

The Columbian. BLOOMSBURG, PA. Friday, May 6, 1881.

The Grand Jury have indicted the Police Commissioners of New York for not keeping the streets clean. Perhaps the courts may succeed in accomplishing what the corrupt politicians refuse to do.

The Duke of Sutherland who recently arrived in this country, is said to look just like an ordinary person. How very good of him, to be sure. Titled persons rarely condescend to resemble "common folk."

Isn't Senator Conkling a more expensive luxury to the country than his public services warrant? He has dragged the wheels of government for six weeks past, and we do not remember any notable bit of his political life that is a fair equivalent.

The Rev. Dr. James Freeman Clarke, of Boston, says: "I discern the extravagant stunts which give intemperance its reputation as the crime of the century, and maintain that there is a steady growth of temperate habits among the people as compared with the customs of a few generations ago."

The insurance companies object to paying the amounts of policies held by the trustees of the Danville hospital, and a resolution was introduced in the House at Harrisburg, on Tuesday last asking for information from the trustees as to the names and location of each company, the amount of each policy and the reason assigned for non-payment.

Hello, here's fun in prospect. Bradley, ex-Secretary of Postmaster-General, threatens to make it warm for divers and sundry Congressmen, if he is worried any more about that star route swindle. Now if he only will, what a valuable lot of information he will give his countrymen. Don't stop him—a few Congressmen more or less are of no account.

Attorney-General Mac Veagh, at the request of Postmaster-General James, has prepared an opinion upon the question of the right of the Postmaster-General to prohibit the delivery of registered letters and the payment of money orders addressed and payable to M. A. Daugherty, secretary of the Louisiana lottery company. The Attorney-General treats the case at some length, and closes by saying that the Postmaster-General finds upon evidence satisfactory to him, whatever its probative force with other minds, that Mr. Daugherty is engaged in conducting a fraudulent lottery, he may, and should, forbid the delivery of money orders to him, and instruct postmasters to return to the senders all registered letters addressed to Mr. Daugherty.

THE BLOOMSBURG RING. In every campaign in which county officers are to be elected, there is always more or less talk about "The Bloomsburg Ring." By this, we presume, is meant some clique of politicians who are supposed to influence nominations and control elections. If such a thing exists it is beyond our knowledge, but certain it is that there have been some nominations made by the Democrats in this county, in past years, which we can hardly blame the party for wishing to place on the shoulders of a few.

There is a Bloomsburg Ring, however, with which we are well acquainted. It is not composed of professional politicians, nor office holders, nor office seekers, but of men engaged in various pursuits, and whose interest in politics is induced only by a love of their country, and a desire to see their party succeed. With very few exceptions, they are men who have never held any office of profit, and probably never will ask any favors of the kind from the Government.

In every important campaign there must be public meetings, and speakers are expected to be furnished by the Chairman of the county committee. The speaker is selected from the "Bloomsburg Ring" and sent out to different points to talk to the people. He is granted many privileges. In the first place, he is permitted to hire his own horses, pay his own hotel bills, make his speech, after riding out through the storm and darkness, to reach remote points where the voter needs to be stirred up, and then treat the crowd, or come away, leaving the feeling in the hearts of his listeners that he is an "almighty mean man." Then come the big parades, for which banners and torches and caps and brass bands and halls and speakers from abroad must be provided. The rank and file of the party cry out that such things must be provided by all means. Candidates demand all this display to help along their own cause, and do not hesitate to denounce the county chairman as inefficient if he does not attend to all these things. Meetings must be announced all over the county, printing must be done, and if the printer refuses to do the work, the feeling is to force the bill. The arduous indignation against himself for the simple intimation that the candidates would refuse to pay their campaign expenses. And so the thing progresses. There are fire works, and music and excitement, and finally the campaign closes. The cash account is looked over and falls short of the necessary amount, several hundred dollars. A fund has perhaps been raised beforehand, but it is too small. It has been contributed mostly by a few gentlemen of Bloomsburg, who have no pecuniary interest whatever in the result of the election. This Bloomsburg Ring, that has made all the speeches, paid all their own bills, and perhaps a good many of some body else's, contributed all the funds, assisted only by one or two county officers, have got to put their hands in their pockets again and again, and keep on paying until the bills are all settled, because other county officers, and the newly elected candidates, the only men who are peculiarly benefited by the election, absolutely refuse to contribute anything towards the expenses. The printers who have done most of the printing for the campaign, not only give what they have done, but have to contribute money besides to keep up the reputation of the party. All this is done by the "Bloomsburg Ring." The feeling is fast gaining ground, however, among those who have been doing the work and paying the bills that hereafter the men who get the benefit of the election will have an opportunity of organizing a ring to pay the expenses incurred in placing them in office. These are plain facts, and it is time the public generally understood what is meant by the "Bloomsburg Ring."

A BIG INDEBTEDNESS. The Standard Oil Company, one of the most gigantic monopolies the country has ever known, has persistently refused to pay taxes due the Government. At the capital of the company is very large, these taxes amount to an immense sum, but just how much has never been known, as the State authorities were denied access to the books. Auditor General Schell made such investigations regarding the business of the company as were possible, and from them made an estimate which is believed to be at least approximately correct. The amount due the State is \$3,145,541.64—figures so enormous as to stagger belief. It now remains to be seen whether this money will be collected, and the people will watch with intense interest the action taken by the State officials. If this powerful monopoly is allowed to evade the payment there will, very likely, be such a burst of popular indignation as will astonish the authorities. If the company disputes the correctness of the figures, it will be obliged to produce the books, and will undoubtedly show some very interesting statistics. Auditor General Schell has laid a rich legacy to his successor, Col. Lennon, and there will be no lack of interest manifested as to his management of it. If the debt is justly due, the people will promptly collect for the State in no humor to brook further delay.

