

Jeffersonian Republican.

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

VOL. 11.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1851.

No. 20.

Published by Theodore Schoch.

TERMS—Two dollars per annum in advance—Two dollars a quarter, half yearly—and if not paid before the end of the year, Two dollars and a half. Those who receive their papers by a carrier or stage drivers employed by the proprietor, will be charged 25 cents per year, extra. No papers discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Editor.

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Governor's Message.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—A renewal of expressions of gratitude to the Almighty Father, for his manifold mercies and protecting influences during the past year, and the utterance of a prayer "in spirit and in truth," for the continuance of these blessings, well become a people who habitually acknowledge the superintending care of a just and merciful God.—The abundant harvests of the late season, the general exemption of the community from disease, the rapidly improving condition of the country, all things which confer happiness and rational contentment, increased facilities of education, and the enjoyment of religious privilege in its purest forms, admonish us anew, that the destiny of this people and government is directed by the power of a Supreme Ruler, whose kindly providences are continually exerted for their welfare and its well being.

The melancholy duty devolves on me of formally announcing to the general Assembly, the fact of the disease of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, the venerable Zachary Taylor, who died at the city of Washington, on the evening of the ninth of July last.

The soldier whose brilliant achievements in arms added new lustre to the military fame of the country, and the Statesman whose policy, as shadowed forth in his recommendations to Congress, was that of the wisest and most generous patriot, died in the full possession of his great mental faculties, surrounded by endeared relatives, cherished friends, and patriotic members of government, with the calm resignation becoming a Christian soldier, and founded on the faith, which teaches that death has no terrors for those who faithfully endeavor to do their duty. The American people paid the highest tribute to his memory by united and universal sorrow.

In the purity and disinterestedness of his motives, the patriotism of every impulse as affecting his public conduct, the perfect sincerity of his desire to act justly to all men, his winning gentleness of temper as manifested in his personal deportment, were to be found traits of character which bound closely to him his confidential friends, and gave to their sorrow for his demise a bitterness which no lapse of time or change of circumstance can alleviate.

It is recommended that a suitable expression of respect for the memory of the deceased, and of regret for our bereavement, be made by the present Legislature.

On the death of General Taylor, by the provisions of the Constitution, the powers and duties of the Chief Magistracy were vested, without the least interruption of the public business, in Vice President Fillmore, whose virtue and patriotism, as manifested in the discharge of former trusts, as well as in the administration thus far of his new functions, justify the confident expectation that the policy of the National Administration will eminently promote the best interests of the country. In its avowal of the great principle of protection to American industry, it has an especial claim on the confidence of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions expressive of the feelings of the last Legislature on the death of the late John C. Calhoun, were communicated to his family. I herewith transmit the correspondence.

The amendment to the State Constitution, providing for the election, by the citizens of the judicial officers of the Commonwealth, having received the sanction of a majority of the people, is now part of the organic law.—Your attention is invited to such legislation as may be necessary to carry into complete effect this expression of the popular will. By the terms of the Constitution, the commissions of the Judges will expire on the first Monday of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one. It is suggested that this will afford a favorable opportunity to remodel and greatly lessen the number of Judicial Districts. At present there are no less than twenty-four judicial districts, with district Courts in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties. A reference to the vast amount of business transacted in these last named Courts affords conclusive evidence that the interests of the community demand their continuance. Should a reduction be made in the number of the Common Pleas Districts, the salaries now paid to the Judges ought to be increased to such extent as would be a fair remuneration for the labor performed and the responsibility incurred in the execution of the duties of their

high offices. It is no part of the character of our citizens to require the labors of others, without adequate compensation. Fair salaries will best secure the services of honest intelligent and competent men, in that department of government, in the faithful administration of which every citizen is so deeply interested. An increase of the salaries of the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and District Courts, would demand the extension of the same liberality to such gentlemen as may be selected to discharge the higher and more responsible duties of Judges of the court of last resort.

