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Governor's Message, No. 1.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: In accordance with the requisitions of the Constitution to lay before you information of the condition of the State, and recommend to your consideration such measures as may be deemed necessary or expedient, I shall proceed to perform that duty as briefly as circumstances will permit, postponing to a future opportunity the discussion of all questions not directly connected with the administration of the Government. The interval since your last session has been so brief, and the details connected with the organization of the new branches of public service have occupied so much time and attention, as to leave but little opportunity for the consideration of matters of a more general character, many of which were fully discussed in my Message at the special session.

The Act providing for the assessment and taxation of property has received considerable attention, and the organization of the Auditor's Department has progressed as rapidly as circumstances would permit. Great care and caution have been necessary in selecting the officers, to whom will be entrusted the execution of the tax law, but it is believed that the appointments made, and to be made, will give efficiency and success to this important department of the Government. I shall lay before you, at the earliest practicable period, the complete assessment of the property of the State, which will afford the necessary basis for taxation.

The estimate of the Auditor for the contingent fund may appear large, but it should be remembered that the Assessor's books, blanks and other forms for the whole State, are to be provided out of this fund, not only for the assessment which is about to be made, but for that which will have to be made previous to the convening of the General Assembly in 1869.

The organization of the Auditor's Department, and the successful completion of the first assessment of property, will involve a large amount of labor and some unusual expenditures, but as the result aimed at is most desirable, I recommend that the Legislature will afford every facility for the accomplishment of the object.

By reference to the report of the Comptroller-General, it will be seen that the entire bonded debt of the State is \$5,407,306.27, consisting as follows:

Three per cent. stock, payable at the pleasure of the State	\$38,836.60
Six per cent. fire loan payable in 1870	314,453.89
Six per cent. stock new State House	1,775,000.00
Six per cent. stock and bonds funded debt	1,282,971.27
Five per cent. bonds, fire loan	484,444.51
Six per cent. bonds, Blue Ridge Rail Road	1,000,000.00
Six per cent. bonds, new State Capitol	511,600.00
Making a grand total of	\$5,407,306.27
Interest due on the entire debt July 1, 1868	\$355,204.32
Interest due January 1, 1869	\$159,214.38
Total interest	\$514,418.70

This is not the interest on a capital debt of \$5,407,306.27, at six per cent.; but the reason is obvi-

ous, as a portion of the debt is at three per cent. and another portion at five per cent.

In addition to the foregoing interest paying debt, there is a floating debt of \$160,000, in the shape of Bills receivable, authorized by the Legislature, which are available for taxes, and which will all be probably absorbed by application to that purpose during the present quarter, this giving but little aid to the Treasury in the way of current funds. This is the last quarter of the collections for 1867, under the assessment by the Military Commander, and it will leave the entire collections for 1868 available for the purposes of the Treasury. They would have been sooner collected, but for the difficulties attendant upon putting the new tax law in operation, the collection under which will commence in January next.

Under the new law, bringing every class of property on the tax list, at its bona fide valuation, including much of what has been heretofore exempted and a still larger amount entered at nominal value, at a moderate estimate, there will be not less than three hundred millions of property as a basis of taxation. This, at a very low per centage, will afford abundant revenue to meet the current expenses of the State, the interest on its funded debt, and a considerable margin for the establishment of a sinking fund.

In this connection I would recommend that a law be passed providing for the levying and collection of taxes in counties to meet their local expenditures and the salaries of their officers. This will enable them to make such improvements in the way of roads, bridges and public buildings as the taste and public spirit of the citizens may dictate, without drawing from the public Treasury moneys to defray the expenses of local improvements, in which the citizens of the State at large have no direct interest.

The Comptroller's estimate of expenditures for the current year amount to \$4,798.13 exclusive of interest, \$330,622.38, which includes that on a portion of the debt for the quarter ending October, 1869, making an aggregate of \$819,290.51.

In the report of the Comptroller-General you will notice the items of what is considered as the war debt of the State aggregating \$2,722,315.86; and of credits due the State from Sheriffs and Tax Collectors, amounting in the aggregate to \$76,664.87, which he recommends may be sunk and dropped from the accounts of the State.

I would suggest that the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House, be associated with the Comptroller in investigating and determining what claims originated from the prosecution of the war.

I recommend to your consideration the propriety of passing a law for the funding of the interest on the State debt up to July 1, 1868, to avoid the necessity of forcing the bonds of the State on the market at a sacrifice. I have every confidence in the ability of the Treasury to meet the future interest upon our debt as it becomes due.

