renderg, its improvement an object of the gréatest interest to this State. If it the greatest interest to this State. If it were made anxigable during all easons of the year (except when ice-bound) for steambost of a large class; it would and Pittsburg, and to the carrying trade upon the public works, an amount of business that cannot be readily estimated. It herefore suggest to the members of the General Assembly the propriety of the reportiest, and worthy its special consideration and favor.

I refer with much satisfaction to the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer. Free y exhibit in detail the company of the company of the control of the reports of the Auditor General and State employed in the discrete handshed industry and in an alsew the landshed industry and in the light extended to a state of the company of the control of the c

coveries embraced in the survey.

In pursuance of this act, a State Geologist and his assistants, &c., were appointed, who proceeded with the work, and the State expended upon it the sum of \$75,657 87. A number of annual reports were made as provided by law; but the main object of the Legislature, the publication of a complete memoir of the survey, exhibiting the results of the examinations, and embodying for the use of the public, the vast sum of information for which so large an amount of public money was expended, has not yet been accomplished. It appears to me that this subject is of sufficient importance to secure Legislative consideration.

Frequent complaints have for years

portance to secure Legislative consideration.

Frequent complaints have for years been made by the people, of the time consumed in the Legislature by the passage of private and local bills, which greatly increase the business and create subjects for repeal and amendment.—Many laws are thus enacted which appear to be regarded as of little consequence or value, for of the acts of the last session, forty-three remain in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, which have neither been enrolled nor printed, because of the small amount of tax to which they are subject by the act of the 16th April, 1845, has not been paid into the State Treasury. Thus, after the time in preparing and passing these bills has been consumed, and the cost of printing and transcribing them has been incurred, they are suffered to remain in the office, useless and neglected. This proves that much private legislation could be profitably dispensed with, and the time it occupies devoted to subjects of general legislation, by which the duration of the sessions would be shortened, and the expenses of government greatly diminished. penses of government greatly dimin-ished.

ished.

The progressive increase of the number of divorces granted by the Legislature, forces this subject upon the consideration of the General Assembly. It appears to be the settled policy of this State, to provide by law for the dissolu-

were passed,

I know of no change in the habits, manners, or condition of the citizens of the State, in their social relations, or in the increase of their number, that accounts for, or warrants this increase of divorces. It is possible that the cause of it may in a degree be found in the facility of obtaining legislation on the subject. Without further inquiry into the cause, the effect is, in my judgment, injurious to the public welfare, and should be strictly guarded against in future. Whatever doubts may have been, or are now entertained, of the power of the Legislature to pass divorce laws, for any other cause than adultery, or to pass them under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, that no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, it seems to be conceded, against the opinions of many wise and good men, that the power may be constitutionally exercised; but in view of these opinions, the extreme delicacy and responsibility of granting these applications, appear in a strong light.

Under the marriage contract, impor-

icacy and responsibility of granting these applications, appear in a strong light.

Under the marriage contract, important and valuable rights are vested in the parties, and heavy responsibilities are assumed which should not be disturbed, even when the power to interfere is unquestionable, without legal notice to the party who is to be affected by the proceeding, and a fair and open trial, the right to which cannot be doubted, and can only be secured by referring the parties to the judicial tribunals.

In every view I can take of this interesting subject, I am persuaded that these special legislative divorces, have a dangerous tendency, and that if the power to grant them is exercised at all, a proper regard for the public welfare requires that it should be limited to cases of extreme hardship and unquestionable propriety.

The progress of our age in civilization.

that it should be limited to cases of extreme hardship and unquestionable propriety.

The progress of our age in civilization has been distinguished in Pennsylvania, by the amelioration of the penal code, and her improved prison discipline.—
The organization of her penitentiaries, their domestic economy, and the care and attention to the support, cleanliness, industry, and moral instruction of their innates, have secured the general approbation and confidence of our own citizens, and have excited the admiration of other States and nations, and furnished models for their imitation. The Philadelphia society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, has exercised an efficient agency in producing these valuable results. In order that all the benefits of experience may be had and improved, they submit the propriety of making provision by law for obtaining, annually, accurate information relative to the convictions for crime, the character of the criminals, the condition and inneates, have secured the general approbation and confidence of our own citizens, and have excited the admiration of other. States and nations, and furnished models for their imitation. The Philadelphia society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, has exercised an efficient agency in producing these realists. In order that all the benefits of experience may be had and improved, they submit the propriety of making provision by law for obtaining, annually, accurate information relative to the convictions for crime, the character of the criminals, the condition and expenses of the penitentiaries and prisons of the Commonwealth, and the costs of supporting the convicts.

