THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - - March 6, 1874.

THE Investigating Committee appointed in the case of Dimmick and Kreiter, made a report on Wednesday implicating the parties named in the blackmailing of bankers.

THE bill restoring the franking privilege to members of Congress was defeated in the House of Representatives on yesterday week by the close vote of 129 yeas to 131 nays. It is believed that the bill repealing the act of last session, which requires postage to be paid by subscribers on newspapers published in the county in which they reside, will be repealed. We certainly hope so, as it is a consummation most devoutly to be wished.

ON Tuesday last, the apportionment Committee of the State Senate reported a bill dividing the State into *fifty* senatorial districts, as is required by the new constitution. The bill makes Cambria and Blair counties a district for the election of a Senator, and as the radical party has a majority in both branches of the Legislature there is no doubt of its passage. Still it is about as even a clip as could be expected from such a source, and that the Cambria Democracy may be able to overcome Blair county's Radical majority is not so apocryphal as many might suppose.

HON. R. MILTON SPEER has kindly sent us a copy of his speech delivered in Congress on the 11th of December last on the bill to repeal the increase pay, or salary grab, of last session. As the question has been finally settled, it is not necessary for us to make any further reference to it. In his speech Mr. Speer refers to the increase of salary made by Congress in 1866 from $3,000 to $5,000 a year—a net increase of $4,000 for two years' service, with the old rate of 20 cents mileage to and from Washington. In speaking of the Republican members of Congress from this State who voted for that act, Mr. Speer says:

"Among the Republicans I find the name of my friend, Hon. A. A. Barker, the Representative at that time from my district, and my competitor for a seat here in the canvass of last year. He received the cordial report of his party press in the district; and, indeed, the Republican papers there, whose indignation now against 'salary grabbers,' as they term them, is the fiercest, were then the loudest in his praise."

A BILL has been introduced into the Senate of New York providing for compulsory education. On this question, which is at present creating no little discussion throughout the country, the New York *Post* very sensibly and very forcibly expresses its views in the following terse sentences:

Section one provides that in lieu of the fees now allowed by law the district attorneys in and for the several counties of this commonwealth shall receive respectively for drawing indictments and prosecuting every offense indictable only in the oyer and terminer courts, twelve dollars; for every such bill returned ignoramus, six dollars; drawing bill of indictment and prosecuting the same in the quarter sessions, wherever the prosecutor or defendant is sentenced or required to pay the costs, or the costs are divided between them, seven dollars; drawing and prosecuting all other indictments in the quarter sessions, five dollars; for every bill returned ignoramus in the quarter sessions and the prosecutor to pay the costs, five dollars; for every other such bill returned ignoramus, three dollars; a case settled with leave of court, five dollars; every case of surety of the peace, five dollars.

Sec. 2. That the fees or salary of county commissioner shall hereafter be three dollars per day for every day employed, together with mileage for necessary travel in the discharge of the duties of his office.

Sec. 3. That the fees of assessors and auditors shall hereafter be two dollars and fifty cents for each and every day employed in the discharge of the duties of their respective offices: *Provided*, That this act shall not apply to counties having a population exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

Sec. 4. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

THE following bill relating to the fees of District Attorneys and other officers in the several counties of this commonwealth, was presented in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg on Saturday last:

Among the many objections to the bill there are two, either one of which is fatal to it. First, it is wrong in principle. It sets up the will of a political majority on a question which rightfully belongs to the parent. It attempts to defend society from an enemy which is still remote. It puts the family under an espionage as odious as that to which the merchants are subjected by the customs revenue laws. It substitutes force for reason and the common desire for one's own and his children's welfare. It creates a legal despotism to which, whatever may be the individual's private judgment, he is forced to yield obedience.

Second, the bill, if it becomes a law, cannot be carried into execution. To enforce it with any thoroughness requires either that it obtain the general consent, or that officers be appointed sufficient in number to have personal knowledge of all the families of any particular district. But if it obtained the general consent it is unnecessary; and if not, then provisions for its enforcement are inadequate. Those who have it in charge dare not make adequate provisions for its enforcement, for fear of alarming the community, and hence it will be simply another law to be disobeyed. We are not living in Prussia.

We believe that there ought to be provisions of law in force in cities and large towns whereby children can be taken out of the streets and put at school. We are also in favor of the regulation of the hours of labor of children who are employed in workshops of any kind. The state may properly interfere in these cases, because in the first the child is practically homeless, and it thereby becomes a public nuisance, and in the second it suffers injury. But within the house—whether it be in a brownstone mansion or in a tenement house—the authority of the parents is justly supreme, and the law cannot interfere with that supremacy in the way proposed, either as a matter of right or of policy.

