

Our Railroad Prospects.

The Act of Assembly incorporating the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek & Buffalo Railway Company was approved Feb. 17, 1870. It required work to be commenced within three years, to wit, before the 17th of the present month. There is not much doubt that work was commenced in May last within the meaning of the Act, by the organization of two corps of engineers and their subsequent active operations in locating the route of the road, and by the labors of three attorneys for several months in procuring the right of way in Tioga, Potter and McKean counties. But this was a matter of too much importance to leave an open question in any possible contingency. Application was therefore made to the present Legislature for a supplementary act extending the time when work must be commenced on the Road.

The influence of Senator Strang, which is always promptly and effectively exerted in favor of every interest of our County, aided by our townsman, ex-Senator Olmsted, and assisted by Representatives Jones and Mitchell, secured the prompt passage of the Act, and we have now the pleasure of assuring our readers that Pine Creek is out of danger.

Mr. Ross, the untiring President of the Road, is now in Philadelphia, reorganizing his forces with success.

We cannot, in a newspaper article, explain the difficulties he has had to encounter nor the changes which have taken place in the interests and purposes of the men who agreed to furnish all the money required to construct and equip our Road. Suffice it to say, that the revolutions and combinations in the management of the Erie Railway caused so much delay in furnishing funds that Mr. Ross felt constrained to make other arrangements for the construction of the Road.

These are nearly completed, and there is little doubt that early in the spring active work in grading will commence. To enable him to complete the negotiations now pending he is obliged to take up the original plan of securing land subscriptions to the stock of the Road. He has already secured twenty thousand acres.

This Road is conceded to be an important link in our chain of improvements by all railroad men who have given even a casual glance at the subject. It is the shortest and best route from Philadelphia to Lake Erie. It is going to be built. Coudersport, within two years from to-day, will be situated on a leading railroad from the seaboard to the Lakes. Patience, friends, and no more doubts about the fidelity of the men who have been are now working for this grand enterprise. Messrs. Strang and Olmsted, from the day the project first took shape in a bill for the incorporation of the Company down to the present, have done all that was possible for any two men to do under the circumstances. And Mr. Ross, since he became connected with it, has left nothing undone that his active brain could suggest for the furtherance of the prospects of the Road.

We rejoice in the confident belief that their efforts are to be crowned with success.

CONSTITUTION HALL,
Philadelphia, Feb. 4, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: The Convention is making very slow progress, and unless more common sense shall be instilled into the minds of the Delegates it will be in session for a year to come. Up to this date only two Sections have been passed finally—those fixing the time of holding the general and municipal elections. The latter subject needed no fixing, and the time spent over it was worse than wasted.

Only two of the twenty-seven standing committees have made reports, and only one (that on the Legislature) has made a full report.

In committee and in Convention as much time is occupied in discussing matters of doubtful propriety as those of vital importance. A large number of the Delegates seem to think they are called upon to extirpate every evil under the sun, chiefest of which is the Legislature of the State. If they could have their way the Constitution would be made into a code of laws as big as the Bible and the Legislature would be abolished. And these are the Delegates that are wasting time and bringing the Convention into bad odor with the people. The newspaper press of the city has as a general thing encouraged the

utopian ideas of the most impractical of the Delegates—so far as I have noticed the *North American* is the sole exception. But even that paper, which speaks so well upon nearly every subject discussed in its columns, seems inclined to let the Convention make itself ridiculous over foolish and impracticable propositions without let or hindrance, for it has only criticised the action of the Delegates in two articles. The wisdom and pertinency of these were so able and satisfactory that it made one wish for much more of the same. In one of these articles the writer hit the very kernel of the duty of the Convention. I write in haste from memory, but the idea was this: The present Constitution has worked, in the main, so well that a very few changes in it will accomplish all that is expected or desired by the people.

If the *North American* will enforce this idea by frequent articles, I am sure it will do great service to the State and help to restore to the Convention the rule of common sense.

The inauguration of a new Governor, his address and appointments are attracting so much attention that you will pardon me, I am sure, for turning my attention and yours for a few moments to that subject.

