

J. WEYAND,
Editor and Proprietor.
February 27th, 1867.

That "Sneaky" Bill.
Some days or two weeks ago, the Harrisburg correspondent of the Pittsburgh Commercial wrote to that paper under a sensational head, that the Pennsylvania Railroad company had, the day before, attempted, and well-nigh succeeded, in getting a bill through the Legislature, which contained decidedly the "biggest snake" ever seen in that body. The bill itself was sent by the correspondent to the Commercial, and published. The editor in referring to it stated that his correspondent had "unearthed a huge snake" at Harrisburg, and himself pronounced it "but little less than an anaconda" in size. The Local of last week was startled by those announcements in the Commercial, seen the snake too, and in an article of almost two columns in length, undertaken to prove that Matthew S. Quay, of Beaver, hatched it, how distinguished our county all at once becomes!

A person would suppose from what these authorities had already said on the subject, that the "monster" would be apparent to every eye; but such is not the case; for we know of no other papers in the State save the two referred to, that have had a glimpse of, or even alluded to his "snakelike" at all. In fact, we have about made up our mind that neither the Commercial, its correspondent, nor the Local have thus far had a very clear conception of his proportions themselves; for to this day, neither of them have made any attempt to point out the "reptile," nor tell us exactly what the character of its sting might be. On the contrary, the Commercial and its correspondent have maintained a dignified silence since then, and it is highly probable that after reading the "sneaky" bill carefully, they concluded that they were "hoaxed," and that the easiest way to get rid of the "snake" story was to never repeat it. They have been careful not to do so.

The bill which frightened our neighbors is entitled "An act to repeal an act entitled A further supplement to the act incorporating the Pennsylvania Railroad company, authorizing an increase of capital stock, and to borrow money," approved the 21st of March, 1860.

The bill contains just what its title indicates—nothing less, and nothing more—and was read in place in the House, and a motion made to suspend the rules and put it upon its passage. This motion was lost. The bill then came up in the Senate, where it was freely discussed, and not a few in that body accused it of containing a "snake." Its friends explained that the Pennsylvania Railroad company's business had increased largely within the year, that they had many repairs to make, that they were in need of additional rolling stock, and that an increase of capital was vitally necessary to accommodate the wants of the business public. After its passage in the Senate it came up in the House, when a Mr. Myers, of Northampton county, arose and opposed its passage, not because of anything wrong he saw in the bill itself, but on the ground that there might be "snakes" in it, as the bill had not been printed and laid on the desks of the members. Other Representatives, influenced by his remarks, partook of his fears, and when a vote was taken the bill was lost. But why was the bill not printed, as Mr. Myers alleged? It should have been! Simply because of a want of time. The Directors of the Railroad met once a year, and on the day following the vote on this bill was the time fixed for that meeting. The agents of the company wished the bill passed in time for the Directors to act on it that day, knowing that if they did not, its subject matter would lay over for another year. This is why haste was made to have the bill passed. That the bill itself contains nothing improper is evident from its own reading, and likewise from the fact that Mr. Myers, and all others who opposed its passage, did so more in account of the manner in which it was brought before the House, than because of the matter it contained. These being the facts in the case, will any one say that wrong was asked by the Pennsylvania Railroad in this particular? Surely not, for other chartered companies obtain leave to increase their capital from almost every Legislature that meets, and none would have followed the passage of the bill if it had been left whether whether Matthew S. Quay of Beaver hatched the bill, or whether it was inculpated by some one else. In these remarks we wish to understand that we are not an apologist of the Pennsylvania Railroad, but on the contrary we are ready to go as far as the *farthest* in denouncing every attempt it makes to satiate itself at the cost of the people. But we wish it also understood, that in hunting "snakes," we are not silly enough to bark at holes that do not contain them. The Local may do so, and accomplish about as much as it usually does in its barking operations.

The Chambersburg Repository urges the establishment of a Pardon Bureau in this State, to be composed of a designated number of Lawyers or Judges, whose duty it would be to examine all applications for pardon, and the papers pertaining thereto. It thinks that in this way only can the laws be made to accomplish what they were enacted for, viz: the welfare of the people.

