

HART & SOMERVILLE, PROPRIETORS.

THE UNION—IT MUST BE PRESERVED.

OFFICE IN PHENIX BLOCK, THIRD STORY.

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Governor's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the State

I welcome you, with great pleasure, to the first session of the General Assembly in the New State House.

In simplicity of design, in harmony of proportions, and in massive solidity of structure, it stands, and may it long stand, a monument and a symbol of the clear Faith, the well ordered Institutions, and the enduring Greatness of the People whose House it is.

The year which has just closed, has been marked by the steady advance of the great State, whose interests, for the present, have been confined to our care, in all the elements of wealth, honor and power.

The returns of Agriculture, though less abundant than in some more favored years, have yet been sufficient to supply abundantly our wants at home, and to furnish a large surplus for exportation.

While the development and enlargement of our material resources have been ensured by these and similar agencies, other instrumentalities have been actively employed in the promotion of the moral and intellectual welfare of the people.

Not are these the only benefits which demand our grateful acknowledgments.—Peace is the opportunity of progress, and peace, unbroken, has prevailed throughout our borders.

The primary interests of Ohio connect themselves closely with the ownership and cultivation of the soil.

The whole area of the State, according to the computations of the Federal authorities, contains 29,964 square miles, or 25,576,960 acres.

The Federal Government asserted an exclusive proprietary title in the whole, except that portion included in the Compact of 1802.

Notwithstanding these serious disadvantages, the process of purchase and settlement has gone steadily forward until more than twelve millions of acres, occupied for agricultural purposes, and nearly thirteen millions more, classed as uncultivated, have become private property, and contribute to the public revenue.

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provement has been beneficially stimulated. The annual Reports embody valuable contributions to agricultural knowledge, the effect of which is becoming more and more visible in the increased skill, intelligence and energy with which the labors of the farm are executed, and in the increased production with which they are rewarded.

I respectfully submit to your consideration the propriety of increasing the funds now spent for appropriation by the State Board and County Societies for premiums for excellence in production and management, and of making such other provision for the increase and diffusion of agricultural knowledge as your own experience and observation suggest.

The proportion of our population and of our means engaged in Mining, Mechanical and Manufacturing Industry, is steadily and largely increasing. These pursuits of industry supply a great market, constantly becoming greater, for the productions of agriculture. Care should be taken that the financial burdens of the State be not permitted to press, in disproportionate measure, upon them.

I have already referred to the growing extent and importance of our Commerce. No inconsiderable amount of Revenue is collected by the General Government, from duties upon the direct importations of our merchants from foreign countries.

The Treaty of Reciprocity with Canada has enlarged the field and stimulated the activity of mercantile enterprise, especially in the northern part of the State. And the great interchange of commodities with our sister States and between different parts of our own Commonwealth, give continual employment to large resources and active energies.

Among the instrumentalities by means of which intercourse is carried on between different parts of the State and different sections of the country, Railroads may be regarded as the most important. The rapidity and ease of transit by rail gives to that mode of conveyance a decided preference over every other; and the number who commit their lives and property to the skill and fidelity of Railroad conductors and other employees, already vast, becomes hourly greater.

The number of miles of Railroad roads actually operated in this State in 1856, according to a statement made by the late Secretary of State, was 2593. The present number is about two thousand eight hundred. These Railroads have cost about ninety millions of dollars; more than a million of passengers are annually carried upon them; and their gross receipts are not less than six millions of dollars a year.

It is doubtless a source of the greatest pleasure to the people of the next ten years, in extent, cost, transportation and income, at one quarter the present amount. This vast interest affecting vitally so many other interests, has grown suddenly to its present dimensions, without system, without general organization, and in some important respects, without due responsibility.

The benefits of Railroads are such, and their safety and security are so identified with the safety and prosperity of the people, that no proper protection or support should be withheld from them; while the dangers from mismanagement are so great that no reasonable precaution against it should be omitted.

I respectfully recommend, therefore, the organization of a Board of Railroad Commissioners, with power to exercise a general supervision over the construction and operation of the several roads, and required to report from time to time to the Governor, for the information of the General Assembly, a full statement of their condition and management. I cannot doubt that the salutary influence of such legislation would be speedily manifested in the increased value of the roads, and the greater security of travelers.

A sound currency and secure exchanges are not less important to the intercourse of society than safe means of transportation. In almost all, and perhaps in all civilized communities, the currency is composed of coin and of circulating notes, convertible into coin, supplied either directly by the Government, or by Banks, organized under its authority.

