

The Centre Reporter.



VOL. OLD SERIES, XL.
NEW SERIES, XIX.

CENTRE HALL, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1886.

NO. 2.

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

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One of the didn't-know-it-was-loaded fools has gone over. This time it was a student in Tusculum college, who picked up an old army pistol and handled it didn't-know-it-was-loaded fashion. He died in a few minutes.

The Republican caucus of the Ohio legislature has nominated John Sherman for re-election to the U. S. Senate. That body being Republican on joint ballot, the manipulator of the great presidential steal will be re-elected this week to the U. S. Senate.

Speaker Carlisle has announced his committees. The coinage committee is controlled by the silver men. Governor Curtin was not appointed as chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee, Perry Belmont, of New York, comes in for that. Gov. Curtin was the proper person for it by all odds.

James Keene, the millionaire from California, who came to New York in a palace car a few years ago, has just been telling in court how much money he hasn't got now. He declares under oath that in place of his former millions he has now neither property or income. He is able to wear a good cravat and other articles of wearing apparel to match and presents a well-fed appearance for a man so poverty-stricken, all of which he claims is owing to the generosity of his wife.

Not to re-appoint Gov. Curtin to the chairmanship of the House committee on Foreign Affairs, is not a back-set for the able and distinguished member from this district, but rather a back-set for the committee to deprive it of so competent and experienced a head, one who held a first-class mission and filled it with honor, and who has traveled over Europe and studied the institutions of that continent.

Gov. Curtin can stand it to have a "back-set" of this kind if Speaker Carlisle and the Foreign Affairs committee can. Our member was the only one upon the floor of the House who really possessed all the qualifications requisite for a chairman of that important committee, and not to re-appoint him was doing harm to the public service and not to Gov. Curtin.

Perry Belmont may be a good sort of little man yet not able to run a hotel.

An association of farmers has been formed in Berks county under the name of the Bohemian Oats Society, the object of which is to introduce a variety of oats by that name, selling them for \$10 per bushel, whereas the common market price of oats is but 35 cents.

The association met in Reading and the members reported sales of 2,300 bushels at \$10 per bushel, notes having been given therefor, payable in one year with 6 per cent. interest. Prof. F. K. Flood, a prominent lawyer and educator, who was a member of the association, exploded a bombshell by showing how similar organizations in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania has proved fraudulent, and he tendered his resignation which was promptly accepted. John D. Turk, of Kutztown, charged that Prof. Flood had stated that he desired to make money out of the association, and would either burst it or himself. This the Professor denies. Large quantities of Bohemian oats are reported to have been sold in Berks and Lehigh counties.

The question of improved cross ties is one which the railways are constantly investigating, as it is an important one from various points of view and not the least from the monetary point. Cheap as wooden ties are now, the annual cost of replacing them is a big item in the annual expense of the lines, estimated by an officer of the Erie at \$6,000,000. He fixes 300 ties a mile as the number needed every year for repairs, or a total of from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000. Ties cost from 40 to 60 cents now, but run to 75 cents to \$1 when there is a brisk demand for them in case of railway building. The life of a wooden tie is put at three years.

The necessity for a more durable material than wood has long been felt in the old world, and iron and glass have been resorted to. In India iron ties have to be used because of a borer which would enter wooden ones and quickly hollow them out like shells. But there is so little difference between the price of iron and Bessemer steel that the steel is to be tried in India. Some large orders for ties have been sent to England recently, and among them are some for Bessemer ties. In England itself the iron tie is coming into use more rapidly than is generally supposed, and also in Belgium. The cheapness of iron and the dearth of wood are the reason. The iron costs more originally than wood, but in the end is more economical on account of its durability.

THE PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT.

