THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,
Friday Morning, - - March 12, 1875.

THE bill authorizing the people of the Territory of Colorado to frame a constitution preparatory to its admission into the Union as a State, has passed both Houses of Congress, while the bill conferring the same right on New Mexico has been defeated.

THE Democratic members of Congress elect to the Forty-fourth Congress who were present at the close of the session last week, agreed unanimously, it is said, to support Hon. Samuel J. Randall for Speaker of the next House. He is undoubtedly the coming man.

A DEFALCATION of about $20,000, divided between the ticket and freight offices of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, at Zanesville, Ohio, is now undergoing examination by the Auditor of the Ohio division of that Company. A young man named Howard handled the funds of both departments, and thus far cannot account for the deficit.

THE Democratic State Committee, at its meeting yesterday week, decided that the next State Convention should be held at Erie, on Wednesday, the 8th of September. Believing as we always did in the policy of short and sharp political campaigns, the time fixed is proper, though our own opinion is that State Conventions should invariably be held at Harrisburg. However as that question has been definitely settled, it does not now admit of any discussion. The Republican State Committee met on the same day and fixed on Lancaster as the place and Wednesday, the 26th of May, as the time for the meeting of its convention. Candidates for Governor and State Treasurer are to be nominated by both.

AN article is going the rounds of the radical press, the Johnstown *Tribune* being among the number, in which it is asserted that Gen. Forrest made a speech at Muldon, in Tennessee, on the 4th of February, announcing these sentiments: "I believe there will be another war, and my policy will be to raise the black flag with the skull and crossbones on it, and then not leave a Republican white or black alive in this State." All this is simply a naked lie, and as such is disposed of by the Nashville *Union*, which announces that Gen. Forrest was not at Muldon, Tenn., on the 4th of February—that he made no speech anywhere on that day—that in no public speech at any time has he uttered the sentiments attributed to him—and, finally, that there is *no such place as Muldon in Tennessee*.—How utterly contemptible are such malignant slanders concocted by Northern radicalism to embitter and inflame the public mind against the people of the Southern States.

THE worse than the law's delay and uncertainty experienced by Democratic candidates for Congress in Louisiana in getting their seats after having been fairly elected, were fully illustrated during the closing hours of the late session. At the election in that State two years ago last November, Percy Bysshe Shelley Pinchback and George A. Sheridan were candidates at large. Neither of them was admitted. At the same election, Sypher (Radical) and Lawrence (Democrat) ran in the First district. Sypher procured the certificate through fraud, took his seat, and has been voting and drawing his pay during two sessions. Towards midnight of the day before Congress adjourned, the House, on the report of the election committee, by a vote of 134 to 84 admitted Sheridan and Lawrence, each of whom had about *fourteen* hours to occupy their seats and witness the dying struggles of radicalism. Both would be entitled to full pay as members. We suppose that Pinchback, who is always intent on the main chance, also sought his greenbacks, and if he got them his wounded honor was more than satisfied.

NO PRESIDENT ever received such a withering rebuke from his own party as was administered to Grant by the lower branch of Congress two days before its final adjournment. It will be remembered that the House committee on Arkansas affairs, of which Mr. Poland, of Vermont, was chairman, had made a report, with a resolution attached, in which it has declared that the existing State government in Arkansas should not be interfered with either by Congress or by any department of the general government. Two days after this report was made, Grant, in one of his spasms of statesmanship, sent his extraordinary and alarming message to the Senate, in which he threatened in plain language to overthrow the new constitution of the State and restore Brooks to the office of Governor, if Congress, before it adjourned, did not interfere in the matter. The resolution of the committee was taken up and discussed on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., and was adopted by a vote of 149 yeas to 80 nays. House has said to Grant, "Keep your mailed hand off the throat of Arkansas—her people are peaceable and quiet—they have adopted a new constitution and elected a Governor, as they had a perfect right to do, although you told the Senate in your message that they were guilty of usurpation. Any military interference on your part in the affairs of that State will not now be in order." It is to be hoped that the people of Arkansas are thus secure from any arbitrary and illegal exercise of power in order to coerce the vote of their State in favor of the third term project.

