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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN: You are assembled under circumstances, in many respects, peculiarly favorable to considerate and sound legislation. The year which is closing has been distinguished by a very remarkable degree for the general health of our citizens. From the pestilence which has consigned to the tomb so many thousands of the people of other parts of our common country, S. Carolina has been entirely exempt. Even to those sections of the State in which malarial diseases in summer not unfrequently occur, Providence has extended the arm of mercy. For this signal blessing, so widely diffused, may we hope that a deep and abiding impression of gratitude to the Giver of all Good has already been made on the public mind.

While the earth has yielded an abundant increase, our mechanic arts have been multiplied and extended; the boundary of science and learning has been enlarged; the credit of the State is unshaken, and the spirit of the people, long depressed from various causes, is again buoyant, and would quickly be excited to its utmost energy, if every cause of discontent from external sources were permanently removed.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.

I herewith transmit certain resolutions of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Missouri, on the restriction of slavery in the territories of the United States. The opinion of South Carolina on the grave matter at issue has been so repeatedly expressed, that, at its last session, the Legislature unanimously declared that the time for discussion by the slaveholding States had passed, and that the General Assembly, representing the feelings of the State, was prepared to co-operate with her sister States in resisting the application of the principles of the Wilmot Proviso to the territory acquired from Mexico, at any and every hazard. At a convention also of delegates of the committees of safety, held at this place in May, it was among other things resolved that, in the event of the passage of the Wilmot Proviso, or any equivalent measure, the Governor be requested to convene the Legislature, if not in session, "to consider the mode and measure of redress."

Concurring in the belief of the utter futility of further argument, I shall not attempt to demonstrate the false position occupied by our antagonists, and the danger to the Union and themselves, by their ingloriously persisting in maintaining it. The enactment of any one of the contemplated measures of hostility would probably, if not certainly, result in severing the political ties that now unite us, but which, in such an event, would no longer serve the elevated purposes for which they were designed.

Already it is known that the Legislatures of Virginia, Mississippi and South Carolina, the former by authority of law, and the latter in obedience to the wish of their constituents, will convene as soon as it shall be officially announced that sinister counsels have prevailed in the legislation of Congress. To what specific mode of action the agricultural States will resort, to arrest the career of Federal marauds, time alone will develop. To provide that it shall be such as the outraged rights of freemen and sovereign communities demand, the honor of those communities is irrevocably pledged. Nor may I conjecture be indulged concerning the course of coterminous States, having with them a community of interest, of affection, and of fears. The same feeling, only to a greater extent, that would arouse the slumbering energies of the whole Union to crush foreign intermeddling with the internal regulations of the nation, would call forth unanimity in the South, to repel a wanton attack on their domestic peace and security. Our associates need not be reminded then that the success of an attempt, from whatever quarter, to disfranchise any portion of the citizens of this great partnership of equal sovereignties, and arbitrarily to control the authorities created by them, may properly be classed among the political impossibilities of the day.

If the States were, in all respects, independent powers, the aggressions of the North, continued and multiplied in despite of fraternal appeals to their justice, magnanimity, and enlightened patriotism, would long since have made them practically acquainted with war and its attendant horrors. Why is it, that the strongest legal safeguards against encroachments on the rights of foreign nations, have been so carefully provided by the Federal Government, with the assent of every party in power—whilst to overthrow the constitutional barriers, erected by a common ancestry, "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," the moral influence of that very government, under the stress of sectional and geographical combinations, is unceasingly and insultingly exerted? The true answer exhibits a melancholy view of human nature, and enforces the necessity for providing other restraints than those of parchment bonds to confine the central power and its lawless abettors within their prescribed limits.

In this harassing controversy, reliance on the judgment and patriotism of the reflecting portion of our Northern brethren, it is unnecessary to disguise, is rapidly disappearing. The question, long mooted is of fearful import to both sections. Consolidation is more to be dreaded than separation. Many of the acts of the State assemblies, and the attempted and contemplated legislation of Congress against the slaveholding community, are destined, if successful, to engrave a principle, "non our political institutions, fraught with immense danger to every member of the Republic—to the North more than to the South; to both, however, in prostrating the safeguards of all rights, personal, social and political; but to the former especially, in arraying labor against capital.

