

Message of the Governor of Virginia.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate, and House of Delegates.

The sudden and unexpected reverse which has occurred in the currency and business of the country, in the view which I have taken of the subject, made it my duty, under the Constitution, to convene you before the period for the annual session. The resolutions of the Banks to suspend specie payments—the penalties incurred thereby by some of them, and the difficulties likely to arise in the collection of the public revenue, furnish the grounds for the executive proceedings under which you are assembled. A state of things most unfavorable to the industry and prosperity of the country, has unexpectedly come upon us, requiring, as I humbly conceive, the early and solemn consideration of the General Assembly.

The Bank of Virginia, the Farmer's Bank of Virginia, the Bank of the Valley, and the Merchant and Mechanics' Bank of Wheeling, have severally suspended specie payments. The North Western Bank, at the date of the latest accounts, continued to meet its engagements with punctuality, and is the only banking institution in the Commonwealth which has not been compelled to seek protection against the pressure of the times in suspension of payments. The Bank of Virginia, under the resolution of the 1st of May, on the day after, the example was followed by the Farmer's Bank. Before this step was taken, and even before it appears to have been anticipated, it had been resorted to by the Banks of the large commercial cities of the North. Subsequently, and in quick succession, Bank after Bank has followed the example set first in the city of New York, and now there is scarcely a Bank of large capital and extended operations in any part of the Union, which redeems its notes in specie.

It was not to be expected that the Banks of this Commonwealth—those of them at least whose issues had been largely and widely diffused—could long continue to pay specie after the Banks of the Northern and Eastern cities had resolved to withhold it. Prior even to the declaration of the Northern Banks, specie was at a premium, and had become an article of traffic; and the demands for it, and the premium it would command, were sure to be increased, and in point of fact, were increased, by the determination of those banks to close their vaults. As a consequence, large and increasing demands would be made upon our banks, to redeem their notes and liquidate balances; and their ability to meet such demands was diminished by having the chance of supply from that quarter denied to them. It was apparent that the Banks of this Commonwealth, (I refer especially to the two principal institutions,) would be brought at last to a denial of specie—a course of rigorous collection, whilst it would have aggravated greatly the public distress could at most have but delayed the evil day—and the banks were reduced to the necessity of choosing between a suspension of payments, as a measure of precaution, and of losing their supply without being able effectually to resist the run which would be made upon them. The former alternative was recommended by the examples of other banks—by considerations of impartial justice towards every creditor—by the embarrassment in which their debtors were unexpectedly involved, and the final security of their debts—and was the course apparently best calculated to avoid agitation and alarm, and to enable them to assist in correcting the derangement which had occurred in our pecuniary concerns.

Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the cause, there can be but one opinion respecting the reality and extent of the public distress. Failures for unexampled amounts have occurred; confidence, and with it, the immense credit which it upheld, is gone; the price of every agricultural product has declined; and in a time of peace, and in the absence of physical calamity, the whole country is uneasy and anxious about the future. Patience, economy and industry—a reliance upon themselves, and the exertion of their sturdy virtues, will enable our citizens to recover speedily from their embarrassments, and thus afford the only sure resource against the evils which are experienced, and the best defence against their recurrence hereafter.

The time is unpropitious, if it were otherwise desirable, to attempt any radical changes in the policy of the Commonwealth. The system of banking has been long since introduced, and we find it fixed upon us. The Commonwealth is largely interested in the stocks of our banking institutions, through the fund for internal improvement, and the literary fund; and the stock which is thus held, is a part of the security which has been pledged to the holders of the debt. Bank paper has long performed all the purposes of currency, and by the holders of it, the poor and the rich, is counted as money. The merchants and traders of our towns have been accustomed to look to the Banks for facilities and aid; and through their instrumentality it was, they have been enabled to make their purchases of the planter and farmer. It would surely be unwise in a period of difficulty, and when private credit is in need of unusual facilities,

to put down institutions which are so incorporated with every public and individual interest, and from which it would result as an immediate consequence, that the difficulties of paying would be augmented, whilst the debt to be paid would be increased. There are those who would have no Banks, either State or Federal, and are for enforcing an exclusive metallic circulation. The project in the actual condition of the country, I believe to be wholly impracticable, and the agitation of it at this period, could have no other effect than still further to derange the business, and oppress every interest in the community. And I consider it of the highest importance to maintain the credit of the State Banks, as forming under proper regulations and reforms, the only practical substitute for a U. States Bank—and their preservation affords the only defence against the dangerous scheme of a powerful and overshadowing national institution.

