The Huntingdon Journal.

J. R. DURBORROW, - - - - - EDITOR.

HUNTINGDON, PENN'A.

Wednesday Morning, January 4, 1871.

Republican County Committee.

The Republican County Committee will meet in the Court House, in Huntingdon, on Tuesday, the 10th of January, at 2 o'clock, P. M. A full attendance is requested, as the object of the meeting is to elect delegates to the approaching Republican State Convention, and to transact such other business as may be brought before it.

J. SYLVANUS BLAIR, Chairman.

Jan. 2, 1871.

VALEDICTORY.

A time honored custom often more honored in the breach than in the observance—would seem to demand from me a passing word in retiring from the chair editorial, by way of a parting adieu to friends and patrons, and assigning my reasons for taking leave of editorial life. For the last five years I have been connected with the *Journal & American*, part of the time as joint proprietor, but the greater portion as editor only. In that time I have fully realized that which has been more or less the experience of every one who has made a similar experiment, that the profession is a toilsome, ill-requited and thankless one, and that the position of a political editor is one in which there are more thorns than roses. It is with few regrets that I take leave of the profession in order to seek some other means of obtaining a livelihood, and some other pursuit more congenial to my taste and wishes. This step would have been taken long ago could I have done so in justice to Mr. NASH, with whom I have been associated, or have been assured that I was transferring the position which I held, into the proper hands. I have labored faithfully and assiduously, and flatter myself with some degree of success, to discharge my duty to my friends and patrons, and the party, which in my humble way I have been trying to serve, and at the same time to give to the paper that character and standing which it should possess as a county newspaper, and as the organ of a great political party; but what, for want of the proper amount of editorial talent and the necessary means has not been accomplished for the *Journal & American*, I am assured will now be done for the JOURNAL under the editorial control of Mr. DURBORROW, who brings to the position, not only the skill of a practical printer, but the experience of an able and successful editor, jointly assisted, as he will be in the publication of the same, by Mr. NASH, who as a workman, has perhaps few superiors in the State.

In reviewing my editorial history I find much that might be improved. In the heat of political excitement and controversy much has been said, which, perhaps would have been as well unsaid, and it is scarcely to be supposed that in such a position, some enemies have not been made, but I have nevertheless, at all times, sought to treat others with the courtesy due to all in our intercourse with one another, so far as consistent with the dignity of the position occupied, and to cultivate that feeling of kindness, forbearance and mutual friendship, which the good of society demands. If I have not always been successful, it has not been for want of an honest effort on my part, and if to any I have given unnecessary offense, I would embrace this opportunity of craving their pardon. I am vain enough to suppose that I have made some friends also, whom I shall be glad to remember with feelings of gratitude hereafter, and by whom I hope to be remembered.

If I have not succeeded in making any reputation for myself, I have at least, labored faithfully and with some degree of success, in making that of others, for which I have been in many instances, repaid by broken promises, ingratitude and abuse, but such, has no doubt been the experience of others, and may be regarded as a portion of the vicissitudes incidental to editorial life; and now, with malice towards none, but with good will to all, I leave the position to one more competent to fill it, hoping that a much larger measure of success may attend him and the new enterprise, than it has been my lot to share, and commending him to the public as worthy of their entire confidence and support, bid adieu for the present, and it may be forever, to the editorial profession, with every assurance that the paper will hereafter be better conducted, and in the confident hope that it will be more prosperous in every respect, as I know it will be more deserving in other hands than mine.

R. M'DIVITT.

January 4, 1871.

As already announced in a recent number of the *Journal and American*, and as will appear from this, the first issue of THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL, some changes have been made in regard to the publication of the paper and the management of the office, the most important of which are the enlargement of the paper, the purchase of new type, the addition of power presses, and a large amount of jobbing material, a partial change of ownership, and an entire change in the editorial department.

THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL, which we present to our readers to-day, is in reality but a continuation of the *Journal and American* with the addition of the good will, &c., of the *Republican*, in an enlarged form and new dress, and with a slight change of name. Mr. M'DIVITT, heretofore editorially connected with the paper, withdraws entirely, and my connection with it hereafter will be as publisher and proprietor jointly with Mr. DURBORROW, who will take charge of the editorial department. This arrangement relieves me entirely from editorial labor, and affords me an opportunity of devoting my entire time and attention to the publishing of the paper and the superintendence of the mechanical department of the office, and will no doubt be mutually beneficial.

All accounts for subscription, advertising and job work up to January 1, 1871, are due me, and I trust those indebted will make prompt payment.

As joint owner and proprietor I shall, as heretofore, be interested in all business transactions, job work, advertising, &c., while as my successor in the editorial department I am happy to introduce to my friends and patrons J. R. DURBORROW, Esq., as a gentleman possessing the ability, talent and experience necessary to render that department what it should be, trusting that the new enterprise may be as successful as we shall endeavor to render it deserving, and confidently soliciting, at the hands of our friends and the public, a liberal share of patronage and support.