HON. FRED. L. FOSTER, of Schuylkill county, rushed into print last week in the Johnstown *Voice and Echo* in defence of his Legislative Hand Book resolution, in reference to which some comments have recently appeared in the FREEMAN. His communication contains nothing that is either new or startling, being merely a rehash of his letter to us on the same subject. His delusion is, that because the Legislatures of 1871 and 1874 embarked extensively in the Hand Book business, therefore the Legislature of 1875 ought to follow their example. We deny the right of any Legislature, past, present, or to come, to authorize the purchase of this or any other book in order that its members may be enabled to present them to a few of their select friends. Where is the limit to this practice? Robert C. Schenck, the American Minister to England, has lately, to the honor of his country, issued a small sized book explanatory of the mysteries of that seductive but hazardous game known as *"draw poker."* Suppose now that some lover of *draw* in the House, with more enterprise than the member from Schuylkill, but without his refined taste, should suddenly become as infatuated with Schenck's treatise as Foster seems to be with Smull's Hand Book—that he induced himself to believe that Schenck's little book contained "very much valuable information," and that the members were "all very anxious to have it for their constituents,"—all he would have to do, according to Foster's logic, would be to offer a joint resolution for the purchase of 3,000 *"coppies"* of it, and Schenck's manual would at once turn up a legislative trump. So far as the honesty of the transaction is concerned, the two cases are precisely similar, although the compilations widely differ.

Mr. Foster ought to know that the last State Convention pledged the Democratic party to retrenchment and reform, and that the money which will be abstracted from the treasury when the State printer presents his bill for furnishing these Hand Books, would pay the annual interest on very many thousand dollars of the State debt.—Compelling the State to pay for 3,000 By this emphatic vote a Republican Hand Books to be distributed by the members among their friends, is not one of the entertainments to which the taxpayers of the Commonwealth supposed they would be invited by their representatives. The whole thing is radically wrong and vicious and admits of no apology or excuse. It is simply a raid on the treasury under the convenient forms of legislation and ought to be denounced by every paper in the State that is not afraid to express its honest convictions.

THE Altoona *Tribune* professes to be neutral, or perhaps we should say indepen lent in politics, and is regarded as a respectable journal. It saw proper, however, in its issue of last Saturday to compromise its fair name by publishing a pointless and stupid address, which it falsely and meanly asserted had been delivered at Carrolltown by Hon. John Buck, one of the members of the Legislature from this county. What possible motive the *Tribune* had in thus degrading its columns it would be difficult to conjecture, in as much as Mr. Buck, as we have reason to believe, is a total stranger to all connected with that paper and has never offended or injured any one of them. This inexcusable effort to hold Mr. Buck up to public ridicule cannot of course detract from his personal popularity among the people of Cambria county, and will therefore only recoil on those who have seen fit to write and print such contemptible stuff. This senseless and uncalled for production, which was intended for wit, bears several Ebensburg ear-marks upon it and very plainly betrays its paternity. Whenever the columns of the *Tribune* are opened to outside parties for the base and cowardly purpose of attempting to degrade and belittle an upright and honest citizen, as Mr. Buck surely is, even though that liberty is granted, as we are confident was done in this instance, without the knowledge or consent of the proprietors of that paper, who are both honorable, high-minded gentlemen, we are forced to say that it sinks itself beneath the clearly defined limits of honorable journalism and earns the well merited contempt of all right-thinking men. More than that, the *Tribune* should have left such dirty to its delectable namesake in Johnstown, which has at least the frivolous excuse to offer that Mr. Buck is from this county and hence is a proper subject for misrepresentation through its columns.

HON. WILLIAM S. KING arrived at Washington on Saturday and found Congress adjourned and no one authorized to take his tistimony. Who can picture the grief, asks the Lancaster *Intelligencer*, which must have filled his bosom at the discovery that Congress had adjourned? After his strenuous exertions to reach the capital and give his testimony on Pacific Mail affairs to be thus disappointed at finding no one authorized to take it was really too bad. After taking the "short cut" through Canada from his Minnesota stock farm to his seat in Congress, to arrive panting in Washington and find Congress adjourned must have been a disappointment more severe than his failure to sell that $14,000 bull in Canada at his asking price. Surely William is born to disappointment!

THE latest returns received of the New Hampshire election, held Tuesday, seem to indicate that no choice for Governor has been made by the popular vote, and the matter will therefore go before the Legislature for final decision. The political complexion of that body is yet in doubt. The Democracy have gained one Congressman, anyhow, and over that we crow-

The Republican Platform for 1876.

The Republican party as represented by an enormous majority in both houses of the Forty-third Congress, and illustrated in the acts of its last session, says the N. Y. *Sun*, points with pride to its past record, and rejoices in the following declaration of its present principles:

I. Third term now, and Presidency for life hereafter.

II. Government by the bayonet, suspension of *habeas corpus* at discretion, and drumhead courts martial, are the true elements of political strength.

III. Specie payments in 1871 without coin.

IV. Civil rights mean the white man has no rights which the black man is bound to respect.

V. More taxes, more debt, and more expenditures the true road to permanent prosperity.

VI. Subsidies, special tariffs, Credit Mobilier, Texas Pacific, back-pay grabs, railroad grants, and all sorts of monopolies blaze the pathway of Republican legislation.

