BALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22, 1845,

MESSAGE

ON THE SUBJECT OF

ASYLUMS FOR THE DEAF & DUMB, BLIND & INSANE.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the House of Commons, Resolving, "that it is the duty of the General Assembly of this State, as soon as the condition of the public treasury will allow, to make appropriations for erecting suitable buildings for asylums for the deaf and dumb, the blind and the in-

" Resolved Further, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to give this House all the information in his possession as to the probable cost of building suitable edifices for these purposes, and also to communicate to the General Assembly any other infor-

"mation in his possession on the subject." As to the first Resolution, I hope I may be indulged in expressions of the highest gratification at its adoption by the House of Commons ; and I feel well assured that it will meet the most hearty approbation of every good citizen in the State; and I regret, deeply regret, that in replying to the second resolution, I am unable to give that tion as might be deemed accurate, and upon which reliance might be

placed with confidence. I am not aware of any information in this office, that will aid me n making the reply; and, therefore, any reply I may make will be merely a matter of opinion.

Never having visited institutions of the kind, I am unable to say expensive in their construction than others; but I should suppose they were not, if proper plans were adopted before the commence ment of the buildings, and then the buildings raised according to the lan; and it is equally difficult to say what would be the extent of the buildings that would be required.

From the last census, it appears there are in this State-Deaf and Dumb-under 14 years of age, between 14 & 25, do., 118 over 25 Blind, Insane, supported at private charge, public charge,

What number of these persons would be educated and maintained at public expense, I cannot pretend to say; and, therefore, can give no adequate idea of the cost of suitable edifices for their accommoda-

If it be any aid to the House to give the cost of other large edifices. whereby they may judge of the probable cost of such as they may deem necessary, I would mention that the large brick and two stone buildings on the west of this city, now occupied as a female seminary, cost a little upwards of \$30,000: this would accommodate a large number of persons; and, I doubt not, such buildings could be now built much cheaper.

The Methodist Female College in Greensboro', just finished, three stories high, of brick, and about 50 × 135 feet, with out-houses and enclosure, cost about \$13,000. This building, I suppose, would accommodate one hundred persons.

Judging of the cost of this building, I should suppose that \$50,000 would erect such as were indispensably necessary; and that \$75,000 would erect buildings ample for all purposes.

If this subject be referred to my successor, to procure information relative thereto, to be laid before the next Legislature, I doubt not he will procure some valuable information, upon which reliance may

The interesting exhibitions which the members of the Legislature have witnessed during the present session, show to what extent and with what facility the blind can be taught to read and be instructed in various learning, music &c., and how easily the dumb can be philanthropist in the cause of their education.

From the present condition of our Treasury, it may be deemed by some inexpedient to take any steps for the relief of these classes of our population; but is it right, that, because it is not entirely convenient to aid them, they are to be totally neglected? I hope not.

justly entitled, not only sufficient to erect all the buildings necessary for the purpose, but likewise sufficient to endow them, so that the most ample and permanent provision could be made for the deaf and dumb, the blind and insane, without our citizens being taxed a dollar for their support.

From the condition of the Treasury of the United States, it is evident that that instalment may be very conveniently paid to the States entitled to the same, in a short time.

The sum to which North Carolina is entitled, is within a fraction years, which would amount to the sum of \$200,760; making an save the charge of sustaining the insane, by reducing their numbers.

aggregate of \$678, 60 00. Apply \$78,760 00 to the erection of buildings, which will be very would most respectfully suggest the propriety of pressing upon the

attention of Congress its speedy payment. But whether you adopt this or some other course, I cannot but

least some initiatory step for their aid and relief. To these classes of our population, who are poor and friendless, you stand in the place of parents and guardians; without your aid they have nothing to hope; and shall they look to you in vain?

It is more than probable, that this is the last official communiention I shall have the bonor to make to your honorable body. To half of these unfortunate and helpless creatures, who are unable to plead for themselves, and whose happiness or misery awaits your

I conjure you, then, by your duties as wise legislators; by all the the adoption of some measure for the improvement and amelioration of their condition.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, J. M. MOREHEAD.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Dec. 31st, 1844.

REPORT ON ASYLUMS.

