THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - - Jan'y 5, 1877.

THE Governor's message, an abstract at least of which will appear in our next number, was delivered to both branches of the Legislature on Wednesday last.

GOV. DREW, the Democratic candidate for the gubernatorial office, in Florida at the November election, was inaugurated at Tallahassee on Tuesday last. The Legislature is Democratic in both branches. The vote of the State for President remains to be determined by Congress on the 14th of February next, as does also that of Louisiana, in which Tilden received *eight thousand* of a majority according to the face of the returns.

HON. LUCIUS ROBINSON, who was elected Governor of the State of New York at the late election, was inaugurated at Albany on Monday last in the presence of an immense concourse of people. Governor Tilden made a speech of congratulation, to which Gov. Robenson replied in a brief and eloquent address. On the same day Zebulon B. Vance, Democrat, was inaugurated Governor of North Carolina, at Raleigh, and delivered an able and conciliatory address.

A BILL organizing a new territory to be called Huron, and not Pembina, as originally proposed, out of a portion of the present territory of Dakota, and of course paving the way for a new State in the distant future, passed the U. S. Senate on the 20th of December. If this bill should pass the House, as it never ought to do, it will afford an elegant opportunity for a host of ambitious and patriotic Republicans "to go west" and quarter themselves on the public treasury. We trust that the House, which is largely Democratic, will take warning from the untimely passage of the Colorado bill at the session previous to the last, and put its seal of condemnation on this proposed Huron swindle.

JAMES W. NYE, formerly United States Senator from Nevada, died at White Plains, N. Y., on last Monday week. He was a native of the State in which he died, and was a man of "infinite jest and humor," being regarded as the leading wit of the Senate during his term of office. He had a peculiar facility for borrowing money from Horace Greeley and never returning it. Apropos of this peculiarity it is said that when President Lincoln was in trouble about a successor for Secretary of the Treasury Chase, who had been transferred to the office of Chief Justice, Greeley wrote to Lincoln and told him to appoint "Jim Nye," of Nevada, for the reason that from his (Greeley's) experience, Nye could borrow more money and pay less back than any other man in the United States, and hence he thought that he (Nye) would be the right man in the right place as Secretary of the Treasury. But Lincoln, failing to see it in that light, appointed Wm. P. Fessenden, at that time a Senator from Maine, as the successor of Chase. Peace, say we, to the ashes of James W. Nye, who is kindly and affectionately remembered by his hosts of personal friends all over the country.

THE Legislature of this State convened at Harrisburg on last Tuesday. Both branches are Republican, and as heretofore are under the political control of Simon Cameron and his corrupt henchmen. It is therefore only necessary to state that Newmyer, of Allegheny county, was nominated by the Republican caucus as President *pro tem* of the Senate, of which Hon. John Latta, Democrat, of Greensburg, who is the Lieutenant Governor of the State, is the active presiding officer. Mr. Newmyer will as a consequence be more ornamental than useful in his office of President *pro tem*. The Speaker of the House is E. Reed Meyer, of Bradford county, and of course all the subordinate officers in both branches are Republicans. What the Legislature thus organized will do, or what it will neglect to do, remains yet to be seen; but it is hoped and demanded by the taxpayers of the State that the session will be very far short of one hundred days. It is a saying worthy of all commendation that "the world is governed too much." Let the present Legislature remember this and also not forget that the fewer laws that may be passed the better, and that the people of the whole State will endorse and sustain them in the discharge of all their duties, *if well performed*.

IT is now definitely settled that the Hayes electoral ticket in South Carolina was carried by a majority of about 600, and that Wade Hampton and the entire Democratic State ticket was elected by a much larger majority. We gather this from the report of the sub-Congressional committee, consisting of Messrs. Sayler, Abbott and Lawrence, the two first named being Democrats and the last a Republican, who completed their work at Columbia, the capital of the State, on Saturday last. This report must and will be accepted as conclusive of the vote in that State, and is accounted for by the well known fact heretofore stated by us, that while large numbers of the colored voters supported the Democratic State ticket in order to get the control of the State out of the hands of the carpet-bag crew, of which Gov. Chamberlain is the head and front, they nevertheless voted for the Hayes electors. It is yet an undetermined question how the contest between Chamberlain and Hampton will be judicially and fairly settled, but all the indications are that the voice of the people of South Carolina is in favor of Hampton, and that an honest State government will eventually prevail. When that takes place there will be peace and contentment within her borders, and not until then.

