

Bedford Inquirer.

A LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER, DEVOTED TO POLITICS, EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND MORALS.

DURBORROW & LUTZ, Editors and Proprietors.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

J. H. LONGENECKER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Bedford, Pa.
All business entrusted to his care will receive prompt attention.
Office with S. L. Russell, Esq., nearly opposite the Court House. Oct. 16, '66-6m.

M. BYERS & DICKERSON,
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Bedford, Penn'a.
Office same as formerly occupied by Hon. W. P. Schell, two doors east of the Gazette office. All business entrusted to his care will receive prompt attention. Military Claims, Pensions, &c., specially collected.
Bedford, June 9, 1865.

JOHN T. KEAGY,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Bedford, Penn'a.
Office to give satisfaction to all who may entrust their legal business to him. Will collect moneys on evidences of debt, and specify promissory notes and positions to soldiers. Their widows or heirs. Office two doors west of Telegraph office. April 11, '66-ly.

J. B. CESSNA,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Office with JOHN CESSNA, on Julianna street, in the office formerly occupied by King & Jordan, and recently by Filler & Keagy. All business entrusted to his care will receive faithful and prompt attention. Military Claims, Pensions, &c., specially collected.
Bedford, June 9, 1865.

J. M. D. SHARPE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Office with S. L. Russell, Esq., nearly opposite the Court House. Oct. 16, '66-6m.

S. H. PALMER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care. Collections made on the shortest notice.
Particular attention paid to the collection of Military Claims. Office on Julianna st., nearly opposite the Mengel House. June 23, '65-ly.

J. R. DURBORROW & LUTZ,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to their care. Collections made on the shortest notice.
They are, also, regularly licensed Claim Agents and will give special attention to the prosecution of claims against the Government for Pensions, Back Pay, Bounty, Lands, &c.
Office on Julianna street, two doors south of the Mengel House. April 28, 1865-ly.

E. SPY M. AINSPIE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA.
Will faithfully and promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care in Bedford and adjoining counties. Military claims, Pensions, back pay, bounty, &c., specially collected.
Mann & Spang, on Julianna street, 2 doors south of the Mengel House. April 1, 1866-ly.

M. A. POINTS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA.
Respectfully tenders his professional services to the public. Office with J. W. Lingenfelter, Esq., on Julianna street, two doors south of the Mengel House. Dec. 9, 1864-ly.

JOHN MOWER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
April 1, 1866-ly.

K. IMMEL, AND LINGENFELTER,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA.
Have formed a partnership in the practice of the Law Office on Julianna Street, two doors South of the Mengel House. April 1, 1866-ly.

DENTISTS.
C. S. HICKEL, J. G. HENNING, JR.
DENTISTS, BEDFORD, PA.
Office in the Bank Building, Julianna Street. All operations pertaining to Surgical or Mechanical Dentistry carefully and satisfactorily performed and warranted. TERMS CASH.
Tooths Powdered and Mouth Wash, excellent articles, always on hand.
Jan 9, '65-ly.

DENTISTRY.
D. L. BOWSER, RESIDENT DENTIST, WOODBURY, Pa., visits Bedford three days of each month, commencing with the second Tuesday of the month. Prepared to perform all Dental operations with which he may be favored. Terms within the reach of all and strictly cash except by special contract. Work to be done by mail or otherwise, must be paid for when impressions are taken. Aug. 5, '64-ly.

PHYSICIANS.
DR. GEORGE C. DOUGLASS,
Respectfully tenders his professional services to the people of Bedford and vicinity.
Office at No. 228 Washington St.,
Office two doors west of Bedford Hotel, up stairs. au17-ly

W. M. W. JAMISON, M. D.,
Bedford, Pa.,
Respectfully tenders his professional services to the people of that place and vicinity. [Dec. 11, '66-ly]

DR. B. F. HARRY,
Respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. Office and residence on Pitt Street, in the building formerly occupied by Dr. J. H. Hoffa.
April 1, 1864-ly.

J. L. MARQUETT, M. D.,
Having permanently located respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. Office on Julianna street, opposite the Bank, one door north of Hall & Palmer's office. April 1, 1866-ly.

