

emanating from elevated and patriotic motives, national in its aims and entirely worthy of the cooperation of this State. Copies of this Journal, containing the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, the Report of the Committee, developing the plan of the Monument, and all other proceedings relative to this subject have been sent to the Executive Department, and will be sent to your Honorable bodies at an early day.

I herewith transmit as required by the Constitution, a statement of the disbursements from the Executive Contingent fund, for the last two years.

Thus far I have treated of such matters only, as proper an interest strictly local, and confined of our own State. But before bringing this communication to a close, I should consider that I had failed to discharge a public duty, were I not to allude to a new element in the political controversies of the times, which in my opinion, has already been productive of more harmful consequences, and has done more, to sever the ties which should bind together our whole people, as one common brotherhood, than any thing which has occurred since the organization of our Government. I mean the formation and encouragement of secret political societies.

In this country, the adoption of the veil of secrecy, as a means of accomplishing any political end, is, without any tenable ground of either justification or excuse. In other lands where despotism may assert its fearful and profligate dominion over mind, where to utter opinions distasteful to the Rulers, for the hour, maybe, may be to hazard property, liberty or life, secret political combinations may sometimes be resorted to, as a means of subverting the purposes of tyrants. Such, however, is not the condition of American Citizens, nor can it be, so long as we adhere to ourselves, and adhere to the faith and teachings of our Fathers, and the Constitution, which is the work of their hands.

Here the Press, the mighty weapon in the hands of a brave and virtuous people, is wholly unfettered. Thought and speech enjoy a scope and an immunity, limited only by that degree of personal liability, which by a jury of his peers, may be visited upon him, who ventures maliciously to libel or slander the fair fame of his fellow. A thousand channels of communication with the people are always open, through which the humblest Citizen may criticize public measures, and arraign before the tribunals of public opinion, the candidate for official station, or those to whom for the time being may be entrusted the management of the affairs of Government.

Thus much may be asserted, in relation to secret political associations upon the hypothesis that the ends sought to be attained may be such as are warranted by the laws of the land, and by the spirit and character of our civil institutions. But how much more are they to be deprecated, when those purposes tend to the subversion of the well established and most dearly cherished principles of our Government, and to the establishment of rules for discriminating against large classes of Citizens, not only unknown to the Federal Constitution and those of the several States, but plainly prohibited both by the letter and spirit of each and all of them.

The nature and character of the issues, too, to which these organizations have given rise are such as must be deeply deplored by all who sincerely wish the permanent peace of the Country. The welfare of the Union depends so much upon the united affections and patriotism of the whole people, that any formidable effort "to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection", to segregate and divide them into classes or classes by a proposed exclusion from any right of Citizenship, either on account of place of birth or religious opinion, must excite in every true patriot feelings of the most painful solicitude. All history admonishes us that a war of races