THE CENTRE REPORTER

THURSDAY MAR 12., 1874.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Our friends will oblige by sending us items of local news in their locality, give us the facts only, and we will put them in shape, also notices of deaths and marriages.

Any one sending us the names of six new subscribers, with the cash, will be entitled to receive the REPORTER one year free.

The REPORTER being read by nearly every body on this side of the county, where it has a larger circulation than any two papers, will be found the best medium for advertising business, sales, &c. &c.

——Subscribers to the Reporter, changing their post-office address this spring, should give us notice, so that the paper can be mailed accordingly.

——Henry Smith, esq., had one of his hands badly lacerated, between two rollers, at the sawmill which he superintends in the Seven Mountains.

——A Dog-Sheep Registry bill is now pending in our Legislature, which compels the owner of every dog to have it registered, numbered and minutely described with a collar around the dog's neck and the owner's name thereon, and taxed one dollar.

——The Philipsburg Journal relates the following affair now on the boards in that town: "A singular case lately came before one of our Justices, and, the defendant having been bound over to appear at court, it is likely to become quite notorious. The circumstances are about these: A young man, enamored of one of the daughters of men, presented her with a gold watch chain. After a time the little affair of love came to an end; but the young lady retained the jewelry, and refused to give it up on demand. And now the swain is endeavoring to recover the presents by due course of law."

——H. Y. Stitzer, proprietor of the *old Reliable Book Store*, at Bellefonte, by all appearances, is doing *the* business in everything pertaining to his line, for every nook and corner of his store is crowded with books, viz: School Books, Sunday School Books Miscellaneous Books, Music Books, Blank Books, Pocket Books, and Pass Books, the latest Style Initial paper put up in boxes with beautiful Chromo in lid, Pocket knives, Scissors, Razors, Albums, Paper Collars, Pictures and Toys of every description. He has also just received over two thousand rolls of Wall Paper for spring trade at panic prices, and he says that any person failing to buy from him misses a bargain and if we may judge from the way people flock there to buy, we feel inclined to agree with him. He has also just received a new stock of Window Shades, both paper and oil colored, buff and green Holland, with all the fixtures necessary. Persons having sales this spring would do well to go there first and procure Blank Notes, suitable for sales, as he can tell you exactly what you need, in the way of blank notes, deeds, mortgage bonds, &c. He is also selling off at cost balance of Diaries for 1874.

——We observe that the erection of a poor-house for this county is agitated in some quarters, and some of the citizens of Bellefonte favor the purchase of the farm on Nittany mountain, now owned by Mr. George Durst, as the most desirable site for such an institution.

——The total population of the world, according to the latest accounts, is 1,377,145,200. Area of the world, in square miles, is 57,392,900, making 27 of population, to a square mile.

——The farms in Centre county, of all sizes, number 1790; of these 2 are under 3 acres; 92 are 3 and under 10; 111 are 10 and under 20; 298 are 20 and under 50 acres; 579 are 50 and under 100; 707 are 100 and under 500; 1 is 500 and under 1000 acres.

Our county has 152,338 acres of improved land; and 89,129 acres of woodland unimproved; other unimproved land 1,233 acres. The present cash value of our farms is $13,665,198; our orchard products are valued at $47,422, produce of market gardens $775; forest products $49,683; value of home manufactures $1,550, and value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter, $354,207. Value of all live stock $1,332,655; number of horses 6,588, mules and asses 69; milch cows 6,484; working oxen 190; other cattle 9,299, sheep 18,017, swine 15,573.

Our productions of agriculture are, spring wheat, 110 bushels, winter wheat 475,055, rye 63,108, Indian corn 1,044,760, oats 589,628, barley 37,256, buckwheat 8,029 bushels, and wool 53,448 pounds. Potatoes 117,403 bushels, wine 125 gallons, butter 521,090 pounds, milk sold 10,700 gallons, hay 27,725 tons. Cloverseed 9,849 bushels, grass seed 268, hops 16 pounds, flax 573, flaxseed 32 bushels.

——Miles twp., elected the following officers: Constable, Thomas Zigler; Supervisors, Daniel Brumgard, Em. Harter, Overseers, John Ruhl, Isreal Wolf; School Directors, Isreal Rachhaus, James Corman; Assessor, S M Winter; Assistant Assessors, Daniel Walker, Daniel Roush; Auditor, G W Royer; Judge, Michael Miller; Inspectors, H W Kramer, Daniel Dubbs; Townclerk, J K Weaver. Mrs Annie Foust had 18 and Mrs Mattie J Moyer 6 votes for School Director.

At the late election, Gregg twp, elected the following officers: Judge, John Caldren; Inspectors, Jas P Grove, George Krape; Constable, Reuben Kline, Assessor, F Zettle; Assistant Assessors, Daniel Barges, Samuel Musser; Supervisors, Geo Gentzel, James Grove; Overseers, Wm Homan, J B Heckman; School Directors, James Hanna, Jacob M'Cool, John Rossman; Auditor, Wm Pealer; Townclerk, M H Guise.

