public estimation great importance is attached to this bill, and no action of the Legislature undergoes a closer or more careful scrutiny.—Its provisions concern the entire community, and in their enactment too much caution cannot be observed. Last year the appropriation bill was not passed until the last night of the session, when it was hurried through both branches of the Legislature, and on the following morning presented for approval, without affording time for the necessary investigation, and subjecting the Executive to the alternative of signing it with all its imperfections, or suspending, for the ensuing year, the indispensable means for the operations of the State Government. It is, therefore, earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed, and passed at a sufficiently early period during the session to enable it to received that thorough examination which its importance demands.

PERQUISITS OF OFFICE.

Very many serious complaints have been made for many years past, relative to the disposition of the debris which annually accumulates about the Capitol. This seems to have been regarded as legitimate perquisites of certain attaches of the several legislative and other departments, and has consequently led to practices which should be prevented.—It is alleged that valuable property has thus been taken possession of and applied to personal uses, or sold for mere nominal sums; and the amount obtained privately appropriated. A remedy for this evil is to allow no perquisits whatever to any of the employees of the government. Salaries, sufficient in all cases for the services rendered, should be appropriated, beyond which no other consideration should be allowed. The adoption of this principle would remove the temptation for young men in the departments to resort to improper practices. All the public property of every description, as well as the building and grounds, should be placed in charge of the superintendent appointed for that purpose chosen for his known integrity and general capability, and required to give sufficient bonds for the faithful performance of his duties. All property and material not needed for public use, the superintendent should be required to sell at public sale, and pay over the proceeds to the State Treasury.

GENERAL RAILROAD LAW.

The subject of a general railroad law has long been agitated, and although it has found opponents, but few objections have been urged against it, while arguments accumulate in its favor. It seems impossible that any person can receive injury from its adoption, whilst its benefits may be felt by all classes of citizens. Even the chartered companies have no reasonable grounds for opposition.—The intention of the proposed law is not to deprive them of any vested rights as franchises; but to secure to others the same privileges and opportunities for competition. It will open new avenues to distant markets; improve the value of property; give new impulse to immigration; put additional lands under cultivation; stimulate trade, agriculture, manufactures and mechanic arts to increased energy; furnish greater inducements and facilities for travel, and add to our general prosperity. Other States have tried the experiment with satisfactory results, and there is no reason why Pennsylvania should be a laggard in the grand march of progress and improvement.

Next to the importance of creating additional railroads on the free principle, is the reduction of charges for passage and freight to minimum rates. This is a matter that concerns every individual. Transportation will increase in quantity in proportion to the reduction of its cost, and as the facilities increase the costs decrease, the more vigorous will be the development of our industrial resources. Railroads will derive more benefit from low than from exorbitant charges. The increase of travel and freight will be vastly greater than the increase of expense. The transportation of a loaded car costs but little more than that of one that is empty. In the matter of passengers alone, it is reasonable to expect that there will be the number of persons to avail themselves of the privilege of railroad transportation. The same is true in regard to freight for the engine that draws a half-dozen cars, can with nearly equal facility propel a larger number. Moreover, the road that is worked to its utmost capacity must necessarily, at very reduced rates, acquire greater profits than one that transacts but a small portion of the business for which it is competent. The adoption of a system of uniform rates for passengers and freight, so graduated as to be profitable to all immediately interested in the use and conduct of such works, would be productive of decided benefit in lessening the price of food, clothing, fuel, and all the necessaries of life to every citizen of the Commonwealth.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

My attention has been called to the subject of insurance, and so important does it appear that I deem it worthy of legislative consideration. Many millions of dollars are now involved, in the United States, in insurance, and the amount is being rapidly increased. To guard the interests of insurers, our laws are inadequate, and therefore need a thorough revision. Laws have been established in several of our sister States, and so successful have been their operations that the insurance companies acting under them command a respect and confidence which is not extended to those of Pennsylvania. Whilst a large portion of the insurance business of New York is done in this State, some of our companies have recently abolished their agencies in New York because, as they say, no one there will insure in a Pennsylvania company, in consequence of the laxity of our insurance laws. The policies of many organizations, under our present laws, are alleged to be worthless, and although they are continually failing, others of similar character are starting into existence. Within a few months five fire insurance companies have failed, one of which had issued policies to over one million of dollars, and other serious defections are of frequent occurrence.

