



THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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

GENTLEMEN.—An All-wise Providence has permitted you to assemble under circumstances demanding profound gratitude to the Great Lawgiver of the Universe. Our acknowledgments are first due to Him whose hand has not grown weary in showing blessings in profusion upon the people in every department of industry, and crowning their toil with richest rewards.

The circumstances under which you commence the duties of the present session are, indeed, auspicious; and not a former period in our history has shown greater cause for felicitation upon the inestimable blessings we enjoy, and the happy and prosperous condition of our great and growing Commonwealth.

The meeting of the General Assembly is always a matter of deep interest to the people, and perhaps never more so than when, as in the present session, the general legislation will occupy your attention, and questions of the highest importance are to be discussed and determined upon. I sincerely trust your industry and faithfulness in the performance of the important duties which will devolve upon you will prove the title of the "wise and good Legislators."

Among such circumstances of attention should be directed to a careful review of all the most important and essential interests of the State; and in the exercise of that discretion which the Constitution has confided to the Executive, I proceed to communicate such information, and to recommend to your consideration such measures as are deemed necessary and expedient.

As first in order and most important, I will present a carefully prepared and precise statement of the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

FINANCES.

It affords me pleasure to congratulate the people upon the satisfactory condition of the Treasury. Every demand has been promptly paid, and the public debt materially reduced, which has inspired such public confidence in the securities of the Commonwealth as to cause them to command the highest premiums in the market. The operations of this department will be presented to you more fully and in detail in the reports of the Auditor General, State Treasurer, and Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The following statement exhibits the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1870:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes sections for Receipts (Total \$1,000,000) and Disbursements (Total \$1,000,000).

REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

On the fifteenth day of January, 1867, the total indebtedness of the State was thirty-seven million seven hundred and forty thousand four hundred and nine dollars and seventy-two cents. Since then, up to November 30, 1870, the sum of six million five hundred and forty-four thousand and eighty-seven cents has been paid. The reduction during the year ending November 30, 1870, is one million seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand and seventy-nine dollars and fifty cents.

The average reduction per annum, for the last four years, is one million six hundred and forty-eight thousand one hundred and eighty-eight dollars.

debt is now held firmly by those to whom it is due, and will be more promptly paid, and the public debt materially reduced, which has inspired such public confidence in the securities of the Commonwealth as to cause them to command the highest premiums in the market.

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REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE.

The commissioners to revise the statutes have completed their work. The entire laws of the Commonwealth, including those of British origin, except those which have been repealed, revised, collected, and systematically arranged in a volume of less than three hundred pages, and our State has outgrown its fundamental laws which were framed in 1790.

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worst of these hasty and badly considered enactments are arrested every year by Executive interposition; but in the case of the case, the veto at best can only be a partial restraint upon the evil; and nothing can eradicate it save constitutional prohibition.

Fourth.—Special legislation is the great and impure fountain of corruption, private speculations, are public wrongs. It has become a reproach to republican government, and is one of the most alarming evils of the times.

It is not improper before closing to say a few words in reference to the act of 1870, which provides for the discharge of the soldiers' orphans' school.

The important duty devolves upon you to apportion, in accordance with the last census, the representation to the General Assembly and to Congress.

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permitted to apply for his writ of error. That limitation of thirty days being now virtually repealed, and seven years substituted therefor, it is expected the warrant shall be withheld for the seven years? If not, when may it properly issue? And if issued at any time within the seven years, may not the criminal supersede it at any time he pleases by his writ of error? And may it not be reasonably expected that this will be the practical result in every such case? This would seem like trifling with very serious matters; and I respectfully submit whether the act of last session should not be repealed, or very materially modified, without delay.

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society; social harmony; good and healthful government; and all the multiform blessings that conspire to produce human happiness, are its legitimate fruits. Money judiciously expended by you commonly for the mental training of its youth, cannot be lost; it will not fail to return in due time, bearing a liberal interest. The admirable workings of our Pennsylvania school system are everywhere admitted, and its great success is clearly owing to the generosity of the Legislature by which it has been so kindly and so beneficently nurtured, and it is sincerely to be trusted that it will never wane in this praiseworthy work, which has thus far been so well accomplished and so abundantly rewarded.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' School, for the year terminating May 31, 1870.

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attention that have been bestowed upon these institutions. The establishment of these schools, and the liberal encouragement and support they have received, have met the approval and admiration, not only of the other States of the Union, but of the entire civilized world.

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volume, will be completed before the first of June next. The book, itself, affords the best commentary or criticism of the manner in which the author has discharged his duties. It puts in concise form and in the most important portion of our history, which otherwise would have been forever lost. Hereafter it will be invaluable to the Commonwealth.

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work. New developments in mineral resources, as well as additional acquisitions in scientific knowledge, which may be made as long as the world exists.

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allowing, to accord with the architectural arrangements of the building, these can be completed at moderate cost, which will be more than compensated for by the saving of the lumber, and in its accessibility and general usefulness.

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