THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - - April 2, 1875.

HON. JOHN HICKMAN died in West Chester on the 23d March, in the 65th year of his age. Mr. Hickman was a man of ability and strong opinions, but the Cleaf ld *Republican* is right in saying that he wrecked himself as a politician when he sided with the Republican party in 1864. He had formerly acted with the Democrats and was a member of Congress from 1851 to 1862. After he left the Democratic party, he drifted into nothingness,

THE election in Connecticut for Governor, Legislature, and four members of Congress, will take place next Monday. Both parties are making an active and thorough canvass, and as is usually the case in that State, both claim a victory. It is prudent, therefore, before expressing any opinion as to the result, to wait for the returns. Ingersoll, Democrat, who is a candidate for re-election, was chosen Governor last April by a majority of 1,809 over the Republican and Temperance candidates. The delegation in the last Congress consisted of three Republicans and one Democrat.

JOHN PETER CLEAVER SHANKS, (Phœbus! what a name?) a defeated candidate for re-election to Congress from Indiana—a noisy advocate of the Force Bill, Grant's Louisiana infamy and a friend of the third term—has been appointed a traveling Indian Agent at a salary of $10,000 a year, all expenses paid and stealings not inquired into. The record of Shanks in Congress has not been clean, but that trifling consideration never troubles Grant. The appointment of discarded Congressmen to well-salaried offices has become so common since the 4th of March, that it has ceased to create any surprise.

ACCORDING to a special despatch to the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, the greatest excitement prevails in Salina county, Kansas, where several former citizens of Cambria, among whom we may mention Messrs. Wm. R. Geis, P. H. Berg, S. P. Dunmire, Jacob R. Stiffler, and N. F. Carroll, are now located, over the rumored discovery of gold in the hills north of the city of Salina.—Miners are in demand, and the wildest enthusism is shown by solid business men as well as incoming adventurers. The assays of surface rock found there, as certified to by the United States Assayer at Denver, showed a percentage of $28 in one specimen and $36 in another per ton. Active measures are being taken for ascertaining the real value of the deposits. Companies are organizing. Land buyers offer fabulous prices and land holders are as a consequence very jubilant.

THE Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Miner against Hopperatt, involving the political status of women under the war amendments, follows, says the Philadelphia *Times*, the line already laid down in the New Orleans and other recent cases. Women are citizens now, precisely as they were before the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, and have the same privileges now that they had before. But suffrage is not one of the privileges of citizens, as such, and the Fourteenth Amendment does not apply to it. A citizen is a voter under the Constitution and laws of his State, and all that the recent amendments provide is that the right of a citizen to vote shall not be denied for certain specific reasons. A number of very important constitutional principles are laid down with unusual force and clearness in this decision, principle more important, indeed, than the point directly ruled—that the political position of women under the Constitution is not in any way affected by the amendments.—This is the most interesting decision that Chief Justice Waite has yet delivered, and it will be received with a great deal of pleasure by all but the suffrage reformers, who have been insisting that the framers of the amendments "builded better than they knew"—a most mischievous political idea.

SIMON CAMERON, Senators Morton, Anthony and Dennis, Thomas A. Scott, and a few others of the same sort, left Washington by railroad last Monday for New Orleans, on their way to the city of Mexico. Several days before they set out, the accommodating Secretary of the Navy sent the Despatch, a government vessel, from the Washington navy yard around the coast to New Orleans, where she would receive the members of this select party on board and *dead-head* them to Vera Cruz, from which place they would proceed to their destination by rail. It is not necessary to speculate on the object of their visit, as that is their own affair. But it is pertinent to enquire by what authority the Secretary of the Navy orders a first class government steamer all the way from Washington to Vera Cruz for the especial accommodation and convenience of Simon Cameron, Tom Scott & Co. These enterprising travelers will all live well and have a high time generally on board the Despatch without having to pay a dime. Cameron and Scott are too sharp for that, and the only wonder is that they did not modestly ask Congress to agree to pay them a liberal *per diem* during their absence. If the request had been made, it would have been granted. This is one of the many ways in which the present head of the Navy Department prostitutes and degrades his office and robs the public treasury.

Is James G. Blaine a Catholic?

This question has recently assumed vast importance in certain radical circles in view of the fact that Mr. Blaine is prominently mentioned as the next Republican candidate for the Presidency. A correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Gazette* is painfully distressed about the matter, and writes to that paper for information on the subject. If Blaine was a disciple of the school of Bolingbroke and Hume, it is quite likely that this sensitive correspondent would quietly condone his offence and support him, but that the Republican party should think for a moment of placing in nomination a man of the same religious faith as Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Roger B. Taney, the eminent jurist, would be a blunder worse than a crime and something more than was ever dreamed of in his political philosophy. The *Gazette* promptly relieved the anxiety of its correspondent, and it may be assumed that he now breathes freer and deeper.