JOHN S. PHELPS, a prominent citizen of Missouri and at all times a Union man, formerly a distinguished member of Congress and now the Governor elect of that State, has announced his purpose of appointing General James Shields, the hero of the Mexican war and of the late rebellion, as Adjutant General of Missouri. Gen. Shields is an Irishman by birth and many years ago was a Senator of the United States at different times, first from his adopted State, Illinois, and next from the State of Minnesota. He is the same Gen. Shields who was shot through the body by an *escopette* ball near the city of Mexico during the Mexican campaign, and whose remarkable recovery was the wonder of all scientific physicians throughout this country, and for that matter throughout the civilized world. He lives in Carroll county, Missouri, on a farm, and was the only military officer in the late rebellion from the North who, in a square fight, defeated Stonewall Jackson, a feat which he accomplished at Winchester, Virginia, on which bloody field fell Col. Willam G. Murray, of Hollidaysburg, well known here and universally respected everywhere as a brave soldier and an honest man. Gen. Shields has been twice cheated, against all the facts in the case, out of his seat in Congress as representative of the district in which he resides in Missouri. He is well remembered here by several soldiers in the Mexican war, now citizens of this place, all of whom have a kind regard for him. The office to which Gov. Phelps will appoint him may not recompense him according to his merits, but it will be a recognition of the ability and patriotism of as worthy and pure a man as this broad land can boast or be proud of.

WE have said in these columns more than once that the honest and fair vote of Lousiana and Florida was for Tilden, and that it never could be, on any principle of justice and right, declared against him. We also admitted time and again that Hayes had received a majority of the votes in South Carolina, but always claimed that Wade Hampton had carried the same State for Governor. Grant says he wants a fair and honest count of the vote, and that the people of the United States would submit to nothing less. This is true, but this declaration was made by Grant for a special purpose, and fully indicates his personal and political predilections for military force to execute and carry out his own will in favor of the inauguration of Hayes. But Grant will be powerless on the 5th day of next March, and will not possess any more official authority than he did when he was a tanner in Galena, Illinois. We will not speculate on what will take place when the two branches of Congress meet on Wednesday, the 14th of February, to open and count the electoral vote of the different States. This whole question, we mean the manner of counting the electoral vote, is now in the hands of a joint committee of the Senate and House, and we can only hope from its wise and prudent deliberations within the next ten days, at the end of which time the Committee is expected to report, that the heretofore uniform practice will be adhered to and that Tilden and Hendricks, in obedience to the overwhelming voice of the American people, will be inaugurated, as they have a right to be, as President and Vice President of the United States. "*Vox populi, vox Dei*," or in common language, "The voice of the people is the voice of God."

THE N. Y. *Herald* has been examining the precedents in regard to the count of the electoral vote. It appears that as early as 1773, when Washington was unanimously elected, the House ordered a committee to join a similar one from the Senate "to ascertain and report a method of examining the votes for President and Vice President," thus plainly asserting the right of Congress to scrutinize the vote. The *Herald* concludes from its examination that "the two Houses have never surrendered their right to examine the electoral vote, and that the President of the Senate has never exercised nor claimed the power to determine the validity of a State's vote." "In no case has the vote of a State been counted where either house has objected." This coincides with the view we have previously expressed.

THE 8th of January, the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, is to be made an exceptionally great day in several of the States. The people without respect to party are to assemble in convention for the purpose of impressing their will afresh upon the Administration and Congress, and to declare in unmistakable terms that they will have the President inaugurated whom they honestly elected, and will not submit to the inauguration of a candidate who shall be declared elected by fraud and be installed by force. There is no spirit of menance in these popular assemblies. The people do not need to employ any such method when they choose simply to assert their sovereignty. Violence is the natural threat of conspirators and guilty men, and these meetings propose to nip it in the bud.

THE two Legislatures in Louisiana canvassed the vote for Governor and declared the result on Tuesday last. The Kellogg Legislature, taking the Returning Board figures, declared Packard Governor, while General Nicholls was proclaimed Governor by the Democratic Legislature, in accordance with the returns of the Republican Commissioners of Election. There seems to be no disposition to come to blows, and we judge, says the Pittsburgh *Post*, that both Legislatures will worry along until the Presidential question is decided. Kellog, Warmouth and Pinchback are more anxious about their election as U. S. Senators than anything else.

THE New York *Sun* considers it a moderate estimate that the attempt to count in Hayes has already cost the country, in the stoppage of business, in the enforced pauperism of laboring people, and the general decline in values, at least *one thousand millions of dollars*.

The Presidential Question.

At noon on Friday, Dec. 22d, the members of the Democratic State Committee and several other prominent Democrats, the latter of whom were present by invitation of Chairman McClelland, met in the room of the Bureau of Statistics at Harrisburg for the purpose of consulting in regard to the Presidential outlook. Capt. M'Clelland called the meeting to order, after which a committee of thirteen, consisting of Messrs. Geo. W. Biddle, Wm. Bigler, Jas. P. Barr, Richard Vaux, B. F. Meyers, W. H. H. Davis, John Latta, H. H. Cummin, P. J. Pierce, A. J. Steinman, S. A. Bridges, John R. Reade and Wm. McClelland, was on motion appointed to draft an address expressive of the sentiments of the meeting. Pending the action of said committee Gen. Davis, of Doylestown, moved that a letter written by ex-Gov. Bigler concerning the infamous proceedings of the Louisiana Returning Board should be read. The motion was of course unanimously agreed to, and the letter was thereupon read as directed. Not having space for the entire document our readers must be content with the following extract of special interest from this admirable report:

