

ted States, convened in the city of Philadelphia, on the 6th July, 1852, to consider the propriety of erecting on "Independence Square," a Monument in Commemoration of the Declaration of American Independence; with a request that I would bring the subject to the attention of the Legislature of this State. Nine of the thirteen original States, having already determined to participate in the execution of this design, the object of this memorial is to obtain the co-operation of the entire number before the work is commenced.

The proposed Monument is intended to commemorate, in an enduring and appropriate form, the most important event in American history. I regard the movement as one emanating from elevated and patriotic motives, national in its aims, and entirely worthy of the co-operation of this State. Copies of this Journal, containing the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, the Report of the Committee, developing the plan of the Monument, and all other proceedings relative to this subject, have been sent to the Executive Department, and will be sent to your Honorable Bodies at an early day.

I herewith transmit, as required by the Constitution, a statement of the disbursements from the Executive Contingent Fund, for the last two years.

Thus far I have treated of such matters only, as possess an interest strictly local, and are confined to the limits of our own State. But before bringing this communication to a close, I should consider that I had failed to discharge a public duty, were I not to allude to a new element in the political controversies of the times, which in my opinion has already been productive of more baneful consequences, and has done more, to sever the ties, which should bind together our whole people, as one common brotherhood than any thing which has occurred, since the organization of our Government. I mean the formation and encouragement of secret political societies.

In this country the adoption of the veil of secrecy, as a means of accomplishing any political end, is, without any tenable ground of either justification or excuse. In other lands where despotism may assert its fearful and profligate dominion over mind; where to utter opinions distasteful to the Rulers for the hour, may be to hazard property, liberty or life, secret political combinations, may sometimes be resorted to, as a means of subverting the purposes of tyrants. Such, however, is not the condition of American citizens, nor can it be, so long as we are true to ourselves, and adhere to the faith and teachings of our fathers, and the Constitution, which is the work of their hands.

Here, the Press, that mighty weapon in the hands of a brave and virtuous people, is wholly unfettered. Thought and Speech, enjoy a scope and an immunity, limited only by that degree of personal liability, which, by a jury of his peers, may be visited upon him who ventures maliciously to libel or slander the fair