James H. Hopkins, of Pittsburgh, one of the Democratic Congressmen elect from Allegheny county, Judge Stowe and John H. Hampton, a Pittsburgh lawyer, were all schoolmates of Blaine at Washington College, in the western part of this State, Blaine himself having been born in Washington county. A reporter of the *Gazette* was directed to interview these three gentlemen and to ascertain from them precisely what they knew about Blaine's early religious proclivities. From these interviews, as published in the *Gazette*, it would seem that Blaine's religious views when he was a college student were unknown, or at least not well defined; that Hopkins, Stowe and Hampton never understood from him that he was a Catholic, and had no reason to believe that he was, but were inclined to think he was a Presbyterian. Mr. Hopkins, who knew the Blaine family in intately, further stated that Mr. Blaine's mother, who is now dead, was a strict and zealous member of the Catholic Church—that her two daughters, one of whom is dead and the other married to Col. Walker, of Allegheny county, but now a resident of Dacota, followed in their mother's footsteps and were educated at a Catholic school on Webster street, in Pittsburgh. The reporter of the *Gazette* also called on A. L. Russell, formerly Secretary of the Commonwealth, but now living near Pittsburgh, who stated that he knew Mr. Blaine well and that he felt very confident he was a Presbyterian.

We cannot but regard the statements of these four gentlemen as conclusive on the subject. It is very gratifying to know that this vexed question, so important to the future welfare of the country, has been thus early and definitely settled. If it had turned out otherwise, James Gillespie Blaine might as well hang his political harp on the willows. But as it is, if Grant's third term project should fail and Blaine receive the nomination, all honest and God-fearing Republicans can go to their beds with the sweet consciousness that their pleasant slumbers will not be disturbed by the frightful apparition of the old gentlemen who dwells in "the city of the seven hills."

THE Philadelphia *Inquirer*, high Republican authority, pays the following well deserved compliment to Hon. Wm. A. Wallace, Pennsylvania's distinguished son and able representative in the United States Senate:

Mr. Wallace's maiden speech in the United States Senate on the Louisiana resolution was a notable triumph, and gave assurance that, after long waiting, Pennsylvania has at last a member in that body who shall have something to say, and who shall know how to say it in such manner as to command the respect of his fellow members. Mr. Wallace's experience as a debater in our State Senate has not been without its good results. It gave him fit training for the higher place and graver duties which he was elected to discharge. Besides his ripe scholarly culture, his natural ability and his profound knowledge of American politics, Mr. Wallace possesses a reputation of invincible integrity and unblemished truthfulness of character which cannot fail to be appreciated in a body like the United States Senate. Altogether, Pennsylvania has good reason to congratulate itself upon its new Senator.

THE magical effect on the business prosperity of Arkansas produced by the passage in the House of Judge Poland's resolution, protesting against any interference in that State by Grant or any other branch of the government, is thus referred to in a late number of the Little Rock *Gazette*:

"Two weeks ago not a merchant, planter or business man in all Arkansas could have obtained indulgence to the amount of one cent in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis or any other city of the North or West. To day they can get all they want in any of those cities on such time as will enable them to pay. The adoption of the Poland report has given an impetus to everything. The Iron Mountain and the Little Rock and Fort Smith road are pushing things, while every other character of business has improved. Those who have money are now willing to loan to their neighbors. Merchants are willing to accommodate planters, because they in turn can get accomodation, and so in everything."

THE New York *Times*, if we may believe the Philadelphia *Times* of the 31st, which of course we are disposed to do, gives up Connecticut once a day now, and is laboring in advance to explain the generally expected defeat of the third term ticket in that State. One day the State is likely to be lost because muddy roads may keep the Connecticut centenarians away from the polls, and yesterday the sponge was thrown up because "the Temperance party are not acting with the Republicans," and therefore, says the semi-organ, "we have no right to expect to carry the State." Would it not be wholesome for the *Times* to try the honest, candid truth just one day, and say that the Republican office-holders of Connecticut, having leaded a distracted party with the President's insane ambition, Republicans must be defeated in a decidedly Republican State? It would probably go a little awkward for the *Times* to tell a truth that is so unpalatable to many of its political associates, but the venture might be a good one, just because of the novelty of the thing.

CANDIDATES for the Democratic nomination for Governor are multiplying with fearful rapidity, and by the time of the meeting of the State Convention in September promise to be as "thick as leaves in Vallambrosa." When Winter ceases to linger in the lap of Spring and May day is fairly ushered in, almost every county in the State will be able, as well as proud, to point to its own candidate as the one combining all the elements of success and just the man for the crisis. If Pennsylvania cannot boast that she is the mother of States and of statesmen, she bids fair very soon to be able to rejoice over the fact that the number of her embryo Governors is legion. We have no doubt that most of the gentlemen named in connection with the nomination have been surprised at the sudden discovery of their own fitness for the office, as well as their peculiar strength and availability with the people.

