

jects, as one worthy its special consideration and favor.

I refer with much satisfaction, to the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer. They exhibit in detail the condition of the finances of the State, and show the laudable industry and intelligent care which these officers have employed in the discharge of their important and laborious duties.

Before the passage of the act of Assembly of last session, which transferred to the county in which the crime may have been committed, payment of expenses for arresting fugitives from justice, the State had become liable to various agents, duly authorized, to an inconsiderable amount. This liability could not be met, because no appropriation was made for that purpose. The individuals interested in this matter are justly entitled to remuneration, and I respectfully recommend that an appropriation be made to liquidate their claims. The amount will be laid before you by the Auditor General.

In consequence of the engagements of the Adjutant General in the organization of the volunteers for the service of the United States in the war with Mexico, his annual report upon our military affairs has not yet been received; as soon as it comes to hand it will be transmitted to the General Assembly.

The Act of the 20th of March, 1836, provided for the appointment and compensation of a State Geologist and his assistants, and a competent practical, analytical, and experimental chemist, for the purpose of making an accurate geological and mineralogical survey of the State, with a view to determine the order, succession, arrangement, relative position, and the dip or inclination, and the comparative magnitude of the several geological formations within the State, and to discover and examine all deposits of ores, coals, clays, marbles and such other mineral substances as may be deemed useful or valuable. The State Geologist was required to make annual reports of the progress of the survey—to cause to be represented on the map of the Commonwealth, by colors and other appropriate means, the various areas occupied by the different geological formations in the State, and to mark thereon the localities of the respective deposits of the various mineral substances discovered. It is made the duty of the chemist to make full and complete examinations, assays, and analyses of all such rocks, ores, soils, mineral substances and mineral waters, as may be submitted to him by the geologist, and to furnish him with a detailed and complete account of the results so obtained. It was also made the duty, among other things, of the State Geologist, upon the completion of the survey, to compile a memoir of the geology and mineralogy of the State, comprising a complete account of the leading subjects and discoveries embraced in the survey.

In pursuance of this act, a State Geologist and his assistants, &c., were appointed, who proceeded with the work, and the State expended upon it the sum of \$76,657 87. A number of annual reports were made, as provided by law; but the main object of the Legislature, the publication of a complete memoir of the survey, exhibiting the results of the examinations, and embodying for the use of the public the vast sum of information, for which so large an amount of public money was expended, has not yet been accomplished. It appears to me that this subject is of sufficient importance to secure Legislative consideration.

Frequent complaints have for years been made by the people, of the time consumed in the Legislature by the passage of private and local bills, which greatly increase the business and create subjects for repeal and amendment.—Many laws are thus enacted which appear to be regarded as of little consequence or value, for of the acts of the last session; forty-three remain in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, which have neither been enrolled nor printed, because of the small amount of tax to which they are subject by the act of the 16th of April, 1845, has not been paid into the State Treasury. Thus, after the time in preparing and passing these bills has been consumed, and the cost of printing and transcribing them has been incurred, they are suffered to remain in the office, useless and neglected. This proves that much private legislation could be profitably dispensed with, and the time it occupies devoted to subjects of general legislation, by which the duration of the session would be shortened, and the expenses of the government greatly diminished.

The progressive increase of the number of divorces granted by the Legislature, forces this subject upon the consideration of the General Assembly. It appears to be the settled policy of this State, to provide by law for the dissolution of the marriage contract for other causes than adultery. These causes are enumerated in the Act of the 13th of March, 1815. They embrace a wide range, and seem to provide for all the grievances that may arise in this interesting relation, which require legal interposition.

Special acts of the Legislature for disturbing the contract between husband and wife, are calculated to arrest the attention of every good citizen, when it is remembered that the disregard of marriage vows, and facilities for releasing parties from their obligation, are justly regarded as strong indications of degeneracy in public virtue and public morals; and that a high regard of marital rights, and a sacred observance of marriage contracts, are among the strongest proofs of the progress of civilization, and of the influence of true religion.

The preamble of the act of 1815, commends itself to our approval by the wisdom and aptness for which it is distinguished. The Legislature there say, "Whereas, the divine precepts of the Christian religion—the promotion of the best interests of human happiness, the design of marriage, and the object of parties entering into the marriage state, require that it should continue during their joint lives."