——In Harris twp, the following officers were elected: Judge, David Keller; Inspectors, D Dale, W A Murray; Constable, G A Jacobs; School Directors, J B Hartswick, Wm Durst; Supervisors, H Thompson, O Ruhn; Overseers, Em. Wolf, P Shreck; Assessor, Adam Hess; Assistant Assessors, J P Stuart, Thomas Dale; Auditor, Jas Glenn; Townclerk, J G Irvin.

——The following officers were elected in Ferguson twp: Judge, Henry Kreps; Inspectors, F E Meek, Jas Watt; Assessor, S W Campbell; Assistant Assessors, Robt Meek P F Bottorf; Supervisors, Robt Glenn, T F Patton; School Directors, S R Smith, W H Frye; Overseers, J F Kreps, R G Brett; Constable, Wm Sauserman; Townclerk, J C Sample; Auditor, P F Bottorf.

——Aaronsburg boasts of a musical composer, in the person of our young friend, Willie T. Meyer, who has composed quite a number of creditable pieces of piano forte and sacred music. His latest pieces are "La Tutelle" and "Silver Fountain Schottische." These and quite a number more of Mr. Meyer's compositions have been published in sheet form, by Lee & Walker, of Philadelphia.

——Cheap goods at Hoffer Bro's always. A large stock constantly on hand. The best place for bargains in Bellefonte—this is the reason farmers patronize them. They have the largest store and largest assortment in the town. Purchasers are always satisfied with what they get.

——Sale of O. P. Rarick, Spring Mills, March 17, farm stock and household.

Henry Breon's sale, Harris twp., March 27.

——Jacob Dinges' sale, of farm stock, Centre Hall, March 14.

——Mr. John M. Miller's sale of personal property, at Spring Mills, March 21.

George Jordan's sale, Potter twp, farm stock, March 24.

——Sale of personal property of Mrs. Johanna Kurtz, at Aaronsburg, Saturday, March 14th, 1 o'clock.

WANTED—AT CENTRE MILLS, 500 BUSHELS SHELLED CORN, for which FIFTY SIX CTS. per Bushel in CASH will be paid, by

19fbdt J F. THRONE.

——No less than half dozen musical conventions have been held in various portions of our county this winter.

——Brown's last week's paper is full of scolding. It scold at the Tutens, it scolds at Orvis, and it scolds at Sam'l Gramley whom it praised so highly until within a few weeks. Brown measures "honest Samuel Gramley" according to whom he decides to favor with patronage. Brown is a great annihilator—he has annihilated half dozen papers in Bellefonte, in the last fifteen years—and they were all his own too.

——Mr. John Rishel, across the valley, has a horse afflicted with the epizootic. "Better late than never."

——The vendue, at Mr. Elias Hoy's in Nittany valley, last week, 3d, was probably the largest ever held in the county. The crowd was estimated at 2000 and consumed the bread of ten bushels of wheat besides the other 'estables, and then they were only half satisfied, and not a bite was left for supper, so completely did the crowd eat him out. Mr. James Forster's sale, the following day, also had an unusually large attendance.

——The postoffice at Powelton, Centre county, has been discontinued.

——A boy near Pine Grove Mills, confiscated a horse one day last week from a Mr. Weaver. Mr. W. succeeded in capturing his horse, and has confiscated the boy who is now in Bellefonte jail.

——Green peas and strawberries were shipped from Charleston, on 26th of last month. We have green-horns up this way, anyhow.

Another $200 conscience money was received at the Treasury, on Saturday, due for customs, from New York.

——Solutions to the problem of "X" in last week's Reporter were sent by W. R., of this place, and by A. M. S., of Penn Hall, both having it 55 5-9 of A's, which C has less. Correct.

——On last Friday forenoon we had a brisk snowstorm, turning into sleet in the afternoon and night, making altogether a depth of 8 or 10 inches. On Saturday a slight rain; Sunday cold and blustery; Monday and Tuesday cold and fierce storm. Wednesday do.

Letter from Missouri.

Correspondence of the Reporter.

VERSAILLES, March 1, 1874.

