

Farewell address  
of  
Roswell Farnham  
As it appears in the  
Journal  
of the  
Joint Assembly.

1882

## Thursday, October 5, 1882

### Farewell Address

*Gentlemen of the General Assembly:*

With considerable hesitation I follow the example of two of my predecessors, hardly established as a custom, of delivering in person a valedictory message. But the Legislature of 1880 made so radical changes in some important statutes, attempted so much in the revision of the laws of the State and in proposing constitutional changes, so much has been done by State officers in performing the work laid out for them by that Legislature, and so many events of interest to our State have occurred in the intervening two years, that no excuse is necessary for my taking this opportunity of referring to some of them. Besides, the retiring governor has a better knowledge of the affairs of the State at the close of his term than when he assumes the duties of his office, and is more fully acquainted with the business transactions of the State for the two years of his term than his successor is likely to be.

#### THE REVISION OF THE LAWS.

The great business of the Legislature of 1880 was the revision of the entire body of the statute laws of the State. The preliminary work had been placed in the hands of a competent commission two years before, and their report, embodying the compilation of the annual laws for seventeen years, and the changes and condensations proposed by them, was laid before that Legislature for its consideration and action. This report was referred to a committee composed of some of the best lawyers in the State, and they gave the entire work a thorough and careful examination for many weeks. Their report was adopted with but few changes. The Legislature elected Clarence H. Pitkin of Montpelier, L.H. Thompson of Irasburgh, and Ashton R. Willard of Montpelier, commissioners to edit and superintend the publication of the work under the name of the "Revised Laws of Vermont," together with the Constitution of the State and that of the United States. Before they had commenced their labors Judge Thompson resigned his place upon the commission, and I appointed Hiram A. Huse, Esq., of Montpelier, to fill the vacancy. The commissioners went to work soon after the rising of the Legislature, and worked diligently nearly every day and many nights until the publication of the work early in August. The Revised Laws came in force on the first day of August, A.D. 1881.

The revision and the editing and the publication of the work have commended themselves to the judgment of the lawyers and business men of the State as well done. The Revised Laws make a book of considerable less size than the General Statutes of 1863. The arrangement is systematic and convenient, and the head notes to chapters and marginal references are full, accurate, and of the utmost convenience. The type is clear and of good size, the binding is substantial, and the paper of good quality, so that the book, in a mechanical as well as literary and legal aspect, is a credit to all who had a hand in its production, and one that the State may well feel proud of.

The revisors made many suggestions of changes in important laws that were adopted by the Legislature, and I think we may feel safe in believing that the adoption of the Revised Laws was a decided advance in the legislation of the State.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Legislature of 1880 acted for the first time under Article 25 of the Amendments to the constitution, adopted in 1870 by the last convention held under the old system. The Senate proposed, and the House concurred, in six amendments to the Constitution. It is for the present Assembly to say how many and what of the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the people for their approval. Two of the articles seem to be of considerable importance, viz.: that relating to reprieves, commutations and pardons, and that relating to the Legislature's power to control the traffic of intoxicating drinks. Of the first I speak in another place. As to the latter the least that can be said is that it is in accord with the highest Christian sentiment of the day. It puts in a more permanent form the voice of the people so long expressed in the same direction by the legislation upon our statute books. I cannot believe that the people will take a backward step in this matter.

## THE TAX LAW.

But in addition to the labor performed by your predecessors in 1880, in revising the laws they made some new legislation of great importance to the State. The new system of taxation was a departure in the right direction. Our Bill of Rights declares "that every member of society, hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, and therefore is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expense of that protection." It is now well settled that every man's proportion is regulated by his pecuniary ability to pay that proportion. The difficulty heretofore has been to ascertain each individual's property so that his just proportion might be established. Listers and selectmen could not ascertain what property the tax-payers owned, and all former devices have failed to hunt out a large proportion of the personal property in the State. At length the thought occurred to somebody to ask the tax-payer himself about his property. No one could know better than he about it, its character and amount. Why not ask him? Every good citizen should be willing to contribute his proportion towards the expense of protecting his life, liberty and property, and there certainly can be no objection to obtaining the necessary information from the tax-payer. And to ensure its absolute correctness there should be penalties for those who do not make truthful statements. The principle of the new tax law is evidently correct. The experience of the past two years may show that some modifications are necessary for its more efficient working. Of this you can best judge. Whatever complaints may be made of the law, one thing is certain, it brought the grand list of the State, not including gores and unorganized towns, from \$1,001,317.81 in 1880, to \$1,634,454.96 in 1881, or an increase in the list of \$633,137.15, being more than 60 per cent. A tax of 20 per cent in 1880 gave \$200,263.56, while a tax of 17 per cent in 1881 gave us \$277,357.30, or a gain of \$77,593.74 in taxes at a rate of three per cent less than the year before. Can anyone complain that any body has been wronged by this law? Has the law compelled tax-payers to put into their inventory property to the amount of over six hundred thousand dollars that they did not own? Certainly not. It has simply brought to light property that ought to be taxed and should have been for years past. It may be unpleasant and inconvenient for individuals to disclose the condition of their private affairs, but justice to the State and justice to others demands it.

