

porations done in this great achievement!—Where are the trophies of their generous spirit, their valor or their utility? They are behind the times—they belong to an age that is past. The time was, in other countries, where all the rights of the people were usurped by despotic governments, when a grant by the king to a portion of his subjects, of corporate privileges, to carry on trade, or for municipal purposes, was a partial enfranchisement, and made the means of resuming some of their civil rights. Then and there, corporations had merits, and were cherished by the friends of liberty. But, in this age and country, under our free system, where the people are sovereign to grant special privileges, it is an inversion of the order of things. It is not to restore, but to take away from the people, their common rights and give them to a few. It is to go back to the dark ages for instruction in the science of government, and having found an example, to wrest it from its original purpose, and to make it the instrument of restoring the inequality of despotism, which its introduction tended to correct.

The fallacy that, where large investments are required to carry on a profitable business, (and corporations do not associate for that which is unprofitable,) individual means are inadequate, is everywhere refuted in this happy country.

Further, by cherishing any particular business, and surrounding it with special privileges, the natural law, which secures to every branch of business its appropriate encouragement and reward, is violated. Under this law, so kindly provided by Him who rules all things, every individual man, untrammelled by the curses of bad government, guided by his moral and intellectual powers and his religious principles, advances his own happiness and improves his own condition; and, thus, the happiness and prosperity of all are promoted. Every effort to modify or subvert this sovereign law, by placing classes, professions or callings beyond its control, has hitherto, and ever will, like every other transgression, be destructive of good. If our free institutions are right—if it is right that all men should be held equal—if this is the law of our nature, stamped by Him who made us, then every human law which impairs this equality, is radically and intrinsically wrong.

The Report of the Canal Commissioners will furnish information, in detail, in regard to the public works. Notwithstanding the interruptions of business experienced during the year, the gratifying result is presented, of a large increase of tolls over any preceding year. The increased and increasing value of these great works, render them an object worthy of peculiar care and protection; and must, forever, negative the idea of the State surrendering the control over them, to a corporation.

The Pennsylvania railroad company have commenced the construction of their road, between this place and the city of Pittsburg, under very favorable auspices. The Eastern division is now under contract as far as Lewistown, and it is expected the remaining portion of it, as far as Hollidaysburg, will be put under contract during the ensuing Spring. The completion of this great public work, even to Hollidaysburg, will augment the trade and travel upon the Philadelphia and Columbia road. This prospective increase of business urges the necessity of considering the best means of avoiding the inclined plane, at the Schuylkill.

As the Philadelphia and Columbia railroad, is the important link which connects the main line of our public improvements, as well as the North and West branch canals, with the commercial metropolis of the State, and upon the control and management of which the value of our canals mainly depend, everything which relates to it, is of the highest concern to the interest of the Commonwealth. In adopting measures to change its route, so as to reach the city without passing the inclined plane, the greatest circumspection and care should be observed, to secure the best location practicable, and to protect the State against exorbitant claims for damages.—No change of location should be sanctioned, until the whole question is carefully examined, by one or more of the most competent engineers, who are entirely free from all interest in the decision. Under no circumstances, should any plan or arrangement be entertained, by which the State would, for a single moment, be deprived of the ownership and entire control of the road.

The reports of the Auditor General, and State Treasurer, present in detail the financial operations of the year; and I take pleasure in saying, that the industry, ability, and fidelity, with which these departments have been administered, are deserving of the highest commendation.

The Commonwealth has heretofore sustained many losses, by the delay of the settlement of accounts, and the omission to enforce the payment of the balances found due, when settled. Within the last few years, many old accounts have been finally settled, and suits brought and prosecuted to judgment and execution, for balances of long standing, embracing the terms of several administrations. This has, in many instances, produced cases of extreme hardship upon bail, some of whom have been compelled to pay the balances found due, with the accumulated interest, after the insolvency of their principals and co-sureties.

I am gratified in being able to say, that the business imposed upon the accounting officers, by a special act of assembly in collecting these old debts has not only been faithfully performed, but that the current business has been promptly attended to, and kept up. To enable the Auditor General, however, to continue to do full justice to the interests of the State, and all concerned in the prompt settlement of accounts, liberal provision should be made to pay additional clerk hire.

