THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

Centre Hall, Pa., 10, Feb. 1876.

TERMS.—$2 per year, in advance, 2,50 when not paid in advance.

Advertisements 20c per line for three insertions, and for 6 and 12 months by special contract.

The act providing for the erection of watering troughs passed the senate a few days ago.

A supplementary act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth, approved June 14, A. D., 1872. Passed the senate.

The republican state convention meets at Harrisburg, March 29.

The Mifflinburg Tel-lie-graph believe in ground-hog day. Oh, pshaw, Shech, how shocking!

This is working East, South and West McKee convicted; Babcock shaking in his shoes. The developments of the whisky frauds of New Orleans exceed those of all other cities. Bristow backs out of the Presidential race for Morton, and the New York Tribune is about to undergo a change in its management, so as to make a free fight for Blaine. It will take something more than the white of an egg to settle this coffee.

The returns of the French elections for senators are regarded as in the highest degree favorable to the cause of the republic. Among the prominent republicans who have been elected to the senate are Thiers, Victor Hugo, Jules Favre and Oscar de Lafayette. About one hundred and twenty members of the old assembly are chosen to the senate which gives assurance of legislative experience As in the old assembly the monarchist and imperialist parties are in a majority over the republicans, but the differences of the enemies of the republic are irreconcileable. The republicans will be in a strong plurality and with the support of public sentiment will have the practical direction of political affairs. There is a rumor of a probable cabinet dissolution on account of the defeat of two of its ministers, Buffet and Dufaure. But in forming a new cabinet President MacMahon's could look only to the friends of the republic for reliable and sincere supporters of the government. The moderate character of the majority of the men chosen to the senate nominally as Bourbons or Bonapartists is a guarantee that no attempt will be successfully made to disturb the present order of political affairs. There is every cheering indication that the constitutional republic of France is marching to its secure and permanent establishment.

VAGRANCY DEFINED.—The first section of the bill to suppress vagrancy, introduced in the Senate, defines the offense as follows:

1. All persons who shall unlawfully return into any district whence they have been legally removed without bringing a certificate from the proper authorities of the city or district to which they belong stating that they have a settlement therein.

2. All persons who not having wherewith to maintain themselves and their families, live idly and without employment and refuse to work for the usual and common wages given to other persons in the like work in the place where they then are.

3. All persons who shall refuse to perform the work which shall be allotted to them by the overseers of the poor, as provided by the act of June 13, 1836, entitled an act relating to the support and employment of the poor.

4. All persons going about from door to door, or placing themselves in streets highways or other roads, to beg or gather alms, and all other persons wandering abroad and begging.

5. All persons who shall come from any place without this commonwealth to any place within it, and shall be found loitering or residing therein, and shall follow no labor, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence, and can give no reasonable account of themselves or their business in such place.

The other sections are in the main similar to those adopted by the poor directors convention at Altoona.

It cost just $106,743.44 to send the militia to the coal regions to suppress the riots in April, May and June of last year. This sum comes out of the public treasury, and makes strikes dear fun for the people.

On Monday all trains were taken off the Lehigh Valley railroad except the passenger and general freight trains. The engines will be housed, the crews suspended and the workmen in all the shops of the road will be put on half time. This suspension is owing to the cessation of running operations, in order to make needed repairs to the works, and is expected to continue six weeks, but it is by no means certain that it will end there. The Lehigh and Susquehanna and all other roads of the valley will make similar suspensions. A large number of men all over the Lehigh valley will be thus thrown out of employment, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the resumption will be early and active.

A total suspension of mining operations in Luzerne and Lehigh counties as ordereed by the Schuylkill coal exchange and the New York combination took place on Friday last. Thousands of men and boys will be thrown out of employment.

LEGISLATIVIE

Harrisburg, February 2, 1876. The Senate was called to order at 11 a. m., President pro tem Davis in the chair.

The following bills were reported affirmatively from committees.

Act repealing the act of 1820, prohibiting horse racing as far as the same relates to agricultural societies.

Act requiring owners of stock to properly secure such stock from trespassing upon the property of others.

Act limiting prosecutions of forgery to five years after the offense was committed.

Act providing the recording and mortgaging of mining leases interest.

Act to protect the people of the State against imcompetent practitioners of medicine, surgery and obstetrics.

Act providing additional assessors in each separate election district of townships, ward, etc.

Act to provide organization and regulation of mutual fire insurance companies.

Act consolidating and amending the several game lews, and making a general law.

