

Farewell address
of
Levi K. Fuller
As it appears in the
Journal
of the
Joint Assembly
1894

Thursday, October 4, 1894
Farewell Address

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The custom that has developed from the occasional practice of some of the earlier Governors, of presenting to your honorable body at the expiration of the Governor's term, a message that shall embody a portion of such information as he may have acquired concerning various affairs of State, and such observations upon the needs and conditions of the State as his administrative experience may have suggested to him, is a custom that is within executive prerogative, and is as wise in itself as it is useful in its observance, The sense of grave responsibility which his oath of office imposes upon the Chief Executive of the State, is intensified by the meagerness of his knowledge concerning many things connected with his duties, and the lack of experience in their administration; to a certain degree this burden is lightened by the subsequent experience that supplies the requisite elements for the solution of the many problems that are presented to him, and by the kindly consideration and forbearance of the people at large, together with the cheerful co-operation of those who actively participate with him in the administration of the affairs of State.

It is fitting that acknowledgment should here be made of the uniform kindness, and helpfulness, that have so greatly facilitated the labors of the office, and have made possible so many of the things which have been accomplished.

In consequence of the legal requirement, enacted at your last session that the reports of the various State officers should be ready for distribution by the 20th of September, we have been enabled at a much earlier date than usual to get in detail the work of the several departments of the State Government.

STATE TREASURER.

The total amount of cash in the State Treasury	
At the beginning of the biennial term July	
1, 1892, was	\$ 197,337.15
There has been received during the biennial term	
Ending June 30, 1894.....	<u>1,716,381.54</u>
Total	\$1,913,718.69
There has been expended	<u>1,569,707.26</u>
Leaving cash on hand July 1, 1894.....	\$ 344,011.43

COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAXES.

An interesting statement is made by the Commissioners of State Taxes, that if we were to strike out that department of State expenses which relates to local relief, we should not be obliged at the present time to go beyond the corporation taxes for all the financial needs of the State.

EDUCATION.

The amount of money expended by the different towns throughout the State, for education for the biennial period, amounts to the sum of \$1,542,063.04.

Prior to the enactment of the law creating the town system, this vast sum of money would have been handled by a very large number of school officers throughout the several school districts in the State; but under the operations of the law of '92 its management is limited to a single board in each town.

The very full report of the Superintendent of Schools indicates that the change to the town system has caused but slight friction, and already has become a decided improvement, requiring but slight additions to complete.

I wish to call your attention again to the matter of free textbooks, and refer to the town of Hartford in Windsor County as the best exemplification of the benefits of this system, where an experience of fifteen years,

in a town that has all grades from the primary to the secondary school that fits for college, shows the average cost to have been only 41 1-2 cents per pupil, each year.

If this system were extended throughout the State, the benefits without question, would amount to several hundred thousand dollars a year.

This State has been liberal in regard to higher education, contributing to various institutions for this purpose, during the present biennial period, viz.:

U.V.M. & S.A.C.,	\$28,260
Norwich University,.....	5,300
“ “ as Militia,	1,100
Middlebury College,	4,800
Normal Schools,.....	<u>26,940</u>
 Total,	 \$66,400

REFORM SCHOOL.

Since the close of the biennial period which reports are made, the State Board of Health have examined this Institution and condemned the system of ventilation and plumbing in use. I have been impressed with their defects during the times of my examination; and call your attention to the matter that a remedy may be supplied.

A large proportion of the children sent to this Institution receive too long a sentence, greatly increasing the labors of the Board, and the expense to the State; the law recognizes State control during minority, while the average retention is only about fifteen months.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This Institution was built for one-half the present number of inmates, and has had hitherto but slight repairs. It has been frequently visited by disease. It was thought at first that slight repairs would prevent a recurrence of disease; but the error of this conclusion early became apparent.

The services of the State Board of Health were secured. The condition of things was laid before the Rutland County Grand Jury, who made an examination and presentation of the condition to the County Court. Thereupon, the Judges of the Court made an allowance for repairs to the jail, which was believed to be one of the serious annoyances to the Institution.

