

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1870.

LANCASTER CITY, PA.

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

BUSINESS NOTICE.

Mr. S. BAKER YOUNG, the Lancaster News Dealer, who everybody knows, is agent for FATHER ABRAHAM, and is authorized to take subscriptions and receive money for the same.

ALL RIGHT.

Twenty-five States have now ratified the fifteenth amendment. On Saturday it was ratified by the Legislature of Mississippi, and on the day previous by the Legislature of Minnesota. Ohio, has also recently ratified it, and Iowa, Nebraska, and Rhode Island are sure to do so shortly, which will become more State than is necessary to secure the adoption of the amendment. Now for a genuine rebel copperhead howl!

CONSISTENCY!

Griest denounces those Republican members of the Legislature who did not sustain the caucus nomination of Mackey. Where was his thunder last fall when he and his master, the burly ex-County Commissioner, cut the ticket in Sadsbury? Spurious tickets were circulated in that township, having on them the name of Michael Malone for Senator in place of Billingfelt, and unsuspecting Republicans were cheated into voting them. Honest Iago!

"NIGGERS" AND WHISKY.

The first things done in the Copperhead Legislature of New York on its assembling on the 2d inst., were the introduction of measures to rescind the action of the last Legislature ratifying the 15th amendment, and to repeal the Excise liquor law. Thus the party demonstrate their hatred of the "nigger," and their undying devotion to free whisky—the only living principles of the "Democracy."

CATCHING THIEVES.

The revenue officers of the Government continue as indefatigable as ever in their York, a few days since, one collector alone hunted for illicit whisky distillers. In New made over thirty arrests, the amount involved in the contemplated swindles reaching millions of dollars. What a contrast between this and the preceding administration! The brief space of ten months of a Republican administration has done wonders in purifying the body politic, and everything still prospers well for the future.

A HAPPY RESULT.

Since the defeat of Mackey and the Treasury ring, says the Express, we presume there will no longer be any serious opposition to a radical reform of the State Treasury Department, such as will effectually prevent the scandalous demoralization growing out of the scramble for the profits derived from the use of the State funds. Those who voted against Mackey are committed in favor of reform and cannot go back if they would, while the ring who have supported him will no longer have an object in opposing a reorganization.

Another happy result is that there is no fear of the passage of the infamous Tax bill which the Treasury ring was only prevented from doing last winter by the fearless opposition of a few Republican Senators led by Senator Billingfelt. Let the people be thankful.

THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The Republican Senators and Representatives who refused to vote for Mackey, the Treasury Ring candidate, on the final ballot are as follows:

SENATORS.

Esaias Billingfelt, of Lancaster. John B. Warfel, of Lancaster. James Kerr, of Butler county. Morrow B. Lowry, of Erie county.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Abraham Godshalk, of Lancaster-co. E. B. Herr, of Lancaster county. A. C. Reinohl, of Lancaster county. John E. Wiley, of Lancaster county. F. W. Ames, of Crawford. C. O. Bowman, of Erie. D. B. McCreary, of Erie. A. J. Buffington, of Washington. George Coray, of Luzerne. David Craig, of Lawrence. Alexander Leslie, of Butler. G. W. McCracken, of Lawrence. E. A. Wheeler, of Mercer.

Messrs. Billingfelt and Warfel did not vote at all, and the others—fifteen—voted solid for Irwin. It will be seen that Old Lancaster county, chiefly, did the work. It is also somewhat remarkable that all these independent and faithful representatives hail from very strong Republican districts, except only Mr. Coray, of Luzerne.

"Mackey's Popular Delusions," an old work, is considerably called for just at present.

AS EXPECTED.

The organ of Thugery published at the "Soldiers' Monument," is busy in its vituperation of Senator Billingfelt. It calls him "as great a political hypocrite as ever cursed any party." Says he is destitute of "honor," was never known to "keep a political bargain," calls him a "rooster," accuses him with bargaining with the copperheads, &c., and in many other ways endeavors to shake the confidence of the people in their favorite and popular Senator. Well, the people of Lancaster county know Esaias Billingfelt, and they also know Elwood Griest; and if ever they have an opportunity to vote on the question—having the two men as candidates for the same position—they will sustain their fearless Senator and consign to an ignoble defeat his malignant and unprincipled traducer.

