

The Litchfield Republican.

A Family Newspaper; Devoted to Politics, Miscellany, Agriculture, and General Intelligence.

W. R. & C. H. BALDWIN, Proprietors.

VOL. I.

POETRY.

Governor's Message of the STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Senate.—Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

We are convened under the Constitution to deliberate upon, and to adopt measures involving the prosperity of our beloved Commonwealth.

The circumstances under which we are permitted thus to assemble, are such as to afford matter of mutual congratulation, as well as of unfeigned gratitude to the benevolent author of all our blessings.

He has crowned the past year with his goodness, he has given us health in all our borders, and has caused the earth to yield a rich return to the labors of the husbandman—and, although some branches of industry may have suffered depression and loss, yet the great interests of the State, have in general been prospered.

It is indeed true that our nation has been involved in an unhappy war—a war which has carried suffering and anguish into many households, yet far removed from the scene of contention and blood, we have been happily exempted from its more immediate and spreading horrors; we have only heard the rolling of the storm at a distance, and we are permitted on this occasion to mingle our congratulations on the prospect of returning peace.

And whatever difference of opinion may exist in regard to the terms of the treaty said to have been entered into between our government and the Mexican Republic, and ratified by the Senate of the U. S.; yet all will rejoice that the confused noise of the battle has ceased, and that garments will no more be seen rolled in blood.

It is also a source of congratulation and rejoicing that, while the thrones of despotism are being overthrown, or tottering to their foundations, and the billows of revolution are sweeping over the nations of the old world, and all is agitation and confusion; our free institutions remain unshaken and unimpaired.

That there still continues to be manifested towards them a deep and abiding attachment on the part of the people—and that resting on that sure basis, they continue to dispense the blessings of civil, social and religious freedom—and that neither piety nor patriotism can breathe to Heaven a more fervent prayer than that they may be perpetual.

Now are they without their influence upon the nations of the earth; who seem to be awakening to a sense of their true condition, and to the principle that the people are the only legitimate source of political power, and that governments were ordained for their protection, and not for the exclusive benefit of a few favored classes.

Happy is a government resting on this principle, and under whose benign influence we and our fathers have enjoyed unnumbered blessings; we cannot but regard with intense anxiety this aggressive movement of the people upon the corrupt and despotic governments of Europe.

Let us indulge the hope, that their proceedings will be marked by wisdom and moderation, and eventuate in reforming and ameliorating the condition of our fellow men.

Among the various objects which will demand the attention of the General Assembly, not the least important is the selection of those officers of the government who are the subjects of an annual appointment, the Judges of Probate, Judges of our County Courts, and magistrates for the several counties.

When it is remembered that upon these officers are devolved high and responsible trusts—that to them pertain the settlement of estates, the administration, to no small extent, of the civil and criminal justice of the State, the preservation of the public peace, and the subordination to law and order, upon which the well-being of the community so much depends, the importance of our duty in this respect, cannot be too obvious.

I have no doubt that you will discharge it faithfully, and with a sincere regard to the public welfare; and that you will see to it, that the State is not disdained and a reproach brought upon the laws through a feeble, corrupt, or inefficient magistracy.

By the greatly lamented death of the Hon. Jabez W. Huntington, whose purity, patriotism and devotedness to his country's service, will be long held in remembrance by a grateful people, his seat in the Senate of the United States became vacant. The duty of filling that vacancy, until the setting of the General Assembly, was devolved upon me. After due deliberation, I conferred the appointment upon the Hon. Roger S. Baldwin. The vacancy will now be filled by you.

At the seat of Hon. J. M. Niles will become vacant before another stated session of the Legislature, you will doubtless deem it expedient to appoint a Senator of the U. S., for a period of 6 years from the 3d day of March, next.

In addition to the ordinary business of the session, your attention will be called to a revision and compilation of the Statute Laws of this State.

It will be recollectcd that at the last session of the General Assembly, a Com. was

LITCHFIELD, (CONN.) MAY 11, 1848.

HENRY WARD, Editor.—Terms—\$1.25 Per Annum.

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urging the claims of these institutions on the continued support and patronage of the Legislature. I also entirely concur in the suggestions he has made, in reference to our Common Schools.

Permit me to say, that whether this subject is to be regarded by you as Legislators, or as patriots, it is one every way worthy of your highest attention. The cause of popular education is indeed fundamental to every interest in the country; and the sentiment "that in proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened, is now no less true than when it fell from the lips of the father of his country.

This cause early commended itself to

the fathers of New England, and was by them deeply cherished. They introduced the system of free schools, and "opened the fountains of knowledge to all."

