

The oath of office was administered by T. J. Eppes, to Messrs. Brooks, Fisher, Welch, Lamar, McBride, and Eubanks.

There being a quorum present, on motion, Hon. Daniel Bird took the chair.

Nominations for President being in order, Mr. Eppes nominated Philip Dell, of Alachua.

The vote was :

For Dell—Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—11.

For Blank—Messrs. Dell, Fisher, McBride—3.

Mr. Dell was conducted to the chair, and in an appropriate address returned his thanks for the honor conferred.

The Senate then proceeded to an election for Secretary.

Mr. Eppes nominated Samuel J. Perry of Madison.

The vote was as follows :

For PERRY—Mr. President, Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

For assistant Secretary.

Mr. Eppes nominated P. Henry Young.

The vote was as follows :

For Young—Mr. President, Messrs. Bird, Brooks, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

For Engrossing Clerk, Mr. Eppes nominated N. M. Havens.

The vote was :

For Havens—Mr. President, Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

For Enrolling Clerk, Mr. Eppes nominated G. F. Hathaway.

The vote was :

For Hathaway—Mr. President, Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

For Serjeant at Arms, Mr. Eppes nominated Jesse Robertson.

The vote was :

For Robertson—Mr. President, Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

For Door Keeper and Messenger, Mr. Eppes nominated John B. Cason.

The vote was :

For Cason—Mr. President, Messrs. Brooks, Bird, Brinson, Cone, Eppes, Eubanks, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch—12.

Blank—Messrs. Fisher, McBride—2.

The Rev. J. McNeil Turner was unanimously selected Chaplain of the Senate, and Messrs. Filor, Keitt and Bird were appointed a Committee to inform him of his election.

Mr. Brinson nominated B. F. Allen for Printer. The vote was as follows :

For Allen—Mr. President, Messrs. Brinson, Brooks, Bird, Cone, Eppes, Filor, Keitt, Lamar, McElvy, Welch, Fisher—12.

For Jones—Mr. Eubanks—1.

On motion of Mr. McElvy a Committee of three was appointed to inform the House that the Senate was organized and ready for business.

Said Committee was composed of Messrs. McElvy, Brinson and Filor, who returned and reported that the House was not organized, and asked leave to be discharged.

On motion a Committee consisting of Messrs. Lamar, Keitt and Eppes was appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, and inform him of the organization of the Senate.

Said Committee returned and reported that they had discharged their duty and that the Governor would, as soon as he received a message from the House of its organization, communicate with them in writing.

On motion the Senate adjourned until to-morrow 11 o'clock A. M.

WEDNESDAY, November 26th, 1856.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

The Rev. Mr. Turner officiated as Chaplain.

The proceedings of yesterday were read and confirmed.

Mr. Eppes moved that the rules of last Session be adopted for the government of the Senate until otherwise ordered ;

Which motion was adopted.

Mr. Hawes, the member elect from the seventeenth Senatorial District, appeared, and on motion was sworn in and took his seat.

Mr. Hawes gave notice that he would on some future day ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled an act for the appointment of prosecuting attorneys in certain cases and for other purposes.

The following Message was received from the Governor and read :

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
TALLAHASSEE, November 24, 1856. }

*Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and
House of Representatives:*

It gives me pleasure to welcome you, as the people's representatives, to the seat of government, and to congratulate you upon the general health and prosperity of our common constituency.

The Constitution makes it the duty of the Executive to "give the General Assembly information of the state of the government and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may deem expedient." In discharge of this duty, I beg leave to invite your attention to the accompanying

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The reports of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Treasurer, the Register of Public Lands, the Attorney General and State Engineer, will respectively furnish the General Assembly information on the several interests and subjects committed by law to their care. The recommendation of the Comptroller on the subject of amendments of existing laws for the better security of the revenue of the State, and the more economical administration of justice in criminal prosecutions, are respectfully commended to your favorable consideration.

The law organizing the office of Register of Public Lands, I respectfully suggest, is defective. The Register sells the land, receives the money and notes, collects the credit instalments and executes the titles, pays over the money to the Treasurer, without any description of the land being made in that office. The Treasurer, in turn, delivers the money to the Comptroller, who is the party authorized by law to invest it. The Comptroller, Treas-

urer and Register are each a check upon the other, and may detect any mistake made after the money has reached the treasury; but there is no check provided by which errors may be detected in the Register's office short of an elaborate examination. I recommend that the law be so amended as to make the Register the salesman. His certificate of sale the purchaser should take to the Treasurer, who should file it carefully, enter it upon his books and receive the money, bonds, &c., in payment. When the payment is completed, the Treasurer should so certify to the Comptroller, who should execute and deliver the title. This would make each office a check upon the other, and furnish a ready means of correcting errors should they occur.

A report from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund will be presented to the General Assembly at an early day. The law organizing that trust does not provide for such report, but the propriety of its submission is so manifest that I shall take pleasure in communicating it as soon as received.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES.

On the 12th day of January, 1853, the General Assembly passed an act entitled "An act to provide for the final removal of the Indians from this State, and for other purposes."

The first section of that act makes it unlawful for any Indian to remain in this State.

The second section requires the Governor to raise a brigade, composed of one Regiment of Mounted Volunteers and one Regiment of Infantry, of not more than one thousand men each.

The 5th section provides, that the Governor shall tender said Brigade to the Federal Government, for the removal of the Indians.

The sixth section makes it the duty of the Governor, in

the event of the Federal Government's refusing to accept the services of said Brigade, forthwith "to secure the frontier settlers" and employ the Brigade in capturing the Indians, &c.

The seventh section appropriates five hundred thousand dollars for the expenses of the war, and authorizes the Governor to borrow the money at six per cent. interest.

The ninth section authorizes the Comptroller to audit the accounts and issue warrants upon the Treasury for their payment.

The eleventh section provides, that when the Indians commence actual hostilities, the Governor shall carry this act into execution.

