Bedford Inquirer.

BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1868.

THE TENURE OF OFFICE BILL.

We find quite a number of our cotemporaries advocating a repeal of the Tenure of Office bill. Andy Johnson also recommends it in his message. It has got to be a pretty safe thing to hold fast to whatever Andy condemns, but leaving his recommendation out of the question, we are opposed to the repeal of this bill. There may be clauses in the bill which need to be modified but we cannot see any necessity for its repeal. If the bill was a proper one it is still so, if it was improper it should never have been passed. We believe in the Senate's exercising its power and privilege under the constitution of examining and approving or disapproving of all important appointments by the President, let that President be Andy Johnson or General Grant. We have faith in General Grant but we do not believe in repealing good and wholesome laws simply because it is likely that they will not be necessary to restrain General Grant from doing what he ought not to do. It is well if General Grant is wise and good and patriotic but it is no good reason why all the laws pertaining to and designating and limiting his powers and duties should be repealed. We can readily understand why Andy Johnson wants it repealed, but why they who passed it and thought it good a little more than a year ago should now wish it repealed we cannot comprehend. Such conduct whether of Congressman or journalist strikes us as of a very puerile character. It may do for demagogues, but is sadly out of place for such as aspire to the rank of statesmen.

As the time for the meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislature draws nigh, the Senatorial question increases in interest. The weaker candidates are already beginning to drop out, and each day witnesses new accessions to the ranks of those remaining on the course. The latest accounts seem to indicate a concentration of the Western portion of the State upon Gen. J. K. Moorehead, while he is also reported as gaining strength daily in the Eastern counties. The time grows short and the vexed question will soon be settled, and the suspense of the various candidates ended. Whatever may be done, we hope our legislators will promptly repudiate every one who attempts to bribe his way into the United States Senate. Let us have by all means an honest man. We admire ability, but integrity is of the first importance.

Reducing The State Debt.—In these days of taxation it is pleasant to meet with some refutation of the idea that a public debt once contracted can never be expected to be reduced. Governor Geary, of this State, gives notice, by proclamation, that since the first Monday of September, 1867, and up to the 30th of November, 1868, there has been redeemed $2,414,806-74 of the public debt of Pennsylvania. On the first of December, 1867, the amount of the funded and unfunded State debt of Pennsylvania was $37,704,409 77, with nearly three millions in the Treasury applicable in payment of the debt and of expenses. The Governor's proclamation now shows how much has been actually paid off, which leaves the present debt $36,289,593 07. There is probably a large balance in the Treasury in addition, so that in another year the reduction is likely to be as great, if not greater, than has been made in the present year.—*Exchange.*

Iron Without Puddling.—The Pittsburgh *Gazette*, of Thursday last, informs its readers that there has been some excitement among the iron manufacturers of that city in consequence of the introduction into one of the prominent mills, and with a large if not perfect measure of success, of the process of making iron without the intermediate process of puddling. This new process yields a larger amount of iron from a given quantity of metal than the old method, and dispensing with puddlers altogether, lessens very materially the cost of production.

If the new process shall prove as successful as we hear it represented to be, all other mills will be constrained to adopt it, or be undersold in all the general markets. The public will doubtless have more information on this subject within a few days.

It seems that Robert J. Walker got a nice lump out of the Alaska business. The $7,000,000 supposed to still lay from being accounted for, but it is a pretty well authenticated fact that Baron Stoeckl finding himself powerless to lobby the bill through Congress did obtain the services of Robt. J. Walker, who put the job through in a very business like manner and got for his services the nice little fee of $20,000 certainly and perhaps $29,000. Robt. J. has made some very patriotic speeches at various times, but it seems, like many others of that ilk he has his price, if it is a pretty round one, for which he will consent to rob his country or his friends.

The Governor's Message.—It is understood that Gov. Geary has in preparation his annual message and that it will be ready by the first of January.