Bellefonte has not yet raised its $45,000 towards building the branch railroad—that's what's the matter. This is too bad—that town has the wealth to raise that amount in twelve hours—its wealth is greater than its enterprise and liberality. There are some gentlemen in it who have subscribed nobly, but there are others who can do much and yet have done nothing. If the road were made through direct to Tyrone, Bellefonte would be everlastingly crippled. The business men of the place will eventually be forced into the matter to save the prosperity of the town and prevent trade from being diverted to other localities. Then why not go into it at once and do what you can not avoid? Bellefonte can not afford for twice $45,000, to let the road go through on account of their not securing the branch road by raising the paltry sum now asked for. Remember, the day may come when you will be at the mercy of the "great monopoly," which may say, now "give us $75,000 or we make the road through to Tyrone, and give you no branch." This is not among the impossibilities, and is worthy the serious thought of its business men. We prefer seeing the towns of our own county having the trade of the same. We prefer seeing Bellefonte benefitted by the trade of this valley rather than Tyrone, Lewisburg, or any other town outside of our county; for whatever we can keep within the limits of our own county, tends, more or less, to the general prosperity of the county. Forty thousand dollars is a bagatelle for Bellefonte with its Humeses, Curtins, Reynoldses, Hoffer's, Bush's, its bankers, millowners, grain-dealers, iron-masters, and merchants. Potter, and some of the other townships on this side, with no show of the wealthy material to work upon as has Bellefonte, had to, and did, chalk $40,000 for the railroad. Bellefonte can not afford to loose, or even to delay the branch beyond the first day that the cars enter Pennsvalley from the eastern end. As soon as the first whistle of the locomotive is heard at the Forks, *trade will all go east* in the absence of facilities to go west. No man in Bellefonte, doing business to the extent of a levy a day can fail to see this and understand that it would cut down his levy to a fip—cut down the one whose business runs into thousands to one half, besides the depreciation in the value of property that must inevitably befall Bellefonte with a ruin of its trade.

We do not see that Bellefonte can avoid aiding the construction of the branch. She can delay it, but it will be a delay that its business men may have to pay for. The time may come when the proposition will be $75,000 instead of $45,000! and it must come to terms or loose a large trade, which would be paying dearer still. Will the business men of Bellefonte longer stand in their own light?

GRANT DOSEN'T DECLINE WORTH A CENT.

Washington dispatch to the Press.

The attention of the President was called to-day to statements that he had declared to Senator Conkling that he would not be a candidate for renomination, and that he would not favor Senator Conkling for the nomination. The President remarked that he had no conference with Senator Conkling nor with any one else on this subject, neither had he written any letters in regard to the matter. He further said that he had no doubt of the election of the Republican nominee. He considered it desirable that there should be harmony in the beliberations of the convention and in its choice of a candidate. It is the impression among the friends of the President that he will maintain the same policy as he did prior to his first and second nomination.

SENTENCES IMPOSED.

Indianapolis, February 1.—In the United States Court this forenoon the following named parties for crooked whiskey operations, were sentenced as follows by the Judge; Isaiah Gresham, Philip C. Eherwine, George T. Simonson, David M. Lewis, Harrison Miller, Wm. Murford, Hiram B Snyder, Alfred M. McGuff and John E. Philips, each two years in the Southern Indiana Penitentiary, and a fine of $1,000; James K. Hill, three years in the Pententiary and a fine of $1,000; Thos. Robb, one year in the Gibson county jail and a fine of $1,000. Henry Jacques, Christopher Coconur, John F. Crisp, and Dennis Reilly, each six months in the Gibson county jail, and a fine of $500. George Hogan, six months in Vanderburg county jail and a fine of $500. Passing sentence upon J. W. Bingham has been postponed for a few weeks longer.

Before sentence was imposed, some of the prisoners pleaded honorable wounds and faithful service in the army, but the Judge replied that his duty was an unpleasant one. Hill protested his innocence before God and the world. Bingham's sentence was postponed on account of his wife's sickness, as the shock would prove too great for her.

MORTON'S SPEECH.

THE SENATOR IN A PREDICAMENT—AN INEFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT.