These salutary truths, so well expressed, present, in imposing terms, the duty of extreme caution in interfering with the sanctity of the marriage contract.

It may be true that cases occasionally arise of such extreme hardship, as to warrant the passage of special acts of divorce; but such a require legislative interposition can but seldom occur, unless the wide range of the act of 1815 is extended beyond reasonable limits.

The signing of bills for dissolving the bonds of matrimony has always been to me a perplexing duty. I have hitherto given my assent to them, confiding in the judgment and discretion of the representatives of the people, to whom, and not to the Executive, the facts of each case are submitted. But upon a review of the special divorces granted since the enactment of the

act of 1815, it appears that there has been an alarming increase of them, which should, in my opinion, be arrested. During the first period of ten years after the passage of the said act, laws were passed for divorcing the parties of sixteen marriage contracts; during the next ten years, forty-two, and during the last ten years, ninety were passed.

I know of no change in the habits, manners, or condition of the citizens of the State, in their social relations, or in the increase of their number, that accounts for, or warrants this increase of divorces. It is possible that the cause of it may in a degree be found in the facility of obtaining legislation on the subject. Without further inquiry into the cause, the effect is, in my judgment, injurious to the public welfare, and should be strictly guarded against in future.

Whatever doubts may have been, or are now entertained, of the power of the Legislature to pass divorce-laws, for any other cause than adultery, or to pass them under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, that no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, it seems to be conceded, against the opinions of many wise and good men, that the power may be constitutionally exercised; but in view of these opinions, the extreme delicacy and responsibility of granting these applications, appear in a strong light.

Under the marriage contract, important and valuable rights are vested in the parties, and heavy responsibilities are assumed which should not be disturbed, even when the power to interfere is unquestionable, without legal notice to the party who is to be affected by the proceeding, and a fair and open trial, the right to which cannot be doubted, and can only be secured by referring the parties to the judicial tribunals.

In every view I can take of this interesting subject, I am persuaded that these special legislative divorces have a dangerous tendency, and that if the power to grant them is exercised at all, a proper regard for the public welfare requires that it should be limited to cases of extreme hardship and unquestionable propriety. The progress of our age in civilization has been distinguished in Pennsylvania, by the amelioration of the penal code, and her improved prison discipline. The organization of her penitentiaries, their domestic economy, and the care and attention to the support, cleanliness, industry, and moral instruction of their inmates, have secured the general approbation and confidence of our citizens, and have excited the admiration of other States and nations, and furnished models for their imitation. The Philadelphia society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, has exercised an efficient agency in producing these valuable results. In order that all the benefits of experience may be had and improved, they submit the propriety of making provision by law for obtaining, annually, accurate information relative to the convictions for crime, the character of the criminals, the condition and expenses of the penitentiaries and prisons of the Commonwealth, and the costs of supporting the convicts.

The motives of this society are so disinterested, and the reasons they assign for collecting the information required, are so conclusive, and so ably represented in a communication which I have received from them, that I take great pleasure in transmitting copies of it herewith, in order that the philanthropic views of the society, and the importance of the subject, may receive that early attention of the General Assembly which they so richly merit.

The government of Pennsylvania, and her literary, charitable and benevolent institutions, are among the first and best. The people are industrious, intelligent, and enterprising. In time of peace, quiet and unobtrusive—in war, firm and decided. Blessed in her physical resources and her institutions, and animated by the spirit of her holy religion, her onward course in improving her social condition is rapid. The great element of preserving, enlarging and perpetuating her greatness, is the universal education of her youth. In this, too, she has for a number of years advanced with the vigor by which all her great efforts are distinguished.—The able report of the Superintendent presents the steady and uniform progress of the system of common school instruction. That it is yet imperfect, and to some extent inefficient, may be freely admitted; but, who can doubt that the wisdom and energy which commenced, will mature and perfect it.

In conclusion, gentlemen, accept assurances of my hearty co-operation with you in all measures for advancing the welfare of our citizens, and maintaining the honor and dignity of our beloved Commonwealth.

FRS. R. SHUNK.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, January 6, 1847.