This deluge of aspirants for gubernatorial honors is the result of the unexpected success of the Democratic State ticket at the last election and the widespread political revolution throughout the country. If any Democrat, however, rests secure in the belief that the victory of November, 1874, is a sure indication of a like triumph in November, 1875, he fails intelligibly to comprehend the political situation in the State. Any man of ordinary judgment and sagacity who will consult the official returns of the election for Governor in 1866, 1869 and 1872, and compare them with the vote cast by the two parties at the State election in 1874, can have no difficulty in arriving at a correct interpretation of the figures. They will make it as plain to him as a simple question in arithmetic, that the ability of the Democratic party of this State, *alone and by its own unaided efforts*, to elect its candidate for Governor, is by no means as certain as some impulsive and enthusiastic party leaders suppose. The very reverse of this is much nearer the truth, or at least the probabilities, as could be readily shown. If a victory in Pennsylvania is to be achieved next fall, it will not be gained by the mere cry of a party watchword or by stale and unprofitable partisan appeals. The contest will be waged on other and different issues, which more directly concern the best interests of the people. That there are political elements in this State sufficiently strong, if used with a reasonable share of common sense, to crush out Grantism in the candidacy of John F. Hartranft, we do not doubt. Aye, more than that, we firmly believe that it will be done just as sure as the sun is now shining, if, at the Erie convention, when the nomination comes to be made, the old Bourbon leaders of the party are ordered to the rear, and the true representatives of the people march to the front.

ON Wednesday of last week the New Haven *Republikaner*, the leading Republican German newspaper of Connecticut, threw a bomshell into the Radical camp as follows:

The principles of the Republican party, as established and carried out from 1860 to 1868, could not have been better, but since Grant's administration came in, the worst political elements have been thrust into power, and nothing but a thorough weeding out of the same will ever restore the country to its former prosperity. Therefore it is highly necessary that the Republican party at this time should receive a reminder to reflect. The much needed reform can be had only when the German Republicans cast their votes for such Democratic candidates as are known to be men of honor and sound judgment. To abstain from voting would not have the desired effect—we must make our vote a telling one!

The editor of the *Republikaner* gives among other reasons why the Radical party should be defeated is the general stagnation of business, which the Administration does nothing to remove, being intent only on selfish gratification. This is the conclusion at which a large majority of the people are rapidly arriving.

A BIRD'S CHARITY.—Last summer a pair of robin red-breasts built their nests in the vicinity of a fashionable country boarding-house. In due time the heads of four young robins were observed by some of the boarders, peering above the sides of the nest, when some thoughtless boys passing that way shot both the parent birds and left the young ones to perish.

The ladies and gentlemen, moved to pity by the hapless condition of the poor birds, were devising plans for their relief, when a little brown wren flew to the nest, surveyed the unfortunate state of things for a moment and then disappeared. In a few minutes it returned, bearing food of some kind for the starving robins.

Much surprised at this, the human sympathizers resolved to await further developments before proceeding to put their plans of relief into operation, and were delighted to find the wren had in real good earnest assumed the care of that orphan family. With untiring energy it hunted worms and food of such kinds as was suited to the wants and tastes of its proteges, and continued its kindly offices until the robins were full-fledged and able to take care of themselves.

Strange as this story may appear, we have it from the most undoubted authority, and submit the question whether reason or instinct was the governing power with that kind hearted, motherly little wren?—*Phila. Star.*

—On Saturday morning last, says the Lewistown *Democrat*, Lieutenant Hiram McClenahen, residing on James H. Brown's farm near Siglerville, took his own life by shooting himself with a navy revolver. The ball entered the top of his forehead, and passed downward, causing almost instant death. The act was committed in a dark, back entry of the barn, soon after breakfast. He was found before life was quite extinct by a brother-in-law, who entered the barn to attend to some work. Mr. McC. was about 42 years of age, and stood very high among his neighbors as an industrious, upright man. During the late war he was a member of the Pennsylvania Bucktail regiment, and afterward of the 1st Penna. Reserve Cavalry, in which he became Lieutenant of Company C. Deceased left a wife and five children to mourn this sad event.

Witchcraft in Pennsylvania.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN—SUPERSTITION IN THE ALLEGHENIES.

