

Abstracts from the message of the Governor of Pennsylvania, to the Legislature of that State.

In a government like ours, essentially dependent for its efficacy on public opinion, the diffusion of knowledge, to enlighten public opinion, should be considered an object of primary importance.

To require, multiply and strengthen the sources of education, is the best means for the dissemination of knowledge, ought therefore to be the duty, as it must be the delight of every virtuous and enlightened legislature. Under the influence of this sentiment, and in pursuance of the constitutional injunction, the assembly has from time to time bestowed partial endowments on various seminaries of learning. In some parts of the State, the more diligent of our citizens, combining with well directed measures of public instruction, have placed education within the reach of all who are willing to receive it. For the establishment of schools, in which the terms of tuition are greatly reduced, and in which those who are unable to meet the expense are taught gratuitously, the citizens of Philadelphia and other places, have been most liberal and prompt.

This plan of education in Philadelphia, is a valuable addition to the number of those useful and benevolent institutions, which adorn our metropolis, and distinguish it as the seat of science, and nursery of the arts.

The Philadelphia school, and the various acts for the establishment of academies, it appears to have been the intention of the Legislature, that they should serve as nurseries, where youth aspiring to literary attainments, might be prepared for entering on a course of collegiate education to greater advantage.

As an auxiliary fund for the support and extension of education, it will be seen by reference to a report and sundry resolutions of the State of Maryland, communicated by message to your predecessors at the last session. These resolutions having for their object the establishment of an equitable claim which it is presumed the original States have, a just proportion of public lands for the support of schools, and which will have a character of such serious importance, and so interesting to the State, that they will of course become a subject of your deliberation. Several other States are now engaged in their discussion, and in New Hampshire they have received a final decision, a copy of which, the reasons advanced in favour of its adoption, will be found in the documents accompanying this message.

The pensions allowed to the officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army, is at once an evidence of their merit, and a proof of the liberality of the State in granting them. It cannot be long until this worthy class of citizens will be gathered to their fathers, and the fund appropriated for this honorable purpose, will then revert to the State. In case of the death of such as may be entitled to arrears, every facility should be afforded their surviving friends, to receive such part as may have accrued at the time of their decease. With the view of removing every impediment out of the way of their receiving payment, would suggest to the Legislature the propriety of passing a law, making it the duty of the assignees to grant letters of administration, without any fee or charge whatever to the widow, or heirs of such as may die intestate.

A French paper relates the following anecdote: A diligence was on the point of passing the French frontiers to enter a neighbouring kingdom, where several articles of French manufacture are not admitted; a beautiful female, who was one of the passengers, expressed her hopes that she should be enabled to smuggle a fine lace veil, which she concealed very secretly about her person.

A taciturn gentleman, who was one of the passengers and who appeared to be absorbed in reverie, said nothing, but on arriving at the custom house, he, on some pretext, alighted. On the passengers entering the office, the lady received a hint to retire into another room, and divest herself of the lace veil which she had about her, with which she complied, of course, found it necessary to comply. On returning their seats in the diligence, the lady who had lost her veil broke out in a torrent of invective against the taciturn gentleman, whom she accused of having been the informer, and the other passengers joined her in heaping abuse upon him. On their reaching a considerable distance from the frontier, "Madame," said the taciturn gentleman, who had hitherto said nothing, in return for the invectives poured so profusely upon him, "you are right, I am the guilty individual, but please to tell me what was the value of the loss of which you so much regret?" "It was worth nearly a hundred louis," roared that you are!" said the lady in a great passion and shedding tears. "Well, Madame, give up your tears, and if you will accept of 1000 crowns, I am ready to offer it to you at this rate, where are you to alight?" "Why possible?" "Do not imagine, however, that it is the effect of remorse of conscience; I have introduced by means nearly similar to those you employed, contraband goods of the same kind, of the value of nearly 10,000 fr. into this country. My denunciation against you has been conceived in a similar manner, but that only one of you has been caught, thanks to the stifling reputation which I over you." This explanation had an immediate effect; the taciturn gentleman was profoundly affected, and the fair traveller, who had departed, cried out, in which she was joined by other passengers, "charmante voleuse."

From the Boston Reporter.

AFRICAN COLONIZATION.
In a late paper, we copied from the Intelligence an article stating that letters had been received from Mr. Wynn, U.S. agent, and Mr. Whitberger, agent to the colonization society, in which they stated that there is no doubt of ultimate success to the plans of the society if persevered in. A letter from Mr. Thomas W. Comeran, a colored man, and a man of property, well known for his integrity and religious character, is published in the New York Daily Advertiser, which throws a very different complexion upon the prospects of the undertaking. It is dated, Shelburne, N.Y., April 3, 1821. He says he has been looking round for 12 months for improvements for a colony, but can find none that is probable—the natives are all heathen, & their example takes with us. Whatever might have been the primitive acts committed by our forefathers, that caused the Almighty to pour his judgments upon them, I dare not pretend to say. But I would have much chance of being carried away, & sold, conformable to the judgment, [rather than to remain here a heathen. Glory to God in the highest that I was born in a Christian land; and I will follow my Christian profession until my life's end—which will soon be for I am old. But I mention the situation of my children, and of those whom I have, and who are to get away from this place, they will have to bow down to heathen customs, their children likely to become heathen themselves. I have lost the pious spirit [part] of my family [my wife and six children.] In this country the rate of interest is so high, and the land is so barren, that a poor man, who has had water, will find it all poor; fish scarce—in fact the country and people poor."

