

time the explanation was ended, half past eleven.

"No help for it, John; we must wait for the down train; we couldn't pick up a horse, nor yet a pair, that would be ready to start at this time of night and get us to Wheelborough before a quarter past two. Come, old fellow, cheer up; it's no use taking for granted every thing you dread!"

But George Fergusson thought in his own mind that matters looked black enough to justify any amount of fears, and had hard work to find hopeful talk for the next two hours. Had it not been for the manifest absurdity of the thing, his brother would have started for his home on foot even. To hit excited, restless mind the minutes dragged wearily along, while to his heavy heart every moment added a fresh fear.

At last the shrill whistle, the glaring lights creeping nearer and nearer, the minute's stoppage, and then off again homeward—homeward!—and he began to dread the moment he longed for.

At Wheelborough more time would have been occupied in knocking up the hotel people and seeking a conveyance than would have been gained had they chanced to find a horse. So the two brothers struck out at once from the station on their five-mile walk; and, as they left the further outskirts of the town, the church clock chimed half past two o'clock.

George Fergusson could barely keep up with his brother's rapid stride, and thought him half crazy with excitement when he saw him lightly leap a ditch, and start running across a broken piece of heath.

"For Heaven's sake, man, stop!" he cried. "What are you after?"

"A short-cut!" shouted the other, and kept up running well for nearly three-quarters of a mile.

The night had quieted, the rain had ceased, and gleams of moonlight showed them their way. Out on the road again, past the fourth milestone, past a cottage where a shrill cuckoo clock sang "three;" then up a long hill that took what little breath they had left out of them, through the sleeping village, and—

"George," cried the rector, pointing to his own house, not a stone's throw distant, "look at that light!" And through the long narrow window of the oratory a light shone plainly.

"Good God, if we are too late!"

The brothers scarcely knew how they covered the short remaining distance. A blow at the hall window, and their united force at the shutters within, and they made good their entrance, to see—Kate Fergusson lying senseless on the floor, to hear the wailing and crying of children overhead, and a strange sound of low voices whispering and hands cutting away at woodwork.

Late indeed they were, but not too late. An out-door bell, set clanging soon called ready help from the village; while Jane, already roused by the sounds, but too frightened to venture from her room alone, busied herself over her unconscious mistress.

The captives in the oratory fought like cats, and one of them gave George Fergusson a bite in the arm the mark of which he will carry as long as he lives. That was "Rough Dick." "Gentleman Jim" turned sullen, and submitted to the force of numbers at the last with a better grace.

The gang to which the two thieves belonged had received all their information from Sarah's brother, who was a sort of hanger-on to their brotherhood, and to whom had been entrusted the sending of the lying telegram which had so comfortably disposed of the master of the house.

"All's well," they say, "that ends well;" and our tale is no exception to the proverb. It was rather a long getting well, though, in the case of Mrs. Fergusson; still she was her own bravehearted self again by Christmas-time; and—take note of this, all wives—never did she show her husband the letter she had found; never did she tell him, or any one else, that his own bit of carelessness had probably supplied the "correct time" to the intruders.

Rosie and Ruth were none the worse for their fright, but used to play at "robbers" with spirit all through the winter and spring.

And for a piece of happiness to end with, though Mr. Fergusson the elder did not have a fit and die, he did have a fit of another kind—of repentance for his prejudice against his daughter-in-law; so he made reparation by a very handsome donation to their income. And as for the rector, after the wild joy of having his wife safe again, he declares his "courting days" have all returned.

The POTTER JOURNAL

AND
NEWS ITEM.

COUDERSPORT, Pa., Dec. 17, 1873.

A DISPATCH from Philadelphia, dated Tuesday night says: Philadelphia gives over twenty-six thousand for the New Constitution, and the State is estimated to have given 150,000 for it.

The New Constitution has taken so much of our space for four weeks past that we have been crowded out of our proper place and have not felt at home. It is very pleasant to come back to our old position and talk with the readers of the JOURNAL from our rightful standpoint. And yet for so good a cause we will cheerfully give way at any time.

IT GIVES us unusual pleasure to inform our readers that all danger of a war with Spain, growing out of the Virginia affair has passed away. The disgraceful spectacle of two Republics trying to destroy each other will not be witnessed while Castellar is President of Spain and Grant is at the head of affairs in the United States.

The Imperative Duty of Congress.

