

LEWISBURG CHRONICLE.

BY O. N. WORDEN & J. R. CORNELIUS.

Fridays--at Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania.

ELEVENTH YEAR. WHOLE NUMBER, 561.

\$1.50 PER YEAR, ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

The Lewisburg Chronicle.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1855.

The following beautiful production of one of the most promising American poets, was written before the intelligence of the supposed death of John Franklin and his crew was published by Dr. Rae.

PASSING THE ICEBERGS.

BY THOMAS BUCKMAN READ.

A fearless shape of brave device,
That floats through mist and rain,
Between the floating fields of ice—
The antics of the northern main.

These Arctic vapors, blindly hurried,
The proof of nature's idea force,
Like fragments of a cruel world—
Long shattered from its rocky course—

These are the barometers that fright
The middle sea with dreary winds,
And from the south winds in their flight,
And chain the gull-stream to their decks.

As every drop of dew and helm
There stands some Viking as of yore,
Grim heroes from the mortal realm
Where Odin rules the spectral shore.

And oft beneath the sun or moon
Their swift and eager fashions glow,
While, like a storm-driven wind, the rune
Goes chafing through some beard of snow.

And when the far north flashes up
With fire of mingled red and gold,
They know that many a blazing cup
Is brimming to the absent host.

Upward there, and let us hail
The burning phantom as we pass—
Not for her fashion, hue and sail,
Within the compass of your glass.

See at her mast the star-like glow
Of that one star of Odin's throne;
With out her flag, and let us show
The constellation on our own.

And speak her well; for she might say,
If from her heart the words could thaw,
Great news from some far frozen bay,
Or the remotest Esquimaux—

Might tell of channels yet unsoiled,
That sweep the pole from sea to sea;
Of lands which God designs to hold
A mighty people yet to be—

Of wonders which alone prevail
Where day and darkness dimly meet;
Of all which spread the Arctic sail;
Of Franklin and his venturesome feet—

How, happily, at some glorious goal
His anchor holds—his sails are furled—
That Fame has named him on her scroll,
"Columbus of the Polar World."

Or how his ploughing barges wedge on
The splintering fields, with lashed shares,
Let only his that apostolical dawn,
The mask that maddening darkness wears—

Or how, when e'er his bark and crew
The lot of shivered masts and spars,
He still and his crew crew
In council with the Northland stars.

No answer—but the sudden flow
Of ocean heaving high and vast—
An arrow of ice and snow,
The voiceless North-wind's proudly past.

Domestic Economy.

At a time when many thousands in our favored land are suffering for the very necessities of life; when Charity is taxed to its utmost to supply the wants of the improvident, the indigent and those unable to aid themselves; when in the city of New York alone, 15,000 abled-bodied and willing Journeymen have nothing to do, and Laboring men are proportionally destitute; when firm men in Philad. fear to redeem their own paper at 3 per cent. per month discount—at such a time, articles like "What to Eat, and How to Cook it," (copied in our last paper from the *Navy*), are of immediate, practical importance. We copy another telling paragraph:

—Gives Advice.—The *Alamy Knickerbocker* says: "The best cure for hard times is, economy. A shilling's worth of white beans will do as much feeding as fifty cents' worth of potatoes, while six cents' worth of Indian meal make as much bread as fourteen cents' worth of flour—besides, it is twice as wholesome. A most healthy family in town could cut down their expenses one half, if they only chose to do so."

The foregoing calls to mind a fact we read not long since. A man in Cincinnati died, leaving a young family with nothing but a few chickens for subsistence. From these chickens, half a dozen eggs per day were realized. With most families, the chickens would have served for a few meals, and the family lived, or rather starved, upon them. But not so with that reflecting, loving, self-sacrificing, widowed mother. She found a dozen of eggs would buy a peck of corn meal—that corn meal would give vastly more nourishment than the eggs—and she soon made an exchange of the articles, realising an abundance of plain and wholesome food, and also fuel, by which they were sustained, and well sustained, until additional resources were opened to them. Eggs or chickens might have been more palatable food than meal in its simple variety of preparation; but the use of the former would have verified the fable of the folly of killing the fowl that laid the golden egg.