The following is a list of the assets of the State on the 31st day October, 1868:

Shares in North Eastern Rail Road Company	\$120,000
Shares in Spartanburg and Union Rail Road Company	250,000
Shares in Pendleton Rail Road Company	42,500
Shares in Greenville and Columbia Rail Road Company	433,960
Shares in Blue Ridge Rail Road Company	1,310,000
Shares in Columbia and Augusta Rail Road Company	42,200

Shares in Cheraw and Coalfields Rail Road Company	200,000
Shares in Laurens Rail Road Company	50,000
Shares in South Carolina Rail Road Company	24,000
Shares in Charleston and Savannah Rail Road Company	270,000
Shares in Southwestern Rail Road Bank	6,000
Shares in Keowee and Tuckasee Turnpike Company	6,000
	\$1,754,660

The report of the Treasurer of this Department, and herewith transmitted, shows the operations of the Treasury from the 1st of May to 31st October, 1868, making the amount on hand at the former period, and the aggregate of subsequent receipts \$435,373.83, and the expenditures \$409,688.76, leaving a balance of \$26,285.07 on hand at the making up of the report.

I would also ask your attention to the accompanying letter from the Treasurer, indicating a want of clerical force in his office, by which its business is retarded and the settlement of accounts delayed.

I recommend to the Legislature that some early action be taken to prevent the Courts and officers of the Bank of the State from wasting and misapplying its assets to the payment of costs of Court, attorneys' fees, and the salaries of officers and agents. If the holders of the Fire Loan Bonds are determined to pursue the policy of disparaging the credit and resources of the State, when it must be apparent to them that no State of the Union is more solvent, or has a fairer prospect of promptly meeting all her liabilities, they should be compelled to carry on this litigation at their own expense. I have reason to believe that not less than sixty thousand dollars in gold has been squandered and made away with for salaries of officers and agents who are performing no necessary duties, fees of attorneys who are employed for the purpose of bringing the credit of the State into disrepute, and for other objects of equally questionable propriety.

The holders of the Fire Loan Bonds should be placed on the same footing as other creditors of the State, and they should be held accountable for all damages the State has sustained, or may sustain, by their unwarrantable litigation. The subject of Magistrates' Courts was treated at some length in my former Message to the General Assembly. I would again earnestly call your attention to this important matter. No discrimination has heretofore been made between grand and petit larceny, nor has any precise limit been fixed for the guidance of Courts in such cases. A wide latitude has accordingly been given to the discretion of Magistrates and Judges, and in consequence our jails are crowded with petty offenders, at an enormous expense to the State. Indeed it has been the heaviest item of charge upon the Treasury. I would respectfully suggest that final jurisdiction be given to Magistrates in all cases of petit larceny and simple assault and battery, and misdemeanors of similar grade; giving, however, the accused parties the right of appeal. Also, I would recommend the establishment of a fair and reasonable fee bill, as reports have reached this office of unreasonable and unjustifiable exactions of Magistrates and Constables, from the poor and ignorant, in cases where, by a little effort, the matters in dispute could have been amicably arranged. Cases have also been brought to my attention in which it is alleged that prosecutions have been instituted for malicious purposes, and Executive interference invoked as a remedy for injustice. If this loose and profligate administration

of law is not checked, and the offenders held to a strict accountability, the courts of justice, instead of being a shield and a protection, may become an engine of oppression and wrong to the people.

I transmit for your consideration the report of the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum for the year ending November 7, 1868, covering the reports of Dr. J. W. Parker, the Superintendent and Physician, and of John Watkins, Esq., the Treasurer of the institution. The report of the Superintendent shows that at the commencement of the year the number of patients was 187; and that there were received during the year 82, making a total of 269; of this number 11 have died, 2 have been removed, 2 eloped, and 50 have been discharged cured—total 65; leaving in the Asylum at present 204 patients; of which 107 are males, and 97 females. Paying patients, 52; paupers 152. The report and accompanying tables exhibit a very favorable condition of affairs; showing that 61 per cent. of those admitted have been cured, while only 4 per cent. of those under treatment have died. Among those received were 25 colored persons, who were with few exceptions in great destitution—three of them exhausted from disease and want of attention. Four of their number died, one eloped, and thirteen were sent home cured; one however relapsed, and of his own accord returned to the Asylum.

For than twenty years, colored persons have been admitted to the institution, and have enjoyed the advantages afforded, and such as facilitated their cure and contributed to their comfort, as is now the case.

