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EDITOR.

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Message of Gov. R. K. Scott.

DELIVERED, NOV. 30, 1868.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

In accordance with the requisitions of the Constitution to lay before you information of the condition of the State, and recommend to your consideration such measures as may be deemed necessary or expedient, I shall proceed to perform that duty as briefly as circumstances will permit, postponing to a future opportunity the discussion of all questions not directly connected with the administration of the Government. The interval since your last session has been so brief, and the details connected with the organization of the new branches of public service have occupied so much time and attention, as to leave but little opportunity for the consideration of matters of a more general character, many of which were fully discussed in my message at the special session.

The Act providing for the assessment and taxation of property has received considerable attention, and the organization of the Auditor's Department has progressed as rapidly as circumstances would permit. Great care and caution have been necessary in selecting the officers to whom will be entrusted the execution of the tax law; but it is believed that the appointments made, and to be made, will give efficiency and success to this important department of the Government. I shall lay before you, at the earliest practicable period, the complete assessment of the property of the State, which will afford the necessary basis for taxation.

The estimate of the Auditor of the contingent fund may appear large, but it should be remembered that the Assessor's books, blanks and other forms for the whole State, are to be provided out of this fund, not only for the assessment which is about to be made, but for that which will have to be made previous to the convening of the General Assembly in 1869.

The organization of the Auditor's Department, and the successful completion of the first assessment of property, will involve a large amount of labor and some unusual expenditures, but as the result aimed at is most desirable, I recommend that the Legislature will afford every facility for the accomplishment of the object.

By reference to the report of the Comptroller-General, it will be seen that the entire bonded debt of the State is \$5,407,306.27, consisting as follows:

Three per cent. stock, payable at the pleasure of the State	\$38,836 60
Six per cent. fire loan, payable in 1870	314,453 80
Six per cent. stock new State House	1,775,000 00
Six per cent. stock and bonds funded debt	1,282,971 27
Five per cent. bonds, fire loan	484,444 51
Six per cent. bonds, Blue Ridge Railroad	1,000,000 00
Six per cent. bonds, new State Capitol	511,600 00

Making a grand total of \$5,407,306 27

Interest due on the entire debt July 1, 1868 \$355,204 27 |

Interest due January 1, 1869 159,214 38 |

Total interest \$514,418 70

This is not the interest on a capital debt of \$5,407,306.27, at six per cent.; but the reason is obvious, as a portion of the debt is at three per cent, and another portion at five per cent.

In addition to the foregoing interest paying debt, there is a floating debt of \$150,000, in the shape of bills receivable, authorized by the Legislature, which are available for taxes, and which will all be probably absorbed by application to that purpose during the present quarter, thus giving but little aid to the Treasury in the way of current funds. This is the last quarter of the collection for 1867, under the assessment by the military commander, and it will leave the entire collections for 1868 available for the purposes of the Treasury. They would have been sooner collected, but for the difficulties attendant upon putting the new tax law in operation, the collections under which will commence in January next.

Under the new law, bringing every

class of property on the tax list, at its *bona fide* valuation, including much of what has been heretofore exempted and a still larger amount entered at nominal value, at a moderate estimate, there will be not less than three hundred millions of property as a basis of taxation. This, at a very low per centage, will afford abundant revenue to meet the current expenses of the State, the interest on its funded debt, and a considerable margin for the establishment of a sinking fund.

In this connection, I would recommend that a law be passed providing for the levying and collection of taxes in Counties to meet their local expenditures and the salaries of their officers. This will enable them to make such improvements in the way of roads, bridges and public buildings as the taste and public spirit of the citizens may dictate, without drawing from the public Treasury moneys to defray the expenses of local improvements, in which the citizens of the State at large have no direct interest.

The Comptroller's estimate of expenditures for the current year amount to \$489,708.13, exclusive of interest, \$330,692.98, which includes that on a portion of the debt for the quarter ending October, 1869, making an aggregate of \$820,400.15.

