

WESTERN UNION.

VOLUME I.

CITY OF HANNIBAL, MO., JANUARY 16, 1851.

NUMBER 20.

WESTERN UNION.

OFFICE ON BIRD STREET, BETWEEN FIRST AND MAIN.

TERMS OF THE WESTERN UNION.
One subscriber, one year, (in advance) \$2 00
Five subscribers, in a club, (in advance,) 8 00
Ten subscribers, in a club, (in advance,) with one to the getter up of the club, 15 00

RATES OF ADVERTISING.
The following are the rates of Advertising in the Hannibal papers:
ADVERTISING.—One square, of 12 lines or less, one insertion, one dollar; each subsequent insertion 25 cents. Cards not exceeding six lines, per year, \$5. One square per year, without alteration, \$10; one fourth of a column, \$15; half a column, \$20; a whole column \$30.

All notices, except marriages and deaths, will be charged as advertisements.
Attached to the "Western Union" office is an excellent **BOOK AND JOB OFFICE**, where all Job, Book, Pamphlet, Card, and other Printing, is executed with neatness and dispatch, on favorable terms.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

Young men will fall in love—there is no getting around it or over it; and when they do so they invariably take to poetry—it is one of the symptoms. But young men thus afflicted do not always write such good poetry as the following, which should have appeared long ago, if it had not been carefully put away—where it couldn't be found when it was wanted.

Written for the Western Union.

The passionate fondness which beauty inspires
With the beauty which caused it decays and expires;
But nature reform women of our regard,
The heart to refine, and the soul to reward;
We have virtues to copy affections to share,
We may tenderly love them yet fondly revere.

The bard whom the charms of my Frances inspire,
Who draws for his subject applause from his lyre,
May tenderly sigh when his summers are o'er,
And find, when he thinks, that her charms are no more.
With eyes that look deeper more kindly can see,
My Frances shall still be Frances to me.

Her cheek the warm rose may no longer display,
But can age with the rose still the dimple away?
Her eye with a lusterless brilliant may seem,
But more sweetly shall pour forth affection's soft beam
That lustre of lustre here ever shall be,
And Frances shall still be Frances to me.

The first in the dance she no longer may shine,
The joys of the dance shall then cease to be mine;
The crowd she no more may with rapture inspire,
Then I from the crowd will contented retire.
Fast fast do the leaves fall from pleasure's gay tree,
But Frances shall still be Frances to me.

The banks by the streams may be moldered away,
But the rock stands unaging, and knows no decay.
Time her form may depose, but not leave me behind
Her memory, her virtues, her heart, and her mind;
Still no more, my summer no change shall ye see,
For Frances shall still be Frances to me.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and House of Representatives:
The period has again arrived when the representatives of the people are required to assemble and consult together for the public good. The constitution requires that "the Governor shall, from time to time, give to the general assembly information relative to the state of the government, and shall recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient."

I enter upon the performance of this duty with a due sense of the weight of obligation resting upon me—that in co-operation with you the people, our common constituents have devolved upon us the important duty, for the time being, of giving point and direction to the destiny of our growing and prosperous State, of developing its resources and elevating its character.

We have assembled under the most favorable auspices to do good. Enjoying the blessings of health throughout our favored land, surrounded with that abundance calculated to render us contented and happy, and every branch and department of industry receiving its merited reward.

Our tribute of gratitude is due to Him who has so bountifully bestowed these blessings upon us, and we should invoke His aid to give direction to all our counsels, and enable us to characterize all our acts with prudence and wisdom.

I shall endeavor to cultivate the most amicable relations between the coordinate branches of the government, and feel assured that, in an object so necessary to promote the best interest of our common constituents, I shall meet with the co-operation of the legislature.

The financial condition of the state, affords gratifying evidences of our prosperous condition, a statement of which in detail you will find in the report of the Auditor, to be laid before you. I recommend this report to your favorable consideration, as affording evidence also of the ability and faithfulness with which the affairs of that office have been conducted by its present incumbent.