The inaugural address of Governor Hartraut gives entire satisfaction to all his friends, so far as your correspondent has heard an expression. The same may be said of his appointments, with one important exception—that of Secretary of State. The general feeling as to that appointment is one of regret.

Mr. Quay is admitted to be a man of sufficient ability to discharge all the duties of the position to which he has been called, but the better class of Republicans look upon him as a smart politician rather than as an able and upright statesman, and our new Governor has undoubtedly disappointed a large number of his warmest supporters.

The West Chester *American Republican*, in the following notice of the Governor's cabinet, undoubtedly speaks the sentiments of the great mass of unselfish Republicans:

We have no hesitancy in saying that, with a single exception, the Cabinet we believe to be a good one. That exception, we regret, is the most important office in the gift of the Governor—the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The appointment of the individual named had been foreshadowed in political circles for several weeks previous, and we know of a number of the best and most influential members of the Republican party who, both by word and by letter, earnestly protested to General Hartraut against it. But they were without avail. It was a part of the programme of the men who controlled and directed the Nominating Convention, and had to be consummated. We regret, both for the reputation of the Governor-elect and the future welfare of the Republican party, that it was so. It would have been much more pleasant had we been able to commend rather than this condemn. But we have resolved to begin with this administration as we intend to end with it. In common with other journalists we gave notice weeks in advance of what was expected of it by the public, and that the responsibility of the appointments—whether good or bad—should be placed where it properly belonged—upon the appointing power. We referred particularly to the importance of the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth, owing to the official voice that officer has in controlling and managing the public monies in the hands of the Treasurer. The charges that had been urged against the Governor during the canvass, of participating in the profits arising from the purchase of securities for the Sinking Fund, rendered it absolutely necessary, in vindication of his own reputation, as well as sustaining the character of the party whose chosen leader he is, that he should select some one of unimpeachable reputation to fill that office. If he has failed in this it is no fault of ours. It is not necessary that we should particularize our objections. Those who will make reasonable inquiry can easily satisfy themselves whether what we have here said was warrantable or not under existing circumstances.

We publish this week an article from the *Literary Journal*, a paper read monthly in the literary meetings in this place. The writer thinks the liquor law of Illinois, better than our own, and it does appear so; but we are very glad and thankful for this Local Option lift and trust the good it will bring to us may be thoroughly tried. It is well that various methods should be tested, and the State that is most successful in overcoming intemperance, will, in time, be followed by all her sisters.

"Be ye also Ready!"

Another startling sudden death, of which there are so many lately, that of Gov. Geary, is brought to us by the papers. He had, happily, reached home, after a short absence, so that there

was to his family the sad comfort of being with him at the last.

For us all there is the repeated warning, "Be ye also ready," not only with regard to ourselves, but with careful thought of the words and acts that affect others.

Which of us would wish to leave a severe judgment or a bitter expression towards any one that still treads the steps of his pilgrimage, that may make his way harder when we are gone. We would leave a deed of kindness neglected if he knew that the neglect could never be repaired. Above all, who could leave a jeer or a taunt, or even an impatient harsh word, as a last legacy to a loving little child, that it will remember with tears that one can never wipe away, a pain no one can ever more try to soothe.

There are so many stones that must hurt and thorns that must pierce the tender little feet, all unaccustomed as yet, to the toilsome road, that it is a strange cruelty to lay on the little ones the burden of a needless hard word. And yet who of us does not do so sometimes in a way we shall repent when it is too late.

"Be ye also ready" with humble, trusting love to the Father, that calls each of us at the right time, and patient, tender, gentle kindness toward His children.

FOR THE JOURNAL AND ITEM.

Neighboring Items.

In the little village of Coudersport there are three Sunday schools—perhaps more, and there are probably gathered within the influence of these more advantages of learning, more information with regard to methods of teaching, possibly more ideas about Sunday school work than would be brought out if the three were united in one. One can hardly imagine that there is more love and charity inculcated, but perhaps as much. So far as appears there is unity in seeking the best good of the children and community, and I do not doubt that all is well done.

