

certainly 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 for the same thing. 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.

Under the provisions of the act of 29th April, 1844, entitled "An act to reduce the State debt, and to incorporate the Pennsylvania Canal and Railroad Company," the question of a sale of the main line of improvements, submitted to a vote of the people at the election in October last, was decided in the affirmative. The requisit notice was given by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to the commissioners named in the act, and they have proceeded so far in the performance of their duties as to advertise that the sale of the stock of the proposed company will commence, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 20th of January inst. The time has, therefore, not yet arrived when the practicability of disposing of these improvements, on the terms specified in the law, will be tested. I am not aware that any legislative proceedings on this subject are called for at the present time.

The proceedings of the commissioners named in the act of the 13th April, 1844, entitled "An act to authorize the Governor to incorporate the Delaware Canal company," will appear from a report accompanying this message, setting forth their inability to dispose of the stock. It will be for the Legislature to determine what further action, if any, on this subject, is necessary.

In my last annual message I informed the Legislature that in pursuance of the act of the 7th March, 1843, a charter had been issued to the Erie Canal Company, and possession given to it of that portion of the public improvements from the town of New Castle, to the harbor of Erie. On the 18th December last, the necessary proof having been laid 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 Division, from the mouth of the Beaver river to New Castle.

The district Court of the City & county of Philadelphia, exercising a jurisdiction in all civil demands above the sum of one hundred dollars, will expire during the present session of the legislature, by a limitation contained in the act erecting it. This court, on which, from the nature of its jurisdiction, it necessarily devolves to determine the majority of the more important cases arising in that judicial district, has been laboriously engaged in the discharge of its duties, for a space of nearly ten years. The manner in which these duties have been performed, besides securing the confidence of the bar and the community, would seem to have produced the very general impression that this tribunal is indispensable to a due administration of the law in that city and county. I would therefore, respectfully recommend the passage of an act continuing the court in its present form, and securing to it, in every proper manner, the services of faithful and able judges.

Fortunately for the Legislature and the people, the subject of the public printing,

for a long time a topic of just complaint, on account of the unreasonable amount expended for that purpose, was put to rest during the last session, by allotting it to the lowest bidders, after the just precaution of exacting security for its faithful execution. The parties to whom it was given, fixed their own rates of compensation, and have no doubt made ample provision against all hazard of loss; and we may, therefore, hope that this item of the public expenditure will not be swelled to its usual alarming amount, by demands for extra compensation.

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 purpose of inducing action in the National Legislature, as to keep it before the citizens of this Commonwealth, to familiarize it in their minds and to prepare them to unite in maintaining their own interests, whenever those interests might be endangered. I was assailed 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 hoped, for a moment, to get a majority of the votes 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 exhaustless, 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 render 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 to be 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 interests of this country, the corner stone

of which was laid in the act of Congress of 1st June, 1789, 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 correct 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 for additional protection, or for new safe guards; but, small as the discriminations are in their behalf, to let them remain as they are, with a certainty that 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 whenever 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 co-operate 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. Confederacies to thwart Executive recommendations; combinations to promote particular personal or political interests, have, it is true, clamored loudly against Executive tyranny, and imputed 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 unyielding 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—yove 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 effaced it, since the landing of her founder upon the shores of the Delaware.

DAVID R. PORTER.  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
HARRISBURG, JANUARY 8, 1845.

THE TIME FIXED, AT LAST.—In the "Midnight Cry" of Dec. 5th we find a letter from Mr. Miller, which contains the following:—

"I have fixed my mind upon another time, and here I mean to stand until God gives me more light—and that is to-day, TO-DAY and TO-DAY, until he comes."

A SOLEMN CALCULATION.—The aggregate population of the surface of the known habitable globe, is estimated at 895,300,000 souls. If we reckon with the ancients, that a generation last 30 years, then in that space, 895,300,000 human beings will be born and die; consequently 81,770 must be dropping into eternity every day; 3,407 every hour; or about 56 every minute! How awful is the reflection!



JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Thursday, January 16, 1845.

Terms, \$3.00 in advance; \$2.25, half yearly; and \$1.50 if not paid before the end of the year.

V. B. Palmer, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, No. 59 Pine street, below Third, two squares S. the Merchants' Exchange, Phila., and No. 160 Nassau street, (Tribune buildings,) N. Y., is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Jeffersonian Republican, and give receipts for the same. Merchants, Mechanics, and tradesmen generally, may extend their business by availing themselves of the opportunities for advertising in country papers which his agency affords.

To all Concerned.

We would call the attention of some of our subscribers, and especially certain Post Masters, to the following reasonable, and well settled rules of Law in relation to publishers, to the patrons of newspapers.

THE LAW OF NEWSPAPERS.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.
2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publishers may continue to send them till all arrearages are paid.
3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the officers to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they have settled their bill, and ordered their papers discontinued.
4. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publishers, and their paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
5. The courts have decided that refusing to take a newspaper or periodical from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled for, is "prima facie" evidence of intentional fraud.

R. Smith, Esq. will please accept our thanks for several public documents.

The Governor's Message.

We publish the last annual Message of Governor Porter, entire in to-day's paper; and unhesitatingly pronounce it the best public document that ever emanated from its author. It is true it contains several matters which are not only in very bad taste, but which actually represent facts in a different light from which history reflects them; but the greater part of the Message is so good, that we are willing to pass over these small matters, with a mere protest as to their accuracy. They are the attack he makes upon the Banking Institutions during the three years immediately preceding his administration, and the financial policy in general of Gov. Ritner's administration. That the Governor is wrong, every candid reader will at once acknowledge on perusing the Message—and with this remark, we leave it.