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and, to levy that precise rate, when ascertained, prove, not infrequently, to be complex and involving operations. The effect, also, that too great amount of property and means, embraced in the first statement, shall be entered upon the duplicate for taxation and taxed by a different and usually much less rate than that levied upon the property of individuals, is calculated to produce an impression in the public mind, that property employed in banking is not charged by the act with its full proportion of the public burdens. Such an impression, in my judgment, cannot fail to prove injurious. It is the true interest of banking institutions, as well as of the people, that all legislation concerning them should avoid even the appearance of special favor. The most absolute impartiality in the distribution of burdens is demanded, by every consideration of policy as well as of justice.

I, therefore, respectfully suggest such amendments of the law as will require all property employed in banking, to be embraced in one schedule, and entered upon the duplicate for taxation at the same rate as is imposed on other property.

The Constitution authorizes the establishment, in the Secretary of State's office, of a Bureau of Statistics. Some provision for the collection of statistical information is already made. The Township Assessors are required to make returns of the quantity of wheat and corn produced in their several Townships each year. The District Assessors are required to report, under a certain classification, once in six years, the number of acres of taxable land in each different county. Various other inquiries, more or less specific, in relation to production, education, population and crime. Under these acts, although from want of system and of adequate means of enforcement they are often very imperfectly executed, a large amount of useful information is collected.

It is scattered, however, through many different reports, and consequently fails to yield the full advantage which might be derived from it. To combine this, and collect other similar information, and to present the whole, so arranged as to exhibit the mutual relation of facts and classes of facts, together with their general bearing upon the public welfare, is the proper function of a Bureau of Statistics. I can perceive no insuperable obstacle to the collection of all, or nearly all, the information required, through agencies already existing, without incurring much new expense. For the present, little more would be necessary than to provide for the appointment of a thoroughly qualified person to superintend the whole work, prepare and prescribe all necessary forms, and to receive, classify, and report the returns. I cannot doubt that such a provision for the collection and publication of the statistics of the State, Agricultural, Industrial, Social and Educational, would repay ten fold its cost in benefits.

Under the auspices of former legislation, a Geological Survey of the State was commenced and prosecuted for some time with valuable results. I respectfully submit to your consideration whether the time has not arrived for the resumption of that work, and whether there should not be combined with it, such an Agricultural examination as will fully ascertain and disclose the productive capacity of the different soils which compose the surface of the State, and the physical laws and influences by which that productive capacity is determined.

It should be combined with the provisions of an act of the last session, I have caused to be printed the Reports of the Auditor and Treasurer of the State, of the State House Commissioners, of the several Boards of the Benevolent Institutions, of the Directors of the Penitentiary, and of nearly all the other officers and Boards who seem to fall within their requirements. These Reports are now ready for distribution to your Honorable body, and I have the honor to print the Reports of the Public Officers after the assembling of the Legislature, and the consequent want of necessary information relating to public affairs has, heretofore, proved a most serious obstruction to legislative business. I congratulate you upon the almost complete removal of this obstruction, and the salutary operation of the act of the last session, so as to embrace every officer at a board having charge of any department of the public service, not now included by it.

I refer you to the Reports of the State Auditor, and State Treasurer for full information concerning the financial condition of the State.

The State of the Public Debt, the amount and distribution of Taxation and the uses of revenue, will necessarily engage your careful attention.

The Debt of the State had its origin in Internal Improvements. Nearly the whole of it was contracted to defray the cost of the State Canal, and to provide for subscriptions in aid of Turnpikes, Railways and Canals, projected and controlled by the policy of these undertakings, no one doubts the duty of the State to fulfill with scrupulous exactitude, her duties to her creditors. On this subject, happily, there is no diversity of opinion in Ohio.

To pay the interest of this debt; to reduce and finally extinguish the principal; to provide for the necessary expenses of the State Government and Public Institutions; and to defray the charges of county, city, township and district administrations, are the legitimate objects of taxation. To insure responsibility for the discharge of these objects, and thereby promote economy, the constitution strictly enjoins that no money shall be drawn from the Treasury except in pursuance of specific appropriations made by law. The faithful observance of this provision should be maintained by your care.

