THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ ..... Editor.

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Another member of the House has died,—Mr. Snyder, of Northampton, on 20. This makes the eighth.

Potatoes at Harrisburg $1 per bushel. The Danville iron manufacturies are about starting to work again. In Pittsburg they started up again last week.

And now the hod-carriers of Brooklyn are on a strike in consequence of which the brick layers and masons are out of employment. The masons had positively agreed to work for ten hours.

The Lock Haven Republican has adopted the Lansbury-Butler shooting as its hobby. Its a slow and dull horse, and will carry the rider to the asylum quicker than elsewhere.

Another dam disaster has visited Massachusetts, particulars of which were given by us last week. So many of these affairs occurred there within a short time, we come think that it must be a bad dam state, or a dam bad state.

The Adventists, at midnight of Monday 19,-were on the lookout for the end of the world, but again with disappointment. That end "is not come yet," and the Advents can live to look and guess again for that little event. If one of them climbed a high pole, maybe he might see it a-comen afar off.

Kansas advises report the appearance of grasshoppers in large quantities. Plants have been stripped of every leaf, not a blade of grass has been left, and the wheat is completely ruined. Chinch bugs are waiting for the corn to come up.

A call has been made for a temperance convention to be held at Harrisburg on the 16th of June, to nominate candidates for Governor and State Treasurer. The callers pitch into both parties as unworthy of trust and purpose to march upon the battle-field flying the local option banner.

It is now said that Morton avows himself a candidate for President. This puts a big strain on Grant's Third-term proclivities. Morton is the radical leader in the U. S. Senate, and has swallowed all the bad administration business, and willingly went into work which Schurz, Sumner, Fenton and other republican leaders could not be driven to assist in upholding and in consequence had to cut loose from radicalism.

South Carolina cursed with carpet-bag rule, will endeavor to reach some of the rascals who robbed her. Late intelligence from there says that the war against corrupt officials begun by Governor Chamberlain has already resulted in the arrest of Niles G. Parker, the state treasurer under the Scott and Moses administrations, upon charges of fraud and embezzlement, preferred by Governor Chamberlain and others. Parker has been committed to the Columbia jail in default of $250,000 bail. It is rumored that this is but the first of a series of efforts to bring the public plonderers to justice.

Williams, Grant's Att'y Gen'l, has resigned. This is landaulet Williams,—whose wife kept up a carriage and team at government expense. He intends going to his home, in Oregon and run for U. S. Senator.

With the retirement of Att'y General Williams from the cabinet it is more than probable there will be a complete reorganization. Besides Williams and Delano two other members of the cabinet have intimated a detrmination to retire at an early day.

Further advises from Washington say that behind all the reasons for the resignation of members of the cabinet, is the fear of investigations which it is known will be set on foot next winter by the democratic house of representatives. There are a series of charges which will be preferred soon after the opening of the session that will involve, it is stated, the secretary of the interior and the attorney general.

These relate to transactions in the public lands and have nothing to do with Indian affairs. The facts relating to this particular case have been placed before the President, but he paid no attention to them, regarding them as manufactured stories. Those interested are determined to bring the matter to the attention of the next house and ask for a committee of investigation.

The citizens of this state have suspicioned something wrong in the management of the state treasury—an important institution, which has been under radical control for the last ten or twelve years, and in which the honest taxpayers of this commonwealth have a deep interest—as all the taxes direct and indirect, that are wrung from them, go into the treasury to the amount of several millions every year. These moneys, it is believed, and with good ground too, are farmed out by the ring, and used for purposes of private speculation instead of the legitimate uses as prescribed by the constitution and laws.

As there have been charges of rottenness in this department of the state government, the house at its recent session, passed a resolution authorizing a committee to investigate the books, and affairs in general of the public treasury, and ascertain whether the charges of foul play are true. It was fitting and proper that such a committee be appointed. The office is a public one, and the people have a right to know whether their servant, the state treasurer, has been true to his trust.

The House committee referred to, last week went to the treasury department, at Harrisburg, and stated its mission. Mr. Mackey, the radical state treasurer, said "No, that he would not allow a committee to investigate his books and the affairs of the treasury." Now why not? That department belongs to the people, and Mr. Mackey is the people's servant, and the masters of this servant certainly have a right to look into their own affairs, and see whether their servant has been faithful in the discharge of his duties. No one will gainsay this. Yet Mr. Mackey refuses. Then there must be something wrong, which Mr. Mackey is afraid to have found out. If his management is all fair and square, why refuse to let a committee look into it?

