

Bedford Inquirer and Chronicle.

A Weekly Paper, Devoted to Literature, Politics, the Arts, Sciences, Agriculture, &c. &c.—Terms: Two Dollars per annum.

BY DAVID OVER.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 1856.

VOL. 29, NO. 2.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly.

GENTLEMEN.—A kind Providence has greatly blessed our Commonwealth during the past year. No foreign war, no internal strife have interrupted or destroyed the peaceful quiet of our homes. All the great interests of the people have been eminently prosperous. The earth, in rich abundance, has yielded her increase to supply our wants, and reward with her bounties the labor of the husbandman. Labor, in every department of manufacturing and mechanical industry, has been stimulated and encouraged. The ravages of disease and the horrors of the pestilence have been averted from us, and whilst the cry of human suffering from other States, has been heard in our sympathy and aid, we have been blessed with health and permitted to enjoy the comforts and happiness of social life. To Him who hath bestowed these blessings upon us, and upon whose care we are constantly dependent, should be ever paid the willing homage of our grateful hearts.

The report of the State Treasurer will exhibit to you, in detail, the operations of his department. The results are more satisfactory and encouraging than were anticipated.

The receipts at the Treasury for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1855, including the balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of December, 1854, (\$1,240,928.72) amounted to \$6,681,402.83. The total payments for the same period were \$5,385,795.52, leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 30th November, 1855, of \$1,245,697.31. No loans, temporary or otherwise, were negotiated during the past fiscal year, as they were not required by the wants of the Treasury.

The receipts during the past year, from all sources, (excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1854,) were \$5,389,474.11. The ordinary expenditures for the same period, including the interest on the public debt, were \$4,139,512.28, showing an excess of receipts over ordinary expenditures of \$1,250,961.83.

The extraordinary payments for the year were \$1,246,193.24, as follows, viz:—To the completion of the new Portage railroad over the Allegheny mountains, \$446,762.12; to the North Branch Canal, \$87,562.07; to the Columbia railroad, to re- lay south track, \$133,100.00; to the payment of domestic creditors, \$1,629.85; to the redemption of loans, \$316,550.00, and to relief notes cancelled, \$260,588.00.

The balance in the Treasury will be required for the payment of the interest on the State debt falling due in February next and for unpaid appropriations. The interest on the funded debt of the Commonwealth, which became due in February and August last, was promptly paid; and it is gratifying to state that the interest due in February next will be paid with equal promptness. The credit of the State may be regarded as firmly established, and with proper economy and a careful and honest management of her finances, an annual reduction of her debt, to a considerable extent, may be confidently expected.

There is due by the Treasury to the Sinking Fund the sum of \$335,011.39, to be applied to the redemption of the relief notes now in circulation, and to the funded debt of the Commonwealth. The greater part of the funded debt bears interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum; the balance bears a still less rate of interest.—But as the temporary loans, which by law are to be first paid out of the available means of the Treasury, bear interest at the rate of six per cent., it has been deemed advisable, as a matter of economy, to apply the surplus revenues to the payment of those loans. When these are liquidated, the amount due and properly applicable to the Sinking Fund will be paid, and its operation continued as directed by law.

Notwithstanding the revenues for the last four or five years have largely exceeded the ordinary expenditures of the government, yet in consequence of the large and insatiable demands upon the Treasury for the completion of the North Branch Canal, the Portage railroad and other kindred improvements, the public debt, instead of being reduced, has been increased. This increase, with the amount and condition of the debt at different periods, will be seen in the following statements:

Statement showing the funded and unfunded debt of the Commonwealth on the 1st day of December, 1855, as reported by the Auditor General.

Funded debt, viz:	
6 per cent. loans,	\$2,314,023 51
5 do do,	36,704,484 03
4 do do,	198,200 00
Total funded debt,	\$39,216,707 54
Unfunded debt, viz:	
Relief notes in circulation,	650,163 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	150,251 82
Do do unclaimed,	4,418 28
Interest on outstanding and unclaimed certificates, when funded,	9,752 91
Domestic creditors,	82,932 74
Total debt, Dec. 1, 1855,	40,114,236 39

Statement showing the indebtedness of the Commonwealth on the 1st day of December, 1854, as per Auditor General's Report.