An unusually large number of prisoners had been sent to the Institution suffering from various diseases, and with an epidemic of typhoid fever, disabling a large percentage of the working force and tending to cripple the Institution there seemed only one way to abate the evil, and that was to remove the defective plumbing and sewer pipes from the premises, and to secure additional room.

The situation was greatly aggravated by the large number of tramps who were coming in flocks for shelter, it being a matter of history that numbers would come to officers at a time, and asked to be sent to the Institution, threatening to commit crime unless their demands were acceded to. The Directors called to their assistance suitable aid in the emergency, and plans were devised and put into operation to supply the relief of which the Institution stood in need.

The Directors purchased the raw material and put at work the tramps and such available prisoners as would otherwise have remained idle, and set them to constructing a new jail, contrary to expectation, the men finding they would have better quarters as a result, took kindly to out-door winter work, completing the addition in a reasonable time without inconvenience to, or interfering with, such men as could be kept at work in the manufacturing department. Only so much has been done as was necessary for the health, employment and safety of the prisoners, and I am satisfied from the study which I have been able to give this matter, that the State should at once take this institution in hand, and supply it with such facilities as will prevent a recurrence of any of the evils heretofore experienced there.

The superintendent, directors and officers of the institution have proved their skill and efficiency under trying circumstances. What has been done not only meets with my most earnest approval, but the recommendations which the board make, merit your most earnest attention.

I believe the improvements made have added greatly to the efficiency of the institution, raising it higher in rank.

As a relief from the dangers of another period of over-crowding, a change in the law permitting the use of the county jails during periods of emergency, under the same conditions as the State Prison is used, would be of very great service.

I call your attention to the cost of commitment to this institution. Where a prisoner is sentenced from a remote part of the State for non-payment of fines for slight offences, the expense to the State is about \$25. If it was a period of twenty days, his earnings to the State would average less than \$4. Would it not be better to turn the prisoner over to the road commissioner in the town where the offence was committed, to work out his fine there, or give the court authority to incarcerate him in the local jail? At the bottom of page 5, of the Auditor's report, and also on page 25, of the report of the Superintendent of the House of Correction, will be found suggestions relative to this subject. I find an opinion quite current among those who ought to know, that there is something wrong as to this, suggesting that officers' fees are yet a temptation, and play too important a part in this matter.

Where a prisoner is serving a sentence and escapes, and flees to another State, there is considerable difficulty in securing his extradition. The Statute should make jail-breaking, or the escaping from jail, a crime.

VERMONT ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, WATERBURY.

Under the act of 1892 providing for the erection of additional buildings, the Trustees have completed the centre group, in which is located the administrative department, and have furnished the same and they are now in use. The act under which this work has been carried forward, was the result of a compromise between conflicting views, and was not extensively thought out, but gave the Trustees discretionary power, so that they have been enabled to do just what they ought to have done in the larger interests of the State. During the progress of the work it became apparent that the whole of this problem could have been worked out and put into permanent form at the very start, to the highest advantage, even though it were built in small sections at a time; and while the work has been done with great economy, it has cost the board much patient labor and, at times, personal inconvenience. The act simply called for the erection of the buildings.

The Board of Supervisors of the insane upon several occasions sought a conference with me, and made complaints relative to the over-crowding of the institution and asked that a portion of the patients be returned to Brattleboro. I did not think it wise to incur this additional expense, but thought that the remedy lay in the early use of the new buildings. Finally the board filed with me a written complaint relative to the over-crowding, which I met as I had former expression, by urging upon the Trustees the finishing and occupancy of the new buildings. I order to bring this about the board found themselves obliged to incur expenses which otherwise they would have preferred to have had directly ordered by the Legislature. In the making of the changes, and performing of the work necessary to finish the institution as it should be, upon most advanced lines, in precisely the same way that they would have completed it, had it all been done at one time, the board called to their aid the best special skill. I conferred freely with the officers at the Brattleboro Retreat, as well as with those of other asylums, and became convinced that the right thing was being done; the State could not afford to submit to any errors of judgment in regard to it; it must be made right now or never.

