

Mr. Fink, of Ohio, has introduced a bill in Congress to repeal the Act requiring the prepayment of postage on newspapers.

We hope a majority of the lower House at Harrisburg will give the right color to their legislative acts by voting for Black and Brown, and that the Senate will do the same so far as Black is concerned.

A BILL has been introduced into Congress restoring the salary of the President back to \$25,000. If it should pass it would not, under a clause in the constitution, reduce Grant's salary of \$50,000 one cent, a fact of which he was well aware when he signed the salary grant bill.

The Johnstown Tribune pays its respects to Benjamin F. Wade, once a shining light in the Radical party, after the following fashion: "Poor old Ben Wade, once the noblest hero of the Anti-Slavery champions, is a common lobbyist in Washington. He was yesterday with Col. Thomas A. Scott before the Senate Railroad Committee in the interest of a subsidy for a railroad. To what base uses do we come at last!"

A NASHVILLE paper confidently asserts that Andrew Johnson will go into the next legislature of Tennessee with three times the strength of any of the other aspirants who may be before that body, for a seat in the United States Senate. We are inclined to think that in this instance the wish is father to the thought, although the President will no doubt make a powerful effort to succeed and will throw into the contest all his well known energy and force of character.

It seems that there is considerable opposition in the Senate to the confirmation of Ex-Governor Jewell recently appointed Postmaster General. The prominent leaders in the movement are said to be Simon Cameron and Flanagan, one of the Senators from Texas. What Mr. Jewell has done or left undone during his brief occupancy of the department to incur the displeasure of these two radical parties, we are not given to understand. Mr. Jewell is regarded as an honorable man, and we predict that it will require something more substantial than the personal hostility of Cameron and Flanagan to ostracize him and prevent his confirmation.

P. S. The nomination of Mr. Jewell was confirmed by the Senate on Tuesday.

The term of Carl Schurz, one of the United States Senators from Missouri, will expire on the 4th of next March, and it seems to be generally conceded that he stands no chance whatever of a re-election. He is a gentleman of very great ability, and as a ready and fluent speaker has no superior in the Senate. He has dealt Grant some severe and stunning blows, especially on the corrupt San Domingo job, and other kindred measures. He was a devoted friend of President Lincoln, but could never endorse the infamies of Grantism, and when the liberal Republican party was organized he identified himself with its political fortunes and presided over the Cincinnati Convention when Horace Greeley was nominated for President, although he preferred another candidate. His personal integrity is beyond suspicion, and no man's absence from the Senate will be more generally regretted than that of Mr. Schurz.

Under an Act of Congress which provides that a judge of any of the United States Courts who has arrived at the age of 70 may retire on full pay, Judge Swayne of Ohio, one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, who reached that age last week, has signified his intention of availing himself of the provision of the act referred to. This will give Grant an opportunity to fill the vacancy. The court consists of nine members, of whom Mr. Lincoln appointed five, viz: Swayne, Miller, Davis, Field, and the late Chief Justice Chase. Grant has appointed four, viz: Strong, Bradley, Hunt, and Waite, the successor of Judge Chase. The remaining Associate Justice, Clifford, was appointed by Mr. Buchanan in 1858. The Southern States are entirely unrepresented on the bench of the court, an anomaly in its organization which ought not to exist. That there are men in that section fit for the position no one doubts, but as they do not belong to the Grant school of politics they will be passed by and some thick and thin supporter of the administration will be nominated.

There was some discussion last week in the lower branch of Congress on the financial question, and the fact was plainly developed that the President and the radical majority are as wide apart as the poles. The President in his message took strong and decided ground in favor of an early resumption of specie payments and against any inflation or increase of the greenback currency. He believes that the certain cure for the financial ills under which the business of the country is suffering, is a return as soon as possible to the last money of the constitution, gold and silver, and in this opinion he enunciates sound Democratic doctrine. His views are violently opposed by Judge Kelly of this State and Benjamin F. Butler, while Dawes and Garfield sustain him. The Secretary of the Treasury in his report holds the same views that the President does in his message, and enforces them in strong and vigorous language. Owing to this irreconcilable difference between Grant and one wing of the Republican party in Congress on a question so vital as that of the currency, it may safely be assumed that no credit legislation on the subject will take place at the present session, in which event the country will be the gainer.

An interesting presentation took place in Paris at the American Embassy on the 9th instant. A short time after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in October, 1781, General Washington presented to Lafayette as a testimonial of his high regard, a gold watch on the back of which was engraved an appropriate inscription. When Lafayette made his last visit to this country in 1825, he went to the Hermitage to see General Jackson, and then passed on to Nashville, where he was received with distinguished honor. When he retired to his bed late at night, his body servant placed his watch inside of a large trunk in the General's room and neglected to lock it. The next morning it was discovered that the watch was missing, and although a large reward was offered for its return it was not forthcoming. About two or three years ago this same watch was purchased by a gentleman residing in Galveston, Texas, from a Jew pawnbroker in Memphis. Having often read the story about the loss of the watch in Nashville, and seeing the inscription on its back, he wrote to Mr. Fish, Secretary of State, about eighteen months ago and proposed selling it to the government for \$300, in order that it might be restored to the heirs of Lafayette. Mr. Fish sent a communication to Congress on the subject, and on the 22d of June last that body passed an act authorizing its purchase. An interview was afterwards had with the Memphis Jew, who stated that some months before he sold it to the Texas gentleman, it had been pawned with him by a lady living in the interior of the State as security for the loan of a certain sum of money and that the time for its redemption had expired. The lady was visited and solved the mystery of its loss, stating who took it from Lafayette's trunk and the accidental finding of it by herself several years ago in her mother's house in a secret drawer in an ordinary chest. It was placed in 1825, together with a written statement made by the person who had pilfered it, in which he expressed a deep feeling of remorse for his act. Mr. Fish transmitted it to Mr. Washburne, the United States Minister in France, and that gentleman on the 8th in an appropriate address handed it to M. Ocaro De Lafayette in the presence of the entire Lafayette family and a large number of Americans who are spending the winter in Paris. M. Lafayette made an appropriate reply, expressing the thanks of the Lafayette family to Congress and the government for the restoration of the long lost and invaluable relic.