It is the duty of the public officer to disburse appropriations, honestly, economically, and solely for the purposes to which they are applicable. He has no right to go beyond them, either by overdraws upon the treasury, or by contracts in behalf of the State for work to be done or supplies to be furnished, within the time for which the appropriations are made, nor, unless specially authorized, to make any contract to contract any other obligations of any description which will require future appropriations. The Constitution contemplates the payment of each year's expenses out of each year's income. It sanctions no debts for the expenses of one year to be paid by increased taxation the next; the full and able report of the State Auditor, that during the last year, in the absence of the salary, check of an annual legislative session, the expenditures in several departments of the public service greatly exceeded the amount properly applicable to them; and that large debts were thus contracted, the payment of which was cast upon the revenues for the service of 1856-7.

The amount of these debts have not been precisely ascertained. The amount actually paid during the year, was \$617,373 65; the balance unascertained, is estimated by the Auditor at \$100,000; making an aggregate of debts to the amount of \$617,373 65, which should either have been paid out of the revenues of 1854-5, or should not have been contracted at all.

The effect of this anticipation of revenues will be clearly presented by the following statement of the balance nominally in the Treasury on the 15th Nov., 1855, according to the Report of the late Auditor of State, was \$703,570 50

To the above sum should be added the Bank Taxes due in 1854-5, but received in 1855-6, \$180,961 20

Less this sum re-estimated as having been collected illegally 60,180 43

119,760 77

Making the total apparent means on 15th Nov., 1855, 823,350 85

From which in order to ascertain the real cash means, should be deducted the amount of debts due in 1855-6, paid in 1855-6, \$517,373 65

And also the unascertained balance of debts, 100,000 00

617,373 65

Making the balance of means apparently applicable to the use of 1855-6, 205,977 20

But of the amount reported by the late Auditor, the sum of \$225,819 30 never came into the hands of the present Treasurer, being retained by the late Treasurer as paid for exchange, or having been placed by him with depositaries who have used the money and have hitherto failed to restore it to the Treasury. There should, therefore, be deducted from the above apparent balance, the further sum of 225,819 30

Showing instead of a balance of \$205,977 20, an actual deficit of \$119,842 10

The facts exhibit in a clear light the importance of guarding against expenditures beyond appropriations. The Constitution permits no debt to be contracted on behalf of the State, without express legislative warrant. It restricts the total amount of all indebtedness, to the sum of \$1,000,000, in revenue or expenses not otherwise provided for, to the amount of \$750,000.—As a security against unauthorized debts, it expressly declares that no money shall be paid on any claim the subject matter of which shall not have been provided for by existing law, unless allowed by two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the General Assembly. Experience has demonstrated that even these provisions are not adequate guarantees against the unauthorized contracting of debts within a single biennial period to an amount exceeding three-fourths of the total indebtedness that can be incurred for such purposes by the Legislature itself.

It is proper to say here, however, that three millions transferred to Sinking Fund Public Works Income, on the 15th Nov., 1855, the sum of \$200,000. If this transfer had not been made, the Public Works Expenses for 1854-5, would have been paid out of the Public Works Revenue for the same time; and the apparent balance of the Sinking Fund would have been \$200,000.

It is due, also, to the late State Auditor, to say, that the balance of 1855 was correctly stated from the books in his office, and that the unauthorized debts and liabilities which absorbed it, were contracted against his earnest and repeated remonstrances. I respectfully invite your attention to a suggestion made by him, of providing for the payment of the unauthorized acts of this kind, may hereafter be created, shall be held personally responsible for them.

The attention of the Legislature was earnestly invoked by my predecessor, to the large excess of County, Municipal and other local taxes, over the taxes for State purposes. That disproportion has been, in some measure, corrected by the prudent legislation of the last session; but it is worth your consideration whether some further legislation may not be usefully directed to the same end.

The Report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund is not yet completed, but will soon be laid before you. It will contain full information in relation to their proceedings under the act of April 8th, 1855, authorizing the State to contract a loan for the debt of \$2,433,357 79, payable at the pleasure of the State after the 15th inst. Proposals for this new loan, fixed by the Commissioners at \$2,400,000, were invited by advertisement in the leading public journals of Europe and America, and on the 1st of October, 1855, it was awarded to the highest bidder for the whole amount, at a premium of one and a half per cent. At the time the old loan which had been presented for payment, had been promptly redeemed; and the debt payable after 1856 will soon be entirely extinguished.

The experience of the State, in this transaction, however, indicates the danger of relying upon new loans for the payment of maturing debts. It was confidently anticipated that this loan would command a premium of at least nine or ten per cent; while the premium actually realized was only three and a half. It is not difficult to conceive of a state of the money market in which the bonds of the State could not be negotiated at par. In such a case a resort to a new loan would be attended with great pecuniary loss.