There are few of the families of want who ever practice *thriftful economy* and *self-denial* like this poor woman. It is a fact admitted by all we believe who have investigated the subject, that Corn is cheaper than Wheat for bread, and twice as cheap; also that Oatmeal, Beans, Peas, Carrots, are more nourishing than most rich meats and pastries; and that their cost is considerably less than nutritious fowls and fruits generally. It is also shown that a large amount of the real virtue of meat is lost by being boiled and the water thrown away; whereas, soup is one of the most

agreeable and economical varieties of food, as the life of the meat is all preserved, and its savoriness diffused among other ingredients of the dish.

Yet, it is one of the wonders of European tourists, that the working men of the United States live so richly, and are so wasteful of food. In England, the incomes of most of the laboring clergymen and perhaps of a majority of the tradesmen do not exceed the average wages of American journeymen; but while the former are, comparatively, frugally independent, the latter are the first to complain of hard times. In our own country, the spectacle is often exhibited of the employed using more expensive food, and buying richer clothing, than the employer; which is the wiser, it is not difficult to tell, for when adversity afflicts, the employer may have something saved to fall back upon, while the hand-to-mouth employed has nothing. Thus, most of the hands in Rolling Mills receive from \$2 to \$4 per day, and at the end of the year would be in debt if they could get trusted. On the other side you will find school-teachers and clergymen living respectably and commanding a reasonable credit anywhere, with half that income—yes, and our day-laborers, whose per diem earnings will not exceed 75 cts. will support as large families, and soon have a little home—a piece of land—and a farm. The Welshman has spent his six to twelve hundred dollars for rich food, drink, and clothing, and has nothing left but a weak constitution and increasingly unwholesome habits; while the German, living more frugally and plainly, blessed with as good an appetite has enjoyed cheaper but more nutritious food quite as well, and is preparing to enjoy a good old age.

It is doubtless a happy commentary on American society and life, that our hard-working laboring men and mechanics can have "the best of everything," and while health and prosperity abound, they suffer for nothing. But no true American should contemplate ending his days without some promotion, either to be an employer or a cultivator of the soil. And while engaged in the service of others, all should recollect that sickness of themselves or families—depression of business—and other reverses, are evils to which all are liable, and that it is therefore the duty of every man to reserve means for his own support and that of his family in time of adversity. To do this, some have only to give up habitual expenditures which, though each item may be a trifle in itself, are a large sum in the aggregate, and each wholly unnecessary, and even worse than useless. But in no way can so much retrenchment be effected as in the necessary outlay for food and clothing; and herein, the Woman of the household is most responsible. It is wonderful how tidy and comfortable a few articles arranged by a tasty and thoughtful housekeeper will appear; and how a lack of these qualities will leave the costliest furniture apparently inelegant, slothful, and unattractive. And one woman will clothe her family better than her neighbor who expends twice as much money for the same object.

"It is not what they get but what they spend, that will make them rich or poor," is the Quaker proverb. The true way to reduce exorbitant prices of any particular kind of food, is to obtain from it. In such a work, the patriotic and benevolent rich often set the example of abstinence. Rich foods are no better—hardly as good—as plain but more cheap varieties, (the eggs and cornmeal illustrate this truth.) An uncorrupted appetite seasons the most plain dish, and hunger is the best sauce. It may be something of a trial to adopt a plainer diet, but cheerful labor and temperance will in time make one relish a corn-cake with cold water more than the epicure his beefsteak and hot drinks.

—We do not attempt specific details in the line of retrenchment we have indicated, but two qualities are requisite in its consummation, viz. much GOOD SENSE, and a little SELF-DENIAL in the outset.

Extracts from a Non-Meats' Address.

By Mrs. LUDIA J. PIERSON.

Go, carry comfort to the bread-crumbs home,
Where an industrious, broken-hearted wife,
Drops out in tears, poverty, and toil,
And kneads and kneads, and kneads her weary life;
And get the bath a high and generous one,
By education without and within,
And the mild manner of her smiling mind,
Come all the glory to her smiling mind.