During the month of December the net cash in the National Treasury increased \$8,875,100, and this fact enables the Secretary to publish that the "decrease of debt during the month" is \$9,089,940, and for the six months just closed \$51,499,710 against \$31,501,864 for the corresponding period of last year. The only item of debt which shows a decrease for the month is certificates of deposit, in which the decrease is \$3,765,000. The outstanding gold certificates show an increase of \$5,500, and silver certificates an increase of \$476,823. The actual reduction accomplished during the month is \$2,214,240 and this occurs in the non-interest bearing debt. Compared with one year ago the figures giving the total of the interest-bearing debt shows an increase of \$8,150, which was occasioned by the conversion into four per cent. bonds of the accumulated interest of the refunding certificates.

The receipts for the month compared with December, 1884, show an increase of nearly \$3,000,000, all of which increase was derived from customs. There is also a very favorable exhibit on the expenditure side for the last two months, the amount paid out being \$15,000,000, against nearly \$22,000,000 in December of 1884. The difference in these amounts was paid for pensions. The increased receipts and decreased expenditures last month explains the large apparent reduction in the debt. The annexed tables show the receipts and expenditures for the six months ending December, 1884 and 1885, respectively.

	1884.	1885.
Customs.....	\$ 92,571,769	\$ 95,829,274
Internal Revenue.....	56,585,217	58,928,368
Miscellaneous.....	13,822,304	12,121,788
Total.....	\$161,979,170	\$166,779,430
EXPENDITURES.		
Ordinary.....	\$ 80,030,524	\$ 70,020,028
Pensions.....	33,052,621	34,386,903
Interest.....	35,688,634	25,138,863
Total.....	\$153,772,479	\$129,545,794

The above figures show, in favor of the six months just closed, an increase in receipts of \$5,795,705, which is equivalent to a net gain of \$14,522,465 over the corresponding period of 1884.

Dr. Higbee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has submitted his annual report for the year ending June 1, 1885. The number of enrolled pupils has increased 16,119, making a total of 982,158. The increase of average number of pupils in actual attendance is 21,450, which is 5,331 more than the increase of number of enrolled pupils. The difference between the number enrolled and the number in attendance is too large, numbering 325,030. The total number of teachers now engaged is 22,864, an increase of 400.

There has been a decrease of 88 in number of male teachers and an increase of 488 in number of female teachers. The average monthly salary is very little. For males it is now \$39.01 and females \$30.08. The Superintendent says this is far below what it should be. Keeping in mind that the number of female teachers is 5,922 in excess of the number of male teachers, and that their average monthly salary is about nine dollars less, it is evident that there is yet much unjust discrimination against female teachers in respect to salary, while there is a growing recognition of their great value in our educational work. He trusts that this unjust discrimination will soon be removed.

THE FRUIT OF FRAUD.

The Republicans of Ohio yesterday perpetrated the great outrage of unseating nine Democratic members of the Legislature who were properly and fairly chosen, and seating nine Republicans who were defeated at the polls in their places.

Thus the Republicans overrode justice and violated their oaths at the bidding of party necessity. When the Democrats nominated Judge Thurman for Senator they put Sherman's election in jeopardy and party exigency has broken down personal integrity and honor.

The probabilities are that Judge Thurman would have received the votes of two Republican members from Hocking Valley, and thus his election would have been accomplished. He has been the staunch friend of that oppressed people, and the Republican leaders apprehended that gratitude and manliness would rise above partisanship. But the tactics which John Sherman invoked in Louisiana in 1877 were imported into Ohio yesterday and he is again saved by fraud. And there are men who esteem John Sherman an honorable man.—Patriot, 13.

The cold snap, this week, reached down as far as Galveston, and froze its bay. The icy sheet on the bay was quite a curiosity for the people down in that city, many of whom saw ice for the first time, and to see the bay covered with it naturally was a wonderful sight, for the Galvestoners.

JOHN SHERMAN'S METHODS.

He and His "Policy" Backers Steal Nine Democratic Seats to Get a Senatorship.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 12.—There was no delay this morning in the House getting down to business. It was generally understood that the Hamilton county question would be brought up promptly, and as a consequence the House galleries and lobbies and even the aisles were crowded with politicians and visiting statesmen. "Policy" Bill Smith, of Cincinnati, was present. He is a staunch Sherman adherent. A large number of ladies were also present, and every move on both sides was watched with the most eager interest. The Democrats used every parliamentary measure to delay the proceedings.