VII. Nepotism is obedience to scriptural authority, and a blessing to the reigning family.

VIII. Negro supremacy in the South to advance Christian civilization.

IX. Opposition legislatures ought to be suppressed by Federal troops as dangerous to Grantism.

X. Returning boards are more potent than elections, and should be appointed by the President.

XI. The people have no right to complain when the Administration is content.

XII. A large standing army and powerful appropriations for the navy are indispensable to a republic and to hosts of magnificent officers seeking commands.

XIII. Opponents of the third term, critics of the President, champions of the Constitution, economists, and the toiling masses who grumble because they are poor, must be classed as banditti, and punished accordingly.

XIV. Centralized government is national strength, and State Governments should be abolished except as dependencies.

XV. Carpet-baggers and office-holders are abused patriots who have suffered for their country, and merit its grateful recognition.

XVII. Investigations by Congress intended to expose corruption and jobbery, and to damage the Republican party, cannot be too sternly condemned for trenching on private rights.

XVIII. The President is the recognized head of the Government, to whom Congress and the courts owe obedience.

XIX. The newspaper press is a nuisance. A censor to restrain carping utterances and a severe law to condemn offending editors, are demanded forthwith.

XX. Rings are self-sacrificing organizations, intended to promote the public welfare, to shape legislation wisely, to stimulate enterprise, to aid commerce, to build railroads, and to place appropriations where they will do most good.

XXI. A constitutional amendment is recommended making Long Branch the summer capital of the nation, with liberal allowances for the President and his household during Gen. Grant's life.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL—ITS LIMITATIONS.—There appears to be much apprehension as to the meaning of the Civil Rights bill, which is causing trouble among many classes of people who think its provisions embrace their occupations, as well as among the ignorant negroes, who are taught to believe by the designing whites, who pretend to be their friends, that their rights and privileges under the law are without limit.

The bill limits the rights of negroes to inns, public conveyances by land or waters and theatres or other places of public amusement.

An inn is described by all lexicographer as a house where travelers may obtain shelter, lodging, and entertainment for money. A restaurant, where people may obtain food and drink, or a drinking house, where liquors are sold, is not an inn, unless the proprietors furnish their houses as lodging places for travelers. Neither of these come under the law at all.

A day or two since, at the annual commencement of one of our medical schools, some negroes obtained tickets of invitation through their white friends—very improperly. The tickets were personal and not transferable. They were doubtless given for the purpose of raising a disturbance, and the negroes demanded and obtained admission. Now exhibitions of that kind are not "public amusements," and the negroes had no right there unless they had received from the faculty personal cards of invitation, and they should have been refused admission promptly and firmly.

Some trouble has also arisen in barber shops. A barber shop is not a place of public amusement, and however much a negro may desire the luxury of being shaved by a white man, he has no right under the law to demand it.

The negro, if left to himself, would not give trouble under any law. All the trouble will arise from designing white men who will incite the negro to these intrusions for the purpose of robbing him of his hard earnings, or of using him in politics.—*Baltimore Gazette.*

THE memorial recently presented in the Senate of the United States by Mr. Spencer, of Alabama, asking Federal interference in that State, was printed in the Montgomery *Advertiser* of Saturday. On the same day, Mr. Harris, a white Republican, rose in the State Senate and denounced the memorial. He said he had never signed it and had never seen it until that morning. Mr. Royal, a colored Senator, said he had signed the paper, but under the impression that it was a petition for the appointment of Arthur Bingham as postmaster of Montgomery. He said he would never have signed the memorial if he had known what it really was. Another colored Senator said he had signed it thinking it a protest against the appointment of General Parsons to a Federal judgeship. Several other Republican Senators denied any knowledge of the document, and one of them, a colored man, said he had voted for the bills complained of. A committee was appointed to find out the authors of the fraud.

—The Pittsburgh *Post* of Saturday last says: "An impudent and ignorant negro asserted his rights under the civil rights bill on one of the through trains going out of the city on Thursday night. He entered one of the cars containing a number of vacant seats and one occupied by a white woman and child. In this he seated himself and refused to give it up when requested by the gentlemen passenger, and the conductor. It is reported that when the conductor was about to remove him from the seat, two or three radicals interfered to prevent it and pistols were drawn. The lady with her child was compelled to vacate the seat and find another. Of course had the intruder been a white man he would have been ejected from the seat and probably from the train."

—A man at El Paso, Mexico, has actually put in a claim on the United States Government for nine chickens destroyed by coyotes from the American side.

Remarkable Gang of Robbers.

