The POTTER JOURNAL

AND

NEWS ITEM.

COUDERSPORT, Pa., Dec. 24, 1873.

FOR twenty years Potter County has stood by the side of Allegheny, and Chester, and Lancaster in maintaining the most advanced positions in favor of freedom, justice and good government.

Now it parts company with those staunch Republican counties and has voted to continue special legislation, with its long train of corrupting influences, and to continue the word "white" as one of the qualifications of an elector.

It looks as if we needed some young men to do missionary work among us.

No Increase of Taxes.

Since writing some words on this subject for the last JOURNAL we have been favored with a pamphlet copy of the last annual report of the Treasurer of the United States. It is a very interesting document, and ought to be carefully studied by every member of Congress.

Our conviction that no increase of taxation should be permitted, by even a hasty reading of this report was greatly strengthened.

A single extract will show our readers *why* the treasury is now empty and the Secretary recommending higher taxes:

On comparing the tables of "*Receipts*" and of "*Expenditures*," that appear at the beginning of the appendix, hereto annexed, with the like tables in my report of the preceding year, it will appear that there has been a large falling off in the receipts, amounting to $28,280,764.07 on *Customs*, and to $16,912,863 58 on *Internal Revenue*.

This decrease in the revenue is mainly due to the great reduction of taxation in both of these, the main sources of national income, that was made by the last Congress, which was demanded by the people, and has received their sanction and approval.

But, unfortunately, it will also appear from further inspection that the expenditures are largely in excess of those for the preceding year. *This increase of expenditures is mainly due to the large appropriations made by the last Congress in excess of the estimates made by the several Executive Departments of the Government.* The falling off of the receipts and the increase of expenditures per annum at which the public debt was paid off in preceding years. These facts combined make an interesting subject for reflection, the study of which will make a good guide, if not a warning, to Congress, and the administrative officers as well, of the course that should be pursued in the future. Either taxation must be increased, an expedient that can hardly be thought of, or the appropriations must be kept largely below the receipts. Otherwise the rapid reduction of the public debt will be arrested, if not abandoned.

We have italicised a few lines that tell the whole story and point to the true remedy—keep the expenditures below the estimates made by the executive departments, instead of in excess of them, and there will be a full treasury—for the revenues of the Government are enormous.

Strict economy and devoted fidelity in the discharge of duty, is the pressing demand of the country. If Congress shall give due heed to this demand, it will merit and receive the gratitude of the people.

Cheese Factories a Remedy for Hard Times.

The farmers in the southern part of our County would do well to make themselves fully acquainted with the working of the Bingham cheese factory.

From the best information we can obtain on the subject, we judge that the farmers who rely on sales of hay, oats and stock for receipts are not in as good financial condition as those who manufacture butter and cheese.

Hay and oats can only be sold to advantage after sleighing, and whenever comes a tightness in money matters they are the first of the farm products that become a drug in the market. For instance, oats cannot now—Dec. 23—be sold for more than thirty-five cents per bushel, which is fifteen cents a bushel less than the price a year ago, whereas butter and cheese has a ready sale at very nearly or quite last year's prices.

One great advantage of a cheese factory is that it brings together, at *one point*, all the products of a large number of farms, which induces buyers to come to that point and purchase at a higher price than would be paid for small quantities. We are informed that all the cheese of the Bingham factory was sold at New York prices, less the cost of transportation, to buyers who came to the factory, and as frequently as the patrons cared to make sales, thus giving them the money for the products of their farms when it was needed or desired.

Contrasting this state of things with the situation in our part of the County, we should think our farmers would do well to try the Bingham plan.

REVISING THE ESTIMATES.—The Executive Department will next week begin the revision of estimates with the object of reducing public expenditures. It is believed estimates for public buildings can be lowered three or four millions. Work on buildings in New York in process of erection will probably be continued, as a cessation would be injurious, and will require the appropriation of about one million dollars. Estimates of the engineer of the bureau, amounting to $21,000,000, for improvement of rivers and harbors, fortifications, etc., can also be reduced one-half, but Secretary Belknap declared the expenses of the War Department proper cannot be reduced without detriment to the service. There will probably be a small reduction in estimates connected with Indian affairs.