If masters, in violation of the Federal Constitution and laws, may be prevented from recovering their fugitive or stolen slaves, if the transfer of persons and property, except under degrading restrictions, be denied them, what protection for their rights will remain, when the Northern States, by territorial aggrandizement, unwarrantably acquired, shall have secured an undisputed ascendancy in the councils of the nation. To force on such a result is now obviously the aim of the enemy, and the non-extension of slavery furnishes a plausible plea to cover their real design. If the plantation States did not possess one slave, the records of the State and Federal Governments would exhibit substantially the same reckless determination to control and regulate Southern property; to act arbitrarily the proceeds of the labor of

people at large. Their mental welfare is worthy of the highest public munificence. How may this be more profitably bestowed, under the disadvantages incident to a sparse population is a question not easy of solution. Among the manifold errors of our present system, is the employment of incompetent teachers. The success of a school depends principally on the character and capacity of the preceptor. Teaching is not only a profession but a science. While of all pursuits, none is more honorable, its responsibilities and the momentous consequences the present and future generations, inseparable from the administration of its functions renders the improvement of the instructor's occupation, as far as that object is attainable by legislation, a primary duty of the sovereign authority. By constituting the business of instruction a separate profession, the two-fold end is accomplished of securing its elevation, and enlarging and consolidating the influence of the schools upon the community. The purpose of early education is not the acquisition of mere knowledge, but the practical development and strengthening of the mind. Hence the necessity that the master should be well acquainted with the temper and disposition of his scholars, and the philosophy of teaching.

Although, perhaps, all other pursuits into which society is divided are well furnished with competent followers, the most important—that of ascertaining and disclosing the intellectual resources of its members—is but meagrely provided. This arises in part from the want of demand for the fittest men, who again, are deterred from embarking in a cause unsupported by the popular will and the popular sympathy. An adequate supply of instructors for the masses, able, faithful, and irreproachable in character, is urgently required; and these should be invited into the pursuit by rewards fully adequate to the importance of the services rendered. The necessity of such a policy in this country, all other reasons apart, arises from the consideration, that our children ought to be not only active members of a civilized community, but efficient citizens of a free government. To meet these requirements, I recommend the organization of a separate department in the college for the special purpose of qualifying a limited number of young men, graduates of the State and Charleston colleges, drawn according to some equitable rule from different sections of South Carolina, for the occupation of teaching. Another mode of effecting this design, would be the pledge of an annual appropriation for a few years to the first three or four incorporated academies, located in the low, middle, and upcountry, founded and successfully conducted for the instruction of teachers; or a similar promise to any of the existing schools of celebrity, that would provide for and practically execute a course of tuition in the attainment of that object.

The expediency of providing for a superintendent of free schools has repeatedly been the subject of Executive recommendation. Such an officer appears to be needed, mainly with a view to dissipate existing errors, and perhaps to reconcile conflicting opinions. I recommend that a suitable individual be selected to ascertain, by personal observation, the discipline and regulations of the schools; the mode of instruction; the books taught; the capacity and general fitness of the teachers; whether the sums respectively received by the districts and parishes are adequate to their wants, and the regular supply of qualified instructors; in fine, to see and report the practical operation of the present system, and to suggest small improvements as he might deem valuable. In this way, more light, it is probable, will be shed on the subject in two years—the time to which the agent should be limited—than the reports of the commissioners have furnished since the organization of the scheme for popular instruction.

As strictly germane to the matter under consideration, I am constrained to state, that suitable elementary works are greatly wanted. If a few of the books in common use tend to corrupt the taste of youth, others show the utter unacquaintance of their authors with the philosophy of the mind; moreover, these productions are generally unadapted to southern pupils. There are many in which the poison of fanaticism in some form is certain to be found. Hatred to our domestic institutions, directly or indirectly expressed, is by this means attempted to be engrained on the tender and flexible mind. For the attainment of proper elementary books, of which the Faculty of the college shall approve, the Legislature might offer a liberal reward. The public money could not be more judiciously expended.

DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL. In company with T. N. Dawkins, one of the commissioners, I visited, in July, a school for the deaf and dumb, at Cedar Springs, Spartanburg, under the superintendence of N. P. Walker. At that time, the number of pupils was eight—five males and three females—of whom seven were beneficiaries, and one pay scholar. Although the institution was not opened until the 22d of January last, the remarkable proficiency of its scholars assured us of the capacity, skill, and assiduity of the principal. We accordingly resolved publicly to recommend to the parents and guardians of mute children Mr. Walker's school, as well entitled to their patronage and confidence.

The location at Cedar Spring has long been distinguished for a salubrious atmosphere, and salutary properties of its water. To these advantages—as soon as the work shops, in the progress of erection, shall have been completed—is to be added the means of instruction in some useful trade, by which the male pupils will have the opportunity of profiting.

Unpossessed as we are of accurate data in relation to the number of mutes in the State, there yet seems to be good reason to believe that fifty or sixty may exist. Forty pupils can now be accommodated with board and lodging by Mr. Walker. As the speedy enlargement of the school will require additional teachers, it may be gratifying to know that the services of one or more of that useful class are obtainable in this or a sister State.

In Hartford, Connecticut, there are seven mutes from South Carolina. Every year the number will be diminished; perhaps, in 1852, not one will remain out of the State. As the fund to the credit of the deaf and dumb is large, no further appropriation by the Legislature is required.

At present, the blind are without the benefit of education in our State. A hope, however, is indulged, that this reflection on this humanity will shortly be removed.

FREE SCHOOLS. In my Inaugural Address, I directed your attention to the cause of education and learning. Among the various schemes which have been suggested for its melioration and advancement, not one is free from difficulty and embarrassment. To the South Carolina College you have extended a generous patronage and parental guardianship. The amount of intellectual power and moral energy emanating from that source, which has been so signally developed in the councils of the nation and state, constitute the highest evidence of the wisdom of its establishment. The preservation of this noble institution, in all its vigor and commanding influence, ought not however, so entirely to absorb attention as to control the duty you owe to the

CITADEL AND ARSENAL ACADEMIES. I strongly recommend these schools, with respect to the efficiency of their discipline and modes of instruction, merit the epithet of Normal, to your fostering care and protection. The best commentary on their value is the fact that the graduates, without an exception, are now engaged in honorable pursuits and in spreading over the State and elsewhere the intellectual treasures gathered at these institutions. So deep in my mind is the conviction of their usefulness and immeasurable superiority over free schools in all that relates to moral, mental and physical culture, that, independent of grave reasons of public policy, I am induced to recommend the establishment of another Military Academy, to be located in one of the upper districts; also, that the accommodation for quartering the arsenal cadets be doubled, or by additions made sufficient for sixty-four young men.

To increase the utility of the Academies, elevate the moral standing of the cadets, and render more certain the prospects of their future efficiency, I submit the following proposals to your favorable notice: 1. That the Governor of the State, and the Board of Visitors and Faculty, be authorized to confer the degree of graduate of the institution upon such cadets as may be found qualified to receive it. 2. That, in future, every beneficiary cadet shall be required to serve in the capacity of a teacher for two years after graduation, unless excused by the Board of Visitors. 3. That the number of the Board of Visitors, to be appointed biennially by the Governor, be increased to nine, and that these be selected from different pursuits, and not confined exclusively to the military profession.

In conclusion of what has suggested itself on this subject, I would state that the number of students in the Arsenal Academy is twenty-one, of whom twenty are beneficiaries; the number in the Citadel Academy has averaged sixty-five, in the proportion of forty beneficiaries to twenty-five pay cadets. By the additional rooms which the new story to the Citadel building has provided, one hundred and thirty cadets may be accommodated.

BANK OF THE STATE. This institution was chartered in 1812. To the pecuniary pressure of the times, induced by the restrictive policy of the Federal Government, it owes its existence. The distress of the planting community was so general and paralyzing, that the Legislature, after investigating every mode of relief, ultimately adopted the scheme of a system of public loans, in the nature of a discount, on real or personal property. The accommodation furnished on mortgage to individuals, limited at first to \$2000 each, but by the act of '25, increased to \$10,000 the 7th section of the original law prescribed should be distributed in proportionate amounts among the election districts. This proviso, I believe, has never been carried into effect.— Its execution, if required at the time, was soon rendered unnecessary, as it is well known, that our agricultural population recovered from the consequences of the sudden revulsion in their condition, at an early period subsequent to the war.