ARREST OF NINE REPUTABLE FARMERS WHO HAVE CARRIED ON A SYSTEM OF WHOLESALE ROBBERY DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, writing from Springfield, Ill., under date of March 1st, says: It passes comprehension that merely a condition of affairs as described below should exist in a civilized community and this age of detective shrewdness, and remain undiscovered for a period of over four years. The subjoined is a brief account of the exploits of a gang of thieves harboring about Illiopolis. It almost surpasses the somewhat apocryphyal stories of the exploits of the gang of robbers of which John A. Murrell was the leader, and which, during the primitive days in our Southwestern history, made life and property within its ranging ground hang by a very uncertain tenure.

Illiopolis is about twenty miles east of Springfield, on the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railway. It is a small village and station, the shipping and trading point for a large section of country, and the farmers who reside in the immediate vicinity are generally respectable and well-to-do; they are largely interested in stock-raising as well as farming. When the rebellion broke out the people of Illiopolis township rallied around the old flag, and many of the middle-aged and young men enlisted

"FOR TO BE SOLDIERS."

Among the number who were fired with martial glory and patriotism were Francis M. Green, Samuel Dickinson, Benjamin F. Crance, John Pontzious, and Mitchell Havenor. They enlisted in the Forty-first Infantry, Colonel Isaac Pugh, and when an election was held, Green was made a second lieutenant. His reputation being that of a good man, on the first occasion he was promoted to the captaincy of Company I. He served the full term of three years, Dickinson, Crane, Pontzious, and Havenor remaining with him, and all being mustered out together with honor. Occasionally thereafter a report would break loose concerning some irregularity in the foraging line committed by Company I while in service; but the impression being that such things were matters of course in the army, little attention was paid to the rumors.

Captain Green, Samuel Dickinson, Benjamin F. Crane, John Pontzious' Taylor Dickinson, Robert Pate, John Rager, and Berry Peel now languish in the Sangamon County Jail. Havenor is in the Macon County Jail.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS M. GREEN,

the leader of the party, is about forty years of age, has a family, and has resided in Illiopolis since he came out of the army, having formerly resided at Mount Auburn, just over the line, in Christian county. So far as knowledge of his earlier life has been gleaned, it is all to his credit; and even during the war he bore a much better general reputation than many of his associates in commission. Since his residence in Illiopolis he has been a most exemplary citizen. He has always taken a deep interest in Christianity, teaching in Sabbath School, and being a regular attendant upon the "stated preaching of the gospel." He is a general farmer, and occasionally has engaged in merchandising, buying and selling grain, stock, etc.

All of these men except two (Ben Crane and Pate) have for years been known and respected as honest, industrious men—living in the same community, trading, laboring and associating with all its inhabitants, and not a breath of suspicion pointing to them as the guilty parties in a course of wholesale and petty robbery that every citizen has known of for four years. One can readily imagine how an arrest of such men on a multitude of charges would create consternation in a quiet rural community. The charges against the gang embrace almost every species of robbery, and their stealings will aggregate tens of thousands of dollars in value; horses, mules, hogs, cattle, wheat, corn, wagons, provisions, clothing, boots and shoes, liquor, groceries—everything, in fact, that could be had either from railway trains, or farm houses and fields. Some time last March

THE FIRST SUSPICION

was aroused, and the first clue to the guilty parties was discovered. Two valuable horses were stolen from a farmer in Illiopolis township. Shortly afterward a man by the name of Wingate, formerly a resident of Illiopolis, saw and recognized the horses in Christian county. An officer went after them, and found that the man in whose possession they were had traded a span of mules to Captain Green for them, and that Green had taken the mules to St. Louis and sold them. Before Green could be nabbed, however, he went to Kansas. A requisition brought him back, a preliminary examination resulted in holding him over, on which he gave bail.

Joshua Cantrall, Esq., Wm. N. Streeter, and Mr. Skeen, agent of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railway, at Illiopolis, did not let the matter rest there, however. The community had suffered from the depredations of thieves so long that these gentlemen and others determined to follow up the clue thus put in their possession. Other complaints were made, other warrants issued, and Green was again in the fangs of the law. The bail on the several complaints aggregated more than Green could command, and he was committed to jail. During the last four weeks arrests have been made until the number aggregates nine. On Tuesday night Sam Dickinson and several of the gang were taken before the Sangamon County Grand Jury and

CONFESSED ALL AND SINGULAR

the charges preferred against them. On Thursday 'Squire Cantrall obtained from the Governor a requisition for another of the gang who is hiding from justice in Iowa. There are other members still at large.

Illiopolis people tell many amusing incidents in connection with Green. Ben. Crane stole a pair of mules and run them off to St. Louis. On his return he told Green where the mules were stabled and gave Green a bill of sale of them. Green then went to the owner of the mules and told him he thought he could find them. The owner had bills printed describing the mules and commissioned Green to hunt them up. Green took the bills and started for St. Louis. While crossing the river he dropped the bills in the river, went to the stable where the mules were, obtained possession, sold them, pocketed the money, came home, told the owner that the mules could not be found, "whacked up" with Ben. Crane, and then went off to his Sabbath school class with a sanctified air.

