another, himself the choice of the people, I shall retire with a consciousness of having endeavored to contribute something to promote the prosperity of our beloved State, and I trust I shall ever cherish a grateful recollection of the honors that have been conferred upon me—and it only remains for me to invoke upon your labors, and those of my successor the favor of that overruling Providence, whose hand directs alike the destiny of individuals and of Nations.

KINSLEY S. BINGHAM

Executive Office,
Jan. 1, 1859.

LANSING STATE REPUBLICAN

HOSMER & KERR.

TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 4, 1859.

Daily Journal of the Legislature.

We will furnish the *Daily Journals*, to our subscribers, at Fifty Cents, during the session of the Legislature. The price of our paper, one dollar per year, will not admit of our sending the *Journal* free. HOSMER & KERR.

The Opening of the House.

The members of the House of Representatives met in their Hall at ten o'clock on Wednesday, and were called to order by the Clerk of the last House.

Hon. Charles Dickey, of Calhoun, was chosen Speaker *pro tem.*

Credentials were presented, and the members were then sworn in by the Lieut. Governor.

The House proceeded to elect a speaker, which resulted in the choice of Hon. HENRY A. SHAW, of Eaton, by a vote of fifty-four, to twenty-four.

Upon being inducted into the Chair, Mr. Shaw said:

Accept my thanks for the position you have conferred upon me. Trusting that by diligence, promptness and impartiality, I shall continue to merit your approbation, and asking your indulgence for those qualities experience can only command, I accept the trust, but with diffidence.

The time allowed me by the regulations of the State to discharge all the various duties appertaining to the Legislative Department, should be carefully, constant, and assiduous efforts. Hoping, then, gentlemen, that none of the interests of the people will be overlooked, and that our deliberations may result in the smooth and prosperity of the State, and we be permitted to return to our constituents with their approbation, I enter at once upon the discharge of the duties you have allotted me.

Charles V. De Land, of Jackson, was elected Clerk.

William A. Hall, of Livingston, was chosen Enrolling and Engrossing Clerk.

Charles Larrabee, of Lenawee, was chosen Sergeant-at-Arms.

The rules of the last House were for the time adopted, and the House adjourned till two o'clock P. M.

In the Senate, A. B. Turner of Kent was chosen Secretary, W. R. Bartlett, of Tuscola, was chosen Enrolling and Engrossing Clerk, and De. E. Webb, of Lenawee, Sergeant-at-Arms.

John Martin, of Oakland, was made assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

At two o'clock, the hour of adjournment, each branch of the Legislature assembled in their respective Halls, and having announced to the Ex-Executive, their organization, they each received from the Ex-Governor his Message required by the Constitution, which was then read to the Senate by the Secretary, and to the House by its Clerk, which Message will be found in the columns of the *Republican*.

At ten o'clock on Thursday morning, the two Houses met together, and received the message of Governor Wisner in person, and which will be found in the columns of this day's *Republican*.

Swamp Land Patents.

Much enquiry is daily made of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, for Swamp Lands which as yet have not been patented to the State, by the General Land Office at Washington, and which of course are not in market. Information received by the Commissioner from the Land Office at Washington, of last weeks' dates, is to the effect that the patents for the following lands will be made out and forwarded, and will be received by the Commissioner during the current week, viz:

Allegan County,	2,520	acres.
Clinton County,	7,057	"
Newago County,	39,410	"
Ottawa County,	58,558	"

This is so far, good news, but it is qualified by other information from the same source, which is not so good. The lands which have been resurveyed, are by the determination of the Department, withheld from the State. In many cases, tracts have been re-surveyed, and the result has been that the lines of survey have been changed, as well as the numbers of the lots, and their relative position upon the plats. Great confusion has resulted therefrom, and the State has been in all such cases, entirely disabled from making sales.

The effect of the decision of the Land Bureau, in throwing out the re-surveyed lands, is to deprive the State of Michigan of a million of acres of land, supposed to be covered by the Act of 1850, and to reduce the Swamp Land Grant to about five million acres.

MESSAGES.—An attentive perusal is asked, for the important documents which are this week placed before our readers, in the form of Messages from the retiring Governor, and from the present incumbent of the Executive Office.

