THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - - May 15, 1874.

BAXTER declares that if the Legislature recognizes him as Governor, of which he has no doubt, he will dislodge Brooks with or without the aid of U. S. troops.

GEN. ALFRED B. MCCALMONT, of Venango county, died in Philadelphia last week from the effect of a surgical operation which he had undergone at the hands of Dr. Pancoast. He was 48 years of age, had served with honor and distinction in the late rebellion, was a prominent Democratic politician, a lawyer of ability and high standing, and a gentleman of rare intellectual culture.

THE bill to *repeal* the local option law was defeated in the House at Harrisburg last Monday and that question is now settled so far as the present session of the Legislature is concerned. The vote stood 99 *for* repeal and 39 *against* it, which, considering that the House numbers one hundred members, was a beggarly account of empty legislative seats. On the same day, Mr. Rutan's bill for a uniform series of school books, which had passed the Senate, was *defeated* in the House by a vote of 68 to 20, thus disposing of that question also for the present.

THE proposed appropriation by Congress of *three millions* of dollars towards the contemplated centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on the 4th of July, 1876, was *defeated* at the close of last week in the lower branch of Congress. The bill, however, was subsequently recommitted, and another vote will yet have to be taken before its fate is finally determined. It meets with a stubborn and uncompromising opposition, and although it may pass the House, the outlook is by no means promising. In view of this action of Congress, Mr. Rutan, of the Senate of this State, has introduced into that body a concurrent resolution recalling the bill, passed by both Houses some days ago, appropriating *one million* for centennial purposes. He advocates its passage on the ground that the appropriation having failed in Congress, the State appropriation would be *squandered* if not at once withdrawn—a conclusion in which we fully concur.

GOVERNOR FRANKLIN J. MOSES, JR., *colored*, who has been administering the executive department of that carpet-bag cursed and impoverished State, South Carolina, for two years, in close connection with John J. Patterson, an *eminent* Pennsylvanian who graduated in Simon Cameron's political school in this State with infamous honor during the memorable contest for United States Senator in 1863, when Charles R. Buckalew was elected by *one* vote over Cameron, had a petition filed against him last week in the United States Court, at Charleston, asking for a decree of bankruptcy.

After robbing and plundering the people of South Carolina beyond any former precedent in the history of this or any other country, this man Moses is now declared to be so deeply in debt that his liabilities exceed his assets more than a quarter of a million of dollars. Has Moses placed his ill-gotten spoils, where, after he retires from office, they will do him the most good?

THE editor of the Johnstown *Tribune*, in his paper of last Friday evening, referring to the article which appeared in the FREEMAN of the same morning recommending R. L. Johnson, Esq., of this place, as a fit and competent gentleman to be nominated by the Democratic State Convention for Judge of the Supreme Court, speaks of Mr. Johnson in the following terms, which are as honorable to Mr. Swank as they are complimentary to Mr. Johnson:

> The *Freeman* of this week suggests Robert L. Johnston, Esq., as a proper person for candidate for Supreme Judge on the Democratic ticket. As the nomination is equivalent to an election—according to the new Constitution, one Democrat being certain to be elected—we heartily concur with the *Freeman* in its suggestion. Mr. Johnston certainly deserves well of his party, and has ranked ever since we can remember as the leading lawyer in that party in this county, and as one of the foremost lawyers in the State. He is an agreeable, affable gentleman, and although always a strict party man he ever treats his political opponents fairly, and we are pleased in having this opportunity of expressing our opinion of him as a gentleman, a scholar, and an opponent, more so because this paper has considered it its duty to fight him politically for almost a score of years.

A JOINT RESOLUTION has passed both branches of the Legislature of this State asking the President of the United States to appoint a board of army officers to re-examine the case of General Fitz John Porter, who was tried and dismissed from the army in 1863 for alleged neglect of duty and disobedience of orders at the second battle of Bull Run. There is a strong feeling throughout the country and in the army that Gen. Porter's conviction was unjust, and as he declares his entire ability, by undoubted testimony, to prove his innocence, if a rehearing of his case is ordered, we think it would redound to the credit and magnanimity of the President to comply with Gen. Porter's request. If he is convicted a *second* time, his *last* condition will be no worse than his *first*; but if he successfully establishes his innocence, no harm can result to any one, but simply even-handed justice to himself. It will be a vindication of his patriotism as well as of his admitted military genius, and surely as an officer Fitz John Porter had no superior in the Army of the Potomac. The society of that army met at Harrisburg on Monday last. How appropriate would it be, before it adjourned yesterday, for his old army associates to follow up the action of the Legislature by uniting in a written request to General Grant, who is at Harrisburg, to accede to General Porter's reasonable demand.