A long resolution was introduced by the Democratic side for a thorough and complete investigation. This resolution was voted down and the previous question was then demanded, and the majority report of the Committee on Elections, unseating the nine Democrats from Hamilton county, was adopted by a majority of one vote, Shepard, of Franklin, and Johnson, of Huron, Republicans, voting with the Democrats.

The Speaker, Mr. Entekin, then said if the nine members elected in Hamilton county would step forward he would swear them in. The nine Republicans were then escorted to the front of the speaker's desk and the oath was administered. As soon as the speaker announced his course the wildest scene occurred that ever took place in the Ohio House of Representatives. On the Republican side the hats were thrown up, cheers and laughter came from the galleries, while on the Democratic side groans and cries of "rats, rats" were yelled for fully three minutes.

Mr. Williams moved that the mob, pointing to the Republican side, be suppressed. He was greeted with cries of "rats" and groans. A perfect pandemonium reigned for nearly five minutes before order was fully restored.

The Speaker ordered the unseated Democratic members to turn over the keys of their desks.

The House then voted for United States Senator. Allen G. Thurman received forty-one votes and John Sherman sixty-seven.

In the Senate, for United States Senator Allen G. Thurman received 20 votes, and John Sherman 17. Sherman will have 21 majority in the joint convention to-morrow.

FIFTY-TWO DEGREES BELOW ZERO IN MANITOBA.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—At six o'clock this morning the thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero in this city and the mercury has since risen four degrees. Omaha reported 23 degrees below zero, and clear weather. It is still blowing hard in Central Iowa, with the thermometer marking 23 degrees below zero at Des Moines. Des. Paul quoted 18 deg. below. The embargo on railroad travel in Central Iowa is not yet raised. The railroads have ceased selling tickets to Omaha, and unless the situation improves during the day no through passenger trains are expected to leave for the west to-night.

The lowest temperature reported to the signal service this morning was at another John or another William in Minnesota, on the Canada Pacific R. R., in Manitoba, where the thermometer registered 52 degrees below zero. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Burlington have not had a train from Council Bluffs since Thursday.

IN THE SOUTH.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 8.—The cold wave struck Augusta last night. It is now 15 degrees below zero and is growing colder. The weather is clear with a stiff wind from the northwest.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 9.—There was a slight fall of snow here this morning, the first in six years.

Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 9.—The lowest temperature reached here was 2 degrees below zero at 10 o'clock this morning.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 9.—The temperature here this morning at 7 o'clock was 5 degrees below zero and 3 below at 10 a. m. This is the coldest weather ever known here.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 9.—The thermometer recorded this morning 11 degrees above zero, the coldest since 1852. Ice is plentiful, and the vegetable crops are badly damaged.

THE WORK OF RESCUING THE NANTICOKE VICTIMS STOPPED.

Nanticoke, Pa., Jan. 7.—The work of recovering the bodies of the entombed miners at No. 1 Slope was suddenly stopped this morning, the rescuing force refusing to work any longer, owing to the stoppage of the flow of water through the main gangway.

Even the regular flow, which took place previous to the accident, has terminated, and it is considered dangerous to face the clogged pass, away until the water runs again. It certainly has blocked up some of the water workings. The late heavy rains no doubt caused a serious flow into the mine, which forced the debris ahead of it with sufficient power to clog suddenly.

As soon as the water stopped the men quit work, and under no circumstances, they say, will they again begin opening the gangway until the water starts. The sudden starting of the quantity of water which must have already accumulated, with the gang of workmen in, and the fall of the sand would undoubtedly be attended with the loss of other lives.

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE.

