THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - Nov. 28, 1873.

THE latest telegrams concerning the Spanish imbroglio are more moderate in tone, and indicate a better feeling. The claim put in by the Spanish Minister, that the "Virginius" had forfeited the American registry, and was, therefore, an American vessel, is thought to have some weight, as there is no American who has yet come forward to claim the vessel. Of course this is merely a presumptive case, and does not relieve the Spanish officials of some of the worst phases of their conduct, but it may legally justify them in the seizure of the vessel.

From the tenor of public sentiment, as the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*, there is no room to doubt that the new Constitution will be adopted in December. The opposition has expended its ammunition early in the campaign, and seems to be now making but a feeble fire. No objection to the instrument of sufficient moment to determine an honest man to cast a negative ballot has yet been offered. A few weeks a week or two hence, from the pens of the Convention, with a judicious commonade by the press, as the appointed for the election draws to a close, will nestle the issue.

WM. M. TWEED, of New York, otherwise known as "Boss" Tweed, probably because he "bossed" all the wholesale stealings of the public funds of that city for several years past, has at last come to grief, having been convicted on two hundred and four counts of an indictment charging him with robbery of the city treasury to the amount of over one million dollars, for which offense he was sentenced on Saturday last to pay a fine of $12,750 and undergo an imprisonment of three years' duration at Sing-Sing. Commenting on this well earned sentence the Lancaster *Intelligencer* says:

"When William Marcy Tweed, exulting in the magnitude of his crimes and loaded with the plunder of his native city, insolently asked the people of New York what they were going to do about it," he little thought such an answer would ever be received as he heard from the lips of Judge Barnard on last Saturday. The sentence was all the less forcible, because the devious ways of New York justice had led the people of this country to fear that the greatest criminal of the age would slip through the meshes of the law. The condign sentence of Tweed, as was remarked by the counsel of the State, is a matter of not only national but even international interest and the act in the drama of a life which has erected such bad notoriety for the past years, will serve to awaken the day of reparation to the importance of vigorously prosecuting every case of official malfeasance."

PUBLIC SENTIMENT throughout the State is very rapidly developing itself in favor of the adoption of the new Constitution. The members of the Convention, without a single exception so far as we know, are warm and enthusiastic in its support. Such Republican members as William H. Armstrong, General Lilly, John M. Broomall, John Hall Stanton, Andrew G. Curtin, Thomas E. Cochran, John H. Ewer and Samuel A. Purviance, and Democrats as ex-Governor Bigler, Charles R. Buckalew, George W. Jones, John W. Hall, Aug. S. Landis, Wm. M. Baen, Silas M. Clark and Jno. P. Barr, are exerting all their influence in its behalf.

In addition to the efforts of the members of the Convention themselves the newspaper press of the State may be said to be almost a unit in favor of its ratification. This results of course to the journals of the political parties. There are exceptions, among the most conspicuous of which are the Pittsburgh *Commercial*, one of the owners of which is Robert W. Mackey, the present State Treasurer, and the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, which is controlled by Simon Cameron's henchman, Geo. Zerr. The opposition of Mackey to the new Constitution is susceptible of easy explanation, for the reason that its adoption will completely break up and destroy the "Treasury Ring." That Mackey is the acknowledged leader of the Ring, Bergner opposes it because, if possible, sanction it by their votes, the process of printing the "Legislative Record" and other swindles of a like sort will suddenly terminate. The question of adopting the Constitution is not a party issue, but it appeals to the honesty and patriotism of every good citizen. That the new Constitution is perfect in all its details not claimed by its friends, but it is framed in the interests of best legislation and pure government, and any intelligent man, who has read and studied it carefully, will deny for himself.

The tax-payers of the State desire to reform the corrupt practices of legislature, by applying the axe to the roots of the Upas tree of legislation, they will vote for it, as it will save the State the annual tax inflicted upon it by a venal and corrupt Legislature.

The strongest argument to induce a man to vote for it is that it inaugurates *honesty* in legislation, which is a matter of overwhelming importance to the people. It is the very life-blood of the State, and for that reason it ought to command the unanimous support of every true Pennsylvanian. We trust that each voter will take the time to read the new Constitution as long as it is, and that, having done so, he will go to the polls on Tuesday, the 16th of December, and vote for it, and thus promote the best interests of the people of the whole State without regard to political partisanship, and above and beyond all party ties.

ONE of the arguments used by the opponents of the new Constitution is that it *repeals* the act of Assembly of 1866, which abolished all taxes on *real estate* for *State* purposes. The Harrisburg *Telegraph* has been persistently urging this objection. The clause in the Constitution which it is alleged restores the *State* tax on real estate was the work of Hon. John M. Broomall, a Republican member of the Convention from Delaware county, a gentleman of integrity and conceded ability. Mr. Broomall disposes of the matter very satisfactorily and conclusively in the following statement, which we take from the Harrisburg *Patriot* of Monday:

"1. All taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax, and shall be levied and collected under general laws; but the general assembly may, by general laws, exempt from taxation public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity.