Chief Justice Taney.

The Maryland Legislature, during its next annual session, will inaugurate a statue at Annapolis in honor of the memory and judicial services of her distinguished son, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who died in 1863. Teakle Wallis, Esq., one of the most able and accomplished members of the Baltimore bar, has been invited by a joint committee of the Legislature of that State to deliver an oration on the public life and services of Chief Justice Taney, on the occasion referred to, and has consented to do so. Mr. Wallis was the intimate personal friend of Roger B. Taney and is perfectly familiar with the life and character of a man who for more than half a century was so intimately identified with the political and judicial history of the country.

In connection with this subject a few remarks are appropriate. Chief Justice Taney delivered the opinion of a majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States in the memorable case of the negro, Dred Scott, which case has passed into the judicial history of the country. Judge Taney was a Democrat and was appointed to the high and responsible position he held at the time of his death by President Jackson. It has been charged against Judge Taney, that, in the opinion referred to, he declared that "*a negro had no rights which a white man was bound to respect.*" This slander has been uttered all over the north by radical stump speakers for the purpose of making a little cheap political capital, and has even found men on the floor of Congress who had the audacity to repeat it. The charge is not true and is utterly at variance with Judge Taney's well known action in life. In the Dred Scott decision Judge Taney, as a matter of history, *but without endorsing it*, simply referred to the state of public sentiment in this country in reference to the status of the negro at the time of the passage of the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. What the law was all over the country, and what public sentiment was, is too well known to require discussion here. In his opinion, the Chief Justice, in his historical reference to the negro and his condition in this country, as well as in Europe at the date of the Declaration of Independence, said:

> "It is difficult at this day to realize the state of public opinion in relation to that unfortunate race which prevailed in the civilized and enlightened portions of the world at the time of the declaration of independence, and when the constitution was framed and adopted. But the public history of every European nation displays it in a manner too plain to be mistaken.
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> "They had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit. He was brought and sold and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic whenever a profit could be made by it. This opinion was at that time fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race. It was regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics which no man thought of disputing or supposed to be open to dispute, and men in every grade and position in society daily and habitually acted upon it in their private pursuits as well as in matters of public concern, without doubting for a moment the correctness of this opinion."

Such was his language. Does any man who has read the history of this country deny the truth of his statement as applicable to the public sentiment and the public acts of the State and national governments at the time referred to? Did Roger B. Taney express his *approval* of the doctrine that "a negro had no rights which a white man was bound to respect?" He never thought so and as a Judge never said so. He was the firm friend in his younger day, while he was a member of the Maryland Legislature, of *negro emancipation in that State*, and never was the personal advocate of slavery, whatever his duty as a judge acting under his oath may have required him to decide under the Constitution of the United States as it then existed.

THE injustice of the tax on the bituminous coal industry which has just been imposed by the Legislature for the purpose of keeping a full treasury at Harrisburg, notwithstanding the Centennial drain, is beginning to awaken some attention in the western part of the State. By the time the money is paid into the hands of the collectors a great many people will know more about it than they do now from sad experience. After repeating some of the arguments advanced by the *Patriot* in its opposition to this bill when under consideration in the Legislature, the Pittsburg *Telegraph* says:

> The representatives in the Legislature from this section of the State are much to blame in not making a more vigorous stand against the imposition of this tax, which virtually amounts to a prohibition of corporate enterprise in the development of our mineral resources. According to the bill, coal companies are required to pay one-half mill upon their capital stock for each one per cent. dividend made, which on a ten per dividend would amount to five per cent.—They are further required to pay a tonnage tax of three cents per ton, which at a fair estimate of the average profits, amounts to about eight per cent., making a total tax paid to the State of *thirteen per cent.* of the profits of every company. If this is not enough to drive coal companies into liquidation and suspension, and to prevent any further corporate association of capital in the development of our coal mines, we do not know what would be required to do so.
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> It may be asked why did not the coal companies remonstrate against the imposition of the tax. For the very good reason that they were not informed that such a thing was contemplated. They were taken by surprise. The bill passed the Senate on the 23d of April, with the seventh section taxing railways stricken out, and the substitute placing tax on coal companies inserted. It was messaged over to the House the same day, and the Senate amendments hurriedly agreed to. It was immediately sent to the Governor, and on the 24th of April it was signed and became a law. What opportunity could the capitalists who had invested their means in coal carrying companies have had to stop the bill in its whirling passage through the Legislature? None whatever, and it apparently was designed that they should have none. What redress coal corporations may have is yet to be determined.

