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A Local and General Newspaper, Devoted to Politics, Education, Literature and Morals.

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ITEMS.

A MORAL debating society out West is engaged in the discussion of the following question: "If a man deserts his wife which is the most abandoned, the man or woman?"

The editor of the Alabama State Journal modestly requests that some of his patrons will present him and his printer with a barrel of good whisky and a bushel basket of eggs, as a slight token of their appreciation.

BANDMANN, who is playing tragedy to Melbourne, stabbed the lady who played "Desdemona," one night, so lustily that his sword made a long gash in her back, and instead of dying quietly, she made a great fuss about it though it didn't kill her.

A MAINE soldier has had his name removed from the pension roll, saying he has regained his health and does not need the pension. Commissioner Van Aernam wrote him that his name "should go down into history as a worthy example for the coming generations."

The consumption of horse flesh in Europe continues to increase. The quantity sold during September, October and November, 1868, was 226,000 pounds, being the produce of 565 horses; in the same period of 1869 it had increased to 273,200 pounds, 683 of those animals.

A NOTORIOUS assassin, who had frequently escaped justice, was taken at last, having just committed a most approved murder. "Why did you kill this man?" asked the judge; "he did not harm you, and the murder should do you no good." "Oh," replied the prisoner, "it was only to keep up my reputation."

In one of the Cincinnati pork packing houses 750 hogs perish daily. The carcasses are cut up with the utmost celerity. A portion goes out in hams; another is transformed into sausages—over two tons per day. All the lard is extracted by steam, and from this a vast quantity of oil. The bristles go to brush makers—about seventy five tons per year.

THERE is an interesting suit for divorce pending in Chicago. The complainant, Margaret E. McNally, alleges that she married defendant at Kankakee, July 4, 1868, she being then but thirteen years old. She was visiting friends in Kankakee, and defendant wooed and won her by representing himself to be a rich man, when in fact he was only a day laborer. The bill also alleges that, at the time she was married, "she was not lawfully able to enter into such a contract."

The latest method of curing consumption is that practiced at an establishment on the banks of the Rhine called the "grape-cure." Patients have excellent quarters, plenty of fresh air, and every day go into the gardens, each carrying a basket, which is filled under the watchful eye of the doctor. The patient then retires to a pleasant room, and slowly sucks the grapes. A fine orchestra enlivens the curing process with excellent music. It is claimed that permanent cures are effected in from four to six weeks.

A LUDICROUS scene took place at the Tuileries on Christmas Eve. There was to be a children's party for the friends of the Prince Imperial, and a very fine specimen of the Christmas tree. All was ready, and the Prince thought he should like to see the tree; so he entered the room, and, lo! he found an uninvited guest already there—a favorite monkey belonging to some one in the palace had got into the room, treated himself to all the prizes, eaten all the "goodies," and, finally, having set fire to the tree, was sitting down enjoying the fun.

The brokers of New York, not satisfied with their unimpeded schemes of gambling in gold and stocks, desired to avoid the payment of the small tax of one twentieth of one per cent. on their transactions, required by various laws sought to have their tax set aside, but at length have receded, and concluded to do one honest act, pay the Government tax. The tax was not heavy, was a small affair, and did not bear onerously on individuals. Still, it was resisted till the brokers had exhausted all expedients. The receipts from this source will be about ten millions a year.

CONGRESS, it is said, wants to investigate the recent gold muddle at New York, with a view to finding a basis of such legislation will prevent the occurrence of a similar one. This is moonshine. No law can be framed so close a web as to prevent ingenious financiers from slipping through it. Laws may be made to close up the path the rogues moved in last fall, but they will open another path the next time. Besides, there is law enough before to punish them if the authorities had had the purpose to do it. The chance to prevent another gold muddle was lost when no punishment was visited upon those who made the first.