Funded debt, viz:	
6 per cent. loans,	\$382,101 93
5 do do,	29,064,609 97
4 do do,	388,200 00
1 do do,	100,000 00
Total funded debt,	\$40,084,914 90
Unfunded debt, viz:	
Relief notes in circulation,	\$494,361 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	24,857 21
Do unclaimed,	4,418 28
Interest on outstanding and unclaimed certificates, when funded,	1,870 97
Domestic creditors certificates,	2,707 61
Balance of temporary loan of April 19, 1853,	500,000 00
Balance of temporary loan of May 9, 1854,	450,435 67
Total unfunded debt & temporary loans,	\$1,538,680 34

To these should be added the following relief notes, not included in the relief notes in circulation, viz:

Relief notes made by the Lancaster Bank, not charged on State Treasurer's books,	\$25,000 00
Relief notes put in circulation September, 1854, and not redeemed December 1, 1854,	50,000 00
Total paid debt, Decem-ber 1, 1854,	\$41,698,595 74
Do do 1851,	40,114,236 39
Increase of debt in 3 yrs.,	\$1,584,359 35

The funded and unfunded debt, including unpaid temporary loans, on the 1st day of December, 1855, the close of the last fiscal year, as per report of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, was as follows, to wit:

Funded debt, viz:	
6 per cent. loans,	\$2,314,023 51
5 do do,	38,000,445 54
4 do do,	388,200 00
1 do do,	100,000 00
Total funded debt,	\$39,216,707 54
Unfunded debt, viz:	
Relief notes in circulation,	\$258,773 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	29,157 25
Domestic creditors,	1,264 00
Balance of temporary loan April 19, 1855,	525,000 00
Balance of temporary loan of May 9, 1854,	346,000 00
Total unfunded debt,	\$1,160,134 25
Total debt Dec. 1, '55,	\$40,376,841 79
Total debt, Dec. 1, 1854,	41,608,595 74
Do do Dec. 1, 1855,	41,067,994 72
Decrease during fiscal yr.,	\$640,601 02

This statement exhibits the gratifying fact that during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1855, the indebtedness of the Commonwealth has been reduced \$630,601.02. During the same period large appropriations and payments were made for the completion of the new Portage Railroad, relaying the track of the Columbia railroad and for other purposes.—These demands upon the treasury were, without the aid of loans, promptly paid.

Refusing to undertake any schemes of internal improvement, limiting all appropriations to the actual demands of the occasion, practising strict economy in all departments of the government and holding the receiving and disbursing agents of the Commonwealth to a rigid accountability, will greatly reduce the expenditures, and, under ordinary circumstances, leave an annual surplus of the revenues to be applied to the redemption of the public debt.

The estimated receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year will be presented to you in the report of the State Treasurer. The receipts from the usual sources of revenue, above the ordinary expenditures, may exceed the sum of one million and a half of dollars. These estimates may approximate the true result, but cannot be relied upon with certainty.

By the 38th section of the act of the 19th of April, 1845, entitled "An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of government, the repair of the canals and railroads of the State, and other claims upon the Commonwealth," the Governor was authorized to cause certificates of State stock to be issued to all persons or bodies corporate holding certificates for the payment of interest on the funded debt of the State which fell due on the 1st day of August, 1842, the 1st days of February and August, 1843, and the 1st days of February and August, 1844; in an amount equal to the amount of certificates so held, upon the delivering up said certificates to the Auditor General. In pursuance of the authority thus given, certificates of State stock to the amount of four millions, one hundred and five thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars and twenty cents, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, on the 1st days of February and August in each year, and redeemable on or after the 1st day of August, 1855, were issued. The minimum period fixed by law for the redemption of these certificates, expired on the first day of August last. No provision has been made for their renewal or redemption.

izing these certificates of State stock, as a loan by the conditions of the certificates issued in pursuance thereof, the time of payment, after the expiration of the minimum period, is optional with the debtor—the Commonwealth—yet a due regard to the credit of the State requires that provision should be made for their renewal or redemption. To redeem these certificates a loan would become necessary, as a loan cannot be effected, in the present financial condition of the country, on terms more favorable to the State, than those on which these certificates were issued. I would recommend that authority be given to issue the bonds of the Commonwealth in renewal of said certificates, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable on or after the expiration of twenty years; and that the bonds be issued with coupons or certificates of interest attached, in sums equal in amount to the semi-annual interest thereon, payable on the first days of February and August in each year, at such place as may be designated. This change in the form and character of the certificates, it is believed, will be so advantageous to the holders, without increasing the liabilities of the Commonwealth, as to induce a willing and prompt exchange, at a premium, for the bonds proposed to be issued.

