

Farewell address
of
Samuel E. Pingree
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Farewell Address

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

The last two years have been most auspicious in the history of our state. Without the burden of any public debt to provide for, our people have been able to meet their obligations for the current support of the government, in the manner prescribed by law, without distress or substantial inconvenience.

Indeed, I believe no commonwealth can be named whose citizens feel lightlier the touch of taxation than ours.

The products of the soil have been abundant to an unwonted degree, and the field and pastures which had been damaged for years by recurring drouths, have been restored by the frequent rains of the last two seasons.

The great industry of agriculture upon which the prosperity of the state so pre-eminently rests presents promise of fairer returns to the husbandman than for some years before your last assembling.

The quarries of marble and slate and granite yield more abundantly than before to the wealth of the state, while skilled and unskilled labor alike command fair remuneration.

Although in many of the states of the Union tumult, disorder and riot have at times prevailed, paralyzing great business industries for a season and destroying property and life, no such calamities have invaded our borders or disturbed the peace and happiness of our people.

Amid such general prosperity and cause of thankfulness to God for his favoring care over our state, I am pleased to follow the commendable example of our last executives and submit to you a brief message upon the conditions and needs of her varied interests and institutions, and a history of my performance of the executive trusts.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS.

The list and dates of these appointments, both statutory, and non-statutory, will be found in the appendix.

STATE BENEFICIARIES.

Until the act (No. 39) of the last session there was no law whereby any of the unfortunate wards of the state could be instructed at the public expense within the state.

By that act the designation of beneficiaries for home instruction was authorized for the blind upon the same terms as provided by existing law for their education at the Perkins Institution for the Blind at Boston, Mass.

Under this law but one application and designation has been made.

Every application for state aid for these unfortunate youth has received attention, and in every case, the required bond being given and conditions of admission complied with, the designation has been made.

It has been the humane policy of the state to have ample provisions for the education of its deaf mutes, blind and feeble-minded, for some sixty-five years past.

There is, and, I believe, generally has been, a large margin of unused appropriation in each class, while I doubt not every proper applicant has been admitted to the benefits of the law to the fullest reasonable limit.

I have visited the Clarke Institution for Deaf Mutes at Northampton, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind at South Boston, Massachusetts, during my official term, have met our beneficiaries and their teachers there and learned of their progress in instruction; and it is cause of gratification and pride that our state so fully admits and provides for the claims of every one of its children to share in the common blessings of education, despite the loss or impairment of certain senses.

The statistical and financial report under this head is as follows, viz:

American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, Hartford, Conn.

Year ending September, 1885. Number of pupils, 13.	
Expense	\$2,308.45
Year ending September, 1886. Number of pupils, 14.	
Expense	<u>2,475.14</u>
Total	\$4,783.59

Clarke Institution for Deaf Mutes, Northampton, Mass.

Year ending September, 1885. Number of pupils, 4.	
Expense	\$807.89
Year ending September, 1886. Number of pupils, 5.	
Expense	<u>.843.29</u>
Total	\$1,651.18

Perkins Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.

Year ending October, 1885. Number of pupils, 7.	
Expense	\$2,108.85
Year ending October, 1886. Number of pupils, 7.	
Expense	<u>2,104.40</u>
Total	\$4,213.25

Massachusetts School for the Feeble-minded, Boston, Mass.

Year ending October, 1885. Number of pupils, 1.	
Expense	\$3.00 [sic]
Year ending October, 1886. Number of pupils, 2.	
Expense	<u>.510.71</u>
Total	\$810.71 [sic]

Blind instructed within this state pursuant to act No. 39, laws of 1884.

Miss Seba Briggs, Rutland, 1884-6	\$600
Grand total expense of all beneficiaries, 1884-6	\$12,058.73

EDUCATION.

From the careful statistical work presented in the report of the superintendent of education I here reproduce for more general notice the following showing of the whole number of enrolled scholars in the public schools of the state with the average daily attendance since and including 1877.