J. A. NASH.

Jan. 4, 1871.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It is customary for a candidate for public favor, in presenting himself before his constituency for the first time, to lay before them his peculiar claims to public patronage, and to this custom let me bow, reverently, and briefly state what course has been marked out for the JOURNAL.

In consolidating the *Journal and American* and *Republican* the titles of the respective journals became too cumbrous, and it became necessary to discard some of them, or to adopt an entirely new heading. The latter was thought impracticable, and as it was necessary to drop one, it was thought advisable to drop all but the title of the original paper, established, in Huntingdon, in opposition to the Democratic party by the lamented BENEDICT, and thus carry the party back to the days of Union, Harmony and Victory.

The consolidated JOURNAL, under its present management, will aim to be a first-class country newspaper, devoted to Politics, Education, Agriculture, and in short all the wants of the community in which it is published. As the local paper cannot compete with the city daily for the news, the object is to make the JOURNAL a Local paper, giving, however, all news in a condensed and reliable form. And a faithful and thoroughly reliable reports of local matter alone make the country press valuable in competition with lower priced articles, re-printed from city dailies, every attention will be given to this department, and let every friend of the enterprise lend his or her assistance in making the JOURNAL unrivaled in this respect, and from this standpoint let me say that whatever may be the interest of the community at large, that interest will find the JOURNAL its humble, though perseverant, advocate.

In Politics the JOURNAL will maintain, with all the vigor that it can successfully bring into requisition, the integrity of the Republican Party and the principles enunciated in its National Platforms, and it will give a cordial support to the National and State administrations in their efforts to carry out the policy which has been inaugurated since the cessation of hostilities. It will be the organ of no faction or clique, but a high-toned, out-spoken, fearless Republican newspaper, free from personalities and abuse, dealing fairly and squarely with all men, and holding up to the public gaze corruption and rascality wherever found.

It is highly probable that within the next year or two many Reform movements will be agitated in the "Old Keystone," prominent among which will be a Convention to revise the Constitution and to adopt such improvements as the necessities, governed by the experience of the age, may suggest. In all such movements the columns of the JOURNAL will be open to both sides, and its sentiments will be governed by what may seem most practicable and likely to be advantageous to the greatest number.

In the publication of the JOURNAL, J. A. NASH, who was for many years the proprietor of the *Journal and American*, is associated with me, which is a sure guarantee that the mechanical part of the work will be done in a satisfactory manner. But it is wasting words for me, a stranger, to recommend Mr. NASH to a community that has known him from childhood.

In conclusion, let me ask the friends of the Republican Party throughout Huntingdon county to give the enterprise a cordial and united support and success will crown our efforts. I come amongst you a stranger to your local prejudices and dissentions and I wish to remain a stranger to them. Let me, therefore, pray you to assist me to do so, and I assure you that the JOURNAL will be a Republican paper devoted to the principles of the great Republican Party, knowing no faction nor clique, nothing but the best interests of our common country.

J. R. DURBORROW.

Jan. 4, 1871.

DEATH OF REV. ALBERT BARNES.

This eminent Presbyterian minister died suddenly, in Philadelphia, on Saturday, 24th inst., in the 73d year of his age. Truly (says a Philadelphia cotemporary,) a prince and a great man has fallen in Isreal. The name of Albert Barnes is more widely known throughout the world than that of any Presbyterian minister of the present age. For the last forty years the events of his ministerial life have been eminently and closely connected with the history of the Presbyterian Church in America. His written works, constituting a vast amount of religious literature, the result of labor probably without a parallel, have been, wholly or in part, published wherever the English language is spoken, and in the languages of many of the civilized and semi-civilized nations of the world. It is not designed to attempt, at this sudden announcement, a sketch of his life. His exposition of the sacred Scriptures, published in some fifteen or more volumes, are so manifestly the work of one possessing profound learning, sound judgment and rigid candor, and love of truth, that they have received from all readers, whether assenting or dissenting from his conclusions, great respect, and his demeanor through life has been so marked by frankness and gentleness, that he enjoyed the respect and reverence of all who knew him. Mr. Barnes has outlived, by a few Years, the allotted "three score and ten" in general good health and with undiminished vigor of intellect. On Saturday afternoon, while enjoying, with rather more than usual animation, a walk in West Philadelphia, he complained slightly of a difficulty in breathing; reached the house of a friend sat down and died. Thus, with a translation of soul, more rapid than that of the prophet Elijah, this venerated man has left our world, for a better and higher existence.

☞ The Legislature of Pennsylvania assembled yesterday at Harrisburg. We will publish the Governor's message next week.