It is the part of wisdom to guard against the occurrence of such an exigency, and I therefore suggest the expediency of providing for the debt of six millions four hundred and thirteen thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars, which will be payable after 1860. To raise the whole amount by taxation during the four years which will intervene before it can be paid, would impose too severe burdens upon the people. I recommend, therefore, the sale of stock and bonds

of other property of the State as can be disposed of for its real value, and the appropriation of the proceeds of the sale, together with the proceeds of such a rate upon the grand list as will produce the sum, to the payment of at least one half the debt; distributing the remainder over so many of the following years as will bring its payment within the reach of moderate taxation. An every bond is payable at the pleasure of the State after 1860, the right to do this seems unquestionable.

The condition of the Sinking Fund demands your attention. The Constitution provides that no tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law, and that every law imposing a tax, shall state distinctly the object of the same, to which only it shall be applied. The same instrument provides for the creation of a Sinking Fund, sufficient to pay the principal interest on the State Debt, and to reduce the principal, annually, by the sum not less than one hundred thousand dollars, increased by six per cent, compounded annually. The act of March 14, 1853, designated the revenues which should constitute the Sinking Fund, and required the Auditor of State to set apart, annually as a specific fund for the payment of the principal of the debt, one hundred thousand dollars, in 1853, and in each subsequent year, the same sum, in-reased by compounding annually at six per cent. The act of May 1, '54, directed the levy of one and a quarter mill on each dollar of the grand list of that year, to be applied to the payment of interest on the debt; and a further levy of one mill on the grand list of 1855, for the same purpose.

The provisions of the Sinking Fund are not, however, as yet fully carried out. The revenues appropriated to it, have not been kept distinct from other moneys in the Treasury, or reserved for other applications. The act of May 1, 1854, provided for the transfer, in a contingency then apprehended, of the sum of \$139,000 from the Sinking Fund to the General Revenue; and the act of April 11, 1856, authorized similar transfers to the amount of \$554,809 32. Under this last act transfers have been made to the General Revenue and to the Canal Fund, to the amount of \$160,000. The natural consequence of this legislation and this practice, has been the absorption of the Sinking Fund balances in the general expenditures. Thus, according to the Report of the late Auditor, there was, on the 15th November, 1855, an apparent balance, to the credit of the Sinking Fund, of \$337,499 06. But it must be observed that this balance constituted part of the general balance of \$703,570 50, said by the Auditor, to be "awaiting legislative appropriation" to the discharge of "temporary outstanding liabilities," and "to the necessary expenses of the Board of 1855-6. I have already shown that the payment of the debts of 1854-5, incurred for current expenses, more than absorbed all that was available in this reported balance. In like manner the present Auditor reports a general balance, to the credit of the Sinking Fund, of the 15th November, 1856, of \$481,749 06; while the same officer reports the total general balance, on that day, including the Sinking Fund balance, as \$375,559 59, of which only the sum of \$350,050 63 was then available; and this sum constituted the only fund for the payment of current demands of every description upon the Treasury.

In view of these things I think it my duty to recommend the levy of a sufficient rate upon the grand list to restore to the Sinking Fund the sum which has been transferred from it, or in any way diverted to other uses, and to increase it to the full extent of the constitutional requirement. And I also recommend such legislation as will ensure the future reservation of the entire fund from every use except that of paying the interest and principal of the Public Debt, and the safe investment of that part specially applicable to the reduction of the principal, until wanted for that purpose.

The chief sources of our Public Income are the Grand Levy; Charter Taxes of Banks; Proceeds of Public Works; Collections of Surplus Revenue loaned to Counties; Sales of School and Ministerial Lands held in Trust; Sales of Lands granted to the State in aid of improvements, and otherwise acquired; Dividends of State Bank; and Payments by the General Government on account of the Three per cent. Fund; and Licenses and Auction Duties.

Some of these sources of revenue are nearly exhausted; others were never productive; and the receipts from others are in nature of loans rather than of income. Only about forty thousand acres of land in Ohio yet remain in the hands of the General Government. Very little more can be expected therefore from the State's three per cent. proportion of their sales. Not much land belonging to the State remains unsold. The amount of Surplus Revenue unpaid by Counties, is reduced to \$206,349 77. The proceeds of convict labor are absorbed in the support of the Penitentiary, and avail nothing to the General Revenue. And the proceeds of the School and Ministerial Lands, as they accrue, become part of the irreducible Debt, upon which the State is bound to pay six per cent. interest to the use for which they were granted.

