

of prices for labor to a specie standard; allow no greater reward for industry in this country than in England, and the working classes are necessarily forced into the condition of foreign operatives, compelled to labor constantly and diligently to earn for themselves a miserable subsistence. All the luxuries, many of the comforts and even the necessities of life, must be denied to them, while the education of their offspring must be wholly neglected. These observations apply to the laborers engaged in the business of mining, and transporting our coal to market, as well as to the operatives more directly employed at manufactories. After the demand for household use is supplied, this article must seek a market in those districts of country, where manufacturing industry abounds, and the demand for it increases or diminishes in proportion to the active operations of these establishments. Hence, every fire that is extinguished, and every wheel that is stopped, lessens the demand for coal, decreases its value in the market, and reduces the prices of labor, by lessening its value to the owner of the article. When to this is added the fact of competition from abroad, underselling in the home market the domestic article, the occupation of the laborer is destroyed, and the ruin is complete. The revenue system invites such a result, while the system of discrimination for protection forbids it. Other classes of society are also injuriously or beneficially affected, and the subject favors the one, or the other policy. The agriculturalist, inclined to measure the general welfare by the prices of his produce, and to remain contented while these are satisfactory, is required, only the exercise of his practical knowledge, to be informed, that he suffers also, by a policy which strikes down the manufacturer. The home market is his only sure reliance. The condition of things abroad may afford increased prices for the produce of his farm; the miseries of unhappy Ireland, and the unsettled state of public affairs in other parts of the world, may create a temporary demand for grain, and thereby augment the value of his productions; but it would be unsafe to depend on contingencies of this nature, over which his government can have no control. The entire produce of his lands, whether distant or near the foreign market, must depend for a uniform and fair price on the home demand. Any other reliance is dependent on the policy of foreign governments, the convulsions of unsettled power, and the unfruitful harvests of other producers.

It is not, however, in enhanced prices alone, that he finds his reward. In the home market he is his own factor, avoids the risk of agencies, the dangers of transportation, and can select his own time for the disposal of his produce.—The manufacturer carries to the market, in the fabrics he proposes to sell, the produce of the farmer, who is thereby relieved of the hazard and expense of conveyance.

In another form he is still more largely benefited. One of the elements of well regulated society, is unity of interest. Whatever may be said to the contrary, no natural antipathies exist between capital and labor. They are dependent on, are supported by, and receive vitality from each other. The manufacturer who invests under the fostering care of government his capital in profitable industry, opens a new source of wealth to the farmer, the artisan and the laborer.

An industrious population whose reward affords comfort and competence, gathers around him; other classes are attracted, and the store house, the workshop, the school and the church are erected; villages spring up; the din of active industry and the sound of enjoyment mingle together; roads are opened, bridges are built, lands rise in value; and the former finds a market at his door, not only for his ordinary surplus produce, but also for numberless articles which were deemed unworthy of transportation. From that overflowing fountain, by a hundred rivulets, wealth is poured into his treasury.

These are a few of the many advantages of the agriculturalist and the laborer, arising from a fair and reasonable protection of the domestic industry of the country. The existing revenue laws of the national government, by opening our ports to foreign manufactures, invite the labor of the wretched, starving operatives of Europe, to a competition with this healthy and prosperous condition of things. The consequences are ruinous to the interests of the laboring and producing classes, and dry the streams of prosperity in every branch of industry.

It should not be forgotten, that the reliable wealth of a State consists in the profitable industry and capital of the citizens. Whatever tends, therefore, to prostrate individual prosperity, to diminish the value of produce, to injure productive labor, or to drive from the country some investment of the money capital of the country, strikes with alarming force the best interests of the State. The revenues of the Commonwealth are derived principally from real and personal estate, and from our railroads and canals. In relation to the former, it may be said, that every dollar shipped for the purchase of foreign fabrics diminishes their value, depresses the home market, reduces the profits of the producer, and thereby deprives the government of revenue paid into the treasury. Capital invested in the various branches of manufactures, sinks in value, in proportion to the depression of the business in which it is employed, and when foreign competition is successful by reason of low duties, in driving from the home market the fabric of the capitalist, his investment is comparatively valueless, and the revenues therefrom are greatly reduced. The profits from our internal improvements are still more seriously affected. The raw material in its transit to the manufactory, and the fabric on its way to a market, are principally conveyed along our canals and rail roads, thereby yielding a handsome revenue to the Commonwealth. When, therefore, the manufacturer, unprotected by the government, is compelled to discontinue his business, not only the laborer, the artisan and the agriculturalist, but the State also, is seriously injured in the general depression of business, the diminished wealth of the country, and the reduced value of capital.