In obedience to the requirement of this act, I attempted, on my inauguration, to raise the Brigade. The Mounted Regiment was readily procured and organized, but the Infantry Regiment I found it impracticable to recruit. In December last the contingency occurred, upon the happening of which the Executive was required to carry the law into execution. The Indians commenced actual hostilities by attacking a detachment of United States troops, commanded by Lieutenant Hartsuff. This attack was entirely unexpected, and found our frontier population in an unprotected condition. The officer in command of the United States forces was not able to give promptly the protection required for such a line of frontier, and the citizens, naturally and properly, called upon the State government to protect them in the enjoyment of their lives and property. Before, however, the decision of the Executive could be obtained, many men from the counties of Manatee, Hillsborough and Hernando, moved by patriotic impulses, had organized themselves into companies, elected officers, armed, equipped and rationed themselves and had marched to the frontier. These companies I promptly recognized as in the service of the State, and instructed them to give efficient protection to the frontier population, and

prevent, if possible, the breaking up and abandonment of the settlements. I immediately tendered to the Secretary of War such portion of the Brigade as had been raised, and offered to raise the balance at the earliest practicable period. He declined, however, to receive more than five companies, three of mounted men and two of infantry—the latter of which I could only procure to the extent of one detachment.

The three mounted companies of Volunteers, numbering rank and file, about two hundred and sixty men, were all the force of that description, that I was advised the Government designed using for frontier protection. This, to my mind, was quite insufficient for the reasonable protection of the country, to say nothing of furnishing pursuing parties when the Indians should make their appearance in the settlements. I therefore determined to retain in the service of the State, the Companies of Captains F. M. Durrance, L. G. Lesley, William H. Kendrick, and Abner Johnson, and afterwards added a detachment under Lieutenant John Addison, making, rank and file, about four hundred men. These troops have been employed, partly on the frontier, and partly in the Indian country. Detachments have, on three several occasions, overtaken and fought the enemy, once recovering a large amount of property, (of which they had robbed one of our best citizens,) and killing, as was supposed, from four to seven Indians. This was effected under Lieutenant John Addison, without loss. The other two engagements were by small detachments from the companies of Captains F. M. Durrance, L. G. Lesley and W. B. Hooker, and were the most gallantly contested actions that have probably ever occurred in Florida. The Indians having the advantage in point of numbers, appeared determined to destroy their pursuers, and such was the desperation with which they fought, that

one contest was decided by a resort to pocket knives, in which an Indian was killed by having his throat cut. In these three engagements it is supposed that over twenty Indians were killed, and a number wounded, and so thoroughly were they chastised, that although more than five months have elapsed, they have not, as I have been advised, ventured an engagement, or even an attack upon the frontiers. In these last two engagements we lost in killed, Lieut's. Carleton and Whiddon, and William Parker, some of the most gallant spirits of our little army; and while all did their duty nobly, and are entitled to the gratitude of the whole State, the memories of those who perished should be embalmed in every heart. For a more detailed account of these gallant actions, I respectfully refer to the Report of Capt. F. M. Durrance, herewith communicated.

When the Indian outbreak occurred, the money markets of the world were in such a condition as to forbid even the hope of negotiating a dollar upon the terms to which I was limited by the act of January 12, 1853. The impossibility of procuring subsistence and forage, except to a limited extent, forbid my calling into the service of the State such a force as would have protected the frontier and promptly captured or humbled the enemy. Under these circumstances I was compelled to limit the force to four companies and a detachment. These I provided for temporarily by using the contingent fund, and borrowing the small balance remaining uninvested of the School and Seminary funds. Having made this temporary provision, I proceeded to Washington City, with the hope of inducing the War Department to accept the services of a Brigade of Volunteers, or at all events, receive the companies retained by the State. I did not, however, succeed in either, but received assurances of the determination of the Government to remove the Indians by force, and to use such an amount of force for that purpose as could be profitably employed.

The correspondence upon this point with the War Department, is herewith communicated for the information of the General Assembly.

That the Secretary of War did honestly determine to remove the Indians I entertain no doubt, but that he made a mistake in reference to the kind and extent of force necessary for that purpose, is now manifest. The purpose of removal is, however, prominently preserved, and recently a general officer of great skill and success in such warfare, has been ordered to the command with increased forces. To what extent he may estimate for a mounted volunteer force, I am not yet advised. That he will find the war interminable without a mounted force, there is too much reason to fear. I have, however, great confidence in his capacity for such a service.

Having failed to effect what I desired at Washington, and having determined to continue in the service of the State such a mounted force as was deemed sufficient to give reasonable protection to the frontier, I found myself compelled to negotiate for money on terms not authorized by the statute. I negotiated a loan in the City of Charleston for thirty thousand dollars, at an interest of seven per cent. per annum, to be returned at some early day, after the adjournment of the present session of the General Assembly. This fund has been reserved for the purchase of subsistence and forage, and for the payment of incidental expenses, and will at an early day be exhausted. I respectfully invite the General Assembly to appoint a committee to examine and report upon this loan, and the disbursement of the funds made by my special orders.

During my absence on my visit to Washington City, a very great excitement occurred in Levy County, which spread rapidly into the Counties of Madison, Columbia and Alachua. The report of Indian trails in great number, with an attack upon a citizen, and another upon a

fort or stockade, with a threatened depopulation of the section of country, induced me to send Capt. A. J. T. Wright, with a select detachment, to examine carefully and report the facts. His report is herewith communicated. It will be seen that his examination confirmed the impression so generally prevailing, that there were Indians in considerable number in that section, and called for two mounted companies to capture or expel them. The balance of his own Company, with the Company of Capt. Stewart, were promptly ordered to join him. On the thirteenth of June, the command of that special service was assigned to Col. M. Whit Smith, with authority to recruit four infantry companies to aid in scouring thoroughly the Gulf and Suwannee Hammocks, and other suspected places. This assignment of command was connected with the duties of recruiting officer, Quarter-Master and Commissary, to be covered by a Major's pay, as will be seen by my letter of instructions of that date, a copy of which is herewith communicated.