By the provisions introduced into the charter of the Farmer's Bank at the renewal in 1824, taken from the charter of the North Western Bank and the Bank of the Valley, the corporate powers of that Bank and of the Bank of the Valley, except for the purpose of collecting debts and closing their accounts, were forfeited by the refusal to pay specie and they became thereby liable to serious penalties. The same act on the part of the Bank of Virginia and the Merchant and Mechanics Bank of Wheeling is not visited by a like heavy condemnation.

But whilst in that respect these institutions are favored by the existing laws, the community without your interference, might be exposed to serious inconvenience by the provision in the amended charter of the Bank of Virginia, which declares, that "if the said Bank shall at any time fail or refuse to redeem its notes in gold or silver coin, its issues shall be no longer receivable in payments to the State." If the Banks are not relieved, the revenue amounting on an average to upwards of four hundred thousand Dollars annually, cannot be paid except in specie.—This amount of gold and silver would be temporarily withdrawn from circulation, at the very time when it would be most wanted in the country, to enable the people to carry on their pecuniary transactions.

The suspension of payments by the banks, being clearly the result of causes which, at the time, they could not control, and which in common with a large portion of our fellow citizens, they did not foresee, they are surely entitled to the indulgent consideration of the General Assembly, and indulgence to them seems to be alike demanded by a proper regard to the general welfare. In addition to what I have before briefly suggested, it should be remembered that the crop of tobacco of the present year, as I am informed, is to a large extent, unsold and the crop of wheat will soon be matured. The crop of tobacco, owing to the decline from former prices, and the limited demand for it, or rather the difficulties which are experienced in raising money to purchase it, has come with unusual slowness to market. It will indeed be difficult for the planters and farmers to dispose of their crops, if the banks shall be unable or be prohibited from affording facilities to the purchasers in their negotiations. Besides, the evils which would be felt at home, by any obstacles in the way of the sale of these great staples, there would be a large reduction from the amount of our foreign exports, which it is important to encourage, with a view to satisfy the heavy balance against us, and the reduction of which can alone remove the demand for specie.

Impressed with the soundness and importance of these general views, I venture respectfully to recommend to the General Assembly, to relieve the banks from the penalties and disabilities incurred by them, and to authorize, for a limited period, the suspension of specie payments. The measure is earnestly desired by a large portion of the community; it will have the effect of re-establishing confidence and must sensibly mitigate the severity of the times. The currency, if it can be changed at all, and it is wise to attempt it, can be changed with safety only by slow and measured alterations. Injustice, as well as great loss, must attend any sudden and radical attempts at alteration. At the same time that the banks are relieved from their disabilities, and continued in the enjoyment of their corporate privileges, great care should be taken to guard against abuses, and to secure the resumption of specie payments at the earliest possible period. The extension of their issues, as that would retard specie payments, should be carefully avoided. The longer the suspension continues, the greater will be the difficulty in recovering from it, and the more we shall be in danger of a permanently disordered and progressively depreciating currency. It is a matter of great moment to the public, and it is important to the banks, if they would preserve their credit with the community, to guard against a disordered and depreciated currency, and there is no security against the mischief but by a rigid fulfillment of their duties under the laws, by the payment of specie.

I have endeavored with brevity and frankness to communicate my views

on the present perplexing state of public and private affairs. They are submitted with diffidence, and the profoundest respect for the intelligence and patriotism of the General Assembly. We have but one object in view, to cherish and defend the prosperity of our common country; and now that her prosperity has suffered a transitory gloom, let all minor divisions be forgotten in a hearty and united devotion to her true and permanent welfare.