The motives of this society are so disinterested, and the reasons they assign for collecting the information relatives of the convictions the reasons they assign for collecting the information re
State Treasure to destroy the relief bills of the Delaware county Bank.

On motion of Mr. Trego, the House went into the nomination of Clerks.

Mr. Knox nominated David Fleming.

Nominations closed.

The House then, on motion, took a recess till 10 minutes before 12 o'clock.

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House re-assembled; and the Secretary Walker presented the Annual Message of the Commonwealth being introduced, presented the Annual Message of the Georenor, which was read will be found in this day's paper.

On motion of Mr. Knox, four thousand copies of the message were ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, a committee of five were appointed to arrange the several items of the Message.

readerg its improvement an object of the greatest interest to this State. If it were made navigable during all seasons of the year (except when ice-bound) for steamboats of a large class, it would add to the commerce of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, and to the carrying trade upon the public works, an amount of business that cannot be readily estimated. I therefore suggest to the members of the General Assembly the propriety of memorializing Congress on the subject, and pressing it upon the attention of the general government, unincumbered with any minor projects, as one worthy its special consideration and favor.

I refer with much satisfaction to the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasures. They exhibit in detail the condition of the State, and shew the laudable industry and intelligent care which these officers have employed in the discharge of their important and laborious duties.

Before the passage of the act of Assembly of last session, which transferred to the county in which the crime may have been committed, payment expenses for arresting fugitives from justice, the State had become liable to various agents, duly authorized, to an inconsiderable assount. This liability could not be made to the county in which the crime may have been committed, payment of expenses for arresting fugitives from justice, the State had become liable to various agents, duly authorized, to an inconsiderable assount. This liability could not be made for that purpose. The individuals interested in this matter are justly earlied to the care of the marriage contract, for other 18th of all the care and the marriage to the support of the subject and the post of the subject in a communication which the act of the 18th of the transcent in the interests of the act of the 18th of the received from them, that I take of the progress and the inthis interior, 1815, great pleasure in transmitting copies of it herewith, in order that the philanthropic views of the society, and the importance of the subject may receive that early attention of the General Assembly which they so richly merit.

The government of Pennsylvania, and her literary, charitable and benevolent institutions, are among the first and hest. The people are industrious, intelligent and enterprizing. In time of peace, quiet and unobtrusive—in war, firm and decided. Blessed in her physical resources and her institutions, and animated by the spirit of her holy religion, her onward course in improving her social condition is rapid. The great element of preserving, enlarging and perpetuating her greatness, is the universal education of her youth. In this, too, she has for a number of years advanced with the vigor by which all her great efforts are distinguished. The able report of the Superintendent, presents the steady and uniform progress of the system of common school instruction. That it is yet imperfect, and to some extent inefficient, may be freely admitted; but, who can doubt that the wisdom and energy which commenced, will mature and perfect it.

In conclusion, gentlemen, accept assurances of my hearty co-operation with you in all measures for advancing the welfare of our citizens, and maintaining the honor and dignity of our beloved Commonwealth.

Commonwealth.

FRS. R. SHUNK. FRS. R. SI
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Jan. 6, 1847.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Tussday, Jan. 5, 1847.

To-day at 12 o'clock, the clerk called the House to order—after which, he opened and read the certificates of election of the different members.—
This having been got through with, a motion was made to proceed to ballot for Speaker, which resulted in the selection of Hon. JAMES COOPER, of Adams county, by the unanimous yets of the tion of Hon. JAMES COOPER, of Adams county, by the unanimous vote of the Whig party. Mr. Cooper is a true, whole-souled Whig, and will do justice to the station, to which he has been selected.— The Locos nominated and ballotted, to a man, for John C. Knox, Esq., a gentleman who imbibes the Free Trade notions of Wilmot, and hails from his district.

Mr Cooper was conducted to the Chair by Messrs. Knox and Pomroy, when he

Mr Cooper was conducted to the Chair by Messrs. Knox and Pomroy, when he made a very able and patriotic address. A set of resolutions were offered ap-probatory of the gallant soldiers who volunteered in the war with Mexico.— The House then adjoured.

The House then adjoured.

Senate.—After the roll had been called and the new members sworn in, the Senate proceeded to ballot for Speaker, which resulted in the unanimous selection of Hon. CHARLES GIBBONS, of the city. Upon being conducted to the Chair he made a neat and pertinent address. This is also an excellent and important selection—inasmuch as it is a post of honor as well as one of responsibility, because of the fact, that in the event of the death of the Governor, the duties of that office devolve upon him.

