

Jeffersonian Republican.

THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST—Jefferson.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1849.

No. 25

Published by Theodore Schoch.

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In addition to the above variety of Ready Made Articles, he has for sale by the piece or yard, at as low prices as can be found in either of the Atlantic cities, a beautiful assortment of the best quality.

Cloths, Cassimeres, & Vestings,

Gentlemen can have their orders filled at a few hours notice, and sent to any part of the United States—and by sending their measures, can obtain clothing on as good terms as though they were present to select for themselves. Address J. C. BOOTH, No. 27 Cortland street, New York.

October 5, 1848. For the liberal share of patronage which has been extended to him for so many years, he returns unfeigned acknowledgements, and he promises that no efforts shall be spared on his part in future to continue to serve his customers on as favorable terms as any other house in the trade.

STOVES! STOVES!

For sale by STODDERS STOVES. Stroudsburg, November 10, 1848.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Fellow-Citizens!—In performing the responsible duties enjoined by the Constitution on the Executive of the State, a sincere pleasure is felt in addressing, at the commencement of each session of the Legislature, the immediate representatives of the people. To present to them in faithful candor the true position of public affairs, to suggest remedies for known wants, to aid in the enactment of such measures as the interests, happiness and welfare of the citizens seem to demand, is not the less gratifying that it is made the duty of the Executive department. The events of the past year will not fail to teach us the lesson of an over-ruling Providence and the gratitude we owe as a people for the blessings which, through the wisdom of Almighty Goodness, have been vouchsafed to the nation. When the representatives of the people last met, there existed between our country and neighboring republics, a fierce and bitter war. The result, indeed, was not doubtful, for with a people justly celebrated among nations, for their unconquerable bravery, unsurpassed skill in military affairs, and their great superiority over their enemies in physical and mental qualities, victory was the necessary consequence; yet the undecided contest was a source of profound regret, for the sacrifice of human life, and the expenditure of public and private treasure necessary to the establishment of our own peaceful relations.

It is therefore gratifying to know that the war has fully terminated, and that Peace, the rational desire of all, sheds again its blessings on every portion of our country. To the Almighty Father, who in mercy turned the hearts of the rulers of both countries, to lay aside the sword, to cultivate the spirit of brotherly kindness, and to establish peaceful relations between the citizens of their respective governments, we owe the deepest and most fervent gratitude. The abundance of our harvests, the blessings of continued and general health, and the preservation of our civil and religious rights as guaranteed to us by the free institutions of our country; while destitution, misery and convulsed governments, and precarious civil and religious institutions harass the people of other lands, produce in our hearts a fervent acknowledgment of his superintending kindness and mercy.

In the late contest with Mexico, this Commonwealth was called upon by the National Government, to furnish a portion of the troops deemed necessary by the constituted authorities to carry the war to a successful issue. With this requisition it is scarcely necessary to state, our Commonwealth complied with the alacrity which has heretofore distinguished her among her sister republics. A large volunteer force was instantly placed at the disposal of the National Government, and it is a matter of just pride to their fellow-citizens, that in the discharge of every duty, these volunteers maintained the honor of the State, and the renown of their country. The citizen-soldier who fortunately escaped death, has returned to his family and friends, after having earned for himself and the State a reputation for undaunted bravery, for enduring and patient suffering, and many a heroic virtue, that the future annalist will delight to record.

It is due to these patriotic citizens, that this Commonwealth do some act as an acknowledgment of their past illustrious services. To the memory of the dead who fell in the service of their country, it is the duty of the State to erect a suitable monument, that their bravery and virtue may be enduringly remembered, and their heroic sacrifice emulated in other times, should the honor and safety of the country require it from future generations.

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, the late Governor Shunk, has sunk beneath the malady which then afflicted him. He died on the 20th day of July, 1848.

It will not be deemed improper in me to say a few words in reference to the character of the illustrious deceased.

The late Gov. Shunk having spent a large portion of his life in the public service, and having mingled much with his fellow-citizens, was well and extensively known throughout the State; and it is with pleasure the circumstance is recalled to my mind, that at one period of his life, I had the honor to enjoy his intimate personal friendship.

During our intimacy, it always gave him great pleasure to aid and assist the young and inexperienced, to relieve the distressed, and to impart to his fellow-men, by words of kindness and deeds of charity, as large a share of happiness as his condition would allow.

His intercourse with others was courteous, his friendships were lasting, his attachments strong and enduring, while his resentments for injuries were transitory, and made no permanent impression in his bosom. It may with truth be said of Gov. Shunk, that he was a sincere friend, a good neighbor, a pure Christian, and an honest man. Such was the reputation he sustained among his fellow-citizens when my intimacy with him gave me a knowledge of his character, and although a difference of political views separated us for many years before his death, his friends, at a later period of his life have borne testimony that the same purity of intention and desire of well doing remained with him until the hour of his dissolution.

