Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.

LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1869.

Economy, Retrenchment, Faithful Collection of the Revenue and Payment of the Public Debt.—GRANT.

CANDIDATES.

☞ We are authorized to announce ISAAC MISHLER, of Lancaster city, (late of East Cocalico township,) as a candidate for the office of SHERIFF, subject to the rules of the Republican party.

☞ We are authorized to announce GEO. W. COMPTON, of Cærnarvon township, as a candidate for REGISTER, subject to the rules of the Republican party.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

The new United States Senate stands:

Republicans	57
Copperheads	11

Virginia, Mississippi and Texas to elect when reconstructed.

Republicans	139
Copperheads	70

Alabama, Georgia and Connecticut to elect; also, Mississippi, Virginia and Texas when reconstructed.

It is believed that not less than ten or twelve Cops. will be ousted, of which two will be from Pennsylvania. There may be one or two Republicans from Tennessee rejected. The House, when full, will consist of 243 members, and the Senate of 74 members.

STRONG WORDS.

The man who never "had an idea in his head" has taught that large class of long-winded stump speakers and verbose journalists who found fault with his reticence the value of silence. There is not a man in all that army of fault-finders who could convey a more severe condemnation of Andrew Johnson's policy than is condensed in these words:

"All laws will be faithfully executed, whether they meet my approval or not. Laws are to govern all alike; those opposed to as well as those who favor them. I know of no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution."

The man who utters sentences like these can reasonably afford to keep pretty silent six days out of sevn.

THUGGERY ON THE MAKE.

Some time last summer, one of the leading Thugs of this County—now an office[illegible]—by some means managed to induce the Railroad Company to issue a number of free passes over their road, to be used in a certain political interest. In[illegible] of using them, according to representations made by Mr. Thug, by the individuals in whose names they were issued, at least *eight* of them passed into the hands of a copperhead Councilman of this city, and by him sold to butchers and drovers, for sums amounting to one hundred dollars each and upwards. This was decidedly sharp practice on the Railroad Company. How many more than these eight passes were sold, we are not prepared to state. We are ready, if called upon, to state names of the parties referred to, and may do so hereafter, even without being so requested. That will depend on their future honesty and good behavior. For the present, we have only to say, by way of comment, that any man who would sell a free Railroad pass, would'nt hesitate to do almost *any thing* for money. We have a few other Thug financial operations to "ventillate" one of these days.

THE CABINET.

President Grant on Thursday completed his Cabinet by the nomination of Hon. George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, as Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. Hamilton Fish, of New York, as Secretary of State, in the place of Hon. E. B. Washburne, who resigns to accept the position of Minister to France, and of General John A. Rawlings, of Illinois, as Secretary of War, in place of General Schofield, who held the place temporarily. As completed the Cabinet consists of the following gentlemen:

Hon. HAMILTON FISH, New York, Secretary of State.

Hon. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL, Massachusetts, Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. J. A. J. CRESWELL, Maryland, Postmaster General.

Gen. JOHN A. RAWLINGS, Illinois, Secretary of War.

Hon. ADOLPH E. BORIE, Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Navy.

Gen. J. D. COX, Ohio, Secretary of the Interior.

Judge E. R. HOAR, Massachusetts, Attorney General.

This is a strong, homogeneous and working Cabinet. Strong not only in ability, but in its decided political cast. Each member of it has earned reputation at home and credit throughout the nation for excellence of character and the winning of more or less distinction in their several walks of life. Thoroughly Republican in all its parts, it will have the entire confidence of that party throughout the country, and as a necessary consequence will work in harmony with the President and with Congress in carrying out the great work of the party of progress, economy and justice.

MINORITY COUNTIES SNUBBED!

We learn that at a caucus of the Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives at Washington, it was unanimously agreed that each member should confine himself to his own district, so far as matters local to that district were concerned, and *where there were no Republicans, that those districts should be administered upon by the Senators;* that where there were appointments at large, or covering more than one district, that they should meet in caucus and unite upon a recommendation. The proposition that the Senators should control the minority districts, is simply outrageous. It completely ignores the active men in those districts, and especially the Republican candidates for Congress, who nobly led the forlorn hope, at great personal sacrifice of comfort and means, against the overwhelming cohorts of the copperheads. If this scheme is carried out, we predict that next fall will show such a defeat of the Republicans in this State as was never heard of. Why are Republicans elect entitled to any more consideration in their districts, than the unselfish Republicans who ran as candidates in hopeless districts like those of Berks, York, Northampton, Lehigh, Luzerne, &c.? We hope Gen. Grant, and the other appointing powers at Washington, will put their feet down square against this infamous proposition.