CORN and flour are simple articles; but not more so than *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment*, where known. It is good for children or adults, for any internal soreness of the chest or bowels, and the best Liniment prepared, under whatever name.

Louisiana and the Preshet.

Whilst we are sympathizing with the terrible visitations in the East—the famine in Bengal and other localities—a similar calamity is occurring at our own doors. Of the Bengal famine it may perhaps be premised that it was unavoidable. When a fortuitous conjunction of the meteoric elements occur such as to retard if not totally suspend the reproduction of the kindly fruits of the earth, the human race can only stand aghast to witness and to bear up against this providential visitation. All that man can do to prevent an elemental phenomenon amounts to nothing. The most that can be done is for the civil government, when it finds that the dreadful scourge is about to fall upon the country, to purchase provisions in plentifully supplied districts and forward these to the region threatened with starvation; and this work summed up must fall very short of sufficiency, leaving in any event vast numbers of the race to be famished.

But in Louisiana the case is somewhat different. There the famine is produced by the breaking through of artificial works originally constructed for the purpose of fending off the floods. In a community like that of Louisiana, depending for its harvests on levees and engineering work, surely the art of their construction ought to be well understood. Every one knows how the lands in Louisiana are situated. The whole State may be represented as a swamp, with an immense current of water running through it, being the drainage of many thousand square leagues. It seems strange, yet it is nevertheless true, that the effect of this vast current of water is to make its banks higher than the back county. This is entirely a natural result, though difficult to believe. But if any one will urge a current of water through the surface of a bed of sand, even on a small scale, he will see that the sand, borne down by the current, that current being just high enough to dribble over its banks, will raise those banks so that they will be higher near the stream than at some distance back from it.

The early settlers of Louisiana perceived this operation of nature and seeing that the river every year just made out to overflow its banks, the idea occured to them to levee or raise those banks a little above the highest average flood, whereby the overflow was prevented and the land behind was allowed to dry itself, as it were, so as to permit of cultivation. So successful were the early experiments in this way and so generous were the profits resulting from the raising of sugar and cottons, rice and like products, that the practice of leveeing became general and hundreds of miles of the river were thus treated on both sides of its banks, redeeming enough land to make Louisiana a wealth-producing area of the first class. But unfortunately the manner of building and maintaining these levees has never been systematized. Their erection ought to have been placed in the hands of engineers of the first class, and these ought to have been to the manner born. One of the most important executive aims of the State government of Louisiana ought to have been a minister or a bureau of levees. As in France they have their bureau of *Ponts et chausees* (bridges and roadways or causeways,) as in England they have their board of public works, so in Louisiana ought there always to have been a bureau of levees. This bureau should have had money at its disposal. An engineer of the very highest class, with a sufficient corps, should have been employed and this employment should have been made the most honorable in the bestowal of the government.

A few years would have brought this bureau to an efficiency derived from necessary experience which could not have been surpassed in the world; a membership in it should have been the highest ambition of the most ingenious youth of the State, and no higher honor ought there to have been than that of belonging to the bureau of levees. Had this system been established, the lower Mississippi would in all the terrible catastrophe by flood of which it probability have been entirely relieved from has lately been almost annually the victim.

Louisiana is not the only territory in the world which must be kept permanently beyond the danger of overflow. Holland has been almost entirely reclaimed from the encroachment of the sea by works of art. In the beginning there were the same or similar difficulties to contend with in the Netherlands. Unskillful make-shift dykes were raised, and answered perhaps for some years, the people living contented and prosperous below the level of the ocean. But now and again a storm would come and in a single night overwhelm a province. Nothing daunted the inhabitants would go to work again, raise their dykes, set them draining windmills to work, and again the bottom of the roaring Zuyder Zee or some of its inlets would blossom as the rose.

But the Dutch were taught by experience. They at length systematized their engineering. Of late years an overflow is almost unknown, and there is not a happier, quieter, more industrious people on the face of the earth. But this immunity is purchased by the most watchful care. The dykes are superintended by engineers unsurpassed in the whole world. These have adopted a system which is never departed from and which is made up of precautions against the attacks of the ever present enemy. Had the same system been early adopted in Louisiana, the same immunity would have been enjoyed. Indeed it is questionable whether the Mississippi is not more manageable than the ocean.

