

"THE PRESS" AND OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

We are rejoiced to see the Philadelphia Press giving attention to the condition of our common schools. Two articles have appeared in its columns on this subject. The first, after enumerating a number of causes to account for the present inefficiency of our schools, says:

"These causes, as well as imperfections, described at length in the State and county reports, render it desirable that our educational system should in some essential respects be reconstructed. While it embraces much worthy of admiration and approval, the only way to correct its deficiencies is to define their character and to suggest remedies. The principle that the blessings of education should be universally distributed by the State is now established, and the trite maxim that 'Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well' can be more appropriately applied to this subject than to any other. This generation resolved to begin as earnest and determined a struggle to improve our common-school system as was commenced a generation ago to establish it, we should soon have the best schools in the Union; but Pennsylvania falls far short of this standard. It is necessary, first, that increased interest should be felt by all classes of citizens. The general awakening of public interest would soon be followed by appropriate legislation, and eventually lead to such a system of common schools, normal schools, academies and colleges, as would place within the reach of every child in Pennsylvania, rich or poor, all the advantages that education can confer."

What will appear further in the way of proposals or plans for the accomplishment of the highly desirable object set forth in the above extract we know not. The principles there enumerated are sound and we hope that the subject will not be allowed to rest at this point. We called attention to this subject a year ago, and showed, as we believe, conclusively that the only method by which our common schools could be elevated to the high standard here advocated, involved a radical change in the administration of our school laws, and a going back to the fundamental principle upon which our common school system is founded, viz: That the property and wealth of the State should bear the expense of educating the children of the State. The application of this principle, ever since the adoption of our school system, has been limited to the least possible extent consistent with the acknowledgment of its existence in the system at all. We now confidently assert that the only method, by which we can even approximate to the condition of affairs contemplated in the above extract, is by the extension of the system of equal taxation, from the single school district to which it is now confined, to the whole State. As long as this fact is ignored no progress can be made in the rural districts where the chief difficulties of the system are now encountered. It will be of no avail to bemoan the want of qualified teachers, the short school terms, the insufficient grounds, the injurious and insufficient furniture, low salaries &c., while the means to remedy them is withheld by law. It is much easier to advocate improvements and changes in all these things, from the comfortable sanctum of a city editor, than to grapple with the difficulties in the way of improvement, that meet every which, from his practical knowledge learned by a bitter experience, he knows to be insuperable without important changes in the existing laws. To attain even to the low standard now prevailing the rural districts have long endured such oppressive rates of taxation as would be borne for no other purpose. If any one wishes to know the sacrifices that have been made to obtain even the minimum length of school term in the poorer counties, he has but to turn to the statistics in the school reports. A brief examination of the figures there will convince any impartial mind that it is not ignorance of the benefits of good schools nor lack of interest that retards progress. When the people of a school district endure a self-imposed tax of 21 per cent, upon all their property (as did the citizens of Red Bank district, Armstrong county in 1864) for the sake of four months of such schools as cost \$23 per month, it will not do to reproach them with indifference. Especially does it come with a bad grace from the inhabitant of a populous city or wealthy and densely populated rural district where the taxation, for incomparably better schools and double the minimum length of term, scarcely amounts to a half mill on the dollar. The rural districts long for better schools, longer terms and more efficient teachers, and understand the conditions on which they can be obtained. They will be found in the following resolutions drawn up and offered at the Superintendents' Convention at Harrisburg on the 6th of December last:

Resolved, That we recommend to the School Department and the Legislature that the school fund be raised by general and equal taxation throughout the State.

Resolved, That we recommend to the Department and to the Legislature an increase of the State appropriation sufficient to defray the expenses of tuition throughout the State for the minimum school term.

Resolved, That the appropriation of the school fund shall be in proportion to the number of schools instead of, as at present, to the number of taxables.

If the Press wishes to display its earnestness in the cause of Common Schools, and its devotion to the great principle at the bottom of our system, let it agitate for the adoption of some such measures as are contained in the above resolutions and it will find the rural districts not only ready and willing but eager to obtain all the benefits to be derived from longer terms and more efficient teachers.

OUR UNITED STATES SENATOR.