Washington, Jan. 19.—At last Senator Morton has got started on the war path which he hopes will lead him to the Presidency. For a week he has been trying to get a chance to give the bloody shirt a swing from the Mississippi stand point, but while he has been getting his canes under him another has stepped into the pool before him, and his wounded spirit has had no chance to be healed. But yesterday all things seemed to be ready, and with the scent of the coming strife in his nostrils he put the finishing to his great speech on the Mississippi troubles, and sent it broadcast to the newspapers of the land to-day. He appeared in the senate chamber with the huge roll of manuscript under his arm, and moved that all other business be suspended, but to his amazement the senate said "No" by the very decided vote of 20 to 32. Here was a dilemma. The speech was already in print in a thousand offices, and would be published before it was delivered. For a few minutes the Indiana senator chewed the cud of disappointment and his face evidenced its bitterness. Then he rose to to the occasion issued a few orders to his subordinates and disappeared from view. In the twinkling of an eye Boutwell, Sherman, and the rest were presenting the exigencies of the case to Senator Davis, who had the floor on his treasury investigation resolutions, and that gentleman with his customary urbanity, yielded to Mr. Morton, with the understanding that his resolutions should be the unfinished business as soon as Morton was done. Then, for upwards of an hour, Mr. Morton, leaning on his stationary crutch, read from manuscript a dry rehash of his campaign speeches in 1870, going back to the unpleasantness of anti-war times in the south, magnifying and distorting the troubles and the outrages then and now, and charging all upon the democratic party, of which, by the way he was a member during a part of the time when they were making the record which he was condemning. The speech was delivered not in the speaker's most vigorous manner, but fell flat upon the listeners. In this, however, he was doubtless not disappointed, as he has all along seemed to be more anxious to make it effective as a campaign document than as an oratorical effort. After having spoken for an hour and a quarter, he announced that he should be unable to finish to-day and would conclude to-morrow. As far as he went, it was a very stale, vapid production, especially after Blaine's effort in the house.—*World*

THE SOUTH AND THE CENTENNIAL.

AN ELOQUENT APPEAL FOR PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD.

Speech of Mr. Robbins (N. C.) on Centennial.

Mr. Chairman: In North Carolina there lives an old man who in 1861 had six sons just grown up to manhood. At the first tap of the drum the six sons went to the front to fight for the cause of the South. They did not stop to reason much about it. North Carolina called for them and they went. Most of them were over here at the first battle of Bull Run, and from there to Appomattox they followed that bloody and fiery track of war all the way to Chickahominy, Fredericksburg Antietam, Chancellorsville, Chickamanga, Gettysburg, Wilderness and Petersburg. There were not six when they got to Appomattox—there were but two. Four were sleeping in their bloody blankets; one at Antetam, another at Chancellorsville, another on the Chickahominy and another in Kentucky. Two were at Appomattox, battle-scarred, to see the flag go down forever which they had followed with such unfaltering devotion. One of those two survivors stands here and speaks to you now, and he says that he has seen enough of war, and wants peace. He wants reconciliation; he wants good feeling; he wants fraternity everywhere in this country. And that is the reason, Mr Chairman, why I propose to vote for this bill, because I think its tendency is to produce that peace which we need. Why have we not had it? At Appomattox, Mr. Chairman, when we were waiting to see whether old "Uncle Robert" was going to tell us to charge or to surrender, and did not know which I went into a little church which stood close by and there lay a large Bible on the stand and I opened it. The words which fell first on my eye were these, and they seemed prophetic "Lo, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone: the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds has come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." I thought, Mr. Chairman, it was prophetic. I welcomed it as the harbinger of peace. Why is it not peace? Why have we not had peace? The soldiers fought the great question out with bayonets and muskets and cannon; but they have quit fighting. It is because a few restless political agitators still want to keep up the fight, and their only weapons are jaw-bones. [Great laughter.] I have no capacity, Mr. Chairman, to participate in that kind of battle, and I am opposed to it as an unworthy afterpiece to a grand drama. I want peace. It is urged, Mr. Chairman, that we need to save this money—this million and a half dollars. We do need economy, but we need also concord, confidence, good understanding in this country. O! if we had faith enough in one another, if there was faith in this country, in its different sections, and among all its people, the money would come forth from the coffers where it is now hoarded, the hard times would pass away, and general prosperity would return. The people who sent me here, it is true, sent me to help economize, but they sent me here also, or else I have misunderstood them to promote peace and help bring about reconciliation and good understanding. I vote for this bill also, Mr. Chairman, as a North Carolinian. North Carolina has a large interest in those glories which are to be celebrated on the Fourth of July next. Let it not be forgotten that she first spoke the word "independence" at Mecklenburgh. Let it not be forgotten that she shed the first blood for liberty at Alamance. Let it not be forgotten that her sons, the mountain men, with the aid of a few gallant sons of Virginia and South Carolina, turned the tide of the Revolution toward final victory at King's Mountain. And we are coming to the Centennial, Mr. Chairman, though we are poor; and some of us will come in tears, remembering the past. Yet we are coming, the sons of the men of King's Mountain and of Guilford, and of Alamance, to shake hands with the men of Brandywine, and Bunker Hill, Monmouth, and restore peace in this country. It has been said, Mr. Chairman that the soldiers could settle this thing if allowed to do so. Well that will be a good time for them to settle it. I want to go there and shake by the hand the brave men I used to meet on the field. I admire them, I love them I respect and I honor them. O, sir, with what reverence I stand always by the soldier's grave, whether he were the "gray" or the "blue," because there sleeps a man who dared to die for his principles. [Great applause.] I think of these things, Mr. Chairman, without bitterness, because you cannot tell me that any man died in vain in that war. This American people of ours is a money-loving, money getting people, too fond of merely material interests, too sordid; and it needed the great lesson of self-sacrifice that it is worth while to die for sentiment and for principle. Our dead heroes have taught us that lesson. Yes Mr. Chairman, we are coming from Cape Fear and the Albemarle, from the lowlands and the mountains. You will hear the bagpipes of our Scotchmen and the bugles of our mountaineers swelling the blast of the national jubilee. We want to shake hands with the gallant soldiers of the North. We hope to see such a greeting of the soldiers and patriots of the North and the South as will show to the whole Union that the flood-tide of sectional hatred has ebbed forever, and that it remains no longer to float any freightage of unholy and unpatriotic ambition. And we want to show to the multitude of visitors from other nations how invincible we are when the heroes of the blue and the gray stand together in one common phalanx of amity and concord. There, my countrymen let us renew our vows of fervent devotion to that common country which the righteous Arbiter of all things has decreed shall be forever one and undivided; and turning our backs upon all bitter memories of the past, and leaving our gallant fallen comrades on both sides to repose in "trembling hope" on "the bosom of their Father and their God," let us go forward with courageous hearts and patriotic aspirations in that path which duty and destiny have marked out for us. [Much applause.]