In view of these facts and the costly experience of the people, I would recommend the establishment of an Insurance Department, similar to those in New York and Massachusetts, that shall have supervision and control over all companies allowed to transact business within this State. Such enactment is required for the security of our citizens. Millions of dollars are paid out by them annually for insurance—much of it under such circumstances as to render it impossible for a private individual to know whether the company to which he pays is, or is not reliable. Careful supervision, by a superintendent appointed by law, and published reports of the same under oath, would prevent much loss and fraud.

The security of the companies themselves requires an Insurance Department. The people demand protection from ignorance, fraud and insolvency. Consulting insurance journals, we find that as a general thing, Pennsylvania insurance companies are acquiring an unenviable reputation abroad, affecting the honor and good name of the State. The great purpose of the proposed department should be protection. But in connection with it there must be fees sufficient to cover all its legitimate expenses and prevent it becoming a burthen to the Commonwealth.

GAS.

Complaints have been laid before me by the consumers of gas in our large cities, and from a sense of duty and respect to them I lay the matter before you. It is stated that they have no appeal or satisfactory mode of redress for alleged impositions of the gas companies. To what extent these complaints are just it would be difficult to ascertain, but that there is cause for some of them may properly be inferred from the number, intelligence and respectability of the parties by whom they are made. There is no reason why such a state of things should continue to exist, whilst the people through their representatives, have an easy and effectual remedy.

The Legislature of a neighboring State has created the office of Inspector of gas and gas metres. A bill might be enacted creating a similar position in any city in which it may be required in this State, and such arrangements made as would ensure justice to consumers and producers without being an expense to the State.

STATUES FOR THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON.

Accompanying this will be found a circular from numerous members of the Senate and House of representatives of the United States relative to an act of Congress, passed July 2, 1864, inviting "each and all of the States to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown, or from distinguished civil or military services, such as each State shall determine to be worthy of this national commemoration." The intention is to place the statues, when furnished, in the old hall of the House of Representatives in the Capitol of the United States, which is set apart as a hall of national statuary, for that purpose. Other States will doubtless avail themselves of this privilege, and Pennsylvania should not be behind them in thus commemorating the memory of her distinguished dead.

PARIS EXHIBITION.

That Pennsylvania might be officially represented in the "Model American School House," at the Universal Exposition of all Nations," I caused to be forwarded to the American Commissioner at Paris, in July last, a box containing a large number of books and documents relative to the various departments of the Commonwealth, with a request that they be placed in a prominent position, that visitors from distant lands might have opportunity to obtain from their pages a correct idea of the progress and importance of the State. In acknowledging the receipt of this package the Commissioner states that its contents were disposed of as requested. And we are assured that the representation of the extent, characteristics, resources, progress and privileges of our country, as made in the "Farmer's Home," and "Free Common School-House," attracted crowds of curious and interested visitors, and would scatter wide and permanently, in distinct form, the doctrines of our Republic, and result in a rich return to the United States for the outlay, and a higher appreciation, among the people of Europe, of the statutes and institutions of this land of freedom and equality."

POLICE FOR THE MINING DISTRICTS.

In conformity to an act of Assembly "for the better protection of person, property and life in the mining regions of the Commonwealth," approved April 12, 1867, and on the earnest appeal of many citizens, I appointed, immediately after that date, a marshal of police and a number of subordinates, to give protection to the inhabitants of Schuylkill and Northumberland counties. In these counties, for a long time previous, crimes of heinous character were of frequent occurrence. Combinations of desperate men were formed to overawe the proprietors and superintendents of the mines, and to control their management. Citizens were murdered in their dwellings and on the roads; others intimidated by threats, were driven from the counties; and a feeling of insecurity and terror very generally prevailed. The administrators of the law seemed powerless to suppress these outrages, or bring the guilty to punishment. Since the appointment of the new police force a remarkable change has taken place. All lawless combinations have been dispersed, the persons composing them having chiefly fled; not a single murder or atrocious crime is known to have been committed; an immense amount of capital that had been withdrawn has returned; and the people enjoy the assurance of safety and protection. A similar state of affairs to that which existed in the counties named is said to prevail in some parts of the oil regions, and applications have been made for the benefit of the above named act. It is, therefore, recommended that its provisions be extended to those, or to any other counties, upon the petition of a sufficient [illegible]

WEIGHTS, MEASURES, &c.

