

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1870.

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A GOOD MOVE.

Amongst the most important business before Congress is a bill introduced by Mr. C. C. Washburn to turn over all the telegraph lines in the United States to the Post Office Department. A bill to this effect would be of incalculable benefit to the public. It would destroy the existing monopoly, and greatly cheapen telegraphing. We hope that members of Congress will have backbone enough to withstand the immense pressure which will be brought to bear upon them by the existing telegraph companies, and pass the bill.

A GOOD APPOINTMENT.

Gen. Alex. L. Russell has been appointed Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, by Gov. Geary, in place of Gen. D. B. McCreary, resigned, who is a member of the Legislature from Erie county. We chronicle the appointment of Gen. Russell with great pleasure. He filled the place with marked ability during the war, under the administration of Gov. Curtin, and his re-appointment will be hailed all over the Commonwealth with great enthusiasm.

SHORT-SIGHTED.

It is wonderful how short-sighted leading "Democrats" are—says the Reading Journal—and still more wonderful that the intelligent masses of the party continue to yield obedience to their blind guides without breaking out in open revolt. Everybody who is not bigotedly blind, must see that it is not in the power of the Democratic party to stop the car of Republican progress for many years to come. It cannot defeat the XVth Amendment. It cannot prevent a free ballot and equal rights in all the States for all races and people. It cannot restore the exploded and dangerous doctrine of "State Rights" which brought on the Rebellion. It can never hope to repeal or annul the laws of Congress or the new Amendments that have been grafted upon the Constitution as measures of safety for the future. Then why oppose what it cannot help? Why butt its stupid head against the wall of granite which the people have reared as a break-water to guard against future rebellions?

"O but," says some incorrigible "Old Foggy," like Seymour, or Packer, or Munger, "only wait awhile, and the 'Democratic' principles will again prevail. When we get the power we will make short work of upsetting all that has been done by the Black Republicans for the last ten years." This is the promise held forth by the antediluvian leaders, and its speedy accomplishment by the masses was all that prevented these same leaders from being thrown overboard years ago.

"When we get the power," say these ancient fossils—but when will that be?

It is well said by the New York Sun, which belongs to no party, that "though the Democratic party should succeed in carrying the next House of Representatives, and should elect the next President, and obtain a majority in each of the two Houses of Representatives chosen during his term, they could pass no distinctive party measure through Congress, because the majority of the Senate would be Republicans. Therefore, until after the close of the next Presidential term, the Democratic party can hope for no legislation by Congress that will invalidate any of those cardinal measures."

And how about the Supreme Court, that is rapidly passing out of their hands and becoming stronger and stronger indoctrinated with Republican ideas of the progressive sort. There are now two vacancies on the Bench—and President Grant will take good care that they are filled by progressive men of the Republican faith. It is safe to assume that for at least ten years to come the Supreme Court will never disturb any of the cardinal measures employed in suppressing the rebellion and reconstructing the insurgent States.

There is really, then, no hope for the Democracy unless they turn "square round," and become more radical than the most Radical Republicans, on the side of Progress—and as this is very hard to do, probably the best way would be to disband the party altogether, join the Republicans, and wait for something to "turn up" that would enable them to reorganize a new party with better prospects. That is our advice, and as there will be no earthly use in opposing Gen. Grant for another term anyhow, it is, we conceive, the best advice that can be given.

"GOING FOR THEM."

Gov. Geary is having a good time just now, receiving applications for the "pickings" in the way of Inspectorships, &c. "The Old Guard" has its share of citizens willing to serve their country. The following applications are on file from this county:

For Flour Inspector—Daniel A. Shiffer, F. S. Albright, Henry B. Greybill, Jacob F. Frey, (late Sheriff.)

For Whisky Inspector—John Stauffer, (present incumbent.)

Lazaretto Physician—Dr. W. L. Lauber.

