

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

If party lines are drawn very closely by the Republicans have a majority of three in the present House of Representatives...

FOR THE CARBON ADVOCATE.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

The increase of interest in electrical matters is remarkable. A London publisher is selling 10,000 copies a month of a new work on electricity.

An account according from Paris on a cold and cloudy day in February recorded a temperature of 68 degrees at a height of 3000 feet. This result occasioned a little astonishment.

A rumor of the existence of a race of pygmies in Africa, to the southeast of K. K. has reached Dr. Schweinfurth.

Col. Vankoff, a Russian traveller, estimates that a third of Asia, as well as a third part of Europe, still remains to be explored.

A wealthy Paris banker, M. Bischoffshelm, has undertaken the expense of an expedition to Africa to observe the total solar eclipse May 17.

The latest publications of Australian statistics show that the death rate of the continent is remarkably low, being only 14 in 1000 in 1880. The English rate for the same year was over 20 per 1000.

Recent attention has been drawn to the value of the Quilla tree of Chili, on account of the powerful cleansing properties of its bark. It is said to be more effective under certain conditions than the best soap. It is already used to some extent in washing silk and wool.

Eight prizes of \$125 each have been offered by the Royal Society of New South Wales for the best communications giving the results of original study or observations on any specified subjects. The subjects have special reference to Australian progress.

Considering the merits of glass as a roofing material, a German authority finds that it is not so destructive to glass as is generally believed, as it seldom shatters or even cracks, and a thick pane of a quarter of an inch is almost absolutely safe.

Observations upon meteoric dust, the minute particles which revolve through the regions of space, are attended by much difficulty and uncertainty, as there are few localities accessible to man where terrestrial dust does not penetrate. To secure freedom from the interference of these terrestrial atoms it is suggested that captive balloons be employed and sent to the greatest attainable altitudes.

It is a familiar fact that a black object on a white ground will appear much larger than it is in reality. For example, a white stripe on a black surface is apparently broader than a black stripe of equal width on a white surface. Peter Scheffer has sought an explanation of the phenomenon, and thus accounts for it: When one of our senses receives a double sensation, one being strong and the other weak, the latter is not felt. Especially is this the case when both impressions are of the same kind, or when a strong effect upon one of the senses is followed by a weaker one of the same kind.

Unthinking individuals doubtless often cavil at the disquieting language with which labor and expense are bestowed by scientific men upon apparently pernick studies. They forget that human knowledge is built up from the tiniest fragments, and that these fragments have been laboriously brought forth one by one from the most diverse sources. To the physicist, or the inquirer after truth, trifles are unknown, for he sees an importance in everything. To him a principle is as much a principle if discovered in the mould as if revealed by the bones of the megalosaurus, or in the possibility that the speck covered by his microscope may be the key which shall ultimately unlock one of the great and hidden secrets of the universe.

A singular occurrence, strikingly showing the powerful effect of iron in reading rocks, was lately related by H. R. Bergh. An extensive promontory in western Norway was, in 1717, deluged with water during a thaw, filling every crevice in the rock. A severe cold quickly followed, suddenly freezing the water and bursting the mass of rock, which was projected from a height of 1500 feet into the neighboring fjord, which signified the entire promontory with its cultivated fields and farmsteads. The fall caused a huge wave in the fjord, which not only swept away all the buildings within a distance of two miles and a half, but also carried away a church which had stood fifty feet above the water a mile away from the promontory. Of the latter only a low ledge now remains.

At Saratoga, on Wednesday, Prof. J. E. Hawker, State of Schools, was awarded \$4000 damages in a suit brought by him against Morris Goldstein, a prominent merchant, for signing a libelous petition to the State Dept. of Schools.

State Senator W. R. Roberts, of Titusville, is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Twenty-sixth District.

WASHINGTON.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.] WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11, 1882.

The dinner at the White House last night was what the President wished it to be—a occasion of pleasant reunion and social intercourse.

The private dining room is very home-like; its tone being warm and rich, without the so-called æsthetic wall-paper and coloring. The walls are lighted with heavily gilt patterns—Japanese flowers and bizarre designs—and capped by a fringe of wall-paper, relieved on each side by a narrow banding of gold. The curtains are of plush, and hang in full folds from rods and rings of burnished brass, and the mirrors and chandeliers are of such a size as to add to the effect of light and color.