Two annual elections appear to impose unnecessary burthens upon the citizens. Expense to the general treasury, and loss of time to the voter, could be well saved by authorizing the elections now held in the spring to be held at the general election in October.—To such counties as desire to try the experiment, the right might be granted. I have been furnished with a statement of the expense incurred by holding spring elections in Dauphin county, and if the amount is a fair average of the expense to the other counties, the change indicated will save to the people of the Commonwealth annually upwards of thirty thousand dollars.

The project of creating an Agricultural Department connected with the State Government demands the favorable consideration of the Legislature. In such department might be collected much valuable information for the use of the practical farmer. The recent improvements in the construction of implements of husbandry, the analysis of earths, improved modes of tillage, and adaptation of manures and seeds to various kinds of soil, are subjects of absorbing interest to the agricultural classes. Diffusion of knowledge respecting the best breeds of horses, cattle and other stock, with suggestions in an authorized and reliable form, and experimental exposures of the proper modes of rearing and training live stock of all kinds, could not fail to act beneficially on this great interest of the Commonwealth.

Should the National Government erect an Agricultural Bureau, in conformity with the suggestion of the President, the State institution would be an efficient auxiliary in the collection of local information, and for the distribution here at home, of knowledge amassed in that department from other sources. In this establishment, the claims of the mining, mechanical, and manufacturing interests on the fostering care of the Government, might be equally regarded. A private society in our metropolitan city by its liberality, activity and learning has done much to develop and encourage the arts and sciences, useful in every day life, and has largely aided our mechanics and manufacturers to gain a reputation throughout the world. By the measure proposed, I desire to accomplish for the advancement of the agricultural, mechanical, & mining industry of the whole Commonwealth, what the Franklin Institute has done for those interests, which have enjoyed the benefit of its discriminating care. County and township institutions would speedily follow the creation of a State department; and by mutual action and councils, the results would ensue, highly gratifying to the patriot, and beneficial to the country.

Should the returns of the seventh census of the United States be transmitted in time, the apportionment of the State into Congressional districts may become part of our duty. In such event, it is hoped the custom heretofore pursued of postponing action on important bills of this description to the last hours of the session will be changed. It is a practice utterly inconsistent with careful and correct legislation, and destructive of the rights of a co-ordinate branch of the Government.

The committee charged with the introduction of gas lights into the public buildings, have complied so far as in their power, with the directions of the Legislature. An appropriation to meet these expenses, and to enclose and improve the public grounds, should be made at an early day.

A complete set of balances, furnished to the State by the General Government, have been deposited in the buildings of the Land Office. The Commissioners of the several counties ought to be required to have the weights and measures under their care, again adjusted and regulated.

An arrangement of the Geological specimens belonging to the State, in some convenient place for general inspection, and the publication of the Geological reports, are demanded alike by the true interests of the State and a just appreciation of her character for enlightened enterprise.

My attention has been called to the large body of original papers in the State department, connected with the Colonial and revolutionary history of the State, and their extremely exposed and perishing condition.—These records are worth preservation, as containing authentic information of the action of our fathers in the struggle for national existence. In the Capital of Pennsylvania, and with the sympathies of her patriotic people, was Independence matured and declared.—Her soldiers were most numerous around the standard of the nation, and there were more battle fields on her soil than in the same area elsewhere. Every memorial of those days of devotion and trial should be faithfully preserved. There exists a single copy in manuscript of the minutes of the Revolutionary Executive Council, a document by far too valuable to remain longer within the reach of accident or mutilation. It would be gratifying to a large body of our constituents if the

Assembly would authorize the employment of a competent gentleman to select and arrange for publication these memorials of an interesting epoch in the history of the Commonwealth.

In the early spring the buildings of the Insane Asylum will be ready for the reception of patients. This work of charity, worthy of the best care of the philanthropist, from its admirable construction and healthful location, cannot fail to answer the ends of its benevolent founders. It deserves the fostering care of the Legislature.

In the performance of your duties, attention is most earnestly directed to the revision of the laws in relation to taverns, restaurants, beer houses and ten-pin alleys. It is alleged that in many instances they are made the common resort of the young, the idle, and the worthless, to the great detriment of the moral well-being of the rising generation.