The fiscal year having been so changed as now to commence on the first day of January of each year, it is not in the power of the Auditor and Treasurer to afford the information necessary to show the condition of the finances in the last quarter of the fiscal year, in time to be laid before the legislature in this communication. From the 1st day of October, 1848, to the 1st of October, 1849, there was of the revenue fund, received into the Treasury, \$227,075 49. From the 1st of October, 1849, to the 1st of October, 1850, \$293,659 80; add to this, balance in treasury on 1st October, 1849, \$318,840 83, making the sum of \$839,576 12.—From this amount there must be deducted, as drawn from the treasury, \$271,005 31, the amount for which, will be shown in detail by the Auditor's report. It will be subject to an additional deduction of \$80,373 27, composed of interest coupons upon State bonds taken in at the treasury, and for which the Treasurer, as yet, has no credit upon the books in the Auditor's office. Deduct these two amounts, and it leaves in the treasury, on the 1st of October, 1850, \$488,191 51.

The aggregate statement for the year 1850, has not yet been returned from all the counties, but an examination of these returns for the year 1849 shows the amount of taxable property, according to its assessed value to be seventy nine million four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars ninety-seven cents. In arriving at this sum the assessed value of lands is \$31,512,391 77; the value of town lots is \$22,441,498; the value of slaves is \$17,772,180; other personal property is \$7,731,508 20.

The revenue for the last two years, up to 1st of October, 1840, and which has been received into the treasury, amounts to \$520,735 29, and it is estimated, if the present rates and objects of taxation should not be altered, that the revenue to be received into the treasury for the next two years, will not fall short of \$650,000. This together with the amount now in the treasury, will be a sum sufficient to defray the ordinary expenses of the government; to meet any probable appropriations made by the legislature; to pay the interest on the State debt as it becomes due, and to pay the State bonds, constituting the State debt, as they become due.

I leave it for the legislature to determine as to the oppressive character of the law as it now stands. My convictions lead me to the opinion, that if it should be determined to let the law remain, and abide the decision of the court, that it should be greatly modified. The striking injustice and oppressive character of the law, will be made apparent when you examine the table of licenses prepared by the Auditor, which shows its operation.

On the 1st of October, 1848, there was a balance in the treasury of the three per cent fund of \$154,900; since then, and up to the 1st of October, 1850, there has been received into the treasury \$16,110, all of which has been apportioned among the counties according to law.

There have been paid into the treasury since the 1st day of October, 1848 and up to the 1st of October, 1850, of the "Internal Improvement Fund," \$139,801 68; of this amount, \$120,461 47 have been paid from the Savannah land office; the balance from the other three offices. There remains of that amount, not yet apportioned, and distributed among the counties \$24,154.

The Register of each land office is required by law to make a quarterly report of lands sold at his office to the Register of Lands at the city of Jefferson, describing the lands by ranges, townships, sections, parts of sections, by whom entered, and the amount paid for the same.—This important duty has not been performed by James H. Darrington, Register of the State land office at Chillicothe, since the 1st of October, 1849, up to which time the last report was made.

I am not in possession of the reasons for the neglect of so important a duty. The Register of Lands is required to record this report in a book to be kept for that purpose, and in this way, constitutes an important link in the chain of title to the purchasers. From this report, also, the only evidence is derived by which the Auditor is to charge the Receiver with the amount of money received by him at the State land office, and when thus charged, he can only have a credit on the books of the Auditor, by paying the amount into the State treasury. By failure of these reports, this important check upon the Receiver at Chillicothe has been entirely lost. The known integrity of the Receiver, affords good ground to believe that there has, as yet, been no pecuniary loss to the State on account of this neglect. He has regularly come forward and made his quarterly payments at the treasury of the amount which he reported as due, and for which the Treasurer gave him a receipt, upon the production of which to the Auditor, the Treasurer was charged with the amount. The Register of this land office has, also, for more than twelve months failed to send up to the office of Secretary of State, or make quarterly returns of the certificates showing the purchasers of those lands; consequently no patents have issued for lands sold within that time in this district; nor can the purchasers of these lands obtain their patents until this duty of the Register is performed. Steps should be taken to have the quarterly reports from this office sent up to the Register of Lands, and the Auditor should be invested with power to settle and square the accounts of the Receiver with these reports; and also that the certificates should be forwarded to the Secretary of State, in order that the patents may be issued.