WATCH THEM.

It is said at Harrisburg that the supernumary officers of the House—the twenty-seven—expect to get pay for their doing nothing by the aid of the Democratic members. Nothing more natural. That party generally puts its arms full length into any public treasury they can get hold of. Witness the recent peculations in the matter of market-stall and water rents in this city. Then go back twelve or fifteen years, when that party held high carnival over the public works of this State, when the public money was stolen by thousands and millions of dollars. But this will not excuse Republicans who vote with Democrats to consummate the outrage of paying twenty-seven officers, whom a month ago the House voted there was no earthly use for. The intention is to force the pay through in the appropriation bill. This the Senate can prevent, and we will see whether they will be driven from their position.

"THE BRIDGE CONTRACTS."

Our readers will find, in another column, a long communication from Mr. E. McMellan, on the subject of "the Bridge Contracts," with which the public is already familiar. We cheerfully publish this production, long as it is, because we are always willing and ready to give those publicly accused of wrong doing a fair and full hearing.

Mr. McMellan, in the first place assumes that the articles which recently appeared in FATHER ABRAHAM, and also in the *Express*, were aimed at himself, and were vile and slanderous in their character. He is entirely mistaken—certainly so far as FATHER ABRAHAM is concerned. We never thought of attacking Mr. McMellan, nor did we even refer to him except only for the purpose of showing up the outrageous manner in which the Board of Commissioners, or a majority of them, have been squandering or using the people's money. We did charge, and repeat now, that for the last year or two, Mr. McMellan has been the elect of the Commissioners, to build the bridges at the prices, and under the contracts entered into, and arrangements *made between himself and the Commissioners;* that the latter refused to give contracts to the lowest bidders, as they should have done, and that, under this monopolizing system—making Mr. McMellan the *only* bidder, contractor and bridge builder, and persistently refusing any other bids—many thousands of dollars were wrongfully taken out of the County Treasury. For this the Commissioners only, to whom the affairs of the county have been committed by the people, are responsible. The public have therefore nothing to do with Mr. McMellan, but only with the Commissioners.

And how does Mr. McMellan answer these charges against the Commissioners? Simply by reciting a misunderstanding between himself and Mr. Jesse Lutz—trying to make it appear that on a certain occasion, the latter appeared disposed to be somewhat quarrelsome. The sworn statement of Hagy, says Mr. McM., is "as harmless in its details as he could wish." Then why answer it at all?

But, as we never had anything to do with Mr. McMellan, we need not enter into any imaginary question in regard to himself. He is a private citizen, and in no way responsible for the acts of the Commissioners, who, we repeat, and defy contradiction on *their own* part, have, in the most shameful manner, squandered large sums of money belonging to the people of Lancaster county, under the sham contracts referred to. It is simply one of the items of public business peculiar to Thuggery in this county, and Mr. McMellan is only used by them, in this instance, to "pull their chestnuts out of the fire."

☞ The Hanover *Spectator* is out in a new dress. It is a good paper, looks well and is in a prosperous condition. "Long may it wave."

GETTING FEROCIOUS.

The Copperheads are in a bad way. They don't like the Constitutional amendment. Giving the patient, long suffering and much abused colored citizens the right to vote, and the enjoyment of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," is what they call an outrage. They are very particular about the right of the thousands of thieves and pickpockets and outcasts of the Five Points, Mackarelville and Bedford street to vote, because these roll up the *democratic majorities*. But the idea of a black man voting, is an outrage. And why? Simply because they, or at least a majority of them, will most probably vote the Republican ticket—for the party which set them free and raised them to citizenship and usefulness. Aside from the great fundamental principle involved—the principle of "Equality before the Law," we favor the amendment because it will add fully twenty thousand to the average Republican majority in Pennsylvania; because it will rescue Maryland and Kentucky from the misrule of the Ku Kluxers and Copperheads; because it will make Delaware Republican and do away with whipping posts and similar democratic relics of barbarity. In a word, the Copperheads don't want colored people to vote because they are sure to vote Republican, and we do want them to vote for precisely the same, among other very good reasons, and that's just "what's the matter."

