MESSAGE

From the Governor

To the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, read in Senate, Dec. 27, 1838.

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

(CONCLUSION.)

In connexion with her improvements, which form the chief demand on the Treasury of the Commonwealth, the situation of her finances is to be taken into view.

The appropriations of last session were made with great profusion. They exceeded by nearly one million of dollars, the amount which a prudent foresight seemed to me to justify. At the commencement of the session a full expose of the means of the State, and the most pressing claims upon the Treasury was exhibited. During the course of the session an adherence to moderation in expenditure was attempted to be enforced by every means within the power of the Executive, on every proper occasion, but without success. And finally, the unpleasant alternative was presented, as had been foreseen, of sanctioning appropriations, of which, in the existing condition of the public finances, he could not approve, or of wholly obstructing the use of the completed works, by defeating a bill containing the indispensable provision for repairs. Under these circumstances, that bill was sanctioned, but no act of my public life was ever performed with greater reluctance.

The only check left was to decline subscribing to the stock of the companies that were participant of the favors of the law, till it should be ascertained that money could be had on loan at the rate of interest which was believed not only to be reasonable, but which the course of legislation for the last two years, had established as that to be given for future loans. This decision of the Executive produced a very trifling excitement on the part of some of the companies which, however, soon of itself subsided. The money was subsequently obtained at four per cent, and applied to the purposes designated by the legislature.—The loan in question ($600,000), was taken by the following institutions in the following proportions, and has all been paid into the treasury, viz:

The Girard Bank,	$100,000
Philadelphia Loan Company,	100,000
West Branch Bank at Williamsport,	50,000
Farmers and Mechanic's Bank,	50,000
Bank of North America,	35,000
Bank of the Northern Liberties,	15,000
Manufacturers' & Mechanics' Bank,	25,000
Schuylkill Bank,	40,000
Cumberland Bank,	35,000
Kensington Bank,	15,000
Bank of Pennsylvania,	100,000
Bank of Penn Township,	10,000
Western Bank of Philadelphia,	7,500
Mechanics' Bank,	17,500
	$600,000

Though the state may delay repaying these loans till the expiration of one year from the time when they were made, which was at different periods between the 18th of June and the 15th of October, 1838, yet it will be proper that the money shall be refunded with as little delay as possible. In the correspondence with the banks on the subject, they were given to expect that repayment would take place before the first of February 1839.

The temporary loan authorized by the 3d section of the same law, having become necessary for the contingent object for which it was authorized, was also obtained at 4 per cent. and applied by the canal commissioners to the proper works. It was taken by the bank of the United States:—That institution also agreed to permit the temporary loan alluded to in the joint resolution adopted on the 16th of April, 1838, to continue another year unpaid at 4 per cent. The former of these will fall due on the 18th of October, and the latter on the 6th of June, 1839.

By these loans, the only control over which allowed to the executive, was that of keeping down the rate of interest, the state treasury, in spite of calculations and estimates to the contrary, has continued, and still does continue to discharge all claims against the commonwealth.

The whole amount of receipts into the treasury during the year, ending with 31st of October last including the balance from 1837, was $4,989,223 03, and the whole amount of payments for all purposes was $4,889,863 73. Showing a balance that day of $99,359, 30:

Among the disbursements are included $157,622 89 paid, as expense in part of the Convention to propose amendments to the constitution. During the preceding year, $71,939 67 had been paid, on same account, and it is supposed that a balance of $50,000 is still or will become due, so that the whole expense of the Convention and its incidents will be $279,362 50.

The probable amount of income from all sources during the present year will be $3,453,838, viz:

Canal and rail road tolls	$1,600,000
Bank of United States for common schools	100,000
Land and land office fees,	62,000
Auction duties and commissions,	90,000
Dividends on bank stock	160,000
Tax on bank dividends,	115,000
Dividend on turnpike, bridge and navigation stock,	45,000
Retailers' licenses,	80,000
Tavern licenses,	50,000
Collateral inheritance tax,	23,000
Tax on writs,	25,000
Tax on certain officers,	8,000
Tax on loan companies,	4,000
Hawkers', and tin and clock pedlars' licenses,	6,000
Fourth instalment surplus revenue,	955,838
Balance of loan per 3d section of act of 14th April, 1838,	125,000
Miscellaneous,	5,000
	$3,453,838

The probable demands on the treasury, exclusive of appropriations to be made during the present session, and of loans which will be due during the year, will be $3,323,927 91, viz.