The condition of the public works, their general operation, and the receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year, will be presented to you in the report of the Canal Commissioners.

The aggregate receipts at the Treasury from the public works for the year ending November 30, 1855, were \$1,942,876.71. The aggregate expenditures, including ordinary and extraordinary payments, for the same period, amounted to \$1,838,791.18, showing an excess of receipts, over all expenditures, of \$104,085.53.

The extraordinary payments for the same year, (excluding \$103,100.00 paid for relaying the south track of the Columbia Railroad, and \$28,000.00 for rebuilding the Freeport Aqueduct,) were \$690,427.78. The ordinary expenditures were \$1,148,363.40.

Aggregate receipts as above stated, \$1,942,876 71
Ordinary expenditures, 1,148,363 40
Nett revenues for fiscal yr., \$794,513 31

This balance exhibits a small increase in the nett revenues, as compared with the nett revenues of 1854, and notwithstanding the withdrawal of the transportation lines from the main line of the Canal, the aggregate revenue, for the last year, have exceeded the revenues of 1854 by more than twenty-three thousand dollars. From the abundant crops of the past year, the improved condition of the monetary affairs of the country and the general revival of business, a large increase in the revenue for the current year may be confidently expected.

The sum of \$151,125.25, has been paid into the Treasury by the Pennsylvania railroad company and other railroad companies, as the tax on tonnage passing over their roads. This amount largely exceeds the sum paid by the same companies in 1854.

The Delaware division exhibits a satisfactory result. The total receipts were \$392,742.42; expenditures, \$80,997.86; showing a net revenue of \$311,744.56. If all our lines of improvement exhibited a similar balance sheet, the people would have cause of complaint and more confidence in the general operation of the system.

There has been a large increase in the business and tonnage of the Columbia railroad, and a corresponding increase in the receipts therefrom. The operations of this road for the past year have been highly satisfactory. The operations of that part of the main line from the Junction to Pittsburg, including the Portage railroad, do not present so favorable a result. The receipts have greatly diminished, and were not sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditures. The revenues from the main line do not equal the receipts of the previous years. The causes of this reduction are apparent, and some of them have been referred to and enumerated. It is but just to add that the expenditures on this line have been much diminished by the avoidance of the inclined planes on the Portage railroad.

I regret to inform you that the railroad to avoid the inclined planes on the Allegheny mountain, has not been completed as was confidently anticipated. The delay in the completion of this work has occasioned much inconvenience to the business of the main line and a loss to the revenues of the Commonwealth. The expenditures have largely exceeded the original estimates for its construction; and although the sum of \$27,730.00 was appropriated at the last session of the Legislature for the completion of this work—a sum covering the estimate of the Engineer—yet after the expenditure of the whole amount thus appropriated, the road is unfinished and to complete it, and pay the debts contracted, the further sum of \$177,573.08, as now estimated by the Engineer, will be required. Either the estimates have been very carelessly made, or large sums of money uselessly and extravagantly expended in the prosecution of this improvement. As aiding the business of the main line, reducing still further its expenditures and relieving the Treasury, from these constant demands, the announcement of its early completion, will be hailed with pleasure by every citizen.

Although the completion of the North Branch Canal, before the close of navigation was certainly expected, yet this expectation has not been realized. The efforts of the

present Superintendent, Mr. Moffit, during the past year, to complete and put in successful operation this canal, deserves the highest commendation. Everything that skill, energy and industry could accomplish has been done. The labor to be performed was great, and render more difficult and perplexing by the impact and fraudulent construction of the old work and some portion of the new. The languidity of rocks, trees, stumps, and roots ped in the bottom of the Canal, and the defective material used in the embankment suffered the water to escape almost as readily as admitted, and rendered a reconstruction of the work, in many places, indispensably necessary. Its successful completion, it is hoped, will soon be accomplished.

