhausted, and are so peculiarly distributed in all quarters, as to create a direct interest on the part of nearly every citizen, in the development and encouragement of every system of policy which can refer them available. The owners of the lands in which they are embedded, the agriculturists who furnish the workmen with their supplies, the merchants, mechanics and artisans of all descriptions, look to these resources ultimately, as the great fountain from which State and individual prosperity must be derived. Here, it is believed, must be founded and sustained the great counterpoise to foreign importations of all species of iron, raw and manufactured, with which the whole American people are supplied. Here, too, is to be found a deposit of fuel for the family use of the poor, as well as for the more extensive use in the manufacturing purposes of the rich. Possessing such advantages, how can any rational man consent to relinquish and forego them, to gratify the caprices of those who certainly mistake their own, and are incapable of appreciating the interests of others? We seek no unreasonable prohibitions; We ask not the protection of the government at the expense of the rights of our sister States, but we do ask, and we think we have a right to ask, that the system of encouraging and protecting the domestic iron and coal industry, which was laid in the act of Congress of 18th June, 1790, should not be abandoned; without some more substantial reason than the empty notions of visionary theorists. We believe that the tariff law of 1842, now in force, making reasonable allowance for inaccuracy, and inconsistency in its minute details, is founded in a spirit of compromise and fair dealing, equally just to the great national interests of the different sections of the Union. To disturb it now, except to corrupt its minor details, is to unsettle the whole system, to weaken its stability, and to destroy the confidence, at home and abroad, in the wisdom and consistency of the National Government, and to break down, now and forever, all hope of competing with foreign rivalry in the interests to which this law extends some cherishing protection. The great interests of Pennsylvania do not ask additional protection, or for new safeguards; but, small as the discriminations are in their behalf, to let them remain as they are, with a certainty they shall not be changed without substantial reasons, and the concurrence of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

There seems to be a disposition among some members of the National Legislature to interfere with this subject, and I think the present a proper occasion for the Legislature of Pennsylvania to speak out in decided terms, and announce to those who represent the people of this great Commonwealth in the councils of the Nation, what course it is expected by their constituents they will pursue. If the issue is to be distinctly made between the coal and iron interests of Pennsylvania, and those of foreign nations, the sooner it is known the better; and I trust who never such an issue is to be determined, every citizen of Pennsylvania, whether in office or out of office, will be found on the side of his country. For my own part, in such an emergency I shall not hesitate in resolving to take my stand on the same side where I have always been found, whenever this subject has been agitated.

It will afford me pleasure during the few remaining days of my administration, to cooperate with you in the adoption of any measures, which we mutually believe to be conducive to the public good. I do not doubt that we shall fully harmonize in opinion on this subject. I have had frequent occasion to employ the veto power entrusted to the Executive, by the constitution, to arrest the success of measures which appeared to me fraught with evil; but, I have, on no occasion, resorted to this great power of preservation, until all other hope of rescue had failed. In such emergencies, I have appealed to it without scruple or reservation, and I have yet to learn that the acts defeated by its operation have been regretted by the people. Confidantes to thwart Executive recommendations; combinations to promote particular personal or political interests, have, it is true, eluded my motives to me, which existed only in the imaginations of those whose objects were frustrated; but the vast body of the enlightened community has looked on, not only without murmuring but with unequivocal commendation. I find abundant reason to be satisfied in this manifestation of popular opinion.

I retire from the cares and solicitude of office, with feelings of no ordinary satisfaction, and with a heart grateful to the honest and intelligent yeomanry of my native State, for the cordial and unflinching support which they have given me, in the midst of the worst difficulties it has been my fortune to encounter. On this support, I have steadfastly relied, as the guarantee that, come what might, Pennsylvania would speedily regain the confidence she had lost—to prove to the world, the falsity of the reproach heaped on her integrity, and rise with renewed vigor, to run her race, from the temporary depression that had borne her down. My confidence has been realized; the day of her redemption is at hand, and every true-hearted Pennsylvanian must rejoice, to see her proud escutcheon purified from the only stain that had ever defaced it, since the landing of her founder upon the shores of the Delaware.

DAVID R. PORTER. EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, January 8, 1845.