THE ROBBERY OF CARS

and the depot at Illiopolis became so frequent, and the loss of property so extensive that Skeen, the agent, consulted Captain Green (who is his brother-in-law), about hiring a watchman—"of course you ought," said Green, and straightway Green, Ben Crane, and others of the gang were hired or volunteered to watch the very premises they were robbing. The robbing, of course, was stopped. Then Crane and Green told Skeen "he had spoilt it all by telling a constable that the depot was watched. If he hadn't told the constable, they would have caught the d—n rascals!"

THE BOLDEST OPERATION

so far unearthed is the one for which Mitchell Havenor is held. Havenor and Sam Dickinson went to Toledo and presented to the house of Hays & Co. certified bills of lading and invoices for five cars of wheat shipped from Illiopolis.—The papers purported to have been signed by Sam Skeen, the T., W. and W. agent. As the transaction appeared all right, $500 was advanced. In a short time the forgery was discovered, and Havenor was pursued and arrested. Sam Dickinson now confesses that Green forged all the papers. On one occasion they stole a lot of timothy seed from the cars at Illiopolis, and Ben Crane loaded it up, drove to Decatur, and sold it for $153. On another occasion Crane and some of the "boys" broke into Gilbert's store at Illiopolis, got drunk, and deliberately proceeded to eat an oyster supper.

The gang had no regular "fence," the proceeds of each robbery being disposed of as circumstances and occasion offered. The officers are in possession of facts which point to the criminality of several other men in Sangamon county of very respectable antecedents and associations, and the indictments against the present parties will not be pushed until the last one of the gang is caught.

A Mysterious Conspiracy.

HOW ONE INGENIOUS JACKASS FRIGHTENED SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE.

A few years ago a reporter who was badly off for items invented and published in one of our morning papers a story to the effect that a man dressed in India-rubber haunted the streets of the upper part of the city after night-fall, for the purpose of strangling women and children whom he encountered. After drinking their blood he would bound over fences fifteen feet high and disappear. Plenty of foolish people believed the yarn, and for awhile a panic prevailed. Some other brilliant genius has just invented another terrible tale for the purpose of curdling the blood of nervous old ladies and timid young girls, and we are given to understand that in some of the schools—the Girls' Normal School among them—the matter is just now discussed in awful whispers and with horror-stricken faces. The report is that the amiable Irishmen who propose to honor the memory of St. Patrick on the 17th inst. have conceived a dark and deadly plot against the peace of the city; that it is their intention, during the parade, suddenly to break ranks, to bring forth from beneath their coats, pistols and battering rams and barrels of petroleum and other awful weapons of war and incendiarism, and thereupon to proceed to sack the city. Obnoxious persons, and particularly all persons of English birth or descent, are to be butchered in cold blood, their houses are to be consigned to the flames, and all their relations, to their remotest aunts and most distant cousins, are to be hung in rows upon the telegraph wires, a prey for the kites and crows, if the kites and crows happen to come around in a hungry condition. One of the details of this fiendish conspiracy is that the houses of the doomed ones are to be marked; and the sensational rascals who invented the story actually have placed marks with chalk upon whole rows of houses in the upper portion of the city. Hired girls who see these mysterious signals go up stairs in tremor and pack their trunks so as to be ready to move at a moment's notice; and boys who observe these marks invest their savings in brass-barreled pistols and bows and arrows, while they try to decide whether to stay and beat off the ferocious hordes which threaten the lives of their families, or to go West and die glorious in an effort to exterminate the Indians. Meantime the Irishmen, who are to do all this inhuman butchery, to clog the gutters with gore and wade knee-deep in blood, are unaware of the frightful things that are expected of them, and they are preparing for perfect calmness while their victims are shuddering. If the Legislature could give everybody ordinary common sense by passing a law for the purpose, it would be a good thing to insist upon an enactment of that character at this juncture.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