SHALL WE HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

Pennsylvania is pre-eminently a conservative State. The modes of thought, manners, customs, and language of her people all indicate this. And, within its legitimate sphere of influence, there is no more admirable characteristic than Conservatism. Where a people have so much that is desirable and excellent—so much that renders them a conspicuous example of thrift, and industry, and prosperity, and good sense, the maxim, "let well enough alone," undoubtedly contains the essence of true wisdom. It is right that we should venerate our forefathers, and hold in high regard, and preserve with care, the religion, the laws, and the customs, in which we were reared. The probability is that whatever is, is right. The burden of proof should be thrown upon him who advocates a change. But whilst it is well to hold fast to that which is good, which has been tried and proved excellent, it is equally true that PROGRESS IS A GREAT LAW OF NATURE; and that kind of Conservatism which always and everywhere "clings to the skirts of Progress and cries "Wo," is lacking in an intelligent appreciation of society and its wants. Conservatism which hugs to its bosom manifest error, and adheres with stupid tenacity to a vicious system merely because it exists, or because our fathers did not see or feel its bad effects, has degenerated from wisdom to folly.

We are led to these remarks by the reluctance shown by some of our Democratic friends to the call of a Constitutional Convention. Doubtless, of all laws, the great fundamental law—the Constitution, should be the object of our especial veneration and care, and should not be subject to changes unless upon pressing necessity; but when it is plain that the provisions of the Constitution are not sufficient to prevent such an alarming evil as special legislation has grown to be, or such practices as annually attend the election of a State Treasurer, it is very evident that the time has come for reform, and it would be well to have such public agitation as will conduce to a Convention composed of the best men of all parties, who will do the work assigned to them intelligently and honestly.

We incline to the opinion that the Convention should be so constituted that each county would have at least one representative therein, and that a number of members should be elected by the State at large.

Any one who has given even a casual glance at the volumes of pamphlet laws, must have noticed the immense amount of special legislation with which they are encumbered. The number of laws enacted within the last five years is 7566, of which 340 are public, and 7126 private acts; or about twenty-one times as much private as public legislation. The annual volume averages about 1500 pages. And the character of this legislation is such that most of it could be rendered unnecessary by comprehensive general laws. But such is the pressure for private legislation, and the carelessness and inattention to the public welfare which prevails, that unless some constitutional provision compels the passage of general laws, the present vicious system will continue and grow worse, if, indeed, that is possible.

We hope the Governor will recommend in his forthcoming message a constitutional Convention, and that the measure will receive the careful consideration and just support of good men of all parties. Thirty-two years have rolled away since the last constitutional Convention, and have brought to us a vast increase of our population and wealth, and an immense accumulation of the objects of corporate action. Meantime we have had a great rebellion and civil war, and the blot of human slavery has been effaced from our National Constitution, and suffrage has been made universal. Let us have a Constitutional Convention of our best men to bring us up abreast of the car of progress, and to remedy the manifest evils with which our legislation is oppressed.

THE DEMOLITION OF PARIS.

The Prussians contemplated opening their siege guns upon Paris, on last Sunday, the first day of the year, and the finest capital in the world is to be destroyed to gratify man's "proud ambition." Why is it thus? Why must this splendid city, the master work of ages, be pelted to the ground? Why must the besom of destruction continue to sweep over France? Ages has she been in the front rank of civilization, and yet to gratify the vengeance and ambition of a few men, the works of a thousand years are to be destroyed, without scarcely a protest on the part of those who have long been her friends and allies. Is it possible that the civilized world has no interest in maintaining the French nationality? Has it no antipathy to the dismemberment of a nation simply to gratify ambition? It looks as if King William had carried us back to the Middle Ages, when wars were only wars of conquest and subjugation. Civilization appears to be retrograding.

In the outset of the contest, all our sympathies were with Prussia, but Sedan settled the question between the King of Prussia and the Emperor of France, and we regard King William's effort at conquest as brutal. There is nothing between the combatants but Alsace and Loraine, and until the French agree to cede those provinces, tens of thousands of men must bite the dust, and general desolation must be carried throughout France. We had hoped that the civilized world would resist wars carried on for mere conquest, but it seems as if the age of chivalry had entirely disappeared also, and the victorious bully can kill as many men, women and children as are necessary to accomplish his purpose.

☞ Hon. Edward McPherson, Clerk of the National House of Representatives, has selected the JOURNAL as one of the five papers, in Pennsylvania, to publish the General Laws passed during the present session of Congress. We here thank our friend publicly for this recognition of our paper, and hope to have an opportunity to do so personally ere long.

☞ Hon. Daniel J. Morrell will accept our thanks for a volume of "Reports." We have loaned it to a lawyer in town and, like Oliver Twist, he demands "more."

☞ We congratulate our friend D. S. Elliott, editor of the Bloody Run *Press*, on snug quarters, at Harrisburg, during the Session of the Legislature.

THE NEW PARTY IN CONGRESS.

