

MESSAGE

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FROM THE

GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY,

TO

BOTH HOUSES

OF

THE SEVENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE,

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE SESSION.

Read January 13, 1847, and ordered to be printed.

TRENTON:
PRINTED BY SHERMAN & HARRON.
[Printers to the Legislature.]
1847.

MESSAGE.

*To the Senate and General Assembly
of the state of New Jersey :*

The result of the labors of the late protracted session of the legislature, is the production of the revised statute laws of the state, neatly printed and bound and ready for distribution. In submitting to the personal sacrifice incident to a protracted session, in the accomplishment of this object, great credit is due to the individual members of that body.

I have again the pleasure of congratulating you on the prosperous condition of the finances of the state, as exhibited in the following statement :

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|---|------------------------|
| Balance in the treasury, Jan. 10, 1846, | \$5,278 98 |
| Received during the year from all sources, including a special loan of \$40,000, | 158,669 30 |
| | \$163,948 28 |
| Disbursements during the same period, including \$10,000 of the special loan above, and \$5,000 balance of the loan of the previous year, | 155,174 47 |
| Leaving a balance in the treasury on January 4th, 1847, of | <hr/> \$8,773 81 <hr/> |

Estimated receipts for the next fiscal year :

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|---|--------------|
| Balance in treasury, January 4, 1847, | \$8,773 81 |
| Balance of state tax due and unpaid, | 22,680 31 |
| Bonds and mortgages, | 9,253 34 |
| Interest on joint bond of Camden and Amboy Railroad and Delaware and Raritan Canal Companies, | 1,020 00 |
| Dividend on \$200,000 stock of do., | 20,000 00 |
| Tax of capital stock of New Jersey Railroad, | 4,000 00 |
| Tax on capital stock of the Paterson and Hudson Railroad, | 1,250 00 |
| Transit duties, | 49,034 00 |
| State Prison, | 7,216 90 |
| Miscellaneous, | 600 00 |
| State tax, | 40,000 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$163,828 36 |

Estimated Disbursements :

| | |
|---|-------------|
| State Prison, | \$8,584 44 |
| Deaf and Dumb, | 3,000 00 |
| Blind, | 3,000 00 |
| Inquisitions, | 1,000 00 |
| Printing, | 3,974 40 |
| Balance due for printing Revised Sta- tutes, | 2,000 00 |
| Do. 3d vol. of Chancery Reports, | 1,150 00 |
| Salaries, | 16,616 50 |
| Library, | 500 00 |
| Legislature, | 15,000 00 |
| Revolutionary Pensions, | 2,200 00 |
| Incidental, | 7,000 00 |
| Transportation and costs, | 5,000 00 |
| Arsenal, | 600 00 |
| Court of Errors, | 2,300 00 |
| Miscellaneous, | 1,400 00 |
| State account, | 1,334 19 |
| Militia, | 90 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Ordinary expenditures, | \$74,749 53 |

\$89,078 83

\$89,078 83

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Balance brought forward, | | \$89,078 83 |
| From this sum deduct balance of the special loan, | \$30,000 00 | |
| Probable amount of state tax due and remaining unpaid, January 1, 1848, | 22,000 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 52,000 00 |
| Balance to meet extraordinary expenses, | | <hr/> \$37,078 83 |

The expenditures of the past year have exceeded the estimates, in consequence of the large amounts paid in the erection of the Lunatic Asylum, in completing the improvements of the State House and grounds adjacent, and in the revision of the statute laws of the state.

The School Fund has increased by the sum of \$10,592 35; the whole amount being three hundred eighty-four thousand, three hundred thirty-nine dollars, thirty-eight cents.

I have not heretofore alluded to the subject of education in our common schools; nor should I now, were it not that the impression may be entertained by some that indifference is felt. I consider frequent alterations of the law an evil, as they disturb the system and interrupt the practice under it. Changes should not be made unless well assured of the practical good to be derived from them. Men engage in the business of teaching as the means of temporary support, while preparing for other and more lucrative employment; and I have little hope of seeing the system much improved until the compensation shall be sufficient to induce persons properly qualified to enter upon it as a profession for life.