And in every hamlet the school-house

was erected simultaneously with the dwelling, and the house of worship. The

benefits of this system we are now en-

joying, and the evidence of its wisdom

are every where around us. They are to be found in the general intelligence, and correct moral principles of our population.

In a cheerful obedience to the

laws—in that spirit of enterprise which

has almost brought together the extremities of this mighty empire, and which

transmits the intelligence with the speed of light.

And there is not a spot in the

union, where the sons of New England

have lived among them, where they have

not carried along with them, and im-

pressed upon society the influence of

these early institutions.

The whole number of prisoners in confinement on the 31st of March last, was one hundred and fifty.

made to answer the purposes of their original creation. It is a solemn trust committed to our care; and its obligations can in no way be discharged, but by elevating the standard of popular education, and giving character and efficiency to our Common Schools.

And why should not this be done?

Representing as we

are among the most valuable memorials of republican simplicity, intelligence and virtue. Under the protection of these laws, our ancestors were for ages secure and happy. The State has been constantly advancing in wealth and prosperity, and our institutions of benevolence and learning and religion have been built up and established.

Let it be our care to preserve and im-

prove these laws, and thus to confer lasting

benefits upon the present, and suc-

ceeding generations.

Like all other human institutions, they

are doubtless imperfect, and will require

to be amended and modified from time to

time, so as to meet the exigencies of so

ciety, as they are unfolded by events.

I submit to the General Assembly,

whether the laws affecting the relation of

creditor and debtor do not require some

modification at our hands.

By the law of the last session, the

homestead of the debtor, to the value of

three hundred dollars, is exempt from be-

ing taken on warrant or execution for

any debt whatever.

The laws have also

made a very liberal exemption of the per-

sonal estate of the debtor.

It is also provided, that no person shall be arrested,

held to bail, detained or imprisoned, upon

contract merely, expressed or implied.

Now is it altogether certain, that in

our anxiety to protect the honest and

unfortunate debtor, we have not thrown

a shield around the dishonest and fra-

udulent one? And has not the effect of

our legislation been, to introduce a laxity

of principle in regard to the binding force

of engagements?

No one will contend,

that a poor or unfortunate debtor should

be imprisoned, when unable to fulfil his

engagements. But ought there not to be

more relief against the fraudulent debtor,

who places his property beyond

the reach of process, and sets his credi-

tors at defiance?

Some mode by which

he may be compelled to disclose on oath,

and make discovery of the property

which he has fraudulently concealed or

conveyed away?

The existing law on

this subject is confessedly very imperfect,

and affords little or no security against

the grossest iniquity and fraud.

At the last session of the General Assem-

bly, a resolution was passed empowering

the Executive to appoint a com-

mittee of one from each county, to make

due examination, and report to the Le-

gislature a definite plan for the support,

location, and internal arrangement of one

or more Normal Schools, for the training

and instruction of teachers. A commit-

tee was appointed in conformity to the

resolution, and the result of their investi-

gations will be submitted to your consider-

ation.

Under the same resolution, the Super-

intendent of Common Schools was di-

rected to employ four or more suitable

persons to hold, at convenient places in

each County, two or more schools of

teachers, for the purpose of instruction in

the best modes of teaching and go-

verning our Common Schools.

In pursuance of the resolution, these

conventions or schools have been held in

all the Counties of the State: and I am

gratified in being able to inform you, that

they have been attended by the most

gratifying results; such as to raise well

grounded expectations of valuable and

lasting improvements in the system of

Common School education.

The report of the Superintendent will

be laid before you, from which it will ap-

pear that more than one thousand four

hundred persons attended these conven-

tions; most of whom have since been

engaged as teachers in the Common

Schools of the State. I concur with him

in urging the claims of these institutions on the continued support and patronage of the Legislature. I also entirely concur in the suggestions he has made, in reference to our Common Schools.

Permit me to say, that whether this

subject is to be regarded by you as Legisla-

tors, or as patriots, it is one every

way worthy of your highest attention.

The cause of popular education is indeed

fundamental to every interest in

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In the resolutions in question take much higher ground. They assume the principle, not that Congress *ought not*, but that they *cannot*, inhibit an institution, fundamentally unjust, and oppressive, and against which the Christian world is setting up one united voice, in any state hereafter to be admitted into the Union, and in a state recently admitted, and in a manner not little peculiar, is threatening resistance to every law of Congress which does not coincide with its enlightened views of constitutional freedom.

The principle advanced in those resolutions is not for the first time asserted.

