Lancaster Intelligencer.

THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 11, 1880.

Docile Stockholders.

One would think that it was good sense to hold that the owners of property should be able to ascertain at any time from its managers whatever they might want to know about it, and that they should particularly be well-informed as to the uses made of its capital and income. But it is a curious thing that the owners of a great property who are associated under articles of incorporation cannot find out any more about its affairs than its officers choose to tell them, and are powerless to compel the discovery to them of what is done with their money. The published reports which are furnished them must content them; and yet, all the time, their right to all the information they want is not denied them and the proffer to furnish it is freely made, with the implied understanding, apparently, that no stockholder will take advantage of it to inquire into matters which it is disagreeable to the officials to talk about. The late meeting of the Pennsylvania railroad stockholders was a model one of the kind. The owners of the property were admitted by ticket to the hall, but as most of them live at a distance and all of them know that they did not amount to anything when they were assembled, the gathering consisted of the road's officers and retainers and a few independent stockholders who could not persuade themselves to forego their theoretical privileges, and who were so eccentric and bull-headed as to be unwilling to comply with the understanding of the managers of their property that no unfair advantage should be taken of the privilege kindly granted them to ask questions about matters in the report which they did not fully understand. It became apparent before long that it was considered unfair in the stockholders to doubt their servants' integrity, skill or truthfulness; no reflections upon the honorable managers, dead or living, were considered permissible; it was a gross outrage to make them, and altogether unfair and unbearable; and after a very short season of it, the honorable mayor who presided, was moved to discharge the meeting and so stop the loud mouths of the disagreeable stockholders.

It was a very remarkable performance indeed—that meeting. We enjoyed reading the account of it. It was instructive. It was interesting to note how absolutely barren of information was the field which the stockholders were invited to glean. The secretary read the number of a page and paused for a remark. The first one came in the shape of a motion that the earnings of the company should be divided among the owners, instead of being used to extend the road or increase its property. Of all questions that could be considered by stockholders this certainly was one of the most vital and important. It raised the question whether the managers of a railroad should take its profits and use them for alleged betterments—giving them an opportunity to steal them for their own betterment—or whether they should return all the profits to the owners and call on them to supply the additional capital needed to increase the facilities of the road. And how was this stockholder answered? The president of the road told him it was none of the business of the owners to say what should be done with their profits, the question of a dividend being one entirely for the directors. Just think of it; and tell us on what this president feeds that he thus derides his masters!

After this promising opening we are not surprised at the husks which the inquisitive stockholders gathered in large quantities as the pages of the report were turned over during the brief time they were permitted to be with their fellow owners, until the pressure of their impudence got too heavy for the management and they were turned out into the street. They exhausted the patience of their servants when they wanted to know about a little transaction in which ex-President Thomson pocketed $50,000 of their money and several of their directors had received a thousand a year each for nothing. This was treading on forbidden ground. Mr. Vice President Roberts got his indignation up because the assault was on a dead man, and in his natural perturbation he forgot to explain the conduct of the living. The whole party sailed out of view hidden by ex-President Thomson's pall, and there was such a hurry to adjourn and such a determination to choke off stockholder Parker that we may imagine without injustice to any one, that the living fellows who did the weeping and gnashing of teeth over the dead Thomson had very tender corns themselves which they were in a hurry to draw in out of danger from the indiscreet Parker's heavy tread. Certainly they were not friends of Thomson's. These reports about his venality have been so many and are so current that his fame can only be saved by their investigation and refutation. But that was a gay meeting; and if the Pennsylvania stockholders are content with the fullness of the information their officers gave them, they are a very nice and docile set of fellows to do business for.

WHAT Mr. Gowen said yesterday about the silent march upon our commonwealth for twenty years of an enemy more powerful and dangerous than armed hosts, and how these influences have well-nigh closed the pathway of fame to honest men, is undeniably true; and to some extent the result of his own and his colleagues' efforts in these bribery trials has checked that advance. But the well-grounded suspicion that the plea of guilty was made to prevent the exposure of the chief agents of this power, as well as in anticipation of certain conviction, will make the commonwealth uneasy under the fact that some of the most potent of these influences survive. It is much to be regretted that the exposure of the principals was not as complete as the disgrace and punishment of their agents.