The Kentucky Legislature has passed a very considerable bill "excepting ministers from execution." It should be understood that this alludes not to the lynching of anti-slavery ministers, not to the hanging of clergymen who may indulge in murder, but to ministers who run in debt, and either cannot or will not pay up—in fact, to that little document which commands the Sheriff to take the body, unless he can find satisfactory property. We trust that the Kentucky preachers will show their gratitude by keeping out of debt, in which laudable effort they will probably be assisted by the traders of their respective neighborhoods.

WOMAN QUESTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—South Carolina has taken "a jump ahead" on the woman question. A bill has passed to the third reading in the Legislature, which provides that no real or personal property held by a woman at the time of her marriage shall be subject to levy or sale for her husband's debts, but shall be her separate property; that a married woman shall have power to bequeath, devise or convey her separate property in the same manner and to the same extent as if she were unmarried; that she may purchase any species of property in her own name, and any contract and be contracted with in the same manner as if she were an unmarried woman; that in all matters relating to her separate property and her separate contracts she may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and in every respect be entitled to, and be subject to, the same legal rights and remedies as if she were unmarried; nor shall any jointure or her husband's as a party with her be necessary in any action brought by her against her husband in matters relating to her separate property, or arising out of her separate contracts.

Poetry.

CLING TO THOSE WHO CLING TO YOU.

There are many friends of summer, Who are kind while flowers bloom, But when winter chills the blossoms, They depart with the perfume.

Do not harshly judge your neighbor, Do not denude his life unfurled, If he makes no great pretensions, Do not deem his life unfurled.

When you see a worthy brother, Buffeting the stormy main, Lead a helping hand to him, Till he reach the shore again, Don't desert the old and tried friend When misfortune comes in view, For he then needs friendship's comforts, Cling to those who cling to you.

Miscellaneous.

GEARY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—Having been honored, a second time, by the voluntary suffrages of my countrymen as their choice for Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have, in the presence of God and this assembled multitude, renewed the solemn and binding obligation required of me by law, to support the State and National Constitutions, and to perform with fidelity the duties devolving upon me as Governor.

It shall be my constant aim and most earnest effort to observe the very letter as well as the full spirit, meaning and intent of the obligation I have just taken. Deeply impressed with the most profound gratitude, I can but express my most hearty thanks to the good citizens of the Commonwealth for the generous confidence and partiality they have reposed in me by re-election to the most honorable and most responsible position in their gift. But knowing well their expectations and requirements of one who occupies a position so exalted, it is with extreme diffidence I again undertake the responsibilities of such vast importance, which even the boldest and most gifted determined not to assume. And however determined may be my endeavor to realize the expectations of my friends in support of the right, and to battle against whatever, in my judgment, may be wrong, still I am conscious of the necessity for some sustaining power, and, therefore, I unhesitatingly acknowledge my dependence upon the enlightened support and patriotism of my fellow-citizens, and my firm reliance upon the unerring wisdom and never failing aid of Him who controls alike the destinies of individuals and of nations.

The settlement of the vexed questions growing out of the armed conflict with treason, devolves a mighty responsibility on the loyal men of the land. Armed rebellion was signally crushed by the force of armed loyalty, and the government has triumphantly established its ability successfully to suppress domestic insurrection, however gigantic. The war itself has served to stimulate our people to fresh energies, and to the development of new enterprises. Our manufacturing establishments, plenteously supplied upon our fields, and blessed the labors of the husbandman. Peace has restored our people to their homes, and cheered our firesides. The rates of taxation have been reduced, and are entirely abolished upon real estate for the use of the Commonwealth. Our State debt is being steadily and surely liquidated. Immense sums have been paid for pensions and other charities. The cause of education has advanced, and the institutions for the support and tuition of the soldiers' orphans have been liberally supplied. Railroads have been constructed, and new material resources developed. And thus our State and Nation are rapidly progressing in the attainment of those elements of greatness which have already placed our country in the foremost rank of the powers of the earth. The great railroad, which binds our State to the Far West, and its tributaries to the original nations, has been completed, and all our efforts to add to our material prosperity have been crowned with unparalleled success.