You will find among the papers I send you, a uniform decimal system of measures, weights, and currencies, including a new method of reckoning circles, time, and longitude, together with the action of the Legislature of Maine in reference thereto. As the subject is one of general importance and interest, it is presented for your consideration.

FISH.

Herewith will be found the report of Col. James Worrell, commissioner appointed under the act of March 30, 1866, relative to the passage of fish in the Susquehanna river and its tributaries.

PENITENTIARIES.

From reports of the inspectors and directors, it will be seen that, in order to carry out the State Prison system, additional accomodations should be provided, either by erecting extensions to the present buildings, or an additional penitentiary. The appropriation made at the last session for the erection of a hospital in connection with the Western Penitentiary has not been expended, the board of inspectors being unwilling to select a site until it is determined by the Legislature whether or not additional wings or cells will be constructed.

COUNTY PRISONS.

Unfavorable reports are made respecting many of the county prisons. Some of them are alleged to be insecure and otherwise unfit for the purpose intended; others are of insufficient capacity and so over-crowded as to endanger the health of the inmates; while the management and discipline of nearly all might, doubtless, be materially improved. The policy is not a sound one that crowds together, indiscriminately, children and others convicted of their first and trifling offences, with men and women whose whole lives have been blackened with crime.

PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

In accordance with an act of Assembly approved on the 17th of April last, Messrs. William H. Armstrong, of Lycoming county, Theodore H. Nevin, of Allegheny, Wm. M. Watts, of Cumberland, and Alexander Henry and N. B. Browne, of Philadelphia were appointed commissioners "to inquire into the various systems of prison discipline as practiced in other States and countries." These gentlemen entered upon their duties and have visited various prisons, one of their number having gone to Europe for that purpose. The act, however, requiring them to report to this session of the Legislature does not allow them sufficient time to do justice to the subject, and they ask an amendment extending the time for their report until the session of 1869.

Among the accompanying papers will be found a report by Mr. Mahlon H. Dickenson, who was appointed in conformity with an act of the last Legislature, "to visit, for philanthropic purposes, the prisons and alms-houses in the various counties of the Commonwealth." The report will be found interesting in all its details, and the writer's suggestions deserving of especial attention.

PARDONS.

A report is herewith submitted of the pardons, remissions of fines, forfeited recognizance and death warrants, issued by me during the past year, with a tabular statement of those issued from 1791 to the present time. This report is made in accordance with a sense of duty to the Legislature and the public who have a right to be informed in what manner and to what extent the Executive clemency has been employed toward convicted criminals. It is also due to the Executive himself that his action in this regard should be understood. On no subject has there been greater misrepresentation than on that which relates to the exercise of the pardoning power. Accusations have repeatedly been published of its abuse, and cases have been cited in proof thereof, which were never even presented to my notice. Criminals were liberated from prison after sentence, and clamors raised in relation to their pardon in cases in which no appeal for clemency had ever been made. Upon investigation, it has been ascertained that a custom prevails in the court of quarter sessions of Philadelphia, to re consider, remit and change sentences, weeks and, months after their delivery, and in this, much of the misrepresentation has originated.—During the last year, as many convicts were thus liberated from the Moyamensing jail as were pardoned by me from all the prisons in the Commonwealth. Besides which a number more have had their terms of sentence reduced. How, or when, or under what authority, this custom originated it is impossible to learn; but that it is liable to abuse, and is without the sanction of law, seems evident. The sentence of a convict is a matter of grave importance and should receive most serious consideration before it is determined upon and delivered; for when it has become a matter of record, the criminal passes beyond the jurisdiction of the court, and there is no legal or constitutional remedy, even for errors that may be committed, except through appeal to the Executive. If a judge can remit or shorten a sentence, he can increase it, and that is a power dangerous to allow any one to wield. And further, if it be lawful for the judge of one court to remit sentences at pleasure, it follows that judges of all other courts should be invested with the same prerogative, and it requires no argument to show to what a dangerous extent it might be used. Happily, the custom appears to be confined to the court named, as judges in other counties disclaim any such authority.

