

The Republican.

Letter from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 2, 1874.
MR. EDITOR.—The trial of the two negroes of which I wrote you last week is over, and the verdict recorded against them is "guilty of murder in the first degree." The excitement of the people has been allayed by this verdict. Many members of the Legislature were present to listen to the able pleadings of counsel for and against the prisoners.

The Legislature is getting through with considerable work, and, excepting moves along quietly as we before reported to you. The election bill has passed the House, came back to the Senate with a number of new amendments, passed the Senate, and is now the law of the State. It contains twenty-six long sections. When those will be printed will be at once distributed. The bill appears to be to a fair one. Time will show whether any chances for fraud are contained in it.

Mr. George W. Woodward, the leader of counsel for the defendant in error, had just finished his argument—having uttered his last sentence about 20 minutes of one o'clock.

Ex-Chief Justice Thompson then rose to reply. His appearance at this moment had nothing in it to excite any anxiety on the part of the auditors. He stood still a moment after arising, resting his hand upon the table immediately fronting Chief Justice Agnew, and then, in a low tone, asked the Court to bear with him, as it was impossible for him to speak either loud or rapidly.

He opened his argument, taking exception to a remark of the gentleman who had just preceded him, and who had said that Judge Elwell was a better judge on tax titles than he (Judge Woodward) himself.

Judge Thompson pointed out an error which the opposite counsel had made unwittingly, fallen into, and was about attempting to refute, when suddenly his voice failed him, and his countenance grew pale, and he sank upon his chair. He passed his hand over his brow, and closed his eyes.

Judge Woodward, who sat next to him, at once offered him a glass of water, hoping that the draught would revive him, and the ex-Chief Justice made an effort to take it. As he extended his arm, he suddenly fell from the chair to the floor.

All this occurred more rapidly than we can describe. Judge Woodward and a number of the members of the bar hurried Judge Thompson raised him up, and as they did so his face became fully exposed.

The eyes were closed, and the countenance was covered with the pallor of death. The scene ensuing upon this dreadful occurrence was one of great excitement and one of great sorrow.

The form of the dead jurist was ten days raised up and placed upon the table, the head resting upon a cushion. The news spread with the utmost rapidity, and among the first who ran into the court scarcely five minutes after Judge Thompson had fallen, was Dr. Price, of the Fifth Street Dispensary.

Before his arrival the collar of the ex-Chief Justice had been opened, and the experts who had witnessed the moment made an effort to reseal it.

"Gentlemen, he is dead and the cause of his death was heart disease."

News of the sad event was at once sent to the son of the deceased, and he came into the court room, which the officers endeavored to clear as rapidly as possible.

There was an uninterrupted file passing in and out of the doors for more than an hour, composed of judges, lawyers, city officials and merchants, who called by the report, hastened to learn its truth, and to see the remains of a man whose eminent ability, kind and generous disposition had won their affection and esteem.

Those who had witnessed the event were called upon from all sides to give the details. Judge Mercer, Agnew and Gordon, after consultation with the leading members of the bar who were present, decided to adjourn the court over until this (Thursday) morning at 10 o'clock, when the formal announcement of the death of the ex-Chief Justice should be made.

Both Houses met in joint session, one day last week, to open the bids for the public printing for three years, from the first day of July next.

Messrs. B. F. Meyers & Co., of the Patriot office here, were the lowest bidders, and were given the contract, their official bid having been first signed and made over to the State authorities.

On Thursday the death of Ex-Chief Justice Thompson having been telegraphed here, the following preamble and resolution was passed by the Senate:

"Whereas, Intelligence has reached the Senate of the death of Ex-Chief Justice Thompson, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, and several other members of the several committees where such matters or things to be decided may be concerned, the same having been to the best of our knowledge and belief, communicated to the several committees, and be it resolved, that the Senate doth express its sympathy and regret for the loss of so eminent a man, and be it further resolved, that the Senate doth adjourn for a time, and be it further resolved, that the same be adjourned until the next day, or until the time when the same may be again convened."

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to his memory, the Senate do no adjourn.

Mrs. Bechtel, White, McClure and Wallace paid eloquent tributes to the memory of the deceased. All uniting in ascribing honor to him for his faithful and able manner in which he discharged his official duties.

In the House, on Friday, Mr. Potter read, in place a petition from citizens in Clearfield county, for a law regulating the publication of official and local notices.