Balance of appropriations for internal improvement purposes by act of 24th April [illegible]	$1,[illegible]5 01
Do. do. to turnpike, state roads, and bridges,	95,670 00
For motive power,	240,000 00
Interest on State debt, salaries of collectors, lock keepers, &c.	1,180,000 00
Expenses of government,	290,000, 00
Balance of expense of Reform Convention,	50,000 00
Militia expenses,	25,000 00
Pensions and gratuities,	50,000 00
Education,	350,000 00
House of Refuge,	5,000 00
Penitentiaries,	21,200 00
Geological survey,	16,000 00
Interest on treasury loans,	99,000 00
Cost of repairing Juniata canal,	380,000 00
Interest of temporary loans,	40,000 00
Miscellaneous,	40,000 00
	$3,323,927 91

This will leave a balance at large, during the year, of only $129,910 09, which would have been $2,100,000, at least; if your predecessors had not been so liberal of the public funds, and if the yield of the public works had not been reduced by the breach on the Juniata. But it is too late to remedy past profusion or misfortune. The future is now to be provided for.

It will be your first duty, in reference to the public works, to provide the necessary repair fund for the present year. The immediate appropriation of a sum sufficient for that purpose, is strongly recommended as a means of ensuring their continued use, and consequently the largest return from them during the next session.

It will be for the legislature next to decide whether the works now in progress shall receive appropriations for the present year; and if so, from what source the means shall be derived; and also to provide funds to pay the loans that will fall due.

I once thought that no combination of circumstances could cause me to hesitate in advocating the speediest means that could be devised for the completion of our noble system of improvement; but the experience of the two past years has, I confess, shaken my confidence in the attainment of this desirable end, within any reasonable period. I have beheld the treasury amply supplied with means, and yet the session terminate without any provision for the prosecution of the works, because the terms dictated by companies and sectional jealousies could not be complied with. The next year the executive has been compelled for the sake of obtaining a repair fund, without which even the portion already in operation would have been thrown idle, to sanction a bill pouring almost the last dollar of the public into the coffers of the private companies and into new channels.

Thus has it come to pass, that, notwithstanding a succession of circumstances the most fortunate and of receipts the most ample and unexpected, the commonwealth is left, without means to continue her own works and redeem her own faith. Her contractors, her citizens and the public generally, are, I fear, about to possess good cause of complaint that she has entered upon undertakings that she cannot accomplish; or, as the only alternative, the means to complete and render productive the projects of private speculation, which have already proved so burthensome to the treasury and so insatiable in their demands, must continue to be granted without regard to consequences.

If I could believe that the lesson thus far would be sufficient to produce reformation, I could even compel myself to recommend an increase of the state debt to meet the urgent wants which are now around us; but I cannot. The same spirit is yet at work—the same tax will still have to be paid by the state for permission to apply even her *borrowed* fund to her own works. All I can do, therefore, is, to commit the matter to the legislature with a statement of the sums that are required, and the source from which they may be obtained, if resort to it be thought advisable.

The Erie extension will not exceed $500,000. A similar sum will be required on the North Branch Canal. $300,000 will be the least that will effectually commence laying the rails on the graded portion of the Gettysburg rail road, and continue the grading of the remainder; $200,000 will be necessary on the West Branch Canal; $100,000 on the Wisconsin Canal and Allegheny Feeder each; $300,000 for ordinary repairs, and $100,000 for damages, locomotives, &c., together with $1,000,000 to pay temporary loans, making in the whole $3,100,000.

The only means left for obtaining this large sum, is that of borrowing; and the only source, without paying an unreasonable interest, is the bank of the United States, which, under it charter, may be compelled to lend its money at 4 per cent.