The suggestions and recommendations of former messages in reference to the equalization of Tax laws, payment of portions of the public debt overdue, the currency, and public improvements, are again pressed on your attention. The loan authorized at the last session to redeem the over due public debt, has not been negotiated.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth is exhibited in the following statements:

Amount of funded debt, including amount in the hands of commissioners of sinking fund, and also special loan to avoid Incline Plane at the Schuylkill, on the 30th of November, 1850,

was \$39,862,914 78
Amount of unfunded debt same date, 912,570 64

Total sum of debt, \$40,775,485 42

In this gross sum is included the loan to avoid the Plane at the Schuylkill, as above stated—the avoidance of the Plane authorized the sale of that portion of the Columbia Railroad and Viaduct over the Schuylkill, rendered useless by the construction of the new road. A part of the road and bridge was sold for \$243,200, which amount is to be applied as directed by the 18th Section of the Act of 10th April, 1849, towards the permanent improvement of the Columbia railway.

The actual cost of this great improvement, whereby the Plane has been avoided, the use of the public works much facilitated, and an annual saving of thirty-one thousand dollars secured to the Treasury, in the disuse of the machinery and labor necessarily connected with the plane, is shown as follows:

Amount of cost of new road, say \$400,000 00
Deduct price of old road sold, 243,200 00

The Sinking fund operation is exhibited thus:

Amount of funds received during year, 197,193 74
Amount of stocks purchased during year, 349,622 98
Amount in hands of Commissioners on 30th Nov. 1850, 5,967 60

Whole amount received since commencement of system, 424,822 75
Whole amount of stocks purchased, 459,125 88
Amount of money in hands on 30th Nov. 1850, 5,967 60

FURTHER EXPOSITIONS OF THE PUB. DEBT.

Amount of debt on 30th Nov. 1850, \$10,775,485 42
Amount of stock and cash in hands of Commissioners of sinking fund, \$165,900 54
Deduct amount of money in hands on 30th Nov. 1850, 5,967 60
—the interest thereof saved in the discontinuance of the Plane, 400,000 00

Amount of debt on 30th Nov. 1850, \$39,310,294 54

Funded, \$39,310,294 54
Unfunded, 1,061,386 60

Canal, Railroad, and Motive Power debts returned in 1849 and 1850, being debts contracted prior to 1st Dec. 1848, 373,961 48

Total indebtedness, \$40,775,485 42
Actual indebtedness, including Incline Plane Loan on 30th November, 1850, and excluding amount in hands of sinking fund Commissioners, \$40,310,294 84

Actual decrease of public debt since 30th Nov. 1848, \$528,200 57

Within the same period, there has been paid from the treasury appropriations, that may be called extraordinary, as follows:

Towards completion of North Branch Canal, \$148,500 00
To avoid Incline Plane, 200,446 02

If these sums, from the payment whereof the Treasury will be relieved by the completion of the improvements above stated, be added to the actual reduction of public debt, above exhibited, the conclusion is clear, that at a very early date, an annual appropriation of nearly one million dollars may be made towards the reduction of the public debt.

Annexed is an estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the present, with the estimate of last year, and the actual receipts at the Treasury.