Upon the admission of Missouri into the Union, in 1820, the Commonwealth of Virginia put forth a declaration denying the legitimate right of Congress to prohibit slavery, as a condition of admitting a new state into the Union, or to oppose any other restriction, not necessary to guarantee to such state a republican form of government. Missouri was admitted under what is termed the Missouri Compromise, the admission being accompanied by an solemn declaration, that "with the exception of the state then to be admitted, slavery should forever remain interdicted in all of the territory of the United States, north of thirty-s^d degrees and thirty minutes of north latitude. Asserting a principle, the validity of which was then denied by the state of Virginia, and is now denied by the states of Texas and Alabama.

This is not the time nor the occasion for entering upon an extended discussion of this question. Indeed, such a course would be hardly decorous, as the General Assembly at the last session, by a vote nearly unanimous, passed a resolution declaring "that if any territory should hereafter be acquired by the United States, or annexed thereto, whatever such act may be, should contain an unalterable, fundamental article or provision, whereby slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall be forever excluded from the territory acquired or annexed."

I see no evidence, and shall be slow to believe, that the opinions of the citizens of this state have undergone any change on this subject. It is one of momentous interest to the free states in the Union; and derives at this juncture additional importance from the fact, that by the treaty said to have been entered into with Mexico, and ratified by the Senate, large portions of Mexican territory have been ceded to the United States. And the south now insists, that the entire territory shall be slave-holding territory, and that States created out of it shall be slave-holding States.

Texas is now a State, and it is in the power of Congress hereafter to create four other States out of Texan territory. New Mexico and California will make each a State hereafter to be admitted into the Union. There will then have been created seven new States, whose aggregate population does not exceed three hundred thousand, returning fourteen Senators to the Congress of the United States, giving to the slave-holding interest a fearful preponderance, and breaking down the checks and balances of the Constitution. And the free States are now told that any interference—any effort on their part to avert such a catastrophe—one so deadly to all their interests—will be regarded as wanton aggression on the rights of the South, to be followed by acts of retaliation and civil convulsions.

The agitation of this subject, and the evils it forbodes to the Union, are among the bitter fruits of the Mexican war. A war commenced in violation of the Constitution—prosecuted for objects which cannot be vindicated—and terminating (if indeed it be terminated) in results most disastrous to the best interests of our common country.

Grateful to my fellow citizens for this continued proof of their confidence, I enter upon the performance of the duties assigned me, with a sincere desire to co-operate with you in such measures as shall promote the public welfare; and in this day of consternation and change, it is eminently fit that we seek the guidance and direction of that Almighty Being, who dashes the nations against each other, and who is the source of all wisdom and counsel.

CLARK BISSELL.

General Assembly, May 1848

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE.

May Session, 1848.

Wednesday, May 8th.

Both Houses met at 10 o'clock.

The House of Representatives was called to order by Col. Jonathan Ross, of North Branford, who called for the votes for Speaker. Messrs. Peck, of New Haven, and Spencer, of Middletown, were appointed Counters.

Votes for Speaker.

S. Foster, (whig.)	111
P. Waldo, (dem.)	85
C. F. Cleaveland, (d.)	1
Blank,	1
Total,	87

Majority for Foster. 24

Mr. Foster briefly addressed the House, and the oath of office was then administered to him by R. D. Smith, of Guilford.

The Speaker called for the votes for the other officers of the House.

For First Clerk.

On the first ballot, there was no choice; Mr. Bacon's plurality over Mr. Stedman was 18.

Francis Bacon, (whig.) 104.

J. W. Stedman, (dem.) 88.

Scattering, 21.

Bacon's minority, 3.

On the second ballot, there was—

For Bacon, 113; for Stedman 93; scattering, 2.

Bacon's majority, 18.

For Assistant Clerk.

John D. Canoe, 108; E. S. Cleveland, 88; scattering 7; maj. for Canoe, 13.

The oath was then administered to the House by the first Clerk.

Wm. Goodwin and Jesse Kneavel, *Messengers*, William Bishop, *Door-Keeper*.

Resolution passed, appointing Babcock & Wildman, *State Printers*.

Resolution passed appointing Messrs. Kendrick of Waterbury, and Waldo of Tolland, a committee to wait on the Senate, and inform that body that the House is organized.

Resolution passed authorizing the appointment of Joint Committee of eight, on the part of the House, to examine the report of the Board of Commissioners. They were Messrs. Peck, Johnson, Hewitt, Mead, Bailey, Heaton, Hilliard, and Eaton.

Resolution passed, giving seats to Reporters, adopting rules of House, as heretofore used; raising committee on credentials; on unfinished business on contested elections.