A RACE FOR A WIFE.—A few days since a young man hailing from the classic precincts of La Croole applied to the County Clerk of Polk county for a license to marry a young lady, which the accommodating Clerk issued. The same day another young man called for a license to marry. The Clerk was not in and his deputy issued the license. The two licenses were issued for the same girl. The first party hastened to the home of his young inamorata, and fixed up in gay attire they hastened to the minister's residence to have the "knot tied" in regular orthodox style. While the ceremony was being performed, party No. 2 came panting into the room, his face flushed and his almost broken heart thumping perceptibly. In answer to the question if there were any who objected to the bans, No. 2 yelled out he did, at the same time presenting his license, duly issued and signed by the County Clerk. Here was a quandary the man of God couldn't get through his clerical brain, and he stopped, leaving the party unmarried. No. 1 came to this city next day to consult an attorney. He was in a world of trouble—frustrated in his cherished desire of wedding his lady-love the day before, he wanted to appeal to the law—perhaps to place an injunction on his rival, No. 2. While No. 1 was taking legal advice, No. 2 took the much coveted Rose of Dallas to another dispenser of connubial ties, and was married. When No. 1 returned he found that while he had gained his point as to law his rival had gained his point in matrimony. As possession is nine points in law, No. 1 was welcome to the point of law he had gained. The tussel for the girl was a vigorous one, and we really feel like condoling No. 1.—*Salem (Or.) Statesman.*

AFTER THE SIAMESE FASHION.—Mrs. Seitz, of Baldwin, on Tuesday gave birth to twins of a very interesting nature, two females weighing eleven pounds. They are united in front by a common band from the navel to the top of the breast bone, forming what is denominated a monster. They are both very distinctly and perfectly formed as regards external appearance, resembling two infants united. There seems however something very remarkable as to the internal condition. There is but one cord, inserted at the lower part of the union. Both are perfectly developed, and lived until delivery. The attention of the community has been fully awakened, and crowds have called to see them as a matter of curiosity. The mother is doing remarkably well and a speedy recovery is promised.

The twins seemed of such a peculiar interest that it was thought proper to preserve them as a specimen. They have been given to Dr. Seibert, her attendant, who is taking proper measures to have them preserved. They will likely be exhibited to the medical fraternity in general and probably to the public.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

—By an accident, Captain John S. George, lawyer, on Saturday discovered a specimen of peculiar ore among coal dug near Ironton tunnel, five miles from Ironton, O., which proved to be a consolidated lump of pure diamonds, weighing twenty-nine ounces, and valued at four hundred thousand dollars. It is asserted that many such lumps have been found before, but were thrown away at the mines as worthless. Steps have been taken to secure rights, options, etc. Considerable excitement prevails. There is no law to punish a man for not believing this story.

News and Political Items.

—An insane man in a hospital at Lancaster is trying to starve himself to death.

—Mrs. E. R. Jones, of Grandview, Ia., Whitelaw Reid's cousin, is a Notary Public.

—Thousands of prairie chickens and quail have been frozen to death this winter out West.

—Senator Wallace it is understood will make a speech on the Pinchback question now before the Senate.

—Ella Cramer, aged twenty, has mysteriously disappeared from Tiffin, O., and is supposed to have been murdered.

—At Indianapolis, last Monday night, a brute named Lewis Bishop cut his wife's throat because she refused to live with him any longer.

—It has been colder in Sweden this winter than in any other civilized country. In Furudal the thermometer marked sixty degrees below zero.

—A terrible tale of starvation comes from Asia Minor, where twenty thousand in one district have died since the beginning of the famine.

—Four men killed themselves or were murdered by their frenzied companions in drunken orgies over the wreck of the bark Giovanni on Cape Cod.

—At the funeral of a lady at Windsor, Conn., a few days ago, her husband and two sons officiated as pall-bearers, by her request, no others assisting them.

—A daughter was born to the Japanese Minister, Yoshida, at Washington, on Thursday. She is the first child of Japanese parents born in the United States.

—Quite a margin. A tax collector last week seized a thousand dollars worth of freight on the Oswego Midland railroad, to settle a picayune debt of fifty cents.

—A hound chased a fox seventy miles, in Adams and Berks counties, the other day, captured and killed it, and was found exhausted by the side of the dead body.

—An old Colorado miner claims to have discovered a silver mine that promises as well as the Newburyport mine in Massachusetts, not ten miles from Portland, Me.

—At Sunbury, Pa., on Friday night, the dwelling house of Mr. G. Schry was burned to the ground. Two children perished in the flames. Mrs. Schry is probably fatally burned.

—The man who predicted a mild and open winter, because the hair on squirrel's tails was not as thick as usual, had his ears frozen four inches deep the other morning.

—Three Georgia sisters whom the war reduced from great wealth to extreme poverty went into the sheep-raising business three years ago and are now making money rapidly.

—About the fifteenth of the month a party, including Senators Cameron, Dennis, Gordon, Morton, Ransom and others, will make a trip by way of New Orleans to the City of Mexico.

—Our new United States Seator, Hon. Wm. A. Wallace, has been placed on the following standing committees: Appropriations, Manufactures, and Revision of the Laws of the United States.

—A family named Mark, of Gray township, Centre county, was poisoned one day last week by eating "wurst" from an earthen crock. The glazing of the vessel had become mixed with the "wurst."

