



## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

By FRED KURTZ.

Some dramatic writer might now compose a clever play, entitled, "Oscar Wilde taken in."

The State Treasurer of Tennessee is a defaulter to the amount of \$400,000 and has absconded.

From Washington we learn that the Carlisle-Blackburn fight for the Speakership is working in favor of Randall. The first named are from Kentucky.

Lieut. Gov. Tabor, of Colorado, was divorced from his wife the other day and then presented her with real property worth \$250,000. Tabor is worth 10 millions.

Intelligence is made of a violent earthquake shock being felt in different parts of Northern Ohio between 2 and 3 a. m. Sunday. People were aroused from sleep and some chimneys toppled over.

A grand ice palace is being built up in Montreal, for the approaching carnival. Vanderbilt and other rich fellows have engaged suits of rooms. It will be lighted by electricity.

In the state senate Mr. Reyburn, Cameron Republican, was elected President pro tem, on 2nd ballot. On first ballot 7 Independents voted for Lee; of these three changed to Reyburn on 2nd ballot, which gave him a majority.

The civil service reform bill went through the house with a rush—only 48 votes against it. The elections had a good effect, and republican congressmen have learned that the people have rights which even a congressman must respect.

The mercantile failures of the year just closed, as reported by the Mercantile agency of B. G. Dun & Co., are for the United States 9,738 in number as against 5,582 in 1881. The liabilities in the United States are for the last year \$101,000,000, as compared with \$81,000,000 in 1881.

Connecticut has got over its trouble caused by an attempted outrage to steal the state from the democrats, on account of some of their ballots foolishly being printed on dark paper, while at the same time the republican tickets were printed in a black border. The Legislature has passed a special act legalizing all votes thus cast.

Ex-county commissioners Daniel Corson and William Ebner, of Lycoming county who pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement, were sentenced Saturday each to pay a fine of \$250, and to be imprisoned in the eastern penitentiary—Corson for twenty-one months and Ebner for fifteen months. Ebner's sentence is as light as the court could make it.

It is reported from Washington that the republican slate for the organization of the senate after the fourth of March seems to be complete, with Mahone for president, Groham for secretary, George W. Hooker, now sergeant-at-arms and James R. Young for executive clerk.

Well, this beats the dickens for reform—its worse than ever—and the republicans, after all seem to have learned no lesson from the late elections.

It is said that the iron and steel interests are preparing to make a hard fight in the tariff bill proposed by the finance committee of the senate and which is said to be very inimical to them, and they seem to be satisfied with the work of the ways and means so far as it is known. The schedules have not been completed and Judge Kelley says it will take several days to go over it. All kinds of interests are represented here and when the question is taken in the senate and the house the presence of a powerful lobby and considerable excitement may be anticipated.

Another faith cure is reported. This one is from Troy, N. Y., and is given thus:

Nineteen years ago Annie Cooper was afflicted by a spinal disease. For the last six years she was confined to her bed; helpless and speechless. A week ago last night her life was despaired of, and the family were praying around her bed, when she spoke, saying: "The Lord has willed that I shall not die." Last night, at her request, a number of her relatives went to the house to pray with her. While they were praying she rose in bed and exclaimed, "Praise God." Then she got up and walked about the room for the first time in nineteen years. She insists that she was cured by faith and prayer.

On account of the guerilla Mosby, long a white-house pet, Mahone and Arthur have got into a snarl, in which the great national smoker, Grant, is also taking a hand. Mahone hates rebel Mosby; Arthur, with true white-house instinct, loves the noted ex-rebel. A press telegram of 5 says of the snarl:

Mahone made a failure yesterday at trying to patch his differences with the President over the probable appointment of General Mosby to a judgeship in Virginia. How Mahone was snubbed by the President in this matter was related in these despatches two or three days ago. The story of yesterday's fiasco, so far as it has leaked out, is that Mahone went to General Grant, who is said to favor Mosby's appointment, and urged him to keep hands off in Virginia, representing that much was at stake there, and that it was important that those directly interested should either control the patronage or at least be deferred to in its distribution. That was the only way, he said, in which leadership could be held and without leadership the Readjuster organization would go to pieces and the result would be fatal to Republican plan with regard to Virginia in 1884. He urged that every one knew of the unfriendliness between Mosby and himself, and the moral effect of Mosby's appointment in the light of this common knowledge would be severe and far reaching. General Grant proposed that they go to the White House to talk it over with the President. They remained there less than an hour. What happened has not been disclosed, but upon leaving Mahone declared that he had been there for his last time. This is the version that reached the Senate to-day and that attached significance to earnest whispered consultations in which Mahone engaged with certain half-breed Senators on the floor this afternoon.

