

**The Columbia**  
AND  
**Bloomsburg Democrat.**

BLOOMSBURG, PA.  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1870.

THE COLUMBIAN has the Largest Circulation of any paper published in Northern Pennsylvania, and the largest in this section of the State.

**Duty on Paper.**  
The Republican editors who, in the recent Editorial Convention held at Harrisburg, advocated the repeal of duty on paper, ought to be disappointed. They had no friends of Protection anywhere. Such editors do not represent the principles of Republicanism. That Democratic editors, who uphold European in preference to American interests, should introduce and support such a measure, is not so surprising. But blame on the Republican editor, who, to save himself a few pennies, would sacrifice the interests of his country. He should have remembered that his countrymen would not tolerate such a measure, and that they would have his throat cut if he attempted to do so. The above rebuke should be copied and sent to every Republican paper in the State. The Republican party has stood firmly by protection to American labor and the press have raised the banner heavily; but, in so doing, they only meant protection to those industrial branches which did not affect their interests, then the honor, which otherwise is due them, amounts to nothing. Our voice shall be in favor of protection throughout, and if, to maintain this position, it is necessary for us to pay an increased amount for the material we use, let it be so. We would rather give five dollars to an American laborer than send half that amount to foreign countries.—*Republican.*

**OUR ANSWER.**  
At the late Editorial Convention a resolution was offered and discussed relative to the repeal of the duty on paper, which commanded the support of all the Democratic editors present and that of many of the Republican ones. The Resolution has been attacked by the Radical papers, who show both lamentable ignorance and unblushing hypocrisy in discussing the subject. In seeking to lower the duty on paper and on the material which enters into its composition, we act for the benefit of the entire public, and not for our own class. Every man, woman and child in the land is interested in having cheap paper, because it means cheaper newspapers, cheaper magazines, and cheaper books. While the prices of grain and other necessaries have come down to nearly the same level as in former times, through a combination of monopolists, is nearly double the price it was before the rebellion.

But even suppose printers as a class alone were benefited by this reduction; are not their interests and rights as sacred as those of paper manufacturers and iron monopolists? They combine for their own protection, and we see no sense in defending for them a principle we dare not apply to ourselves.

The fact is, however, that under our present odious tariff laws, the duty on soda and other articles which enter largely into the manufacture of paper is so high that we cannot successfully compete with foreign labor, hence the *Penns.*, an ardent advocate of protection to home industry buys its paper in Europe, thus fostering her "paupe" productions. One gets all the benefit of this tax. In 1868 they got a patent on the use of Kroylote in the manufacture of soda, (though the discovery was made in 1850 by Prof. Thompson of Copenhagen) and the process has long been applied on a large scale both at Copenhagen and Hamburg, and as the raw material is found in merchantable quantities only in Greenland, they obtain the sole right to import it into North and South America. J. K. Moorhead, who owns the Penns. Salt Co., holds his position as a member of Congress to have Kroylote almost exempted from duty, while foreign soda pays a duty of twenty-five per cent. Not content with this, Mr. Moorhead is now seeking to have Kroylote placed on the free list, although the total amount of duty it paid in 1869 was only \$7,000.

Kroylote, instead of being lightened, should be taxed as high as caustic soda, or else you keep the government out of the tax of one and a half cents per pound. It is now paying, and what does it get in return? Nothing. This is not an insurrection against the free trade, thus making it free to all, and a home industry; but it goes to Kroylote, as they can alone get Kroylote. To show the extent of the loss to the Treasury by the exemption of this article from duty we give the Production of the Penns. Salt Co. taken from their own weekly statement, and computed for one year.