"The first remarkable institution that attracted our attention was the famous Returning Board. We found it constituted on principles at variance with our notions of Republican simplicity. Its members had been selected by the State Senate, not during good behavior or the pleasure of that or any other body, but for life. They were, in addition, clothed with authority to fill all vacancies that might occur from time to time, so that the Board might have an unlimited existence. The next most alarming thing brought to our attention was the extent to which the State administration can supervise and control the elections. From the highest to the lowest the election officers are responsible to the administration. Republican officers first decided who should vote. They received and counted the vote cast, and when the returns were opened and counted it turned out that this party, who did everything in its own way, had been emphatically defeated. The highest Tilden elector over the lowest Hayes elector had 8,857 majority. The total vote of the State was 100,000. It was too obvious for dispute that this result was a serious disappointment to the administration, hence the efforts to which the Returning Board was put to reverse the decision of the people. As anticipated by those who had witnessed the proceedings of the Returning Board at former elections, it reversed the decision made by the vote actually cast and declared the State for Governor Hayes by over 4,500 majority. It was difficult to witness the consummation of such a wrong without calling for the interposition of some power to avert its effects; but we were told that the judiciary of the State would not interpose, and that the decisions of the Returning Board must be accepted like the laws of the Medes and Persians, as unchangeable. It was conceded on all sides that the total vote cast was legal, and yet the Board, to bring about the result it has announced, had to disfranchise over 15,000 of these legal voters. Justification for this action of the Board is sought for in allegations of riots, tumults and other acts of violence, producing such measure of intimidation as had deterred an equal or a larger number of Republicans from attending the election. The first great fact in the way of the reasonableness of this conclusion is that the total vote of the State was 15,000 more than cast at any former election, and the next is that the aggregate vote in the principal districts and parishes thrown out by the Returning Board was unusually large. The colored Republicans, being usually in the majority and having the countenance of all the State, Federal and election officers and soldiers, were not easily intimidated, and they usually voted as they desired; whereas the colored Conservatives having less support were not so courageous. There is a growing inclination among the best class of colored people—the taxpayers—to abandon the Republican party, especially the State party, too obvious to be concealed."

At the conclusion of the reading of the letter, which was received with great enthusiasm, the meeting took a recess until half-past one o'clock to await the report of the committee. Upon re-assembling at the time indicated, ex-Mayor Fox took the chair and Secretary McConkey called the roll, the following gentlemen answering to their names in the order of the counties represented:

Adams—Dan'l Geiselman. Allegheny—F. M. Hutchinson, J. M. Guthrie, Col. F. N. Guthrie, James P. Barr, T. O'Leary, John Coyle, Wm. McClelland. Bedford—E. F. Kerr. Berks—S. E. Ancona, H. M. Keim. Blair—H. W. Guthrie, Col. J. C. Everhart, George Stroop, T. Brophy. Bucks—Gen. W. H. H. Davis. Centre—P. Gray Meek. Chester—R. E. Monaghan. Clearfield—William Bigler, M. B. Meffrath. Crawford—J. J. Humes. Cumberland—R. J. Haldeman, J. B. Bratton, B. K. Goodyear, M. Williams. Dauphin—B. B. Cobaugh, R. L. Muench, A. P. Lusk, B. F. Meyers, W. C. Morgan, John H. Filler, J. W. Brown. Erie—John W. Walker. Greene—J. F. Temple, Wm. J. Bayard. Huntingdon—J. Simpson Africa. Jefferson—Kennedy L. Blood. Juniata—Amos G. Bonsall, T. P. Garman. Lancaster—H. M. North, W. H. Grier, A. J. Steinman, W. U. Hensel. Lehigh—S. A. Bridges. Luzerne—C. L. Lamberton, M. A. Duffy. Lycoming—H. H. Cummin. Mercer—P. G. Pierce. Mifflin—A. Reade. Montgomery—J. B. Hocklithomon. Northampton—J. H. Fox. Perry—J. A. Magee. Philadelphia—Wm. M. Reilly, Geo. W. Biddle, Daniel M. Fox, A. Sidney Biddle, E. E. Worrell, John Cadwallader, Jr., S. G. Thompson, Samuel Dickson, John R. Read, Dr. Morwitz, Richard Vaux, Gen. St. Clair A. Muhlenland. Schuylkill—M. Beard. Tioga—J. L. Sexton, jr. Venango—J. B. McCalister. Westmoreland—John Latta, C. F. Worden. York—N. M. Wanner, John B. Gibson.