We understand that in addition to the above, Capt. John Q. Mercer is a candidate for one of the Inspectorships.

Philadelphia is also on hand with candidates for the various offices, and claims that these appointments belong to her citizens exclusively. The minority counties are also well represented among the applications, and we hope Gov. Geary will give them due consideration. He ought to remember that to the gallant Republicans of these counties he owes his re-election, for had they faltered, as did Allegheny, Lancaster, and other strongholds, he would now be approaching the close of his gubernatorial career, instead of the day for his inauguration for a second term. Let him take up the returns of the election, and see what good work was done by the Republicans of such counties as Carbon, Luzerne, Lehigh, Schuylkill, York, &c., and then recognize their claims in a substantial manner.

THE COUNTY SOLICITOR.

The Lancaster Express a few days ago proposed the passage of an act making the office of County Solicitor elective by the people, same as the District Attorney, instead of appointment by the board of Commissioners. The proposition is a good one. Strong reasons might be started for such a change, but we deem it entirely unnecessary. We trust our Senators and Representatives will duly consider the matter, and come to the conclusion that the people should have the right to elect this as well as every other county officer.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM.

THE STATE TREASURERSHIP.

The General Assembly met and organized on Tuesday last—the House at 12 o'clock, m., and the Senate at 3 o'clock, p. m. B. B. Strang was elected Speaker of the House; General James L. Selfridge, Clerk; E. G. Lee, Assistant Clerk; Jno. A. Small, Resident Clerk; Jas. L. Aller, George A. Baker, Isaac Moorhead, John M. Kilbourne, J. F. Humes and John L. Morrison, Transcribing Clerks; Thomas Wilson, Sergeant-at-Arms, and J. S. Halsary, John McFadden, Warren McCreary and H. M. Stambaugh, Assistants; J. H. Hall, Door-keeper, and John Root, James Scott and Stephen S. Hart, Assistants; W. V. Gibson, Messenger, and Anthony McManis, W. W. Wright and George C. Anderson, Assistants; August Beckhart, Post-master, and Wm. Shields, Assistant, and James Rems, Superintendent of Pastors and Folders Department.

Notwithstanding Mr. Strang's Pasting and Folding record of last session, his election to the Speakership of the House, at this time, seems to give general satisfaction at Harrisburg, and he was supported mostly by those elected as reformers, and for very good reasons. He is fully pledged to do all in his power to economize in all things, and recognizes the demands of the party in this respect. He is squarely in favor of a proper disposition of the "unexpended balance" in the Treasury, but believes no further legislation, but only a faithful enforcement of existing laws, is necessary to this end. The fact that Mr. Strang was supported, principally by the friends of Mr. Irwin, for State Treasurer, it may safely be inferred that he is decidedly for that gentleman and against the ring and its candidate, Mr. Mackey. As Mr. Strang's election seemed to be a foregone conclusion, Maj. Reinohl and all other candidates for the Speakership were withdrawn. It may further be stated that whilst Mr. Strang has placed himself squarely on the side of retrenchment and reform, he does not admit or plead guilty to all the charges made against him during the last session, as the leader of the House, and one of the supporters of the pasting and folding job. He contends that what was done was by virtue of the action in caucus, which he, as a Republican, felt bound to support. He does not justify the action of the caucus, only his individual action in obeying the caucus. Be this as it may, he has it in his power now to make a good record for himself and the party. Knowing him to be a gentleman of rare ability, an experienced parliamentarian and in every respect an honorable man, we hope that we shall not find any cause to regret his election, or that he finally received the support of the representatives from the Old Guard.

The re-election of Gen. Selfridge to the Chief Clerkship, was also a well deserved compliment. Mr. Small, the resident Clerk, was voted for and elected by both parties, and thus he was recognized as an "indispensable fixture." He has had the benefit of many years experience in running the House, and his presence is always desirable, particularly to new and inexperienced Speakers and other officers. Among the Transcribing Clerks is James L. Allen, Esq., of Sadsbury township, this county. He is a young man of superior intelligence, admirable business qualifications, of unexceptionable character; was a good and faithful soldier, if a staunch Republican, and will make a very excellent Clerk. Mr. Stephen J. Hart, of this city, also a deserving Republican, is an Assistant Door Keeper.