The policy of giving fair and reasonable protection to the domestic industry of the country, has heretofore received a support so cordial, from wise and patriotic statesmen who have conducted the affairs of the national government, as well as those who have preceded me in the administration of this Commonwealth, that I cannot refrain from the insertion of a few extracts from their several messages.

The eighth annual message of President Jefferson, contains the following reference to the subject:

"The suspension of our foreign commerce, produced by the injustice of the belligerent powers, and the consequent losses and sacrifices of our citizens, are subjects of just concern.—The situation into which we have thus been forced has impelled us to apply a portion of our industry and capital to internal manufactures and improvements. The extent of this conversion is daily increasing, and little doubt remains that the establishments formed and forming will—under the auspices of cheaper materials and subsistence, the freedom of labor from taxation with us, and of protecting duties and prohibitions—become permanent."

President Madison calls the attention of Congress to the subject, in the following terms:

"Although other subjects will press more immediately on your deliberations, a portion of them cannot but be well bestowed on the just and sound policy of securing to our manufactures the success they have attained and are still attaining in some degree, under the impulse of causes not permanent."

And again, in his special message of February 20, 1815, he says:

"But there is no subject that can enter with greater force and merit into the deliberations of Congress, than a consideration of the means to preserve and promote the manufactures which have sprung into existence, and attained an unparalleled maturity throughout the United States during the period of the European wars. This source of National independence and wealth, I anxiously recommend, therefore, to the prompt and constant guardianship of Congress."

In his seventh annual message, he again refers to the subject, as follows:

"In adjusting the duties on imports to the object of revenue, the influence of the tariff on manufactures will necessarily present itself for consideration. However wise the theory may be, which leaves to the sagacity and interests of individuals, the application of their industry and resources, there are in this, as in other cases, exceptions to the general rule. Besides, the condition which the theory itself implies, of a reciprocal adoption by other nations, experience teaches, that so many circumstances must occur in introducing and maturing manufacturing establishments, especially of the more complicated kinds, that a country may remain long without them, although sufficiently advanced, and in some respects even, peculiarly fitted for carrying them on with success. Under circumstances giving a powerful impulse to manufacturing industry, it has made among us a progress, and exhibited an efficiency which justify the belief, that with a protection, not more than is due to the enterprising citizens whose interests are now at stake, it will become at an early day not only safe against occasional competitions from abroad, but a source of domestic wealth and even of external commerce."

And again:

"It will be an additional recommendation of particular manufactures, where the materials for them are extensively drawn from our agriculture, and consequently impart and ensure to that great fund of national prosperity and independence an encouragement which cannot fail to be rewarded."

President Monroe in his first inaugural address says:

"Our manufactures will likewise require the systematic and fostering care of the Government. Possessing, as we do, all the raw materials, the fruit of our own soil and industry, we ought not to depend in the degree we have done, on supplies from other countries. While we are thus dependant, the sudden event of War, unsought and unexpected, cannot fail to plunge us into the most serious difficulties. It is important, too, that the capital which nourishes our manufactures should be domestic, as its influence in that case, instead of exhausting, as it may do, in foreign hands, would be felt advantageously on agriculture, and every other branch of industry. Equally important is it, to provide at home, a market for our raw materials, as by extending the competition it will enhance the price, and protect the cultivator against the casualties incident to foreign markets."

His Excellency, Simon Snyder, Governor of the Commonwealth, in his message of December 8th, 1815, says:

"The subject of manufactures, from full experience during the restrictive system and the war, is now so well understood, as respects the practicability of advantageously carrying them on, as to the kind of goods which may be made and the quality and durability of the articles which have had a fair experiment amongst us, that it is deemed unnecessary to urge arguments in their support. The general government, fully aware of the importance of the subject, will, it is confidently hoped, follow the dictates of political wisdom, and protect our manufactures against injurious foreign competition or combination: a contrary course would protract the long and anxiously sought real independence of our country and again impose on us a dependence almost colonial."

His Excellency, William Findley, referring briefly to the subject, says:

"As agriculture and manufactures are the great sources of wealth, and the only solid foundation of our comforts and independence, they are peculiarly entitled to the fostering care of government."