**Revenue Statement.**

2,000,000 lbs. Caustic Soda	...	100,000
500,000 lbs. Kroylote	...	25,000
1,000,000 lbs. Soda Ash	...	50,000
500,000 lbs. Sulphuric Acid	...	25,000
1,000,000 lbs. Concentrated Lye	...	50,000
1,000,000 lbs. Soda	...	50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>300,000</b>

Now in the name of the newspaper publishers of the United States, of their millions of readers, or our book publishers, we demand that either the tax on soda be repealed, or Kroylote be taxed to the same extent, so that we are not compelled to pay to John K. Moorhead twenty-five cents for every dollar's worth of paper we use.

**Fencing Railroads.**  
On January 31st, Mr. Buckalew read in place a bill to repeal so much of an act of the last session as relates to the fencing of railroads in Bradford county, and thereupon Chairman of the *Danville Intelligencer* bestowed upon him half a column of characteristic abuse. The bill passed the Senate two or three weeks since by a unanimous vote and will probably pass the House also and become a law. The act of last session as it appears in the volume of laws was simply a fence act and did not pass the Legislature with Bradford included but excluded by an amendment of the Senate which was concurred in by the House. The facts being shown beyond dispute by the journals and by the original bill in the repeal law matter of course, if legislation is to be upheld. The merits of the question of fencing railroads is not involved in this repeal, though we think that laws on that subject ought to be general and equal. Why should Bradford have a different rule from Columbia or Montour?

**The Bloomsburg Bill.**

Mr. Buckalew's bill for organizing the town of Bloomsburg omits from among the powers conferred upon the town authorities certain clauses of the act of 3d of April 1851, regulating boroughs, to which it is now proper to call attention in order that the question of omitting them shall be duly considered before the passage of the bill.

The 16th article of section 2, omitted, authorizes the forbidding of internments within borough limits and would interfere with the charter of the Rosemont cemetery company.

The 19th article of the same section, also omitted, confers power upon boroughs to regulate and prohibit all plays shows &c, within borough limits and seems to be too sweeping and restrictive.

But the most important omission is that of Articles 5 and 6 of the same section. These clauses authorize an exercise of very summary if not arbitrary power by borough authorities. They may require the grading, curbing, paving and gutting of sidewalks or foot-paths by the owners of lots fronting thereon, and if the requirement is not complied with, may cause the work to be done at the expense of the property owner with 20 per centum added by way of penalty, and collect the same and file liens therefor &c. Now it is to be observed that full power to regulate roads, streets, lanes, alleys, courts, common sewers, public squares and common grounds, foot-walks, pavements, gutters, culverts and drains, and the heights, grades, widths, slopes and curves thereof, is conferred in another clause or article of the section which is to be applied to our town, and that other important powers for widening, straightening and improving streets &c, and for removing obstructions therefrom, contained in still other parts of the general borough act, are also conferred and applied. The question then is, whether the omitted clauses are proper and necessary. They appear to be suited only to densely settled and wealthy parts of cities and towns, and they must operate unequally and often harshly. The extent of lot frontage in any case is no proper criterion of the value of the adjacent property, or the ability of the owner to contribute to a public improvement. An unimproved lot or one of small value may have an extensive front, the grading, curbing, paving and guttering of which may be very expensive, while a very valuable property in another location may have but small frontage and be liable to but small expense for its improvement. Then again, the lot owner has no voice in the proceeding by which he is charged with a burden; he is not heard in any regular manner when the decree goes against him, or even when liens are to be filed upon his property. In a town of our size—considering it is to be a town of the future—the omitted clauses may therefore be regarded as too stringent and severe; at all events they should be carefully considered before they are accepted.

The 8th section of the Bloomsburg bill may be regarded as a substitute for the omitted clauses of the general borough laws. It authorizes the President of the Town Council to enter into written contracts with property owners by which the expense of paving, grading and improving the streets, sidewalks &c, adjoining or contiguous to their property shall be divided between such owners and the public. This provision extends to the whole street as well as the sidewalk and is not confined to the mere frontage of a lot. The undivided advantage from an improvement may thus be taken into account and a proper contribution for it settled by agreement between the improvement is made. If the law is to go further and compel the lot owner to contribute to improvements in front of his property it appears to us that the private advantage should first be ascertained by some form of regular valuation and then the assessment and burden imposed should be clearly within that limit.