If money be at all appropriated for the continuation of the works under contract, less than the sum just designated for each will be of little avail, and double the amounts named should be given if it could be afforded; and if it is obtained, it must be borrowed. I wish, however, to be distinctly understood as not recommending that course. But in communicating to the legislature the condition of the various interests dependent on their action, it is my duty to omit none.

Connected with the finances of the State, another subject of importance should receive your attention; $694,000 00 of the State permanent loan will fall due in 1839, and $150,000 00 in 1840. I have no hesitation in recommending that a sufficient amount of money to pay off these 5 per cent. loans when they become due, be borrowed from the Bank of the United States, at 4 per cent. and applied to that purpose in the mode described in the annual message of 1836. It would also appear to be advisable to offer to redeem such of the other 5 per cent. loans as shall become due within the next few years, in the same manner. By adopting this expedient, the annual draft on the treasury will be lightened, without any increase of the principle debt.

It is presumed that capitalists who hold stock in the five per cent. loans about expiring, will not be unwilling to dispose of it now for more permanent investment. The monetary confusion and distress through which the country has been made to pass, by the experiments of the general government, seem about subsiding, and confidence between man and man, and in public faith, and institutions, is returning. This then, will not be an unpropitious moment for Pennsylvania to offer her creditors their money, that they may apply it permanently, in aid of some of the numerous projects of improvement that are in contemplation, or only awaiting the means of completion.

During the year just closed, a most healthful change has been accomplished in our currency, and a correspondent improvement is now developing itself in all the various relations and interests that depend on that credit and confidence which forms the true basis of the circulating medium. The commencement of the year saw the State covered with paper issues, in open violation of the plain words and meaning of the law, but which the necessity of the case seemed to justify. They were taken almost without reluctance, in all the dealings of the community, and no move was made towards inflicting the enacted penalty on those who omitted them. At the same time, the banks had locked up the hard money of the State, to await as they said, the moment when it might be again paid out without danger of total withdrawal from us, and without risk of injury to the institutions or their debtors. These reasons for the course pursued seemed sound, and the people acquiesced. The end has verified them, and justified the confidence reposed.

The workings of this law of necessity—the law above all—in the hands of an honest and intelligent community, were watched with intense interest. It was a glorious spectacle to behold a whole people, as one man waiting calmly and patiently for the same moment of disenthralling themselves; not vindictively, one upon the other, but the whole, for the good of the whole—from the grinding and gratuitous infliction. It was a noble proof of the fitness of republicans for self government, and was even enhanced by the fact that the people were laboring to abate the nuisance, not unly united by, but in opposition to the efforts of those whom they had placed at the head of the whole nation to gaurd their interests.

The duty of the Executive of this State was plain. It was to encourage the people in their patient course of suffering, till the moment for effectual self-relief should arrive, and to sustain their monied institutions, so long as they seemed to act for no other object than the common good. In this attitude, the rising of Congress announced that the people might once more take measures for their own relief, without danger of mischief or counteraction from their public servants. A call was at once made on all to restore the safe empire of the law. It was nobly responded to, and has proved perfectly effectual. Never was there a more praise worthy instance of moderation exhibited by any community, than by the citizens of this State, at the time of the suspension of specie payments and during its continuance, nor of patriotic devotion to law and the public good, than that displayed by their monied institutions in the resumption. The consequence is that our currency is now restored to its former soundness, and all distrust has disappeared.

Though I feel bound to bear this just tribute to acts that have been so fully sustained by their result, yet I cannot conceal the opinion that some part of the difficulty arose from defects in the organization of the banks themselves. I shall not now occupy your time in recapitulating the remedies which these defects seem to indicate. That duty I attempted fully to perfom in the last annual message, to which you are respectfully referred, with the remark that the changes then recommended are still deemed proper and requisite.

In other respects the public concerns of the State have exhibited their usual order and prosperity, with the exception of a disgraceful riot in the city of Philadelphia, on the 17th of May.

The particulars of that outrage are too generally known to need repetition or comment here. So flagrant however was it, as, in my opinion, to call for the interference of the Executive to aid in the apprehension of the perpetrators. A proclamation of reward was accordingly issued. I hope this may be the last attempt on the free soil of Pennsylvania, to molest a peaceful and orderly assembly of citizens. Those who counsel such violent proceedings, should bear in mind that if their opponents are in error, their cause will only acquire additional notoriety and permenance from any opposition which takes the appearance of oppression; whereas, if its claim on public opinion be left wholly to its merit, it will soon sink into oblivion, unless there be something in it really worthy of favor.