Grant's popular majority is 304,794, had it not been for the gross democratic frauds in New York and a number of other states his majority would have been over 500,000.

Gold closed in New York on the 21st inst. at 135¾.

Both houses of Congress have adjourned until after the holidays.

Georgia Emigration.—Emigration to Georgia is said to be quite lively. A Macon paper announces that fifty Pennsylvania farmers are about to go to that State in a body, taking with them their families and a great part of their agricultural implements. They will doubtless do well. That is the right way to emigrate, and is just the opposite of the plan pursued by the carpet-baggers who have become so obnoxious to the people of the South.

Relief for Suffers in Peru.—Information has been received at the Department of State from the Minister of the United States at Lima of the receipt by him of a bill of exchange for £2,000, contributed by citizens of San Francisco, California, for the alleviation of suffering caused by the recent earthquakes in Peru, and of its delivery by him to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that country on the 2d of November, 1868.

Mr. Cameron formally announced the death of Thaddeus Stevens, to the Senate and read a brief address tracing the history of deceased, reciting his past services, and eulogizing his character. He then offered the resolutions usual on such occasions. Messrs. Buckalew, Morrill, of Vermont, and Sumner followed with eulogies, when the Senate unanimously adopted the resolutions offered by Mr. Cameron.

It is generally understood in Washington that Commissioner Rollins has, in compliance with almost the universal request of the Republican members of Congress, relinquished his purpose of tendering an unconditional resignation, and will stand by the resignation of last July conditioned upon the confirmation of his successor.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Third Session.

SENATE.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Trumbull, from the Commitee on the Judiciary, reported in favor of the indefinite postponement of the joint resolution declaring certain further guarantees of reconstruction; also to be discharged from the further consideration of memorials asking that the election of President and Vice President be directly by the people both of which were agreed to.

Mr. Morton introduced a bill in relation to a site for the Executive Mansion. Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings.

Mr. Williams introduced a bill to provide for the better administration of justice in the Territories of the United States, Referred to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. Abbott introduced a bill to provide for the payment of claims of loyal citizens of the State lately in rebellion.

Mr. Edmunds introduced a bill to repeal the act providing for the admission of Georgia to representation in Congress, to provide a Provisional Government therefor and other purposes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 12:15 P. M., on motion of Sherman, the Senate went into Executive session, and in a few minutes the doors were reopened.

DUTIES ON COPPER.

Mr. Chandler asked to take up the bill relative to the duties on copper and ores.

Mr Summer stated that he desired to discuss the bill, but not thinking it would come up to day, had left his memoranda at home.

Mr. Sherman said the Finance Committee had not intended to report this bill until after the holidays, and had so informed the parties interested but had afterwards determined to report the bill. So far as he (Mr. S.) was concerned, he did not desire to take up the bill for action until after the recess.

Mr. Chandler then said he would call the bill up to morrow.

POLITICAL DISABILITIES.

On motion of Mr. Warner, the Judiciary Committee was instructed to inquire whether the bills to remove political disabilities, which were passed prior to the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment are now valid and of effect.

SYMPATHY WITH SPAIN.

Mr. Sumner called up the joint resolution tendering the thanks of the United States to the people of Spain.

The resolution was passed—yeas 41, nays 5—Messrs. Davis, McCreery, Saulsbury, Vickers and Whyte.

THE DEATH OF MR. STEVENS.

At 1 P. M. a message was received from the House announcing its resolutions on the death of Mr. Stevens. The resolutions were read.

Mr. Cameron took the floor and read an eulogy on the life, character and public services of the deceased.

Mr. Cameron then submitted the usual resolutions of respect.

Mr. Buckalew then followed, drawing a comparison between Benjamin Franklin and Thaddeus Stevens, and also contrasted Mr. Stevens and Lord Chatham, and commented on the striking points in the character of Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, and Mr. Sumner followed.

The resolutions were then adopted and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, December 18.—The Speaker laid before the House several Executive communications, which were appropriately referred.

