

Directors, so to employ the convicts as to interfere as little as possible with the mechanical pursuits of our citizens, is highly praiseworthy. I will venture, however, to suggest to the Legislature, that there are considerations, affecting the future destiny of that unfortunate class of beings, who may be incarcerated for violations of the laws, not unworthy the serious attention of our wise and humane law-givers. Unless especial care be taken to teach the convicts such trade as may be pursued profitably in the country which is to become their home, having no honest means of support they will, we may fear, relapse into their vicious habits, and become a terror to the society of which they may become members.

The laws making provision for the education of the indigent blind, and deaf and dumb, impose the duty on the Governor to inform the Legislature, annually, what amount has been expended within the year for those objects. For the past year the sum of \$1,665.30 was expended for the education of the deaf and dumb; and \$1,406.00 for the education of the blind. The principal of the Pennsylvania institution for the education of the deaf and dumb, recommends that pupils of that character shall not be sent to that institution, until they shall have attained the age of 10 or 11 years, and shall not be withdrawn until they shall have had at least the benefit of six years tuition. If you concur in these opinions, an amendment of the laws on this interesting subject will, of course, be necessary.

The usual report has been received from the superintendent of the National Road. It will be laid before you. It appears, from the report, that the road is in excellent condition, and does credit to the officer having charge of its repairs.

A full and detailed report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of the General Assembly, appointed under resolution No. 8, of December session 1840, has been made to the Governor in compliance with resolution No. 38 of the last session; from which it appears that the duties imposed upon the committee have been diligently and faithfully performed. This report will also be communicated.

The Congress of 1836, for the purpose of establishing an uniform standard of Weights and Measures throughout the United States, directed the secretary of the Treasury to have made and delivered to the Governor of each State in the Union, or such persons as he might appoint, a complete set of all the Weights and Measures; adopted as Standards, and to be used at the several Custom Houses. By resolution No. 54, of December session 1842, the Legislature of this State authorized and directed the Governor to have distributed to each of the several counties, one standard of the several kinds of Weights and Measures to be received from the United States. In compliance with this resolution, John H. Alexander, with whom this commendable, and most desirable measure originated, was appointed by me the Agent of the State, to receive the Standards from the United States, and have copies of them prepared for distribution to the several coun-