Message as relates to Asylums for the deaf and dumb, the blind and insane, beg leave to submit the following report:

Your committee have felt the difficulty and embarrassment that surrounded these subjects, growing out of the present condition of the public treasury-the various demands to be made on the same, which must be complied with, and the fear of an unwillingness on the part of a large portion of the people of the State to submit to any further taxation to begin so many experiments at the same period of time, to which they have paid but little attention, and of which they have no information in regard to their practical operations. And though your Committee have the greatest confidence in the intelligence, virtue and benevolence of our citizens and of the willingness and cheerfulness on their part to relieve the distress and increase the comfort of their fellow-men, by any means in their power; yet they are not insensible to the fact that these subjects have received but little notice by our past Legislatures and that no inforinformation which the House desires; at least to give such informa- mation concerning them, has been given to their respective constituency. That there will be found in North Carolina, a very small (if any) portion of her citzens who will deny that it is their duty, and who will prove their willingness, to establish asylums for this destitute and unfortunate portion of our citizens by submitting to any rate of taxation whenever they see the benefits they confer whether buildings for the accommodation of such persons are more thereby, as well upon themselves, as upon the recipients of their bounty, your committee have no doubt: yet to levy now a tax sufficient to erect edifices, for these separate objects of charity and to keep them in successful operation, your committee fear would be running ahead of public opinion, and end in the failure to accomplish any thing for the melioration of the condition of these persons, for many years to come.

The recent visit made us by a number of the blind pupils of the Va. Asylum, under the charge of their teachers, and the more recent exhibition by a deaf mute, a citizen of our own State, under the direction of his teacher, has satisfied all, (of what many were before sceptical) as to practicability of giving to this class of our population a course of education as varied and equal in extent, as that taught in our best schools to those not deprived of these senses. The feasibility then of educating these classes of persons, is no longer to be regarded as a doubtful experiment, but as a system, reduced to practical utility. Passing by the question of duty that we are under, (for your committee take it for granted, that none who have witnessed the benefits afforded by education to this class of our citizens will deny this duty.) by the obligations of humanity and religion, to extend every comfort and happiness to the afflicted-passing by the benefits conferred upon the objects of our charity-the affording of almost sight to the blind, and speech to the dumb-the affording of almost sight to the blind, and speech to the dumb—the imparting the k (wledge of their divine origin, before unknown to them—the creating of avenues to the knowledge and realization of the hope of salvation—your committee would respectfully suggest some brief views as to the importance, on the score of policy and economy, of establishing some system for the education of these per-

Your committee find, by reference to the able communication submitted by the late Executive of the State on these subjects, during the present session, from an extract taken from the last census, that there are in this State two hundred and eighty-three deaf and dumb, and 223 blind persons; of the number of the deaf and educated and taught to communicate their ideas by writing and by dumb, less than half are of that age capable of receiving an educasigns. These exhibitions must have enlisted the feelings of every tion, and of the blind, a less number perhaps are of the proper age. Those who have passed the proper age may be considered, with but few exceptions, in very needy circumstances, and are therefore a charge upon the public. If there had been then Asylums for the education of these two classes of persons, heretofore established, or an There is a fund belonging to North Carolina, to which she is most appropriation set apart for their education at some other institution, we may conclude that the largest number of them would now be engaged in useful avocations, not only saying the charge to the State of their support, but in addition yielding some revenue to the Government: for, from information derived from institutions now in The fund to which I allude, is the fourth instalment of the surplus | Government : for, from information derived from institutions now in successful operation, we know that they are taught various useful trades and professions, and arrive at great proficiency in them.

We know too, that without education a large portion of the blind and of the deaf and dumb pass into the class of the insane: so that we not only improve the condition of the blind and of the deaf of \$478,000, and interest ought to be paid thereon, say for seven mutes and add thereby to the revenues of the State, but in addition

What then can be done by this present General Assembly for the ample; there is left still \$600,000, to be invested, the interest of education of the blind and of the deaf and dumb, has been the earwhich, \$36,000, annually, will very amply sustain these institutions. nest enquiry of your committee. In order to fix upon some system