THIS County gave 68 majority against the new Constitution. We can remember when it did even worse than that.

WE HAVE received the *Popular Science Monthly* for January, which presents the following contents:

Concerning Serpents, by Elias Lewis, Jr., (illustrated); The Theory of Molecules, by Prof. Clerk Maxwell; Past and Future of a Constellation, by Camille Flammarion, (illustrated); Replies to Criticisms, by Herbert Spencer; Quicker than Lightning, (illustrated); The Emotional Language of the Future; Genesis, Geology, and Evolution, by Rev. George Henslow; Growth and Decay of Mind, by Richard A. Proctor; An Episode on Rats, (illustrated); The Primary Concepts of Modern Physical Science (IV. Inertia and Force), by J. B. Stallo; Sketch of Dr. J. W. Draper (portrait); Editor's Table: (Mill, Education and Science); Literary Notices: (Report of the Geological Survey of Ohio, Autobiography of John Stuart Mill, Clarke's Sex in Education, Grattan's British Marine Algæ,) and Miscellany: (Physical Condition of Inland Seas, Unequal Power of the Eyes, Natural Grafting, The Quinine Supply, The Caterpillar Nuisance in Philadelphia, Eating Alcohol, The Grape-vine Blight, Migrations of Insects, Animal-like Functions of Plants, Natural Varieties, Malformations).

THOSE electors who think the formation of a new county of more importance than honest government, acted wisely in voting against the new Constitution.

UNIVERSAL amnesty is nearly complete. Recommended by President Grant in his last message, Hon. Horace Maynard, of Tennessee, promptly reported a bill on Monday last, from the Committee on rules, removing all disabilities imposed and remaining on any person by the third section of the sixteenth article of the amendment to the Constitution, and substituting for the iron-clad oath the modified oath now administered to persons from whom disabilities have been removed. The vote on the passage of the bill was 141 to 29. The measure is now in the Senate, with every prospect of concurrence. Thus we note another promise of the Republican party faithfully fulfilled. The rebellion is so far forgiven, if not forgotten, that all who participated in it can share the blessings of the Government by a simple obedience to its obligations.—*Press.*

THE *Popular Science Monthly* for December has an unusually valuable and interesting article on the "Correlation of Vital with Chemical and Physical Forces," by Professor Joseph Le Conte. It is written in a plainer, more comprehensible style than most scientific writers use, or else the subject itself is one we are so ready for that it is easily seized. It is certainly one that will interest any reader and make us more ready to appreciate other scientific truths. We give a few words:

"Force is incapable of destruction, except by the same power that created it. The domain of Science lies within the limits of these changes—creation and annihilation lie outside of her domain."

"Mars by the Latest Observations," taken from *La Nature*, describes that planet with so great a likeness to our own, in its motions, seasons, land, water and atmosphere—and even guesses at its animal life—that though nothing is said of human inhabitants, one cannot help thinking of our neighbors over there.

A lighter but not less pleasing subject is "Tennyson and Botany," which points out many charming things in Tennyson's poetry that one might hardly notice, but which could never again be overlooked. Among the people to whom we must ever be grateful are, prominently, those who show us new beauties in familiar things, and this writer, J. Hutchinson, in the *Science Monthly*, has done many of us a cheery service.

We refer to the table of contents of the January number in the JOURNAL this week.

The *Popular Science Monthly* is published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. Price $5 per annum.

THE OUTLOOK.

