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Message of Gov. Winston, of Alabama.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.—The continued and violent agitation of the question of slavery by the people of the non-slaveholding States, exhibits a settled purpose on their part, led on by the bigoted fanatic and scheming politicians to permit the enjoyment of no peace in the Union, until aroused by the spirit of free men we will have them to know we have borne with their aggressive until longer submission to wrong and insult is no longer endurable. The assailants of the South have continued their war upon us until the assumed right of interference in our affairs has become with them a religious sentiment. At no period of our history has this question presented a more gloomy aspect. At no time has there been less prospect of a cessation of the hostile policy adopted towards us. Their power in the States and in Congress, is greater and more formidable than ever before; and they seem now actuated by a spirit of mischief. The highest tribunal of a State has shown in its decisions a ready subservience to popular fanaticism; and a State Legislature has violated the spirit of the constitutional compact of the union, in order to prevent the execution of a law made to enforce the requirements of the Constitution. What was once considered the mad efforts of crazy enthusiasts, has now the control of the popular mind at the North, and has become a mighty power, only to be effectually resisted by a united people in the defence of the Constitution and efforts to preserve a continuation of the Federal Union. It is the blindness of political madness to shut our eyes longer to the serious nature of our position on this subject. The time has come when, as a people united in an emergency, rising above all party considerations, we should be prepared to assert and to maintain our constitutional and natural rights no matter from what source the assaults may come, or the consequences which may follow. The nature of man, in its best form, is aggressive—more so in communities and nations. All history teaches us that no people ever maintained their natural or political rights by a course of temporising submission to wrong. Acquiesce in one case but invites another.

The compromises of the Constitution were the first, and should have been the last, the people of the South submitted to. Had the aggressive course of the North been met with firmness at the commencement of this war on our rights, we should long ago have had peace and quiet, which we have been unable to attain by compromises, often at war with the terms of our political compact, and replete with injustice to us. When the calculating selfishness of those agitating, and permitting this agitation, shall find the South agreed and united as to the settlement of this matter, we shall have peace and not mid them. When they are brought to see what they are about to lose—the trade of the South—by which they are the chief beneficiaries of the labor of slaves, the shop-keepers and manufacturers will see the wickedness of their conduct. They now very properly conclude from the course of some Southern men, that we feel as if we would cease to exist without a political connection with, and dependence on, the non-slaveholding States. They have reason to believe that we are prepared for a continuation of the political compact—known as the Union—by a base and shameful acquiescence in whatever wrong they may choose to inflict.

The union of these States is only to be preserved by a faithful observance of the terms of the compact, as agreed upon in the Constitution; and the sooner the aggressor is made to understand such to be our conclusion, the more likely is the Union to last. So long as the Union is calculated to effect the great objects it was established to accomplish, it should be sustained. But when the government, under the control of a reckless majority, ceases to protect, and becomes an instrument of oppression, it will have failed in the purpose of its creation, and will no longer be a proper object of veneration.

As a party to the great political events which seem fast coming to a crisis, we have no power of avoiding the issues presented. We have no escape, unless, by a firm and united course, we show ourselves ready to maintain our rights under any circumstances. We have nothing to hope from the sense of justice in the minds of a great majority of those in power in the free States. The realization of the fact that we had come to the period in the history of our wrongs, when we will dare to assert our political equality in the government at any hazard, might cause them to pause. They might be aware of the delusion under which they lie in supposing the people of the slaveholding State so dependent upon a political connection with them for prosperity or happiness. The slaveholding States, and those inevitably bound to us by locality and interest, cover an extent of country whose geniality of climate, and productiveness of soil, combine to make us a people more independent of other than any other part of the world. Producing all the necessities, many of the luxuries of life, and the great staples that command the commerce of the world, we are as independent, when we shall be driven to independence, of the product or manufactures of those who feel such degradation in the alliance, as if an impassable ocean rolled between us.

With a people brave, intelligent, energetic, and, when aroused, as patriotic as any that have ever lived, I see none of these causes of apprehension and alarm at the contemplation of wrongs long continued, which will inevitably drive us to dissolve the political ties which have heretofore existed between us and our assailants.

