Utica Morning Herald
AND DAILY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1878.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

GOVERNOR ROBINSON'S second annual message is a rather gingerly document, touching upon many important topics without suggesting anything new or practical concerning them, and giving some hints in regard to others that possess real value. Its statement of the financial condition of the State is most satisfactory. The Governor announces the canceling of the last remnant of the bounty debt, on account of which the State of New York has paid nearly forty-four millions of dollars. With its extinguishment expires the last tax imposed upon the State by the war.

The only remaining debt which rests upon the State is that incurred in the enlargement of the Erie canal, and this is now whittled down to less than eight millions dollars. It is provided by the constitution that the revenues of the canals shall pay both the interest and principal of this debt. But the changed conditions of our commerce, and the policy adopted by the State in meeting those conditions, have compelled the imposition of a direct tax to provide for it. The tax to supply this deficiency for last year is one-fourth of a mill. For this year it will be nearly one-half mill.

But for the canal debt, the rate of taxation would be but a trifle over two mills. As it is the rate this year will be but two and three-fourths mills, which is the lowest that it has been since the outbreak of the war. But it is still too high for a State of the immense resources of New York.

The Governor takes a hopeful view of the future of the canals, although the figures he supplies indicate that the very closest economy will be needed to manage them in the coming year within the limits of the constitution. The Governor rather hints that the last reduction in tolls was a mistake, although he is careful not to say so in words. The falling off amounts to over $400,000, and the total sum that can be spent upon the canals next year is $880,000. The cost of managing the canals last year was $1,050,000, which was less than they have cost before in twenty years. This cost must be reduced over two hundred thousand dollars in the coming year. The Governor expresses the hope that the inauguration of the new system of a single superintendent will render this further economy possible. He even hints that the gross expenditure of last year can be reduced one-half. If this is possible, the canals are saved. We have never yet seen a practical canal man who believed it possible. The Governor will need to ignore all partisan considerations, in selecting a superintendent, if it is to be made possible.

This message pitches into the new capitol and the other extravagant buildings of the State even more savagely than its predecessor. It repeats that a more serviceable capitol could be obtained, at a less expense, by beginning over again, than by completing the mammoth structure into which more than eight millions of the people's money have been poured. But the Governor illustrated his consistency upon this point a year ago, by signing a half million appropriation, after vetoing the appropriation of a million. He will doubtless do the same again. He also makes it manifest that if a bill is passed repealing the new code, it will obtain his signature. He makes it plain that its continuance will cost the people millions of dollars in unnecessary litigation. In dealing with the insurance question, which he ignored a Governor ROBINSON makes one [illegible]

rudeness. He assumes [illegible] ed population of the country has been [illegible] vn by tariff legislation and a consequent misdirection of the national industry, from agriculture and farm labor. But in the very year in which the army of the unemployed has grown so large, we have grown the largest crops in our history, and farm labor has been as plenty as any other. The Governor assails the only branches of industry, by the revival of which the deplorable condition of the workingmen can be improved.

In dealing with the general question, Governor ROBINSON is at his strongest. What he says is commonplace; but he distinctly repudiates that plank of the democratic national platform which demands the repeal of the resumption act. He calls attention to the statute passed by the Legislature, pledging the State of New York to resume specie payments upon the first of January, 1879; and he adds that whatever may happen elsewhere, the State of New York will redeem that promise. We understand this to mean, that Governor ROBINSON will veto any bill for the repeal of that act that may come before him. Independent of that pledge on the part of the executive, the republican Legislature will pass no such bill of repeal; and the State of New York, if it alone of the thirty-eight States resumes specie payments one year from yesterday, will be the only one of the States to profit by that act of honesty and common sense.

There are other features of this message, that may properly wait for more extended consideration hereafter. There is an allusion in it to the settlement of the presidential controversy which under all the circumstances, is utterly unworthy of Governor ROBINSON. He permitted TILDEN to load down his last message with an imprudent and violent argument, to show that the President of the Senate had no right to count the electoral vote. The President of the Senate did not count it; but yielded to a law which the democrats in Congress almost unanimously approved, erecting a unique tribunal for that purpose. Governor ROBINSON was one of the men who approved of the electoral commission; and he is the last democrat who should use his official position to assail the commission's finding. He consents to weakly echo TILDEN'S unending cry of "fraud." By so consenting, he writes himself down among the partisan of partisans.