MR. KEMBLE'S plea of guilty to the charge of corrupt solicitation of members of the Legislature recalls the fact that he was once practically accused of a similar offense in the Lancaster county courts and swore himself out of it. The allegation then was that, desiring to be a United States senator, he bought four members of the Legislature from this county at $3,000 apiece, and when he surrendered his claims to Cameron made him foot the bill and agent's commissions on members, whom the great ringmaster is reported to have said he had already bought and paid for. One of the members was cheated out of his swag and brought suit to recover it from his wicked partners. Then it was that Kemble came to the scratch and like a little man swore that he had not bought the members.

THE delay in the sentence of the people who plead guilty to corrupt solicitation at Harrisburg, need not occasion any alarm in the minds of those who hope to see the law fully vindicated in the administration of its penalties upon those who have outraged it. Judge Pearson is not the kind of a judge who takes the attorneys for defendants into his counsel pending their sentence, nor suffers himself to be privately talked to about cases in his charge. It is much more likely, as Mr. Wolfe suggests, that they have had their sentences deferred until the 29th, in order to give the defendants time to arrange their business affairs before going to prison.

THE Democratic Senate having rejected a Democratic appointee for census supervisor in the Lackawanna district, Mr. Hayes has taken them at their word and appointed a Republican. Probably this Democratic Senate, which confirmed Marshal Kerns after its exposure of his infamies, will now confirm Mr. Hayes's Republican appointee. It is such a nice Democratic Senate, and so considerate of Mr. Cameron's feelings.

PERSONAL.

Col. MILTON WEIDLER, late of this county, has leased a mill in Portland Oregon, and is said to be doing a fine business.

Miss ELLEN CUMMINS, who will be here with Lawrence Barrett's company, was a witness to the shooting of Ben Porter, in Texas last season, by Currie.

ALEXANDER H. COFFROTH, the Democratic representative from the Somerset district, is seriously ill from an attack of diphtheria, and fears have been expressed by his friends that it may prove fatal.

The New Jersey Senate yesterday went into executive session and considered the nomination of the Hon. JOEL PARKER for the supreme bench. The Republican members agreed to send a polite communication to the governor, asking him to reconsider his nomination of Parker.

A reporter who submitted to GILBERT his account of an interview with him had interpolated a remark in which he, W. S. Gilbert, esq., announced his intention of marrying an American heiress. "But I am a married man!" cried Gilbert in dismay. "Yes, but you see I thought that would end the article up well." "It would end me up well if Mrs. Gilbert and my friends in England saw it!"

The theatrical costumes and stage properties of GEORGE L. FOX were sold at auction on Tuesday by John A. Dunn, at No. 105 East Ninth street, New York. The estimated value of the collection was $25,000. There were only a few theatrical persons presents at the sale, and the goods were disposed of at a great sacrifice. White trousers were sold at 2½ cents a pair, and were bought by Mrs. Donahue, to be used, it was explained, as bathing dresses at Coney Island. Other theatrical goods were sold equally as cheap. A monkey jacket brought $3.50, which, it was claimed, was worth $35.

I. NEWTON PETTIS, who went out to Bolivia in the capacity of United States minister, only to come home again under the plea that there was nothing for a United States minister to do there, having expressed an unwillingness to go back on the ground "that no Christian gentleman could live in Bolivia and preserve his moral character," has persuaded Mr. Hayes—in the interest of his moral character of course—to nominate him to the Senate for the associate justiceship of Washington territory. The Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* thinks "the point which the Senate will have to consider, in passing on this rather extraordinary nomination, is whether a Christian gentleman, whose moral character has so little backbone to it that he cannot live in Bolivia without losing it, is exactly the kind of a Christian gentleman to dispense justice in Washington territory."

THE UNIT RULE.

The Pennsylvania Democracy Shall Not be Cameronized.

Perry County Democrat.

We are in favor of permitting the delegates from each congressional district to cast the two votes to which each district is entitled for the candidates for president and vice president whom a majority of the Democrats in each district desire to have nominated. This is the only way the will of the party can be properly and fairly expressed in a national convention and we should never again tie the hands of the representives of the party by the so-called "unit rule." After what has been said by the Democratic press in condemnation of the methods of Cameron, the Democratic state convention should be particularly careful to allow the fullest and freest expression of party sentiment in the selection of delegates to the national convention, and after they have thus been selected, give them unrestricted liberty to cast their votes in accordance with the wishes of their respective constituencies.