St. Nicholas for February has the usual number of stories, sketches, poems and pictures. Its frontispiece is a very effective drawing by that admirable artist, Mary A. Hallock, illustrating the opening story of "The Black Douglas," contributed by Hezekiah Butterworth. This is followed by several others. "Toboggans and their Use" will electrify the boys, while the description of the "Chinese New-Year," and the directions for "Acting Ballads," and for making and stocking an "Aquarium," together with the talk about "Valentines," will be read with interest by all alike.

Scribner for February continues Bret Harte's Gabriel Conroy, Philip Nolan's Friends, and two articles which may come under the head of discovery. Charles Barnard has a paper fully describing the way of working of the Philadelphia "Building and Loan Association." Clarence Cook continues his illustrated papers on house-furnishing and decoration; and Moses Coit Tyler writes about The University of Michigan, giving an account of the woman experiment there. John Adams' views of "the currency question," an article on a singular convict island in the Atlantic Ocean, and a paper on "French Duels," also appear. Dr. Holland writes about "The School Question," and discusses "The Philosophy of Reform," which are followed by a number of other articles.

THE PRESIDENCY.

A REMARKABLE LETTER FROM GENERAL SHERMAN, IN WHICH HE POSITIVELY DECLINES TO BE A CANDIDATE.

Columbus, February 3.—The following letter has been received here:

St. Louis, February 2. DEAR SIR: Your kind letter is just received, and though I thought everybody knew my general opinions on the points of your inquiry, I cannot hesitate to answer you in such a way as to admit of no misconstruction, I never have been, am not now and never shall be a candidate for the high office of President before any convention or the people. I shall always prefer to see that office filled by one of the millions who in the civil war stood by the Union firmly and unequivocally, and of those I notice many names willing and capable. Prominent among them is that of General Hayes, now Governor of Ohio, whom we know as a fine officer and a gentleman in every sense. I do not, however wish to be misunderstood as presuming to advise any body in the choice of the man. My wife and family are strong Catholics, but I am not. That, however is nobody's business. I believe in the common schools and don't stop over the little matters which seem to be exaggerated by the press. In some quarters, however, these schools are extravagant and indulge in costly buildings and expensive teachers, so as to be too heavy a burden to the tax-payers. This tendency ought to be checked, which may easily be done without making it a political question. Self-interest will regulate this and make them free schools to all and capable of imparting the rudiments of a good English education. Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN.

The following important intelligence comes from Spain, dated Paris Feb. 4:

The Bien Public of this evening says it has received intelligence of the complete defeat of the Carlists. It is stated that Don Carlos has fled and is expected to take refuge on French territory.

The only place we hear of where the public schools are in danger is in Kansas, where the Republicans seem to be stealing all the school money they can get their hands on. Won't the Free School Guard, which has sworn a solemn oath to preserve these edifices, look after this case?

PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL BABCOCK'S TRIAL.

St. Louis, February 5.—General Babcock, George H. Williams, ex-Attorney-General; Levi P. Luckey, the President's private Secretary, and W. O. Avery, arrived here from Washington this morning, and took rooms at the Lindell Hotel. Other friends of the General will arrive to-morrow and for several days to come. Judge Porter, of New York, of counsel for General Babcock, will probably not reach here till to-morrow or Monday, owing to sickness.

BOWEN'S HIDDEN THUNDER-BOLT.