On Tuesday the 15th instant, the Legislature proceeded to elect a U. S. Senator to succeed the recent Cowan. Gen. Simon Cameron was elected on first ballot by a majority of eleven over all competitors. Our first choice was Stevens, who, we believe, would have been the first choice of the Republican party of the State. We believe Cameron would have been the second. Curtin would doubtless have been the choice of the whole people, as between Stevens, Cameron, and Curtin. But it never was introduced in the formation of the U. S. Senate, and the regulation of the election of Senators, that it should be done directly by the people. The three representatives of the people are in the House. The Senate was organized as a distinct body and sort of balance wheel to the House, and the election of its members was placed in the hands of

HARRISBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 21, 1867. The inauguration of Gov. Geary was decidedly the most imposing demonstration of the kind ever witnessed in Pennsylvania—creditable to the people of the old Keystone, and a fitting tribute of respect to a hero who had so nobly defended his country in its hour of peril. When the Union was in danger of being destroyed by rebel hordes, who determined to dissolve it, John W. Geary buckled on his sword and marched forth to defend the flag he loved so well. Now, when the traitors have been whipped, and peace is restored, the people have chosen the man we have named to preside over the affairs of State in the second Commonwealth of the Union, and the same John W. Geary, who proved himself a hero on the battle-field, was on Tuesday last, inducted into the highest office with the gift of the people of our State, where he will (as he has done already elsewhere,) prove himself a statesman, worthy of the honors of the position to which he has been called. There was an immense outpouring of the people from the counties North, South, East and West of us, and although the day was not the most favorable, the procession, composed of military and civic societies, citizens and strangers, was the largest that ever marched through the streets of Harrisburg upon inauguration day. It seemed as if everybody desired to do honor to the man who, for the next three years, will occupy the gubernatorial chair of our good old Commonwealth.

Now, that the affairs of our State have been so admirably conducted during six years, (a greater part of which time the war was in progress,) by a patriot who never faltered in the hour of trouble, it is gratifying to know that we are not to be governed by a man of whose loyalty any doubt can be entertained. Andrew G. Curtin was a model Governor, and every citizen of the State respects him for his firmness in the dark days of the rebellion. We believe, however, that John W. Geary will maintain for Pennsylvania the good name she has earned, and while it is to be regretted that the old Governor could not be re-elected, (owing to a provision of the constitution prohibiting it) we are gratified that our new ruler will in every respect equal the one who has just retired from office, crowned with the blessings of the people.

Gov. Geary has announced the following appointments: Isaac B. Gara, of Erie, to be Deputy Secretary of State; Capt. John Steuart, of Allegheny, to be State Military Agent at Washington, vice Col. F. Jordan, (now Secretary of State); William A. Cook, of Westmoreland, to be Deputy Military Agent; Flour Inspector of Western Pennsylvania, Capt. William B. Coulter, of Westmoreland, Messenger to Governor. Wm. C. Armour, of Venango.

A bill has been offered in the House, by Mr. Daise, of Clinton, to prohibit railroad companies from issuing passes except to employees, persons who have been injured on the roads, or wounded or disabled soldiers. How Mr. Daise expects to get the bill passed I cannot conjecture, for certainly no legislator who would vote for such a measure could hope to receive the support of a newspaper, for re-election. If the railroad companies see proper to issue free passes, it is their own interference.

Since the close of the Senatorial struggle hundreds of politicians have left the city, and those yet remaining have quietly settled down and are devoting their attention to matters of more importance to themselves and the public. The friends of Cameron are satisfied with the victory the General has won, while the supporters of Curtin, Stevens and Grow have submitted gracefully to their defeat.

The election of U. S. Senator took place at three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon (15th inst.) the Senate and House voting in their respective halls. A very large number of outsiders gathered in and around the Capitol, eager to learn the result as soon as the balloting ended. In order that your readers may have a list of the voters of Cameron and Cowan to preserve for future reference, I append the names, as follows:

SENATE.

Messrs. Bigham, Browne (Lawrence), Brown (Merzer), Coleman, Condit, Coville, Fisher, Graham, Haines, Landon, Lowry, McConaghy, Ridgway, Royer, Shoemaker, Stutzman, Taylor, Worthington and Hall, Speaker.—19 voted for Simon Cameron.