## FINANCES

But our financial condition is very satisfactory in other respects. The treasurer's report, made Aug. 1, 1882, shows that he has on hand in cash and available assets \$154,505.23, while the entire liabilities of the State are \$209,583.79. But these liabilities include the Agricultural College fund, \$153,500, which is not due till 1890; soldier's accounts, \$8,959.02, which are made up of very small balances, and most of them will never be called for; so that if we set aside these items not to be called for at present, the treasurer had on hand Aug. 1, 1882, available for present use and running expenses, \$89,380.46.

## STATE AUDITOR

The act abolishing the court auditors and requiring their duties to be performed by the State Auditor is having a most beneficial effect. The efficient State Auditor has reduced to something of a system what before was without the pretense of system, that is, the allowances of fees and costs in the different counties. But he has done more than this. He has brought about the collection of fines and costs imposed by magistrates, so that for the biennial term ending July 31, 1882, the amount of fines and costs collected was \$66,576.47, while for the term ending July 31, 1878, it was but \$45,007.13. At the same time, the net court expenses have been reduced from \$223,886.89, for the biennial term ending July 31, 1878, to \$93,728.76, for the last biennial term. This last saving is due in a great measure to the legislation in regard to court expenses.

## THE HIGHWAY LAW.

Among the important legislation of the last session of the General Assembly, was the passage of the act relieving towns from liability to be amerced in damages on account of injuries occasioned by defective highways. The unjust demand of some person claiming to have been injured by defects in highways, and their success in recovering heavy damages had prejudiced the whole people against a law very just and equitable in principle. Towns should be required to keep their highways in a safe condition. From my own observation and from the information that has come to me, I am of the opinion that the roads through the State have not been as well cared for as they were before towns were relieved of their liability in this respect. The county road

commissioners have seldom, if at all, been called out. The system is too unwieldy for practical use. Evidently the Legislature ought to do something to give us better roads and to protect honest travelers.

#### PARDONS AND CONDITIONAL DISCHARGES.

One of the unpleasant duties of the executive arises in connection with applications for pardon. The moment a man has committed a crime his friends are more afflicted than he is. If he is convicted and imprisoned, his family and those dependent upon him are deprived of their protector and means of support. His parents and other friends are overwhelmed with grief, and to them his case seems so exceptional and peculiar, and with so many extenuating circumstances that they think he ought to be pardoned, and at once make application to that end. And were such a case the sole one to be acted upon, and sympathy alone to be the governing motive, there would seem to be good reason for granting a pardon. But almost every case carries its affliction to friends with it. Pardons, that were originally supposed to be granted as a matter of special favor on the part of the executive, and by appeal to his sympathies, have come to be or at least ought to be governed by some settled rules and principles. Our courts are so just and humane that the governor would seem presumptive who should arrogate to himself the duty of correcting their action. I have granted but few absolute pardons from the State Prison and House of Correction, and none from the Reform School.

The last Legislature provided for conditional discharges, and made it incumbent upon the Executive to prepare a form of such a conditional discharge, which should also set out at length the mittimus on which the convict was committed to prison. The act further provided that on breach of any of the conditions of the discharge, the party should be liable as for an escape from prison, and should be recommitted to serve out the full term for which he was originally committed. The condition provided in the form of discharge prepared is, that the discharged convict "shall preserve this conditional discharge until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced, and produce it when called upon to do so within that time, by any magistrate or police officer of the State: he shall abstain from any violation of the law and from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage: he shall not habitually associate with notoriously bad characters such as reputed thieves and prostitutes: he shall not lead an idle and dissolute life without visible means of obtaining a livelihood, and shall keep the Governor informed of his place of residence until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced."