It is undoubtedly true that the public money has been used by members of the ring for private speculation, and that vagabond politicians of the radical party have been making large gains by the handling of millions of dollars of the people's funds every year, and that is what Mr. Mackey does not wish to see unearthed, and this furnishes the reason for refusing to allow his masters, the people, through their representatives to investigate his management of the state funds.

Mr. Orvis when in the House, it will be remembered, made a speech, in which he showed that the funds in the state treasury were being misapplied, and that there was a large deficiency. This refusal of Mr. Mackey to have his books examined, looks at though the suspicions and charges of Mr. Orvis were well-founded.

We suppose there will be some way to get at this thing, and expose the corruption that has been practiced in the treasury department, much as Mr. Mackey and his ring may dislike to have it exposed.

A dispatch from Pottsville Pa., states that the quantity of coal sent from that region last week was 11,889 tons against 82,426 tons the corresponding week the previous year. The supply for the week is 157,916 tons of anthracite independent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company from which no return has been received, and 89,657 tons bituminous against 378,485 tons for the corresponding week last year. The whole supply sent from all the regions so far this year is 3,295,567 tons against 4,124,837 tons to the same period last year. The decrease in the supply of anthracite is 954,718 tons.

AN APT THIRD TERM SPEECH.

"We won't stay here long."

The above is the speech made by Grant, after the train stopped in the depot at Hartford, Conn., on 16, on his way to the Concord celebration. A crowd was waiting to see the President; several members of his cabinet were with him, among them Post-Master General Jewell, of Hartford, who, when the cars reached his own city, stepped upon the platform with the President, but the crowd didn't cheer a farthing's worth. The P. M. Gen'l then tried to start a hurrah by saying "Gentlemen, the President of the U. S." and ordered three cheers which were given. Grant then uttered those words, "We wont stay here long." Had this little incident happened from the steps of the White House, this speech would have been one of the most significant oratorical efforts of the great smoker, and settled the Third-term question, to the relief of Blaine and Hartranft, and others whose hearts are aching for the possession of the White House.

"We won't stay here long"—these words Ulysses may repeat some day between this and March 4, 1878, when sitting and musing in his chair at Washington upon the ungratfulness of Republics. We are sure that the people have a speech for him in just as few words: "We don't want you to stay longer," and that will be followed by a big flitting from the White House to Galena.

But it is too bad that Hartford, the home of Jewell, did not have an enthusiastic "three cheers" all ready just as soon as Grant stepped out on the platform. However, the Connecticut election, which was held only a few weeks before, did not look as though the people up there felt in a mood to cheer in a Third-term direction, hence it was not at all unnatural that "We won't stay here long"—this was resolved upon on higienic principles, for the President knew Connecticut to have an unhealthy atmosphere.

THE TREASURY INVESTIGATION.

The accounts, says the Morning Patriot, of the difference between the investigation committee of the house and State Treasurer Mackey, are so incomplete and incorrect as to convey an exceedingly erroneous impression. The facts as they took place in the interview on Thursday are as follows: The committee waited upon the State Treasurer Mackey, and informed him that they were ready to proceed with the discharge of their duties. Mr. Mackey replied that he could not recognize the committee as such, but he would allow them as citizens of the commonwealth and members of the legislature to examine the public accounts and ascertain that the state funds were intact. If on examination, they found all the accounts correct and the public money accounted for, he would expect the committee to give him a certificate to that effect. To this the committee responded that they would make an impartial examination and make a report in strict accordance with the facts; that they were ready to proceed with the investigation but would do so as a committee, whatever might be Mr. Mackey's private view in regard to their powers in the premises. They then requested that the books of the treasury be shown to them in order that they might ascertain the amount of money in the treasury at the close of the previous day's business. Here Mr. Mackey raised an objection, and said that the committee, under the resolution, must begin with the accounts of State Treasurer M'Grath. To expedite matters the committee requested the production of the cash books of the treasury from the beginning of M'Grath's term until the close of the previous day's acounts. A number of books having been produced, an examination was begun with the assistance of Martin Powell, esq., who was accountant for the committee. At this point Mr. Mackey came in from the outer room and exclaimed, "No more of "this. I will not permit any interference by outsiders. The committee can "examine but not outsiders." Mr. Powell signifying his intention to depart the committee requested him to wait, and informed Mr. Mackey that he was their accountant, and not an "outsider" or intruder. To this Mr. Mackey replied, that he recognized no committee, but would allow the committee as members of the legislature to make the investigation. The committee declined to make the investigation merely as members of the legislature, stating that their object was to make a full and fair inquiry in regard to the treasury ballance then on hand, and see that the money was intact; and that in order to do this they required the service of an experienced accountant, as provided for in the house resolution. If the right to make such an examination were not accorded them they would retire. Mr. Mackey would not yield his position, and the committee accordingly withdrew.

