# The Star & Sentinel.

Friday, May 21, 1869.

**Advertisers and others interested will bear in mind that the regular circulation of the "STAR AND SENTINEL" is much larger than that of any other paper published in the County, being read weekly by not less than 11,000 persons.**

**THE GETTYSBURG RAILROAD, ITS CONNEXIONS, PROSPECTS AND VALUE.**

All the indications point to the early completion of the Western Maryland Railroad to Hagerstown and Williamsport. At the latter point, it will intersect the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and thus secure access to the vast bituminous coal region of Allegany county, Md. Coal operators and portions of the Baltimore public have long been dissatisfied with the charges and general policy of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and that community appear now fully ready to assist in building and opening a new and competing line of transportation. Baltimore City has a further stimulus to press the Western Maryland road, in the fact that only by completing it can the City save the large investment already made in it. The interests which are thus combined in favor of the Western Maryland enterprize are so strong that we have no doubt the necessary means will be raised to finish it, at an early day.

This subject comes home very near to us. Our County is deeply interested in it, as its result will be to give us the use of bituminous coal, hitherto practically denied, and will help to lower the price of the anthracite, and will give us the benefit of important additional railroad connexions. For we assume, beyond any doubt, that if the Western Maryland road be made, the Gettysburg road will be speedily extended to the Mountain where it has the right to connect with the Western Maryland. This can be accomplished with little expense, as the old State road can be occupied almost the entire distance, for most of which it is already graded, and partially bridged.—With this done, there will then be but the line from New Oxford to York wanting to complete a new interior line from the Cities of New York and Philadelphia to the coal fields of Maryland. It is morally certain that the enormous coal interests of those Cities will eagerly grasp at this opportunity to secure a short and cheap coal connexion, which they have long desired but have never before been capable of effecting with so slight cost.

Besides, there is no reason to doubt that the Pennsylvania railroad, which is the real owner of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, will push an extension of the latter from Hagerstown and Williamsport down the Shenandoah—thus tapping the Virginia line of Improvements and drawing the varied products of that fertile region over the new outlets to Northern Cities.

This would put our town upon a *through line of road*, and give our community the incalculable advantages of numerous connexions, increased speed, and enlarged facilities; and would greatly assist in developing the resources of the county and increasing its wealth.

By these circumstances, the value of the existing charter of our Railroad Company, and of the Railroad itself, must be considered as much increased. The point is no longer, what is the money-value of the grading, the iron and the fixtures composing the road-bed? but, what is the money-value of all this and of the work already done on the old State road, and of the right of connexion with other roads west of us—all which are the property of the Gettysburg Railroad Company. The unfinished work on the old State road, which could be used on the new line, could not be built under a half million dollars. Hitherto, this element has not entered into the computation of value, because until the present time the probability of using this work has been remote. Now, it is immediate, and the value of it becomes a matter of great importance.

In this view, we shall regret the precipitate sale of the road, should this occur. But we are aware that influences foreign to our County and its interests have been placed, by means which it is not our province now to examine or criticise, in the ownership of the majority of the stock; and we are not sure that it is now possible to effect any delay. But we are satisfied that the value of the road and its franchises is double the $200,000 which has been frequently pronounced the maximum price expected to be realized; and that movements now in progress will soon prove this Gettysburg Railroad property to be one of the most valuable and desirable now in market.

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UNDER a law recently passed by Congress, intended to protect claimants from frauds and extortions, soldiers, soldiers' heirs, or representatives will hereafter receive their funds directly from the Pay Department at Washington, the attorney handling no funds whatever except his own fee, which the Government transmits to him directly. The claimant receives one check and the attorney the other. The fees allowed in claims of white soldiers are ten per cent. when the amount due is under $200, and five per cent. on any additional amount less than $800, and $50 on claims in excess of $800. In colored cases the fees are $5, $7,50 and $10, according as the amount due is less than $50, between $50 and $100, or over $100. In the colored cases, but not the white ones advances and notarial expenses are included in the amount paid to the agent.

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THE New York *World* thinks that Mormonism will be banished from the United States in the following manner: The Pacific Railroad will give to the multitudinous wives of the Mormon patriarchs an idea of the manners and customs of the ladies of the East, and in particular of their style of dress and living. When the Mormon wives begin to dress like the ladies of Philadelphia, Boston, Camden or New York, no Mormon husband, be he rich as the best of them, can afford to keep more than one helpmate—*ergo*, the question is settled.

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DEMOCRATIC papers are coming out in opposition to Mr. SUMNER's speech on the Alabama claims. This is not strange, for the indemnity asked by our government is for outrages committed in the interest of the Democratic party.

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THIS piece of gratuitous cruelty is from the New York *Herald*:—"The Dayton (Ohio) *Ledger* avers that 'what the Democratic party wants are brains and pluck.' Here is a chance for venders of calves' brains and sheep's pluck."