In granting conditional discharges, I acted upon the assumption that the Legislature intended to have the Governor use the conditional discharge as a means of reformation, and thus to some extent make the State Prison and House of Correction reformatory as well as penal institutions. In some instances I have added a further condition that the discharged man should be under the special charge and surveillance of some officer in the neighborhood of his residence. Thus far but one man has been reported as having broken the conditions of his discharge. He has been rearrested, and is now serving out his time.

The proposed constitutional amendment in regard to reprieves, commutations and pardons, seems to be to be desirable. At present as the constitution is construed, there is no power to pardon in case of murder.

#### EXECUTIONS.

During the past two years there have been two executions with the usual distressing accompaniments, but with a great deal less of barbarity than frequently attends them in other States.

#### BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

This Board was established two years ago in place of a Superintendent of Agriculture. It has done a good work through the State for the past two years. Its members have been practical farmers of advanced views upon the subjects they discussed; and the inquiries they have provoked, and the experiments that have been instituted at their suggestion, have had a most beneficial influence in the localities where they have held meetings. They have worked in harmony with the authorities of the State Agricultural College and have had much valuable aid from its President and Professors. I think that the State must be satisfied that a board of competent men is of much more efficiency than the most able man working alone.

#### EDUCATION.

For several years past the educational affairs of the State have been looked after by the Superintendent of Education alone. Much good work has been done, yet our schools have not advanced to the position they ought to hold. One man cannot accomplish everything, and the State has not done what it ought to for our schools. There can be but little doubt that very much more might be accomplished by a Board of Education, composed of the leading educators of the State and those who are interested in the subject, with an able Secretary, than can be done by the best exertions of one man, be he ever so gifted and experienced. But all the educators in Vermont can do but little without aid from the State. Two years ago thirty-seven thousand dollars were appropriated for the two Prisons and the Reform School in addition to their annual expense, which is thirty thousand dollars. As more than half of our convicts are native born Vermonters it would seem that we should do more for education, and thus avoid being compelled to do so much to protect ourselves against crime. It is difficult to propose any legislation that will accomplish all we desire in this direction, but a stable Board of Education in whom the State has confidence would from time to time make suggestions as to the changes necessary in the law, and gradually raise the character of our common schools to a higher standard. The present Superintendent of Education was elected by the Joint Assembly on the last day of its session in 1880. He declined to accept the position. I looked about for a suitable person to fill the vacancy, but before I had made any other selection the present incumbent was persuaded to accept the appointment, and entered very soon upon the performance of his duties. There was some delay occasioned by the fact that the Legislature of 1880 had, by some inadvertence repealed the act fixing the salary of the Superintendent of Education. The new superintendent felt unwilling to perform the duties of his office for two years without his salary being paid him. In this juncture several gentlemen of the State executed to the State treasurer satisfactory security upon which he raised the necessary amount, and the superintendent has been paid his salary regularly through the term. An appropriation should be made at some early day to relieve those gentlemen who have thus stepped in to save the credit of the State.

#### NORMAL SCHOOLS.

It is unfortunate for the cause of education that we have three Normal schools. What little the State feels able to do, ought to be devoted to one school, so that it might do more extensive work than is possible with three schools. But we can hardly expect any change now reducing the number, and we can get some consolation from the fact that three schools can accommodate more pupils than one central one could. Our common school teachers are all young people of small means, and it is quite a convenience to them to have a school in their vicinity where they can get such advantages as a Normal school affords. I have visited all of the Normal schools during the present year. I found three energetic, conscientious principals, with their faithful assistants, doing good work in spite of many drawbacks. I only ask the legislators to compare what the State does for the Reform School and the prisons with what it does for the Normal schools, and say candidly whether it does enough for the latter.

#### TEXT BOOKS

The five years for which text books to be used in our schools were adopted will expire in 1884, before the next session of the Legislature. The law still provides that each town may select its text book committee in a manner similar to that provided in 1878, so that the several towns may all have different text books, which would lead to great confusion and annoyance. The town committees who selected the text books in 1879 showed more wisdom than the Legislature that made the law, for in a majority of cases they held county conventions of town committees, and adopted the same text books in most of the towns of the county. This Legislature has it in its power to do justice to parents, teachers and scholars by providing for a uniformity of school books throughout the State, and in some way regulating the price of them. It is to be hoped that whoever, hereafter, decides upon the reading books to be used, will select some that do not almost entirely ignore speeches and selections of a patriotic character. The matter of the reading books in school influences the patriotic feelings and moral character of most of the scholars more than their instructions affect their style of reading. Many scholars get no other reading of that kind. It is to be hoped that the Revolution, the naval battles of 1812, and the war for the suppression of the Rebellion will not be altogether crowded out of the reading books in our common schools.