1877.....	69,708	Average daily attendance.....	45,318
1878.....	71,366	“ “ “	48,638
1879.....	74,269	“ “ “	49,214
1880.....	73,952	“ “ “	48,606
1881.....	72,730	“ “ “	49,700
1882.....	73,068	“ “ “	47,772
1883.....	72,155	“ “ “	46,112
1884.....	72,774	“ “ “	47,607
1885.....	71,659	“ “ “	49,031
1886.....	71,667	“ “ “	46,625

It will be noted that while probably twenty per cent of the children of school age are not enrolled in the public schools, but from sixty-three to sixty-five per cent of those enrolled are constant attendants upon school.

Our revenue for common school purposes for the year 1885-6 was \$621,370.29. It is not this large sum of money annually devoted to this object that gives it its chief importance.

Our great concern is or should be to see that it is well expended and for the best good of all our youth. That such is not the case now all statistics clearly demonstrate and all men admit. There is every natural reason why the standard common school education among the young of this state should be far above that of most of our sister states of the North and West. The homogenousness of our people invites it. The annual expenditure warrants it. It is the birth-right of every child to share evenly with his fellows in this outlay.

The public is pledged to the care of the morals and the mind of every child alike at its birth.

There is no trust which the general law executes so inequitably and inadequately as that relating to the education of the young.

The law of the last general assembly submitting the question of the adoption of the town system of schools to a vote of the people at the annual town meetings in 1885 and 1886 was acted on by most of the towns, while several did not vote upon it. Sixteen towns, only, voted to adopt the town system; all others which voted on the question voted against it; seventeen towns had previously adopted the same, and the town of Norton organized with it, so that we have thirty-four towns in the state, in which this system is in operation.

The general inaction of the voters of the state upon this vital school question refers it back to the representative wisdom of the general assembly. The proportion of the voters who gave their voice on this question stands related to their vote for Governor very closely as 1 to 3.

That something should be accomplished at this session to improve our methods in the bestowal of these moneys and in the more equable diffusion of education among our children through the schools seems almost a necessity. What it should be your wisdom will rightly determine.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The work of this board has been devoted mainly to the holding of institutes throughout the counties of the state in connection with the various industrial, dairymen's and other agricultural associations, and in lecturing upon, and discussing with the practical farmers of the state all subjects of agricultural interest.

These meetings have grown in interest from year to year. In the winter of 1885-6 sixty-four meetings were held—generally of two days each. Over nine hundred addresses have been given and much general discussion has followed.

Professor Cook of the state agricultural college—joining the board at the expense of the college to lecture upon fertilizers and agricultural chemistry—has been of great service to this interest.

It has been my privilege to attend a few of these meetings and I have been impressed with the zeal, practical learning and advanced views of the gentlemen of the board upon the specialties assigned them for discussion, as well as with the interest enkindled by their presence among the many farmers who join them in their valuable work.

A larger edition of the report of the board should be provided for and a more general distribution had. The question treated of in this report having special reference to the products and soils of our latitude and longitude, their discussion here gives the reports a local value not to be found in general treatise on kindred subjects.

The law relating to the analyses of fertilizers or the provisions for defraying the expense of the same is inadequate to the end sought to be attained. The results of analyses do not get to the knowledge of the farmers of the state in season for their spring purchase of fertilizers. This delay has been the cause of much complaint. The sum appropriated to defray the expense of these analyses should be reasonable and the constituent parts and percentages of each should be officially announced through the press by a day fixed by law before the approach of spring.

Cognate to this subject I call your attention to the law relating to the infectious diseases of cattle. In the winter of 1884-5 a destructive cattle disease broke out in a herd in Cambridge, carrying off a dozen or more of the herd in a few days. I was applied to by the local authorities to appoint and send thither at once a board of cattle commissioners in the interest of the public safety. Satisfied that adequate authority was vested by law in the selectmen to make and enforce regulations to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious diseases among cattle even to the extent of ordering and enforcing quarantine, I declined to organize a board of cattle commissioners but as an equally hopeful and less expensive precaution I requested the secretary of the board of agriculture, Dr. Cutting, to go to Cambridge and make careful examination of the nature and habits of the disease and recommend or take such measures as the public safety might demand to prevent its spreading; which he did.

There seemed to be no such exigency as would call for a commission under the law and none was appointed.

Dr. Cutting's report is one of so general interest to dairymen and stock raisers that I have directed it to be printed and it will be duly transmitted to you in the report of the board of agriculture.