The excellent administration of Gov. Bingham is well and appropriately concluded by his able and comprehensive review of the condition of the State, while the future policy of Gov. Wisner's Administration, with its sound, wise and statesmanlike preparation for an energetic advancement of the industrial, educational, and charitable interests of the State, is well and happily set forth in his inaugural communication.

THE SUPREME COURT.—The Supreme Court of the State of Michigan, met at the Court Room lately fitted up for them in the Capitol, being the room formerly occupied by the Auditor and Treasurer. Chief Justice Martin and Judge Manning Christiancy and Campbell were all present yesterday, the arrival of Judge Campbell having been delayed by ill health. It is understood that the tribunal will continue in session here for some weeks.

THE OLD STORY. — The New York *Tribune's* late private advices from Washington are to the effect that Gov. Sam Medary of Kansas has made a requisition on the President for military aid in suppressing the disturbances in the Territory, near Fort Scott. Leading Democrats there deprecate Federal interference in the matter, as tending to revive the Kansas agitation.

ACQUITTAL OF VORCE.—Vorce of Le Roy, indicted for the forgery of Township orders, was acquitted most unexpectedly to all who knew the facts, or heard the evidence, at Mason last week. We have two communications on the subject, which are unavoidably crowded out.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives:—

The Constitution of our State requires the Chief Magistrate, when he enters upon his duties, to give to the Legislature "information by Message, of the condition of the State, and recommend such measures to them as he shall deem expedient." I enter upon this duty distrusting my own abilities, but with a firm reliance upon Providence, without whose aid, Nations like individuals, must sooner or later fall. It is with feelings of pleasure as well as pride, that I congratulate you, the Senators and Representatives of this great State. Your lot is cast in a land bountifully blessed by nature.

The geographical limits of Michigan are greater than those of New York. While twelve hundred miles of navigable waters wash her shores, her soil is fertile, producing in perfection and abundance all the fruits and grains and flowers that are usually cultivated in this latitude. Within our State are extensive beds of coal and gypsum, and springs of saline waters — while five sixths of the whole State is yet an unbroken wilderness of the first timber in the world. A great part of the northern portion of the State is one vast bed of mineral wealth; the copper and iron mines of that region surpass all others in the world for extent and purity of metal. We have today, within our limits, over six hundred and fifty miles of Railway in successful operation, and over eleven hundred miles more now being constructed. In your hands are placed the destinies of this great State.

You should so legislate as to develop and make productive the great natural resources that the God of nature has so bountifully spread out before you.

You have a duty to perform, not only to yourselves and to your immediate constituents, but to the unborn millions that are destined to people this beautiful State, and I sincerely trust that in all your deliberations you will be governed solely by a desire to promote the welfare and happiness of our common constituents, keeping constantly in view the greatest good of the greatest number, and that you will ever be ready to acknowledge your dependence upon Him who holds the destinies of Nations in the hollow of His hand.

The indebtedness of the State, independent of that owing on the different Trust Funds, upon the first day of November 1858, that being the end of the last fiscal year, amounted to the sum of two millions three hundred and twenty-nine dollars and sixty-seven cents. This debt falls due as follows:

January 1859	$ [illegible]
" 1860	[illegible]
" 1861	[illegible]
" 1862	[illegible]
" 1863	[illegible]

Together with three thousand eight hundred and two dollars and seven cents of the old Bonds of the State issued and which are liable to be presented at any time for payment. The amount the State owes the different Trust Funds is not payable upon the like one other indebtedness — All these funds require the payment of their interest annually, it behoves in my opinion better for these funds to have their funds in the hands of our own State, than in the hands of individuals and of other States.

We all have a direct interest in a careful guarding of these funds, and having them properly appropriated to the objects for which they were created. The money arising from the sale of lands granted by the General Government to the State for educational purposes, being the University, Normal and Primary School lands.