While on this subject, I would respectfully invite attention to the organization of the offices of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, to ascertain whether the regulations and checks existing are sufficient, in all respects, to secure a proper accountability, and protect the interests of the Commonwealth. It is true, that the public has for many years sustained no losses by the Treasury, but I apprehend that the faithfulness of the agents, having charge of these departments and not the checks provided by the law, has produced this result. This is a propitious period for instituting an examination of the subjects, particularly as the present worthy officers hold so large a share of the public confidence. Since the establishment of the present system, the finances of the State have increased from a few hundred thousands, to nearly four millions of dollars annually. The Regulations and checks which were then considered sufficient, may now be inadequate to protect the interests of the Commonwealth in its enlarged and increasing financial operations.

The Auditor General's office, to be an efficient check upon the Treasury, should be so organized, that the Auditor General might know at all times, the condition of the Treasury, from books of his own office, without being dependent on those of the Treasury. If errors or omissions exist in the Treasury, the Auditor General's books should detect and correct them. This is not the case under the present organization and mode of doing business in the two offices.

It also occurs to me, that greater security against the misapplication of the moneys in the Treasury, and on deposit in the banks, to the credit of the Treasurer, should be provided, by the institution of some checks upon his drafts and payments. The moneys of the Commonwealth, on deposit to the credit of the Treasurer, varying in amount, for some months in the year, from four hundred thousand, to near a million of dollars, are subject to his draft, alone, while he is only required to give security in the sum of eighty thousand dollars. Thus a very great and dangerous power is confided to one man.

I, therefore, suggest the propriety of requiring the Auditor General to countersign all drafts for the payment of money drawn by the Treasurer, on the depositories, or for transferring moneys from one depository to another.

The report of the Adjutant General, exhibits the number of the militia of the Commonwealth, as well as the arms and military stores.

This detail shows the elements of the military power of the Commonwealth—the strength of a Republican Government. The experience of the last few years, has added proofs to the value of this institution, and presents the subject, as one of great importance, to the care and supervision of the Legislature.

The report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, exhibits a full view of the progress and steady advancement, of our admirable system of Common School instruction, which is diffusing its blessings to the rising generation, and strengthens all our free institutions. The man who loves his race, cannot find a more delightful subject of contemplation, than this universal provision for the education of all the children of the Commonwealth; and thus arming them with knowledge and power, and fitting them for maintaining the rank and dignity of freemen. The perfection of the system, is one of the noblest objects of legislation, and will secure the early and continued attention of the General Assembly.

You are respectfully referred to the report of the Surveyor General for information in relation to the operation of the Land Office, during the past year, by which it will be seen, the receipts into the Treasury, from that source, have been increased.

The final Geological report, now finished and ready for the press, has been deposited by Henry D. Rogers, Esq., the State Geologist, with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. This report is represented to contain a general and scientific view of all the Rocky strata, and their contents—their order of arrangement, and the region of country they occupy, and representing, in detail, the situation of every layer of Coal, every important vein and bed of iron ore, and every other mineral deposit, of utility, within the State. The State has expended a large sum in collecting the materials, and information contained in this elaborate and extensive report, which will be, in a great degree, lost, unless it is published. I, therefore, recommended the subject of publication to the early attention of the Legislature.

The rights of property of married women, present, in my opinion, a proper subject of legislative consideration. By our laws, the husband, upon marriage, possesses the power of becoming the absolute owner of the personal estate of his wife, by reducing it into possession, and when he thus acquires this ownership, he may dispose of it by will, at his death, to whom he pleases. She has the privilege, by law, of renouncing the estate or property devised or bequeathed to her by will; and upon such renunciation, she is entitled to dower of her husband's real estate, of which he died seized. The wife has no control of her own personal estate, or of that of her husband during the marriage, unless it be an extorted allowance for necessities; and at her death, she has no power to dispose of even that which was her own, by will; but the whole belongs to the husband. The husband may encumber his estate, by contracting debts without the consent of his wife; and by his dying intestate, she is only entitled to the one-third of the real estate, after the payment of all the debts; and, if the real estate is not sufficient to the payment of the debts, she loses all. But the wife cannot encumber the real estate she holds in her own right, and upon her death, the whole vests in the husband, during his natural life.