Chairman M'Clelland then announced that the committee of thirteen had unanimously agreed on a paper to be submitted to the meeting and that Hon. Richard Vaux would read it. Ex-Mayor Vaux thereupon read the report in a distinct and emphatic manner, and the salient points were enthusiastically applauded. Following is a copy:

To the People of Pennsylvania:

We address you in that spirit of patriotism which is common to all the citizens of this Commonwealth. The political condition of our country is fraught with impending peril. The expression by the people of their intention to support those constitutional means which will settle the issue made on the question of the Presidency may prevent what otherwise all will deplore. Whatever violates either the letter or the spirit of the Constitution tends to weaken, and may destroy, our government. There is not a question or a measure relating to the peace and happiness of the whole people exciting controversy and portending discord for which the Constitution fails to provide.

The election of President and Vice President of the United States is a high and solemn duty of the people of the several States. To attempt to evade obedience to the popular will by any effort to distort the meaning of the Constitution or the interpretation of law to seek to set up barriers against the free of this declared will is substituting revolutionary expedients for constitutional methods.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have by the Constitution the sole and exclusive power to settle all questions which relate to the validity of the electoral votes of the several States. In one event the Constitution gives the House of Representatives the power to elect a President.

We therefore earnestly invoke from you every effort cognizable by the law in the execution and support of the constitutional methods by which it is to be determined who are the lawfully elected President and Vice President of the United States.

We invite those who feel the present danger to aid in all lawful means which may induce the Senators and Representatives of the States and people in congress assembled to obey the plain intent and meaning of the Constitution and laws, and not in defiance thereof attempt to place in the high offices of the government men whose title is tainted with fraud. As free citizens of this Commonwealth we suggest that you consider these measures which such a contingency may invite or command.

We believe that a large number of our citizens who are too patriotic to be bound by the designs of the managers of the present administration of the general government are prepared openly to condemn the disposition they manifest to plunge the country into a sea of dangers, rather than return to the people the trust committed to them for a specified period of a Presidential term.

If the people will with courage and calmness in full faith in their sovereignty as the source of all political power, make these declarations, then their servants may listen and obey.

Believing that these opinions are entertained by all honest and patriotic citizens, we declare that Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks were, on the 7th day of November last, elected President and Vice President of the United States. Self-congratulation has no part in this our solemn statement of the fact upon which we intend to rest our future conduct.

And secondly, that we call upon the members of both Houses of Congress to adopt such lawful means as may lead to the official declaration of the fact that Mr. Tilden and Mr. Hendricks have been elected, and we urge them to resist with all their power the proposal to settle the ascertainment of a fact already accomplished, by a reference of it to any other tribunal than that already appointed to decide it by the Constitution of the United States.

Terrible Railroad Slaughter.

OVER ONE HUNDRED PASSENGERS EITHER CRUSHED, ROASTED, OR DROWNED—SIXTY OTHERS WOUNDED—ONLY SEVEN ESCAPE UNHURT.

A telegraphic dispatch from Ashtabula, Ohio, dated December 30th, furnishes the following account of a horrible railroad accident which occurred near that place on the previous night. It makes the blood run cold to peruse the sickening details:

The most disastrous railroad accident since the Angola horror in 1858 occurred at this station, sixty-five miles east of Cleveland, last night. A heavy fall of snow, accompanied by a gale of wind, had prevailed during the day, and on all sides the snow had drifted into huge mountains, and train going either way were greatly delayed. The Pacific express, which left Buffalo at twenty minutes past twelve p. m., and was due at this station at quarter past nine, was over two hours late, and upon reaching the iron trigs bridge which spans the Ashtabula river a few rods east of the station, the structure gave way, precipitating the train of eight coaches and three baggage cars into the chasm. The bridge was an iron truss of 150 feet span, the track being sixty feet above the water level. The train was drawn by two locomotives, the forward one breaking loose from the other as it was going away, and escaped on the very "brink of the fearful gulf; the other engine following the quivering mass of humanity and crushing coaches and adding to the horror by the rushing steam that came from the crushed monster.

Hardly had the falling coaches reached the ground after this fearful leap ere the flames burst forth on all sides, and the bleeding and mangled bodies became food for the pitiless fire. The groans of the dying, the cries of the wounded and the agonizing appeals of those whose bare chance for life was being swallowed up by the flames, rendered the scene one of unparalled horror, the recollection of which will never be forgotten by those who lived through that hour of indescribable agony. There were 172 passengers on the train at the time of the disaster, and of this number it is believed that about two-thirds were killed outright, so complete was the wreck, and so rapid and entire the destruction by fire that but thirty-four bodies have up to this time—twenty-four hours after the disaster—been recovered, and it is believed that but few more will be found, others being entirely consumed. Of the number recovered but six have been identified, the balance being an indistinguishable mass of charred and blackened flesh and bone, horrible to look upon and entirely beyond identification.

The citizens of the village about a mile distant from the station, headed by the mayor, turned out *en masse* to the aid of the sufferers, and private residences were converted into temporary hospitals. Everything possible was done to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded. These numbered fifty-nine, the greater portion of whom are but slightly injured. Many of these proceeded on their journey this afternoon.

A NEGRO HERO.