It was my privilege to announce from this stand, three years ago, the principles which would guide me in the administration of the office of Governor. At that time I dwelt upon and expressed my views in reference to all questions then occupying a share of public attention. I have since, from time to time, in messages to the Legislature, set forth the condition of the State, recommended such measures as I deemed expedient and calculated to advance her interests, and expressed my views upon the various topics of the day that were of State or National importance. And having fully reflected thereon, I am now more confirmed therein, and know of no reason why I should not endorse and reiterate them as fully, on this occasion, as I again promulgated them word for word. And now, acknowledging my responsibility in its broadest sense, as a representative, to my constituents, and considering the magnitude of the interests which have again been committed to my charge, I feel it to be to the people and incumbent upon myself, to refer them to the documents indicated, for an outline of the general policy which is intended as a guide for the incoming administration, rather than to reiterate this address, or unnecessarily delay this audience with their repetition. I have no new pledges to make, but confidently refer to the record of my past life, as evidence at least of my zeal and devotion to the best interests of my State and country, and for the rectitude of my intentions. And although the inability which I bring to the discharge of such high duties may be limited, I shall confidently rely upon the kind indulgence of my fellow citizens and upon a conscientious effort to uphold unblemished, and transmit untroubled to my successor in office, and to posterity, the fair fame and good name of our magnificent old Commonwealth.

Difficulties of no ordinary character constantly surround your Executive officer, in the discharge of the many duties devolving upon him, concerning each of which there may be conflicting opinions. It being, therefore, impossible to satisfy all, his only safeguard is to adopt, and act in accordance with those being and beneficent maxims

to which the early fathers gave utterance, which have been sanctioned by wisdom and experience, and resulted in the rapid growth and prosperity of our institutions, and the liberty and happiness of our people.

The Constitution vests "the supreme Executive power" of the State in the Governor, and directs that "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed." The supreme earthly authority recognized by us, therefore, is the law—the rightfully determined will of the people. "No citizen is so exalted as to be above, and none so low as to be beneath its power. The Executive is as much the subject of the laws of the State as the humblest individual within its borders. In pursuance of these principles, and in the execution of the laws, I have endeavored during my term of office, faithfully to discharge every official duty with a full reference to my sworn obligation, and as I shall answer at the last great day.

I discharge all our obligations and responsibilities, both as citizens and magistrates. We should cease to tolerate anything as "politically correct" that is morally wrong, and actively proscribe the corruption which too frequently marks the administration of public affairs—an evil to which attention cannot too frequently or too forcibly be invited. No sign more certainly indicates the downfall of free institutions than the indifference of the people to the moral depravity of those in authority. All history warns us to hold to our integrity as we value our national existence. Forcibly impressed with these ideas, I call upon all legislators, and upon all other good citizens, and especially upon the conductors of the public press—the ever faithful sentinels of a free people—to aid in giving that tone to the general mind which shall purify our State, and relieve her from the reproach of ever countenancing those who would make a traffic of their offices in violation of their obligations. Look to it well and closely, fellow citizens, and begin at once to teach your servants that the "public will" must be obeyed, and the "public law" is the first object to be attained in a free government. If you permit speculators to enrich themselves out of the public Treasury, and at the same time to corrupt the law making branch of the government, you pave the way to anarchy, you set the example which tempts to crime, and offer to the world an evidence, most conclusive, that self government is a failure.