In the series of pictures called "The Voyage of Life," we see man at four stages of existence. As infant, under the care of a bright-winged, smiling angel; as youth, starting on his career, buoyant and hopeful, springing eagerly forward and leaving the angel behind looking after him with loving eyes, hopeful, too; as man, absorbed, anxious, worn and as though he had been, or might easily be guilty: too weary and careworn for peace, too resolute and daring to regard always the right. He sees no angel—he has left her years ago, but we see her looking, through a rift in the threatening clouds, at him lovingly still. The fourth picture is of old age, feeble, and with bowed head again under the care of the angel. Perfectly correct are all these, the great throb of pain at your heart tells you. But of the intermediate steps, of the years that change a man from a joyous youth to a haggard toiler or him again to the time of old age and introspection, you think and you long for other pictures, or rather you make mental pictures and many branches to the artist's great idea.

However it may be to one whose manhood was strong and reckless like this type, there is in ordinary lives a time when one begins to withdraw from the bustle of worldly care, to see the futility of one's anxious labors, to know that results lie in the far future, to look back over one's own life and abroad upon the turmoil that surrounds us, with clearer eyes than before, with a better perception of the springs of action in the busy public, of successes, of failures, of the causes of both.

I think this period is the harvest time of life, when growth has culminated and decline has not begun; and it is often indicated by a countenance more serene, a manner more genial, a tone of conversation more just and charitable, though those words mean [illegible] through their busier years.

It is a great thing to feel that this time has come, to be able to relinquish naturally, not the activities of life but its hurry and worry, to feel that our experiences are no longer bundles of thorns that prick, but golden sheaves, though there may be some briers gathered with them. Then if we are wise, our storehouses of thought and experience grow fuller and richer and may be made to help many of our companions who are still rushing after some elusive good.

Poor, very poor must he be, or she, to whom this period does not come with the ripened years; who follows the toil and turmoil of life to the very end or until infancy again overtakes him. He misses the garnering—he has no harvest-home.

STARVLING STATISTICS.—The Dayton (Ohio) *Journal* has been getting up statistics about "the drams we drink" and "the bread we eat" in the city of Dayton. Dayton spends annually for whiskey alone in bar-rooms, $1,000,000; for flour, $462,000. Dayton has 590 bar-rooms, which consume daily ten barrels of whiskey. "Bar-keepers inform us," naively remarks the editor, "that there are seventy drinks in a gallon. Averaging the drinks at something like ten cents, the total consumption reaches 10,000,000 drams per annum. The profit realized by the mixiologists on this guzzling is estimated at $945,000, or 700 per cent., which beats banking out of sight. Of malt liquors, the Daytonians consume $1,000,000 worth annually." The *Journal* sums up as follows: "The grand total of whiskey, malt liquors, and tobacco, $2,300,000 per annum, and $462,000 for bread," which, for a city of 33,000 population, is not bad.

HENRY W. GENET, a prominent Democrat of New York City, elected to the Legislature by his party after he was indicted, has just been convicted of *forgery* in connection with the New Court-House Swindle.

In view of this and other convictions of leading New York Democrats of swindling and stealing, wouldn't it be well for the Wellsville *Free Press* to give a little more attention to the short-comings of its associates before denouncing in such big words its opponents? Reform, as well as charity, should begin at home.

The Great Contest.

Our satisfaction over the magnificent majority for the New Constitution is so great that we have no inclination to say anything to hurt the feelings of those who honestly thought the old Constitution on the whole, better than the new; but in justification of some pretty strong expressions in these columns, as to the motive that inspired opposition to the New Constitution, we make the following extract from a paper outside of the state: The New York *Evening Post* is one of the very best papers published; candid, honest and intelligent, and here is its view of our late contest.

"It has always been found in this country that when the community at large becomes thoroughly aroused on any question of political rights or honesty, that which is morally right prevails. We do not expect that the honest men of Pennsylvania will show themselves to be exceptions to the rule. The strenuous and unscrupulous efforts made to defeat the New Constitution present a fair measure of its prospective utility as an aid to good government, and those who believe in and wish for good government ought, therefore, to put forth unceasing efforts for its adoption until next Tuesday, the day of the election, when we hope and believe they will find that they have won a great victory."