Freed from the commercial restrictions by which we have been fettered for the benefit and protection of the capitalists of our assailants, by the operations of federal legislation, both the products and mechanical labor of the South would receive an impulse never yet enjoyed. The Northern States, so much aggrieved by any connection with slavery, would soon, in bankruptcy and ruin, realize the only injury that their madness will have provoked, and in sackcloth and poverty repent too late of the folly and madness which provoked such results. This question is not one of mere policy which you are called upon to meet; it is a question

of existence itself. Necessity knows no law but the law of self preservation, the first law of nature. As such, it commands your most intense attention, which I earnestly recommend it may receive in your deliberations.

For myself, I have long been convinced that the day for compromises and appeals to Northern forbearance had passed and that our safety depended on a stern and more manly course—resolving, as heretofore, to ask for nothing but what is right, and determined to submit to no further wrong.

The Hon. W. Elliot, Commissioner from this State at the World's Fair in Paris has returned to this city. The Paris *American* of the 6th ult., says:

“Mr. Elliot as President of an Agricultural Society and as a practical planter, has been well qualified to represent the leading interest of his State, and his exertions to bring the staple articles of South Carolina to the notice of the Imperial Commission, the International Jury and the public, deserves high commendation.”

“Mr. Elliot, favorably known in Carolina as contributor to the Southern Review” as the author of “Carolina Sports,” and of various pamphlets on agricultural, political and economical subjects, has further added to his reputation by his Address delivered in French before the Imperial and Central Agricultural Society of France, in which, after describing the processes of the cultivation and preparation of Cotton, he points out with great clearness and force the immense advantages which Europe derives from the manufacture and use of this great American staple, and the importance which the Southern group of stars hold in the constellation of the United States. The facts which he brought forward in this address were highly appreciated by the members of that distinguished body and a medal has been unanimously voted to him.

“A perfect knowledge of the French language, pleasing and easy manners, enabled Mr. Elliot to frequent all circles of society; he was able to urge the claims of his fellow citizens, and to collect valuable information for his country.”

“Mr. Elliot filled the honorable situation conferred upon him with great credit, and his colleagues may be justly proud of the manner in which South Carolina has been represented. We wish him a pleasant journey across the Great Ocean, and a safe arrival among his friends; may he never forget the hours spent among his colleagues during the troubles of exciting times of the second World's Fair of 1855.”

THE ENGLAND OF YESTERDAY AND THE ENGLAND OF TO-DAY.—Two years of contact with the heir of Napoleon have sufficed to destroy forever England's prestige, glory, dignity, power and future. Let every Englishman noble and honest hearted who reads these lines the truth of which he can confirm by the throbbings of his heart and the blush upon his brow, let him tell us, with his hand upon his conscience, what will become of his country if this alliance lasts two years longer. Even now if Queen, Parliament, and nation desired peace, their wishes would be fruitless. Yesterday a last reflux of the political influence of England was still bright at Stamboul in the person of Lord R. deffle. To-day there is elsewhere, in Turkey as in the Crimea at Vienna, at Paris, and even at London the Napoleonic eagle clutches in his talons the British leopard (or lion). To-day the Emperor Napoleon III., victorious, and in the sunshine of his glory is silently ripening the fruit of his vengeance on the millennial tree of English power. To-morrow he will shake the tree, the fruit will fall to the ground, and Great Britain, isolated and without allies will regret too late her complaisant madness. But the crime of St. Helena will have been expiated and the battle of Waterloo will receive a compensation. [Le Nord.]

PREPARATION OF POSTAGE TO BE MADE BY STAMPS ONLY.—It will be recollected that by the act of March 3, 1855, requiring the postage on all letters not free sent by mail within the United States, and not from or to a foreign country to be prepaid, it was also enacted that from and after January 1, 1856, “the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.”