The Asylum for the education of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind was reorganized in November, 1866, at the Cedar Spring Asylum, Spartanburg County, and was operated very successfully until the close of the fiscal year, on the 1st of October, 1867. The appropriation being then exhausted, the further exercises of the institution were suspended, and the pupils sent to their respective homes. The location is an admirable one, the buildings large and commodious, and to avoid their going to decay, I concur in the recommendation, heretofore made, that authority should be granted to rent or lease the buildings, so that they may avail himself of any opportunity that may present itself of securing a tenant, who will protect the premises and keep them in necessary repair until the finances of the State shall justify the re-organization of the institution.

The rail roads whose bonds are guaranteed or endorsed by the State have been furnished with a copy of the concurrent resolution notifying them that unless provisions are made by them to pay interest due and past due by November next, legal proceedings will be instituted against them. No answer has as yet been received from either of them except the accompanying letter from the President of the Greenville Railroad Company, giving a very satisfactory account of the prospects and conditions of the road.

The contingent liability of the State from endorsements of rail-road bonds is as follows:

South Carolina Rail Road bonds, payable in 1868, secured by first mortgage	\$2,093,312.40
Charleston and Savannah Rail Road bonds, payable in March, 1877, secured by first mortgage	505,000.00
Northeastern Rail Road bonds, payable March 1, 1869, secured by first mortgage	92,000.00
Laurens Rail Road bonds, payable in 1870, secured by first mortgage	75,000.00

Spartanburg and Union Rail Road bonds, payable 1873 and 1879, secured by first mortgage	350,000.00
Greenville and Columbia Rail Road bonds, payable in 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1886	945,471.21

Of the endorsements upon the Greenville and Columbia Rail Road Bonds \$700,000 is under authority of the Act of 1861, and \$203,848.89 is under the authority of the Act of 1866, passed for the purpose of enabling the Company to pay the interest past due and to fall due prior to the 1st January, 1868, upon coupons and upon the mortgage and guaranteed bonds. This guarantee is upon certificates of indebtedness. The sum of \$41,622.38 is upon the outstanding debt of the Company, upon which there is no lien, the guarantee having been made where the holders of demands upon the Company surrendered three dollars of demand for one dollar of bond.

I would respectfully call your attention to the remarks in my last Message in reference to the organization of the militia, and renew my recommendations on the subject. The Adjutant General's office cannot be organized until some action is taken by the Legislature.

I would respectfully recommend as worthy of your consideration the propriety of devoting the munificent donation of the Federal Government to the establishment of an educational institute in Charleston for instruction in agriculture, mechanic arts, and the higher branches of scientific and classical studies. The buildings of the Citadel Academy are admirably adapted to the purpose.

Under the head of violations of law, the message goes over the killing of Martin and Randolph, the particulars of which are familiar enough to be omitted, and continues, large rewards have been offered for the apprehension of these murderers, some of whom are known to be refugees and outlaws from adjacent States, who availed themselves of the political excitement as a cloak for their schemes of rapine and murder; but such is the condition of society in their immediate neighborhoods that neither the promised rewards nor the strenuous efforts of civil officers, have accomplished their arrest. They are fully armed and mounted, and boast of the extent and power of their organization. And a somewhat prominent individual, who is himself under heavy bonds to answer the charge of complicity in the murder of the lamented Randolph, has had the hardihood to publish an address to the Executive, threatening still further outrages and additional victims. As a discouraging evidence of the deterioration of journalistic morals, it may be mentioned that this covert threat of assassination has been published and republished without a word of censure or dissent.

The turbulent condition of affairs in the localities to which I have called your attention cannot and must not be longer tolerated. A Government unable to enforce its laws and protect its citizens is a mockery and a sham, meriting the scorn and contempt of its opponents and unworthy of its confidence and support of its friends. It cannot administer justice through its Courts, or collect its revenue by taxation. A remedy for these evils, which strike at the very foundation of the State, should be promptly applied. The law must be made supreme. The most arrogant must be taught to obey its behests; the humblest assured of its protection.

The general election having passed, and the political issues involved, which so fiercely agitated the country, having been deter-

mined for a considerable period, it is devoutly to be hoped that the community may be indulged in a much needed respite from the passions and excitements to which it has so long been subjected, and that our people may be enabled to turn their attention to the development and improvement of their material resources, which have been so sadly impaired and neglected. It gives me much pleasure to state that assurances have been received, both previous and subsequent to the election, from many of the most prominent men of the State, heretofore in active opposition to the Government, of their regret at the occurrence of these outrages, and their detestation for their authors, as well as of their determination to yield a willing obedience to the Constitution and laws, relying upon the peaceful exercise of their rights at the ballot box to remedy whatever they may deem objectionable in them. This determination has exerted, and cannot but continue to exert, a favorable influence upon the prosperity of the State, tranquilizing its people, stimulating its industry, and giving character and credit to its enterprises. Recognizing with pleasure these evidences of returning good feeling, and wishing to reciprocate every indication of an approach to friendly relations, I would reiterate the recommendations of my last Message in favor of a liberal policy on the part of the Legislature in reference to the removal of political disabilities.