The members of the House from this county have thus far made a very favorable impression at Harrisburg, and indications are that they will all work together, in perfect harmony, for every measure calculated to promote the interests of the people whom they represent. That they will acquit themselves well, and carefully avoid the errors of some of their predecessors, we have very good reason to believe.

The Senate organized by the election of Mr. Stinson, of Montgomery county, to the Speakership; George W. Hamersly, Clerk, and Capt. Rogers, First Assistant. Among the other officers are A. M. Rambo of Columbia, as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Theo. Hiestand of Marietta, as one of the Transcribing Clerks. Thus Lancaster county has also fared well in the Senate. We need not say that Messrs. Billingfelt and Warfel will be and remain in every respect true to the people of the Old Guard, and give those who so vigorously supported them no cause to regret their choice.

At the time of writing—Wednesday morning—the indications are very strongly in favor of Gen. Irwin for the State Treasurership. His friends consider the contest virtually ended, and his election a foregone conclusion. Quay, however, is still about, but "looks down in the mouth"—as if he had a broken "slate" somewhere about his person. And the Chief of Thugs is also in Harrisburg. His place this time is along the curb-stone, out in the cold, patiently waiting for something to turn up.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

This document was transmitted to the Legislature on Wednesday. Owing to its great length we are unable to lay it before our readers as we intended to do. It is decidedly a well written and highly interesting paper.

Financially the State is in a sound condition. The receipts during the year ending November 30, 1869, including the balance in the treasury November 30, 1868, amounted to \$6,254,636.65. Expenditures during that time, \$4,853,774.16. Leaving a balance in the treasury on the 30th of November last of \$1,400,862.49.

Heretofore payments of debt and interest have been made partly by the State Treasurer and partly by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, which has tended to complicate accounts. The Governor recommends that authority of law be given to charge the Commissioners with the whole amount of the State indebtedness and with all money applicable to the payment thereof, and that they alone be credited with payments, both principal and interest. This would avoid all complication of accounts and greatly simplify the financial statement.

The State debt November 30, 1868, was \$33,286,947.13, of which was redeemed during the fiscal year \$472,387.18, five per cent. loans, and \$19.00 cancelled Relief notes, leaving the debt November 30, 1869, \$32,814,540.95.

This is highly satisfactory, showing a steady gradual reduction of State indebtedness under Republican administration; nearly five millions have been paid since January, 1867, when the debt amounted to \$37,704,409.72.

The necessity of paying the State Treasurer a fair salary, and to make a proper disposition of the "reserve fund" on hand from time to time, is referred to with much emphasis and force. That officer receives but \$1700 salary, for which he gives bond in the sum of \$80,000, and becomes responsible for handling about six millions during the year. That a Treasurer can be expected to discharge duties of such responsibility and not resort to the unlawful use of public funds, can hardly be expected. But few men have held the office who did not become rich in a year or two, evidently by practices unknown to the public, and the scrambles for the office, and the moral and political debauchery which the people of the State are compelled to witness in the election of that officer every year, demand a remedy, and the Legislature is called upon to fix a proper salary, at least equal to that of the Governor, and require the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to use all funds in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, in liquidating the State debt.

Over a column is devoted to Assets in Sinking Fund: the Common Schools, Soldiers' Orphan Schools and Agricultural College, receive due attention; the Military, Military History and Home for Disabled Soldiers, are brought to the attention of the Legislature; the Avondale Disaster is properly commented on, and a law to prevent future similar calamities recommended. The other subjects embraced in the message are the Board of Public Charities, Geological Survey, Inspection of Gas, Revision of the Civil Code, Statistics, Prison Discipline, the Judiciary, Boundary Line, In Memoriam, Pardons and National Affairs.