Owing to the many efforts made on the part of the free traders for the abolishment of the general and wholesome protection afforded to our home industry and to our labor, I consider it a subject which claims a portion of our time and attention. If our national industry and natural productions, represented by thousands of factories, mines and other sources of labor, are to be preserved, there should be no reduction of duties which shall enable the underpaid and overworked population of the Old World to flood our States with the products of their mines and workshops at the cost of our destruction. The articles thus admitted would undersell the products of our artisans at a very low price, and our factories would be closed, as heretofore, by similar causes. This will throw out of employment thousands of our industrial men, and entail ruin upon them and their families, merely for the benefit and aggrandizement of foreign manufacturers and capitalists. As soon as our industrial arms are paralyzed and competition is destroyed, the monopolist can command his own price, and it is thus clear that the policy of free trade can never permanently benefit any country that will sanction its adoption. Impelled by every feeling of industry, humanity and justice for our artisans and laborers, we should unhesitatingly set our faces against this heresy. We should, therefore, not only earnestly legislate for the benefit of capital, but for the toiling sons and daughters of our country. It should be our constant effort to improve their social condition, to advance their intellectual status, and above all to shield them from the destitutions which is threatened by the enemies of protection to our industrial pursuits.

In my several messages to the Legislature I have taken occasion to refer to a subject which I regard as of paramount importance to the prosperity and even the stability of our government. No nation can long exist that attempts to violate any of its obligations. The most prominent among these is the faithful payment of all its indebtedness. No good reason can be given for the repudiation of a single farthing. I said in my message of January, 1868, "The people of Pennsylvania, ever true to the Union, and unwavering in their determination to preserve its honor, integrity and perpetuity, are proud and free to assert the sacredness of the national debt, and that its ultimate payment in full must be secured." In my message of 1869, I called attention to the same subject, in these words: "The voice of Pennsylvania, as well as that of a majority of the States, has at the ballot box proclaimed to the world that all our national indebtedness, no matter how heavy the burden, will be paid according to the letter and spirit of the agreements made and entered into at the time the debt was contracted; and that in this, as in all other respects, our individual and national honor must and shall be preserved." These sentiments, so clearly expressed, I have taken frequent occasion to reiterate, and it affords me great satisfaction to observe that many who have heretofore been hostile to, or silent on this most important subject, are becoming warm in their advocacy of the principles here enumerated.

Those who saved this government from the destruction designed by treason, are they who will perpetuate it as a blessing to future generations. All that is asked of the people is to strengthen and uphold the hands of the men who have been called to do the work of reconstruction, and when that work is finished in the spirit in which it has been begun by the present National Administration, we will have a government and a country mighty in their manhood, glorious in their prosperity.

The preservation of the peace and quiet of our country, maintaining unshaken our national honor, and the harmony of the Union are among our highest duties. Let us encourage every branch of home industry, advance the true interests of moral, physical and intellectual labor, and reaching forward to the prizes of the manifest destiny of our glorious Commonwealth, we may hope for her increasing prosperity, and above all, for the interests of an approving Providence.

I earnestly invoke a continuance of the

blessings and favors which we, as a people, have long enjoyed, that Pennsylvania may be ever ready to extend her sympathies to those struggling for liberty, to succor the helpless exile, and be an asylum to the persecuted and oppressed, and thus forever identify herself with the cause of equal and just rights for all.

Then can we with truth and pride proclaim, "Long live the Commonwealth," whose guiding principles are found in the motto of our State: "VIRTUE, LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE."

THE CUTTLE-FISH.