Reports of other cattle diseases have come to hand, but, upon reference to the existing law, the local boards have proved equal to their suppression.

FORESTRY.

A joint resolution of the general assembly of 1882 directed the appointment of a commission "to inquire into the subject of the forests of Vermont, as to their extent and condition, and what if any, measures should be taken in respect to their protection."

The commission, consisting of Redfield Proctor, Frederick Billings and Edward J. Phelps, reported at the last session, recommending legislative action in several important particulars.

An act was passed at that session to encourage the planting of shade trees upon public squares and highways, authorizing one per cent of the grand list of towns to be voted for premiums to the owners of lands who should plant their public margins with trees. I am not aware that this statute has been availed of by any town.

This is the extent of direct legislation in the history of our state upon this important subject.

Noting as I have for several years past the progressive trending of the most enterprising states of our country in the East and West, in their economic and systematic encouragement of tree planting as an important branch of agriculture, to enhance the value and beauty of the farm, the village and the town, I invited the general observance of an Arbor Day on May 1st, 1885, recommending the same, not as a legal holiday, but as a day for the general, spontaneous and voluntary contributions of the people, municipal and religious corporations, societies for town and village improvement, agricultural associations and schools towards the adornment of the streets, the roadsides, parks, public buildings, homes and waste places.

The systematic observance of the day was gratifying beyond expectation. Thousand of shade trees were set in many towns while few, if any, responded with regrets. The proclamation was renewed this year and the results, as in the other states, indicate that the sentiment of the people calls for the establishment of another legal holiday in our calendar, discretionary with the executive or absolutely by law.

HIGHWAY LAW.

The law of the last session placing the repairing of highways and bridges under the direction of the selectmen, or street commissioners, or such officers or agents as the towns respectively may direct, has proved a most satisfactory law in its operation.

The last clause of the first section, however, has been the cause of much confusion in many towns, the same presenting an apparent inconsistency with the spirit and purpose of the entire act, which evidently was intended to do away the highway district system, abolish the labor tax practice and place the highways under town control with a money tax only to maintain them.

Not a few towns have elected highway surveyors with a view to proceed under the old law, while this act expressly repeals the sections directing the duties and methods of such officials.

The law seems right and politic in principle and most salutary in its operation.

I have received so many communications from town officials and others, asking the meaning of the clause referred to, that I deem it my duty to invite your attention to it.

ELECTION LAWS, ETC.

Under the act of the last session for the compilation of the election and naturalization laws, I appointed George W. Wales, Esq., commissioner in November, 1884, and in January, 1885, his report and work were completed and the compilation duly distributed.

I commend it to your consideration and to the use of the boards of selectmen, civil authority, and to the public as a compilation of painstaking completeness, and especially under the new check-list laws, as invaluable.

THE NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION.

The report of the commissioner is not yet published.

“Forthwith upon the passage of the act” appropriating \$5,000 for the purpose of defraying the expense of exhibiting the resources of the state, etc., at this exposition, I appointed John B. Mead of Randolph, commissioner, and William P. Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury and Alvin B. Franklin of Newfane as my associates of the executive committee, in accordance with the act.

This committee allotted and directed the proportionate part of the appropriation under the act, less the expenses and services of the commissioner, which should be devoted to properly exhibiting the resources of the state between the various mineral, agricultural and manufacturing interests,—directing, also, that the same substantial ratio be observed in the application of such funds as might be passed to the commissioner from the management at New Orleans for the benefit of the state.

The general summary of the commissioner’s report (not yet published) with statement of receipts and disbursements will be found in appendix.

I have, in common with the other members of the executive committee, watched the operations of this World’s Exposition at New Orleans through its financial difficulties and its inadequate management, until the final transfer of its property and good will to a new corporation. And while, in a financial sense, it has proved a failure, yet as an interstate and international exhibition of the agricultural, manufacturing and mining productions of the day it has been productive of much substantial benefit to these interests throughout our country. The tact and energy of Commissioner Mead, through the financial crisis of the management of the exposition, in protecting the interests of the state and in securing in a large degree the performance of the obligations in its favor, have satisfied the committee that the trust of such unexpected delicacy was placed in the right hands.