It will appear by the report of the Committee of Ways and Means to the House of Representatives in 1854, that the entire amount necessary to complete and put in operation the unfinished portions of this Canal was estimated at the sum of \$1,106,037.00. The amount actually expended on the work since that period, as appears from the Reports of the Superintendent, Engineer and Canal Commissioners, is \$1,837,377.52, being an excess of expenditures over the original estimate of \$731,340.52; and the Canal not yet completed. With such facts before us—some evidence of mismanagement and reckless expenditure as, in a premium, for the bonds proposed to be issued.

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private interests require the creation of numerous Banks.

In the present condition of the finances and in aid of the revenues of the State (in addition to the taxes now imposed by law) a reasonable premium should be required to be paid by all Banks or Saving Institutions that may hereafter be chartered or re-chartered by the Legislature.

As appropriate to this subject, and intimately connected with it, I cannot forbear to express my disapprobation of a practice, that has heretofore obtained to some extent, of using the names of members of the Legislature as corporators in bills pending before them for the incorporation of Banks and other companies. Such a practice is pernicious, and cannot be too strongly condemned. It perils the independence of the Legislature—exposes him to unjust suspicions, and stamps with selfishness, at least, his legislative action in the premises. Legislation should be free, even from the appearance of improper motive; and every undue and corrupting influence, inside or outside the Legislative Halls, should be resisted and condemned.

It is a cause of more than ordinary congratulation that Agriculture, the first as it is the noblest pursuit of man, has, in its progress of development, vindicated its own importance, and assumed, in public esteem, the honorable position to which it is so justly entitled. Constituting as it does the substratum of our great mechanical, manufacturing and commercial interests, it should ever be regarded as the chief source of State and National prosperity. First in necessity it is the highest in usefulness of all the departments of labor; sustaining and promoting in their varied and multiplied relations all the other industrial interests of the country. Our financial and commercial prosperity is largely dependent upon the success of Agricultural industry.

An interest so important should receive the encouragement of all classes of society. No longer a mere art—an exertion of physical strength, it has reached the dignity of a science; and to its progress and improvement the people and their representatives should cheerfully contribute. State and County Agricultural Societies have done much to promote this cause; and through their agency much valuable information has been collected and diffused. Much yet remains to be done. More information is demanded. More efficiency in the collection and diffusion of useful knowledge is required. To secure this result, the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, in connection with some of the Departments of State, would largely contribute. The importance of such a bureau, properly organized, as an aid to the advancement of Agricultural knowledge and the success of Agricultural industry, cannot be easily overestimated. The subject is earnestly commended to your attention.

By an act of the last session an institution designated as the "Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania" was incorporated. The charter was accepted by the trustees and the institution duly organized. An eligible site for the College has been secured in Centre county; and two hundred acres of valuable and highly cultivated land donated to the trustees for the use of the institution, by Gen. James Irvin, of that county. The citizens of the county, with a liberality highly commendable, have pledged and secured to the trustees, for the use of the College, ten thousand dollars in addition to the land donated. This liberality shows that the farmers of Pennsylvania fully appreciate the importance of such an institution and will support and sustain it. The course of instruction will be thorough and practical. Scientific and practical agriculture, with the usual branches of academic education, will be taught, and the effort will be to make good farmers, good scholars and good citizens.

Whilst individual liberality and energy have done much and will do more for this institution, an appropriation by the State, in such sum as the Legislature may deem proper, would not only aid and encourage this laudable enterprise, but would be an honor and just recognition of the important interests involved.

The laws now in operation, regulating manufacturing and other improvement companies, are in some of their provisions, too severely restrictive, and should be modified. Legislation on these subjects has heretofore tended to restrain the investment of capital—check industry, and curb the energy of the people in the prosecution of those enterprises that aid the development of our immense resources, and contribute so largely to the wealth and prosperity of the State. Liberal and judicious legislation—encouraging individual enterprise—inviting the investment of capital and stimulating the various departments of manufacturing and mechanical industry, would greatly promote the interests of the people—increase our revenues, and give the Commonwealth that prominence and position in the sisterhood of States, to which the character of her citizens and her illustrious natural resources justly entitle her. To this subject your attention is invited.