DEAR EDITOR:—Seeing nothing in your most valuable paper of Morgan county, I thought a few items from here would not be amiss. The location of Morgan county is almost in the centre of the state. Its climate, as in central Missouri, generally is delightful, being subject to neither of the extremes of heat or cold. No portion of the state—or in fact the entire West—can lay claim to greater healthfulness. Chills and fevers, the curse of new countries, are almost unknown here. Versailles, our county seat, is located on the dividing ridge between the Missouri and Ossage rivers, and is a flourishing town of twelve hundred inhabitants. Morgan is not a first class agricultural county, although in portions we have very fine farming lands. About one fourth of our land is prairie, the rest is timbered. The prairie lands are good and produce abundant harvests. They are frequently broken by water courses, the banks of which are lined by a good growth of timber. The entire southern part of the county is timbered and rough. This portion abounds in minerals, consisting chiefly of lead and iron. In places the timber land makes most excellent farming land. Wheat does especially well, and some of the best farms in the county, are the rich bottoms of the Osage, Gravois and Moreau. However the greater portion of Morgan county is well adapted to grazing. Although the prairies are nearly all fenced, there are many thousands of acres of timbered land unfenced where grass grows luxuriantly. Here cattle roam the year round, and there are but few days even in the coldest winter that that they do not find something green to eat. Morgan county is well supplied with running water, and mill seats are numerous. I have not seen a place in the entire West that has as fine and numerous water powers as Morgan county. From Versailles to the Osage river lead abounds in marble every section. At the present writing, two men have been averaging four thousand pounds for several days within a mile of Versailles, and their prospect is getting better. Lead ore sells at thirty two dollars per thousand at the ground where it is dug. I feel as if my letter was long enough. I will merely say to those who desire to get rich, that good improved farms can be bought at from fifteen to twenty dollars per acre, according to location and improvements; undeveloped mineral land can be bought from three to eight dollars per acre

Yours, SCOTT STOVER.

Formerly from Rebersburg, Pa.

A reader of the Reporter, at Centre Hill, has sent us the following, with a request to insert it:

PROTEST FROM A FARMER.—A writer in the *Country Gentleman* has some sound ideas in the following:

It has often been a cause of regret to me in looking over the agricultural papers, to see so many complaints from farmers in regard to their business not paying. And that we quote or point to the merchant as an example of prosperity compared with ourselves, little thinking that if they published their complaints as freely, we should find their papers and magazines overrun with accounts of failures. It is with farming, as with every thing else, "not the business that makes the man, but the man that makes the business." Farmers, as a class, try to do too much. It is one thing putting in a crop, and another thing taking care of it. I think that if we were to give the thought and labor to the different crops they demand, our complaints would be far fewer than they are. All the patrons of husbandry, all the clubs, all the agricultural papers in the country will not help us, if we do not try and help ourselves. So far as I have observed, those men who do the most grumbling do the least work and thinking.

— BREVITIES.—The sanctum of the Loop reporter, is to be demolished by a red-haired gal. Well, if you will, please begin at the gable end..... Some people say that "brevities" is soft, and "brevities" says that some people are soft; now where's the difference.....The pupils of a certain school, have euphoniously dubbed their teacher "all-spice." We suggest that they call him "all-pepper," since as they say, he makes it so allfired hot for them.....The science of self-defense, is a valuable auxiliary, when you meet with a fellow who wants to put a mansard projection over your eye.....The following affecting song is now sung by female grangers:

"I am a full-blown granger,
And do with the grangers stand,
An old sun bonnet upon my forehead,
And a roll of last year's butter within my hand.—What next?

MILLHEIM FRAGMENTS.

Mr. Editor—Has not some BODy a knack to get his name into the paper? For example, to make a present of a picture, worth three cents to a club, (Pruegel), and then get the fellows to pass a set of soft soap resolutions. O, for a Dannel Webstair to make a speech!

Glorious Change.—Our jolly friend, Villyam Retrah is busy converting the gin factory at Penns creek, into an art gallery, or, to speak Beierish, into a *Pinakothek*. Who would have thought it for Flat Creek district? Willem, get a picher ready for the glorious 'cession, July 4th, 1876. Johnny Seltzer will get it framed.

Advice gratis. Now Christ, if I were you, I would take some of the proceeds of the penny-traps at Aaronsburg and fix up the pike, just to shut up that big-mouthed chap of the Berichter. Always has something to say about mud-holes and frog-ponds. Well, some creatures do enjoy themselves in mud-holes—that's so.

Wonnerpitsich. To inquire continually "Who is Uncle John?" Why you stupid blockhead, you long-eared horse, don't you see him every day? Do you contemptible fops presume to put on city airs, where folks don't know their next neighbors? More anon. UNCLE JOHN.

Letter from Nebraska.

Correspondence of the Reporter.

RIDGELY, NEB., Jan. 26th, 1874.

EDITOR REPORTER:—Perhaps a few items from here would not be amiss in your columns. We had a very mild winter, and little snow. Times are hard, and why is it? Markets have not been so good for some four years as they are at present. Why is it that there are no more eastern people coming to Nebraska to get homes of their own? The state of Nebraska of 1874 stands to be admired. Her broad fields have yielded an enormous increase and her citizens are justly proud of it. We have less swamp or waste land than any other state in the Union; our educational system is such that we feel proud of; school-houses are being erected on nearly every section of thickly settled land. Provision has been made for a school fund which will be second to none in the country and churches of all denominations are becoming numerous. Flouring mills are also numerous. The great Union Pacific Railroad runs through the state which affords facilities for exporting our products. Nebraska is about 20 years old, and has been a state only about seven years. With her rich and unrivalled tillable lands there is inducement and room for countless more settlers. Where so lately stood the wigwam of the poor ignorant red man, now stands the mansion of his conqueror, and what were once his happy hunting grounds, over which roamed countless numbers of buffalo, elk and deer, now dwell thousands of civilized human beings, representing nearly every nation upon the earth. The tomakawk and scalping knife have given way to implements of industry and the plowshare is fast turning this vast prairie into a cultivated garden, and rich products are the reward of toil. We have exchanged the buffalo for the ox, the elk and the deer for the horse, and the watch-dog has taken the place of the howling coyote. E. M. L.