In the report of the Comptroller-General you will notice the items of what is considered as the war debt of the State, aggregating \$2,792,315.86; and of credits due the State from Sheriffs and Tax Collectors, amounting in the aggregate to \$76,664.87, which he recommends may be sunk and dropped from the accounts of the State.

I would suggest that the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House, be associated with the Comptroller in investigating and determining what claims originated from the prosecution of the war.

I recommend to your consideration the propriety of passing a law for the funding of the interest on the State debt up to July 1, 1868, to avoid the necessity of forcing the bonds of the State on the market at a sacrifice. I have every confidence in the ability of the Treasury to meet the future interest upon our debt as it becomes due.

The following is a list of the assets of the State on the 31st day of October, 1868:	
Shares in North-eastern Railroad Company	\$120,000 00
Shares in Spartanburg and Union Railroad Company	250,000 00
Shares in Pendleton Railroad Company	42,500 00
Shares in Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company	433,960 00
Shares in Blue Ridge Railroad Company	1,319,000 00
Shares in Columbia and Hamburg Railroad Company	42,200 00
Shares in Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad Company	200,000 00
Shares in Laurens and Road Company	50,000 00
Shares in South Carolina Railroad Company	24,000 00
Shares in Charleston and Savannah Railroad Company	270,000 00
Shares in South-western Railroad Bank	6,000 00
Shares in Keowee and Tuckasegee Turnpike Company	6,000 00

The report of the Treasurer to this Department, and herewith transmitted, shows the operations of the Treasury from the 1st of May to 31st of October, 1868, making the amount on hand at the former period and the aggregate of subsequent receipts \$435,373.83, and the expenditures \$409,089.76, leaving a balance of \$26,285 07 on hand at the making up of the report.

I would also ask your attention to the accompanying letter from the Treasurer, indicating a want of clerical force in his office, by which its business is retarded and the settlement of accounts delayed.

I recommend to the Legislature that some early action be taken to prevent the Courts and officers of the Bank of the State from wasting and misapplying its assets to the payment of costs of Court, attorney's fees, and the salaries of officers and agents. If the holders of the Fire Loan Bonds are determined to pursue the policy of dispensing the credit and resources of the State, when it must be apparent to them that no State in the Union is more solvent, or has a fairer prospect of promptly meeting all her liabilities, they should be compelled to carry on this litigation at their own expense. I have reason to believe that not less than sixty thousand dollars in gold has been squandered and made away with for the salaries of officers and agents who are performing no necessary duties, and of attorneys who are employed for the purpose of bringing the credit of the State into

disrepute, and for other objects of equally questionable propriety. The holders of the Fire Loan Bond should be placed on the same footing as other creditors of the State, and they should be held accountable for all damages the State has sustained or may sustain, by their unwarrantable litigation.

I respectfully refer you to the accompanying report of the Superintendent of Education, for the progress made in executing the Act to provide for the temporary organization of the Educational Department of the State. Much of the difficulty attendant upon initiating the system has been overcome, and I have reason to expect that, during the session, I will be enabled to transmit your information such statistics as will afford a basis for future legislation.

The subject of Magistrates' Courts was treated at some length in my former message to the General Assembly. I would again earnestly call your attention to this important matter. No discrimination has heretofore been made between grand and petit larceny, nor has any precise limit been fixed for the guidance of Courts in such cases. A wide latitude has accordingly been given to the discretion of Magistrates and Judges, and in consequence our jails are crowded with petty offenders, at an enormous expense to the State. Indeed, it has been the heaviest item of charge upon the Treasury. I would respectfully suggest that a bill be given to Magistrates in all cases of petit larceny and simple assault and battery, and misdemeanors of similar grade; giving, however, the accused parties the right of appeal. Also, I would recommend the establishment of a fair and reasonable fee bill, as reports have reached this office of unreasonable and unjustifiable exactions of Magistrates and Constables, from the poor and ignorant, in cases where by a little effort, the matters in dispute could have been amicably arranged. Cases have also been brought to my attention in which it is alleged that prosecutions have been instituted for malicious purposes, and Executive interference invoked as a remedy for injustice. If this loose and profligate administration of law is not checked, and the offender held to strict accountability, the courts of justice, instead of being a shield and a protection, may become an engine of oppression and wrong to the people.