Mr. Cornman introduced a bill for the relief of our volunteers who had gone to Mexico.

relief of our voluntees.

to Mexico.

After which committees were appointed to inform the Governor and House of Representatives that the Senate was organized and ready to proceed to business, when the Senate adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 6.
Senate.—Little of importance was done in the Senate to-day. Nominations for the different officers of the Senate

for the different officers of the Senate were made.

A resolution was presented by Mr. Ross, which proposes the amendment of the Constitution so as to engraft the One Term principle, so far as the election of Governor is concerned.

At 12 o'clock the message was delivered and read, after which,

Mr. Mason announced the death of John L. Webb, late a member of the House of Representatives from Bradford county, in a brief and appropriate address.

Wednesdsy, Jan. 6.

wednesdsy, Jan. 6.
House.—Mr. Forsyth presented a bill to pay the soldiers of this State who have gone to Mexico.
Mr. Kline, a resolution providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature on the 5th of February next.
Mr. Morton, a bill authorizing the State Treasurer to destroy the relief bills of the Delaware county Bank.
On motion of Mr. Trego, the House went into the nomination of Clerks.
Mr. Knox nominated William Jack.
Mr. Fox nominated David Fleming.
Nominations closed.
The House then, on motion, took a recess till 10 minutes before 12 o'clock. Wednesdsy, Jan. 6.

Mr. Piollet then announced the death of his colleague, Mr. Webb, who died shortly after the late election, and pronounced a eulogy to his memory in appropriate and impressive terms. Messrs. Edie and Haley also bore testimony to the excellent qualities of the deceased. Adjourned.

Thursday, Jan. 7.

Senate.—The journal of yesterday having been read, the Senate proceeded to the appointment of Committees, reading of Bills, &c. Several messages were presented from the Governor—one recommending the completion of the Columbia Rail Road—and others vetoing local bills.

On motion of Mr. Johnson of Erie, the Senate proceeded to the election of Clerks and officers—when it appeared that Geo. W. Hamersly, of Lancaster was elected Clerk; John M. Sullivan of Butler, Assistant Clerk; James W. Chapman, of Susquehanna and J. H. M'Cauley of Franklin, Transcribing Clerks.

Beni F. King of Alleshays was also

M'Cauley of Franklin, Transcribing Clerks.

Benj. F. King of Allegheny was chosen Sergeant-at-Arms and Wm.P. Brady of Clinton, Assistant.

J. W. Cowell, Door Keeper; Philip Weber, Messenger.

Mr. Bigler of Clearfield, offered a joint resolution requesting our Senators and instructing our Representatives in Congress, to favor any proposition to appropriate such portion of the Public lands to the use of each of the officers and soldiers who have volunteered to serve in the war with Mexico, in such amounts and in such manner as the wisdom of Congress may seem right and proper, which was referred to the Committe on Military Affairs. Military Affairs.

A resolution adopting the rules of last

session was passed, after which the Sch ate adjourned until 10 o'clock to-mor

THURSDAY, Jan. 7.

THURSDAY, Jan. 1.

House.—Messages from the Governor erer read vetoing different bills—all ohich were postponed for the present.

Mr. Rupert moved the printing of 2500 poies of the State Treasurer's report

opies of the State Treasurer's report. Agreed to.

Mr. Mathias introduced a bill for the encouragement of the manufacture of ron with Coke.

Mr. Mather, a bill exempting the property of the soldiers who have gone to Mexico, from execution.

Mr. Leyburn, a resolution relative to lomestic manufactures.

Mr. Morrison, a petition for the contruction of a Railroad in Strasburg in Lancaster county, to intersect the Columbia Railroad.

On motion of Mr. Lawrence, the

Lancaster county, to intersect the Columbia Railroad.
On motion of Mr. Lawrence, the House then went into the election of a Clerk, which resulted in the election of David Fleming, Esq.
Mr. Fleming then appointed A. L. Russel, of Bedford county, his First Assistant; and for Transcribing Clerks he appointed Thos. W. Duffield, of Philadelphia county, John M'Kee, of Washington, and J. W. Hunter, of Eric.
On motion, the House went into the nomination of Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper.
Mr. Fox nominated J. Morehead, of Westmoreland county.
Mr. Knox nominated J. R. Hurd, of Centre county.