Report of the Board of Public Charities.

The Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Public Charities has been printed. This is a document, says the Harrisburg *Patriot*, which demands the earnest and immediate consideration of the legislature and people of Pennsylvania. A large portion of the report is devoted to an exposition of the treatment of the insane poor of the state. An inspection has been made of all the prisons and poor houses of the state, and the facts which are presented in the report were bro't under the personal observation of the commissioners themselves. Some of the revelations in regard to the treatment of the insane poor of the commonwealth are utterly revolting. To the plain official statements in this report there is scarcely a parallel in the description of human misery except in the horrible pictures of Hogarth's Bedlam. While splendid hospitals have been erected by the liberality of the state her indigent insane have been crowded into poor houses and have been abandoned to the utmost filthiness and neglect. A portion of this monstrous abuse is due to the negligence of county officials and part to the action of the superintendents of the state hospitals. Paying patients have been admitted to these hospitals while the insane poor, the real objects of the state's charity, have beenturned away from the doors and sent back to their loathsome cells. The charity of the state has been perverted from its original purpose, and there is reason to believe that in too many instances mercenary motives have been mixed up with this partiality in the treatment of the two classes of insane. Those who can afford to pay have friends solicitous for their welfare. Private institutions have been established for their benefit. But this report shows that while the latter class of patients are the objects of the public care, the insane poor, for whom these state institutions have been erected, are excluded. The commissioners refer to the Insane Asylum at Harrisburg as affording a shocking example of this partiality and injustice. They report that "To the hospital at Harrisburg there was committed by the "public authorities and courts during "the year 1872, sixty-one poor patients and one hundred and thirty-"eight paying patients sent there by "friends." Of the four hundred and "eight remaining on December 31, "1872, there were one hundred and "seventy-nine supported by 'public authorities' and two hundred and twenty-nine by 'friends of patients.'" The report further states that "of the one "hundred and sixteen patients committed to this hospital during the "nine months ending September 30, "1873, eighty-foua were 'paying' and "only thirty two public or indigent "insane patients." From this it is seen that the character of this institution is rapidly changing. From a state hospital for the insane it is becoming a private asylum for paying patients. While the indigent insane are turned away in scores, those for whom provision is made by friends and relatives find prompt admission. Is not this a shamelessly unjust and inhuman perversion of the objects for which this institution was founded by the state? Yet the law expressly provides that in order of admission the poor shall have the precedence of the rich. In this institution the benign and charitable rule is simply reversed.

In a special or supplementary report the commissioners have collected a few shocking cases to illustrate the treatment of the indigent insane in the poor houses of the state, as well as that system of partiality on which the state institutions are conducted. In one of our poor houses the other day an old "man was starved to death—medicine "being forced into him, but food being "considered unnecessary." In another is the revolting case of "an attractive young lady, driven to in-"sanity by her seducer, who for the "last twenty years has occupied a cell "of filthiness. A bed of straw upon a "damp floor, into which the external "light can find no entrance, is the only "furniture. A seat, a chair or a bench "has apparently never been furnished; "the consequence of which is that the "muscles of the lower extremities * "* * * * have become permanently contracted, so that the only "movement of which she is capable is "one similar to that of a frog." A patient in another poor house is "perpetually chained to the ceiling by the "wrist, 'lest he tear his clothes.'" At another, "a splendid old man in "chains for forty years," was released by the general agent of the board, "himself aiding in filing off the chains." There is no room in the magnificently endowed hospitals of the state for those most unfortunate creatures as long as profitable patients seek admission.

We hasten through this revolting official register of woe and wretchedness with the following extracts:

"In February last a visit was paid to this alms-house, and an insane inmate was seen —a young woman over twenty years of age, whose whole dress consisted of a thin chemise with short sleeves, a single skirt and a pair of shoes. When brought before the visitors a borrowed cloak was thrown over her shoulders. She was blue with cold and utterly filthy in person. Her cell had the appearance of having undergone a recent hasty washing, but was pervaded with an odor loathsome in the extreme. On the day of this visit the thermometer fell to fourteen degrees.

"In March another visit was paid to the institution by several gentlemen in a body. Only one portion of the building was visited, which is supposed to be devoted exclusively to women. In one cell was a young woman, the one already referred to. Her cell was without any furniture whatever, her bed consisted of one blanket, her clothing a ragged chemise open to her waist, and one scanty skirt and a pair of shoes. She was indescribably unclean, and alive with vermin. Her cell reeked with a sickening odor, the result of a total absence of all conveniences of cleanliness. She shivered with cold, while in the presence of her visitors; the thermometer standing at the time several degrees below the freezing point.