There have been seventy-one working days consumed in the Beecher-Tilton trial, says the Times, and the defense has not concluded its case; it will probably take another week to do so. Then will come the rebuttal; that will take a month at least. Next we will have the sur-rebuttal, which will consume as much time; and then side-shows will be introduced that will last for two weeks; afterwards Mr. Pryor, Mr. Porter, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Evarts and Mr. Beach will speak. We average them at two days and a half each, and concede them in the aggregate of two weeks. Finally Judge Nelson will deliver his charge. If he reads all the notes he has taken he will last a month; but we think he will not require more than a week. This calculation brings it down to the end of the first week of the last summer month—Saturday, August 8, 1875. After a few instructions have been given to the jury, at the suggestion of Messrs. Evarts and Beach respectively, the case will be given to the jury. We make no prediction as to the time when it will come from it.

THAT INJUNCTION.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TEST ITS FORCE A REMARKABLE SCENE AT THE GRAND CENTRAL DEPOT, NEW YORK—AN AWKWARD HALT, FOLLOWED BY AN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

From The Philadelphia Times.

New York, April 16.—The party that accompanied the President to the Grand Central depot this morning consisted of Vice President Wilson Secretaries Robeson and Belknap, Colonel Hackett, of Governor Gaston's staff, Secretary Delano, George W. Childs and young Hamilton Fish. Colonel Hackett alighted first, and having assisted the President to alight, drew his arm through his own and marched straight for the entrance of the cars. There was an immense throng in waiting to see whether the door tender would pass them without seeing their tickets. The two elbowed their way through the throng and reached the railing around the door of the entrance of the cars. A door master stood there punching the tickets, and to him Colonel Hackett waved his hand loftily, saying the President and he would pass through without further ceremony.

"Tickets, gents," said the door master stepping in front of the would-be free riders.

"The President of the United States—President Grant," Colonel Hackett repeated pointing to that gentleman.

"I can't help who you are, you can't get through this gate without showing your tickets," said the door master; with rockey firmness of tone and manner.

The President cast upon the official a look of concentrated contempt and scorn.

"Stand back and don't block the passage, gents," said the doormaster. By this time the throng had caught spirit of the scene and had closed about the party. Vice President Wilson who had elbowed his way with Robeson's arm in his own just to the rear of the President, was keenly alive to the shamefulness of the situation. With a hasty glance he saw how it was to end, and so he dropped back far enough to be out of the focus of eyes. Grant took things calmly, but was yery angry, and after a few seconds' pause he said to Hackett, "What's to be done?" That resourceful individual showed a rueful countenance and said, "I guess there's nothing for it but to pay."

With a hasty movement Grant's hand went into his pantaloons pocket, and fishing out a small wallet he abstracted a hundred dollar bank note and thrust it into Hackett's hand. Grant then stood to one side and Hackett went for the pasteboards. Belknap then approached the door keeper and said, "The tickets are being bought, surely you can have no objection to permitting the President to seat himself in the cars?"

The door master glanced at the towering Hackett, who was buying the tickets, thought a moment and then said politely:

"I presume no fault could be found with me for that."

"He says we can go into the cars without waiting for the tickets," the secretary of war said in pleased tones to the President.

"Well, we won't do it," the Executive replied with positiveness.

By this time Colonel Hackett had returned with the nine tickets.

"I'll stand here and check you off as you go through," said he to the President, at the same time taking a position alongside the door master.