Mr. Peters, of Maine, offered a resolution providing for printing 30,000 copies of the eulogies on Thaddeus Stevens. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

PENSION BILL.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Annual Pension Appropriation bill. Referred to the Committee of the Whole and made the special order for the 5th of January.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Morrell, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution calling upon the Commissioner of Agriculture for a statement of the cost of the new Agricultural building for the Department of Agriculture, how much deficiency there is in the appropriation for that purpose &c. Passed.

MILITARY PAY.

Mr. Scofield, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill giving to officers in the military and naval service of the United States, who are enlisted but not mustered into the service, pay according to their rank. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

CREDENTIALS OF MENARD.

Mr. Sypher, of Louisiana, presented the credentials of J. Willis Manard, colored, claiming to be a Representative from Louisiana. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

POLITICAL DISABILITIES.

Mr. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, asked to have the Senate bill relieving certain parties from political disabilities referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. Agreed to.

BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, offered a resolution directing the Committee on the Revision of the Laws to inquire into the expediency of appointing a commission, to be composed of United States District Attorneys, to make certain changes in the Bankrupt law, so as to make its operations uniform. Agreed to.

PROTECTION OF ALASKA FISHERY.

Mr. Starkweather, of Connecticut, offered a resolution directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire and report what legislation is necessary to protect fur seals in Alaska. Agreed to.

TAKING OF TESTIMONY.

Mr. Churchill, of New York, introduced a bill to regulate the taking of testimony in Courts of the United States.

Also, a bill to regulate peremptory challenges in the Courts of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DETAILED OFFICERS.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to the number of officers of the army detailed in the Quartermaster's Pay and other Departments at New York, also the number of enlisted men so detailed, and whether their number could not be reduced. Passed.

COMMITTEE ON RETRENCHMENT.

Mr. Van Wyck, of New York, asked to present the report of the Committee on Retrenchment for the purpose of having it printed and recommitted. Agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, demanded the regular order, which the speaker said was reports of a private nature from committees.

Mr. Julian, of Indiana, from the Commitee on Public Lands, reported a bill granting the privileges of the Homestead law to children of soldiers under twenty-one years of age, which was passed.

Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, from the Committee on Post offices and Post Roads, reported several private bills, pending the consideration of which it was ascertained there was no quorum present.

The Speaker announced that he had selected E. B. Washburne to act as Speaker on Monday, when he (Mr. Colfax) would be absent.

Mr. Pettis, of Pennsylvania, announced the death of his predecessor, Darwin A. Finny, and pronounced a eulogy on his life and character.

He was followed by Messrs. O'Neil, Randall and Woodward, of Pennsylvania, after which the House adjourned until Monday.

Lace Cotton.—Lace cotton is a new variety of this useful plant, now attracting the attention of the Southern agriculturists. It has already been raised in Texas, and will probably be introduced into other parts of the South. Lace cotton is reported to be superior to any other variety for poor soil or uplands, a strong healthy growth, and yielding heavily. Its strength is equal to a strain of seven and a half pounds to each thread, while a similar thread of the best American cotton will support a weight of only five pounds. It is said to resemble Egyptain cotton, which in England is worth one-fourth more than American.

Death Bed Confession of a Great Crime.—The New Orleans *Picayune* relates that some years ago a respectable young man, the only support of a widowed mother and a sister, was clerk in a dry goods store in that city. He frequently assisted the cashier, and one day a forged note on the firm for $400, in the hand-writing of the young man, was presented at the bank by an unknown person and paid. The young man admitted the drawing of the check, but had no recollection of the circumstances, and could give no explanation. He was arrested, tried and convicted. His mother and sister alone believed in his innocence. Bowed down with shame, and unable to vindicate his honor, he died shortly after. In less than a year the bereaved mother died also, and the sister was left to struggle alone for a living, which she obtained by becoming a seamstress. A few days ago a lawyer was called to write the will of a man at the point of death. In this will he bequeathed his property to the sister, and embodied in the instrument a full confession of the forgery committed eight years ago. He was the cashier of the firm, now grown rich. It was by his direction the draft was prepared. Now, after a lapse of eight years, a tardy reparation is attempted to be made. But it will not restore lifet o the dead, nor extract the bitter sting of sorrow and grief so long endured. It is one of the strangest events which make up the story of a life.

