

Governor's Message.

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

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The Legislative branch of the Government, meets under circumstances calculated to produce deep emotions of gratitude. The events of the past year cannot fail to afford assurances of the continued mercy of the Almighty Father of the Universe, and of the blessings He has dispensed to the people of this Commonwealth. While in other parts of our country, and in distant lands, pestilence has made fearful ravages; leaving in its track the wretchedness of destitution and the tears of crushed affections; a healthful climate, in the disposal of a righteous Providence, has preserved the citizens of the State comparatively free from the miseries of the destroyer. During a period of war, famine and civil commotion in the old world, bringing in their train, desolation and want; blighting the hopes, paralyzing the industry, and ruining the prosperity of the people; our beloved Commonwealth, in union with others under the National Constitution, has enjoyed the delights of peace, and her citizens, in the exercise of industrial pursuit, have found contentment and competence. To the Author and Guardian of our being, whose beneficence caused all things to work together for our good, our reverence and gratitude are especially due.

The recent efforts for the establishment of liberal political institutions in Europe, have excited in the people of this country, the warmest sympathies. The conflict between the oppressor and oppressed, whatever may be the incidents of results, having for its object a government capable of protecting and extending political and social liberty, must be regarded by the people of the United States with the deepest solicitude. In the enjoyment of institutions which recognize the inherent rights of man, and are founded on the acknowledged principle that all political power is a trust to be exercised for the benefit of the citizens, they cannot witness the struggle between despotism and freedom, without ardent hopes and sincere prayers for the triumph of liberty and an eroded justice. It is impossible to behold a people long the subjects of tyranny and oppression—enlightened by our example, and solicitors for equal enjoyments—rising up beneath the burthens which centuries have heaped upon them—casting aside the reverence for power, and the pride of regal splendor; looking forward to the establishment of human rights; to the elevation of the moral and social condition of society; and placing their lives and fortunes on the hazard of a struggle for these objects; without, on our part, an earnest, and anxious desire that they may succeed. That struggle has been unsuccessful. The arbitrary Governments, in whose midst the noble band of patriots erected their standard, have succeeded with their immense force in maintaining tyrannical authority, and the brave men who fought for freedom, have either perished under the barbarous exactions of despotic will, or they wander in foreign lands, exiles from home that no longer afford security. It is not the policy of our National Government to mingle in the controversies of foreign nations, nor is it desirable that it should, by acts of hostility or friendship, break up the commercial relations which exist for mutual advantage; but it is, nevertheless, no violation of international law to enter our solemn protest and warning, against acts of cruelty and barbarism upon heroic men and defenceless women. It is no wrong for our Government to unite with others, in the expression of indignation against the violation of the national faith and national law, involved in the demand, for sanguinary purposes, of the brave defenders of human rights.

The consideration of the Legislature is respectfully invited to the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

