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MESSAGE OF GOV. HICKS
TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.
JANUARY SESSION, 1862.

Gentlemen of the Senate
and of the House of Delegates:

The earnest devotion to the best interests of our State which has been evidenced by you during the recent special session of your Honorable bodies renders it almost unnecessary for me to make to you the usual formal communication at the opening of your regular session.

Your prompt assumption of your proportion of the National Tax is, of itself, a sufficient guarantee that the other subjects which must engage your attention will speedily be elaborated and put in practicable shape. Necessarily, the intricate nature and numerous and delicate details of those subjects will require considerable time for their consideration and perfection. That they will be thoroughly examined in all their aspects, and that they will not be carelessly acted upon by you, I have abundant evidence from what I know of the labor already bestowed upon them by your committees.

Such care, such patient labor, are indispensable at this time. For the credit and honor of our State, we all sincerely hope that no mistake may be made; but that every act of your honorable bodies may be as full and as perfect as possible. To this consummation I earnestly commend you.

The condition of the finances of the State at the close of the fiscal year has, I understand, been fully made known to you by the Comptroller of the Treasury Department.

From the report of that officer to this Department, for the fiscal year ended 30th September, 1860, herewith submitted, it appears that the receipts into the Treasury were one million forty-eight thousand three hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty-seven cents ($1,048,339 67); which, added to the balance in the Treasury as of 30th September, 1859, shows the aggregate for the year to have been one million five hundred and sixty one thousand six hundred and thirty dollars and eighty-three cents ($1,561,630 83.)

The disbursements during the same period amounted to the sum of one million three hundred and six thousand and forty-three dollars and eight cents ($1,306,-043 08); exceeding the revenue which accrued and was received during the same period by the large sum of four hundred and eleven thousand two hundred and thirty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents ($411,231.88.) This fact owes its existence solely to the reckless and prodigal expenditures of the Legislature of 1860.

I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of the Interior in reference to the new apportionment of members of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States. From it you will perceive that the number of Representatives from this State has been reduced to five; and that, therefore, it will be your duty to divide the State into the requisite number of Congressional Districts. I transmit, also, a statement from the same Department in regard to the population of our State, which will be found of value in the labor of forming the new districts.

I herewith transmit a copy of the Joint Resolution of Congress to amend the Constitution of the United States, approved March 2, 1861. I submitted the same to the Legislature at its special session in Frederick City; and I believe it received action in one branch thereof. But it was never finally acted upon, and I deem it my duty to transmit it to you, and to urge the propriety of giving it your prompt attention.

The reports of the Commissioner on the part of Maryland to ascertain and define the southeastern and northwestern boundaries between Maryland and Virginia are herewith submitted. I am informed by the Commissioner that the tracing and marking of the western line of the State, from the "Fairfax Stone" to the northern boundary of Maryland, was completed during the summer of 1860. The work was commenced in 1858, with the co-operation of Virginia, in conformity with ch 275 of the Acts of 1852. The Commissioner on the part of Virginia failed to join in the completion of the survey; but it being a matter of great importance to Allegany county that it should be no longer delayed, the Commissioner for Maryland completed the work, as required by chapter 385 of the Acts of 1860.

The Commissioner for Virginia was invited to join the Commissioner for Maryland in marking the Southern line between the Pocomoke and the Atlantic; the necessary surveys for which had been made at the joint expense of the two States.—No answer was received to that proposition; and the intentions of the Legislature, in this regard, have not been carried out. All the details connected with the subject are fully set forth in records and maps, transmitted to this Department by our Commissioner. I suggest the propriety of preserving those papers. They have cost the State a considerable sum, and will be valuable in the future.

I trust that the condition of the Maryland Penitentiary will receive due consideration at your hands. The earnings of the institution do not pay its expenses; and it will be necessary for you to aid it by a suitable appropriation.

In my communication to the General Assembly at its session in January, 1860, I suggested the propriety of punishing crimes of lesser grade by confinement in the Penitentiary for a shorter period than the minimum then allowed by law. The experiment has been made, and has not met my expectation. The large number of criminals of this class sentenced to the Penitentiary has imposed upon its finances a burthen which they cannot well endure.