We learn that the Postmaster General has decided to require postmasters to comply with and carry into effect, this provision of the law, and if not already done to supply themselves with postage stamps accordingly by sending their order for them to the Third Assistant Postmaster General. Of course, it is not intended nor expected that this regulation shall throw upon postmasters the labor of affixing postage stamps to letters where the writers might, without inconvenience have done it for themselves. The main thing is for postmasters to keep themselves supplied with stamps that all persons having occasion to use may readily obtain them.—*Washington Union.*

MR. JOHN VAN BUREN—\$50 REWARD.—The last seen of this gentleman was on Tuesday night, about 8 1/2 o'clock precisely, when he was observed making his exit from Tammany with the Soft Shell platform sticking out of his pocket. If this should meet the eye of any person who can tell of his whereabouts he would confer a favor by imparting the information to his distressed friends especially that portion composing the 50,000 majority who have been so faithful to his interests. As Mr. Cochrane “does the heavy business,” it is possible he may have him “in his arms” in mistake for the President. Will someone inquire?
New York Democrat.

A STRANGE FISH.—A fish was taken yesterday in the mill pond at Pine Island, which is a stranger to all our fishermen. It is four and a half feet long, about eight inches through and weighs upwards of thirty pounds. He has no teeth, and his scales are about two inches in diameter and of a very beautiful and delicate texture. In general shape and appearance he somewhat resembles a salmon.
Newburyport Herald 30th.

THE SOUND DUES.—The *Journal of Commerce* on this subject furnishes an explanation of what Denmark means by the capitalization of the Sound Dues. It appears that the annual average receipts of Sound Dues of merchandise exclusive of legitimate taxes amount to 1,103,500 rix dollars which capitalized at 5 per cent or twenty years' purchase, would produce 42,070,000 rix dollars or a little less than \$30,000,000, United States currency. Of this sum Russia is expected to pay 20 per cent, or \$8,700,000 Great Britain, the same amount; Prussia, 12 per cent or \$3,000,000; France, 3 per cent or \$900,000; Norway, 1 per cent, or \$300,000; Hamburg and Bremen about \$250,000; the United States about \$250,000, &c. The amount which would have to be paid by the United States is very nearly the same as was actually offered by this Government some time ago, as a gross payment to Denmark, if American vessels might henceforth be permitted to pass into the Baltic free from toll. But the Court of Copenhagen replied to the effect stated in the present circular that such an arrangement could not be carried out without the simultaneous concurrence of all the respective Powers. The formal and positive engagements which exist between Denmark and the other Powers with regard to the Sound Dues, do not allow of any special arrangements on that subject between Denmark and any other Power.” The proposal now made is probably intended to meet the wishes of the United States at the same time that it invites the other Powers to join in an arrangement which it may conceive to be virtually the same as was once proposed by our Government.

A RICH SCENE.—Yesterday Constable Miller went with a search warrant to look for some stolen goods. After some examination they were found in the possession of a bouncing servant girl. The property consisted principally of articles of dress among which was a fine worked collar. This the officer endeavored to get in his hands, but the girl put it in her mouth and “shut down on it.” The constable determined not to be foiled in that way run his finger in the girl's mouth in order to pull out the collar when she opened, and taking his finger between her teeth, crushed it almost to a jelly. The officer not liking that trap, jerked out his finger, and the girl swallowed the collar. This ended the search, as Mr. Miller concluded the collar was then beyond his jurisdiction. Healthy girl that and fond of delicacies.
Terre Haute Express.

DEATH OF JOHN BRYCE, Esq.—Mr. John Bryce, one of our most esteemed and useful fellow citizens departed this life on Saturday night last; we regret to chronicle, and as will be seen on reference to the notice in another column, will be interred in the burial ground attached to the Washington street Methodist Church, this morning, at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Bryce was one of the early settlers of Columbia, where by his hunting industry, probity and unwavering fidelity to business he commanded and received the respect and admiration of the entire community. His Christian liberality was proverbial. Having accumulated an almost princely fortune, unlike the most of men he was found ever ready to assist those who had secured his confidence; and respect and asked his aid. He has done much towards making Columbia what it is and has left behind him a community of friends who will ever cherish his memory.
Carolina Times 28 inst.

OUR RAILROAD.—Well, the long-looked for event has at length transpired—the cars on the Cheraw and Darlington Railroad having reached the Cheraw Depot, from whence the whistle, or rather bugle's blast may be heard by every citizen of the town.