House of Refuge, 5,000	Nicholson Lands, 300	Eachests, 2,000	Abatement of State Tax, 40,000	Annual Fees and Commissions, 2,000	Miscellaneous, 5,000	Inclined Plane (Schuykill), 125,000	North Branch Canal, 50,000	Commissioner's of the Sinking Fund, 250,000	\$4,004,500 00
The foregoing estimated balance in the Treasury, at the end of the fiscal year 1850, would appear to justify the appropriation of \$4,000 toward the completion of the Western Reservoir at Johnstown, as heretofore recommended. It would also authorize the appropriation of a sum not less than \$300,000 in addition to the amount already appropriated, to be expended in the completion of the North Branch Canal.									
The Legislature at its last session authorized the re-issuance of the relief notes then in circulation, and suspended their cancellation for three years. The amount of the whole issue now outstanding is \$653,164 60									
The amount paid into the Treasury and supplied by a new issue is 443,537 00									
Balance, 209,827 00									
The above balance has been destroyed, or has failed to reach the Treasury during the year. These notes, the redemption of which being amply secured, and affording a safe and convenient local currency, have received the confidence and favor of the citizens. It is therefore recommended that authority be given to the proper officers, to keep them in good condition, by a new issue, in lieu of such as may become mutilated and defaced.									
In addition to the suggestions made by the last Legislature on the subject of the moneyed affairs of the State, it is deemed proper to call your attention to the fact, that a portion of the funded debt is overdue; a part bearing an interest of six per cent; and a part falling due the year 1850, as follows:									
The amount of five per cent. funded debt overdue, except bank charter loans, is \$35,519 10									
The amount of six per cent. funded debt overdue, is 1,752,335 06									
The amount of five per cent. funded debt falling due on or before Dec. 1, 1850, is 929,211 15									
The amount of unfunded debt now due, 85,104 88									
Amount demandable at the treasury during the year, 3,191,170 19									
Provision should be made at an early day for arrangements with the creditors holding these claims. To permit them to remain in their present condition, would not only excite an indignation to pay our just debts, but would also operate injudiciously to the holders of the stock, by compelling sales at a price below their par value. The annual demands upon the Treasury, with the present means of the State, will not permit the payment of these loans; and the only practicable mode which suggests itself seems to be the negotiation of new loans, stipulating an extension of the time of payment. It is believed that such loans could be negotiated at a rate of interest not exceeding five per cent. Should authority be given in the arrangements suggested, to stipulate that the stock should be exempt from taxation, the inducements to investments therein would create a competition as would be highly advantageous to the Treasury. Justice and honesty require that these debts should be promptly paid, or arranged to the satisfaction of the parties interested, and any provision which the Legislature may deem proper on the subject, will meet the cordial approbation of the Executive.									
The establishment of a sinking fund, by the appreciation of State stocks, and the consequent increase of confidence in the ability of the State to meet her engagements; with the redemption by a new issue of the relief notes, has had the salutary effect of enabling the Treasury Department with slight expense in the exchange or transmission of means, to meet the payment of interest on the public debt in part, and to pay her creditors. It is estimated that \$130,000 of the public stock are held in this country, and the addition in their value, by these simple operations, demanded alike by sound policy and honesty, will increase their marketable worth in the hands of the citizens \$125,000. To the efficiency of the State Treasurer, the Auditor General, and other officers charged with the collection and disbursement of the public moneys during the past year, is justly attributable in a high degree these favorable results.									
The beneficial results of the sinking fund cannot be doubted. The payments from various sources to the Commissioners, during the past year, have been as follows:									
From collateral inheritance tax, \$120,212 41									
" Premiums on charters, 35,969 40									
" Eating and oyster houses and restaurants, 5,867 20									
" Billiard and bowling saloons and ten-pin alleys, 2,985 50									
" Theatre, circus and menagerie licenses, 2,210 00									
" Distillery and brewery licenses, 384 00									
Amount received for the year ending December 1, 1849, 227,629 01									
The estimated payments for the same purpose for the year ending Dec. 1, 1850, are as follows:									
From collateral inheritance tax, \$200,000 00									
" Interest on stocks purchased, 15,000 00									
" Premiums on charters, 40,000 00									
" Theatre, circus and menagerie licenses, 3,000 00									
" Distillery and brewery licenses, 1,500 00									
" Billiard and bowling saloons and ten-pin alleys, 5,000 00									
" Eating and oyster houses and restaurants, 15,000 00									
" Balance in Treasury after deducting appropriations heretofore recommended, 91,500 00									
\$71,000 00									
The opinion is confidently expressed that the estimated receipts above stated will be found to approximate the truth, should an adherence to the policy pursued by the last Legislature, in relation to premiums on charters, and other financial measures be authorized and continued.—Should such be the case, the above sum, at the present rates, would extinguish upwards of four hundred thousand dollars of the funded debt, during the present fiscal year. The sources from which the sinking fund is supplied must necessarily increase. The tax on collateral inheritance, and on theatre, circus and menagerie licenses, prior to the act creating a sinking fund, yielding to the Treasury about the sum of \$45,000 annually. By the provisions of that act, these have been increased to the sums above stated, and the other sources of revenue have been created by recommendations heretofore made to the Legislature.									
With these means for the supply of the sinking fund, together with such additions as the probable resources of the Treasury, from time to time may justify, it is susceptible of easy calculation, to determine how nearly approaches the period when the State taxes may be repealed, and the burthens of the people removed. So manifestly important are these results upon the industrial pursuits of the citizens, and the interests and honor of the State, it is suggested for consideration whether good policy would not require the transfer of all balances in the treasury at the end of each year to the Commissioners for the sinking fund.									
Every consideration that can impose itself on a government demands the payment of the public debt. The local advantages of our Commonwealth; the salubrity of our climate,—the vastness of our mineral deposits,—the fertility of our soil;—and the prosperity and happiness of the people, alike require the repeal of a system of laws, which compel emigration, prevent the settlement of uncultivated lands,—drive capital from our borders, and paralyze the industry of every class of our citizens! Should these balances remain in the Treasury unappropriated to the said fund, the history of the past will be repeated; and that prodigal expenditure will be made to objects of diminished importance.									
The subject of the revision and equalization of the laws for raising revenue, is again earnestly pressed upon the attention of the Legislature. Great injustice arises under existing enactments, from the want of adequate means to prevent or to punish individuals making false returns of property subject to taxation. The conscientious citizen, scrupulously exact in the performance of his obligations to society, may well complain of laws which suffer the dishonest to elude with impunity the payment of an equitable share of									