Sure y this money could not be more humanely applied; and I as a commencement for their instruction, which will give to the people of the State a more immediate acquaintance with the benefits derived to this class of their citizens, and of the profit accruing to hope that you will not let the present session pass without taking at the State, and thus insure in a very few years the establishment of permanent asylums for the blind and for the deaf and dumb, your committee are unanimously of the opinion, that a porsion of the proceeds of the Literary fund should be set apart for their instructionsay the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars annually for the blind, and two thousand five hundred dollars annually for the deaf and morrow severs the political tie that now unites us. In retiring from dumb; and that each county shall pay one half of the expenses and the distinguished position I now occupy, I leave it, pleading in be- tuition of each student it may send. Your committee cannot believe there are any who will object to this appropriation. This fund has been set apart by our Legislature for the education of the poor of the State. 'And can it be said that this class of destitute citizens are exfeelings of humanity and of philanthropy; by the precepts of our empt from its benefits? Are the afflicted and unfortunate to be negoccupy, nor to behold your own beloved offspring, until you have done your duty towards these afflicted children of Providence, by these blessings? Your committee cannot entertain this idea and will not permit themselves to doubt, that this recommendation will meet with a unanimous concurrence.

Nor have your committee felt less solicitude for some provision for the necessities of that unfortunate class of our citizens, the insane of our State. Their suffering condition calls loudly upon our sympathy and charity to do something for their comfort and relief. They too are indigent. From the communication before referred to, it will be seen that the number of insane supported at private charge are The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's 428; and the number at the public expense are 154. But may we

perceives within them. Since The was represented to the

into in the open violation
y by neglecting the calls o
It requires no argument

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The intelligence published in Saturday's American of the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the United States and Mexico gives additional interest to the docments which accompanied the President's Message, and others since recieved, on the ubject of our relations with Mexico.

We shall endeavour to put our readers in possession of the leading points in this business. For that purpose we come at NON, our Minister at Mexico, dated Sept. 10, 1844, written upon the knowledge of the fact that Mexico contemplated a spendy re-newal of the war against Texas, and that she designed to make it a war of extermina-

This letter is an elaborate document. Mr. invasion, and to the decree of SANTA ANNA. issued in June last, as preparatory to their the perma commencement of hostilities upon Texas, of both?" By these, all communication with Texas is forbidden; all persons found holding inter-"every individual who may be found at the moun goes so far as to contend that Texas distance of one league from the left bank of has never stood in relation to Mexico as a the Rio Bravo will be regarded as a favourer and accomplice of the usurpers of that
part of the National Territory, and as a
traitor to his country," and after a summary
military trial he is to be punished accordingmilitary trial he is to be punished accordingy. Mr. CALHOUN alludes to the treatment

troyed or driven out, and Texas left a desplate waste, and so proclaimed to the world and our interests are both involved." by Mexico, in advance of her projected in-

Mr. Calhoun then proceeds to state the considerations which are believed to require he interposition of the United States:

The first question which presents itself for consideration on this statement of facts barous and bloody," in which it is intended is, shall we stand by and witness in silence the renewal of the war by Mexico, and its prosecution in this blood-thirsty and des olating spirit! In order to answer it fully and satisfactorily, it will be necessary to in-quire first into her object for renewing the Mr. Sifannon, with the fidelity of one of

actively canvassed before the people appear in the Intelligencer of yesterday throughout the wide extent of our Union; but there is an abstract of it in that Journal and that it will in all probability be decided in its favor, unless it should be defeated by

We would be blind not to see that she the two, the latter is much the more probsignally failed, although the attempt was made under the lead of her most skilful and renowned general, at the head of a well ap-pointed army, consisting of her best disciplined and bravest troops, and while Texas was yet in her infancy, without a Government, almost without means, and with an inconsiderable population. With this example before her she can scarcely hope to succeed now, under a leader of less skill and renown, and when Texas has settled town under a well established Government, and has so greatly increased in means and population. There are, then, two points upon which Mr Calnows urges the propriety and necessity of our interference.—

First, because of the ferocicus manner in which Mexico proposes to wage the manner in which Mexico proposes to wage the manner in the last received; but not the seizure of her responsibility of altering the existing relations of peace, if such alteration occurs will belong to the United States, and not to her. This note is dated Oct. 31st.

Mr. Shannon's answer of Nov. 34 december 1987. which Mexico proposes to wage the war against Texas; secondly, because the design of Mexico is to defeat the policy of annex-ation which the United States proffered to against Texas; secondly, because the design of Mexico is to defeat the policy of annex ation which the United States proffered to Texas, and which, Mr. Calhoun contends, is a policy essential to our safety and wellbeing.