Much has been said in regard to a coalition between certain gentlemen elected on the Republican ticket to the next Congress, as "Revenue Reformers," and the Democrats, and the country has been asked by the Democratic press to believe that such a coalition would certainly be attempted, and that the organization of the next House, would, quite probably, be made in the interest of this coalition. "Revenue Reformer" is only another name for Free Trader. Little attention has been paid to the matter for the last few weeks, but on the 22d ult., a correspondent of the New York *World*, telegraphed the following from Washington:

"The authority of a prominent Western Democrat is given for the statement that Democrats and Revenue Reform or Independent Republicans are likely to unite to secure the organization of the House in the XLIId Congress. He further says that objections which have heretofore been urged against this coalition have to a great extent been met and obviated, so that the movement now possesses every element of prospective success."

On this the New York *Tribune* comments as follows:

"This rather startling announcement impels us to recur to the *Free Trader* for this month, which has a list of the members elect to the next House, classified as they are expected by the importing interest to divide on the tariff question. The Republicans who are claimed by it as "Revenue Reformers" are as follows:

Charles Hays, Alabama.	D. P. Lowe, Kansas.
John A. Logan, Illinois.	*J. G. Blaine*, Maine.
Chas. B. Farwell, "	*Ginery Twitchell*, Mass.
J. F. Farnsworth, "	Henry Walden, Michigan.
H. C. Burchard, "	Wm. L. Stoughton, "
John B. Hawley, "	*John T. Averill*, Minn.
Burton C. Cook, "	*G. A. Finkelnburg, Missouri
Jesse H. Moore, "	*I. C. Parker, "
John B. Hay, "	*James G. Blair, "
J. M. Wilson, Indiana.	*C. St. John*, New York.
John Coburn, "	*Jno. H. Ketcham* "
James H. Tyner, "	Milo Goodrich, "
J. P. C. Shanks, "	Freeman Clark, "
Wm. Williams, "	A. F. Perry, Ohio.
Jasper Packard, "	J. E. Stevenson, "
G. W. M'Crary, Iowa.	S. Shellabarger, "
A. R. Colton, "	John Beatty, "
W. G. Dorman, "	James Munroe, "
M. M. Walden, "	W. P. Sprague "
Frank W. Palmer, "	J. A. Garfield, "
Jackson Orr, "	W. H. H. Stowell, Virginia.
G. W. Hazleton, Wisconsin.	

*Bolters.

We have placed in Italics the names of those with regard to whom the claim of *The Free Trader* seems to us especially preposterous. We judge the starring Speaker Blaine as a "Revenue Reformer," is a blunder; yet the claim as to several others is scarcely less absurd. We do not believe that ten of the entire forty-three would favor the election of any Speaker mainly by Democratic votes, unless that Speaker were himself.

But the fact that these gentlemen are paraded in *The Free Trader* as of the cabal which is expected to triumph over the Republican organization in the next choice of Speaker imposes on them a public duty. Messrs. Logan, Farnsworth, Garfield, Ketcham, Stevenson, &c., do you severally propose to vote for a Speaker of the next House who is supported as a "Revenue Reformer" in opposition to the regular Republican candidate? Your Republican constituents would like to know; and it seems to us your plain duty to let them know. You were chosen as Republicans, by the votes of Republicans, regardless of economic differences. Which of you, if any, intend to vote with the great body of the Democrats to organize the House as to them shall seem good? Which of you have had your objections to what the *World* terms "*this coalition*" removed? Should not those of you who are members of the present House unite in a card which set forth the exact position of each of you on this important question?

These questions are sound and pertinent and should be heeded by those to whom they are addressed. The Republican party (says the Pittsburgh *Gazette*,) will prosper much better without any of those 'bolters' than they can without the party. Every one of them owes what they are to the party, and the sooner these gentlemen, who are always on the lookout for something new, whereby they may ride into power, are thrown overboard, the better.

☞ It is with sadness that we announce the severe illness of his Honor, Judge King, of the XVIth Judicial district.—The symptoms are said to be an enlargement of the liver. The Judge has been afflicted for over a month but he has only been confined to his chamber for the last two weeks. He is under the treatment of Dr. Wm. Watson and his brother Dr. Jas. King, of Pittsburgh. We pray that he may speedily recover—the country could ill afford to lose the services, even for a short time, of so good and upright a Judge as he is.

SETTLE UP.

All persons indebted to me for subscription, advertising or job work up to Jan. 1, 1871, are requested to settle up immediately. Those who pay up before the first day of February next will be charged only $2 a year for the paper. Those who fail to do so will be charged *three dollars* and their accounts collected by law. My books *must* be settled up.

J. A. NASH.

Jan. 4, 1871.–tf.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 31, 1870.

Editor of Huntingdon Journal:—One who has had some experience in the field editorial, and who has some knowledge of the difficulties to be encountered in the first presentation of a newspaper for public approval, begs leave to introduce himself to you and your readers, as an humble correspondent from the Capital of the Nation.