I believe much interest and substantial benefit to the people of the state will come through the publication of the commissioner’s report, and I suggest in the interest of the public that the legislature direct the publication and manner of distribution of the same.

ORLEANS COUNTY SHIRE.

Pursuant to the act of last session for changing the shire of Orleans county, I appointed Dudley C. Denison of Royalton, Lyman W. Redington of Rutland, and George F. Davis of Cavendish, a committee to examine and select the best location on the line of the Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad for the court house and other county buildings for said county.

These gentlemen forthwith entered upon the duties of their commission and made report, selecting the village of Newport as the best location for said buildings and fixing the location there.

I thereupon certified to the judges of Orleans county court of said location, who proceeded to purchase grounds and erect said buildings. All were completed and accepted within the period contemplated by the act, and the courts of that county have since been held at Newport.

These buildings are commodious and substantial and were built with remarkable economy,--the whole cost of the grounds, court house and hail being but \$22,000, of which \$16,000 was paid by a tax on the county, pursuant to the act, and the balance by private parties.

FINANCES.

The biennial reports of the auditor of accounts, state treasurer and inspector of finance are before your. These officers have an intimate and particular knowledge of their respective departments, and their reports exhibit in detail the present status, as well as the itemized statement of the important financial trust affairs of the state.

The suggestions and recommendations contained in these reports, coming as they do from officers well equipped with a knowledge of the subjects whereof they speak, are intended for and entitled to your candid consideration.

From the report of the auditor we find the sum of the orders issued from his office for the biennial term to be \$639,102.91—the details of which are clearly set forth in his report already in your hands.

The report of the treasurer presents an itemized exhibit of the financial affairs of the government for each of the last two fiscal years. From this report we find that at the close of the fiscal year, July 31st last, the state liabilities were as follows, to wit:--

Due Towns, U.S. Surplus Fund	\$13,397.62
Due Soldiers, Unpaid Balances.....	8,557.46
Due Agricultural College Fund (represented by State Bonds, falling due June 1 st , 1890, interest payable Semi-annually).....	135,500.00
Balance due of Appropriation for State Library Building	22,706.55
Balance due for Construction of North Hero and Alburgh Bridge Under Appropriation of 1884.....	<u>19,062.50</u>
Total	\$199,224.13

And the resources are:--

Cash on hand and in Banks.....	\$160,974.97
Estimated Amount Tax from Corporation for 1886	200,000.00
Estimated Proceeds from sale of balance of Huntington Fund Securities	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total	\$375,973.97

The following named items in this statement of state liabilities, which are not regarded as subject to present (though to possibly future) call, and for which no present provisions need be made, are the

U.S. Surplus Fund.....	\$13,397.62
Unpaid Balances due Soldiers	8,557.46
Agricultural College Fund	135,500.00

Which sums being deducted from the general amount
of liabilities leaves the same subject to be paid
presently.....

Showing an excess of available resources for the present year over liabilities of.....334,205.92

A more satisfactory exhibit of a state's financial standing can hardly be desired.

From the report of the inspector of finance it appears that the whole number of depositors in the savings banks and trust companies of the state June 30th last was 49,453, in increase during the year then ending of 2,675, being 3,616 more than there were two years ago.

There stood credited to the depositors at the same date \$14,253,963.47—showing an increase in the amount of deposits during the past year of \$554,731.84.

The average amount to the credit of each depositor shows a decrease of \$4.63 as compared with 1885.

The recent act taxing depositors in excess of \$1,500 has from its passage caused a steady reduction in the number of heavy depositors and yet the actual number of depositors has steadily increased.

This increase in the first three years after the passage of the act was 4,195.

The principle that savings banks were organized for the purpose of protecting those having small savings to deposit rather than to furnish a depository for persons of wealth finds encouragement in the act referred to.

The suggestions of the present inspector of finance looking towards a healthier conservatism in the management of these institutions deserve, and doubtless will receive, the thoughtful attention of the legislature.

The tables supplementing the detailed reports of the various banks, showing a summary of the different classes of assets and liabilities and comparing their present condition with that in former years, will be found of interest to those concerned in the savings banks and trust companies of the state.

I commend them to your attention as a valuable summarizing of their historical financial condition for the periods which they cover.

