

Raleigh, November 17, 1868.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of North Carolina.

GENTLEMEN:—It is proper that at your first regular session after the new Constitution...

The people of the State have reconstructed their government on the basis of the equal rights of all.

The year now closing has been richly crowned with harvests. The seasons have been propitious. A plentiful supply of breadstuffs...

We have great cause to be thankful to Almighty God for the joyful blessing which He is bestowing upon us.

STATE DEBT AND FINANCES. The State debt and finances will doubtless receive the thoughtful and careful consideration of the General Assembly.

The amount of the State debt on the 1st of October 1868, was nineteen million two hundred and ninety thousand nine hundred and forty-five dollars.

The amount of interest which has matured October 1st, 1868, and been paid in cash, is one hundred and twelve thousand one hundred and one dollar.

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The balance remaining in the hands of the Public Treasurer October 1st, 1868, was one hundred and fifty thousand three hundred and eighty-four dollars.

The estimated probable expenses of the State government during the present fiscal year will be three hundred and seventy-five thousand two hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

The stocks and bonds held by the State in corporations, and interest due from said corporations, is as follows: Stocks, eight million five hundred and thirty-four thousand five hundred dollars.

The estimated value of all the property in the State, lands and their improvements included, is two hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

to our solemn obligation. I believe that the General Assembly will improve, and that the people of the State will cheerfully pay whatever amount may be necessary to meet the interest on the debt.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS. The people of the State are so fully committed to internal improvements that I deem it necessary to say but little on the subject.

The Constitution provides that "there shall be established, in the office of the Secretary of State, a Bureau of Statistics, Agriculture, and Immigration, under such regulations as the General Assembly may prescribe."

The attention of the General Assembly is especially invited to that portion of the report of the Secretary of State herewith transmitted, which refers to this subject.

EDUCATION. The attention of the General Assembly is respectfully invited to the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, herewith transmitted.

The University of the State is inseparably connected with the free public schools. Both should be fostered. Education in agriculture, mechanics, mining, engineering, and in all the useful arts, should be encouraged.

Nearly all the State school fund, the proceeds for the most part of the funds deposited with this State by the general government in 1836, has been lost.

The people of the State are anxious that industrious and worthy immigrants should come hither and settle among us. It is a primary question with all such immigrants whether in the communities or States in which they are invited to settle, there are facilities for educating their children.

The General Assembly during its present session provide for a general and uniform system of public schools.

The Board of Education and Trustees of the University will doubtless make reports to the General Assembly at an early day as to the condition of the educational interests confided to them.

PROTECTION TO LABOR. The Constitution provides that "the General Assembly shall provide, by proper legislation, for giving to mechanics and laborers an adequate lien on the subject-matter of their labor."

In the conflict always going on between capital and labor, the latter is more likely to suffer than the former.

This is a subject which excites no small interest among the people. Those especially who live by their labor will continue to press the subject upon the attention of the General Assembly until suitable laws for their protection are enacted.

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Agents Wanted FOR OUR NEW GREAT Standard Work CHAMBERS' INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

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It is expedient and necessary to avail myself of the power conferred upon me to purchase arms. A considerable quantity of arms, with necessary equipments and ammunition, has been procured without cost, save for transportation.

It is recommended that the expense of the Adjutant General's office for the ensuing year, including his salary, will not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

It will be seen by the Report of the Commissioner herewith transmitted, that they have located the Penitentiary on the North River, in Southhampton County.

The Report of Dr. Eugene Graham, Superintendent of the Asylum, is herewith transmitted. It is gratifying to state that a decided improvement has been made in the management of the Asylum, under Dr. Graham's able and diligent supervision.

Attention is invited to the Report of Willie J. Palmer, Esq., Principal of this Institution, and to the Report of W. M. Coleman, Esq., President of the Board of Trustees.

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PRICES CURRENT.

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Coffee, Sugar, Flour, and other commodities.

Agents Wanted FOR THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.

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