In his observations on our National affairs, the Governor expresses himself strongly in favor of a protective tariff, and hostile to any modification of the tariff laws by which the interests of Pennsylvania would be injuriously affected. On this question he has planted himself on impregnable grounds, supported by the entire Republican party of the State, and it is to be hoped that his views, fearlessly expressed, may have the weight to which their soundness entitle them. In relation to the Cuban question, he favors an early, if not immediate recognition of the independence of the struggling patriots. His views on financial affairs may be embraced in this short quotation from the message: "The constant and natural approach to specie payments is the only safe mode, in my opinion, to accomplish that desirable end. Any compulsory law that may be enacted will in all probability be a failure. I do not hesitate to say that the contraction of the currency at this time would be productive of great injury both to individuals and to the general interests of the nation."

Accompanying the message is a Pardon Report, containing all the pardons granted and death warrants executed during the year 1869, with the names of persons who solicited Executive clemency in behalf of convicts. This report shows conclusively that Gov. Geary, in every instance in which he granted a pardon, was clearly justified in doing so by the array of respectable names attached to the petition.

During the present session of the Legislature we expect to give, regularly every week, a letter from Harrisburg, by a correspondent upon whom every reader may rely as in every respect truthful and in the interest of no man or set of men. Just such letters are wanted by the people.

At Cincinnati 42,000 barrels of "saloon washings" are redistilled every year, yielding about two and a half gallons new spirits each. The slops bring about two dollars per barrel, and whisky drinkers swallow the stuff distilled from them without hesitation.

Father Abraham's Chips.

The opera originated in Italy.

It is expected that the Postal Telegraph system will soon be adopted.

St. Louis wants a World's Fair in 1872.

The Californians are making sweet-oil from sunflowers.

M. ROUBER is the new President of the French Senate.

A PEABODY memorial hospital is to be erected in London.

1870 has 53 Saturdays, and only one St. Patrick's day.

So many men are very "short" about this time that Tom Thumb and Commodore Nutt have ceased to be curiosities.

THERE is a firm at Ripon, Wis., named Wood & Coal, which deals in wood and coal, flour, and other fuel.

THE Baptists of New York have spent \$1,000,000 during the past year in building and repairing churches.

FRANK BLAIR is denouncing General Grant. This is not the first very small dog that has barked at a six-horse team.

THE damage by the recent floods in England and Wales is estimated at \$2,500,000.

A DETERMINED and industrious gang of bank burglars are plundering the country banks of the State of New York.

DURING her career as a painter of animals, Miss Rosa Bonheur received for her paintings upwards of 750,000.

A DEPARTMENT formed of Southern California and Arizona, under command of General Jeff. C. Davis, is spoken of.

THE oldest church building in America is at Bingham, Mass. It was erected in 1681.

A REMONSTRANCE has been sent to Washington, from Schuylkill county, against the reduction of the duty on iron.

COMMODORE McDUGALL is ordered to the command of the South Pacific Squadron.

MR. STANTON leaves no property to his family except the house they now occupy in Washington.

INFORMATION received at Washington is that the Tennessee State Convention, to meet in January, is in favor of colored suffrage by a two-thirds majority.

CONNECTICUT proposes to pass a law restricting people from procuring divorces until they have been married at least two weeks.

JUDGE PAXSON, in his recent charge to the Grand Jury in Philadelphia, attributed fully three-fourths of all the crimes committed, to intemperance.

THE present price of butter is attributed to the more extended use of the piano instead of the churn, among farmers' daughters.

THE colossal statue of President Lincoln, modeled by H. K. Brown, to be erected in Union Park, New York, is now ready for transportation from Philadelphia.