I transmit for your consideration the report of the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum for the year ending November 7, 1868, covering the reports of Dr. J. W. Parker, the Superintendent and Physician, and of John Waites, Esq., the Treasurer of the Institution. The report of the Superintendent shows that at the commencement of the year, the number of patients was 187; and that there were received during the year 82 making a total of 269; of this number 11 have died, 2 have been removed, 2 eloped, and 50 have been discharged cured—total 65; leaving in the Asylum at present 204 patients; of which 107 are males, and 97 females. Paying patients, 52; paupers, 152. The report and accompanying tables exhibit a very favorable condition of affairs; showing that 61 per cent. of those admitted have been cured, while only 4 per cent. of those under treatment have died. Among those received were 25 colored persons, who were, with few exceptions, in great destitution—three of them exhausted from disease and want of attention. Four of their number died, 1 eloped, and 13 were sent home cured; 1, however, relapsed, and of his own accord returned to the Asylum.

For more than twenty years, colored persons have been admitted to the benefits of the Institution, and have enjoyed the advantages afforded, and such as facilitated their cure and contributed to their comfort, as is now the case.

The Asylum for the education of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind was re-organized in November, 1866, at the Cedar Springs Asylum, Spartanburg County, and was operated very successfully until the close of the fiscal year on the 1st of October, 1867. The appropriation being then exhausted, the further exercises of the Institution were suspended, and the pupils sent to their respective homes. The location is an admirable one, the buildings large and commodious, and to avoid their going to decay, I concur in the recommendation heretofore made, that authority should be granted to rent or lease the buildings, so that he may avail himself of any opportunity that may present itself of securing a tenant, who will protect the premises and keep them in necessary repair until the finances of the State shall justify the re-organization of the Institution.

The condition and affairs of the Penitentiary are now undergoing investigation, and when the gentlemen conducting it have submitted their report, I will take an early opportunity of transmitting it for your information.

The report of the Faculty of the University of South Carolina has been transmitted to the Trustees of the Institution, now in session in this city. Inasmuch as they have referred it to a select committee for examination, and

as there are several questions of importance to the future welfare and prosperity of the Institution likely to be brought under discussion, I have deemed it advisable to await the action of the Trustees, when I shall make it the subject of a special communication.

In obedience to the joint resolution of the Legislature, requesting the Executive to take such action as may be necessary for garrisoning the important towns in the State, I entered into correspondence with the commanding General of the Military Department, which resulted in stationing detachments of Federal troops at various points where disturbances were apprehended. My thanks are due to Brigadier-General Bamford, commanding the District, for his prompt attention to my suggestions, and his disposition to cooperate with the civil authorities to the full extent of his power in the preservation of the peace.

The railroads whose bonds are guaranteed or endorsed by the State, have been furnished with a copy of the concurrent resolution notifying them that unless provisions are made by them to pay interest due and past due by November next, legal proceedings will be instituted against them. No answer has as yet been received from either of them, except the accompanying letter from the President of the Greenville Railroad Company, giving a very satisfactory account of the prospects and condition of the road.

The following is a list of the State from endorsements of railroad bonds is as follows:

South Carolina Railroad bonds, payable in 1868, secured by first mortgage	\$2,093,312 40
Charleston and Savannah Railroad bonds, payable in March, 1877, secured by first mortgage	505,000 00
North-eastern Railroad bonds, payable March 1, 1869, secured by first mortgage	92,000 00
Laurens Railroad bonds, payable in 1879, secured by first mortgage	75,000 00
Charleston and Union Railroad bonds, payable in 1878 and 1879, secured by first mortgage	350,000 00
Greenville and Columbia Railroad bonds, payable in 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1886	945,471 21

Of the endorsements upon the Greenville and Columbia Railroad bonds, \$700,000 is under the Act of 1861, and \$203,848.89 is under the authority of the Act of 1866, passed for the purpose of enabling the Company to pay the interest past due and to fall due prior to the first January, 1868, upon coupons, and upon the mortgaged and guaranteed bonds. This guarantee is upon certificates of indebtedness. The sum of \$41,622.38 is upon the outstanding debt of the company, in which there is no lien, the company surrendered three dollars of demand for one dollar of bonds.