| | Estimate for 1850 | Receipts for 1850 | Estimates for 1851 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Lands | \$30,000 | \$16,378 58 | \$16,000 |
| Auction Com. | 25,000 | 18,673 75 | 20,000 |
| Tax on Offices | 20,000 | 14,998 22 | 45,000 |
| Tax on bank divide | 30,000 | 153,877 14 | 100,000 |
| " on Corp's stocks | 100,000 | 136,510 14 | 100,000 |
| " on Real and Person. | | | |
| at Estate | 1,330,000 | 1,377,821 55 | 1,200,000 |
| Licenses, Taverns, | 80,000 | 107,427 49 | 100,000 |
| " Retailers, | 160,000 | 171,662 36 | 175,000 |
| " Pedlars, | 2,000 | 2,252 05 | 3,000 |
| " Brokers, | 15,000 | 10,288 73 | 11,000 |
| " Theatres, &c. | 3,000 | 2,384 50 | 2,500 |
| " Billiard rooms, &c. | 5,000 | 3,045 81 | 4,000 |
| " Distillery, | 1,500 | 4,203 91 | 5,000 |
| " Eating Houses, | 15,000 | 6,520 97 | 10,000 |
| " Pal. medicine, | 3,000 | 2,633 04 | 3,000 |
| Patrol Laws, | 500 | 345 50 | 500 |
| Militia Fees, | 2,000 | 12,933 73 | 10,000 |
| Tax on Writs, | 40,000 | 45,409 47 | 45,000 |
| Tax on Chancery, | 20,000 | 14,047 21 | 15,000 |
| On Col. Inheritance, | 300,000 | 104,295 67 | 150,000 |
| Canal and Road Tolls, | 1,823,000 | 1,713,848 16 | 1,800,000 |
| Sale of old materials, | 5,000 | 6,933 84 | 5,000 |
| Enrollment of Laws, | 11,000 | 10,250 00 | 12,000 |
| Premium on Charters, | 40,000 | 89,262 21 | 40,000 |
| Incline Plane Loan, | 170,000 | 270,000 00 | |
| Tax on Loans, | 125,000 | 119,356 30 | 120,000 |
| Dividends on Turnpike stocks, | 2,000 | 2,460 00 | 2,000 |
| Nicholson lands, | 300 | | |
| Accrued interest, | 5,000 | 3,674 32 | 5,000 |
| Refunded cash, | 5,000 | 13,378 61 | 5,000 |
| Escheats, | 2,000 | 1,657 50 | 2,000 |
| Fees of Public Officers, | 2,000 | 1,740 33 | 2,000 |
| Miscellaneous, | 2,000 | | |
| Interest on stock purch. | 15,000 | 13,721 27 | 30,000 |
| Foreign Insurance Agencies, | | 2,760 83 | 8,000 |
| | \$4,566,200 | 4,438,131 51 | 4,500,000 |

PAYMENTS.

Estimate for 1850, \$4,566,200
Payments for 1851, \$4,438,131 51
Public Improvements, \$640,000 \$1,458,799 74

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Exp's of Government, | 235,000 | 262,899 71 |
| Militia, | 4,000 | 16,282 25 |
| Pensions, | 20,000 | 17,277 91 |
| Charitable Institutions, | 50,000 | 62,267 85 |
| Common Schools, | 200,000 | 213,728 49 |
| Interest on Loans, | 2,005,000 | 2,004,714 51 |
| Guaranties, | 32,500 | 32,500 00 |
| Domestic creditors, | 10,000 | 6,837 41 |
| Dam. on public works, | 20,000 | 28,668 34 |
| Special Commissioners, | 2,000 | 2,554 03 |
| State Library, | 2,000 | 1,000 00 |
| Public Buildings, | 2,000 | 2,002 75 |
| Penitentiaries, | 15,000 | 19,283 79 |
| House of Refuge, | 5,000 | 6,000 00 |
| Nicholson Lands, | 300 | 192 75 |
| Escheats, | 2,000 | 1,740 53 |
| Abate't of State Tax, | 40,000 | 43,525 04 |
| Counsel fees & Com's, | 2,000 | 5,984 15 |
| Miscellaneous, | 5,000 | 8,180 44 |
| Sinking fund Commissioners, | 293,000 | 318,864 03 |
| Incline Plane, | 270,000 | |
| North Branch Canal, | 150,000 | |

\$4,094,800 \$4,653,193 75

ESTIMATE OF PAYMENTS FOR 1851.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Public Improvements, | \$500,000 |
| Expenses of Government, | 250,000 |
| Militia, | 15,000 |
| Pensions, | 15,000 |
| Charitable Institutions, | 60,000 |
| Common Schools, | 200,000 |
| Interest on Loans, | 2,006,000 |
| Guaranties, | 32,500 |
| Domestic creditors, | 10,000 |
| Damages on public works, | 25,000 |
| Special Commissioners, | 2,000 |
| State Library, | 2,000 |
| Public Buildings, | 10,000 |
| Penitentiaries, | 15,000 |
| House of Refuge, | 5,000 |
| Nicholson Lands, | 300 |
| Escheats, | 2,000 |
| Abatement of State Tax, | 40,000 |
| Counsel Fees and Commissioners, | 5,000 |
| Miscellaneous, | 5,000 |
| Sinking Fund Commissioners, | 250,000 |
| Incline Plane, | 90,000 |
| North Branch Canal, | 250,000 |
| Renewal of Relief Notes, | 10,000 |
| Expenses of Revenue Commissioners, | 2,500 |

\$4,101,300

In the item of expenditure for public improvements, is included \$148,500 paid to North Branch Canal, and \$286,446 02 to avoid Incline Plane.