The report of the commissioner of state taxes has not at this writing come to my hands and I therefore leave the same to be treated of by my successor.

I desire to state, however, that it appears from the treasurer's report that the corporations which are subject to taxation under the corporation tax law have paid into the state treasury \$403,628.58 during the last biennial period.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

The report of the railroad commissioner is before you, embracing such detailed reports as have been made by the railroad corporations therein named.

From this report as well as from reports of his predecessor, it becomes manifest to me, that under the existing laws bearing upon this matter the commission is not clothed with authority adequate to attain the purposes for which this office was created.

To the suggestions and recommendations made by the commissioner for further legal provisions to the end that this office may be of practical use to the public, your attention is invited.

THE NATIONAL GUARDS.

The organized military strength of the state remains unchanged in its composition except that Company E of the regiment has been mustered out by reason of expiration of term of service and the vacancy has been supplied by the organization and mustering in of a company at Barre.

I have attended the general musters of the troops at St. Albans and Burlington, and also the officer's drill at Rutland. To the official communications and correspondence of this department, as well as to a proper knowledge of its condition and value as a reliance in the day of possible need, I have given careful attention throughout my official term, and have on several occasions in the last ten years witnessed and proudly noted the bearing of our state guards as they have been on duty in competition with the troops of other states. In soldierly qualities of both officers and men I believe they stand first, or among the first, everywhere.

As an evidence of the zeal of these men in this service of the state, it is well to note that at the general muster six companies had every man on duty, and 97.45 per cent of the whole command were out.

They have no lack of good equipment except in arms. The rifle as well as the guns of the battery are out of date, and are such as have generally been discarded and replaced by arms of modern pattern in other states.

I believe that the regulation arm could be placed in their hands by properly directed effort on your part without large expense to the state.

The reports of the adjutant and inspector-general and the quartermaster-general with accompanying reports, have already been transmitted.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

This institution has attained a degree of prosperity and good equipment in the last few years beyond that of any former period of its history.

Though originally intended as an institution of learning under the patronage and fostering care of the state, yet unlike other universities it has been left to rely mainly upon its own persistent efforts and the liberal generosity of its alumni and friends for the founding of scholarships, the erection of its commodious and tasteful buildings and the furnishing of its choice library collections.

The new library building erected at a cost of \$115,000—the gift of Hon. Frederick Billings, an alumnus of the college—has been completed and opened, together with its invaluable library collection, also the gift of Mr. Billings to the university of his state.

Since the last session of the general assembly, the president of the college, who is *ex officio* a member of the board of agriculture, and Professor Cook, the state chemist, have been of much service to the farming interest of the state, under the auspices of the board.

In connection with the agricultural colleges of many states experiment stations have been ordered by the legislative authority. Some measures in this important auxiliary to scientific crop-raising may be invited at this session.

INSANE.

By invitation I met the honorable board of supervisor of the insane at the asylum at their October visit in 1885.

Pursuant to the amendatory acts of 1882 and 1884, several most economical and salutary regulations have been introduced by the board with the co-operation of the officers of the institution relating to the state and town beneficiaries in this asylum and elsewhere in the state.

I believe this class of our unfortunates enjoy as complete and humane care and supervision at the hands of the state or the asylum as any that can be found in similar institutions in our neighboring states.

The number of inmates in the asylum

August 1 st , 1884, was	437
August 1 st , 1886	450
Admitted during the biennial term.....	184
Discharged during the biennial term.....	171
Wholly supported by the state.....	132
Supported by towns (with \$1.25 per week each, by state).....	189
Private patients.....	129

Of those now in the asylum ninety per cent are regarded probably incurables.

The report of the board of supervisors will be duly transmitted to the general assembly. It is a document of grave and unusual interest to the people of the state. I especially commend its painstaking and elaborate historical review and suggestions to the legislature and the citizens of the state. The efforts of the board to

correct certain evils of long standing, and which have grown up under imperfect laws, have been a success, though no perfunctory task.

PENAL AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

The reports of the directors and superintendents for the state prison and house of correction and of the trustees of the reform school show that these institutions have been conducted in a manner as satisfactory as any similar institutions in the country.

The expenditures in their maintenance have been only ordinary and the ends for which they are severally instituted have been fairly well attained.

