The Centre Reporter.

FRED KURTZ, . . . Editor.

CENTRE HALL, PA., Jan. 11, 1883.

The Largest Paper in Centre County.

GOV. HOYT'S MESSAGE.

His Suggestions to the Legislature.

Harrisburg, January 2.—Gov. Hoyt's message is an elaborate and carefully prepared document. It reviews the State finances as follows:

Four years ago our people had not emerged from the effects of the long and disastrous prostration of business; and their ability to respond to the demands of the treasury to meet expenses was seriously impaired. The financial officers of the State, at the time, found large failures in the sources of revenue confronting them. They wisely counted on the recuperative power of our industries, and effectively tided over the situation without the imposition of any added burthen upon the taxpayers.

At that date the State debt was....	$21,875,620 86
At this date the State debt is....	20,225,083 28
Reduction of debt in four years....	$1,650,537 58
From this total of State debt is to be deducted assets in sinking fund amounting to	2,992,982 82
The net State indebtedness December 1, 1882, is....	$12,232,099 46

In 1879, during the administration of State Treasurer A. C. Noyes, there was refunded an outstanding debt of $2,000,000, bearing six per cent. interest, by a loan of a like amount bearing four per cent. interest, the premiums on which were $30,002.83.

In 1882, during the administration of State Treasurer Samuel Butler, State loans of over $10,000,000, bearing in the main six per cent. interest, were refunded by loans of $9,450,000 bearing interest at three and one-half, and four per cent. per annum. The premium on these loans amounted to $44,562.00.

The result of these operations has been to reduce the annual interest which the State pays upon its interest-bearing debt from $1,233,623 72 in 1878, to $877,460 in in 1882, an annual saving of $359,163.72 on this account.

There is at present, under the administration of State Treasurer S. M. Baily, in the sinking fund, $2,077,073.90 cash. As none of the State loans are at present reimbursable, the Treasurer has no lawful authority to apply this fund to reduction of the debt, except by going into the market and buying the bonds of the State at a premium, handsome, indeed, and creditable to the State, but embarrassing to a financial officer, charged with accountability. These bonds, at market rates, now bear premiums about as follows:

The 3½ per cents. are selling at . . .	$106
The four per cents. are selling at . .	117
The five per cents. are selling at....	119

Before assuming such responsibility, the Treasurer is fairly justified in awaiting a legislative command.

The skill and integrity which have worked these results, are entitled to the highest approval of the people of the State. To vigilance and efficiency on the part of the State Treasurers, the Auditor Generals and Attorney Generals during these years, are due these hopeful figures, and recognition for high public trusts, honestly fulfilled, will be cheerfully awarded them.

The Governor devotes considerable space to the public schools. After showing that the annual expenditures of all kinds were $8,262,244, and the value of school property $28,346,560, he says: The number of school directors is fifteen thousand; there are nearly twenty-two thousand teachers, and the number of pupils enrolled is nine hundred and fifty thousand. To these extensive agencies, colleges and universities, which are supported by voluntary contributions and private patronage, in which over thousands of young man and women are making preparations for the various callings and professions of our social life.

In regard to the political situation the Governor says: In Pennsylvania the people have determined upon a change. What does this decision mean? To this question three answers are proposed, one cyndical and desperate, another pessimistic and hopeless, and a third patriotic and reassuring.

The first expresses the feeling and wishes of the professional politician. To him the change is only a turn in the fortunes of a game, whereby he has lost or won the stakes for which he played—the spoils of place and power. Accustomed to watch his luck and "hedge" as often as he can and dare, he is perplexed by one of two problems only: How to retrieve his losses, or how to spend his winnings. The prevalence of his view is not at all surprising. This class of statesmen despise the people whom they would cajole, and rely for their success even more upon the apathy of the pure and intelligent than upon the activity of the selfish and unscrupulous.