Then hast not felt the anguish, she endures
As her degraded children, drop around,
Suggesting even the name of longer's pain
In terror at the frantic father's frown.
Her heart is withered! All its joys are dead,
And the bright hopes that cheered her early years
Are snatched by the hand of cold despair,
And all her treasure now is woe and tears.

The world hath sought for her, the richest slave,
That feeds the rich, and drags the weary chain,
And troubles on her man's master's voice,
Finds more of hope and peace, and less of pain!
Oh, soul! Intemperance! wilt thou that walks
Upon this heinous earth, unshod and free,
How can man look upon his worthless form,
And yield himself a willing slave to thee?

Heaven help the suffering! for they stand prescribed,
Objects of scorn in this unfeeling world,
And charity, that soothes all lighter ills,
Marks this, with lip in scorn and anger curled,
Yet, there is hope!—even for the drunkard's wife.
A hope bright-burning from the world of peace,
And she may hail, when life's blink year is past,
A "happy New Year's" destiny in oriental bliss.

This cannot heal her wounds, but she can give
Her children food and clothing, and the voice
Of their glad gratitude shall pierce her heart,
And all her woe for wounded spirit shall depart.

Abstract of the Last Annual Message FROM GOVERNOR BIGLER.

Whilst the events of the year just closed, present many causes of joy and congratulation, and afford abundant reason for thankfulness to a beneficent Providence for his goodness and mercy—our prosperity and happiness, as a people, I regret to say, has not been unalloyed. The general growth of the country, the progress of the arts and sciences, and other causes of moral and social comfort, have not, it is true, been interrupted; but the loss of valuable lives and property, by the casualties of the elements, has been unusual, both in numbers and extent; and in certain sections of our Commonwealth the afflictions of pestilence and disease have also been sorely felt.

The drought of the season deprived the husbandman, to some extent, of the anticipated rewards of his labor, and lessened the means of human subsistence; whilst the depression in monetary and business affairs, has deprived many laborers and mechanics of their usual earnings. The means of subsistence are thus greatly enhanced in value, at the same time that the opportunities of earning them are much diminished. The field for charity is consequently wider than usual; and to meet its reasonable demands on the part of those blessed with an abundance, will be to sustain the Christian character and measurably to merit the continued bounty of Heaven.

The aggregate receipts on the public works for the past year, as reported by the Canal Commissioners, amounted to the sum of \$1,876,078 88; and the expenditures to the sum of \$1,101,579 54; leaving a balance of \$774,508 34, from which, however, should be deducted the sum of \$97,000, properly chargeable to the year, for new locomotives and other unavoidable expenditures—thus reducing the net profits to \$736,608 34. If we add to this \$131,000 00 received from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the three mill tax, which is claimed by some as a part of the income from the public works, we find a net revenue of \$867,608 34, a sum equal to the interest on seventeen millions of the five per cent. debt of the State. The aggregate receipts were \$77,121 less than for the year 1853, and the reduction in expenditures amounted to over \$159,287 00. The withdrawal of the business of the Pennsylvania railroad from the Portage road, readily accounts for this difference.

I regret exceedingly the necessity of announcing to you that the North Branch Canal is not yet in full operation. It is now more than a year since the Canal Commissioners directed the water to be let into the main trunk of that improvement, and declared their confident belief that it would be in successful operation by the middle of last summer; but their sanguine expectations, as well as those of the people, have, in this respect, been sadly disappointed. A variety of unforeseen difficulties presented themselves in the way of the attainment of this end. The old work, constructed some twelve or fifteen years since, as well as some sections of the new, located on the hill side, near the margin of the river, when tested by the admission of water, turned out to be porous and totally inefficient in its material and formation. In some instances, rocks, rocks, trees and stumps, have been concealed under the bottom of the canal channel, covered only by a few inches of earth, thus presenting but a slight obstruction to the passage of the water, out into the bed of the river. In all such sections or places, no remedy, short of a reconstruction of the bottom of the canal, could prove sufficient; and this was necessarily a tedious and expensive process. There is still a considerable portion of the work to be remodeled in this way; but it is confidently believed that it will be ready for use in the early part of the coming season. That the most skill and vigilance has at all times been exhibited by the agents of the State, on this line, I do not believe; but the deficiency, in this particular, on the new work, has not been so palpable as alleged by some.