This is a season of the year, when it may be unsafe for many of you to remain here longer than may be absolutely required to mature acts for the relief of the banks. There may be other reasons why the session should not be protracted—no good can arise from agitating the public mind by proposing new plans of reform—evil may.—There seems to be no settled opinion on many branches of the subject—Congress is about to meet—it may be important to hear what they have to propose. The next General Assembly will reassemble at the next annual session, prepared to act with greater deliberation, and time will have been afforded to see in some measure the results of the present state of things. I will therefore submit no other subject for your consideration, and know of none which may not with propriety be postponed.

DAVID CAMPBELL. Executive Department, June 12th, 1837.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(For the Star.) AN ADDRESS

Delivered to the Students of Farmwell Grove Academy, on Friday the 9th of June, 1837, by the Rev. S. Jefferson Harris, Gentlemen.

The orators of antiquity were in the habit of invoking the assistance of their Gods; when about addressing a public assembly. If it was permissible in them, surely I shall be pardoned for asking the indulgence of this auditory, and the aid of a higher Being than heathen Gods, while I for the first time in this way attempt to lead the minds of the young into the pleasing paths of virtue.

Gentlemen Students: This day closes for the present, your relationship as students of this seminary. In a short time you will be eagerly pursuing your way towards the gladstems of your relations. I do not expect therefore, in the present feverish state of your minds, to be very successful in the implantation of the precepts I may advance. I am delighted to know that the community are awaking to the important subject of education, that they are partially aroused from that torpid state of neutrality and inexcusable indifference which has so long characterized them. There are now many worthy philanthropists whose chief and only employment is the delightful task of teaching the young idea how to shoot. I regard this as the proudest era in our history since the successful termination of that struggle which procured our liberty and secured our national independence. "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her, she is thy life," is an aphorism of one of the wisest and most illustrious philosophers of the Jewish age. The wise man manifests the most stirring anxiety upon the subject. He shoots arrow after arrow at the same mark, lest the shaft should be sped in vain, or launched into the air at a venture. There is an urgency in his language which might be deemed inopportune on any subject of less paramount consequence. Says he "Get understanding, get wisdom, forget it not, take fast hold of instruction, let her not go, keep her, for she is thy life." How urgent the language! Should the pardonable, were I less urgent on the present occasion? Remember that he who lives and dies without improving the moral condition of the world, or ameliorating in some way the wretched situation of man, has lived to little purpose, and will have eternity to lament his folly and regret having lived. Would you benefit the human family? If you would, "take fast hold of instruction." Would you adorn society, either civil, religious or social? If you would, "take fast hold of instruction," now, in the spring-time of thy life. Six thousand years of groans and anguish are rapidly rolling away, since the moral and physical derangement of our globe by rebellion. Ignorance, the legitimate and acknowledged offspring of rebellion, has done much to submerge the human family in wretchedness. But wherever the radiant beams of education are liberally diffused, the mist of ignorance is driven back. The happiness of the human family is increased in exact proportion to the illumination of the mind. The eyes of the philosopher, the philanthropist, the statesman and the theologian, are turned with manifest anxiety to the rising generation for successors. May we not hope that some of these young men will rival the greatness and usefulness of the most illustrious of the present day? We dare not indulge such a hope, unless they can be persuaded to "take fast hold of instruction," both in a literary and religious point of view. For men can only be comparatively great without religion. Arnold was a man calculated to shine in the same sphere with Washington, but he had no religion to curb his traitorous spirit, and we soon find him falling from his elevated station into contempt and infamy. Major General Charles