"2. All laws exempting property from taxation, other than the property above enumerated, shall be void."

There is nothing in these sections, nor in the article either, requiring or forbidding the legislature to tax any class of subjects of taxation. That whole matter is left to the discretion of the legislature. What is done is:

1. When the legislature, in its discretion, imposes a tax upon any class of subjects for any purpose the tax must be uniform throughout the class within the limits of the authority levying the tax; that is to say, if railroads shall be made a class of subjects of taxation for State purposes, all railroads in the State must be taxed uniformly under the law. If real estate shall be made a class of subjects for taxation for school purposes, every school district must tax uniformly the real estate within its borders.

2. The legislature is *permitted*, not *required*, by general laws to exempt from taxation certain enumerated subjects of taxation, though the class to which they belong be taxed. Thus real estate constitutes a class of subjects of taxation for county purposes. Places of public worship are real estate, and therefore within the class, yet the legislature may exempt them by general law, but it cannot exempt any property except that enumerated from the taxes imposed upon its class.

3. All laws heretofore enacted or hereafter to be enacted, exempting property from taxation, other than the subjects enumerated, are declared void. This provision is necessary, because—

1. The legislature might exceed the permission given, and might exempt cemeteries where the burial of the dead is made a profit to stockholders, or some other such property belonging to a class of subjects taxed.

2. Laws already exist exempting subjects of taxation from the taxes imposed on their class other than the subjects enumerated, and it was only fair that these laws should be got rid of, so that all property of a class shall stand on the same footing. This is just what section 2 does—no more and no less. It declares void all existing laws and all future laws, exempting property from taxation, other than the property enumerated.

The *Telegraph* maintains that this section repeals the law of 1866 relieving real estate from taxation for State purposes. It does not repeal any law. It simply declares void laws *present* or *future* that conflict with the previous section. But waiving this, though there is a distinction between the terms, the law of 1866 does not conflict with section 1. It is not "a law exempting property from taxation other than that enumerated." It is a law abolishing the State tax only on real estate, leaving it subject to county, township, school, city and borough taxes. If the act of 1866 had abolished all taxes on real estate, still it would not have come within the purview of section 2. It would not then have been a law exempting specific property from taxation belonging to a class taxed.

Again: If section 2 repeals the act of 1866 it repeals all similar acts. It repeals the act abolishing the "tonnage tax." It repeals all laws that abolished taxes. More than that, it makes void all future laws of the same character. It prevents the legislature from ever passing a law abolishing any tax imposed for any purpose upon any class of subjects whatever. Surely the *Telegraph* has discovered but a single atom of the enormity of this section! But, seriously, is it within the bounds of possibility that any tribunal of sane men would place so absurd a construction upon the section in question?

Manifestly the function of the sections criticised by the *Telegraph* is to provide uniformity of taxation within each class of subjects taxed, with certain specified exceptions of exemption from all taxation, and to adapt past and future legislation to this principle. Plainly, their business is with special exemptions of particular properties from *all* taxation, and as plainly they have nothing to do with laws exempting any *class* of property from State tax or any other tax or all taxes.

Yours truly, etc.,

J. M. BROOMALL.

A MINISTER ELOPES WITH HIS WIFE.—Rev. Lewis C. Herman, of Douglass township, Montgomery county, over whose head at least sixty winters have passed, eloped on Saturday last with Maria Barto, a widow lady of about the same age who resides near Mt. Pleasant, Washington township, Berks county, and anxious and interested parties are scouring the country in search of the youthful runaways, but up to this time the brave Lewis and his gentle Maria have succeeded in eluding their pursuers, and are no doubt spending their honeymoon in some quiet nook, there in a lonely cot, the world forgetting, longing only to be by the world forgot, and revel in the supernal blisses of two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one. Verily the tender passion dieth not. About two years ago Lewis was married to Maria against the will of her relatives. The marriage was soon afterwards declared null and void by the Court, owing to the lady not being of sound mind, and she was sent to the lunatic asylum at Philadelphia, where she remained some nine months, when she was again brought home and a close watch kept over her. After repeated attempts she has at last given them the slip and hied away with her lover. The lady in question is very wealthy, owning very nearly all the property around Mt. Pleasant, from which iron ore is being taken. Mr. Herman was formerly in the Ministry (reformed), and had charge of several congregations in the upper end of Montgomery and lower end of Berks counties.—*Reading Eagle*, 21st.