"Opposite to the cell which we have very faintly described was another. The short day had already faded into dusk, and as the light was thrown through a little aperture in the door, it fell upon two wretched women, both of whom were absolutely without a single garment to cover them. One of the poor creatures sat crouching in the corner with a small blanket drawn across her shoulders, while the other was crawling on all fours on the floor, without even this poor apology of any remnant of human decency! There was not a particle of furniture in the cell; and there, on this wintry March night, in an atmosphere which the witnesses declare to have been utterly horrible, were these two human beings, brought down far below the level of our domestic brutes.

"In an adjoining cell the visitors found a man lying on an old mattress, the only sign of furniture which they saw in either of the rooms inspected. They were informed that the inmate was a woman; but upon one of the gentlemen calling to him he sat up, and it was seen that it was a man. The attendant, with some confusion, explained that he must have been brought in while he was away.

"We found the female insane department in a shocking condition; so bad that it would be impossible to give a description of the place on paper. In some cells there were two or more women confined; some without any clothing, lying on the floor, without mattress, carpet or anything else, except an old government blanket. The place had a horrible putrid odor.

"We examined one woman who was quite young. I was afraid to go near her, as she seemed covered with vermin. We were all much shocked by the visit, and I think I shall remember it as long as I live."

Are such reports as these in harmony with that enlightened civilization of which we make such frequent boast? Many will be moved by these touching tales of human misery and woe to whom they will be new revelations. But the facts are not unfamiliar to our legislators who have read them from year to year in official reports and have as yet provided no adequate means of alleviation. The board find the defense set up by the management of the Harrisburg hospital to be wholly unsatisfactory. Excellent resolutions, purposes, and reports avail nothing in their opinion against the confessed fact that those who can be helped by their own means or the means of friends have been provided for from the public resources, while the indigent insane have been turned away with the excuse that there is no room. The board recommend that the poor and friendless who cannot pay should have precedence of the rich who can pay, and that among the poor recent cases should have precedence of those of long standing, until all shall be provided for. They believe that such is the real intent of the laws as they now stand; but if that is not the case, and if the policy hitherto pursued by the State Hospitals, and "particularly "that at Harrisburg," has been in accordance with existing laws, "as al-"leged by interested parties," then they ask that the laws be forthwith so amended as to secure the inauguration of a policy "more just and more in con-"formity with the plain duty and pro-"per function of the state." In addition to the many excellent suggestions in their valuable report, the recommendation of a change in the management of one or more of these institutions would have been most opportune.

BEN BUTLER, having been backed by the administration through the Simmons campaign, reciprocated yesterday, says the Pittsburg *Dispatch* of the 3d, in opposing inquiry into the expenditures of the Department of Justice, over which Mr. Williams presides. Mr. Speer, representative from this district, asked that a full statement of the same be presented for the information of Congess and of the people, but the Massachusetts gentleman replied it was already submitted, and, though Mr. Speer very emphatically denied the assertion, the Massachusetts gentleman's word prevailed It is needless to say that Speer was right in rising for an enlargement of knowledge. Everybody wants to understand more definitely how the money goes at Washington. There is a great deal of solicitude particularly to know whether Mrs. Williams has ordered any new laundalets, chargeable to the public funds. But Butler strangled Small's attempts at investigation early in the winter, and on Monday he perfomed a like office toward Mr. Speer's.

THE Jefferson Club of Philadelphia, one of the most active and efficient Democratic organizations in the country, has issued an address denouncing such Democrats as have joined hands with the corrupt Republican ring. The traitors are to be cut off from all connection with the Democratic party, which we coincide with the Lancaster *Intelligencer* in pronouncing perfectly right. A little judicious ostracism will not only purify the party, but make it much stronger. Men who are corrupt enough to betray a political organization are only dangerous while they can deceive. The moment they are drummed out of the ranks their power for evil cesses No party can fail to be benefitted by the prompt expulsion of all such characters.

BEN BUTLER is in his glory. He has locked horns with the Boston press, the merchants, politicians and heavy men, and came off victor where it was least expected. The press of all complexions has opposed and denounced the appointment and confirmation of Simmons as collector of the port of Boston, but Butler's grip on the White House, and through that upon the Senate, has been sufficiently tenacious to insure the success of his political agent, his acknowledged and principal caucus worker, and the most objectionable candidate that could have been presented. He has won, and he crows lustily over his victory, achieved as it has been against large odds and by his own almost unaided efforts.

Bismarck and La Marmora.