Conditions that Constitute a Union, With or Without a Ceremony and License.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—Judge Ashman, of the Orphan's Court, yesterday filed an opinion granting the petition of Laura A. Siebert, which asked to have revoked the letters testamentary which had been granted by the Register of Wills to John L. Siebert as executor of the estate of his brother, George W. Siebert, who died intestate in July, 1884. The petitioner claims to be the widow of the decedent. She alleges that she went to his boarding-house, No. 118 Filbert street, in 1879, in the capacity of a servant, at \$2.50 per week; afterward became his housekeeper at \$4 per week; and that in October, 1880, she began to live with him as his wife, without receiving wages, and remained in that relation until the time of his death.

"It was not claimed by the petitioner," said the Judge, "that her marriage to the decedent had been begun by a formal ceremony. She produced testimony, however, which certainly showed cohabitation and mutual acknowledgment of the parties and reputation in the neighborhood of their relations as husband and wife. It also showed that they journeyed occasionally together, and that shortly before his death the decedent spent several days at the house of the petitioner's parents, and addressed them there as father and mother. Before and at the alleged marriage the petitioner acted as housekeeper for the decedent, but there was no intimation that any illicit intercourse between them had preceded the marriage state. All the elements, therefore, which enter into a binding contract of marriage, as that contract is interpreted in this state, were present, if the petitioner's witnesses are to be believed. They were met by counter testimony, which, from the nature of the case, was merely negative in its character. We admit that upon the essential question of cohabitation the evidence was conflicting; but so far as it was given by disinterested witnesses, it balances in favor of the petitioner; and we are of the opinion that a verdict finding her to be the lawful widow of the decedent would be upheld."

CAVE-IN AT SHENANDOAH.

Shenandoah, Pa., Jan. 7.—A cave in occurred at Boston Run near Mahoney City to-day and a block of houses went down out of sight. The families living in the houses made a narrow escape. The surface is still caving and five more blocks are expected to go down.

For not keeping the streets in good condition, the borough authorities of the town of Nanticoke have been sued for \$10,000 damages by a citizen who sustained serious injury from falling on a street excavation.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH.

The origin of these titles is not without interest. In the earlier times of our history the ordinary man was simply William or John; that is to say, he had merely a Christian name, without any kind of "handle" before it, or surname after it. Some means of distinguishing one John or one William from another John or another William became necessary. Nicknames, derived from a man's trade, or from his dwelling-place, or from some personal peculiarity, were tacked on to their Christian names, and plain John became plain Smith. As yet there were no "Misters" in the land. Some John Smith accumulated more wealth than the bulk of his fellows—became, perhaps, a landed proprietor, or an employer of hired labor. Then he began to be called in the Norman-French of the day, the "Maistre" or "Maister," or of those, in time the "Maistre" or "Maister," as it soon became, got tacked on before his name, and his wife became Maister Smith, and his wife Maistress Smith. But gradually the sense of possession was lost sight of, and the title was conferred upon any man who had attained social distinction of any kind, whether by mere possession of wealth, or by holding some position of more or less consideration and importance. It is only within comparatively modern times that the term came to be considered an almost indispensable adjunct to every one's name when mentioned in ordinary conversation or writing. Maistress Smith soon became Mistress Smith. Exactly how and when the term got corrupted cannot be said. Master Smith, however, remained Master Smith long after his wife became Mistress Smith.

FORESTS VERSUS FARMS.

A Western lumber buyer thinks that if the original black walnut forests of Indiana and Ohio were standing to-day, they would be far more valuable than the farms, to make which they were cleared away. Miles and miles of fence in black walnut rails. A farmer who began making his farm thirty years ago "spent eight years in clearing it of walnut timber, eighty acres of which he burned up. After thirty years of cultivation the farm is worth \$8,000. If it had its black walnut timber back it would be worth \$100,000. This farmer is only one among thousands who for years girdled, cut and burned the great forest they found occupying the land."

THE END OF THE WORLD.

As Predicted by Pancoast, the Cabalist—The End Three Centuries Distant.

Philadelphia, Jan. 1.—Dr. Seth Pancoast, of this city, a prominent physician and the author of many important works is also a great cabalist and is recognized among the scholars of the occult sciences all over the world as one of the greatest theosophists and authorities on mystic and unwritten cabalistic lore. He is in constant correspondence with the leading theosophists of other countries and is said to have the most valuable library extant of the magic of the wisemen of the East and the mystic lore of the Rabbinical scholars, going back almost to Solomon's time.