From the first, Louisiana has continued to apply to the general government for aid. But to build and to maintain levees to save the planters from ruin is not the province of the government. It has been generous in sending its engineers there. Time and again the lower Mississippi has been investigated by the best engineering talent to be found on this continent, or perhaps in the world. But *cui bono?*

Louisiana must put her own shoulder to the wheel, her own spade into the muck, if she wants to make these terrible crevasses the exception and not the rule. Let her at once establish a bureau and appoint its officers for merit and not for politics. She can thus save herself in the future and become independent of the charities of the general government. For the present it becomes us all to do what we can to relieve her necessities. In the future she can, if she will, avert such disasters as that from which her people are now suffering.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

THE preparations for the pilgrimage of members of the Catholic Church to Rome have been perfected, and those who are to take part in the journey will leave New York city to-morrow by the steamship Pereire. The Diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana, will furnish the largest number, and of the one hundred pilgrims who will compose the party twenty-five will be clergymen. New York has a very light representation. The highest Episcopal officer accompanying the pilgrims will be Bishop Dwenger, a native of Ohio, but now presiding over the Diocese of Fort Wayne. On the evening of Ascension Thursday, yesterday a reception was tendered the pilgrims by the Xavier Union. On the morning of their departure solemn high mass will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. The pilgrims will assemble at 3 p. m., on board the Pereire. An altar is to be fitted up in the cabin set apart for the exclusive use of the pilgrims.

The Arkansas Trouble.

The serious trouble which is now agitating Arkansas and mortifying every citizen of the United States, is the direct result of the corrupt and fraudulent manner in which the governments of the States lately in rebellion have been established since the close of the civil war by the authorities in Washington or by the carpet-baggers at the several capitals, acting with the sympathy of the National government and supported by it in all their deeds of villainy and fraud. The difficulty in Arkansas springs from the same causes that gave rise to the civil strife in Louisiana. There McEnery was elected Governor by an undoubted majority of the votes of the people; but the supporters of Kellogg were the friends of the administration, and, in the full confidence that they would be sustained by the Washington authorities, they proceeded to falsify the election returns so that the result should be as they wished it to be. This was a thing that had been done so regularly at every election held in the Southern States since the war, that its manipulators came to regard it as quite legitimate and as a matter of course; some of them had come to honestly believe that it was justified by the fact that the voters had been rebels and were thereby disqualified from judging who were the best men to be elected to office in a loyal State. They were greatly surprised that their proceedings in relation to Louisiana created the commotion which they did; a surprise which was justified by the fact that the voters had theretofore always quietly submitted to the usurpations of which they were the victims, because they found themselves powerless against their carpet-bag rulers, backed as they were by the federal authority. No doubt Kellogg would have been inaugurated as Governor of Louisiana, notwithstanding he had received a minority of the votes cast, with as little resistance as had been met with by the other usurpers who had previously climbed to the seats of power in the Southern States but for the fact that in this State at this time the Republican leaders had fallen out among themselves; and the Governor—Warmouth—arraying himself on the side of the honestly elected candidate, it seemed likely that the will of the people, which had declared that McEnery should be his successor, would be obeyed. This would have been the result but for the interposition of Grant, who, under cover of a decision of a corrupt Federal Judge, managed to find excuse sufficient for his own obtuse intelligence and deadened edsciehce to stand by his Louisiana supporters and recoguize their man Kellogg as the Governor of the State. Opposed by Federal authority, which was sustained by Federal bayonets, the people of the State were powerless and again submissive; and they now quietly suffer a man to rule over them whom they did not elect, and who has no other commission than that which is conferred at the cannon's mouth.

In Arkansas, Brooks claims to have received the majority of the votes cast at the election held between himself and Baxter in 1872, and his claim, we believe, is generally conceded to be well founded.—Baxter, however, was the candidate of Senator Dorsey and the other friends of the administration, and was consequently counted in, in accordance with the rule prevailing in such cases in the lately seceded States, and sanctioned by the custom of many years. Brooks appealed to the Courts, but his cause for some time made slow progress; he had not the ear of the Judges. It seems, however, that the course of Governor Baxter since his inauguration has not met with the approval of the friends of the administration in Arkansas; Senator Dorsey is the leader of this body of patriots, and he has with him in his band his colleague in the Senate and all but one of the Republican members of the House of Representatives. These men, casting about for some means of circumventing Baxter, concluded to join hands with Brooks, and are presumed to have made such arrangements with him as have made it to their interest to oust Baxter.—The consequence was the *coup d' etat* by which Brooks, in the full confidence that his patrons in Congress would procure the sanction and support of the President to his act, turned Baxter out of the State House and installed himself. His pretext was that he was the legally elected Governor, having received the majority of the votes cast at the election. His statement is now corroborated by the very men who had, in defiance of their knowledge of its truth, caused Paxter to be inaugurated as Governor, because they believed him to be their tool. Could anything be said more significant than this of the character of the friends of the administration who are in power in the Southern States? Ungoverned by a single principle of honor and unrestrained by a single feeling of decency, they have ruled the satrapies under their control with a single eye to their political preferment and their pecuniary enrichment.