## EX-GOV. JOSEPH RITNER.

GEORGE O. SAILHAMER, Esq., formerly of Chambersburg, now one of the most interesting writers on the N. Y. *Tribune*, has contributed to a recent number of that paper a graphic sketch of Ex-Gov. RITNER who resides near Carlisle in his 90th year. We annex a portion of the article:

Gov. Ritner's faculties are impaired to such an extent that it was only by the most persistent effort in an interview I had with him the other day that I succeeded in bringing back his recollection to the events of the past in which he played a leading part, and in relation to which he has been so much traduced. In answer to the first question that I ventured to address to him, he said: "Yes, I knew Thaddeus Stevens well. When I was Governor he was a member of the Legislature." But when I adverted to the influence Mr. Stevens was popularly supposed to have exerted over him as the Executive, I found it very difficult to make my meaning plain to him.—Having come here on purpose to see him that he might have an opportunity of giving expression to his feelings in regard to the departed statesman, now that Thaddeus Stevens is dead, and his own long life near its close, I was determined not to go away unsatisfied.

"People used to call Mr. Stevens your oracle, and the keeper of your conscience, Mr. Ritner," I said, "and some even went so far as to declare that he compelled you to appoint him a Canal Commissioner in 1838." By repeating the question in various forms, even putting it in the shape of a direct charge that Stevens had appointed himself to office while Ritner was Governor, I at length succeeded in getting a distinct answer, which was confirmed by his children, as the declarations of his entire retirement.

"Stevens and I often differed," he said, "and when we could not agree I always had my own way. When I appointed him a Canal Commissioner I wanted a man of inflexible will and indomitable energy, and I thought he was such a man." That this is the whole story in relation to the "oracle" business I doubt not, and that the old "Pennsylvania Dutch" Governor judges Mr. Stevens correctly cannot be disputed.

Joseph Ritner is a true type of the Pennsylvania Dutchman of the past generation—a race as worthy as it has been misrepresented. Conventional politeness is not a trait of his or of theirs, but the genuine heartiness which allows you to help yourself at meals provides an ample store from which to follow the injunction of the host to his guests, "Help yourselves." I dined with this old man, and found all the social customs of his family to correspond with those of the neighboring farmers round about him. There seemed to be no lingering echoes of Executive dinners resounding about his household, and the republican simplicity and virtue of his day were in nothing more apparent than in this, unless they were betrayed by a remark of his unmarried daughter: "When father was a candidate for office he found it dreadfully expensive, his payments for postage being as much as $4 a week." Apropos of his daughters, is an old story that used to be told at the Governor's expense: "Ma," said one of these young ladies, soon after Mr. Ritner's election to the Gubernatorial position, "will we all be Governors now?" "No," answered the mother, "only pap and me."

In answer to a question in relation to his age, Mr. Ritner said he was 90 years old.—When I observed the merry and self-conscious twinkle in the old man's eye as he told me this, I could not but smile at the pride that length of days begets. Joseph Ritner was born near the city of Reading, in Berks county, March 25, 1780. He received no education in youth, except six months' instruction at a private school of very mean pretensions. Yet he rose to the highest offices in the State.

The family of Gov. Ritner is in every way a most simple and unaffected one. His son Jacob is a farmer worth nearly $100,000, which he made by steady but unassisted labor, avoiding speculation and all extraneous methods of amassing wealth. On the other hand, Gov. Ritner himself never acquired much property. He removed from Berks to Cumberland county when a mere lad, and hired himself to a farmer, with whom he lived until he married. At the time of his marriage he was scarcely more than twenty years old. A few years afterward he emigrated to Westmoreland and then to Washington county, in the western part of the State. In 1820, he was nominated by the Whig party as a candidate for the State Legislature, and served in that body for seven successive years, occupying, during his last two terms, the position of Speaker of the House. He illustrated his political simplicity to me in a very peculiar manner, attributing his popularity to a cause that would not readily occur to a politician of the present day. "When people came into the House," he said, "they always saw me, and asked: 'Who is that man in the chair? That is Mr. Ritner, our Speaker.'" Gov. Ritner tells another little anecdote not less illustrative of his political simplicity. On the evening of the day when he was first nominated for the Legislature his wife told him, after they had retired, that their neighbor, the miller, was going to Taylorstown the next day to oppose him. "Quit sobbing, my dear," he answered, "I will go, too, about 10 o'clock, and if he abuses me I will kick him."

In 1828 Mr. Ritner was defeated as the Whig candidate for the State Senate, and the next year he was for the first time the Anti-Masonic candidate for Governor. Unsuccessful in that year, he was also defeated in 1832, but was elected over Gov. Wolf in 1835. In 1838, he was defeated by Gov. Porter, though he always considered himself defrauded of his re-election.