The Legislature is respectfully invited to take such action in relation to the decease of the first Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, whose death occurred during the period for which he was elected, as may be deemed most appropriate to express its sympathy for the sorrow and bereavement of the surviving relatives, and to testify its respect for the memory of the virtues of the distinguished dead.

Prior to the decease of Gov. Shunk, on the 7th day of July, 1848, as appears by the records in the State Department, he resigned the office

of Governor of this Commonwealth, and thereupon, under the provisions of the 14th section of the 2d article of the Constitution, which declares, that "in case of the death or resignation of the Governor, or of his removal from office, the Speaker of the Senate shall exercise the office of Governor, until another Governor shall be duly qualified," the duties of the Executive Department of the Government devolved on me.

Official information of the act of resignation did not reach me until the 17th day of July, 1848. The section of the constitution herein referred to, also declared, in reference to the same subject, that "in such case another Governor shall be chosen at the next annual election of Representatives, unless such death, resignation or removal shall occur within three calendar months immediately preceding such next annual election; in which case a Governor shall be chosen at the second succeeding annual election of Representatives." By the 31st section of the act of the General Assembly relating to the elections of the Commonwealth, it is provided that "in case any vacancy shall occur in the office of Governor of this Commonwealth, more than three calendar months next preceding the 2d Tuesday in October in any year, it shall be the duty of the Speaker of the Senate, or whoever shall be in the exercise of the office of Governor, to issue his writs to the Sheriffs of the several counties, requiring them to give the usual notice, that an election to supply such vacancy will take place on the second Tuesday in October next thereafter; and when such vacancy occurs within three calendar months before the second Tuesday in October, it shall be the duty of the Speaker of the Senate, or whoever shall be in the exercise of the office of Governor, to issue his writs as aforesaid, requiring notice of such election on the second Tuesday in October next, after the issuing of said writ, and in each case said writ shall issue at least three calendar months before the election."

An examination of the constitutional provisions of the Act of Assembly, and the circumstances of the resignation, will satisfy you, that while the resignation occurred more than three calendar months before the next annual election of Representatives, it took place at a time rendering a compliance with the act of assembly in relation to the issuing of writs, utterly impossible. In this view of the case, it might have been deemed a compliance with duty to have refrained from all interference in the matter, inasmuch as events had put it out of my power to comply with the terms of the act of Assembly, directory of the mode in which the constitutional provision on the subject should be carried into effect.

After a full and careful examination of the whole matter, I believed it my duty to issue the writs requiring notice to be given, that an election would be duly held on the second Tuesday of October next ensuing, for the election of a Chief Magistrate of this Commonwealth.—It appeared to me, that in all cases of doubt, there was no safer resting place than submission to the decision of the people, and that in the construction of the laws, relating to the point in question, if any doubt arose, the better course in a republican government, was to refer to the citizen voter the right of selecting at the earliest period his presiding officer, rather than assume a position which would continue official station in myself, beyond the earliest legal opportunity to surrender it into his hands. The organic law required the election, and the Legislative enactment should be so construed as not to contravene the Constitutional provision. Had the terms of the Constitution and laws clearly given a different position to the question, however unpleasant the task of performing the duties of the office without the endorsement of the people's will, they would have been faithfully executed.

In assuming, as Speaker of the Senate, the exercise of Executive functions, although not deeming it absolutely necessary, prudence suggested the propriety of being sworn to a faithful discharge of the Executive duties and an oath to that effect was administered to me by the honorable the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A law requiring in all cases of death or resignation of the Governor, or of his removal from office, that writs to the Sheriffs of the different counties shall be issued as soon as the Speaker of the Senate shall be officially informed of such death, resignation or removal, and requiring, further, that the officer assuming Executive functions should be sworn in the same manner and to the same effect as in case of a Chief Magistrate inducted into office, determining also the person authorized to administer the oath, would obviate future doubts, and the same is respectfully recommended to the Legislature.

It is worthy the attention of the Legislature and the people, that no provision exists in the Constitution, in the contingency of the death or inability to serve, of the Speaker of the Senate after the death, resignation, or removal of the Governor, for the selection of a presiding magistrate. Such an event happening, the government would be left without a constitutional officer to carry on its operations. An omission of such importance should be supplied at the earliest possible period.

Resolutions expressive of the profound sorrow of the Legislature, for the death of that illustrious patriot and sage, John Quincy Adams, and of condolence for the family in their bereavement, were passed by that body at its last session; and the Executive was directed to transmit the same to the widow and family of the deceased. The letter of the late Executive in the performance of that duty, and the reply of the venerable survivor, are herewith transmitted.