UNCLE SAM'S FARM.

Four Hundred Million Acres of Arable Land Open for Settlers—A New Homestead Law to Correct the Abuses of the Old System.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives, in a recent report say that the whole arable public land remaining, after deducting mountains, alkaline plains, sand and sage deserts, swamp lands and shoal lands, railroad grants, &c., cannot exceed three hundred and fifty to four hundred million acres. There were taken up by homestead entries alone last year nearly four million and as our population increases this yearly amount will also increase, and at so rapid a rate that in less than a century the whole arable land of the Government will be absorbed by settlers. Although it has been the beneficent intention of these preemption and homestead laws to afford cheap homes to the people, yet both laws and especially that which allows preemption, have been perverted from their original design and have been made the instruments whereby speculators have obtained large areas of land and hold them unimproved waiting until the neighboring improvements of industrious settlers may enhance their value and afford a profitable sale. In a limited degree the same abuses have grown up under the present homestead law.

To correct these abuses, to insure to every one who wants it a home, to prevent frauds on the national Government, and to bring under improvement the public lands, is the object of the bill reported by the committee. It repeals the preemption laws, except that it allows inchoate titles under them to be completed according to their provisions. It also substitutes for the present Homestead law all entirely new one, retaining all the best features of the existing law, and adding others that the experience of the working of that law seemed to require. It does not interfere with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Homestead law. Its new features are as follows:

It requires actual settlement and cultivation for five years which, on due proof thereof, the settler can obtain a title to 100 acres of land, the whole cost of which will be $10 on entry of the land, and $8 on final proof. If, however, the settler wishes to obtain a title earlier than in five years, he can do so at the end of eighteen months on payment of the minimum price of the land.

The bill exempts "pine lands," with mineral, coal, and saline lands heretofore exempted, in order to save vast tracts of valuable pine timber to the Government that are now destroyed under the present laws, without insuring settlement or cultivation. It extends to minor heirs, at the death of their parents, the right to continue the parents' settlement with the consent of the guardian, and allows widows, after settlement and before entry, to make entry in their own name. It provides for the determination of controversies where two or more persons have settled on the same quarter section or smaller legal subdivision; also that vacancies in the office of register or receiver shall not prejudice claimants as to any matter necessary to the establishment of their claim. Among other provisions, it allows the purchase by cash of small tracts of forty acres for sites for mechanical, commercial or manufacturing purposes, after one year's occupancy thereof, and provides that all the United States reserved lands within the lateral limits of railroads shall be held at the double minimum price of $2 50 per acre.

AN EAGLE'S STRUGGLE WITH A GIRL.

[From the Jacksouville (Ala.) Republican.]

On Saturday, the 3d inst., a girl named Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Albert Moore, living in the northeast corner of Cleburne county, was returning home from a neighbor's house, whither she had been sent on an errand, when she felt smething heavy strike upon her shoulder, and the next instant she was borne to the ground. She says that her first impression was that she had been seized by a panther or some other wild beast, but soon felt the talons of what proved to be an eagle clutching her sides and arms, lacerating the flesh in a fearful manner, and with its beak picking her on the head, she was dragged some distance on the ground. Pretty soon the eagle, having secured his prize, with claws and bill firmly fixed, raised her from the ground, and sailed along at from three to four feet above the earth for some distance. Occasionally she was dropped on the ground, but the eagle would as often raise her again, making now and then serious wounds with his talons in her body and his beak in her head, till at last he reached the height of ten feet, and attempted to light on a limb of a red oak tree on the roadside, when his hold again gave way and the girl fell to the earth seriously stunned and hurt. She was unconcious for a time, then clambered over the fence near by into her father's orchard and began making the best of her way to the house, near which she was met by her mother, who had been attracted by her screams, and was hastening to her relief. The most remarkable part of the matter is that the girl did not see the eagle at all. A shawl which had been securely fastened about her head, so as to project over her face, hid her rude antagonist from her view. The track along which she was dragged, however, was plainly visible in the road. The girl Elizabeth is fourteen years of age, and weighs between eighty and ninety pounds. The eagle has been twice seen since by the hunters, who are making every effort to kill or capture him.

THE BLACKMAILING BUSINESS

Result of the Labors of the House Investigating Committee—Dimmick, the ex-Legislator and Originator of the Scheme so far as known to have Used the Money for His own Private Benefit.