On unfinished business—Burlock, Mead and Swift.

Message came from the senate informing the house that the senate is ready for business.

Resolution passed authorizing the employment of the resident clergy of the city to open on the daily sessions of the House.

Resolution from the senate, raising a com., to revise the joint rules of the two houses—passed.

Committee on Credentials.—Messrs. Ferry, Noyes and Squire.

Address of the Speaker.

On the announcement of his election to that Office.

GENTLEMEN—I thank you for the honor you have done me by this expression of your favor. It will be my honest endeavor to discharge the duties of the station to which you have called me, with fairness and impartiality.

The assembling together of the representatives of the people, under our free forms of government, to legislate for the common good, is always an occasion to excite deep interest. And especially is this true at the present time, when the nations of the old world are upholding the foundations of their governments, because those governments are founded on power, not right. Throughout all Europe, the people are rising in mystery and in wrath against all the emblems of arbitrary authority—thrones and crowns and sceptres, are all cast in the wind—the great truth is asserted, that the legitimate object of government is the common good, and that its agents can rightly derive their powers only from the consent of the governed.

To us, this is an old truth. Our free and happy constitutions of government recognise it, and are based upon it. Would we maintain unmoved the precious legacy which we have inherited, we should do our utmost to promote the cause of education, morality and religion. Such, emphatically, is the cause of liberty and humanity.

With these ends in view, though differences of opinion will still exist, party spirit will lose most of its acrimony—the purpose will no longer be to build up one party or break down another, but to exalt and sustain all men of all parties.

May I not indulge the hope, gentlemen, that in this spirit we are now about to enter on our legislative duties. If so, our session will be harmonious and happy, and in our future lives we shall look back upon it with more of genuine satisfaction than if we had aided in achieving the proud est party triumph ever recorded in history.

Wednesday Afternoon.

Com. on contested elections—Messrs. Huggins, Spenser, of Middletown, Gallop.

Report of committee appointed to examine the report of the Board of Canvassers of the votes for Governor, Lt. Governor, &c.; read and accepted.

Messrs. Brinsmade and Waldo were appointed a committee on the part of the House to wait on Governor, and inform him of his election, and that the General Assembly are ready to attend to his inauguration.

Messrs. Killogg and J. T. Pratt were appointed a committee, on the part of the House, to wait on the other State Officers, and inform them of their election.

Messrs. Smedley and Bolles, of Litchfield, were appointed a com. to wait on state, and request their attendance in the Hall of Representatives, to assist in the ceremony of inauguration, which took place in the Hall at a quarter past 5 o'clock.

On motion, 500 copies of the message were ordered to be printed. Adjourned to nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Thursday Morning, May 4.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Dutson.

Report of Savings Society of Hartford, referred to com. on banks. Also, report of New Haven Savings Bank; also, Norwich Savings Society.

Quartermaster General's Report read; 250 copies ordered for the House.

Resolutions passed for raising the usual joint standing committees. Also, joint select committee on federal relations; on military affairs, on taxation; on finance.

Report of Hartford County Commissioners, referred to com. on state prison.

Joint com. on revision of joint rules—Messrs. Chapman, Blake, and Mather, of New London.

Adjourned to half past 2 this afternoon.

Thursday Afternoon.

Petition of T. D. Woolsey, President of Yale College, for liberty to remove the "President's house," from the college grounds, without incurring penalty of city by-laws, referred to com. on judiciary.

The com. appointed to revise the joint rules, reported amendments for the purpose of creating two more joint standing committees—one on railroads, and another on finance, (including the subject of taxation;) and also in favor of a rule allowing either house, after voting to adhere, to reconsider and concur. Report accepted, and accompanying resolutions passed.

Report of Superintendent of Common Schools, laid on the table, and 4000 copies ordered to be printed.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Friday Morning, May 5.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Criswell.

Mr. Kendrick filed a resolution increasing the number of the committee on military affairs to eight—passed. Also, resolutions referring subjects alluded to in Governor's message, as follows; the subject of Revision of the Statutes—relation of debtor and creditor—Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and Insane Retreat, to committee on the Judiciary; Common Schools, to com. on Education; Taxation, to com. on Finance; School Fund, State Prison, Finance, Military Affairs, and Federal Relations, to their appropriate committees.

Report of New London Savings Bank, referred to committee on Banks.

Resolution from the Senate, directing the committee on military affairs to enquire what notice the legislature ought to take of the gallant conduct of citizens of this State, in our army in Mexico; house concurred.