The Lancaster *Intelligencer* is particularly ferocious about this amendment. It falls back on the Calhoun doctrine of State Sovereignty over National Sovereignty, and says:

"If the Constitution of the United States should de ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, *it would still fail to be binding* upon the people of any State, unless a majority of them voluntarily accepted it."

Our neighbor may rest assured that three-fourths of the States *will* ratify the amendment. Whether it will be binding will be a question, if raised, that will very soon be settled by Uncle Samuel Grant, and in a manner, too, entirely satisfactory.

The *Intelligencer* also says:

"The issue is now fully made up. The people will vote for or against the repeal of the amendment. A Legislature will be elected which will undo the infamous work."

If the amendment, after being ratified, is not binding, where is the issue? And what is the incoming Legislature going to *repeal?* The joint resolution just ratified by the Pennsylvania Legislature is no act, or statute, but *a vote*—the vote of Pennsylvania, which, when once polled, as it has been, and duly recorded as it has or will be, cannot be *repealed*, or made void, unless it is shown that it has been polled in a fraudulent or unlawful manner. It will be counted just one time, and no more and no less.

All copperhead bluster about this matter is therefore of no account whatever. The vote of Pennsylvania—this most glorious and purely REPUBLICAN VOTE, *is polled*, and the result recorded at Head Quarters, and that is the end of it. That the people will simply endorse it at the next election, by twenty-five thousand majority, by electing the Republican candidates for Governor and Supreme Judge, there can be no doubt whatever.

GRANT'S INAUGURAL.

The *New York Tribune* analyzes the foregoing inaugural by reducing it to thirteen plain propositions:

I. I shall advise Congress—but not war upon it.

II. My business is to execute the laws. A bad law will always remedy itself when the people begin to suffer from it.

III. We have had war,—now we must have peace. We have our common country, and any sentiment of sectional hatred or revenge is unpatriotic.

IV. Our debt is the honorable consequence of the war. It is the price we pay for Union. Not to pay is a crime only second to treason.

V. We must pay our debts without equivocation. When we borrowed in our hour of distress, the dollars we received were gold to us. We must pay gold unless the contract expressly stipulates to the contrary.

VI. American credit should be the best in the world. Let us stop talking about Repudiation and collect the revenues, and we can make it the best in the world.

VII. I am in favor of building railroads to the Pacific. But we must not issue bonds for that purpose—until we resume specie payments. We must no longer promise to pay a gold dollar until we receive a gold dollar. That was a war necessity; it must be stopped now.

VIII. America can never be great until her name is synonymous with Financial Honor. Our flag means Liberty; it must also mean Faith.

IX. We must resume specie payments speedily; perhaps not now, but as soon as we can.

X. We should do unto other nations as we would have other nations do unto America. If countries like England make "Alabama" precedents, they only compel us to follow them.

XI. As for the Indian, conscience speaks to us. We must see!

XII. As for the Negro,—equal rights in all the States.

XIII. And may God bless us all.

A SUGGESTION.

The Thug organ, of twe "Soldiers Monument," suggests an election for P. M. of this City, to relieve our M. C. Well, that *looks* very fair—suppose the *Inquirer* goes a little further and asks the Commissioners to give out the bridges in the same way, or at least give more than one man a chance. What say you—but we forget that FATHER ABRAHAM is a "contemptible little sheet!"

BILLINGFELT AFTER THE LOBBY!

Our readers will peruse, with pleasure, the following remarks of our Senator, Mr. BILLINGFELT. He handles, without gloves, the infamous crew who infest the Halls of our Legislature to prey upon the people, and filch money from their pockets or from the State Treasury. Mr. BILLINGFELT was warmly congratulated by Senators of both parties at the conclusion of his remarks, for his bold and independent utterances. Lancaster county is highly honored in having such a man to represent her in our Legislature.

[illegible] AND PHŒNIXVILLE RAILROAD [illegible] in order was Senate bill No. 401, a supplement to an act entitled An act to incorporate the Cornwall and Phœnixville railroad company, approved the 21st day of April, A. D. 1853.

The bill was read:

MR. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, this bill might as well be voted down. They can get what they want under the free railroad law. I don't think there is any intention of building this road.

MR. BILLINGFELT. Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for a road under a charter obtained in 1852.

MR. CONNELL. Fifteen years ago.