MINISTER SICKLES has telegraphed to Secretary Fish that the Spanish government has acceded to the demand of the United States authorities for the release of the Virginius and surrender of all prisoners not executed, and that orders to that effect would probably be cabled from Madrid to Havana on that day (Wednesday).—So the war fever may be said to be ended.

To the Voters of Pennsylvania.

While the last election in Pennsylvania did much to give renewed confidence in that "sober second thought" of the people, the great conservative power, ever to be relied upon for the preservation and purification of constitutional governments, it also gave unmistakable evidence that the political "Rings" had been fruitful in the most positive abuses of power and flagrant outrages upon the elective franchise.

The votes cast in the entire State at the October election, with the exception of Philadelphia, where there was the semblance only of an election, were such as to give encouragement to those citizens who love right and justice more than party, and who desire that the majority shall not be controlled by the minority; that by their vigilance and well-directed efforts the rule of right and law, too long partially inoperative, may be fully re-established, and the reckless exercise of power, without the fear of accountability to the lawful authorities and the people, which has assumed so great a magnitude and defiant position in Pennsylvania, may be checked, if not completely controlled.

To those who have not paid special attention to the election officers' returns of the last election, for the purpose of studying their significance, we deem it proper here to present the following figures or RETURNS as an interesting but humiliating exhibit of how "the bold, bad men" of the political "Rings," by the merest forms of an election, in open and acknowledged defiance of the law and the people's will, keep themselves in place and power, and who, by the same infamous instrumentalities, under the shadow of our present Constitution and laws, may make their rule of outrage perpetual:

	VOTE FOR STATE TREASURER.		VOTE FOR CONGRESS, ETC.	
			Year before Reg. Law. 1868.	Year after Reg. Law. 1870.
Wards.	1873. *Maj.*		*Maj.*	*Maj.*
1	R	2000	R 238	R 1052
2	R	405	D 277	D 535
3	D	398	D 1036	D 629
4	D	657	D 1065	D 1467
5	R	269	D 1043	D 652
6	D	25	D 594	D 559
7	R	1142	R 420	D 1180
8	R	623	R 39	R 633
9	R	167	R 144	R 110
10	R	2172	R 1004	R 934
11	D	197	D 959	D 851
12	R	134	D 265	D 28
13	R	783	R 454	R 583
14	R	723	R 556	R 614
15	R	1010	R 681	R 1100
16	R	722	D 242	R 198
17	D	287	D 1284	D 432
18	R	2915	R 863	R 708
19	R	4284	R 348	R 780
20*	R	1377	R 154	R 623
21	R	912	R 280	R 533
22	R	1022	R 996	R 990
23	R	1128	R 496	R 332
24	R	668		R 293
25	R	340	D 645	D 291
26	R	2470	R 805	R 1279
27	R	740	R 118	R 243
28	R	749	R 29	R 212
29*	R	1047	.....	.....
20				1377
20				1047
Total				2324

*The twenty-ninth ward was made out of the twentieth ward after 1870.

By an examination of the above array of figures it will be seen that by the operation of the most anti-Republican law—the Registry act—that the most extraordinary changes of the votes were produced without there being any adequate cause of a political or public character by which the change can be accounted for, as for example, there will be seen in the nineteenth ward the change from a majority of 348 votes in 1868, anterior to the operation of the Registry law, to the astounding figure of 4,284 majority; in 1873, under the Registry act, the twentieth ward, including the present twenty-ninth ward, from 154 majority in 1868 to 2,424 in 1873, and the twenty-sixth ward from 1,805 majority in 1868 to 2,470 in 1873. These changes cannot be accounted for by any unusual political agitation, but must be attributed to the fraudulent operations of the political "Ring" masters, or in other words, to an unfair and fraudulent count.

As another evidence of the valuelessness of the elections as held in Philadelphia, we cannot forbear presenting the following, a transcript of the returns of the election officers in October last, of the precincts named:

Second Precinct, Second Ward—Republican votes, 590; Democratic votes, 60; total, 570.

Sixth Precinct, Tenth Ward—Republican votes, 633; Democratic votes, 57; total, 690.

Eleventh Precinct, Nineteenth Ward—Republican votes, 458; Democratic votes, 85; total, 543.

Twentieth Precinct, Nineteenth Ward—Republican votes, 753; Democratic votes, 124; total, 877.

The polls open at 7 A. M. and close at 6 P. M. in Philadelphia, consequently ten hours are devoted to receiving votes. In the second precinct of the second ward there was received about one vote every minute; in the sixth precinct, tenth ward, more than one vote every minute, and in the twentieth precinct of the nineteenth ward, the extraordinary sum of three votes every two minutes of the entire ten election hours. The impossibility of such voting requires no comment. Need it be remarked that preventive means to stay such gross outrages upon the election franchise and the political rights of all citizens are eminently demanded, and should be secured, if the people desire to maintain their freedom, and to secure an honest and effective expression of their will through the ballot-box. To all citizens who are hostile to the wrongs and infamous outrages adverted to the time is near at hand when they may by their ballots provide the legal, yea, Constitutional means, by which these and kindred political frauds may be prevented.