A Terrible Indictment—"I Believe Henry Ward Beecher Guilty of the Crimes of Adultery, Perjury and Hypocrisy."

New York, February 4—Henry C. Bowen to-day sent to the examining committee of Plymouth Church a reply to the published complaint of S. Y. White. Mr. Bowen protests against the manner in which he has been treated by the church for adhering hitherto to solemn promises and keep silent in regard to the Beecher scandal. Two years ago he says he was accused of talking too much, but was afterwards acquitted of all wrong doing in the premises by a full meeting of the Church after a searching investigation. Now he was charged with talking too little, and by his silence injuring M. Beecher. He declares he has honestly and conscientiously tried to do his duty faithfully to God, Mr. Beecher and the Church through the whole affair. Mr. Bowen then proceeds to speak out as follows:

I will now hasten to tell you frankly what are my conclusions in regard to the character of the pastor of Plymouth Church. I have known Mr. Beecher quite intimately since the day of his arrival in Brooklyn. I have been acquainted with him socially and privately, in church and in the family, in business matters and in religious matters. I have heard attentively but with profound grief what has been said to me confidentially by against him. Now being summoned here to speak and to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, I solemnly give it as my unwavering opinion in view of all the facts and evidence presented to me, that the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher without even the shadow of doubt in my mind is *guilty of the awful crimes of adultery and hypocrisy.* This I say again, and before the bar of this committee is my deliberate opinion, and I may be permitted to affirm that I give it calmly without malice and with no other than a sincere desire to do my duty faithfully to God and to man to the Church and to the world.

HENRY C. BOWEN

BROOKLYN, February 4, 1876.

PANIC IN A THEATRE.

ELEVEN PEOPLE TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

A False Alarm of Fire.

Cincinnati, February 5.—The allegory of "The Great Republic" has been upon the stage or Robinson's Opera House for the past two nights, under the auspices of the Cincinnati Relief Union, which intended to apply the proceeds of the performance to the relief of the suffering poor of the city. The performers, numbering nearly six hundred children, were taken from the public schools, and, as the object was a worthy one and the children who took part were these of old residents of the city, large audiences were present at each presentation of the allegory. The weather this afternoon being propitious and the day a school holiday, the matinee audience in most part was composed of women and children. About 2:30 o'clock, while the great house was densely packed and the thousands of children among the audience were at the height of their enjoyment, some boy in the gallery, either through mischief or ignorance, raised the cry of "Fire!" as the red light, from the colored fires used in the piece, flashed out from the wings. Every inch of the theatre was occupied, and a dense crowd was pressing and surging about the stairways and in front of the doors. Some one in the audience took up the cry, and it was re-echoed from near the door by another person, who also caught a glimpse of the red glare from the stage, and did not know what had caused it. There was an immediate rush for the front doors. A child was passed down the steps and screamed, and immediately afterward a man thrust his arm through the window. The scream and crash were enough to set the panic in full force, and in the narrow vestibule leading to the street the scene was a terrible one. The people in the rear, mad with fear, pressed upon those in front, shouting and cursing. Men, terror-stricken, struck down the helpless women and children before them, or climbed over their heads to the top of the staircase, and precipitated themselves upon the screaming and bleeding mass of women and children in the hallway. The scene in and about the Opera House after the accident was heart-rending. The news of the catastrophe spread like wild-fire over the city, and from every direction came people hurrying to the scene, until the squares were thronged and movement became simply impossible.

Eleven persons were trampled to death and many injured.

ANOTHER HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

A Double Murder and Suicide.

Newport, Vt., February 1.—A man named Wilder killed his father and mother to-day, wounded his wife and then committed suicide.

Later—There is a terrible excitement at East Lynden over the tragedy to-day. It is supposed that Wilder was laboring under temporary insanity superinduced by excessive excitement and passion. Details of the tragedy are most horrible. His father and mother were aged respectively seventy-three and seventy years of age

The cause of the affair was an altercation with his wife, who, in altering a pair of overalls, had made them too short. After angry words, Wilder started for the shed saying he would get an axe and end the trouble. His wife followed him and seized the axe, when he drew a dirk and stabbed her and left her for dead. Then taking up an axe he started for his father, who had followed him, and struck him a fearful blow, crushing through his head.

At this point he appeared still further infuriated and next attacked his mother, killing her with three fearful blows over her head and breast, leaving her in the front door. He returned to the shed and found his father had crawled into the kitchen. He struck him as he lay upon the floor, the axe crashing through his head and remaining fixed in the floor. He then cut his throat and death not ensuing at once ran to the barn, fastened a rope around his neck and jumped from the beam, breaking his neck and causing instant death. His father and mother are both dead. His wife, it is thought, may recover.

MINE DISASTER.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX LIVES LOST.