THE TAX ON FARMERS.

We are gratified to be able to state that on Saturday last, Commissioner Delano issued an order to the Assessors of Internal Revenue, considerably modifying the order issued some time ago by Deputy Commissioner Douglass, taxing farmers who sold their produce at market. The rating now is that farmers who make it a business to sell their products in the market-houses or other places are subject to the retail traders' license, but not so to those who only sell from time to time. He instructs assessors to give a liberal interpretation to the law imposing the tax in this regard. For this result our agricultural friends are greatly indebted to our representative in Congress, Hon. O. J. Dickey, who has been untiring in his efforts to procure a modification of the unpopular and unjust rating of the Revenue Department. The bill repealing the tax, introduced by Col. Dickey, will be passed, though the action referred to above renders it not nearly so important.

FAITHFUL REPRESENTATIVES.

In nominating and electing the gentlemen who now represent us in the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, the Republican people of this great County intended unrelenting hostility to the corrupt ring of treasury plunderers who have brought so much disgrace upon the State for the last five years or more; they meant nothing less than emancipation from Cameronian dictation and tyranny; they meant to crush out Thugery and organized Treasury robbing in County as well as State, and they meant, also, an emphatic rebuke to the threats made at Harrisburg early in the late campaign by the Treasury Ring, that Mr. Billingfelt should be defeated, regardless of cost or expense. In a word, when the Republicans of Lancaster county selected Messrs. Billingfelt and Warfel, for the Senate, and Messrs. Reinohl, Godshalk, Herr and Wiley as their Representatives, they meant to be represented by men who could neither be bribed nor dragged by the Ring managers, brokers, "Roosters" and "Pinchers" who infest the Hill at Harrisburg during every session of the Legislature. The confidence of the Republicans of Lancaster county was not misplaced. By nobly standing together as a unit against the Treasury Ring, our Senators and Representatives, have succeeded in accomplishing a result of which every Republican of the county may well feel proud. Indeed, it was the glorious "Old Guard" of Republicans; the county that gave 7300 majority for Grant and Colfax; the county that was for years represented in Congress by THADDEUS STEVENS, that first led off against Cameronian corruption and dictation, by an open and direct appeal to the people. And the gentlemen who now represent us in the Senate and House only acted the part of honest and faithful men when they refused to support the Ring candidate, and supported and voted for General Irwin.

Of course, the runners and organ grinders of the ring will whine and howl and denounce them as renegades, but, what of it? The people will only stand by them more closely at the proper time.

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

On the 8th of next month (Tuesday) a general Convention of delegates representing Churches, Lodges, Societies, wards, boroughs and townships throughout the State, will be held in the Court House at Harrisburg to adopt such measures as may be calculated to remove the evils of intemperance.

It is supposed that an effort will be made to commit the convention in favor of the immediate formation of a new political party, but we are confident that a decided majority will be found in opposition to such a step. Indications are that every section of the State will be represented.

According to the call each State Society is entitled to five delegates; each County Society to three, and each Church, Lodge of Good Templars, Division Sons of Temperance, or other local Society, one delegate. Wards, boroughs and townships are also authorized to elect each one delegate.

Mr. Reinohl, on Tuesday last, introduced a bill to prevent and punish the publication of obscene advertisements. An unsuccessful attempt was made last year to pass such a bill. We sincerely hope the present effort may succeed.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.

While all the independent Republican papers throughout the State were open and outspoken against the Treasury ring, those in the interest of the latter were equally strong and emphatic in the support of the "gay and festive" financier whose career official will close on the first of May next.

The Philadelphia Press, strange as it may seem, is in sympathy with the defunct ring, and takes the little "onpleasantness" of the 12th inst. very hard. It is said that Forney and Cameron "made up" some time ago, which probably accounts for it.