When the convict is received at the institution he is provided with a prison suit. When he is discharged he has to be supplied with another suit, and with two dollars in cash. Having been confined but a short time, he has not earned sufficient to pay the expenses of maintaining him; and the difference has to be defrayed from the funds of the institution.

It seems to be necessary, therefore, to make some changes in the existing laws on this subject. While it is manifestly cruel and unjust to punish petty offences by long terms of imprisonment, it is certain that the present mode of punishment seriously interferes with the efficiency of the Penitentiary.

Perhaps the ends of justice might be fully attained by punishing this class of offenders by short terms of imprisonment in the jails or almshouses, at hard labor. In this way they might, at the least, under an efficient system, earn sufficient to pay the cost of maintaining them. If not, the expense could be lightly borne by the several counties and the city of Baltimore, and thus the resources of the Penitentiary be relieved from a heavy charge.

I venture to suggest, also, the expediency of reducing the number of Directors to the Penitentiary, and of increasing their pay. I believe such a step will promote the efficiency of the institution; and I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that the pay now received by the Directors is not adequate compensation for the duties they are required to perform.

I respectfully suggest the propriety of measures to ascertain the will of the people in regard to the assembling of a Convention to reform the Constitution of our State. The time for such ascertainment, as fixed by the Constitution itself, has arrived; and the singular condition of our State and National affairs renders it imperatively necessary for us to look to changes in our organic law.

If, in your discretion, you deem it proper to take the steps I have indicated, I suggest the propriety and economy of so framing the act for that purpose that Delegates to the Convention may be voted for at the time when the people shall vote for or against a Convention. Of course, if the vote be against a Convention, the election of Delegates will be void.

It will be but an act of justice to a very large, worthy and industrious class of our citizens, if you adopt some stringent legislation in reference to the preservation of the oyster beds in our waters.

Since our national troubles commenced large numbers of persons from other States have infringed upon our rights and violated our laws in this regard; thereby rendering the labors of those of our citizens engaged in taking oysters almost valueless, and greatly damaging the oyster beds.

Experience has shown that our laws are not efficient for the protection of this important and valuable interest; and I trust you will be able to devise some remedy.

I have heretofore suggested the propriety of issuing licenses to catch oysters; the fund to accrue from the sale of such licenses to be applied to building and keeping in service small steam vessels, whose sole duty shall be to guard against violations of the laws in this respect. I still think the plan a good one, and believe that it will entail no expense upon the State. * * * *

This is the last communication which I shall have the honor of submitting to the General Assembly. In a short time I shall exchange the cares of office for the quiet of my home. During my incumbency of the position to which four years ago I was called by the people of the State, I have found its duties, in very many cases, extraordinary, perplexing and harrassing to an unusual degree; and I shall be able to leave them with no ordinary amount of pleasure. Whatever may have been my shortcomings in their performance, I am persuaded you will believe me when I assert that, in every case, I have endeavored to do that which I thought was right.

For whatever of good the Great Disposer of events has made me the instrument, and for whatever of error the fallibility of my judgment has led me to commit, during my term of office, I am content to await the just verdict of my fellow-citizens, when peace and sober counsels, experience and calm reason, shall enable them to approve without partiality and to condemn without prejudice.

It affords me great satisfaction, in closing this communication, to be able to congratulate the General Assembly, and the people of the State, that, in these perilous times, the duties of this office are shortly to be discharged by one whose discretion, ability, courage and patriotism insure that he will guide the fortunes of the State with safety and honor to her people.

I earnestly pray that Heaven will abundantly help him and you in the fulfilment of the duties allotted to you; and that, through your united efforts, no harm may come to the Commonwealth.

THOS. H. HICKS.

Executive Chamber, Jan. 1, 1862.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

[From the Richmond Examiner of January 2.]

THE CONDITION OF OUR ARMIES.