From Lands, \$20,000 00	Auction Commissions, 22,000 00	Duties, 20,000 00	Tax on Bank Dividends, 130,000 00	" " Corporation Stocks, 160,000 00	" " Real and Personal Estate, 1,320,000 00	" " Tavern Licenses, 60,000 00	" " Retailer's Licenses, 150,000 00	" " Pedlar's Licenses, 2,000 00	" " Broker's Licenses, 12,000 00	" " Theatre, Circus and Menagerie Licenses, 3,000 00	" " Billiard Rooms, Bowling Saloons and Ten-pin Alley Licenses, 5,000 000	" " Distillery and Brewery Licenses, 1,500 000	" " Eating Houses, Beer Houses and Restaurants Licenses, 15,000 00	" " Patent Medicine Licenses, 3,000 00	" " Pamphlet Laws, 2,000 00	Militia Fines, 40,000 00	Tax on Writs, Wills, Deeds, &c., 40,000 00	" " Certain Offices, 20,000 00	" " Lighthouse Maintenance, 250,000 00	Canal and Railroad Tolls, 1,225,000 00	Canal Fines and Sale of old Materials, 5,000 00	Equipments of Laws, 11,000 00	Premiums on Charters, 2,000 00	Tax on Loans, 125,000 00	Dividends on Turnpike and Bridge Stock, 27,000 00	Nicholson Lands, 2,000 00	Accrued Interest, 5,000 00	Refunded Cash, 5,000 00	Eachests, 2,000 00	Fees of Public Officers, 2,000 00	Miscellaneous, 2,000 00	Interest on Stock purchased, 15,000 00	\$4,566,300 00
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Discriminations in the tolls on the Public Works, against portions of our citizens, by means of a system of drawbacks and maximum rates of tolls, are unjust and improper. Their labor and property, in common with others, were encumbered in the construction of the improvements; their industry and wealth have for years assisted, and continued to assist, to sustain them; and it is difficult to perceive upon what principle of public policy, a Tariff of Tolls is maintained, discriminating against their interests. The demands of trade cannot excuse a palpable wrong of this character while a reduction of tolls on the whole line of improvements, would produce an increase of business, and secure the desired foreign trade.

The practice of contracting debts for repairs, and for the purchase of materials beyond appropriations for these purposes, should be prohibited by severe penalties. Nothing can be more destructive of all accountability, or offer stronger inducements to extravagance, than such a power over the public moneys. An officer guilty of an act of this kind, violates the trust committed to him, and should be forthwith dismissed from the public service. Debts already contracted in this way, should be paid; for the labor in behalf of the State has been performed, and it would inflict an injury on those who could not have a knowledge of the wrong, to withhold from them the value of their services; but immediate measures should be adopted, to prevent such occurrences in future. A practice of this kind, authorized in some measure by subsequent appropriations by the Legislature, for the payment of the debts thus contracted, cannot fail to mislead the people, and embarrass the public officers in their estimates and recommendations. The large appropriations for the payment of old debts, made at the last session of the Legislature, show the extent to which the practice has been carried, and should admonish us to guard against a recurrence of the evil. In providing by legal enactment against the mischief here stated, authority, might be given to the Canal Commissioners, should it be deemed necessary, to meet deficiencies in the funds provided for any line of improvements; to draw from a specific appropriation for that purpose, requiring from them a detailed and special report on the subject, to the auditing department, as well as to the succeeding Legislature.

The avoidance of the Schuykill inclined Plane, and the improvements connecting with the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad which are in rapid progress of construction, must materially increase the business on that public thoroughfare, and will render the relaying of a portion of said road, a work of absolute necessity. In the performance of this work, should the Legislature authorize it, good policy would seem to require, so far as the means of the Treasury will permit, that one track at least should be laid with a heavy rail; and it is worthy of consideration whether the public interests would not be greatly subserved, by a location of the new track, so as to avoid the many short curvatures on the eastern end of said road. They increase the danger to passengers and freight; forbid a dispatch safely performed on a straight line; and require greater force than would be necessary on a direct track with higher grades. In the event of the Legislature authorizing the relaying of the eastern section of the said road, and the change of location before mentioned, a due regard to the public interests and the limited resources of the treasury would seem to demand that the improvement should commence at an early day, and progress from year to year, as the revenues would warrant, until it should be completed.