In 1820, the capital of the Bank was pledged for the redemption of the public debt. This was done to meet the expenses consequent on the establishment of a system of internal improvement, then commenced by the State. The immediate effect was to convert the Bank, for many years practically only a loan office, into an institution to be conducted on purely commercial principles. By the usual accommodations on bonds, it incurred embarrassments and hazards, and the operation was too slow to attain the end, which, by a virtual modification of the principal, in no exclusive, design of the original act, it was henceforth to fulfil.

In 1843, it was deemed "expedient and beneficial, both to the citizens and the State, to re-charter the Bank." It now becomes the solemn duty of the Legislature to inquire whether its existence shall be prolonged beyond the year '56, to which by law it is limited. On this subject a great diversity of opinion has for many years existed. The public mind seems at length to have been brought to the conclusion that the Bank has not accomplished the high purposes for which it was created; that it is a dangerous institution, anti-republican in its character and tendency; and that the evils inevitably arising from the connection between a moneyed corporation and the State, increase and ramify, the longer the rights and privileges of the former are extended. The resolutions of your last session, adopted by very decided majorities, and the apparent acquiescence of the people in the decision of their rulers would seem to have definitely settled the question of a re-charter, and that necessarily all minor and collateral issues have been absorbed by it.

The political history of South Carolina has too long presented the anomalous spectacle of its constituted authorities pertinaciously upholding a State corporation, while it denounced any union between a Bank and the Federal Government. To me it is obvious that, except the unconstitutionality of a United States Bank and its possession of a wider field of operation, every argument which might be wielded against it would fall with equal, if not greater force, against a State Bank. From experience, moreover, we learn that the establishment of such an institution, possessing the right of substituting a fictitious currency for determining the value of the products of labor, is not easily divested of its established authority. By the influence it insensibly acquires, it measurably perpetuates its own existence. The fatal blow to the Federal Bank was given by the Executive in the exercise of an unwarrantable power. I invoke the Legislature then to profit by the admonitions which the past has written on the Legislative history of our country. I also desire, in this place, to express my settled conviction, that the Bank of the State was founded on a false and pernicious principle; that to grant to the members of a community almost exclusively devoted to rural pursuits unusual facilities for commanding money, is to inflict upon them and their posterity an unmitigated evil, that the more numerous and difficult the obstacles in the way of receiving Bank accommodations by that class the greater their contentment, and the more certain the success in their vocation. Whenever the agriculturist substitutes speculation for the results of industry, his prospects may seem brilliant for a season, but the day of darkness and disaster will inevitably follow.

In submitting a plan for winding up the Bank, I scarcely need assure you that in suggesting the necessity for your action upon it, I have been influenced solely by a high sense of official duty.

It is proper I should inform you, that Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., of London, have addressed to me a communication substantially protesting against closing the Bank, on the ground that that institution was voluntarily offered by the State as one of the securities for the loan negotiated by them. I will only here remark, that it is not proposed to destroy the Bank, but to deprive it of its banking powers. It will continue as a corporation until 1860—four years beyond the period to which its duration extends by the existing law. At that time only \$488,888 88 of the foreign, and \$398,819 50 of the domestic debt will be due, while the assets of the Bank will amount to about two and a half millions. But, in truth, the foreign debt will then have been paid, if the plan of hypothecating securities, or emitting new bonds should the ordinary means fail, be resorted to. In order to secure that result, the directors should be invested with full powers. By this expedient, the argument of violated faith will have no ground on which to rest. The State will have discharged its obligations in full, and that, too, before the period specified in the contracts. In the meanwhile, let the assets of the Bank, not required for the redemption of the liabilities of that institution, be solemnly set apart for the liquidation of the public.

PUBLIC DEBT. The following is the detailed statement of the debt of the State:

Rate of interest and date of loan.	Payable in.
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