The present condition of our army is a cause of severe and painful anxiety. The courage of our troops is not abated; the eagerness for the fray is not relaxed, and yet demoralization is creeping in, we fully believe, from the insane and reckless neglect of the Government to sustain and to cultivate the spirit of our soldiery.

There is too much drunkenness among the officers on the Potomac, and too much vacant idling among the men. We are informed, as a positive fact, that, in the majority of the army on the Potomac, the practice of regimental drills has fallen into complete disuse. This alone would be sufficient to demoralize an army in circumstances such as ours. The drill is not only essential for schooling the soldier; it fulfils other vastly important and essential purposes. It developes and educates the *physique*, fortifies the soldier against disease; and, what is perhaps the most important moral consideration of all, gives him occupation for a portion of his time each day, and protects him, at least measurably, against that canker-worm of the army—*ennui*. What can be predicted but utter demoralization for an army whose condition is that of tens of thousands of men, living in utter idleness, grovelling in their tents, with no other occupation than what is afforded by the greasy pack of cards that is the inevitable inmate of every tent, or the yellow-covered novel, whose wretched and perhaps filthy entertainment has more than once gone the rounds of the company.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the army is becoming a name of terror and dread to the minds of our citizens. The newspapers are still filled with advertisements of bonusses for "substitutes," although the War Department has adopted a rule restricting the number of substitutions to one in each company. The rates paid for substitutes are enormous. We are informed that they average from two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars; and we have been told of a recent instance where fifteen hundred dollars was paid for the prompt procurement of a substitute to take the place of a private suddenly constrained to leave the army. Evidences stare us in the face of the unwillingness of men to accept the life of famine, dirt and vacant idleness in the army. Richmond is filled with soldiers who have come out of the hospitals, or who have got here on some pretenee or other, applying for discharges, and striving and wriggling in all sorts of ways to get out of the army. It was but a few days ago that a soldier discharged from one of the hospitals here, committed suicide rather than be constrained to return to the army.

All the Federal prisoners from Charleston, including Colonel Corcoran, arrived at Richmond on the first of January.

LOYALTY IN RICHMOND.—The Baltimore American of Tuesday says: We have been assured by quite a number of the released Union prisoners of war, who arrived here on Saturday last, that they had undoubted evidence of the loyalty of a good number of the citizens of Richmond to the old flag, and that but for the fear of arrest they would openly avow their sentiments.—The following paragraph from the Richmond Examiner, of Friday last, confirms their statement:

"*Is this War?*—On New Year's Day we saw quite a number of Northern men briskly perambulating our streets with passes to Fortress Monroe. They were making a number of 'calls.' Among them we noticed Dr. King, the Rhode Island 'lion,' at the Arlington House, at large, and in as high a glee as the Union men he has been conferring with. There is a sombre aspect on many faces, and the belief prevails that, if the war is not waged in *earnest*, we are doomed, and that Virginia and all the Border States must inevitably be occupied by the Federal authorities. But we differ with the faint-hearted in one respect or opinion. We think the army will not submit, *whatever may be the stipulations of others.*"

MORE DESERTERS.—On Monday, Lieuts. Bigelow and Brown, of Michigan, brought into General Heintzelman's quarters eight deserters from the Rebel army, of which five were privates, two sergeants, and one captain. They relate, with every appearance of sincerity, a pitiable story of the suffering condition of the Rebel army.—Their food is scarce and poor, their clothes thin, and they are suffering intensely from cold and hunger, while dissatisfaction and insubordination are rampant. It is requested that we do not mention the information they gave of the situation of the Rebel forces. They are now in Alexandria.—*Wash. Cor. Phila. Inquirer.*

BULL RUN.—The southern papers state that a sketch of the battle of Bull run has just been published in Richmond, being lithographed in Charleston. It was drawn by Capt. Mitchell of the First Virginia Regiment. It is not much in the matter of art, being but poorly printed; but it illustrates the plan of the battle, and confirms the fact that General McDowell's plan was both admirably formed and executed. The Confederates acknowledge that they were attacked on their weak part and outflanked, when some unaccountable panic seized upon the Federals. As a matter of justice to an able General, this evidence from the enemy is invaluable.