Last night an abundance of amiable traits of delicate beauty over and about the two last, and amidst in full bloom some against a background of darker shrubbery placed against the walls. The table was laid with twenty covers and ornamented with flowers, lights and the Hibernian boat. The four flower-pieces were an improvement on the set "green-house baskets," for they nodded from long stems, and fell into the graceful positions Nature teaches her children; two were of roses, oh, such roses! and the others of hyacinths, pale pink, cream, rose-colored and white. The usual formal greeting lay at each plate—a bouquet de courage for each lady and a boutonniere for each gentleman. There was some slight change in the list of guests. Mr. Blaine being substituted for Mrs. Lincoln, who was too sick to be present, and Miss Frelinghuysen for Miss Folger, and Mrs. Wadsworth for Mrs. Brewster. Mrs. Wadsworth, by the way, is one of the most elegant women the North has ever seen, and her toilettes this season have been marvels of richness. There were sixteen courses and six varieties of wine, with liquors after; the guests sat down at the table at half-past seven and rose at a quarter to eleven. Hours for visiting and evening parties are gradually growing later and later. The President rarely sits down to dinner before 8, even when he has no specially invited company. The invitations he has issued for dinner instead half past seven as the hour, instead of seven, the fashionable time for formal dinners given here for some years. The guests have not assembled at many evening parties this year until after ten o'clock, and it has been eleven before the rooms were well filled. Many ladies have told their visiting acquaintances that they would not be ready to see visitors before five o'clock, and might be found at home almost any day at that hour. This greatly limits the visiting hours, already short enough, for those who have long lists. It is scarcely possible to make more than two calls between five o'clock and dinner time, since the ladies making that hour for receiving do not live near each other. Wherefore it follows that, so many have taken that hour for receiving, that one can make only about a dozen calls per week, excluding Sunday, though it is not a matter of course that it should be counted out, certain ladies having taken that day for receiving their friends in the afternoon or evening.

The confidential letter written by Gen. Garfield to Secretary Chase when the former was chief of staff of the Army of the Cumberland, which found its way into print yesterday, creates a good deal of sensation, and it is likely to make a good deal more before the matter is finally disposed of. It is not known how the document became public; but with those best qualified to judge on that point there is no doubt of its authenticity. Neither all its contents surprise those familiar with and who still remember the events of which it treats. The letter shows that Mr. Blaine was not without authority when he alluded in his eulogy upon Mr. Garfield to the complications which affected the efficiency of the Army of the Cumberland when the latter assumed his responsible connection with it. Its publication will also probably bring to light other interesting documents from various quarters, and it is safe to assume that the discussion closes the public will know a good deal more about the Tennessee campaign than they ever knew before. It is as true of the history of this country as of any other, that the private correspondence of participants throws more real light on important events than the more studied documents which treat of them in an official and formal manner.

Senator Miller's bill to enforce treaty stipulations relating to China, passed the Senate yesterday. The last treaty with China contained a clause providing that if Chinese laborers should be excluded from the United States the Chinese government should have the privilege of extending into the reasonableness of the ground on which it was done. Rather straining this important feature of the treaty, the bill which has just passed proposes to prohibit the coming of Chinese laborers, skilled or unskilled, to this country for twenty years, and forbids any court, State or National, to admit a Chinaman to naturalization within that time. The bill met with sturdy opposition from Mr. Edmunds and others, on the ground of violation both of the constitution and the treaty with China. It was held also to be contrary to the democratic spirit and traditional policy of this country.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.] WASHINGTON, March 13, 1882.

It is interesting for those able to distinguish the different members to sit in the gallery of the House of Representatives and quietly observe the proceedings below. It is more than interesting—of tentacles as good as circus. There is no better place to discover the characteristics and peculiarities of the men who make our laws and who hold the purse-strings of the Nation. Some of the small-—in an intellectual sense—have cleverness and ambitious concerning themselves length if they knew of it. There is, for one thing, a good deal of unlearned Presidential timber on both sides of the body, and it is more than likely to remain in the rough. Some who would make excellent candidates will be overlooked because they never think of themselves in that connection, and some who start to great heights in their own minds will never be thought of, except in jest, by any one else. On the Republican side of the House Robinson, of Massachusetts, has more of the attrib-

utes requisite to a good President than any of his conferees. He is looked upon by the men who are endeavoring to run that side of the House with a jealous eye, and men of all parties admit that he is one of the most lucid speakers in Congress. On the Democratic side Mr. Mason is the strongest prospective President. He would combine the Democratic purity, and by the magnetic influence of his purity of purpose and brilliant record, would draw to his support a large portion of that voting population who are usually supposed to be rooting on the dividing political fence.

These are two genuine specimens. Of the other class Moore, of Tennessee, the young man in a bob-tail coat who gesticulated so wildly in the aisle on opening day, would accept the nomination if we were thrust upon him. He has a very large head, but there is an impression that it is not appreciably full. Sam. Randall is also ambitious, but he is too awfully cunning for the practical purpose of this world. Bill Springer, another snort statesman, is more ornamental than useful. He is sometimes called the "Jumping Jack" of the House because he gets on his legs so often. Time and space will not permit me to name all the ambitious ones. The tickets which in my mind would raise the scalp of the country are: Joe Cannon and Orth, Republicans, vs. Atkins and Holman, Democrats. But all Congressmen are not looking towards the White House, though all have their personal characteristics. Hancock wears a black beard with his iron gray shock of hair, and appears in a constant state of lassitude. Robeson expounds constitutional law in a blue polka-dot necktie and a watch-chain radiating from the central button and disappearing in a pocket on both sides of his capacious stomach. Reagan, the distinguished Confederate, argues on a string, arranged like a "costly" which he invariably pulls from his pocket and twists and ties and unties while he talks. Singleton, of Illinois, and J. Hyatt Smith divide honors on the ugliest. They look like wood cuts of the fourteenth century, chopped out with axes. Paul, the Virginia Reformer, has the appearance of being all hair, and that as black as jet. Proctor Knott has a snow-white mustache, which looks as though it had just been whitewashed. Kasson talks as smoothly as though his words were buttered on both sides. Father Kelly's lungs are in his boots and well developed. His voice is what the Indian calls "heap dug out."