The Portage Railroad, from the completion of our line of improvements to the present time, has been a serious obstacle to the business of the community, and the occasion of trade seeking other channels to the Atlantic markets. Any mode therefore, of lessening this evil, must meet the hearty concurrence of the citizens. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars judiciously expended, will avoid all the short levels, and four of the five Inclined Planes, on the western slope of the Allegheny. The annual expense of maintaining these Planes is not less than ten thousand dollars for each Plane, and if to that amount be added the cost of the short levels, and the perishable nature of the materials connected with these works, with the delays and risks incident thereto, the annual amount for their maintenance, cannot be less than one hundred thousand dollars. Were these Planes avoided, and those on the eastern slope of the mountain repaired, the commerce on the Public Works would be facilitated and increased, and the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, would find it their interest for many years to use it in connection with their great improvement.

During the last season, the scarcity of water on the upper portion of the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, materially injured the character of the Public Works, and diminished the revenue from that source not less than \$50,000. To guard against a recurrence of this evil, it is recommended that the Western Reservoir, in the construction of which, the sum of sixty thousand dollars has been expended, be completed. The estimated amount required for its completion is \$40,000, and would, in the opinion of the Executive, be a judicious appropriation.

It has been suggested that an alteration in the canal locks, by making them conform to the shape of the bottom of the boats, would not only strengthen them, but would be a saving of water. This might be effected, if deemed of sufficient importance, by the insertion of wooden bottoms, in such manner as to produce the results intended.

By the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, made under the directions of the act of the 10th of April, 1849, it appeared that after the payment of the interest on the public debt, and the liquidation and payment of other claims for which appropriations had been made by the Legislature, and retaining a reasonable balance in the Treasury, the sum of \$150,000 might, with safety, be applied to the completion of the North Branch Canal. I accordingly gave immediate notice of the fact to the Canal Commissioners, and portions of the work it is understood, have been placed under contract. Considered as a part of the Public Improvements, and re-commenced as a revenue measure, that work should be finished at the earliest day the condition of the Treasury will permit. It should not be forgotten, that the present unfinished condition of the work, by interrupting the free navigation of the river; by the destruction of roads and injury to private property, without affording any convenience to the community, inflicts a wrong which demands immediate reparation. In addition to the sum already appropriated, it is confidently believed that \$300,000 can, with propriety, be given to that improvement in the present season; and in the following year, provision might be made for its completion.

While it has been deemed advisable to bring these subjects to the notice of the Legislature, considerations of sound policy, the interests of the citizens already heavily burdened with taxation—and the general welfare of the Commonwealth, forbid an increase of the public debt.

The equalization and revision of the revenue laws; the proposed change in the management of the Public Works, and their early improvement and completion; with a rigid maintenance of the sinking fund, and the consequent reduction of the public debt, would, with the present resources of

the treasury, produce in a few years a condition of financial prosperity, justifying the conviction of the speedy relief of our citizens from the payment of all taxes for the support of government, schools, and charities.

The Eastern and Western Penitentiaries have been conducted with skill and prudence, and in the reformation, and security of offenders, society has derived important advantages. It is, however, worthy of serious consideration, whether in the adoption of a system of solitary confinement, the severity of the punishment authorized by law, does not injuriously affect the mental and physical vigor of the prisoner.

The frequent recommendations to the Executive, for the pardon of convicts afflicted with ill health and mental imbecility, would appear to require a modification of the present laws.

It is earnestly recommended that a small increase of the annual appropriations be made to the House of Refuge, and the Asylums of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. These institutions, long the deserved objects of State bounty, have been increasing in usefulness, and incurring additional yearly expenses, while the annual sums bestowed have remained the same. In the growth of population the demands on these Asylums must be augmented, and their expenditures necessarily enlarged, and the same degree of liberality awarded on former occasions, would claim the appropriation of larger amounts.

In the prosecution of the work for the State Lunatic Asylum, the appropriation of a former year has been exhausted, and a sum of like amount is required for its completion. Under the supervision of excellent and attentive trustees, the building has rapidly advanced, and is now under roof. The structure is plain, substantial and beautiful; eligibly situated in regard to the comforts of the patients, and susceptible of a finish, honorable to the State, and useful to the community. The probability of its abandonment by the Legislature, or of a refusal to grant the additional sum required for its completion, cannot be entertained by the Executive. Too long already has public charity been withheld from the Insane Poor of the State—too long have they been suffered to wander destitute and deserted—the just of the thoughtless, and the victims of the prodigal; while humanity and christian benevolence claimed for them public protection. It is not, however, protection alone that is contemplated in this Asylum. The reports from different similar institutions afford the gratifying intelligence that eighty, and in some instances, ninety per cent, of the number afflicted, are radically cured. In this view of the subject, combining shelter and protection, with restoration to health and reason, the inducements to energetic action on our part, cannot be overlooked. It is estimated that an additional sum of \$50,000 will finish the building, and fit it for the reception of patients, and the same is respectfully and earnestly recommended.