DAVES. Perhaps the venerable Commonwealth of Massachusetts is proud of Senator Daves as her representative, but his record in public performances must have shaken that feeling somewhat. Daves not long ago told a harrowing tale of the burning of "factories" and the "murder of employees," in Louisiana or Mississippi—the reality did not seem to know just where the flight of the gray raven and discouraged owner of the property to a place of safety in New England. This was sufficiently agonizing to satisfy the morbid taste of the most exacting radical. Senator Jones of Louisiana, promptly ascertained the facts of the case and made a public statement of the gross misstatements. The plantation and factories turned out to be a farm of 250 acres with ordinary buildings upon it, the whole property being insured for \$2500, and mortgaged to the extent of \$11,000. Nobody was murdered, but a fire did occur on the night of the 10th of September, and it is highly probable that the owner was the incendiary. It is expected that he will be indicted by the Grand Jury at their next meeting. Whether Daves is a knave or a fool is an open question. Unmindful of the collapse of Daves' story a Republican Editor in Connecticut publishes an account of a fire at a brick factory in that State, 21 years ago—"by the Democrat who claims to have been elected to Congress last fall from the Eighth District of South Carolina." As there are only five districts in South Carolina, it looks a little as if the editor had been interviewing a crowd of gossamer informants from him. Time when Massachusetts statesmen to the Senate—now she sends Hear and Daves.

WASHINGTON LETTER. WASHINGTON, May 3rd, 1881. Shrewd people argue, from the present troubles among Republican leaders, per eminent divisions of the party. There is much plausibility in Mr. Blaine's suggestion that the control of the administration should be given to the man who never had before. Mr. Conkling, though the chairman of unimportant committees, has equally absolute control of the Senate. Look through all the significant committees, and only the friends of Conkling appear at their heads. When the Senate met on March 14th, the only New York Senator, seeing Blaine at the head of the administration, saw also, that in order to take care of himself, he must control the Senate. This he did through the trade with Mahone, which gave the Republicans—really to Conkling—control of the committees. President Garfield is really an unimportant factor in the Republican fight of the next four years. Republicans generally will look to Blaine on one side and Conkling on the other, and the contest is to the death.

The saddest thing in all our late politics is the charge made that Gen. Garfield has written a letter to the President, a candidate, suggesting that "Star" route contractors be requested to contribute to the Republican campaign fund. He had lately, as a Representative in Congress, voted virtual approval of the "extended" contracts, and to allow the Postmaster General half a million from dollars more for the same. If he thought these men overpaid, he should not have voted as he did. If they were not overpaid, why should they be called upon specially to contribute? Why in any event should a Presidential candidate take part in the dirty process, by which the Republican party raises its campaign money? No one would think of Gen. Hancock in such a connection. One of the subjects which has its headquarters here, but which has local habitation in almost every State, is the civil culture, under government auspices. It grew up suddenly as the National debt, it has cheapened the cost of making it dearer, as the debt has done, however. Prof. Baird, the very competent gentleman at the head of this beneficent institution, says that in ten years the average taxpayer will receive more money in the reduced cost of his food, because of the artificial propagation of fish, than he pays for the interest on government bonds. The cost to the United States is very slight, and increased knowledge of methods makes it less every year in proportion to the amount of benefits conferred. There is no more admirably managed branch of the government than this.

Disgraced Senate Candidates. The nomination of Gorham and Ridgely—especially Gorham—was a gross scandal. We say especially Gorham, because while Ridgely's objection is objectionable on account of his alleged political principles and his notions concerning the duty of paying public debts, the other man has no better principles, and he is so unapologetically and personally notorious, that the possibility of the most admirable excuse of first-class politicians would not excuse his nomination for any office whatever. The facts about these men have not come to light recently. They are not in the nature of a surprise. The Republican Senators made up their tick for voters with their eyes open.—New York Evening Post, (re-open).

Decrease of the National Debt. The debt statement just issued, shows the decrease of the public debt during the month of April to be \$9,000,000.25; cash in the treasury, \$2,373,195.81; gold certificates, \$5,922,637.33; silver certificates, \$59,084,149; certificates of deposit outstanding, \$8,395,000; refunding certificates, \$74,149; legal tenders outstanding, \$346,681.91; fractional currency, \$1,000,000; less amount estimated as lost or destroyed, \$7,116,946.92.

COURT PROCEEDINGS. Court convened on Monday morning at ten o'clock for the regular May session; all the judges present.

Report of viewers vacating a road in Greenwood township, presented and confirmed nisi.

Report of examiner in estate of Thomas Stackhouse, filed.

Report of sale in estate of Calvin B. Reil's snyder, deceased, confirmed nisi.

Report of sale in estate of Geo. Evans, confirmed nisi.

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FIVE STYLES. AT 15 CENTS. Fully as cheap as the wholesale and retail prices of the best quality of these goods.

THIRTY STYLES. AT 15 CENTS. Probably the largest assortment of twenty-five cent dress goods ever shown.

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