The Convention to amend the Constitution of the State, composed as it was of representative men of the two great political parties, a majority of them Republicans, has completed its labors. Its great work will be presented for adoption or rejection on the 16th of December next. You will find in a careful examination of this Constitution that it contains most salutary and much needed changes in our present Constitution, among which may be noted:

First. Important provisions against frauds at elections.

Second. Provisions preventing the gross abuse of special and partisan legislation.

Third. Provisions securing more direct representation in the Legislature, and which forbid the odious system of creating representative districts for mere partisan purpose.

Fourth. Provisions preventing special election or registry laws, by which the most positive frauds may be perpetrated, and citizens disfranchised without the means of legal redress.

Fifth. It protects the labor of the people against oppressive taxation, secures cheap transportation for the products of industry on railroads, and prevents unfair discrimination in the matter of railroad transportation charges.

Sixth. It prevents hasty legislation, and makes it necessary that all bills shall be read on three different days before their passage, and requires a majority of the whole number of the members in any aye and nay vote to secure the passage of the bill.

Seventh. It provides for biennial sessions of the Legislature instead of annual sessions.

Eighth. By its provisions the power to grant pardons or to commute a sentence is vested in the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney-General and the Secretary of Internal Affairs—thus strongly guarding the public against too easy use and abuse of the pardoning power.

Ninth. It purifies the administration of justice, infuses into the Legislature and other departments of the Government integrity and responsibility to the people.

Therefore, citizens of Pennsylvania of all parties, and those who owe no fealty to any party, we must earnestly, yet respectfully, in the spirit of patriotism, of truth, of equal and exact justice to all men, invoke you to give your best efforts to the work of securing the adoption of the amended Constitution, that the Commonwealth to which you are so warmly attached may take upon herself a new and better life, and by her organic law place public justice and the liberty, the rights, political and private, of her children, upon a broader, more secure and enduring foundation than that which now so imperfectly sustains them. The great work is committed to you. You are equal to the important trust. Your will, expressed through the ballot-box, will either fix upon the people of the State for a time indefinite the wrongs and infamous outrages which have already too long oppressed the people and disgraced the good old Commonwealth, or will end them, and secure for yourselves and those who will succeed you a well-regulated form of government, not for a party, but for the people.

Now, in conclusion, we have to say to the Democratic party, to which we have been specially delegated to speak, that if all others fail at this critical moment to give support to the new charter of our liberties, that it, at least, cannot, nay, will not, fail to give to the new Constitution the warm, earnest and unqualified support which it not only merits, but demands.

Very respectfully,

A. NEBINGER,

Chairman Democratic State Central Committee.

PHILADELPHIA, November, 1873.

A FOURTEEN-YEAR OLD BOY SHOOTS HIS GRANDFATHER TO GRATIFY HIS GRANDMOTHER.—Mr. James Rambo, living on Elkcreek, in this county, was murdered on the night of Nov. 1st. About midnight of that day his wife, Catherine Rambo, went to a neighbor's in her night clothes and barefooted, and reported having a fass with her husband, and that he had shot off the end of her finger and cut her ear with a butcher knife, and she wanted some one to go and arrest him. A Coroner's inquest was immediately held, which was followed by the arrest of the grandson, John Briels, and Mrs. Rambo.

After they had been in custody a couple of days the boy confessed that his grandmother and he had been plotting the murder for the past six months, and that he had been practicing with a revolver for that purpose. That on the night of the murder he took his revolver, after the old man had gone to sleep, advanced to within a short distance of him, and shot him in the back part of the head—his grandmother at the same time standing inside the bedroom door. After he committed the deed he and the grandmother went outside, and the old lady held her finger around the tree while the boy shot it, inflicting a flesh wound. She then had him take a butcher knife and cut a slight gash in her ear, the object of all this being to ward off suspicion and create the impression that there had been a quarrel between her and the old man. The boy further stated that he had thrown the pistol into a pool of water. On search being made by the constable for the pistol, it was found where the boy had directed him, with two of the chambers discharged. He also found the mark of the burnt powder on the tree where the finger had been shot at, according to the statement made by the boy. The butcher knife with which the ear had been cut was found close to the house covered with blood and chicken feathers. Close by was found a chicken's head, and a short distance up the path she had traveled going to the neighbor's (Weans), and a little to one side in the grass was found the body of a chicken.—*Belleville (Kansas) Telescope.*