The Vote in the State.

Below will be found a summary of the majorities in the different counties of the State, as far as received up to the hour of going to press:

Adams		
Allegheny	16,500	
Armstrong	800	
Beaver	1,500	
Bedford	1,500	
Berks	10,000	
Blair	....	100
Bradford		
Bucks	3,600	
Butler	1,200	
Cambria		
Cameron		
Carbon	1,071	
Centre	2,000	
Chester	4,900	
Clarion		
Clearfield	1,000	
Clinton	2,300	
Columbia	1,000	
Crawford		
Cumberland	2,000	
Dauphin	....	600
Delaware	1,000	
Elk		
Erie	5,000	
Fayette	1,500	
Forest		
Franklin		
Fulton		
Greene	2,500	
Huntingdon	1,000	
Indiana	....	1,000
Jefferson		
Juniata		
Lancaster	3,500	
Lawrence		
Lebanon	....	400
Lehigh		
Luzerne	2,000	
Lycoming	1,850	
M'Kean		
Mercer	3,000	
Mifflin	1,200	
Monroe	1,500	
Montgomery	2,500	
Montour	1,000	
Northampton	1,600	
Northumberland	1,500	
Perry		
Philadelphia	34,120	
Pike		
Potter	549	617
Susquehanna	2,500	
Schuylkill	5,000	
Snyder		
Somerset	....	300
Sullivan		
Tioga		
Union	1,360	
Venango	4,000	
Warren		
Washington	500	
Wayne		
Westmoreland	2,500	
Wyoming	684	
York	1,500	
Total	139,855	3,600
	3,600	
Majority	127,255	

Harper's Magazine.

"Rambles in Martinique," opens the list of contents of *Harper's Magazine* for January, 1874. It is profusely illustrated and cannot fail to give its readers a pretty good idea of the flowery, beautiful island that was the childhood's home of the Empress Josephine. Here is the description of the approach to the city of St Pierre:

Two miles north of Pearl Rock lies the little village of Precheur, on a low point of land. Rounding this, the beautiful bay, harbor and city of St. Pierre burst upon the view—a splendid picture, with a wonderful background of mountain magnificence. Few cities in the world enjoy a more delightful situation. On every side there is beauty. On one hand gentle slopes, covered with gardens and plantations and dotted with villas, lead up to the lofty mountain cliffs; on the other the lovely bay, with its picturesque shipping, and its low headlands with fishermen's cottages and hamlets. The climate of St. Pierre is equally attractive for eight months of the year—namely, from October to May—the northeast trade-winds, blowing from the sea, give a delightful temperature by day, while the land-breeze at night, laden with the fragrance of orange and lime blossoms, enchants the senses and makes sleep more luxurious than we can imagine in our Northern climate.

"South-Coast Saunterings in England" is continued, and those who have read it heretofore will turn to it with pleasure again. An account of the family of the Rothschilds, so long a name of wonder to all the growing part of humanity, in civilized countries at least, is given in an article, "The Knights of the Red Shield," while "Washington News," with a picture of the reporter's gallery and various other illustrations will give one an idea of where our news comes from, also how some of it is made.

As usual, the "Editor's Literary Record" is about the best of the number, which is one of the most interesting of this excellent magazine.

GOVERNOR BOOTH has been elected Senator by the California Legistature, after a sharp contest. Booth is an honest man and anti-railroad Republican.

The Retrenchment Movement

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1873.

