

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 Schuylkill Inclined Plane, and the improvements connecting with the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad, which are in rapid progress of construction, must materially increase the business of that public thoroughfare, and will render the relaying of a portion of the 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 & 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, & 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 bats, 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 indicated.

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. 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 pardon of convicts afflicted with ill-health and mental imbecility, would appear to require some 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 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 desolate and deserted; the jest of the thoughtless and the victims of the profligate; 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 improve 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, 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 directed.

The militia law of the last session is imperfect in many of its details, and requires revision. In the abolition of the mockery of parades incident to the old system, and the establishment of an efficient uniformed militia, well disciplined and drilled, it has been productive of general utility. Slight modifications of 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 brevetted 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 suggestions therein made, in relation 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, forbids 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 money, should be liberally examined before they obtained 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 citizen, and the currency of his country, demands for that question the serious attention of the statesman and lawgiver. 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 thorough examination of their affairs had demonstrated their entire solvency, remain unchanged. The tax on banking capital, enacted by the last Legislature in the granting of charters, and applied to the payment of the public debt, has resulted in securing to that object a sum exceeding one hundred thousand dollars. While this tax should not be increased to an extent which would cripple the resources of these institutions, the present amount cannot be considered an unfair equivalent for the privileges conferred, and should therefore continue to be imposed as a legitimate source of revenue.

The laws intended to prevent the circulation of notes of a less denomination than five dollars, are practically regarded by the citizens. In a government founded on popular opinion, experience would teach the impolicy of continuing in force, statutory provisions which are generally inoperative. The violation, with impunity, of laws however important, will lead to a disregard of others, indispensable to the security of society. It is, in deed, to be regretted that this circulation has not been prevented, as much evil has been experienced by the community from the reception of this irresponsible paper. The amount in circulation within the State, supplied by institutions of adjoining States, is estimated at not less than five millions of dollars, and is valueless, except in localities near the Banks by which it is issued. To the extent of this circulation, the constitutional currency, and the notes of sound specie paying banks of the Commonwealth are displaced. The solvency of the institutions issuing this paper, cannot be known to the citizens, and it passes from hand to hand the representative of a value it may not possess, over which our laws can have no control.

In endeavoring to eradicate an acknowledged evil, the practical Statesman will frequently find a necessity for yielding to popular inclination, and will consult the welfare of his constituents by striving to mitigate what cannot be removed. If, as is alleged, the business operation of the community require a circulating medium, other than gold or silver, of a less denomination than five dollars, a supply under the regulations and restrictions of our laws, would not be open to the objections of the existing method. Were the Banks of the Commonwealth authorized to establish agencies or branches in one or more places, and permission given such branches to issue said notes, upon a statement in detail by the parent institution being made to the Auditor General, satisfactory to the said officer, of the entire solvency of the said Bank; exhibiting its whole assets and liabilities,—designating the proportion of its capital stock to be employed at the said agency or branch, which in no case should exceed a graduated percentage of the said capital stock; and should deposit with the Auditor General an amount of State Stocks equal to the amount of notes to be issued; the Auditor General thereupon required to grant a license to said Bank, to establish said agency or branch, and to issue said notes, marked by the said officer as the issue of the said branch and redeemable at the counter of the parent institution; a sound convertible currency would soon displace the present irresponsible paper of foreign institutions, and would afford security to the citizen, without a withdrawal of the necessary circulation. Notes issued under the foregoing restrictions, having their redemption secured in the manner herein pointed out, would necessarily receive the confidence of the people, from the fact

that the stocks pledged, would, under every condition of things, ensure their eventual payment. In times of commercial convulsions the specie might be drawn from the vaults of the Bank,—the means of stockholders might fail,—speculative value might be affixed to property;—and shrewd men, watching the signs of the times, could release themselves from individual liability;—but the stocks of the Commonwealth would remain valuable and available for their certain redemption. Had the notes now in circulation from the banks of the State, a basis of this character, even to a small proportion of the capital stock of these institutions, the losses resulting from a failure to pay their liabilities would be largely diminished. These views are presented to the Legislature for the purpose of urging upon it the necessity of devising means to protect our citizens from the losses incurred in the failure of Banking institutions. In any well digested system it will afford me pleasure to co-operate, particularly in reference to the security of that portion of the currency entering so largely into the business of the producing and laboring classes of the community.

The general Manufacturing law of the last session cannot fail to be productive of decided benefit to the State and people.—Although the time which has elapsed since its passage, has been insufficient to test its advantages, the erection of large establishments in many places, which must soon afford employment to a considerable number of the citizens, warrants the belief that its salutary effects will be felt at no distant day.