To the Editor of the Philadelphia Times:

In Henry Clay township, Fayette county, Penna., on Tuesday, 23d March, 1875, Mrs. McNair died at the advanced age of 104 years. There are circumstances of peculiar interest attached to the closing years of the life of this venerable woman, apart from her great age. We of the present day are apt to think and speak disparagingly of the past, and specially of that time of popular madness, the Salem witchcraft delusion. But few are aware that the belief is as firm, if not so general among us, to-day as then. We do not refer in the remotest to the silly and sinful delusion of spiritualism, but to the genuine old-time belief that led many an elderly woman to the stake, whose only crime was friendlessness, poverty, ugliness.

A couple of years ago a young woman, a lineal descendant of the subject of our sketch, was suddenly taken with spasms of so alarming a nature that the ignorant neighbors pronounced it witchcraft. Dr. F., then of Somerfield, was called, and asked if she had not been frightened. This was strenously denied, but he persisted in the treatment he had decided on in that belief. Her friends refused to let her take the medicine for fear it might be "witch powder," and, having exhausted their home stock of charms, sent into Somerset county after a regular witch doctor of the old school. He at once proceeded to enclose the house and farm in a cordon of charms which would infallibly confound and expose all and every witch that ventured near; so powerful in their effects that none could stay away; at least none in the least implicated in this particular case. The families—there were two—dared not leave the place. They could neither borrow nor lend. They were forbidden, under direful penalties, to render the least aid, the most trifling kindness to any one. Not even a helping hand or a cup of cold water to the suffering. The *Taboo* of the Kanakas was child's play to the requirements of this devil's cordon that superstition had drawn around these trembling, ignorant fanatics. These restrictions were necessary to prevent the witches receiving "aid and comfort" from any of the indwellers, which would have broken the charm. It was almost impossible for any one living near, or even passing along the road to escape suspicion of being guilty of complicity in the foul practices. A near neighbor was refused permission to get a drink from the spring and a light for his pipe. If persons stayed at home they were suspected; if they went abroad; if they questioned or refrained from questioning; if they looked toward the house or looked away, all were convincing evidences of guilt. But most horrible of all, this old helpless woman, sunk in second childhood, and only at intervals aroused from lethargic reveries to a consciousness of her wants and existence, she was sternly accused of practicing upon her great granddaughter, and with the blind, unreasoning cruelty of superstition insisted on subjecting her to torture, some even advocating death. To oppose these mad schemes, or try to convince them of their sin and folly, subjected the adventurous individual to a full share of odium.

So fanatical and furious did they become that serious quarrels and divisions arose which came near involving the entire community in suits of slander, libel, malicious mischief, and every other thing that malice and distorted ingenuity could devise. For half a year the battle raged, and for a year and a half afterwards occassional skirmishing and armed neutrality were maintained. This ludicrous, yet fearful picture, so far from being exaggerated is greatly underdrawn, as will be testified by reputable citizens of both Fayette and Somerset counties. R.

SOMERSET, PA., March 24, 1875.

SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A BROKEN HEART.—May Chamberlayne, who is now 16 years of age, sued John Bate Holmes, a city surveyor and a resident of New York, who is about 50 years old, for breach of promise, claiming fifty thousand dollars damages. The trial was ended on Monday last. At the conclusion of the evidence, Mr. G. Courtney addressed the Court for the plaintiff in a vigorous discussion of the motive that he attributed to the defendent, and Mr. Holmes became so much excited that he writhed in his seat in uncontrolable anguish. When counsel touched upon the fact that the youngest child of the defendant had been kept in the court-room during nearly the entire trial, Mr. Holmes' excitement knew no bounds. "It's false; abuse me as much as you like, but you shan't abuse my children," he exclaimed, and he sprang with clenched fists upon Mr. Courtney. One of the court officers seized his arm and forced Mr. Holmes back into his seat. Judge Spaulding, in consideration of the severity of Mr. Courtney's remarks, severely reprimanded Mr. Holmes for the offence. In charging the jury he took the ground that they should find for the plaintiff if they believed that a contract of marriage had been entered into and that the defendant had broken the contract without the consent of the plaintiff. He called attention to the fact that there was no evidence, that when Mr. Holmes said "everything is off between you and me, May," that the plaintiff had assented to the recission of the contract of marriage. After an hour's deliberation the jury found for the plaintiff in six thousand dollars.—*N. Y. Special to Phila. Times.*

FIENDISH FANATICISM.—An atrocious tragedy was recently committed in Toquerville, Utah, which, for some unaccountable reason, was not reported by telegraph. Richard Fryer, who has lately labored under the hallucination that he was a second Jesus Christ, entered his house in the evening and found Thomas Batty, a friend of the family, lighting a fire in the grate. Believing that Batty was an emissary of the devil, who was trying to burn his premises, the lunatic rushed for a pistol and shot him through the head. Mrs. Fryer, paralyzed with fear, crouched in a corner, and was shot through the heart by her demoniac husband. The next thing he did was to go to a cradle where his infant child was lying asleep, and deliberately blew its brains out. This was the crowning act of the almost unparalleled tragedy. Fryer then sallied forth into the village, armed with a revolver and a gun, proclaiming himself as the Lord, and saying that he had slain the devil and several of his imps. The sheriff, being unable to arrest Fryer, and fearing that other lives might be sacrificed, killed him with a shot from a navy revolver. Batty, Mrs. Fryer, the babe, and the slayer of them, all were buried on St. Patrick's day from the same house.