An explanation of the bonding of whiskey, is of interest. Attached to every distillery is a warehouse of which the Government, through a United States storekeeper, takes exclusive charge. On every door is a patent "Government lock," and the storekeeper keeps the keys. At the end of the warehouse nearest the distillery proper is partitioned off the "cistern room," that contains tanks, into which the whiskey runs direct from the still. From these tanks it is drawn off into barrels in the presence of the storekeeper and the United States gauger. The barrels so filled are rolled into the other portion of the warehouse, and a "warehouse stamp," bearing the date of the distillation, is affixed to each. The whiskey thus barreled can, under the revenue laws, remain in this warehouse under Government lock and key for three years. Then the whiskey is said to be "in bond." At the expiration of the three years the tax of 90 cents per gallon must be paid on the original quantity of whiskey in the barrels, as shown by the gauge when it was barreled, less two and a half gallons per annum allowed for evaporation and shrinkage. Then a tax-paid stamp is put on each barrel, and a brand, with the name of the distiller, the number of the district, and the date of the payment of the tax, is burned in the head. Now the distiller, for the first time, can do as he pleases with his whiskey, and it is said to be "taken out of bond." The Senate bill to which we have referred extends the bonded period two years on whiskey heretofore entered.

Here is a story of killing three deer at one shot, which must make a Centre county hunter feel jealous:

The deer season closed on Saturday according to law and Mr. K. D. Smith, of this city says the Lock Haven Express, celebrated the event in a way that he will not soon forget. He and a party of four others were hunting on Youngwoman's Creek, about six miles above the mouth of the creek, and when a short distance from the members of his party Mr. Smith spied three deer. He leveled his Spencer rifle and fired away, killing the three deer, a doe and two fawns, at one shot. Mr. Smith was only about forty yards distant when he fired the shot, the ball breaking the back of the doe, which stood a little ahead of the fawns, and striking the second deer back of the shoulder passed through and lodged in the neck of the third deer. Two of the deer were about the same size and weighed in the neighborhood of one hundred pounds each.

Sweeping out a few pasters and folders, a couple dozen of scrub women, and a few other minor officers at Harrisburg, amounting to a saving of about seven or eight thousand does not fill the bill of reform demanded in the recent elections. It must go on until there is \$100,000 to show up, otherwise there will be another tidal wave at the polls.

## DEPRESSED MANUFACTURERS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 5, 1883.—It is estimated that there are at least ten thousand looms and probably two hundred thousand spindles now idle in the cotton and woolen mills of this city and vicinity in consequence of the continued depression in trade. At the usual rate of running their machinery it means a total loss of work for from five to six thousand operatives, while probably ten times as many are working at reduced wages or shortened time. The depression is felt most severely in the business of producing the cheaper grades of cotton and woolen goods, and it is so general that, as one of the largest mill owners in the city said yesterday, "Everybody who can afford to close his mill is doing so."

"We have stopped our mills," continued he, "because it would not pay to keep them running. I do not know how long they will remain idle, but it will be until the price of labor decreases or that of our products advances."

Some mill owners have closed their establishments for an indefinite period; others have found excuses for temporary stoppage in the annual repairs which they are in no hurry to make. Various causes are assigned for this unfortunate state of things. Some, who have studied the question, think a sufficient cause for the dulness of trade is to be found in the springing up of cotton mills in the South. These not only compete to an advantage with Northern mills, since they have little or no freight to pay on their raw material and can get labor much cheaper than it can be had here, but also take away the large market which the South always presented for the coarser kinds of cotton goods. Others, however, say this is not the principal cause of the depression and doubt whether it has any influence whatever, especially on Philadelphia mills, since they say that Philadelphia long ago ceased to manufacture the coarse goods demanded by the Southern market.

The democratic caucus committee of the House, at Harrisburg, has decided to recommend the abolition of the following offices:

Two assistant-sergeant-at-arms, \$800 each; one assistant doorkeeper, \$600; two assistant messengers, \$600 each; five pasters and folders, \$600 each; nine pages at \$200 each. Should the report of the committee be adopted it will leave the officers of the House as follows: Chief clerk, \$2,500; resident clerk, \$2,000; reading clerk, \$1,500; message clerk, \$1,000; transcribing clerk, \$800; sergeant-at-arms, \$800; two assistant sergeant-at-arms, \$600 each; doorkeeper, \$600; messenger, \$600; assistant messenger, \$600; doorkeeper rotunda, \$600; postmaster, \$800; assistant postmaster, \$600; superintendent folding room, \$600; five pasters and folders, \$600 each; watchman, \$1,000; two janitors basement, \$600 each; two firemen, \$600 each; two janitors committee rooms, \$600 each; janitor wash room, \$600; six pages, \$2 per day.