These facts admonish us that for the expenses of the State Government, of the Public Institutions, and for the payment of the State Debt, our main reliance must hereafter be upon the contributions of the people, in the form of Taxes. They require us to husband every remaining resource, and to command the strictest economy in every department of expenditure.

No means exist of ascertaining the quantity of lands remaining unsold, whether belonging to the State, or held in trust. I recommend the provision of such means.

I suggest, also, the expediency of such legislation as will expedite and insure the reimbursement to the State of the unpaid balances of Surplus Revenue, yet remaining with the Counties.

When Ohio came into the Union, she relinquished the right to tax the lands of the United States within her limits, in consideration, among other things, that not less than three per cent. of the proceeds of all sales, past or future, should be paid to the State, to be applied in paying out roads.—This is the origin of what is known as the Three per cent. Fund. The General Government has only accounted for the State's proportion of lands sold since the compact, and sold for money. In my judgment, the State to the same proportion of the proceeds of the necessary buildings; or the Legislature may direct the location of the arsenal upon a part of these grounds, and the application of the proceeds of the residue reserved for individuals, Companies and Corporations, for their own use and benefit.—The quantity of such lands, according to the Commissioner's statement, herewith transmitted, is 10,622,540 acres. A large sum,

therefore, if my view of the matter is correct, is due to the State from the General Government, and it is worthy of your consideration whether some measures should not be adopted to secure the recognition and payment of this claim. It is equally the more apparent, when it is considered that the land States, Ohio has been the least liberally dealt with by the Federal Government. Every other of these States has received much larger grants of land in aid of public improvements than Ohio. Nearly every other, instead of three per cent. of the proceeds of sales, has received five. Minnesota and all the new Territories, instead of one section in each Town-ship for the use of schools, have received two. Ohio does not complain of this liberality to other States and Territories. By her Senators and Representatives she has sanctioned it. She only demands justice for herself.

After your adjournment in April last, I received from the late State Librarian a very interesting report upon the boundary between Ohio and Pennsylvania, made under an appointment by my predecessor, in pursuance of a resolution of a former General Assembly. I now lay the Report before you. It will be found to embody much valuable information concerning our Eastern boundary, which is a continuation from the Ohio to Lake Erie, of the North line, drawn from the Western termination of Mason's and Dixon's Line between Pennsylvania and Virginia. It will be for the Legislature to determine what compensation, if any, shall be made to the late State Librarian for this special service.

The Report of the Board of Public Works will advise you fully in respect to the management of the important public works committed to their charge. The unusual drought of the past season has greatly hindered the navigation of the Canals, in consequence of which the gross revenues have been reduced from \$468,831 93 in 1854-5, to \$427,813 09 in 1855-6. Much the greater portion of this diminution appears in the receipts of the Miami and Erie Canal, the result of which are presented by the Board. The net result for 1855-6 is as follows: Net receipts as returned to the Auditor of State, \$388,463 92

Disbursements for repairing, superintendence, etc. \$401,498 00

Estimated amount paid, but not properly chargeable to this year, 75,833 56

Making current expenses for 1855-6, 225,664 44

Showing a surplus of receipts over current expenditures of 62,793 48

This is the opinion of the Board that, notwithstanding the unfavorable results of the past year, the Canals cannot fail, under a system of energetic and economical management, to yield a very considerable net revenue to the State. I respectfully commend their reasons in support of this opinion, and the several suggestions of their Report, to your favorable consideration.

The Report of the Directors of the Penitentiary presents a clear account of the condition of that Institution. It is gratifying to find that the working of the act of April 8, 1856, concerning the Penitentiary, has fulfilled, in most respects, your judicious and benevolent intentions. Some modifications are suggested by the Directors which deserve attention. Various other suggestions of this Report will doubtless attract your notice, and especially those which relate to the Accounts, Receipts and Revenue, and to the impolicy of employing convicts upon the New State House, or otherwise outside of the Penitentiary walls.

In pursuance of the statutory provisions in relation to insane convicts, and in the absence of any proper accommodations for such persons within the Penitentiary, I have suspended the sentences of six prisoners, ascertained, upon proper inquiry, to be insane, and have directed their transfer to the Asylums of the Districts within which they were respectively convicted.