The President has thus far declined to interfere in the Arkansas trouble. On the one hand he has feared to offend his supporters in Congress by recognizing Baxter; and on the other, he has been unwilling to stultify himself by recognizing Brooks, in the face of his action in the Kellogg and McEnery matter, when he decided in favor of the former on the sole pretext that he was the *"de facto"* Governor. There can be no doubt that that advantage is now enjoyed by Baxter. Whether honestly elected or not, he has been acting for over a year as the recognized Governor of the State and he must therefore be held to be the Governor until the legal tribunals decide otherwise.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

FICKLE, OR WISE?—The Syracuse *Standard* tells a story of the courtship and marriage of a girl employed in that city, whom it calls Jennie Jones, and who it says, has been alternating the last few months between the attentions of a widower at Preble, Cortland county, named Smith, and a young gentleman of Syracuse. The tale runs thus: "The difference seems to have been a pecuniary one in favor of the Preble widower, and a very large amount of that very common commodity, known as love and affection, in favor of the young man. But the widower had the brothers of the girl, who reside at Preble, on his side; and they were very anxious to see their sister well settled in life, and it did not matter much to them whether her partner should be June or January, so long as he had a goodly portion of this world's goods. So the widower woed with an ardor born only of experience, and that prestige which money and relatives can give. The young Saracusean of the Fifth ward wasn't idle; he had the advantage of his opponent Smith, in being on the ground about every night. Sound common sence and the old-fashioned love pulled strongly in the direction of the Salt City; money and friends pulled more strongly Preble-ward, and Smith triumphed for a time. The wedding outfit was purchased, the house at Preble was furnished, and thither Jennie went to take the last irrevocable step. Arrived in Cortland county, she took a survey of her future home, and its elegant surroundings, the money which would be given at her command, and then, why she took the sober second thought, and the next train for Syracuse—did the most sensible act of her whole life—exchanged money and position for love in a cottage; flew to the arms of her Syracuse lover, and was married by Father Guerdet."

FENCE PLANTING ON THE IOWA AND NEBRASKA PRAIRIES.—The erection of a board fence on a prairie farm is an expensive operation. In Nebraska the law wisely removes the necessity for fence building by providing for the herding of live stock; and, in Iowa, the needs of practial farming life bring about very much the same result.

But in each case, the law and the practice are the things of the day. It is an instinct in the owner of land to define his possessions by metes and bounds, obvious to the eye, which seperate his land from that of his neighbor. If fences were not a convenience there would be fences therefore; but, as fences are a convenience, the improving prairie farmer sets himself to their creation as soon as his house is built and his land broken. Live fences of course are the *desideratum*; and there are three plants which are most in favor for the purpose. The Honey Locust, the Osage Orange and the White Willow make good fences. The two former are impermeable to stock; and, when the latter is well established, the same character may be claimed for it. The White Willow is also of hardy and rapid growth.

Mr. C. B. Mendenhall, of Marshall county, Iowa, has used the White Willow extensively. On his farm there are about thirteen miles of White Willow fencing, of from three to seven years growth, about half of which will turn cattle, and a portion cut half a cord of wood to the rod. Mr. Mendenhall has also a grove of White Willow, covering twenty acres, set out six years ago, and which he considers to be worth $500 per acre.

As we doubt not, some of our readers are even now considering the question of moving west to Iowa or Nebraska, and, as knowledge is a light burden to carry, we give Mr. Mendenhall's method of planting: The willow slips are to be eight inches in length, thrifty sprouts of one or two years growth. The ground for the hedge-row is to be plowed as deeply as possible during August, a deep furrow being left where it is proposed the fence shall stand. Just before frost comes the land is to be turned back, the dead furrow being filled in. As soon as the earth is open, plant the slips eight inches apart, covering them with finely pulverized earth. Cultivate as corn for two years, keeping the infant fence entirely clear of weeds. The following method will ensure a rapid growth: Mulch well in the fall after the second year, placing the mulching as close to the plants as may be, without touching the stems. By following Mr. Mendenhall's plan, the prairie farmer, with White Willow, will have a thrifty fence in the course of three or four years; and in six years his enclosures will be perfect.