JEWELER, &c.
ABALOM GARBICK,
CLOCK AND WATCH-MAKER,
BOONY, PENN.
Clothes, Watches, Jewelry, &c., promptly repaired. All work entrusted to his care, warranted to give satisfaction.
He also keeps on hand and for sale WATCHES, CLOCKS, and JEWELRY.
Office with Dr. J. A. Mann. May 4

JOHN REICHMUND,
CLOCK AND WATCH-MAKER,
In the United States Telegraph Office,
Clothes, watches, and all kinds of jewelry promptly repaired. All work entrusted to his care warranted to give entire satisfaction. [Nov. 3-12]

DANIEL BORDER,
WATCH-MAKER AND DEALER IN JEWELRY, SPECTACLES, &c.
In keeping on hand a stock of fine Gold and Silver Watches, Spectacles of Brilliant Double Refracting Glasses, also Scotch Pebble Glasses. Gold Watch Chains, Breast Pins, Finger Rings, best quality of Gold Pens. He will supply to order any thing in his line not on hand.
Apr. 28, 1865-22.

COOK AND PARLOR STOVES,
at
B. M. BLYMNER & CO'S

Poetry.

THE OLD CANOE.

Where the rocks are gray and the shore is steep,
And the waters below look dark and deep,
Where the rugged pine, in its lonely pride,
Leans gloomily over the murky tide;
Where the reeds and rushes are long and rank
And the weeds grow thick on the winding bank;
Where the shadow is heavy the whole day through
Lies at its moorings the old canoe.

The useless paddles are idly dropped,
Like a sea bird's wings that the storm has lopped,
And crossed on the railing one o'er one,
Like the folded hands when the work is done;
While busily back and forth between,
The spider stretches his silvery screen,
And the solemn owl, with its dull "too-too,"
Settles down on the side of the old canoe.

The stern half sunk in the slimy wave,
Rots slowly away in its living grave,
And the green moss creeps o'er its dull decaying,
Hiding its mouldering dust away,
Like the hand that plants o'er the tomb a flower,
Or the ivy that mantles the falling tower;

While many a blossom of loveliest hue,
Springs up o'er the stern of the old canoe.
The currents waves are dead and still—
But the light wind plays with the boat as will,
And lazily in and out again
It floats the length of the rusty chain,
Like the weary march of the hands of time,
That meets and part at the noontide chime,
And the shore is kissed at each turning now,
By the dripping bow of the old canoe.

O, many a time, with a careless hand,
I have pushed it away from the pebbly strand;
And paddled it down where the stream runs quick,
Where the whirls are wild and the eddies are thick,
And laughed as I leaned o'er the rocking side,
And looked below in the broken tide,
To see that the faces and boats were two,
That were mirrored back from the old canoe.

And now, as I lean o'er the crumbling side,
And look below in the sluggish tide,
The face that I see there is graver grown,
And the laugh that I hear has a soberer tone,
And the hands that lent to the light skiff wings
Have grown familiar with sterner things.
But I love to think of the hours that flew
As I rocked where the whirls their white spray threw.

Ere the blossom waved, or the green grass grew,
O'er the mouldering stern of the old canoe.

Miscellaneous.

OUR COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The following articles were prepared by us last winter and published in successive numbers of the *Inquirer*, from January 5, to February 2, 1866. They were intended to call the public attention to the importance of a revision of our school law, and prepare the way for the introduction into the Legislature of measures looking to such revision by our Senator, Hon. G. W. Householder. At the request of a number of friends of education, we republish them. It may be necessary to state that the calculations were all made on the basis of the school report of 1864, before we received the report of 1865. The results arrived at, would be somewhat modified, by the report of 1865; but as the general principles remain the same, we did not deem it necessary to revise the figures according to the later report.

Some weeks ago, a few stray thoughts on the absurdities and inequalities of our present common school system, found their way by accident into our columns. We now propose to give the matter a more thorough investigation, hoping that our humble effort to call attention to a subject of such vast importance to our grand old Commonwealth, will call forth and rally around our standard weary heads and abler pens than ours, through whose instrumentality the cause of education and the diffusion of general intelligence may be promoted.