After his retirement from the Executive chair—there was no Executive mansion at Harrisburg at that time, and the Governor lived in his own hired house—Gov. Ritner bought a farm in Cumberland county and resumed the occupation of his younger days. Here he lived in the peaceful pursuits of husbandry until the death of his wife and his own years admonished him to seek a home with his children. In 1840 he sought the office of Collector of the Port of Philadelphia from President Harrison, but was appointed Treasurer of the Mint in that city by President Tyler. He held the office a few months only owing to the failure of his confirmation in the Senate. During the last 30 years Gov. Ritner has not held office. He has always taken great interest in politics, however and his last vote was for President Grant.

Gov. Ritner may not be a great man, and he is certainly not a very learned man, but he deserves especial honor in this, that he raised himself from ignorance and obscurity to the highest offices in the State. And his information on many subjects would do no discredit to men of much greater pretensions. Even in Pennsylvania he has never been thoroughly understood. While a member of the House of Representatives he made many speeches, and his speeches were always able—so able, in fact, that he was feared by his opponents on account of his strong and straightforward denunciations of the wrong. In 1836 the school law, which had passed through a fiery ordeal the preceding year was revised so as to better adapt it to the wants of the people, and Gov. Ritner, who had been the long and consistent friend of education, declared his purpose to see the law enforced, in spite of the opposition of its enemies, and it was enforced. About all this I found it difficult to talk to him owing to the decay of his faculties, but in the broken utterances of his shattered memories I could detect the strong sense which always distinguished him. Joseph Ritner was no common man, and he has left his mark upon the history of his time such as few men have left behind them. His services ought to be celebrated and his example held up to American youth as in many ways worthy of imitation. Almost forgotten as he is by the generation that succeeded him, he still lived in the recollection of the great man whom he early appreciated and befriended. He took me into the old-fashioned parlor in his son's house to show me a present he had received about a year ago. It was a portrait of Thaddeus Stevens, which had been sent to him by the Great Commoner some months before his death. Both loved liberty and hated cant, and their strong intellects proved of signal service to their State and age.

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THE course of Democracy, like that of true love, never runs smooth. Its pathway is beset with all manner of troubles, and its leaders have a serious task in trying to make their followers "come to time" on every occasion.—One of the latest causes of their solicitude has been the election of a Superintendent of Common Schools in this county. The defeat of their favorite, Mr. SHEELY, it will be remembered, brought forth from our neighbr of the *Compiler* a most dismal wail, which, it seems, has penetrated even the most obscure parts of the distressed political camp and is eliciting the most affecting sympathetic responses. The Hanover *Citizen*, not to be behind in the condolence line, offers its tribute.—"Mr. WERT," says the *Citizen*, is not only "a Republican," but is one of "the most extreme type," and it "cannot comprehend why the Democrats of Adams allowed Mr. SHEELY to be defeated in the manner they did." But the *Citizen* is not only concerned about the present. It has also fearful misgivings of the future. "Before Mr. WERT's time expires," it is "positive the *Democrats* of Adams will regret their indifference as indicated in this instance." As no other class of people will have any reason to "regret" the election of Mr. WERT, we are really sorry for the Democracy. Theirs is a truly deplorable condition; but we venture to suggest that the *Citizen* might have spared their lacerated feelings, and not reprimanded them in such an unmerciful style.

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THE Copperhead papers are trying "to crow" over the result of the late Judicial election in Michigan. This effort shows to what low straits they are reduced, and how thankful they are for "small favors." The Republican majority in the State, on Supreme Judge was 30,819, the vote having been:

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| Cooley, Rep., | 90,705 |
| Hughes, Dem., | 59,886 |
| Rep. majority | 30,819 |

We submit, that polling a little over one-third of the total vote, does not constitute good ground for a claim of a great Victory!

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THE Pennsylvania Reserve Corps Association will hold their annual meeting at West Chester on the first day of June next, at which the usual business of the Association will be transacted. The annual Oration will be delivered by Colonel R. BIDDLE ROBERTS, of Pittsburg, late Colonel of the First Reserves. In the evening there will be a banquet.

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GEN. TOM THUMB is building a fine residence at Middleborough, Conn.

OUR exchanges all speak in glowing terms of the crop prospect in all sections of the State.

ADVICES from Mexico give the stereotyped accounts of turmoil and insurrection in that country.

GEN. Daniel E. Sickles has been appointed Minister to Spain, *vice* John P. Hale, resigned.

THE rumors of threatened difficulty with England have all subsided. The story was got up for purposes of speculation.

REV. A. R. Horne, has been elected Superintendent of Schools in the city of Williamsport, with a salary of $700.

MISS CAIRNES, who was tried at Belair, Md., week before last, for killing her betrayer, Nicholas McComas, was acquitted.

THE New York *Express* says that in the incomes of business men of that city "those who advertise make the largest returns."

BRIGHAM Young broke ground on Tuesday for the Utah Central Railroad, to connect Salt Lake City with the Pacific Railroad.

GOVERNOR Geary has pardoned the child murderess, Hester Vaughan, who, it will be remembered, was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged in Philadelphia.

THE Legislature of Indiana has passed a bill introducing the German language as a branch of regular instruction in the public schools of that State.