Though perfectly familiar with astronomy and the science of the stars, he is not what would be termed in these days an astrologist. He is a man of science, as familiar with Hebrew and Greek as with English, reading old manuscript works in the dead languages with as much ease and relish as the mass of people do a casual modern work of fiction. He believes in the power of prophecy, though claiming that all his own deductions are based upon Scriptural grounds, the wonderful book of the Apocalypse in particular as interpreted in the light of Cabalistic science taking a prominent part in his calculations.

Although Dr. Pancoast has not cast a horoscope for the year 1886 and does not care to, he has been able from his knowledge of Cabalism and his familiarity with the occult sciences to form some general deductions about what kind of a year it is going to be, and some of the things that are expected to happen affecting the general welfare of mankind. As yet he has not given the particular year which began to-day much study, but should he do so he thinks he can discover some very interesting things, and make some prophetic statements in detail that will be valuable to remember and watch to see if they prove accurate.

MAN'S POWER LIMITLESS.

The science with which Dr. Pancoast deals, and through which he accomplishes his results, is so abstract that even the outlines of its principles cannot be presented easily in every day language, though something may be gleaned from the general statement that it involves the idea that all the knowledge is imparted from a Divine source, and is in a great measure intuitively. Dr. Pancoast, like other theosophists, believes that man is steadily advancing in intelligence, and will ultimately have a command of the forces of nature and a control and knowledge of creation that will be almost unlimited. He believes moreover that theosophy is the coming religion, in which science and belief will be united without being antagonized.

In their study of the great cycles of time different cabalists have adopted or accepted, with more or less modifications, different systems. Many adhere to the Neonic cycle of 600 years. The theory of all the cycles is that there is nothing new under the sun, and that there are cycle periods or divisions of time in which certain planetary or other influences rule, and which go on repeating themselves indefinitely. Dr. Pancoast accepts the Trithernian cycle, in which the periods are 354 years and 4 months each. In cabalism great stress is placed upon the number seven. Just as there are seven harmonies in the universe connected with all energy, so there are seven cycles which, in the ever-recurring harmony of the universe, have been constantly repeating themselves back through countless ages. Dr. Pancoast figures it out, Scripturally and otherwise, that we are now in the seventh and culmination of the series.

THE SEVEN CYCLES.

The first cycle of the series, according to the author of the system, is that of Orfil, the spirit of Saturn, which was a period of darkness, savagery and sanguinary influences, out of which physical humanity grew strong through conflict. The second is that of Aniel, the spirit of Venus, which was the period of voluptuousness, folly and debauchery, in which poetry took its rise and races grew populous. The third is that of Zacheriel, the angel of Jupiter, an epoch of wars and enlightenment, in which government took its rise. The fourth is that of Raphael, the archangel of Mercury, which was a time of industry and intelligence, in which science began and commerce prospered. The fifth is the cycle of Samiel, the angel of Mars, making an era of corruption, bloodshed and destruction. The sixth is that of Gabriel, the so-called angel of the Moon, an epoch of recuperation, growth and building up needed with all energies. The seventh cycle is that of Michael, the archangel of the Sun, making an epoch of sociability, refinement, great intelligence and wealth. All nations have not entered these cycles simultaneously, though there has not been much variation. Paris of Europe, Dr. Pancoast thinks, are just passing out of a past cycle.

IN THE CYCLE OF MICHAEL.

In this country we are in the cycle of Michael, the cycle of the golden light-giving sun, the epoch of wealth, enlightenment and power, and have been in it since 1878. We will be in it one hundred and seventy-seven years longer, he thinks, when the period of decadence will begin, and in the year 2322 the wheel will have come around, the cycle completed, and the cycle of Orfil, which reigned four centuries before Christ, will again be on, and mark the general condition of the world. If the regular succession of events went on as they have to the past there would be three hundred years hence a transition from sublime intelligence and marvelous material prosperity to a condition of society border-

ing almost on barbarism, when the people would relapse into savagery. But Dr. Pancoast does not think this is going to happen. He believes that both cabalism and Scripture show that the present is the last revolution of the cycles, so far as the orb is concerned, and that affairs here will, in all probability, wind up about three centuries hence.