The report of the Superintendent of Common School will exhibit to you their condition and the general operation of this system throughout the Commonwealth during the past year. To the valuable and useful suggestions of the Report I would earnestly ask the attention of the Legislature.

more willful of the Legislature. Experience has proven that in this, as in every other great social and moral reform, time and that consent which arises from a radical change in the popular mind, were required. This slow process of the acclimation of the new system to our social and moral atmosphere, has been in operation for nearly twenty years; and it is now evident the period for another effective interposition of legislative aid and authority in favor of our noble system of common schools, has arrived. In whatever form this obligatory proper and necessary interposition may present itself, if calculated to promote the great purpose in view it shall receive my cheerful support.

After a careful examination of the subject it is my clear conviction that the system is now prepared for and requires increased efficiency in its general supervision—increased qualification in its teachers, and increased means of support.

The experiment of the County Superintendent wherever faithfully carried out has not disappointed the expectations of the advocates of that measure. The improved condition of the schools, and the greater efficiency of the system, clearly establish the propriety and utility of such supervision. The official visits of an officer of the school department to some of the counties of the State in connection with the County Superintendent, have demonstrated that the voice of public authority to sustain, and the presence of an official agent to encourage have largely contributed to excite and maintain the deep interest now felt by the public in our educational progress and improvement.

The most marked improvement recently effected in the system, has been in its corps of teachers. With almost unparalleled disinterestedness and devotion to the noble cause in which they are engaged, the common school teachers of the State, have, in almost every county, been using all the means and appliances within their power for self-improvement.

In concluding this book to our children through their teachers, we are encouraged by the example of other countries, and the experience of the past. It is a remarkable fact, that no State of our Union, nor nation of the Old World, has perfected its system of public instruction, without schools for the professional training of teachers, established and supported by the public authority and means; and it is no less remarkable, and still more encouraging, that no such institution has ever yet been abandoned.—From Prussia, whose experience in this respect is that of a century and a quarter, to that of our young sister Michigan, whose existence is as of yesterday, the normal school has been tried throughout Christendom with unvarying success.

This result is in full harmony with the laws of mind and human society. Teaching is a high and honorable profession; and no profession has more arduous and complex duties to perform—no one operates on, or with such valuable and interesting material. The most thorough preparation is therefore requisite; and as the duties to be performed are not only responsible, but delicate, and may affect the social, political, moral and religious feelings and rights of the citizen, no source is so safe, to authority for their discharge so free from suspicion or bias, as the State. Teachers trained by the State, and representing the reality of its republicanism, will be the firm support and sure guarantee of its republican equality.

It is time also that the teaching mind should resume its true place in the schools. In the communication of knowledge, to be effective, mind, in sympathetic contact, must act upon mind, and with living, speaking, religious feelings, leave its impress there. The Great Master himself has trained the school which was to reform a world. But now the book has too much intruded itself between the teacher and the taught. The teacher has too much become the mere exponent of the printed page, and the mind of the learner the impressed copy of the text. In thus saying, the value and importance of books, as a means of knowledge, are not intended to be overlooked or scorned, but the uses of our best agencies have their limits, and when we find the book usurping the place of the teacher, to the injury of the teacher to the injury of the mind of our youth, we should restore each to its proper position—require from each the performance of its appropriate functions, and thus confer upon both the full measure of their usefulness.

As an expedient to supply the place of regular Normal schools till established, and as a valuable auxiliary to them when in operation, the Teachers' Institute would be of unquestionable value. It would bring together the teachers of a county under the best influences, for consultation and improvement, and exhibit them before their fellow citizens in their proper professional character. A portion of the means of the State, or of the respective counties, applicable to educational improvement could not be more profitably applied, than to the encouragement of the meeting of at least one such institute, annually, in each county. An experiment of this kind, recently made in the county of Chester, is said to have been eminently successful, and strongly indicative of the wisdom of the measure.