A CAT with eight perfect legs, two tails, two upper and two lower jaws, two tongues and four eyes, challenges the attention of the wonder-loving of Simpson county, Ky.

No fewer than fourteen large locomotives have exploded within the past seven months in the United States, killing twenty-nine persons outright, and severely wounding a much greater number.

WHEN the Pacific Railroad is in good working order men may go through from ocean to ocean in six days and a half, and at a cost of about one hundred and fifty dollars.

AN exchange announces that the latest thing in the pipe line is imitation meerschaum, made of bread. The pipes harden and color beautifully, and closely resemble colored meerschaum.

IT is now definitely known that the Secretary of the Treasury will continue to purchase at least one million dollars' worth of bonds weekly, for the creation of a sinking fund.

REV. George B. Russell, late of Pittsburg, Pa., is announced as associate editor of the *German Reformed Messenger*, a religious weekly, the main organ of that denomination.

MRS. ANN BARLOW of Philadelphia, aged 79, has just finished a quilt containing 5,727 pieces. During the last seven years this industrious old lady has made 29 quilts, containing in the aggregate 62,992 pieces.

JAMES M. WEAKLY, Esq., of Carlisle, has been appointed Dep. Secretary of the Commonwealth, vice I. B. Gara, resigned. Mr. Weakly is a prominent lawyer at the Cumberland bar, and has long been identified with the Republican party.

HENRY C. HICKOK, Esq., has been appointed chief clerk at the United States mint, Philadelphia, under Ex-Governor James Pollock. Mr. Hickok was Deputy Superintendent of Common Schools under Gov. Pollock's administration.

THE President's proclamation, relative to the election in Virginia, was issued on Saturday. As already stated, the 6th of July is the designated time, and the disabling and test-oath clauses are to be voted upon separately.

MUCH inquiry is indulged as to how and by what officer the next census is to be taken, and we understand that members of Congress are much embarrassed by applications for appointments to engage in that business. The whole subject is yet in an unsettled condition, and Congress when it next assembles will regard it as its first duty to decide how and by what officers this work shall be performed.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 19, 1869.

Availing myself of the opportunity of a temporary release from the exacting demands of editorial duties, I find myself in the Capitol of the nation, and have been spending a few days in looking around and seeing sights. With the distinctive peculiarities of the Capitol, the public buildings and centres of attraction—every body is familiar, and I need not speak of them.—The city, which ordinarily is a seething political cauldron, is just now comparatively dull. The capitol building is deserted, the carpeting in the Senate and House chambers torn up, furniture in disorder, and a singular quiet pervades its vast corridors, except as it is broken by the footsteps of an occasional visitor. The crowd of politicians and office seekers who usually throng the streets during the sessions of Congress are not to be seen. One misses the bustle and confusion which usually characterize the hotels, while the President and Heads of Department are enjoying comparative immunity from the persistent demands of place-seekers.

The War for the suppression of the Rebellion, however, which has been a wonderful educator in the Republic, overturning old ideas and introducing new eras, has made its impression on the city of Washington, and its effects are patent to the occasional visitor in the hum of business activity heard on all sides. From the organization of the Government down to 1861, the Slave Power was dominant in the capital of the Republic and ruled its social life as despotically as it ruled the councils of the nation. It brought with it Southern ideas and Southern habits—a negation of toil and the enjoyment of luxurious indolence. Largely a city of strangers and temporary residents, dependent for its business upon the money expended during the few months of official life, with a social ostracism repulsive to intelligent labor and manly industry, for long years it was eminently a drowsy city, distinguished mainly for its "magnificent distances" and bewildering intricacies of streets. With the breaking down of the Slave Oligarchy has come a marked change. The universal Yankee, no longer tabooed by despotic and perverted social laws, has come in—"Yankeeised" the city, and it is rapidly assuming the aspect of a great Metropolis, with the badges of active and increasing industry patent to the eye and ear.

Just at present, the politicians are busily at work preparing for the Municipal struggle in June. Manhood Suffrage is recognized here under Congressional enactment, and the colored vote is a power. It has been almost unanimously Republican, but the Democratic politicians are working hard to secure enough of it to control the election. They have succeeded in buying over some few active colored men, of easy virtue, who are put forward at the ward-meetings as decoys for others. It would be a queer sight for one of our Adams county Democrats, thoroughly indoctrinated with the "shin-bone" philosophy, to step into one of the Democratic ward meetings, held nightly, and see these "niggers," black as the ace of spades, taken cordially by the hand by Democratic politicians, and a motley audience of white and black Democrats sitting lovingly together and listening patiently alike to white and black Democratic orators! Verily, the War has been a wonderful educator, and our Adams county Democracy had better see to it, for this kind of political heterodoxy will make short work of the dogma that "this is a white man's government."