The system of heating and ventilating the Institution had been only partially worked out, and required considerable outlay to perfect it. This has been done, greatly to the advantage and best interest of the Institution, including the new buildings, the present daily cost of heating, lighting and ventilating being about two-thirds of what it formerly cost. The supply of water proved inadequate, at critical times failing the Institution, leaving them without water for domestic purposes, or security against fire. In this emergency I approved of the action of the Board in the introduction of an adequate and independent system of water supply, owned exclusively by the State.

I have kept close watch of the progress of affairs, and so far as my approval has been necessary to secure the furnishing and occupancy of these buildings it has been given. And no State, I am assured, has a set of buildings better adapted to the use to which they are to be put, than the series of structures now owned by the State at Waterbury.

STATE BENEFICIARIES.

The Revised Laws make the Executive the Commissioner for the State, having charge of the care and education of this class of persons, the Deaf and Dumb, Blind and Feeble-minded.

There has been expended during the biennial term ending June 30, 1894, on account of these beneficiaries, the following sums, viz.:

American Asylum, Deaf and Dumb, Hartford, Ct.,	11	\$ 2,821.43
Perkins' Institution, Blind, Boston, Mass.,	9	5,100.00
Clarke Institution, Deaf and Dumb, Northampton, Mass.,	8	2,352.50
School for Feeble-minded, Waverly, Mass.,	10	2,280.10
Hospital Cottages for Children, Baldwinsville, Mass.,	1	211.25
Vermont Methodist Seminary, Montpelier, Blind	1	<u>71.75</u>
 Total,	 40	 \$13,437.03

Average number Deaf and Dumb,	15
“ “ Blind,	9
“ “ Feeble-minded,	<u>8</u>
 Average total,	 31

GOOD ROADS.

The agitation that has been going on for some time in this country relative to good roads has increased, as the people have come to realize more the advantages to be derived, and ease with which they can be procured.

The laws passed at the last session of the Legislature were helpful in this matter, but call for additional attention. The general policy that has been followed during the last generation has been simply to keep in tolerable repair the old roads; the time has come for a change.

I am satisfied that the State road tax should be used for the construction of roads in a more permanent form, and that no portion of it should be used for ordinary repairs. If all the towns were to adopt a policy of laying aside a certain percentage of their road taxes for the building of certain roads in a permanent form they would, in a few years, be able to replace their roads by durable structures, without increasing their expenses, and in the end would secure a class of roads that would cost only a nominal sum to keep in repair.

I appointed Commissioners under the joint resolution relating to the subject of highways, who have investigated the matter, and will lay their report before you. It would seem to be advisable that this Commission be continued.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The increased appropriation for the use of the Board of Agriculture has given a new impetus to their work. The law imposing upon the Board duties formerly performed by the Board of Cattle Commissioners has also increased their labors, and your special attention is called to that part of their work. Before the new law went into effect, I appointed three of their number to act as Cattle Commissioners, to fill out the period, under the old law. Frequent demands have been made upon them for counsel and aid, and in all instances they have followed the experience of those States which have spent large sums of money, and have acquired sufficient experience to come to act under fixed rules.

It has been thought by some that the State should at once adopt the policy of paying for all diseased stock upon a basis of perfect health, and eradicate by slaughter the various forms of disease that give occasion for alarm. To do this would have made large demands upon the State treasury; and investigation has shown that it is not the best way. With the supervision of disease by an intelligent Board, acting under medical advice, with authority so compel suitable care on the part of the owner, it is a better and safer practice to leave the matter in their hands.

The law, as it now is, gives the Board discretionary power to make adequate recompense in meritorious cases, and if to the list of infectious diseases was added that of Tuberculosis, is sufficient in scope for our present needs.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

In view of the near approach of cholera to our shores and the necessity for the formulation of quarantine regulations between the States and on the frontier, I instructed the State Board of Health to attend the meetings of the National Board, and also to confer with the United States Government Authorities regarding this matter, with the view of establishing such regulations as were found necessary, in order that the State might be prepared for any emergency.

It is pleasant to know that the crisis passed without calling for any unusual measures on our part.

VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD.