Mr. Knox nominated J. R. Hurd, of Centre county.
Mr. Fox nominated J. Sanders, of Harrisburg, for Doorkeeper.
Mr. Burns nominated A. Krause.
Mr. Bigham nominated E. W. Bigham, for Messenger.
A motion was made to suspend the rule, which requires nominations to lay over one day. Agreed to.
The Standing Committees were then announced.

nounced. The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, Jan. 8.

Senate.—There was no business of particular interest transacted in this branch of the Legislature to-day. Sev-

branch of the Legislature to-day. Several reports from committees were made and a number of unimportant bills introduced duced.

House.—In this body, Mr. Moorehead was elected Sergeant-at-Arms, and Mr. Sanders, Doorkeeper.

A bill was offered, providing for a change in the mode of collecting the State taxes.

Resolutions of thanks to Gen. Taylor, were then introduced, and a motion was made by one of the Democratic members to include Generals Worth and Butler.

A lively discussion ensued, which was continued up to the time of adjournment.

From the Telegraphic Correspondence of the Daily

Congressional Proceedings. Washington, Jan. 3, 1847. Senate.—Not in session to-day.

Senate.—Not in session to-day.

House.—Mr. Owen moved to make the resolution for providing necessary clothing for the volunteers, the order of the day for Thursday next the 7th inst.—Carried. The resolution offered by Mr. Wentworth, declaring it to be inexpedient to lay a duty on the And Coffee, was taken up. Mr. Payne moved to lay it on the table. Lost.—49 to 160. The resolution passed by a vote of 115 to 48.

The resolution to prevent members from making excuses for not voting was adopted.

There were resolutions offered to increase duties on articles to a revenue standard; to lay a tax on gold and silver ware, &c.; to reduce the pay of members twenty-five per cent during the war; whether or not the Smithsonian money was in the Treasury on the 1st inst.; for information relative to the employment of recent travelling agents by the Secretary of the Treasury; and in reference to the execution of the seamen on board the frigate Cumberland.

Also to ascertain the number of regiments, and from what States, that have been employed near the mouth of the Rio Grande since the commencement of the war.

A resolution was adopted calling upon

Rio Grande since the commencement of the war.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the Secretary of War for the number of volunteers received into service under the act of 1846; the number that have died, and the number discharged, &c.

Mr. Sims, of Missouri, offered a resolution declaring that the people of the United States were too patriotic to refuse the infliction of any necessary tax in the time of war. Adopted—yeas, 126—nays, none.

—nays, none.

The bill to raise ten additional regiments for the regular army was made the special order for Monday.

Washington, Jan. 4th. The Senate transacted no business importance to-day. A message was re-ceived from the President asking for an increase of field officers, and the crea-tion of a Lieutenant General to take command of all the forces during the war with Mexico.

war with Mexico.

House.—Mr. King, of Georgia, offered a resolution to furnish the President with thirty thousand dollars for the purpose of sending a peace mission to Mexico, and two millions of dollars to effect the negotiation—with the provision that slavery was to be prohibited in the territory secured. The House refused to suspend the rules, and the resolution lies over one day.

By the interference of friends, the matter between Messrs. Bailey of Virginia, and Davis of Kentucky, has been amicably settled. Both gentlemen are now satisfied.

The President's message also asks for ten additional regiments of troops, to be added to the regular army.

Washington, Jan. 5.

—Mr. Cameron, of Pa., offered a resolution calling upon the Secre tary of the Treasury to specify article on which the duties could be increased

on which the duties could be increased. Adopted. The Pre-emption bill was made the order of the day for Monday next.

House.—Mr. Harralson, of Geo. from the Military Committee, requested to be discharged from the farther consideration of the President's message received yesterday, recommending an increase of field officers, and the appointment of a Lieutenant General to command all the forces during the war with Mexico.

Mr. Preston King read a long argument in favor of voting two millions of dollars to the President, to negotiate with Mexico, with the slavery proviso.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and took up the Army Bill.

Bill.

Messrs. Johnson and Hilliard, both of Tennessee, spoke in favor of prosecuting the war with vigor to conquer a peace. Adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 6.
Senate.—The bill authorizing the sale of the Mimeral lands was made the order of the day for Friday next.

der of the day for Friday next.

House.—On motion of Mr. Hamlin, that part of the President's Message in relation to the appointment of a Lieutenant General of the Army, was reconsidered, by a vote of 86 to 84. The question recurring again on the motion to lay upon the table, it was decided in the negative—yeas 92, nays 97.