Lee was an accomplished scholar, and stood high as a military tactician, but base envy crept into his heart, and he chose rather to disgrace himself on the plains of Monmouth, than fight to immortalize Washington. He needed religion to keep down that envious spirit. Col. Hamilton, the profound statesman and accomplished scholar, whose name stands so high on the scroll of immortality, needed religion to keep him from the fatal field of dishonor. There was the polished Burr, brave as Caesar, polite as Chesterfield, who was once thought worthy to succeed as President of this Republic; the incorruptible father of his country; but he had no religion to curb the corrupt passions of his heart, and became a conspicuous example of disappointed ambition. But why need I quote the Arnolds, the Lees, the Hamiltons or Burrs in proof of my position? Every day's observation confirms the heart-withering fact. Many towering intellects, philosophic minds, and brave hearts are daily debased and degraded by some vice which our holy religion would correct. Religion alone, has power sufficient to eradicate the corrupt passions of the human heart. Religion and education are necessary to the existence of free governments. It has been asserted that man was incapable of self-government; our forefathers contradicted the assertion at the point of the bayonet, and commenced the experiment by raising the noblest edifice of political architecture known in the world. They have bequeathed it to you, as a rich and invaluable legacy, and the final success of the experiment is now dependant upon you and your successors. It becomes you therefore, to be very watchful, lest the fair fabric be overturned, and you crushed amidst the mighty ruins thereof. I am clearly of the opinion that an ignorant and vicious people cannot long maintain a free government; and history, the revered chronicler of past events, speaks loudly in confirmation of the opinion. The reason is obvious. Principle is the rallying point, the main spring of action, the great balance wheel of free governments. When men are too ignorant to know what principle is, or too vicious to be influenced by it, we may expect the ship of state to be sucked into the whirlpool of anarchy, or wrecked on the silent shores of despotism. The ignorant know not what principle is, and madly ask for a leader as a rallying point, around which they rally their strength, and utter loud hosannas in his praise, as did the deluded Israelites around the golden calf. And while enchained, they will even bless the man who rivets the manacles. It becomes, therefore, the duty of every lover of his country to do all in his power in the promotion of religion and education. And the man who does not exert his influence in so good a work, acts as a misanthrope. Religion itself, is to a certain extent dependant upon education. Religion without education tends to enthusiasm and fanaticism, while on the other hand, education without religion is often perverted into the service of scepticism and infidelity. It is true that our Divine Master called to the apostles some illiterate Galileans, but knowing that they could not make successful ministers of reconciliation without education, carefully instructed them for the space of three years himself, nor even then did he permit them to officiate beyond the limits of the Judean Empire, until they could distinctly speak all the languages then known in the world. The knowledge of tongues was necessary to the fulfilment of the commission of "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." It is true, this knowledge was miraculously given, simply because christianity was too young to educate her ministers. The supposition that a man can teach any truth, either in philosophy or theology, without first being made acquainted with that truth, is absurd. A man must know before he can teach. All public teachers should be men of education. If education and religion could obtain in the earth, then would the arts and sciences flourish, agriculture would spread her pleasing and successful mantle over the earth, the wilderness would bloom, and put on the beautiful hue of the rose, the solitary places would be glad throughout the earth, the uttermost parts of the earth would leap for joy—archangels in their homeward flight would pause and direct the eyes of their flying associates to a people living under the influence of virtue—even the great Author of our being would look with complacency, and point to this redeemed planet—the joy of Heaven would be unspeakable, and the pleasing proclamation would ring through all the sin-stained empires of the globe, for the earth to keep jubilee a thousand years.

Young Gentlemen: Before I conclude, let me warn you particularly against some of the prominent vices of the age, which must be carefully shunned, if you would be good or great men. Vice progresses from one degree of strength to another; and as habit is the most merciless tyrant known in the earth, I warn you to check the vicious propensities of the heart in the outset. The Mississippi at its fountain is a small stream, easily checked in its progress; it soon becomes an irresistible torrent, bearing upon its ungovernable bosom the wealth of nations. The Jewish Rabbis compared vice in the beginning to the spi-