Judge Durell, of New York, chairman of the Committe on Expenditures and Public Buildings, will probably not begin his investigations into the affairs of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department for several days. At the Republican caucus, it was indicated that a disposition existed to retrench in the matter of public buildings, at least until the financial condition of the country shall be more hopeful. The points toward which the inquiry in this case will be directed are as follows: First, Whether appropriations have been made for buildings not yet begun, which are not necessary or can be deferred; second, whether there are any constructions upon which work has been begun, that can be properly set aside or discontinued for the present; third, whether extravagant or unnecessary expenditures have been made or contemplated on buildings now being erected in various parts of the country. Members of the committee say that no charges whatever have been made against Mr. Mullet, the Supervising Architect, but that it is the specified duty of the committee to examine the questions above referred. It is probable that the committee will investigate with reference to the building in Philadelphia, for which $3,000,000 will be necessary, and also the Cincinnati building, for which the same amount will be required. Neither of these has been begun. Mr. Mullet says that neither the new State Department, the Boston, the Chicago, the St. Louis, nor the New York buildings can be stopped without serious loss.—*Press.*

A LARGE meeting was held to-day in Lincoln Hall, under the auspices of the Congressional Temperance Society. Dr. Chickering reported the views of men in high positions respecting the present convivial customs on Christmas and New Year's days. Senator Tipton, Representatives Albright and Burrows, Bishop Simpson and others spoke against the practice. A resolution was adopted, calling upon the heads of families throughout the United States to discard all intoxicating liquors from entertainments during the coming holidays.—*Washington Dispatch.*

HARD TIMES are giving away before the industry, and pluck, and patience of the people. The indications all around us and at home are encouraging.

Farm produce is bringing fair prices, and there is no excuse for grumbling, or for not meeting engagements to pay, at least in part.

THE steamer Edgar Stewart, which has already landed five cargoes of men and arms on the Cuban coast, is being prepared for another trip to Cuban waters. It is supposed she will sail about January 1.—*Exchange.*

Should a Spanish man-of-war seize this steamer, so loaded, are we to have another cry for war with Spain in consequence? With our poor understanding of justice and fair dealing, we should say Spain has more cause to complain of us than we of Spain.

"PEOPLE need to rise early to see the sun in all his splendor, for his brightness seldom lasts the day through." Hence the common saying, "the morning's too fine to last."

A Washington dispatch says: The official opinion of Attorney General Williams as to the status of the steamer *Virginius*, dated the 17th inst., is just furnished for publication. He recites the terms of the protocol, and then refers to the provisions of the act of 1792, which details the legal qualifications necessary to give the protection of the United States to vessels. The fourth section of that act provides that the owner of a vessel, before obtaining registry therefor, must take the oath that no foreigner is interested, directly or indirectly, in her or her profits. The Attorney General therefore holds that if the registry was obtained by false oath she cannot be entitled to the benefits of United States vessels.

He then recites the fact that the registry of the vessel was obtained at New York by Paterson in 1870 for certain Cubans in New York, and Capt. Shepard, who left New York as her commander at that time, testifies to having been employed by Quesada and other Cubans. Testimony is given showing conclusively that the *Virginius* was bought by money raised by the Cubans, with the understanding that Paterson should appear as the nominal owner. Numbers of the crew employed after Paterson bought the vessel testify to Quesada commanding and treating them as if the vessel belonged to him. In addition to these facts no bond was ever given by Paterson or Capt. Shepard, as required by law. She was not insured even.

WE HAVE been so fortunate as to see some numbers of the *Penna. School Journal*, and find in it so much that is good and instructive that we wonder how we did without it so long. In the December No. there is an article by J. H. Shumaker on the "Inner Life of Schools," which, if followed in all respects would be a wonderful blessing to the rising generation.

A list of the questions propounded at an examination of teachers in Ohio which in addition to the usual branches of learning taught in common schools includes Physics, Botany and Drawing. These examination questions stir one up, enliven us, and make us feel that teaching in school is the best business. The Editorial department is very full and the advertisements of just the things people want, would alone make it valuable.

Lastly there is a description of the Sciopticon which will interest all the young people.

SEVEN hundred Norwegians, with half a million capital, Lutherans in creed, teetotalers in practice, and one-half young married people, sail the second week in January from Gothenburg for the vicinage of Vineland, New Jersey. The company are equal if not superior to any from Norway in composition, and their intelligence is testified in the fact that a newspaper will be issued while the trunks are being unpacked.

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