HARRISBURG, March 4.—The following is the report of the committee appointed by the House of Representatives to investigate the authorship of certain circulars addressed to banks and bankers, relative to bill No. 18, entitled "An act to repeal the usury of this Commonwealth and to fix the rate of interest."

To the Honorable the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania:

The undersigned committe appointed by your honorable body to investigate the authorship of a certain circular, signed R. H. Gibbons, making assessments upon the banks and bankers of the Commonwealth, avowedly to aid in the passage of House bill No. 18, entitled act to repeal the usury laws of this Commonwealth and to fix the rate of interest, have discharged the duties imposed upon them, and respectfully beg leave to report: That they have examined a large number of witnesses and have exhausted all available sources of information in order to arrive at all the facts bearing upon the subject. From the evidence taken, and which is herewith submitted as a part of this report, the committee have drawn the following conclusions.

At some time prior to January 20, A. D. 1874, Mr. William H. Dimmick, late a member of the House of Representatives from the county of Wayne, or some one in his behalf, caused to be printed a circular under date of January, 1874, and signed "R. H. Gibbons," secretary (see exhibit D), requesting the several banks throughout the State "to circulate petitions favoring an increase of the legal rate of interest to seven per centum per annum," and in like manner procured blank petitions, with printed headings (see exhibit H), to be enclosed with the circulars to the banks. On or about the 20th of Jan. Mr. William H. Dimmick and Lewis B. Richtmyer, postmaster of the senate, in room No. 91, State Capitol Hotel, Harrisburg, enclosed and addressed to the banks and bankers of the State copies of the foregoing documents.

The address of the banks and bankers was taken from a bankers' almanac of 1873, borrowed of J. W. Weir, cashier of the Harrisburg National Bank, by Mr. J. M. Kreiter, for the use of Mr. Wm. H. Dimmick. Mr. Dimmick furnished the printed documents, envelopes, and stamps, and Mr. Richtmeyer conveyed them to the postoffice and mailed them. To these circulars sundry replies were received at the Harrisburg postoffice and sent to the Senate postoffice by the order of Mr. Richtmyer. At the request of Mr. Dimmick, from the Senate postoffice they were delivered to Mr. Dimmick, by Mr. Richtmyer. Subsequently, during the early part of February, Mr. J. M. Kreiter, of the city of Harrisburg, by the request of Mr. W. H. Dimmick, obtained the signatures of the Harrisburg banks to a written document relative to this matter.

The authenticity of the paper is admitted by some of the bankers and denied by others, the evidences, however, preponderating in favor of the claim that the document was materially altered before it was printed. This paper, together with a circular under date of February 12, signed R. H. Gibbons, secretary, making assessments upon the various banks, and a proposed copy of House bill No. 18, was enclosed and addressed to banks and bankers by Mr. J. M. Kreiter in his office in Market street, Mr. Dimmick being present at least a portion of the time. After they were ready for mailing. Mr. Richtmyer took them from Kreiter's office to the post office, and mailed them at the request of Dimmick. A portion of the replies received to these circulars were sent by request to the Bolton House and delivered to Mr. Dimmick, and a portion were returned to the writers as uncalled for by the party to whom addressed. To precisely what extent the banks responded by checks or drafts as requested your committee are unable to ascertain. Probably some of the letters delivered to Mr. Dimmick, or returned to the writers, contained such enclosures, but of this your committee have no information. The only instances of such remittances that came to the knowledge of the committee were sent to the care of Harrisburg banks. The Union National Bank, of Philadelphia, wrote John A. Bigler, vice president of the City Bank, Harrisburg, to pay one hundred and twenty-five dollars to Saunders when the bill passed. The Manufacturers' National Bank, of Philadelphia, sent to James W. Weir, Cashier Harrisburg National Bank, a check for two hundred and fifty dollars. Drexel & Co., of Philadelphia, sent a check for R. H. Gibbons, of seventy-five dollars, to Dougherty Bros. & Co. The Western National Bank of Philadelphia authorized the First National bank of Harrisburg to any necessary expenses attending the passage of the bill, and the Second National Bank of Titusville sent to the same bank a draft for one hundred dollars, to be paid if the matter was all right.

With the foregoing exceptions your committee have no information that banks or bankers responded to the assessments or remittances, and are led to believe by the testimony and other information that but very few of the banks made any response to the circulars. Your committee are under many obligations to the bankers of Harrisburg for valuable assistance rendered in the discharge of the duty imposed upon us, and desire to state in this connection that the committee have no reason to believe that the bankers of Harrisburg had any knowledge of the intended use of money or other corrupt means to pass House bill No. 18.