The second view regards the recent overturn as a mere caprice of mobile voters, a public spasm, a sentimental convulsion. It is based, witingly or unwittingly, upon a latent distrust of the people; it imports a low view of American manhood, and a secret, but ill-disguised, disbelief in our capacity for self-government. If it be, indeed, well grounded, then there is little hope for the perpetuity of our institutions, and for that magnificent industrial and political development which is the staple of our noblest day dreams.

But the third view is more hopeful and patriotic. According to it, this change marks the beginning of a new epoch in our political life. Those who cherish it argue that thousands of our best citizens, relieved of the pressure of national anxieties, and unwilling to live forever in the past, are beginning to study the nature and details of state and municipal government as never before; are awakening to the business and scientific character of political problems, and have determined to thrust aside every individual, and every contrivance that stands between them and the management of their own affairs. They will no longer be content with automatic activity in politics; they demand a conscious share in this noblest pursuit of intelligent men. The people have come to claim their own without the intervention of middlemen.

If this view be correct, then the occupation of the professional politician is gone. He belongs to a doomed species; he has outlived the only environment adapted to his nourishment, and must shortly pass away. That this is true, is indicated by our lineage, our traditions and the character of our present progress. We are the decendants of men who defied kings and parliaments; we are the children of men who destroyed the Congressional Caucus, and created the National Convention. Our citizens are meeting in their granges and trade unions, in their industrial leagues and commercial guilds, and are becoming keenly alive to the every day bearing of politics upon their own and their children's welfare. Even the primary meeting, once treated as utterly beyond the pale of law, the sport of the juggler and the rogue, has become the subject of Legislative enactment and protection. Nay, more, even the promises of party platforms conform to the quickened senses of the people, and the necessity of other and better methods has received a certain grave and reverential recognition in party deliverances.

A MERCILESS FIEND.

Four Persons Murdered—Two Wounded in One Family.

Montreal, Jan. 2.—News has reached here of a terrible tragedy at Little Rideau, East Hawkesbury, four persons being killed and two injured.

It appears that Mr. R. W. Cooke, a well-to-do farmer, resided near the village. He had a large family and a hired man named Fred Mann. Between the hours of seven and eight o'clock this morning this man attacked Mr. Cooke with an axe in his barnyard, and, after a desperate encounter, killed him and buried his body under the straw and manure in the yard. He then attacked Mrs. Cooke and a daughter in the woodshed and throttled both of them to death. Not satisfied with this carnival of murder the fiend then entered the house and attacking George Cooke, the fourth son, by staving in his skull he killed him in bed with the same axe used in killing the father.

Mann then turned his attention to the young man's brother William, whom he struck down with the axe and left for dead, with a broken thigh and other injuries. By this time other members of the family hurried to the relief of William, whose shrieks had aroused them. Miss Fannie Cooke flew at the murderer of her parents, brother and sister only to receive a severe wound in her own breast. She is expected to recover, but it is difficult to say whether William will or not.

The man then escaped and at last accounts had not been captured.

NINETEEN LIVES LOST.

Raleigh, N. C., January 2.—As thirty convicts, mostly negroes, and two white guards, engaged at the Cowee tunnel, on the Western North Carolina railroad, were crossing the Tuckaseegee river on Sunday, a convict discovered that the flat boat was leaking and gave the alarm which created a panic. The men all rushed to one end of the flat boat, bearing it down and it immediately filled and sank. The river was swift and deep with rapids just below. The men clung together in knots, those who could not swim clinging to those who could. Some were carried into the rapids and drowned—twelve convicts were saved. One of the guards was washed ashore insensible, but was resuscitated.

Twelve of the thirty convicts and one of the guards managed to swim to shore, although they were thoroughly benumbed with cold. Eighteen of the convicts were drowned by clasping each other literally like knots of serpents, and were thus swept down the lower rapids, below which they were found by twos and threes, tightly clasped together in their death lock. The other guard was taken from the water unconscious, and for hours his life was despaired of. The scene was a terrible one, and was witnessed by a great number of persons, the most of whom were unable to be of assistance. The cries of the drowning men, the gasping of able swimmers, made helpless by the frenzy of their comrades, is never to be forgotten.