We clip from the *Monck Chunk Times* the facts of a case in that borough where an unreasonable imposition was attempted to be placed upon some of the citizens under color of power from the various clauses omitted in the Bloomsburg bill. It is true the particular wrong intended in that case was not sanctioned by the courts, but the question was one of doubt and was only settled after prolonged and expensive litigation. And then, the Council, under the idea derived from the borough law that they are the masters of the people and ought to be allowed to do as they please, arbitrarily and without a sanction and confirm their proceedings. We may be admonished by this case that power ought not to be incautiously granted to such bodies.

The extract is as follows:  
In 1868 the town council advertised to receive proposals for building a drain along Susquehanna street. The property owners of said street signed a written protest against the scheme and secured the attention of the town council. The council made a contract with Messrs. B. and C. to build the drain at \$2.50 per foot, or \$7.50 per yard, and the contract was for 1000 feet, which brought it up to \$10.00 per yard, and presented their bill to the owners of lots along said street, and as they could not expect that the owners of lots would pay such unjust claims, they filed liens on the lots. The owners of lots then employed an attorney and contested the matter in court, and the council appeared by their attorneys. After a full discussion, the court decided the case against the council. The council then by their attorney, carried the case up to the Supreme Court, and there they affirmed the decision of the court below. The council then, probably by their attorney, drew up a bill and sent it to Harrisburg, and with their deep wisdom and their great eloquence they persuaded the legislature to pass the bill into a law. It is to be noted that the bill in its original form, which was simply a fence act and did not pass the Legislature with Bradford included but excluded by an amendment of the Senate which was concurred in by the House. The facts being shown beyond dispute by the journals and by the original bill in the repeal law matter of course, if legislation is to be upheld. The merits of the question of fencing railroads is not involved in this repeal, though we think that laws on that subject ought to be general and equal. Why should Bradford have a different rule from Columbia or Montour?

**Robbing the People.**  
The strength of party ties must be great indeed when the Republicans continue in office men of known corruption, when they vote the same tickets steadily though convinced of the venality of their candidates and of the integrity of their opponents. The sale of cadethips to the highest bidders is bad enough, but a much more rotten job exists nearer home. We allude to the fraudulent use of the funds of the State. Millions of dollars that should be used in paying off our indebtedness and thus reducing taxation, are being loaned to banks and individuals for personal and political reasons, or for private gain. For instance, Treasurer Mackey, when brought before the investigating committee, states under oath that for several years Jacob Ridgway, an ex-State Senator and Radical politician, has had in his possession \$100,000 belonging to the State for which he never paid the Treasury one cent of interest. This is the same man who endeavored to defeat Senator Buckalew, and authorized Randall of Schuylkill "to draw on him."

Our immaculate Congressman Mercer, is also a favored recipient of State favor, as we saw "Mercer's Bank, Towanda," has \$26,162.10 of Treasury funds, while J. F. Mason & Co., of the same place have \$16,301.65. By the same statement we see that the Bank of Commerce, Erie, had \$9,396.18 of State funds when it failed, and the Venango National Bank had \$7,224.50 which it collapsed, thus entailing a loss of \$10,820.98. These are only part of the facts, Treasurer Mackey declining to answer many questions asked him, but it is enough to show the thorough rottenness of the Republican management at Harrisburg.

**Court Proceedings.**

**SECOND WEEK.**  
(Continued.)  
Geo. Masters & Son vs Samuel Brugler. Action in debt. Issue and rule for trial. Jury called. Thursday morning Jury rendered a verdict in favor of the Plaintiff for twenty-three dollars.

**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 16th.**  
The following Deeds Poll were duly acknowledged by the Sheriff in open Court:  
Deed to Henry Gable for a certain lot of ground in Columbia county, as the property of Peter Howar, Thomas O'Neal, Torre Tenant, Consideration \$500.