The Thug Organ of this city is awfully savage, and threatens to "let the truth" says Messrs. Godshalk, Reinohl, Herr and Wiley "have deliberately attempted to destroy the Republican organization" by voting against Mackey; pitches into Mr. Billingfelt with unusual severity for not voting at all, but, says the Thug, "Mr. Warfel was the only representative from this county who acted as an honest Republican should." As Mr. Warfel's record is substantially like that of Mr. Billingfelt, not voting at all on the final ballot which elected Gen. Irwin, we take for granted that the organ has an axe to grind.

The Lancaster Examiner, once the leading newspaper of this county, but for the last few years a mere personal organ of the Camerons, and in the interest of the Treasury Ring, is decidedly crazy. Our Senators and Representatives are called by all sorts of bad names, such as "sneaks," "bolters," "traitors," but as every body in this community knows what all that kind of stuff amounts to, we pass on.

This week's Philadelphia Sunday Republic contained the following: "It will not do for the Mackey organs and organists to charge the Republicans who supported Gen. Irwin, with receiving pecuniary or other consideration for their votes. No more honorable gentlemen ever occupied seats in any Legislature than those who are so improperly criticised, and the unjust, and politically speaking, impolitic comments must inevitably react upon the editors who are indulging in them. Mr. Mackey is too much of a gentleman himself to endorse such criticism."

The Columbia Spy says: "The game of the Treasury ring was a desperate one, and the victory of Irwin over the moneyed combination is an exhibition of weakness on the side of the corruptionists, which must prove fatal for the future. The Lancaster delegation have fully met the honest expectations of their constituents and have proved that their confidence has not been misplaced. The assault on this corrupt combination required more than the usual moral courage; but the determination of the people's representatives entitled the members of both houses to our gratitude. We may confidently expect a new era of honest legislation."

Of course the Lancaster Daily Express need not be referred to as on the right side of this contest. As is also the Volksfreund, the very efficient German republican organ of this county.

The Pittsburg Commercial rendered very good service during the campaign, and is, of course, jubilant over the result.

"With the overthrow of the Treasury Ring and the smashing of the machinery of King Caucus, at Harrisburg, goes overboard many a precious scheme that was ready to be hatched within the capitol this winter. Notably is the infamous tax bill which barely failed during the last moments of the last session. On this the Ring relied confidently to get a million into their hands, whereby to close the gap in their account. Such an unexpended balance was the "big thing" in the Treasury scheme. But these visions of profits and power have vanished. It is more than intimated that it will require sharp work on the part of the Ring to make connection by the time their time is up."

This is by no means all that the Commercial has to say. It is at it all the time giving the corruptionists hard knocks. It is unquestionably the best political paper in Pennsylvania (F. A. only excepted)—of course.

The Miness Journal's Harrisburg correspondent seems disposed to occupy a neutral position. Referring to Senator Billingfelt, however, he says:

"He has some old-fashioned ideas of honesty which are not all appreciated in Legislative circles, and his conscience has not yet been seared with the fire of party rancor. Trust me, he will be true to his party when his convictions tell him that his party is following the course marked out by right and justice."

The Berks and Schuylkill Journal, generally leaning over towards the Camerons, comes to the following very sensible conclusion:

"We are not very sorry that this 'bolt' has occurred, or inclined to severely condemn those who took part in it. The Republican defection is to be respected in the point of numbers, and in the character of the 'bolters,' for wholesale censure. We look to see good come out of this result, by a searching investigation of how the State funds have been used by the Treasurers who held the office for the last few years, which will now be pressed. It will also facilitate action in taking the election of State Treasurer out of the hands of the Legislature, and giving it to the people where it rightfully belongs. If the 'bolt' of the Republicans secures these ends, it will have done some good. It is needless to add that the election of Irwin, though accomplished by the aid of Democratic votes, is no triumph to the Democrats. Gen. Irwin is one of the staunchest Republicans in the State."

The Scranton Republican, the only party organ of that city, says: "The defeat of Robert W. Mackey, the regularly nominated Republican candidate for the office, is almost without precedent, but as an indication of the overthrow of the Cameron ring will be welcomed by the independent members of our party. The mass of the people are justly opposed to corrupt rings in any political party, and they have substantial reason to rejoice when such iniquitous combinations are broken up."