The policy, as well as the justice of this distinction, made by the law in favor of the husband, and against the wife, may well be questioned. The liberal and enlightened spirit of the age, has developed and secured the rights of man, and has redeemed woman and elevated her, from the degrading position she occupied, and placed her, where she always should have been, at the side of her husband, his equal in rank and dignity. Then why should her rights of property still be, to a great extent, controlled by the contracted and liberal enactments of an age, when her husband was her lord, and he might chastise her, by law, as if she were a servant? Our law very carefully provides, that the husband shall not without the formal consent of his wife, convey his real estate by deed, so as to bar her right of dower, and if this consent is not given, her right is protected, after his death against the claims of his creditors.—Now, if this be a sound principle, and worthy of the solemn sanctions it has received from the Legislature and the Judiciary, why should it not be extended, so as to preserve to the widow her dower, in all cases where the husband has not only by deed, but by other means, sanctioned by the law, disposed of his real estate, without the formal consent of his wife? If the husband contracts debts, his real estate is as effectually transferred by the law, for the use of his creditors, as if he had conveyed it by deed, with the consent of his wife.—thus the law, at present, enables the husband, by one mode of transfer, to bar his wife's dower, without her consent, while it protects her rights with the greatest pertinacity, if he adopts another mode of transfer. If the widow's right of dower is good in one case, as is universally admitted, it is equally as good in the other, and the power of the husband to take it away, by changing the mode of transferring the estate, is destructive of a sound and well established principle, and should be repealed. This conclusion appears

to me to be irresistible; and I, therefore, recommend the passage of a law, securing to married women their right of dower, in all cases where the estates of their husbands are transferred, after the passage of an act, without the formal consent.

In the annual message to the Legislature, at the last session, and in several messages containing objections to bills for dissolving marriage contracts, I have expressed my opinions upon the subject of granting legislative divorces.—These opinions have been strengthened by further reflection, and I shall adhere to them.

The great purposes for which the law-making power was established in the Commonwealth, have been accomplished. General laws have been enacted, and have received the approbation of the people, for securing the enjoyment of life, the liberty, and reputation of the citizens, and for protecting them in the acquisition, possession, and transmission of property, and in the pursuit of their own happiness. The foundations of good government being thus laid, the time of the General Assembly, at its annual sessions, is more occupied in providing for the contingencies that arise in the progress of our affairs, than in changing the organic laws, as is attested by reference to the annual enactments of the Legislature. For some years past, but few general, while a large number of local laws, have been enacted. The tendency seems to substitute special, for general legislation; a practice which may well be regarded as of doubtful utility—and it presents a question, which, in my opinion, deserves grave consideration.—General laws, affecting the whole community, receive, in their discussion, the deliberate consideration of all the Representatives of the people. That which interests all, arrests the attention, and secures the care and close investigation of all. Hence, general laws have impressed upon them, the wisdom, the experience, and the judgment, of every member of the Legislature. Having received this deliberate sanction they usually meet with the approbation of the people and become permanent rules of action. This reasonable practice, limits and simplifies the questions submitted for legislative discussion, is calculated to shorten the sessions, reduce the expenses of government, and give dignity and importance to the proceedings of the General Assembly.

On the other hand, local legislation excites no interest. A few members, only, who represent the county, township or borough, in which the change of the law is proposed, are concerned in arranging the provisions, and being too often passed upon their request, those special acts are sent forth, with all the imperfections, which the wisdom and deliberate care of the whole body, if they had been general laws, would have corrected. The direct tendency of this practice is to multiply the demand for local laws—a demand which has increased from year to year to an alarming extent, which no industry of the General Assembly will be able, within the limits of an ordinary session, to satisfy, if the practice is continued. Is it not impracticable, in a great State like Pennsylvania, to provide special acts to meet all the different and changing views of the citizens of every borough, township and county? and if this were practicable, would not the policy of establishing an infinite variety of different rules for the same people, be exceedingly questionable, and introduce great confusion and uncertainty? Would it not defeat one great and beneficial object of sound legislation, which is permanency of the laws? Is there not true wisdom end sound policy in preserving and strengthening the unity of the Commonwealth, and in maintaining uniform interests, customs and habits? It is true, there are shades of differences in the condition and local circumstances of the citizens of separate districts of the State; but, in an advancing and improving country, where intercourse is so direct, and the social relations of life are so generally diffused, these will gradually and certainly disappear under the influence of general laws. We are one people, without reference to our ancestry, or the place of our birth. We are all Pennsylvanians—we have the same constitution of government—the same common rights—then why should we not have the same common law? In conclusion, permit me to assure you, gentlemen, that I shall most heartily co-operate with you in all your efforts to advance our beloved Commonwealth, and to promote the welfare of the people.

FRS. R. SHUNK.  
Executive Chamber,  
Harrisburg, January 5, 1848.