Our common school system was originally designed, not only to equalize the facilities for obtaining a liberal education, but also to equalize the taxation necessary for the accomplishment of that object. The great fundamental principle, upon which this design was founded, consists in the fact that the promotion of general intelligence is always accompanied by an improvement in public morals, the infusion of energy and enterprise into communities, and as a consequence, increased wealth and prosperity. Upon this ground the tax upon the rich man's property, for the education of his poorer neighbor's sons and daughters, was considered as fairly paid, not only in the increased security of his person and property, but also in the lessened taxation necessary for the building of prisons and the prosecution and punishment of criminals, as well as the increased value of his property, consequent upon the diffusion of general intelligence. These were fair and just deductions, and the experience of many years, even in the present imperfect condition of our school system, has abundantly proved the wisdom and foresight of the eminent statesmen who first laid the foundation of that noble structure. Our object shall not be, to impair the system from which we have already derived so much benefit, but on the contrary to point out defects and suggest improvements, that shall assist in completing the proportions, harmonizing the various parts, and preparing for greater efficiency and usefulness, that which has already been the instrument of much good. It is at the very foundation of the structure that we find the defect, that

more than all others, has marred the fair proportions and impaired the powers of the whole system. It consists in confining the application of the great principle of equal taxation, equal appropriations, and furnishing equal facilities for education, to the smallest possible extent of territory instead of extending it to its utmost bounds. It is limited to single school districts of which there are 1825 in the State, each with a rate of taxation differing from the others, and varying from 1/4 of a mill on the dollar for 5 months school in Oley district, Berks county to 25 mills on the dollar for 4 months school in Red Bank district, Armstrong county instead of being applied to the whole State alike. We cannot for a moment believe that the men, who framed our school laws, either designed the application of this great fundamental principle to be thus limited, or such gross inequalities of taxation to be imposed upon the people. Great reforms are not accomplished in a day. They require time. It may have been an oversight in the framers of the law, but it is more probable, that because of the bitter opposition with which the system first met, the friends of the reform consented to limit the application of this part of the law in the beginning, hoping to extend it gradually, as the opposition, which always meets great reforms, should give way under the benign influence of education and the propagation of liberal ideas. Why the effort to extend it has never been made we pretend not to know. Perhaps the barriers of ignorance and prejudice have not yet been sufficiently broken down. If they have not, we hope the day is not far distant when they will have forever disappeared before the tide of advancing civilization. We design to show, from the school returns and statistics for 1864, in the first place, the gross inequality and injustice of the present mode of taxation, not only between the various districts of the same county but between the various counties of the State. In the second place, that like inequality and injustice result from the present mode of distributing the State appropriations, that the present methods of both taxation and appropriation discriminate against the poorer districts and in favor of the richer, and that the only way in which our schools can be made permanently efficient throughout the State, and our school system made to accomplish the object designed by its framers and desired by all good citizens, is by the abolition of district taxation and the substitution of a general and equal system of taxation for the whole State, and an appropriation according to the needs of schools existing or required, instead of as at present, according to the number of taxables.

INEQUALITY OF TAXATION.
In order that we may be better appreciate the significance of the figures which follow, it may be well to state that the law, as it now stands and is enforced, requires of each district to keep open its schools four months in each year or forfeit the State appropriation. Under this requirement, we find in Jefferson county that a tax of 13 mills to the dollar is required to keep open the schools four months, at an average rate of \$20 per month to teachers in Knox district, while its richer neighbor, Corsica, is enabled to obtain 6 months school, at an average teacher's salary of \$25, with a tax of only five mills to the dollar. That is, in order to obtain the same advantages, the poorer district would have to endure five times as high a rate of taxation as the richer.

In Indiana county, Canoe district obtains four months school at \$16 per month for teachers, with a taxation of 13 mills to the dollar, while Salzborg district with 34 mills, obtains the same length of term and pays her teachers \$18 per month. Here again we find the same advantages gained by the richer district at less than one-fourth the rate of taxation of the poorer.

In Lancaster county, East Hempfield has six months school at \$29, with a 13 mill tax, while West Lampeter has eight months at \$30, with a 1.5 mill tax. Here we find the poorer district would be obliged to bear 12 times as high a rate of taxation in order to gain the same educational advantages as its richer neighbor.

In Centre county, Taylor district has four months school at \$20, with a 12 mill tax, while Farmer's mills district obtains two months at \$28.83 with a two mill tax, or about one-twelfth again.

In Bucks county, New Britain has five months at \$25, with a 12 mill tax, while Northampton has ten months at \$26.25 with a two mill tax, or less than a twelfth.

In Luzerne county, Donnison has five months at \$17, with a 13 mill tax, while New Columbia has seven months at \$18.50 with a 1.5 mill tax, or less than one-twelfth.