In addition to these or similar measures, the Legislature should feel warranted—and the measures all the sanction this executive document can give it—to make a large addition to the annual State appropriation to common schools, I believe that all will be done which the patriotism of the people's representatives can now effect; and I do not hesitate to express the opinion that the time has come for this prompt, full and decisive action. Let the integrity of the system, in its great purposes and objects, be maintained; and if changed, changed only

to render it more efficient, and to increase its power for greater usefulness. Whatever else may distinguish your present session, it is hazardous little to predict, that more honor and benefit will result from the perfection of the Common School system of education, than from any other exercise of your legislative powers.

The public schools of Philadelphia are deserving of special notice and approval. In their various gradations, from the primary up to the High School, they are models worthy imitation; and their management and efficiency reflect great credit upon those to whom have been committed their supervision and control. It is to be regretted that these schools, so creditable to our great commercial and literary enterprise, and so honorable to our Commonwealth, should find no place in the annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools. As at present organized these schools are independent of the State Superintendent, and do not report to the school department of the Commonwealth.

As everything that relates to the operation of the Common School System, and the condition of the public schools in the State, is important and interesting, the statistics of these schools should be furnished to the State Superintendent, that the same might be embodied in the annual report of the department. A modification of existing laws on this subject, so far as to require the controllers of the public schools, of Philadelphia to report to the school department the number, grade and condition of their schools, the number of pupils, and generally such information in relation to their government as may be deemed useful to the cause of education, is respectfully recommended.

To improve the social, intellectual and moral condition of the people, reclaim the erring, and ameliorate human suffering, are objects that commend themselves to the consideration of the philanthropist and the statesman. Our educational, charitable and reformatory institutions are justly the pride of the State, honorable alike to the wisdom that devised and the liberality that founded and sustains them. They have strong claims upon the bounty of the people, and I cordially recommend them to your care and the liberality of the Commonwealth.

The State Lunatic Hospital, at Harrisburg, in its objects and results, merits our highest approbation. The just expectations of its projectors and founders have not been disappointed. Kindness and love with their softening and subduing influence constitute the rule of its government.—Many of its former unfortunate inmates have been restored to reason, to friends and home, and the enjoyments of social life. Those that remain require our sympathy and aid. They should not be withheld. The report of the directors will exhibit, in detail, the operations of the institution.

The necessity and importance of providing additional accommodation for the insane of Western Pennsylvania have been strongly pressed upon my attention. The present accommodations are clearly insufficient, and these have been provided principally by the contributions of benevolent citizens. It is urged that the rapid advance of our population, the gloomy increase of the insane, and the inadequacy of the present asylums for their care and management, render it imperatively necessary that effective aid should be given to that portion of the State for the establishment of a new and entirely distinct Western Insane Hospital, as a home to those of our fellow citizens whose only alleviation is to be found in their own ignorance of the frightful malady with which they are burdened. The subject is worthy of calm and dispassionate inquiry. I will cheerfully co-operate with the Legislature in all proper efforts to accomplish this object.

Should you desire to act upon this subject, I would then recommend that an adequate appropriation be made to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, for the purpose of extending its accommodations for the care of the insane, as distinct as may be practicable from the other class of patients and inmates. The charter of this institution is liberal in its provisions, and comprehensive in the objects liable to be brought under its care, embracing the insane as well as the sick, helpless and infirm.

In this connection I would commend to your attention the Pennsylvania Training School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Children. The aid of the Commonwealth has heretofore been extended to this institution. It is a noble charity, and appeals to the best feelings of the heart. It deserves to share the bounty of the State.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, and the Western House of Refuge near Pittsburg, are institutions of great excellence, having for their object the reclaiming of wayward and erring youth, the employment of the idle, the instruction of the ignorant, the reformation of the vicious and depraved, and the relief of the wretched. They are schools, not prisons—homes, not places of punishment, they are refuges to the neglected and outcast children and youth of our Commonwealth. The success of the past is a sure guarantee of their future usefulness. They should receive your aid and encouragement.

The "Blind" and the "Deaf and Dumb Asylums" in Philadelphia, invite our sympathy, and ask to share the benefactions of the Commonwealth. They should not be disappointed. The blind, in their darkness—the dumb, in their silence—will cherish the gift, and bless the generous donor.

The legislation, in relation, to all questions of moral and social reform, should be carefully and wisely considered and sustained. On no subject within the constitutional authority of the Legislature, are the people so sensitive; and no one more deeply interested every class and condition of society—