—A dog at Utica, N. Y., has been trained to carry the little daughter of his owner to and from school in a sled made especially for the purpose. When the time for closing the school at noon and night arrives, the dog is hitched to the sled and starts alone for the school house after his young mistress, whom he either waits for her outside or meets on her way home. The dog is so proficient that often when the time for going after the girl arrives he quietly slips away and is nowhere to be found. Upon being discovered he will look very much ashamed, and immediately submits to harnessing, and trots off as fast as possible to perform his duties.

A Terrible Story of Suffering.

THIRTEEN FISHERMEN FROZEN TO DEATH —FULL PARTICULARS BY A SURVIVOR.

BALTIMORE, March 28, 1875.

Capt. Jaeger, of the steamship Nurmberg, which arrived at this port to-day, reports that March 22d he saw a schooner with the ensign at half-mast. He bore down to her, and was asked to take men on board which had been saved. I sent a boat on board the schooner, which turned out to be the George S. Fogg, for St. Edwards Island. The men reported as follows: We belong to St. Mary's, Newfoundland. Our trade is fishermen in shore boats. On the 2d of March we saw a ship, ice bound, about two and one-half miles from the coast. We went out to her with a party of thirty-four men, all from St. Mary's. The wind was from the westward, a moderate breeze. Before we reached her we met the captain of said ship in charge of another party from St. Mary's, who took the captain ashore, as he was sick. As we could understand, the crew had left the ship the day before. We reached the ship at three P. M. As night came on we made for the land after searching the ship, but did not reach the coast, as the ice had opened towards the land. We spent the night on the ice, and had seven men frozen to death during the night. The next day we went on board again. We had to leave nine men out of our number behind us, as those men were too weak to walk, and the ice would not permit us on account of its weak state, to carry them. Three of those men were picked up by the schooner George S. Fogg on the 6th of March as the only survivors out of the nine. We found nothing to eat or drink on board besides molasses. The ship drifted out with the ice, but we were in sight of the coast about six or seven days, but not able to reach it.—We stopped till the 11th of March in the ship, when we saw a schooner about four miles to the eastward of us. As the ice was in some parts too weak to bear a man, we took a small boat from the ship and made for the schooner, which we reached in the afternoon, where we were received with great kindness.

BALTIMORE, March 29, 1875.

The *Sun* of this morning publishes an interesting story from one of the men rescued from the ice off the coast of Newfoundland and brought to this port yesterday by the steamer Nurnberg. The party are all Irishmen or of Irish descent, and comprised nearly the entire able-bodied male population of the little town of St. Mary's, Newfoundland. When returning to shore in the evening of the day on which they boarded the ice bound brig, they found the ice had parted about a mile from shore, leaving the space of half a mile of clear water, with night coming on; the storm of rain, sleet, and finally snow incapacitated several of the party, and when morning dawned seven corpses were counted. A heavy mass of ice, twenty feet square, floated near, upon which nine of the party got, hoping it would drift towards the shore ice, and they could thus save themselves. When it had floated three hundred yards from the ice upon which were their comrades, it grounded, and the unfortunates remained upon it three days and nights, during which time six of them died. All the food they had in that time was a small white fish, which was frozen in the ice. The eighteen men remaining made their way back to the abandoned brig. All expected to die in her, and some of them had lost their senses before reaching her. The brig remained in the ice for a week in sight of land, and the fishermen were on her ten days. The narrator says he has a family of six children, and some of those who died have families equally large. The two men will be taken in charge of by the British consul to-day, and be sent home.

TOM SCOTT'S FIRST RAPID TRANSIT SCHEME.—Now that Hon. Thomas A. Scott has become the acknowledged "Railroad King" of the world and his railway manipulations are attracting no small share of the public attention, it would not be uninteresting to relate an episode in his life that took place in Mercersburg, when he was simply a dry goods clerk; and long before his giant enterprise were dreamed of. Arnold Brooks, now deceased, a colored hostler, well-known in Mercersburg and a universal favorite, had charge of the stables connected with one of the hotels of that place, the owner of which had some splendid trotting stock in which Brooks took great pride, and the speed of which formed a great staple in his conversation. One day, when he was dilating on the merits of his respective animals with more than usual unction, Scott interrupted him with the rather startling banter: "Brooks I'll bet you five dollars that I can produce a pony that can pace faster than any horse you have got in the stable can trot." Brooks accepted the banter immediately; preliminaries were arranged and a handful of "fips" and "levies"—the perquisites of his position—was put up by the enthusiastic hostler. The race came off. It was Tom Scott's first triumph in rapid travel, and Brooks was badly disappointed and defeated, and as he often remarked in telling his story, "d—n it, he took de money, dat was de wust." But the unfortunate horseman was not forgotten, and up to the time of his death he received from the great railroad magnate, at unexpected times, many a largess of no mean amount. —*Fulton Democrat.*