The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States has been in session here during the past week, and has drawn together as delegates or visitors most of the representative men of the church. Among those on the ground I notice Drs. Schmucker, Brown, Hay, and Valentine, Professors Stœver and Baugher and Rev. Breidenbaugh, of Gettysburg; also Revs. Alleman and Lane of Littlestown, Blackwelder of York Springs, Parsons of Hanover, and Johnston of Emmitsburg. Dr. Pohlman, of Albany, N. Y., presides, and makes, what is rare among Ministers, a capital presiding officer. The business of Synod, although important, has special interest for the Lutheran Church.—On Saturday the Synod, numbering nearly 300 members and visitors, made an official visit to the President. They were received in the East Room, the President being dressed in a suit of black, with white vest, holding a silk hat in his left hand while with his right he took each one by the hand as they were successively introduced by Rev. Dr. Butler. His whole appearance was that of a quiet, modest, refined gentleman, whose face is a problem to all familiar with his colossal reputation. I was surprised to find him look so pale, with nothing to indicate the daring and courage requisite in the gigantic military movements through which his name has become immortal. The exchange of camp life for the duties of the civilian, has transformed the soldier into the citizen, and as such he symbolizes the wonderful development of our Republican system. I find among the men of all parties with reference to President Grant, much of that same feeling which so strengthened President Lincoln—large confidence in the essential honesty of the man and his purpose in good faith to administer the Government in the interest of the people and for the people.

Leaving the White House, with several friends, I took advantage of the kind offer of Rev. Dr. Morris, of Baltimore, who is *au fait* in all manner of scientific things, to conduct us through the National Observatory. Reaching the building we were fortunate enough to meet with Prof. Newcomb, an intimate friend of Dr. Morris, who very courteously accompanied us through the Observatory, explaining the use of the various instruments, modes of taking observations, &c. From this observatory the correct time is signalled every day at noon, by the hoisting of a large ball to the top of the pole, a touch of one of the keys in an instrument at the same moment communicating it to the various stations in the city and as far South as Galveston, Texas. By-the-way, Prof. Newcomb, although he has acquired rare distinction in the astronomical world, is a young man of probably 30 years of age, and one of the most quiet, modest, unobtrusive gentlemen imaginable—just such an address as best ennobles true merit. A year or two ago, a problem was announced from the Royal Observatory of England to the scientific world, to be solved within a year, involving a precise determination of the distance of the Sun from the earth.—Prof. Newcomb enjoys the enviable honor of having solved the problem, and that within a few months; and his calculations are now accepted by all astronomers as the most reliable yet obtained, he making the distance some 270,000 miles less than former theories made it.

By-the-way, if any of the readers of the "*Star & Sentinel*" propose visiting Washington City, and want the privileges, comforts, and luxury of a first-class hotel, admirably conducted with a view to make guests feel thoroughly at home, let me advise them to try the "*Ebbitt House*," C. C. WILLARD, Esq., proprietor. I have been enjoying its hospitalities for a week and know whereof I speak. It is centrally located on corner of F and 14th streets, within a square of the Treasury building, with the White House, War, Navy, Post-office and Patent-offices all within convenient reach, and cars running from the depot to the hotel. Less pretentious than some of the houses on Pa. Avenue, in all its internal arrangements and appointments it is a first-class house. Mr. Willard himself is a liberal, wholesouled gentleman, and has around him a staff of courteous clerks and officials, with accommodating servants—which, with tables, clean beds, well-aired chambers, &c., make up every requisite the most exacting guest may reasonably require. Try the "Ebbitt House."

This afternoon the members of Dr. Butler's Church got up an excursion to Mount Vernon, some three hundred tickets being issued to members of the Lutheran Synod, and ladies and gentlemen of the congregation. I had the privilege of accompanying the party, and have just returned. The scene at the vault wherein repose the remains of Washington, was deeply interesting. The entire party assembled in front of the vault, and, with uncovered heads, united in singing the national hymn, "My country 'tis of thee," when Rev. Dr. Ziegler offered a fervent prayer, followed by the singing of "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and a benediction by Rev. Dr. Pohlman. The excursionists then spent an hour in looking at the grounds and mansion. The grounds are in good order and command a fine view of the Potomac. The mansion also, in externals, is in good repair. But as I crossed the threshhold and passed through the desolate halls and rooms, I felt sad that this consecrated spot should be so little cared for. The empty rooms, with here and there a relic of the illustrious man who long years ago welcomed to its halls the noble and the good,—the old family piano—the key of the Bastile presented to Washington by Lafayette—with some trifling memorials are all that the visitor sees. Even the little low room on the second floor in which Washington died, and which ought at least to have been sacredly cared for, presented the same desolate appearance, with rubbish scattered about in abundance. As I stood in the large Dining Room, now empty and destitute of furniture, I could not help but think of the illustrious men of the Revolutionary period, who here gathered around the festive board. One end of the mansion is occupied by the Regent of the Ladies Mount Vernon Association, and all access to it denied to the vulgar crowd. In the upper chambers, I noticed indications of preparations to repair the walls and stairway. I do not know whose fault it is that the mansion is in this disordered condition, or what has become of the immense sums of money contributed for the purchase and care of the property. But it is a burning shame that this hallowed mansion, almost within sight of the national capitol, should lie thus neglected. There is a great wrong somewhere, and I left the grounds with saddened feelings.