der, a web, which soon increased into the strength of the cart-ropes. Beware of idleness. Many Sampsons in the field of literature, and Solomon's in the councils of state, have been shorn of their strength by the harlot, idleness. If David had been profitably employed, instead of idly promenading on the roof of the king's palace, he would not have seen the beautiful Bathsheba bathing, then had he not been guilty of the death of the brave Uriah—nor would he have heard Nathan's cutting reproof, in the well known and appropriate parable of the ewe lamb. The syren voice of idleness invites to repose. Industry is the only road to eminence. Intense application makes the man. Aim high, soar aloft, dive deep, be not content with surface work, toil on till you can downward look and gaze on fame's dread summit. Many gallant barks have been wrecked on the shores of idleness. It is the mother of vices.

Beware! beware! of intemperance. It sweeps through the earth like a desolating simoon. If I could paint on canvass the fatal effects of intemperance, and exhibit to you a panorama view of it, you would exclaim, "of all the sad sights this is the saddest seen in time." Weeping widows, defenceless, breadless, uneducated orphans are some of the bitter effects of this the most withering of all curses. The stroke of the fearful lightning is not more ruinous. It blights with ruin earth's fairest plants of promise, and blasts into deformity all that is beautiful and lovely. Death on the pale horse, hurling his shafts in every direction could not more than equal the fatality of this terrific monster. Shun intemperance as you would a nest of vipers—for it leads to the commission of crimes of the deepest dye.

Beware! beware!!! of infidelity. Vice tends to scepticism. When men become very wicked, and have committed a long catalogue of black crimes, and find themselves unable to account for them at the bar of their conscience, in order to silence that faithful monitor, they sit down in the seat of the scornful, and deny the existence of that holy religion which robs the earth of nothing but its tears and sorrows, and finally deny the existence of a Supreme Being, and profess themselves fatalists and glory in the name. An infidel is the most ignoble of all beings. A little swaggering sceptic, bloated with self and moral meanness! How contemptible the sight! The English tongue is too poor for me to find words to express my abhorrence for such a character. What! deny the existence of God! How absurd. Gentlemen, you will never need proof of the existence of God as long as the gentle humming bird sucks the flower at your door, or the eagle soars in mid-heaven—as long as the lamb gambols on the log before you, or the elephant's mighty tread shakes the firm earth on which he moves—as long as the lap dog slumbers on the hearth, or the roar of the strong lunged lion is heard in the forest—as long as the rivulet flows along its sandy pathway, or the catarrh tumbles o'er the precipice—as long as the gentle zephyr bears the feather on its bosom, or the desolating tornado sweeps the earth in fury. You never will lack proof of God's existence while the heavens remain, for "they declare the glory of God," and while the firmament exists it will "proclaim his handy work." Day and night alternately testify his existence. "He warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze, Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the trees." I cannot suffer myself to conclude this address without reminding the female part of this auditory of their responsibility. It has been said that "women rule the world." I do not feel disposed to contradict the assertion. Their voice is not heard in the councils of the nation, nor do they speak to hostile armies in the tented field, but they speak a language at home, perceptibly articulate. There is an indescribable something about females that invariably smooths down the natural roughness belonging to the other sex. History informs us that the Roman Senate trembled beneath the loud language of Tully's tongue—the inconstant Alcæus were awed into fidelity by the trumpet tongue of Pericles—the orations of Cicero have given his name immortality. Female eloquence is neither Ciceronian or Periclesian, it is superior, it is the simple eloquence of the eye, "known and read by all men." Why is it that females hold so exalted a station in society? The answer is at hand; religion and education have elevated them to their proper place. In those countries where darkness still reigns, they are the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for their lords; only considered one degree superior to the beasts of burden. Ladies, I will not insult your understanding by urging you to be the constant promoters of education and religion. Your own good sense will ever prompt you to this. In conclusion, permit me to say, if there be any vice which threatens to overwhelm the land, and sap the foundation of your privileges, you are bound to make an effort to check it. This you can do by simply placing your foot upon it, and saying, "thus far shalt thou come, and no farther." It will obey the royal mandate. Gentlemen and Ladies: I should make but a poor return to you for your polite attention, were I longer to trespass upon your patience.