While upon the subject of our past differences, I would take occasion to express the hope that national politics will occupy hereafter a much less prominent position in the minds of the people than heretofore. Political issues having been determined for years to come, at least, there is but little propriety in keeping up political agitation. And especially do I regret secret political organizations detrimental to the community, if not entirely out of place in a free Government. With every facility and advantage of free discussion, carried frequently to the very extreme of license, the shrinking from the light of day to meet in midnight conventicles would seem discreditable to a people proud of their intellectual energy. An armed organization, styling themselves the Ku-Klux-Klan, uniformed and masked, by their secret meetings and midnight atrocities upon peaceable and unoffending citizens, and obstructing the laws, have inaugurated a reign of terror in many neighborhoods. Imitation of the secret societies of Europe during the Middle Ages, they are without their excuse of justification. In those days their power and their vengeance were directed against the turbulent nobles and barons who defied the laws and oppressed the people. Their object was the attainment of justice, not the acquisition of political power. Their victims were not the law-abiding and lowly, but the bold bad men who trampled on right and outraged humanity. Their symbols were the dagger and the cord, fit emblems of their terrible authority and their mode of exercising it. But even in those days of rapine and murder, the responsibility of this dangerous power was deemed so questionable and hazardous as to lead to its suppression.

In the present condition of our State the existence or formation of secret political societies is greatly to be deplored. They will be objects of misgiving and distrust, and centres of irritation and excitement. Secrecy is but too frequently the covert for crime, and irresponsibility an incentive to its perpetration. Organizations will beget counter organizations, and dissensions and disturbances will be fomented and perpetuated to the

interruption of the peace and prosperity of the whole neighborhood. I trust that every well-wisher of peace and progress will discountenance the further continuation of these secret political cliques.

Trusting in the beneficent protection of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, and who has vouchsafed us such abundant evidences of His loving kindness, let us invoke His blessing on all our deliberations and proceedings, and to this end that they may be guided and governed by that wisdom, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

ROBERT K. SCOTT, Governor. Columbia, November 27, 1868.

The Preacher and the Card Players.

A divine in a Far-Western State visited a distant town for the purpose of preaching the dedicatory sermon in a new church. Court was in session, and on Saturday the judges and lawyers congregated in a room, and amused themselves by card-playing and story-telling. The divine, at the request of a lawyer, visited the room. He came into the room so suddenly that they were unable to hide their cards and whisky. The divine looked on awhile, and then politely invited the gentlemen present to attend church next day and hear him preach. This they agreed to do, and Sunday found them, judge and lawyers, seated in the "amon corner." The sermon over, the minister announced: "Friends, the citizens of this town have built a fine church. There is still fifteen hundred dollars due. We propose to raise the money by subscription to-day, and" (eyeing the judge) "I go one hundred" (imitating the style of the gamblers of last night.) The judge, glancing at the lawyers, slowly responded, "I see your hundred." "Thank you, brother," said the divine, "will any one raise it?" looking at the same time at attorney number one. The lawyer saw he was in for it, and quietly replied, "I go a hundred blind," and so on through the list. The divine raked down both the bar and their money, until the scene closed by a sharp, shrill voice announcing, "I see the last hundred, and call you." The astonishment of the congregation can be imagined. I venture, however, to think that these lawyers will not soon invite the divine to witness another social game of etchre, when men "see" each other, "go it blind," and "call" the hand.

I can vouch myself for the exact truth of that story; the next I tell from hearsay, and don't answer for, but as I have seen something very like it, I believe it may be true.

AN ACCOMMODATING JUDGE.

At a Far Western Court, the case of Smith Jones was called on. "Whose for the plaintiff?" inquired the judge, impatiently. "May it please the court," said a rising member of the legal fraternity, "Pilkins is for the plaintiff, but I left him just now over in the tavern playing a game of poker. He's got a sucker there, and he is sure to skin him, right smart, if he has only time. He's got everything all set to ring a 'cold deck' in which case he'll deal for himself four aces and his opponent four queens, so that your honor must perceive that he must 'rake the persimmons.'" "Dear me!" said the judge, with a sigh, "that's too bad! It happens at a very unfortunate time! I am very anxious to get on with this case."

A brown study followed, and at length a happy idea struck the judge: "Bill!" said he, addressing the friend of the absent Pilkins who had just spoken "you understand poker about as well as Pilkins. Suppose you go over and play his hand!" And Bill did so.