In the amounts received from Canal and rail-road tolls and collateral inheritance taxes the actual receipts of the last year fall short of the estimates. In making these estimates, it was supposed the suggestion of a former message in relation to the conveyance of passengers on the Columbia Railway would have been favorably regarded. It is believed that a largely increased revenue would attend the adoption of the changes heretofore recommended. That the collateral inheritance tax is inefficiently and carelessly collected in some of the counties, and even when collected frequently retained in the hands of the officers longer than necessary, is demonstrable by the fact of the great disproportion received at the Treasury from counties of equal population, business, and wealth. A statement of the amounts received from the several counties during the last four years, will exhibit much valuable information on the interesting question of inequality of taxation applicable to the sinking fund should be required to reach the Treasury quarterly under the severest penalties.

A reference to the reports of the Adjutant General, Auditor General, Surveyor General, and Superintendent of Common Schools, will afford detailed information of the business of their several departments, and furnish views and suggestions of interest to the general public. The school system, although still imperfect, is rapidly improving in its general condition, and promises the beneficial results it was designed to accomplish. The education of the people, is the great question of the age, and as such, it cannot fail to command your earnest and enlightened efforts, for its speedy and ultimate success.

In the competition for trade and travel, no effort for the full repair of the canals and railroads of the State should be neglected. The deteriorating condition of many of these works admonish us that the system of supervision is ineffectual to secure the return of which their construction gave confident assurance. In a system of divided responsibility in their management, the difficulty evidently exists. On a former occasion it was suggested to divide the State into Canal and Railway districts, and allot to each a Canal Commissioner, to whom its entire control should be given.—This project is again recommended, but should it fail to meet your approbation, the proposition of electing a Superintendent, to whom for his whole time and attention, a compensating salary should be paid, and under whose sole control the public works might be placed is worthy of consideration. All the evils arising from divided councils and shifting responsibilities would be avoided, and that energy and skill in their management secured which cannot be expected under the present system. It is alleged this method of supervision of public works has succeeded well and beneficially in other States.

A commercial connection between Philadelphia and Europe by steamships,—an enterprise truly worthy the favoring regards of the whole Commonwealth, and the countenance and aid of the national government, by the extension of mail facilities—the completion of the great Railway communication now in rapid progress of construction to the navigable waters of the West, the thorough repair of the Cumberland Valley road, and the erection of various lines of Railways in the valley of the Susquehanna, must throw an amount of trade on the Columbia Railroad which will demand for its transit the entire capacity of that thoroughfare in a condition of perfect repair.

Every avenue by which the trade of the West, as well as of Central and Northern Pennsylvania reaches Philadelphia, ought to be opened and

kept in such perfect condition as to afford all possible facility to business, for in the growth and welfare of Philadelphia, the entire people should feel a lively interest, as identical with the prosperity of the whole State. Whilst the internal trade is poured into our metropolis, and her local authorities are doing their part to promote her commerce, it is our duty to demand from the General Government some portion of its resources for the security and improvement of the harbor of the Delaware. Improvement of the navigable rivers and protection of the harbors of the Ocean and Lakes ought to be no longer delayed.

In this connection I deem it my duty to call your attention to the pending litigation in relation to the bridge over the Ohio river at Wheeling, erected under the authority of Virginia, which, it is confidently asserted, puts in jeopardy large commercial interests. It has been my care to watch the progress of the controversy, and to direct the proper law officer of the Commonwealth, associated with the other distinguished gentlemen who professionally represent the State, to protect these interests before the judicial tribunal which has cognizance of the case under the Constitution.