At the time I came into office, the sum necessary to complete this work was estimated at \$772,000. Since that time the sum of \$1,206,552 72 has been expended, and it will still require, as estimated by the Canal Board, \$80,000 to put it into complete operation.

Whilst I regret this unforeseen cost and delay, I cannot refrain from repeating my unflinching confidence in the wisdom of the policy that dictated the completion of this work. The large increase of business and tolls for the year just closed, on the older portion of the line, indicates what we may safely anticipate from the new; and, I cannot doubt, that the gross amount of business it will command, and the revenue it will yield, will exceed the most sanguine expectations of its advocates. The inexhaustible mines of coal with which that section of the State abounds, the products of which are destined to pass through this avenue to a limitless market, will furnish for it a never failing supply of business and tonnage. Besides, its completion will be an act of justice to the industrious and

enterprising inhabitants of that part of the Commonwealth, who have heretofore willingly contributed towards the construction of other improvements of the State, from which they could derive but little advantage. It will, also, add to the prosperity, and consequently to the revenues of the State.

As made my duty, by an act of the Legislature, approved the 27th of April last, providing for the sale of the main line of the public works, sealed proposals for its purchase were invited, up to the first Monday of July last. No offers were made under this invitation; and public notice was again given, on the 24th of November last, in accordance with the 20th section of the act, for proposals to be submitted to the General Assembly; but none have been received. This improvement is, therefore, still the property of the State, subject to such disposition as the Legislature may deem necessary. My mind has undergone no change, on the subject of selling the public works since the period of my last message. I think the policy of the measure depends mainly upon the price that can be obtained, and the condition on which the purchasers may be willing to hold these works for the use of the public. With a full and fair consideration, and on terms amply protective of the rights and interests of the people, the future enjoyment of these highways—a sale might not prove injurious to the public weal. But it is certainly neither wise nor politic to assume that they must be sold for what ever can be obtained; or that they should, in any event, be given away. Nothing could have a more prejudicial effect upon the interests of the State, as involved in these improvements, than the avowal of such a determination.

The powers, privileges and restrictions of any corporation getting the works, should be minutely defined. Past experience suggests these prudential counsels; for we have often seen in this State, how difficult it is to confine the operations of these artificial bodies within the limits prescribed by the law; and we should not fail to profit by the lesson.

By the 29th section of the act of the 9th of May last, providing for the ordinary expenses of government and other purposes, Nimrod Strickland, of Chester county, and John Strohm, of Lancaster county, were named as Commissioners to settle certain claims and debts against the Commonwealth. It was also made the duty of the Governor to supply, by appointment, any vacancy in this commission, which might occur. The gentlemen already named having declined to serve, I accordingly appointed William W. Williams, of Chester county, Wm. English, of Philadelphia, and John C. Magill, of Westmoreland county, in their stead. After a tedious and laborious investigation, these gentlemen have completed the duty assigned to them, and the result will be communicated to you, in detail, in their own report. I regret to perceive that the accounts so examined and settled, exceed the amount of the appropriation nearly \$150,000. It is well, however, to see the end of claims of this character; and having accomplished this, it will be prudent to guard against the recurrence of a similar state of affairs. Indeed, the practice of contracting debts on the public works should be at once and forever abandoned. It has been a fruitful source of confusion in the accounts, if not of palpable wrong upon the Treasury. The right to scatter the credit of the Commonwealth in this unguarded way, is, I venture to assert, without a parallel in the management of public affairs. Of the many defects in the system of managing the State improvements, this has been the most productive of evil.