GOV. GEARY, it is rumored, is going to make a general change in his appointments of State Officers, such as Whisky Inspector, Leather Inspector, Grain Measurer, &c., &c.

It is proposed to pay the pension of invalid soldiers monthly instead of quarterly, and to protect them from the imposition of claim agents. This should be done by all means.

It is predicted that Florida will become one of the largest sugar producing localities on the continent. The climate and soil are adapted to its culture, and the crop is sure.

THE President has appointed General Terry to the command of Georgia as a military district under the Reconstruction acts, in addition to his command of the Department of the South.

ARTICLES of association of the Fort Wayne and Pacific Railroads were filed in the office of the Secretary of State of Indiana yesterday, in Indianapolis. The capital is \$3,000,000.

DANIEL G. MAJON, United States Astronomer, and surveyor of the boundary between California and Oregon, has arrived in Washington with the final report of this important survey.

WHEN our clocks are a little fast we always set them right at once. People ought to do as much for their fast sons and daughters, but they generally let them run.

THE late Edwin M. Stanton's father was an able physician and a man of learning. He died while Edwin was a boy. Mr. Stanton's mother now resides at Gambier, Ohio.

THE Ways and Means Committee of Congress are in session, and have commenced work on the last half of the Tariff bill. They do not expect now to be able to report it till the end of January.

MR. McDONALD, Secretary of the Texas Republican State Central Committee, telegraphs from Houston, under date of Thursday, that Davis, the Republican candidate for Governor, has been elected by 800 majority.

ANNIE JAMES, of Alton, Ill., is advertised as the handsomest piece of feminine loveliness in the West. A paper says she has hair like a "waxed mass of golden feathers." That's the goaliest description of hair we have seen yet.

NEW YEAR'S day was very generally observed as a holiday throughout the country. Everywhere there appears to have been quite a revival of the good old-fashioned custom of paying congratulatory visits.

THE smallest steam engine in the world is in the possession of John Penn, of Greenwich, England. Its base plate measures only three-eighths of an inch by about three-fifths—weight is less than a three-penny piece.

TENNESSEE has ten cotton mills, running 13,720 spindles, which consume 1,847,200 pounds of raw cotton per annum. Georgia, with twenty mills, runs 69,782 spindles, which consume 10,864,350 lbs. of cotton per annum.

THE effect of the opening of the Pacific Railroad has not realized the expectations of the Californians, having nearly destroyed the wholesale business of San Francisco, it having been transferred to Chicago and St. Louis. Movements are making among the mechanics of San Francisco, favoring a return to the East.

PHILADELPHIA has invested twelve millions of dollars (half paid in) in sixteen street railways, which have two hundred miles of track.

THE other day a lady in Carroll county, Georgia, gave birth to twins. On the same day and in the same house, two of her daughters brought forth twins—all boys. They must have had a boys-terous time that mansion.

JOSEPH BILLINGS says, "Any business firm that hasn't got sand enough in its craw to expend a few dollars in making its business known to 3,000 or 4,000 people, ought to pick up and go peddling peanuts."

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives have commenced their investigations into the famous September gold panic in New York, as ordered by the House two weeks ago, and have already got up a list of witnesses.

THE expenses of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives during the past summer, in conducting investigations in various cities scattered from Boston and New Orleans to San Francisco, have been only \$5,772, instead of \$50,000, as stated by some persons.

LETTERS from Rome to the Berlin press deny the rumored reports of the liberality of American Bishops in the Economical Council, and, says the despatch, the correspondents assert that they follow blindly the lead of the Pope.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, Fort Wayne, Indiana, was partially destroyed by fire, on the 28th inst. The students escaped without loss of life or injury, but lost their money, clothing &c. The total loss amounts to \$10,000, on which there is no insurance.

NEIGHBORING COUNTY NEWS.