A Locofoco paper talks of administering "a rebuke to the Tories and Cowards of Massachusetts"—referring to those who do not make up a regiment for the Mexican war. Now, this we call pretty severe language towards the fifty-two thousand, eight hundred and forty-six locofocos of Massachusetts, who voted for Polk and Texas under the solemn assurance of their opponents that war would follow. And the more especially as Captain Webster—whose name has been held up to the wondering masses of the democracy as synonymous with Toryism—was the first, and for some time the only man who could or would muster a company for the war!

A letter from Camargo complains of the bad payment of the troops. It says:

"It is true that they have been offering to pay our men in Treasury notes of the size of \$500—a beautiful coin certainly for our men to buy the little luxuries and necessities of the soldier not supplied by Government.—These notes cannot be used much short of ten per cent. discount. This deducted from the scanty pay of \$7 per month leaves but a poor recompense for the many privations which our men have suffered since their departure from their comfortable homes and kind friends."

At a meeting held in New-York a few evenings since, to devise measures in aid of the suffering poor of Ireland, nearly a thousand dollars were subscribed, and committees were appointed to canvass the city for further subscriptions.

2 shad were caught at Savannah, 22d ult.



JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Thursday, January 14, 1847.

Terms, \$2.00 in advance; \$2.25 half yearly; and \$2.50 if not paid before the end of the year.

FOR GOVERNOR,

PETER S. MICHLER,
OF NORTHAMPTON.

Subject to the decision of the 4th of March Convention.

Whig State Convention.

A State Convention, to be composed of Delegates from the city of Philadelphia and the several counties equal to their representation in the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, will be held at Harrisburg, on TUESDAY, the 9th day of MARCH next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of selecting candidates for Governor and Canal Commissioner to be supported by the Whigs and the friends of the Protective Policy at the next ensuing election, and to transact such other business as may be deemed important to the success of the Whig cause.

J. P. SANDERSON,
SAMUEL D. KARNS,
JOSEPH KONIGMACHER,
MORTON McMICHAEL,
GEORGE ERETY,
H. JONES BROOKE,
THEO. D. COCHRAN,
JAMES FOX,
JAMES MARTIN,
WILLIAM BUTLER,
J. J. SLOCUM,
JOHN R. EDIE,
EDGAR COWAN,
JOHN B. JOHNSON,
Wm. J. HOWARD,
Whig State Committee.

The Governor's Message.

The importance of the subjects upon which Gov. Shunk treats, in his annual Message to the Legislature, has induced us to publish it entire in this week's paper, so that our readers may have it before them at once. Although not so short as it might have been; yet its length is moderate, and we trust will not prevent a single friend of the commonwealth from reading it from beginning to end.

As is usual on such occasions, the friends of the Governor pronounce the Message to be a non-such; and many others, who have either not taken the trouble to read it all, or have done so in a superficial manner, and without reflection, join in its praise. We are not of this class. We have given the document a careful and attentive perusal, and are satisfied that it is far from being such a State paper, as the exigency of the occasion called for. Of the three absorbing topics introduced into the Message, viz: the Mexican War, the State finances, and the Tariff, he speaks of but one in a truly becoming manner. His observations on the State credit, are clear, explicit, appropriate and well-timed, and we hope his favourable anticipations, on this head, may be realized to the letter. They are eminently deserving the attention of the Legislature. But his remarks on the War, and the Tariff, are not such as we looked for from the Chief Magistrate of Pennsylvania.

Had he contented himself with alluding to the requisitions made upon him by the President, for troops, and eulogizing the patriotism of our citizens for the promptness with which they responded to those requisitions; as well as urging upon the Representatives of the people the propriety of taking the proper action to secure the repayment, to the volunteers, of the expenses they necessarily incurred in preparing themselves and marching to Pittsburg, we would heartily have approved of his suggestions. But, when, for the purpose of courting the smiles and approbation of the President, he discusses the origin of the War, and endorses the one-sided argument made use of by Mr. Polk, in his late Message to Congress, he descends from his lofty position, and humbles the State, by assuming the attitude of a fawning partisan. The origin of this War with Mexico, is so ably set forth, and the sophistry of Mr. Polk's arguments so clearly exposed, in the article which we copied last week from the National Intelligencer, that we need do nothing more than refer our readers to that as a complete refutation of the whole argument. We deeply regret, therefore, that the Governor of Pennsylvania had not discretion enough to remain silent on a subject which he could not approve, without incurring the severest censure.