The Constitution of the State provides that the proceeds of the sale of all lands that have been, or hereafter may be granted by the United States, to the State for educational purposes, and the proceeds of all lands or other property given by individuals or appropriated by the State for like purposes shall be and remain a perpetual fund, the interest and income of which, together with the rent of all such lands as may remain unsold, shall be inviolably appropriated and annually applied to the specific objects of the original gift, grant or appropriation. As these lands are sold, the money arising therefrom is paid into the Treasury, and the State becomes a trustee for the faithful keeping of the same, and the appropriation of the interest and income arising therefrom, according to that clause of the Constitution hereby referred to. This trust is a sacred one, and should be kept inviolate.

The interest and income arising therefrom should annually be appropriated towards the great object for which the grant was conferred. Should the money arising from the sale of these lands, be allowed to accumulate in our Treasury, as interest or income would arise therefrom.

The true policy, in my opinion, is to appropriate the money arising from the sale of these lands towards the extinguishment of our State indebtedness, the State paying annually a rate of interest for the use of such money. This has been the policy heretofore pursued, and I recommend a continuance of the same. The other indebtedness of the State stands upon a far different basis.

This indebtedness must be provided for — both principal and interest, as the same falls due.

True policy required the Legislature, when it contracted this debt, in the early settlement of our State, to have made provision for its payment, but they neglected to do so, and it does not now become us to look back and scan their acts, except to take warning from their mistakes, and guard our own conduct by the experience of those who have gone before us.

We find this debt upon our hands, and it is our duty to make provision for it.

The Constitution of the State provides as follows:

"The Legislature shall provide by law a sinking fund of at least twenty thousand dollars a year, to commence in eighteen hundred and fifty-two, with compound interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and an annual increase of at least five per cent. to be applied solely to the payment and extinguishment of the principal of the State debt, other than the amounts due to educational funds, and shall be continued until the extinguishment thereof."

This Constitutional provision has never been complied with, and it is now too late, in my judgment, to create such a "sinking fund" as will enable us to pay off the entire indebtedness of the State as it falls due. The payment of that portion of the State indebtedness falling due during the present month was provided for by the legislative enactment of January 1858.

The forty thousand dollars falling due in January 1860, together with the interest upon our entire indebtedness, ought to be by you provided for. This debt is not of our contracting. It has been handed down to us by former legislation. We are, however, both morally and legally bound to pay it, as much as if we had contracted it. It soon falls due, and unless we make provision for its payment at maturity, our proud State will be in the humiliating and dishonorable position of not being prepared to meet the just demands of her creditors.

The State Prison, at Jackson, will demand a portion of your consideration. There is no subject that will come up before you that will require deeper thought, or more patient deliberation than that of the criminal jurisprudence of our State. The punishment of crime has a three fold object to subserve—the reformation of the criminal—the example of punishment, with a view of deterring others from the commission of crime, and the safety of community. Vengeance, in an enlightened age is not one of the objects to be accomplished by the punishment of crime—that system of jurisprudence that more nearly subserves the three great objects already mentioned has ever been found the best. In my opinion, certainty of punishment will do more to prevent the commission of crime than severity. Crime in this State is more severely punished than in the State of New York, with the exception of the death penalty, and yet, with all this severity, we are fast outstripping New York in crime.

No man of reflection can look at the great increase of crime in our State during the past ten years without a shudder. There were confined in the State Prison at Jackson:

December 1	1849	119
"	1850	161
"	1851	176
"	1852	209
"	1853	205
"	1854	240
"	1855	304
"	1856	340
"	1857	411
"	1858	479

This is an increase far beyond the proportionate increase of our population. The utmost capacity of the State Prison when fully completed according to its present plan will be as follows:

West Wing	328 Cells.
East Wing	320 "
Solitary	24 "
Female Department	20 "
Making in all	692 Cells.

Thirty-four of the convicts are now confined in the State Prison for life, and twenty-four of these are confined in solitary cells for wilful and deliberate murder.

Let crime continue to increase in our State for the next three years in the same ratio as in the past and our prison at the end of that period will be full to its utmost capacity.

In January 1847, the Legislature appropriated thirty-two thousand dollars for the purpose of completing the east wing of the prison, and constructing one hundred and sixty four cells therein, and for making other improvements.