Deed to M. E. Jackson for a certain building in the town of Foundryville, sold as the property of Chester Cope and other Trustees, consideration \$100.

Deed to M. E. Jackson for a lot of ground situate in Central, sold as the property of John Singinger, consideration \$50.

Deed to Jonas Doty for tract of land in Fishing Creek twp., sold as the property of James N. Jones, consideration \$500.

Deed to Jeremiah S. Brobst for lot of ground situate in Catawissa twp. Sold as the property of Jacob Bower, consideration \$250.

Deed to Joseph J. Crawford for tract of land in Mt. Pleasant twp., sold as the property of Sarah A. Mordan, consideration \$750.

**THURSDAY, Feb. 17th.**  
Wm. A. Case vs Scott twp. Action in debt. Jury called. Feb. 18th Jury returned verdict in favor of Plaintiff for \$230.50.

Joseph W. Leiby vs Conyngham twp. Execution No. 3 Feb. 17, 1870. On motion of E. H. Little rule granted to show cause why an attachment shall not issue against Richard Thorton, Supervisor and Treasurer, for disobedience to the command of the above execution.

On motion of Mr. Freeze, C. B. Brockway appointed Auditor to distribute the balance in the hands of Thos. J. Hutcheson, adm'r, to and among creditors of the estate of Rev. Elijah Willson, dec'd.

Masters & Son vs S. Brugler. Mr. Freeze moved the Court to set aside the verdict of the Jury in this case for the reason "that the verdict is against the evidence and the charge of the Court."

**FRIEDAY, Feb. 18th.**  
Jennie Heenwood vs A. J. Evans and wife. Action in *stender*. Jury called, when Piff's counsel asked leave of Court to amend Piff's declaration. Whereupon on motion, Court permit Defendants to withdraw the plea of "not guilty," and the defendants by R. F. Clark, their attorney, say that the declaration is not sufficient in law. Defendant sustained.

Henry T. Kelly vs James Carr. Ordered that a Jury be called. Same day verdict for the plaintiff for \$181.75.

On motion of Mr. Abbott, O. B. Melick, Esq., a member of the bar of Philadelphia, admitted to practice in the several Courts of Columbia county.

Pho. Jacobs vs Geo. L. Johnson. Piff. takes a non suit and moves to have his case dismissed. This is a non suit. Rule granted.

Petition of John Weaner, guardian of Oscar E. McBride and Wm. McBride for private sale of Real Estate. Mr. Whitmore appointed Auditor to report facts with his opinion as to propriety of granting the prayer of petitioner with value of the interest of each ward.

In the matter of the citation against the adm'r's of Daniel Sponenberg dec'd. On motion of Mr. Freeze the Court Order an attachment to issue in this case. The Court direct a venire to issue for Grand Jury and thirty-six Traverses Jurors in the Quarter Sessions, Oyer and Terminer and Common Pleas for one week's Court at May Term 1870.

Court adjourned to March 12, 1870 at 2 p. m., when a special session in the Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas will be held.

**Auditor General's Report.**  
From the Report of the Auditor General we condense the following facts of interest to our citizens, showing what they pay the State.  
Assessment of personal property, \$256,234.30  
Real Estate tax, 341,218.00  
Mortgage tax, 2,500.00  
Bank tax, 1,000.00  
Jesse Coleman Fund, 20,000.00  
J. G. Freeze, Co. Int. Tax, 158.07  
J. C. Kelly, Esq., 110.13  
J. F. Mason & Co., 142.00  
Eating House, 142.00  
Bart Stork, 102.00  
Total, \$563,703.30

Valuation of taxable personal property \$669,719.50  
Real Estate tax, 288,200.00  
Mortgage tax, 18,000.00  
Bank tax, 1,000.00  
Total for 1869, 976,919.50  
State Debt.  
THE Report of the Auditor General shows the Revenue of the Commonwealth last year, to have been \$5,211,712.28; Balance in Treasury \$1,012,925.37, Total \$6,224,638.65. And yet out of that more than six and a quarter millions of dollars, or the paltry sum of \$372,406.18, or less than half a million has been paid on the State debt!