CUBA—PAST AND PRESENT.—On the 28th of October, 1492, Christopher Columbus entered one of the northeast harbors of the Island of Cuba. He named the harbor Nuevitas and the island Juanna. Twenty years later Diego Velasquez subjected the whole island to the scepter of Don Fernando. The natives being too weak for work, negro slaves were introduced, and very soon the Island of Cuba became one of the foremost exporting places of the New World. Santiago on the southwest and Havana on the north were the chief commercial cities. About a century later—in 1728—the Dutch took temporary possession of Cuba, and in 1762 it fell into the hands of England, but was yielded to Spain in the peace of 1763. Another century later, in 1868, after the Madrid revolution, which expelled Isabella from the throne of Spain, the present effort to liberate Cuba from Spanish rule was first organized. The population of the Island consisted at that time of about 100,000 foreigners—chiefly Americans, Germans, Englishmen and Frenchmen; 400,000 negroes and mulattoes—all slaves with the exception of a few thousand; 50,000 Chinese, 200,000 Spaniards, and 350,000 Creoles of Spanish descent. These Creoles, the real white natives of the island, consider themselves the Cubans, the noblest people of the world, and their island the finest. But strange to say, they hate their ancestors, the Spaniards, with an ineradicable hate. The five years of bitter war carried on between them and the Spaniards, since 1868, furnishes instances enough to show that the latter return this hate with interest.

A NEGRO PROPHETESS.—The Baltimore *Gazette* gives the following pen picture of a negro prophetess in North Carolina: "About forty miles above Wilmington is the 'Sanctuary of Tena'—a negro woman about fifty years old, with nothing remarkable about her but a head of perfectly white hair. 'The sanctuary' is a rude log cabin, containing one room, built in the commonest way imaginable, and in very many places the clay which is used to stop the space between the logs, has fallen out, and by that means only can a circulation of air be obtained, as there are no windows in the room. In front are a couple of poles with men's shirts hanging on them; in the rear are four poles, on which are two bonnets and two hats. At the side of the house there is a 'clay hole,' Into the 'clay hole' each of Tena's followers goes on religious festivals, makes a clay ball about two inches in diameter and places it on the edge of a bank to dry and become hard. What this means no one knows. These people number sixty, and are known throughout the country as Tena's band. The band obey her, and perform every one of the dogmas of Tena scrupulously, as it is a part of their religion and faith. The band is sometimes on the railroad, sweeping the track and ties, and on every Wednesday each and every member is required to visit and carry Tena a small basket of provisions. Any one who fails to comply with the requirements is punished. They have attempted to build a church but the authorities have forbidden it."

News and Political Items.

—A man in Tioga county claims to have a stone that Washington threw at a woodpecker on his father's cherry tree.

—A little daughter of Mr. John Smith, of Chambersburg, died a few days since from the effects of being struck on the head by a water-soaked snow-ball.

—On Friday, Gabriel Nas, J. Helstrom and Andrew Nas, of Finland, Russia, were instantly killed by a passenger train at Renova. They were walking on the track.

—State Treasurer Mackey paid the draft of the President of the Constitutional Convention to defray expenses of the city Election Commissioners, on Thursday last.

—Some young ladies in Detroit have established a dry nursery for the care and feeding of young children whose mothers are compelled to work away from home. The society is called "The Helping Hand."

—The Catholic churches in the province of New York, which includes some thirteen dioceses, will be all dedicated in the name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the approaching feast day of the Immaculate Conception.

—Part of the roof of a new building in Chicago fell to the ground on Saturday, carrying down five workmen. Two of them—Nicholas Vogle and Andrew Sellenger—were instantly killed, the others were severely injured.

—Of the members of the crew of the Virginius not shot at Santiago de Cuba, four were condemned to the chain-gang for life, three to eight years' imprisonment, eight to four years' imprisonment, and three were set at liberty.

—The Nation Trust Company of Philadelphia has suspended, holding $514,000 in money and bonds belonging to Pittsburgh. Much excitement exists in the latter city over this event, and an examination has been ordered by councils.

—It is expected that a deputation of German Catholics will shortly arrive at the Vatican and will present to the Pope an address, each signature to which is written on a separate banknote. The banknotes used represent the sum of 50,000 florins.

—Major John C. Fell, an old citizen of St. Louis, and a Union officer during the war, died in St. Louis last Friday night from an overdose of morphine administered by himself. Business misfortune is said to be the cause. He has a brother in Philadelphia.

—A Boston merchant, who recently became insane, barricaded himself in his store after putting out a placard stating that he was within, armed with a revolver, and ready to defend his castle. He filled small orders through the opening of the door, but would not allow even his partner to enter.

