

THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN. RESEMBUR, PA. FRIDAY, - - - FEBY 8, 1878.

THE House at Harrisburg has at last consented that the session of next Tuesday shall be devoted to the consideration of the Local Option bill. It will not be necessary to waste much time in discussing this threadbare subject, and it is to be hoped that it will be quickly and effectually disposed of. Let there be no cavil or dodging, but a square vote either for or against it.

THE Executive Committee of the Greenback-Labor party met in Philadelphia last week and decided to hold their convention to nominate a candidate for Governor and other State officers in that city on the 5th of next June. Fifty-four delegates were also appointed to represent this State in the national convention of the same party, to be held at Toledo, Ohio, on the 22nd of this month. Samuel Calvin, of Hollidaysburg, is the delegate from this district, with Jacob Trefft, of Johnstown, as alternate.

The silver bill continues to be the leading subject of discussion in the U. S. Senate, and it is uncertain when the vote will be taken on its final passage. If the bill becomes a law the reputation for financial wisdom of its friends as well as its enemies will either be permanently made or permanently marred. If it produces the magical effects upon the business interests of the country which its advocates claim it will, they will be hailed by the people with loud acclaim; but if the result should turn out otherwise, they will be politically damned now and forever, and the possession of superior wisdom and statesmanship will be accorded to its enemies. The practical result of the measure will thus effectually settle the future political fate of Senators and Representatives who, on the one hand, have promised the people that it will prove to be a sure remedy for all their present business ills, as well as of those on the other extreme who have confidently predicted from its adoption the most disastrous consequences.

When E. D. Yutz, of Somerset county, offered a resolution in the Senate on yesterday week, authorizing the purchase and distribution among the members of the Legislature of ten thousand volumes of Paul's History of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools of Pennsylvania, he undertook the meanest job of his Senatorial life. This book or compilation of Paul's having proved to be a dismal failure, he managed last winter to get the Legislature to purchase for distribution among its members 5,000 copies at a cost of \$10,000. Yutz now modestly proposes to double the dose, and to take twenty thousand dollars of the people's money out of the treasury to pay for the wretched trash. It is a plain case of robbing Peter, the people, to pay Paul, the author, and as he is paid by the State to discharge the duties assigned him, Mr. Wickesham ought to see to it that he stops writing history, because if Yutz succeeds in getting his resolution adopted Paul will write another useless book and get the Somerset Senator to make the State pay for it. The cause of literature will not suffer as long as Garman in the House takes Small's Hand-Book under his fostering protection, and Yutz's bill is the market for the sale of Paul's history in the Senate.

An act of Assembly, passed in 1871, directed that one thousand copies of Small's Legislative Hand-Book should be published and distributed annually among the members of the Senate, and two thousand copies among the members of the House. Not satisfied with this liberal donation by the State of Small's legislative literature, it has been the constant practice of the Legislature to direct a large number of additional copies to be published for distribution among the members. At the last session the extravagant number of six thousand additional copies was ordered, making in all nine thousand. Of course it was nothing less than an act of larceny under the forms of legislation, for which no shadow of excuse can be offered. It having been decided that the present session is a new one, and not a continuation of the last, doubtless the annual legal supply of three thousand copies of the Hand-Book was furnished. One would suppose that at this point the plunderer would stop, but a member named Garman, from Juniata county, stepped to the front on Friday last and with unblushing cheek offered a joint resolution directing that 10,000 extra copies be furnished—3,000 for the Senate and 7,000 for the House—which was adopted by a vote of 98 yeas to 62 nays. If the Senate should concur in this resolution twenty-two thousand copies of the Hand-Book will have been distributed among the members of the present Legislature, the Senate receiving 7,000 and the House 15,000, which would give each Senator 140 copies, and each member of the House 75.