Exciting Chase.—About noon on Thursday, says the New York *Sun*, of Friday, a dummy used for hauling freight cars from the Hudson River Railroad depot to Thirty-fourth street, was left on the road temporarily by Mr. Henry King, the engineer. During his absence, a lunatic named Ryne jumped on it, opened the steam valve, and started off down town at a rapid rate of speed. King immediately mounted a horse and rode after the lunatic, with whom he caught up near Canal street. When near Tenth street a German huckster and wife named Schaffer, in their wagon, attempted to cross the track, but were struck by the dummy and thrown out. Schaffer, when picked up, was supposed to be dead; but revived shortly after, although injured severely internally. His wife would have met a frightful death, had not officer A. C. Viger, of the Fifth ward, who was passing at that time, seized her by the dress and pulled her aside. The wagon was a complete wreck, but the horses were not injured in the least. Schaffer and his wife were taken into a drug store and their wounds dressed. The engineer having regained his engine, had to knock the lunatic down with a piece of firewood before he could control him. Ryan would have been roughly treated by the crowd who had gathered about the scene, had not the officer above named secured him. Schaffer was taken to St. Luke's Hospital.

Wife Murder and Lynch Law.—On Friday evening last, after dark, our community was startled by the arrival in town of a young man named Moore, who brought the report that a man named Carl Engleman, living some eight miles southeast of town, had murdered his wife by cutting her throat from ear to ear, and that he had come to notify the Sheriff, as the murderer had made his escape immediately after committing the bloody deed. He stated that the excitement was intense in the neighborhood of the crime, and that the entire population in the vicinity were out in search of the murderer.

About nine o'clock in the evening he was overhauled near Macoupin creek, about two and a half miles from this city, by three young men. He made no resistance, and declared that he was on his way to town to give himself up to the authorities.

He was by them taken to the residence of Mr. Challacomb, where they guarded him all night, and in the morning brought him to town and delivered him over to the Sheriff. He was at once taken to the jail. On Monday a mob assembled and took the murderer out of jail.

After running about three blocks, they espied a large locust tree standing in a back yard, with a limb projecting over into the street. Here they halted, and pinioning the arms of their victim, one end of the rope was thrown over the limb, and he was hauled up. He died without a struggle.

The New Coins.—Specimens of the proposed new nickel coins, to be composed of one-fourth nickel and three-fourth copper, one, three and five cent pieces, were received at the Treasury Department on Tuesday. The bill which authorizes the issue is, in substance, the bill introduced by Judge Kelly last winter. The one cent coin, weighing 1½ grains, is about the size of the old silver five cent coin; the three and five cent pieces, about the size of the present coins, are to weigh three and five grains respectively. The new coin is to be a legal tender for one dollar, except for duties on imports, and is intended to take the place of the copper, bronze and nickel coinage now authorized. The bill also authorizes the redemption of the proposed new coins, and of all the minor coins heretofore issued by the United States.

Importation of Fish.—The importation of fish caught by American vessels has recently been regulated by an order issued from the United States Treasury Department. The alleged product of American fishing vessels, duly licensed for such purpose, when brought into the United States from foreign waters in a vessel other than the one in which the same were caught, will only be admitted to free entry on the production to the Collector of Customs at the port of importation by the master of the importing vessel, of a manifest and invoice of said fish, sworn to by the master of the vessel in which the fish were caught, and certified to by the United States consul or consular agent at the foreign port where the transhipment of such fish occurred.