It is a fact not to be disguised that, in many instances, the originator of an enterprise does not receive the kind consideration he merits. At the very time when a word of encouragement would be decisive in favor of his adventure, he is the recipient of the severest criticism. If, however, he succeed in his undertaking and gain a firm position he may, with impunity, follow in the line of his convictions. In the one case he labors for reputation, and, in the other, he trades upon that already acquired. The one is a path of thorns. The other is a bed of roses. The latter is the compensation for the sufferings to be endured in reaching it.

These truisms are applicable to your case as the Editor of the *new* HUNTINGDON JOURNAL. The field you have chosen, in which to labor for the advancement of knowledge and the proper understanding of the truth, is a wide one. You may, in the outset, be discouraged by the censoriousness of the over-exacting, or the lukewarmness of those who are to be benefitted by your efforts. In the end, however, you will have your reward. Obstacles will be overcome by perseverance, appreciation will follow honest purpose, and enmity and jealousy will be forced to the background by a steady adherence to principle. No doubt these are your purposes, and there is just as little doubt that your enterprise will be a success. So much by way of exordium.

During the brief recess of Congress, Washington society is absorbed in the festivities which characterize the annual return of Christmas and the birth of a New Year. Your correspondent is "not at home" in descriptions of routs and revelries, assemblies and receptions, fashionable dress and exquisite jewelry, or indeed in any thing by which the *elite* are known in contradistinction to the sturdy yeomanry of the land. Then, you will not expect a very lengthy letter at this time. Hereafter, when each day's proceedings of Congress—the discussions in the Senate and House of Representatives—will supply matter in abundance, you may expect a weekly communication of some small interest to the readers of the JOURNAL.

On the reassembling of Congress, several very important and exciting measures will be discussed, and, upon which, final action may be taken. These to which the President, in his annual message, directed the attention of Congress, are of the greatest moment. The preliminary investigation looking to the annexation of Dominica, the Canadian interference with our fishermen, and the obstructions to the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, the claims for indemnity for the Alabama spoliations, the suggested legislation for the restoration of our commerce, the proposed revision of the tariff and internal revenue laws, the one thousand and one financial projects which have been and will be offered, and the granting of amnesty to those who were recently engaged in rebellion against the Government, are a *few* of the questions of a public character which will engage the attention of the 41st Congress, during the remaining two months of its existence. To these may be added the many suggested laws classed as *private*. It will thus be seen that Congress must either be industrious, or leave much legislation in an unperfected condition.

Of all the questions that will be agitated in this or the next Congress, no one is of so vital importance to Pennsylvania as a State, and particularly to that portion of it embraced within the 17th Congressional District, as is that of "Protection to American manufactures and the fostering of Home Industry." Your representative, Hon. D. J. Morrell, has, for the last four years, been unfaultering and untiring in his efforts to secure legislation favorable to the development of the resources of his State. When he shall have retired from the public service, then and not until then, will his constituents appreciate the full value of what he has accomplished while in Congress, and what they have lost by his, or rather by their own defeat. It is fortunate even for those who were instrumental in bringing about the overthrow of the Republican party in your District, that they have Senators who are true to the great principles of Protection. If it were not for this, the industrial interests of Pennsylvania would be in no little jeopardy. But the friends of home industry hope for the best results. Should, however, the much talked-of union of Democrats and Revenue Reformers in the 42d Congress give the organization of the House to either, the responsibility of those Republicans, claiming to be Protectionists while voting against their party, will be a fearful one. Enough for the present. With your kind permission, the readers of the JOURNAL shall hear from me again.

KEYSTONE.

"DOES PROTECTION PROTECT?"

Asks a British free-trade revenue reform editor in the West, who has recently tried his best to break up the Republican party, and he attempts to decide the question in the negative in a dry and ponderous volume of strangely drawn inferences from manipulated statistics. A briefer, better, and more conclusive answer may be had from disinterested witnesses. Messrs. Wentworth & Co., of Boston, who have just published a most extensive and valuable "*Hardware and Metal Trade Directory*" of the entire country, in which no allusion whatsoever is made to tariffs, protection, free-trade, or revenue reform. In the preface, in briefly sketching the history and condition of these industries, they say:

"Of the present extent and recent progress of this great interest, there are no statistics to be had, nor will there be until the publication of the results of the census now taking. There is no use of referring to the census of 1860, for the trade has been revolutionized since then, and its figures are worthless as any indication of its present state."

That will do! Such unconscious testimony to the beneficent effects of nine years of protection, taken in connection with Mr. David A. Wells' recent after-dinner admissions in New York in regard to one branch—that of table cutlery—may be accepted as evidence conclusive that protection *does* protect, and that *right well*. The actual results here indicated are worth reams of interested Sheffield and Staffordshire "revenue reform" gabble, which is neither more nor less than an attempt to throw dust in our eyes preparatory to picking our pockets. Then push on the column of the American Industrial Grand Army, that we may see other and greater peaceful "revolutions" in the future, and thereby so completely clinch the argument that no public man dare everat attempt to reopen it!—*Phila. Press.*

Governor Geary has issued his official proclamation announcing the cancellation in the year ending with November 30, 1870, of one million six hundred and two thousand three hundred and twenty-one dollars and thirty-one cents, made up as follows:

Five per cent. loan redeemed....	$1,355,906 31
Six per cent. loan redeemed.....	246,400 00
Relief notes cancelled.....	15 00
	$1,602,321 21

In State as well as National administration of finances by the Republicans economy and retrenchment are having their legitimate effect, and every month and year witnesses a reduction.