From the Portmouth (N.H.) Journal.
France by her late claims on the U.S. States, is disposed to avail herself of the provisions of the Louisiana treaty, made with the late existing Government of that country. This is an act of perfect justice, if the existing Government, under every change of circumstances, will ratify an act of the U.S. States to stand, and demand of France compensation for all our property illegally captured, since, without the presence of right, and a demand.

Great Britain has acted on this principle with France, and has demanded and received, in an ample manner, compensation for all their illegal confiscations, as the following extract will show.

PARIS, 3th May, 1814.
The British and French Governments shall come without delay to commissioners to liquidate.

The commissioners mentioned in art. 24, shall undertake the examination of the claims of His Britannic Majesty's subjects upon the French Government, for the value of the property, movable or immovable, illegally confiscated by the French authorities.

France engages to ratify the report of the commissioners, and to discharge the sums due.

DONE at Paris, 20th Nov 1815.
(Signed) **CASTLEAGH, W. LINGTUN, RICHIEUX.**

Brooklyn, (Conn.) Dec 3.
There is now living in Killingly, a man by the name of Moffet, who has had three wives, who are all alive, and whose present wife has had two husbands, who are all living, and whose second husband, who is now living, is the second husband of the wife, making a total of five husbands, and to crown all, Moffet's daughter is married to his present wife's son. A difficult question of genealogy for our learned judges to settle, if a large estate should descend to the heirs hereafter, as well as a practical comment upon our doctrine of legitimacy. We believe, however, that there was a Scriptural reason for granting each of the bills of divorces, but of this we are not positive.—Overer.

A friend has politely handed us the following extract of a letter received here per schooner Henry, dated.

Havana, Nov. 27, 1821.
"An unpleasant circumstance occurred on board the American schooner Alex. Captain Shane, of Philadelphia, laying at the quay on the evening of Sunday last at this port. To learn the particulars is impossible, even on the spot. I believe, however, some soldiers on board to rob the vessel, and succeeded as far as to get the Captain's watch and some of his money, when he, (Capt. Shane) in defending his property as well as his life, being approached by two soldiers with drawn daggers, fired two pistols, and I believe, killed one and wounded the other, when immediately a body of armed soldiers rushed upon the deck and cut the Captain down with their swords. He lies badly injured, and extending across his right eye to the left corner of his mouth, and one cut across his head, but I believe the skull is not fractured; a stab in the belly which the doctors think is mortal yet I have hopes he is getting better. The mate is also so badly wounded that his life is despaired of. The ringleaders of the Spaniards in the affair—and I am told by reputable authority that the Governor approves the conduct of Capt. Shane. This affair has produced much excitement here among the rabble, and Americans are much in danger."—Amr.

ANDERSON, whose accounts of "Mahomet's Coffin suspended in the air," the public have heard so much, is stated in the Philadelphia papers, to have been successful in his application for a person to edit his "Travels in Asia," because confidence cannot be placed in his representations.

FILE.—On the evening of the 19th inst. St. Philip's Church, (African) in Collect, between Anthony and Lawrence streets, New York, took fire and was totally consumed.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Rhea reported a bill, entitled, "An Act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the Revolutionary War."

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives be directed to adjourn their respective Houses from Saturday the 22d inst. until Wednesday the 2d day of January next.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Navy Fund be requested to report to the House whether all the sick and disabled seamen of the United States who have contributed to the sums received under acts for the relief of sick and disabled seamen have, during the years 1817, 1818, & 1819, been relieved when they applied for relief; and if not, why relief in such cases has not been granted.

Resolved, That said commissioners be requested also to report what are the existing rules and orders to the agents of government which regulate the admission of sick and disabled seamen into the Hospitals of the United States.

Resolved, That the bill providing for paying to the State of Missouri three per cent of the net proceeds arising from the sale of Public Lands within the State, was read a third time.

Resolved, That the bill directing that three per cent of the net proceeds of the lands of the State of Missouri, lying within the state of Missouri, which since the first day of January, 1821, have been, or hereafter may be, sold or granted to the same, shall be paid, from time to time, to such persons, or persons, as may be authorized by the Legislature of the said State of Missouri to receive the same, which sum or sums, thus paid, shall be applied to the making public roads and canals, within the said State of Missouri, under the direction of the Legislature of that State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Wednesday, Dec. 19.
After the presentation and references of petitions—

Resolved, That the Secretary of the House be instructed to lay before the committee appointed to view and inspect the Cumberland road.

Time to Land Debtor.
The House then, on motion of Mr. Tucker, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair, and which was yesterday reported by the committee on public lands.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the House be instructed to lay before the committee appointed to view and inspect the Cumberland road, a copy of the report made by the committee on public lands.

Resolved, That the bill for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Resolved, That the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Roads and Canals, for the relief of the persons who are now in the city of Washington, and who are claiming the sum of \$50000, and who are entitled to the same, should be amended so that the necessary interest of the State should be secured, and that the bill should be amended so as to provide for the necessary interest of the State, &c. &c.

Friday, Dec. 21.
On motion of Mr. Condit, it was resolved, That the committee on roads and canals be instructed to inquire and report upon the expediency of affording aid, by the U.S. to any company incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, for the purpose of connecting by a canal, the waters of the Delaware and the Raritan.