## RESOLUTIONS OF REFORM AT HARRISBURG.

At a Democratic caucus a special committee reported that fourteen officers could be safely dispensed with, but that the law of 1874 made it mandatory upon the part of the House to elect them, and a resolution providing that no election for such officers be held for thirty days in order to allow a bill to be passed abolishing the offices was presented and discussed. In the Senate a resolution was presented to ascertain what officers could be dispensed with by that body, and providing that no election of minor officers be held until the Judiciary Committee, to which the resolution was referred, shall report. In the House a similar resolution was adopted.

The Senate has passed the bonded whiskey bill and the House the Civil Service bill which will of course have Arthur's signature.

Mr. Morrill, from the Committee on Finance, reported the House bill to reduce internal revenue taxation, with an amendment embracing an entire revision of the tariff and the machinery for its collection. He said that so far as internal revenue taxation was concerned, the committee felt bound to report the bill as it was left by the Senate, whatever might have been their own views as to the amendment granting a rebate tax on tobacco. He gave notice that he would ask the Senate next to take up the bill and consider it to the exclusion of all other business, till it should be disposed of.

The wife of Charles E. Slocum, residing at Plano, Ill., recently applied for a divorce on the ground of infidelity. On Friday night Slocum sought her, confessed his guilt and promised to reform, and begged her to return to him, but she refused, whereupon he drew a revolver and shot himself dead.

## ATHEISTS' OATHS INVALID.

An opinion was delivered by Judge Briggs in the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia, in which he ruled that atheists and all others who do not believe in a Divine Being and divine rewards and punishments are incompetent to take oath in a court of justice. The matter was brought up on a motion for a new trial in the suit of Lucas against Piper, the ground for the motion being that Judge Briggs had admitted the testimony of Robert Becker, who said that though he believed in the Creator of the Universe and in a Supreme Power which would punish him here for false swearing; he did not believe in God as commonly understood by the people, nor in a personal God, nor God as an entity. There was no other evidence in support of the objection to the witness. "Something more is required to render one competent as a witness," said the Judge, "than a belief in a Supreme Power simply as a power or principle, which may be the resistless natural laws as exhibited by the motion and operation of the elements, and to violate which will surely bring punishment here to a transgressor. The belief required by our laws is a belief in the existence of an Omnipotent Supreme Being, who will impose divine punishment for perjury either in this world or in the next. If the belief be short of this it falls under the ban of legal condemnation." After citing several authorities to sustain his ruling Judge Briggs continued:—"It hence follows that the faith of a witness should be a religious belief of some kind in the existence of an Omnipotent Being who will reward and punish either here or here after for good and evil doings—a belief in a power as exhibited by the force of nature and calling it supreme, and yet to ignore that power is the handwork of the omniscient and omnipotent God, is totally insufficient to meet the law's requirements. Nor is any advance gained by asserting that he who violates the law of nature will be punished, for admitted such punishment will follow with unerring certainty. While the witness, Becker, said he believed in a supreme power that would punish him here for false swearing he would not say that he believed that power was divine, and he totally denied the personality of God and of God as generally understood by the people. With such a belief how can he be said to be in fear of divine punishment for testifying falsely? His belief being defective in this respect it falls short of one of the legal requirements, which is indispensable to entitle him to be examined as a witness in the courts of this State. It follows that I erred in receiving his testimony and that a new trial should be ordered."

A writer in last week's New York Observer lays down six rules for prayer, in an article that would fill two columns of the REPORTER. We never had an idea there was one rule for prayer, let alone six long ones. If there is a rule at all that needs following, the best and simplest one will be found in Mat. vi, 9-13, or in Luke xviii, 13, 14. If prayer is to be offered according to rules, then it will soon become a science and the educated only will be able to engage in supplications to the Throne of grace. But, fortunately, there are no rules for prayer, and the above references only go to prove it, it is so simple to pray that no human creature is without the ability to pray, and has perfect liberty to follow his own rule, only so there be sincerity in the prayer. To lay down rules for prayer in the estimation of the REPORTER, is hydra-headed theology that will never be recognized by Providence, and sinners who will pray only by rule, may, some time or other, find themselves ruled out.

The total immigration to the United States for 1882, at all ports, was about 735,000. This estimate is based on Custom House official returns for all months except December, the arrivals of which month are placed at 30,000. The total immigration at all ports in 1881 was a little over 719,000, showing an increase of about 10,000 in the past year.