V. B. FLETCHER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising. Also at his Office No. 160 Nassau Street, New York.

The Governor's Message, which arrived at a late hour, together with our professional engagements at Court, prevents us from furnishing our readers with the usual amount of editorial this week.

Our Courts commenced on Monday last. A larger number of persons were in attendance than we have seen for some time. A good deal of criminal business was despatched, which will probably account for the crowd in attendance the first few days.

The Legislature met on Tuesday, and elected Findlay Patterson Speaker of the House. Mr. Wilcox has been elected Speaker of the Senate.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—We lay before our readers, this week, the Governor's message, with the exception of a few of the least important parts, which we have condensed. The message is an able document, firm, dignified and decided in its tone. The Governor rears with feelings of honest pride and exultation, when contrasting the present condition of our beloved Commonwealth with her condition but two years since, when her energies were crippled and her credit almost entirely prostrated. Every true Pennsylvanian will respond to the doctrines of the message, and feel proud of the position of the Keystone State.

There is nothing of importance going on in Congress, at present, excepting the Texas question, which seems to absorb every thing else. There is no saying yet in what shape the bill will be passed, if passed at all. The South will contend for slavery in the new states to be formed, whilst the North and North-west will oppose annexation upon any such terms. There have been several caucus meetings upon the subject, which has resulted in nothing definite.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Michael Noidig, of Augusta township, on Friday night last, was found in the road about four miles from town, with his leg and arm broke. He was taken home and died shortly after, from his injuries. He had been in town with his wagon and horses. The horses were on the road home, without a driver, which led to a search and his discovery in the condition above described. He stated that he had fallen out, and was so much injured that he was not able to move.

HE CAN'T DO IT.—Col. Polk has written a letter, which is published in the Hagerstown Md., "Mail," stating his inability to avail himself of the host of kind invitations tendered him to festivals given in celebration of his election. He says that necessary and pressing duties will detain him at home until the early part of February next, which detention will require him to proceed by the most direct route—occupying the shortest time—to Washington city. He will most probably cross the mountains, overland from Wheeling and by railway from Cumberland direct to Washington.

The Commissioners appointed by the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas to act with the State Treasurer to constitute a Board of Commissioners to adjust the State Tax in the several counties of the Commonwealth, meet at Harrisburg for that purpose on the 18th of February next.

The Eagle Iron Works and landed estate in Berks county, recently purchased by Gov. Porter, Pratt & Son, have been sold by them to the Messrs. M. & H. Robinson, of Manada Furnace, at the price they gave: the former purchasers reserving for themselves the privilege in the Cornwall Ore Bed.

GOVERNOR DORR.—The Providence Journal says the Committee to whom the petitions for Dorrs release have been referred, will report favorably, and that the General Assembly will pass an act liberating Thos. W. Dorrs, upon his taking the oath of allegiance to the State, and not even requiring of him to petition himself for this act of clemency.

FOR THE AMERICAN. The Midnight Sky. I love well to gaze on the midnight sky, When the brilliant stars are shining; For it soothes in my breast the rising sigh And banishes all repining. For they stilly tell, To my troubled soul, Of the joys of the spirit come on high. In each star, I see, that's sparkling there, A blest spirit's happy dwelling; Whence it turns to earth from its blissful prayer With highest ecstasy dwelling. At the prospect bright, Of the glorious works, Achieved by its own heaven-guided care. Amidst you bright cluster there sparkles one, Whence is beaming a mother's eye; To life's thickest strife, it bids me pass on With steered heart and purpose high; To fix my first goal, On yonder bright orb, And never to pause till that goal is won. Sumbury, 1844. H. C.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1845. Mr. Cushing reached here yesterday, and was granted immediate interviews with the President and Secretary of State, though it was the regular day for Cabinet Council. The information which he brings is not only interesting, so far as the knowledge goes, that a satisfactory official intercourse has been established between China and this Government, but for the more substantial reason, that the basis of commercial relations has been established, of vaster and more permanent consequence to the trade and enterprise of our country, than any consummated within the last five and twenty years. Apart from the treaty stipulations, which place our commerce upon a preferred footing over that of other nations, there is a very important consideration, in the good understanding that has been effected through the medium of the respective authorities, calculated to strengthen future connections, and to give us large influence in a market of unlimited capacity to consume and of adequate resources to pay.