Wanted Above All Things.

Mifflin Democrat and Register.

With us we have men for Bayard, for Tilden, for Seymour, for Hancock, for Hendricks and for some of the strong new men spoken of—all good and deserving men. What the Democracy wish above all things else is that when our state convention meets it should not embarrass the Pennsylvania delegation whom it sends to the National Democratic convention, at Cincinnati, on the 22d of June next, by nailing them down to any one particular man for president, but have them sent there with some discretionary power, so that they can assist to place in nomination such candidates for president and vice president as will best and most thoroughly unite the Democracy and all other elements of the people opposed to the present Republican misrule. The candidates should be competent, deserving and satisfactory men to the whole party and the people.

MINOR TOPICS.

GOVERNOR HOYT said yesterday, that he had always held that the unit rule and instructions in a state convention only bound delegates-at-large. The district delegates were free to vote as their constituents might wish. He believed that many men who voted for the Grant instructions at Harrisburg believed that these would not bind up the delegation.

THE campaign in the United Kingdom is being conducted with great vigor. Lord Hartington has issued a manifesto for the Liberals, and Mr. Forster has also replied to Lord Beaconsfield's electoral appeal. Both the Conservatives and Liberals enter on the contest with high hopes. Mr. Shaw, the Home Rule leader, repels Lord Beaconsfield's assumption that he seeks the dismemberment of the empire, and calls for land reform.

SELINSGROVE *Times*: "As the state college of agriculture with its eleven professors and forty-two students failed to get that $80,000 from the Legislature, President Calder resigned and the managers of the college now advertise for students. As long as they got state appropriations they didn't advertise as they didn't need students, and forty-two answered the purpose to keep up appearances just as well as 300 would. But less than eleven professors wouldn't do to keep up the big show."

THE report of the New York state superintendent of public instruction shows that there were during the past year 1,628,727 children in the state between the ages of five and twenty-one. The number enrolled in the public schools was 1,030,041, and the average daily attendance was 570,382. There were 11,280 school districts in the state and 30,669 teachers. Their average salary was $374.45 for the year—not an enormous sum. The expenditure for all school purposes during the year was $10,348,918.08.

LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

In Rochester, N. Y., Abram V. Pells, a well known citizen, was killed by the cars at the depot.

The funeral services of the late Mrs. Wm. M. Tweed, relict of the celebrated "Boss," were held yesterday. Her death occurred February 13 in Paris, at the age of 54.

The resolution to expel Henry Heisenham was defeated in the Louisiana House yesterday—yeas, 54; nays, 33—not the necessary two-thirds. Seventeen Democrats and sixteen Republicans voted against his expulsion.

In the Sacramento city election, on Tuesday, the Republican condidates were elected by majorities ranging from 300 to 500 with the single exception of the chief of police, who was elected by the Democrats and Workingmen.

Joseph Foreman, residing between Wilmington and Newport, Delaware, is the possessor of a young cow giving an abundance of milk. The cream from this milk produces eight pounds of butter per week. But what is more remarkable—the cream may be put in any large vessel and stirred with a pot stick or paddle, and the butter is produced in three minutes. The cow is of New York Mills stock.

Two members of the firm of Dexter, Lambert & Co., of Paterson, N. J., were in Hawley, Wayne county, on Tuesday, and consummated the purchase of a tract of land near the village, upon which they intend erecting a factory 500 feet long, 200 feet wide and three stories high, to be built of stone, to be used as a factory for the weaving of silk goods. Work on the building will be commenced at once. The mill, which will employ about 1,000 hands, will be in running order within a year.

A bold and successful robbery of gold bullion occurred at Sydney, Neb., while the Union Pacific express agent, Snyder, was at dinner. The amount taken is variously estimated at from $120,000 to $200,000. An entrance was effected through the floor of the express office, but a later despatch says that the treasure has been recovered except $13,000. It was found under a pile of coal under the Union Pacific track, the robbers had been seen to conceal something in the afternoon. They are being pursued.