When the train fell, the sleeping-car Palatine, the last of the train, went down near the eastern embankment, strikingly upon the top of another sleeper and rolling over on its side. Steward, the colored porter of the Palatine, succeeded in raising a window and escaping. He immediately set to work stamping on the other windows, thus breaking them in so that the passengers could get out. By this means he rescued all the passengers in his car, seventeen in number, with the exception of one, who was sick and unable to help himself.—When Steward discovered this man he called on the others to stay and help him. Only a woman and one man, apparently ill, stayed to assist him, however, and Steward, with their aid, succeeded in getting this man out, thus rescuing every man under his charge. Young Nusbaum of New York, who was injured in the head, is dead. No other deaths are reported among the wounded brought to Cleveland.

WHAT SURVIVORS SAY.

Thirty of the survivors, many of them wounded, were brought to Cleveland. They relate many interesting details of the catastrophe. Among the rest is Charles S. Carter, of Brooklyn, N. Y. He was in the rear drawing-room car, playing cards with two others, Emanuel Shepherd, of New York, the other a stranger. Suddenly he heard the glass of the car windows begin to crackle, and the car plunged to the bottom of the ravine. The stranger was killed instantly. Mr. Shepherd had his leg broken, and it was amputated this morning. Mr. Carter was comparatively unhurt. He says that the front end went much lower than the rear, and that the flames in the front began to eat their way upward and spread with great rapidity. He turned to the assistance of Mr. Shepherd, and with great difficulty succeeded in getting him out, the broken leg impeding their advance. When Shepherd was fairly out, Carter returned to the assistance of a woman who was calling for help at the front of the car. He got her out, and as she was quite thinly clad he gave her his overcoat. After reaching a hotel he found himself severely bruised in several places. In the great peril of the hour a man rushed down to the scene of the disaster ready to help in rescuing. He saw a woman struggling and went to her assistance. He carried her by main force to solid ice, and then, urged by the cries of the mother, went back to rescue her daughter a sweet child of three or four years. The treacherous wood in splintering had caught the child in its grasp and the fire completed the horrible work. The man was compelled to see the child roasted in flames, and to hear her "help me mother" ringing out in an agony of death. In a moment she was lost, swept up by the sharp tongue of fire while the mother, in helpless agony, fell to the earth in a deadly swoon.

There was on board a family named Bennett, on their way from New York State to Jefferson, Ashtabula county. The father and two girls got out of the wreck and the children were only saved by being tossed from the arms of one man to another over the pile of burning wood. One of the four children was seriously injured and all were slightly scratched. This morning the mother, who was *enceinte*, gave birth to a child, the event being hastened by the excitement she had undergone.

It seems that the train had just about covered the bridge when it fell, as fragments lie across the ravine touching the base of the abutments on either side. When one stands at the foot of the ravine and looks up it seems an utter impossibility that any man could take a leap from so great a heighth and live, yet a number escaped comparatively unharmed, and had it not been for the fire probably not one-third would have been lost. The water in the creek is only about three feet deep, and it is thought by some that when it is dragged a number of bodies may be found.

A stock driver is another witness as to the rapidity with which the fire did its work. He says he was one of the first out of the wreck, and that five minutes had not elapsed before the whole thing was aflame.

A special train, loaded with some of the injured, left Ashtabula at a quarter past eight o'clock this morning, consisting of an express, passenger and palace car. In the latter the beds had all been made, and in them were placed the worst of the victims those being able to sit up being accommodated in the front car.

A special dispatch from Cleveland, dated Sunday, gives the following additional particulars:

Workmen at the wreck of the train at Ashtabula have cleared away the remainder of the debris. Only two more bodies have been recovered to-day, which, with the thirty-four taken out yesterday, are all that will probably ever be found. The rest are burned to ashes. A few of the charred and mangled bodies have been identified, and were brought to Cleveland on Sunday night. * * *

Daniel McGuire, engineer of the leading engine, the Socrates, which broke loose from the train and was saved, says that all the stations between Erie and Ashtabula, with the exception of three, were stopped at. The train was running slowly. He felt the bridge give away when two car-lenths from the west end; he felt it settle down; had his hand on the throttle and pulled it wide open. The draw-bar connecting the engines was snapped by the sudden jerk. The tracks of his tank did not clear, and settled down, but opening the wide of the throttle saved the engine and the trucks were pulled on. He ran up the track 100 yards and gave the alarm by repeated whistles and ringing of the bell. He saw the engine Columbia sink with the bridge and turn bottom upward. The express, baggage and passenger cars followed in a heap, the passenger cars landing on the express cars, and all went into the river. The fire first broke out in the last sleeper, which swung over to one side and soon was in a blaze. In two or three minutes the entire wreck was a mass of flames. The shrieks of the living and the dying were terrible to hear; but their voices were soon hushed as the fire king embraced them. I was one of the first at the wreck, and pulled several out of the ice and helped to extricate some from the debris. One woman was pinned down by her legs on a burning car; her cries for help were piteous, and in despair, as the flames circled around, she shrieked, "Take an axe and cut off my legs;" but it was impossible to reach her, and she was consumed. The paint on the burning cars snapped like powder, scaring many workmen. I couldn't estimate the number burned, but think 100 perished by flame and water. Some were killed outright. A husband and wife in the burning wreck were held down by obstructions, and calmly awaited their fate. Their lips moved as if in prayer. Neither pen nor tongue can describe the horrors of the scene. In twenty minutes after the fire started it was impossible to extricate the passengers. The engineer of the Columbia, "Pap" Folsom, of Cleveland, says his engine turned bottom upward. He was thrown violently through the window of the cab and was badly cut. McGuire helped pick him up bruised and bleeding and his first words were "Another Anglo horror, Dan." * * * McGuire thinks no one would have escaped from the doomed train had he not saved his engine, thus enabling him to give the alarm. Terrible indeed would have been the result had the Socrates gone over, as no one would have known of the disaster, and the next train due would undoubtedly have been precipitated into the river.