This visit of Mr. Cushing, with the facts which he will communicate to the Senate, will have the effect of expediting action upon the Treaty, which has been suspended, partially, in contemplation of this arrival.

Sufficient inducement, it is presumed, will also be held out to Congress to warrant the creation of a permanent mission in China for the purpose of extending our diplomatic connections with her, and insuring a sufficient protection to American trade, against the combinations or intrigues of competing powers. Indeed, this idea is deserving of very mature deliberation, and should be met in a liberal spirit by Congress.

Mr. Blair, of the Globe, who was fortunate enough to pocket some \$31,000 of Whig investments, on the result of the Presidential election, has no idea of disposing of his winnings according to the good-natured suggestions of the world at large. Like many others, he is of opinion that "charity begins at home," and inasmuch as he was most inconveniently *manus* something more than a trifle in 1840, he has very wisely concluded to apply this as a plaster to the wounds of the former campaign.

In this quarter it is thought that Col. W. H. Polk will officiate as Confidential Secretary to his brother, the President, instead of Mr. Harris, whom you have "rumored" into the office. Mr. H. is the editor of the *Nashville Union*, and as I stated three weeks ago, will accompany Mr. Polk to Washington, and very likely be assigned to the editorial chair of the official paper, which has not been selected from the democratic journals now in existence here, and may be established entirely independent of either or by the purchase of one of them. Semi-official propositions were submitted some time ago for buying out the *Madisonian*, which were not acted upon and have not since been renewed.

Several of the nominations now pending before the Senate will be allowed to expire by adjournment, which would entitle the new President either to re-nominate the same persons or to make such selections as would be more conformable to the views of those upon whom he will rely for advice. This movement emanates from the democratic side of the Senate, which is unwilling to *reject* some of the nominees, and yet more unwilling to embarrass Mr. Polk, by foisting upon his appointments that, to a certain degree, might be exceptional. No direct violence or indignity is offered to any individual, by allowing his nomination to "hang up," as it is technically termed until the dissolution of the Senate, for it is supposed that if the party possess enough influence to recommend them to continuance in office, it would as equally apply to re-appointment.—*Cor. of the Phil. Ledger.*

TRIAL OF BISHOP OSWALDORP, of N. YORK.—The New York True Sun, of Saturday morning publishes a statement, presumed to be accurate and reliable, in relation to the closing scene of the trial.

"The counsel summed up at some length. Mr. Graham for the defence, occupied upwards of hours; Mr. Ketchum, for the prosecuting bishops about three; Mr. Ogden about an hour and half. The arguments for the defence were of general character, rather aimed at the intent objects of the prosecution than being a defence of the accused or an assault upon the witnesses.

When the vote was taken on Thursday morning, it appeared that on most of the charges I stood 11 to 6. On one of them it was 12 to 5 and if the prosecuting bishops had been allowed to vote, it would have increased the majority more.

The decision of guilty having been thus given yesterday morning, the Convention met again to consider the sentence which should then be declared. The vote on deposing stood 8 affirmative, 9 negative. On suspension, it was 9 to 4. A question was then raised, whether this was temporary or permanent disability. A long discussion took place, when a member declared that if an indefinite suspension was not submitted to, he would, on a re-consideration, vote a once in favor of immediate degradation.

The friends of Bishop Oswaldorok then agreed as we understand, to submit to a decision similar to that made on his brother's case in Pennsylvania, which is no more or less than an indefinite suspension from the ministerial and Episcopal functions.

The church is now without a Bishop, and there is no appeal from the sentence passed.

The Diocese is by the canons in the hands of a standing committee, consisting of four clergy and four of the laity, styled the "Ecclesiastical authority of the church." It is for them to call a Convention, and to act in all general matters until a new bishop is chosen. It will be also their duty to communicate the sentence to the clergy of the diocese, who will be required to read it from their pulpits to their respective congregations. The convention adjourned yesterday afternoon.

We understand that the Rev. Lewis Trapiar, of South Carolina, will shortly publish a pan-