Important to Ex-Army Officers.
A case of some importance to ex-army officers is now undergoing investigation at Washington. A late decision of the United States Court of Claims was recently made, which decided that the pay of an officer's servant was that of a private soldier. The Second Comptroller of the Treasury has determined to have this decision overruled by an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and it is proposed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said State 21 years old and upwards, of whatever color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the Rebellion or for felony at common law, and when such constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for electors of delegates, and when such constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification, who are qualified as electors for delegates, and when such constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, and Congress shall have approved the same, and when said State by a vote of its Legislature elected under said constitution shall have adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by the XXXIXth Congress, and known as Article 14, and when said article shall have become part of the Constitution of the United States, said States shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators, and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this act shall be inoperative in said State. *Provided*, That no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by said proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall be eligible to election as a member of the House of Representatives, and the Court of Claims has decided that for servant's hire the ex-officer is entitled to the increase also. If this was the intention of the law-makers the decision is a correct one, and will more than likely prevail, notwithstanding the opposition of the Treasury Department. In accordance with this, officers will be allowed \$3 per month more for each servant allowed, from the passage of the act by Congress, than they were paid during their service.

Reconstruction.

Congress, for the last week or ten days, has been busy on the reconstruction question. The Senate first agreed on what is known as the Sherman bill. After its passage by that body it went to the House for concurrence; but Mr. Stevens, a few other radicals, and the whole Democratic strength of the House united to defeat it. They accomplished their purpose, and a motion for a committee of conference was made and carried. The Senate refused a conference, and insisted upon the passage of the Sherman bill. The House in return proposed two important amendments to the Senate bill, the first, offered by Mr. Wilson, providing that all persons not eligible to hold office under the Constitutional Amendment, now pending, shall be prohibited from taking any part in the reconstruction of a rebel State. This amendment was carried by a vote of 125 to 46. Mr. Shallaberger had previously offered a new section to the Sherman bill, by which it is provided that until the rebel States are admitted to representation in Congress, all civil governments they may have shall be provisional only; and that at all elections held under provisional authority, impartial suffrage shall be allowed, and likewise, that no persons shall hold offices under the provisional government, who are disqualified by the pending Constitutional Amendment. This section the House added to the original bill by a vote of 98 for 78 against, passed the bill, and sent it to the Senate for concurrence. On the succeeding day the Senate concurred in the amendments by a vote of 35 to 7, and sent it to the President for approval. The following is the bill, as it passed both houses of Congress.

Whereas, No legal State government or adequate protection for life or property now exist in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas; and whereas it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced, in said States until loyal and republican State government can be legally established; therefore

Be it enacted, &c. That said rebel States shall be divided into military districts and made subject to the military authority of the United States, as hereinbefore mentioned; and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the First District, North and South Carolina the Second District, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, the Third District, Mississippi and Arkansas, the Fourth District, and Louisiana, and Texas the Fifth District.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the President to assign to the commandant of each sail district an officer of the army not below the rank of Brigadier-General, and to detail a sufficient military force to enable such officer to perform his duties and enforce his authority within the districts to which he is assigned.

Sec. 3. That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder and violence, and to punish or cause to be punished all disturbers of the public peace, and the criminal; and to this end, he may call local tribunals to take jurisdiction of and try offenders, or when in his judgment it may be ne-

cessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military committees or tribunals for that purpose, and all interference under color of State authority with the exercise of military authority aforesaid act shall be null and void.

Sec. 4. That all persons put under military arrest by virtue of this act shall be tried without unnecessary delay, and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted, and no sentence of any military commission or tribunal hereby authorized, affecting the life or liberty of any person, shall be executed until it is approved by the officer in command of the district, and the laws and regulations for the government of the army shall not be affected by this act, except in so far as they may conflict with its provisions. *Provided*, That no sentence of death under this act shall be carried into execution without the approval of the President.