—A young man in Fond du Lac was a party to a mock marriage at a festive gathering, and it proves that the man who married them was a magistrate, and so the marriage is binding. The girl holds him to it, but he is engaged to another girl who threatens a suit for breach of promise. It is a complicated case.

—On Saturday the body of a fully matured infant was found in the river near Sharon's saw mill, at Beaver Falls. It had evidently been thrown into the water soon after it was born. The Coroner held an inquest, but no material facts were elicited. There is as yet no clue as to whom the child belonged.

—William Begg, a well known young lawyer of Columbus, Ohio, was arrested on Monday, charged with forgery. He forged his mother's name to a check for $160. He is charged with several other forgeries, and obtaining goods under false pretenses. Begg is Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association and a member of the Presbyterian church of Columbus. He is now in jail.

—Thursday last, in Adair county, Illinois, a mail bag was picked up containing a draft, numbered 5,777, from Lees & Waller, San Francisco, in favor of R. H. Hochester; also about eighty gold rings. The bag is in charge of the postmaster at Fontanelle, Iowa. It is undoubtedly one of those taken by the bandits who robbed the train on the Rock Island Railroad some months ago.

—The Marquis and Marchioness of Bute, accompanied by Monsignor Capel, have left England for Rome. It is said their visit is connected with the establishment of a Roman Catholic university in England. If the scheme receives the sanction of the Pope, the Roman Catholic aristocracy have promised to give large pecuniary assistance. The Marquis of Bute's contribution will be £50,000.

—A New Hampshire man has in his cellar two pork barrels, in good repair, which his grandfather brought from Massachusetts in 1830, 143 years ago. The staves of these barrels are properly hooped, and if kept so, will last another century. They have been in constant use till within a few years, and it is estimated that 42,000 pounds of pork and other meats have been packed in them.

—If the conviction of "Boss" Tweed had depended on Republicans in New York, he would be free to steal to-day. Charles O'Connor and Samuel Tilden gave their priceless abilities and two years of their time to unearth the frauds of the Tammany ring, and the same thing could be done in this State if the prominent men of the Republican party would agree to give their services for nothing, and tackle the leaders of the Ring.

—The championship of gullibility is claimed by Winchester, R. I., for one of its citizens who recently allowed a genteel stranger to try on his new overcoat "to see how he would look in it" while he, the owner, stepped into the Providence depot to look at the time table. He explains that the genteel stranger promised faithfully to wait for him outside, but supposes he must have remembered some pressing business engagement and forgotten all about the overcoat.

—Is this, then, a time for unnecessary war? Is this the time for heavier taxes?—the waste of armies—the vast expense of fleets? Is glory wanted? Where would we get it in a conflict with Spain? Is any more territory desired? What use could be made of it? What has Congress done for years but to give away what we have? Neither reason nor right call for war. Prudence, magnanimity, honor, all plead for peace. We must be above madness and folly. It is unworthy of Americans.—*St. Paul Pioneer.*

—An extraordinary shoal of herrings lately visited Waterford harbor, in Ireland. The fish were wedged together in a compact mass, and there was great danger of the immense weight breaking the nets. The farmers from the surrounding country came with carts to carry away loads of fishes. The first Dungarvan fisherman who arrived in two days sent his poor wife and family a check for £9. The harbor was soon crowded with fishing craft and buyers came over from England and bought as many fish as they could barrel.

—The Board of Foreign Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, which recently assembled in New York, adopted a series of resolutions, offered by Bishop Stevens, setting apart Wednesday next as a day of prayer all over the world on behalf of missions, in accordance with the recommendation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the approving action of the House of Bishops in the United States. The resolutions also recommend the clergy and congregations to observe that day by special services and offerings.

Communications.

"PORTAGE vs. SONMAN."

EDITOR FREEMAN:—The Altoona "Morning Tribune" of the 18th inst. accidentally came into my hands the other day, and in glancing over its columns my eyes fell upon a communication with the above caption. The "vs." naturally led me to the conclusion that it must be the production of some *great legal* mind, and therefore of *great* importance. I eagerly ran down its not very grammatically constructed sentences, until I got to the bottom, when (of a very familiar and not uncommon phenomenon presented itself—R. E. Westbrook Esq. "Counsellor at Law, 82 Broadway, New York"—at his country seat "somewhere in the interior of Pennsylvania"—away up in Sonman—"rises to explain," and—so do I. It is all about the removal of the Post-office from Portage to Sonman, and back again.