Some of the sister States that border on the Canadas were, in early part of the year, the theatre of occurrences that at one time threatened to lead to unpleasant consequences. These scenes have been recently renewed, but the character and true object of the persons engaged in them are now well understood, and scarcely any danger exists of a collision between the British and United States governments. The chief feature that bears an appearance of importance in these proceedings, arises from the nature of the organization made use of. It has been communicated to me from a source entitled to unlimited credit, that numerous Masonic lodges, embracing many thousands of sworn members, have been recently established in the frontier States, with the express object of attacking and revolutionizing the adjoining British provinces. Those who know the perfect adaption of sworn secret societies to such an object, and the reckless character of many of the persons probably engaged in the enterprise, can credit the statement. It is to be hoped that no citizens of Pennsylvania will be found concerned in an undertaking so injurious to the rights of a friendly nation, and in such direct contravention of every principle of international law. The fact, however, presents one more and a most convincing reason for the enactments of severe and effectual laws against the administration of extra judicial oaths.

I have frequently brought this subject to the attention of the legislature. It is again presented with an ardent hope that the necessary legislation may take place, and that the stumbling block may at length be removed.

In reviewing our own domestic history for the past year, many useful suggestions present themselves.

The Geological survey authorized by the sessions of 1835—6, is steadily advancing. Fully one half of the state has been traversed and examined, a considerable part of it with all the minuteness requisite to a final report. I have not been informed that further aid will be necessary to complete this valuable and interesting undertaking. When brought to a close much highly important information may with certainty be expected from the general report. The publication of the discoveries and results of the investigation thus far has been very properly excluded from the annual communications to the legislature. It will require the whole term of the survey to enable the Geologist to give them that certainty and precision, which will form their most valuable feature, and which can alone grow out of oft repeated and continued examinations, annalysis, comparisons and inquiries. The wisdom of this course will be fully admitted when the whole results shall be laid before the state.

The bearing of the survey on the articles of coal and iron and upon the large and varied interests connected with them, imparts its chief interest. For several years, heretofore, little importance was attached to the exact deductions of Geology Mineralogy and Chemistry as connected with these staple commodities. This was the case more especially with regard to the former. Large tracts of coal land were known to exist, but little desire was manifested to ascertain with exactness their boundaries, or the relative qualities of the mineral. Those were the days of *speculation* in coal land, and the projects of the speculator not unfrequently shunned the unerring decision of science.—But they are passed, and the days of actual *operations* in the mine have succeeded. It is now for the interest of all to dispel illusion and to subject every project and every hope to the full light of science and truth, before capital is invested or labor expended.

The successful experiments that have been made at Karthaus and Farrandsville, to smelt iron with bituminous coal, at Manayunk, Mauch Chunk and Easton, with anthracite, add new interest to this subject.—So perfectly satisfactorily have they proved, that large furnaces, in which anthracite coal alone is to be used as fuel, are now in progress of construction, at several points in the state. The successful union of stone coal and iron ore, in the arts, is an event of decidedly greater moment to the prosperity, of our state, than any that has occurred since the application of steam in aid of human labor.

The trade in coal and iron will undoubtedly form the main business of the vast but yet only half accomplished system of words in which the State is embarked, and the chief hope of paying off the debt of their cost. The transporting of produce from the interior, and merchandize from the seaboard, will no doubt be great, and Pennsylvania will always possess her due portion of it. But it is not necessary for her to desire its monopoly. Her people, as citizens of the nation, are satisfied to see sister states embarkin the noble rivalry; and, while they are convinced of the many advantages of their own routes, can rejoice to know there is room for the full success of all.—But when her coal and her iron descend from her mountain regions, into New York and the vast Lake country, from the North Branch canal—are discharged at Erie and Cleveland, as well as Pittsburg and Beaver, from the same canal boat which loads at the mine or iron works—are poured through the widened locks of the Union canal, and the completed Tide Water canal as well as the Delaware and Schuylkill canal, upon the wharves of her own commercial Metropolis—the magnitude of the trade beyond that of the mere carrying of produce and merchandize, will then only be fully appreciated. If to these channels of wealth, be added continuous rail roads from the Eastern to the Western Emporiums—travelled by at least one thousand busy passengers daily, and an uninterrupted water communication between the Delaware and lake Erie, for the heavy trade, the cause which enables Pennsylvania to look, without fear or jealousy, on the works of other states, is apparent.