In Lebanon county, Heidelberg has five months at \$20, with a 12 mill tax, while Cornwall has six and one-half months at \$23, with a 1 mill tax, or one-eighth of the rate of tax of the poorer district.

In Potter county, Sweden district has four months at \$18, with a 13 mill tax, while Condersport has eight and one-half months at \$26, with a 2.5 mill tax, or one-thirtieth the rate of Sweden.

In Northampton county, Moore district has four and two-third months at \$29 with a 20 mill tax, while Bethlehem Borough has nine months at \$33.85 with a 1 mill tax, or gets the same advantages at one fifty-fourth part the rate of taxation of the poorer district.

The average rates of taxation in different counties, by comparison, show a like inequality. Thus: Bucks county with an average taxation of 1.12 mills has an average rate of 8.28 months school at an average salary of \$26.29.

McKean, with a tax of 6.8 mills, obtains 6.07 months school at \$21.09. To enable McKean to obtain the same length of school

term at the same salaries as Bucks, would require of her a rate of taxation nearly six times as great.

Lehigh county, with a tax of 2.15 mills and a teachers' salary of \$22.39 has 5.76 months school, while Clearfield county has 4.29 months, with a salary of \$24.48 and a tax of 9.27 mills, or about five times the rate of taxation required in Lehigh to obtain the same advantages.

Montgomery county pays her teachers \$25.50 per month, and obtains 7.34 months school at a tax of .66 mills.

Jefferson county has 4.7 months school at \$20.96 salary, with a tax of 9.6 mills. Here we find that Jefferson county, to enable her to pay the same wages to teachers, and to have the same length of school term would be compelled to levy a tax about twenty-six times as heavy as Montgomery.

The average rate of taxation throughout the State is 3.27 mills. Yet leaving out the disparity in length of school term, we see the poor district of Moore in Northampton county, enduring a tax of 20 mills, or over six times the average of the State while the rich district of Oley in Berks, pays but three-fourths of a mill or less than one-fourth the average of the State.

These are but a few, of the hundreds and even thousands of instances of the gross inequality and injustice borne by the people under the present most unjust system of taxation. Surely no one will pretend that these results as these were intended to be produced by the framers of our school laws.

INEQUALITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.
Before making any comparison of the appropriations we would reiterate the fact that the various school districts are required to keep open their schools for the full term of four months, in order to obtain their portion of the State appropriation. It follows therefore that, where a tax has been laid sufficient to keep open the school six or eight months, the amount must be reduced to the proportion required for four months, in order to show the actual inequality existing. Thus Clearfield county, raised by taxation \$19,080.15 and obtained 4.29 months school, at the same rate the amount required to keep open her schools four months and to secure her share of the appropriation would have been \$17,790.35, this amount she was obliged to raise to obtain an appropriation of \$1,765.10 or not quite one tenth of the amount of the tax. The rate of taxation absolutely necessary for this purpose was 5.01 mills.

Delaware county raised by taxation \$33,413.68 and had 9.15 months school, at the same rate the amount required to keep open her schools four months and to secure her share of the appropriation would have been \$16,792.56 enabling her to obtain an appropriation of \$2,673.44, or nearly one-sixth of the amount required to be raised by taxation, and only requiring a rate of taxation of .57 mills. Here we see the rich and densely populated county of Delaware is enabled to obtain nearly twice as large an appropriation from the State, in proportion to the amount required to be raised by taxation, as the poorer and more sparsely settled county of Clearfield, with this less than one-eighth the rate of taxation.

Fulton county raised by taxation \$7,920.55, and kept her schools open four months and obtained an appropriation of \$788.58 or less than one tenth of the amount required to be raised by taxation. This required a rate of taxation of 4.74 mills.

Montgomery county with a tax of \$62,193.46 had 7.34 months school, at the same rate, four months would have required \$33,892.89 enabling her to obtain an appropriation of \$634.94 or nearly one fifth of the required tax, while her rate of taxation was only .3 mills.

Here again we find the richer county of Montgomery obtaining twice as large a proportionate appropriation as the poorer county of Fulton. Though Fulton to obtain her proportionate share of the appropriation has endured nearly sixteen times as high a rate of taxation.

Forest county raised by taxation \$1,609.03 to secure four months and obtain an appropriation of \$81.12 or about one twentieth the amount of its tax. To obtain this amount required a rate of taxation of 7.75 mills.