On this the letter is emphatic. No measure, it is declared, has been more standily or that Mr. Suavyor after the meant to be insulting, asks its withdrawal.

it is declared. has been more steadily or longer pursued by the Government of the United States than this very measure of an take refuge in the pretences of a courtes son. first in 1827, again in 1833, and finally in what he has said, and is instructed to

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXI- | feat of the measure, the present Administ tration invited Texas to renew the proped by its predecessor. It was accepted, and, as has been stated, is now pending.—
The question recurs, Shall we stand by quietly and permit Mexico to defeat it, without making an effort to oppose her? Shall we; after this long and continued effort to annex Texas, now, when the measure is about to be consummated, allow Mexico to put it aside, perhaps forever! Shall the golden opportunity" be lost never again to return?— Shall we permit Texas, for having accep-ted an invitation, tendered her at a critical moment, to join us, and consummate a measure essential to their and our permant peace, welfare, and safety, te be desolated; her in-habitants to be butchered or driven out, or in order to avert so great a calamity, to Calhoun begins by referring to the orders of Gen. Woll, commander of the army of invasion, and to the decree of Santa Anna, lasting hostilities between her and us, to the permanent injury and perhaps the ruin

The right of this government to propose annexation and the right of Texas to receive course with the Texans are to be punished as traitors; and it is further declared that revery individual who may be found at the move goes so far as to contend that Texas of which has successfully resisted the atof General Sentmanar and his party, who were shot at Tabasco, as illustrative of the manner in which this order was to be carried out. "It embraces," he observes, "every individual who may be found east of a line drawn three miles east of the Rio del Norte, without distinction of age or sex, foreigner or citizen, condition or vocation. All of every description, whether they resist or surrender, are to be treated as traitors and all who fiee to be shot down. The war is intended, in short, to be one of untergreation. All who breathe are to be dead ence the renewal of the war which she had extirpation. All who breathe are to be des ence the renewal of the war which she has proclaimed against Texas. Our honour

In consideration of these facts and circumstances Mr. SHANNON is instructed to address to the Mexican Government a protest against the renewal of the war against Texas while the question of unnexation is pending, and also against the manner, "bar

Homen's messengers, speaks as he is char-There can be but one; and that is, to de- ged to the Mexican Government. His letfeat the annexation of Texas to our Union. ler to REJOIN, the Secretary for Porcign She knows full well that the rejection of the Affairs, is in strict accordance, and in matreaty has but postponed the question of anny parts, in the very words of Mr. Cat-nexation. She knows that Congress adjourned without finally disposing of it; that Rejots, which has arrived since the delivit is now pending before both Houses, and ery of the President's Message, does not appear in the Intelligencer of yesterday. which gives its substance. The Mexican Secretary is very indignant at the avowal that the United States have been for twenty years steadily pursuing the design of sequiring Texas. This confession, he thinks, makes it apparent that the entire revolt of Texas, (all her citizens and soldiers being proposes to effect it by the projected invas-ion, either by conquering and subjecting Texas to her power, or by forcing her to withdraw the proposition for annexation, drawn from the United States,) her declarand to from commercial and political con- ation of independence, and all the rest, are nexions with some other Power less con- the deliberate work of this country, If genial to her feelings and favorable to her this be so what reality can there be, he asks, independence, and more threatening to her in any of the reasons of justice or humanity and our permanent welfare and safety. Of now urged? If such things can be avowed, why may not any country foment an insur-rection in a neighboring one, send its peo-ple thither as citizens, then stimulate it to declare itself independent, and proceed to annex it? In such a plan it may prove "that the United States may decrive itself with its own fictions, but will be able to decrive no-

body else."

He goes on to say that Mexico, notwithstanding she has been faithlessly dealt with for twenty years, wishes no rupture with the United States. She will bear the bad treatment she has received; but not the seiz-

United States than this very measure of an nexation. The facts in proof are arrayed with all the earnestness of a con amore advocate—such as the belief of many that Texas was included in the session of Louisana; that it was improperly, if not unconstitutionally, surrendered by the treaty of Florida in 1819; that repeated efforts have been made to regain the territory, twice in Mr. Adam's administration, once in 1925, and in 1827, and thrice under Gen. Jackson. first in 1827, again in 1833, and finally

in 1835.

"In pursuance" he continues, "of this long-cherished and established policy, and under the conviction of the necessary of case, as brief as we could make it, we leave setting promptly in order to prevent the de-