The annual meeting of the Union Pacific railroad company was held yesterday. Two hundred and ten thousand shares were voted on and the president and directors re-elected. At a subsequent meeting Sidney Dillon, of New York, was elected president; Elisha Atkins, of Boston, vice president; Henry McFarland, of Boston, secretary and treasurer. The following executive committee were appointed: Elisha Atkins, Boston; Sidney Dillon, New York; Frederick L. Ames, Boston; Ezra Baker, Boston; F. Gordon Dexter, Boston; Jay Gould, New York.

A BABY ELEPHANT.

Said to be the First that was Ever Born in a State of Captivity.

The London circus, in winter quarters at Twenty-third street and Ridge avenue, Philadelphia, had an addition yesterday morning. Hebe, the great black Asiatic elephant, gave birth to a babe. It is a queer looking little thing, about the size of a Newfoundland dog, with a diminutive trunk, but is active and lively. Hebe stood chained to a post yesterday afternoon and six other elephants looked at her and the baby in astonishment. There was a lively scene after the new-comer's arrival in the early morning hours. The big elephants set up a tremendous roar, threw their trunks aloft, reared up, and swayed about in great excitement. The keeper who was in the stable at the time says that Hebe broke her chain, seized the little thing with her trunk, and threw it twenty yards across the room. The keeper ran for his life, and the elephant charged a stove in the stables, and almost demolished it. The keeper gave the alarm, and in a short time the animal was secured, and again chained to the post.

The mother would not stand still long enough to suckle her babe, and the keepers were nursing it in a novel way yesterday. They procured a funnel and a rubber tube. Inserting the tube in the baby elephant's mouth, they fed it by milking into the other end. Hebe is 23 years old and is a fine specimen of Asiatic elephant. Mandrie, the sire, is 25 years old. The baby weighs 214 pounds and is a female. The birth sets at rest the long-held theory that the elephant female will not bear young while in a captive state, and this event has been looked forward to with interest, a physician having pronounced Hebe with foal twenty months ago.

Colonel Quay Still in the Field.

Colonel Matthew S. Quay, secretary of the commonwealth, who is confined to his house at 11th and Spruce streets, Philadelphia by illness, denies the report that he will not under any circumstances become a candidate for United States senator. He states that he is not at present a candidate, but he said that at any moment he might become one. The report of his withdrawal, which was carried from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, is suspected of having been set afloat by Kemble, who once had senatorial aspirations and may revive them since his last public performance.

PETROFF.

HIS CASE WITH THE JURY.

The Argument of Counsel Yesterday.

In the Petroff case yesterday, Joseph H. Maclay, a member of the Legislature from Mifflin county, was examined and said Petroff asked him to come to his room in the Lochiel for an interview. Witness told Petroff he would vote as he thought best on the riot bill. Petroff said he was authorized to make it interesting for members to support the riot bill.

For the defense Petroff himself was rigidly examined. He detailed substantially the same testimony he gave before the investigating committee of the House of Representatives, and denied that either of the three inculpatory interviews had occurred, and protested his complete innocence. He had never attempted to corrupt Watson or made a remark to him susceptible of such a suspicion. He also denied having told Maclay that he was authorized to make it "interesting" if he voted for the riot claims act, and doubted whether he had spoken to the member from Mifflin on any subject.

Petroff was subjected to a rigid examination by Mr. Gowen, after which the latter asked permission to make an offer which had for its purpose an examination into Petroff's former character. It was proposed to question him while on the stand with this object in view.

The court decided the proposed evidence inadmissible, but suspended the decision for a time to allow argument.

Commonwealth's counsel all contended the proposed evidence was proper; and Senator Carpenter remarked that in the West they were cursed with imported witnesses, and to protect justice they were compelled to ask whether the witnesses had been in any house of refuge or other institution for vagabondage in Philadelphia.

Judge Black being on the floor, Messrs. Cassidy and Herr, for the defense, insisted that he was violating the rules of the court in making an argument, when, as they assumed, the court had decided the question in dispute. Judge Black resented this by saying that he had never been in a court where men stood behind him to pull him down when he was addressing the court.

The court having decided not to allow the examination of Petroff as to his past life, Representatives Law, Gillespie and Pollock, of Philadelphia, were examined as to the nature of the conversation which Petroff alleged took place in the presence of Watson. They all corroborated him except Law, who could not say that Watson was in the party.

Representative Frazer, of Pittsburgh, was called to show that nothing improper occurred at the interview which Watson said was the third. Defense then announced that they were through.

The Argument.