After endorsing the course of the "bolters," the Blair County Radical says:

"Of course there will be a number of Republican newspapers which, in obedience to the mandate of their real controllers, will endeavor to read the defeat of Mackey as a triumph to the Democrats. Gen. Irwin voted for Irwin out of the party—a business in which, for years, they have shown more

zeal than in stemming the tide of corruption that threatened to engulf the party. To those organs we would say that a political party can become so select as to be worthless for all purposes of success, and furthermore, that in striking Billingfelt and Warfel and Lowry and Kerr and McCreary and the others, representatives who do no discredit to the party, the blow may reach the Republic of Lancaster, Erie, Crawford and the others where we get our heaviest majorities."

Hear the Lawrence Journal: "What a spectacle! Independent legislators of Pennsylvania, whipped like hounds by the dogs of the Treasury Ring, the Bolters of the Commonwealth! 'Bolters!' 'Traitors!' Away with such stuff, and let men stand up like men for what they think is right. * * * Does the Ring require another lesson to show them that there is enough independence of thought and action in the State to rebuke their evil practices?"

The Erie Dispatch says: "The result will be welcomed by the masses of the people. It is a happy omen of better legislation and an assurance of the Republic applying the fact that reform is essential to the continuance of Republican power in the State."

The Chester, Delaware county Republican truthfully says: "It is cause for great rejoicing that the corrupt Treasury Ring at Harrisburg, has at last been broken. We believe the party is, to-day, thousands of votes stronger by the course of the many independent Representatives who refused to be bound in servility to a corrupt caucus."

Next in our pile of exchanges, the Beaver Radical turns up. Upon reading the very first three lines we knew that Master Quay's slate was broken to pieces. Mr. Quay is savage, and blames the Pennsylvania Railroad for defeating Mackey. Mr. Quay "here and now commits the Radical to a war on this dangerous foe to the State" (the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.) That's startling! The Beaver Radical hurling huge pieces of broken slate at the Pennsylvania Railroad! Will the corporation be able to stand such a shock? Possibly the Eastern Division of the road will remain undisturbed. If so, the road will remain open between this city and Harrisburg.

We might give many more extracts from exchanges and clearly prove that a decided majority of the respectable and influential ones are on the side of the glorious seventeen, and against the now defunct ring of Treasury plunderers.

It has always been the fashion at Harrisburg to repress the sentiment of the Legislature, in favor of retrenchment and economy, by ridiculing its advocates. This is a potent weapon, and especially with new members has been demonstrated to be very effectual. No one likes to be laughed at, and the witticisms that any propositions to save money provoke have often served the purposes of the ring, by defeating it. But the people, we need not tell the members, do not see the point of these jokes. They breathe another and a very different moral atmosphere from that of Harrisburg, and it is one in which economy is appreciated, and fidelity to grave public trusts is honored. Any member of the Legislature can very well afford to put up with the jeers of the corruptionists, levelled at all schemes to save the money of the tax payers, when he has the confident assurance that his honest labors elicit the warmest approbation of his constituents. Let the lobbyists laugh as they please, but be sure to cut off their supplies. —Pittsburg Commercial.

RICH AND COOL.

The Lancaster Examiner intimates that our members of the Legislature are corrupt, were bought, &c. It so, why don't the Examiner "come to dots" by stating particulars? It will be remembered that last year several of "our fellows" were bought, and held and firmly bound unto the Ring Managers, and we stated the particulars at the time, by naming the contracting parties, amount paid per member, and all about it. We so stated particulars because we knew them to be true. Now if Jack Hiestand, or any other man of the defunct ring know that any one or more of our present members have been bought, let him speak out like a man and expose the transaction. To make false accusations, is cowardly and contemptible.

CHARACTERISTIC.