The census in the three Middle States gives the following result:

	1870.	1860.	*Gain.*
New York.....	4,378,846	3,880,727	490,119
Pennsylvania...	3,511,543	2,906,215	605,327
New Jersey.....	940,000	672,035	267,965
	8,822,389	7,458,977	1,363,412

Pennsylvania gains in population more heavily than any State except Illinois, which has an increase of 828,265 since 1860. Pennsylvania comes next, 605,328, followed by Missouri, 521,000, Iowa 502,602, and New York 490,119.

The great De Aaro land case, involving the title to a large part of Protrero Nueyo, San Francisco, is now on trial. Over a thousand defendants and twenty-seven lawyers appear in the case.

GREAT FIRE AT MIFFLIN, PA.

SIXTY-ONE BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

Loss Upwards of $200,000--Pennsylvania Central Railroad's Promptitude--Our Firemen Sent to the Rescue.

The most destructive fire that has ever visited Central Pennsylvania occurred on Saturday night, December 31, in the town of Mifflin, Juniata county. About half-past seven o'clock in the evening, the flames were first discovered in the building known as the "Crystal Palace," on the corner of Bridge and Water streets, and before any aid could be rendered for the extinguishment of the "Crystal Palace," the fire communicated to the adjoining buildings on the south side of Bridge street, and with the exception of three dwelling houses, consumed the entire southern portion of the town, consisting of thirty-one dwellings, stores, and offices.

In a short time after the fire broke out it was evident the conflagration would be disastrous. The only fire apparatus in the town was an ancient fire hand engine, which when attempted to be used proved an entire failure. Seing the dire condition of affairs the authorities telegraphed to the officers of the Pennsylvania railroad company for aid. This request was promptly complied with. The first assistance of the railroad company was the sending of the Hope fire company of Lewistown, distance twelve miles from Mifflin, to the scene of the conflagration. This fire company had an Agnew hand engine, and a hose carriage with several hundred feet of hose, but when it arrived at the fire it was found to be entirely useless, on account of not being able to draw its own water. The fire every minute was gaining terrible headway and threatened the destruction of the entire town. The fire department of this city was telegraphed to, and they cheerfully responded that anything in their power would be rendered to stay the destruction of the devouring element. The whole southern part of the town, from the south side of Bridge street to Lost Creek, except the residence of Mr. Parker, and three other buildings at the upper end of that street, were completely destroyed.

THE BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

The building known as the Crystal Palace was a four-story structure, situated on the corner of Bridge and Water streets, and immediately on the banks of the canal. The first floor was occupied by Sellars & Sulouff, dealers in dry goods, hardware, paints, &c. They had in store a very large stock of oils and other inflammable matter. The second floor, which was on a level with the rising street, was occupied by Graybill & Shelby, with dry goods and notions. They had a very large stock of goods, amounting to at least $40.000. They lost everything. Adjoining, in the same building, was the hardware firm of Wearam & Co., with a very extensive stock of goods in their line. Everything in their store was totally destroyed, amounting to several thousand dollars. The third story was occupied by Iroquois Tribe No. 42, I. O. R. M.; Lost Creek Lodge of Odd Fellows, and Patterson Council of U. O. A. M. The Patterson Council were in session when the fire broke out, and were compelled to leave their room so suddenly that they did not even save their records or anything belonging to the council. The Lost Creek Lodge of Odd Fellows lost everything, save their books and records. Iroquois Tribe of Red Men had one of the finest collections of rare and wild stuffed animals and birds in the country, all of which were totally destroyed by the fire. The fourth story of the building was occupied by Union lodge, A. Y. M. They had a valuable library of books, which, with all their furniture and regalia, was totally destroyed. Mr. Hollobaugh, a prominent member of the Order, attempted to save some of their valuable property, but the progress of the flames was so great as to almost suffocate him. He was overcome by the heat in his efforts to rescue the property, and was only rescued by parties who came to his relief.