Senator Lowry of Erie (Republican) speaks thus of George Bergner, also a Republican, and editor of the *Register*. "Mr. Speaker, it is not because I am on this contested election case that the editor of this paper desires to destroy me in the estimation of my constituents. This is not it—oh, no! It is because I stand here between him and the treasury—between the most notorious thief in Pennsylvania, and who has stolen more money from the treasury than any other man in the Commonwealth!"—between George Bergner and the State treasury. That is it—that is the motive power governing his attack upon me—and not his sympathy for Mr. Scull.

I have a long list of larceny charges which I shall submit by before the Senate and my constituents. I charge George Bergner with having run his arm more than a hundred times in the treasury and stolen therefrom every pound of meat that he carries upon his bones—not one pound of which has he not stolen out of the treasury; and it is for this that he would wrong me here on a false charge that I was acting treacherously and unfavorably upon the committee."

**Naturalization to be Restricted.**

The following is a summary of the provisions of a bill which is now before Congress having for its object the exclusion of white European immigrants from the elective franchise:

"Proceedings for naturalization must be taken before the United States circuit or district courts, or where they were not more than two terms annually of these, before the United States courts of highest jurisdiction of the State. As a first step, the applicant must file with the clerk of the court a notice of intention to become a citizen, which notice shall state full particulars of birth, parentage, residence, arrival in the country, &c., and he must give the names of two citizens who know him personally. The notice is to be filed, but open for inspection of any citizen. After four months subsequent to the filing of the notice, the applicant may apply to one of the courts named for admission to citizenship, at least twenty days before the day on which he must produce one or more credible citizens who can testify to all the foregoing particulars, and also to his moral character and fitness generally for citizenship. Any citizen may produce opposing evidence. If the court is satisfied in the applicant's favor, it will give him a certificate of naturalization, to take effect six months thereafter, and so stating."

The bill has been devised for the express purpose of saving the Radical party from defeat at the coming Presidential election, and from the permanent destruction which is impending over it. The immediate effect of the proposed enactment would be to cancel every declaration of intention already made by any immigrant, and compel the party who must wait four years before he can get his naturalization papers, and six months more before he can vote. This would put the immigrant who has been footing with him who arrived yesterday. Residence is to count for nothing, if it is residence prior to the passage of the proposed law. No application is to be regarded unless it was made to the clerk of a United States Court, whereas all previous declarations have been made to State Courts. By the new law all existing applications would be made null and void, and there will be a total interruption of naturalization for four years and six months. This is a villainous scheme for preventing thousands of white European immigrants from voting at the next Presidential election. If it succeeds there will be no fresh naturalizations until the middle of the next Presidential term. It is a confession of weakness on the part of the Radical party, and a desperate attempt to save it from defeat in the coming Presidential contest.

The restriction of naturalization to the United States Courts must necessarily work great hardship, without any compensating good. It will render the process of naturalization so troublesome and so costly that many will be deterred from assuming the rights of citizenship—and that is the object of the bill. Such an enactment seems exceedingly harsh and unjust when the Republican party has just conferred the right to vote and hold office on every stupid and ignorant negro in the country. It is an outrage upon white Europeans which ought to be resented by every man who has a drop of such blood in his veins. Such a discrimination against the higher and more intelligent race in favor of the lower and more ignorant one ought to call forth universal execration. It is the last, the basest, and the most desperate resort of a party which fears the result of a free election and all the people who would be entitled to vote under the existing laws of the country.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

**Latest News.**  
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—The main building of the extensive woolen mills of John P. Bruner, on Hamilton street, extending over the whole block between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, took fire this morning and was entirely destroyed. Loss \$100,000; insured for \$224,000.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 17.—The boiler in the Union Railway Car Works of H. M. Woodward, in Dekalb street, in the extreme lower part of the city, exploded with terrific force about 2 o'clock today. Frederick Kergin, Frank Collins, Paul De Bow and the engineer, whose names have not been ascertained, were killed, and several others scalded or injured by the falling bricks and timbers.