THE END OF THE WORLD IN 2232.

The completion of the current cycle of the sun in 2232 will be the culmination and will in all probability mark the end of the world. From now until the year 2055 at least the world, Dr. Pancoast says, will progress in the most wonderful inventions, so that man will have the secrets of the universe in his grasp and attain a degree of intelligence that will comprehend much, if not all, of the plan of the physical universe and be able to avert or overcome most, if not all, the influences that threaten his own comfort, welfare or existence. All mankind will advance wonderfully and rapidly in intelligence and power and the faculty of acquiring wealth far beyond anything of which the imagination can now conceive. Men will not only be able to discover gold wherever it exists, but it will no longer have the same value, for chemists will be able to produce it. It will be as common as iron. Ideas of value will altogether change, and men will be able to administer to their wants without the same amount of effort now required. Such, in a general way, is the indication of the bent of human affairs in the existing cycle for the approaching years according to cabalism and Scripture, as interpreted by Dr. Pancoast.

EGGS OF WILD BIRDS.

Most persons are aware of the fact that the eggs of prairie hens were regarded as great delicacies by the early settlers in the West. They were seldom put on the market, and as a consequence people living in shanties enjoyed luxuries beyond the reach of most city epicures.

The eggs of wild turkeys are regarded by all who have eaten them, as vastly superior to the eggs produced by any kind of domesticated fowl. The eggs of the pea-fowl and Guinea hen are also regarded as delicacies by epicures. These birds are but partly domesticated, and the eggs have a very flabby, probably because the birds eat large quantities of insects, and the seeds of wild plants. Partridge eggs are regarded as superior to the eggs of any of the birds previously mentioned, and are preferred for drinking with choice wine.

In England during the months of April and May, the plover's shops in large cities are supplied with plovers' eggs. They are displayed in little nest-shaped baskets, lined with moss. The retail price of these eggs ranges from three to five English shillings per dozen. Sometimes the basket will contain two or three partridge eggs, the remainder of the dozen being the eggs of the plover or peewit. The eggs are collected by a class of men who dislike to work, but who make a business of hunting for the eggs of wild birds. It requires much skill and cunning to find the nests of plovers. A skillful hunter is often able to secure three dozen plovers' eggs in one day. He runs the risk of being arrested for trespassing and of getting eggs that have been spoiled by the process of incubation. He receives for the eggs about one-third of the price the dealer sells them for.

Hunting for plovers' eggs is not very remunerative employment, but it appears to offer unusual attractions to certain persons who are willing to tramp all day over furrows and broken ground, in order to secure a few tiny eggs. All attempts to put a stop to the collection of these eggs have been unsuccessful, and so many are collected that it seems strange that the unfortunate birds are not exterminated.

ONLY AN OLD HAT.

"Speaking of nitro-glycerine," said the oil-torpedo man, "and its explosive properties, reminds me of one incident of a thousand that I could relate regarding it. At the factory where the oil well torpedoes are made, we strain the nitro-glycerine through the crown of a felt hat, and when the hat has served its purpose we destroy it. One day some of the workmen, instead of destroying the hat, washed it thoroughly and treated it with alkali, in order to destroy the effect of the nitro-glycerine. Then they laid it up on a shelf, and forgot about it. Some two years afterward, one of the men ran across the hat, and his curiosity was excited as to whether it would explode if struck a hard blow. He placed it on one of the iron arms that run from the tinner's bench in the factory, and struck it, while his companions looked on in wonderment. He struck it twice without any result, but the third time it exploded, blew the iron arm through a brick wall, knocked the man down and broke both of his arms, and wrecked the interior of the tinshop."

Exemption from mistake is not the privilege of mortals; but when our mistakes are involuntary, we owe each other every candid consideration.