The Infantry Companies ordered to be recruited, were deemed necessary for temporary service in the Gulf Hammock and adjacent places, and were then desired for Col. Monroe, commanding United States forces in Florida, to aid in filling a requisition, then daily expected, of which advices from the War Department had been received. A portion of these were recruited, but it was found difficult to raise full companies, and as the commanding officer required such, they were discharged at the completion of the special service for which they were enlisted. This whole special service terminated in September, and the Companies were generally discharged on the 30th day of that month.

At the expiration of six months from the respective dates of mustering the three mounted companies, and one infantry detachment of volunteers, into the service of the

United States, and the four companies and one detachment of mounted volunteers into the service of the State, they were all regularly mustered out. The second requisition from Col. Monroe, for three companies to supply the places of those mustered out, was filled by companies organized and commanded by Capts. S. L. Sparkman, L. G. Lesley and Robert Bullock. The companies mustered out of the service of the State were promptly supplied by others commanded by Capts. F. M. Durrance, W. H. Kendrick, Abner Johnson and E. T. Kendrick. The detachment commanded by Lieutenant Addison was ordered to be substituted by a full company, the organization of which has not yet been reported to me.

The great distance at which I was located from the seat of war, the necessity for economising the limited means at my disposal, and the difficulty of communicating my instructions, with the mails virtually suspended for a portion of the time, made it in my judgment proper to appoint a special and confidential agent, near the seat of war, to discharge all such duties, whether civil or military, as might be devolved upon him by Executive authority. I therefore, on the 4th of February last, appointed as such agent, Gen. Jesse Carter, of Tampa, who has, since that date, been laboriously engaged in duties connected with the present Indian disturbances. His reports, letters and abstracts are on file, copies of which will be furnished to the General Assembly if desired. A copy of the letter of his appointment, and such general instructions as have been issued to him, in relation to the service, are herewith communicated. He is now, in company with a portion of the State troops, on an extended expedition into the Indian country, a report of which and its results I hope to be able to communicate to the General Assembly at an early day.

Should the United States call for no additional mounted volunteer force, for the present campaign, and make no

other provision for cavalry, it will in my judgment be unsafe to discharge any part of the mounted force now employed by the State.

It will be seen by a correspondence herewith communicated, between the Post Office and War Departments and one of our Senators, that the provision for mounted force on the part of the Government was so limited, that the mails between Palatka and Tampa were virtually suspended for the want of protection. On being advised of this state of things, I ordered Gen. Carter, the State's special agent, to confer with the Colonel in command, on this subject, and if he was unable to give the necessary protection, to furnish it from the forces in the service of the State. My order in reference to the matter is herewith communicated.

No provision having been made by the Government of the United States to pay or subsist our State forces, it becomes the imperative duty of the State Government to do so. The amount which will be due on the 20th of February next, should no change in our present force be made, will be, (including pay, subsistence, forage, transportation, incidental expenses, and the loan negotiated in Charleston,) according to my estimate, about two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and for each six months' service beyond that period, should the necessity unfortunately continue to exist, a provision of one hundred and ten thousand dollars should be made.

With these explanations and suggestions, this embarrassing question is submitted to the General Assembly, with the assurance that I shall cheerfully and heartily co-operate with you in any proper measure which your wisdom may suggest for protecting the credit of the State, discharging her obligations and removing the Indians from within her borders.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The General Assembly, at its last regular session

passed an act providing for and encouraging a liberal system of internal improvements in this State. The system of roads, to be aided under its provisions by a guarantee from the Internal Improvement Fund to the extent of ten thousand dollars per mile, for iron and equipment, embraces as terminal points the Bays of Pensacola and St. Andrews in the Western District, St. Marks or Crooked River in the Middle District, Fernandina and Jacksonville in the Eastern District, and Tampa and Cedar Key in the Southern District, and making in the aggregate little less than seven hundred miles of road.

This system, extensive and general as it appears to be, will not reach and benefit, locally and directly, every individual, or even neighborhood or county, in the State; and it is a source of regret that it will not. Its benefits, however, will possibly be found to be as nearly equally distributed as the form of the State, the extent of its settlement and the location of its ports, will permit. Of the thirty-two counties organized, twenty, containing more than nine-tenths of our population, will probably be penetrated by some part of the system. Eleven out of the remaining twelve have outlets for their produce by navigable streams or bays, enabling them, without great inconvenience, to reach the Gulf of Mexico or the Atlantic Ocean. The remaining county lies near the line of the Pensacola and Georgia Road, and will probably be crossed by a road connecting Savannah and Brunswick with our system east of the Alapaha.

Complete this system, and Florida will be no longer inaccessible. She will be a picture for the admiration of her Southern sisters; a State in which no citizen need leave his own county to find his shipping depot or warehouse. The steam car, the steamboat or the sailing vessel will visit every county. The salubrity of our climate and fertility of our soil will become familiar to our whole country. Immigration will increase in a ratio hitherto unexampled

in our State. Our rich lands will be reduced to cultivation. Our forests, now valueless, will swell our exports by contributing liberally of naval stores and timber. Our extreme South, now inhabited by the red man of the forest, will be occupied by an industrious and frugal population. The cultivation of tropical fruits will raise up a new interest and add to our list a leading article of export. Every section will develop increased capacity for production, and every interest and every citizen will share in the general prosperity.