Former Legislatures have had their attention called to the fact that persons are now confined in our county prisons under sentence of death, some of them for many years, whose death warrants were never issued, and towards whom the several Governors, during whose term they were sentenced, could not discover sufficient cause for the exercise of the pardoning power. The custom has been for each Governor to decline issuing a death warrant which had been withheld by his predecessor. Hence these convicts, sentenced to death, for whose execution the previous Governors did not issue warrants, and whom, it is presumed they believed deserved a milder punishment, must either be pardoned or remain prisoners for life. To remedy this the Governor should be vested with authority to commute the death penalty in the cases only to which allusion has been made, to such a term of imprisonment as his judgement would approve, and to remove the convicts from county jails to the penitentiaries.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

A brief reference to the condition of the country will be proper, and will doubtless be expected by all who were earnest in their desires and co-operation for the suppression of the rebellion, and who are now equally in earnest in their wishes and endeavors to secure an early, final and permanent settlement of our national difficulties, upon the basis of loyalty and patriotism.

Contrary to the hopes of the great masses of our people, that portion of the country which was lately in rebellion has not yet attained complete tranquility. And this seems to have been inevitable; for all history teaches us that a people who engage in the perpetration of high crimes cannot entirely nor immediately escape their consequences. Nor, perhaps, is it desirable that they should.—However this may be, it is certain that perfect repose cannot be secured until the insurrectionary States shall resume their original practical relation to the General Government.

How, when and through whom this can be best done, is the great question of the present.

That the views and conceptions of a single individual, however high he may be accidentally and temporarily exalted, should be allowed to control or determine, where the written form of government, and the acknowledged law of the land, it requires an extraordinary amount of political effrontery to assume that a Chief Executive of the nation, to any degree or under any circumstances, is the United States.

And yet in effect or substance, if not in plain terms, this was assumed shortly after the surrender of Lee and his armed forces, by the President; and he has continued to act on this assumption, even in his late annual message, in which, while claiming, in words unknown to our forefathers and our institutions, to be the "elected defender" of the people, he arrogantly calls on Congress to "immediately strike from the statute books" its reconstruction laws.

That Congress "will surrender its plan of reconstruction" to this manifestly despotic demand, cannot be even imagined or conjectured. That plan, carefully matured as it was, and fully approved when it was a direct issue before the people, is eminently just, wise and patriotic. It insists that men who were loyal in acts during the rebellion, or loyal in their feelings, should alone participate in the immediate government of the "insurrectionary districts." Going beyond the mere surface, it rests ultimately on the important doctrine, that the destinies of the nation can only be safe "in the hands of its friends; of those whose political and moral natures remain sufficiently pure to feel the impulses of patriotism and the obligations of oaths.

That policy which antagonizes the Congressional plan, which has obstructed, and persistently endeavored to defeat it, first ignores all these important considerations.—Having done this, it consistently maintains that those who devised the most infamous measures of war and for years relentlessly perpetrated, in aid of their purposes, theft, plunder, murder, starvation, and assassination—the very leaders of the rebellion—should be allowed, after involuntary failure, to possess all the rights and privileges of good citizens. That a scheme so absurd and dangerous should be sternly opposed by every true patriot, ought to admit of no doubt.—The fact that it has some advocates renders it more important to sustain the contrary proposition.

In my inaugural address, I said, "that Pennsylvania will confide in a loyal Congress, she will not hesitate to sustain it by her influence and power." This I repeat. Nor can I be induced to change this purpose, nor do I believe the people of the State can be, by appeals to the humanitarianism of the age and the invocation for mercy for those whose atrocious deeds have darkened the pages of our history. It has been well said, "the pity of the magistrate which suffers a criminal dangerous to society to escape from deserved punishment, is not mercy, but weakness." True mercy inclines us to pity and relieve the unfortunate and guilty; but only in accordance with justice. And it may well be added, that it is at least a weakness, in not a crime, to permit unrepentant, and only outwardly subdued traitors, to exercise the elective franchise, hold offices, or take part in the deliberations and legislation of the nation. Its stability and prosperity, the welfare of the people now and hereafter, cannot permit these things to be done.

Individual interests, as well as the general financial condition of our national affairs would be greatly benefitted by the simplification of internal revenue taxation, reducing the number of articles taxed and insuring honesty and faithfulness in collection. The reduction of taxes on the necessaries of life and on manufactures that are in competition with the products of foreign labor should be encouraged, while the tax on luxuries and imports should be made sufficient to sustain the expenses of the government.

The people of Pennsylvania, ever true to the Union, and unswerving in their determination to preserve its honor, integrity and perpetuity, are proud and free to assert the sacredness of the national debt, and that its ultimate payment in full must be secured.