Mr. L. L. Hart, in his "Chapter on Cuttle-Fishes" in *The American Naturalist*, describes his encounter with one of these octopods on the coast of Brazil, which wound its long arms, covered with numerous suckers around his hands in such a way as to hold him prisoner for a short time. On relinquishing its hold it dropped on the sand, and, using its long slimy arms as legs, made its way toward the water, looking like a huge and very spider. The cuttle-fish belongs to the mollusks, a branch of the animal kingdom, distinguished for its members being built upon the plan of a sac, and to which Mr. Hart has applied the more appropriate name of *Saccota*. It is distinguished from all other mollusks, such as snails, clams, &c., by having a very large head, a pair of large eyes, and a mouth furnished with a pair of jaws around which are arranged, in a circle, eight or ten arms furnished with suckers. In the common cuttle-fish or squid of our coast, the body, which is long and narrow, is wrapped in a muscular cloak or mantle, like a bag, fitting tightly to the back, but loose in front. It is closed up to the neck, where it is open like a hood-like covering, and is termed up to the throat. Attached to its throat is a mantle, a short tube, open at both ends. This tube or syphon can be moved about in any direction. The animal breathes by means of gills, which are attached to the front of the body, inside the cloak, and look like the ruffles of a shirt-bosom. By means of these gills the air contained in the water is breathed, and they answer the same purpose for us. In order to swim, the animal swells out the cloak in front, so that the water flows in between it and the body. Then it closes the cloak tightly about the neck, so that the only way the water can get out is through the syphon. Then it contracts forcibly its coat, and the water is driven out in a jet from the syphon, and the body is propelled in an opposite direction like a rocket through the water. This syphon is flexible, like a water hose, and can be bent so as to direct the stream not only forward, but sideways, and backward, so that the animal can move in almost any direction, and turn summersaults with perfect ease, and so rapidly do some cuttle-fishes swim, that they are able to make long leaps out of the water. Usually, however, the animal swims backward, with its long arms trailing behind. Our common cuttle-fish of this coast has, in addition to its eight arms, two long slender tentacles, which may be withdrawn into the body. The tail is pointed and furnished with a fin on each side. The octopods to which the Brazilian cuttle-fish belongs, have round heads, and their arms are united at the base with a web, and they swim by opening and shutting their arms like an umbrella; in this mode of swimming they resemble the jelly fishes. The paper nautilus is nothing in the world but a female cuttle-fish, that builds a shell. There was a very pretty story told of her habits by Aristotle, the old Greek naturalist, and everybody believed until quite lately. He said she rode on the top of the waves, seated in her boat-like shell, and spreading her broad arms to the winds for sails. But, unfortunately, the story has no foundation in fact. She either crawls about on the bottom of the sea, or swims quite like other cuttle-fish, shell foremost, only occasionally coming to the surface. Strangely enough, she holds the two broad, hand-like extremities of the arms against her body, and it is the inside of these arms, and not the paper like shell, which is only a sort of cradle for her eggs. Not so with the pearly nautilus, which is furnished with a beautiful coiled up, pearly shell, formed on the outside of the animal. The shell is divided into numerous chambers, and the animal, living in the outer one, builds a partition across the back part of it as the shell grows. Cuttle-fishes are sometimes used for food by the Brazilians, and different species may be seen in the markets, where one frequently finds them still alive. Sometimes we stoop to examine one, its body is suddenly suffused with a deep pinkish glow. Before we have time to recover our surprise this color fades, and a beautiful blue takes its place as rapidly as a blush sometimes suffuses a delicate cheek. The blue, perhaps, is succeeded by a green, and then the whole body becomes pink again. One can hardly conceive anything more beautiful than this rapid play of colors, which is produced by the successive distention of sets of little sacks containing fluids of different colors which are situated under the skin. The cuttle-fish is also furnished with a bag containing an inky fluid, which, when the animal is attacked or pursued, it ejects into the water, thus completely blinding its adversary and effectually covering its retreat. It is from this fluid that the color *Sepia* is made. Beside carrying an ink-bottle some species of cuttle-fish are provided with a long, delicate, horny pen, which forms a sort of stiffener to the back. In some species the pen is hard, thick, and broad, and the cuttle-fish found in our waters is of this kind. The species found in our waters is very small, and not at all dangerous, being barely large enough to draw blood from the hand; but in the tropical seas they are very large, powerful, and dangerous. The cuttle-fish is the original of Victor Hugo's devil-fish, so vividly described in the "Toilers of the Sea." If the devil-fish were a beneficial one, Mr. Hart says he should be sorry to destroy her faith in it; but it is, he believes it will be rather a relief than otherwise to know that in some important respects Victor Hugo's story of it is a fable. The Kraken was a mythical cuttle-fish of fabulous size.

We often suffer ourselves to be put out of all our bearings by misfortune, not of the most serious kind, which, looks very black at the time, but which from its nature, can not be lasting. We are thus like ignorant hens that insist upon going to roost in mid-day because there is a brief transitory eclipse of the sun.

