

of the contemplated improvements, on the 8th day of October last, I appointed Richard Wells, Weigh Master of Live Stock: who has since been actively engaged in the performance of his duties, as such. The vouchers of the expenditures made by the Commissioner, are now on file in the State Department.

During the month of June last, understanding that several fruitless efforts had been made, to rent, or purchase from the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the scales made use of in that City, for weighing Hay and Straw; and conceiving it to be my duty, to carry into effect the intentions of the General Assembly in this regard, as expressed in the act of Dec session 1837, chap. 319, I gave authority to the Inspectors, who had been appointed by me in pursuance of the provisions of that law, to purchase the necessary ground and to erect thereon and keep in repair two scales, the one in the western section, and the other in the eastern section of the City, for weighing Hay and Straw, brought there for sale. That duty has been performed by them, and they have returned to the State Department, vouchers of all the expenditures consequent thereon. Since their completion, I am informed the scales have been in successful operation.

The Legislature during its last session chap. 173, in a spirit of benevolence altogether worthy of commendation, appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars annually, to be applied under the direction of the Governor, for the instruction of indigent blind persons, inhabitants of this State. It has been a source of no ordinary gratification to me, to carry into effect the charitable designs of the Legislature, in behalf of this forlorn and helpless portion of our race. Their cause by reason of the privations and the dependence to which they are necessarily subjected, addresses itself to the purest sympathies of the human heart. The Christian, the Philanthropist, the Statesman can never fail to find a proper field for the exercise of his benevolence in providing for the physical succor and for the amelioration of the intellectual condition of those unfortunate beings. The successful efforts made, of late years, in our country, to found and sustain institutions for their instruction, and the enterprise, ingenuity, perseverance and christian tenderness exhibited are worthy of all praise. From time to time, as applications have been made, I have selected such children, as I thought most deserving of the State's bounty, and have directed them to be placed in the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the Blind. A statement herewith submitted (marked G.) will shew the names, ages and places of residence of the pupils selected, and the time when each was received into the institution. No draft has yet been made on the Treasury, on account of their support. I take leave respectfully to suggest that some Legislative provision be made to ascertain the number, the ages and the condition of the blind within our territorial limits. Such information would prove interesting for many purposes, and would enable those, upon whom the duty will hereafter devolve, to make the selections with entire justice to applications from all parts of the State. I further suggest, that means be provided by the State for