In order to make out a case against Mr. Billingfelt, the Lancaster Inquirer and its assistant the Examiner, must lie, a little, and that with the record before them. They say that Senator Warfel voted for Mackey, thus leaving it to be inferred that he actually supported him. Now, what are the facts? On the first ballot Mr. Warfel voted for Amos S. Henderson; on the second ballot, and under a misapprehension in regard to the democrats, who on said ballot commenced voting for Irwin, he (Mr. W.) voted for Mackey; but on the third and last ballot, and after certain impressions having been removed from his mind, he finally placed himself upon record with his colleague, Mr. Billingfelt, by not voting at all. Indeed, we have good authority for saying that he would not have gone into convention at all, had he not been appointed teller on the part of the Senate.

This is the truth of the matter, but neither the Inquirer nor its assistant and tender, the Examiner, seem disposed to state it to their readers.

FATHER ABRAHAM feels especially complimented by the triumphant election of General Irwin to the office of State Treasurer. He was first announced as a candidate, by an editorial in this paper, on the 5th of November last. All now admit that Lancaster papers and Lancaster Representatives were chiefly instrumental in winning this highly important victory over fraud and corruption.

Correspondence.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, January 19, 1870.

Dear Father Abraham: With the election of Treasurer, last week's session virtually ended, though several of the following day were occupied in introducing and passing local bills. Yesterday both houses re-assembled, but without transacting much business, and adjourned to take part in the inauguration ceremonies. Your correspondent regrets that limit is expected to-morrow. It is no believed that the Record as heretofore published, will be continued; the impression is that a daily journal, with perhaps short abstracts of debates, will be printed.

READY FOR WORK. The Treasurer elected, and the Governor inaugurated, the Legislature will soon be in good working order. But one element of discord remains—the Legislative Record question. A joint committee was appointed last week to take charge of the matter, and a report is expected to-morrow. It is no believed that the Record as heretofore published, will be continued; the impression is that a daily journal, with perhaps short abstracts of debates, will be printed.

LOWRY AND BILLINGFELT. The Daily Telegraph, the ring organ, is still violent in its abuse of Senators Lowry and Billingfelt, but the former comes in on the lion's share of it. It is rumored to-day that Mr. Lowry will publicly demand a retraction of the charges, and in case of refusal to do so, will at once commence prosecution for libel. This same organ is endeavoring to convey the impression that the Finance Committee of the Senate is instructed to inquire into the means used to secure the election of State Treasurer. This is a mistake. A resolution instructing the Committee to enquire into the management of the State Treasury for six years past did prevail, and the friends of Gen. Irwin are anxious that an investigation of the late contest be commenced. If the friends of the defunct Treasurer believe what they and their paid organs so freely assert—that he (Irwin) was elected through corrupt influence—now is the time to show their hands. Introduce a resolution to that effect gentlemen, and you can have investigation to your heart's content. But until then cease your cry of "Stop Thief!"

SCULL VS. FINDLEY. Last week Senator Billingfelt presented the petition of residents of Somerset county, contesting the seat of Hiram Findley and claiming it for Edward Scull. Yesterday the following Committee was drawn to try the case: Messrs. Ames, Brooks, Brown, Linderman, Lowry, Oberholtzer and Randall—Republicans and Democrats.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE. The Philadelphia members have no reason to complain of the positions assigned them on the Standing Committees of the House. Speaker Strang has been exceedingly generous to the Eastern section of the State, for I notice that the Chairmanship of nearly if not all the important Committees has been conferred on Representatives from that virtuous city. Davis is Chairman of Ways and Means, Adair of Railroads, Hong of Corporations, Bunn of Iron and Coal Companies and Cloud of Passengers and Freight. Lancaster county is represented on the following: Reichel on Ways and Means, Judiciary General Federal Relations, Retrenchment and Reform and is Chairman of Estates and Escheats. Godshalk is on Corporations, Retrenchment and Reform, and is Chairman of Military Affairs. Herr is on Ways and Means, Education and Corporations. Wiley is on Railroads, Agriculture and Accounts. They too have no reason to complain of their treatment.