As regards the tariff, the protection of home labor and resources, I need only refer to the views expressed in my inaugural. Time and continued reflection have strengthened the views therein expressed. But this subject is committed to the watchful care of our representatives in Congress, and it is hoped their labors will be crowned with the happiest consequences. Surely the United States should protect and foster her own industry and skill—her own toiling millions!

I earnestly invoke the blessing of Almighty God upon your deliberations, and that He will prosper your exertions to promote the happiness of the people and the welfare of our beloved Commonwealth.

JNO. W. GEARY.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, January 7, 1868.

The Beaver Argus.

E. WETZAND, Editor and Proprietor.

Beaver, Pa., January 15, 1868.

Mr. George Francis Train left New York on the 7th inst. for Europe, to take charge, it is said, of the affairs of all the Kingdoms and Principalities of that unhappy country. He is certainly competent to perform the duty.

The message of Governor Geary occupies much of our space this week. It is a candid and elaborate exhibit of the affairs of the Commonwealth, and should receive a careful reading from all. It contains one fact in particular, which will be a source of gratification to the tax payers of the State. After paying up all interest on the State debt, the debt itself has been reduced $855,620 94. Well done and this too, without taxing real estate one farthing.

GEORGE H. PENDLETON of Ohio will more than likely turn out to be the Democratic nominee for President in 1868. The west seems almost unanimously for his nomination. On the 8th of January, three States (Ohio, Indiana and West Va.) held their State Conventions, and instructed their delegates to the National Convention to give him their support. The Conventions giving these instructions, adopted resolutions against the reconstruction acts of Congress, and also virtually espoused the doctrine of free trade.

MR. BURLINGAME, our Minister to China, was applied to some time ago by the Emperor of that country to act as his agent in modifying treaties with European Powers. Mr. Burlingame accepted the Commission, and will in due time tender his resignation as American Minister to China, as he cannot be permitted to enter upon the service of the Emperor, and at the same time hold his position as our Minister. A successor to Mr. Burlingame, will therefore have to be appointed.

On questions of finance the Democratic party is hard to comprehend. Its position was originally for hard money, and against State banks; then for State banks and opposed to greenbacks, and now it is for greenbacks and against National banks, and should any improvement be suggested in the National banking system, it would be for the National banks and against improvement. A contemporary, on this subject, well says: Thus on [illegible] for all the principles which he would have voted for had he voted the Radical ticket, except that he votes for them a year or two later.

Mr. Davis, (Dem.) of Berks, submitted resolution for the purchase of copies of Purdon's Digest, for Senators, clerks and Committee rooms, which Mr. Lowry (Rep.) characterized as an outrage, affording costly food for theft, &c.—*Senate proceedings Jan. 7.*

Mr. Davis no doubt belongs to that class of Democratic politicians who are in favor of making "Economy and Retrenchment" the leading cry of that party during the coming presidential canvass. In the instance here referred to, and where he would get a "fish" which he brought forward a proposition which would cost the State thousands of dollars and be of no advantage to it whatever, a few Senators, and a few other favored individuals in their service, would realize the benefit. This resolution while the people would be permitted to look on, but not participate in the property which their money had purchased. So we go!

THE "unterrified" of this city are continually insinuating that the people's officers are "corrupt," "squander," "a set of thieves," and are constantly committing a variety of other offences which they think bring punishment upon them. In justification of themselves believe what the base insinuations, why is the specific session of evidence upon common sense do they not produce an accusation at law against some one? They won't do this State is in a better condition and the fact that our own shows conclusively that they are as destitute of truth [illegible]

J. CAMPBELL, Surveyor General, for a copy of his annual report detailed statement of the business of the Department for the year ending November 30, 1867. This report has been placed in his office, and besides, during the past year, permanent improvement of the State, before alluded to, and which has cost the value to the State of money was [illegible] due to the fact that lands within [illegible] still due the State has caused [illegible] its limits. [illegible] made out, and [illegible] lists of unpaid interest up till the amount now due, June 1 1867, [illegible] counties interested. The which surveys [illegible] warrants, 936 67. The [illegible] have but little acquisition, payment not paid by the [illegible] tion to a tract of land [illegible] 1st of last it will be that there [illegible] Fro vering 5,106, [illegible] are pending applications [illegible] 972 which no returns [illegible] have [illegible] of survey satisfactory. [illegible] make the [illegible] tory and indefatigable [illegible] pro ho is zealous [illegible] ists of the Com [illegible] ly [illegible] in [illegible]