Sec. 5. When the people of any one of said Rebel States shall have formed a constitution and government in conformity with the Constitution of the United States, in all respects, framed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said State 21 years old and upwards, of whatever color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the Rebellion or for felony at common law, and when such constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for electors of delegates, and when such constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification, who are qualified as electors for delegates, and when such constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, and Congress shall have approved the same, and when said State by a vote of its Legislature elected under said constitution shall have adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, said States shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators, and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this act shall be inoperative in said State. *Provided*, That no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by said proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall be eligible to election as a member of the House of Representatives, and the Court of Claims has decided that for servant's hire the ex-officer is entitled to the increase also. If this was the intention of the law-makers the decision is a correct one, and will more than likely prevail, notwithstanding the opposition of the Treasury Department. In accordance with this, officers will be allowed \$3 per month more for each servant allowed, from the passage of the act by Congress, than they were paid during their service.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—A bench-warrant was to-day issued from the Criminal Court, by Judge Fisher and is as follows:

District or Circuit.—To wit: The United States of America to the Marshal of the District of Columbia, greeting: We command you that you take John H. Surratt, in Washington County, if he shall be found within the County of Washington, in your said District and cause safe keeping to have his body delivered to the Court of the District of Columbia, at the City of Washington immediately, to answer unto the United States of, and concerning, a certain felony by him committed as it is presented. Hereof fail not to do right. I suppose they think that the Almighty has made them perfect. If he has, they don't show it in their actions. For if they do business cheap, and honestly they can have offices like every man who does his work right. The person who is making a noise about this thing knows he has no ground for doing so, but he wants to make a fine and noisy so that the people will give him an office, as the election is not far distant.

Witness: Hon. Geo. P. Fisher, Judge of our

said Court at the City of Washington, the nineteenth day of February, anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven. R. H. Nixon, Clerk.

On the back of which is the following endorsement:

No. 473, United States vs. John H. Surratt—Bench Warrant—Murder.

This afternoon between 4 and 5 o'clock, and soon after notice by the Navy-Department of its readiness to deliver Surratt to the civil authorities, Marshal Gooding proceeded to the Navy-Yard with the above warrant, and, having exhibited it to Admiral Radford, the latter with a guard of marines repaired to the Swatara and soon returned, bringing with them the prisoner whom he delivered to the Marshal. Surratt was dressed in a Zouave uniform such as he wore when he was captured in Alexandria, Egypt, and handcuffed. Having been placed in a neck with an armed guard he was driven to the jail which he reached at 5 p.m., and was placed in the custody of the guard who has lately fitted up three iron clad cells, one on each floor, which are used for the confinement of murderers and desperadoes. He was placed in one of these cells from which there is no possible chance of escape, and, therefore, there is no doubt about his safe keeping. No one will be allowed to see him except his counsel and the officers of the prison. The prisoner positively denies that he is John H. Surratt.

Why The Democrats Oppose The Reconstruction Bill.
The spectacle of the entire Democratic minority of the House following the lead of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens—whom their party organs have constantly held up to execration, and whom they have untrue represented as the dicator and autocrat of the majority—is calculated to puzzle the rank and file, who have been accustomed to find exhilaration in the trumpet-tones of Jack Rogers and rapture in the jubilous accents of Brooks. Perhaps we can do something toward a solution of the puzzle—and will endeavor to do it, as follows:

I. As throughout our great Civil War, it was confidently asserted by the Democratic leaders and implicitly believed by their followers that the Union could never be restored while the Republicans remained in power, so it is now asserted by those leaders and believed by those followers that the Union cannot be reconstructed save under Democratic rule. Projects are apt so to set as to verify their own predictions if possible; and the Democrats in Congress vote with Messrs. Stevens, Boutwell, & Co., in order to prevent and preclude any Republican Reconstruction.

II. The Democrats want no Reconstruction; holding that none is needed. In their view, the Southern States are all right now, and need no recognition. Give all power to the state rebels; put their feet on the neck of the loyal Blacks, and their sort of Reconstruction is perfect. To stave off Reconstruction is to give a fresh chance for the success of this programme. Hence their actions on the Sherman bill.

III. The Democrats contend that the Republicans are managing to keep the South permanently disfranchised, and at all events preclude her from voting for next President. Mr. Stevens says frankly that this is in aid of his "cause of Reconstruction." The Democrats want no Reconstruction; holding that none is needed. In their view, the Southern States are all right now, and need no recognition. Give all power to the state rebels; put their feet on the neck of the loyal Blacks, and their sort of Reconstruction is perfect. To stave off Reconstruction is to give a fresh chance for the success of this programme. Hence their actions on the Sherman bill.