**Delaware Honesty.**  
There was not a single white citizen of our county tried or convicted of a criminal offence, at the last session of our court. The only white man tried or convicted was Levi Nice, from Pennsylvania, and his back was so scored and cut up at the whipping-post that we do not think he will visit Delaware again in a hurry. If he does he will be a marked man, as he is bound to wear the large letter T, of a red color, on his outside garment, and if found with it off, he will be taken up and whipped again.

**Popes, Kings and Queens.**  
Rev. Dr. Baird, in a recent lecture, published in the Harford Charter Oak, speaks of certain princes, in the following terms:—The Pope is a man of fine talents, the best Pope Rome has had for many a day. He is enlightened and liberal in his views, and though strongly attached to the Roman Catholic faith, yet desires that Italy should take a higher stand among the countries of Europe. The Queen of England is a proud woman. She does not possess great talents, but is smart—and every year is becoming a better Queen. In private character, the four worst monarchs in Europe are the Kings of Hanover, Holland, Bavaria, and Naples.—These Kings are notoriously vicious. The others are generally moral, many of them exemplary in private life.

A meeting was held at the city of Mexico, on the 4th of December last, in which Americans and Mexicans participated, in favor of the construction of a railroad from that place to Vera Cruz.



## JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

Thursday, January 13, 1848.

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

L. BARNES, at Milford, is duly authorized to act as Agent for this paper; to receive subscriptions, advertisements, orders for job-work, and payments for the same.

**COURT.**—The January term of the Court of Monro county, commenced on the 10th instant. A full report of the proceedings will be given in our next.

**B. S. SCHOONOVER, Esq.**, of the House of Representatives, will please accept our thanks for an early copy of the Governor's message.

### Pennsylvania Legislature.

The Legislature assembled at Harrisburg on the 4th inst. Nearly all the members of both houses were present. In the Senate, Mr. Williamson, of Chester, was elected Speaker; S. W. Pearson, of Somerset, Clerk; J. H. McCalla, of Franklin, and James D. Desmond, of Philadelphia, Transcribing Clerks; William Eastburn, of Monroe, Sergeant-at-Arms; J. Wilson Cowell, of Bucks, Doorkeeper; Philip Weber, of Dauphin, Messenger. The officers elected are all Whigs, having received the unanimous vote of the Whig Senators, and some of them, of the whole Senate. Mr. Darsie, from the Select Committee, to whom was referred the Message of the Governor, asking that an appropriation of \$50,000 be made, to pay the money loaned by the banks, and which was applied to the repair of the breaches in the Pennsylvania Canal, reported a bill to provide for extraordinary repairs on the public works, which was taken up and passed. No other business of much importance was transacted, except the reference of the Governor's Message to the appropriate committees.

### More Bank Failures.

The New York papers state that the Rochelle Bank, the Atlas Bank, and the James Bank at Jamestown, all in the State of New York, have suspended payment.

What's the matter? Is this the operation of the Tariff of 1846?

### Breakers Ahead?

All accounts concur in representing the monetary affairs in New York in a most deplorable condition, owing chiefly to the enormous expenditures for the Mexican War, and the operations of the Sub-Treasury. The New York correspondent of the North American, Saturday last, said

"It was the general talk of the street that the Sub-Treasury was broke to-day, the drafts on it being five hundred thousand dollars, and the specie in vault only four hundred thousand. The White House had plenty of Treasury Notes, but the pains and penalties forced him to pay out coin. Yesterday a draft could not be paid on presentation, but was paid before 3 o'clock. Broke or not broke, to that complexion the Treasury must come at last, if nothing but Treasury Notes are paid in and nothing but specie paid out. The receipts of the Custom House here this week have been \$232,000, of which only \$78,000 was in coin \$154,000 in Notes."

This drain of specie presses heavily upon the banks; and the New York Herald says— "A suspension states them in the face, which ever way they may turn, and there appears to be no escape from it, from the present complexion of things. Unless something favorable turns up—unless some unlooked for change takes place—we see no hope no prospect of avoiding the scenes of 1837. The Bankers and capitalists, in every section of the country, are watching the progress of the ten regiment bill with the most intense anxiety. It is with fear and trembling that they see its adoption almost a matter of certainty. It will be difficult to tell whether the government or the banks will be in the most embarrassing situation, in the event of Congress doing anything calculated to increase the wants of the Treasury Department. In the event of the banks suspending, where will the government get specie to meet its expenditures according to the provisions of the Independent Treasury act? The banks can suspend and hold on to what specie they may have at the time; but the government cannot suspend payment and carry on the war. The future looks dark and gloomy enough, and every one asks what will be the result of this business?"