The duties of the other registers, and all the receivers of the different land offices, have been performed with a promptness and energy highly commendable, and render them well worthy the confidence and trust reposed in them.

The bonds of the State, outstanding on the 1st of January 1849, and which constitute the State debt, amounted to \$596,261. A portion of this amount \$15,000, the State had borrowed from the branch bank at Palmyra, which, at the maturity of the bonds, on the 19th May 1849, instead of renewing them for another twelve months, and paying the interest in advance, according to the terms of the loan, I caused to be paid. The sum of \$19,000 constituting a portion also of this debt, was borrowed under the provisions of an act to sustain the credit of the State, approved 16th February 1848. The bonds bore an interest of eight per cent. per annum, and redeemable at any time after two years, and payable at the treasury of the State. I caused the holders of the bonds to be notified to present them for payment on the 1st day of February last, and that no interest would be paid on them after that time.—The bonds have been presented and paid, which, together with the interest then due, amounts to \$19,867 59. Although these bonds were payable at the Treasury at any time after two years, yet as there was an omission in the law to authorize the Auditor to draw a warrant for the sum necessary to pay them, I caused the Treasurer, upon my requisition, to take them up and hold them as money. I now recommend that the Auditor be required to give

the Treasurer a credit for the amount on the books in the Auditor's office.

Deduct these two items, amounting to \$34,000, exclusive of the interest paid, from the State debt, and it reduces it to nine hundred and twenty two thousand two hundred and sixty-one dollars forty cents. From this may also be deducted two hundred seventy-two thousand two hundred sixty-three dollars sixty cents, the amount of State stock in the bank, the interest on which is paid by the bank out of the dividend, and the bank is responsible to the State for the principal.

If the revenue laws should be so altered as to make it evident, that the State will not have sufficient available means from that source, to pay her bonds at maturity, and the suggestions I have made, in reference to the withdrawal of the University and common School funds from the bank, be adopted by the legislature, then, such an arrangement can be made, as will enable the State to take as a loan from these funds, an amount sufficient to pay those bonds. And upon the sum thus borrowed, to pay semi-annual dividends, at the State treasury, at the rate of six per cent. per annum.

I am confident that this arrangement will give to the University a permanency and the means of advancement, which it has so much needed heretofore. And until the State is able to pay her debt, by the ordinary operation of her revenue laws, it would be well to convert this debt, as far as possible, into a loan from the common school fund. The interest to be paid in the shape of semi-annual dividends, will be sent to every county in the State, from whence it had been collected, and paid into the State Treasury as taxes.

The system of assessing and collecting the debts, which a tax upon land, has in it, radical defects, which require some legislation. From an examination of the records in the office of Register of Lands, it will be seen that there was, on the first day of June last, standing in that office, 16,465 tracts of land, which had been advertised, sent out to the proper counties, and offered for sale for the taxes of previous years, and not sold, but returned as forfeited, and upon which there was at that time due to the State \$45,162. These two items of forfeited and delinquent lands, show the amount of State tax due up to the first of June last, to be about 55,162 dollars. These lands have been advertised, and were offered for sale in October last, with a view to collect the taxes. The report of sales made to the Register of Lands, shows that an amount has not been received sufficient to remunerate the State for expenses incurred in advertising and paying collectors' and clerks' fees.

The county courts will receive great aid from the adoption of this system in correcting the delinquent list, and it will also, greatly facilitate the business of the collector in the receipt of taxes. Under the present mode of assessment, and the many errors which occur in carrying its provisions into effect, it is impossible that results should be different from what they are. When lands subject to taxation are offered for sale, there is in many of the counties such a want of confidence in the correctness of the proceeding anterior to that time, that men are deterred from buying, and the lands are returned to the State as forfeited, with an accumulation of costs.