THE State Legislature met on the 7th ult. according to law. The Senate promptly organized by the election of Jas. L. Graham of Allegheny county as its presiding officer, but the House could not agree upon a Speaker.—Mr. Davis of Philadelphia was the Republican candidate and Mr. Jones of Berks the Democratic candidate. Some eight or nine Republicans, however, refused to vote for Mr. Davis and the result of this refusal was to prevent the election of that gentleman or any one else. The House adjourned from day to day, voting for a Speaker at each session, but never electing one. On Friday however, the refractory members yielded, and enough of them supported Mr. Davis to elect him. The balance of the Republican nominees (we published their names last week) were then also elected, and the Legislative "machine" commenced running. It will be several days before the business of the session is actively entered upon.

The bolting Republicans claim that Mr. Davis' railroad record was not satisfactory to them at the outset, but that his after pledges gave them assurances that the free railroad principle would be safe in his hands.

GALVESTON, January 6.—A meeting of Republicans held in Marshall, Texas, on the 31st ult. was broken up by a mob. Judge Caldwell, the speaker, was fired at several times, and sought protection at the post headquarters. The disturbers of the peace were arrested by the military, but afterwards by order of Gen. Hancock were turned over to the civil authorities who released them on bail.

If any person believed some time ago that General Hancock's course in the Fifth Military District would be productive of any good in that locality or to the country at large, we trust that he is now undeceived. His policy will not do! The turning of thieves, cutthroats and murderers over to the civil authorities simply means that they shall go unpunished, and every person so understands it there. The sooner therefore that Congress so amends the reconstruction act as to enable Grant to relieve Hancock, and appoint a commander in his stead who will not play "toady" to the rebels, by handing criminals over to their sympathizing friends, but who will see that they are tried by the strong arm of military law, and punished according to their deserts, the better it will be for the respectable and law-abiding citizens of Texas and Louisiana, and in fact for the whole country.

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE is reported to have said that "the course of General Hancock was the first dawn of hope he had seen for the people of the South since the termination of the war."—*Exchange.*

We wonder if the "dawn" at the present time resembles that which enraptured his vision in 1861? *Then* he saw the destruction of the country in prospective, and placing himself in the hands of the conspirators, rendered them all the aid in his power in their devilish undertaking! *Now* he sees loyalty rebuked and driven from place, his rebel associates placed in positions of power, the murderers of Union men turned over to the *civil* authority, by whom they are sure *not* to be punished, and then coolly tells us that this is "the first dawn of hope for the people of the South he has seen since the termination of the war." Gen. Lee therefore being the judge, the Lost Cause is not lost, but is being revived by [illegible] should cry from the ground against such unmitigated and loathsome treachery.

CONGRESS has been pretty active since the holidays, and a great amount of the public business has received more or less attention. The most important matter before the Senate since it again convened is the report of the Committee in the case of Secretary Stanton. It vindicates the Secretary throughout, and concludes with this resolution:

Resolved, That, having considered the evidence and reasons given by the President in his report of December 12th, 1867, for the suspension from the office of Secretary of War of Edwin M. Stanton, the Senate do not concur in such suspension.

Both Houses are now at work on the currency and tax questions, and before the present month expires, we are promised something in these respects that will be satisfactory to the people and advantageous to the country. Let us hope that these promises may be fully realized.

QUITE a number of the "windy" Democrats of this county threatened us some time ago with a public prosecution for something the *Argus* said about Hugh B. Anderson during the last campaign. We took the wind out of their sails some three or four weeks ago, by telling them "to go ahead." They didn't "go ahead" though nor did we hear anything more said on that subject, until last week's *Local* made its appearance. In it a correspondent says there would be no use in prosecuting us, for our "big brother—the radical court" would be sure to clear us. That is just what we think too. It not any other court would likely find a man guilty who had committed no crime. This correspondent however begs the question. If himself and friends believed all the while, that a "radical court" would *not* convict us, why were they continually threatening to carry us before it? Ah! gentlemen we didn't scare well did we? and your dodge about the "radical court" being our "big brother" now is only a stupid way of getting out of the ridiculous box in which you find yourselves placed.

As we are not then to be tried by a court of justice, let us be tried before the bar of public opinion: We therefore challenge any Democrat in the county to point out the article or the paragraph in which we libeled Mr. Anderson. If after it is pointed out, we are unable to prove its truthfulness by the affidavits of respectable and reliable witnesses, then we will make a public retraction of the charges, and beg Mr. Anderson's pardon for having done him an unintentional wrong. What more can we propose? Our "big brother—the radical court," will not be a party to this investigation. Then let it go on.