The circumstances attending the President's recent repulse to a condemned murderer in New Mexico form quite a dramatic story, beginning with the contrast between two scenes in widely separated parts of our vast country. These two scenes so far remote were coupled and made one picture by the magic of the electric telegraph and a boy's sympathy. It was the night of President Arthur's first official reception to the representatives of foreign nations, and he stood in the midst of a brilliant scene, the Executive Mansion brilliantly lighted and lined with flowers for the occasion. While thus engaged the President was continually interrupted by telegrams from far-off New Mexico, where, in jail, was a condemned man with only a few hours between him and death by hanging. How glaring the contrast between the banquet scene in Washington and the condemned cell in New Mexico! In Washington also was another scene that night of interest, which exercised a powerful influence in coupling the other two. The other: The wife of the United States Attorney General and their little son were together in her dressing room, where, with her maid's assistance, was preparing for a soiree. A telegram was brought to the lady which was addressed to her husband, who at that moment was hastening back to Washington from a visit to Philadelphia. During his absence he had often sent telegrams to his son and namesake, whom he idolizes, and whose wife, thinking this also was for the boy, opened it and was amazed and not nearly thirty pages, whose contents surprised her still more, treating as they did of murders and hangings in New Mexico. Swift of comprehension, however, Mr. Brewster soon took the situation and became fully aware that no time was to be lost, since the friends of a man sentenced to be hung in that distant Territory the very next day were pleading with her husband to delay the legal points which might result favorably to the condemned man might receive attention before it was too late. Noting the anxiety of his mother's face little Benny Brewster insisted on hearing the case, and as his mother bade a servant lose no time in taking the dispatch to the President's secretary, the boy seized a card and writing upon it in childish characters, "Give the poor fellow a chance," signed it "Ben" and insisted that it should be laid before the President. His mother or to know him, and knowing that his writing would be illegible to others, wrote beneath it on the same card the same words the child had endeavored to write, and sent it to the President with the momentous telegram. When the Attorney General, at a late hour, returned from his journey Mr. Phillips, the President's secretary, in showing him the telegram showed also the card written by his wife and only child, which naturally must have had potent influence in bringing about the thirty days' respite granted the condemned man, which was telegraphed to New Mexico in time to postpone the execution. The card with the plea of the Attorney General's son translated by the boy's mother is on file with the other papers in the case.

Dom Pedro.

Farrington Items.

Two of the young men who lately returned from the West, have again left for the "vast illimitable." Richard Thomas, John Dittmer and James Bowman will probably leave in April.

Mr. John Pearson and family of Dover, N. J., have been visiting Mr. James Anthony, the mother of Mr. Pearson, the early part of the week.

We have learned of the death of Mrs. Dennis Wentz, at the residence of her father, Mr. Charles Beiford, of this place, where she has been stopping the last few days. She passed away very quietly at 10 o'clock Thursday morning. She had been sick for some time with consumption.

We understand Mr. Harry Bick is very sick, having been confined last Sunday evening. Her complaint is said to be dysentery, which in her situation is one of grave import.

Mrs. Leuer, of this place was buried last Wednesday. She had been married about a year and was just past 17 when,

through a fall, she was prematurely confined and died of child-bed fever. The woman was highly respected. She was the oldest daughter of Mr. Laf. Brown, of this place. The case was a very sad one and the family have the sympathy of the whole community. The funeral was largely attended. HICROS.

From East Penn.

On Saturday morning, the 4th instant, the roof of the house occupied by Daniel Frits was discovered to be on fire; by the timely and earnest assistance of the neighbors the roof only was destroyed. The most serious part of the occurrence was, that the house by Mrs. Frits, suffering from a relapse of typhoid fever; she was carried by kindly hands to the house of a neighbor, Mr. Isaac Ginder, Sr. The whole family has been sick with the fever, and are not as yet convalescent—father, mother, son and daughter were all stricken, and the fire added to the affliction. Once before they were visited by sickness, and death carried off three of their children in rapid succession. This family, from what your report can learn, has been visited with far more affliction than usually falls to the lot of one family. Sympathizing friends and neighbors quickly made up a purse, purchased material and repaired the building, so that the family are again occupying their home. Henry Shultz, of Lehighton, is the owner of the property.

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