It often happens, also, that the owner of these lands, seeing they are assessed by the wrong numbers, declines paying the taxes on them, knowing that a sale of them would not affect the title to his land.

Much revenue is annually lost to the State, by the failure of assessors in many of the counties, to perform their duty in ascertaining and assessing property at its true value.—It is frequently the case that property is assessed at not more than one half the value the owners would put upon it, if asked to do so. This is doing great injustice to those who are correctly assessed, and most deprive the State of a very considerable amount of revenue annually. Some idea may be formed of this delinquency, by looking into the aggregate statement of the value of property assessed in each county in the State for a series of years.

I have examined the aggregate statement of the taxable property for the years 1848, '49 and '50 in one of the medium counties, which has for years been steadily increasing in wealth and population, and yet I find this statement to show that the revenue was upwards of 600 dollars less in 1849 than it was in 1848; and for the year 1850 it was upwards of 3,000 dollars more than it was in 1849. This is but a sample of the irregularity of assessment; and by comparison, such cases will be found to exist in many counties in the State.

By an act of the last legislature, the Governor was authorized to dispose of that portion of the land, (part of the 500,000 acre grant,) which had not been previously selected by the State, amounting to 1,000 and 38 100ths acres. In accordance with the provisions of this law, I have sold the same for 1,252 dollars 98 cents, (being one dollar twenty-five cents per acre,) which has been paid into the treasury.

By an act of the last legislature, commissioners were appointed to sell the State tobacco warehouse, situated in St. Louis. The Governor is, by the law, invested with power to accept or reject any bid made for the property.—But one bid was made, and its amount was 20,525 dollars. This, I considered not a fair price for so valuable a piece of property, and felt it my duty to reject it, and in this opinion the commissioners concurred with me.

The property cost the State 25,000 dollars.—Interest upon this amount, at ten per cent.—the interest the State is now paying on the tobacco warehouse bonds—up to the 1st of October last, 18,333 dollars 33 cents, and the only remunerating compensation the State has received from all sources, is 4,092 dollars 31 cents, making the net cost of the property up to October last 39,241 dollars 02 cents. The property, though very valuable, ought to be sold.—It is suggested to me by the commissioners, that if the law were so amended, as to allow

the property to be divided into convenient parcels, it could with much more certainty, be sold for a fair price. I recommend, therefore, that the law be thus amended.

The subject of the proper manner of stating the accounts of the State of Missouri, for the Three per cent fund, periodically apportioned to the State, at the Treasury department of the General Government, has been brought to my consideration. Upon an investigation of the matter, I was induced to believe, from the manner in which the account had been previously stated, that Missouri failed to get the amount justly due under the compact upon which the claim rests. With a view of ascertaining the just rights of the State, and to have a re-statement of the accounts at the General Government, I have employed and appointed as agents for the State, three gentlemen, Messrs. Eldredge, Stewart and Platte. These gentlemen were highly recommended to me for their qualifications and business habits. They proposed, as a compensation for their services, a certain per cent. on the amount gained to the State, and to be conditional—dependent upon this contingency. I did not feel authorized to do more than to give them authority to act for the State, leaving it to the legislature to fix the compensation. I lay before the legislature the correspondence on this subject, and recommend that the compensation to these agents be fixed by law. The report received from these agents shows that from the restatement of the accounts thus far made, and upon principles admitted to be correct, there is an amount already ascertained, that will give to the State an additional sum of more than 20,000 dollars, and before it shall be finally settled, may more than double this amount.