—Gladstone appears again in answer to Dr. Newman and Archbishop Manning on the decrees of the Vatican Council. The N. Y. *Tribune* of Saturday publishes several columns from advanced sheets.

—At Keene's Station, N. Y., a man fell dead upon hearing of the failure of a bank where he had deposited $800, and his wife also died within a week, from the same cause combined with the loss of her husband.

—Ex-Governor Moses, of South Carolina, has filed a petition in bankruptcy, placing his liabilities at $92,451.50, and his assets at $1,200 in personal property and some very misty possessions in real estate.

—Brown, who is to be hanged at Pottsville on the 24th inst., for the murder of an old couple named Kramer, on Thursday made a confession of his guilt, and stated that he had no accomplice in the crime.

—It is said that the Pope will create four new archiepiscopal provinces in North America at Easter, and that he will make Archbishop Manning a cardinal in England. This news is confirmed in a dispatch from Rome.

—And now the Buffalo *Courier* has gone into the conundrum business. This is the latest unanswerable one: "Fred Grant and his wife are about to return to Chicago. By the way, what does that young man do for a living?"

—The latest turtle story: A terrapin was recently found in a field in Robertson county, Ky., with the following names inscribed on its shell: "E. Ashcraft, 1822; N. A. Bratton, 1855; William Wood, 1858, and H. A. Wood, 1864.

—The Thames river at Norwich, Conn., is frozen solid to the bottom. A trotting horse fell dead on the ice there the other day, and the owner cut a grave eight feet deep in the ice without coming to water, and buried the horse in it.

—There was a male child born a few days ago to a married couple in Gloucester City, N. J., the father being in his eightieth year and the mother in her seventieth. They had been married twenty-two years, and this is their first child.

—Joshua Bailey of Cohoes Falls, N. Y., promised the bulk of his fortune to whichever of his nephews raised the largest family of boys. W. W. Bailey of Waverley, Iowa, raised five boys, and got $2,000,000 at the death of his uncle.

—There is a man of genius in Massachusetts who professes to have traded horses thirty-seven times, and to have cheated the other man every time; and yet, when his wife died the other day, he promised to meet her in heaven.

—A contemporary thinks the best way to enjoy things is to use them, and sees very little sense in having a gorgeously furnished parlor and allowing it to remain in darkness, while the family occupy a dingy sitting room in the back building.

—The contractors who have undertaken to furnish 240,000 headstones for the national cemeteries cut the names in their works at Rutland, Vt., by means of the sand blast. This cuts a name in four minutes, and they complete 500 stones daily.

—Near Washington, Pa., Mr. R. A. Kuhn and wife were found murdered in their burning house, their heads having been split open with an axe, and their throats cut from ear to ear. If the murderers are caught they are likely to be lynched.

—A dispatch from St. Johns, N. F., says that the bodies of over forty persons, who died at St. Johns, this winter, have been temporarily interred in the snow, which has been in such immense quantities in the cemeteries as to prevent the opening of graves.

—Hon. James Buffinton, representative from the First Congressional District of Massachusetts, arrived at home Sunday morning with his family, and went to the residence of his son-in-law, where he died suddenly an hour later. He was fifty-eight years of age, and had been indisposed for a long period.

—In consequence of the last encyclical of the Pope, the German government has introduced in the Prussian chamber of deputies a bill withdrawing the state endowments from the Catholic clergy and providing for their restoration only to those bishops who will bind themselves by a formal document.

—General Pope swore that but for his Fitz John Porter's disobedience of orders he could have "crushed" Stonewall Jackson. This is the "crusher" who in the midst of a numerous army could not protect his staff wagons and permitted them to steal in his lines and carry off his candles and paper collars.

—The first iron bridge ever built was constructed at Colebrookdale Iron Works, England, by Abraham Darby, and was erected across the Severn, near Colebrookdale, in 1778. It is of 120 feet span, and although it has been in constant use to that day to this, it is in a good condition now as ninety-seven years ago.

—A wealthy and eccentric woman in Springfield, Ill., contributes $500 a year for the support of one of the churches there, but cannot be induced to attend a single service, nor will she allow its pastor to enter her house. She says that "the man is well," and that is why she gives him the money, but she doesn't desire to "hear the rest of his cant."

—Very Rev. James Conlan, for nearly twenty-five years pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic church in Cleveland, and formerly Vicar General of the Cleveland diocese, died on Friday morning, aged seventy-five years. The deceased recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination, and has been identified with the early history of the Church in Ohio.

—The Black Hills fever is increasing. At a meeting of the leading citizens and business men of Sioux City, the Sioux City and Black Hills Transportation Company, with a capital of $100,000, was organized. The object is the transportation of men and merchandise to the Black Hills. Teams will be at once purchased and trains started by the first of April.