The countries from which the immigrants came and the number contributed by each were as follows: Germany, 232,000; England and Wales, 81,000; Ireland, 70,000; Scotland, 17,000; Sweden, 59,000; Norway, 57,000; Canada, 89,000; all other countries, 160,000.

At President Arthur's New Years reception, there was a sudden death, which cast a gloom over the large party of distinguished visitors present. Judge Allen, the Hawaiian Minister, fell over suddenly and expired. The reception was at its most brilliant stage when Judge Allen fell.

A finger-board should now be put in the House at Harrisburg, with this inscription: Give the people the promised reform.

It was formally decided in the U. S. Court at New York last week that watering whiskey, however it may be a fraud on the purchaser, is not a fraud on the Government, and not punishable, therefore, under the internal revenue laws. The internal revenue officers had seized several barrels of whiskey, on which the tax had been duly paid and which bore the proper stamps showing such payment and the number of gallons they contained; but it was charged that after having been inspected, gauged and stamped, a large quantity of liquor had been drawn off and an equal quantity of water substituted—all this while the whiskey remained in the original stamped barrels; and it was alleged that this was a fraud which forfeited the spirits to the government. The defendant admitted the adulteration, which, he said, "was the universal custom among retail liquor dealers," but he contended that the Government had not been defrauded; that the full tax on every gallon of proof spirits in the barrels had been paid, and, therefore the Government had no claim. The court gave judgement for the defendant. The internal revenue is intended to protect, not the consumer, but the Government only, against fraud and imposition in the adulteration of whisky.

The Mayor of Salem, Mass., committed suicide, by hanging, at the close of his term last week. In Philadelphia, Wm. Baldwin, Chief Commissioner of Highways, died suddenly while on his way to the chamber of the City Councils, where a successor was to be chosen, he being a candidate for re-election, but his friends thought he would fail; his death is attributed to undue excitement.

If the fate of persons going out of place were that of the Salem Mayor, and of those wanting place that of Commissioner Baldwin, office seeking would soon be among the lost arts.

The steamship City of Brussels was run down in the English channel, by another steamer, and ten persons were drowned.

The Senate has a presidential succession bill under discussion, to provide for any case that might arise thro' the death of the President, Vice President, or other officer now in the line of succession.

The absconding Treasurer of Tennessee was arrested in Texas.

Chicago dealers have started a corner in corn, buying up millions of bushels on Saturday. On Monday it was up to 57¢.

Gambetta's funeral was attended by 300,000 people, and 2000 bouquets were sent by his friends.

## AN AGED COUPLE FOUND DEAD IN BED.

This community was startled on last Thursday evening upon hearing the report that James Buchan and his wife, Margaret, who resided about one mile west of Lewistown, had been found dead in bed. The writer immediately repaired to the late residence of the deceased persons, and found the report true, both husband and wife side by side in the same bed in the cold embrace of death. As to how long this aged couple had been dead of course is a mystery, but, in the opinion of the physician present, Dr. Vanvalzab, they had been dead at least 12 hours. What led to the discovery of their bodies was that William Nightbart's wife had been up to the house about noon on Thursday, but could not get in, all the doors being locked. She reported this fact to Joseph Miller, the nearest neighbor, who made an investigation, which revealed the facts as above stated. Although Mr. Buchan had been totally blind for five or six years, and in an almost helpless condition, his death was not looked for. He was aged about 55 years. Mrs. Buchan had apparently been enjoying good health, and was in town on Monday and Wednesday preceding her sudden death, and at that time showed no signs of her approaching end. It is said that she was afflicted with heart disease, and the presumptions are that Mr. Buchan died first, and that the excitement caused thereby produced a severe attack of her disease, which terminated fatally. It is certain that both died some time during Wednesday night, as both were in their night clothes. Mr. Buchan was lying nicely covered, and had evidently passed away quietly, while Mrs. Buchan lay upon the top of the bed clothing, with her arms about her head, face down.—Lewistown Free Press, Jan. 4.

## ENGLAND.

Bradford, December 27.—This morning a tall chimney fell upon a building full of operatives, many of whom were believed to be killed. It is now ascertained that twenty-four operatives were killed and forty seriously injured.

Later it was found that thirty-six persons were killed and fifty others are injured, mostly women and children. Owing to the amount of debris the exact number killed cannot be learned for two or three days. The total damage is estimated at over £20,000. About three thousand persons are thrown out of employment. Eight mills having fine connections with the falling chimney are brought to a stand-still.

A Bedford county singing school broke up in a first class row, in which the fair sex bore a conspicuous part.