In such view of the subject, the necessity for opening widening, and deepening every channel, and the policy of retaining the great leading avenues and outlets in the immediate ownership and control of the commonwealth, become evident. Hence, the early enlargement of the Union canal to the size and capacity of those of the state, is a project of much interest to the public.—Hence, also the ultimate possession of the canal from Columbia, to the Maryland line, should never be lost sigh of, as a measure indispensable to the perfection of the grand system. The state now possesses the right to acquire this work at a *time* and *price* fixed in the law authorizing its construction, and the Legislature should be cautious not to grant any privileges, that may postpone the one, or add to the amount of the other.

That all these desirable events can be accomplished, is as certain as that the time of their arrival will be postponed, by persisting in the same course of squandering the public resources, which has surrounded our condition, at the present moment, with so much difficulty.

A joint resolution was adopted by the Legislature on the 16th of last April, making it the duty of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to obtain through the agency of the assessors of county tax, to collect general statistical information relative to the agriculture, manufactures, commercial and mining operations of the state. The resolution being adopted after the period when the assessments were actually commenced for county purposes, the queries directed by the resolution were consequently, not issued until recently. This afforded more time to make them full and comprehensive, and to prepare the proper instructions. They were issued in the early part of last month, through the medium of the different boards of county commissioners, with direction to have the information collected during the present month, so that it might embrace one full year.

It has been recently ascertained that the commissioners of several counties decline distributing the queries to the assessors, and enjoining on them a compliance with the requirements of the resolution, on the ground that they are not expressly required to do so by its terms. But the resolution could not well be carried into operation without their agency. The names and address of the different assessors were not in the possession of the Secretary, neither did it seem proper for him to employ them in performance of a duty, for which the resolution expressly declares, that they are to be paid out of the respective county treasuries, without the knowledge and concurrence of the commissioners. It therefore becomes proper for the Legislature to take some further action on the subject, without delay, if a report is desired at the present session. The queries or tables have been carefully prepared and distributed at considerable expense; the postage alone amounting to upwards of a thousand dollars, though the packages were sent to all the nearer counties by private conveyance.

Circulars have also been issued to the sheriffs of the different counties, calculated to elicit the information relative to county prisons, under the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives on the 19th Dec. 1837. It is expected that the replies will be received during the present month, so that a report can be prepared and submitted early in January.

A circular was also sent to the directors of the poor of each county that has a house for the support and employment of the poor, calling their attention to that portion of the 34th section of the act of 13th June, 1836, entitled "An act relating to the support and employment of the poor," which makes it ther duty to forward annually to the Executive for the use of the Legislature a statement of the accounts of their respective institutions. This duty has been very generally neglected heretofore, and the Legislature thereby deprived of much useful information.

Occasion was taken at the same time to elicit from the directors and sheriffs full information of the number and condition of lunatic or insane persons in each poor house or prison. It is stated, by many humane persons, conversant with the subject, that much wretchedness and suffering exist, especially in the poor houses, which might be alleviated, if not wholly avoided, if the melancholy extent of the evil were generally known. When the desired information is received, it will be laid before you that the proper corrective may be applied.—This, most probably, will be found to consist in the establishment of a public asylum for deranged or insane persons. Such an institution is wanting as a companion to our deaf and dumb and blind assylums. I feel that it is unnecessary further to urge this subject upon your favorable consideration.