Hon. HENRY CLYMER, who so ably represents "Old Berks" in Congress, is a gentleman in whom the democracy of Pennsylvania feel just pride. He occupies a commanding position in the House and is respected for his ability as well as his undoubted integrity. He addressed a letter to the Democrats of Philadelphia who recently celebrated the victories of October and November, in which he said:

Let me not vainly imagine that it is merely partisan—let me see as an organization, have no other political affiliations. Let us rather accept it in its true significance, as a protest against the most flagrant and most unconstitutional and illegal rule—against Executive usurpation and aggrandizement—against legislative abuses and corruption—against the invidious and debasing influences of the spoils system—against the intrigues and robberies of organized rings and banditti—against incompetency and faithlessness in places of trust and power—against the despotic rule of the Executive, and the unprincipled position of an attempted dynasty, and finally and above all—against that fell spirit of centralization, which would monopolize in the hands of a few, the immunities of Sovereign States and clothe the Federal Government with absolute and supreme power!

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A FEW YEARS ago the Supreme Court of the United States, Chief Justice Chase delivering the opinion, decided that the Act of Congress making greenbacks a legal tender for the payment of debts was unconstitutional. This decision gave mortal offense to Grant and the large and powerful rail road corporations of the country, and an organized effort was set on foot to have it reversed. A bill was accordingly passed by Congress, authorizing the appointment of two additional judges of the Court, and Grant nominated Strong, of Pennsylvania, and Bradley, of New Jersey—both Attorneys for Rail Road corporations in their respective States. This was called at the time "the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for a certain and well-known purpose. After Strong and Bradley had taken their seats, the cause was regarded before a full Court and the result was, as has been anticipated, that a majority of the Court overruled the opinion of Chief Justice Chase and pronounced the legal tender act constitutional. And now Grant in his message strongly urges Congress to repeal this same legal tender provision in the law—the repeal to take effect on the 1st of January, which he leaves Congress to determine.

The Democratic party has always opposed the constitutionality of the legal tender act, and Grant, singular as it may appear, is now found endorsing the views of the Democracy on that question, as well as on the question of a speedy resumption of specie payments. Politics like misery, make a man acquainted with strange bed-fellows. If an effort is made in Congress to carry out the recommendation of the President it will give rise to exciting and angry discussion, and will most certainly fail in the Senate even should it pass the House.

Great Suffering in Western Kansas.

OVER EIGHTEEN THOUSAND PERSONS SUFFERING FOR LACK OF FOOD AND CLOTHING—AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE BENEVOLENT WORLD—CAUTION AGAINST IMPOSTORS.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette. PERRET, KAN., Dec. 8, 1874. In the enclosed report, issued one week ago by the Kansas Central Relief Committee, you will find an approximated tabulated statement of the destitution in the western counties of this State. This shows that nearly two million persons are destitute of food and clothing, and that half as many more are suffering for lack of clothing, making 18,184 in all. On the reverse side of the sheet which I enclose you will find an appeal in behalf of the sufferers in a dignified and concise manner, which affords as true and succinct a picture of the state of affairs in that afflicted region as I have seen. I have not and talked with men whose business it was to investigate the destitution of other counties similarly situated, and sadder narratives I never heard—of families with nothing to subsist upon but boiled wheat, and not enough of that; of women and children whose scanty clothing was so ragged that they could hardly keep it on—without going to the door for their money, and without fire—just entering upon the winter, and with no prospect of relief from their own resources for the next six months. The following is the appeal I speak of:

TO THE GENEROUS PUBLIC—We, the undersigned, a committee duly appointed and authorized to receive the contributions of our respective counties, do respectfully say: The five northwestern frontier counties in Kansas to develop resources and districts in Norton and Rooks, constituting a natural geographical unit, on the upper Solomon and away from railroads, suffered a loss from grasshoppers, last summer, almost equal to the value of taxable property, as indicated by the last general assessment. Corn is the pioneer's best crop; it was our principal dependence for bread and clothing, and our corn was entirely destroyed. A small portion of our people have a light crop of wheat to live on, and that is a precarious one, and it is not certain that it will furnish all of that, feed for their teams, a surplus to sell for clothing, and other necessities, or they must go without. The loss of the crop of wheat, in the case, there could be no insurance to cover a part of the loss, as in the case of great fires in cities.

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The conductor of a Philadelphia street car found a \$100 bill belonging to a country market-woman, and promptly restored it to her. The company by whom he is employed will carry a bell punch all the same.

The youngest member of the next Congress will be Hon. John D. White, who is now in his twenty-sixth year. His father, John White, served as speaker of the House during the Twenty-fourth Congress.

Count Beust announces that the medals for merit in connection with the Vienna Exhibition, were distributed during the past month, and the diplomas of honor and the co-opted medals will be given out during the present month, as rapidly as possible.

J. N. McCre, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Superintendent of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania railroad to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Col. S. A. Black. The new official will assume the duties of his position about the first of January.

On Tuesday a woman's head was found in a tin box, in the woods near New York. The woman, who was named Sarah Walsh, was a native of Ireland, and was a domestic servant in the household of a wealthy family in New York. She was found dead in a tin box, which was found in the woods near New York. She was a native of Ireland, and was a domestic servant in the household of a wealthy family in New York.

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