We have no time to speculate upon the ten thousand benefits which the construction of this important road will confer upon the town and surrounding country. These are already showing themselves in the increase of travel, and the despatch of the products of our soil. An event like this, we think, deserves some public demonstration for its commemoration. We know not the exact age of the world, but no such event ever occurred before and perhaps will not soon again.—*Cheraw Gazette.*

THE NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD.—We mentioned some weeks ago, that the citizens of Charleston seem determined to persecute this enterprise to the bitter end—that the grand jury of Charleston had pronounced it a nuisance, and that a mandamus had been issued by the court, ordering the company to show cause, in forty days why it should not be made to tear up a portion of the road. Well, the case has been heard and the court has ordered the road across a frog pond to be torn up. It seems the tadpole business is of more importance to the polly wogs of the salt marshes, than a Railroad. Perhaps they are fond of music, and prefer the squeaking of the frogs to the roaring of the steam engine.—*Id.*

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—We learn by the *Black River Watchman* that Mr. S. R. Nelson, a respectable gentleman of Williamsburg District, and a merchant of the village of Kingstree, was found dead upon the counter in his store on Saturday morning the 10th instant. A plural of laudanum was found by his side, and it is supposed by some that he may have committed suicide, but he is said to have been subject to violent fits of cholera and it is thought by those who knew him best that he had recourse to the laudanum, with the hope of relieving himself of one of these attacks.

We learn from the Kansas correspondent of the *New York Times*, that the pro-slavery party in that territory have petitioned Gov. Shannon to reconvene the legislature in order that steps may be taken without delay to constitute a pro-slavery constitutional convention. The correspondent adds: “It is said the petition will not be granted. The Governor is now laboring to get up for himself a little antislavery reputation. Matters are evidently fast approaching a crisis in Kansas.”

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Nov. 27, 1855.
Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

You have resumed the discharge of your constitutional duties under the most encouraging circumstances. The pecuniary pressure which, at the beginning of the year, bore so heavily upon all classes of society, has happily passed off without its anticipated disasters. Commerce continues to prosper and widen her domain; Agriculture rejoices over full harvests; and Labor of every description feels the stimulus of remunerating prices. The year has been one of unexampled health; and our people, in quiet and security, have successfully devoted themselves to their various vocations. Representing a Commonwealth thus blessed, you will unite with me in offering to the Giver of all Good the homage of grateful hearts, and devoutly supplicating a continuance of His favor.

In the discharge of the duty imposed on me by the Constitution, I shall recommend to your consideration various measures which I think important to the public weal. Your intelligence will enable you to select, and your patriotism will prompt you to adopt, such of them as will advance the interests and promote the general prosperity of our common constituents. The public good especially committed to your keeping, cannot, in my judgment, be more certainly attained than by a steady adherence to the long-settled policy of the State. New enactments and modifications of existing laws are some times required to suit the varying circumstances of our condition; but legislation which seeks to break down the forms and usages to which a people have long been accustomed should not be resorted to except under the exacting pressure of necessity. The people of South Carolina have great reason to rest content with their Constitution as it stands. It is far better that its immaterial defects should be borne than that we should begin the hazardous work of constitutional reform. All of the old States of the confederacy, except our own, have at different times made fundamental changes in their Constitutions. These changes may have served for the moment to pacify the populace; but I have not been able to discover that those for whose especial benefit they were introduced have been distinguished by a higher elevation of sentiment, or been rewarded with greater prosperity than our own people, who still cling with confidence to their old forms, and gather hope for the future from the encouraging recollections of the past. Continue, then by your example and policy, to teach your constituents not to lean on Government, but to rely on their own energies to work out their destiny. A people thus trained will be more jealous of their rights and when assailed will stand up more manfully in their defence, than if their minds are bewildered and their time wasted in fruitless efforts to better their condition by periodical changes in their organic law. The proclivities of the age are to my mind, ominous of any thing but good to the cause of true progress. In certain sections of the country doctrines have been avowed and scenes enacted which, in the better days of the Republic would have consigned their authors to lasting infamy and execration. The advocates of a higher law, sit in high places, fanaticism rules triumphant in the land of Hancock and Otis; and mobs and riots are so common that the misguided masses are fast acquiring a taste for blood. In view of hideous phases which Radicalism has elsewhere assumed, and the bitter fruits of its triumphs, Conservatism may confidently appeal to the patriotism of the reformers of a milder latitude to postpone their labors to a more auspicious period. There is wisdom and safety in the injunction of Holy Writ: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” I commend to you the preservation of our Constitution in all its integrity. It has served us and we owe it to ourselves to transmit it intact to our posterity.