But it is time to close. The excursionists returned to the city at a late hour, and partook of a collation that had been kindly prepared for them by the ladies of Dr. Butler's congregation. D. A. B.

## WESTERN MARYLAND RAILROAD.

Work on this road has been practically suspended for some time; but active steps have been taken, looking to its completion. A Committee of the Councils of Baltimore have been recently over the line, and have reported an ordinance instructing the City Register and Commissioners of Finance to borrow, in the name of the city, one million dollars until May, 1870, or such other time as they may deem expedient, and to pledge as security the requisite number of the shares of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad owned by the city. The money is to be invested in the bonds of the Western Maryland Railroad Company, and secured by a mortgage, which shall come next in priority to those already executed by the company, it to give a guarantee that the money shall be expended only in constructing and equipping the road to Williamsport. At the next session of the General Assembly the Mayor shall apply for the passage of an act to submit to the voters of Baltimore the propriety of the endorsement of the bonds of the Western Maryland Railroad Company, to be secured by mortgage to an amount sufficient to return the loan. If the Legislature shall pass the act, and a majority of the votes cast at the election shall be in favor of the endorsement of the bonds, the Register shall endorse the bonds, dispose of them and apply the proceeds to the payment of the loan. If the Legislature shall refuse to pass the act, or if a majority of the votes cast at the election be in opposition to the endorsement, the Register and Commissioners of Finance shall dispose of so much of the said capital stock as may be required to pay the loan. If the authority to endorse the bonds be obtained, and the proceeds of the sales of bonds already in the hands of the city shall not be sufficient to return the money to be borrowed as before provided, with the interest thereon, the Company shall furnish to the Register such additional amount of the bonds as will, when endorsed, pay the deficiency. The last section provides that the investment shall not be made until a majority in value of the stockholders of the road shall accept the terms of the ordinance and pledge that at the next session of the Legislature application shall be made for such modification of its charter as will give the city of Baltimore such an additional number of Directors as will give to it a majority of one member in the Board of Directors. With this ordinance adopted, as it appears likely to be, the completion of the road would be beyond peradventure.

The total receipts of the Company from the sale of bonds were $1,197,115.81; from stock, $62,810.67—total $1,259,926.45. Of this, $958,198.11 have been spent in constructing the road. The total liabilities of the company are $2,632,527.42; total assets $388,492.89; liabilities overassets $2,299,034.53. The unpaid amount due by subscribers for the extension of the road is expected to realize from $50,000 to $60,000, which will go towards building the road.

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THE court-martial upon the charges made against General Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, by a joint committee of Congress, which has been sitting in Washington since November, has published its findings in the case. The court vindicated him from all of the accusations concerning projectiles, arms, wilful suppression of the record of artillery tests, etc., and in fact declared him innocent of all the charges made against him. President Grant has approved the findings of the Court.

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NEWS from Georgia brings accounts of the murder of another man, Mr. Stone, one of the members who was expelled by the Georgia Legislature. This makes four within the past six months, and it is a singular coincidence that all were Republicans. Of course that had nothing to do in bringing about their unhappy fate, for is it not almost daily dinned into our ears by Democratic journals that political opinions are as free to be indulged in Georgia as anywhere else in the universe?

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THE chime of the New Lutheran church of Harrisburg, consists of eleven bells on which sacred, sentimental, or national music can be performed. One of the bells, weighing seven hundred and one pounds is inscribed to Rev. G. F. Stelling, present Pastor; another, weighing three hundred and twenty pounds, is inscribed to Rev. Dr. Hay, late Pastor.

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LOUISVILLE, May 12.—A number of General G. H. Thomas' army comrades repaired to his headquarters to-day to present him with a magnificent silver service, but the General declines its acceptance on the ground that he had determined never to receive a donation under any circumstances.

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THE ravages in the levees along the Mississippi in Louisiana have become so great as to be beyond any hopes of present repair. Immense bodies of water are deluging the country, and much damage is anticipated.

## NEWS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTIES.

CARROLL.—An accident occurred in Freedom district on Monday, the 10th, which resulted in the instant death of a young man named Wm. L. Shaeffer. It appears that Mr. Shaeffer was in the employ of Mr. Geo. Patterson, and had been to Sykesville with his carriage. While on his return home the horses, from some cause not known, became frightened and ran away, breaking the top of the carriage and throwing Mr. S. out, but without doing him any serious injury. This occurred near a bend in the road, and Mr. S. ran across a field and came out into the road in front of the horses, with the intention of stopping them, but his efforts to do so were in vain, as the frightened animals ran directly over him and killed him instantly.—Alfred P. Cook, of Westminster, has been appointed route agent between Baltimore and Union Bridge.