The retirement of Mr. and Mr. Fairbank from their long and invaluable services in the government of the reform school creates a vacancy that will be difficult to supply. Their stewardship there has been characterized throughout by a humane and parental care and oversight which has tended to promote the highest degree of reformatory influence over the youth in their charge. The best wishes of our people will follow them to their new theater of beneficent work.

I have visited each of these institutions at least twice, generally with the directors and trustees.

The following data are presented as indicating the relative number of inmates in these institutions from and including 1882:

	1882	1884	1886
State Prison	90	89	88
House of Correction.....	45	61	72
Reform School	86	84	83

The net ordinary expenses of these institutions for the same period are as follows:

	1882	1884	1886
State Prison	\$21,632.65	\$17,461.90	\$11,908.50
House of Correction.....	19,193.15	16,791.09	19,510.24
Reform School	25,764.42	22,589.64	24,201.36

All public institutions should be kept in the condition the best of their kind, at all times, in the interest of state credit and economy. This cannot be attained without occasional resort to specific appropriations.

The needs of this come to us most reliably through the reports of the directors, trustees and superintendents of these institutions, though they are sometimes obvious to any observer.

The worn out wooden stairs and walks around the cells of the main prison at Windsor should be replaced. In the interests of safety from fire, of permanence and cleanliness, they should be replaced by iron stairs and walks. This would seem in the end to be economical as well.

BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT.

It is now ten years since the subject of erecting a battle monument at Bennington became a matter of general interest throughout the state.

In 1876 the association for the purpose was chartered and organized. Liberal appropriation toward the enterprise was made by the legislatures of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and soon after by congress.

The appropriation of \$7,500 by the State of Massachusetts had lapsed by general law before the last session of the legislature of that state, and the fact being brought to the attention of that body at their last session by Governor Robinson, with appropriate suggestion, the appropriation was promptly renewed and increased to \$10,000.

The general plan of a monument has been settled upon by the association since your last session, but the erection of the same has not yet been contracted, and so the conditions of the law, providing that no moneys appropriated by the state shall be used in the erection of the monument until the Governor is satisfied that sufficient funds have been raised from various sources to complete it, have not been complied with with sufficient definiteness to warrant the turning over of the funds at hand for this purpose to the association, nor to cover into the treasury or to release to the use of the association the moneys appropriated by the general government and by the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The amount of available funds for this object is now something over \$82,000.00.

I have attended two meetings of the association at Bennington, have had much correspondence upon the subject of the plan of the monument, and I find that the impression has grown with many that haste is being made too slowly in this patriotic enterprise.

I think, after so many years of discussion with no ground broken, the general assembly well might interpose and by appropriate legislation encourage progress.

The funds are ready and will not largely increase. Let the structure rise, grand and imposing as it will be, at such a cost, a few feet more, or a few feet less, than three hundred feet, and let us do the best we can with what funds we have. Three generations have come and gone since the battle. The fourth ought to assure the rearing of the monument.

STATE MILITARY HISTORY.

Pursuant to the act of 1882 for that purpose the commissioners therein named contracted for the printing and publication of the history of the part taken by the soldiers and sailors of the state in the late war by the state military historian.

The first volume has already been issued and distributed as directed.

It is expected that the other volume will be passing through the press during this session and soon be ready for a like distribution.

PARDONS, ETC.

In the matter of pardons, conditional discharges and remittances of fines, which is left by our constitution in the discretion of the executive with the right by statute to the counsel and advice of a part of the supreme court judges, a responsibility of extreme delicacy is imposed.

The afflictions of parents, wives, children and friends bring appeals to the sympathies of all men.

The organic law of the state clearly contemplates that the convict, upon presenting a petition having merits, has a right to be heard under such well-defined and fixed principles as shall commend the executive action in each case to all right-minded men alike.

In the execution of this law the action of our courts, so just and humane in their administration of criminal justice, is assumed to season justice with mercy to the limit of the general good.

The general assembly of 1880 enacted a law for the granting of conditional discharges and providing for the manner of the same.

The purposes of this act were to enlarge the reformatory influences of the criminal and penal laws. Under it, with the use of careful discrimination in designating its beneficiaries, the purpose of the law cannot fail of most salutary results.