[Here are some pathetic lines, which will touch many hearts. They are simple, pure and beautiful.]

TOO POOR TO PAY.

We were so poor when baby died,
And mother stitched his shroud,
The others in their hunger cried
With sorrows wild and loud;
We were so poor we could not pay
The man to carry him away.

I see him still before my eyes;
It lies upon my bed;
And mother whispered, through her sighs,
"The little boy is dead."
A little box of common pine,
His coffin was—and may be mine!

We looked our last upon his face,
And said our last good bye,
While mother laid him in the place,
Where those are laid who die;
The sexton shoved the box away,
Because we were too poor to pay.

We were too poor to hire a hearse,
And could'nt get a pall;
And when we drove him to the grave,
A wagon held us all;
'Twas I who drove the horse, and I
Who told my mother not to cry.

We road along the crowded town,
And felt so lone and drear,
That oft our tears came trickling down
Because no friends were near,
The folks were strangers—selfish men,
Who hadn't lost a baby then.

We reached the grave and laid him there,
With all the dead around—
There was no priest to say a prayer,
And bless the holy ground,
So home we went in grief and pain,
But home was never home again.

And there he sleeps without a stone,
To mark the sacred spot;
But though to all the world unknown,
To us 'tis ne'er forgot;
We mean to raise a stone some day,
But now we are too pay.

For the Kent News.

EDUCATIONAL PAPERS.
NO. 1.

By your permission, Messrs. Editors, I will offer a few thoughts to the public upon the subject of education. It is not my purpose to urge upon the people the importance of education. I trust that the greater portion of those who peruse the pages of your journal, fully realize the benefits resulting from the rich streams of wisdom that flow from a well-educated mind. My suggestions, therefore, shall be directed more particularly to the best methods of disseminating that knowledge which all agree to be necessary to fit us to play well our part upon the active stage of life, where all are unavoidably ushered.

Educational systems like everything else of human origin are imperfect, and consequently subject to the changes which attend other institutions emanating from a similar source. Yet, notwithstanding this, there are some systems that far surpass others, both in the facility with which knowledge is conveyed to the mind, and in the power to render that knowledge permanent which reaches the intellectual faculties. No one doubts for a moment that the methods of instruction practised by skillful modern teachers are not superior to these followed by the ancient masters. If the facilities for instruction were now as limited as they were when Socrates was acknowledged the greatest master of the age, we might dream of the universal enlightenment of our race, but we certainly never could expect our dreams to be realized. The moral, the social, and the political worlds have undergone a great change during the lapse of a few centuries. The educational interests of many countries have kept pace with the other component parts of civilization. The nations which neglected the education of their people are still creeping about among their tiny associates. Their intellectual physiognomies still bear the impress of ruder times. Many faculties of the intellect which had been slumbering for ages, have been aroused by modern art, and are now pouring golden streams of thought into the great ocean of human knowledge. A few fountains were opened by the ancients, from which the lover of truth might imbibe draughts to quench his thirsty soul. But every age has brought new tropies into the realms of literature and science.—Every age has likewise furnished new channels through which knowledge is conveyed to the mind.

Such has been the zeal with which man has sought after the unknown in things around him in nature, that he almost forgot to inquire into the secret and mysterious workings of the powers that dwell within him. Man through all the ages of the past has been almost a sealed book, of which at the present day the wisest and most profound philosophers have read little more than the title page, and the future ages of his existence as an inhabitant of this globe will only tend to show that he is a being of infinite capacities and universal relations, and that he embodies in himself all the physical properties and intelligent principles of universal nature.—Acquainted with the structure, form and uses of minerals and vegetables; having by immense mental labor gained a scientific knowledge of solids, liquids and gasses, of ponderable and imponderable agents in the external world; having made earth, sea, and air subject to his will, "arrested the forked lightnings in their terrific course through the murky sky," chained them to the car of his progress, and sent them over continents and under oceans to carry with awful speed his thoughts and affections; having learned to calculate distances, weights and relations terrestrial; having bounded off with the mighty energies of a never-tiring mind to regions celestial, and gained volumes of accurate and useful information as to the planets, comets, stars and nebulae, their distances, size, shape and relations to each other;—man is still a stranger to his own mighty powers and infinite relations to external nature,—to his fellow man and to God.