Mr. Waldo laid before the House the report of the committee appointed by the Governor, under the authority of law of last session, to inquire and report to this Legislature, in reply to the establishment of a Normal School. On his motion, 500 copies were ordered printed.

Resolution passed, appointing Joint Standing Committee on Railroads and Finance.

House adjourned to 3 o'clock.

Friday Afternoon.

Mr. Burlock, from committee on the unfinished business of the last session, handed in a report of that committee.

Petitions referred as follows:—Samuel Beckwith for discharge from State Prison, referred to committee on State Prison.

David Hotchkiss, for restoration to forfeited rights, to same committee.

Thompsonville and Tariffville Manufacturing Companies, for increase of capital, to committee on incorporations other than banks.

Lewis H. Russell and 70 others, Edwin Wheeler and Wm. Bixby, for an act for the preservation of oysters, to committee on judiciary.

Stephen Curtiss, for division of school society, to committee on new towns and probate districts.

City of Bridgeport, for increase of number of firemen, to committee on incorporations other than banks.

John D. Canoe, 108; E. S. Cleveland, 88; scattering 7; maj. for Canoe, 13.

The oath was then administered to the House by the first Clerk.

Wm. Goodwin and Jesse Kneavel, *Messengers*, William Bishop, *Door-Keeper*.

Resolution passed, appointing Babcock & Wildman, *State Printers*.

Resolution passed appointing Messrs. Kendrick of Waterbury, and Waldo of Tolland, a committee to wait on the Senate, and inform that body that the House is organized.

Resolution passed authorizing the appointment of Joint Committee of eight, on the part of the House, to examine the report of the Board of Commissioners. They were Messrs. Peck, Johnson, Hewitt, Mead, Bailey, Heaton, Hilliard, and Eaton.

Bevil P. Smith and others, for liberty to sell trust estate, to committee on sale of lands.

The following Committees were announced this afternoon:

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Judiciary.—Hon. Mr. Butler; Messrs. Chapman, Pack, Mather, of New London.

Parry of Fairfield, Folt of Preston, Warner, Lyman and Waldo.

School Fund.—Hon. Mr. Mills; Messrs. Keenick, Allen of Windsor, Hale, Mead, Skinner, Heaton, Hall and Daggett.

Banks.—Hon. Mr. Galpin; Messrs. Burlock, Trumbull, Rathbun, Bennett, Shaw, Gaylord, L. Hon. Steele, and Banks.

State Prison.—Hon. Mr. Lowrey; Messrs. Selden, Karpay, Hale, Wheeler, Smith of Woodstock, Scoville, Hilliard and Merricks.

New Town and Probate Districts.—Hon. Mr. Bronson; Messrs. Johnson of Enfield, Rose, Wildman, Coley, Urury, Phelps, Cone and Wente.

Reads and Bridges.—Hon. Mr. Richmond; Messrs. C. F. Cleveland, Cole, Spencer of Naugatuck, Noyes, Perry of Easton, Gilbert, Bradford and Johnson of Mansfield.

Incorporations other than Banks.—Hon. Mr. Osgood; Messrs. Kellogg, Woodruff of Simsbury, Elton, Morgan, Stone of Danbury, Prior, Blodget, of Stamford.

On Dives.—Hon. Mr. Phelps; Messrs. Waldo, Lowe, Avery, Read, Cushing, and Hartshorne.

Educational.—Hon. Mr. Williams; Messrs. Waldo, Lowe, Avery, Read, Cushing, and Hartshorne.

On Sale of Lands.—Hon. Mr. Crawford; Messrs. Constock, Cathlin and Hickock.

Finance.—Hon. Mr. Gorwyne; Messrs. Trumbull of Stonington, Brown of Bristol, Squire, Bennett of Redding, Campbell, Hotchkiss of Woodbury, Blague and Hurlbut.

Railroads.—Hon. Mr. Bush; Messrs. Plant, Holcomb, Stone of Madison, Hewitt, Bond, Harrison, Standard and Hammon.

Joint Select Committee.

On Federal Relations.—Hon. Mr. Bullock; Messrs. Chapman, Baldwin, Lord, Bailey, Smedley, Wilcox of Killingworth, and Hartshorne.

On Divorces.—Hon. Mr. Phelps; Messrs. Marvin, Osborn, Baldwin of Milford, Lord, Bailey, Smedley, Wilcox of Killingworth, and Hartshorne.

On Dives.—Hon. Mr. Phelps; Messrs. Marvin, Osborn, Baldwin of Milford, Lord, Bailey, Smedley, Wilcox of Killingworth, and Hartshorne.

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