"Do nothing of the sort; give a ticket to each one," President Grant commanded, sharply, with unappeased anger.

So the President, Secretary Robeson and General Belknap were furnished with tickets, and the former presented his to the door-master with a sauvity of manner that was evidently intended to be full of trenchant satire. The party were to go to Boston without change of cars; nevertheless, the wily colonel had bought tickets as far as Springfield only.

Says the N. Y. World: The report of the working thus far of Compulsory Education act will not probably alter the opinion formed of it by any intelligent person. Nine truant agents have compelled 335 children to acquire a partial education at the public expense. The parents of these children, it is not surprising to learn, "have expressed themselves as being only too glad to have "some means to keep their children out "of the streets." The school thus apears in the light of a child-pound, and the truant agents, of a domestic constrabulary. So long as the parent is assured that her offspring is at school she may rest in the sweet consciousness that he is not in the police station, and while the truant agent with his umberella-crook or lasso woos him to the halls of learning, she need not worry herself lest he is making her responsible for filched fruit or fractured panes. Whether or not it would be wise to appoint "agents" to see that children were properly and adequately scrubbed and spanked is a question to be commended to the advocates of the compulsory system.

THE LETTER BOSS GRANT SHOULD WRITE.

[From the Worchester Press.]

Loud calls for remarks from Grant on the third-term subject are beginning to come from unexpected quarters. The Boston Journal and Providence Journal would like to have him say just a word—one little "no," or something to that effect. Perhaps he will decide to gratify them; and then if he should decide to become a candidate next year, he could write a letter to his friends, running something like this:

Wearied by importunities and weakened by the result of the Connecticut election, I give a letter relinquishing the third term, under assurance that it would remove all difficulties between me and my party. That letter I now revoke. I was persuaded to do it, almost forced, when I was in a weakened state of mind. I regret it and recall its statements. U. S. G.

A Disgraceful scene occurred at a church at Reading on Sunday night last. A young man interfered with the service, and blasphemed the name of God to such an extent that policemen were called in, a terrible fight took place, ladies fainted, young girls screamed, and a terrible scene followed. It was necessary to stop all services for the evening.

Advices from Fort Sill announce that the Comanche chiefs Manaway, Ling Hungry and Wild Horse came in and surrendered with 83 braves, 140 women and children and 700 ponies.

The steamboats John Kyle, Exporter and Charles Bodman were burned at New Orleans on Friday, and many lives are reported lost.

MR. GLADSTONE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LITERATURE OF THE CENTENNIAL.

Lexington, April 19.—One of the regular toasts at the banquet to day was "England and the United States." No response was given, but in lieu thereof the following letter was read from the ex-Premier of England, the Right Hon. Wm. E Gladstone:

London, March 5, 1875.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to receive the letter in which you convey to me a very warm and corteous invitation to attend the banquet which it is proposed to hold at Lexington, in commemoration of the attainment of independence by the United States of America. The circumstances of the war which yielded that result, the principles it illustrates, and the remarkable powers and characters of the principal men who took part, whether as soldiers or civilians, in the struggle, have always invested it with a peculiar interest in my eyes, quite independently of the intimate concerns of this country in the events themselves. On account of these features that war and its accompaniments seem to me to constitute one of the most instructive chapters of modern history, and I have repeatedly recommended them to younger men as subjects of especial study.

With these views I need not say how far I am from regarding the approaching celebration with indifference. It is entirely beyond my power to cross the sea, even with the present admirable communications, for the purpose of attendance. The present time happens to be for me, even independently of my attendance in Parliament, one of very urgent occupations which I am not at liberty to put aside. But I earnestly hope, and I cannot doubt that the celebration will be worthy of the occasion. In a retrospective view of the eventful period my countrymen can now contemplate its incidents with impartiality. I do not think they should severely blame their ancestors, whose struggle to maintain the unity of the British Empire is one that must I think, after the late great war of the North and South, be viewed in America with some sympathy and indulgence. We can hardly be expected to rate very highly the motives of those other powers who threw their weight into the other scale, and who so sensibly contributed toward accelerating, if not indeed toward determining, the issue of the war. Yet, for one, I can most truly say that whatever the motives and however painful the process, they, while seeking to do an injury, conferred upon us a great benefit, by releasing us from efforts the continuation of which would have been an unmixed evil. As regards the fathers of the American Constitution themselves, I believe we can and do now contemplate their great qualities and achievements with an admiration as pure as that of American citizens themselves, and can rejoice no less heartily that in the counsels of Providence they were made the instrument of a purpose most beneficial to the world. The circumstances under which the United States began their national existence, and their unexampled rapidity of advance in wealth and population, enterprise and power, have imposed on their people an enormous responsibility. They will be tried, as we shall, at the bar of History, but on a greater scale. They will be compared with the men, not only of other countries, but of other times. They can not escape from the liabilities and burdens which their greatness imposes on them. No one desires more fervently than I do that they may be enabled to realize the highest hopes and anticipations that belong to their great position in the family of man.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obliged and faithful servant,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