THE FIRE FIEND.—On Saturday night the furniture warehouse of Beck & Bolte, in Baltimore, was destroyed by fire, loss estimated at from $65,000 to $75,000; insurance about $24,000.

The saw mill and box manufactory of Cougdon & Sons, at Hadley Falls, Mass., burned Sunday morning. Incendiary.—Loss $20,000 insured for $50,000. George Gordon, fireman of the box shop, was found dead near the mill during the fire, supposed from heart disease.

Toronto, Ontario, had a severe fire on Saturday night. The fire originated in a safe manufactory, and spread rapidly to the boiler works adjoining. Both there places were entirely destroyed. Thence the flames spread northward to a wholesale grocery store, which was totally destroyed. A wholesale leather store adjoining was damaged considerably. Shortly after the fire broke out, another, originating from a spark from the fire, broke out in the Ontario ice house, which was totally destroyed, with two dwelling houses and several sheds adjoining. Loss not ascertained.

Fires are raging in the woods in every part of Michigan. Reports from Muskegon state that the fires have reached within a mile and a half of that city with the wind blowing almost a gale towards the city. Heavy fires are reported near Grand Haven and along the line of the Detroit and Milwaukee railway company, between Iona and Grand Haven. Fires on Flint and Pere Marquette railroad have cut off all communication north of Evarts, and on Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw railroad north of Areona. Large quantities of valuable lumber have been already destroyed. Unless rain falls soon, fearful scenes will be heard of.

Harvey & George's paper mill at Wellsburg, W. Va., was burned on Monday last, involving a loss of $50,000, on which there was no insurance.

A destructive fire occurred in the bastile quarter of Paris, France, on Sunday night. Several persons were burned to death and about two hundred rendered homeless.

THE Louisville *Courier-Journal* says:

> Nothing could better illustrate the incompetency and ignorance of the Attorney General of the United States than the miserable figure he has cut in the Arkansas difficulty. Not content with disgracing the Federal Government by making the Administration a party to the shameless conspiracy of Kellogg and his land pirates in Louisiana, he has repeated the same blunder in a case where the same legal questions were involved. In a dispatch to Governor Baxter he says: "As the controversy relates to your right to hold a State office its adjudication * * * belongs to the State Courts. If the decision of which you complain is erroneous, there appears to be no reason why it may not be reviewed and a correct decision obtained from the Supreme Court of the State."
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> The Supreme Court of the United States says explicitly that no State court has jurisdiction of such a case. Referring to the question as to whether Dorr or King was Governor of Rhode Island, Chief Justice Taney, delivering the opinion of the court, said: "Indeed we do not see how the question could be tried and judicially decided in a State court. Judicial power presupposes an established government, capable of enacting laws and enforcing their execution, and of appointing judges to enforce them. The acceptance of a judicial office is a recognition of the authority of the government from which it is derived. And if the authority of that government is annulled and overthrown, the power of its courts and other officers is annulled with it. And if a State court should enter upon the inquiry proposed in this case, and should come to the conclusion that the government under which it acted had been put aside by any opposing government, it would cease to be a court, and be incapable of pronouncing a judicial decision upon the question it undertook to try."

A REMARKABLE FAMILY.—The Wilmington (Del.) *Commercial* says that there lives in one house at Eldridge Hill, Gloucester county, New Jersey, four ladies of the respective ages of eighty-seven, eighty-two seventy-nine, and sixty-four years.—The youngest is the housekeeper, and the others board with her. All the ladies are smart physically, and their mental powers are in vigor still. The eldest of the party is the mother of nine children, the grandmother of thirty-five children, and the great-grandmother of twenty-six children. One of her children is a lady physician in Wilmington, another is a lady of sixty-lady's husband, to whom she was married at twenty, lived to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, and as another instance of long life, it is mentioned that the husband's sister lived to be with sickness any consecutive seven days, smoking a tobacco pipe from her sixteenth year up to the day of her death.

News and Political Items.

—Too late for the fair—An old bachelor.

—Three newspapers in Iowa are edited by ladies, and are as full of puffs as their dinner dresses.

—A Missouri judge has decided that a woman is not an "old maid" until she is thirty-five years old.

—At Manchester, Iowa, recently, a man, four days after his marriage, ran away with an old sweetheart.