Very much has been said and written about the duty of Congress to regulate the finances so as to give relief to the business of the country. We concede in the opinion that some legislation is desirable. We do not concur in the statement that the necessity is any greater now than it has been for the past ten years. Nor do we believe that the failure of Jay Cook & Co., and of those that followed was the result of our financial system or was caused by the scarcity of our circulating mediums. We believe our whole difficulty has grown out of the extravagant ideas and extravagant expenditures of the people, which have naturally led to extravagant appropriations by Congress for all manner of objects, and these have induced speculation, loose ideas of integrity, and defalcation. The country can recover its business prosperity, although no change should be made in the laws regulating the currency. But it cannot recover from the bad effects of extravagant appropriations, looseness in accounting for funds in the hands of officials, and the general laxity that has grown up as to the use of public funds.

The imperative duty of Congress therefore, as it seems to us, is to enforce the most rigid economy consistent with the proper working of the Government.

The Secretary of the Treasury recommends an increase of taxation in order to meet the demands of the Treasury occasioned by the falling off of receipts since the panic affected the business of the country. We trust Congress will do nothing of the kind, but will do what prudent men in the management of their private affairs do—decrease their expenses till they come within their income.

If Congress will simply refuse to appropriate money not needed for the legitimate expenses of Government there will be no need for increased taxation. Not a dollar for steamship subsidies, nor for railroad extensions. Pay ships and railroads a fair price for carrying the mails and for other services, but not a dollar for subsidies. Apply the same rule to all other outside objects, and the present taxation will furnish an ample remedy.

And this work of enforcing economy and saving taxation must be done by the Republican members of Congress or it will not be done at all. They will receive little aid from the Democratic members. These accept Fernando Wood as their leader, and he is one of the most notorious of the corruptionists. No good can be expected of a member of Congress that voted to make Fernando Wood Speaker.

The only hope of reform is in the Republican members, and they may as well face the fact that the people are in earnest and will have reform. The Republican members of Congress have the fate of the Republican party in their hands. Honest and economical legislation will give the Republican party new life. Increased taxation and extravagant expenditures will bring its speedy overthrow, and this is the way Democratic members should vote—for increased taxation—for the people expect nothing better of them.

ON the first day of January, 1874, the *Advertiser*, daily and weekly, will appear in an entire and beautiful new dress. The daily edition will be enlarged by the addition of one column to each page and such increased length as will make the whole symmetrical.

This enlargement, so far as size is concerned, will place the *Advertiser* in the very front rank of the daily press of the state.

In politics the *Advertiser* will advocate in the future, as it has in the past, those great principles of fundamental justice upon which only a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," can hope to endure. Those principles have constituted the corner stone and the strength of the Republican party and are the bulwark upon which it must continue to depend.

LET ALL who remember their school days with any interest gratify themselves by a visit to their own district school pretty frequently. Do you think what an event it was when the directors, trustees perhaps they were called them, came in for a half-hour and you were all on your best behavior, and called to read or do something to show what progress you were making and that you were improving your time. How you carefully slipped off the piece of shingle from the window and let the wind blow straight on the visitors so they would notice that the glass needed mending, or how you passed the water ostentatiously with the bright new dipper Mr. Blank sent to the school last week. How the sleepy little ones brightened up and were cheery and ready when it became their turn to read "a. b."

But times have altered now and schools and plans of teaching. If you forget that once in a while, go and see. You will find yourselves astonished to see what a system that slip of a girl you hired the other day, has at her finger ends—Nothing like what we were used to.

Women most of all should visit the schools. With their deep interest in all that concerns the children and their training, and their clear vision in children's affairs, they are especially needed; and it is a great waste of time to stay at home and sew, when you might be doing so much more good by looking in on your deputy teacher, and gladdening each of you, a portion of the school with the thought "mother's come."

THE Senate has confirmed John A. Bingham, of Ohio, Minister to Japan; William L. Seagraves, of Georgia, Minister Resident to the United States of Columbia; Alfred T. A. Torbert, Consul General at Paris.

The House Judiciary Committee are hearing pleas in favor of a commission to investigate the liquor traffic. Many petitions were presented to the Senate for the appointment of such commission.

A BILL to restore the franking privilege and others, was introduced in the House.

Mr. Hoar, from the Committee on Education, reported a bill to establish an educational fund, and to apply the proceeds of the sale of public lands to the education of the people.

A warm debate on the salary bill ended in its being recommitted in order to be made more thorough. Mr. Orth, of Indiana, thought that "four propositions had been definitely settled by public opinion. First, that the law of last Congress should be repealed. Second, that mileage shall never again be restored. Third, that the franking privilege, so far as relates to personal privilege of members of Congress, shall never be restored, whatever else may be done in regard to distributing public documents. And fourth, that the salary of members of Congress shall be substantially what it was under the old law. All this he provided for in the proposition which he had offered. So the bill was recommitted to the special committee with the instructions proposed by Mr. Orth, and it was agreed that when the bill shall be reported back it will be considered under the five minute rule."

The House also passed the bill appropriating four million dollars for the extra expenses of the Navy Department.