—A special from New York to the Philadelphia *Times* says that Matthew Mansfield and Nettie Gale, both members of the graduating class of Public School No. 2, in Yonkers, went to New York together last September, on the occasion of the reception of the Grand Lodge of the Sons of Temperance in the Academy of Music. On their return they declared that they had been married while in New York, and the young lady said she had burned the certificate of marriage. On account of the equivocal position in which she was placed, Mr. Gale insisted that the marriage ceremony between the parties should be performed by the Rev. Lewis Modge, of the Second Presbyterian Church, in the presence of witnesses. This ceremony was performed on the fifth of March. The young husband is the son of Mr. M. D. Mansfield, a confectioner on Broadway, Yonkers, and is only sixteen years of age; and the bride, who is only fourteen years of age, is a daughter of Mr. Ebert Gale, a carpenter.

—Eleven years ago Mr. Chauncey Lewis, of Union, Erie county, lost his pocket book containing thirteen hundred dollars in notes and currency. Two years afterward he received a letter enclosing him the notes and securities amounting to nearly one thousand dollars. Last week Father Lonergan, of Corry, sent for him and handed him three hundred and sixty dollars in currency, the same identical money that was in his pocket book at the time he lost it. The pocket book had been picked up by a man in his employ, a Catholic, whom he did not suspect of dishonesty, and for eleven years the unhappy thief wrestled with his uneasy conscience, until he could keep his guilty secret no longer, and confessed it to Father Lonergan.

—James Lick, of San Francisco, after getting all the gratuitous advertising and personal commendation he desired, has revoked his trust deed, executed last July, for benevolent purposes.

News and Political Items.

—Gold in New York Wednesday 114½.

—The Ashland (Pa.) Savings Bank has suspended payment.

—Lake Superior is frozen over, a very extraordinary occurrence.

—A hog weighing 900 pounds was killed at Maysville, Ky., last week.

—Col. Thomas A. Scott will accompany the Senatorial excursion party to Mexico.

—The Roman Catholic Bishops of Prussia are to hold a conference at Fulda next Tuesday.

—The criminal prosecution of the Tichborne claimant cost the British Government £60,000.

—It is announced that the two daughters of the late Mr. Greeley will sail for Europe on the 1st of May.

—An entire family in Harrison, Ohio, has been made insane by a stroke of lightning which hit their house.

—Glasgow (Ky.) *Times*: Mrs. Fish, of Missouri, had triplets a short time ago. They are all of the "sucker" variety.

—A convict in the Snyder county prison committed suicide the other day by hanging, and died with a pipe in his mouth.

—The Eagle Zouaves of Buffalo got $1,500 in debt by attending the inauguration of President Grant. They should all have offices.

—There are five pairs in the present Senate—the Camerons, Joneses, Ferrys, Johnsons, and Morrills. How would Schenck play them?

—J. W. Stevenson has been arrested at Harrisburg on the charge of inhuman treatment of his wife and the brutal outrage of their daughter, aged 15.

—A handkerchief of William Penn is to be on exhibition at the Centennial, and a curious correspondent writes to ask if it is the original Penn wiper.

—General Custer will shortly leave for the Black Hills in command of a strong expedition consisting of cavalry, infantry and a battery of Gatling guns.

—An attendant at a spiritual seance in Fairhaven, Vt., seized the materialized form of his grandmother, and she turned out to be the medium in disguise.

—The unfortunate Maximilian, whose death in Mexico was lamented throughout the Court circles in Austria, is to have a monument erected to his memory.

—A petition was recently presented to the Massachusetts Legislature, asking that the sentence of banishment against Roger Williams, passed in 1635, be revoked.

—A border war with Mexico seems to be among the probabilities just now. If it does not become general, it will not be the fault of certain ambitious individuals.

—In Nelson county, Kentucky, recently, in a quarrel Sam Hahn cut Merritt Le Fier with a knife, and Le Fier then split Hahn's head opened with a spade, killing him instantly.

—A twelve-year-old girl is on trial in Brownsville, Tenn., for the motiveless killing of three children. She fed them rat poison "just to see them die," as she explains.