In pursuance of this appropriation, the Building Commissioner having charge of it has nearly completed one hundred and sixty cells, and has made other improvements contemplated by the appropriation, for the particulars of which you are respectfully referred to the annual Report of the officers of the prison for the years 1857 and 1858. Further appropriations are necessary to be made in order to complete the prison. Although one hundred and sixty cells have been built since January 1847, yet the increase of convicts has kept pace with the building of cells.

I recommend to your consideration such an appropriation as will enable the Building Commissioner to complete such portions of the prison as are needed for the safe keeping of the convicts as they may be brought here. For a detailed statement of the finances of the prison, and the manner that institution has been conducted for the past year, you are respectfully referred to the Inspector's Report and the accompanying documents now on file in the proper department.

Much complaint is being made among the mechanics of our State, (and particularly among the carriage and wagon makers) as to the kind of labor in which the convicts are employed. Our mechanics claim that their labor is brought in competition with convict labor, the results of which is that they are compelled to sell the products of their industry for below compensating prices. This is a subject worthy of your consideration.

There is no class of men more entitled to the fostering care of legislators than the mechanics of our State. British mechanical labor from abroad, and you strike a death blow at our prosperity.

The constitution provides that "No mechanical trade shall hereafter be taught in the State Prison of this State except the manufacture of those articles of which the chief supply of home consumption is imported from other States or countries."

The spirit of this clause of our constitution would seem to prohibit the employment of convict labor upon such mechanical works, the chief supply of which is derived from our own State.

The manifest object of this clause was to prevent convict labor from coming in competition with free mechanical labor.

It may be said that no contract in the State Prison is taught the carriage or wagon makers trade, because no one contract is taught all the different branches of the business so as to be able to complete a carriage or wagon. This kind of reasoning would completely do away with the spirit and effect of the constitution. Carriage and wagon making business may be divided into a dozen different departments, and because a dozen different contracts are made each for a different department of the business, it cannot for that reason be said that the carriage and wagon maker's trade is not taught there, any more than it can be said that carpetting and saddlery are not made by them. An indirect is just as wrong as a direct violation of the constitution.

In my opinion, it would be far better for the State to maintain her convicts by a direct tax than to employ them in violation of the constitution, or at the expense of our mechanics. In one case the burden of supporting them would fall equally upon all, but the other a single class of our citizens would be the sufferers. But there is no necessity of either employing the convicts in violation of the constitution, or to the injury of our mechanics, and supporting them in idleness. I therefore earnestly ask you to enquire into the alleged grievances on the part of the mechanics of our State, and if they have just cause of complaint, to give them such aid as your wisdom may suggest and justice may require.

The House of Correction is another institution intimately connected with the moral jurisprudence of the State. This institution was founded by an Act of the Legislature approved in January 1856, and has now been in operation for over two years, and in my opinion is a very great improvement in a moral point of view upon the old system of sending mere boys to the State Prison, for the commission of crime. There are now confined in the House of Correction, fifty-eight young lads, whose respective ages when sentenced, varied from nine to sixteen years. They are now being educated and cared for in a manner suitable to their tender years. Trades are being taught them, and when they shall be set at liberty, they will be prepared to enter upon the duties of life with a good education and free from that stain that ever attaches to one who has been the inmate of a State Prison. This Institution needs your fostering care, and whatever appropriations are necessary with a view to its completion, and to enable it to be successfully conducted, I doubt not will meet with favor at your hands. Were it not for this Institution, fifty-eight young lads, its inmates, would be confined in your State Prison, the companions of the hardened criminal and subject to all the contaminating influences of such associates. No man can visit this House of Correction and watch the workings of the system there adopted to educate these boys, and reclaim them from the paths of vice, without a feeling of gratitude to the authors and founders of such an institution.

The main building and south wing are now completed. I believe the true policy of the State requires its enlargement. I therefore recommend such an appropriation as will be sufficient within the next two years to erect and complete the south wing.