But in one little evening gatherings of teachers and others interested to study the lessons, to compare views and ideas upon it, and bring out what light can be found on the subject in hand, it is often said, "In the other school they have such and such books, notes or papers on the lesson. If we could only meet together we could all have the benefit of all we have, and of each other's ideas as well." And every week some one expresses a wish that these teacher's meetings might be held together.

I do not know whether there are any objections to such a united meeting, nor whether it would be pleasant to all. But I have heard members of the three schools express themselves in favor of it.

The Presbyterian minister preached in the M. E. Church last Sunday. Many of us like to go to the Baptist meeting and hear a neighbor preach or read a sermon.

The counties around us are holding Sunday School Teachers' Institutes and Conventions—occasions of great interest, and, one would think, of great use. We wish something of this kind could be held in Potter county—certainly we have great need.

The intellectual providing for this winter has been rather slender. The Library association has a "Committee on Lectures," but whatever it has produced, thus far, must have been certain lectures. They have not been heard outside.

The literary meetings of the Library Association have been mostly spirited and interesting, but not near so much so as they would be if more largely attended. Perhaps a better attendance would be secured by greater variety in the exercises.

The critic (or cricket) that added so much to the interest and benefit of the meetings last winter has been entirely silent this season. I hope it will revive. LISTENER.

IN THE January number of *Harper's Magazine*, is an article entitled, "where is the child?" a Christmas vision by one called the "Dreamer," who is also a "Worker, with the force and industry of a machine, but with the Divine, unfeeling impulse of a heart as warm and true and trustful as a child's. She is not ignorant of guilt, but she is guiltless." "She has lived, not long, but she has made no waste of life, and so life has laid its crown at her feet."

"To the dreamer who can work, to the worker who can dream, life surrenders all things."

The Dreamer passes, on Christmas Eve through streets and churches, from the abodes of luxury and pride to those of want and misery, "pass-

ing whither she would, for no person hindered her, nor gate, nor door nor wall impeded her." She visits the poor and the rich, the guilty with low voices and despairing of God or of any good, the guilty with callous hearts in selfish ease, who "know that misery is and that it need not be, and no pulse quickens to the awful knowledge or urges to the loving opportunity."

The Dreamer, goes to the factories where little children live and toil through the sweet hours that should be theirs to play and learn and grow in. And "pausing at the cathedral doors the Dreamer hears the preacher saying: "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel to every creature and the people hearing send ostentatious largess beyond seas never heeding that the world begins at their feet, forgetting that no good is wrought on a basis of omission." This article closes with a Christmas poem, in which the chimes mingle, of which the lost speak the words, "And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth."

Notes from Abroad.

WOLFEN, KANSAS, Oct. 16, 1872.

"Our Autumn is glorious without the tints it has at home. All its magnificence seems held in solution by an atmosphere quite indescribable and beyond comparison, an elastic ether one might suppose to be the ideal fluid from which alchemists got their first notion of the elixir of youth. We had no frost from the 26th of April until the 10th of October.

We had tons of wild grapes this year. They look like frost grapes, but are sweeter and riper in August and September.

Our terrible winter was succeeded by the most auspicious of summers."

CHICAGO, Jan. 2, 1873.

"Chicago has been very lively this winter. We have been attending the Star Lecture course every Tuesday evening, in which we have listened to Edmund Yates, James T. Fields, Emily Faithful, Mrs. Stanton, Josh Billings, Edward Eggleston and Laura Keane.

The next and last will be George McDonald. We also attended the Patti-Mario concerts, Mrs. Scott-Siddons' readings, Adelaide Phillips' concert, and last week went to see Charlotte Cushman play, which was grandest of all."

Rev. William H. Furness.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19th, 1873.
Half past 12, p. m.

Just returned from church—am so glad I went. There were the usual services except that there was no sermon. Instead of that we had a grand review of Furness' connection with this church. He was ordained on the 12 of Jan., 1815, and preached his first sermon to this congregation 48 years ago to-day and was then 22 years old.

He said "It seems now, on looking back to that time, as though there were no bounds to the presumption of some young men." The discourse was an hour and a half in length and when he stopped I wondered why he did not continue, and never so regretted to have a speaker leave off talking.

I never heard Furness do anything like so well before. I feel comforted, strengthened, confirmed in the faith of my fathers and would like to go and tell him so. The house was full and it was a fine looking crowd.