Messrs. Barry, Davis, Donovan, Glutz, Jackson, James, Randall, Schall, Scarth, Wallace and Walk.—11 voted for Edgar Cowan.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Messrs. Adair, Allen, Armstrong, Barton, Brown, Cameron, Chase, Chadwick, Colville, Davis, Day, DeLoren, Donoghue, Egan, Ewing, Frechorn, Gallagher, Ghegan, Gordon, Harrison, Hoffman, Humphrey, Kennedy, Kerns, Kimmell, Kinney, Lee, Leech, McCann, McCreary, McKee, M. Pharris, Mann, Marks, Meckling, Meloy, Pennsylvania, Peters, Pfluger, Quin, Richards, Roath, Selzer, Sharples, Shuman, Stacey, Stehman, Stumm, Walters, Waddell, Wallace, Watt, Webb, Weller, Whann, Wharton, Wilkin, Wingard, Woodward, Worrall, Wright and Glass, Speaker.—62 voted for Simon Cameron.

Messrs. Barrington, Boyd, Boyle, Brown, Brennan, Calvin, Chalfant, Collins, Craig, Deise, Fogel, Gregory, Harner, Headman, Hertz, Heston, Hough, Hunsinger, Kline, Koon, Kurtz, Lanton, Long, M. Henry, Massey, Markley, Meyers, Mallin, Phelan, Quigley, Rhoads, Robinson, Roach, Satterthwait, Sharp and Westbrook.—73 voted for Edgar Cowan.

RECAPITULATION.

For Simon Cameron. In the Senate..... 19 In the House..... 62

For Edgar Cowan. In the Senate..... 11 In the House..... 37

Majority for Gen. Cameron..... 33

On the following day Senator White recorded his vote for Simon Cameron, and Messrs. Randall and McCandless recorded theirs for Edgar Cowan. This reduced Gen. Cameron's total majority one vote.

Gov. Geary's appointments of Cabinet and other officers have rendered general satisfaction, and his independent course is winning for him the good opinions of all good people. It is gratifying that Geary is the Governor, and that he will not be "managed" by any man or clique. This was illustrated a few days ago, when a gentleman applied to him for a position. The Governor examined his papers, and promised to consider the matter. This seemed to disappoint the applicant, and he remarked, "Mr. ——— promised me the appointment." His Excellency did not relish this and at once replied: "Then let Mr. ——— appoint you. I am not subject to his orders or those of any other man." Let the General continue to do this.

Mr. Weller has presented, in the House,

HARRISBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

three petitions from citizens of Somerset county, asking for the passage of a free railroad law.

Mr. Stutzman has presented in the Senate a petition from citizens of Bedford township and others, for the extension of Bedford Borough School District. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Also, a bill entitled an act to attach certain lands and tenements in Bedford township to Bedford borough for school purposes. Referred to the same committee.

On Friday night a fracas occurred two miles east of this city, between two colored men belonging to Harrisburg. They had a quarrel on account of a jug of whisky, when one of them, named Jacob Jones, drew a knife and let out the entrails of the other, named Edward Moore. The latter is mortally wounded. Jones is in our prison, to await the result of his evil deed.

The late snow storms have blocked all the railroads more or less, and the mails have been very irregular for several days.

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Three new U. S. Senators, each one prominent in public life, have been practically elected during the present week. Senator Harris is to retire after the 4th of March, and to make place for Roscoe Conkling, now a member of the 39th Congress, and re-elected to the 40th. Hon. A. Conkling, father of the successful candidate, was made Minister to Mexico in 1852, by Mr. Fillmore, and was a Representative from New York in the 17th Congress. Roscoe Conkling was born in Albany, in 1823, and has not quite attained his 39th year. He adopted the profession of the law, and pursued it with energy. In 1849 was appointed District Attorney for Onondaga Co. In 1858 he became Mayor of Utica, and in the election of 1860 was elected a Representative to Congress. After his reelection he became known as the Chairman of the Committee on the District. At the present time Mr. C. is a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Cameron was born in Lancaster, Co., Pa., in 1798, and is 68 years of age. When 9 years of age he was left an orphan. He began life as a journeyman printer. Before he was 22 he had been chosen as the editor of the Pennsylvania Intelligencer, published at Doylestown, and at that age established in Harrisburg a standard newspaper, which he edited for some time.