The encouragement given by the Legislature of last session to the growth of the mulberry tree and the production of silk, has thus far proved efficient, and promises to include the silk business among our chief subjects of industry and sources of wealth. Many hundred thousands of mulberry plants have been set out, and a large quantity of cocoons produced. The reeling of silk has been regularly practiced at many places, and silk looms established at Philadelphia, and Economy, in Beaver county. The business seems to have gained such a footing among us as to promise permanence and profit. It seems to be a branch of industry admirably adapted to the habits and strength of the inmates of our country poor houses. It is worthy of inquiry, whether a slight encouragement, say a small donation annually to the steward of each institution who shall produce a given number of pounds of cocoons, might not have the effect of substituting a light and pleasant employment for the laborious occupations in which the paupers are now engaged, and accellerate the permanent establishment of the business in the State.

In accordance with provisions of the act of last session on the subject, Messrs. A. D. Bache and Fraley, of Philadelphia, and W. P. Alricht, of Washington county, were appointed commissioners to examine and report to the Legislature, at its present session, on the subject of the revision of the Map of the State, so as to correct the errors in its topographical delineations, and to represent the Geological and Mineralogical features of our territory. It is understood that the board will shortly report. The result of their examinations will be laid before you, and will of course receive due attention.

The act of 1834, relative to weights and measures, which was continued in force by an act of the last session, has not yet been carried into opperation; but a prospect is now presented of speedily accomlishing part of its requirements. I have recently been informed by the proper department of the General Government, that the standards of weight provided under the act of congress for the different states, are ready for delivery. They will shortly be placed in the Secretary's office at this place, and copies will be made for each of the counties. In fulfilling the latter duty, the aid of the Franklin Institute has been promised, and will be relied on.

Until the standards for the different counties were procured and furnished, it was not thought expedient to appoint a regulator in each county, as directed by the act of 1834. Under the new Constitution it will be the duty of the Legislature to prescribe the mode of appointing those officers.

The attention of the executive was, a short time ago called by Col. Pleasanton, of the 1st regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Artillery, to the fact that the State possesses a number of pieces of old brass ordnance of various patterns and calibres, scattered over the state, with a suggestion that it would be proper to have them re-cast, and thus rendered really useful and valuable. It was also stated that the work could be done well and reasonably, at a foundry established near Springfield, Massachusetts. The proposition was approved of, and the Adjutant General, with the aid of Col. Pleasanton (which was liberally offered) instructed to have them collected at the different arsenals. The communications of Col. Pleasanton, accompany this message, and will explain the subject fully. I concur in the propriety of the measure, with the hope however, that the change may not be made to embrace pieces of cannon, with which are associated any of the glorious events of the Revolution.

Commodore Elliott of the United States Navy, not unmindful of his native State, while bearing the flag of the nation, over distant seas, has made me the agent of presenting to the Legislature, in his name, a beautiful gift. It consists of a likeness in oil, of Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of our Continent, and another of Americus Vespucius, from whom it received its name. To these is added the figure of the American Eagle, carved by an American citizen, in marble, from Alexandria Troas.

The Commodore's letter companies this message. The presents are now in the Executive chamber, subject to the disposition of the Legislature, and will, I fell certain, be suitably received and preserved.

On the seventeenth of September, being the anniversary of the glorious sortie from Fort Erie, it was my agreeable duty to present to Brigadier General Hugh Brady, of the United States Army, the sword unanimously voted to him by the Legislature of his native State. The veteran soldier, now bears the token of his country's approbation. It was my desire that it should not be unworthy of the commonwealth. It is indeed a beautiful specimen of the artist's taste and skill, and appropriately commemorates the deeds intended to be rewarded. It is the work of Fletcher & Bennett, of Philadelphia, and cost $1,000.

Permit me to call your attention to a matter connected with the official arrangements of both Houses of the Legislature, but in which the public at large have an interest. It frequently happens, during the summer recess, that citizens of the commonwealth require, for use in courts of justice, or in the progress of claims for pensions from the National government, either original papers or exemplified copies of papers in the possession of the Legislature. The clerks have no power to give the originals, nor are they possessed of an official seal with which to authenticate copies.