Representations have been made to this department alleging that by the erection of a bridge over the Ohio river, at or near Wheeling, Va., great obstruction to the navigation to that highway has been produced. In times of high water in the river the largest class of steamboats are unable to pass under the bridge, and serious injury to the commerce of the Western part of the State must result from this nuisance. Connected as is the Ohio with the line of Internal Improvements through Pennsylvania, and furnishing to our canals and railroads a large amount of merchandise for the Atlantic market, an obstruction of this nature will have direct tendency to diminish the trade on our Public Works; to effect the Eastern market; and materially to decrease the revenue of the State. Results of a character so important should warn the Legislature that speedy and energetic action is required, and that measures dictated by justice and policy should be resorted to with a view to the removal of the evil.

The expression of our opinions on questions more directly belonging to the National Government, is a right arising from the nature of our institutions, and where they are intimately connected with the interests of the people, becomes a duty not to be disregarded. The representatives in Congress of the State and of the citizens, aware of the tendency of measures on the prosperity of their constituents and knowing the responsibility of their exalted position, must regard with becoming favor, a deliberate declaration of public sentiment from the State they represent. Entertaining these views, and persuaded that questions of vital importance to the well-being of our beloved Commonwealth will claim the attention of Congress, I have deemed it right, on this occasion briefly to refer to a few of those which may be considered of greatest consequence to the welfare of the people.

The adjustment of the revenue laws for the protection of the peculiar interests of Pennsylvania, must be regarded as a measure deeply affecting all classes of society. In relation to the policy of the National Government on this subject, the manufacturer, the artisan, the agriculturist and the laborer, feel alike that their business and pursuits are elevated or depressed as protection is afforded or withheld. In the history of the past, they are furnished with lessons for the future. The events of the past season have afforded conclusive evidence, in the closed doors and deserted buildings of the manufactories; in the distresses of the laborer, and the general depression of profitable industry, of the imperative necessity of a system of laws which will sustain against foreign competition, the employment of our citizens.—When profitable investments and useful capital are stricken down;—when surplus produce finds diminished prices; and when labor is depressed, and industrious operatives are thrown out of employ;—neither party dogmas, nor local interests, nor sectional jealousies, should prevent a united energetic effort in our National Representatives, to restore the general prosperity.

On the application of the admission of new States into the Union, the subject of the extension of slavery will claim the attention of Congress. Our southern brethren united by long association and habit with this institution, and depending upon it in a large degree for their domestic comfort, and commercial advantages, will not willingly allow of its exclusion from territories belonging to the General Government. No disturbance is contemplated of their relations therewith, in States where it now exists. Holding their slaves by compromise and concession, it would involve on our part a breach of faith, and an interference with sovereignty of sister Republics to intermeddle with their social policy, or to controvert the legality of their domestic relations. Whatever injury may be inflicted upon Northern interests from the jealousies incident to the existence of the institution, and the effort to prostrate free labor, a sacred regard for our pledged faith admonishes us to suffer, rather than attempt reformation where our authority will not be acknowledged. The extension of the evil beyond its present limits,

discloses a very different feature. The consent of the free States of the Union to further progress would evince an ignorance of their true interests of the rights of justice and humanity, and an indifference to the character and dignity of their common country. Where these are implicated, it is an abandonment of duty to compromise. So fully were the views of the Executive expressed on the subject of the Tariff and the extension of slavery, in a former message, that a reference of them here, as embracing his present sentiments thereon, would appear to be sufficient.

The dissemination among the people of information affecting their peace and prosperity, should be regarded as a measure of sound wisdom, and should be shackled by no unnecessary exactions. To give to the citizens of one section of a common country, a correct knowledge of the wants the opinions and general condition of the people of other portions thereof, should be the aim of all wise legislation on the subject. Nothing would tend more strongly to dissipate sectional jealousies and dislikes, and to unite in sentiments of neighborly kindness, every part of this great confederacy. Intercourse, whether produced by the agency of Railroads or of Telegraph; by personal or written communications; is an agent to heal dissensions and to foster social charities, more potent than national laws. To tax beyond the necessities of government, the intercourse of our citizens creates a barrier to the dissemination of knowledge; and assists in estranging the affections of the different portions of the Republic. In this view of the subject the Rates of Postage charged by the National Government, becomes a question of deep importance, and sound wisdom would dictate a deduction of present charges.

It cannot fail to be perceived that the observations in relation to postage, as connected with national intercourse, applies with equal force to improvements in the mode of travel between remote sections of the country. Whatever facilities free communication among the citizens, strengthens the unity of government.—Whether from the character of the country and the nature of its surface, it is practicable a great national thoroughfare from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean, has not been fully ascertained; but it must be evident, that such an improvement would be of inestimable value to every portion of the Union. In addition to the opportunities it would afford of an interchange of hospitalities between the people of remote sections, it would not fail to be loaded with trade, as profitable to the country, as it would be important to different localities. To Pennsylvania, its benefits can scarcely be imagined. The improvements already made and those in progress in this State, connecting with the Public Works of other States, will soon form one unbroken chain of communication from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Were this gigantic work completed no man could estimate the social advantages which must ensue to every section of country united therewith; and in no place would its salutary results be more effectual than within our own borders. The subject is eminently worthy the serious attention of the Legislature.