In 1832 he established the Middletown Bank of Pennsylvania, acting as cashier. He has for many years been one of the largest stockholders, and most active managers in the leading Pennsylvania roads. He was appointed Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania, in 1841, and first elected to the U. S. Senate, in which he served till 1849. In 1857 he was re-elected for the term expiring in 1863, but resigned in 1861 to accept the Secretaryship of War, in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. While in the Cabinet he advocated the emancipation of the slaves as a necessary military measure. In 1862 he resigned the Secretaryship, and was appointed Minister to Russia.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The President's evening organ, Jan. 18, says the Administration that "if necessary its strong arm and hand will be invoked to stay the course and prevent the consummation of a radical revolution."

President to protect and defend the Constitution will not be forgotten and the people who sustain him with their five hundred thousand majority of voting population North and South will not forget him. Events have already brought the Government to the very verge of another revolution. If the radical majority in Congress pursues its treasonable course much longer the Government in order to sustain itself, will have to act in support of it. At the call of the President all his friends, North and South, will rally to his aid, and will respond in such a manner as to leave no doubt in the mind of any man that the Government will be able to maintain its position.

Concerning the meaning of such bluster as above the New York Times speaks as follows:

The Democrats have for some time past threatened terrible things, should Congress persist in its reconstruction policy; but thus far without eliciting an approving echo from the South. Mr. James Brooks, of the Express, made the boldest bid that has yet been made, in the recent Convention at New Haven. He called upon the President to resist Congress, and in the event of that contingency promised him the active fighting support of the Northern Democracy.

It is not to be civil war as a not remote possibility. A divided North has been so in the past, and it is not to be civil war as a not remote possibility. A divided North has been so in the past, and it is not to be civil war as a not remote possibility. A divided North has been so in the past, and it is not to be civil war as a not remote possibility.

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HARRISBURG, Jan. 15.—This afternoon a public gathering was held in the hall of the Hotel in this city, at which speeches were made by Attorney General Brewster, Senators Lowry and Langdon and General Cameron.

In the course of his remarks Gen. Cameron said:

Your meeting is very kind and cordial and I thank you for it. I thank God that in spite of the slanders my enemies have heaped on me for twenty years, my fellow citizens, who have seen my life from day to day, have always stood by my side and helped me to repel them. This last struggle of my political life has been so in fact, and I deserved this as an answer to vindicate my honesty to my children and my friends. I now propose to put these slanders behind me and to forget alike the liars who concocted them and the fact that good men in some cases, by the repetition of them, were induced to believe and repeat them. Of the eighty two Republican members of the Legislature, my friends assure me that sixty three of them preferred me to any other candidate, and would have voted for me rather than have witnessed my defeat. The character of my supporters is as gratifying as their numbers. Any one who knows anything of our political life, and who knows the list of those who voted for me will find names as pure and honorable as that of the purest Christian moralists among my rivals and quite as unlikely to descend to any corrupt proposal. Just then I leave the whole matter putting all party feuds, and antipathies and prejudices together under my feet, and I go forward to the honorable duty to which my native State has called me for the third time.

Six years ago I thought that slavery was to be destroyed without delay. I wished also to arm all the black men who would volunteer. Of course, I thought that clothing a black man in the American uniform clothed him also with the rights of an American citizen, and I am always sorry to see a black soldier and then reflect that even Pennsylvania denies him the ballot—the only weapon whereby he can protect himself. I hope to live to see the word "white" stricken from our own Constitution, and the spirit of caste, based upon color, will be destroyed. The South however, is more controlled by social influence than by political principles. If you arise and firm you may possibly educate the rising generation with loyalty; but there is no method of statesmanship which will make this generation of the South loyal to the Union and to the flag. The points of thirty years ago are eradicated by the subservience of the President or by the statutes of Congress. Let us look the truth in the face. The Southern territory is disloyal. The loyal men of to day must guard their children against another treasonable rebellion. The constitutional amendment and universal suffrage will help to do this, but universal amnesty will help to undo it.