First in order and highest in importance, I invite your especial attention to the financial condition of the State. The right to tax to your constituents—the most responsible and delicate of all your trusts—cannot be wisely exercised without constantly keeping in view the amount of our obligations, and properly estimating the resources with which they are to be met. How far it may be prudent to increase our indebtedness, and in so doing create, at no distant day, a necessity for increased taxation, it will be for you to determine. Our people are patriotic, and I am satisfied would make as heavy sacrifices as any people to preserve inviolate the public faith; but it must be borne in mind that they cultivate exhausted lands, and they will form an exception to the rest of their countrymen, if, with the prospect of onerous taxation before them, they do not emigrate to more favored regions, where, if they have high taxes to pay, they will have rich harvests on which the contribution would be levied.

The following statement exhibits the public debt of the State, as it appears on the books of the Loan Office, on the 30th day September, 1855:

When contracted.	Am. outstanding.	When due.	Rate of int.	Am't of an. int.
Dec. 1731	\$103,674 21	At will of State.	3 per cent	\$3,110 23
1833	26,473 13	January, 1859	5 per cent	1,223 67
1839	1,011 11	January, 1862	6 per cent	60 66
June, 1828	768,219 56	11th of 1860, 70th of 1862	6 per cent	46,023 17
1838	927,777 79	1858 and 1862	5 per cent	46,388 88
Dec. 1852	250,000 00	January, 1871	6 per cent	15,000 00
1854	20,000 00	1875	6 per cent	12,000 00
	2,287,156 23			121,476 61

To the above sum of \$2,287,156.23 must be added \$800,000, the amount of State subscription yet to be called for to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company. This will give us, in principal, \$3,087,156.23, and an annual interest of \$172,476.61. If to this is added the sum of \$1,000,000, the amount of bonds of said Company to be endorsed by the State, bearing seven per cent interest, the entire debt of the State may be set down at \$4,087,156.23, with an annual interest of \$242,476.61. When this sum is increased, as it most probably will be, by another million for the completion of the State Capitol, the whole debt will be \$5,087,156.23, with an annual interest of \$302,476.61.

As the gross profits of the Bank for the last year were only \$273,050.92, it is apparent

that unless these are largely increased for the future, a large portion of this interest must fall on the State Treasury, and be met by an increase of our annual taxes. In view of this exhibit, I think it must be admitted that we have made sufficient progress in the way of getting in to debt to justify at least a temporary pause. You will certainly not offend the tax-paying portion of your constituents by declining to embark in any new projects requiring new loans to any considerable amount.

In enumerating the items of the public debt, I have omitted \$1,051,420.09, the amount of surplus fund deposited by act of Congress, because I have no apprehension that the State will ever be called upon to pay it. The public debt, so far as it respects the payment of the interest, is divided into three classes:

1. That, the interest of which is chargeable upon the Bank. This consists of the 5 and 6 per cents of 1838.
2. That portion of the debt the interest of which is chargeable on the sinking fund. It consists of 3 per cents of 1794, and 5 per cents of 1838, redeemable in 1859.
3. The new debt, the interest on which is payable out of the current funds of the Treasury, viz: the bonds issue to provide for the erection of the new State Capitol. The amount issued is \$250,000, interest \$15,000. The bonds issued to provide for the payment of the State subscription to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, Bonds to the amount of \$200,000 have already been issued the interest on which will be \$12,000. There must be during the ensuing year a further issue of bonds to provide the means for carrying on both these works.

The resources of the State to meet the public debt consist of stock in her various railroad, and the surplus assets of the Bank. The nominal value of these stocks is \$1,542,300; their present value in market is \$771,150.

The surplus means of the State in the Bank, over its liabilities, is \$3,922,320.64.

On reference to the Report of the Comptroller General, it appears that the payments for the year 1855 were \$651,692.93, and the receipts at the Treasury were \$440,142.80.