In a faithful adherence to the National Constitution, as the same has been expounded by the Sages and Patriots of other days, the people of Pennsylvania rely for the perpetuation of their political, social and religious liberty. Although in its provisions may be found the acknowledgment of principles they do not approve, it is esteemed by them as the fundamental law of the country, and they reverence it as the consummation of wisdom and patriotism, devoted to the general welfare.—When sectional interests and jealousies contend for supremacy, and sectional rights are to be determined; when questions between States are controverted, and disregard of national laws is manifested; in peace and war, in prosperity and adversity in foreign or domestic difficulties, the citizens of Pennsylvania turn with abiding confidence to the National Constitution. Neither the thirst for power, nor the prostration of their peculiar interests, can shake their allegiance to the National Government, or raise with them the traitor cry of disunion. The sentiments expressed, and the language used on the subject, by the Father of his Country, are so appropriate to the period which we live, that I have deemed it proper to call your attention to the following brief extract from his farewell address:

“The unity of government which constitutes you one people, is also dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence; the support of tranquility at home; your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is to foresee, that, from different causes and from different quarters much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point of your political fortress, against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insiduously) directed;—it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it, accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety, discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, in any event, be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred

ties which now link together the various parts.”

Gentlemen: In the performance of a constitutional obligation, the measures deemed necessary for your consideration have been stated as concisely as their importance and nature would permit.

To the representatives of the people attaches the duty of enacting such laws as the welfare of our constituents may require, and to their care and deliberate action are cheerfully confided the safety, honor and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

WM. F. JOHNSTON
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Jan. 1. 1850



LOOK HERE!
HIGHLY IMPORTANT
To the Public!

THE subscribers have just received at their Store Room in Ebensburg, a very large assortment of

NEW GOODS,

which they offer to their customers at VERY LOW PRICES. Thankful for the patronage so liberally bestowed upon them, they hope to merit its continuance, and beg leave to assure their friends and the public generally, that the stock of goods which they now offer for sale will compare favorably, both as to quality and cheapness, with any other ever brought to this place.

They cannot enumerate all the articles which they have on hand, but would say it comprises every thing usually kept in a country store such as

Blue Black and Brown Cloths, Fancy and Plain CASSIMERES, SATINETTS of all prices and descriptions, DELANES, CASHMERES, in every variety and color.

MUSLINS, Brown and Bleached, CALICOES of rare and beautiful styles.
GLOVES, HOSIERY and LACE GOODS.

Also—A very large assortment of **BOOTS and SHOES,** of every variety, and of the very best quality. Together with a splendid lot of

HATS AND CAPS,
QUEENSWARE, HARDWARE,
GROCERIES for family use,
BOOKS and STATIONARY,
FISH, SALT, &c. &c.

In fact, every thing necessary to render their assortment complete.

They would here say that it is their determination to sell goods as cheap if not a little cheaper than any other establishment in the place. This will be found to be the case by those who will favor them with a call.

Lumber and all kinds of country produce taken in exchange for goods.
MURRAY & ZAHM,
Ebensburg, Nov. 8, 1849.—5-1f.

Wholesale and Retail
Tin Copper & Sheet-Iron
Manufactory.

The subscriber adopts this method of returning thanks to his friends and the public generally for the liberal patronage heretofore bestowed upon him, and begs leave to inform them that he has enlarged his business, and now keeps constantly on hand a large supply of every variety of

TINWARE,
STOVE-PIPE,
DRIPPING PANS,
ZINC BOLLERS,
COAL BUCKETS, TEA
KETTLES, &c., &c.

which he will sell wholesale or retail as low as any other establishment in the country. He is also prepared to manufacture SPOUTING for houses at the shortest notice and on the most reasonable terms. Merchants and others desirous of purchasing bills of ware, are respectfully invited to call as he is prepared to furnish all articles in his line equally as low as can be had either east or west, and all orders addressed to him will be promptly attended to.

JOB WORK of every description, done on the shortest notice.

The undersigned hopes, by a strict attention to business to receive a liberal share of public patronage.

Old copper and puter taken in exchange for ware.

GEORGE HARNCAME,
Oct. 8. 1849.—5-1f.

PUBLIC HOUSE
AND OYSTER SALOON,
In Johnstown.

P. S. MCLOSKEY most respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he has rented the stand formerly occupied by Mr. Thomas Gore, fronting the Market House in Johnstown, where he is provided with every means of accommodating and pleasing both citizens and travellers who may favor him with a call, by a plentiful

TABLE AND BAR
and comfortable STABLING, where horses need not starve.

And besides he will at all times be provided during the winter season, with fresh

OYSTERS,
and having considerable experience in that line of business, he will be able to please the taste of the most fastidious, having fitted up a splendid saloon he will give every attention to customers all the time thankfully.

Please direct communications to
P. S. MCLOSKEY,
Johnstown, Pa.

Dec. 13, 1849.—10-1f.