Bucks county raised by taxation \$62,936.83 and had 8.28 months school. At the same rate, four months would have required \$30,404.98 while she received a state appropriation of \$5,825 or almost one fifth of the amount she raised by taxation. To obtain this amount only required a tax rate of .54 mills. Here we find the richer county obtaining four times as large a proportionate appropriation as the poorer, though necessarily enduring less than one-fourteenth as high a rate of taxation. These are but a few instances out of many that may be found by reference to the report of 1864, but they are sufficient to demonstrate the fact that the present method of appropriating the public fund, set aside for school purposes, is as grossly unequal and unjust as the present method of taxation, and that it like manner discriminates against the poorer and in favor of the richer counties.

EVILS ARISING FROM UNEQUAL TAXATION.
We have demonstrated in previous articles that gross inequality arises from the present method, both of taxation and appropriation. Our present object is to show that this inequality and injustice constitute but a small proportion of the evils arising from this source. It is a fact well known to every person who has given attention to the subject, that the development of all its resources, is of the highest importance to a State, it increases the value of land, creates diversity of pursuits and thus adds to the revenue of the State and the comfort of the people. With these views every State endeavors to offer inducements, not only to its own citizens, but to citizens of other States to enter upon, occupy and improve its wholly or partially unoccupied lands, to till its forests, open its mines and manufacture their products into fabrics for the use of man. It is also well known that the richer sections of a country are quickly settled, while the poorer are left unoccupied, and that in all civilized communities there is a natural tendency to congregate in towns and cities. Idleness everywhere and especially in cities and towns is the source of untold evils and crimes. It is obviously the interest of every State to promote the settlement and improvement of all its territory, and obviate the tendency to centralization. How does the present working of our school laws operate upon this point? What inducement does it offer to the settler in the sparsely settled districts? Oppressive taxes, short school terms, the smallest proportionate assistance from the State, and hard labor and comparative ignorance for himself and his children. On the other hand, we find in the rich and already densely populated districts are held out the inducements of lands already cleared, long school terms, light taxes, comparative ease, with intelligent society and the largest proportionate assistance from the State, to bring still more where the population is already overflowing. Who can wonder then that the farmer moves to town to educate his sons and daughters, even at the risk of all the dangers of town and city life, or to the far West where the new States hold out inducements superior to those he has enjoyed among his native hills. Is it any wonder under such circumstances that he has poured in a steady stream into the wide West, while his own broad acres are unoccupied, his mineral wealth undeveloped, his manufacturing facilities unimproved, and his oil flowing ungathered to the ocean? Yet these are the legitimate results of an oppressive system of taxation in the sparsely settled districts of the State. If it were patiently borne the evil might be less, though the injustice remained; but it is not patiently borne, on the contrary it is steadily and surely driving the young, enterprising and most valuable portion of our population from their native State to seek more favored homes in the far West. Such are the legitimate results of the present unfair method of raising revenue for school purposes. A system that discriminates against the poorer portions of the State and in favor of the richer, will the reverse should be the rule. They can only be obtained when the people in their majesty demand that the laws be so amended, that the poor shall no longer be oppressed because of their poverty, nor the rich pampered because of their wealth, but that even-handed justice be dispensed alike to all. How this may be done we will endeavor to show in our next.