GEN. MEADE does not appear to be doing the President's will at all in the Third Military District. He has already removed Governor Jenkins, and State Treasurer Jones, and appointed military officers in their stead. The public may therefore prepare themselves for another "howl" from the ex-rebels coupled with a demand for his removal.

JUDGE THURMAN of Ohio received the Democratic nomination for United States Senator for that State, beating Vallandigham more than two to one. The vote in caucus stood: For Thurman 51; for Vallandigham 24.

DURING the meeting of the Teachers' Institute in this place in December we were called upon by several of the teachers present and solicited to provide an educational column in the *Argus*. After some little reflection we have concluded upon doing so, and have accordingly made an arrangment with Prof. G. E. Eberhart of New Brighton, to take charge of it. Mr. Eberhart is an accomplished and successful teacher, and we doubt not will make his column not only attractive to the teachers of the county, but also interesting to the public generally. After this week then our readers may expect to find an educational column on the first page of the *Argus*, edited and managed by the gentleman named. All communications on educational subjects must be addressed to him at New Brighton Pa.

A TELEGRAM from Washington says: "Ex-Member of Congress Samuel S. Cox, who is here, says the Democratic platform is flat repudiation, and that the New York Democracy will not sustain it."

Mr. Cox has been and is still a leading Democrat of the United States. His opinion of the platform of his party friends in Ohio should have its due weight. That the ultimate aim of the Democratic party of the United States is to *repudiate* the National debt, or failing in that, to *assume* the rebel debt, is becoming more apparent every day. The folly for either of these dread alternatives to keep it out of power, and in that way prevent the accomplishment of its base and unpatriotic purposes.

THE Reconstruction Committee of the House of Representatives have agreed upon a bill which deprives the President of all power or interference on the subject of reconstruction in the Southern States. It invests Gen. Grant among other things with the duty of appointing and removing District Commanders. We hope the bill will become a law.

THE United States Senate took action on the Stanton Suspension case on last Monday. The vote on restoring him to the War office stood: Ayes 35; Nays 6. A certified record of this vote was made out and delivered to the President at nine o'clock P. M. of same day.

THE "BOYS IN BLUE" CONVENTION.

Nomination of General Grant for President and Ex-Governor Curtin for Vice President.

The Convention of the Boys in Blue of Pennsylvania, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, was held in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, on Wednesday. The hall was handsomely and appropriately decorated and arranged, the stage being ornamented with a miniature military encampment—the whole appearance of the hall being entirely *a la militaire*. Upwards of three hundred delegates were in attendance, many of whom had lost a limb and were otherwise scarred, and, with the exception of a brief discussion of the propriety of nominating a candidate for Vice President, the proceedings were conducted in a spirit of unanimity that seldom prevails in such assemblages.

The permanent officers of the Convention were:

Vice Presidents—E P. Helferty (seaman) Colonel Richard Ellis, Sergeant James Hetley, General R. L. Bodine, Major O. F. Roberts, General W. J. Bolton, General George A. McCall, Colonel W. A. Sands, Captain T. Dinan, Colonel P. A. Filbert, Major G. A. Bayard, General J. Ely, Captain F. M. McKeenan, Colonel H. J. Schaffer, General J. Wistar, Captain W. S. Home, Colonel D. M. Jones, Captain Forbes, General H. Allen, General S. B. Dick, Major P. A. Johns, Captain J. S. Stretch, Private A. J. Elliott, Captain J. Darragh, Captain Connor, General H. White and General G. Clark.

Secretary—Colonel James Given, of Philadelphia.

Assistant Secretaries—Colonel R. F. Mosen, Major J. C. Harvey, Lieutenant Reed, Captain A. Tylhurst, Sergeant W. B. Brinton, Captain D. J. Price. Captain R. Dennison, Colonel C. A. Green, Colonel S. B. W. Mitchell, Lieutenant Andrew Hayne, Captain W. R. Hast, Captain M. R. Adams, Captain A. P. Schurtz, Captain J. B. Allen.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Captain Agar.

Assistants—Major J. B Roberts and Lieutenant Wm. C. Bennett.