In the discharge of their duty your committee found it necessary to visit Philadelphia, Reading, and Honesdale to obtain testimony. In the latter place your committee ascertained that parties named R. H. Gibbons and E. L. Sounders were known there. Mr. R. H. Gibbons was called as a witness, and stated that he knew nothing of this matter under investigation, and had not authorized the use of his name by any person in that connection. The E. L. Saunders known at Honesdale is a lady that is said to reside at New York, but who had visited Honesdale since 1869, a portion of the time stopping at the house of William H. Dimmick. So far as your committee have been able to ascertain, the originator of of this scheme, Wm. H. Dimmick, admitted no one to share in a full knowledge of the transaction, but gave to others such information only as served to accomplish his purpose; and so far as the committee know or believe no other member of the Legislature had any knowledge of it. It is evident from the testimony that Dimmick had no intention of using the money received from the banks, to aid in the passage of House bill No. 18, but solely for his own private benefit.

How Justice was Defeated.

On Monday, the 23d of February, your committee were prepared to report a portion of the testimony, and a resolution expelling Wm. H. Dimmick from membership, but having been anticipated in this by his resignation, concluded to postpone any report until the investigation was completed. Your committee submit these facts to the House for such further action as it may deem proper, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of this matter

R. D. MCCREARY,
A. B. YOUNG,
JOHN H. ORVIS,
Committee.

STRUGGLING CUBA.

Encouraging Advices from the Island.

New York, March 5.—The rumor of the death of ex President Caspedes, of the Cuban republic, is generally disbelieved by Cubans here, who regard it as a Spanish canard, intended to dishearten the patriots and injure the cause. The latest news, received through Cuban sources, of the progress of affairs in Cuba is most encouraging. In Camaguey the Cubans have more men and horses than the Spaniards. On the 19th of January a battle was fought at Melones between 600 Cubans, partly cavalry, and 1,300 Spaniards. The Spaniards being numerically stronger, drove the Cubans before them and entered their camp, when the Cuban cavalry repulsed them. The Spaniards retreated, leaving forty-two dead bodies on the field. The Cubans took 100 prisoners, fifty horses and twelve guns.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Latest from the Land of Revolutions.

Lisbon, March 5.—A steamer from Rio Janeiro February 8, has arrived. The probability of war among the Argentine states, on account of the insurrection in Paraguay, was increasing, and there was a general decline of values in consequence. Troops and vessels were going forward to Paraguay.

At Buenos Ayres the elections were in progress and were attended with intense excitement. Troops were being dispatched to various points on the frontiers, and war with Brazil was looked upon as liable to break out at any moment. Munitions of war were arriving from the United States.

The cholera continues to rage and the deaths from the disease average seven daily.

PRAYING IN THE MUD AT COLUMBUS.

Columbus, O., March 4.—The women's crusade was continued this morning, their courage being increased previous to beginning their march by the news that Mr. Upton, proprietor of the Zettler House, who had declared that he would do all that he could in opposition to the movement, had without being asked taken down his bar and stopped the sale of liquors. Farr's billiard-room was first visited. The ladies were well received, and sang and prayed, but Farr refused to sign the pledge. Marsetti's and Friedlander's drinking places were visited, but both refused to sign the pledge. The ladies prayed and sang at each place, kneeling on frightfully muddy pavements. The saloon kept by Antoine Choppa, an Italian, was also visited, but Choppa, scenting the battle from afar, hurriedly shut up shop and refused to be seen. Prayers were offered for him. It is understood that the liquor-dealers held a meeting last night and resolved to treat the ladies courteously, but not to admit them to the places. A prominent preacher of the city forced himself into the procession this morning, thereby doing more harm than good.

At three o'clock p. m. 150 ladies renewed the crusade against the liquor-sellers. Before the procession got one square from the church dense crowds of curiosity seekers, men, women, and children surrounded them. Making progress was almost impossible. At several points on High street, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the police the sidewalks were completely jammed with a noisy and not very select crowd. It is highly probable that if it had not been for the police it would have been necessary to abandon anything like visiting work. Five saloons were visited and the proprietors were talked and prayed with, but no signatures to the pledge were obtained. One Italian agreed not to sell liquor after his present stock was sold. At one saloon a crowd of men made an attempt to drown the prayers and singing by cheering, but they were suppressed by the proprietors, who at first were very defiant, but afterwards insisted that the ladies should be treated with respect. The druggists of the city held a meeting to-day to consider the situation, and twelve of them signed a pledge not to sell or give away any alcoholic liquors except for medicinal, chemical, mechanical, or sacramental purposes, and in either case to parties personally known to the druggist, or upon a physician's prescription. Those signing this pledge embrace nearly all the prominent druggists of the city. At a prayer meeting this afternoon the committee appointed to call on the General Assembly relative to the movement reported that they had interviewed several legislators, and were told that before any special privileges to hold services in the State House could be granted they must know just what services would be held.

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.

New York, March 6.—One of the most magnificent weddings of the season took place yesterday at the residence of Cyrus W. Field, No. 123 East Twenty-first street. The bride was Mr. Feld's daughter, Miss Grace, and the bridegroom was Mr. Daniel Allen Lindley, of this city. Nearly 1,500 cards of invitation were issued. The guests were among the most distinguished families of New York. Bridal presents worth half a million dollars, comprising numerous rare and valuable articles, were received by the bride. After the ceremony a reception was held, and in the evening the young couple started on their bridal tour. They sail soon for Europe.