It is true that the immortal Locke, and many others, have searched deep into the dark recesses and chambers of the human mind and brought to light much that was hidden there; still, there remains much more to be revealed concerning man's ever-progressive powers. Some people suppose that any person who can read pretty fluently, write a fair hand, spell Massachusetts, tell the capital of their own State and cipher as far as the Rule of Three, is capable of educating this mind, which we have told you has such gigantic powers. It takes a wiser person to lay the foundation and do the planning for an edifice than it does to rear the superstructure.—Does it not require knowledge to start the faculties of the human mind? Is he who does that not laying the foundation and doing the planning for the future man? It may seem to some a trifling thing, but the wisest sages will tell you that it is a delicate and responsible task to "guide the first foot-falls of thought in the halls of the soul." The mind of the child contains in embryo the elements which are afterward exemplified in the hero, the poet, the philosopher and the statesman.

The late Hugh Miller's "School and School Masters" fully exemplifies the diversity of mind that may exist in the same school, and even in the same family.—Hugh Miller found no instructors that could teach his mind like the "Old Red Sandstone" on the beach of Scotland, filled with its fossil fishes. His tutors tried to stuff his mind with indigestible matter—to lead his intellectual faculties in the wrong road towards perfection. But the consequence was that they failed. And every other teacher who endeavors to lead the youthful mind in any other than the natural—the logical way, will fail likewise. Art can never supply the place of nature. It can only be used to draw out—to develop the elements of mind already possessed.

We think that if all who have children to educate realized the complicated structure of their minds, they would never ask an apprentice hand to undertake so responsible a task.

In our future communications we shall have something to say about the teacher and his sphere of labor, school systems, irregularities of attendance at school, &c.

D. H.

"It's Very Hard."

"It's very hard to have nothing to eat but porridge, when others have every sort of dainty," muttered Charlie, as he sat with his wooden bowl before him.

"It's very hard to have to get up so early on these bitter cold mornings, and work hard all day, when others can enjoy themselves without an hour of labor.

"It's very hard to have to trudge along through the snow, while others roll about in their coaches"

"It's a great blessing," said his grandmother, as she sat at her knitting, "it's a great blessing to have a roof over one's head, when so many are homeless; it's a great blessing to have sight and hearing, and strength for daily labor, when so many are blind, deaf, or suffering."

"Why, grandmother, you seem to think that nothing is hard," said the boy still in a grumbling tone.

"No, Charlie, there is one thing that I think very hard."

"What's that?" cried Charlie, thinking his grandmother had at last found some cause for complaint.

"Why, boy, I think that heart is very hard that is not thankful for so many blessings!"

THE WAR COMMENCED—*English Reprisal on our Fish Merchants.*—A correspondent from Provincetown informs us that when the Rinaldo arrived off that place at break of day on Wednesday morning, some fishermen went alongside to dispose of their fish. While a little boy of the party was trading, one of the sailors of the Rinaldo supplied himself with a couple of haddocks, and refused to pay for them. This is worse than the Trent affair—for the haddocks were fresh fish, whereas Mason and Slidell were only stale politicians. It is to be hoped that our Government will demand restitution and an apology—particularly as the forcible removal of the fish from the boat, instead of the seizure of both boat and fish, makes the transaction lawless, according to standard English authorities, and an insult "tolerable and not to be endured' by the Cape Codders "or any other man."—*Boston Journal.*

☞ At best life is not very long. A few more smiles and a few more tears, some pleasure, much pain, sunshine and song, clouds and darkness, hasty greetings and abrupt farewells—then our little play will close, and injured and injurer will pass away. Is it worth while to hate each other?