LINCOLN, Nebraska, Feb. 17.—The Legislature met to-day, and ratified the Fifteenth amendment. There were only five votes against it—one in the Senate and four in the House.

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 18.—A few days ago John C. Dennis attempted to commit suicide. This forenoon he was arraigned, on the charge of attempting to commit suicide, under the old English common law, and ordered to give bail at \$500.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18.—Rain has been falling copiously all day. There was a furious thunder storm this evening, and the lightning was very vivid.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 18.—About ten days ago a party of masked marauders went to the residence of Squire Walden, near Colliersville, Tenn., and surrounded the house. One of the men ordered him to come out, but, suspecting danger, he refused. The crowd then fired a volley into the house, mortally wounding his wife and himself slightly. They then set fire to the house, refusing to allow him to remove his children or furniture; but the assassins, becoming alarmed, left before the flames reached the inmates. The whole neighborhood turned out in search of the murderers, but so far without success.

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 18.—Judge Elliot committed Mayor Paul to jail to-day for refusing to give up the office, books and papers of the Mayorality to Mayor Harrington and refused to grant any appeal, although bonds were offered to any amount. On being presented with a bill of exceptions Judge Elliot put them in his pocket, and said he would read them at his leisure, and walked out of the Court House and took the train for Montgomery.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Another sharp shock of earthquake was experienced here yesterday, about noon, but fortunately no lives were lost. A general depopulation of the houses followed the first indication, and almost before it was over the streets were thronged by the panic-stricken people. The midway recess in the public schools had not opened, and no serious panics occurred. The effect on the buildings was to widen the cracks produced by the shock of last year.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 20.—This morning the barn and dairy stables of B. Cavans, four miles north of this city, were totally destroyed, with 129 cows, 14 calves, 3 horses, and 18 calves, besides a large quantity of hay, grain and other provisions. The dairy was one of the largest in the country. Loss, \$50,000; only \$10,000 insurance.

**I. O. O. F.**

**REBEKAH DEGREE LODGE.**  
The Order of Odd Fellows within the last year, after mature deliberation, have formed regularly organized Rebekah Degree Lodges wherever the Order exists. The Degree is conferred upon Scarlet Degree Brothers, their wives, and also upon the widows of all Odd Fellows. The main object of these organizations is for the purpose of disseminating charity to all needy members of the great Brotherhood—while in sickness, distress, or when traveling. This action is greatly in advance of the old position of the Order, and it can never be abolished without the consent of the entire Brotherhood. The members of the new branch are known as the "Daughters of Rebekah" and already many have been initiated in this city as well as in the most distant parts of the country.

The Rebekah Lodges are governed by the past officers of the male branch of the Order. The subordinate officers are filled by brothers and sisters respectively. In case a married Odd Fellow Degree, his widow may be admitted to a Rebekah Lodge. The laws made for the government of the new branch are pretty much the same as those of the other lodge, ample provision being made for distress, sickness, death, &c.—Certificates of membership of Rebekah Degree Lodge have been granted by the Grand Lodge of the United States. They are not in appearance, and may be framed. The Regalia worn by the "Daughters of Rebekah" consists of a narrow scarlet collar handsomely trimmed and adorned with rosettes. The influence of the ladies will, as a matter of course, have a beneficial effect upon the Order generally, and in times of distress, imposition, adversity and other evils which afflict the human family, the Daughters will find thousands of influential men, as well as many of their own sex ready to help them in the hour of need. A Rebekah Lodge has jurisdiction in districts containing a number of lodges of the male branch of the Order; therefore, husbands having attained the Scarlet Degree in any of the several lodges of the district, can meet in social union as one family with their wives in a single lodge. The movement is very popular, and it is so well thought of by the younger members of the order, that the desire to have the Scarlet Degree conferred has greatly increased. It is estimated that in Philadelphia alone within the present year, ten or twelve thousand ladies will become members of Rebekah Degree Lodges, and thus become neighbors, although residing in localities distant from each other. The same may be said of the entire country. They will be known in all parts of the land as Fifth Degree Odd Fellows, and will be always certain to find themselves at home; and this will increase as the Rebekah Degree Lodges become established in other sections. This Degree is a great addition to the Order, and the members have done a great deal for the suffering members of the Order in this city, and those who have come here in a suffering and penniless condition. We speak from our own observations. May God in His infinite wisdom prosper all Rebekah Degree Lodges in our prayer.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