—The death is announced of Maximin Girand, the shepherd of La Salette, one of the two witnesses of the alleged appearance of the Virgin Mary on the 19th of September, 1846.

—Dr. Henry Foerster, Prince Bishop of Breslau, has been summoned by the German government to resign his bishopric because he promulgated the Papal encyclical against the ecclesiastical laws.

—A railway employe named Thomas Withrow choked to death while eating his dinner, at Gap station on Thursday last. Railway employes should take warning from this, and eat as few dinners as they possibly can.

—An old man named Evans, who had lived in a house near Trenton, Mo., was found on Tuesday of last week robbed and murdered, and his charred remains in the ruins of his dwelling, which was fired to conceal the homicide and robbery.

—Col. Oliver A. Patton, of West Virginia, who has recently been appointed Register of Lands at Salt Lake City, is a first cousin of U. S. Grant. It is said that a number more of the West Virginia branch of the family will be found and provided for.

—In Switzerland there was a marriage by proxy. A woman there was married to a man in America, the proxy being a neighbor and a man already married. The authorities are discussing whether this much-married man has not committed bigamy.

—When hanging is too good for a man, we suggest that the following be the sentence. Judge—"Prisoner, I sentence you to read the examinations and cross-examinations of the Beecher-Tilton case until you are dead, and may God have mercy on your soul."

—The N. Y. Evening Post insists upon Archbishop McCloskey declining the honor of Cardinal and sending back to the Pope the ruby cap, in order to assert his dignity as a loyal American citizen. Couldn't he compromise by agreeing to vote the Republican ticket hereafter?

—Jonesboro (Tenn.) is the home of a woman who is one hundred and ten years old. During the recent cold weather she was passing through the yard where there was some ice, and slipped and fell, but bounded up with the agility of a girl and laughing at her fall passed on.

—Still another supposed Charley Ross has been looked up, and proved to be a waif, unidentified. He had been left with a family near Bordentown, New Jersey, by tramps. The child is interesting, and the family who have him in charge propose to adopt him, if no one appears to claim him.

—Since Monday afternoon of last week, Malvern Thompson, a lad 11 years of age, son of Dr. M. R. Thompson of Lewistown, Pa., has been missing, and as yet no clue at all as to his probable whereabouts has been found. He had on a calico shirt, a grey mixed suit well worn, and a wool cap turned up all around.

—Seven fishermen in Glondore harbor, Ireland, went out on Tuesday morning in an open boat to seize a large cask, supposed to contain wine, which was seen floating near the harbor's mouth. The weather was stormy, and as they reached the cask their boat was capsized. They were all drowned.

—A house dog in Upton, Mass., had the measles simultaneously with the children of the family, from whom he caught the disease. He was carefully doctored, and was getting along finely, when one day he slipped out of doors and played in a snow bank. This indiscretion was fatal. He took cold and died.

—At a golden wedding celebration in Warwick, New York, the happy pair weighed respectively 176 and 204 pounds, and four daughters, weighing respectively 259, 235, 217 and 197 pounds, together with two sons, one of whom turns the scale at 282 and the other at 197 pounds, graced the occasion by their presence.

—A Washington special says: "No accounts of outrages at the South have been received by the Department of Justice or any other branch of the Government for some time, and it is now believed that nothing further will be heard of them until the beginning of the political campaign in Pennsylvania and Ohio next fall."

—With the decision of Butler that they have no rights in drinking-saloons or barber shops, and the decision of Judge Emmons that the United States cannot help them to their rights in hotels or places of amusement, the colored men seem on the whole to be a little worse off than they were before the Civil Rights bill passed.

—The Rev. Henry Coggswell, a Royal Arch Mason and lecturer in order, has renounced and denounced masonry. At an anti Masonic convention in Mansfield, Ohio, he read a formal cantation of all the oaths of secrecy he has had taken. He said that he should in honor bound, however, to reveal no the workings of Masonry.

—The tallest man in Lowell, Mass, Columbus Tyler, a bar-tender, is seven feet two inches in height 18 old, and weighs 215 pounds. His father six feet five inches in height, his mother five feet 10 inches, and his sister, 15 old, who has not yet "got her growth," six feet eight inches, the average height of the family being six feet six inches.

—The negro Simms who perpetrated twice in succession a nameless outrage upon a white lady, Mrs. Edgar A. Nelson of Prince George's county, Maryland, who was so summarily dealt with by being swung from the limb of a tree, is supposed to have believed that under the Civil Rights bill there was no punishment for the horrible crime. He was soon undeceived.

—In the case of A. G. Greaves and R. Sparham, on trial at Brockville, Ont., for murder, in causing the death of Sophie E. Burnham by performing an operation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty and the prisoners were sentenced to be hanged on the 22d of June. Greaves is the girl's seducer, and accompanied Sparham when the abortion was performed.