The Committee on Appropriations brought in resolutions requesting a revision of the estimated expenses of the government in all its departments with a view to avoiding if possible an increase of taxes to meet the present exigency.

MARSHAL Bazaine has been convicted of treason and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to twenty years imprisonment in the island St. Marguerite.

DECEMBER 10 and 11 the fog was so dense in and about London, that the daylight was entirely obscured. Traveling and navigation became very dangerous. Think of two days without any light.

Professor Agassiz, the great man whose name has become a household word signifying scientific research and benevolent teaching, has passed from this life. Who can fill his place?

COLUMBUS, S. C. Dec. 12.—The charges of corruption made against Senator Patterson have been dismissed, and a warrant issued for the arrest for perjury of Jones, who made them. The evidence showed the charges were made to extort money.

HON. SOBIESKI ROSS, representing this district in Congress, has been placed on the Committees on Agriculture and Militia, by Speaker Blaine.

The *Evening Post* gives the following description of some American fabrics which need only be made known to the people generally to secure a great demand for them: The preference for our productions is pretty general, and it only needs that goods should be as good as can be imported to ensure a ready sale for any native productions. It seems like a very unwise thing to mark home-made goods "imported" as this article says is often done, for people really desirous of buying home products cannot be sure of getting them, and it helps to give credence to the idea that all that is good comes from abroad. It is a wrong to manufacturers and consumers.

It is natural to speak first of American silks, since all silk forms the most important part of the modern wardrobe. As a general thing their finish is not so fine nor their lustre so rich as that of European make; but on their side is the merit of greater durability. The coloring of one is equal to the coloring of the other. There are all qualities, from those at less than two dollars a yard, which, like the foreign goods, are apt to crack after moderate use, to those at four dollars, or thereabouts, which are simply not as handsome as the imported silks. The grade at two dollars, much resembling Pina's poplins, is perhaps the best known and most thoroughly-tested of domestic silks. It comes in all colors as well as black, and is said to wash like muslin. We have heard of one lady who subjected a black two-dollar silk to the tubs three times, and who was amply persuaded, after the last bath, that it looked better than new. We know from experience that its endurance seems unlimited, and we can heartily recommend it.

Besides the gross-grain silks there are beautiful soft twilled kinds, such as are used for neckties. These are in delicate shades, of plain colors and plaids of colors and white. Although they have been used chiefly for ties thus far, they are exceptionally pretty for trimming and all sorts of drapery, and promise to supersede crepe de chine to a large extent. They are wide—twenty-six inches, we believe—and are generally about three dollars a yard. Then again our foulards are remarkably handsome, and as the style of French mode has been set upon foulard there is no reason why we should not take advantage of it and bring our own make into favor. The twilled varieties are stronger and prettier than the plain goods, also a trifle more expensive. The foulards bear nearly the entire colors of silk, and are sometimes figured.

Most of our large silk manufacturers make ribbons of every hue and kind, and as soft as the best foreign qualities. Beltings and lining silks, sewing and embroidery silks, handkerchiefs and neckerchiefs—indeed, almost all descriptions of silk manufacture are carried on in this country.

There are many sorts of woollen goods woven here. Not seldom is it that domestic products of this order slip into market marked "imported." There seems to be an unfounded belief that everything which comes to us from across the ocean is good, merely from that fact, while whatever is advertised as home-made is regarded as of questionable value. Specious reasoning is offered to prove this; and no one will deny that the general standard of European productions is higher than our own; but that does not affect instances where ours are the equals, sometimes the superiors, of their transatlantic rivals.

New England furnishes as handsome flannels, feltings and balmaral stuffs as there are in the world. In other sections excellent alpaca, de-laines and various wool goods are made, also heavy cloakings, beaver cloths, broad cloths, fur cloths, water-proof cloths, opera cloths, soft fancy cloths for jackets and carriage wraps, divers cloths for gentlemen's use; in fact, the weaving of almost every material into which the fleece of sheep can be put is among our native industries.

Cotton fabrics always appear to belong of right to America. Since cotton ceased to rule us we have ruled and compelled it into many new and graceful forms. First is the muslin, or what New Englanders call cotton cloth. No better is produced on the globe. Our mills have great-

ly advanced in the last half-dozen years, and it is believed that in another quarter of a century they will surpass the English mills, which have heretofore deemed themselves incomparable. Calicoes, cambrics, dress muslins, ginghams, brilliants and kindred materials are as fine and graceful and delicate in design when they bear a New Hampshire mark as when they come from abroad. The sole deficiency there has ever been in the domestic goods is in the dye. It appeared almost impossible to procure permanent colors in American calicoes. Recently, however, there has been much improvement in this particular, and so far as we know, the domestic is as trustworthy as the foreign.