The constitution of our State provides that "first tuitions for the benefit of those inhabitants who are deaf, dumb, blind or insane, shall always be fostered and supported." This is a wise and charitable provision of the organic law. The framers of that instrument seemed unwilling to leave the care and welfare of these unfortunate inhabitants to voluntary legislation. They have therefore required you, before you enter upon your duties to take a solemn oath that you would foster and support institutions for the benefit of those who are deaf, dumb, blind, or insane. Actuated by a wise and humane spirit, the Legislature at its annual session for the year 1857, made an appropriation in money of three thousand dollars towards the building of an Asylum at the village (now city) of Flint, for the deaf, dumb, and blind, and a like appropriation of twenty thousand dollars towards the building of an Asylum at Kalamazoo, for the insane. Subsequent appropriations have also been made by the Legislature for the same purpose.

There is connected with the Asylum at Flint, and belonging to the State, ninety-two and a half acres of land, and with the Asylum at Kalamazoo one hundred and sixty-seven acres.

The entire expenditures upon these Asylums, (exclusive of what has been paid for the land) together with the different years in which the expenditures were made, are as follows:

1855, for both institutions	[illegible]	[illegible]
1856 & 4, at Kalamazoo	[illegible]	[illegible]
1856 & 7, "	[illegible]	[illegible]
1857 & 8, "	[illegible]	[illegible]
	$[illegible]	$[illegible]

A portion of the Asylum at Flint has been completed and has been for some time past been in use. The walls and roof of the main building have been erected, but it will require a further appropriation of one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars to fully complete and furnish the whole edifice and carry on the institution for the next two years.

The south wing of the Asylum at Kalamazoo is nearly completed and after the same shall have been furnished, will be ready for the reception of the unfortunate insane of our State. This wing is of sufficient capacity to accommodate ninety patients. The main building that was designed to divide the two wings was unfortunately burned in the month of February 1858, and until this main part is rebuilt, it is feared the prosperity of the institution will be in a great measure retarded. It would require an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars to rebuild that portion burned in Febuary 1858, and eight thousand five hundred dollars to furnish the wing already nearly completed, so as to enable the institution to go into successful operation. These two great works of humanity and charity, when fully completed, will be the pride and boast of our State. It is estimated that there are within the limits of Michigan, not less than three hundred deaf, dumb, and blind persons, between the ages of ten and twenty years, qualified by mental capacity to become pupils at the Asylum at Flint. Over one half of these are deaf mutes, and the balance are blind.

These unfortunate brothers and sisters of ours are by the hand of God, for some wise purpose, forever shut out from the "sights and sounds of Nature." The experience of the past teaches us that they are equally capable with us of mental improvement, and while our State is yearly lavishing her thousands toward the education and improvement of her more fortunate children, it does not well become her to withhold appropriations from the only institution that can educate and improve these unfortunate beings.

The biennial Report of the Trustees of the Asylums made to the Legislature in December 1858, shows that there were at that time within the State of Michigan, not less than six hundred insane persons, and that three hundred and fifty of these were fairly subjects for immediate medical treatment, with a view of effecting a cure. These miserable beings are scattered about our State — some in jails — some in poor-houses — some wandering about our streets producing fear and consternation wherever they go, while a still greater portion are confined at their once happy homes, making their friends and relatives more miserable without in the least adding to their own enjoyment.

There is no sight so melancholy as that of the "human form deprived of reason." Humanity, Philanthropy, and Christian charity alike call upon you for Legislative aid in behalf of these most unfortunate of our citizens. It is a subject that addresses itself to you individually, with peculiar force, for you know not how soon you, your wife, or your child, may be dethroned of reason. It is estimated by those who have made insanity their study, that at least three-fourths of the insane, if taken in season and properly treated, can be effectually cured. It is claimed by some that the Asylum at Kalamazoo is being built upon a too extravagant plan. I do not think so. It is expensive, as all buildings of the kind must necessarily be, but not extravagant. You should bear in mind, that the great object of this institution is to cure the insane. If confinement were the sole object, a cheap building, provided it had the proper strength, would answer the purpose. The experience of the world teaches us that an insane person is rarely, if ever, cured in a dungeon or a jail. In an Asylum of this character, strength, cheerfulness, and beauty of structure should be combined. Strength to confine, cheerfulness, and beauty to aid in drawing the flickering intellect back to reason.