St. Ettienne, Feb. 4.—Evening.—An explosion of fire damp took place to day in the Jabin colliery.

St. Etienne, Belgium, February 5.—It has been ascertained that there were 216 men in the Jabin mine at the time of the explosion of fire damp. Fifty altogether were rescued alive, and it is feared that all the others perished. Twenty six dead bodies have been recovered.

The operations for the rescue of the unfortunate operatives at the Jabin mines are attended with the greates difficulties.

THE RECENT STORM.

A terrific storm of wind and snow swept over Michigan on Tuesday night, 1st. The mercury registered 20 degrees below zero at Mackinaw.

The heavy gale on Wednesday morning 2, unroofed many houses and damaged thousands of dollars worth of property in Troy, Cohoes and other places in New York. Cohoes lost $30,000.

The gale on Wednesday morning, 2, unroofed and otherwise damage buildings in Baltimore, causing a loss of about $40,000.

The gale swept over the entire Middle States and damaged a large amount of property, but no loss of life is reported.

SWITZERLAND.

Frightful Accident at a Christmas Festival.

The Paris Journal des Debats publishes the following particulars of the frightful accident at a Christmas festival in Switzerland. The scene of the catastrophe was the school-house of the village of Helliken containing about 700 inhabitants, and one of the many villages in the fruitful valley of Frickthal, in the Parish of Wegstetten, District of Rheinfelden, near the Swiss salt pits It has always been the custom in most of the Swiss villages to collect subscriptions among the well-to-do inhabitants for distribution among the school children as Christmas gifts. Everything had been prepared on this occasion in the usual way, and the children had assembled at 6 o'clock in the evening of Christmas Day outside the school-house, in the company of their friends and parents, waiting impatiently for admittance to see the Christmas tree in order that they might receive their several gifts. At a little after 6 o'clock the school master commenced lighting the Christmas tree. Having accomplished this, he opened the doors, when the crowd waiting outside rushed in in one dense mass up the staircase leading to the room prepared for their reception. On their reaching the top of the second staircase the beams supporting the flooring suddenly gave way, precipitating everything below, and by the violence of the shock causing the lower story to break down too. The interior of the edifice presented a horrible scene of contusion, human beings, beams, school desks, chairs, mortar, and stone being heaped up together. It was nearly 7 o'clock when this occurred, and everything was in darkness, when the remaining population of the village, hearing the cries of the unfortunate children and their friends hurried to the spot, some of them subsequently running off for assistance to the neighboring villages of Zuzgen and Wegstetten, the women and children of which were assembled for a similar purpose in their respective village school-houses. They set to work busily to clear the interior as soon as assistance arrived, extracting from the debris seventy two corpses,—those of fifty-six children, fourteen mothers of families, and two men—besides about forty injured persons and children, some of them very seriously hurt. It is said that in many families only the father or the grandparents are left alive. The proprietor of the village inn lost his wife and three daughters by this frightful disaster. Two little schoolboys, by creeping along the wall after the accident, got hold of the rope of the school-house bell, and pulling at it with all their might, brought more neighbors to their assistance. The schoolmaster and the wife of the President of the village Commune, the latter holding a child tightly in her arms, were discovered perched upon the wall on the projecting remains of the pulpit, and were rescued after remaining three hours in their perilous position.

SIX HORSE THIEVES HANGED.

Atchison, Kan., Jan. 31.—A commercial traveller, of this city, has just come in from Solomon valley. He says that six horse thieves were hanged there a few days ago by a vigilance committee. Among those lynched were Hutchinson, Cox and Connaughty, three desperadoes of the frontier. The thieves were surprised in their cabin at night, just after returning from a trip to Nebraska, where they had been to dispose of stolen stock. They were tried by a lyncher's court, found guilty and executed at once.

A PANIC IN THE CARLIST CAMP.

San Sabastian, February 1.—Advices received here announce that General Martinez Compos is advancing into the heart of Batzan Valley, driving the Carlists toward the mountains of the frontier. A great panic is said to prevail among the Carlists at Vera and at other points on the Bidassoa river. Gen. Moriones continues the movement he commenced yesterday.

New York, Feb. 2—Judge Dykeman has granted a writ of habeas corpus for the production of Stokes, Fisk's murderer, returnable to the Whithe Plains, next Saturday. His counsel claim that his sentence expired January 6, last, he being entitled to credit for time in the city prison.