MR. BILLINGFELT. It does not make any difference how long ago. This company was incorporated at that time, and the corporators named in the old act did not undertake to push it through. This new bill is asked now to extend the time for the commencement and completion of the road and adding new corporators. I am laboring under some disadvantage in regard to this bill, although I knew weeks ago that certain instrumentalities were at work trying to influence Senators against the passage of this bill. I could not for a moment believe that any Senators would be influenced. When there are parties in this State who are willing to employ their means for the development of our resources, I think there should be generosity enough in the Legislature of Pennsylvania to encourage them. I remember that not many years ago—I may say quite recently, we feared the corporation known as the Pennsylvania railroad company, whom we thought had contemplated or was trying to infringe upon the rights of others. It seems now that they are in favor of allowing any company to have the privilege of building railroads and developing the resources of the Commonwealth, provided they have the means to do so. I have been here almost five years as a member of this Legislature, and so far, I may say that I have never appealed to a member personally in favor of the passage of any bill. I have never been to any members on this floor, begging them to vote for a bill of mine as a personal favor. I never did, and never intend, to exchange my vote upon any bill. I have thought that every bill ought to stand upon its own merits, and that there was wisdom enough in this body to vote accordingly.

What do I find there now? Not Senators of this body attending to this bill, but outsiders coming in here, not only in violation of the rules of this body, but in violation of all decency, trying to button-hole members, trying to influence them, and damning them to their very faces whenever they undertake to report a bill with an infirmative recommendation which does not suit the interests of these parties; paid hirelings to come here and try to influence Senators—one of whom is now under contempt for not obeying the summons of a Legislative committee, of which the Senator from Erie [Mr. Lowry] was chairman. He may be trying again to-day to sell out the Senate of Pennsylvania, as they have done once before, to this same railroad interest that opposes this bill, whilst he has not yet purged himself of that contempt. I see the same parties coming in here and claiming more privilege than I do, occupying the seats of members of this body, in violation of the rules of this body, and trying to defeat the passage of a bill which I brought here, and intend in all sincerity to pass, because my constituents are willing to raise the means to build the road; and I am met here, not by Senators opposing it, but by outsiders, who are trying to impose themselves upon this body and defeat the passage of all meritorious bills not suited to their interests.

I had no idea of saying a word in favor of the passage of this bill; I did not think it would be necessary to do so; but when I find the dignity of the Senators assailed, I think it my duty to rise up and protest against it. With these few remarks, I will leave it to the judgment of this Senate either to pass it or vote it down, as they may think proper.

On the question. Will the Senate agree to the first section?

The yeas and nays were required by Mr. Billingfelt and Mr. Fisher, and were as follows, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Billingfelt, Brown (Mercer) Coleman, Fisher, Graham, Lowry, Olmsted, White and Worthington, *Speaker*—9.

NAYS—Messrs. Beck, Brown (Northampton,) Burnett, Connell, Davis, Duncan, Errett, Hemszey, Linderman, M'Candless, M'Intire, Miller, Osterhout, Randall, Searight, Stinson and Turner—17. So the question was determined in the negative, and the bill fell.

GET YOUR PAY!

The "pasters and folders" at Harrisburg, might be able to get their pay by following the example of Mr. Colder, who by order of the City Council, hired some carriages to be used in the demonstration in honor of Andrew Johnson, during his swing around the circle in 1866. It seems that the ordering of the carriages was unauthorized by law, and Mr. Colder could not get his pay from the City Treasury. He holds the members to their individual responsibility, and has brought suit against them. Now, if the aforesaid "pasters and folders" would take Mr. Colder's plan, and "come down" on the members who employed them without authority of law, they might get what is due them. It is worth a trial anyhow.

SCHWEFFLEBRENNER IN PRUSSIA.

We are permitted to extract the following from a letter received by an esteemed friend in this county, from a gentleman of distinction in Prussia, who some years ago, was a leading officer of the Moravian Church at Litiz:

"The same mail that brought your very agreeable letter also placed into my hands "Pit Schweffiebrenner's" letters, by which I see you can still enjoy wit and humor. I thank you very cordially for these letters. They have recalled to me years gone by, and I see individuals of those days again, in spirit before me, whose "Pennsylvania Deitch" so often amused me. I am still able to read this dialect, and to laugh heartily when doing so. I frequently read passages to the young students visiting me, and try them, whether they can understand this peculiar "Deitsch." I think the author very successful in having entered into the spirit of the people I formerly knew."