The report of pardons and conditional discharges from the state prison, house of correction and reform school in the last two years, will be found in the appendix with the general reasons for executive action in each case.

The petitions denied are more numerous.

STATE LIBRARY.

Under the act of the last session appropriating \$36,000 for the purpose of erecting upon the lands of the state “a building for the use of the state library, the supreme court and the collections and library of the Vermont Historical Society, and other state public uses,” the commissioners appointed thereby (with the exception of the Honorable Frederick Billings, who, being unable to serve, the Hon. Justin S. Morrill was appointed to fill the vacancy) duly entered upon the duties assigned them, selected the site, determined upon the plan and have erected said building in accordance with said act.

The growing need of such a public building has been kept before the legislature for many sessions,—being urged through executive messages and reports of committees—until all were disposed to concede its necessity.

Its location, independent of, and yet conveniently connected with, this capitol was determined upon by the commission mainly with a view to its ready accessibility to the members of the general assembly.

The detailed report of the commission addressed to the general assembly is not completed at this writing, but will be laid before you probably before this message is read.

THE SMALL POX EPIDEMIC.

September 20th, 1885, reliable information of the alarming ravages of the small pox epidemic in the Province of Quebec had come to my knowledge and the evidence was complete that its effects would soon extend into and through the state unless immediate precautionary measures were taken to prevent its spread southward.

Finding no specific safeguards of legislation in our statutes adequate to the emergency, I applied to the President under the Revised Statutes of the United States and the secretary of the treasury at once directed a suitable number of medical inspectors of the navy to proceed to the northern border of the state to advise and assist the local boards of health—the selectmen—so that the spread of the epidemic into and through the state might be prevented and suppressed. All requisite quarantine measures were at once adopted.

How efficient the services of these medical officers and their local assistants proved to be is indicated by our comparative immunity from the devastation of the disease.

After the crisis was thought to be over, the quarantine raised and the consequent relaxation of vigilance, renewed application came from the border towns in February following, setting forth that the disease had re-appeared in several of the towns of the Province bordering on our northern frontier, whereupon the authorities at Washington, being advised by telegram, the medical examiner of the government was on duty again on the line in twelve hours, and such measures were taken as secured our people from further danger from the pestilence.

The promptness of the response of the honorable secretary of the treasury, in this time of alarm, the efficiency of the action of the medical officers of the federal government and their local assistants in the performance of their delicate duty in the personal inspection of all the railway travelers across and along the line of the Province as well as the zeal of the railroad officers and the town authorities, entitle them to the thanks and commendation of all.

DEATH OF GENERAL GRANT.

July 23rd, 1885, the death of General Grant—twice President of the United States—the defender of the Union—the victorious leader of our armies in the great civil conflict—and General on the retired list—was heralded to an expectant world.

It seemed fitting that the people of every state should recognize the official tribute of respect recommended in the President’s proclamation, and by states do special honor to the memory of the nation’s departed chieftain.

In accordance with the designation of the President, Saturday, the 8th day of August, 1885, was set apart by state proclamation for services befitting the deep solemnity of the occasion.

With a portion of my staff I attended the funeral at Riverside, where all the states of the Union were similarly represented.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my relations with the executive office, I ought, by way of invoking charity for my official short-comings, to say to you, gentlemen of the joint assembly, and through you to my fellow citizens, that my relations with the civil government of the state in any official capacity have been limited to this department.

This inexperience in the practical duties of public affairs has necessarily devolved on me an embarrassment in the administration of the varied and complex duties of the high trust which has rarely been experienced by the men so generally tried in public station who have preceded me.

I profoundly appreciate the forbearance, the courtesies and the many offers and deeds of assistance which have been extended to me in the discharge of my official duties.

The past is replete with its proofs of the upright purposes, the earnest efforts and the general success in results which have characterized and crowned the deliberations and acts of all the departments of our government.

May the Divine guidance direct you in the labors of this session,—and the Governor who will constitute with you the legal representatives of the people—in such a manner that the permanent and material interests of our commonwealth and the happiness of her people may be advanced at your hands.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
MONTPELIER, Vt., October 7, 1886 }

SAMUEL E. PINGREE.