I enclose a communication from Dr. R. Leboy, Health Officer of Charleston, in reference to the establishment of a quarantine station for that port, to which I respectfully ask your attention.

I would respectfully call your attention to the remarks in my last message in reference to the organization of the militia, and renew my recommendations on the subject. The Adjutant-General's office cannot be organized until some action is taken by the Legislature.

I would respectfully recommend as worthy of your consideration, the propriety of devoting the magnificent donation of the Federal Government to the establishment of an educational institution in Charleston, for instruction in agriculture, mechanic arts, and the higher branches of scientific and classical studies. The buildings and grounds connected with the Citadel Academy are admirably adapted to the purpose.

It has been suggested that there will be some difficulty in disposing of the business before the Courts of Equity previous to the first of January next. I simply submit the subject for your consideration, as I have not sufficient information to justify me in offering any recommendation.

Herewith is transmitted a statement of the pardons granted since my accession to office, and the reasons therefor. In all cases, I have decided in accordance with my convictions of the merit of the application. Many of the sentences which were mitigated or pardoned, were the penalties inflicted under a former code, and I have felt at liberty in many of the cases to take that fact into consideration.

It is my painful duty to bring to your notice a condition of affairs in certain portions of the State, which imperatively demands your gravest consideration. Violations of law, and outrage upon persons and property, have been perpetrated by vicious and un-

principled men, with a recklessness and ferocity which, while they have brought affliction and anguish to the bosoms of bereaved families and friends, have cast a shadow upon the fair fame of the Commonwealth, mortifying and painful to all who are jealous of her reputation, and which will require of you the prompt adoption of the most efficient measures for its ample vindication.

Hon. James Martin, a Representative in the General Assembly from the County of Abbeville, was murdered on the 5th day of October last. He was on his way homeward from the Court House, and was pursued by a gang of ruffians, by whom he was assassinated in the public highway. Mr. Martin was an intelligent and patriotic citizen, singularly ineffective in language and demeanor, and all the circumstances connected with this outrage, mark it as a cold-blooded assassination.

Hon. B. F. Randolph, a Senator from Orangeburg County was assassinated at Hodges Station, near Cokesbury, Abbeville County, on the 16th of October. Mr. Randolph was on his way to address a meeting of his fellow citizens, and upon the stopping of the train, while on the platform of the car, was assassinated by three ruffians, who had evidently been lying in wait for the purpose; and notwithstanding there were a number of persons present, including those connected with the train, the assassins were permitted to leisurely mount their horses and escape.

Large rewards have been offered for the apprehension of these murderers, some of whom are known to be refugees and outlaws from adjoining States, who availed themselves of the political excitement as a cloak for their schemes of rapine and murder; but such is the condition of society in their immediate neighborhoods, that neither the promised rewards nor the strenuous efforts of civil officers, have accomplished their arrest. They are fully armed and mounted, and boast of the extent and power of their organization. And a somewhat prominent individual, who in himself under heavy bonds to answer the charge of complicity in the murder of the lamented Randolph, has had the hardihood to publish an address to the Executive, threatening still further discouraging evidence of the utter demoralization of journalistic morals, it may be mentioned that this covert threat of assassination has been published and republished without a word of censure or dissent.

The turbulent condition of affairs in the localities to which I have called your attention, cannot and must not be longer tolerated. A Government unable to enforce its laws and protect its citizens, is a mockery and a sham, meriting the scorn and contempt of its opponents, and unworthy the confidence and support of its friends. It cannot administer justice through its courts, or collect its revenue by taxation. A remedy for these evils, which strike at the very foundation of the State, should be promptly applied. The law must be made supreme. The most arrogant must be taught to obey its behests; the humblest assured of its protection.