From a paper read at a meeting of Coudersport Literary Association, Feb. 5, 1873.

Legislation on Temperance a Hopeful Sign of the Times.

At no period, for many years, has the temperance question assumed a livelier interest than during the last twelve months. Throughout the length and breadth of our land, men of all political shades and opinions have united in denouncing the liquor traffic; and the pulpit of all denominations and creeds have thundered against the besetting sin of our age and country with a unanimity, zeal and earnestness perhaps never before exhibited in the cause.

Several states have passed laws for suppression of intemperance. The new temperance idea is, perhaps, best illustrated by the very stringent temperance law recently placed upon the statute books of the state of Illinois. The principle upon which the law is based is that of holding the sellers of intoxicating drinks responsible for the damages resulting from the intoxication of his customer—or in other words, connects with the liquor traffic direct responsibility for its immediate results. It is pleasing to note the effect of this temperance legislation in uniting so many diverse elements in its support. All the religi-

ous denominations, moral suasionists, Democrats and Republicans united in demanding the law, and now, since it has gone into operation, we have every reason to hope they will see to it that its provisions are rigidly enforced. A paper commenting on this law says "It is not based on any peculiar assumptions. It makes no inquiry into the scientific nature of alcohol and it attempts no absolute prohibition of its sales; it neither endorses nor runs counter to any chemical or reformatory theory. It deals with simple and obvious facts. Call alcohol what you will—food or poison—its sale involves danger to the community as surely as does that of gunpowder, of kerosene or of nitroglycerine. This sale should be placed under restrictions, that as little risk may be run as is possible in such a mixed community."

We notice another very important feature of the law, especially in temperance communities, which commends it to our admiration, namely, that drug-stores, where some of the vilest, meanest selling is done, come under the provisions of the law equally with saloons and taverns. Whether this law will have the effect so ardently hoped for by moralists and philanthropists, of closing the worst avenues of crime and repressing the most fruitful sources of vice that ever cursed humanity, time alone will unfold. It appears, however, to be a move in the right direction, commending itself to the interests as well as the consciences of all who love their fellow-men and desire, in sincerity and truth, the happiness and moral elevation of our species.

If our legislators at Harrisburg had possessed the wisdom and moral courage to pass such a law as we have been describing for Pennsylvania instead of the "Local Option Law" lately enacted, it would, in our humble estimation, have been the very best thing they have done for many years. General and not local laws on subjects of great moment are what are most needed by communities, and the sooner our legislators wake up to this fact and act upon it the better it will be for themselves and their country.

This law is a fresh appeal to the consciences of men to defend themselves from the aggressive encroachments of a traffic that virtually has no conscience. As at present conducted throughout the civilized world it is at war with the holiest aspirations and highest interests of humanity. It is no less truly obvious that there is an irrespressible conflict going on and to be continued till this traffic is suppressed. This conflict is not one of accident; it exists in the fitness of things. Having its origin in the natural antagonism between good and evil that has always existed, in all ages of the world and in all conditions of society, and must continue to exist, to broaden and deepen in volume and intensity as the advancing tide of civilization sweeps onward to a higher material, moral and spiritual elevation than the world has ever seen.

We have said that the liquor traffic has no conscience. Money is the basis on which it stands, and just as soon as the profits of the business are made uncertain, the whole fabric will topple to the ground. And until legislation effects it in that way the business will be continued, as it is conducted, by the most selfish, immoral and lazy vagabonds in the world, who live only for themselves and for the time circumscribed within the compass of their worthless and worse than useless lives. They have no tastes for the beautiful, no sympathy, and goodness is a myth. For them heaven has no joy, hell no terror and eternity no beginning. Selling in violation of law, their highest hope of reward is money and their greatest fear of punishment lies in the measure of a fine. All they desire is to be let alone, all they hope for is to escape justice, and all they dread is detection. The dream of living for others as well for themselves, and thus assist in promoting the well-being of society by studying its true interests, never crosses the plane of their imaginations. Although in Potter county it is an offense punishable by law to retail liquor, yet we often see the reeling drunkard on our streets. And even our boys, on whom are lavished a father's care and a mother's love, are occasionally allured into the den of the destroyer. There is our responsibility in the matter. It is plainly this: the friends of moral reform and social order in Coudersport must say to these men: we can tolerate you no longer in the violation of our laws; if you persist it will not be with impunity.