The Odd Fellows' hall, a very fine brick building a few doors above the Crystal Palace, was occupied on the first and second floors by Mr. Tilton Espanschade as a dry goods store. His store was filled with a large stock of goods and his loss is almost total. The third story of this building was occupied by Mifflintown lodge, I. O. O. F. The lodge owned the building and lost everything belonging to them in it. Adjoining this hall was the billiard saloon and restaurant of John Hallabaugh, occupying the basement and floor above. His billiard tables and other valuables were totally destroyed. The printing office building of Messrs. Bonsall & Jackman, of the *Democrat and Register*, was totally destroyed. They saved a few of their locked-up forms and a lot of tied-up type. Their books and files were also saved. An old Washington hand press, used for years in the old *Keystone* office in this city, worked many a day and night by our humble self, was destroyed in the flames. In our walk through the ruins we met the relic of this old press, and sadly and regretfully did we view the remnants of the old "bar" and "rounce" that many days ago "rolled in" so nicely and came back again with the touch of our youthful fingers. The ruins of "that old press" revived within us the haleyon days of yore, and amid all the destruction around brought back to our memory the trials and vicissitudes of the noble myters who years ago "pulled the bar" in this city. We can only hope, with all their loss, that the *Democrat and Register* will rise, Phœnix like, and spread its effulgent rays with a brilliancy that no conflagration can extinguish. Both the proprietors of this paper were burned out of their private residences Mr. Bonsall had his furniture insured in the Perry County Mutual, but Mr. Jackman had no insurance on his household goods. They were lucky enough to have $2,000 insurance in the Perry County Mutual on their office.

The Union hotel, Simon Albright, proprietor, was totally consumed. It stood on the corner of Bridge and Main streets. Opposite it was the Mifflin bank building, a three story brick structure, and to prevent its taking fire the efforts of the people were directed. Through great exertion it was saved, and consequently the northern end of town was saved, as it was acknowledged if this portion would have taken fire there would have been slim hopes of preventing the balance of the town from being deetroyed.

Among the private residences burned were that of Mr. E. S. Doty, lawyer; S. E. Parker, cashier of Doty, Parker & Co.'s bank; Robert C. Galliger, occupying the late residence of John J. Patterson, esq.; John J. Wright, J. D. Stambaugh, Noah Elder and Sheriff Detrick. These properties were fine private buildings, and with the exception of the most valuable moveables all were destroyed.

INSURANCE, ETC.

The property destroyed is estimated at $200,000, which is distributed among the following companies: Perry county mutual, the Jonestown mutual (Lebanon county,) the Columbia mutual and a few eastern companies. There were thirty-one dwelling houses, including stores and offices consumed. Of the stables and other out-buildings there were twenty-eight or thirty, which makes the entire number consumed sixty-one. The insurance on property was confined principally to the business houses and well-to-do private residences. Quite a number of poor people had no insurance and consequently lost their all.

At least one-third of Mifflin was destroyed, and constituted the principal business and private residence portion of the town. At least thirty families lost all but the few valuables they could gather and take a way in a few minutes; and double that number carried all their household goods they could gather to a place of appearant safety.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

General News Summary.

It is stated that the Belgian civic guard will be recognized as mobile gardes.

At the next general election there are to be elected an Auditor General and a Surveyor General.

A child was killed at Alden, Iowa, recently by inhaling the steam from the spout of a boiling kettle.

A baby in Dubuque, Iowa, was treated two weeks for trichina, when it turned out that it had swallowed a hair pin.

On Monday morning, in New Port, R. I., Mrs. Agatha B. Myer, who had shown symptoms of insanity, committed sucide by drowning.

The First Bank of Cheyenne has been organized with a capital of $100,000, and A. R. Converse elected as president, and H. J. Rogers, cashier.

A few days ago in the United States Distriet Court Judge Cadwalader decided that the Congressional Election Law is unconstitutional.

Prince Napoleon recently paid a visit to General Charngarnier. His proposition to the French crown were immediately rejected.

It is said that Gambetta has announced to Rome his desire that France terminate the concordat in order to effect the entire separation of Church and state in France.

The latest lecturer in the field is John H. Surratt, who is raising a little cash in Maryland villages by telling about President Lincoln's assassination.

Up to the twenty-third day of December, 208,683 emigrants had arrived at New York City. This is nearly 50,000 less than during the same months of 1869.

The population of New Jersey is, according to official data, 895,672. The census of 1860 show the population of the State to be 672,035. The little out of the world bailiwick across the river has increased considerably in population.

Governor Palmer, of Illinois, refuses to appoint Miss Annie L. Caldwell a justice of the peace and notary public, upon the ground that in that State custom has become a law, wherby women are rendered ineligible to office.

Just sixty-eight years ago, Mary Edwards started a female prayer meeting in a private house in Binghampton, N. Y., and continued it regularly for fifty years; and in so doing, founded the second largest society of Presbyterians now in the United States.

In Manitoba, Governor Archibald receives $7,000, gold, a year for governing 12,000 half-breeds men, women and papooses all told. He has a chief justice, secretary, treasurer, attorney general (a Tombs lawyer from Montreal,) and several other cabinet officers.

The threatened war over the Black Sea trouble is about at an end. There will be no bloodshed, but probably a conference of the contracting parties will be held, and a little risk spilled, fixing up things.

The Des Moines Valley Rrailroad has been opened to Fort Dodge, and trains are now running regularly. The formal opening excursion has been temporarily postponed on account of the weather.