A DESTRUCTIVE FREEZE

Damage to Crops in the South and West.

Fort Monroe, April 19.—Last night the mercury came down to twenty-four degrees—about as low as it has been here during this winter, and in consequence froze out all the early fruit and vegetables in this section, and it is well understood the lower peninsula depend entirely upon their early vegetables for subsistence, and a failure to produce a good and paying crop incurs distress and sometimes ruin upon them. This season the climate in this section has been very favorable to the production of early crops, and the farmers in this vicinity were jubilant over their prospects. Even before the ice gorge at Port Deposit had been removed their early potatoes were up, and they anticipated beating the Jerseymen by at least three weeks. But the freeze of last night has put a damper on their spirits. Parties who had an orchard of some 3,000 or 4,000 peach and pear trees, who were jubilant on Friday over their brilliant prospects of a bountiful crop, now say that if they get a dozen baskets from the whole orchard they will be doing well.

In fact the whole crop of early vegetables, peas, beans, potatoes, strawberries, etc., have been cut off in the blossoms of their youth, as it were, and the hard worked and poorly paid farmer has to go to the expense and trouble of buying new seed and planting new crops in order to realize anything in the present summer market. On the lower peninsula the only production relied upon by farmers is early vegetables, and if these fail they are gone. The recent cold snap has ruined their prospects, and they have nothing left but to replant and try it again.

The damage to the crops in the vicinity of Norfolk is even more disastrous than in this section. The early vegetables were at least a week ahead of those on the lower peninsula, and all the early peas, tomatoes, asparagus, beans, etc., have been killed. The damage to the trucking interests in this section cannot be estimated, but half a million of dollars would not cover the loss to out truckers, who depend upon this for their sole means of subsistence.

Cincinnati, April 21.—The Commercial this morning publishes advices as to the condition of the fruit and wheat crops from sixty-one towns in Ohio and thirty-one in Indiana. In Ohio the peach crop will be a complete failure. Apples are but slightly. In regard to other fruit, one town reports a good crop, twelve report a half crop, and forty-eight report no crop at all, as to wheat, twenty-four towns report the crop uninjured, twenty-two report a half crop, and twelve no crop.

In Indiana thirteen towns report the crop uninjured, eight a half crop and nine no crop. As to fruit, three report a good crop, seven a half crop, and twenty-one no crop. Advices from ten towns in western Pennsylvnia indicate about half a crop in fruit and wheat. A dispatch from Detroit, Michigan, states that reports from all parts of Michigan indicate that the drouth and cold weather have greatly injured the wheat crops and killed off peaches very generally and seriously damaged small fruits. Apples promise a good yield. Plentiful rains may improve the wheat crop very materially.

THE CENTENARIANISM CONTROVERSY.

New York World.