Early in my administration I conferred with the War Department relative to the sending of an officer to this State, to remain with the troops for the purpose of systematizing the drill and regulations strictly in accordance with the customs and requirements of the United States Army, so far as it was practicable, and for the increased efficiency of the service. I am pleased to say that the government met the proposition very warmly, and detailed Capt. H.E. Tutherly, 1st Cavalry. He was assigned to duty on the Staff as Assistant Inspector-General.

In order to increase the efficiency of the 1st regiment, it became necessary to disband one company and raise a new one in its place. This was done after much thought, and was with the approval of all the officers of the Military Department.

I believe that the National Guard has reached the highest point of efficiency during my connection with it. The companies come to camp well drilled, but under the new regulations the problem of securing practical experience for the field officers becomes a serious question.

To test the matter I gave permission for one battalion to rendezvous at Montpelier, at their own expense, at the June drill. Were it not for the increased expense I would advise this for all, but having due regard for economy I am satisfied that the matter can best be reached and the efficiency of the service increased at the least possible expense, by the securing of a permanent camp-ground not too remote from the new military post near Essex Junction, but entirely separate from it.

The raising of mobs in different sections of the country, styling themselves armies, under different names, and attempting to march from their rendezvous to the capitol of the nation, was a proceeding so foreign to all good government, and full of danger that it naturally became a source of great anxiety to those whose duty it is to keep in efficient condition the military forces of the country. It was learned that among the schemes of these anarchistic elements was one for the removal of prominent officials, and enacting upon American soil the dramatic scenes so recently enacted in France. By taking advantage of the unrest that had settled over the country, all sorts of schemers came to the surface, and for a while the wild talk of the communist, the dangerous deeds of the anarchist, and influence of the impracticable agitator held sway.

Not knowing how far the disturbances might spread, I caused the troops to be put into condition to move at an hour's notice, and advised the general government of our numbers and efficient condition, and readiness to move. Happily, however, the disorders were suppressed before they reached the east and we were not called upon for active service.

If any one will take pains to examine the names of these agitators and disturbers of public peace, and introducers of discord in the land, he will be amazed at the strangeness of their names, and their dissimilarity with those that indicate American citizenship. It is said by some of the authorities that the leaders of these movements are rarely American citizens; and it is also the opinion of many who have given attention to the matter, that this country is, at the present time receiving the criminal classes that are being driven from other shores. Unless something is done to arrest this state of affairs there must be fought out upon American soil a great social problem with the irresponsible foreign criminal element, who, although with us, are not of us. Therefore it becomes important that the Congress of the United States, which is invested with the power, should enact suitable laws for the protection of the States from the introduction of the unsafe element, now no longer tolerated at liberty in civilized countries, and making certain that those who come to live with us, are people with good intentions, who will be helpers and not disturbers of society.

FORT ETHAN ALLEN.

It is a matter of unusual importance, that the national government should have established near important railroad connections adjacent to the frontier, and in our own State, an important military post. This new station has been completed and is already occupied by United States soldiers.

It being the first and only Military Post in the State, I directed the Adjutant-General to extend to the troops on their arrival the greetings of the State and a hearty welcome to our hills and valleys, as well as to our homes and hearts.

A splendid illustration of the best type of the foot soldier of the regular army was seen in the company of regulars at the muster at Brattleboro in August, and the mounted troops now at the Fort will be an added illustration of another branch of the service attracting our admiration and heightening our respect.

PROHIBITORY LAW.

The report of the officers of the House of Correction show that the commitments to that institution have increased from 328 for the biennial period ending 1884, to 808 for the biennial period ending 1894. In attempting to account for this increase of crime the Superintendent of the House of Correction points to the rigid enforcement of the Prohibitory Law as an important element. In 1884 there was committed under the provisions of the liquor law 162, while in 1894 that number was swelled to 513. For larceny and burglary the number of commitments has increased from 50 to 60. Tramping, however, has increased from 50 to 145. All other offences have increased from 66 to 90.

While other crimes were not substantially increasing considering the disturbed state of the country and the large number of men who were idle and tramping, it was apparent that something abnormal was at work producing this increasing criminal population. The suggestion that the vigorous enforcement of the law was the active element, caused me to make inquiries and institute investigations.