## THE STATE PRISON.

The last Legislature appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the purpose of rebuilding and improving the State Prison and its surroundings. The act provides for constructing suitable drainage from the prison to the Connecticut River, for the construction of a new brick shop of sufficient capacity for the employment of all convict labor and for remodeling the central building so as to connect the two prison buildings, and make suitable accommodation for the superintendent and officers of the prison, and suitable quarters for female convicts. This provides for almost the entire remodeling of all the buildings about the prison except the two prisons and the new shop four years ago. The State Prison Committee of that Legislature evidently came to the same conclusion that every candid person must have arrived at upon inspecting the old buildings of that institution, viz.: that the two work shops and the central building were in every respect unfit and inadequate for the purposes to which they were put, and that the system of drainage into an immense cess pool in the rear of the prison was a means of breeding disease and death for the inmates of the prison and the surrounding village of Windsor. The buildings were old, and had none of the conveniences of modern times. They were probably all that was required at the time they were erected, but public sentiment has advanced very much in respect to these matters, and to-day demands better lighted, better warmed and better ventilated buildings, even for State Prison convicts, than it did fifty years ago.

The State Prison directors have expended the appropriation economically, yet with a view to the enlightened public sentiment of the present day. The buildings will be found to be substantial, convenient for the uses required, and if not ornamental, at least not an offense to good taste. The house of the superintendent is connected with the central building of the prison, and his sleeping room is in immediate communication with the guard room by an electric alarm bell. The central building of the prison proper contains the apartments for the female convicts, the matron and the assistants of the prison. The guard room, which is also in this building, is so arranged that one keeper can see the entire length of both wings of the prison, and have the oversight of all the prisoners without leaving that room. Considerable saving of expense and a great increase in the security of the prisoners is gained by this arrangement.

The new work shop, which takes the place of the two old ones, is much better adapted to its purposes than the ones whose place it takes. Less guards are required in it, and the gain in health comfort and cleanliness is considerable. The engine is in the basement, but the boilers are in a building by themselves, to lessen the danger from accident. The boilers are of sufficient capacity not only to run the machinery, but to warm all the buildings, and steam pipes are now put in so that the old system of stoves and long stove pipes, with the consequent dripping and smell of soot, are done away with.

The directors have made a new contract for the labor of the convicts on much more advantageous terms than the old one. I am satisfied that in the end the prison can be run much more economically with its new buildings and improved arrangements than it could be before with the old structures and inconvenient surroundings. The prison now, in its buildings, its arrangements and superintendence, will compare favorably with any like institutions in the country, although the whole establishment has cost the State but a tithe of what such prisons cost most of the States in the Union. The sewer, built from the prison to the Connecticut River, is in every respect very satisfactory. The health of the prisoners is remarkably good and this favorable condition is due in a great measure to the complete disposal of everything of a filthy character by the sewer.

At the time of the Superintendent's Report two years ago there were one hundred and forty-two convicts in the prison. When his report was made for this session there were but ninety-four. This is extremely gratifying, and indicates some improvement in the morals of the State, although a part of the change may be due to a more prosperous condition of business, and besides the House of Correction takes a few convicts that before its erection were sent to the State Prison.

## THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Now that the House of Correction is in successful operation and doing its work so well, we can hardly realize that the State could ever take care of its criminals without it. The old system of commitments to the common jails was a relic of barbarism. Then the young, and those whose offense was a slight misdemeanor, were thrust into prison with those hardened in crime, and kept in idleness that fostered every vice and

encouraged every crime. To-day the young and those who have accidentally fallen into crime do not herd with old offenders, and the time of all is occupied with industry helpful to them and profitable to the State. The State Prison, House of Correction and Reform School give us three grades of punishment, with an attempt to reform the younger offenders.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1880, there were sixty-six prisoners in the House of Correction and four in the Rutland County Jail, which is in the same building and under the same management. Two years later there were forty-four prisoners in the House of Correction and one in the Rutland County Jail, making a difference of twenty-five in the two years. This is gratifying.