That the system of roads destined to confer these and other benefits upon us will be completed at an early day, I entertain no doubt. The act inaugurating the system has been on our statute book less than two years. Work under its provisions commenced with energy a little over one year since. The Tallahassee road, connecting the Capital with the Gulf at St. Marks, has been completed, equipped and is in daily use, at large profits. Iron for fifty miles of the Florida Road has been purchased and is nearly all within the jurisdiction of the State. Nearly fifty miles of that road have been graded, ten miles finished, and the line through from Fernandina to Cedar Key under contract to parties of capital and character, and will be pressed forward with energy. The Central, Atlantic and Gulf Road has been located from Jacksonville to Alligator, a distance of sixty miles, and the grading and timbering placed under contract to reliable men. Nearly twenty miles of this line, I am informed, have been graded and a large number of the cross-ties procured. The Pensacola and Georgia Road has been located from Tallahassee to Alligator, a distance of one hundred and seven miles, the grading nearly all placed under contract to planters and others, who have the ability to complete the work with promptness. This line from Tallahassee westward has been surveyed as far as the Apalachicola river, and will probably be located definitely at an early day. These

show that since the passage of the Internal Improvement Bill, about three hundred and seventy-five miles of road have been surveyed, three hundred and thirty five miles located, three hundred of which have been placed under contract. Of this about one hundred miles have been graded, of which more than thirty miles have been finished and in daily use. It is believed, also, that an amount of capital, sufficient to pay for grading and timbering all roads that have been definitely located, has been secured, and it can hardly be doubted that the bonds of the companies, guaranteed as provided in the general bill, will purchase the iron and equipments, so that at least three hundred and thirty-five miles of the system may be considered secured. This will connect Fernandina and Jacksonville with Cedar Key and St. Marks, and leave the work necessary to secure the connection with Tampa Bay, St. Andrews and Pensacola still to be done. It may, I think, be easily shown that the importance of these connections to the full success of the system will force their completion at an early day.

Tampa Bay is exactly on the most direct line of travel and commerce between the Atlantic cities of the United States, and the Island of Cuba. In addition to this, the road from Fernandina to Tampa must be an important part of the great line from New York to San Francisco by way of the Honduras Railroad; thus making Tampa Bay the Gulf Depot for a great and growing commerce from these points. The acquisition of the Island of Cuba, a circumstance which must in the nature of things occur at no distant day, will disembarrass our commerce with her, and make her one of our richest and most profitable customers. Every road in our system, and every city and town that will be built up by them, will be interested in concentrating these great streams of travel and commerce upon Tampa, because all will share in the benefit, and without the

completion of that line, it is not probable that the business could be fully controlled for our State. There is from these two sources, an external commerce inviting us to accept it, which would be sufficient to build up a great city. We have only to prepare to receive it. The success of our enterprise requires us to do it, and it will be done.

Pensacola, like Tampa, offers peculiar inducements for the completion of our line Westward. It lies at the door of the great West, and is probably the best harbor on the Gulf of Mexico. The South, to secure her commercial independence, needs just such a place, and cannot overlook the advantages of its position. More than nineteen twentieths of all the goods consumed in the Southern States are sold and delivered to the consumers by the merchants of the interior towns and villages. These merchants purchase their stocks in the Atlantic cities, in part upon credit, and rely to a considerable extent upon their sales to aid in meeting their notes at maturity. Their sales being generally due at the first of the year, their purchases are made at such times as to cause their maturity at a later date than that, and as the credits are generally six months, the purchases are made during the months of July, August and September. During these months our Southern Atlantic cities have the reputation of being sickly; and the interior merchant, declining to risk his health in them, goes North for his supplies. This is doubtless one of the principal reasons, why the commercial energy of the South has been prostrated—why we as a section are tributary to the North, and are even now, while receiving at her hands insult and injury, paying her more than forty millions annually to conduct our commerce. This should not be so. If our Southern Atlantic Cities are unhealthy and we cannot concentrate our commerce upon them, we have other points South that are not. Pensacola would compare favorably at all seasons of the year with New York, Boston, or Philadelphia, and could be made available as a great commer-

cial mart, provided a suitable commerce could be concentrated there. Can this be done? Let us examine this point carefully, for it is one of great importance.

For the purposes of this investigation, we will consider the road from Fernandina to Pensacola finished, the road from Pensacola to Montgomery finished, and a road from Pensacola to Vicksburg finished.

Europe is our great customer for raw cotton, and the line of transportation that can place cotton in European ports most safely, cheaply and expeditiously, will do the business. The two and a quarter million bales of cotton shipped annually from New Orleans and Mobile to European markets pay, it is estimated, an average of 7-10ths of a penny freight, but I will place it at 5-8ths, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound. This, on a bale of 500 lbs., would be \$6.25; add insurance at an average of \$1.75 per bale, and we have eight dollars as the expense on a bale of cotton from the time it is put on ship-board until landed on the wharf in a European port. From Pensacola this bale of cotton could be profitably carried on a road of easy grades to Fernandina for \$1.50. The freight from Fernandina would, in consequence of her fine harbor and deep water, admitting vessels of large class, be cheaper than from our other Southern ports, and could, beyond doubt, be brought to an average of 5-16d. or 5-8ths of a cent per pound, being $\$3.12\frac{1}{2}$; to which add insurance $87\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and expenses of delivering on board at Fernandina 25 cents, and we have a total expense of \$5.75. From this may be deducted 50 cents per bale for saving in interest and primage, in consequence of the difference in time and less vessel freight, by way of Fernandina—thus showing a saving of \$2.75 per bale to the Pensacola shipper. One dollar per bale would pay to transport cotton from New Orleans and Mobile to Pensacola, and if my estimates are correct, the whole receipts of these great cities could be secured to be transported over our road at a positive saving to the shipper of \$1.75 per

bale. But when we consider that the difference between the freight and insurance on a steamer, down the river from Vicksburg to New Orleans, and the freight on a railroad from Vicksburg to Pensacola, could not be more than fifty cents per bale, which would probably be fully off-set by cost of re-shipping in New Orleans, it is reasonable to suppose that Pensacola, offering a saving of \$2.75 per bale over New Orleans, would get all the cotton from that point, and consequently from above it. The same data is quite as good for the cotton concentrating at that point from Texas, Arkansas, and an extensive adjacent country, transported on the great Central or Pacific Railroad, and for the cotton descending by any of the great lines of Railroad, or of water transportation, crossed by this road from Pensacola to Vicksburg.

I will not extend this communication by attempting to enumerate the great variety of products, other than cotton, which would find their way by the same channel of transportation to Pensacola, and over our line of road to the Atlantic Ocean. A glance at the trade of our Gulf cities will readily suggest these.