The Italian Government and the Italian Parliament between them have given Prince Bismarck a sharp lesson in good manners and good sense, or rather in the identity of good manners with good sense where public men dealing with public matters are concerned. Our readers will remember that but the other day Prince Bismarck was assailed in the German Parliament by Herr Von Mallinkronz, a prominent ultramontane leader, with charges founded on a publication not long ago made by the ex-Premier of Italy, General the Marquis La Marmora, of certain despatches which had passed between himself and the Prussian Government in 1866. The assault of Herr Mallinkronz was a damaging one, and Prince Bismarck was so severely hurt by it that he lost his temper completely, and replied by charging General La Marmora with "falsehood and forgery," and by a ridiculously arrogant statement that he, Prince Bismarck, "regarded the attacks of foreigners with contempt." Prince Bismarck knew when he adopted this style of speech that the actual Government of Italy was seriously annoyed at the indiscretion of General Marmora, and he doubtless supposed that the whole matter would become hopelessly mystified by a heated discussion over it in the Parliament at Rome. He has been dismally disappointed. The Italian Parliament quietly granted General La Marmora a two months' leave of absence, for the express purpose of enabling him to repel the frantic and extravagant attack of the German Chancellor. General La Marmora thereupon published the full text of the despatches of which he had before published a part only, and proved by that publication that he had understated rather than overstated the discreditable features of Prince Bismarck's negotiations with Italy in 1866. A member of the Italian Parliament then read this new publication of General La Marmora before the Parliament at Rome, and desired to know what the Italian Government had to say about it. Signor Visconti-Venosta, the Italian Foreign Minister, quietly replied that the Government did not approve General Marmora's conduct in making these documents public, and that it would propose legislation for the purpose of preventing such publications hereafter, but he availed himself of the same opportunity to bear witness, politely but emphatically, to the truthfulness of General La Marmora's assertions and to intimate, in clear though diplomatic language, that Prince Bismarck when he attacked the General had said the thing that was not. The upshot of all which is that Prince Bismarck, by the simple fact of losing his temper and forgetting that the Parliament of Berlin is not precisely the whole civilized world, has made himself ridiculous at home and odious abroad, and saved General La Marmora completely from the worst consequences of an indiscretion which, had Prince Bismarck been commonly polite and commonly sensible, might have been converted into something very like an offence against General La Marmora's own Government.—*New York World.*

MARRYING BY PROXY.—The Court of Law and Equity, says the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times* of Feb. 22d, was the scene of a rather extraordinary matrimonial transaction yesterday. An aged man, evidently past his fiftieth year, called upon the Clerk of the Court for assistance in marrying a wife. Mr. Noland, who is considered an adept in matrimonial transactions, undertook the job, which was rather more difficult and complicated than he first anticipated. It was none of your common weddings, nor was it like the one where 'Squire Allen read the Episcopalian rite of confirmation in mistake for a marriage ceremony, and closed by giving the benediction. No, this was a marriage between two persons separated by fully 6,000 miles of land and water. The old man informed the Clerk of the Court that he wanted to get married to a woman now living in Holland, that he would perform such ceremonies as were necessary here, and she would be married to her brother in Holland by proxy for him. Then the brother was to ship him his wife, with her baggage, direct to Kansas City. It appears that the lady has an objection to leaving her home in Holland before she had been married in some manner; and as the bridegroom cannot afford to leave his business here to go after his wife, he decided to apply to the courts for an act of procuration. Mr. Noland, as soon as he understood the case, proceeded to prepare the necessary papers, and the old man went away delighted, and last night delighted himself with the happy consciousness of being a married man, with his bride six thousand miles away. There are many ways of being married, but this appears to be the most unsatisfactory way of all. It is not likely that it will become either popular or fashionable.

A SINGULAR CASE.—There is a natural curiosity, in the form of a cave, situated upon the banks of the Delaware river, near the Western Gap. Its peculiarities have baffled all the knowledge of scientific men, and so we are left to make our own inferences regarding it. It consists of a passage, averaging three or four feet in diameter, which extends back for an unknown distance, a man being said to have penetrated it for sixty feet on his hands and knees, and then was not conscious of being near the termination. The most singular peculiarity connected with it is that there is a constant strong current of air proceeding from the passage, which averages, the year round, a temperature of 36 to 38 deg.; and, standing in the road a distance of twenty yards, in front of the cave, the draft is very perceptible to a stranger.