The last Legislature appropriated six thousand dollars to pay the debt which had been incurred in building a work-shop and making other improvements during the two years previous. It also appropriated one thousand dollars for building an addition to the workshop. This addition has been built at considerable less expense than the appropriation.

The statute has long provided that persons confined in the State Prison who so conduct themselves for any month that no charge of misconduct is sustained against them, shall have a deduction for each such month, of five days from the term of sentence, and if poor and destitute, shall be entitled to receive one dollar for each such month when finally discharged. The certificate of discharge is to be approved by the governor. These provisions do not by the statute apply to the House of Correction, but it has been the practice of the governors, myself included, to approve of similar certificates from the Superintendent of the House of Correction, treating it in the light of a pardon for that length of time. It seems reasonable that both institutions should be put on the same footing in this respect, and some legislation is required to do it.

#### THE REFORM SCHOOL.

This institution is of a reformatory rather than of a penal character. Its ends are accomplished when its pupils can go out into life with strength of purpose to overcome the ordinary temptations that surround them. This is the idea that has actuated both the trustees and the superintendent of that institution during the past two years, although they have not always agreed as to the time when the proper point in the pupil's moral advancement had been reached for the application of it. The trustees, or a majority of them, were inclined to let out the inmates of the school on probation at an earlier time than the superintendent was satisfied they ought to be released from its restraints and influences. Both were conscientious, and acted for the best interests of the pupils and of the school. I am inclined to think that the results arrived at by their joint action have been as salutary upon the whole as could have been expected, had the views of either been carried to the extreme. These questions are discussed in the reports of the superintendent and the trustees, and the suggestions of both are well worth considering by you before any further action is taken. I have had no occasion to pardon any from the school, although frequent applications have been made to me for that purpose. I was satisfied to leave the matter in the hands of the trustees, under the law passed in 1880. I knew them all to be conscientious, humane and just men, who, from their frequent visits to the school knew much more about it and its inmates than I could. I cannot speak too highly of the present superintendent and the matron, his wife, in all that pertains to the care and instruction of the pupils under their charge. They seem to have the same interest in them that parents have in their own children. Indeed, the State is fortunate in the superintendents of all its institutions.

Four years ago the Legislature appropriated ten thousand dollars for the enlargement and improvement of the buildings of the Reform School, subject to the approval of the Governor. The trustees at that time thought the appropriation advisable, and the proposed improvements necessary, but Gov. Proctor declined to approve of the expenditure of the money. The Legislature of two years ago reappropriated the same sum without requiring the approval of the governor for its expenditure. The present trustees have made the proposed changes and improvements, and now the buildings are in every way ample for the wants of the State in that respect, and more than ample for the present number of pupils. Two large wings have been added to the former main building, which contain all the rooms and conveniences so specifically provided for in the act of 1880, No. 2, section 16. The additions are neatly but not expensively finished. The new dormitory together with the old one, gives ample and healthy sleeping room. When the whole school was crowded into the old dormitory, it was

necessary to construct berths one above another, but now there is ample space for single cots. The new hospital seemed quite as necessary as the new dormitory, but the health of the boys has been so remarkably good, that there has been little occasion to use it. July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1880, there were one hundred and twenty-two pupils in the school; on the same day in 1882, there were but eighty-six, a decrease of thirty-six in two years. I ought to add by way of explanation, that my predecessor pardoned eighteen from the school just before the close of his term of office, that are included in the decrease of thirty-six. The fact that there are one hundred and nine less offenders confined in our prisons and Reform School than two years ago, is worth our consideration, and the causes should be ascertained if possible, and further advantage taken of them. The trustees in their report suggest some changes in the law, and recommend the repeal of so much as requires towns to pay a portion of the expenses of the pupils while in the school, and such other legislation as may prevent improper commitments. This seems to be advisable.

#### STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College have been fortunate in many respects during the past two years. John P. Howard, Esq., has given the institution fifty thousand dollars, the income of which is to be devoted to pay the salary of professors and for other purposes. He is expending nearly thirty thousand dollars in reconstructing the main building of the University, and has provided the means for erecting a statue of Lafayette in the park in front of the college buildings, the corner-stone of which the General laid in 1825. There have been quite a number of donations of scholarships, more than twelve in all, I believe. And as a further indication of its prosperity, the college starts off at the beginning of the present academical year with a class of forty students. The president is *ex officio* a member of the Board of Agriculture, and during the past two years has, with professors of the college, delivered addresses at various meetings of the Board. The college furnishes instruction in all the branches connected with agriculture, and proposes to establish a professorship of agriculture as soon as it can find the suitable man for the place. At the last meeting of the corporation this matter was definitely arranged. They prospects of the Institution are more favorable than ever before, I believe.