HISTORICAL

About the year 1859, a P. O. was established at the "old settlement of No. 2," and its name was called "Portage," because it was located on the old Portage R. R. At that time "No. 2" was a flourishing village, the Superintendent's office, etc., being located there. The P. O. remained here for about eighteen years, but after the sale of the state improvements a "No. 2" became a "dead and village," and no one was left to open the P. O. The lessees, White, about this time, built a steam saw mill, and houses and shanties required for the hands employed by them to run the mill, at "Sonman," (the name of the tract of land upon which the mill was built,) and, for their own convenience, had the office removed there, and its name changed to Sonman. The office remained here for about two years, when the saw mill burned down. Sonman was deserted, and the office was taken back to "No. 2," where it remained until the Messrs. Shoemaker rebuilt the mill at Sonman, and consented to take the P. O., and had its name again changed to "Sonman." It remained *here* and so for about three years, when the Messrs. Shoemaker having "cut on," removed their mill and themselves, and "Sonman" was left without any material on of which a P. M. could be made. In the mean time Portage was rapidly growing in population and importance. The Penna. R. R. Co. had located a station here, which is one of the most important on the road, being a watering station for all trains—had built freight and passenger houses, etc.—and in "this the office was changed to Portage, and Wm. D. Jones, Esq., appointed P. M., who did not "illegally keep it in his lager beer shop." By an oversight the name of the office was not changed until a year or two afterward, when it was re-established, and fell back to its first love (of a name) "Portage." It remained here until about six weeks ago, when it was carried back to Sonman, leaving its name behind it. This master stroke of removal was accomplished by the grossest misrepresentation, and the carrying it away was effected in about the manner—but as comparisons are said to be odious, and the one I was about to make might be considered more than usually so, I will say my hand. When the Portagians saw the situation they at once gave the facts to the Department at Washington, and our office was promptly ordered to be re-stored.

POPULATION, BUSINESS, ETC.

Sonman.—This great town is made up by the summer residence of R. B. Westbrook (who invariably spends the winter months in New York) and six small tenant houses, now occupied by wood-choppers, whose homes are elsewhere, some of them in adjoining counties. The Penna. R. R. Co. have recently built a small station and telegraph office here; and to show the truthfulness of the great author of "Portage vs. Sonman," in his statement that "there is more business done at and near Sonman in a day than at and near Portage in a month," it is only necessary to refer to the books of the two offices, which show that the receipts at Portage for the month of October was about *three times as much* as at Sonman for the same month. As to P. O. business at the respective places, the memorandum books show that from 150 to 200 letters have been sent in one mail from Portage, while it is a notorious fact that three letters was about a fair average while the office was at Sonman.

Portage.—This town, including the "old settlement of No. 2," which is adjoining, and really part and parcel of it, contains eighty-six dwelling houses, all occupied by families, most of whom own the property upon which they reside. Most of these families number from six to eight members. It is true there are two or three exceptional cases, which does less this *great writer* had in his mind's eye when he penned his great epistle—but, as Rugby Bateman says, "what we haven't in the depot we have in the turn-round," and it is safe to say that each family has five members each, which would give us a permanent resident population of 430 vs. 55 at Sonman, supposing each of their houses to contain five persons. Besides, we have seven stores, three taverns, three shoemaker shops, one tailor shop, Alderman's office, livery stable, two saw mills, two grist mills, blacksmith shop, shook shop, etc.—while our brother town of Sonman (or, as it is more generally called here, "Slab town," has but one grocery, "Na han's coal yard"—10x16 feet—and one D. D. LL.D.

If H. B. W. wants the question settled by vote, why let him "come on with his rats, if he wants them killed"—we can vote all day on that question.

PORTAGE.

"HEAD OF FIVE" ANSWERED.

EDITOR FREEMAN:—I read in your last issue an article headed "Hints to Teachers," and I humbly beg the privilege of giving it a slight review.

I am sure it is evident to all the teachers and pupils, the world over, that "Head of Five's" method of teaching is a humbug, and where he got it is more than any one can tell.

Reading is an important branch, and the very best method of imparting a knowledge of it is always welcome to the friends of education. There are always good and bad methods of doing anything, and as all are not acquainted with the best plan of imparting a knowledge of reading, where is it to be learned if not at a convention of teachers of the county?

As long as man is capable of improvement there will be good, better and best methods. We think "Head of Five" must be something of a bore when he talks about three-quarter inch augers, and blowing is evidently not out of his line when he wants introduce nitro-glycerine into educational plans. We think he would find his vocation in a stone quarry, and we advise him to leave books and pupils alone or he might hurt them.

That silly plan of teaching the A, B, C's with a rainbow rattle won't "cut no ice" either. It might do with a "school of whales" out near Indian's bay somewhere, but for the "small fry" of Cambria county it would be entirely too thin."