The report of the Keeper of the State Prison will exhibit an improved condition of that institution. There has been drawn from the treasury, over and above the receipts from the earnings of the convicts, the sum of thirteen hundred sixty-seven dollars fifty-four cents, only. While the actual expense to the state has been diminished, much has been expended in repairs to the buildings, and large additions have been made to the value of the stock and materials on hand.

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| The number of convicts in prison at the time of making the last annual report, was | 167 |
| Since received, | 76 |
| | <hr/> |
| Making the whole number confined during the year, | 243 |
| Discharged in same time, by expiration of sentence, | 61 |
| By pardon, (three of whom were pardoned one day before the expiration of their term), | 14 |
| By death, | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| Whole number discharged, | 76 |
| | <hr/> |
| Whole number now in confinement, | 167 |
| | <hr/> |

The report of the Commissioners to build the State Lunatic Asylum, herewith communicated, will exhibit the progress of that work. All the walls of the building are up. The wings are covered with slate, and the central part would also have been under roof, but for the interruptions caused by the frequent storms in the latter part of the working season.

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| Of the sums appropriated in all, | \$75,000 00 |
| There has been expended, (deducting rent of farm received by Commissioners), | 38,838 27 |
| | <hr/> |
| Leaving, of the appropriation unexpended and applicable to the work, | \$36,161 73 |
| | <hr/> |

The experience of the past year tends to confirm the opinion heretofore expressed as to the cost of the building. It will be finished and ready for the reception of patients in the course of the ensuing year, and before the meeting of the next legislature. It therefore becomes my duty to call your attention to the enactments necessary to the organization of the institution; and also to such further appropriations as may be necessary to supply the fixtures proper for cooking, washing, warming, draining, the elevation and distribution of water, and the furniture of the different apartments. An estimate of these additional expenses, as well as information generally, derived from the best sources, will be laid before you.

On the 22d day of May last, I received from the President of the United States, through the Secretary of War, a requisition for one regiment of volunteers, to be composed of ten companies of infantry, in pursuance of an act of Congress, approved May 13th, 1846, providing for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico. I immediately issued a proclamation, calling on the organized uniform companies and other citizens of the state, to enrol themselves according to the terms of the requisition, and make report to the Adjutant General. To this call the companies promptly responded, tendering their services. It appeared, however, that not one of them had the number of rank and file required by the memorandum accompanying the requisition; and consequently could not be accepted. Efforts, which proved unsuccessful, were made to supply this defect. Many circumstances, doubtless, had their influence in producing this result, but the failure may be mainly ascribed to the defective and prostrate condition of the militia system of the state. Had the circumstances been different; had the call been to suppress insurrection or repel invasion, we should have been found alike unprepared.

I would respectfully suggest the propriety of extending encouragement in some way to the volunteer companies, and of adopting some simple mode of ascertaining the number of the militia of the state. This would better prepare us for similar calls in the future, and entitle us to receive our proper proportion of the arms and equipments annually distributed by the general government. But, in doing this, I would propose the entire exemption, in time of peace, of all persons opposed from principle, to bearing arms or contributing in any way to their support. The reports of the Adjutant General and Quarter-Master General are herewith transmitted.

The report of the Commissioners of Pilotage represents that they have now in commission nineteen branch and five deputy pilots, with four boats; that during the past year they have brought safely into port, without loss or accident, five hundred and eighty-one vessels; five hundred and fifty-eight of which were boarded beyond sight of Sandy Hook; and have

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taken out five hundred and twenty-six—making a total aggregate of eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven vessels thus far in their charge. The report further exhibits the skill and enterprise of the New Jersey pilots.

There are twenty-one deaf and dumb, and fifteen blind pupils, supported at the expense of the state, in the institutions of New York and Philadelphia. The appropriations made in the revised statutes will be abundantly sufficient to meet the expenses of any probable increase in the number for a long time to come.

The constitution imposes on you the high and responsible trust of legislation. Coming directly from the people, and intimately acquainted with their feelings and interests, you will, under the guidance of an overruling Providence, adopt such measures as will advance the prosperity and welfare of the state.

CHARLES C. STRATTON.

TRENTON, January 12th, 1847.