## GAMBETTA'S FUNERAL.

PARIS, January 4.—At 9 25 o'clock this morning immense crowds had already assembled at the Palais Bourbon waiting to see Gambetta's coffin. Deputations from Alsace Lorraine will form a conspicuous figure in the funeral procession. The insulting comments of some Bonapartist reactionary papers caused intense indignation. The offending journals are torn to pieces and stamped upon in the cafes. Victor Hugo is expected to attend the funeral and deliver a short oration.

Immense crowds surround the Palais Bourbon, in which the body of Gambetta is now lying in state. The mere announcement that the remains were being brought to the city was sufficient to fill the streets and boulevards with an excited mass of citizens. The body is lying in the place which was arranged for its reception and for the purpose of giving the public free access to view the coffin, in which several memorials of the deceased have been placed. The tricolor flag covers the coffin, and near by are placed a number of simple floral decorations. The preparations for the funeral are going on rapidly.

The Journal De Paris declares convincing proof that domestic affairs had nothing whatever to do with the pistol shot wound of Gambetta will be published when the proper moment arrives.

It is estimated between 200,000 and 300,000 persons will be present at the funeral. Only four speeches will be delivered at Gambetta's funeral, in the name of the French Government, Chamber of Deputies, the Bar and Government of National Defense. The speakers probably will be Fallieres, Minister of the Interior, Deputy Brisson, Faloutouf and Jules Ferry. President Grevy will follow the cortege for some distance.

The coffin lies in the ballroom of Palais Bourbon, covered with wreaths. Three hundred republican members of the Chamber of deputies, headed by President Brisson, walked round the coffin.

## PHILAD. PRODUCE.

Philadelphia, January 8.—Wheat and corn higher. Seeds—Clover is firm at 11½ to 12c. Timothy, 1.70 to 1.90. Flour—Minnesota extras 5.00 to 5.75; Penn'a family 4.85 to 4.75; western do. at 4.75 to 5.40, and patents at 6.00 to 7.52.

Wheat was steady, with 1.10½ bid and 1.10¼ asked for No. 1 red January. Corn was firmer, with 64½ bid and 64 asked. Oats were stronger, with 47½ bid and 48¼ asked for No. 2 white.

Whisky is steady at \$1.20 for Western. New York, January 8.—Flour more active and shades stronger. Wheat, cash; higher and stronger; options weak and lower; No. 2 red, 1.11½ to 1.13½; do January, 1.11½; February, 1.13½; March, 1.15½. Corn higher; closed dull and weaker; No. 2, 69 to 70½; do January, 68½; February, 66 7/8; March, 66½. Oats higher; more active No. 2, 46½; do white, 48½ to 48¾; No. 2 46½ to 46¾; Feb. 46½ to 46¾; March, 46½ to 47½. Philadelphia.—Cattle, prime 6½ @ 7; good 6@6½. Sheep—prime 6½@6¾; good 5½@6. Lamb 8@7. Carves 7 @10. Hugs—prime 9½@9¾; good 9@9½.

## BEECH CREEK RAILROAD.

Unless all signs fail, remarks the Lock Haven Journal, railroad building will be lively in Chen on county next year. The Susquehanna and Southwestern Company has positively announced that their railroad will be constructed from Jersey Shore up to Beech Creek. We were informed by Hon. L. A. Mackey, who has just returned from Philadelphia, that an agreement has been executed between the Williamsport and Clearfield Railroad Company, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Bald Eagle Valley and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, under which a railroad will be built from the mouth of Beech Creek to Snow Shoe during the next year. A contract has been made with a substantial party in New York to construct it by the first of September next.

## WORSE AND WORSE.

CINCINNATI, January 4.—A Mt. Vernon, Ohio, special says: Mrs. Stillwell has made a still further confession that she murdered her mother at Oquema, Iowa, after she had been injured in a railroad accident. She says she is guilty of other crimes which she will not divulge. When asked of what her father died she said, "Cuthroat." Her father mysteriously disappeared. Physicians pronounce her of sound mind.

Four masked men captured, bound and gagged four inmates of J. E. A. Reid's farmhouse, twenty miles from Chicago, near Downer's Grove on Wednesday evening, and securing \$1,200 in cash rode away on four of Mr. Arnold's horses. None were captured. An old farm hand is suspected of complicity in the affair.

Gov. Curtin having received notice that the 20th congressional district is entitled to the nomination of a cadet in the military academy at West Point, a competitive examination will be held at Bellefonte, on Wednesday, the 17th day of January, 1883, and the examiners will report to him the person who, on examination is the best qualified and an alternate.

An Orbisonia pig and goose have formed a co-partnership. Such alliances are far from uncommon.

The Danube has inundated Presburg, near Vienna.

Smallpox is epidemic in Baltimore.