**Congressional.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The Mississippi bill occupied most of the day. Stewart of Nevada speaking at length.

Numerous petitions were presented. Mr. Cullom reported the petition of citizens of Massachusetts that that State be remanded to a territorial condition on account of its State rights heresies in 1852, etc. [Laughter.] Referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

Mr. Cullom also, from the same committee, reported back adversely a bill providing a territorial government for Alaska. Laid on the table.

FRIDAY, Feb. 18th.—In the Senate, yesterday, the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment by Nebraska was announced. Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Conkling to encourage the building of steamships in this country, and to provide for the transportation of the mails to Europe. The bill in relation to the proposed International Industrial Exposition, to be held in Washington in 1871, was next taken up and debated at length. During the debate Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, alluded to the tax of one dollar levied by Camden and Ambury Highway on passengers passing through New Jersey, to which Mr. Stockton replied, defending his State, as he said, from a "slandering charge of years." Without disposing of the subject, the Senate adjourned. The House went into Committee of the Whole and resumed the debate on the legislative appropriations. All propositions for increase of salaries were rejected. The sum of \$3,000 was appropriated for the investigation of the alleged sale of cadethips, and at 4:45 P. M. the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 18th.—In the Senate yesterday several resolutions reported from Committees were passed. The Mississippi bill was taken up as unfinished business, and at last disposed of. The amendment providing for the unconditional admission of the State was rejected, and the bill as it came from the House was passed.

In the House, immediately after the reading of the Journal, the bill providing for the punishment of polygamy in Utah was taken up and debated until the close of the morning hour. Mr. Van Wyck was sworn in and took his seat. For the remainder of the session the House, in Committee of the Whole considered the Appropriation Bill.

MONDAY, Feb. 21.—On Saturday the bill defraying the expenses of the committee investigating the alleged sale of cadethips was passed. The post route bill and a bill granting lands in aid of an Oregon railroad were passed.

TUESDAY, Feb. 22.—In the Senate, yesterday, a joint resolution was introduced declaring the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment by the requisite number of States. The case of Fitz John Porter came up on a resolution of Mr. Chandler calling on the President for the correspondence on the subject. The Senator made a long speech, in which he expressed the hope that the proceedings of the Court Martial would not be interfered with. He was replied to by General Wilson, who favored a new trial, and the matter was finally disposed of by the withdrawal of the resolution. The bill, with amendments for the abolition of the Freedmen's Bureau was reported.

In the House a large number of bills were introduced, among them the following: To enforce the rights of citizens to vote in the various States, who have heretofore been denied the right by reason of race, color or previous condition of servitude; to abolish the office of Pension Agent, and to pay pensions through Postmasters; to reduce the income tax to three per cent, and exempt \$2,000. A bill to increase the currency \$50,000,000, was adopted by a yeas and nays vote of 110 to 74. The Committee on the subject of the sale of Cadethips reported a resolution to expel from his seat B. F. Whitmore, Representative of the First South Carolina District, for having been improperly influenced in his official conduct. The testimony in this case, upon which the report was based, was read, and after some debate, on motion of Mr. Butler, Mr. Whitmore was ordered to appear before the bar of the House at 2 o'clock, P. M. tomorrow, to answer the charges made.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23.—In the Senate, yesterday, the credentials of Messrs. Farrow and Whately as Senators from Georgia were presented by Mr. Stewart, and a reference to Committee asked. They were objected to on the ground of irregularity, and after some debate were withdrawn.