THE SCRAMBLE FOR OFFICE. Lancaster county has quite a number of applicants for office under the new administration. I note the following: For Flour Inspector—Jacob P. Frey, Fred R. S. Albright, Hiram Erb, H. G. Davis, J. J. Cooper, Daniel Shiffer and Capt. J. Q. Mercer. For Whisky Inspector—John Stauffer, the present incumbent. For Harbor Master, Philadelphia—Witmer C. Rank. For Bark Inspector—John Keller, city. For Lazaretto Physician—Dr. W. L. Lauber. For Notary Public, Lancaster—T. H. Davis, D. P. Rosenbiller, and B. C. Keady, Esq., and J. B. Dulin and Col. M. Welder. For Notary Public, Columbia—Jacob Strine, Capt. Miller, and Friend Youm, of the Spy.

HARRISBURG, January 19, 1870. Father Abraham: The dailies have given you a detailed account of the proceedings of yesterday in the inauguration of Gov. Geary for his second term. The day opened clear and beautiful, a long line of military, numerous bands of music, and the finest equipped fire companies of Philadelphia, presented a scene long to be remembered. The firemen of this city forgetting that the days of "niggerism" had passed away, saw fit to refuse to participate in the parade, because the Executive Reserve, a veteran colored regiment of Philadelphia, who are tattooed and torn flag showed service in our country's battles were placed in the line. The Good-will Engine and Hose Company of Philadelphia, who were in line and made a splendid appearance, expressed themselves in plain terms about the alleged conduct of their hosts. The city was vivified by the evening by a grand display of fireworks, by Prof. Jackson of Philadelphia, closing the display with the letters of silver fire, "Good-will to Gov. Geary," which the cheering of the assembled thousands fully attested. Gov. Geary was announced last evening at his residence; also Speaker Strang of the House, at the State Capitol, who delivered a stirring address.

Maj. Reinohl of Lancaster, has introduced the following bills in the House, relating to our County: "An Act to prevent Injury and Destruction to Baggage on Railroads." "An Act to repeal the Act of Taxing Dogs at \$1.00 per head for the use of the Home of Friendless Children." "An Act to prevent the publication of Obscene Advertisements and Noxious Medicines." "The position you have taken in support of the action of our Representatives in aiding the election of W. W. Irwin, Esq., to State Treasurer is well timed, and the examination of the affairs of our past Treasurers will fully justify you and them in the noble stand for reform. LANCASTER.

The presence of a real scion of royalty in Republican America is an event of such rare occurrence that we doubt not the visit of Prince Arthur of England will be as pleasantly interesting to our people as we believe it will be to the Prince himself. He will cope at a time when the machinery of Government is in full motion, and will consequently go away with a clearer understanding of our country and the manner in which it is governed than if he visited us during the summer months.

There was another debate over League Island in the House, on Tuesday, Mr. Dawes of Massachusetts, opposing the measure, and the alleged extravagance of the Administration generally. An appalling tragedy took place at Sleepy Hollow, near Foughkeeps, N. Y., on Saturday last, in which V. W. Buckhout shot his wife and Alfred Randall, a New York merchant, and son, Chas. Randall. Mrs. Buckhout and young Randall are dead, while the elder Randall lies in a critical condition.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

CULLED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Judge Kelley delivered in the House of Representatives on Tuesday of last week, an able speech, exposing the errors in Special Commissioner Wells' report, and impugning his motives. It was listened to with great interest by a large number of members.

Washington barbers are agitating the subject of petitioning the Councils to repeal the Sunday law requiring them to close their establishments on that day.

Adams' Express office here was robbed on the 1st inst. of \$29,500 bonds.

The first number of The New Era, a journal published in the interests of the colored people, and conducted by colored editors, has made its appearance in this city.

John J. Pratt, news editor of the Cincinnati Commercial, and a gentleman noted for poetic ability, has been appointed Librarian of the House of Representatives at Washington.

Commissioner Delano advises Assistant Assessors to hold conventions in all the districts to determine the most efficient mode to obtain a thorough canvass in making assessments of incomes this year.