On Monday at Spring Valley, near Morristown, N. J., two little children of Mr. Benjamin Maines were torn fearfully by a mad dog. A horse and some sheep and cattle were also bitten.

Some of the largest manufacturers in Cincinnatti have found an effectual remedy against drunken Sunday's and blue Monday's, by having Monday instead of Saturday for pay-day. It is strange so simple a remedy was not before thought of.

It is said that the government at Paris will send Theirs as representative to the London conference. Report also says the French Government has requested the English Government to obtain egress from Paris for its plenipotentiary to the approaching conference.

The way Erie pays its lawyers was brought out in court the other day. Mr. Eaton, from January to August, 1868, received $10.70 less than $40,000. Mr. John K. Porter, $23,000. Messrs. Field & Shearman received for the whole year $36,386.

Gen. Gideon Pillow has come to grief. The United States Court, at Memphis, has given a decision against the rebel General, and in favor of a Pittsburg firm, for coal seized by him at the beginning of the war. The damages awarded in favor of the plaintiffs, is $40,000.

The Supreme Court of New Hampshire has rendered a decision, which denies the authority of Police Courts to naturalize aliens under the United States laws, and renders void all the naturalizations made by these courts.

The next Republican Gubernatorial nomination is being talked about, and the names of Gens. Hartranft and White, and Congressman Packer, of the Dauphin district, and Hon. W. W. Ketchem, of Luzerne, are mentioned.

Whenever Count Von Moltke has been in Berlin he has for years been in the habit to take dinner at the St. Petersburg Hotel. Since he has left for the seat of war in France his chair, which has been crowned with a laurel wreath, has been left unoccupied at the accustomed place at the dinner table, as though the distinguished guest was expected to appear at any moment.

It is reported in Washington that the family of Robert E. Lee were much mortified at the gratuitious effort of Senator McCreary to have the Arlington estate restored to them. They declare that they did not authorize the attempt, and have not entertained the idea of recovering the property.

Hon. John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, formerly a distinguished anti-slavery Senator from that State, and an anti-slavery candidate for President at one time, but more recently our Minister to Spain, has recently been stricken down with paralysis, and now only walks with the greatest difficulty.

The board of managers appointed to conduct the Impeachment of Governor Holden have formerly submitted the articles of Impeachment. After they were presented, the President of the Senate vacated his chair and took charge of the Executive Office. The trial will not commence until the Cheif Justice arrives.

The funeral of Obadiah Davis, a colored man, formerly living in Camden, N. J., was attended on Saturday by a large concourse of citizens. The funeral was one of the largest that ever took place in that city. The Masonic and Odd Fellow Lodges of Camden and adjoining towns turned out in regalia. Deceased was the first colored delegate ever admitted to a political convention in Camden, and was highly respected by both white and colored citizens.

In the Italian Parliament it is proposed that the capital shall not be transferred to Rome till April 1, 1871. This delay seems to us a mistake. Timidity in an enterprise once begun is the greatest of dangers. If Victor Emanuel wants Rome for his capital, he should go there at once. Kings might profit by the proverb that "when a man gives you a cow, put your halter on it at once."

The Pennsylvanians in Des Moines Iowa, have in honor of their State, formed an Association called the Keystone Club. The club is formed after the manner of the New England Societies, found in almost every city of the country, and is designed to keep alive the memory of its members' former homes. It recently gave a banquet at Des Moines, which was a well attended and most pleasant affair.

The Philadelphia papers contain a report in reference to the conference of officers of the Camden and Amboy, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Railroads, recently held in that city. It is stated that the two former companies have leased all their property to the Pennsylvania Company for a guaranteed dividend of ten per cent of the capital stock. The property transferred valued at $40,000,000.

Gov. Geary issued his warrant for the execution of John Hanlon, recently convicted in the Philadelphia Oyer and Terminer of the murder of the child Mary Mohrman, whose tragic fate is familiar to all our readers. Wednesday, the 1st of February, is the day fixed upon for his execution, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. When the warrant was read to Hanlon by the sheriff, he appeared perfectly indifferent about it, said he was prepared for death, and only asked that his wife might be permitted to visit him daily.

CAUCUS NOMINATIONS.

The two parties having made their nominations for officers of the Senate and House, there is nothing more to be done than to elect and organize and go to work on the business of the session.

In the Senatorial caucus the Republicans nominated for Speaker, Gen. Harry White; for Chief Clerk, Geo. W. Hamersley; for Assistant Clerks, L. Rogers and E. Cowan. The Democrats in caucus nominated for Speaker, Wm. A. Wallace; for Clerk, Jacob Ziegler; for Assistant Clerks, Wm. P. Furey and F. A. Sloan.

We need only say of the Republican nominees that they are all tried men and true, who have rendered creditable service to the State, in the capacities in which they have respectfully served, and whose defeat—if that should happen—would be more of a loss to the Senate than to themselves.

We have little or no personal kn