From the fissures in the rocks and the trunks and stumps of the surrounding trees, this unaccountable phenomenon is noticeable. It is supposed by some that this is but the entrance to an immense cave, extending beneath Mount Minsi and having an exit at some distance, through which the air as it sweeps becomes cooled below the temperature of the atmosphere by its passage through the cold, damp rocks, and issues out of "Cold Air Cave" at the above stated figures. Whatever is the solution of this natural freak, it is yet unknown, and it presents an opportunity for the study and research of the scientist.—*Sunday Press.*

A DISCOVERY.—The Scranton (Pa.) *Republican* says: On Saturday afternoon a miner named Martin Loughery, working in No. 10 mine of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's works at Pittston, while in the act of breaking a massive piece of coal which he had dislodged, discovered imbedded in the centre of it what appeared to be a small wooden box of an oblong shape. Upon touching the box it crumbled into dust like a fungus, and disclosed a copper whistle, having a flint mouthpiece, and in other respects shaped like our ordinary tin whistles. The miner brightened it up, applied it to his mouth and made it sound, doubtless for the first time in centuries. The spot where it lay is about one hundred feet beneath the surface of the earth.

WE notice that the Agricultural papers all over the country recommend the use of *Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders.*—*Exchange.*

Farmers and others in this section have long known and appreciated the advantage of these powders over all others.

Valuable Suggestions.

NEWSPAPERS DOMESTICALLY CONSIDERED.

Too low an estimate is apt to be set on the domestic value of newspapers. After reading them, and putting ourselves, thro' their agency, in mental correspondence with the world, they are thrown aside and forgotten. But to suppose their usefulness bounded by their news columns and the waste-bag is a thriftless mistake.

In the first place, there are the household recipes, to be found in stray corners, often excellent, and deserving a refuge on the fly-leaf of the family cook book. Then come the pretty verses, the strange and droll stories, the brief biographies and reminiscences which, pasted in a scrap-book, are a source of never-ending pleasure, not only to those who do not care for richer intellectual food, but to those who have only odd minutes for reading.

Notwithstanding the squibs jocular journalists have penned on the use of newspapers for bed-clothing, we know from experience that these are not to be despised. They may not be as comfortable as your blankets, but certainly they keep out the cold. Two thicknesses of paper are better than a pair of blankets, and in the case of persons who dislike the weight of many bedclothes, they are invaluable. A spread made of a double layer of papers between a covering of calico or chintz, is desirable in every household. The papers should be tacked together with thread, and also basted to the covering to keep them from slipping. An objection has been made on account of the rustling, but if soft papers be chosen the noise will not be annoying, especially should the spread be laid between a blanket and counterpane.

As a protection to plants against cold, both in and out of doors, nothing if better. If newspapers are pinned up over night at a window between pots and glass, the flowers will not only not be frozen, but will not even get chilled, as they are so liable to be at this season. In the same way, if taken to cover garden beds, on the frosty nights of early autumn, they will allow the plants to remain safely out doors some time later than is common.

One of the oddest services to put our journals to is the keeping of ice in summer. An ingenious housekeeper recently discovered that her daily lump of ice would last nearly twice as long when wrapped in newspapers, and placed in any kind of covered box, as when trusted solely to a refrigerator. This is very convenient, since it is possible to have the best and cheapest refrigerator constantly on hand.

To polish all kinds of glass after washing, except table glass, no cloth or flannel is half so good as a newspaper; and for a baker's dozen of other uses, quite foreign to its primal purpose, it is without a rival. —"*Home and Society*," *Scribner's for March.*

A MILE IN THIRTY-TWO SECONDS.—The following story of the achievement in respect of speed of an ice-boat on the Hudson in the vicinity of Stantsburg last week is told by the Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) *Eagle*: "Thursday last the wind blew very fresh from the south, and the owner of the new ice-boat 'Cyclone' determined to take advantage of the favorable opportunity for timing his yacht. The Hudson at this point is very wide, and at the course selected its breadth is one mile. Having made every preparation for the feat to be accomplished, the reef points were shaken out of the sails, and every stitch of canvas spread to the gale. With two men on the windward runner to keep the boat down to the ice, the helm was turned, the sails filled, and in a moment, with every inch of canvas drawing, she was under full headway. Like an arrow from a bow she darted away on the course, clouds of pulverized ice following in the track of her runners as they hummed over the surface of the river, and in what seemed but an instant the river had been crossed and the mile accomplished in the almost incredible time of thirty-one seconds, being at the rate of two miles in a minute and two seconds. Persons on shore compared the speed of the flying racer to that of a meteor flashing through the sky, and watched her movements with eager interest. The owner afterward put the boat through some movements on the ice, and astonished, as well as paralyzed, the lookers on by sailing all the way across the river on one runner, the force of the wind throwing her over on her beam ends and raising the windward runner from ten to twelve feet above the ice. Although but few were found willing to partake of the amusement, all seemed disposed to coincide in the opinion that ice yachting is the most exhilerating of sports, and the evolutions of which one of these yachts is capable, the most graceful of anything they had ever witnessed."