Perhaps the fact that trimmings of various kinds, gimps, braids, beads, particular styles of lace and fringe, are the product of our own soil, and not brought over the water, may be new to many persons. Certainly it is difficult to keep pace with the ever increasing activities of our young and energetic nation. Woven under-clothing and hosiery have been so long in high repute under the protection of the Eagle that to more than chronicle the circumstance is needless.

Everybody who has passed through North Adams and Lynn knows the manufacture of shoes to be one of our largest and best. It is only a little while since we heard a young girl, fresh from Europe, exclaim, "I am so glad to get back here I can get boots to fit me. As far as I have seen, there are none comparable to those of America." This, too, after a long residence abroad had given her opportunity to test the foot coverings of all the Continental countries as well as England.

The question may be asked, "What this long list of native products has to do with fashions?" It ought to be very plain. Every woman admits that it is the style of her dress rather than its material which gives it the desired "air." It does not matter, then, if the stuff she wears be a trifle less fine than she has been accustomed to, if in the wearing of it she be really doing a patriotic duty. To render American goods the fashion simply requires that a few ladies whose social position is assured, shall make a point of purchasing and using such goods only. The many will follow the few. Be it once understood that domestic stuffs are the mode, and the shopkeepers will withdraw the mask of foreign marks from many familiar things, and allow them to appear with their proper belonging. Let it be a matter of choice rather than of necessity to wear the products of our own looms; and it will not be long before the national finances will grow more robust, with the new fashion of economy set by the rich.

"DREARY weather for December," says one, "stealing all gone, roads muddy and rain or sleet drizzling all the time." "How beautiful and green the grass is since the snow went off," says another; "and what a delightful break it was in the winter weather. Ah, yes, the storm is rather unpleasant, but how comfortably warm it is." "Oh dear! such weather for winter. It must be unhealthy. Don't you think so?" cries a third. "Not for me; I feel well and enjoy it, but am sorry for the people who have to travel or work out in the rain."

Thus it goes on and the weather, like all weather, gets its praise and its grumble. Nevertheless, we suppose it is pretty near right.

Amending the National Constitution.

President Grant, in his annual message to Congress, made many suggestions of great importance. Among these important suggestions we count his recommendation of two amendments to the Constitution of the United States, couched in the following language:

Assuming from the action of the last Congress in appointing a Committee on Privileges and Elections to prepare and report to this Congress a constitutional amendment to provide a better method of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, and also, from the necessity of such an amendment, that there will be submitted to the State Legislatures for ratification such an improvement in our Constitution, I suggest two others for your consideration.

First. To authorize the Executive to approve of so much of any measure passing the two houses, as his judgment may dictate, without approving the whole, the disapproved portion or portions to be subjected to the same rules as now, to wit: to be referred back to the house in the measure or measures originated, and, if passed by a two-thirds vote of the two houses, then to become a law without the approval of the President. I would add to this a provision that there should be no legislation by Congress during the last twenty-four hours of its sitting except upon votes, in order to give the Executive an opportunity to examine and approve or disapprove bills understandingly.

Second. To provide by amendment that when an extra session of Congress is convened by executive proclamation, legislation during the continuance of such extra session shall be confined to such subjects as the Executive may bring before it from

time to time in writing. The advantages to be gained by these two amendments are obvious. One session in each year is provided for by the Constitution, in which there are no restrictions as to the subjects of legislation by Congress. If more are required, it is always in the power of Congress, during their term of office, to provide for sessions at any time. The first of these amendments would protect the public in the many abuses and waste of the public moneys which creep into appropriation bills and other important measures passing during the expiring hours of Congress, to which otherwise due consideration cannot be given.

We hope Congress will adopt the suggestion of the President and promptly correct the evils to which these proposed sections point.

And when the matter is under consideration, we should like to see another amendment proposed that would put all back-pay scandal away from the temptation of Congress; we propose the following:

"Senators and members of the House of Representatives shall receive such salary as shall be fixed by law and no other compensation whatever, whether for service upon committee or otherwise. No member of either House shall, during the term for which he may have been elected, receive any increase of salary, or mileage under any law passed during such term."

"No law shall extend the term of any public officer or increase or diminish his salary or emoluments after his election or appointment."

Starting Right.

Two young men went into a book store and among other things bought a Webster's unabridged dictionary. A few weeks afterward they went in again and again asked for a dictionary. While showing them, the bookseller said to the young man who was buying: "You bought one here the other day, I think. 'Yes,' said the brother who was standing by, 'but he was married since.'" "Well," said the purchaser, slowly, "my folks wanted to keep that, but if I've got to run a shanty myself, I must have a dictionary."

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