My predecessor called your attention to the claim of Mr. Anthony Hyde for commissions as agent of the State for claims on account of losses in the Florida war; but on reference to your journals, I find that no action was had on the subject. Shortly after your adjournment, Mr. Hyde urged on me the payment of his claim. Upon examining the papers in my department, I found that the late Governor Seabrook had appointed Mr. Hyde agent of the State, with a stipulation on the face of the power of attorney, that Mr. Hyde was to receive as his compensation five per cent, on all sums collected. Out of the \$1,583 to the credit of the State at the United States Treasury, I have paid him his compensation at the rate of five per cent, and a small charge for copying, in all \$978.45. Mr. Hyde thinks he is entitled to five per cent, more for his services. How much equity there is in his claim you will be enabled to determine by an examination of the papers and correspondence, which are herewith transmitted. The balance, after deducting brokerage, amounting to \$600.50, together with \$17,786.05 previously received, I have deposited with the Treasurer of the Upper Division.

A Report from the Commissioners of the New State Capitol will be found among the documents accompanying this message. In accordance with your instructions, they have changed the site of the building, and modified their plans so as to remedy the defects in their former structure. The walls for the foundation have risen above the surface of the ground and, as more than one hundred and forty laborers are employed on the work, its further progress will be rapid and gratifying. It appears to me, though pretending to no skill in such matters, that the new masonry is very much superior to the old. The large regular hammered stone, arranged in horizontal layers of equal thickness, gives it a solid and substantial appearance, which forbids any fear of a catastrophe such as befel the former structure. The bonds of the State issued for this building have all been disposed of, and of their proceeds only enough remains on hand to meet the wants of the present year. Although the finances of the State demand the strictest economy and the most careful husbandry of our resource, as the Capitol has been begun by your authority and is much needed by the State, I would suggest liberal appropriations for its progress and completion. There is no propriety in protracting the work for six or eight years, when it may be finished in three or four. The longer the time of building this structure, the greater will be the expense to the State, so that true economy will recommend its speedy completion.

The South Carolina College is in a more flourishing condition than it has ever been since its establishment. Its administration is able and faithful, and I am assured that the spirit of study has never been more general, nor the bearing of the students more manly. It is objected by some to institution that its advantages are confined to a particular class, and calculations have been made to show at what cost to the State these advantages have been enjoyed. I respectfully submit that its benefits are not to be estimated by the standard of dollars and cents. If its founders had made it a question of arithmetic, it would never have been established. And if it is to be judged by that standard, then perhaps it may be said to have failed. But if the spread of knowledge and a thirst for its acquisition—if pure morality, manly sentiment, refined taste, and elevated thought,—if these are riches to a people, then has the Institution been a mine of wealth to the State—thus fully justifying the liberal policy which has always sustained it.

It is greatly to be regretted that President Thorthwell's determination to withdraw from his government remains unchanged. I regard his retirement a public loss. He has discharged the arduous trust with unequalled ability and success, and in thus officially noticing his resignation, I feel that I pay but a merited tribute to uncommon worth and rare endowment.

On the 26th of January, that portion of the College buildings known as the East Wing and Centre Building of Rutledge