In the first message of Gov. Wolf he speaks as follows:

"The protecting policy hitherto sustained by the general Government cannot, under existing circumstances, be abandoned or relinquished with the approbation or consent of the people of Pennsylvania. Their interests, their prosperity, and, I may add, their com-

forts, are at this time essentially identified with that policy. The diversified branches of industry in which our citizens are engaged; the character of the productions peculiar to our soil; the state of the foreign markets to which we had heretofore been accustomed to resort for the sale and exchange of our staple commodities, and the interdicting duties by which the produce of our agriculturists is excluded from those markets, leave us no alternative as to the course to be pursued. We must either suffer our surplus produce to perish upon our hands, or we must establish a market for its consumption at home. We must either submit to the humiliating condition of becoming tributary to foreign industry, or by affording encouragement to our own, render ourselves independent of foreign imposition and exaction. Under the encouragement and protection now afforded, our manufacturing establishments are assuming a vigorous and healthful appearance, and give reasonable promise of promoting the general prosperity of the country, and of accomplishing the great end and design contemplated by the friends and advocates of the protecting system. Our statesmen, who have hitherto represented us in the National Legislature, as well as in that of the State, have uniformly expressed their opinions affirmatively, and in terms by no means equivocal, that this nation possesses the right, under the constitution, to protect its industry by salutary enactments of its own, against the injurious consequences of foreign legislation, and that the acts of Congress imposing duties on imports are constitutional; and their constituents have as unequivocally responded to those opinions."

Gov. Porter, also, refers to the subject, in the following manner:

"It is unworthy the great State of Pennsylvania, to depend on the manufactures of other States, or of foreign countries, to supply her citizens with those articles for the various purposes of life which they can produce themselves as well, as cheaply and as abundantly as any other people on the face of the globe. Our valleys teeming with plenty, our hills with exhaustless deposits of coal and iron;—our streams abounding with water-power, for all purposes surpassed by that in any other country; and our citizens stimulated by enterprise and possessing means to render it effectual, should awaken in us that spirit of independence which disdains to seek at the hands of others, that which it can furnish with its own. It is with no feelings of envy or of local jealousy of others, that I bring this subject to your notice, but with an honest feeling of State pride and a generous emulation, which should inspire us with a determination not to be indebted to others for those solid and useful means of promoting our prosperity and independence which Nature has bounteously lavished on our citizens."

A question of the greatest magnitude, involving the honor of the State, and the interests of the citizens, will arise in the consideration of the public debt. The regular payment of the annual interest, and the formation of a sinking fund for the final liquidation of the principal, should receive the early and careful attention of the Legislature. It will give me unfeigned pleasure to unite with you in any rational mode calculated to facilitate an object so desirable.

The present debt of the State is as follows:

6 per ct. stocks,	\$1,887,549 06
5 do do	37,305,801 18
4 do do	200,000 00
	\$39,393,350 24

Relief Notes in circulation,	\$702,664 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	220,789 52
Do do un-claimed,	4,448 38

Interest on unclaimed and outstanding certificates to be added to them when funded,	14,165 89
Domestic Creditors,	89,318 95
	1,031,386 74

Total amount of public debt, Dec. 31st, 1818,	40,424,736 98
Of the above there is due and demandable at the Treasury as follows:	
Relief Notes,	\$702,664 00
Domestic Creditors,	89,318 95
Interest certificates of all kinds,	239,103 79
	1,031,386 74

It is presumed the gradual process of cancellation of the relief notes, or their redemption as heretofore indicated, will remove to that amount, the pressing necessities of the treasury.

The residue of said sum of 1,031,386 74 (to wit) \$328,722 74 is due and demandable

Also due and demandable of funded debt as follows:	
June 1st, 1811	\$26,951 50
August 1st, 1816,	1,998,509 35
August 1st, 1817	22,335 06
	2,047,796 21

Present liability of the Treasury, 2,375,518 95	
Residue of the public debt falling due	
March 1, 1819,	\$50,551 46
Dec. 1, 1850,	999,311 15
April 1, 1853,	135,214 00
Dec. 1, 1853,	1,998,407 00
January 1, 1854,	798,474 64
Dec. 1, 1854,	2,197,849 55
August 1, 1855,	4,488,463 79
July 1, 1856,	2,780,808 26
March 4, 1858,	3,998,395 47
July 1, 1858,	2,540,010 56
July 1, 1858,	519,929 74
July 1, 1859,	1,195,928 03
August 1, 1859,	49,988 25
July 1, 1860,	2,643,777 64
March 28, 1861,	130,000 00
July 1, 1862,	2,265,059 75
April 10, 1863,	200,000 00
July 1, 1864,	1,378,375 99
June 27, 1864,	1,134,332 70
Aug. 1, 1864,	860,680 89
July 1, 1865,	309,510 76