Repeated attempts have been made to repeal so much of the act incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, as requires it to pay into the Treasury annually, a certain per centage on the amount of tonnage which may pass over that road as an equivalent for the privileges granted by the Commonwealth; but the General Assembly have as repeatedly rejected the proposition, and I sincerely hope, that so long as the State may need the revenue from this source, all future attempts to accomplish this end, may meet a similar fate. Having been connected with the legislation which brought this company into existence, and clearly cognizant of the motives and purposes which governed the Legislature in imposing this condition on the grant, I can discover no reason, in subsequent events to justify the relinquishment of this valuable reservation; but many on the contrary, to sustain the justice and utility.

The administration of Gov. Shunk commenced the cancellation of the relief issues; and that of my immediate predecessor arrested the process, leaving \$650,103 09 of this unsightly currency in circulation. In the spring of 1853, the policy of cancellation was again resumed; and up to this date, \$485,384 88 had been received into the sinking fund, applicable to that purpose, leaving the meagre sum of \$154,718 12, to provide for. This difficulty will be obviated in June next, when the

law will go into operation which forbids the banks and receiving officers of the Commonwealth to pay out these issues and requires them to be presented at the Treasury for cancellation.

My opinion on all questions that concern the currency, have been so often expressed that they must be well known to the Legislature and need not be given at length in this communication.

In accordance with the provisions of a law passed in April last, a vote of the people was taken, at the October election, on the policy of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors; 158,312 votes were cast in favor of the measure, and 163,510 votes against it. The proper regulation of this subject greatly concerns the moral welfare of the people, and for that reason will claim your anxious consideration. Perhaps no other moral question within the range of your authority so deeply interests the people of every class, race and condition. Indeed, the immoderate use of intoxicating drinks is an evil that has left its fatal mark in every village. Its progress, fortunately, has been steadily resisted by individuals and societies, who have employed the power of truth and reason against it. These efforts have done much, and may do more hereafter to mitigate the evil. Avoiding all variations on the subject of the rights and privileges of every citizen, there is clearly no reason why the influence of a well designed law, regulating and restraining the sale of intoxicating liquors should not be brought to the aid of these individual efforts. Altho' the vote of the people would seem to indicate their aversion to the particular measure of reform proposed, it is not to be inferred, for that reason, they are averse to all attempts of reformation. Such an inference, I am confident, would not be a true reflection of their sentiments. So far from this, they acknowledge the existence of the evil, and the necessity of proper remedies. Our present license laws, to this end, might, in my opinion, be usefully revised—the object of such revision being to lessen the vice of intemperance. That these laws need such revision, is conceded. So far as relates to the city of Philadelphia, they are peculiarly prejudicial to public morals, and seem to have been constructed to promote the convenience of drinking, far more than to restrain its evil consequences. The object is worthy of your early and deliberate consideration.

The report of the Superintendent will exhibit to you in detail, the operations of the Common School system for the year just closed; and I respectfully recommend the suggestions of that officer to your careful consideration. The integrity of its forms, not less than the means to sustain its operations, should be constantly maintained and severely cherished by the government.

I can see no reason why the profession of teacher should not rank in honor and profit with the other learned professions; why the science of developing the human intellect—of giving scope and force to mind—of elevating the moral faculties of our race—of controlling the passions and tempering the desires—should not be esteemed as highly as these professions and callings whose ornaments have received all their capacity and polish at the hands of the comparatively humble and ill-rewarded teacher. I earnestly recommend the common school system to your guardian care, as the most sacred of all our institutions. The offspring of a constitutional impulsion on the Legislature—the extension and perpetuity of its usefulness, is the plain duty of all. Resting at the very foundation of the government, its practical workings should be a true reflection of our republican system, and its blessed opportunities made available to all, regardless of rank, or condition, or persuasion. It should aid the poor, advance the rich, and make the ignorant wise.

Our various charitable and reformatory institutions, so creditable to the State, and which, in their practical operations, have done so much for the relief of suffering humanity—will claim the continued care and bounty of the Commonwealth.

The interests of Agriculture are ardently commended to your care. Extensive and energetic efforts have been recently made to disseminate correct information concerning this great pursuit, and in this way to confer upon the farmer the advantages of a scientific as well as greatly enlarged, practical understanding of the noble pursuit in which he is engaged.