The attention of the Legislature having been called to the neglected and suffering condition of the insane poor of the State, an act was passed on the 14th day of April, 1845, providing for the establishment of an asylum for this unfortunate

class of our indigent population, to be located within ten miles of the seat of government. The commissioners named in this act, with funds contributed for the purpose by humane and benevolent citizens of Harrisburg, aided by a liberal appropriation made from the treasury of Dauphin county, purchased a farm of about one hundred and thirty acres, eligibly situated within a mile and a half of the State Capitol. In January, 1846, these commissioners made a report to the Legislature, in which they stated, that on a critical examination of the aforesaid act, such defects were apparent, that they did not conceive themselves justified in proceeding with the building, or in making any expenditure of the sum appropriated by the State, towards its erection, until some modification should be made in the law under which they were acting. To remedy these defects a supplementary act was passed, on the 11th day of April, 1848, upon which the commissioners forthwith adopted measures for the commencement of the work. A plan for the proposed building was adopted, and a contract was made with an experienced architect and builder for its construction. A considerable portion of the materials, as I am informed, has been provided; the excavation of the cellars and foundation has been made, and the hydraulic apparatus for raising water to the building nearly completed. Of the appropriation on account of this building, a warrant has been drawn for \$5,000, of which only \$2,726 05 has been expended. It is hoped and believed that the work will be forwarded with as much despatch as is consistent with prudence and a proper regard for the comforts and restoration of the afflicted insane poor.

By the act of the 4th of May, 1841, entitled "An act to provide revenue to meet the demands on the treasury and for other purposes," certain banks were authorized to subscribe for a loan to the Commonwealth, to an amount equal to a fixed per centage therein stated, on their respective capitals; the amount of such loan to be placed in the treasury for the use thereof, in notes of said banks, of the denomination of one, two, and five dollars. By the terms of the law, the loan was redeemable at any time within five years, and was peremptory that it should be paid, and the notes authorized to be issued withdrawn from circulation on or before the 4th day of May, 1846. The act also provided that the banks issuing said notes should receive them at par value in payment of debts due these institutions. It was thought that by making their redemption dependant on the faith of the State, as well as on that of the banks by which they were issued, a safe and reliable currency would be largely benefited by a loan at one, instead of five per cent, as on previous occasions.

The notes thus issued, were substantially the creatures of the banks. They constituted a loan to the Commonwealth, were required to be paid into the treasury in the manner prescribed in the law, and were redeemable at their par value at the counters of the banks; and the circumstance of the faith of the State, in addition to that of the banks, being pledged for their redemption, could not raise a rational doubt of their constitutionality. How far a subsequent act, passed the 31st day of May, 1844, by relieving the banks from all responsibility touching their redemption and payment thereby making them an issue on the part of the Commonwealth redeemable at the treasury alone, contravened the Constitution of the United States, it is not necessary now to decide.

Under the provisions of the original act of the 4th of May, 1841, the amount of notes issued was two millions two hundred and twenty thousand two hundred and sixty-five dollars, which was specifically appropriated to the support of the government during the year, the payment of debts, and other special purposes therein mentioned.—Within two years thereafter, the sum of one hundred and thirty-five thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars of said issue was found by the banks and converted into permanent loans at five per cent. By a resolution of the 6th of February, 1843, and the act of the 6th of April of the same year, six hundred and eighty-two thousand eighty-seven dollars were cancelled and destroyed.

The act of May 31st, 1844, is as follows: "That the State Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed, on the last days of June, September and December in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, to cancel and deliver to the Auditor General, for destruction, fifty thousand dollars, and on the last days of March, June, September and December in every year thereafter, fifty thousand dollars of the notes issued by the Banks of this Commonwealth in pursuance of the act of the 4th of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, that may then be in the Treasury—and if said notes shall be depreciated, then of the most depreciated—and continue so to do, until the whole amount of the notes legally issued, by Banks as aforesaid, shall have been cancelled and destroyed; and the amount deposited to the credit of the Commonwealth, in Banks or Savings Institutions, or receive, by collectors on the railroads and canals, or by the Treasurer of the City and County of Philadelphia, shall be deemed as money in the Treasury, and subject to the cancellation as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the Auditor General to keep and publish quarterly, in at least one newspaper in Harrisburg, a record of the notes so cancelled and destroyed, designating the Bank or Banks that originally issued the same, in order that the one per centum interest thereon may cease; provided, that it shall be the duty of the State Treasurer to retain the several amounts respectively, out of the receipts of the quarter, so as effectually to secure the cancellation of the amounts herein before provided; and the sum of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the payment of domestic creditors' certificates issued by the Auditor General; provided, that there is sufficient money in the Treasury after paying the several other appropriations in this act."