—A movement is on foot to have a great spelling match between twelve ladies and gentlemen selected from the residents of Pittsburgh by Superintendent Luckey, and twelve selected by Superintendent Dodds from the citizens of Allegheny. Each team will consist of six ladies and six gentlemen, and the proceeds will be equally divided between the relief societies of the two cities.

—Information is earnestly desired of the whereabouts of Samuel and Catherine Simpson, who formerly lived in Pennsylvania. They were the parents of Jane William who ran off and went to Missouri many years ago. Any person sending information of them or their estate to Thomas Smith, Competition, Ladiberg, Missouri, will receive $100. Exchanges please copy.

—The new postal law recently put into operation was a victory for the express monopolies of the country. Its tendency will be to drive business through the express facilities, and diminish the revenue of the post-office department. All transient papers that weigh over one ounce are charged two cents postage; in other words, a two cent stamp has to be affixed on each single paper.

—The recent birth of quadruplets in Baltimore is paralleled in a similar event in Brattleboro, Vt. The parents' name is Hahn, and the family are very poor. Hundreds of people visit the infant every day. An admission fee is charged, and the little ones are already earning from $50 to $100 a week each. They continue healthy and are likely to live. They were christened Sarah, Mary, Kate, and Jennie.

—A young woman was recently married at Beverly, N. J., in a brocade silk dress, the material of which was brought from Canton, China, and taken to England during the American revolution, by Roger Kean, a prominent merchant of that day, and great-great-grandfather to the bride, who is the sixth married in it during five generations—five in England and three in the United States.

—One night last winter George Brown, a lawyer of McGregor, Iowa, got drunk and slept in a gutter. In the morning he was so badly frozen that both his hands and one of his feet were amputated. Iowa has a civil damage law, which makes the liquor seller pecuniarily liable for the consequences of drinking. George Brown drank at six saloons that day, and his wife has sued the proprietors each for $15,000.

—Instructions have been sent to General Sheridan that he must not only prevent unauthorized persons from going into the Black Hills country, but also drive out those now there without authority. General Crook, as soon as he assumes command of the Department of the Platte, will give personal attention to the execution of these instructions. He will visit the Hills with the necessary force as soon as the weather and roads permit.

—The Irish leaders having in charge the proposed parade in New York on Sunday in honor of John Mitchell, acted wisely in countermanding it. Any procession of the kind on Sunday is illegal, and the municipal authorities of New York had expressed their purpose to prevent it. The Irish sympathizers with Mr. Mitchell's effort to redeem his native land can expect only admiration and gratitude in methods not worthy of themselves and their cause.

—Great excitement exists among the anthracite coal miners in the eastern part of the State, and some violence has been the result. Through the interposition of Father Marren, Catholic priest at Audenried, a mob which threatened serious consequences to the town of Hazelton on Friday was induced to disperse, and at last accounts all was again quiet. The Workingmen and Laborers' Benevolent Association and Mechanics' and Workingmen's Society have clasped hands, however, and a long strike seems to be imminent. At a meeting of these organization at Pottsville on Tuesday mob violence was severely condemned.

—Sunday morning the house of a farmer named Colson, at Parker's Prairie, twenty-five miles from Wadena, Minn., on the Northern Pacific Railroad, caught fire from the bursting of a kerosene lamp. The flames spread so rapidly that in a few minutes the night clothes of the father, mother and five children were on fire. They finally dashed through the window and secured his family, but in a sad condition. They all dragged themselves to the house of a neighbor's, a mile distant, barefooted and naked, leaving the tracks of their feet in the snow all the way. The father and two children have since died of their injuries, and it is thought that the mother and remaining children cannot long survive.

—At Thompson's Station, near Nashville, Tenn., a negro funeral procession was passing a field in which a man was ploughing. "That's old John Critz," said one of the mourners, "and I want to see him. Guess I'll do it now." Then he got out of the wagon, ran into the field and attacked Critz, the procession halting to see the result. Critz got the better of his assailant, and then the rest of the mourners started for the spot, when that the number was against him, he fled to his house, got his gun, and fired upon his pursuers, killing one of them. That ended the conflict. The dead negro was put in the wagon by the side of the other corpse, and the procession moved right along.

—At a Martha Washington tea given lately in Baltimore, a Miss Gill wore a dress whose associations, if not strictly historic, are very interesting. It was a richly brocaded silk, lilac and white, which was imported by Mr. Carroll of Carrollton, and presented by him to the lady he was engaged to be married to, but who died on the day on which the nuptials were to have been celebrated. The dress was then presented to the nearest relative, and has been treasured ever since in the family as an interesting relic of the past. It has been stored away for more than a century, and was brought out from its hiding place in honor of the patriotic character of the entertainment at which Schley wore.