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John H. Surratt.

THE PRISONER IN THE SWATARA TAIL-HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Surratt was removed from the Swatara, at about 4 o'clock this afternoon. United States Marshal Gooding and his deputy, District Attorney Carrington, and the Superintendent of Police with a file of policemen, arrived at the Navy Yard in carriages at 4 o'clock, and after a short consultation with Admiral Radford, the commandant, the Swatara was signaled. A boat was lowered and manned, and Capt. Batch proceeded to the steamer and Surratt was brought ashore, handcuffed, and transferred to the custody of the Marshall. He was at once placed in a carriage and quietly driven to the District Jail and locked up. There were few persons present at the yard. The prisoner was cleanly and neatly dressed in a Zouave uniform of gray cloth, trimmed with red cord. A short jacket, loose breeches, white leggings, red turban, and a dash of the same color tied about his waist, completed his outward attire. He is about 6 feet high, straight and well built, fair complexion, light hair, and wears a thin mustache and goatee. He was in good health during the voyage.

Correspondence.
SOUTH BEAVER, Feb. 23, 1867.
Editor &c. Permit me through the columns of your paper to say a word in relation to an item which I have read from the *Local*, in my regard to the way we conduct business in our township. The School Directors have been attacked for not giving the collecting of tax to the person who will do it best. *Local* does this.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of Milo Barnes, dec'd, John McCall, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of George Wallace, dec'd, Robert McCall, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of Anna Braden, dec'd, Elizabeth Brady, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of A. B. Holly, dec'd, John Holly, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of James Montgomery, dec'd, John Stevenson, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of Hugh Woods, dec'd, Benjamin Nowlan, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of George Engle, dec'd, Washington Engle, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of D. C. Wakefield, dec'd, John Abel, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$100, retained by widow of Stanton Gordon, dec'd, J. C. Ferguson, Esq.

Real estate to amount of \$300, set apart and retained by widow of Joseph Verdi, dec'd, J. C. Wilson, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of D. C. Campion, dec'd, Hannah Campion and G. C. Minnis, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$100, retained by widow of James McMillen, dec'd, William Whan, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of John Londis, dec'd, Robt Temple, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of John Stokes, dec'd, Elizabeth B. Stokes, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$200, retained by widow of James Davis, dec'd, W. H. and W. D. Davis, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$84.64, retained by widow of John Neely, dec'd, James Neely, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of Michael Keller, dec'd, F. Le Grelle, Adm'r.

Real estate and personal property to amount of \$300, retained by widow of S. H. Deeds, dec'd, Rachel Deeds, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$189.00, retained by widow of Ira Blanchard, dec'd, C. B. Hurst and S. H. Darragh, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$100, retained by widow of John W. Engle, dec'd, John W. Engle, Adm'r.

Personal property to amount of \$100, retained by widow of J. D. McCarty, dec'd, J. D. McCarty, Clerk.

Notice &c.

The following bills were passed:

Supplement to the act for the protection of owners of wharfs and land-

ings at Oil City.

Supplement to act incorporating the borough of East Birmingham.

Supplement to act incorporating St. Clair Cemetery, Greensburg.

To incorporate the Odd Fellows' Association of Waynesburg.

Supplement to Birmingham and South Pittsburgh Gas Company.

To provide an additional law judge in the twenty-first judicial district.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Landon presented a petition in favor of a change in the rate of interest to seven per cent.

Mr. Taylor, from the citizens, to incorporate portions of the township of Bridgewater into the borough.

Mr. Brown, of Lawrence, against the sale of liquors and Sunday travel.

To authorize the school directors of the Seventh ward to borrow money for school purposes.

Supplement to an act to incorporate the Birmingham Bridge Company.

The general jury bill was taken up and discussed. It was opposed by Messrs. Lowry and White.

House.

Mr. Wadell called up the act relating to State agency at Washington.

The bill was unani-

mous in its adoption, closing the agency in June, and postponed.

The public bill, relating to the law of evidence and husbandry, describing their wives, was discussed during the session, and passed.