HASTE trips up its own heels.

Ex-Governor Geary.

Saturday afternoon dispatches brought news of the death of Ex-Governor John W. Geary, of Pennsylvania. The sudden death of this distinguished and popular public man causes much feeling in Pennsylvania, and much sympathy is expressed on all sides for his afflicted family. The ex-Governor returned to Harrisburg from New York last Friday evening, in apparent good health. About nine o'clock Saturday morning, while breakfasting with his family and in the act of helping his little son, his head suddenly fell back, and before medical aid could be summoned he was dead. It is supposed that heart disease or apoplexy was the cause of his death.

Governor Geary had long played a prominent part in public affairs in different parts of the country. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1829, and graduated at Jefferson College in that State. He adopted the profession of civil engineering, and when the Mexican war broke out he joined the army, serving as a Lieutenant-Colonel of a regiment of volunteers. After the capture of the city of Mexico he was made Colonel and placed in command of that place as a reward for gallant conduct. After the war he went to San Francisco, and was elected the first Mayor of that city. In 1856 he was appointed Governor of Kansas by President Buchanan, and did much better than his predecessor in that trying situation. His career during the rebellion was highly honorable. He served throughout the war, as Colonel in 1861, and the remainder of the time as brigadier-General. In 1867 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania, and he continued to fill that office until the present year. General Geary was personally a very agreeable and estimable gentleman, and his sudden decease will be deplored by his fellow citizens of all parties.—*Buffalo Express*.

Foreign Cleanings.

South America.—ASPINWALL, Jan. 20, via Havana, Feb. 1.—A terrible hurricane visited this port on the 18th inst., which did considerable damage. All the steamships are safe. Three persons lost their lives. The total loss is between half a million and a million dollars.

British India.—CALCUTTA, Feb. 4.—An earthquake has occurred at the city of Lehre, in the territory of Scinde, attended by a heavy destruction of human life. The disaster overtook the city so suddenly and unexpectedly that no escape was possible. The inhabitants rushed from their houses into the streets, where many met their death from falling buildings, while those who despised the warning and remained within were in many cases unharmed.

It is estimated that upwards of five hundred persons perished by the calamity. Large numbers of animals were also devoured by the earthquake. A great part of the city is now in ruins. The earthquake extended over a large tract of country, being distinctly felt at towns many miles distant from Lehre. The inhabitants of Lehre, after the first convulsion was over, seized their movables and fled to the mountains. The houses tottered and fell in ruins, blocking the streets and killing men and animals as they fled.

England.—LONDON, Feb. 2.—The British isles were visited last night by one of the most violent storms ever experienced even at this season of the year. The snow is of extraordinary depth in the city and country. This morning it was six inches deep in London. Travel is almost totally suspended. The omnibuses and cabs have ceased running, and scarcely a vehicle of any description has been seen on the streets to-day. In the provinces the snowfall was much heavier, and in the north the snow drifts are several feet deep. The gale raged with great fury all around the English coasts. Many wrecks are already reported, and there has been a fearful loss of life, and especially in Torquay and around the Scilly islands.

The British Parliament.—LONDON, Feb. 6.—Parliament re-assembled to-day. The following sketch of the Queen's speech has been obtained in advance of its delivery:

England is at peace everywhere. The great powers have promised to co-operate effectively for the suppression of slavery on the east coast of Africa. Friendly negotiations are in progress with Russia. Count Schouvaloff has assured her Majesty of the friendship of the Czar for England. The new treaty of commerce between Great Britain and France is calculated to promote the friendship of the two countries. The President of the French Republic has been appointed to arbitrate the difference between Portugal and England relative to the possessions on the South Coast of Africa. Copies of the Alabama and San Juan awards will be presented immediately. It is considered proper to hasten the payment of the Alabama award.