amiation of this point, we are constrained to adhere to our own proposition, as first made, to distribute the fund according to the number of schools. This we believe to be the only method by which any near approximation to equality of taxation and uniformity of educational advantages can be obtained. The chief objection to this method would be its tendency to unnecessarily increase the number of schools; this we believe would be entirely obviated by requiring each school district to provide for building and contingent expenses by local taxation. This would doubtless be a sufficient check upon an undue multiplication of schools. We will now endeavor to give a few additional reasons, why we deem our plan the more likely to accomplish the desired result. At first thought, it would appear that the present method of distribution, according to the number of taxables, ought to produce the result desired, and it was doubtless intended so to do at its adoption, but on a careful examination it will be found that its failure results from well established laws of population and its effect upon the value of property. These are, that as population increases the value of property increases, and that as the density of population increases the average cost of education per scholar decreases, while the reverse of both these takes place where population decreases, that is, the value of property falls while the average cost of education increases; thus in Bucks county, its average cost, per month, per capita, is but 43 cents while in Forest county it amounts to \$2.12 or nearly five times as much as in Bucks. These differences in cost arise from the fact that in densely populated districts each school has the maximum number of scholars, perhaps 70 or 80, that a single teacher can successfully instruct, but in the sparsely settled districts it often becomes necessary to have schools where, by reason of distance and bad roads, there will be but 15 or 20 scholars at most, yet there must be such schools or a large portion of the children of the State be left without the means of obtaining even the most elementary education. This single case will fully exemplify the utter impossibility of arriving at any near approximation to equality by Mr. Householder's system. Taking his own figures we find Forest county would get but \$690.75 when the actual cost of instruction in 1864 for four months was \$1,242.00. Thus by his distribution she would get but two months school. Bucks county would get \$36,906.50 where the actual cost of instruction in 1864 for 8.28 months was \$47,924.92. Here we see the rich county of Bucks would receive from the State an amount sufficient to keep her schools open 6 months at the average salary of teachers for the whole State, while the poor county of Forest, though paying precisely the same rate of tax as Bucks, would only get sufficient to keep her schools open 2 months. Does this look like equality? *Ab uno disce omnes.* This is probably an extreme case, but the same general principles prevail throughout the State and render any system based upon population, whether of children, adults, or taxables, objectionable and incompetent to produce any near approximation to the desired equality. By the method we propose of distributing according to the number of schools, the \$1,600,000.00 would give to each of the 12,566 schools in operation in 1864, \$127.32 enabling each to keep open 3.14 months with the average teacher's salary of \$22.79. This would give Forest county \$1,789.48 and Bucks \$39,657.58 and enable each to keep its schools open the same length of time while bearing the same rate of taxation.

This we believe to be the nearest approximation possible at present to the true spirit of our common school system. With this view of the subject we shall await the action of the legislature, with the hope of seeing it acknowledge the true and fundamental principle of our school system and make the richer portion of the State assist in providing for the education of the poorer, instead of, as heretofore making the poor assist in supporting the rich.

Judicial Reform in England.

It is considered certain that the British Ministry are preparing a bill for judicial reform, which they will lay before Parliament early in the approaching session. The details are not known, but it is believed that the bill will contain provisions for lengthening terms of office, for rearranging the circuits, and for increasing the number of judges. The reasons for the proposed reform are forcibly stated by the *London Reviewer*. It says: "The condition of the nation has entirely changed, yet we attempt to make the old machinery answer. The judges still hold the assizes with little more frequency than they used to hold them in the reign of Henry III. The courts still sit *in banco* at West Minister for the same number of days as they sat before America was discovered, and when the commerce of the whole country was not equal to that which now belongs to a second or third rate town. The time has surely come for the abolition of arrangements no more suited to modern times than the armour of a crusader would have been to the combatants at Sadaw."

NEIGHBORHOOD FEUDS IN NORTH CAROLINA.—The *Wilmingdon Journal* says: "In certain portions of our State, especially in the extreme western counties, where communities and districts were divided in their support of the State and Confederate governments, we are sorry to see that the enmities and ill-feelings engendered then, are still ranking in the hearts of many, and in some neighborhoods the most deplorable condition of affairs exists. The criminal and civil dockets of their courts are crowded with indictments and suits for offences or injuries committed upon one another during the war. The efforts of their best citizens and the advice of friends have failed in many instances of stopping these prosecutions, and in not a few cases violence, even to the taking of human life, has attended these unhappy affairs."

HONEST POVERTY IS NO CRIME, and God is no respecter of persons. "It is the mind that makes the man," not worldly honor, wealth or station.

RED RIVER NEWS.—The *Caddo Gazette* says that with fine weather for the next ten days, half a crop of cotton will be made. It adds:

"Confidence in the labor of the freedmen is being restored, and the lands on Red River are commanding high prices, either for rent or sale. As they are the finest cotton lands in the world, and not subject to overflow whenever there is once in ten years, capitalists will purchase them, being fully assured that they will steadily enhance in value, just in proportion as the country recovers from the effects of the war and the revolution in the labor system incident upon emancipation."

LOUISIANA CROPS.—The West Baton Rouge *Sugar Planter* of the 24th says: "Since our last but little rain has fallen, while the weather remains cool and clear. Every hour of such weather is worth gold to the planter, many of whom have not a bad crop of cotton in the field. The rain we had last week did but little damage to the cotton, although it was of great benefit to others. From appearances we shall have good weather until the cotton is out of the fields, unless Mr. Freedman gets into his natural stubbornness about the price of rice, which is about one-half of what the cotton is worth."