The fair and candid statement of the State finances, is worthy of all praise. We have been so accustomed to exhibitions on this subject, made for the purposes of party effect, that it is quite cheering once more to see a plain exposition like the present. It represents our monetary affairs in a flourishing condition, and affords us the assurance that the interest on the State Debt, and the other liabilities of the Commonwealth will be promptly met hereafter.

But what pleases us as much as anything else, is the manner in which the Governor speaks out on the subject of the Tariff. He is plain and explicit, and uses language which cannot easily be misunderstood or misconstrued. He does not waste time and paper in discussing Revenue Tariffs, and Incidental Protection, but boldly proclaims himself in favor of the Protective Policy and the Tariff of 1842. And he speaks truly when he says "that in the late contest neither of the Presidential candidates could have hoped for a moment to get a majority of the votes 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." We hope this timely hint may not be lost upon James K. Polk and his anti-tariff friends.

The other statements and minor recommendations of the Message, are good. As the Governor's time is about to expire, he refrains from making any recommendations of a general nature, and leaves them entirely to his successor.

A Duel.

The all engrossing subject of conversation at Washington, at present, is the probable duel between Mr. Clingman, of N. C. and Mr. Yancy, of Alabama, both members of Congress. The difficulty between them arose out of words spoken in debate by Mr. Y. They left Washington, on Thursday last for Delaware; where, unless an amicable arrangement was effected, they have probably fought ere this.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Tuesday the 7th inst. being the time fixed by the Constitution, for the meeting of the Legislature at Harrisburg, both branches met and organized. In the Senate, Wm. B. Wilcox, of Bradford county, was elected Speaker—he receiving 22 votes, and Mr. Darsie 7. In the House, Findley Patterson, of Armstrong county, was chosen Speaker—the vote being for Patterson 49, Trego 36, Brewster 7, scattering 3. Since then a large number of private and local bills, have been introduced, by different members—as also several of a general character, among which we notice one to repeal the Act of July 12, 1842, which abolishes Imprisonment for Debt. Mr. Bright, of the House, in accordance with the recommendation of the Governor, has introduced a joint Resolution, instructing our Representatives and Senators in Congress to oppose any alteration of the Tariff. The Governor has also returned, with his objections, two Bills passed at the last session of the Legislature—one of which authorized the redemption, by the State, of the over-issue of Relief Notes, by the Berks County Bank, and the other related to the business of the Susquehanna Canal Company.

Congress.

The House has at length got to work at the Texas question, and the discussion is now under full way. Charles J. Ingersoll, led the way in the debate on Friday a week, and has since been followed by some half dozen members on both sides. There are twelve distinct plans of annexation before the Houses, and up to this time no considerable number of the loco-annexationists have been able to agree on either of them. They are in the mean while debating the simple question, "shall Texas be annexed," upon which they are quite unanimous—the tug of war, however, will come when they are called upon to vote directly upon one or the other of the plans proposed. The leaders of the party are very anxious to have the question disposed of this Session, so that it shall not embarrass Mr. Polk's administration—and Gen. Jackson has written a letter to the Globe, urging energetic action. What effect it will have, remains to be seen; but the better opinion is, that there will be no annexation bill passed this session. In the Senate, nothing of importance has transpired.

Whig Papers.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable termination of the late political campaign, the Whig party is as strong as ever, and measures are daily taken to strengthen it still more. As an evidence of this, we need merely allude to the spirit with which the Whig Press is conducted, and the means resorted to, to improve its tone and character. Since the election, several new Whig papers have been established, and important changes and improvements made in a number of those previously in existence. We have only time at present to allude to the following: The *Whig & Journal*, at Easton, has been enlarged, and appears in an entirely new dress. The editorial department has also been strengthened, and the paper otherwise improved. The *Whig* is an excellent paper, and has a high reputation throughout the State.

The *Daily Forum*, at Philadelphia, has been greatly enlarged, and is now published under the title of "The Morning Post," at \$6 per annum. The *Forum* was one of the most spirited party papers we had during the late campaign, and did good service. It is very much improved now, and as staunch Whig as ever.

The *Berks & Schuylkill Journal*, at Reading, has changed editors, and will hereafter be under the control of Jacob Knabb, Esq., who so ably edited the *Clay Bugle*, at Harrisburg, last summer. The *Journal* ranks high as a party paper, and has a large circulation.

The *Country Mirror* is the name of a new Whig paper, started at Carbondale, Luzerne county. F. B. Woodward is the editor, and he gives promise of making it a useful acquisition to the party in that region. We heartily wish him success.

Division of the Methodist Church.

Our readers no doubt are all aware that there is a proposition on foot, to divide the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States, into two General Conferences, instead of the one which has heretofore existed. This proposition, has had its origin, from the circumstance of Bishop Andrews being suspended from the exercise of his official duties, on account of holding slaves, by the General Conference of the Church which met in New York in May last. The proposition is to create a Southern General Conference, and for that purpose a Convention will be held at Louisville, Ky., on the 1st of May next. The Mississippi, Arkansas, and one or two other State Conferences, have already chosen Delegates to this Convention.