RISE IN THE RHINE.

The Banks of the River Covered for Miles.

Mayence, January 3.—The Rhine has reached the height of 5.76 meters. With great efforts a tramway has been laid to bring earth for the construction of a dam.

Robstadt, January 2.—This town, with the exception of the church and house of the clergy, is deeply submerged. The water in some houses nearly reached the roofs. In Friesenheim, on the Rhine, the scene beggars description.

Berlin, January 3.—Seventy houses have fallen at Bedenheim in consequence of the flood. At Rexheim, Mousrh and Oppan, eighty houses have fallen in each place from the same cause.

At Vienna the danger is serious, and preparations are being made to sound alarm bells directly. The dykes show signs of yielding.

Frankfort, January 3.—A boat conveying passengers yesterday from Oppan to Ludwigshafen was dashed against a tree. Thirty-five persons were drowned.

STARTLING DEATH-BED CONFESSION OF A WOMAN IN OHIO.

Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 1—Mrs. Stillwell, wife of Jay V. Stillwell, employed on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, has made a confession on her death-bed of three murders. She is at the house of relatives in Knox Co. The first was Benjamin Swigart, her first husband, who she says she killed in Marysville, Mo., in March, 1877, with the aid of her mother and brother. The second was a stranger who the same parties killed for his money while stopping at a boarding house. The third was her own daughter, aged fourteen years, who she strangled in the presence of her mother, at Rulo, Nebraska, in May, 1880. She also confessed that she attempted to kill her husband three times to obtain his life insurance. These confessions were first made to her husband, and since to others. She is dying of consumption.

Mrs. Margaret Breakmaker, Mechanicsburg, Pa., says: Brown's Iron Bitters thoroughly cured me of general debility.

Printing in China.

The Invention of the Art a Thousand Years Ago.

In an interesting article on printing in China, the North China *Herald* says that the first great promoter of the art of printing was Feng Ying Wang, who in 932 A. D., advised the emperor to have the Confucian classics printed with wooden blocks engraved for the purpose. The first books were printed in a regular manner, and in pursuance of a decree in 953. The mariner's compass and rockets were invented about the same time, showing that at this period men's minds were much stirred toward invention. Twenty years after the edict the blocks of the classics were pronounced ready, and were put on sale. Large-sized editions, which were the only ones printed at first, were soon succeeded by pocket editions. The works printed under the Lung emperors at Hangchow were celebrated for their beauty; those of western China came next, and those of Fokhein last. Movable types of copper and lead were tried about the same time, but it was thought that mistakes were more numerous with them, and therefore the fixed blocks were prepared. Paper made from cotton was tried, but it was found so expensive that the bamboo-made paper held its ground. In the Sung dynasty the method was also tried of engraving on soft clay and afterward hardening it by baking. The separate characters were not thicker than ordinary copper coins. Each of them was in fact a seal. An iron plate was prepared with a facing of turpentine, wax, and the ashes of burnt paper. Over this was placed an iron frame, in which the clay types were set up until it was full. The whole was then sufficiently heated to melt the wax facing. An iron plate was placed above the types, making them perfectly level, the wax being just soft enough to allow to sink into it to the proper depth. This being done it would be possible to print several hundred or thousand copies with great rapidity. Two forms prepared in this way were ready for the pressman's use, so that when he had done with one he would proceed with another without delay. Here is undoubtedly the principle of the printing press of Europe, although western printers can dispense with a soft wax bed for types and can obtain a level surface without this device. Perhaps the need of capital to lay in a stock of types, the want of a good type-metal easily cut and sufficiently hard, and the superior beauty of the Chinese characters when carved in wood have prevented the wide employment of the movable types which are so convenient for all alphabetic writing. The inventor of this mode of printing in movable types five centuries before they were invented in Europe was named Pi Sheng.—*Nature.*

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Has opium cursed your lot?
I'll tell you what is brief and true—
Your life is not a blot!
Peruna, taken with a will,
Can bring you sure relief;
You may be blest and happy still,
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