The only mode of producing the desired documents in court is to subpœna the clerk, and cause him to carry with him the papers desired. But even this troublesome expedient fails between the second Tuesday in October annually, and the day on which the Legislature assembles, for during that period the clerk's functions cease. It would promote the public convenience, if the clerks were authorized to keep a seal, and give certified copies of documents on file, to be used in evidence. The trouble of making and forwarding the copies, might be paid for by a reasonable fee in each case; and the official character of the clerks of each session might be extended by express enactment till the commencement of the next.

The contingent fund of the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, is generally insufficient, during the year in which the Governor's election occurs. Out of this fund are paid the postage messenger's salary, the price of fuel, printing, stationary, &c., both for the Executive chamber and the Department of State. The postage on election returns for Governor, and on the large number of letters which are addressed to the Executive, during the first six months of his term, generally exhausts the fund before the first of April, on which day the year commences. The fund of the present year will be quite insufficient. This is caused by the large number of circular letters sent out (including the statistical tables before alluded to) in accordance with the directions of the Legislature, and in performance of the duties of the office. It will be necessary to make some provision to meet the demands now existing, and those which will become due before the first of April.

The amount annually, is $2,700. This sum is more than enough for the second and third years of each executive term, counting from the first of April, and the balances unexpended during those years would be sufficient for the other, if they were permitted to accumulate and be applied to it. But a different construction has been given to the law on the subject, by the accountant department. The unexpended balance between April 1836, and 1838, is $1,427 40. I would therefore recommend such a change in the law, as will permit that sum to be added to the fund for the present year & will continue the the same practice hereafter, which provision will be sufficient.

Having thus presented the various objects of present interest that occur to me, it will not be out of place briefly to recapitulate the changes produced during the official term now drawing to a close.

Three years ago there were 32,544 children in the common schools of the state.—There are now about 230,000. The schools were then kept open seven months in a year. The whole amount of state appropriation was then $75,000 annually; it is now equal to one dollar for each taxable, which will amount to $350,000 for the next school year.

In 1835 the public works yielded $684,357 77, after a most favorable season.—During the season just closed, they produced $991,253 42, under the most disadvantageous circumstances; and, with good management and no unusual accidents, will the present year pay $1,600,000.

Since 1835 $2,500,000 have been expended in completing works then said to be finished, renewing defective parts, and keeping the whole in repair; and one hundred and ninety-eight miles of canal, and twenty nine miles of rail way, have been commenced and carried to a considerable state of forwardness, on which $2,100,000 have been expended.

The completed rail roads have been made to answer the end of the construction, and the annual deficiencies in the motive power fund, turned into annual excesses.

The permanent state debt, which was $24,330,003 32 in 1835, is now $24,230,000 32, and though there are temporary loans to the amount of $1,000,000 due, yet they were forced on the state in opposition to the exertion of the Executive, and will sink to a small account, when the sums of a similar kind due at the commencement of the year 1836, are deducted from them.

The state tax, which was then in existence, without hope of termination, has ceased to be collected, and nothing but the utmost profusion can make it again necessary.

The state credit, which was at a low ebb in 1835, is now raised, and the commonwealth obtains even her temporary loans with ease at 4 per cent.

The currency, which was on the eve of a fearful convulsion in 1835, has been carried through it with less injury than was experienced in any other state—is now restored to its usual soundness—and has secured to it the aid of an institution, which will hereafter preserve its uniformity, if no further ruinous experiments be tried.

And finally, the State has been made to occupy her proper position in the National family, and in relation to the General Government, on all occasions.

I now approach the end of the term for which I was elected, with the consciousness that I have performed the duties of the Executive Department of the Government with fidelity, according to the best of my judgment and ability, and with the profoundest gratitude for the confidence and support of my fellow citizens; and I fervently hope that the Divine Author of all things, will continue indefinitely to bestow his favors on them and our beloved country.

JOSEPH RITNER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Dec. 27, 1838.

MARRIED,

On the 10th inst. by the Rev. Jas. H. Brown, Mr. ELDRED R. ANDERSON, of Virginia, to Miss MARY JANE, daugher of Mr. David Deal, of Shippensburg.

The above hymenial comes to us accompanied with a slice of as rich pound cake as ever melted in an editor's mouth. We return an extra quantity of thanks to the wedded pair, for their kind consideration of editorial wants—and trust that their lives may be, like a fairy vision, full of every thing pleasant to the heart.