But, however important the freights from Pensacola to the Atlantic might be, those from the Atlantic to Pensacola would probably exceed them. The light goods of value, now shipped to New Orleans, Mobile, Texas, and all Western Gulf Ports, and thence distributed over the whole South West, would hardly fail to pass over this road, even if it should be necessary to re-ship them by water at Pensacola. This route would not only save time, and give greater certainty as to the time of arrival, but would make a saving in the single item of *extra* insurance, around the peninsula of Florida, equal to the entire freight from New York to New Orleans.

The completion of the roads from Pensacola to Montgomery and Vicksburg, would add largely to this business. At Montgomery a connection would be formed with other

roads, and through them with the systems of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and other States, many of which roads would serve as distributors for Pensacola. The road to Vicksburg would cross the Alabama River, the Mobile and Ohio road, and the roads from New Orleans, penetrating the States of Mississippi and Tennessee. At Vicksburg, it would connect with the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and the great Central and Pacific Road, with its extensive prospective connections;—thus opening up to our great Gulf Port thousands of miles of land and water transportation, to serve as distributing agents for her commerce, and bringing into immediate and harmonious connection with our system of roads the great West, with its teeming millions, its untold wealth, and mighty resources.

With these connections completed, Pensacola, with her advantages of position and climate, could hardly fail to become a city of extensive commerce, second probably to none in the South, if to any in the Union. But these are not all. The tendency is to annexation; and if we look down the stream of time, we may, in imagination, see a period when Cuba and the other West India Islands, with the States of Mexico and Central and South America, may be added to this confederacy, and these vast and as yet undeveloped countries be socially, commercially and politically identified with the civilization and institutions of the South. Their relation to the Gulf of Mexico will, however, with or without annexation, make them to a great extent our customers, and as their civilization increases and their capacity for production is developed, we may concentrate upon our Gulf ports an amount of business which we have at present no data of estimating. The produce thrown into our ports from these Southern latitudes would, much of it, go further North and East in quest of consumers, and with the road from Pensacola in the West, with its feeders from St. Andrews and St.

Marks, and the road from Tampa in the South, with its feeder from Cedar Key, with others in prospect, not embraced in our system, all concentrating upon the fine port of Fernandina, with her beautiful and extensive bay, her fine bar and deep water, could not fail to build up at that point *the great Atlantic city of the South*.

Holding as we do within our borders the fine Bay of Tampa near our extreme South, the Bay of Pensacola in our extreme West, and the Bay of Fernandina and the Saint John's River in our extreme North East, with the intermediate Gulf ports of St. Andrews, Apalachicola or White Bluff, St. Marks and Cedar Key, embracing all the shortest and best lines between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, and with a system so arranged that no change of cars will be necessary to enable either road to deliver freight or passengers at any point embraced, it is certain that unless we refuse to avail ourselves of these advantages, which a bountiful Providence has conferred upon us, and open our ports to an external competition upon terms which would impair our credit and wither our enterprises, we shall make our State the great commercial State of the South, and shall find at an early day that on most of our lines of railroad single tracks, although first class, will be found insufficient for the business which will be offered.

If in this sketch I have not greatly over-estimated the advantages which we should as a commonwealth derive from the completion of our enterprises, I may with confidence assume that it is our interest to complete them, and this brings me to consider the question of our ability to do so. I assume that the guarantees of our general bill will be sufficient for the purchase of the iron and equipment, and that there are yet 365 miles of grading and timbering to provide for. This at five thousand five hundred dollars, per mile (which is sufficient over such a country, including the laying of iron,) would amount in round num-

bers to (2,000,000) two million dollars. One-fourth of this sum could be paid in stock of the road, leaving fifteen hundred thousand dollars to be provided. Against this the companies on these lines hold lands granted by the Federal and State governments, and lying within fifteen miles of their roads, to the extent of about two million (2,000,000) acres. These, at seventy-five cents per acre, would provide the whole amount necessary. But these 365 miles pass through twelve counties, which hold about one-third of the population of the State, and which have not up to this time been called upon to expend one cent upon our roads. They and the towns along the lines are authorized, as corporations, to subscribe, and with the cities of Fernandina, Pensacola and Tampa are abundantly able to subscribe the whole amount, if considered necessary.

But if we had nothing but a knowledge of the fact that our 335 miles could be more than doubled in value by connecting with Pensacola and Tampa, it would be sufficient. The work would be accomplished. The completion of three hundred and thirty-five miles, with its benefits and blessings scattered upon the community, would make every man a volunteer, would nerve every arm and inspire confidence in every breast. But it is a work that rises infinitely above a mere question of dollars and cents. It addresses itself to us as patriots—as lovers of our country. It is a great work, not expected to benefit each man individually alike, but to benefit our beloved State—to make us great and prosperous and to contribute something to the commercial independence of the South. Can there be those who would, for a paltry consideration, either of dollars and cents or of local and individual advantages, embarrass its progress?

In view of our position and the great advantage which it gives us, I would respectfully recommend to the General Assembly great caution in granting chartered privi-

leges which by possibility may be used as rivals or competitors of our system. A false step now may be fatal to our interest.

TAXATION.

The last General Assembly conformed to the spirit of the Constitutional provision, and adopted the Ad valorem system of Taxation. This, I think, is the correct principle. As the Government protects every description of property, it should tax every description its due proportion of the Government expense. As each citizen is protected in the enjoyment of all he possesses, each should pay according to what he possesses, and he that owns little pays little, and he that owns much pays much. This is as it should be, but the details of the law are imperfect, and may be amended with great advantage to the revenue of the State. On this subject I respectfully call your attention to the report of the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

STATE DEBT.