BERRS COUNTY.—A German named Christian Fleischnaum, of Reading, met with an accident on Monday evening last by which his right leg was broken, as well as sustaining other severe injuries. While walking over a wall, which had been erected for the purpose of keeping an emerald from falling down, he missed his footing, it being very dark, and fell a distance of about 20 feet....David Moggel, of Centre-twp., met with a sad accident on Friday night last. While engaged in firing off a gun which was overloaded, it exploded, blowing off three fingers of his left hand. His hand was amputated at the wrist....Henry Weand, of Reading, while firing off a pistol on Thursday night of last week sustained a painful accident, the pistol exploding and tearing the hand between the thumb and forefinger in a shocking manner....Albert Price, aged about thirty years, was found drowned in the Schuylkill canal near Bushong's paper mill, on Saturday last. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning....The dwelling house of Amelia and Rebecca Rhein, of Reading, was entered on Thursday night of last week by burglars, who ransacked the building, but obtained no booty....The Ebenezer M. E. church of Reading, was dedicated on Sunday last with appropriate services. Bishop Simpson was present and assisted in the ceremonies....A young man named High, of Frystown, had part of his nose blown off and cheek injured on Friday evening by the premature explosion of a charge with which he had loaded an anvil....Major General W. S. Rosecrans has been sojourning for the past few days in Reading.

YORK COUNTY.—Jesse Walker, one of the eldest and most respectable citizens of Warrington-twp., died on the 26th ult., in the sixty-seventh year of his age....A man named Klimeidist, while intoxicated, on Saturday morning early wandered to Licking's lime kiln, where he laid down and fell asleep, and was suffocated by the gases. One of his fingers was burned off....The president and engineer of the Vigilant Fire Company of York were on Saturday last both "canned" by the members of the company—the former receiving a handsome gold-mounted and the latter a silver-headed cane, both appropriately inscribed....Charles Underwood, of the Kendig House, of York, raised two turkeys this season on his farm, which weigh in the neighborhood of thirty pounds each. He disposed of them for ten dollars apiece. A division of the "Sons of Temperance" was recently organized at Loganville, by the G. D. G. W. P. of the Grand Division of the State, Mr. Josiah Boughton....A son of John B. Sayres, of York, aged about ten years, was badly burned on New Year's day, caused by the premature explosion of some gunpowder in the shares of Hanover National Bank sold recently at an average of \$120 per share—par value \$100; and 10 shares of Hanover Branch Railroad sold at \$72.50—par value \$50.

CHESTER COUNTY.—A frame stable, belonging to John Marker, of West Chester, was destroyed by fire on Saturday the 25th, and was nearly all consumed....Davis Wagner was thrown from his horse at Kimberton, on New Year's day, and his leg was broken by the horse tramping upon him....On Christmas night an Irishman, somewhat intoxicated, while crossing the trestle work on the Valley Bridge, at Hoopers' mill, fell through to the ground, a distance of about twenty feet, receiving no other injuries excepting a cut head and arm hurt....James Ferris, aged 80 years, residing in Coatesville, on Friday evening Dec. 24th, while under a temporary wandering of his mind, got out of his bed room window on to the skylight over an adjoining store which gave way, and he fell a distance of two stories. He was so seriously injured that he died on the following Monday morning, having remained insensible up to his death....Charles J. Sparks, of Londongrove, has been arrested and committed to the County Prison, charged with stealing some clothing in the city of Baltimore....The stable of Messrs. R. & E. Palmer, of West Chester, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night of last week. The contents of the stable excepting one horse, grain and hay were saved. Loss \$1,000 on which there is no insurance....The house of Levi Keeley, of North Coventry, was entered on Friday of last week and robbed of valuables amounting to about \$125....Michael O'Donnell, jr., of Phenixville, has been committed to prison, charged with assaulting Thomas Daltingy, severely cutting him with a knife and also robbing him of a small amount....John Hipple, an aged man of 80 years, died on the 23d instant, at West Vincent—the verdict of inquest—died from natural causes.