THE Herald of this city publishes extracts from letters written by a citizen of Montreal who served in the American army, and afterwards was in the Papal service. When in the South he became acquainted with John H. Surratt, whom he identified in Italy serving in the Zouaves.

This person informed the American Ambassador at Rome, who sent for instructions to Surratt. In conversation, Surratt is reported to have said that the assassination of President Lincoln was planned at Richmond by John H. Surratt, his partner in crime, Davis. This informant against Surratt is now on his way to Washington.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—In the Southern General Assembly, now in session at Memphis, overtures have been adopted, and delegates appointed to bear to the Associated Reformers, Church and the Cumberland presbyteries, Church and the assembly of those bodies with the Assembly. The attempt to remove the Theological Seminary from Columbia (S. C.) to Memphis has failed. The report of the committee on the freedmen is eliciting much attention, and the indications are that the debate will be violent and protracted.

ROCK-BORING MACHINES that are boring the Mount Denis Tunnel, it is estimated, will have to drill 1,500,000 holes before their work is completed. The total depths of these holes will be 4,205,830 feet, or 105 times the length of the tunnel, and to drill them, nearly 13,000,000,000 blows will have to be struck by the perforators. The engine that does the work of the sea, and on the Italian side 4,800 feet.

PURCHASE OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.—This transaction took place in Washington, with the tacit consent of the government, and through the active agency of Senor Romero. It has now been formally confirmed by the United States. It is the largest purchase by private persons in modern times. It covers 46,800 square miles, extending from gulf to ocean, between the parallels of 24 degrees and 20 minutes and 30 degrees of north latitude.

A VALUABLE REPORT.—A dispatch from San Francisco says: "J. Ross Brown, United States Commissioner for collecting mining statistics, has transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury an elaborate report on the mineral resources in the states and territories west of the Rocky Mountains. It is pronounced by competent judges the most complete digest of statistics and geological information respecting our mineral regions ever yet compiled for public use."

A GOOD COUNTRY FOR GAME.—The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* says that Tuesday last a party of sportsmen went out on a hunting excursion, and so fortunate were they that one day's shooting sufficed to load their vehicles with game, and satisfy them and astonish their friends with their extraordinary skill. They brought back 1 deer, 15 dozen quail, 5 dozen rabbits, and any quantity of woodcock and other small fowl, and several dozen empty bottles.

JOHN MORRISSEY is now the favorite subject for conundrums in New York. He was some time ago compared to Daniel Webster because he is the great exponent and now it is asked why he is like a lamb; because he gambles on the green, and why he is usually to be an influential member of Congress, because he is heavy on the eyes and nose.

CUT-THROATS IN MISSOURI.—Governor Fletcher has declared martial law in Ray and Platte counties, Missouri, and has marched a strong force to those counties. It was not safe for any one man to show himself out of the limits of the frontier, for robbers and murderers infest the frontiers of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, but detectives are at work, and it is expected they will pick them all up.

A HOTEL PROPRIETOR in San Francisco announces that he has opened a large reading-room, containing five hundred volumes of standard works, which is entirely free of use of patrons. "This excellent example moves a correspondent to write us: 'What a boon such a library would be in some of our hotels at the East!'"

JAMES RIVER AND KANAWHA CANAL.—The Richmond *Whig* solicits government aid to complete this canal to the Ohio River as it is a work of national importance and will benefit not simply Virginia, but all the states touched by the Mississippi and its tributaries."

A BUSINESS WOMAN.—It is said that a woman has gone into the freighting business between Nebraska City and Denver. She owns a train of five wagons, which she conducts herself, receiving her freight, hiring her hands, and superintending the loading and discharging.

THE BRIDGE OVER THE OHIO RIVER.—The suspension bridge over the Ohio, at Cincinnati was opened on Saturday, and forty six thousand persons crossed. Mr. Reeling, the builder, says the cables would readily sustain a double procession of locomotives over its entire length.

THE first proclamation for a Thanksgiving in Connecticut was issued in 1664, and a model of brevity, as follows: "It is the will of the Lord, that a public day of giving thanks, through this Jurisdiction, be observed on the first of the month of November, every year."

HONEST POVERTY IS NO CRIME, and God is no respecter of persons. "It is the mind that makes the man," not worldly honor, wealth or station.