We have no relish for such a dish as the Governor has served up on the Tariff. It is but a rehash of the stale doctrines of the "Kane Letter," abounding in expressions about "incidental protection," "manufacturing, agricultural and commercial interests," "ultra protection," and "horizontal duties." He knows that the Tariff Act of 1846, has not even the remotest feature of "incidental protection" about it, and that instead of protecting home industry, it actually discriminates against it; yet he has not the manliness or courage to stand up for Pennsylvania's interest and denounce it. Mr. Shunk, like Mr. Polk, (in view of his being a candidate for re-election next fall,) is willing to entertain the people of the Keystone, with unmeaning talk about protection; but he has not one word to say against the fraud of 1844, by which we were betrayed and had the advocates of Free Trade imposed upon us. His love of the protection of which he speaks, is moreover so light,

that all he can say against the measures of Free Trade is, (we quote from his Message.) "Should the changes made in the rate of duties, by the tariff act of 1846, affect injuriously any of the great interests of the country, we must unite our efforts to induce Congress, to whose care and discretion the subject is committed by the Constitution, and on whose wisdom and justice we may safely rely, to make all just and reasonable amendments." This language implies that the Free Trade Tariff of 1846, may afford sufficient protection; but if it should fail to do so, we must unite our efforts to induce Congress (not Mr. Polk its author) to amend it. Here then we have an ingeniously woven argument, intended in the first place to make our people satisfied with the Tariff Act of 1846; and failing to do that, in the second place, to draw their attention from its real authors, (the President and his Cabinet), and fix it upon Congress. Such duplicity as this cannot be too severely rebuked; and unless the public mind is more warped than we have reason to believe, this effort of Mr. Shunk's, to screen Mr. Polk from merited condemnation, will recoil on his own head.

The other topics in the Message are few, and, in the main, good.

The Legislature.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania met at Harrisburg, on the 5th inst., and organized by electing Charles Gibbons, Esq., of Philadelphia, Speaker of the Senate, and the Hon. James Cooper, of Adams, Speaker of the House. These gentlemen are both Whigs, and received the unanimous support of their party. Mr. Cooper also received the vote of one Independent Democrat. On Wednesday the 6th inst., the Message of Gov. Shunk was read in both Houses.

Blackwood's Magazine.

We have received No. 3 of Godey's reprint of this far-famed Magazine. Like the two preceding numbers, it is excellent.

Concert.

The several Singing Schools under the direction of "Brooks," will give a Concert of Vocal Music, at the Presbyterian Church, in Stroudsburg, on Tuesday evening next, the 19th inst., at 7 1/2 o'clock. The Concert is given in order to let the public judge of the improvement made under the instruction of their present teacher. The citizens of the borough and vicinity, are respectfully invited to attend. The Concert is to be free to all.

Important if True.

The New Orleans La Patria says: "According to information given us by a friend in this city, who has seen a letter from San Luis de Potosi, written by an officer of the Mexican army, 'General Santa Anna has administered an oath to all the officers of his troops, not to take the lives of American soldiers who may fall into their power, but to make them prisoners, to be sent into the interior, where a depot for prisoners is under preparation.'"

The Journal of Commerce says that the Sub-Treasury, so far as it hears, is not much besides an object of contempt, and that the government itself is the chief sufferer by it.

Letters from Washington state that the Government will soon resort to the issue of Treasury Notes to a large amount, and some as low as \$10.

The Washington Fountain says that Congress will vote all the men and supplies necessary to flog Mexico into a peace.

The Legislature of Delaware has elected PRESTLEY SPRUANCE, U. S. Senator from Delaware, in the place of the Hon. Thomas Clayton. The new Senator is a decided Whig.

AN EXPOSITION OF LOCOFOCO PRINCIPLES, BY A MEMBER OF THE PARTY.—The Boston Atlas contains the following:

'Well Jerry,' said a Whig to a leading Locofoco in Norfolk county on the reception of the late election returns from New York, 'what do you think of the news from New York?' 'Oh,' said Jerry, 'our measures are before the people, and it remains with them either to sustain or reject them.' 'Your measures!' said the Whig, 'what are your measures?' 'Why,' said Jerry, 'we have reduced the Tariff—we have annexed Texas—made war with Mexico, and—raised h—ll generally!'