Gen. Lemuel Todd, of Cambria county, from the Committee on Resolutions, submitted the following report:

Resolved, That we, the representatives of the soldiers and sailors of Pennsylvania, in convention assembled, having full confidence in the wisdom and loyalty of Congress and heartily approving its theory and plan of reconstructing the disloyal States as the only means of securing the rights of the loyal citizens thereof, and fully recognizing the patriotism, integrity and services of General U. S. Grant, and accepting his actions and utterances as proof of a full accord with the principles and measures which, under his lead triumphed over treason and rebellion and upheld the just and loyal powers of the Government, do hereby nominate him for President of the United States. [Tremendous cheering.]

A delegate: That motion I second. [Laughter and renewed applause.]

Resolved, That Andrew G. Curtin [long continued applause], by his distinguished public services, his eminent capacity and fitness, and the devoted attachment to the soldiers of Pennsylvania, challenges our highest respect and confidence, and appropriately indicates him as our choice for nominee for the position of the Vice Presidency of the United States. [Applause.]

Resolved, That the Administration of General John W. Geary meets with our unqualified approval and confidence, and exibits in another and no less honorable way, the wisdom, sagacity, courage, and administrative ability so illustriously distinguishing him throughout his military career.

Resolved, That we retain undiminished confidence in Auditor General Hartranft and Surveyor General Campbell, and proudly point to their official career as evidence of the great ness and propriety of accepting military capacity and worth as a sure guarantee of full qualifications for the able discharge of civil duties.

The first resolution was unanimously adopted. When the second resolution was read, a question was raised as to the propriety of nominating a candidate for the Vice Presidency, which resulted in a vote being taken for the choice of the Convention for that office, as follows:

Hon. Andrew G Curtin received	192 votes
General Philip H. Sheridan	17 "
Hon. Schuyler Colfax	11 "
Hon. Wm. D. Kelley	9 "
Voting commenced	
General O. O. Howard	8 "
General J. F. Hartranft	5 "
Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Galusha A. Grow and Edwin M. Stanton, each received one vote	3 "

On motion, the name of Andrew G. Curtin as the candidate of the Convention for Vice President of the United States, was made unanimous with hearty cheers.

The remaining resolutions of the series reported by the Committee on Resolutions, were then adopted without dissent, and ratified by repeated rounds of applause.

On motion, a committee of one from each Congressional district was constituted a State Executive Committee, with Gen. Joshua T. Owen, of Philadelphia, as Chairman.

On motion of General Collis of Philadelphia, the following resolutions was adopted:

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Convention be empowered to appoint a delegation of three from each Congressional district (with six members at large) to represent the Boys in Blue of the State of Pennsylvania at the National Republican Convention to be held at Chicago in May next, and that said delegation be instructed to vote for Grant and Curtin for the officers of President and Vice President of the United States.

A resolution providing for the appointment of a committee on an address to the soldiers of Pennsylvania was adopted. General Harry White, of Indiana county, was selected as chairman of the committee.

In the evening a mass convention was held in Horticultural Hall, which was ably and eloquently addressed by Gen. Fisher, of Lancaster, and Captain Hutchison, of Center county.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORPHANS' COURT SALE!

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF THE ORPHANS' Court of Beaver county, the undersigned will expose to sale, at public out-cry, on the premises, on

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12th, 1868,

at 1 o'clock, P. M. of said day, all the following described real estate of Josiah McCown late of Beaver county, deceased, situate in: Darlington township, Beaver county, Pa., viz: Adjoining lands of Nathan Eakin on the North, lands of John McCaughtry on the East, lands of John McKnight, dec'd., on South, and lands of Hugh Dilworth on the west, containing

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN ACRES,

More or less, eighty acres of which are cleared and the balance well timbered. On it are erected a Stone House, one story with basement, kitchen and cellar. Also, a story and a half Frame House, about 25 by 24 feet. Orchard of good fruit on the premises. Farm well watered, and in a good state of cultivation. A few feet vein of good coal underlies about seventy-five acres of said land. Premises within 1½ mile of Knox Station, on P. Ft. W. & C. R. R.

TERMS.—One-third of purchase money in hand upon confirmation of sale by the Court, the balance in two equal annual installments from that date with interest from same time, and secured by bond and mortgage or the premises. The purchaser to pay expenses of preparing title, bond, and mortgage, and all bonds site stamps. For further information inquire of the undersigned, Princeton, P. O., Lawrence county, Pa., or H. Hice, his attorney, Beaver Pa.

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