A Canadian Convent Burned.

TERRIBLE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE—THIRTEEN CHARRED BODIES RECOVERED—LOSS $24,000.

St. Elizabeth Convent, in Montreal, was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 26th ult., and thirteen persons, all but two of whom, namely Angele Dauphin, an old maid of 69, and Elizabeth Grovel, aged 19, were little girls ranging in age from 7 to 12 years. The fire was discovered by one of the Sisters shortly after midnight and the inmates were immediately aroused, but so rapidly did the flames spread that no time was allowed for donning clothing and the frightened children and Sisters rushed out in the cold night with nothing on but their night clothes. The alarm soon brought the fire department to the scene, and the firemen worked heroically in rescuing the inmates and saving the building, but before the flames were extinguished the large building was almost entirely destroyed. It was at first supposed that there was no loss of life, but at daybreak it became rumored that a number of lives had been lost, and in a short time the ruins were surrounded by an excited crowd, that somewhat interfered with the working of the men who were engaged in searching for the bodies of the missing ones.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by a defective flue. The suffering of those who escaped was terrible; in many instances feet and hands were badly frozen by the snow, the cold being very intense.

FLYING FOR LIFE.

One of the Sisters, who was the first to hear the alarm, said that there was a great deal of excitement all over the building, and she saw a number jump from the windows when the stairways were cut off by the flames. No one had time to secure their clothing, all being forced to escape in their night dresses. They were out in the snow in their bare feet and many suffered terribly. She feared fatal results in many cases from the severe shocks. Those who were burned were on the upper floors, and it is supposed that all escape was cut off at the time they were aroused. The excitement in the city over the terrible calamity has been intense. A number of places of business have been closed and every exertion is being put forth to aid and make comfortable the sufferers.

The bodies of the dead at the Coroner's office presented a most horrible spectacle. In many cases the bodies were so badly charred that they bore but a very slight resemblance to human beings. Here and there could be seen bodies minus legs and arms, while in one instance the head of a body of a child was completely burned off. The sufferings of those burned must have been awful, as most of the bodies were found in a cramped position, as if they had died in agony. Nine bodies have been recovered from the ruins so badly burned that they could not be identified. Four are still missing. The Coroner's inquest resulted in a verdict of accidental death.

A SAD STORY.—Joseph W. Harrar, who shot William R. Hess, in April last, has just been convicted of murder in the second degree by a Philadelphia jury.

The circumstances of the case convey a sad history. Some fifteen years ago, Harrar found Hess, then a boy, homeless and friendless, hanging around a Philadelphia hose house. He gave him a home in his family, found him employment, and treated him as he treated his own children. But he was warming an adder. The boy grew to manhood, and in the course of years repaid the kindness of his benefactor by seducing his wife and alienating the affections of his children. The evidence of the guilt of the woman and the ingrate he had nursed and cherished was palpable and beyond dispute. Harrar was driven from home, a blighted man, disgraced and dishonored. His children turned against him, instigated by Hess and their mother. They passed him in the street without a sign of recognition, or if they showed a consciousness of his presence it was by opprobrious words or a sneer of contempt. Meanwhile, Hess held the fort and was the ostensible head of the family.

Driven to desperation by the magnitude of his misery, Harrar walked into his wretched home one morning. Hess was there, finishing his toilet to go on duty as a policeman. He saw the man whose household gods he had shattered, but he showed no guilt, no embarrassment, no remorse. The children were at the breakfast table; the guilty mother was standing a few feet from her paramour. Hess, turning his head towards Harrar, asked, "What is that damned loafer doing here?" Harrar's reply was a shot from his revolver, and Hess fell, mortally wounded. He lived a few hours—long enough to make his will and leave what property he possessed to the partner of his guilt. Harrar surrendered himself to a magistrate and has had his trial, with the result as above stated.