Our recent notice of the belief entertained by Sir George Cornwall Lewis and Mr. Thoms that no authenticated case of the survival of a human being to the age of one hundred years can be produced, has as usual, called forth a cloud of witnesses to put them down with instances. A correspondent, whose letter we printed the other day, cites the cases of three graduates of Harvard college who lived to be more than one hundred years old. Another correspondent names Father Cleveland, who died a few years ago, in the role of centenarian and remarks that "no one ever doubted his age," also the name of Count Waldeck, of Paris, whose age is given at 109 years. "I think that Mr. Thoms has never thrown any doubt on the latter's age," says our correspondent. On the contrary, Mr. Thoms distinctly asserts his unbelief that anybody has lived over a hundred years, and that assertion includes the French count. The cases instanced by our correspondents are liable to the same objection which Mr. Thoms urges against all alleged cases of centarianism. They rest upon the assertion of the individuals themselves, made in old age, when their faculties were feeble and their childish vanity in their unusual physical endurance was uppermost, and not upon documentary evidence, such as would be deemed conclusive in a court of law. That "no one ever doubted" Father Cleveland's 100 years proves nothing whatever. Thoms Lewis, Dilke and professor Owen have challenged the world to show by evidence satisfactory to a lawyer trained in the rules of evidence that any human being in modern times has lived to be a centenarian. If our correspondents can produce the documents such as parish records or baptismal certificates, to back up their candidates, then Thoms and company are finally ingloriously routed. But common belief, tombstone evidence, and the affidavits of the parties themselves will not do. Mr Thoms, while investigating this subject, took each noted case of centenarianism reported in the past two hundred years, beginning with that of Jenkins, who is said to have died in 1670 at the age of 169 years and sifted it to the bottom. He spent several years in these pursuits, and claims to have reached the same conclusion in every instance. The reader interested in the subject will find each examination described at length in his book published a few years ago. Among these cases of alleged centenarianism he took up that of Captain Frederick Lahrbush, an old gentleman formerly of the British army and now living in this city, who claims to be 109 years old, and who has annually on his birthday anniversary been the recipient of a congratulatory breakfast at the hands of prominent military, literary and society people among us. Mr. Thoms, after a patient investigation of the British army record, pronounces the age of Captain Lahrbush to be not more than eighty nine years. Of course Mr. Thoms, like all other persons possessed of a dominating hobby, may be drawn unconsciously into error by his pride or prejudice, his hope or his wishes. Professor Wallace and Mr. Crookes are firm believers in the "materialization" of the spirit of Miss Katie King, but if anything appears certain in this life they have been dreadfully fooled. But Thoms has laid down his doctrine and claims to be infallible, and the way to vanquish him is to produce the documents, which we hope that some of our readers will try to do. The evidence in case of a Harvard graduate certainly ought to be the best almost that is accessible, except the very best.

HIGHWAYMEN IN THE CAR.

The Audacity of the Italian Banditti Outdone.

Yesterday was pay day at the Architectural iron works, West Fourteenth street, and at half past eleven o'clock William P. Goldin, a messenger employed by the company, was sent to the Eleventh Ward Bank, Tenth street and Avenue D, to draw the necessary money. Near the bank he noticed a light wagon containing four men, but without paying much attention to it, he went in and presented his check and received from the cashier $3,600, chiefly in small notes. He wrapped them up in a piece of paper, and making a compact bundle, he got into one of the Belt line of cars. At the same time three rough-looking men also entered, one of them taking a seat beside him and the other two getting seats as close as possible. The car was full of passengers, and as it went on Goldin saw the same wagon that he had noticed before following closely. It contained but one man, and another was riding on horseback near it. While the car was passing between Avenues C and D, in Fourteenth street, being on one of the quietest parts of the route, the man who sat next to Goldin snatched the package of money from his hand, and before any of the passengers could recover from the surprise he had escaped from the rear door. One of his companions followed him, while the third quietly drew a pistol from his pocket, and taking his place at the door, turned the muzzle toward the interior of the car, and threatened to shoot the first who might try to get out.

The passengers were all on their feet, the ladies shrieking, while the gentlemen, who, having recovered from their first amazement, had crowded forward to seize the highwaymen, fell back before the muzzle of the pistol. Meanwhile the man with the package of money in his possession threw it into the wagon and sprang in after it. His companion followed him, and the Cerberus at the door of the car jumped off the platform and was getting in too, but one of the passengers, all of whom had rushed out of the car the moment the entrance was clear, seized the horse by the bridle, and shouted for the police. Instantly the man with the pistol returned, and, clubbing his weapon, struck the gentleman with it, knocking him down. His assailant then jumped into the wagon just as another of the passengers, reaching over the side, seized one of the robbers by the leg and threw him down in the vehicle; but the whip was applied to the horse, and instantly he was going at a break-neck gallop past the iron works, in which the employees and officers of the company ran to the doors and windows under the impression that he was running away. They were soon undeceived, for the wagon was hardly out of sight before the messenger, surrounded by the excited passengers, arrived and told the loss. He thought that he might identify the robbers, as well as the horse and wagon.—*N. Y. Sun*, 12th.