A band of seven men, who had been hanging about the town of Northampton, Mass., for at least a month, entered the house of Cashier Whittlesey, of the Northampton National Bank, and bound, gagged and guarded for hours seven people. —They compelled him with a pistol at his head to give them the combinations on the safe vault, waited until they knew the night watchman had gone home, and then getting into the vault and safe with only one of the four keys needed, took a large amount of securities' locked the vault after them, and departed on the early morning Springfield train; and whence they came and whither they went, up to date, is a riddle. An expert had to be summoned from New York, and the lock was not opened until an early hour next morning. The result is sufficiently appalling. The table of the securities taken shows a total of $670,000. Of course much of this is not negotiable, so that it is difficult to estimate the real loss to the bank and the depositors. The bank officers offer a return of the property and the conviction of the burglars.

MISSOURI GRASSHOPPERS.

GRANT CITY, MO., Jan. 31st, 1876.

ED. REPORTER:—Enclosed find specimens of grasshoppers which were hatched out during the prevalence of the warm weather here. I presume they will be dead before reaching you, but at the time I caught them they were lively as crickets and showed all the traits of pure cussedness by wanting to "chaw" anything that had a semblance of green. If alive, care for them tenderly and you may raise a crop of grasshoppers. Yours, etc.,

E. S. GARVER.

The hoppers arrived—but not alive—they had hopped over to that "bourn from whence no hopper returns." Thanks to Mr. Garver of the Grant City, Mo, Times, for specimens of the varmints.

——We would esteem it an especial favor if every friend of the Reporter would send us the name of at least one subscriber, with the Cash—for three months, 50 cents; six months $1.00, and one year $2. Reader, won't you try and do us this little favor, and will repay you by improving the Reporter. Send us the names of six new subscribers, with the Cash, and we will send you the Reporter one year free.

For the Reporter.

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Q. Is God the cause of the different events that befall men in this world?

A. Is. 45:7. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

1. Causatively, God is the author of all that is true, holy, good, or happy in the universe.

2. Permissively, through the wilful apostacy of his creatures, of all evil, error and misery.

Q. Can the conduct of our Lord in the destruction of the swine of the Gadarenes, Matt 8: 31, 32, be justified?

A. It can.

1. Christ had a creative right to this and all other property.

2. He punished the averice of the Gadarenes, who were violating the Law of Moses.

3. The cure of two men was of more consequence than the destruction of a herd of swine.

4. Christ did not cause the destruction of property, He only permitted it.

Q. What is meant by Matt. 11: 19. Wisdom is justified of her children?

A. 1. By Wisdom understand, either Christ, or the gospel.

2. By the children of wisdom, understand, either Christ and John the Baptist, or the fruits and effects, good works of wisdom showing the cause to be excellent.

Q. Can the cursing of the fig tree, Mk. 11: 13, 21, be vindicated.—Had Christ a right to expect fruit on this tree in the end of March?

A. Figs ripen, in Judea, as early as the Passover, or about the first of April, and his cursing took place only 5 days before the Passover. Besides, it was the time of ripe figs, but not time to gather them—this did not begin till the Passover. Further, Christ destroyed the tree for its barrenness. There was no fruit on it, ripe, or unripe. Finally, Christ's curse in this case, was symbolical of the destruction of Jerusalem and the total perdition of the Jews

Q. What is the meaning of Rom. 7: 19. The good that I would, I do not; but the evil, which I would not, that I do?

A. The spiritual good, I would (through the spirit, or new man,) I do not, (or not as well as I desire—my flesh, indwelling sin preventing it,) but the evil (known by the Law of God to be evil and what I would not do, by the grace of regeneration,) I do (through incautiousness and infirmity).

Q. What is the import of Rom. 7: 24. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

A. That the christian has two natures, called the new man and the old man—spirit and flesh—that the christian is a mixed character, consisting of part sin and part holiness.

Q. What is the unpardonable sin? Matt 12: 31, 32.

A. It is a state, rather than a particular act, though some one act must fill up the cup of iniquity, into which a man brings himself by continued opposition to the truth; by always resisting the truth against sufficiently convincing evidence, and by this means grieving away the spirit of God. A sinner in this deplorable condition can not be forgiven.

Q. Who is to be understood by the seven spirits in Rev. 1: 4?

A. The Holy Ghost, whose gifts are manifold, which diversity is signified by the No. 7.

Q. What is the import of Rom. 9: 13. Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated.

A. God conferred greater worldly advantages and external prerogatives on the posterity of Jacob, than on the posterity of Esau, the Edomites—showed Jacob more favor and loved Esau less.

Q. What is the signification of Rom. 9: 15 I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, etc.

A. God is a Sovereign and will bestow salvation upon whomsoever He pleases—will pardon whom he pleases without regard to merit at all.

