

MESSAGE.

*Fellow-citizens of the Senate
and House of Delegates:*

It affords me unfeigned pleasure to welcome you again to the Legislative Halls of your State, and to unite with you in grateful acknowledgments to a beneficent Providence, for the bounties which have so auspiciously crowned the events of the past year.

For the merciful interposition which has saved us from threatened pestilence; for the marked and healthy reaction which has so promptly succeeded the ravages of a wasting war; for the activity which has revived every department of labor and industry; for the unprecedented success which has attended our great works of internal improvement; for the steady advance in all the avenues of progress and development; for the extension of the means of education and moral culture; in short for the general prosperity and happiness which every where reigns within our borders, we have reason to be thankful to the Great Disposer of events, in whose hands are our hopes of the future, and our destinies as a people.

At no period in the history of our State, have you assembled under circumstances of greater encouragement, or more weighty responsibility. Let us indulge the hope, that a wise statesmanship may guide you in the discharge of the onerous duties upon which you are entering, and that your labors, tempered always by justice and moderation, may redound to the lasting benefit of our beloved Commonwealth.

THE FINANCES.

I have the satisfaction to announce to you the continued prosperous condition of the Treasury. On the 30th of September last, the close of the fiscal year, as will appear by the Comptroller's Exhibit, the total receipts into the Treasury have been \$3,325,507.94, which added to the balance in the Treasury on September 30th, 1865, will make the aggregate in the Treasury during the fiscal year \$3,758,439.94.

The total disbursements during the same period have been \$3,390,617.58, leaving a balance of \$367,816.36. To this is to be added the balance to the credit of the School Fund, \$7,598.77, and Sinking Fund, \$238,761.71.