

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RALEIGH, NOV. 17, 1856.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina:

GENTLEMEN: You have been elected by the people of the State to represent them in this General Assembly...

The general government was intended by its framers to operate for the protection and safety of all, and if properly administered, will only be felt in the most beneficent manner.

All we have asked for is to be protected in the rights secured us by the constitution, and to be treated as equals among the States and in the common Territories of the Union.

Under the constitution we have been, mainly, in the late contest, we have nothing to fear. For a time madness and fanaticism ruled the day, and the wisest and best and most patriotic in the land were filled with fear and misgiving.

With the legislative department of the government in accord, surely we have ample reason to hope for a successful administration of our national affairs, a restoration of peace and harmony, and a strengthening of the ties which bind together the States in one National Union.

It gives me pleasure to be able to state to you that since your last session, the general condition of the State has been one of prosperity and improvement. Our public works are steadily advancing, our congress and schools are on the increase, and generally in a high state of prosperity; our Common School system, though by no means perfect, is yet gradually improving and manifesting very decidedly some of the beneficial results anticipated from it.

The first subject to which I desire to call your more particular attention is, the important one of the public debt of the State.

Table with columns: Description of bonds (e.g., Railroad bonds, Navigation stocks, Plank road stocks), Amount, and Maturity date.

Prudence and a wise forecast, as well as the experience of other States and governments, would seem to dictate such a course, and the debt can be more easily met and extinguished...

I am truly pleased to inform you that by the provisions of the act entitled 'an act to amend the Constitution of North Carolina,' passed at the last session of the General Assembly...

It is important to know, at many times what our interests are, and moreover, it would be an inadequate return for many valuable books sent us by the general government.

It is now, in my opinion, the duty of the State to make a safe and profitable investment of the proceeds of this stock in the present Bank, constituting as it does a large and very productive part of the Literary Fund.