Legally, he has committed murder, but thousands of good men and women all over the land will absolve him from crime. It would be a righteous act to pardon him, for the law has been vindicated by the verdict and no wrong can be done to society by allowing poor Harrar to live out the remnant of his unhappy life in undisturbed freedom. —*Franklin Spectator.*

COUNTING THE ELECTORAL VOTE.—How, as far back as 1789, the electoral vote was counted in the presence of the two houses of congress in accordance with the constitution is shown by the following: On the 6th of April of that year, twelve senators being present, John Langdon, of New Hampshire, was elected president of that body "for the sole purpose of opening and counting the votes for President and Vice President of the United States." A message announcing the presence of a quorum and the election of a president for the purpose above named, was sent to the house of representatives. The house then repaired to the senate chamber, where in the presence of the two houses, the vote for President and Vice President were examined by Mr. Patterson, of New Jersey, acting as teller on the part of the senate, and Mr. Parker, of Virginia, and Mr. Heister, of Pennsylvania, acting as tellers on the part of the house, and the president of the senate declared the result to be that George Washington was unanimously elected President and John Adams Vice President of the United States. This is the only instance in which this exact course was pursued, but it shows that it was recognized from the first that the *two houses* must act in the count, and by such agents as they should appoint—and it was not recognized that the Vice President or president of the senate had any duties in the matter of *counting* the votes.

—The New York *Journal of Commerce*, in answer to a correspondent, says: The first record we have of diphtheria was of its ravages in Rome in A. D. 330. It was an epidemic in Holland in 1337; in Paris in 1576; in Naples in 1718; and more extensively in France in 1818 and 1835. It prevailed as a severe epidemic in England in the years 1858, '59 and '60. The American Philosophical Society (vol. 1) notices its first appearance in this country in 1771, but it was not generally recognized then or for many years afterward, being confounded with membranous croup, putrid sore throat and similar diseases. It was noticed here in the latter part of 1850, but it was not fully and widely known until the early part of 1857.

News and Other Notings.

—Sir Titus Salt is dead. No relation to Mrs. Lot.

—Leslie Coombs, of Kentucky, has married a woman 85 years of age.

—"Give me the Returning Boards of a country and I care not who does the voting."

—An ingenious North Carolinian, struggling in the toils, has married his mother-in-law.

—A San Francisco woman won a wager by eating thirty quails in as many consecutive days.

—The Sheriff of Tunica county, Ark., is accused not only of stealing public money, but of murder.

—Jeremiah S. Black has no fear of the ultimate result, and says the Democracy has lots of spunk.

—A sixty-year old woman in Leesburg, Ohio, dressed herself in a man's clothes, and committed a daring burglary.

—The Pennsylvania Legislature organized on Tuesday by the election of the candidates nominated in Republican caucus.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Drumm, of Reading, is 98 years of age and still growing older. She seems to be a Drumm pretty hard to beat—for age.

—A young man, who says he is a son of ex-Mayor Havemeyer, of New York, has managed to spend $12,000 in Indianapolis during the last two weeks.

—An apple-dumpling eating match recently came off at Allentown, when the victor scored twenty-six dumplings and the next highest eighteen.

—A woman was found in Philadelphia on Christmas dying of hunger after child-birth assistance having been refused at the office of the Visitors of the Poor.

—Gov. Colquitt of Georgia is a zealous Baptist, and preaches every Sunday to the negroes in his employ, none of whom, we presume, ever *call quit* on him.

—A man named Thomas H. Logan was found frozen to death in the woods near Gettysburg on last Saturday. He was a native of Bedford, and 49 years old.

—Oakland and San Jose, California, must be delightful places of residence at this season of the year. Roses, lilies and geraniums are now in full bloom there.

—Dr. Evans, an American dentist in Paris is now the "Marquis d'Oyley of the Holy Roman Empire," the title having been conferred upon him by his Holiness Pope Pius IX.

—It now turns out that no minutes of the secret sessions of the Louisiana Returning Board were kept at all. The rascality was too infamous to be reduced to black and white.

—Captain Boyton recently accomplished the task of swimming down the river Po from Turin to Ferrara, a distance of eight hundred miles, in ninety-six hours, without a single stoppage.

—A new industry has sprung up at Warren. A Swede named A. Jonassen has invented a tobacco pipe with a folding stem which can be carried in the pocket. He manufactures at that place.

—In consequence of the late defalcations in the money order department of the Pittsburgh post office there are rumors of the impending removal of Postmaster Negley. Ex-Senator Anderson is named as his probable successor.

—At Augusta, Ky., on Thursday, seven young men, all unknown, while on the ice in the Ohio at that point, were suddenly drowned by the breaking of a gorge. Three bodies were recovered. They all belonged to Utopia, Ohio.

—Mrs. Mary Cook, a venerable lady, died in Lock Haven, on the 8th inst., at the remarkable age of 99 years, 1 month and 15 days. She was born in Philadelphia, Oct. 23, 1777, and with her parents removed to Northumberland county in 1781.