OUR good Welsh friends had a successful Eisteddfod yesterday, and deserve credit for it. We believe it would have been better enjoyed, and would have won a surer footing for the future, if it had been more distinctively Welsh in its music and all its literary exercises. On other occasions good singing is heard, and recitations in English are common on the stage; it is the mission of the Eisteddfod to preserve the old language and to keep alive the music of the principality ancient and modern, while it produces the original compositions of Welshmen and their descendants. In this peculiar field there is wide scope for variety and excellence which can have no competition from any of the other exhibitions of the year. Doubtless such a program will cost more effort, but it will repay it.

WE can not conceive it possible that a republican Senate, after rejecting GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN, will confirm CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD.

COMPTROLLER OLCOTT must have been making old fashioned New Year's calls yesterday. He seems to have forgotten all about his annual report.

GOLD a year ago was 106¼. It is now less than 103. The remaining premium can be abolished before the year is half through, if the people will hold the demagogues in check.

THE record of failures in New York during December was unusually large, exceeding that of November about 25 per cent. The failures numbered 89. Total liabilities, $7,704,391; assets, $4,117,777.

WILLIAM E. CHANDLER has time now to look around and study who was wounded by his letter. President HAYES was not, CHANDLER and those who set him on hardly feel as strong as they did before the letter was printed.

THE total amount of interest payable in New York city the 1st of January, on government, State, railway, banks, insurance, and miscellaneous investments is $45,910,876. The receivers are many, and the benefits will be correspondingly wide spread.

BOTH branches of the Legislature were promptly organized at the appointed hour yesterday; and Governor ROBINSON'S intrigue to upset the republican control of the Assembly vanished into the thin air. We have had Governors who would not meddle with such machinations.

SENATOR KERNAN has shown a zeal in fighting the silver movement, which does him infinite honor. He has written a letter to a member of the syndicate, in which he gives this welcome assurance: "We have 26 votes committed against the Bland bill, and a two-thirds vote for it can not be secured. We shall try to amend the House bill in many particulars, and should any of them be adopted, the House will be forced to another vote, when the majority will be much less than before."

SPEAKER HUNTER yesterday on taking the chair in the Assembly, laid down principles which well followed, will render the session beneficent and honorable. He asks that the heavy load of taxation may be reduced, and that safeguards may be devised against official misconduct in corporate bodies. These are important objects, and the spirit in which the speaker refers to them, is commendable. In treating of national politics, he denounces "any insidious measure which would injure the public credit," and says nothing calculated to promote dissension in the party or the country. Mr. HUNTER starts well. With parties so evenly balanced he will have delicate duties to perform. He has the ability to show at the close of the session a record as noteworthy as any occupant of the speaker's chair has ever made.

BEN PERLEY POORE is the oldest and one of the most sagacious of the Washington correspondents. He has been reviewing the political situation and declares that "the republican party of the future will be the party of sound currency, general education, freedom of thought and fidelity to the government, as against the elements which would destroy the national credit, ignore national intelligence and rouse social antagonism and strife. The administration is endeavoring to direct a republican party of this description in its work; and it is firmly convinced that the advocates of sectional animosity, of national dishonesty and of repudiation in any form or degree will not prevail against it." He goes on to say "that the President and the republican party will, ere long, be in harmony with the [illegible] observer

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SENATOR JONES, OF NEVADA.—The antecedents of this gentleman just now possess a peculiar interest. He is the leader of the silver movement in Congress. He plans the campaign against the financial credit of the nation, furnishes the means for the outside agitation of the movement, and he, more than any other man in the country, is to profit by the success of a step that will be ruinous to multitudinous business interests. This JONES, who is really a resident of San Francisco, was elected to the Senate from the rotten borough of Nevada, where he possesses a nominal residence, and was elected solely because of his great wealth. He made a rather brilliant *debut* in the Senate, signalizing his arrival there by the delivery of a speech against the inflation bill of 1874, which was vetoed by General GRANT. In this speech, which no one has ever accused Senator JONES of writing, he announced himself as the enemy of all money except gold. "I believe," he said in that speech, "that the sooner we come down to a purely gold standard, the better it will be for the country." The average price of silver in London, while he was speaking, was 58 5-16 pence per ounce. JONES was then one of the heaviest owners in a great silver mine, as well as in several gold mines; and his profits on both his silver and his gold were such as to make him perfectly contented with the world, and himself, and the single standard.