For a detailed statement of the financial affairs of those two Asylums, and the amount of appropriations necessary to complete and carry them on. You are respectfully referred to the reports of the several boards of trustees having charge of them. The building of these Asylums ought not to stop or be delayed, but should go on to completion as fast as the financial resources of the State will admit. I therefore recommend to you to make such an appropriation as will tend to the completion of these institutions at the earliest practicable moment.

The subject of education is one intimately connected with the happiness and prosperity of our people. From the landing of the "May Flower" upon the rugged shores of New England, down to the present time, this subject has been uppermost in the minds of the American people. Acting upon the principle that the intelligent and educated cannot be enslaved; our New England brothers fostered and encouraged Colleges, Seminaries and Common Schools until the means of education have become with the almost as free as the air upon their mountain sides. Governed by the same wise policy, the framers of the ordinance of 1787, in one of its articles which they made irrepealable, declared that "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools, and the means of Education shall forever be encouraged." To the framers of this instrument, Michigan is in a great measure indebted for that system of public Schools, Colleges and Seminaries of Learning that have placed her in the first rank among the States of this confederacy. We have our University at Ann Arbor, that yearly sends forth to the world scores of highly educated young men, while the Normal School at Ypsilanti, perfects the mind and prepares it a system the teaching faculties of those whose duty it becomes to take charge of our Primary Schools.

It is to these Primary Schools that we must ever look for the stability of our free institutions. It is here that our children all meet upon a common level. The children of the rich and the poor, of the high and the low, are here taught alike. Our Primary School system should, however, be so perfected that no man within our State could be able to claim that poverty deprived him from educating his children. Our Primary Schools should be made free. The State should make ample provisions for carrying into effect that clause in her Constitution declaratory that "a system of Primary Schools shall be established without charge for tuition."

During the past year there were taught within our State, one hundred and seventy-three thousand five hundred and fifty-nine children, between the ages of four and eighteen years, at an expense of four hundred and forty-three thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars and seventy cents, for teachers wages alone. In regard to the amendments necessary to be made in our school laws, with a view of perfecting our common school system so as to meet the Constitutional requirement above mentioned, you are respectfully referred to the annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

There is one subject, however, connected with our system of public instruction that I cannot pass by in silence. It is the great inequality of the workings of this system as applied to the females of our State. We allow them to attend our Primary Schools and our Normal School — This, practically, is the extent. Although the portals of our University at Ann Arbor are not by law closed against them, yet no female has ever been admitted as a pupil within its walls — Practically they are excluded, and it makes but little difference whether this exclusion arises from legislative enactment, or from the construction of society, the effect in either case is the same. We think it necessary to bestow upon our brothers and our sons a high order of instruction — while our sisters and our daughters must be content with such as one as can be obtained from a Primary School. This is all wrong. Our educational fund is the common property of both sexes, and both should share alike in its enjoyment. The State has a deep interest in the intellectual improvement of her daughters. The mother moulds the mind of her child, and shapes its destinies by the teachings bestowed upon its youthful intellect. How important, then, for the welfare of our State, that our daughters should be prepared by education to perform well their part upon the stage of life. They are intellectually our equals. There was a time when the world looked upon them as "man's interior," but that day has long since passed. It is your duty to give to them the same means of obtaining a high order of education, that you have already bestowed upon the stronger sex, and this boon should be presented in the most acceptable form. I therefore recommend that you take such steps as your wisdom may dictate toward the establishment of a separate female department of learning at Ann Arbor, connected with, and under the control of the University, wherein the daughters of our citizens may be educated in all the higher branches of learning. In order to more effectually accomplish this great object, it may become necessary to erect a new edifice disconnected from any of the present University buildings.

The "Agricultural College" is another institution of learning that deeply interests the people of Michigan. Fourfifth of the inhabitants of the State are engaged in Agricultural pursuits, and whatever tends to enlighten them upon the great subject of the cultivation of the soil should receive encouragement at your hands. Actuated by a noble spirit, and having the true interest of the people at heart, the framers of our Constitution provided that "the Legislature shall encourage the promotion of Intellectual, Scientific and Agricultural improvement, and shall, as soon as practicable, provide for the establishment of an Agricultural School." In pursuance of this requirement, the Legislature at its annual session of 1855, took the necessary steps to carry into effect the will and wishes of the people, as expressed in the organic law of the State. A tract of land embracing six hundred acres and 47-100ths of an acre was purchased, and suitable building were erected thereon preparatory to the opening of the institution for the reception of students.