January 1, 1865,	868,873 13
July 1, 1868,	2,923,617 64
July 1, 1870,	1,939,583 65
Bank charter loan,	678,375 96
Total amount of funded debt, not demandable at the Treasury,	\$37,345,554 03
	39,722,072 98

Interest on the public debt, \$1,887,549 06, at 6 per cent. per annum,	\$113,252 94
37,305,801 18 " 5 "	1,865,290 05
200,000 00 " 4 "	9,000 00

Regular annual interest on the loans as they stood Dec. 1, 1848,	1,987,542 99
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On a portion of the above loans there will be to pay 34 years interest on February 1, 1849, which it is estimated will increase the amount,

On whatever amount of interest certificates may be funded between the 1st of February and the 1st of August next, there will be due at the latter period 4 years interest, estimated at	7,900 00
	12,000 00

Probable amount of interest for 1849,	2,006,542 99
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To which add guaranteed interest on Danville & Pottsville railroad, and Bald Eagle and Tioga navigation companies,

	32,500 00
	\$2,039,042 99

From the foregoing statement it would appear, should the estimates of receipts and expenditures be correct, and they doubtless approximate the truth, and should no unforeseen casualty occur, that the revenues will at least equal the expenditures of the year. Admitting, however, the correctness of the estimates, it is apparent the State is placed in a condition no better by the lapse of time, as no material diminution, if any, of the public debt is effected.—Indeed, even the payment of the annual interest has depended, and will depend on the anticipation of revenues properly belonging to the next fiscal year. A system of providing means to meet the liabilities of the State which pays no part of the debt and meets the payment of the annual interest by drafts on a fund raised for the discharge of another duty, and which collects from the people upwards of two millions of dollars yearly, requires supervision and amendment. A careful revision of the laws of the Commonwealth, increasing the tax on such items as will bear without injury an addition to their present burthens, with due economy in the appropriations and expenses of government, would not only place the treasury on a sound basis, with regard to the annual payment of the interest, but would also, if set apart for that purpose, create a sinking fund to meet the amount now due and demandable of the State. A result of this character would be honorable to the Commonwealth, and gratifying to the citizens. Confidence would be immediately restored to the community, public credit would be permanently established, and the Treasury relieved of a portion of the public debt. The amount now demandable is two millions three hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and eighteen dollars and ninety-four cents. When the faith of the State is involved, no time should be lost in adopting measures to restore its credit.

To form a fund for the liquidation of the residue of the public debt, is an object not less important than the one suggested. Pennsylvania should no longer bear the burthens which now oppress her citizens, without, at least, a vigorous and manly effort, to relieve herself from her liabilities. To the legislature belongs the duty of devising such means, and enacting such laws, as will best promote the interest of the people, and efforts so laudable will at all times receive the approbation of, and be aided by such suggestions as may present themselves to the Executive. A more favorable opportunity may present itself at the present session, than will soon again be offered. Many of the banks of this State have given the requisite notice, that they propose to apply for a renewal of their charters, and I would suggest, should it coincide with your views, the policy of exacting from each of these institutions that may come before the Legislature, the payment of a certain per centage on its capital, in addition to the taxes already assessed on banks by existing laws. A sum raised in this way might form the nucleus of a sinking fund, which, however small, would regularly increase in importance and value by the assistance it might receive from that and other sources. The charters of all the banks in the Commonwealth will require renewal, the increased prosperity, population and business of the country, may require additional banking facilities, and during each year a small amount could be added to the fund. The investment of the fund thus created in the purchase of State stocks, (the present revenue laws of the State being preserved,) and the interest on stocks purchased, being again invested in the same way, would increase the fund while it diminished the debt, until all would appreciate its importance and consider it with favor. Should our sources of revenue become of greater value, as may be reasonably anticipated, large balances over the expenditures of the government will accrue to the treasury, a fixed proportion of which could properly be added to the fund.—Thus would it increase in triple proportion, until the enormous debt, with which we are encumbered, would be finally extinguished. Whatever may be the views of the Legislature in regard to the plan suggested, it is ardently hoped it will distinguish its proceedings by the adoption of means to attain an object so desirable.