Mr. Harralson's resolution to stop the debate to-day, on the bill to increase the Army, was rejected.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Caleb Cushing speaking against the bill.

Mr. Darragh got the floor—and, on motion, the House adjourned.

Washington, Jan. Senate.—Mr. Cameron's Tariff lution was debated, amended, and a

age enlistment in the regular army, the term of 5 years, by giving a bou of \$12. Adopted.

and adopted, terminating the debate on the Army bill on Saturday next.

Mr. Seaman gave notice that he would, at an early day, introduce a bill for the purpose of preventing foreign paupers and criminals from doming into the country.

country.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, when several speeches were made on the Army bill.

Washington, Jan. 8.

Washington, Jan. 8, Senate—Not in session to-day. House—The whole day was consumed in speaking on the bill to increase the Army.

From the Washington Un

de in speaking on the bill to increase the Army.

From the Washington Union.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Movement of the Troops—Capture of 200

Mexicans on the Rio San Juan—Advance of Santa Anna on Saltillo—Reported Attack upon Tampico, and Retreat of the Mexicans.

The steamer Fashion has arrived at New Orleans from Brazos Santiago, with eighty discharged volunteers and the remains of the gallant Allison, of Nashville, who received his death-wound at Monterey. Capt. Yeatman, aid to Gen. Wool, bearer of despatches to Washington, came passenger; also, Col. J. G. Langdon.

Gen. Wool's column was within two miles of Parras, numbering 2900 men. They had been ordered to establish a depot there, and levy upon supplies belonging to the Mexican Government.

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Gen. Worth was at Camargo with 1500 men. Gens. Butler at Monterey with 2000 men. Gens. Smith & Twiggs at Victoria with their commands. Gen Quitman, with his brigade, left Monterey for Victoria, 14th.

Gen. Taylor, with a squadron of dregoons, left for Victoria, 15th.

Gen. Patterson was to leave on the 22d with the Tennessee Regiment of Cavalry, for Tampico, via Victoria.

Lieut. Col. Henry Clay, with 6 companies Kentucky volunteers was at Ceralvo.

Capt. Willis, with two companies, was at Mier; Gen. Lamar's company at Lerado. The Mexicans are making successful exertions to raise troops at all the small towns near the Rio Grande.

Capt. Stone, with a detachment of 70 men, found 200 Mexicans in a rancho on Rio San Juan, and Capt. Cantion, the particular object of his scarch. Cantion was imprisoned at Camargo.

On the 16th a Mexican was captured entering the magazine at Camargo. His

cured. Cantion was imprisoned at Camargo.

On the 16th a Mexican was captured entering the magazine at Camargo. His intention was to blow it up.

An express reached here from Gen. Patterson, stating that Santa Anna was advancing from San Luis on Saltillo, to cut off Gen. Worth.

Four hundred and fifty regulars were to leave Camago for Monterey, on the 20th.

20th.
A passenger in the schooner H. T. Johnson, at N. Orleans, from Tampico, states that an attack was made on Tampico, by the advance from a force of cavalry, nearly 7,000 strong, on the 16th.
The number attacking was about 300. The American forces opened a park of artillery on them, when they speedily retired.

The American forces opened a park of artillery on them, when they speedily retired.

Private letters from Tampico state that our men suffer much from intermittent fever.

The impression prevailed that Herreman outly be elected President of Mexico at the opening of Congress, and overtures of peace immediately made.

Further correspondence has taken place between Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna. Taylor's letter concludes with the hope that the Mexican Congress will accept the offer of the United States, and enter on negotiations for a termination of hostilities and a permanent peace. Santa Anna's reply is dated at San Luis Potosi. It is courteously worded. In conclusion, he hopes the sovereign National Congress will act as shall be most conducive to the interest of the Republic, but believes that neither Congress nor any Mexican will ever be able to listen to ove-tures of peace unless the National Treasury is first evacuated by the American forces, and the vessels of war withdrawn. Until this is done, the Mexican nation is determined to defend at every hazard, inch by inch of its territory.—N. York Tribune.

The following we take from the Telegraphic despatch of the Daily Chronicle,

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The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Caleb Cushing speaking against the bill.

Mr. Darragh got the floor—and, on motion, the House adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 7, Senate.—Mr. Cameron's Tariff resolution was debated, amended, and adopted.

Mr. Benton reported a bill to encourage enlistment in the regular army, for the term of 5 years, by giving a bounty of \$12. Adopted.

House.—A resolution was introduced