In the various Railway projects now severally terminating at Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, the people of the Commonwealth ought never to lose sight of that other great enterprise which, known as the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, was meant to connect the Susquehanna, the Delaware, and the lakes. Besides the command of the trade of the Northern Seas secured by its construction, it would bring into market for sale and settlement vast bodies of untenanted and unimproved lands, and develop treasures of inexhaustible mineral wealth now wholly inaccessible.

The large indebtedness of the State, and the necessity for its reduction, forbid the policy on her part, of embarking in these various improvements.

The debt of the Commonwealth was incurred in the erection of works which were largely conducive to the settlement and sale of the domain of the United States, and while she has secured no part of this common inheritance, other States have been liberally aided in the construction of their internal improvements by donations of public lands. It is a right on her part to demand a portion of these lands to aid in the completion of the important works partially completed and in contemplation.

A system of banking, based upon State Stocks, under proper restrictions, is recommended to the attention of the Legislature. It is thought that the present banking facilities are unequal to the wants of the business community. The large amount of notes of banks of other States found in circulation among our people, the inability of the banks, with safety to their credit, to accommodate at all times the active bona fide business demands of the country, and the large operations in the nature of private banking daily transacted on several terms to the borrower, demonstrate that increased facilities are demanded to secure a healthy development of our resources. Any considerable extension of the present system is hardly to be anticipated, nor is it desirable, if a more permanent basis for such operations can be devised.

Free banking upon a deposit and pledge of public stocks early recommends itself to favor.—It is not liable to sudden expansions and contractions—more secure from failure—less obnoxious to counterfeiting and fraud, and offers undoubted security to the note holder. Should the stock required be the loans of the Commonwealth, it would appreciate their value, and also have a tendency to withdraw them from foreign countries, to which are annually sent millions of the public money to pay interest. A recall of these stocks, and the discharge of the interest to the resident citizens, would lead to the expenditure of an equal amount at home, thereby affording employment to the people in the improvements of the State, in the erection of industrial institutions, and in various works of beauty and taste. If this system is favorably regarded, a relinquishment of a portion of the interest on the stocks pledged would be directly advantageous to the Treasury.

The confidence felt in their security, and the desire to use the relief notes, when kept in good condition, justify the belief that an issue of small notes from State institutions, founded on a deposit of stocks, would be highly acceptable to the people.

A reference to subjects under the control of the National Government, has long formed part of the annual messages of the State Executives, and the custom has found favor not only by its consonance with the peculiar relations of the States to the General Government, but in the deep solicitude felt by individual citizens in the action of the latter on questions of pervading and direct interest to all. From the resolves of their Representatives in the councils of the States, the opinions and wishes of the people are often well collected, and hence your action is frequently of great moment. In obedience, therefore, to custom, and in order that the sentiments of our common constituency may have expression either through the Executive Message or the action of their representatives, it is proper to refer to some of those questions of general interest, the disposal of which more especially belongs to the National Government.

A revision and alteration of the Revenue laws, so as to give adequate and permanent protection to the industry of the country, are demanded by the prostrate condition of the mining and manufacturing interests. The propriety of affording full protection to domestic industry, in the enactment of Tariff laws, has been so fully discussed, that a mere reference to former views, is all that is deemed necessary at this time. In a late effort to amend the present Tariff, its failure may be fairly attributed to the omission of the last Legislature to give expression to the perfectly well understood wishes and expectations of the people.—It is confidently hoped no such omission will mark the conduct of the present assembly.

A reduction in the rates of postage, and the construction of railway communications to the Pacific, were urged heretofore as worthy of friendly regard. Repetitions of the views then presented is unnecessary, as time has only strengthened the conviction of the propriety and usefulness of the proposed measures.

In relation to the extension of Slavery and the duty of faithful observance of her Federal obligations by the Commonwealth, the views expressed in former messages remain unchanged. There is nothing, in my judgment, in the history of the past, nor in the warnings of the future, to justify the abandonment of the principles, sacredly regarded from the foundation of the State, of non-intervention in the domestic policy of other communities, and of resolute determination of permitting no interference with our own. Fidelity in the discharge of Constitutional duty has distinguished our government and people, and if an opinion exists within, or has been mischievously propagated beyond our borders, that such is not the fact, it is conceived in error of our true history. Pennsylvania

(Continued on fourth Page.)