Now what do some of our Centre county ladies think of that? Perhaps many of them will have no presents at their weddings, but a far happier wedded life than those whose large presents are paraded in the papers.

DON CARLOS'S PLANS.

London, March 5.—A special despatch to the *Times* from Boyonne contains the following intelligence obtained from Carlist sources:

Don Carlos has announced that it is not his intention to impose a contribution upon the population of Bilboa when that place is taken.

On his entrance into the city he will proceed to the Cathedral and be crowned King of Spain. He will swear to support the liberties of the people, and will constitute a government with General Elio as President of the Council. An appeal will be made to the foreign powers to recognize the beligerency of the Carlists. He well declare the Spaniards exempt from allegiance to any other government than his own. He will draw $5,000,000 as the first instalment of a loan previously contracted.

CESPEDES' CAREER ENDED.

Havana, March 7.—The reported killing of ex-President Cespedes by some members of the San Quintin Battallions is confirmed It appears that on February 27 the troops captured a negro, and were ordered by their commander to shoot him. The negro promised if his life was spared to lead them to the spot where Cespedes could be found. This was assented to, and the ex-President was discovered with a few friends, five leagues from Assesoradina. His friends succeeded in getting away, but he could not escape, and, while closely pursued by a detatchment of troops, led by a sergeant, turned and fired six shots from his revolver. This was returned by the troops, and Caspedes received bullets in his head and breast, causing instant death. His body was brought to Santiago de Cuba and buried on the 1st instant.

A LEAP FOR DEATH.

Abby L. Mirriam, daughter of the publisher of Webster's Dictionary, and a resident of Springfield, Mass., committed suicide to-day by jumping from a fourth story window of a water-cure establishment in Madison avenue, while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.

THE PENN MANORS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The Royal Charter vested in William Penn and his heirs the absolute ownership of the soil of Pennsylvania. From 1681, the date of the charter, to July 4, 1776, the date of the Declaration of Independence, all titles had to be derived from the Penn family; and within the reserved manors since all titles have still to be traced to them.

The Surveyor General, under the Penns, had selected and surveyed off some forty-four manors for the more exclusive use of the proprietors.

Large portions of the manors had been disposed of before the Revolution, especially in Eastern Pennsylvania. How much remained unsold in 1776 I have no means of learning.

William Penn, by his will, had left to each of his children ten thousand acres of land in Pennsylvania, and at various times some of the family had assigned to them portions of land. These are the "Private Estates" referred to in the act of 1779.

The Legislature passed an act on the twenty-seventh of November, 1779, in consideration of one hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling, (or six hundred and fifty thousand dollars,) vesting in the Commonwealth all the proprietary rights, under the Royal Charter; reserving, however, to the Penn heirs, their manors surveyed and returned prior to July 4, 1776, and their private estates—meaning, I presume, all property which had been severed from the general proprietary estate, and vested in any one or more members of the Penn family. The eighth and thirteenth sections are as follows:

"VIII. *Provided also, and be it enacted*, That all and every the private estates, lands and hereditaments, of any of the said proprietaries, whereof they are now possessed, or to which they are entitled, in their private several right or capacity, by devise, purchase or descent; and likewise all the lands called and known by the name of the Proprietary Tenths or Manors, which were duly surveyed and returned into the Land Office, on or before the fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, together with the quit or other rents and arrearages of rents, reserved out of the said proprietary tenths or manors, or any parts thereof, which have been sold, be confirmed, ratified and established forever, according to such estates therein, and under such limitations, uses and trust, as in and by the several and respective reservations, grants and conveyances thereof, are directed and appointed.

"XIII. *Be it further enacted*, That the sum of one hundred and thirty thousand pounds, sterling money of Great Britain, be paid out of the Treasury of this State, to the devisees and legatees of Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, late proprietaries of Pennsylvania, respectively, and to the widow and relict of the said Thomas Penn, in such proportions as shall hereafter by the Legislature be deemed equitable and just, upon a full investigation of their respective claims."

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Excruciating Torture—Fifteen Men Baptised with Liquid Steel.—A fearful, heart-rending accident occurred at the Steel Works between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock on February 18th, by which about fifteen men were more or less injured. From the meager information that could be obtained was as follows: When the molten steel had been emptied from one of the large converters into the huge ladle from which it empties into the molds the ladle, accidently, was overturned, and the liquid fire was thrown over those workmen engaged in its immediate vicinity. About fifteen were more or less burned, three of that number so seriously that it is feared they cannot recover. The clothing of some of the men was literally burned from their bodies, while drops of red hot liquid burned through the flesh of some unfortunate ones almost to the bones. Messrs. Frank Jones, Joseph Schuler and John Whiteman, were most seriously burned; Mr. Schuler's injuries being of such extremely serious nature that it was impossible to convey him to his home. Messrs. James F. Bash, Michael Hogan, Jacob Swarner, Joseph Miller, Isaac Hulan, Charles Williams, John Crosslow and Charles Andrews were among the unfortunate victims, though some of this number were not seriously injured. Mr. Swarner, besides the burns received, also had an arm broken.—*Johnstown Voice.*

A GREAT FIRE.