—The Chicago *Times* says that the day on which Congress settles the Presidential question is St. Valentine's Day. The Goddess of Liberty isn't going to have a married man for a valentine. She wants a gay, young bachelor buck like Samuel J.

—A negro eloped and married a white girl in Campbell county, Ky., and officers were sent to arrest him. The negro shot two of his pursuers, and tried to shoot his wife's father and brother. That night he was found dead with six bullet wounds in his body.

—Our cousin Samuel is proving himself the right man in the right place, and he is being duly praised therefor. The New York *Sun* says of him: "It is proper at this crisis to state that as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sam Randall is a decided success."

—The Tuscaloosa *Times* says that there is on exhibition in Marion, Alabama, a child born of negro parents, whose body is one-half white and the other half black. The white portions are white as alabaster, the dark part black as the ace of spades. One-half of the scalp and hair is perfectly white.

—John A. Child was Superintendent of a Methodist Sunday school in Indianapolis President of an insurance company, and a large owner of property. These facts are interesting in connection with the other fact that he has just deserted his wife to elope with his niece, who is a married woman.

—The Venango *Spectator* says: The handsomest Christmas present we have heard of in this neighborhood was received by a young married woman in this city. Her father, who is the fortunate owner of a rich oil farm in Clarion county, sent her a check for five thousand dollars, which was duly received on Monday.

—The resignation of Postmaster Negley, of Pittsburgh, has been received. George A. Anderson, formerly State Senator from Allegheny, will be nominated when the Senate meets. Negley's sureties have been found to be insolvent, and it is probable that the government will lose nearly $8,000 by his clerk's defalcation.

—On New Year's eve there was a heavy snow fall in the Gulf States. Two feet of snow fell at Holly Springs, Mississippi; fourteen inches at Jackson and Vicksburg; a foot at Shreveport and Monroe, Louisiana, and four inches at Oyska, delaying trains, breaking telegraph wires and interrupting communication.

—A hundred persons killed at Ashtabula. Ten thousand dollars damage for each life lost would not be too much, and this is about the only sort of a lesson that reaches soulless corporations. A million dollars for an unsafe bridge is something that would reach the inner consciousness of every railroad directory in the Union.

—Remains of an ancient Indian village have been discovered at Paragoonah, Utah. The houses, now covered with sage brush, were arranged in uniform rows and were about eight by nine feet in size. They were all two-story, built of adobe, supported by pillars of sandstone rock. Rude appliances for grinding corn were also found.

—Daniel Smith, the torpedo man who was blown into atoms at Petrolia, a few days since, carried a $400 gold watch, the main spring of which is all that has been found since the accident, and not a splinter of the wagon has been discovered. Only about fifteen pounds of the remains of Smith and his partner Humphreys could be gathered together on which to hold an inquest.

—In the case of Ann Quinn against the Lycoming fire insurance company, which was tried at Danville last week, Judge Elwell ruled that when personal property was insured in a particular building, and afterwards removed without the consent of the insurance company to another building, where the fire occurred, there could be no security, and directed a verdict for the insurance company.

—John W. Harrington has arrived in Washington from Columbus, S. C., bearing the Democratic electoral vote of that State, which he delivered to the President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

—A number of the most conspicuous Abolition leaders of by-gone days, such as Cassius M. Clay, George W. Julian, Passmore Williamson, were identified with the Democratic party in the last campaign. Now Elizur Wright, who was secretary of the American Anti-Slavery Society, is in the fold, and he tells why he has done so in a strong and forcible letter to the Springfield *Republican*.

—A phenomenon of rarity and beauty was recently witnessed in Beaver county. About 9 o'clock in the evening, according to the local papers, a large number of balls of fire, as large as a man's head, floated in the air just over the houses, and each one had a fiery streamer, from three feet long, attached to it, which emitted sparks in all directions and of the most brilliant description. After being in view for some time they disappeared.

—Chauncey Freeman, aged 15 years, recently saved a train from destruction on the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He was in the first passenger car, and heard a peculiar rumbling under the car. He immediately sprang to the cord which plies the Westinghouse air-brake, and hung to it until the train was stopped. Upon examination a broken flange and loose wheel was found under the car, which must shortly have wrecked the train. Freeman is a newsboy of Easton.

—Michael Burns, of Mt. Carbon, Schuylkill county, died suddenly, of heart disease, while attending services in St. Patrick's Catholic church on Christmas morning. He fell forward in the pew, and some men, who thought it was merely a fainting fit, started to carry him to the vestry room. Father McDermott, adjoining the church, but he died in their arms before they reached the priest's house. His wife was at home preparing the Christmas dinner when the sad news was brought to her, which turned the day of rejoicing into a day of sorrow.

—The Philadelphia *Times* says: "The journals of all shades of political opinion note as one of the grandest acts of the most spotless and blameless life of our late fellow citizen, Mr. John L. Shoemaker, who died just passed away universally lamented, that when he was tendered a certificate of election by the managers of his party in 1861, because