ON GOING SURETY.

Ought a man ever to go surety for another? Why not? It is a most friendly act. If prudently done, it may be of the most eminent benefit to a neighbor. It gives him the benefit of your good reputation when he is his own name is not sufficient. It puts him in funds which otherwise he could not command. Such service to a friend is generous, and sometimes even noble. No letter use can be made of one's money than to help a true friend. We are commanded to "remember those in bonds as bound with them." To be sure, this was originally applied to bonds of a different kind, but with not a whit more propriety than to pecuniary bonds. A man who, by a few thousand dollars, can save his friend and perhaps his family, from bankruptcy and woe, could hardly spend his money in a manner which, all his life long, he would remember with more satisfaction.

But, there are certain moral and prudent considerations which should always be borne in mind in going surety for a friend. You should make up your mind how much property you have, and how much you are willing to give away, absolutely, for that friend whom you endorse. For no blunder can be worse than to endorse on the supposition that you will not have to pay. Never endorse without saying to yourself, "This may come round upon me. I may have to pay it; and if it comes to that, I am able and willing." Nine out of ten of the fatal mistakes made by bondsmen arise from taking the opposite course to this. They consider the act of endorsing a friend's paper as a mere commercial form. "There is no risk. I shall not have to pay. He is abundantly able to take care of his paper. I shall help him without learning myself; and he is a stingy man who will not do that." This is the calculation on which a man binds himself to pay a friend's debts in case the friend cannot pay them himself.

But how do these things turn out? One need not go far to ascertain! Every village has an illustration. The borrower was more involved than you supposed, or perhaps, than he himself knew, and his creditors closed on him and wound him up, and were overjoyed to find such a good name on his paper. Or, the sanguine scheme on which he had ventured, which seemed sure of success, almost without possibility of failure, suddenly, like a loaded wagon slipped off a wheel, and upset into the dirt! Or, just as every thing was at the point of success, your friend sickened and could not look after his affairs, some critical matter was neglected, or some dishonest person stepped in, and crooked matters; your friend died, the estate went into the executor's hands for settlement, was badly managed, warped and crooked, and finally turned out insolvent.

And what became of you? Why, you were surety for the full amount of what you are worth! In an hour you find yourself confronted with debt that sweeps away your house, your farm, your little sum in bank, and leaves you just where you began twenty-five years ago, with this difference, that then you had only yourself to provide for, and now you have a wife and eight children.

Then you are twenty-five years old, and your life was all before you, and now you are fifty years, and life pretty much behind you. You have given away your children's bread, and you have ruined yourself! Perhaps your friend had settled on his wife a small property. So much the better for her, if he had. Of course she will divide with you, since it was to save her husband, that you were ruined. But, if she will not (and human nature is made up of shabby stuff), and her children and school, while yours stay at home; and if they live in a comfortable house, pleasantly furnished, while you are hiring a few rooms in the cheapest quarter of the town, can I suspect that you will cherish the end of a great many bitter reflections.

When it is too late, you will be very wise. You will say to yourself, it may be, "A man is a fool who signs for any larger sum than he can conveniently pay." Amen, say!

"Before a man puts his name down on another man's paper, he should ask himself, Am I willing to give this person as much money as I sign for?" Amen, say!

"To sign a bond on a supposition that it is a mere form, and that you will have nothing to pay, is to put one's head into a fool's noose." Amen, again, say!

There is no harm in signing for a neighbor if you have got the property; if you are able to pay the amount without harming your own household; and if you love the man for whom you sign enough to be willing to GIVE HIM OUTRIGHT the sum covered by your endorsement. Otherwise, to go surety for a neighbor is a folly, a sin and a shame.—Henry Ward Beecher.

WONDERS.—When a young man is a clerk of a store and dresses like a prince, smokes "foreign cigars," drinks "nice brands," attends theatres, dances and the like, I wonder if he does all on the avails of the clerkship?