A HIGH-TONED Kentucky gentleman keeps his daughter chained to a log to prevent her marrying against his wishes.

THE BRIDGE CONTRACTS.

EDITORS EXPRESS: The following ex-parte statements by a Mr. Jesse Lutz and Mr. Jacob Hagey, appeared on the 19th of February last in *Father Abraham*, published in this city, and it was not until a day or two ago that my attention was called to them. I should have passed them by as I did various other statements which have lately been published of the same vile and slanderous character, but that they seem to have been made at the time under the solemn obligations of an affirmation, and by men too who might be considered very respectable at a distance.

"January 13th 1869, Jesse Lutz being duly affirmed by Samuel Shoch, one of the Auditors, did declare and say that the Bridge at Lutz's mill, built by E. McMellen, for the Commissioners, could be built for $1,000, and less, say from $800 to $900. No roof on it; between 50 and 60 feet long, 12 feet wide outside. Wagons cannot pass each other on it, too high in the centre, the ascent and descent being too great. Looks like a camel—a mere road Bridge. The sides three or four feet high, boarded up. The Supervisor last Spring put stones around the foundation. The creek is about 15 feet wide where the bridge is built. The bridge might not have stood if the Supervisor had not done so. I have built railroad bridges; am a blacksmith by trade. The township did the filling up behind the abutments. The Carpenters were there about four days—three or four carpenters there. Three or four masons there for four or five days. There were old stones there for the stone work; some were brought two hundred yards from John Sweigart's. When Fritz and I made the calculation, thought it would take three or four thousand feet of lumber; the lumber was got in Columbia, the railroad was from twenty to fifty steps from the bridge. I don't think there was $200 worth of iron in it. Bridge is whitewashed. Mr. McMellen got Mr. Freymaurer to whitewash it for a dollar or two.

"Jacob Hagey, being duly affirmed, says the bridge at Lutz's Mill could be built for $1000; the work is good enough. The day the Commissioners were at Lutz's Mill I offered to build it for $1000. I was at Reinhold's Station when the Commissioners and the man who built the bridge came there; I asked Jno. Gensemer, one of the Supervisors, whether there would be a bridge built, and he said yes; I said I thought when the bridge was given out the lowest bidder would get it; Gensemer said that it would not be given out, that the Commissioners had their man with them who would build it. I said nothing to the Commissioners about it; but they were present."

The above are said to be the sworn statements of Lutz and Hagey. For the purpose of giving the people of Lancaster county some idea of the testimony of Mr. Lutz, which they are asked to believe, without hearing anything on the other side, I herewith beg leave to give a correct statement of the whole affair, and let the people be the judges. When I first commenced the work on the foundation of the Bridge, both my men and myself were ordered by Mr. Lutz to leave the ground unless I put up the bridge at a point to suit him, and at a different point from that selected by the County Commissioners. Of course, I could not comply with the request of the gentleman, and on my positive refusal to do so, he became exceedingly violent and threatened the workmen and myself with summary vengeance. As his insulting language and insolent behavior was too much to bear, and in order to allow the men to go on with the work, I was compelled, as a matter of necessity, to order him peremptorily to leave the ground and that, if he did not go, I should use sufficient force to accomplish that end. He then left, came to Lancaster and brought suit against me. What the nature of the suit was, I cannot now remember; at all events, he discontinued the suit and gratified himself by paying the costs. I may be allowed to state another reason why Mr. Lutz finds fault with the construction of the bridge. The stone used in the abutments was purchased from [illegible] at a reasonable price, the very same quality for which Mr. Lutz demanded $4.50 per perch. Of this stone, I used nearly two hundred perches, which, at Mr. Lutz's price, would amount to within a fraction of $900. No doubt the contract for furnishing that article would have silenced all opposition on his part, as he would have realized as much for his stone as he says the bridge could be built for.

