

1864

government over State after State of those lately defying its authority, authorize the hope that without some abrupt departure from our past policy or mis-application of those abundant resources the day is not distant when we shall witness such a restoration in them all.

If the history of the last two years affords us in its connection with the progress and prospects of the nation such cause of congratulation and hope, it furnishes a retrospect not less cheering as we recur to the position which our own State then assumed and has continued so steadfastly to maintain.

The temptations to a contrary course were such as few others were required to encounter and made the more formidable by the artful arrangement and exaggeration of them covertly prepared and most adroitly presented. These temptations were made to present strong appeals to personal feelings and private interests; they appealed to our kindred institutions; they appealed to our social ties and personal sympathies and they appealed to our intimate commercial relations, but discarding or surrendering them all, our State upon the first opportunity declared her adherence to the Union and in spite of ordeals to which none others have been subject she cleaves to it to day with an enduring affection that is indissoluble.

The condition of the country growing out of the existing war and the new interests and obligations of the State resulting therefrom devolve upon you additional duties that will demand your prompt and constant attention. In view of this important increase of the ordinary subjects of legislation and of the limited term of your session, I may be permitted to remind you of and caution you against a practice which has too frequently prevailed of postponing until the latter days of the session subjects of a paramount public importance whilst questions of a local and subordinate interest are suffered chiefly to engross the earliest attention. An opposite course would not only afford opportunity for the proper consideration of important measures such as they seldom enjoy, but would contribute to your own comfort and convenience by relieving the close of your term of much of that accumulated burden of important bills that scarcely leaves any alternative but to pass them without the proper consideration or not pass them at all.

The Finances of the State.

The report of the Comptroller of the Treasury with its details of the State Finances presents such an exhibit of the condition of that Department as is calculated to afford great satisfaction. Before however adverting to these details a reference to some subjects connected with them will enable you the better to understand them. By an act of Congress approved August 5th 1861 imposing an annual direct tax upon the several States to aid in the support of the war the amount apportioned to this State as its annual quota was \$436,823.33, from which fifteen per cent was to be deducted in case the State assumed and promptly paid the