Notwithstanding the revision, by the last Legislature, of the laws, in relation to common schools, the system will require modification. It does not receive from the citizens the favor, that a sound and enlightened scheme of education deserves, and the evil must exist in the laws which control its practical operations. A serious defect, is the want of properly qualified teachers. It is worthy your consideration whether the establishment of Normal schools in the different counties, would not remove this evil. Education may well be termed the great measure of the age. In a Republican government, it is the safeguard of liberty, and enlightened statesmen regarding it in this aspect, will cordially co-operate to establish, to defend, to cherish, and to maintain it. The Superintendent having bestowed much thought on the subject, will, at an early day, submit a report, to which your attention is invited.

The militia law of the last session is imperfect in many of its details, and inquires revision. In the abolition of the mockery of parades incident to the old system, and the establishment of an effectual uniformed militia, well disciplined and drilled, it has been productive of general utility. Slight modifications in its provisions will make it all that can be desired. The report of the Adjutant General is well worthy your consideration, and is accordingly submitted.

Reports from the Surveyor General and Auditor General, exhibiting the condition of their respective departments, are herewith transmitted to the Legislature, and the latter will furnish in detail much valuable information, in relation to the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

The duty of districting the State for the election of Representatives, will devolve upon you. Returns of taxables, required to be made by the different counties, have not been transmitted, as by law they were directed; but the officers charged with the duties under the law, are engaged in their preparation, and they will be laid, at an early day, before the Legislature.

By resolutions passed at the last session, the Executive was required to transmit to certain officers, citizens or natives of the State, resolutions expressive of the approbation of the Legislature, for their distinguished services in the late war with Mexico. In performing this duty, these resolutions were transmitted to such of these officers, as, by the report of the Adjutant General of the United States, had been breveted for good conduct.

The resolutions for the amendment of the Constitution, having been duly published according to the terms of that instrument, it will be the duty of the Legislature to take such action on the subject, as may be most consistent with the wishes of the people. It is proper to state, that the appropriation made to defray the expenses of the publication of these resolutions, was wholly insufficient for the purpose, and an additional sum will be required.

In the message delivered at the opening of the late session, reference was made to the citizen soldier, who had returned to his home after having earned for himself and the State, in the war with Mexico, a reputation for undaunted bravery, patient suffering and heroic virtue; and the opinion was expressed, that it was due to these patriotic citizens, that the Commonwealth should make a suitable acknowledgment for their illustrious services. No action having been taken upon the suggestion, I would again call the subject to the attention of the Legislature. It is also proper to refer to the death of certain officers of the government, and the omission in the constitution to supply the vacancy. The subject is deemed of sufficient importance to justify an earnest hope that legislative action may not be withheld thereon.

The practice of postponing the passage of appropriation bills to the last day of the session for deliberation as well to the Legislature as to the Executive, and should hereafter be avoided.

These bills, requiring care and attention to the specific items, and disposing of large amounts of the public moneys, should be deliberately examined before they obtain the sanction of laws. Nothing can excuse hasty and unadvised legislation, on a subject so important to the public interests. It is confidently anticipated that this Legislature will adopt a rule of practice more consistent with prudence, economy, and sound policy.

The intimate connection existing between the industry of the citizens, and the currency of his country demands for that question the serious attention of the statesman and legislator. In authorizing Banking or other institutions, to create a currency other than gold and silver, it would be unfaithful to our trusts to permit them, for want of proper checks and guards to allow it to become less valuable than the coin it is intended to represent.

The views expressed in the last message in favor of the restriction of the number of these institutions, to the real business wants of the people, and refusing a renewal of Bank charters, until a thir-

teenth of January, 1850, would appear to justify the appropriation of \$4,000 toward the completion of the Western Reservoir at Johnstown, as heretofore recommended. It would also authorize the appropriation of a sum not less than \$300,000 in addition to the amount already appropriated, to be expended in the completion of the North Branch Canal.

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" Balance in Treasury after deducting appropriations heretofore recommended, 91,500 00

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