In the revision of the laws on the subject of revenue, with a view to increase taxation, the farming interest of the State should not be further burdened. The state, county, school, road and poor rates, levied upon land, and the reduced price of the products of the agriculturist, occasioned by the present revenue laws of the national Government, operating to the injury of the home

market, should justly and equitably relieve it from additional taxation.

For many years no settlement of the accounts of the Commissioners of the Internal Improvement fund has been made. It is worthy of consideration, whether a commission to consist of a Clerk from the Auditor General's and the state department, with a third to be appointed, authorized to make an examination of said account; as also to ascertain precisely the condition of the treasury and its disbursing agents, what monies are due to the state from corporations, individuals and counties, and if balances are found to exist, the reason why collections are delayed; might not by a careful report, suggest alterations beneficial in the manner of conducting our financial affairs. In this connexion it is also proper to mention, that a change in the manner of drawing money from the Treasury should be adopted to afford more ample checks; the present system being deemed defective.

The report of the Canal Commissioners will enable the Legislature to form an accurate judgment of the state of the public improvements. Notwithstanding serious interruptions caused by the destruction of the Freeport Aqueduct, and other casualties, the revenue from this source, has been so large and so constantly increasing, that these works should be carefully guarded and preserved as a means useful to the citizens and highly advantageous to the State. In referring to the Internal Improvements of the State, I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without alluding to the North Branch Canal. It is supposed that a million of dollars would complete this work, at present profitless and rapidly going to ruin. Already has the State expended upwards of two millions, which, while it remains unfinished, is absolutely lost. The country through which this improvement passes, is rich in the articles of coal and iron, and in agricultural products. Its completion by the increased amount of tolls received on it, and the additional freight thrown on to other portions of the public improvements, would amply secure the interest on the cost of its completion. Under a deep sense of the correctness of these views, I could not avoid bringing the subject to your early consideration. In this relation it is also proper to refer to the importance of avoiding the Schuylkill inclined plane. Surveys and estimates by a skillful Engineer have been made of three different routes, and the result will be laid before you in the report of the gentleman to whom was entrusted the duty. It is well to observe, that these estimates are not included in the estimated expenditures of the current year, as given in a former part of the message.

The attention of the legislature will be called to the subject of the currency in connexion with the banking institutions of the State.—These institutions have become so intimately identified with the business and interests of the citizens, and furnish such a portion of the circulating medium, that a necessity is created for their proper management and control.—The standard of the value of things among civilized nations is conceded to be the precious metals. The constitutional currency of this government is gold and silver. Whenever the convenience of trade and business, the encouragement of industry and enterprise, or the natural growth and developments of the country, require additional commercial facilities, it is the duty of the public functionary to be watchful, that the representative of the precious metals should maintain the standard value. The citizen having in his possession a note issued by a bank of the Commonwealth, should be secure that he holds the equivalent of gold and silver. In order to obtain this result, care should be taken by the legislature in the grants of authority to these corporations, to prevent them if possible from furnishing a less reliable currency. Banking institutions have long existed among us, and have been, when properly restricted, and judiciously managed, highly conducive to the best interests of the people. Their notes, when kept at par value, form a more convenient currency than the precious metals; are equally valuable in all financial concerns, and promote the active industry of the country. Hence, solvent banks, whose notes are readily convertible into specie, should be sustained by the legislature, while those failing to keep their notes at par, or to redeem them on demand, by inflicting injury and injustice on the community, destroy confidence, and forfeit our favorable consideration.

In judging of the amount of banking capital necessary for the wants of a community, a sound and healthful state of business and trade afford the best and safest criterion. These institutions are better able to meet their liabilities and redeem their notes, in a state of things such as is here alluded to, than during extraordinary depression, or unnatural excitement. That the increase of banking facilities is instrumental in relieving the country in times of commercial distress, is a belief as prevalent, as it is unsound. It may postpone the crisis, but cannot afford relief. The active healthy industry of the country, and not the wants of individuals, should govern the issues of the banks. In periods of great commercial and manufacturing prosperity, an inflation of the currency beyond the wants of sound, wholesome trade, leads to unwise, and

often ruinous speculation. In short, the amount of the circulating medium, should depend on the actual and not the imaginary wants of the country.—From these observations, the Legislature will readily perceive, that any extraordinary increase of banking capital, in the present depressed condition of trade, is not consistent with my views of the general welfare.