On the subject of the State's debt, I presented my views very fully to the last General Assembly at their adjourned session, accompanied by a set of tables showing the character of the debt, the years in which the excess of expenditure over revenue occurred; the loans resorted to to meet deficiencies with the interest then due, &c. My opinions have not changed upon this subject. I beg permission to copy what I then said, and present it as what I now desire to say. It was as follows:

"The people will never complain of taxation as long as their public servants can show that the amounts collected are necessary to defray the legitimate expenses of their State Government; but these expenses they desire to pay annually. They want to know by the demand made upon them, whether their Government has been economically, or extravagantly administered, and will complain when assessed to pay a heavy annual interest upon a State debt, for money raised by loans, which should have been raised by taxation. The

tendency under our State Government has been, I think, to touch too cautiously the taxing power, and to rely too much upon loans to supply our deficiencies. This may be seen by reference to the following table:

	Revenue collected.	Warrants issued.
For the fiscal year, ending 31st Oct, 1846,....	\$27,597 28.....	\$56,009 57
" " " " 1847,....	45,357 60.....	52,787 46
" " " " 1848,....	56,832 72.....	54,913 81
" " " " 1849,....	58,638 11.....	55,807 79
" " " " 1850,....	46,079 84.....	38,559 33
" " " " 1851,....	57,141 10.....	67,187 73
" " " " 1852,....	55,619 63.....	55,234 49
" " " " 1853,....	57,278 36.....	108,607 88
" " " " 1854,....	62,801 51.....	53,417 13
" " " " 1855,....	68,365 19.....	85,365 19
	\$535,711 34	\$627,890,38

This shows a deficiency of Revenue for the ten years, of ninety-two thousand one hundred and seventy-nine 04-100 (92,179 04-100) dollars, or equal to an average deficiency of over nine thousand dollars per annum. To supply this, loans have been resorted to by special Acts and under the law authorizing the Comptroller to invest the School, Seminary, and Internal Improvement funds in the stocks of *this* and other States. These loans have been as follows:

January 24, 1851, Borrowed of School Fund	\$25,000 00	Interest due	\$9,534 83
July 8, 1852, " In. Im. "	5,000 00	" "	1,066 20
Nov. 17, 1852, " Sem'y. "	4,500 00	" "	846 87
Feb'y. 17, 1853, " In. Im. "	10,000 00	" "	1,706 01
" 17, 1853, " School. "	10,000 00	" "	1,706 01
Dec. 22, 1853, " In. Im. "	15,000 00	" "	1,716 85
	\$69,500 00		\$16,578 77

The loans amount to sixty-nine thousand five hundred (\$69,500) dollars, and the interest due upon them, on the first day of the present month, amounted to sixteen thousand five hundred and seventy-eight 77-100 (16,578 77-100) dollars. Add to these amounts, twenty-two thousand, six hundred and seventy-nine 04-100 (22,679 04-100) dollars, being the difference between the aggregate deficiency and the amount of loans made, and which is necessarily outstanding in the shape of Treasury certificates and Comptroller's warrants, and it makes the aggregate indebtedness one hundred and eight thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven 81-100 (108,757 81-100) dollars.

Nor is this the only debt due by the State. There was an Act approved January 7, 1853, entitled "An Act to provide for the payment of Captain Sparkman's, Parker's and other Volunteer Companies for services in the year 1849." Under the requirements of this Act, there was State Scrip signed by the Comptroller and Governor, payable in two, three and five years, with interest at the rate of six

per cent. per annum, and issued, amounting to sixty-four thousand three hundred and sixty-one 90-100,.....\$64,261 90
 Interest upon this sum to November
 1, 1855, being an average of 2 years,
 3 months and 6 days,.....\$8,753 21

\$73,115 11

This amount added to the deficiencies as shown by the Comptroller's reports, makes up a State debt of one hundred and eighty-one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two 92-100 (181,872 92-100) dollars. About one hundred and sixty thousand dollars of this amount is bearing interest and adds annually to the debt nearly ten thousand dollars. It is true that a majority of this debt was contracted for the protection of our frontier inhabitants against Indian depredations; a protection which the General Government was bound to give them, and which consideration should have induced the return of the money. Of such return, however, there is no immediate prospect, and the State, having assumed the obligations, paid one class of them and *required her Governor and Comptroller, by law*, to sign and issue State Scrip, bearing interest in payment of the other class, cannot, consistently with honor and good faith, refuse to provide for the payment of principal and interest of the scrip now due, and for the redemption of the balance as it becomes due."

To this debt we may now make an addition of one year's interest or about eleven thousand dollars, making nearly one hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars, for although it is true that interest to some extent has been paid, it was paid by re-borrowing.

For this debt I respectfully recommend that a seven per cent. stock be issued, redeemable at the option of the State at any time prior to the year 1867, and that a fund be specially set aside to pay the interest, semi-annually, in the City of New York, and a sinking fund be provided of not less than five thousand dollars a year with which to redeem the principal as it may be offered at or below par.

For the debt due as pay to Volunteers, on account of present Indian hostilities, I recommend that a seven per cent. stock be issued, redeemable at the option of the State at any time prior to the year 1867, and that provision be made for paying the interest, semi-annually, in New York.

That so far as money is required for the payment of loans heretofore made, or for the payment of debts due, or to become due, for subsistence, forage, transportation, and incidental expenses, the Governor, or some other officer, be authorized to sell the seven per cent. stock at not less than par, or if that cannot be done, that he be authorized to negotiate a loan on the best terms practicable, hypothecating such amount as may be necessary of the seven per cents, as security for such loan; provided, however, that so soon as the United States, whose debts these are in good faith, shall pay them, or any part of them, the money shall be immediately applied to the redemption of that class for which the payment was so made.