College, was totally destroyed by fire. The West Wing was saved, but in such a damaged condition as to render its continued occupancy extremely uncomfortable if not positively dangerous. The inconveniences to which the College was subjected by this disaster were so great, and the demand for the reconstruction of the buildings so urgent that, a special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called, in the hope that some scheme might be suggested, by which the buildings could be replaced without waiting for a special appropriation from the Legislature. The evils to be apprehended from delay were numerous and grave. It would have kept the College for two full seasons in a condition altogether unfit for the accommodation of students; applicants would have been deterred from entering, or if they had been disposed to come could not have been received. The students now in attendance would have been crowded together for a year longer, exposed to the temptations to idleness and dissipation which such a state of things naturally engenders. The College at the time of the fire was in a condition of growing prosperity and if it had been allowed to receive a shock, which would have been the case had no interest been manifested in its reparation, the consequences might have been permanently disastrous. The Board was so sensible of those evils, that it resolved to rebuild at once and to pledge as far as it was competent to do so the faith of the Legislature. The case seemed too plain to admit of doubt. The Legislature could not suffer the College to lie in ruins. Besides, there was some apparent claim upon the State. By an Act of 1819 the Comptroller General was required annually to insure the College Buildings against fire. With the exception of two or three years, this Act was regularly executed until 1841, when the Legislature declined making the usual appropriation, on the ground, it was understood, that the State ought to be its own insurer. As then the Legislature had assumed in some sort the responsibility of an insurer, it was hoped that this would be an additional inducement for repairing the losses occasioned by an accidental fire. Confidently anticipating the friendly interposition of the State, the Board appointed a committee to make a contract upon the faith of an appropriation from the present Legislature. But the Committee found it impossible to execute their trust. No mechanic would undertake the work. With the deliberate opinion of such a body as the Board of Trustees before me I did not scruple to regard this as an emergency in which the public interest demanded whatever appropriation could be made from the contingent fund, without prejudice to the customary drafts upon it. The assistance which I was able to render, enabled the Committee to make a contract upon very favorable terms, and the work has been completed within a shorter period than was thought possible. The College appears in renovated beauty, and the tide of its prosperity has had no ebb.

The entire cost of the new building is \$22,502.00. Of this sum I have advanced out of the contingent fund \$15,000 An appropriation of \$7,502 will be necessary to fulfil the obligation of the Board with the contractor, Mr. Cowover, I have paid for ordinary draft on the contingent fund, \$1,020.54. There are certain rewards offered for the apprehension of fugitives from justice, by myself and predecessors which may hereafter constitute a claim on this fund.

The Military Academies are most successfully conducted, and continue steadily to grow in public estimation. Though but of a few years' standing, their fruits are already felt in every district of the State; and under your fostering care, the harvest in time will be rich and abundant. They will be found to be stronger safeguards than forts and fortifications. The indigent young man finds himself thus generously trained by his State for the duties of life, can never forget that he has a State to live for—he will always feel that she has a claim upon him, and, in the hour of her trial, will regard no sacrifice too dear in defence of her institutions. Wise policy dictates that their capacity for good should be enlarged to the extent of our means. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Gen. James Jones, Chairman of the Board of Visitors, for the unselfish devotion with which he watches over and guards their interests. He has just reason to be proud of the success which has crowned his efforts, and the State may congratulate herself that the experiment was entrusted to the guidance of one so highly qualified for the task.

With but a few exceptions, I have reviewed the regiments of the first and fifth military divisions of the State, and the regiments of Charleston and Laurens Districts. I was gratified with the military spirit evinced, and the knowledge of tactics which has been generally acquired. The Adjutant and Inspector General I found at his post, and it affords me pleasure to testify to his zeal and efficiency in the discharge of his duty. It is not necessary that I should urge upon you the importance of keeping up our present militia system. Our peculiar condition, and the dangers to which we are exposed both from within and without, should preclude the thought of abandoning it. It is not desirable, nor is it practicable to make regular soldiers of our citizens; but it is important to teach them at least the rudiments of that science upon which every people must rely for security and defence. The muster field, like the school house, has its lessons. It inculcates the duty of obedience, the virtue of courage, and the sentiment of patriotism—and without these elements, the standard of character can never be high.

The Free School system will receive at your hands that consideration which its importance demands. Its results have fallen so far short of its object that it may be pronounced a failure. Its defects have been long felt, and yet nothing has been done except to double the sum of money to be wasted under a bad system. It requires thorough and entire reformation. It is unfortunate that the end which was evidently contemplated by the act of 1811 has been abandoned and that what was intended to introduce gradually a general system of common schools has been prevented to the exclusive education of paupers. In my judgment we should return to the policy of 1811, and seek

to reorganize the system so that it may be pronounced a failure. Its defects have been long felt, and yet nothing has been done except to double the sum of money to be wasted under a bad system. It requires thorough and entire reformation. It is unfortunate that the end which was evidently contemplated by the act of 1811 has been abandoned and that what was intended to introduce gradually a general system of common schools has been prevented to the exclusive education of paupers. In my judgment we should return to the policy of 1811, and seek

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