MR. Conkling delivered a long argument on the subject of the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, showing the power of States to ratify or reject, and arguing that New York had no right to reject after once ratifying.

In the House, the report of the Conference Committee fixing the appropriations for the naval defencement at \$2,000,000, was adopted. A resolution was introduced by Mr. Dawes concerning Mr. Mungen, of Ohio, for inserting in a recent number of the *Globe* an undelivered speech, of such a character as to amount to an abuse of the privileges and a violation of the rules of the House. After a long debate, the resolution was agreed to. A motion to adjourn in honor of the day was lost, and in Committee of the Whole the Legislative appropriations were again taken up.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15.—The Judges of the Supreme Court have rendered their decision in the case involving the question of the exclusion of the Bible text to dissolve an injunction heretofore granted to restrain the operation of resolutions of the School Board, declaring that the reading of the Bible should not be permitted in the schools. Judge Hagens held that the provisions of the Constitution recognize the religion of christianity, and acknowledges that religion and morality are necessary to good government. That the State uses religion as a means to promote good government and therefore the exclusion of all religious instruction from the public schools is contrary to the provisions of the bill of rights. Judge Storey concurred in these views, and the injunction was made perpetual.

**Legislature.**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 16.—The Judiciary Committee reported, with amendments, an act to authorize married women to purchase and convey their separate property when deserted by their husbands, and to sue for and recover the same, or the value thereof, also with amendments, an act authorizing the Comptroller of the civil courts or held to bail in cases tried before them. A joint resolution was introduced proposing amendments to the Constitution to control and prevent special legislation.

Mr. Leidy offered the following: Resolved, That the committee appointed by the House to investigate the charges of corruption attached to the passage or defeat of the Metropolitan Police bill be discharged.

After a spirited debate of some time, Mr. Davis moved to indefinitely postpone the resolution discharging the committee. On this the yeas and nays were required by Mr. Josiah and Mr. Bunn, and were as follows, viz: yeas 65—nays 21.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 17.—The following bills were introduced and referred: Mr. Randall, incorporating the Miners Hospital and Asylum of Schuylkill county, and imposing a tax of one cent per ton on all coal mixed and transported on the railroads of the county, the companies to collect the tax and pay it monthly to the Board of the Asylum.

Mr. Connell, for the election next October of one additional judge of the District Court and one of the Common Pleas.

The following bills were reported favorably: Senate bill appropriating \$1,000 to pay the inaugural expenses of the Governor.

Senate bill declaring the children of parents who were slaves when married, to be legal heirs.

House bill, providing for a centennial anniversary of American Independence in 1876, called up by Mr. Buckalew, and passed.

Senate bill to protect the lives of coal miners came up on second reading.

Mr. Buckalew offered an amendment requiring the driving of shafts (or second openings to such mine) at once with three sets of hands, working twenty-four hours. This was opposed by Mr. Randall, but was adopted.

Mr. Randall moved to fine the operators from \$100 to \$500 for employing boys under twelve years of age. Amended by Mr. Butan, by striking out the minimum penalty, and adopted.

Mr. Brodhead moved to fine five hundred dollars and imprison any engineer not more than six months who leaves or refuses to operate his engine when men or animals are in the mine. Adopted.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Buckalew authorizing widows to maintain actions for damages. Adopted.

Mr. Connell moved to restore one of the original features of the bill, viz: To allow four months for owners to complete the second shaft. Adopted.

The bill then passed by a vote of 28 yeas—nays none.

HOUSE.  
House bill making it a penal offence for witnesses to absent themselves willfully. Passed.

The special order was the consideration of an act submitting to the people of each district (and of the people of Philadelphia)—the question of license or no license