Constantinople, March 6.—An extensive conflagration in Salovia. An immense amount of property was destroyed. Eleven persons burned to death.

DEATH OF EX-PRESIDENT FILLMORE.

Buffalo, March 8.—Ex-President Millard Fillmore died at his residence, in this city, at ten minutes past 11 to-night. He was conscious up to that time. At 8 P. M., in reply to a question by his physician, he said his nurishment was palatable. These were his last words. His death was painless. Some time since he had a stroke of paralysis, and has been failing ever since, so that his death was not altogether unexpected.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

London, March 5—Dispatches from Calcutta report that the distress among the famine stricken people in Terhoot is increasing. In one village alone eighteen persons have starved to death within the past four days.

The number of applicants for employment on government relief works has increased from 15,000 to 30,000 within a week.

OUR AMERICAN WOMEN.

Rev. J. P. Thompson in the American Chapel, Berlin.]

The position of women in the United States marks the high position of the nation in the scale of civilization. With a large practical equality of privilege, and a healthy measure of independence, woman also retains her prerogative of sex in the homage accorded her by courtesy and honor. If, as Burke lamented, the age of chrivalry died out in Europe with the decay of feudalism, it has revived with the new type of manhood in the New World. I am aware that "the American girl" is a phenomenon that puzzles and startles European society by her independent ways, quite as much as she dazzles it by her beauty of person, her grace of movement, her tasteful extravagance of dress. She has too much the reputation of being free, forward, "fast;" and I have sometimes blushed to feel that this might be deserved. The native good sense of my countrywomen should teach them when abroad to restrain the charming freedom of their home life, in order not to shock the conventional usages of European society. But I look upon the American girl, taken all in all, as a proper subject for thanksgiving! She can be trusted to go out alone by daylight, without the whole family guard turning out to protect her against innocent young men; for through the very freedom which is allowed her, she is trained to self-reliance and self-respect, and should any man presume to be familiar, she would not need the family guard to aid her in repelling him in a way that would forbid him ever to return. And the statistics of married life show that, on the score of social virtue, we have reason to be thankful that in our country, the relation of the sexes in youth is based not upon suspicion and fear, but upon confidence and honor.

The advance in education, both as to methods and to results, is another token under this head that calls for devout thanksgiving. We lack yet a uniform law making attendance upon primary schools compulsory throughout the whole country; and the debates and reports of teachers' associations and of educational conventions show that these are far from regarding our system as perfect or final. This is a healthy and hopeful sign; for a readiness to profit by experience, a willingness to be criticised and to be improved, is itself a part of good education. But how great an advance in the average of popular education the past fifty years have shown, in thoroughness of study, in accuracy of research, in range of subjects, in the standard and the rigor of examinations, and in the training of teachers by normal schools—while, at the same time we have held fast two cardinal principles of American education, proved by experience, namely: training the pupil to self-activity through daily recitations or exercises upon the topic hand, and training the reasoning powers to the constant use and application of the knowledge acquired from text-books and lectures. Upon these principles have been grafted from other countries whatever of good could be wisely adapted to the conditions of American society.

In a lecture delivered in San Francisco recently Prof. Le Conte gave some interesting information regarding the lava beds of California, Oregon, and British Columbia. The great lava bed, he said, begins in middle California and appears in separate streams of lava which grow and grow until in northern California they merge into a grand flood. In Oregon, Washington Territory, Montana, and British Columbia, an area of from 300,000 to 400,000 square miles is covered with lava, showing, where it has been cut through by the Columbia river, a thickness of 3,700 feet. The Des Chutes river, emptying into the Columbia, runs for 160 miles in a deep, narrow gorge, on the sides of which are lava layers from 1,000 to 1,500 feet high The clear section of the lava is here probably near 3,000 feet in thickness. The northern portion of this lava flood, which came from the Cascade mountains, covers an area of 100,000 square miles. The Columbia, which has cut its way to the sea almost through the base of the mountains, runs between cliffs that are from 1,000 to 2,000 feet high. In one place only, in the very axis of the mountain, the river has cut through the lava flood and into the sedimentary strata. In this section underneath the lava there is a coarse puddingstone, composed of pieces of porphyritic stone cemented together, and of all sizes up to five and six feet in diameter. Upon this stratum are to be seen several stumps of trees in their original positions, perfectly petrified, with the roots extending five or six feet on either side. Immediately above this, about two or three feet, filling up the spaces between these stumps, there is stratified sandstone absolutely covered with the most beaut