Tunnel Under the Hudson.—It is reported that the Erie Railway is about to construct a tunnel under the Hudson river, to connect the shores of New Jersey and New York. The plans and specifications of the work have been prepared, and operations, it is anticipated, will be commenced next spring. The tunel, it is estimated, will be completed in two and a half years. The eastern terminus of the tunnel in New York city will be on Eighth avenue, near Twenty-third street, and the recent purchase of Pike's Opera House and adjoining property, it is stated, was made in view of the use of the land for this purpose.

Damages for the Loss of a Wife.—Some three years ago a lady, named Mrs. Elizabeth Errickson, lost her life in consequence of a boiler explosion on board the steamer Arrow, while on her way down the Hudson from Yonkers. Suit was brought by her husband for damages, and the jury at the time gave him a verdict for $3,000. The owners of the boat then appealed the case to the New York Supreme Court, general term, and that body on Tuesday affirmed the decision of the court below, so that the money will have to be paid.

Phosphorus.—Much effort has been expended in obtaining phosphorus from its mineral combinations, instead of from bones the usual source of supply. It is said that by taking one part of apatile, or phosphate of lime, with two parts of sand or powdered flint, with the addition of a sufficient amount of charcoal, and by keeping the mixture at a red heat for a sufficient time, the phosphorus will be disengaged and pass over. The silicle acid, or silica, combines with the lime, setting free the phosphori, which is then decomposed by the carbon, and the phosphorus is liberated.

Buffaloes on the Plains.—A gentleman just from the plains informs the New York *Times* that buffaloes are to be found at this time in immense herds. At a distance of two hundred and fifty miles west of the Missouri river, on the Kansas Pacific road, he passed through a herd covering a surface of five hundred square miles, and containing probably over a million buffaloes. The number of dead buffaloes lying on the line of the road, shot by passengers as the cars go along, is very great, and the informant says there is enough meat lying there at this time, easy of transportation, to feed all the poor people of America.

Richmond, Dec. 17.—The Rev. James W. Hunnicutt's paper, the *New Nation*, which stopped its daily issue some weeks ago was totally suspended to-day. The editor reproaches the Republican managers here with having proscribed him, and announces himself as a candidate for Congress from this district, in opposition to the regular nominee.

FOREIGN NEWS ITEMS.

The French lunatic asylums contain over 30,000 patients, two-thirds of whom are believed to be perfectly sane, and confined only for various infamous reasons. Jules Favre has collected a number of facts in regard to the power of the Prefects to send any person to the lunatic asylum on the mere certificate of a police doctor. Among the most flagrant abuses is the custom to apply for a certificate of insanity against persons of whom their families want to get rid. A person once confined in a lunatic asylum in France is civilly dead; that is to say, he can no longer apply to the courts for protection. His only hope of relief is an application to the Minister of the Interior, and as long as such men as Pinard are at the head of that department, there is no hope of a change for the better. Favre's revelations in regard to the abuses and crimes perpetrated at the lunatic asylums of France are anxiously expected, and are certain to create a great sensation.

Another Eruption.—Mount Vesuvius has been in an unusual state of commotion for over a year. On the 8th of October, 1867, the lava began to flow more copiously, and from that day to the present time, the mountain has been more or less active. During all this period the instruments in the astronomical observatory, near Naples, have been continually agitated by the trembling of the earth. About the 11th of last month, new fissures were made in the cones, and the lava now rolls down and spreds itself in a broad sheet over the side of Vesuvius towards Naples. The smoke, formed into an infinite number of rings or circles, surges up to the height of two thousand feet, and then spreads out into a vast overshadowing cloud. At intervals columns of fire are seen bursting upwards to a great height, and resemble in regularity the flames responding to the blast of a Titanic bellows. Three new cones have already been formed, and a white cloud of vapor marks the course of the lava stream which, having gradually filled up the deep hollows of the mountain side, is now threatening to devastate the cultivated land.