A STRANGE STORY.—Every day at one of the Recorder's Courts, in New Orleans, is to be found an elderly lady, neatly, even elegantly dressed, apparently watching with intense interest each trial as it is called, and when the court has adjourned, quietly moving away with the crowd. She has a painful and singular story. Childless and alone in the world, she was once the centre of a happy family circle; but a series of misfortunes came and left her hopeless and aimless.

The epidemic of 1855 deprived her of her husband and two children. Of her two remaining sons, one was killed in the army, and the other, about a year ago, was arraigned before this same court for murder. Before this awful shock the mother's reason had reeled and left her a harmless maniac. Since then each day she imagines her son on trial, and watches there for his coming. Day after day she prosecutes in the court room her tireless watch. Disappointment never affects her, for she thinks she will see him to-morrow. Those who have charge of her gratify the harmless delusion, and thus morning and evening she is found at her post, influenced by an affection that defies the flight and wreck of reason.

—The convention of locomotive engineers, recently in session at Cleveland, O., adjourned sine die on Saturday evening. It is authoritatively stated that a demand will be made upon all railroad companies that have made a reduction in wages of their engineers to restore them to the former figure, and if this is not complied with a strike will be ordered. It was also determined that in case of a necessity arising for a strike on any of the lines it shall become general. A very prominent eastern railway official telegraphed on Saturday to a leading railway manager of Cleveland that John Fahrenback, the president of the machinists' and blacksmiths' national union, has for some weeks been trying to organize a strike of the mechanics and other day laborers. The telegram says: "He represented that the men upon your and other western roads, and upon the Pennsylvania and Erie lines, are ready for the signal;" and asks, "Would not the law term him a conspirator?"

THERE are probably a hundred or more persons in this and neighboring towns who daily suffer from the distressing effects of kidney troubles, who do not know that *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment* is almost a certain cure. In severe cases, great relief may be obtained, if not a perfect cure.

—A Keokuk butcher gives away a chromo with every ten pounds of meat.

News and Political Items.

—A cat in Somerset county stands eighteen inches high and weighs fourteen lbs. with the fur on.

—The oyster beds of Virginia cover an area equal to 640,000 acres, and yield an annual money value of $10,000,000.

—It is said that Simmons, the Boston Collector of Customs, is already very wealthy, having made at least $120,000 as a Government spy.

—Judge Wm. T. Brown, of Madison county, Illinois, committed suicide on Monday morning last by jumping into a well on his farm, near Edwardville.

—A dispatch from Blackburn, Lancashire, states a boiler exploded there on Monday last, killing twenty persons and wounding thirty, several fatally.

—A row among negroes at a distillery near Platte City, Missouri, Saturday night, resulted in the killing of one man and fatal wounding of several others.

—Ann Toner, a young widow, residing in Jersey City, late on Saturday night fatally shot her lover, John Kennedy. Jealousy is said to be the cause. Ann fled.

—The Spirit Lake, Iowa, *Beacon* tells of a boy there who, on a bet of of fifty cents, swallowed four hundred and three live minnows in half an hour's time. Fishy, rather.

—At Blue Rock, Jefferson county, recently, a large log jumped from the slide at W. T. Laine's lumber camp, and striking Nathan Perry and Edward Roynear, killed them both instantly.

—Five Governors of New Hampshire sat at one table at a supper lately given in Manchester by the Amoskeag Veterans. They were Messrs. Straw, Smith, Western, Sterns and Harriman.

—The Second Adventists who have been waiting for several months on Terry Island, Conn., for the sound of Gabriel's trumpet, have, all but one, given it up and gone their several ways.

—Exposures of the frauds perpetrated by the Philadelphia Ring, at the recent Municipal Election, continue to be made by the Citizens' Committee. They are sufficient to justify a contest.

—The *World*'s latest sensation is to the effect that President MacMahon believes that Bismarck is preparing for a new war. Exactly with whom is not known, but there are surmises that Belgium is to be attacked.

—The railway war anticipated between the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad will be likely to involve fifty to sixty millions of dollars, and be one of the grannest corporation contests known to the republic.

—Fifteen of the crew of the Grace Darling, wrecked on the Scotch coast in the recent gales were washed from the riggings and drowned. Four life guards, going to their assistance, lost their lives by the swamping of their boat.