The founding of this College was an experiment in the Agricultural history of our country. Although the people of this great nation are more deeply interested in Agriculture than in all other pursuits combined. Yet no State in the Union had, prior to the month of January 1855, ventured upon the experiment of founding an "Agricultural College," and to Michigan belongs the high honor of inaugurating that policy that has since been imitated by some of the proudest States in the confederacy. This institution of learning is under the control and management of the Board of Education, and was, on the 13th day of May 1857, formally opened — at which time, students from different parts of the State applied for admission, and were received into the institution. At the next regular term after its opening, one hundred students were admitted. This is more that can be conveniently accommodated without an enlargement of the buildings connected with the College. Much has been said and written against this College, yet I believe, among the great masses of our people, it is the most popular institution of learning within our State, and should be fostered and encouraged by you. It is no longer a doubtful experiment, but it is successfully conducted beyond the most sanguine expectations of its founders. I recommend that steps be taken by you towards the enlargement of the capacities of this institution so as to accommodate at least two hundred students. For a detailed statement of the financial situation of this College and the management thereof, and the amount necessary to be appropriated thereon for the ensuing two years, you are respectfully referred to the report of the Board of Education now on file in the proper department.

The State you represent, from its geographical position and natural advantages must ever hold a conspicuous place in our Union. We are upon the dividing line that separates the East from the West. We occupy the great highway over which pass yearly, tens of thousands of hardy emigrants in pursuit of homes. These emigrants take with them more or less wealth; at all events, they take with them the very source from whence all real wealth must ever spring — strong arms and willing minds. With them labor is honorable, and wherever they make their homes, whether in the forest, upon the plain, or the mountain side, prosperity and happiness follow in their footsteps. For twenty years this tide of emigration has been steadily going past us, with scarcely an effort on our part to stay it in its onward march. Five sixths of our entire State is, to-day, a wilderness, and as inviting to the emigrant as the most distant prairies of the West. Whole counties in the northern portion of the State, have scarcely a white settler within them, and unless some measures are adopted to develop and make known the great Agricultural resources of the unsettled portion of that region, it will for a long time remain a wilderness. We want more people. Of what use to us are our vast woodlands, without the laborer to clear and cultivate them? Of of what consequence are mines of Copper, Iron and Coal lied in the bowels of the earth, with no hand to develop and make them productive? These advantages of settlement within our State should be made known to the emigrant. He should be made acquainted with the extent of navigable waters surrounding us, and within our limits, with the fisheries upon our shores of our vast forests of pine and other timber, of the mines of iron, copper and coal, with our beds of gypsum and springs of saline, with the salubrity of our climate, and productiveness of our soil. A knowledge of all the great Agricultural resources of our State should be brought home to him that he may thereby be induced to settle among us, and aid in making productive the great natural resources of one of the finest States in this Union.

I recommend to your consideration the policy of appointing an "Emigrant Agent" clothed with such powers as to you may seem meet, whose duty it shall be to induce Emigration to our soil.