Towards the end of the same year the discovery of the Big Bonanza silver mines became generally known. The German silver sale has in the mean time produced a marked decline in the value of silver; and the news of the new discoveries precipitated that decline. Senator JONES suddenly received a new light upon the financial question. There was great danger that his colossal supply of silver would become a drug in the market. When JONES next appeared in his seat in the Senate, he announced himself as in favor of the remonetization of his metal. He now made another speech. The average price of silver had fallen in London to 52⅜ pence per ounce at the time Mr. JONES concluded that it should become with gold a standard of value in the country. In this session, he procured the organization of a silver commission, with himself as chairman, and with partisans of his interests as the other members. This commission made an elaborate report at the beginning of the present session, in which Mr. JONES expresses the opinion that silver should be monetized on a basis of 15½ to 1, instead of 16 to 1, and argues that if the nation authorizes the old silver dollar of 412½ grains, no silver will be coined, or silver will be immediately exported. Since that time, Senator JONES has been exclusively occupied in lobbying through a bill which authorizes the free coinage of his silver bullion. If this bill becomes a law, he will be able to sell his bullion at about fifty-four pence per ounce to the people of the United States.

The spectacle this senator presents is without exception the most scandalous in the legislative history of this country. Here is a man—the representative of a State not larger than Oneida county, devoting his whole time and influence in the Senate of the United States, to pushing a law that is dal of the *Credit Mobilier* transactions. Congressmen have often been challenged for votes upon legislation affecting the national banks, because they happened to hold a few shares of stock in one of them. But never before did a man appear so conspicuously in legislation which was to put millions of dollars into his own pocket. It is a spectacle well calculated to excite the derision and contempt of Europe; a spectacle which no American citizen can witness without an infinite contempt for the institutions of his own country which permit such a thing. The sins of OAKES AMES are as white as snow, by the side of the conduct of the senator from Nevada.

CITY AND COUNTY.

REDUCED RATES,

$2 A QUARTER; $3 A YEAR; 16 CENTS A WEEK IN THE CITY; will pay for the UTICA MORNING HERALD. *Subscribe for it.*

BREVITIES.—Write 1878.

—Special meeting of the Exempts this evening.

—Don't forget the good resolutions made yesterday.

—The public schools and the German Free School reopen to-day.

—Cool but pleasant yesterday, with a few snowflakes at midnight.

—Services were held yesterday in the Catholic, Lutheran and Moravian churches.

—Burbank's readings and recitations in the Utica Mechanics' Association course this evening.

—Mrs. Letchworth's dramatic readings at the West Utica Presbyterian Church, Friday evening.

—C. Tyler, living on Governor Seymour's farm, caught a pure white rat in a trap, the other day.

—Dr. John Vedder has a fine collection of Florida birds, alligators and other reptiles on exhibition at 206 Genesee street.

—A holiday musicale and dance is to be given in Skinner's Hotel, Trenton, Friday evening. It will be a very pleasant affair.

—Travel is very light on the Central road but the company is saving thousands of dollars daily by reason of having no snow to shovel.

—Some one should get up a walking match of one hundred miles or more, the pedestrian to face east and not turn around this season.

—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence, in their amusing comedy of "The Mighty Dollar," next Monday evening. This will be a grand treat.

—The Oxford *Times* says that two gentlemen from Utica have been engaged to act as judges at the poultry show which opens to-day at that place.

—The HERALD'S carrier boys are very grateful to their kind friends who remembered them so generously yesterday. Of course they will be more faithful than ever for the remainder of the year.

—Callers did not find anything stronger than coffee at one out of fifty houses yesterday, which fact adds much to their comfort this morning. A few who imbibed outside and made fools of themselves probably now wish they had brass bands around their heads.

PERSONAL.—Hon. D. H. Cole, of Albion, is at Bagg's Hotel.

—In the Albany *Press* report of the opening of the new Stanwix Hall, of that city, it says that Michael J. Morrissey, long a resident of Cuba, will provide all lovers of the weed with genuine Havanas, and also dispense the newspapers of the day. Previous to Mr. Morrissey's experience in Cuba, he was connected with the tobacco and newspaper business in Utica.

POLICE BUSINESS.—Drunks arrested last night, Mary Vinegar, William Nicholas, Christian Welsebach.

—Ellen Moore, of Ogdensburg, was arrested for creating a disturbance this morn-

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BUSINESS.—We are informed that the [illegible] company at the [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible] ity [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]