THE COAL TAX DECISION.

Reference has already been made to the very important decision of Judge Pearson, of Harrisburg, touching the constitutionality of the act of last year levying a tax upon coal mined. Further reports of the grounds of the decision. The decision involves half a million dollars of taxes, and the case may be stated in brief. The Auditor-General made a settlement of $586,000 against the Kittaning Coal Company for the tax on coal mined and purchased. The Company refused to pay the tax and the case was submitted the court by agreement; the defendant raising four points, viz: First. That the tax imposed by the act of 24th April, 1874, being upon coal mined or purchased by corporations, and not upon coal mined or purchased by individuals and partnerships, was not uniform within the first section of the ninth article of the constitution. Second. That anthracite and bituminous coal were of different values according to quality and location, and the statute assuming to impose a specific tax of the same amount without regard to values was unconstitutional and void. Third. The imposition upon all coal mined or purchased by the company, except that used in their business, and the omission to impose the tax on the coal of individuals and partnerships, was in effect an exemption of the coal of the latter; such exemptions were prohibited by the Constitution and the statute making them was null and void. Fourth. A corporate franchise was not properly subject to taxation under the State Constitution.

In deciding the case Judge Pearson held that the first, second and fourth points must be decided in the negative, but that the third point must be sustained, thus deciding the law unconstitutional. The following is the concluding paragraph of Judge Pearson's decision:

The Legislature must bear in mind that they no longer possess the unlimited power formerly exercised. It is their duty to carefully study the meaning of the Constitution and conform to its provisions. It is with regret that we feel ourselves constrained to declare that the tax in the present case cannot be collected on account of the unconstitutionality of the law, but we are far from thinking that the money is necessarily lost to the State. By a properly prepared statute taxes may be imposed to cover the time back to the period of the last payment, taking care to properly classify the subjects and rendering them uniform, without excepting any property whatever.

LESSONS FROM LITTLE THINGS.

The Rev. Marvin R. Vincent, D. D., preached at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. Mr. Vincent took for his text Luke xii., 6 and 7: "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