The Comptroller's report shows some sixteen thousand dollars of arrearages against defaulting Tax Collectors in the hands of the several Solicitors for collection, which will probably be coming forward in time to be used as a sinking fund for the purposes above indicated, and unless the General Assembly shall find it necessary to make appropriations much exceeding the average of former years, the surplus under the present revenue law will be sufficient to meet the interest as it matures.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

It could hardly have been expected that the Territory of Florida, with her limited population in 1838, and suffering from the ravages of an Indian war, could have assembled a Convention, however distinguished for the wisdom of its members, that could have framed a Constitution perfect in all its parts, and exactly adapted to the condition and wants of every interest which might be subsequently developed. The members of our Convention did not venture to hope for such a state of perfection, and wisely provided, under the guards and restrictions imposed by the 14th Article of the Constitution, for its amendment by legislative enactments. This power has been exercised on

several occasions, and with perhaps a single exception, beneficially to the State. There are, however, other portions which, in my judgment, require amendment, and to them I respectfully invite your attention.

The 3d section of the 6th Article provides that "no President, Director, Cashier or other officer of any Banking Company in this State, shall be eligible to the office of Governor, Senator or Representative to the General Assembly of this State, so long as he shall be such President, Director, Cashier or other officer, nor until the lapse of twelve months from the time at which he shall have ceased to be such President, Director, Cashier or other officer."

Such a provision might have been expedient in 1838. We then had extensive banking institutions which had suspended specie payments. They had issued large amounts of bonds guaranteed by the Territorial Government, and it was feared by many that through their directors they might obtain a controlling influence over our State Legislature. These institutions have failed, and retain but a nominal existence. They possess no influence, and no one is now apprehensive of danger from them or their officers.

The General Assembly, at its last session, passed a Bank charter, and under this and our general Banking Law, it is probable that organizations may be effected at an early day. Should such institutions go into operation, every citizen who receives their circulation will be interested in their solvency, and consequently in their management. This should induce the State to encourage, by all proper means, safe, honest, intelligent and prudent men to take the management of their affairs. The Constitution as it now stands, so far from encouraging such men to discharge these important duties, visits them, if they do, with proscription and disfranchisement. Such a course is well calculated to confine their management exclusively to speculators and borrowers. This, I think, should not be

done, and I therefore respectfully suggest that this section could be repealed or modified with advantage to the State.

The 8th section of the 6th article provides, "that no Governor, Justice of the Supreme Court, Chancellor or Judge of this State shall be eligible to election or appointment to any other or different station, office or post of honor or emolument under this State, or to the station of Senator or Representative in Congress of the United States, until one year after he shall have ceased to be such Governor, Justice, Chancellor or Judge."

These are prominent executive and judicial officers, elected by the people. Now, unless there is something peculiarly demoralizing in these high positions, it would be difficult to find a reason that would justify their disfranchisement. Why should a venerable and learned citizen, who was esteemed by his fellow-citizens as good enough for a Chief Justice, and who had discharged his high trust with fidelity and benefit to the State, not afterwards be good enough for a Governor or member of the Legislature? Or, why should a man who had been honored by his fellow-citizens with the chief executive office, and who had retired from this position with the confidence of his constituents, be ineligible to any office for which he was qualified, and which was elective by that constituency? Why should a Judge, who has served for years upon the Circuit Court Bench, be disqualified for a seat on the Chancery or Supreme Court Benches? We should, I think, naturally look to the Circuit Judges, as they become venerable in years and profound in learning, for material with which to supply our appellate tribunals. Under our Constitution, these are ineligible, and when our present Justices have passed away, we shall be forced to place our young and untried lawyers upon our Supreme Court Bench to review and set aside the decisions of age and experience. This, I think, should be reversed. But if it is deemed proper that these high officers should be

disfranchised on the ground that it is dangerous to permit them to be transferred from one position to another, it is difficult to see why the legislative department should be exempted from the disability.

The 10th section of the 6th Article of the Constitution provides that "No Minister of the Gospel shall be eligible to the office of Governor, Senator or member of the House of Representatives of this State."

Ministers of the Gospel seldom engage in political life. It is better I think that they should not. This, however, to my mind is no reason why they should be disfranchised by the Constitution. They are citizens, and the spirit which would proscribe them because they have too much religion, might soon be made to proscribe others because they have too little. As a class, they are perhaps the most peaceable and law abiding men we have. Their influence in our country is on the side of virtue, and yet our Constitution deprives them of a part of their privileges, as it does those who are "convicted of bribery, perjury or other infamous crimes." These sections are I think all proscriptive, anti-republican and unnecessary. I therefore respectfully recommend that the General Assembly adopt the necessary measures to place the question of their repeal before the qualified voters of the State.

The amendment of our Constitution which changed the sessions of the General Assembly from annual to biennial, was adopted mainly as a measure of economy. It is doubted whether it has served the purpose to any great extent, and there are to my mind controlling reasons why we should return, at the earliest day practicable, to annual sessions.

We are a new State, and are now beginning to develop our resources. We shall require frequent acts of legislation, sometimes to protect and foster enterprises, at other times perhaps to restrain excesses. An extensive system of internal improvements inaugurated—a vast amount of land on the market—large amounts of money and other valua-

bles accumulating, and at interest—a system of Common Schools, and two State institutions of high order, to say nothing of the increasing amount of ordinary business thrown upon the different State officers—call loudly for attention, and not only justify but require the annual examination and supervision of the People's representatives. A rigid and frequent examination of all State offices, and a strict accountability of all officers, are essential to the proper administration of the government, and should not be deferred except for the most pressing and important reasons.

But this is not all. We should never forget that we are a part of a complex system of government; that we are one of the sovereign States of the Federal Union; that there are extensive interests in that Union antagonistic to us and our social organization. We should never lose sight of the fact that should that antagonistic interest, or any other, possess itself of the different departments of the Federal Government, and undertake to wield its powers for our destruction or injury, it is to our State Government that we are to look for protection and security in that hour of danger. It is pre-eminently *our* Government, and should never be permitted to become, in the estimation of our people, one of secondary importance. We should cherish it as the anchor of our hope, the shield of our defence, and the parent of our security. Let us then annually assemble around her altars, counsel with each other, light up the fires of patriotism, and on each returning year dedicate ourselves and our children anew to her service.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.