The speech expresses regret at the rapid rise in prices and consequent disputes between workmen and employers, and promises that bills will be introduced improving the system of higher education in Ireland, for the reconstruction of the supreme appellate courts, and for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections.

The Northfleet's Destroyer.—CADIZ, FEB. 5.—The dispatch from Lisbon announcing that the steamship *Murillo* had been sighted off that port was in-

correct, as she is yet at Cadiz, where she has remained since her first arrival. The British consul here has demanded the issue of a writ of attachment against her. The captain of the *Murillo*, and the officer who was on watch at the time the disaster to the *Northfleet* happened, are held as prisoners on a Spanish man-of-war pending the investigation. The crew are under guard, and are not allowed to go ashore. The Spanish authorities, who have made an examination of the *Murillo*, declare that she shows no signs of having been in collision, and it is their belief that she is guiltless of running down and sinking the *Northfleet*.

ST. PETERSBURG, FEB. 5.—*Official Gazette*, of this city, in an article on the movement of Russia in Central Asia, contrasts the indifference with which Great Britain views the growth of the United States of North America with the jealousy with which she watches the growth of Russia. The *Gazette* says British journalists simply beside themselves with anger and concludes its article by advising the British government to take no more notice of the progress of Russia than she does of that of the United States. The Russian fleet now in the Baltic will soon sail for the Mediterranean.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Advices from Honolulu received here state that Prince William C. Lunailo has been elected King of the Sandwich Islands, to the vote of the people. The legitimist Prince Lunailo's election by popular vote rests finally on the official election by the Legislative Assembly, which was to have taken place Jan. 8, and his taking the prescribed oath of office. There is no doubt the Assembly will accede to the popular decision.

MADRID, FEB. 5.—At the session Congress yesterday a Republican deputy proposed an amendment to the *Pen and Scissors* bill extending its provisions to Cuba, and providing that the slaves themselves and not their masters shall receive indemnity. It is not likely that Congress will consider it as an amendment.

Pen and Scissors.

It is thought that Hon. W. W. Kebleham, of Wilkesbarre, will be appointed United States District Judge for the new district composed of North and Eastern Pennsylvania.

A WAARD, the showman, was no relation to the Geneva Award. The first was simply an "American case," and was not given as an indemnity, but served for the full satisfaction of reasonable claims.

"One ought every day," says Goethe, "at least to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, possible, speak a few reasonable words I always do this. I sing and read something of my own, look into a glass and remark how very superior am to the rest of creation."

A SOCIETY for the suppression of slang has been formed among the pupils of the girls' high school of San Francisco. Said a reporter to one of the members: "Your object is a plain worthy one. Do you think you will succeed in eradicating conversational slang?" Said she: "You bet!"

LOCAL OPTION CARRIED IN BRADFORD COUNTY.—The second election on the Local Option law took place in Bradford county, on the 17th inst., the first one being Clearfield county a few weeks ago. As in Clearfield a large majority pronounced against granting license to vend intoxicating beverages. Nearly eight thousand votes were polled. The returns published in the Bradford *Argus* are complete and foot up a majority against granting licenses of 2250. The vote of the town of Towanda was very close, 318 votes were cast against and 294 in favor of license. In the rural districts the majorities against license were large. In addition to the vote taken in Beaver county have voted upon the question, and in each case a decisive majority was polled against license. Another question seems to be settled, the election in Bradford and Clearfield counties. The one is a heavy Republican county, the other heavily Democratic. Both give large majorities in favor of local option. We may therefore assume that the question of prohibition will exert no influence upon the local option when it comes before the people in March next.

MESSRS. Galbraith and Bierly have purchased the Williamsport *Epitomist* newspaper and job office establishment, and changed the name of the paper to the *Register*. There is good evidence that the *Register* will be, what the *Epitomist* has been, a good newspaper.

THE *Epitomist* says that an old doctor, Mr. Calvert, gives the following as the true origin of the name of Williamsport: Michael Ross, the founder of the city, had a son William. It was his eldest son, and after him the town was named, viz., William's Port, and was formerly written.

WILLIAMSPORT is to have this year a car factory, with a capital of \$100,000, to be the largest of the kind in the United States; a boot and shoe factory, and a furniture factory, and two or three mills.