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THE news of the disastrous wreck of the steamship Metropolis on the coast of North Carolina on yesterday week, two days after she had departed from Philadelphia, was received here, where the employers of the men on board and the owners of the cargo, Messrs. P. & T. Collins, had so long resided and are so well known, with feelings of sincere regret. Having undertaken a very extensive railroad contract around the rapids of the Madeira river, in Brazil, the Messrs. Collins had commenced with their well known energy to dispatch men and railroad materials to that distant region for the purpose of inaugurating the work and pushing it rapidly to completion. The Metropolis was the second vessel chartered and sent out by them, the first being the Mercedes, which sailed on the 2d of January. Although the wreck of the Metropolis must occasion considerable loss to the contractors, they will regard it as of trifling moment when compared to the melancholy fate of the poor, but confident and resolute Irish employes who found a better grave in an honest effort to better their fortunes in a far distant land. It is said in some quarters that the Metropolis was unseaworthy. If such was really the fact, no blame or censure can be imputed to the Messrs. Collins, as the vessel had been inspected in New York, where she was owned, by the proper United States officers, and a regular certificate filed pronouncing her in all respects in conformity with the law. If this certificate was false, the Collinses cannot be visited with censure, for they had a right to confide in the correctness of the certificate made by the officers of the government appointed specially for that purpose. They did not rely upon their own judgment as to her being seaworthy, but placed their faith in the written certificate of men who were experts in such matters. It was a matter of supreme importance to the Messrs. Collins to accept a vessel under which they were fully satisfied of her soundness, and when they chartered the Metropolis they had the assurance that she was so from persons presumed to be competent and duly authorized to give such a certificate. The cargo was insured in two of the best known and most reliable companies in Philadelphia, which is ample proof that they regarded the vessel as staunch and in every respect fit for the voyage. More than this, she was not loaded to her full registered capacity, nor is it denied that her captain was an experienced seaman and did the only thing that could be done to save the lives of his passengers by running her on the beach. We believe that the fate of the Metropolis in the terrible storm of yesterday week was beyond human foresight to prevent, and that if there is any special responsibility for her loss and the loss of so many human lives, none of it rests with Messrs. P. & T. Collins.

P. S. A Philadelphia dispatch says that about one hundred and thirty-five of the survivors of the wreck of the Metropolis arrived in that city on Tuesday morning last, nearly all of whom have expressed a willingness and will be permitted to sail in the next steamer for Brazil.

RIGHT REV. BISHOP O'CONNOR, Vicar-Apostolic of Nebraska, which includes the State of Nebraska, the Territories of Wyoming and Montana and the portions of the States of Kansas and Colorado, has been expressing his opinion on questions relating to the present condition and future prospects of the red men. The vicarage over which the Bishop presides includes the States of Nebraska and Colorado, and a total population of about 350,000 souls; of these there are thirty thousand white Catholics and nine thousand Catholic Indians. Blackfeet have a Catholic mission in Eastern Montana of 8,000. The Flatheads in the vicariate of Idaho, living in Western Montana, and numbering 1,700, are all Catholics. There is a Catholic agency at Standing Rock. As to the probability of peace among the Sioux and other disaffected tribes, the Bishop thought it very doubtful. He says the only way to permanently benefit the Indians, or to secure peace, is to put them directly under the charge of the military. If there should be any peace among the Sioux and other tribes, the Bishop thought it very doubtful. He says the only way to permanently benefit the Indians, or to secure peace, is to put them directly under the charge of the military.

THE AUTOMATIC CHESS PLAYER.—There has recently arrived from Europe a most wonderful and mysterious machine called the automatic chess player. While in Europe this machine defeated some of the most prominent players. On Saturday it was placed on exhibition at the Aquarium, and shown for the first time. Invitations were sent to some of our best players to play against it, and, in most cases, the machine proved the victor. There were a number of persons who tried conclusions with it, but for some reason they refused to make themselves known. The figure represents a Turk in national costume, seated upon a cushion or ottoman, with crossed legs, and the chess-board directly in front of it. The player sits opposite, and when the latter makes a move the figure, after a moment's apparent study of the position, moves its piece in accordance with the position of the player's piece. Inside the figure, which is opened, is a large number of strings and pulleys, which being once set in motion, continues moving until the game is finished. It is a most remarkable machine, and thus far has defied all attempts to discover from what cause it moves—and seems to think for itself into what position the pieces are to be placed. Much amusement was caused by the use of this machine, and thus far has defied all attempts to discover from what cause it moves—and seems to think for itself into what position the pieces are to be placed.

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