#### THE HUNTINGTON WILL.

A final decision has been reached in the case in the courts of the Dominion of Canada, in which this will was contested, and the judgment of the highest court gives to this State personal property amounting to \$205,000. Out of this are to be paid the expenses of the suit. With slight exceptions the will of Arunah Huntington gives all of his property, both real and personal, to his executor, Ebenezer Roy, of Brantford, Canada, upon the trusts mentioned in the will. It then provides that the executor shall convert his estate into cash and pay it over to the Government and Legislature of the State of Vermont, to be disposed of as they shall deem best, having regard to the recommendations made in the will. He then recommends that the Legislature appoint three trustees for the management of the fund in accordance with his wishes thereafter expressed, and he afterward suggests and recommends that the profits arising from the investments which he provides for, shall be for the use or benefit of common or district schools. The court decided that the real estate did not pass by the will. There remains some action to be taken in the Probate Court, and the Legislature, after informing themselves more fully in regard to the circumstances, will need to name the trustees called for in the will. The bequest has already been accepted by the State, and that fact communicated to the court before whom the case was tried.

#### SUPREME COURT.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January last, Hon. John Pierpoint, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, died at his residence in Vergennes. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the same month I appointed Hon. Homer E. Royce, who was then first Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Pierpoint. I then reappointed all of the other Assistant Judges, advancing each one of them one step, and to fill the vacancy thus occasioned, I appointed Hon. John W. Rowell, of Randolph, sixth Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, and as such he has acted since that time.

#### VERMONT BENEFICIARIES.



There are in the various institutions at which the beneficiaries of this State are being educated the following numbers, viz.: At the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, Conn., seventeen; at the Clarke Institution for Deaf Mutes at Northampton, Mass., four; at the Perkins Institute for the Blind at Boston, Mass., eight; at the Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Youth at South Boston, Mass., three. To aid in supporting these pupils the State has expended during the past two years the following sums, viz.: For the deaf and dumb at the American Asylum, \$5,689,66; for the deaf and dumb at the Clarke Institute, \$1,430.71; for the blind at the Perkins Institute, \$4,850.00; for the feeble-minded at South Boston, \$2,316.96. The entire appropriation per annum is five thousand dollars for the deaf and dumb, four thousand for the blind and two thousand for the feeble-minded.

#### THE INSANE.

The report of the trustees of the Insane Asylum at Brattleboro shows that the number of the inmates of the Asylum, August 1, 1882, was four hundred and forty-one, of whom three hundred and fifty-six were residents of Vermont, an increase of twenty-seven within two years. They say that the institution has indeed become almost exclusively devoted to the State, only three having been admitted from outside its limits in the past two years. I suggest whether it ought not to be altogether a State institution.

#### GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

In 1872, the Legislature provided for the publication of the Journals of the Governors and Councils hitherto unpublished, and Hon. E.P. Walton was appointed to edit and supervise the publication of the same. The work is now completed, and the eight volumes of the "Governor and Council" supply an important and interesting link in the history of the State. This makes the printed legislative history of the State as full as it can possibly be, except the Journals of the House for the February Session of 1797, which were never printed, and a few other House Journals of early years which are out of print. These were not provided for by the act of 1872, and it seems advisable to have the records of our Legislative history completed by their publication.

#### STATE LIBRARY.

The Library is increasing at the rate of more than five hundred volumes per annum. Four years ago one half of the books belonging to the Library could not be placed upon its shelves. This inconvenience, and consequent destruction of property, increases from year to year. The law portion of the library is being used more and more every day, and lawyers from all parts of the State and from without the State come to the capital to consult the books it contains. Yet during more than six months of the year, in fact, all the time except when the Legislature is in session, it is unsafe for gentlemen to remain within the chilling walls of the Library to consult a single book. Books to be examined have to be taken into another room that can be warmed, and there examined. Something will have to be done to remedy these evils. The Cabinet and State Historical Society also need more room. This matter was referred to a joint committee at the last session, and they reported unanimously in favor of an enlargement of the State House itself for these purposes, approving of the report of the commissioners in 1878. I commend both reports to your consideration.