Q. How is Matt. 22: 14, to be understood?

A. Many shall be called; but few will be saved.

Q. Who are called?

A. Jews, Gentiles and nominal christians.

Q. Why are only few saved?

A. Because of their insensibility, love of the world, enmity to Christ, pride and indolence.

Q. In the prophecy concerning Christ in Dan. 9: 24-27, What is meant by 70 weeks?

A. Four hundred and ninety years, (491.)

Q. When did the 70 weeks begin?

A. With the commission given to Ezra by Artaxerxes, in the 7th year of his reign, to rebuild and restore Jerusalem.

Q. When did they end?

A. With the death of Christ, or soon after.

Q. How may the division into seven weeks, six-two weeks and one week be understood?

A. The 1st epoch of the 70 weeks, (49 yrs) extends from the beginning of the Babylonish Exile to Cyrus, Is. 45: 1. The 2nd epoch, (62 weeks, (434 yrs) from Cyrus to Alexander the great. The 3rd epoch, the last week, or 7 years, is allotted to the ministry of John the Baptist and Christ himself, extending to the Crucifixion, or a little beyond, when the gospel began to be preached to the Gentiles.

Q. What is the sense of Is. 53: 9. He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death?

A. 1. Apparently, he must be buried with the wicked thieves and robbers.

2. But providentially, He is buried in the grave of a rich and honorable man.

Q. In what respects may men and beasts be compared with each other? See Eccle. 3: 18-22.

A. 1. That which befalleth men, befalleth beasts. The Deluge destroyed both men and beasts. And in war, horses and men are destroyed by the same weapons.

2. As one dieth, so dieth the other.

Q. What was the witch of Endor? See 1 Sam. 28.

A. According to the Septuagint Translation of the Old Testament, she was a ventriloquist.

Q. Did she actually call up Samuel, or was he called up by the miraculous power of God, to denounce Saul?

He was called up by the miraculous power of God and commissioned to denounce king Saul.

Q. What is to be understood by Christ's preaching to the spirits in prison?—1 Pet. 3: 19.

Ans. Jesus Christ preached to the Antediluvians (in Sheol prison at the time Peter wrote,) through the agency of Noah while on earth.

Q. How is the Commendation of the unjust steward, Lk. 16: 8, to be understood?

A. Christ commended him for his ingenuity and policy, cunning and shrewdness; and not for his iniquity and rascality.

Q. Was the rain-bow spoken of in Gen. 9: 13, created that time, or only appointed?

A. If the same causes always produce the same effects, it existed before the flood, and was only appointed in Gen. 9: 13, as a token of a covenent between God and the earth.

Q. Who was Cain's wife? See Gen. 4: 16, 17

A. His sister.

Q. Did he get his wife in the land of Nod?

A. He brought her along into that country—he was doubtless married long before he came to Nod.

Q. What does Christ mean, John 10: 16. By one fold and one Shepherd?

A. 1. By one fold, He means one spiritual body, one Christian church, embracing christians of all denominations and countries.

2. By one Shepherd is meant, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of sinful and lost men.

X

Aaronsburg, Pa.

Excelsior Cement.

The undersigned now manufactures Cement WARRANTED OF A SUPERIOR QUALITY, at his kilns, near Pine Creek Mills, in Haines twp. This cement has already been used in large quantities upon the L. C. & S. C. RR., and has been found highly satisfactory upon all jobs where it has been used, and as equal to any now manufactured for use in CISTERNS, WATER PIPES, or whatever purpose a good quality of Cement is desirable. This Cement has already been tested far and wide, and rendered the utmost satisfaction. Persons, therefore constructing Cisterns, laying Water Pipes, &c., will find it to their advantage to bear this in mind, and also, that he warrants the article as represented.

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THE YEAR'S CLOSING OUT SALE WILL COMMENCE at HALF-PAST SIX O'CLOCK, EACH WEEK-DAY MORNING, and CONTINUE UNTIL OUR FALL AND WINTER STOCK IS SOLD.

THE MAIN FACT IS:

We have made up TOO MANY OVERCOATS and SUITS for this year, and to transfer our Stock into Cash needed for preparation for 1876, we will make *certain sacrifices* which will be apparent ON AND AFTER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER FIRST, when we shall have gone through our Salesrooms and cut off Profits, and even a part of the cost, from many of our present prices.

To be very exact in stating this matter, as we do not intend that any advertisement or custom of our house shall mislead the public in the least particular, we think it proper to say, that this Mark Down, whilst it applies to

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and extends throughout our house, yet there are some lots in which (as they have already been marked at close prices,) we shall make no change.

WE DESIRE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS IS

OUR FINAL and ONLY MARK DOWN THIS SEASON,

SO THAT NONE NEED WAIT FOR LOWER Prices.

THE STEP WE TAKE WILL WONDERFULLY AID THOSE WHO FEEL LIFE ECONOMIZING.

THE TERMS OF THE SALE ARE THE USUAL TERMS OF OUR HOUSE:

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