The statistics of the House of Correction further show that two counties in the State furnish fifty per cent. of the prisoners; three counties seventy-five per cent.; six counties eighty-seven per cent.; while the remaining eight counties furnish thirteen per cent. One-quarter of the prisoners are sentenced for less than one month, and five-eighths for less than three months. Fifty-seven of the prisoners have been committed three times to the House of Correction; thirty-eight four times; eighteen five times, running along to one who has been committed seventeen times.

In pursuing this investigation with a view if possible of ascertaining the actual state of affairs as prominent people understood it in the different localities, and the condition of public sentiment in the various towns of the State, I prepared a circular letter of inquiry, and mailed one thousand copies to prominent people equally in each town. Replies have been received from every town in the State, and more than 800 in number in all.

The replies, received from fifty per cent. of all the towns in the State, are unanimous that there is no liquor illegally sold in those towns.

The replies received from thirty-two per cent. of all the towns in the State are divided, but a careful study of the replies would seem to indicate that there was but very little, if any liquor sold, and in most cases they are

mere conjectures, so that for the purpose of this discussion it is not unfair to add these to the first series of replies, making eighty-two per cent. of the towns in the State from which the liquor traffic has practically been driven out.

The replies, from eighteen per cent. of all the towns in the State, are unanimous that there is illegal liquor selling in those towns.

A comparison of this eighteen per cent., with the commitments to the House of Correction, show a very close family relation.

More than seven hundred in number of the replies indicate a favorable public sentiment to the support of public officials in the enforcement of the law, while very few express an adverse public sentiment, and those only in localities where liquor is freely sold.

The law as at present enforced is increasing the criminal population with alarming rapidity. Three hundred and twenty-seven of the inmates of the House of Correction are the poor victims guilty of intoxication, while the seller and the landlord are not so thoroughly reached. If you wish to stop this rapid increase of the criminal class, the time has come when the liquor seller, the great source of the evil, must be more effectually got at. Already the law hits him, he openly pleads guilty to the number of his offences, receives his sentence, takes an appeal and escapes.

The way to break up this abuse is to pass a law disallowing appeals on a plea of guilty in liquor cases. Such a statute would be analogous to the statute which does not allow appeals in civil cases, on default, or confession of judgment.

The landlord can be reached by making the owner of the premises adjudged a nuisance, a party, and requiring a bond from him. These blows must be struck if the battle of Prohibition is to be fully won, and the remaining towns in the State now suffering under this curse, enabled to take their place in the column of towns from which the saloon has practically been driven out.

SPECIAL PROSECUTORS.

Eleven officers of this class have been appointed. They are useful officials in some localities, and if the appointment instead of being mandatory was discretionary with the Governor, there would be little to complain of. I think that the work of this officer is greatly misunderstood. If he is able, energetic and discreet, he can accomplish much good, but there is reason to believe that in some cases he is used by the liquor interest to promote their traffic, while, on the other hand, the liquor dealer retaliates by alleging that the officers use it for selfish and mercenary purposes. Out of 897 cases reported to me by these officers, 842 were liquor cases, and 55 for other offenses. The reports do not show that more than eighteen of the total number ever reached the House of Correction.

In the granting of charters to cities, they ought to be compelled to furnish adequate police, with sufficient legal staff to properly enforce the laws, without special assistance from the State. Not being satisfied with the condition of affairs in the City of Rutland, I accepted the resignation of one Special Prosecutor and cancelled the appointment of another, giving proper notice to the city officials and the State's Attorney. This will afford the citizens of that place an opportunity of judging as to the relative merits of the two systems.

VILLAGE CHARTERS.

There should be a general law defining the rights, duties and privileges of villages, and the duties of their officers. There are a large number of chartered villages in the State, no two of them alike; a question arises and the court decides it as to one charter; it throws no light upon any other. It is now as if there were a special law for each town and every railroad—no two alike—but general laws have been passed for towns and railroads and may other corporations.

The constant cry is that the expenses of the courts, or litigation, is increasing, but the Legislature goes on year after year granting special charters upon the same general subjects, so widely different, that the settlement

of a question, or the determining of a right or power by the court under one charter, is of no force, and settles nothing as to another special charter having different provisions.