#### STATE GEOLOGIST.

The State Geologist has prepared a series of papers upon the building stones of Vermont, which has been published in the "Architect and Building News," by Osgood & Co., and which are to put into book form without expense to the state. These articles are valuable, and will be of advantage to the industries of Vermont.

#### YORKTOWN.

The Legislature of 1880 authorized the Governor to detail two companies of militia to accompany him to the Centennial celebration of the battle and surrender of Yorktown, to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1881, and appropriated three thousand dollars for that purpose. In compliance with this act, I detailed the Ransom Guards of St. Albans, and the Estey Guards of Brattleboro, as my escort on that occasion. The Burleigh Corps of Whitehall, N.Y., and the Brigade Band of St. Albans, accompanied and formed part of the escort without expense to the State. The battalion was under the command of Maj. A. D. Tenney. I cannot say too much in praise of all who made up this battalion. Their conduct on the route to and from Yorktown was such as to gain

friends the entire distance, and their soldierly appearance at the grand review by the President, as a part of the ceremonies of the celebration, won applause from the multitudes there present, and high encomiums from the commanding general.

Yorktown was the last of the great battles of the Revolution, and this celebration was the last of the battle celebrations of that war. Vermont did her part creditably, and as will be seen by the Quartermaster General's report, the troops were taken to Yorktown and back at an expense within the appropriation of three thousand dollars, but this does not include the expense of the Governor and staff. The whole distance traveled by the Vermont battalion was about seventeen hundred miles, and the Quartermaster General says in his report, that he thinks that is a greater distance than traveled by any other military organization there. Great credit is due to him for his admirable arrangements. Not an accident occurred, nor was there a moment's delay. Every connection, both by rail and steamer, was perfect. I desire here to thank the Adjutant and Inspector General and the other officers of the staff for their efficient aid and their gentlemanly conduct at all times, and the Burleigh Corps and Brigade Band for their attendance with us.

#### PRESIDENT GARFIELD.

During the last session of your body occurred the presidential election which placed in the chair of the chief magistracy of the nation James A. Garfield. The satisfaction felt by all parties that the nation had passed through another trial so successfully and decisively had hardly begun to give place to party or sectional jealousy when the country was shocked by his brutal assassination. Just as he was about to take the cars at Washington for a trip which was to bring him to the American Institute of Instruction, at St. Albans, in this State, the fatal bullet struck him. Ample preparations had been made to give him a hospitable reception, and the people were enthusiastic over the expected visit of the man whom they had done so much to elect. His lingering pain and suffering from the cruel wound, and his Christian fortitude under its depression and exhaustion, took hold of the sympathies of the country and of the world. And when at last, in sight of the ocean, he breathed out his heroic spirit, all nations sought to do honor to the chief magistrate of this great republic, who in his person united so many of the elements of the grand natures that sway the world. This State united with others in the observance of days of fasting and prayer for his recovery during his sickness, and after his death, on the invitation of the secretary of State of the United States, Hon. James G. Blaine, in company with other governors, I attended the funeral ceremonies at Cleveland, Ohio, near the president's late home. Three hundred thousand strangers crowded the street of the saddened city, and when but the casket containing the remains of the president was exposed to view in a public square of the city, a column of mourning citizens, six and eight deep, filed past it in mournful procession, from the forenoon of that Sabbath day until past midnight, thus testifying in a slight degree how strong a hold the martyred President had upon the hearts of the people.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

The past two years have been eventful ones for the country, and to some extent for the State, yet upon the whole they have been very prosperous years for Vermont. Agriculture and other branches of business have been remunerative, the health of the people has been good, and there have been no signal calamities within our borders to shock the minds of the people. We have been spared the lightnings and hail, tornadoes, whirlwinds and floods, conflagrations on the land and water, collisions of steamers and railroad trains, and shocking accidents resulting in great loss of life that have afflicted some of the States of the Union. For all this we have great reason to be grateful to God.

For the courtesies I have uniformly received from the people of the State, and for the charity with which my official shortcomings have been shrouded, I return my sincere thanks. May God bless and guide you and the Governor and other officers of the State during the present session and the remainder of the term, that your labors may be wise and for the true interest of our commonwealth.

ROSWELL FARNHAM.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
Montpelier, Oct. 5, 1882

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