I have heard no objection urged against this policy, which, in my opinion, merits consideration, except the one, that it conflicts with the rights of creditors, and violates the clause of the constitution, which prohibits any law to be passed, impairing the obligation of contracts.—As I recommend a homestead exemption, in addition to the property already exempt by law, I trust that it may not be thought of place that I offer a few reasons to show that there is no force in this objection. Contracts are made by parties, and if sanctioned by law, it promises to enforce performance, should the party decline performance himself. The obligation of a contract, therefore, within the meaning of the constitution, is that law which binds the party making the contract to a performance thereof. Does a law which reserves to the head of a family, his horse, his oxen, or his plough, relieve him from the performance of his contract? Certainly not. The obligation remains yet in force, nor is it impaired in any manner. This question has not failed to undergo judicial investigation, and the courts have all based their decisions upon the ground, that such legislation acted on the remedy only, without infringing at all upon the obligation of contracts, and that it may be made to operate upon past contracts, as well as future. The position here assumed, is sustained by the highest judicial tribunal known to the constitution. In a case before the court involving this point, Chief Justice Taney, in delivering the opinion of the court, says: "If the laws of the State passed afterwards, (that is after the making of the contract,) had done no more than change the remedy upon contracts, they will be liable to no constitutional objection, for undoubtedly a State may regulate, at pleasure, the modes of proceeding in its courts in relation to past contracts, as well as future. It may, if it thinks proper, direct that the necessary implements of agriculture, or the tools of a mechanic, or articles of necessary household furniture, shall like wearing apparel, not be liable to execution on judgment. Regulations of this description have always been considered in every civilized community, as properly belonging to the remedy, to be exercised or not by every sovereignty, according to its own views of policy and humanity." It is absurd to say, that if, as is here admitted, a State Legislature may pass laws exempting from execution and sale, necessary implements for the use of a farm, that it may not also exempt a homestead for the same party, in order to render these implements available.

I submit the matter to the legislature, with no other desire than to protect the rights of creditors, while I hope, also, that something may be done for the relief of the oppressed, and afford a means of support for the mother, and the education of the young and helpless, which will doubtless do much in the prevention of crime, and the advancement of morals.

Believing that there are too many hallowed recollections connected with the name of Washington, cherished by the people of Missouri, to doubt for a moment their wish to contribute in erecting a national monument to perpetuate his name, I have therefore engaged a block of marble to be prepared from the quarry in Cape Girardeau county, of proper size and dimensions, which I propose to have forwarded to Washington city, to constitute a memorial in the monument for the State of Missouri, that her citizens participated in the noble work. I ask for an appropriation to enable me to carry this object into effect.

The Lunatic Asylum, authorized to be erected by an act of the last Legislature, has been put under contract, and will be completed sometime during the coming summer, ready for the reception of inmates. The building is a beautiful specimen of architecture, one well suited to the humane purposes for which it is intended, and reflects great credit upon the State. The plan of the building, as also the contract and bond for its completion, are on file in the office of Secretary of State.—The appropriations made by the last legislature will be expended in erecting the necessary buildings. The asylum will need an additional appropriation to provide the necessary fixtures and furniture, preparatory to the reception of inmates. I have not the means of knowing the amount that may be necessary, but my estimate does not fall short of \$10,000. Considering the humane purpose for which this institution is intended, and the obligation we are under to provide for that unfortunate portion of the human family who are to be its beneficiaries, I feel assured that the legislature will not fail to make the necessary appropriation.

By a resolution of the last legislature, the

Governor was authorized to receive, on the part of the State, the distributive shares of Missouri, under an act of congress entitled "An act to distribute the proceeds of the sale of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights to settlers." This duty has been performed, and there has been placed in the Treasury 23,200 dollars as the credit of the lunatic asylum, for the erection of which, in part, it had been appropriated.

The boundary line between the State of Missouri and Iowa, has at length been settled by a decision of the supreme court of the United States. The question was, by an act of the legislature, and by mutual agreement with the State of Iowa, submitted to the decision of this court; its decision, therefore, is final. The court determined what is called the "old Sullivan line" to be the true boundary with its extension west to the Missouri river. With a view to establish and mark this line, the court in its decree appointed two commissioners, H. B. Henderson, Esq. of Iowa, and the Hon. Rbert W. Wells, for Missouri. The latter, on account of other indispensable duties, was unable to perform this important trust, and declined the same. Gen. Wm. G. Minor was then appointed by the court on the part of Missouri.