The utility of a College, devoted to the Science of Agriculture, with a model farm attached—wherein the principles of a scientific cultivation of the soil, and manual labor in that pursuit, would be joined to the usual academic studies—has been strongly pressed upon my attention. It is believed that such an institution can be successfully organized under the auspices of the State and County agricultural societies. The practice adopted and maintained by the last General Assembly, in reference to omnibus bills and special legislation, is an improvement of such value as to commend itself as a settled rule; and I confidently trust this salutary precedent may not be disregarded.

The public librarian has called my attention to the fact, that the law reports of twenty-two States have been regularly received by this, and that no provisions have ever been made, on our part, to reciprocate this courtesy and generosity. I respectfully suggest the propriety of authorizing some officers of the Government to procure the necessary copies of the Pennsylvania reports, to supply those States who have so generously added to our library.

The Registration act, I respectfully suggest, has essentially failed to accomplish the end designed, and should be repealed or amended. A round and complete and imperfect can do no good, but may really do harm. It has already cost the State about \$25,000, to which there must be annual additions. The object is desirable, but I am confident it can never be attained by the mode contemplated in this law. It is a subject of constant complaint by registers and physicians, and only such registration is made as is compulsory, in order to legalize letters of administration.

By the 67th section of the appropriation law of last session, the Secretary of the Commonwealth was authorized to continue the publication of the *Archives*, to the year 1790. Under this authority the selection of documents from 1783 to 1790, has been made, and the tenth volume, containing this matter, will be ready for distribution before the close of the session. Two additional volumes will complete the work, as originally designed.

The Councils of Philadelphia, by an ordinance passed in October, 1842, defined the necessary ground, in Independence Square, to the erection of a monument, commemorative of the Declaration of Independence; and tendered the possession of the premises to the representatives of nine or more of the original States. Since that time, the States of New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Georgia and Pennsylvania have signified their willingness to accept the proposition on the terms indicated by the Councils, and to participate in this patriotic work. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the two Carolinas, have taken no action on the subject.

In closing my last communication to the General Assembly, and terminating my official relations with the people of my native Commonwealth, I may be indulged in a brief and general reference to her present proud position as a member of the great family of States, and to the patriotism, integrity, and prosperity of her citizens. The advantages geographical position of Pennsylvania, with a fine harbor open to the Atlantic, and another connecting her centrally with the magnificent chain of western lake navigation—her long branching rivers, spreading their arms and arteries through every portion of her territory—all added to her fertile soil and inexhaustible deposits of valuable minerals—present a combination of the natural elements of greatness scarcely equalled in our own or any other quarter of the globe. These have made her an attractive field for the science, industry and enterprise of man; and all her natural advantages have been cherished and improved, and she has reached a condition of varied wealth and prosperity. Her system of internal improvements will safely compare with those of any sister state, whether in regard to completeness in construction, or the extent of country which they traverse. Nor have the higher hopes of humanity been disregarded by our statesmen and the people as largely as the liberal provisions for common schools, academies and colleges, and our numerous crowded churches attest; while, at the same time, the various Asylums for the Insane, and for the unfortunate of all classes and conditions, and Houses of Refuge, for the reformation of the wayward and erring, silently, yet surely, bear witness that the cause of benevolence has always found effective advocates within our borders.

In physical improvements and population, her progress has been steady and rapid. In the days of Governor Snyder, the erection of a bridge over the Susquehanna River, and the construction of a turnpike road, was the subject of executive examination, and a matter of congratulation among the people. Now her whole surface is thickened over with railroads, canals, and other highways. Then the whole revenues of the State amounted to but \$400,000. Now they exceed five millions. Of the four large States her per centage of increase in population, since 1840, is the greatest; and she has besides excelled the best of her sisters in the production of wheat, iron and coal. Her population numbers not less than two and a half millions—nearly as large as all the States at the time of the Revolution. The present value of her real and personal estates exceeds \$850,000,000. Her annual production of coal is worth in the market over twenty millions. Her great interests of agriculture, manufactures and commerce are rapidly extending.