—The steamship Siberia, plying between Liverpool and Madeira, is supposed to be lost, with all her crew and passengers.

—It may be interesting to ladies to know that Lawrenceville, Pa., furnishes all the knitting needles for the United States.

—Charles Larribee, tried at Franklin for the murder of Lew Williams, in Venango county, has been found guilty of murder in the first degree.

—There is a woman in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who believes herself dead. She remains motionless in bed most of the time, but comes to life sufficently to eat occasionally.

—Scott county, Minnesota, contains an extensive Limburger cheese factory. The cheese is declared to be "ripe" when a piece the size of a bean will drive a dog out of a tan yard.

—A relic of the ill-fated steamship Atlantic, in the shape of a passenger's ticket printed in German and English, has been taken from the stomach of a preserved salmon at St. John, N. B.

—In Baltimore, on Saturday, Charles Rose was found guilty of rape, and sentenced to twenty-one years imprisonment. Charles H. Jones, colored, found guilty of murder, was sentenced to be hanged.

—Sophia H. Hutson, of Wilkes-Barre, 18 years old, can neither see, hear nor speak, yet she has learned an alphabet by the touch of the finger by which she can easily be made to understand her friends.

—The last smart old man lives in Augusta county, Virginia. He is ninety-nine years of age, and made his own coffin the other day. He will probably live to 100, and attend his own cremation.

—In East Freetown, Massachusetts, on Friday last, four children at play in Gideon Reynolds' barn set the building on fire, and his daughter, aged four, and a daughter of William Reynolds, aged two years, were burned to death.

—An aged woman, named Meyers, was killed at Stafford Meadow Brook, Luzerne county, by a passing train striking her and precipitating her from a bridge into the water, a fall of twenty feet. She was taken out alive but died in a few minutes.

—A fire at Ridgeway, Iowa, on Saturday evening, destroyed the entire village, with the exception of one brick building. Between thirty and forty families are homeless. The fire originated by two boys lighting cigars in an unoccupied mill. The total loss is nearly $100,000.

—There is a strike of miners at Nelsonville, Athens county, Ohio, which has resulted in serious disorders between strikers and those who desired to work. On Friday night the contending parties interchanged shots. Three men were mortally wounded, one of whom has since died.

—In the Perry county Court last week Judge Junkin sentenced a fiend incarnate named John Baker, who was convicted of committing a rape; on the person of a little girl named Alice Robinson, aged eleven years, to ten years' solitary confinement at hard labor in the Eastern penitentiary.

—People who like to do things on the spur of the moment should emigrate to Harding county, Iowa. A couple there were recently married, and after the ceremony the bride was obliged to ask her husband what her new name was. The parties had only been acquainted a few hours.

—By the explosion of a blast in the tunnel of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Port Perry, on Thursday evening, one man named Barney McKiernan was killed, and six others named John Wilson, Sr., Alfred Renshaw, Edward Burns, Reese Reese, John Flenniken and John McGill, were severely injured.

—A gentleman in Lafayette being asked "to take a drink" declined, but said, if no objections were made, he would take a loaf of bread for his. The party went to a bakery, the treater bought a ten-cent loaf of bread, had it done up and his friend took it home. The loaf was afterward sent to a needy family.

—The Cincinnati *Enquirer* says that a gentleman connected with the press of that city celebrated on the 2d of May his birthday, his wife's birthday, and his wedding day. It was the twentieth anniversary. When married the joint ages of his wife and himself were fifty years. On the last 2d of May the joint ages of his children were fifty years.

—This is how they look. Brooks is about sixty years of age, six feet two inches in height, iron framed, of splendid intellect, one of the ugliest men ever seen; but when aroused is as determined and plucky as any man you ever met. Baxter is about fifty-two years old, very fine-looking, with a blank, expressionless kind of character and very smooth featured.

—In Yarmouth, Maine, there was a sign over a tavern many years ago, which read, Byrom and Drinkwater. Passers by amused themselves by dividing the syllables. About the same time (1810, might have been seen a notice in a leading Philadelphia paper, of a new copartnership in the dry goods business, signed William Shot and Jonathan Fell.

—About three weeks ago Miss Maggie Jane Watson, a respectable young lady of Oquawka, Ill., suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. Her body was found floating in the river on Saturday. From appearances she was murdered and thrown into the river near where her body was found. Her head shows that she was struck twice with a heavy instrument.