—A man died in Chillicothe, Ohio, last week, of deliriums tremens, after having squandered a fortune of $50,000. Had he lived two weeks longer he would have been the recipient of another $50,000 from the estate of a deceased relative.

—There was a jumping match between seven young ladies in Waupon, Wis., for a silver medal. The contestants wore loose trowsers and no skirts, and are described as so bewitching that the spectators cheered themselves, hoarse. Sarah Jane Smith won.

—A lively panther last week chased the United States mail and the postman who was carrying it between Barksville and China, Texn. We forbear to mention further particulars, as the Postmaster General will probably give them in his next report.

—Illinois is having a hard time of it by reason of wolves. Seven of the animals were seen on one farm in Scott county in one day; one hundred and fifty sheep have been killed by them in Ogle county; a railway train ran over and finished one wolf at Jacksonville.

—Dimmick, member of the Legislature from Wayne county, who wanted to bleed the banks and play the old game of black mail, was not elected as a Democratic. He was one of the citizens' ticket order, being the joint production of both parties, and on both tickets.

—A gigantic colored man, according to the Vicksburg *Times*, in that city, recently, with the assistance of two other men to help him to shoulder it, carried a bale of cotton weighing 400 pounds, from the outer guard of the wharf-boat across the wharf-boa and out to the levee.

—Still another romantic marriage was consummated in Yamhill county, Oregon, last week. The bridegroom, after being knocked down with a board by his future mother-in-law, got up, landed an extinguisher upon her nose, which laid her out, and then went away with his pet and got spliced.

—At a Dubuque wedding, the *Herald* says, among the wedding presents ostentatiously displayed was a one-hundred-dollar bill, a present from the doting father to his darling daughter. After the guests had departed the old man coolly rolled up the bill, put it in his vest pocket, and that was the end of it.

—Col. Thomas A. Scott offers, if he can simply have the Government endorsement of the bonds of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, he can furnish the Government abundant collateral, and soon provide a road to Texas and California, which will not be interrupted by snow, and will be of great value to the country.

—Garrett Dunn, a shoemaker and Wm. Sullivan, a horse-shoer, young men, got into an altercation in a shoe-shop, in St. Louis, on Saturday evening, and Sullivan thrust a shoe knife into Dunn's left side, inflicting a mortal wound. Sullivan escaped. Both men had been drinking hard during the past week.

—An Indianapolis saloon keeper, whose saloon was recently visited by a number of female temperance advocates, tried to drown the sound of their hymns by performances on an orchestrion. Finding this ineffectual, he turned loose two young bears, kept as pets, which frightened the ladies into a precipitate retreat.

—A famous queen of gypsies died recently at Wolverhampton, England. Representatives from all the gypsy tribes in England, to the number of one hundred, attended the funeral, after which the property of the deceased, including her clothing, trinkets, domestic articles, etc., were solemnly burned or otherwise destroyed.

—The *Courier-Journal* sings to the praying ladies: "O, woman! in our hours of ease, you know we'll do whate'er you please; we'll promise to renounce the sin of Bourbon, brandy, rum and gin, and go so far as to refrain (except when tempted) from champagne; but have some mercy, do, my dear, and leave, oh, leave us lager beer."

—The most remarkable school teacher in the country is Colonel D. B. Graham, of Temperance, Telfair county, Georgia. He is paralysed, his whole body being helpless except his hands and arms up to his elbows. For a long time he has taught school while lying on his back. No corporal punishment, we take, it, in that school.

—A party of aged mothers recently met at Magnoketa, Iowa. There were thirty-two of them; their ages aggregated 2,162 78 years; youngest, 60; one of them has grandchildren; as a natural sequence to sewing societies to talk about for six weeks to come.

—Michigan has abolished the clothing of convicts. Writing convicts are to be supplied to prisoners who cannot read nor write are to receive a suit of clothes, $10, and every convict on his discharge may have carried to extinguishing any time liable to consequently very small sum usually kept on hand. Recently had been so long [illegible] that when a raid was lately made ers were badly caught. I no lost $10,000 each, and the house $1,000 to $2,000.

—An attempt was made in Pittsburg on last Friday, to inaugurate the and praying crusade against the intoxicating liquor. The experiment a failure. So far this remarkable ment has met with success in the towns, and has failed in the cities, a result is only natural. The which prove effective in small communities often prove powerless in large ones.

—A boiler explosion occurred at Weiser well, on Wayne Hemphill's half a mile from Mallinsgrove, Pa., morning. It shook things up for made the town tremble as if an earthquake was passing. The well on the well were, fortunately, not rick at the time and escaped with The boiler was completely demolished, hardly a piece as large as a man's hand ing found.