The quantity of land owned by the United States, exclusive of lands in Texas and Oregon, is two hundred and forty-two millions of acres.

JUST MISSED.—Three men were most killed a few days since at Nesquehoning, by the accidental discharge of a rifle. The ball passed through the nose of one, skinned the eyebrow of another, and cut off the ear lock of the third. A miss is as good as a mile, but we should rather be a little further off so dangerous a weapon.—Carbon Co. Gazette.

The Chester, Pa., Republican, says:—We learn that a fatal disease, called the "Black Fever" prevails in Haverford township, in this county. Many persons think it contagious, and refuse visiting those who are afflicted.

Claims of the Polk Administration.

A Large STANDING ARMY!
An Immense PUBLIC DEBT!
A Magnificent Navy!
A Strong Government!
Executive INFALLIBILITY!
SEDITION LAWS!
Territorial Aggrandizement!
Wars of Invasion, Conquest and Plunder!
Direct Taxes!

These, justly observes the New Brunswick Fredonian, form present and prospective claims to our fealty and admiration of the present administration. If Alexander Hamilton, or the elder Adams were alive, we should, without doubt, think ourselves under the reign of the most absolute Federalism, instead of the mild and balmy and honied Democratic sway!

The following extract is from Oliver Old-school's sketch of a speech of Col. Baker, of the Illinois volunteers, in the House of Representatives, in which he has just resigned his seat, to return to Mexico:

"He then referred to the charge that had been made against the Whigs that they were opposed to the war, and to granting supplies, and the manner in which they had repelled this foul charge. He deemed it an unjust charge—Whigs as well as democrats rushed into the conflict. A son of Mr. Webster was at the head of a company of volunteers, the gallant Crittenden had two sons in the army; and he ran over a long list of the most gallant officers—men who had distinguished themselves by their bravery,—who were staunch whigs.—There was no political distinction in the army; Whigs and Democrats were equally brave and gallant. Davis, who commanded the Mississippi regiment, as gallant an officer as ever led his troops to battle was a democrat, while Lieut. Col. McClung, the bravest of the brave was an uncompromising Whig. He deprecated these discussions in the House; what was wanted was ACTION, ACTION, ACTION. The army expected it and the country looked for it. All such attacks on the whigs as he had heard since he had come here, he looked upon with contempt and scorn.

The Present Year.

The observer of signs may look upon 1847 with a fearful face. The year begins with Friday and ends with Friday—that very unlucky day. The fourth of July comes on Sunday—very unlucky. For the first time in the "recollection of the oldest inhabitant," there will be no full moon this year in the month of February—unlucky month. Our national political day begins on Sunday, the 4th of March—unlucky day. There will be no eclipse visible in the year—unlucky for star-gazers. But, as an offset for the whole, January is to be blessed with two full moons, and March with a like number—this will be lucky, and will perhaps throw light enough over the dark features of the year to overcome all evil prognostications.

Portsmouth Journal.

BRICKS.—The number of bricks made last year in this country, is estimated at 300,000,000, employing 50,000 men in their manufacture. The expense of making bricks varies from \$2 to \$7 per thousand.

SAVE YOUR SUGAR.—In cooking sour apples and cranberries, add a teaspoonful of saleratus. The acid will be naturalized by the alkali. By this means three-fourths of the sugar will be saved. So say the papers. So says science. "It's a fact," adds experience.

REWARD OF MERIT.—A member of the Senior Class of Williams College on Thanksgiving day ran away with and married a young lady of Williamstown, and his class have voted him a cradle!

Pittsburg Elections.

Pittsburg, Jan. 6, 1847.

City elections yesterday. Every ward Whig and anti-license by large majorities. Anti-license majority 1200! Whig majority over 600!

The election was for city councils and other corporation officers. The election for Mayor takes place next Tuesday.

WISCONSIN.—The Convention to frame a Constitution for this State, was still in session at the last accounts. The following provisions have been adopted:

"A provision that the homestead of a family shall not be liable to sale on execution for any debt hereafter contracted. It has also been settled that the property possessed by a wife at marriage, or fairly acquired by her afterwards, shall not be liable for the debts of her husband. Judges are to be chosen by the people, at a special election in July next.

The Cholera is destroying human life by thousands in Asia.