One of the latest Locofoco falsehoods, is that the Whig Senators at Harrisburg, in caucus, took into consideration the propriety of refusing to allow Senator Small to take his seat, because he was absent last session, with the army in Mexico.

Randall Hutchinson, a clerk in the Mint at Philadelphia, has decamped, leaving a defalcation of \$20,000 behind him.

### Rail Road Meeting in Milford.

In pursuance of previous public notice a large number of the citizens of the county of Pike, assembled at the Pike County House, kept by Jacob S. Sandt, in Milford, on Saturday the 8th inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration the application of the New York and Erie Rail Road Company, for an alteration in the law granting them the privilege of constructing a portion of their Road in Pike county. Organized by electing the Hon. John H. Brodhead, President; Samuel S. Thrall, of Dingman township, and John H. Wallace, of Milford, Vice Presidents; Daniel Burrell, of Dingman, and H. S. Mott, of Milford, as Secretaries. On motion of Wm. C. Salmon, Esq., the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, to wit:

Wm. C. Salmon, Esq. Cornelius W. Dewitt, John T. Cross, Edward Hawk, David Van Gorden, Horace L. West, Esq., Doct. A. A. Lines.

In the absence of the committee John M. Heller, Esq., made report of the correspondence had between the said Company and a committee of Citizens, of whom he was a member. After which, H. S. Mott, being called for made some suggestions which in his opinion would be proper to pursue in the future—relative to the matter—and closed by moving that a subscription be immediately put in circulation for the purpose of raising a fund to defray the necessary expenses incident to our measures, which being carried, was done, and resulted in a very liberal contribution, creditable to the citizens present.

The committee on Resolutions, reported through their chairman Wm. C. Salmon, Esq., the following Resolutions, which after their reading, and a very able and appropriate speech by the chairman, were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, it is understood that an application on the part of the New York and Erie Rail Road Company, is about being made to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the repeal of that portion of the Act of 26th March, 1846, which limits the place of crossing into this county to some point between Carpenters Point and the Glass House. This portion of the act provides also for a connection with the said rail road at or near Carpenters Point, by any other rail road chartered or to be chartered by this State.

The object of these provisions are to secure a Pennsylvania connection with that road.—Owing to the peculiar nature of the route, such a connection cannot be effected, should the place of crossing be above the Glass House—the rocks at that place permitting with difficulty the construction of the Erie Road, and rendering physically impossible any connection from the Pennsylvania side. The avowed object of the Company in asking permission to change the place of crossing is to avoid the great expense incident to the construction of their road through the rocks at that place. It is not the object of the citizens of this County to embarrass a corporation engaged in an undertaking of such magnitude, as the construction of the New York and Erie Rail Road, and they would willingly have their petition granted were they not convinced that such grant would be attended with the sacrifice of great and important interests, not of this County only, but of a large section of the State of Pennsylvania. The citizens of this County, with a large number of the citizens of this State, have cherished the expectation that a connection between the New York and Erie Rail Road and Pennsylvania improvements, would be effected by a rail road passing up the valley of the Delaware. In view of this connection, the proviso sought to be repealed—was inserted in the bill. When the application for the right of way was being made, the citizens of this County, were solemnly assured that a bill thus limiting the place of crossing, would be entirely satisfactory to the Company; and they, therefore, unanimously petitioned the Legislature for the passage of the act of 1846, by which these important interests were amply secured; without these provisions, the citizens of this County, would have as unanimously remonstrated against it.

The present effort to change the place of crossing, strikes at the root of all these advantages secured in the Bill, and is an attempt to procure indirectly legislation which could not be directly procured. Therefore

Resolved, that we look with confidence to the Legislature of our own State for the protection of these great and important interests; that we will unite ourselves and will invite the citizens of the neighboring counties interested, to unite with us in opposing the proposed change in the law, except upon terms permanently securing to Pennsylvania the privilege of connection, and all the other interests and advantages secured in the original bill.

Resolved, that our immediate Representatives in the Legislature, are requested to oppose any change in the existing law, except upon terms amply securing their objects.

On motion the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee of Correspondence, to wit: John H. Wallace, C. C. D. Pinchot, John M. Heller, Wm. C. Salmon, Esq. and C. W. De Witt.

On motion the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare remonstrances, &c., viz: H. S. Mott, Wm. C. Salmon, Esq., and J. S. Wallace.

Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Jeffersonian Republican and Monroe Democrat.