The two commissioners have performed the duties assigned them by the decree. Their report has been made to the supreme court, a duplicate of which, together with the report of surveyors, field notes, and maps of the survey, and statement of expenditures, have been furnished to me, and which I have caused to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

The whole costs and expenses are, by the decree of the court, to be equally divided and paid by the two states. I have not yet received a copy of the final decree from the supreme court, nor am I able to arrive at what the court will allow, as compensation, to the commissioner and surveyor.

Incidental expenses incurred by our commissioner in fulfilling the decree, a copy of which, with the proper vouchers, as I before remarked, are on file in the Secretary's office, amount to \$2,099 86. Of this amount \$1,935 27 have been paid, upon my requisition, out of an appropriation of \$2,000, which had been made to meet the costs and contingent expenses of the case in the supreme court. There remains in treasury, of this appropriation, \$64 73.

Another appropriation of 3,000 dollars was made, to be used in the settlement of the controversy between Iowa and Missouri. This sum by a contract made by immediate predecessor with the Hon. Cary Wells, and the Hon. James S. Green, was agreed to be paid to them as attorneys, on the part of Missouri, in the cause to be tried in the Supreme Court. Out of this amount the costs incurred by the State of Missouri were to be paid. This agreement to pay costs cannot, as I believe, be construed to pay costs incident to the survey of the line, to which I have already drawn your attention, but to those only which accrued up to time of the decree fixing the boundary. These have been paid by Messrs. Wells and Green, and amount to \$110 23. Of this last appropriation there remains in the Treasury 194 dollars 88 cents. It is proper that I should state that the contract, to which I have referred, was never reduced to writing, and the only evidence I have of its existence, and which I have no reason to doubt, is in the letters of Messrs. Wells and Green, constituting a portion of correspondence which I had with them on this subject.

Hamilton R. Gamble, Esq., has presented to me a claim for 1000 dollars, as a fee in this case, for services rendered in the Supreme Court. There is no doubt but Mr. Gamble was employed, as represented by him, and as shown by the letters and statements accompanying his demand. There was no appropriation out of which I could pay it, and if there had been, I would not have felt authorized to do so without additional legislation. I therefore lay the correspondence with Mr. Gamble, as well as that with Messrs. Wells and Green, before the legislature, which contains all the information I have upon the subject. Such additional appropriations should be made as the legislature may deem necessary, to satisfy all proper demands against the State.

The present lease of the penitentiary expires in the next two years. Its present condition will deserve the attention of the legislature, a view of which, by a committee, will at once indicate the necessity of indispensable improvements.

There are now in the prison 193 convicts.—This number confined in the narrow, contracted and crowded limits afforded inside of the yard, naturally excites apprehension that it will engender fatal disease. The cholera has already made its appearance frequently in the prison, and numbers have died. But it is most remarkable, that notwithstanding we had the right to anticipate this frequent sickness and disease, there has yet been provided no suitable hospital, no apartment in which to place the afflicted, when, in a sick and dying hour, they need those comforts which humanity demands at our hands shall be ministered to them.

The present condition of the yard will at once suggest the propriety of extending the walls.—The buildings containing the old cells, now in a dilapidated condition, may, by taking out the inside partition walls, be so fitted up as to make good workshops. If these indispensable improvements be not made, we may expect but few bids, and small in amount, when the penitentiary shall be offered for a new lease; for whatever legislation may be done, should be with an eye to this, as well as to afford the means of extending to the convicts the demands of charity and humanity.

I refer the legislature to the report of the inspectors, for information in reference to the management and internal police of the institution.

An act was passed at the last session of Congress to enable several of the new states to

drain their swamp lands. For this purpose, these lands were granted to the states in which they lie. The swamp lands in Missouri, the most of which lie in the southeast portion of the state, are included in the grant.

It now remains for the legislature to determine what system shall be adopted by which these lands are to be reclaimed, and the sources of disease removed.

If it be determined, by the legislature, that the State shall enter upon the work of having these swamps drained, it should be with a view, ultimately, that the costs of reclamation, should be paid out of the lands reclaimed.