There are more ways than one of teaching the alphabet, and the best should be adopted to the exclusion of blunting methods; and where can the best plan be found if not at a Teachers' Institute? Let "Head of Five" remember what Cadmus did by teaching the Greeks the alphabet. What started those grand triumphs of science and literature in that world-renowned nation? The answer is, Cadmus with his A, B, C's; and let "Head of Five" deny it if he can. So, the best method of acquiring a knowledge of the alphabet is not to be despised.

"Head of Five's" suggestions for "roll-call" are barbarous in the extreme. When I read his plan I imagined myself at the Fourth of July in New York on the fourth of July. He would reach the young idea how to shoot" with a vengeance.

We presume that "H. of F." has studied the school systems of China, Japan, or the Fiji Islands. His allusion to Chinese crackers gives us an idea of the source of his plan. We presume it was suggested to "Head of Five" by a volcanic eruption in one of those countries. However, it is not practicable, we think, in the United States.

There is more done at roll-call than "H. of F." may be aware of—giving in head marks, etc., by the pupil answering for those who remain out, which might lead to a good deal of disorder, and other matters in which the methods of teachers are not the same. One good normal plan would be acceptable to many teachers. "Head of Five" shouldn't be too sure that there could be no improvement in the roll-call.

In conclusion, we would advise "Head of Five" to be ahead of five hundred and fifty-five, more or less, in rushing to the Teachers' Institute now in session at Johnstown. He might learn something there. If he is not too dumb to learn. A TEACHER.

HYMENEAL.

BEHM—WENTZ.—Married, in Carrolltown, on Sunday last, by Rev. Father Ambrose, Mr. GEO. BEHM, of this place, and Miss KATE WENTZ, of Carrolltown.

OBITUARY.

PARRISH.—Died, of consumption, at her residence in Gallitzin, on Saturday last, Mrs. MARY JANE PARRISH, wife of John Parrish, aged about 23 years.

Must it be that all that's lovely,
All that's dear must pass away?—
That our purest, sweetest treasures,
All shall silently decay?

Ah! how sad will pa the spring time,
When the flowers bloom again;
Then we'll miss our gentle Jennie,
And almost feel that life is vain.

But, closed in death's that loving eye
That never more will come
To shed its brightness over our path.
Its beauty round our home. LIZZIE.

EBENSBURG, Nov. 22, 1873.

STRAY STEER.—Came to the enclosure of the subscriber, in Barr township, some time in July last, a red and white spotted STEER, supposed to be about two years old. No marks. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away; otherwise he will be disposed of according to law.
Nov. 28, 1873. PETER BELL.

STRAY STEER.—Came to the enclosure of the subscriber, in Chest township, on or about the first day of June last, a DARK RED STEER, two years old last Spring. Said Steer has white hairs intermixed with the red on both flanks, but bears no private marks. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away, otherwise he will be disposed of according to law.
JOHN LANTZY.
Chest Twp., Nov. 21, 1873.-3.*

SPECIAL NOTICE.—All persons knowing themselves indebted to me are hereby notified to call and settle at the store of A. A. BARKER & SON and settle their accounts After January 1st, 1874, my books will be left with proper officers for collection. Those who wish to save costs and trouble will pay attention to this notice. V. S. BARKER.

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Which may be done with less than quarter the usual expense by the use of

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A roof may be covered with a very cheap shingle, and by the application of this Slate be made to last from 25 to 50 years. Old roofs can be patched and coated and made to look much better and last longer than new shingles without the slate, for one-third the cost of re-shingling.

The cost of slating new shingles is only about the cost of simply laying them, and the slate is fireproof against sparks and live coals falling upon it, as may be easily tested by any one, and as appears from the fact that insurance companies make the same tariff that they do for slated roofs.

For tin and iron it has no equal, as it expands by heat and contracts by cold, will never crack or scale. For Cemetery Fences it is particularly adapted. The Slate or Paint is EXTREMELY CHEAP. Two gallons will cover a hundred square feet of shingle roof, or over four hundred of tin or iron. Price of the Slate ready for use is 80 cents per gallon, steel barrel, or $30 per barrel of about 40 gallons, freight from New York added. We furnish and apply the material for $2.00 per 100 square feet, freight added.

The Paint has a very heavy body, but is easily applied with a 4 or 6 inch coloring brush. On old and rotten shingles it fills up the holes and pores, hardens them, and gives a new and substantial roof that will last for years. On curled or warped shingles it brings them to their place and keeps them there. It fills up the holes in tin or felting roofs and stops the leaks; one coat is equal to two of ordinary paint. The color of the Slate when first applied is of a dark purple; in about a month it changes to a light uniform slate color, and is, to all intents and purposes, slate. It is a slow dryer, but rain will not affect it in the least one hour after it is put on.

Samples sent to any part of the country by express, C. O. D. If ordered to be sent by freight the money must accompany the order.

Orders respectfully solicited. Address,

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