This is one of the greatest legal embroglios in the statutes.

On account of the increasing loss by fire, there is a demand for a State Fire Marshal, and for a general law regulating the construction of buildings in incorporated villages.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Additional power should be given the Insurance Commissioners, to enable them to enforce equal requirements relating to home, and foreign, Insurance Companies doing business in this State.

SAVINGS BANKS.

During the year 1893 the country suffered from a financial panic which has been followed by a serious industrial disturbance, and it is a source of congratulation that through all the misfortunes that have overtaken the country, our own banks have met all demands upon them, strengthening their position, and at the close of the biennial period, the increase in the number of depositors was 3,124, and the increase in the amount of their deposits \$479,209.23, with a total deposit of \$23,628,516.44.

By reference to the last page of the editorial part of the report of the Inspector of Finance it will be seen that he makes reference to the fact that whenever the business of a savings bank has been carried on in the same office with a national bank, the examination of such bank has been made at the same time that the National Bank Commissioner has examined the national bank as contemplated by law. These two kinds of institutions are so different in their charter provisions, and call for such different management, that great responsibility is thrown upon the officers and Inspector of Finance.

It has been brought to my attention that several of the savings banks of the State have incorporated into their business a regular banking department like unto the business of a national bank, assuming all the risks and responsibilities of banks of discount, and affording their customers all the conveniences which this class of commercial transactions require. I do not understand that the general law, or the charter provisions of savings banks, grant them any legal right to do this. Trust companies may and do transact this class of business, because their charters grant them such provisions, and the capital stock of the company is the financial security that is a prominent element in giving the bank its standing; but a savings bank has no capital. The trustees who authorize or permit this business, without doubt, make themselves personally liable. It has never seemed to me the right thing for a corporation to extend its business beyond the provisions of its charter. A part of the great unrest of the day grows out of what is termed the "greed of corporations." It becomes therefore the duty of the Legislature to determine whether these savings banks may take on this department of business or not, and if so, to provide specific means by which it may be done and conducted, and arranging for its complete separation from the ordinary savings bank deposits, and not allow the regular savings to become mingled with or subject to, the risks that always attend the daily transactions of commercial life.

The provision in the law which allows people residing without the State to come here and organize State banks was taken advantage of last year by some sharpers living in the City of New York, who organized a State bank at Barton, and undertook to use the fair name of this State to perpetrate a swindle upon the unsuspecting public, by the issuing of checks, drafts, letters of credit, certificates of deposits, and without any actual capital enter into a regular banking business. At the hour appointed for it to commence business, the State Inspector of Finance was the first man to cross the threshold of the bank, and to institute an inspection, which was followed immediately by taking full possession and later by applying to the Supreme Court for an injunction, which has been followed by a complete winding up and blotting out of the fraud. The State's Attorney of the County caused the arrest and indictment of the leading party in this scheme, who is now under bonds awaiting trial. I gave permission to the Inspector of Finance to engage such counsel as was necessary to protect the interests of the State.

That provision of law making it possible for outside parties to commit this species of fraud should be amended.

BOUNDARY LINE COMMISSION.

Under the act to establish boundary line monuments between Massachusetts and Vermont, I appointed Hon. Kittredge Haskins, Hon. Lavant M. Reed and Hon. James K. Batchelder as such commissioners, who have attended to the work, which has proven to be more extensive and important than was at first understood to be the case, and which is still in progress; but the work has been in able and safe hands, and the preliminary report of their doings will be laid before you.

REVISION OF STATUTES.

Under the act of 1892 which called for a revision of the public statutes and for the appointment of three commissioners to perform the work, in accordance with what seemed to be the unanimous opinion of the Bar, I tendered the appointment of First Commissioner to Hon. W.B.C. Stickney, who indicated his willingness to undertake the work, but a serious illness ultimately caused him to decline the appointment. Where upon I appointed Hon. Alfred A. Hall, Hon. Philip K. Gleed and Hon. Orion M. Barber.