Of Andrew Johnson, I said long ago, that he was a traitor to his party, and an enemy of his country and a bad man. He has done many bad things but nothing worse than offering the offices of the country to those few unprincipled men who agreed to desert and betray the great Republican organization for his patronage. He joined the Democratic party long ago. He has a right to give them the offices, but he has no right to dispose of them in a manner, to weaken the Republic. The pauper labor of Europe is again competing with our labor, and our manufacturers languish for want of protection against it. Pennsylvania needs no assurance of my devotion to her interests in this regard which I will continue to labor in season and out of season, to protect our manufacturers from ruin and their workmen from being thrown out of employment, or their wages reduced to the starvation point for I hold that the true welfare of any nation depends on the welfare of the masses of the people. I trust that this is my last political struggle. I have nothing more to desire and I hope that I will all forget the bitterness, the unjustifiable bitterness, I think of the late contest. For my part I shall try to act as a representative of all the Republican elements of Pennsylvania, without regard to past differences or dissensions. With my temperament I cannot forget my friends who have stood by me so nobly, but I will try to forget and forgive the unjust calumnies and the political opposition I have experienced.

Subsequently the Good Will Fire Company presented the speaker with a costly seal.

The state of Count Bismarck's health, says a Berlin correspondent, whatever may be said to the contrary, occasions serious uneasiness. Our own information states that four medical men of the first eminence met in consultation at Berlin a week ago. Were the malady not of a very grave character, such an appeal of the greatest medical celebrities of Berlin and Vienna would certainly not have been made.

The amount of Plantation Bitters sold in one year is something startling. They would all probably six feet high, from the Park to 4th street. Drake's manufacturing is at the institutions of New York. It is said that Drake pointed all the rocks in the Eastern States with his calisthenic "S. T.—1866—N." and then got the old granite blocks to carry a message preventing disgracing the face of nature, which gives him a monopoly. We do not know how this is, but we do know the Plantation Bitters sales as to other articles ever did. They are used by all classes of the community, and are death in Dyspepsia—certain. They are very invigorating, warm, strengthening, and a great appetizer. Saratoga Spring Water, sold by all druggists.

"Lifting the kettle from the fire I scald myself very severely"—action of the stomach. The torture was unbearable. The Mecklenburg Mustard Lintiment relieved the pain almost instantly. It banished rapidly, and left very clean skin.

This is merely a sample of what the Mustard Lintiment will do. It is invaluable in all cases of wounds, swellings, sprains, cuts, bruises, scalds, &c. It cures every man or beast.

Beware of counterfeits. None is genuine unless wrapped in the steel-plate engraving, bearing the name of Dr. J. C. Ayer, Lowell, Mass., and the postage stamp of Dr. J. C. Ayer, Lowell, Mass., New York.

Saratoga Spring Water, sold by all druggists.

Acne Dr. Mearns.—The prettiest thing, the "sweetest thing" and the most of it for the least money. It overcomes the odor of perspiration, redness and all defects of the skin, and cures the hair, and restores the complexion, and is a necessary companion in the sick room, in the nursery, and upon the toilet sideboard. It can be obtained everywhere at one dollar per bottle.

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All who value a beautiful head of hair, and its preservation from premature baldness and turning gray, will not fail to use Lyon's "Bleached Hair Oil." It makes the hair rich, soft and glossy, eradicates dandruff, and causes the hair to grow with luxuriant beauty. It is sold everywhere.

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What Did I?—A young lady, returning to her country home after a sojourn of a few months in New York, was hardly recognized by her friends. In place of a ruddy, flushed face, she had a soft, raly complexion, of almost marble smoothness; and instead of 22, she really appeared but 17. She told them plainly she used "Lyon's Magnolia Hair Dressing." Her friends were very much by using this article. It can be ordered of any druggist for only 50 cents.

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Lyon's Extract of Pure Jamaica Ginger—for Indigestion, Nausea, Heartburn, Sick Headache, Cholera Morbus, &c., &c. A warning, general stimulation is required. Its careful preparation and entire purity make it a cheap and reliable article for ordinary purposes. Sold everywhere at 50 cents per bottle.

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July 20, 1866, only.

HARRISBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

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