The repeated memorials, forwarded to Congress by the legislature, declare these lands as wholly worthless in their present condition; and I suppose none will doubt the truth of these declarations. From the best information I have been able to get, I am satisfied that there is a very considerable quantity of this swamp land, that neither skill, science, nor capital, will be able to drain. But from the report of commissioners heretofore appointed by the legislature to examine the country, I am induced to believe that a large quantity of the lands, in the south east portion of the state, may, by a proper system of drainage, be reclaimed.

If the work is to be carried on by the State, it will require appropriations from time to time, of very large amounts, in order to facilitate the business, and the utmost care and economy must be observed, or the state may not find a remuneration, in the value of the lands reclaimed and sold.

Before commencing operations, professional skill and science of the highest order that can be obtained, should be employed, and if necessary, a premium offered for the most approved and practical plan of accomplishing the desired object. If appropriations be made, and the work commenced, without a thorough knowledge of the principles which are to be conducted to a successful termination, large sums may not only be wasted, in what may turn out to be profitless expenditures, but in many places, for the want of not having thoroughly matured the plan, and having applied to it the highest professional science, obstructions may be created, which will require an additional amount of labor and money to remove.

I do not propose to do more than to bring the matter to the consideration of the legislature; and as the session of these lands to the state, was asked with a view to their reclamation, and not in contemplation of making them a source of profit, I have only to recommend that such plan be adopted, as in the opinion of the legislature, may best accomplish this object. It may turn out, upon an investigation, that the best plan of accomplishing the object, will be to turn over these lands to the counties in which they lie, and that a plan for their reclamation be devised, and conducted under a board of internal improvements, to be appointed in each county, under such conditions, limitations and restrictions, as will at no time render it necessary to make appropriations from the State treasury.

The University is in a more prosperous condition than at any previous period since its organization. If its endowment of one hundred thousand dollars—now permanently fixed upon it—be so managed for the future, as to yield a certain and proper dividend for its support, there is just reason to believe that it will fulfil the most sanguine wishes of the friends of literature, and that it may become the resort of the sons of Missouri, who desire preparing themselves for the various high callings in future life, and for which nothing can so well fit and qualify them as a high moral culture and thorough education.

The high character, moral worth and literary attainments of the President, elected to preside over the University, and the learning and ability of the Professors who preside over the various departments of science, constitute a Faculty which gives assurance that the Missouri University will become the *alma mater* of the sons of Missouri, and that parents need no longer send their sons abroad to be educated. I refer you to the report of the curators, for a detailed account of the present condition and prospects of the University.

There is now in the treasury 1,220 44-100 dollars, proceeds of the sale of seminary lands, which belong to the University. The curators have been making necessary improvements about the buildings, anticipating this sum as a portion of the means to defray expenses. I recommend that a law be passed allowing the money to be drawn for this purpose.

The present organization of the Board of curators has proved inconvenient in practice.—From the remote location of the curators, (one in each judicial circuit) it is often difficult to get together a quorum to do business. A remedy for this ought to be provided, which I believe can best be done by making provision for an additional number of curators, to reside in the county of Boone, or in counties adjacent thereto, so that when a meeting of the board may be necessary, one can be had without trouble or delay.

In addition to the flattering prospects of the University, of which all should be proud, there are, in various parts of the State, colleges and academies, both of the male and female departments, succeeding fully up to the wishes of their patrons and friends, and which reflect great credit upon the State.

But as the nursery of these, as well as of the University, I most earnestly invite your attention to the subject of common schools. The people have never failed to respond favorably to appeals made to them in the cause of education.—And with a confidence which gives additional strength to their wishes, they have confided the functions of legislation to those who have been the advocates of common schools, as a means of developing the moral, physical and intellectual condition of the rising generation.

If those of us, to whom this important trust has been confided, fail to fulfil the wishes of a generous constituency, and content ourselves with fine wrought eulogies upon the cause of education, while we leave their children uneducated, while we not subject ourselves to the imputation, that our appeal to them on behalf of the cause of education, when canvassing for their sup-