The bridge is about sixty feet long, twelve feet wide inside; is an uncovered arch suspension bridge, has a comber or convexity of about two feet, that is higher in the center than at either end, and is built on the plan that all such bridges are erected, with a view to strength and durability. The mason work was done by good by good masons of the neighborhood, of good large sized sand stone, averaging from two to five feet in length. In splitting and preparing this stone I had several men engaged from eight to ten days before the masons commenced work. I had six carpenters, each of whom worked nine days, from four to five masons for ten and eleven days, besides tenders and laboring men. The amount of lumber used was over 10,000 feet, for which I can produce the bills. Now I am prepared to prove the truth of my statement by gentlemen of the neighborhood in which the work was done; gentlemen too of the highest standing, and of the most unexceptionable character; gentlemen who did not desire to obtain the contract for furnishing the stone at $4.50 per perch, or dictate the propriety of erecting the structure at a particular point to suit their own convenience, to the great detriment of the public. Mr. Lutz says he is a blacksmith, and for aught I know he may be a very good one, but, from his own sworn statement I am convinced that he is not the man who would be chosen either to locate, plan or build a bridge unless the party employing him were fit subjects for the State Lunatic Asylum. He must be either inexcusably ignorant in the knowledge of figures, or he must think that the people of Lancaster county are the most easily gulled people in the world, when he says that there are only about three thousand feet of lumber used in the construction of that bridge. So much for Mr. Lutz.

The statement of Mr. Hagey is as harmless in its details as I could possibly wish. He states that he offered to erect this modern Rialto for $1000. That is certainly magnanimous on his part; patriotic in the extreme; but of course he would do it as a labor of love, just for the fun of the thing, to enjoy the reputation of having built a bridge over a creek in Lancaster county. If Mr. Hagey has a single idea of immortalizing himself in this way I hope and trust he may soon have an opportunity of gratifying his ambition.

Equally erroneous and unjust were the attacks made upon me by the editors of certain papers of this city when they say the foundations of the bridge at the Printer's Paper Mill were made up of small stones and air-slacked lime, and that I used two of the old arches, badly cracked, the falling of which is only a question of a few years, calling it a miserable structure, &c., &c. The lime used was always freshly burned and of as good quality as could be obtained anywhere in the neighborhood, and as to the two arches spoken of I had nothing to do with them as they were part of the turnpike road and not included in my contract. But, as this part of the subject will soon come up for legal investigation, I will pass it for the present, regretting however that gentlemen so much interested in the welfare of the people, as these same gentlemen seem to be, did not for a moment take time to examine the terms of the contract and try to know more about it before they hurled their wholesale denunciations on my devoted head.

In conclusion, permit me to say that there is no other consideration which could possibly induce me to appear in the columns of the press than that of protecting my character from the vile assaults to which I have lately been subjected by such men as Lutz & Co.; and to expose the motive which caused these gentlemen to swear so disinterestedly.

E. MCMELLEN.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, March 16, 1869.

Dear Father Abraham:—As intimated in my last, a session of the Senate was held on Wednesday evening to consider the resolution ratifying the suffrage amendment. Mr. Burnett, (Democrat) lead off in a speech of some length, but it was a mere rehash of the old and stale *arguments* of his party, and full of "nigger," "nigger," "nigger." He was followed by his brother democrats, Messrs. Searight, Davis, McCandless and Wallace, pretty much in the same strain. The Republicans had decided in caucus, in order to pass the resolution to third reading that evening, to call the previous question at 11 o'clock and to refrain from taking part in the discussion until the resolution came up on final passage the next day. So the opposition had the entire evening to themselves—except what little time was taken up by Senator Lowry, of Erie, who, by taunts and imprecations they finally induced to "get off" one of his characteristic speeches. The Democrats were much chagrined at discovering that the Republicans would not gratify them by replying. The chamber was packed with spectators who seemed to appreciate the joke highly; and one of the speakers finding himself unable to secure the attention of the Senators, addressed himself to the lobby. The whole discussion was tame and spiritless. Next morning on the final passage of the resolution, addresses were made by Senators McIntyre, (democrat) and White, Fisher, Errett and Stinson, (Republicans,) Which completely wiped out the thread-bare arguments of the opposition. The resolution carried by a vote of 18 ayes to 15 nays. An understanding was had in the House on Friday that the resolution would be taken up on to-morrow evening, and sessions be held each following evening, to be devoted to its consideration, until finally disposed of.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

Rev. Pennel Coombe and James Black, of your city, a committee appointed by the Temperance Convention lately in session here, have prepared a bill looking to the total abolition of the license system in localities where, by popular vote, the people decide in favor of its abolishment. It provides that on the application of one-third of the qualified voters of any election district in the State, the court thereof shall order an election to be held, at which election, if a majority of the qualified voters so decide, all applications for license shall be refused by the court. These gentlemen had a hearing before the House Committee last week, and their proposition met with their approval. The late stage of the session precludes, I think, the possibility of its passage.