The location of a bank, as near as practicable to the centre of its business operations, is a matter of some moment to the community, and should the legislature in its examination of the applications for the recharter of any institution now existing, be satisfied that the location of the existing bank is unsuited to the convenience of the business portion of the citizens for whose benefit it was established, a wise policy would dictate a refusal to recharter, and the establishment of a new institution with the same amount of capital, at a place more advantageous to the citizens. The old and well established banking institutions, whose credit and solvency are undoubted, and where the wants of the community in which they are located require it, should receive a renewal of their charters; but in no instance ought a charter to be renewed, until a complete, a thorough examination of the affairs of the institution, and a full statement of its business, with satisfactory evidence of the bona fide value of its assets, shall have convinced a committee appointed for that purpose, of its entire solvency and ability to redeem all its liabilities. Such statement duly authenticated, should be filed of record in the state department for the inspection of all persons interested.

The several laws in force to prevent the use and circulation of notes of a less denomination than five dollars, do not appear to have produced the result intended. A large portion of the currency of the State, consists of notes of a lower denomination, many of them spurious and defaced, issued by foreign institutions, about whose solvency no knowledge can be possessed by the citizens. This circulation, while it inflicts injury on the community, is in direct contravention of the express terms of the law.—As it manifests the existing laws will not remedy the evil, it is suggested, that an act presently under severe penalties, the banks and brokers dealing in money, from receiving on deposit, or exchanging or paying the same from their counters would have a beneficial effect in driving these notes from circulation. Should the circulation of notes of a less denomination than five dollars, be desirable it is infinitely to be preferred, that they should be issued by our State banks, whose solvency is known, rather than foster a circulation issued by institutions, whose abilities to redeem them may be uncertain.—With these slight modifications of our present system taking care that no unnecessary and unadvised increase of banking capital be made, and in all cases either of new institutions, or the renewal of those now existing, that their entire solvency should be ascertained, and that no danger to the citizens will arise from these grants of power—I should deem it right to leave the present policy in relation to these corporations, as it has been maintained in former years.

During the last session of the Legislature, an act was passed regulating the hours of labor in factories, and specifying the age at which minors should be admitted therein. It is respectfully submitted, whether this law does not require amendment, so as to prevent special contracts to labor more than the time fixed by the act. The operation of the law as at present in force, gives to those violating its spirit, and advantage over him who faithfully carries it into effect, by permitting the owner and operative to enter into such contracts in relation to the extension of time, as they may deem proper.—It is right to limit the hours of labor in factories, (and who that desire the education and comfort of the citizens can doubt it,) the law should be so changed as to operate alike in all such establishments. Should the Legislature concur in this opinion, it would be proper to repeal the proviso, allowing of special contracts by parents and guardians for the labor of minors above the age of fourteen years. They should not be left in a condition of more hardship than the adult.—I have brought this subject to the notice of the Legislature, as well because of the justice and propriety of the suggestion, as that my friendship for the measure was well known to the people, and has been approved by them at the late general election.

It gives me unfeigned pleasure to announce the fact, that the common school system is at length adopted throughout the State. The friends of education must be deeply gratified that a consummation so desirable, promising such advantages to the citizen and security to the State, has been attained. It may well be considered as a conspicuous epoch in our history. The blessings of rational and moral cultivation dispensed throughout the Commonwealth will improve the condition of the people, enlarge their sphere of usefulness, and give to the State a character for intelligence and virtue.—The report of the Superintendent will furnish valuable information to the legislature for the further improvement of the system, and will enable it to remedy existing defects.

The Adjutant General's report on the subject of Militia, contains many important suggestions, well worthy the consideration of the Legislature. It is the production of a practical military officer, who has bestowed much thought on the subject, and will be found interesting and valuable, particularly as pointing out a mode by which the vast expenditure of the present system may be saved to the Treasury.

In the reports of the Auditor General and Surveyor General, you will find a detailed account of the financial operations of the year ending on the 1st of December last. To these reports I would refer you for a full statement of the condition of the affairs of the Commonwealth in their several departments.

The acquisition of New Mexico and California, presents again in the National Congress, the important question of the extension or non extension of human slavery. At the adoptions of the national Constitution, the longer continuance of what was then considered an evil was strongly agitated, and resulted in a compromise permitting it in the States where at that time it existed. The Constitution being submitted to the states, was adopted with others by Pennsylvania,