It was, doubtless, the intention of the legisla-

ture, that the sum of fifty thousand dollars should be destroyed quarterly. Under this act the sum of one hundred thousand dollars was cancelled in 1844; the further sum of eighty-five thousand dollars in 1845—the further sum of one hundred and seventy-six thousand three hundred dollars in 1846—one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in 1847, and eighty-nine thousand in 1848.

The following tabular statement will exhibit, with more clearness, the whole subject in relation to the issue and cancellation of these notes:

Original amt't of relief notes issued	\$2,220,265 00
Amount funded.	135,214 00
Cancelled in 1843 by virtue of the resolution of Feb. 6, and Act of April 8th, 1843,	652,057 00
Cancelled in '44 under act of May 31,	100,000 00
Cancelled in 1845, do.	85,000 00
Cancelled in 1846, do.	176,300 00
Cancelled in 1847, do.	150,000 00
Cancelled in 1848, do.	159,000 00
	\$1,517,601 00

Leaving apparently in circulation on Dec. 31, 1848,

702,664 00

The first failure to comply with the act of Assembly requiring the cancellation of these notes, was prior to, or on Dec. 31, 1844.

The amount directed to be cancelled in 1844 and 1845, and which was not done, was \$165,000

The amount of failure to cancel in 1846, was 25,700

The amount of failure to cancel in 1847, was 50,000

The amount of failure to cancel in 1848, was 11,000

249,700 00

\$452,964 00

It is worthy of remark, that had the cancellation of the notes been made, as required by law, less than half a million of the original issue would now be in existence, a large portion of which has doubtless been mislaid and lost. It will be perceived also, that the act requires the destruction of the most depreciated. In using this term, the legislature must have intended those most defaced. The laws on the subject of these notes having pledged the faith of the State for their redemption, it is not readily seen how they could become depreciated in value, while on the other hand many of them had become defaced, torn and unfit for use. At the passage of the act of May 31st, 1844, about fourteen hundred thousand dollars of this issue were in circulation, and as it required the cancellation and destruction of two hundred thousand dollars per annum only, it prolonged the period of their circulation to seven years, when by the original act of May 4, 1844, but two years remained of the period of their duration. To the act of May 31, 1844, is attributable, therefore, the continuance in circulation of these notes, after they had become torn, defaced and unfit for use. The original act, had it not been counteracted by subsequent legislation, provided the necessary means for the redemption of these notes, through the banks, on or before the 4th day of May, 1845, and the failure to destroy them, as required by the act of May 31st, 1844, clearly demonstrates that the treasury has not been, since then, in a condition to repay the loan or redeem the notes. Hence, they have continued in circulation, have been paid into your public offices, and again paid out of the treasury, until they are wholly unfit as a currency for the citizens. The amount now in circulation is presumed to be about six hundred thousand dollars. It is suggested that the worst of these notes, as they are paid into the treasury, should be retained, and in their stead, an equal amount of new notes, of the same denominations, under an arrangement with any of the banks of this Commonwealth, be put into circulation for a period of time, so long only as may be required by the quarterly destruction of fifty thousand dollars, to absorb the whole amount of the issue. A measure of this character would relieve the currency of those unfit for use, and have the effect, in a short time, of putting the whole issue out of circulation. I would earnestly press upon the legislature the passage of such laws as would prohibit, in these mutilated and defaced condition, their payment from the treasury. Should it be deemed a more desirable course to rid the currency of the entire issue by a loan, it might be a fair condition of the renewal of the character of any bank, at the present session, that it make a loan at a low rate of interest to the government, to be used in redeeming and cancelling the whole or such part as might be deemed advisable. Any arrangement on the subject you may devise, to relieve the people of this currency, shall receive my cordial approbation.

The payment of the interest on the public debt in a sound convertible currency, is of great moment to the credit of the State. This demand on the treasury has heretofore, to a large extent, been made by payments in depreciated paper, by which the holders of State bonds have suffered pecuniary loss.

An evil of this nature demands a speedy and effectual remedy. The relief notes, originally intended to be temporary in their existence and local in their circulation, should not be freed from their legitimate purpose, or paid from the treasury in discharge of the interest of the public debt.

No great inconvenience could be felt in withholding an amount so small as their present circulation from such application. To secure an object so desirable, the revenues of the State should be collected in such funds only as admitted of ready convertibility into specie without loss to the treasury. The relief notes, as well as the notes of all specie-paying Banks of this Commonwealth, should be received in payment of public dues, while other paper money, under par, at the piece designated for the payment of interest on the public debt, should be refused, unless upon notice to that effect of the State Treasurer, arrangements by the Banks issuing the same were