Our State is yet in its infancy. She has, however, been settled by a self reliant and energetic class of people, who now number not far from eight hundred thousand, with an aggregate valuation of one hundred and thirty seven millions six hundred and sixty three thousand dollars of property. The great mass of this wealth has been dug from the soil by the strong arms of your citizens. They have a right to expect you to pursue such a course of policy as will most tend to develop and make known to them the extent of the great natural resources of the State. The appointment of a "State Geologist" would do much towards bringing about so desirable a result. As yet we know but little of the vast mineral wealth that lies beneath our soil — Science alone can unveil the "hidden mysteries of the earth." The Legislature at its annual session for the year 1837, passed a law authorizing the appointment of a competent person, whose duty it was to make an accurate and complete geological survey of the State, and furnish a "full and scientific description of its rocks, coals, and minerals, and of its botanical and geographical productions." An ample appropriation was also made for the purpose of carrying into effect this important act, and one of the most enlightened and scientific men of our country received the appointment of "State Geologist" and entered upon his duties, but before he consummated his great work he was cut off by the hand of death while in the performance of his official duties. After the death of the lamented Dr. Houghton, the Legislature at its annual session for the year 1840, passed a law authorizing the Governor to appoint some suitable person to collect and arrange the geographical notes, memoranda, specimens, maps &c., of Dr. Houghton, with a view of preparing a final report upon the Geology of Michigan. No action was ever had under the last mentioned law. I recommend that some steps be taken by you, with a view of making a full and complete Geological Survey of the State. A great portion of the labor is already completed; the annual reports made to the Legislature by Dr. Houghton during the term he acted as State Geologist, will add very materially in the consummation of such a work. The expense attending it will be a mere trifle in comparison to the great advantages yearly to be derived from a thorough knowledge of the geography of the State.

The purity of the elective franchise is a subject well worthy of your consideration. The theory of our government is that the majority shall rule, and when this theory is fairly and legitimately put to practice, no matches just cause of complaint. The constitution of our state fixes the qualifications of the elector, and declares that no citizen or inhabitant shall be entitled to vote at any election, unless he shall be above the age of twenty one years, and has resided in the State three months, and in the township or ward in which he offers to vote, ten days next preceding such election. Whoever casts his vote in violation of this constitutional provision, strikes a blow at the rights of all.

Our Revolutionary fathers did not hesitate to wage war with Great Britain, that we might govern ourselves and elect our own rulers. This great right of self government, and of electing our rulers by a majority of legal votes, is a right that should be carefully guarded. Whoever seeks to carry an election by illegal votes, is an enemy to your liberties, and yet illegal votes are polled at every election. The constitution provides that laws may be passed to preserve the purity of elections, and guard against abuses of the elective franchise. Every good citizen has an interest in preserving the purity of the ballot box, no matter to what party he may belong. Our laws upon this subject are not, in my opinion, sufficiently guarded. I ask you to enact a law requiring every voter as a condition to his right of voting, to cause his name to be registered at least ten days before an election, in a record to be kept for that purpose, by some proper officer, under such rules and regulations as your good sense may dictate. I believe that such a law is demanded by a great majority of the people of the State, and would do much towards preventing illegal voting.

Congress by an Act approved on the 3rd day of June last, granted to the State of Michigan, to aid in the construction of certain Rail Roads in the aggregate, not far from two millions two hundred thousand acres of land. The Act making the grants expressly declares "that the lands hereby granted, shall be exclusively applied in the construction of that Road, for and on account of which such lands are hereby granted, and shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and the same shall be applied to no other purpose whatever."

The State by an Act of her Legislature, approved upon the 14th day of February 1857, accepted the grant with the restrictions, and upon the terms and conditions contained in the Act of Congress. The roads in aid of which this grant was made, have an aggregate length of over eleven hundred and fifty miles. The building of them is of vital importance to us. They are chiefly located through the unsettled portion of the State, and no one can estimate the great advantages to be derived from their construction. At least thirty millions of dollars will have to be expended to fully complete and equip them for business, and a majority of this vast amount of capital must be brought here from foreign parts, and distributed among our mechanics and laboring men, thereby adding to the individual wealth of our citizens, and to the wealth of the State.

True policy requires that you should be liberal with these roads. Foster and encourage them, and in so doing you will promote the prosperity of the State. You should claim nothing from them on the strength of the grant made by Congress. The State boats to them the same relation that the ward bears to his ward, and faithfully in all things should she perform the duties of that guardianship. It is claimed that the Act of February 1857, places upon these Roads a tax too burdensome to be borne, and one disproportioned to the tax paid by the Roads now in operation. These new roads (to be [illegible] as they must be through an entire wilderness) ought not to be taxed too high, at all events no higher than the roads already constructed through the settled portion of our State. I respectfully call your attention to the different acts of legislation upon this subject, and recommend that they be so amended that the burden of taxation be so equally borne by all these different Roads in proportion to their several capacities.

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