CUMBERLAND.—A. R. Swartz of Carlisle, has recently patented a "Child's Crib."—Wm. B. Parker, Esq. has been appointed U. S. Assistant Assessor for the Carlisle district.—The Farmers' Bank has made a dividend of three per cent., and the First National seven.—George Swartz has been elected County Superintendent—salary of $1,000. D. E. Kast ran within one vote.—The South Mountain railroad will be completed before autumn, and cars will run as far as Mt. Holly by the 1st of June.—A fire broke out in Mechanicsburg, on the 12th, which proved very disastrous. The sash factory, spoke factory, and machine shops are entirely destroyed, besides 20 or 30 houses more or less burned.—A young child of Mr. J. Young Davidson, of Newville, fell, recently, and broke its collar bone. It was several days before the nature of the hurt was discovered.—The Dunkards will hold their quarterly meeting and love feast at Moehler's church, Cumberland county, commencing on Saturday and continuing over Sunday.

FRANKLIN.—Dr. Frank A. Busbey and John R. Allison, of Greencastle have received appointments in Washington, the former in the Internal Revenue Bureau, and the latter in the Post-office Department.—Robert Lindsey, an old and respected citizen of Montgomery township, died suddenly on Tuesday, 11th inst., in the 7 th year of his age.—Peter Dock, of Waynesboro', had his hand caught and partially crushed in the side gearing of one of Geiser's Separators. The injury is painful but not dangerous.—Daniel Newcomer, Sen., formerly of the vicinity of Waynesboro', recently met with a serious accident near Polo, Ill. He and his son-in-law, John Brandt, were on their way to preaching, and when within a couple of miles of Polo, they suddenly came in contact with a runaway team, the tongue of the wagon striking Mr. Brandt's horse and throwing the animal upon the buggy. Both were thrown out of the buggy and Mr. N. seriously injured by receiving a heavy blow on his right side.—The Wilson Female College, at Chambersburg, has recently received a donation of $5,000 from a gentleman of Philadelphia, a member of the Episcopal Church.—Rev. Thomas X. Orr, formerly of the Chambersburg Bar, has been installed as Pastor of the First Reformed Church, at Seventh and Spring Garden street, Philadelphia.—The Agricultural Fair will be held October 5, 6, 7, and 8.—John Marshall near Keefer's store, hung himself last Saturday. He made an attempt the previous day. Pecuniary anxiety is said to have disturbed his mind. He had procured a rope about five feet in length, that had been attached to a pair of hog tongs. The tree he selected was very small, and the branch to which he tied the rope was not over four feet from the ground. The appearance of the ground indicated that he had worked hard to effect his death, and in doing so severed the rope. He was a quiet, industrious citizen, and leaves a wife and large family to mourn his loss.—Drs. Marsden, Bowman and Lefever have been appointed delegates to the State Homœopathic Society, and Dr. Cook a delegate to the American Institute of Homœopathy, which will meet in Boston June next.—James C. Eyster and Barnet Earley, of Chambersburg, have been appointed to clerkships in the U. S. Assistant Treasurer's Department in Philadelphia.—Two fine horses were stolen from a Mrs. Shatzer in Montgomery township on the night of Sunday the 9th inst. As far as we have been able to learn they have not been recovered yet.—Another horse, stolen from Mr. Abraham Smetzer of Quincy township a few weeks ago, has not been heard of since by the owner.—It is reported that one of the robbers of Mr. Valentine, of Greencastle, near M'Connellsburg, a few weeks since, has confessed his guilt and says the money was used at the trial of Samuel Seiler, at the last session of court.—Rev. W. V. Gotwald of Dayton, Ohio, has been called to the pastorate of the First Lutheran Church, Chambersburg.—Jeremiah Cook, Thomas J. Grimeson, Daniel Keefer and Henry X. Stoner have been appointed U. S. Assistant Assessors, in place of J. L. P. Detrich, Robert Moore, Wm. A. Blair and A. H. Gordon.—Mr. Andrew Heintzleman, of the vicinity of Fayetteville, met with an accident of a painful character on Friday last. He was descending the mountain on the Gettysburg turnpike, with a heavy load of lumber drawn by six horses, and when near Mr. Ephraim D. Newman's dwelling, he attempted to draw the rubber; in the act of doing so he stepped on a rolling stone which threw his foot under the wheel and it passed over it before he could release himself. His foot was terribly crushed, but we learn that under skillful medical treatment is doing well and that fears of amputation, which were at first entertained, are now dispelled.