For the annual history of the Lunatic Asylums, and of the Asylums for the Deaf and Dumb, and for an account of their condition during the close of the year, I refer you to the reports of the several Boards entrusted with their management. These Reports will be found to contain very many interesting facts, and many judicious and important practical views. I do not doubt that you will cheerfully respond to the proper demands of these Institutions to the full extent permitted by a just regard to the financial condition of the State, and to other equal claims upon the Treasury. It is gratifying to observe that the expenses of each Institution during the year have been less than the appropriations for their support. I particularly commend to your attention the economical use of the appropriation of ten thousand dollars for a dormitory for the Deaf and Dumb, to be hereafter converted into workshops. The purpose of the appropriations has been most satisfactorily accomplished, and a balance of about four thousand dollars remains in the Treasury. This circumstance, doubtless, will have its proper weight with you when considering the expediency of entering without further delay upon the construction of the new Asylum Building, the need of which has been so long acknowledged.

The Report of the Commissioners of the New State House will exhibit the progress of the work and the disbursements on account of it during the last year. It is with great pleasure that I direct your attention to the economy, through work and substantial progress which have distinguished their administration. Your own observations, now that your sessions are held in the new building, will satisfy you as to the character and condition of the work.—The fact that of the ninety thousand dollars appropriated for this service, more than forty-six thousand remained unexpended at the close of the fiscal year, sufficiently attests the economy of the management.

The nature and magnitude of the trust committed to the Quarter Master General, and the manner in which the duties of his office have been performed during the past year, will appear from the Report of that officer. The suggestions of this Report, and particularly that relating to the construction of a State Arsenal, deserve your consideration. The proceeds of the old Penitentiary grounds may be advantageously applied to the purchase of a site and the erection of the necessary buildings; or the Legislature may direct the location of the arsenal upon a part of these grounds, and the application of the proceeds of the residue reserved for individuals, Companies and Corporations, for their own use and benefit.—The quantity of such lands, according to the Commissioner's statement, herewith transmitted, is 10,622,540 acres. A large sum,

therefore, if my view of the matter is correct, is due to the State from the General Government, and it is worthy of your consideration whether some measures should not be adopted to secure the recognition and payment of this claim. It is equally the more apparent, when it is considered that the land States, Ohio has been the least liberally dealt with by the Federal Government. Every other of these States has received much larger grants of land in aid of public improvements than Ohio. Nearly every other, instead of three per cent. of the proceeds of sales, has received five. Minnesota and all the new Territories, instead of one section in each Town-ship for the use of schools, have received two. Ohio does not complain of this liberality to other States and Territories. By her Senators and Representatives she has sanctioned it. She only demands justice for herself.

I venture to express the hope that the necessary legislation on this subject will constitute one of the first acts of the General Assembly of their country.

I take great pleasure in laying before you the Report of the Commissioners appointed under the act of April 7, 1856, providing for the establishment of the Ohio Reform School. The act required that two of the three Commissioners should visit three of the principal Reformatory Institutions of the United States, and institute all necessary observations and inquiries, and that all should unite in reporting the result to the Legislature. The Commissioners have more than executed their trust. Instead of two, all have visited, not three only, but all the principal Institutions of our own country; and one of their number, at his own expense, has visited the principal institutions in Europe. Their Report, exhibiting the result of their intended researches and inquiries, commends itself to your most favorable regard. The documents collected by the Commissioners and now placed at your disposal, embody nearly everything that is known concerning Reformatory Schools. For these services no charge has been made against the Treasury beyond those incident to a literal execution of the law; and more than one-third of the appropriation remains unexpended.

The Report of the Commissioner of Common Schools has not yet been received. It will probably be ready by the 20th inst., at which time it has been heretofore required, and will be promptly laid before you. In the mean time, I need not remind you of a indispensable necessity, in conducting Public Instruction to the welfare and security of society. No public investment is so safe, or so fruitful as that which is made in the education of the people. No persons better deserve the esteem and support of the State and the People than the Teachers of our youth. No essential modifications of the present school law are, in my judgment, demanded by the general sentiment, except such as will increase its efficiency without augmenting its expense. There is, however, a prevailing opinion, that, under present circumstances, Township Libraries may be substituted, with advantage, for District Libraries; and I would further suggest that the Library at each County Seat should be a County Library, and supplied as far as possible with the published Documents of the State and National Governments. For the supply of the State Documents you can make the necessary provision; a little attention on the part of Senators and Representatives in Congress will ensure a full supply of National Documents.

The beneficial results of the act requiring the Public Libraries, and sent as far as possible with the published Documents of the State and National Governments. For the supply of the State Documents you can make the necessary provision; a little attention on the part of Senators and Representatives in Congress will ensure a full supply of National Documents.

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