She has, in addition, a history of which we may well be proud. Within the limits is found the birth-place of Independence—that sacred spot where was first declared these great truths which lie at the founda-

tion of American nationality. In the maintenance of these truths, she bore a glorious part. Her contribution of men to the field, and money to the treasury—of talent and wisdom to the Congress of the Colonies, were not surpassed by those of any other State. It was her sons who crossed the Delaware in the dead of winter, under the lead of Washington, and for a time turned the tide of war. Again, in the struggle of 1812, for the right of American citizenship, and in that of 1846, for American honor and progress, she contributed with a profuse generosity. The contest amongst her sons was not as to who should have the right to stay at home, but who should have the privilege of going to the field. Bearing this honorable part in matters of foreign war—she has had a no less enviable participation in allaying domestic strife. Whenever the exigency seemed to require it, she has stood firmly by the Constitution and the Union, and ever extended for the rights of all sections of the country, and all classes and denominations of the people. Such is our State. To live and die within her limits, and to have borne even a very humble part in her civil service and in her history, I shall ever esteem me a proud privilege—one that, as it draws nearer to its close, swells my heart with gratitude to her people, at the recollection of the numerous proofs of confidence I have experienced at their hands.

The fallness of my exultation in the character and happy condition of our beloved Commonwealth, and the gratitude I have expressed, leave no room in my bosom for even a lingering regret at a decision of my fellow-citizens, which is soon to relieve me from the cares and labors of a public life. Its transient excitement have already been forgotten, and its allusions, if any, forgiven. I shall resume my place in the ranks of the people, with a calm consciousness of having always sought to advance their best interests to the extent of my ability; and of never having yielded my convictions of right, either in subservience to any selfish purpose, or any narrow and unworthy prejudice.

We have before us the plain, written contract of our fathers, to which they reflectively consented and subscribed, and so bound us who have succeeded them. Its blessings and its benefits have been felt throughout long years of unexampled prosperity. If we would change any of its provisions, let us, with at least common honesty and manliness, pursue the mode of amendment which is pointed out, with admirable precision, in the noble instrument itself. But, until this is done, those amongst us who, from whatever motive, or under whatever pretext, either openly repudiate any of its plain provisions, or covertly retracting under the cloak of a secret organization, seek to violate its spirit, or avoid compliance with its clear tenets, dishonor the faith of their fathers, and deny their own palpable and solemn obligations. Entertaining these views, how can any American patriot regard, with the least degree of complacency, the continued and bitter excitement of one section of the country against the domestic institutions of another; or the more recent organization of secret societies throughout the Union, based upon the doctrine of exclusion and proscription, utterly at war with our National and State constitutions, and obnoxious to the liberal spirit of American republicanism? What admirer of the venerated Father of his Country, but must now feel, with restless force, his solemn warnings against secret societies for political ends, as placing a powerful engine in the hands of the selfish and designing, and enabling them not only to acquire power unconstitutionally, but also to repudiate the most sacred principles of our government.

In these reflections upon certain political organizations, if I rightly comprehend my own motives, I am actuated by no non-partisan hostility or resentment. Were I to say less at the present moment, I should still my dearest convictions of right, and I think from a duty I owe to the people of Pennsylvania, who have so generously sustained me in various public relations in the past. Nay, more; I should, by silence in this regard, fall properly to red at that constancy and unswerving faith which our noble Commonwealth has ever evinced towards the principles of our national compact, in reference to the freedom of conscience and universal religious toleration; and also to the wise distinct of popular and State sovereignty, and the inherent right of self-government.

During the brief period which remains of my official term, I shall readily and cheerfully cooperate with the General Assembly in all proper measures, to advance the public weal; and I earnestly invoke upon our laborers, and the laborers of those who may follow us in our public relations, the kindly care and keeping of the Great and Beneficent Being who holds the destinies of nations as well as of individuals, as it were, in the hollow of his hand, and without whose continued smile there can be neither national or individual prosperity.

W. M. BIGLER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Jan 9, 1855.