—At Great Barrington, Mass., the other day, some few frogs, thinking spring had come, emerged from their winter retreat and began to make sonorous music. A cold snap came on in the night, and great numbers of them got wedged fast in the ice, their heads just sticking above it; then a parcel of lawless hens went and picked their heads off one by one.

—A fiend in human shape criminally abused a little white child four years old, in Mobile, on Sunday last. On Monday, about 11 o'clock, an outraged community marched *en masse* to the county jail where the fiend had been incarcerated, and after battering down the jail wall took him to the nearest tree and hanged him. The name of the fiend was Frank Williams.

—Bread cast on the waters, there is warrant for believing, will return after many days. But now we have the same thing predicated of nickels. Here is a Portland man who put his name on a nickel coin and left it loose to the community. After traveling around the country for five years, this very coin was paid to its original owner in making change at Lowell, Mass.—Now if one's money would always come back in this way what a nice thing it would be.

—Another horrible scene in the British royal family. The Duchess of Edinburgh had borrowed the Princess of Wales' crimping irons. In returning them she presented the hot ends to her Royal Highness, who thoughtlessly took hold of them, and then waltzed around with one hand between her knees for several minutes before she could speak. Eye-witnesses of the occurrence express their belief that the days of the Russian Empire are numbered.—*Brooklyn Argus.*

—John Hepner, of Reading, a native of Germany, aged fifty-nine years, is the father of forty-one children, all of whom except five are dead. The first wife lived with him eight years, bearing him seventeen children as follows: Two sets of twins, four triplets and one at single birth. His second wife bore twins five times in succession, triplets once, and a single child fifteen in all, during nine years of married life. The third and last wife, still living, is the mother of nine children by him.

—A party of adventurous explorers who nearly lost their lives in the attempt have penetrated the depth of a mysterious cavern, intelligence of the discovery of which was rumored about Rockford the past week. The cavern is situated half a mile from the river and six miles south of the city. The party has brought back from its recesses relics, ossuary deposits, etc., etc., which are remarked upon by the scientific men who have seen them as among the most rare and valuable known to this department of science.

—A singular natural curiosity is found at Sadawga Pond in Whittingham, Vt., consisting of one hundred and fifty acres of land floating on the surface of the water, covered with cranberries, and even containing trees fifteen feet high. When the water is raised or lowered as the dam of the pond, the island rises and falls with it. Fish are caught by boring a hole in the crust and fishing down as through the ice in winter. A similar island once existed in a small lake near Bangor, Maine, and there are many such in Southern Florida.

—A man residing in California has written to some old residents of Mason county, Illinois, confessing a murder that he committed at Ritter's Crossing twenty years ago. The murder was committed for money and the body secreted. The head, which was severed from the body, was found buried in the place described by the murderer. The latter writes that he had been informed by physicians that he cannot live much longer, hence the confession. This is one of the cases where murder did not "out" until too late for the action of justice.

—The Des Moines (Iowa) *Register* says to its readers: "Did you ever see a snapping turtle, white frogs, white tadpoles, and other unusual amphibious animals bleached out to an Anglo Saxon complexion? If not, you can see this curiosity by taking a walk to the paper mill. The water which the straw is boiled runs off into a pond connected with Coon River, and the animals boarding in this pond have had their color changed to a perfect white. They look as if they had been whitewashed. This chemical change probably results from the properties in the water, although that is of a yellowish cast, and lighter than the straw boiled in it."

—A general desolation and distress has followed the great flood in the Southern States, and the government and citizens of the North are receive letters daily from the overflowed parishes, giving details of the condition of the inhabitants. Many of the whites have lost everything, and in some districts entire destitution prevails. Dr. C. Burch, writing from Bastrop, Morehouse parish, says that 3000 people within the limits of his parish, many of whom are suffering from starvation caused by exposure on account of the overflow. He is unable to supply the demand for medicine, and ask, that some be forwarded, offering to distribute it among the sick and suffering.

—The murder of Morris Wright Sr., of Green county, Arkansas, has led to the revelation of a strange conspiracy. Wright was a nefarious public robber, who was believed to be assisted in his operations of addition, division and silence by the county clerk named E. R. Seeley. Some time a year ago the Court House was burned down, and afterward the clerk's office. Wright and Seeley reported that a large quantity of county scrip and important documents had been consumed. Soon after his death Wright told his wife where she would find a box containing valuable papers. Upon examining the contents of the box over three thousand dollars in county scrip was discovered. Seeley, the ex-county clerk, was at once arrested, and confessed that the Court House and records had been burned to conceal a defalcation of over thirty thousand dollars.

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