—Edward Yost, a butcher, who was in the habit of sleeping in the banking house of Hayes & Walls, at Johnstown, N. Y., was murdered on Friday night in his sleeping apartment. All the valuables belonging to the deceased were carried off, and the building was set on fire. No effort was made to rob the safes of the firm. The flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done.

—A red-hot meteor fell near West Liberty, in the eastern part of Iowa, on the 12th ult., sinking fifteen feet into the ground, and making a hole ten feet in diameter. For hours it continued to throw forth flames, crackle, sputter, and smoke, and occasionally discharge cannon-like reports, to the infinite terror of the people in the vicinity. None dared approach within this miniature volcano continued in action, but with the cessation of life hundreds gathered around to investigate the wonder.

—A special dispatch from Rome to the New York *Freeman's Journal* announces that a pro consistory is to be held on Monday next, March 15. Archbishop Manning, of New York, Mgrs. Ledochowski, Archbishop of Posen and Gnesen in Prussia, Des Champs, Archbishop of Mechlin and Primate of Belgium, Archbishop Mechlin and Primate of Belgium, Archbishop Manning of Westminster, and Mgr. Bartalini and Grannelli of the Roman court will be created cardinals.

—The trustees of a bankrupt estate in Pittsburgh, Pa., are engaged in paying a dividend of ten per cent., amounting in all to about $220,000, and among the claims is one from John B. James, who is a creditor to the amount of eleven cents. The check amounts to one cent. In order to pay his part of the dividend, 6 cents has been spent in notifying James, and a two cent stamp has been put on the order to pay. The check is a very large one, and worded so as to conform to the bankrupt act.

—Mrs. James K. Polk has presented the Tennessee Historical Society with a pen made from an eagle's quill dropped by an eagle in Virginia, and presented to President Polk in 1845. Mr. Polk signed his first message to Congress with the pen made of this quill, the joint resolution of Congress for the admission of the State of Texas, the law to extend the laws of the United States over the State of Texas, the act "reducing the duty on imports, and for other purposes," and the treaty of peace with Mexico, July 4, 1848.

—The seekers after wealth in the Black Hills region will have a thorny path to pursue, as the military has received the instructions. Gen. Ord has instructed Colonel Bradley, commandant at Ft. Laramie, to send out a force to bring in the remains of the Sioux City Black Hills party, who are reported to be in a suffering condition if the two men who came in from the Hills will guide the command. Orders have been issued to prevent any other parties going into the country, and any one found in it will undoubtedly be followed and driven out by the military.

—Grant's pocket veto of the soldiers' bounty bill, says the Cincinnati *Times*, will not increase his popularity among the soldiers and veterans of the war who have heretofore sworn by him. The soldiers' friends didn't manage the thing right in order to obtain his signature they should have coupled it with an increase of the salary to a hundred thousand a year, and if that was unconstitutional, have in some manner made the donation to him of the amount. The salary grab was rammed through by increasing Grant's salary from $25,000 to $50,000.

—A young married man at Rockland, Me., becoming jealous of his wife at a recent entertainment, told her, on returning home, that he intended to commit suicide, and was told to go ahead. He accordingly procured a rope, and making his preparation, swung himself off, calculating, however, that he would be cut down in time to save his life. An alarm was given, and the neighbors hastened to the house, but before a knife could be found to cut him down he was black in the face and nearly dead. He is recovering, and thinks it doesn't pay to run so much risk for the pleasure of frightening his better half.

—There is in this village, says the Saline (Mich.) *Jeffersonian*, a tame crow belonging to one of Eli Brown's children. A favorite amusement of his is to light down on the clothes-lines after the clothes have been hung out, and pick off the pins and carry them away and hide them. One day Mrs. Brown was hanging out the clothes, being watched closely by Jim. She began to take pins out and carry them to the top of the house, laying them down the chimney. After taking four or five, Mrs. Brown remonstrated, saying, "Now Jim, that won't do." Whereupon the "ebony bird" quietly picked up a clothes pin, and, walking down the roof to the eaves, dropped it to the ground, and then walked back, got another, and dropped it in the same manner, and so continued to do until he had dropped them all.

—Tilton's counsel, says the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*, believe they have struck something new in the shape of epistolary evidence. T. T. could never understand why Elizabeth came to change so much in a night—why she was so resigned and reconciled to him before he went to the committee to make his statement last June, and what produced the revulsion of feeling that he discovered in her on coming home, when almost the first word she spoke was to inform him that she was about to leave his house forever. It has just been brought to light that in Theodore's absence at Committee rooms a letter had been received by Mrs. T. from the Beecher party, and this it is supposed was what influenced her to her sudden change of mind. The letter is now believed to be in the possession of the Ovingtons, and they have been summoned to produce it.