"But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Mr. Vincent said, in part: When you go into the house of some dignified, learned, influential man, as for instance a judge, a statesman, or a scholar, and find him making a kite or rolling on the floor in a romp with his children, you often cannot help a feeling of surprise and, perhaps, of disappointment. You know that he is doing nothing but what is natural and proper, and yet you had been so accustomed to associate him with great things that you unconsciously expect always to see him as he is on the bench or in the Senate. And this shows how easy it is to fall into the mistake that greatness is degraded by interesting itself in little things. A mistake, for under correct teaching we soon learn to suspect the greatness of the man who is always in heroic moods and attitudes, who always speaks like an oracle, who can never get down to children, nor accommodate himself to ignorance. And the best and most impressive teaching on this subject we find in the Bible; for from one end of it to the other we see God busying himself with little things and details. Now he is explaining a servant's dream; now telling a steward how to provide against a famine; now caring for a little castaway babe in a floating basket. The God of the divided sea, the God of the clouded Sinai prepares a code for the children of Israel, which provides for the smallest matters of eating, drinking and cleansing. Directions concerning fringes and embroideries, blue and scarlet, the dyeing of goat-skins and badger-skins, the patterns of priests' dresses, and carved work in the temple architecture—all come from Him who lays down the great foundations of moral law. And when we get into the New Testament and God becomes manifest in the flesh the case is not difficult. Christ's life appears to us in the Gospels rather as a group of disjointed details than as the systematic development of a great moral purpose. He comes out to comfort some poor fishermen in their boats at night and fills their nets with fish. He is caressing little children, taking note of a poor widow's contribution to the temple funds, talking by a well to an outcast, illustrating different points of moral truth to a multitude on the hillside in a familiar, informal manner, feeding some hungry people, supplying wine for a merry-making, and superintending the preparation of a simple meal for some fishermen. And yet it is questionable if we see at first how far this fact reaches. It begins to open new meanings when we study the words as compared with the works of our Lord. So much stress is laid habitually upon details that we begin to see that there is something more here than an occasional condescension of Divine goodness, something which partakes rather of the nature of a principle underlying the whole range of the Divine dealings. Christ treats of living; not systematic living for the development of great plans, but rather of living by the day, doing the day's work, and letting the morrow take thought for the things of itself. Of speaking; yet not of our studied discourses and elaborate orations; rather of our words, our common affirmations and denials; the words of our ordinary speech, by which we shall be justified or condemned. He says little about the splendor and majesty of God, much about One who feeds the birds, marks the fall of the small sparrow and numbers the hairs of our heads. When he speaks of our dealing with each other, it is to give us special caution against harming the little ones; to lay special stress on the things which to the world are of little or no consequence; a visit to one of the least of mankind in prison; a cup of cold water given; an injury forgiven. And when he prophesies the rewards of fidelity, he sums up the whole of human achievement in these words: "Thou hast been faithful over a few things." One class of teachers try to show that God created us as rational beings, wound up his world and set it going, allowing us to prove good or evil, according to our own desire, and that he has ceased to watch over our movements here. I hold that the text meets this assertion squarely and overcomes it—not only the text, but the whole Bible proves that we are not forgotten. Take your own personal relation to God's church and work. You say I am so little, so obscure, so weak, such a poor sinner. Why should I be of any account to God or man. Yes, and yet there is another way to put it. Come again and stand beside the dead sparrow and learn your lesson. "I am a poor sinner, and yet God loved me well enough to send Jesus Christ to die for me. As I look up I catch a glimpse of a company with washed robes, and I know that God is going to make Heaven out of just such insignificant sinners as I am. I am a fragment and a little one in His church and kingdom; but as I have seen a workman take a fragment of a gem and polish it, and set it in a princely jewel, so I know that this fragment is in the hands of a Master Workman, and that the touch which can change the body of my humiliation into the likeness of the glorious body of my risen Lord can make out of a poor sinner like me a gem to sparkle in His crown." This, then, is the lesson which God sends us through the fallen sparrow and the slender hair. God cares for details and exalts them to the place of prime movers in His kingdom. It becomes us, therefore, to be careful henceforth of what things we call by the name of trifles. It may repay us to look more deeply into the meaning of some things which we have deemed insignificant. If we hold fast to this truth, we shall never think slightingly of the bearing of any act or word of ours. We shall set a new value on each single soul. We shall be led to a closer study of single points of effort, and is our deepest disappointments and amid the temptation to feel that we are carried, helplessly and uncared for, on in the mighty sweep of time and change, we shall look at the little lifeless sparrow and say: "I will not fear. I am of more value than many sparrows. I am not forgotten of God."

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FOR THE LADIES.—We have received a specimen copy of A. Burdette Smith's Pattern Bazaar, a journal devoted entirely to the latest style, etc., of ladies' and children's dress. A Magazine of this kind is a well spring of happiness in every family and we advise our lady readers to send to Mr. Smith for a copy. Address A Burdette Smith, 914 Broadway N. Y.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—This admirable Lady's Magazine, for May, is on our table, and the contents are of a rich and varied character. Godey is the Ladie's Book of America, and it well deserves to be.

SCRIBNER'S for May, starts out with a historical sketch of the Baltimore Bonaparte's by Eugene L. Didicor; Chapters XI and XII of the "Story of Sevenoaks," takes us farther into the labyrinths of the very exciting story. Jules Verne tells of the "Mysterious Island." The various departments are full of good reading. The publishers are leaving nothing undone to make this the very best family magazine in America.

SHIP CARPENTER'S STRIKE

Chicago, April 9.—The ship carpenters of this city are on a strike for $3 per day wages, instead of $2,50, the present price. The bosses claim that business is so dull they cannot afford the advance, and the result is that work is at a stand still.

Colonel Frobel, who is now at Atlanta, will soon resume his survey of the rivers along the proposed line of the Great Western and Atlantic water-route. His report will indicate a singularly favorable water communication connecting the Mississippi River with the Atlantic Ocean, commencing at Cairo, Ill., and ending at Darien, Ga. The entire distance is nearly 1,000 miles, 500 of which are navigable rivers. Only 100 miles of artificial water-ways are therefore required, and no engineering difficulties are presented.

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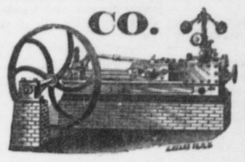

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