The President has nominated E. B. Moore as Appraiser at Philadelphia, to succeed Worthington, resigned; also, Anthony Q. Keasby to be U. S. Attorney for New Jersey.

The case of Covode vs. Foster, will probably be brought up this week.

It is proposed to change the time of the meeting of Congress from the first Monday in December to the first Monday in January.

Governor Alcorn, of Mississippi, refuses to be installed until the State has been admitted to the Union. The Legislature will meet, ratify the 15th Amendment, and then adjourn till after the admission of the State.

Mr. Biddle has been confirmed as Consul to Cuba, and Mr. Moore as Appraiser at Philadelphia.

Senator Ramsey's expenses in connection with the French postal negotiations were \$734 in gold.

Mrs. E. A. Pollard opened a hotel here recently.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate are said to be unanimous for Senator Turnbull's bill prohibiting Senators and members from endorsing applicants for federal offices.

Representative Farnsworth has introduced a bill authorizing the Postmaster-General to empower agents to search any place, vehicle, or package for mailable matter which said agent believes is being transported contrary to law, and also to authorize any postmaster to refuse to pay money orders or to deliver registered letters to parties dealing in any fraudulent schemes, such as lottery or gift enterprises.

Fifty-six members of the U. S. Senate are lawyers.

Fractional Currency printed for the week ending Dec. 15, \$743,487. Shipped to Boston and New York, \$100,000 each; to Philadelphia, \$75,000; to St. Louis, \$925,000; to national banks, \$388,425; total shipment, \$588,425. Securities held for circulation, \$342,425,050; securities for public deposits, \$18,991,000; bank circulation outstanding, \$369,750,837; fractional currency redeemed and destroyed, \$631,000.

Special Commissioner Wells has finished his letter in response to the iron manufacturers of Pennsylvania, who have challenged his statements as to the cost of pig iron made in his recent report. He presents letters and authorities sustaining his former assertions.

An organization under the title of the "Island Institute for Industrial Evening and Sunday Schools" has gone into operation here. It is designed mainly to afford instruction and religious culture to about 8,000 colored people living in the southern part of Washington, where they outnumber the whites six to one.

The Committee on Naval Affairs have been considering the question of relative rank, and are only waiting to receive the report of the board on that subject before embodying their views in a form to be acted upon by the House.

An adjourned meeting of the friends of the International Fair was held on Saturday, at Lincoln Hall, and was largely attended.

Samuel W. Marsh, late a prominent clerk in the Treasury Department, was found in an insensible condition on Friday night, and died on Saturday.

The galleries of the Senate chamber will accommodate one thousand persons.

The height from the floor of the rotunda to the top of the canopy of the Capitol is one hundred and eighty feet and three inches.

The Senate has twenty-six standing committees, two select, three joint standing, and one joint select committee. The House of Representatives has forty-two standing, five select, and three joint standing committees.

Mr. Butler, of Tenn., has offered a bill, which has a sufficient amount of "grip" in it, providing a wholesome discipline for the unregenerate and mal-reconstructed State of Tennessee. It provides for the complete enforcement of the fourteenth amendment, and affords, by anticipation, a safeguard against the anticipated revolutionary proceedings of the constitutional convention, which, under the guidance of an ex-Confederate general, is now sitting at Nashville. Both houses of Congress seem to have made up their minds, "for good and all" that, if they have the right of reconstruction, they have also the right to protect and enforce reconstruction. Therefore, let Tennessee look to her future, and let Virginia take warning.

A number of members of Congress express themselves in favor of a comparatively early adjournment, some of them thinking that, with industry, they can finish the necessary legislation by the 1st of May.

There is no lack of proposals in either house for the abolition of the franking privilege. On Monday we had one with a very practical look, from Mr. Fish of Nevada. He proposes that the abolition take place at the commencement of the next fiscal year in July, and that a postal telegraph system be established, the Post Office Department being authorized to expend not exceeding \$3,000,000 a year in the construction of new lines of telegraphs. The Committee on Ways and Means, at their meeting on Monday, after a long discussion, determined to put a blank coal on the fire, the tax on bituminous coal to remain as at present.