These gentlemen have undertaken the work with great zeal. They have had as an assistant for a short period, Mr. Ashton R. Willard, who was assistant to the revision commissioners of 1880. The volume of work called for by this revision I am advised is largely in excess of the former revision; its examination and completion will be the greater labor of this session. In the consideration of the many questions that will arise great skill, careful study, as well as critical examination will be required. Those who have seen the work represent it as being well performed.

The attention of the Commissioners has been called to various changes in the laws that will be recommended by the different State officers, and they will embody in their report to you the result of their examination of this subject, which I trust will be given you to do.

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The arrangements made by previous Legislatures to provide for a representation of Vermont Interests at the World's Columbian Exposition is fully set forth in the report of the Commissioners. The exhibits sent from the State ranked high in quality and received distinguished recognition from the Jury of awards.

The biennial term has been somewhat notable for the many demands of a semi-social and educational character that have been made upon the Governor and his Staff as official representatives of the State. My own publicly expressed obligations and thanks are due and are hereby expressed to the gentlemen comprising the Staff, for the hearty response to all calls made upon them, and the generous willingness with which they have journeyed in all directions, at their own personal expense of time and money, that the State might be worthily represented in the many public events that have marked the period.

It is not requisite that any specific mention should be made of more than one or two of these events. Among the most notable was that of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, to which reverence has already been made, at which the Executive and other State officials sought to express the interest of our people in that gigantic enterprise which so fittingly commemorated the 400th anniversary of the landing of Columbus. On the 10th of May, 1893, in the presence of a large number of loyal Vermonters and others, there was dedicated, with appropriate exercises, the structure that was used during the life of the Exposition, as the rallying point for the Sons and Daughters of Vermont. Amid the splendid array of buildings, Vermont may indulge the justifiable pride that its own State building, designed by one of its own talented sons, while neither so large or pretentious as many of the other buildings, was surpassed by none in the classic purity of its architecture, and the commendatory words spoken concerning it by distinguished architects and artists.

Upon the request of the Governor of California, I appointed several gentlemen as Honorary Commissioners to represent the State at the Mid-Winter Fair held in California, and in response to a most urgent invitation from the authorities at the Fair, and the repeated solicitation of three thousand loyal Vermont residents upon the Pacific slope, I was present in San Francisco to assist in a proper representation of the State on "Vermont Day," March 3rd, 1894.

The honors everywhere accorded on that journey to the representatives of the State, revealed the loyalty of the Sons and Daughters of Vermont to the mother commonwealth, and the honor in which the Green Mountain State is everywhere held for the sturdy manhood that is developed among its rugged hills and which has gone forth to enrich in largest measure, other communities of the land.

One of the most pleasant features of the official term has been the numerous opportunities of meeting with the Vermont Societies in various parts of the country. Into these societies is gathered the sturdy manhood and high souled womanhood which has been flowing from our highlands everywhere, into the life of the nation and which has been one of the most beneficent agencies in the development of the political, social, and religious life of our nation. Into the gatherings of these societies come, from time to time, these loyal Sons and Daughters of Vermont, and, under the enchantment of memory they forget their years and their burdens, their cares and their bustling activities, and while thinking reverently of the dead and lovingly of the living, they rekindle their patriotic zeal, as they recall the scenes of the old Green Mountain State, and the hallowed memory and teachings of the fathers.

These Sons and Daughters of Vermont who have gone forth and are scattered through our broad continent, as they look lovingly back to their mother commonwealth, realize that the real strength and grandeur of a State does not depend upon the evidences it can show of vast and material prosperity, or wealth of population, but that these elements reside rather in the spirit of the people, that prevents its communities from being demoralized by corruption, and keep from it that spirit of speculation that works havoc in its business relations, and drives away the unbelief that undermines the faith of its people, and preserves, equally and well, the rights of all.

The past history of our own State is teeming with the record of great blessings that have been enjoyed; doubtless there are vaster blessings for our State in the days yet before it, since the future is in the keeping of the same Almighty One who was the Helper of our fathers in the past, and who is their loyal children's reliance in the present.

The Governor having concluded the reading of his message, withdrew, and the Joint Assembly dissolved.

CHAUNCEY W. BROWNELL,
Secretary of State, Clerk.