The general elections having passed, and the political issues involved, which so fiercely agitated the country, having been determined for a considerable period, it is devoutly to be hoped that the community may be indulged in a much needed respite from the passions and excitements to which it has so long been subjected, and that our people may be enabled to turn their attention to the development and improvement of their material resources, which have been so badly impaired and neglected. It gives me much pleasure to state that assurances have been received, both previous and subsequent to the election, from many of the most prominent men of the State, heretofore in active opposition to the Government, of their regret at the occurrence of these outrages, and their detestation for their authors, as well as of their determination to yield a willing obedience to the Constitution and laws, relying upon the peaceful exercise of their rights at the ballot box to remedy whatever they may deem objectionable in them. This determination has exerted, and cannot but continue to exert, a favorable influence upon the prosperity of the State—tranquillizing its people, stimulating its

industry, and giving character and credit to its enterprises. Recognizing with pleasure these evidences of returning good feeling, and wishing to reciprocate every indication of an approach to friendly relations, I would reiterate the recommendations of my last message, in favor of a liberal policy on the part of the Legislature in reference to the removal of political disabilities.

While upon the subject of our past differences, I would take occasion to express the hope that national politics will occupy hereafter a much less prominent position in the affairs of the State and in the minds of the people than heretofore. Political issues having been determined for years to come, at least, there is but little propriety in keeping up political agitation. And especially do I regard secret political organizations detrimental to the community, if not entirely out of place in a free Government. With every facility and advantage of free discussion, carried frequently to the very extreme of license, the shrieking from the light of day to meet in mid-night conveniences, would seem discredit to a people proud of their intellectual energy. An armed organization, styling themselves the Ku Klux Klan, uniformed and masked, by their secret meetings and mid-night atrocities upon peaceable and unoffending citizens, and obstructing the laws, have inaugurated a reign of terror in many neighborhoods. Imitations of the secret societies of Europe during the middle ages, they are withdrawing their power and their vengeance were directed against the turbulent nobles and barons, who defied the laws and oppressed the people. Their object was the attainment of justice, not the acquisition of political power. Their victims were not the law-abiding and the lowly, but the bold, bad men who trampled on right and outraged humanity. Their symbols were the dagger and the coil, fit emblems of their terrible authority and their mode of exercising it. But even in those days of rapine and murder, the responsibility of this dangerous power was deemed so questionable and hazardous, as to lead to its suppression.

The existence or formation of secret political societies is greatly to be deprecated. They are a source of irritation and distrust and centres of irritation and excitement. Secrecy is but too frequently the covert for crime, and irresponsibility an incentive to its perpetration. Organizations will beget counter organizations and dissensions and disturbances will be fomented and perpetuated to the interruption of the peace and prosperity of the neighborhood. I trust that every well wisher of peace and progress will discontinue the further continuation of these secret political cliques.

Trusting in the beneficent protection of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, and who has vouchsafed us such abundant evidences of His loving and merciful operations and proceedings, and to this end that they may be guided and governed by that wisdom, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

R. K. SCOTT, Governor.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL.—Rev. Dr. McCosh, the new English President of Princeton College, in a speech which he made last week before the National Christian Association, said that an ecumenical Council of Christians (meaning orthodox Protestants) Churches here, in England, France and throughout the continent, would be held in the City of New York during the autumn of next year. The object of the meeting would be to produce harmony and good feeling among the denominations of professing Christians everywhere. Discussions were to be held upon the great leading topics which are now agitating or may then agitate the religious world. It is not to be confined exclusively to the clergy; although some of the greatest eloquent names in christianity would be included in the roll of guests. Lord Shaftesbury had promised to be present, declaring that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to meet so many excellent persons in so good a cause. Various authors and journalists of European fame had also been invited and were expected to attend.

GENERAL O. O. HOWARD has issued his order providing for the discontinuance of the Freedman's Bureau after January 1, with the exception of the educational department and the collection of money due soldiers. The military officers will be relieved and the civilians will be discharged, with the exception of from six to ten officers and clerks in each State, who will be retained to conduct the residue of business. The following officers will be allowed in this State: Assistant commissioner and chief superintendent of schools; one disbursing officer for educational department and payment of claims; two agents for payment of bounties; two assistant superintendents of schools; three clerks.

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