FOR THE STAR. Mr. Editor: Having, on the 9th inst., attended an examination of the rhetorical exhibition of the Farmwell Grove Academy, I cannot forbear offering you, for publication, a brief notice of the same, or of my favorable impressions from the result. Suffice to say of the examination, that, being conducted by several well educated gentlemen, before a numerous and highly respectable assembly, but one impression could not but be made on the minds of all, as to the handsome qualifications and untiring industry of Mr. J. Judge the principal, and the assiduous application of the students during the past session. The dialogues and single pieces appeared to be well selected, and calculated as well to instruct, as to amuse and entertain. The exhibition was closed by a highly appropriate and well delivered address, by the Rev. S. J. Harris. From the mouth of the speaker alone could be had a correct impression of the merits of this address. But it may be remarked here, that, the all important point enforced was the moral necessity of uniting religion and literature in order to ensure the grand result of usefulness and happiness. And the students were emphatically warned against three most potent enemies of such result, viz: idleness, intemperance and infidelity. The writer is one no otherwher, located in the Farmwell Grove Academy, or those taking part in the exercises, than by philanthropy and love of education, and therefore sign himself

A SPECTATOR.

FOR THE STAR. "Now, in the names of all the Gods at once, Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed, That he is grown so great?"

MR. EDITOR: Was such arrogance and presumption ever before heard of, as that now practised by our unworthy rulers? Martin Van Buren, who is placed in the Presidential chair against the wishes of a majority of the people, and by the intrigues of those high in power, dares to trifle with the feelings of the American people? Yes Sir, this man, this puny automaton of a king, is playing childishly with his constituents! He presumes to insult a people over whom he has gained an ascendancy by hypocrisy and double-dealing. Witness his late proceedings in relation to the currency of the country. Although a powerful majority of the representatives of the people, passed an act to rescind the odious deed which has created all the present distraction in our money affairs, he dared to refuse his sanction to the act, and thus defeated a bill which embraces the almost unanimous wish of the people, if their voice is to be understood through their representatives. And this is the same man, who, before his election, professed such unbounded reverence for the wishes of the people! Nor is this all. When requested by a large portion of his constituents to call Congress together, to devise some plan to relieve the country from its present critical situation, he positively refused to do it; and yet, within the short space of eleven days after this refusal, he issued his proclamation convening that body. Does not this look like sport with the misery he has created? Does it not resemble the Roman tyrant who fiddled over the ruin of the city? To see our chief ruler, in one day positively refusing to do an act required for the good of the country; and on the next, (converted by some potent power which he is unwilling to disclose) doing the very act which he had at first refused! Verily,

"The colour of the king, hath come and gone, Twixt his purpose and his conscience." But will the American people, who still boast of possessing the spirit of their ancestors, permit such reckless conduct to go unpunished? Will they suffer themselves to be made mere tools in the hands of the Executive, to be used or abused at his pleasure? When such things are permitted, our country may well exclaim—"farewell a long farewell to all my greatness." Had the present distress of our country been produced and perpetuated by unavoidable events, or had it been a visitation by a superior power, it might be borne with some patience. But when one man, the frail image of ourselves, presumes to

A SOUTHRON.

From the N. Y. E. Star.

THE POST MASTER GENERAL. The good faith of a nation is the foundation of its credit, and hitherto to the honor of the American Government, be it spoken, no citizen having a just claim has ever been turned off by the accounting department or by Congress, without a fair hearing, and generally speaking a just decision. The late bold and alarming stand taken by Amos Kendall against the law of Congress, requiring that officer to settle the account of Stockton and Stokes, the mail contractors, has created every where considerable excitement, it being the first time that a public officer has dared to set the laws at defiance in a case of personal interest, and make his will alone the arbitrator on the just claim of a citizen. Nothing that has been heard of recently is so alarming as the case of Amos Kendall, who, as Post Master General, can sue a citizen having contracts with the