FREDERICK.—On the night of the 6th inst., Hezekiah Young, Wm. Early, Joseph Early and Andrew Marshall made their escape from jail. Young was re-captured on the next Saturday; the other three are still at large.—David S. Markey, John Loats, Francis Markell, Isaac Cronise, Andrew Boyd, Jas. Hergeshimer, Philip B. Kunkle and A. D. O'Leary, have been elected Directors of the Franklin Savings Bank, for the ensuing year.—George Truman is to be executed in Frederick on the 28th inst. Rev. Osborn Ingle of the Episcopal Church, Rev. Samuel Kepler of the Methodist Church South, and Father Sourin are his spiritual advisers.—The first instalment of Frederick City Corporation Bonds, amounting to $20,000, will soon be issued to the Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroad Company.—Rev. W. C. Wire has resigned as Pastor of the Burkittsville Lutheran Congregation, to devote himself to the Female Seminary.—L. Z. Doll, Esq., of Baltimore, has purchased the Richmond Flouring Mills for the sum of $10,000.—Frederick Krantz, Esq., has purchased the farm of Mrs. Elizabeth McPherson, containing 145 acres, for $76 per acre.—Richard J. Lamar, Esq., has purchased the two story brick dwelling house on South street, from Col. John Montgomery, for $1,975.—Judge John A. Lynch has purchased the brick dwelling house on West Second street, formerly the property of the late Mrs. Matilda Dorsey, for $5,100. At the same time D. J. Markey, Esq., purchased the vacant lot in the rear of the dwelling, on Third street, for $1,100. All in or near Frederick.—Hon. John L. Thomas, Jr., Collector of Customs at Baltimore, last week made three appointments from this county:—Robert G. McPherson, as Inspector, Dr. Harvey Buhrman as Storekeeper, and Stanley Young, as Clerk, at a salary of $1,400.

FULTON.—Andrew Baker, the horse-thief who was arrested in Washington, escaped from the cars near Glen Rock, while on his way to Harrisburg in charge of officer Houser, and has not been heard of.—The Democratic County Convention will meet on the 19th of June.

PERRY.—John H. Sheibley has been appointed Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue for the 13th Division of the 13th District. Perry county comprises the 13th Division.

WASHINGTON.—The new Lutheran Church at Sharpsburg will be dedicated on the 23rd inst—Mr. Josiah Beistle, of Boonsboro', had his collar bone dislocated and a bone in his left leg broken, on the 7th inst., by being thrown from a wagon, loaded with wood, whilst coming down a hill near that place.—Mr. Christian Dogenhart, one of the earliest settlers of Boonsboro', died on the 1st, in the 75th year of his age.—John Fague has been appointed a Watchman in the Baltimore Custom House, at $812.50 a year.—Rev. Wm. F. Eyster, of Greencastle has accepted the Principalship of the Hagerstown Female Seminary.—Rev. M. C. Horine, Pastor of the Lutheran congregation of Smithburg, has received a call to the First Lutheran Church in Dayton, Ohio.

YORK.—A slate quarry has been opened on the farm of John E. Ziegler, Codorus township.—William Berkheimer of North Codorus, had one of his legs broken while handling wood on the 11th.—A dime Savings Institution is in successful operation in York.—There are four Building Associations in operation in York, and all prospering.—A hail storm passed over York on Thursday of last week and did considerable damage to some of the fruit trees in the adjoining counties. In some places it fell to the depth of three or four inches and varying in size from a pea to a pigeon's egg.—John Huhn of York, aged 80, died recently, and Thomas Prowell of Fairview twp., aged 65.—The Corner Stone of the new Church of the United Brethern in Christ will be laid on Sunday the 23d, at 5½ o'clock.—Tobias Thompson has been appointed one of the Tip-Staves in the Court, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Joseph Watt.—They have a Velocipede rink in York, 101x88, the track being one-fourteenth of a mile.—An effort is in progress to change the Shrewsbury Camp to Towsontown, Md.—Professor Eberly has purchased a pair of Texan Cranes as future *habitues* of the waters in the grounds of Cottage Hill College. Some weeks ago he obtained several beautiful American Deer to ornament and adorn his grounds, and now he has added these novel and interesting water fowl.—Mr. Snyder has been appointed U. S. Assistant Assessor for the Dillsburg division, *vice* Col. Totten.

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[Communicated.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I would not encumber your valuable columns in reply to your correspondent "Improvement," if he had known any thing of what he delivered himself of in your last issue. The statement made is that he knows five or six of the same kind of Gravel Roofs put on in New Oxford.—He refers to Mr. J. S. Gitt, the well-known Engineer and a gentleman of veracity. I will give you Mr. Gitt's own statement, so that the parties whom it was the intention of "Improvement" to deceive may judge of his knowledge of Roofs or his veracity as a correspondent. Mr. J. S. Gitt states that the Gravel Roof put on for him was common Gas Tar and Gravel and without heating, whereas the Roofs put on the Lithia Hotel buildings by Mr. W. A. Ray are with cement manufactured of Gas Tar, Rosin, Arsenic, Unslacked Lime, Asphaltum and Linseed Oil, with which the Felt is thoroughly coated while hot and the gravel thoroughly dryed and heated, which forms a concrete impervious to heat or water. I leave to your readers to judge as to the truth of "Improvement's" statement that the Hotel Roof was like Mr. Gitt's.

Mr. "Improvement," I regret the building committee did not anticipate the necessity of obliging you by the er