THE BOILER SWINDLE.

Another snake reared its head in the House a few days ago, in the shape of a bill requiring a certain indicator to be placed on all steam boilers in the State, and requiring the appointment of boiler inspectors to see that the law is enforced. The *Morning Patriot* denounces it as a "gigantic swindle," and charges "that a bill of like import was before the Legislature last winter *and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars* was offered to pass it through both houses and have it signed by the Governor." Whether dishonest agencies are at work now or not to secure its passage, the bill is evidently gotten up as a job for somebody, and the fact that it has not been placed on the files of the members of itself looks very suspicious. The bill was considered in Committee of the Whole. A vote of the House has not yet been reached, though it looks as if it would pass.

THE CATTLE BILL AGAIN.

Last night an effort was made in the House to suspend the rules to call up the "Cattle Bill." Two-thirds being necessary, it failed. It is whispered that the thing is "set up," and the friends of the measure are sanguine of ultimate success. It would be well for the people to closely watch the course of their representatives on the bill, since it is rumored that there is "money in it."

It is expected the Finance Committee of the Senate will be prepared to report the Appropriation Bill the beginning of next week. Until it is disposed of, it is not probable a day of final adjournment will be fixed upon.

THE STATE AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION

Convenes in the hall of the House of Representatives, this city, to-morrow. A large attendance is looked for, and the proceedings will doubtless be very interesting. The delegates from your county are Messrs. Jacob G. Peters, Henry M. Engle and Levi W. Groff.

LOCAL LEGISLATION, &C.

A bill has passed the Senate authorizing the Directors of any School District in Lancaster county, at their discretion, to devote ten per cent. of their State appropriation towards purchasing and fitting up a library for the benefit of schools and teachers. Gen. Fisher introduced it some days ago as a general bill, but there being some objection to it by Senators, on his motion it was made applicable only to your county.

With the aid of the Democrats, Senator Fisher succeeded in defeating the bill requiring your County Commissioners to give security for faithful performance of their duties; which came up for action in two-day's *Private Calendar*. Senator Billingfelt was very earnest in its advocacy, but by personal appeals his colleague secured a majority against it.

In the House to-day the act authorizing the Commissioners to remit fines in certain cases—to which allusion has been made in several papers of your city—was objected off the Calendar, and must therefore go over for one week.

The City Charter Bill passed one reading, and ere this appears in print will doubtless have become a law.

Mr. Summy has passed through the lower branch, an act requiring railroad companies to keep in repair all fences, and to construct cattle guards at the crossings along the line of their roads in Lancaster county. He has also introduced an act authorizing and empowering the trustees of the Zion's Church Building in Manheim, to sell the same. Also, an act to incorporate the New Holland Exchange and Discount Deposit Company, of Lancaster co.

A very important bill has been introduced by Mr. Hopkins, providing that in all cases except murder in the 2d degree, manslaughter or child-rape, the person convicted shall be sentenced to the county prison; that the courts shall be required on application of the Prison Inspectors, to transfer all such prisoners from the Eastern Penitentiary to the county prison for the unexpired term; that all insane or idiotic persons confined in the county prison, on proof of such condition, shall be transferred to the county hospital or State Asylum, at the discretion of the Inspectors.

Mr. Porter read a bill authorizing the residents of Lancaster and York counties, to establish fish baskets in the Susquehanna river.

In the Senate, Mr. Fisher presented petitions from Lancaster and York counties, urging the repeal of the fish law of last winter.

Mr. Billingfelt, has introduced the following: An act authorizing Jeremiah Wiest and S. S. Wiest, trustees of certain school property in West Cocalico township, to convey the same to the school directors of that township. Also, an act to prevent the spread of the cattle disease. Also, a petition from Bart township, for a law allowing the question of licensing public houses to be submitted to a vote of the people of that district.

An act to incorporate the Lancaster City Cornet band association, passed the Senate.

Quite a number of Lancaster county politicians have been here yesterday and to-day. Among them, Jacob G. Greider, Sheriff Fry, John Baker, Jacob B. Shuman, Levi W. Groff Ellwood Griest, Andrew Armstrong and D. G. Steacey. What's up? Z.

A BACHELOR, who was subsequently hung for matricide, once propounded the following odious conundrum: Why is a cross wife like an owl? Because she does all her hooting at night.