On the 10th inst by the Rev. J. UERICH, Mr SOLOMAN BEAR, to Miss SARAH REEB, all of Westpennsborough township.

On the same day, by the same, Mr. DANIEL WALLET, of York county, to Miss REBECCA BAKER, of South Middleton town-hip.

By the Rev Thomas C. Hays, on the 25th of Dec. 1838, Mr. JOSEPH NEESON to Miss ELIZABETH MYERS, both of Allen township, Cumberland county.

By the same on the 10th inst. Mr. JOHN R. VANGILDER, of Newville, to Miss ELIZA WIRTMAN, of west Pennsborough township, Cumberland county.

DIED,

On the 5th inst. Mr. MATHIAS YOUNG, of Monroe township, aged 81 years, 4 months and 3 days.

On Monday evening, the 31st ult. in Papertown, Mr. JAMES GIVIN, jr. aged about 22 years.

OBITUARY.

DIED, on the morning of the 9th inst., in the 41st year of her age, Mrs. ELLEN B. HAYS, wife of Mr. John Hays.

The praise of a pious and accomplished woman, lives so much within the sanctuary of her own home, and is so modestly diffusive through the society she blesses and adorns, that it seldom needs, or endures publication to the world. The interesting subject of this notice has left her name to be embalmed, not emblazoned. She has left "a good name," which is "better than precious ointment." She sought no other praise or perpetuity on earth. A husband, and three little children, and a wide circle of mourning relations beside, deeply feel the melancholy bereavement.

Refined sensibility and taste, bland and courteous dignity in social life, generous hospitality to strangers, prompt and delicate sympathies for the afflicted, and withal, a rare intelligence and discrimination of human character, were the qualities with which she eminently shone in the circle of her immediate acquaintance. Beyond that circle her influence was felt and blessed. Her expansive and unwearied benevolence gladdened the desolate corners of poverty, and "the blessing of them that were ready to perish came upon her."

But it is to publish the honour of the Saviour, whom she loved better than her own attainments, that we now give tribute to her memory. She has given another clear and memorable demonstration of the supreme consolation of our holy religion. For many years she was a member of the Presbyterian church. The wakeful activity of the Christian was exemplified in her earliest experience, by the promptitude and zeal with which she aided every pious and benevolent enterprize. But God would enlarge graces of a mellower kind: and she was visited with sharp and repeated afflictions—While made again and again to bow with meek submission to the rod, she was privileged to taste the richest cordials of christian faith, the sympathies of Jesus, and the unfailing stability of his promises. The faith which had thus been tried in the furnace, and found "more precious than gold that perisheth," proved its value most signally as she approached the last enemy. Her illness was unusually protracted. Occasion was given for every grace of the christian character to be tested. "The faith and patience of the saints" had their perfect work to do. Throughout her sickness, extreme delicacy of nerves, and a vivid consciousness peculiar to her mind, made her alive to every fear and every onset of the tempter. Seldom, perhaps, had the adversary of souls a fitter medium through which to hurl "fiery darts," than the morbid irritability of her sinking frame—She had conflict, and deep searching of soul. She had solicitude; and no promise of the gospel was left, without requisition for her aid—yet she had triumph: her hope was even tranquil as well as transcendant at the last. Natures dread of death which had cost her much painful revulsion in the previous stages of disease, seemed to have wholly vanished. "The Finisher of our faith" saved her from the struggle itself, whose idle fears she had vanquished—calm as the hour of falling asleep, was the last hour of her life. Perceiving unusual concern among surrounding friends, she asked if they thought her dying. When told in reply that her pulse was sinking, she clasped her hands together with the utmost calmness, and audibly committing her spirit to God—expired without a struggle.

The estate of Christopher Walters late of Southampton township Cumberland Co. deceased.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that letters of Administration have issued to the subscribers, on the Estate of Christopher Walters late of Southampton township dec'd. and that all persons having claims against said estate are requested to make known the same without delay and all persons indebted are requested to make immediate payments to them at Lee's Cross Roads.

DAVID CLEVER,
G. WALTERS jr.
Adm'rs.

January 14, 1838.