The Rage of Tartan.—Every variety of tartan is very fashionable in London, and is rapidly becoming so in this country. It is adopted to costumes, to Macfarlane cloaks, and to waterproof suits, and now a fourth stile has come in vogue—worn pretty much as a Highlander wears his plaid. A long scarf, shawl is required. This is folded length wise in eight taking care that the fringe fall on the outside. To drape it over the figure, it is first placed across the left shoulder, letting one of the ends fall at the back, like a sash, upon the skirt. Then it covers the chest, passes under the right arm, encircles the waist at the back in the form of a band, recrosses the front, and is lastly thrown over the right shoulder. To conclude, the end of the shaul is slipped through the part that forms the waistband at the back and two ends, which sould be of the same length, and fall on the skirt behind.

A New Disease.—The medical faculty of Paris are puzzled by the appearance of a disease which they call writer's cramp. It is not altogether a new disease. It is marked in old medical works as scrivener's palsy, and was caused by the almost constant placing of the muscles of the fingers and hand in one laborious position. There was also a seamstress palsy, caused by the continual use of the needle. This was also noted as being worse than the writer's palsy, possibly because of the steel instrument used. The Paris aggravation of the old disease is undoubtedly attributable to the electrical action of steel pens. The prevention lies in adopting some other kind of pen.

The Victims of the Ohio River Disaster.

Cincinnati, Dec. 20.—The wreck of the steamer United States has been towed to the city. Two bodies were discovered in it this afternoon, both scarcely recognizable. One was a man, with an eagle tattooed in blue on the left arm. The sex of the other body could not be ascertained. Twelve victims of the same disaster were buried here yesterday. Near Madison, Indiana, the body of a colored deck hand, named Jackson, was found on Wednesday; and on Friday, the body of Charles Gibson, of Pittsburg, 15 years old, was found near the same place.

The bridge at Elmore, Ohio, on the Cleveland and Toledo railroad, was burned to day. The connection will be broken until Tuesday next.

Discovery of Gold at Mobile.

Washington, Dec. 20. A dispatch was received yesterday by Secretary M'Culloch, from an agent of the government at Mobile, stating that he had found a million of dollars in gold. He was ordered to take possession, and to call upon the military for a safeguard. No answer has been received, and it is not known whether it is Confederate or stolen money.

Coal Mine Disasters in England.—The explosions in the coal mines of Great Britain during 1868, up to the last disaster in November, caused the death of 286 persons. The deaths from the falling of the roofs of mines and of the coal, amounted during the same period to 163, making a total of 449 lives lost in the British collieries. The mortality from mining accidents is much smaller in the United States than in any othe country.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

German Emigration.—The whole number of emigrants arriving at the port of New York between January 1st and November 30th, 1868, amounted to 203,553, of whom 99,993, or 49 per cent., were Germans. During the month of November, 1868, of 15,373 emigrants arriving in New York, 7,620 were Germans, the majority of whom came by way of Bremen and Hamburg.

Commissioner Rollins' report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, show that the total expense of assessing the revenue for the year was $6,142,931. The total expense of collection for the same period was $2,407,469, exclusive of office expenses. The total assessments of internal revenue were $270,089,894, and the total collections were $264,409,615.

The Senate has confirmed Charles H. Poor, Rear Admiral in the Navy, and various other appointments in that branch of the public service.

The Mexican Government has exempted gold mines from taxation.

Miscellaneous.

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The Tribune has often been applied to for copies of Mr. Greeley's history of the late Civil War entitled The American Conflict. Many evidently presume that it is published by us, so that we can give copies at pleasure. In several cases Union soldiers have written us saying that they were unable to pay its full price, but were nevertheless anxious to possess the work, and asking us to tell them by what means they may obtain it.

In deference to these representations the publishers of the Tribune have made an arrangement with Messrs. O. D. Case & Co., publishers of The American Conflict, whereby they are enabled to offer that work to such persons as may see it fit to obtain mail subscriptions for The Tribune as follows:

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