Bill No. 15, establishing an Insurance department in the State government, was passed by the Senate finally on Friday. The Senate adjourned until Thursday evening, February 4, at 7 P. M.

Truly yours,

E. L. G.

Mr. Welch's letter to President Grant relating to "Indian Affairs," and found on our first page, is excellent reading matter. Do not let the apparent length of the letter deter you from reading it.

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THESE FLIES.—The political bandits who have been fanning and fanning upon the soil of Texas for the past six years have all left the State. Grant refused to send troops to protect them. Probably, after South Carolina, Texas was infected with the disease of scoundrelism, composed of the counties of Erie, Crawford, Mercer,

Baldwin, Death of ex-Chief Justice Thompson.

A most lamentable event occurred in the Supreme Court Room, the Congressional Digest, composed of the counties of Erie, Warren, Elk, Jefferson and Clinton, nominating Judge Thompson, who was still on the bench, for Congress. At the preceding election, the district had gone against the Democrats, but Judge Thompson was successful by a majority of five or six hundred votes.

In 1848 he was re-elected, and again in 1852, thus serving six years as a member of the House of Representatives, and retiring in March, 1851, when he declined a renomination.

During his last term he was a member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

In 1850, he was elected to the State Legislature again, against his earnest protest.

In 1857 he was elected to the Supreme Bench of the State, and served 9 years as Justice when Hon. Joseph S. Blenk, then Chief Justice, resigned, and Jas. Thompson and Strong were upon the bench. The case which was up was that of Hugh W. Reynolds, et al. vs. William Langenberger, et al., an action for replevin on a suit from Columbus county.

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Judge Thompson, although an ardent Democrat, always commanded the respect of the best men of all parties, and in private life was much esteemed as a warm hearted, cultivated, and genial gentleman.

Who Did It?—One of the largest Constitutional meetings yet held assembled at Trenton, N. J., on the 26th ult. The meeting was addressed by Ex-Governor Bigler, Governor Parker and Col. Forney. "Jersey" seems to be more wide awake over the 4th of July, 1874, than any other State.

Senator Ryan has reported a bill in our State Senate appropriating the judicial districts of the Commonwealth; also, an act fixing the number of Senators and Representatives, and to apportion the same into Senatorial and Representative districts as provided by the Constitution. How our County is assigned we have not learned.

EVANS IN PRISON.—The great State robber, George O. Evans, had his second trial, at Harrisburg, last week. The jury rendered a verdict in favor of the State for \$184,863.50. This is \$40,000 more than was awarded on his first trial, and is still \$20,000 less than the soundest town in the State. But, where is the difference? The State will never get one cent, and will be compelled to pay \$10,000 costs into the bargain. Evans has been surrendered by his bail, and is now lying in the Harrisburg jail, costing the tax payers of the State sixty-five cents a day for "wash and board." It is said that Evans is poor. That he took \$60,000 out of the Treasury has been proven by a score of unimpeachable witnesses. Now, where is the money?

Is it possible that a man of his shrewdness and commanding deportment will rob the Treasury of three hundred thousand dollars, and give it all away? Who is so stupid as to believe that?

Who Did It?—We observe by a recent document sent to the Postal Committee in Congress that the P. M. General denies that he ever advocated the imposition of postage upon exchanges and newspapers within the country where published. Every Congressman in the House has told the same story to his constituents. Now, the question which concerns all, is, who did advocate and pass that infamous bill? Had our Congressman not grabbed up and pocketed \$5,000 extra pay about that time, the point as to who passed the bill would be still in doubt; but we think that the dirty act is a legitimate offspring of the act imposing a tax upon intelligence, and that our member, Goodell, must stand godfather to both acts.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION.—The following Act of Assembly, which last week passed both Houses, is now the law of the State regulating special Legislation:

Section 1. Be it enacted, etc. That no local or special bill, either to repeal or create a law, shall be passed by the Legislature, unless notice of the intention to apply thereto shall be published in the daily or semi-daily newspaper of either house, or even for that purpose, in the newspaper of the county or districts where such legislation is to be applied, or in an annual statement, and without previous notice, however.

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Venango, and Warren. He served in the District Court for six years.

In 1845 the Democratic conference of the Congressional Digest, composed of the counties of Erie, Warren, Elk, Jefferson and Clinton, nominated Judge Thompson, who was still on the bench, for Congress. At the preceding election, the district had gone against the Democrats, but Judge Thompson was successful by a majority of five or six hundred votes.

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