—The wide and rapid extension of roads in this country, and their connection with each other are well demonstrated by the fact that a new tive built at Paterson, N. J., for Paterson and Hudson railroad, has arrived at its destination, in addition ing the long trip all the way by locomotive weighs twenty-eight draw fifty cars, and has the latest ments for changing gauge.

—Every country in Europe wheat from us last season; and and England, the largest importing tries, are still without supplies to the demand between the present and the next harvest. The sent to England last year 60,000 cwt., or 36,850,000 bushels, of which in gold was importations of France amounted forty-one millions of dollars.

—The elections in Alsace and indicate that those provinces are to France and to Rome. members returned to Parliament Bishop of Metz and the Bishop bourg. A fact which may be the United States as indicating the German spirit of the Alsatians when officially asked their country ply, Alsace. They can no longer France, so they ignore the question.

—In their examination into the District of Columbia frauds the Congressional Committee have already found some curious items. One order of the Board of Public Works commanded certain contractors to "grade and fill in front of property of Attorney-General Wilson." This fixing, it seems, cost $2,000. Not satisfied of digging a cellar. The amount the expense was divided among the public streets and alleys of the city.

—The Tichborne case is ended. The claimant, found guilty on [illegible] the indictment for perjury, has been sentenced to fourteen years of penal servitude. This is a severe sentence, but no more than was deserved, if we admire the pluck of the man. It has been a long and costly struggle, but the prize was a magnificent one, and in addition to the claimant and his friends, who have now realized, probably, that he is not the heir in a very uncertain lottery, but has drawn the worst prize it had.

—In New York, on Tuesday, Antonio Barlie and Pedro [illegible] merely partners, met in Spring Street on their way to work, and the former shot the latter dead and then killed himself. It seems that the two men were partners in [illegible] one Sicardi, at 575 Broadway. A [illegible] neglect of business, was the cause of quarrels which led to his retirement from the partnership a week ago, when Fanchini had a dispute, and at last the quarrel was renewed, with the result stated.

—The miners who have been for two months fighting the threat [illegible] Mine, near Wilkesbarre, have ceased work and Tuesday afternoon a most [illegible] cave-in of the mine occurred, [illegible] in extent the fall of the Baltimore [illegible] short time since. Great excitement prevails in the neighborhood, and [illegible] preparing to leave. The fire has [illegible] scope, and threatens to [illegible] the most valuable possessions of the newly formed Wilkesbarre and Lehigh Company.

—It has long been known that the [illegible] plest method of sharpening a razor is to put it for half an hour in water to which has been added one-twentieth part of muriatic or sulphuric acid; then to wipe it off, and after a few hours strop on a hone. The acid here supplies the place of a whetstone by corroding the surface uniformly, so that nothing [illegible] a smooth polish is necessary. It never injures good blades, while the hardened ones are frequently improved by it, although the cause of this improvement remains unexplained.

—Patrick Dinneen, of Vermont, died recently leaving $25,000 [illegible] in a singular will. A nephew who [illegible] $8,000 if he will marry one of three ladies named; but if he refuses he will go to another nephew. [illegible] nephew is allotted $3,000, the proviso being that he shall marry a certain lady; if he will get $500 after marrying the [illegible] and her husband will have $500 and a fine span of horses. A sister [illegible] with a bachelor clergyman, has [illegible] the estate upon obeying the mandate of $6,000. It is said that all have [illegible] their bequests under the conditions proposed.

—A fearful accident occurred on the Great Western Railway on Saturday. The Sarnia accommodation train, for London, Canada, at 6:30 p. m., and consisting of empty tank cars, luggage and second class cars, and a coach. When [illegible] west of London, the coach took fire in the saloon at the forward end. It is supposed by the falling of a lamp. The fire was not discovered until the interior of the saloon was completely filled with flames, which spread through the coach almost instantly. The passengers were compelled to escape from the rear platform and through the windows. The train was stopped as speedily as possible, but before they could be extricated eight persons were fatally burned and burned.

—At New Haven, Conn., Sunday, at a public mass meeting of all the [illegible] congregations of the city was held in the interest of temperance. Over 3,000 persons were present, in and around the hall, and all the Catholic clergy were on the platform. Rev. Dr. Carmody presided. James W. O'Brien, of New York, delivered an address, in the course of which he said they had no faith in the Temperance cause, and stated that the Total Abstinence Union had enrolled 50,000 members in three years. He said that societies of men and children were also organized in the churches on the basis of the pledge and the sacraments. After his address a ladies' temperance society was formed, and Dr. Carmody, and a large number of ladies took the total abstinence pledge.