☞ If your sister, while engaged with her sweetheart, asks you to bring a glass of water from an adjoining room, start after it, but you need not return. You'll not be missed. Don't forget this, little boys and girls.

Your Local Paper.

Reader, did you ever reflect on the subject of supporting liberally the press, and first of all, your own local newspaper?—If not, permit us to suggest to you your privilege and your duty in this respect.

Each city, town, and village in a country like the United States should be represented by a *live* local newspaper, and it would be well not only for the *people* and the *place* so represented, to have a paper which would be an honor and a credit to the State and the nation. Strangers from abroad judge us by our newspaper press, and hence the importance of making that instrument as perfect and patent as possible.

It is the duty of every citizen of each place to contribute something toward improving and strengthening the local press. He may do it by subscribing and paying for his paper, by advertising in it, by recommending it to others, or in all of these ways. Were the country press as liberally patronised and as well supported as it should be, the country would not be so flooded with the worthless trash, in the shape of "love and murder stories," as it now is, which poison and vitiate the minds of the young. There is usually more moral integrity and circumspection manifested by editors of the country press than of those in the larger cities, and a more healthy tone of mind and morals will generally be found to pervade them. They are more free from reports of degrading vices and crimes, and never opened with that feeling of suspicion which attaches to the common "flash" literature of the day.

The country press may be improved.—Each individual residing within the limits of its sphere and circulation may aid in its improvement. He may be on the 'look out' for interesting information, and when thus obtained, communicate it to the editor. He may bring his own business before the public by an appropriate advertisement, or, if he had beef, pork or grain to sell, he may announce it through his local press. He may help to make his local paper a source of instruction to strangers, and of profitable entertainment to his neighbors. Is he a manufacturer! Let him invite capital and influence by setting forth such natural advantages as the place may possess, and indicate the routes by which it may reached, its accessibility to the markets, etc. There is no estimating the advantages to any town or village of a live local journal, and we doubt if there is to be found at the present time an editor who gets *fully* paid for the services he performs, and we put the responsibility where it belongs—namely, on the *people*, whose business and duty it is, first of all, to support handsomely their own local paper.—These reflections are from LIFE ILLUSTRATED.

RAIN FOLLOWING THE DISCHARGE OF ORDNANCE.—Some curious data respecting this phenomenon have been collected by Mr. J. C. Lewis. He states that in October, 1825, he took note of a very copious rain that immediately followed the discharge of ordnance during the celebration of the meeting of the waters of Lake Erie and the Hudson, upon the completion of the Erie canal; and, in 1841, he published continuous observations on the subject, which seemed to establish the fact that the discharge of heavy artillery at contiguous points produce such a concussion that the vapor collects and falls generally in unusual quantities the same day or the day following. The early battles of the late war between France and Austria were succeeded by such copious rains that even small rivers were not fordable; and during the great battle of Solferino, a storm arose of such fierceness that for the time the conflict ceased. McClellan's columns fought four different battles on as many days, and there were extensive rains before the close of each day. On July 21st the battle of Bull Run was fought, and the next day the rain was copious all day and far into the night. A more exact and extensive collection of such data as these may lead to immediate results both in theory and practice.

A HONEY MOON.—A Cuban gentleman married in New York some time since set out for Havana by ship, but was overhauled by a privateer and taken into Charleston. His published letter of adventure is entertaining. In Charleston there was no hard cash in circulation, and having taken a drink he threw the bar keeper into spasms by presenting a $2.12½ piece in Cuban coin, which the mixer of beverages didn't know the value of until told.—'Then,' continues the newly married man, "a crowd gathered around us staring their eyes out of their heads almost at the novelty of the sight of gold, and many of them seemed really anxious to be the possessors. He saw no small change except pieces of paper which certify that they are "good for five cents," "good for ten cents" and so on.

☞ Some writer exclaims, "what is beauty without soap?" Sometimes fashionable beauty is nothing with soap. We have seen many a cheek from which the beautiful red-rose hue would vanish before that useful article like a ghost at sunrise.

IT sounds oddly, but is all right enough, that a spiritual shepherd often marries one of his sheep.