We have just passed through the most exciting and important political contest that has ever occurred under our government. It was an alarming contest. It was a contest between sections, and the issue was the equality of the States of this Union. The success of the sectional

Northern candidate, with his platform embracing the admission of no more slave States, the restoration of the Missouri restriction, the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the repeal of the fugitive slave law, and ultimately the abolition of the institution in the States, would have forced the South to seek her safety in a dissolution of the Union. But fanaticism has been beaten. The South, with a band of pure and noble patriots at the North, lovers of justice and the Constitution, have breasted the storm and achieved a triumph. The patriots of the country, North, South, East and West are rejoicing in the election of a conservative, able and pure statesman as President of the United States. And it is a matter for honest and earnest congratulation. But let us not lay aside our armor. Mr. Buchanan has carried fourteen out of the fifteen Southern States, and many of them by large majorities, and yet he does not go into the Presidential Chair backed by the moral force of the country. He is elected by a plurality, and not a majority of the people of the United States. The fanatical party who a few years since were regarded as too contemptible in numbers to be either feared or respected, have become a mighty host and have boldly put forth their impious hands to pull down our fabric of government and establish a despotism upon the ruins of the Constitution. Upon a mere adventurer they have cast a vote at least equal to the entire vote of the fifteen Southern States. They are sustained by a majority, and a large majority, of the voters of the free States. A small adjustment of the vote will give them the support of these States unanimously. The election of Mr. Buchanan gives us a respite—we dare not look with confidence for more. With one and a quarter million of votes organized, fanaticism will struggle hard for the ascendancy. The time has, in my judgment, come when the South should forget her differences and stand as one man for the defence of the Constitution and her rights under it. She should

let fanaticism know that she has made her last submission to unconstitutional exactions. Her watchword should be read of all men, "Equality in the Union, or independence out of it."

Pledging my hearty co-operation in all constitutional measures calculated to promote the honor and interest of our beloved State; and with an earnest prayer that the God of all Grace may preside over your deliberations, and direct your counsels for the prosperity of our Commonwealth and the promotion of His glory,

I am, your fellow-citizen,

JAMES E. BROOME.

Mr. McElvy moved that 600 copies of the Message be printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. Keitt moved to strike out 600 and insert 1000;

Which motion was lost, and 600 copies ordered.

Mr. Filor gave notice that he would on some future day ask leave to introduce a bill in relation to Pilotage in the Harbors of Monroe County.

On motion of Mr. Welch, the oath of office was administered to Jesse M. Robertson, Sergeant-at-Arms elected on yesterday.

Mr. Eppes gave notice that he would on some future day, ask leave to introduce a bill, to be entitled an Act, to incorporate a Bank in the City of Apalachicola.

Mr. McElvy moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the House, and inform that body of the organization of the Senate.

Said Committee returned and reported that they had performed the duty assigned them.

Mr. Eppes gave notice, that he would on some future day ask leave to introduce a bill to be entitled an Act, to protect the Telegraphic Wires and Posts within the limits of this State, and for other purposes.

On motion of Mr. Lamar,

Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as refers to Official Reports be referred to the standing Committees on the Executive Department—that so much of said Message as refers to Indians be referred to the standing Committees on the Commonwealth

—that so much of said Message as refers to Internal Improvements be referred to the standing Committee on Internal Improvement—that so much of said Message as refers to Taxation be referred to the standing Committee on Taxation and Revenue—that so much of said Message as refers to Constitutional Amendments be referred to the standing Committees on Revision of the Constitution—that so much of said Message as refers to Federal Relations be referred to the standing Committee on Federal Relations.

Which was adopted.

Mr. Keitt offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That clocks be furnished for the use of the two Houses, and the ringing of the bell be dispensed with;

Which was read the first time, the rule waved, read the second and third times, and upon the question of its passage, the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Bird, Brinson, Cone, Filor, Keitt and Lamar—7.

Nays—Messrs. Brooks, Eppes, Fisher, Hawes, McElvy, McBride and Welch—7.

So said resolution was lost.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY, November 27th, 1856.

The Senate met, pursuant to adjournment.

A quorum present.

Rev. Mr. Turner officiated as Chaplain.

The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and amended.

Mr. President announced the following standing Committees:

On Judiciary.

Messrs. EPPES,
McELVY,
LAMAR,
HAWES,
MYRICK.

On Agriculture.

Messrs. BRINSON,
CONE,
McELVY,
LAMAR,
DUNCAN.

On State of Commonwealth,

Messrs. WELCH,
BIRD,
CONE,
McBRIDE,
COOK.

On Claims and Accounts.

Messrs. BROOKS,
HAWES,
CONE,
WELCH,
FISHER.

On Federal Relations.

Messrs. KEITT
BRINSON,
EUBANKS,
WELCH,
FISHER,

On Corporations.

Messrs. TRACY,
EUBANKS,
COOK,
McELVY,
MYRICK,

On Militia.

Messrs. HOPKINS,
EPPES,
McELVY,
LAMAR,
DUCAN.

On Internal Improvements.

Messrs. LAMAR,
BIRD,
CONE,
BROOKS,
FISHER.

On Elections.

Messrs. HAWES,
BRINSON,
WELCH,
FILOR,
McBRIDE.

On Schools and Colleges.

Messrs. MYRICK,
KEITT,
BRINSON,
FILOR,
HOPKINS.

On Propositions and Grievances.

Messrs. CONE,
COOK,
McBRIDE,
LAMAR,
BIRD.

On Enrolled Bills.

Messrs. HOPKINS,
BROOKS,
FISHER,
KEITT,
CONE.

On Engrossed Bills.

Messrs. LAMAR,
EPPES,
HOPKINS,
DUNCAN,
BRINSON.

On Revision of Constitution.

Messrs. EPPES,
FILOR,
COOK,
TRACY,
BROOKS.

On Executive Department.

Messrs. KEITT,
HOPKINS,
LAMAR,
McELVY,
WELCH.

On Finance and Public Accounts.

Messrs. FILOR,
HAWES,
MYRICK,
LAMAR,
EPPES.

Mr. Hawes gave notice that he would on some future day ask