Senator Carpenter being obliged to leave hurriedly for Washington made the first speech for the prosecution. He made a very able plea, interpersed with many witticisms. He directed a portion of his remarks to the Pennsylvania "rooster." In the West nothing was known of this legislative bird, but he had learned since he came to Harrisburg that translated the word meant a member of the Legislature who wanted to feather his nest.

W. H. Armstrong submitted the following law point on which he asked the ruling of the court, accompanying their presentation with an argument on them: (1) The words "offer" and "promise" are not synonymous, and before a conviction can be had there must be a distinct offer or promise of money or other valuable thing. (2) The words "directly or indirectly" do not relieve the commonwealth from showing there was a distinct tender of money or other valuable thing. (3) The evidence of Maclay is not sufficient alone to convict, and unless they unqualifiedly believe Watson the jury must acquit. (4) There not being sufficient evidence to convict, the jury must acquit.

Col. Mann, of Philadelphia, followed in an address of about an hour. The burden of it was that if the testimony of Watson and Maclay were true the charge of corrupt solicitation had not been made out. There was no evidence showing that Petroff had offered anything of value.

Mr. Gowen's Closing Speech.

F. B. Gowen made the closing speech. It was a logical and eloquent effort and was repeatedly applauded. The applause was so loud when he ended that the court rebuked the audience for its want of decorum. He closed as follows:

"For the first time in probably 20 years we have been brought face to face with an acknowledged crime—with a crime that has sapped the very foundations of society; with a crime that has destroyed the grandeur and glory of this commonwealth, and which has made this state in which I was born and hope to die—a byword in the other states of the Union. God knows how long we would have had to wait until the good citizens of this state would have made an effort to cure this festering sore, which like a cancer was eating its way into the very heart of the commonwealth. At last we have met face to face some of the men who were shown to be guilty of causing this stain. And now from every part of this state—from the shores of Lake Erie and the border of the Ohio, to the waters of the broad Delaware, and from the pine forests of the north to our southern borders—an eager people are looking up to you as their saviour; to mete out justice to these men. If you believe these men to be guilty, will you destroy the righteous expectancy of a great commonwealth? Will you permit this unpunished wrong, that has been casting its black shadow and blight over the people of this state, for an indefinite length of time, to continue on unpunished? Or will you lay your hands upon it and help to stamp it out forever from the pages of this commonwealth?

My learned friend, Mr. Mann, has been referring to the glorious career of this state, which during the last war sent her hundreds of thousands of men to battle, and to die, if need be, for a united and liberty-loving country; men who, in the soul-thrilling days of Gettysburg, drove the invaders from our borders. I tell you I have such faith in the pride and glory of this commonwealth that if another such epoch should come, she would again bring to the front her hundreds of thousands of men who would meet and drive back the invaders, or be left

"With their backs to the field and their feet to the foe;
And leaving in battle no blot on their name,
Look proudly to heaven from the death-bed of fame."

And though we have been resting after the laurels won, with a triumphant victory and peace accorded by all mankind, we find right before us, on our very pathway to greater eminence and higher fame a foe ten times more powerful, ten times more disgraceful, ten times more feared, than any that has been met. It has come upon us in the stillness of the night, step by step, until it has wound its loathsome arms around this commonwealth and its slimy form has extended out until the road to fame, once open to every honest man, seems closed forever; and that laudable ambition which should be in every citizen of this commonwealth to take his place among our legislators, crushed, killed and buried; until we have handed over the government of this state, and our counties and our cities to people who are controlled by fraud—to do such acts as those who control them require them to do.

Now let us put a stop to this, let us remember that the open onset of an enemy of horsemen is not nearly to be so dreaded as the steady approach of one who saps the foundations of the government and undermines the very fountain of justice and law.

The founder of this commonwealth, the man to whom we are indebted for the government that was handed down to us from our forefathers, wrote upon his escutcheon that which remains as the motto of Pennsylvania, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." Let us remember, gentlemen, that without virtue there can be no liberty; that without virtue there can be no independence; and unless you aid us in this crusade against vice, by endeavoring to strike it down, and again to substitute the banner of virtue in its stead, it will be folly, or worse than folly, for any of us or our children to hope ever to recover and hold that virtue, liberty and independence handed down to us by our fathers.

The Charge Postponed.

Judge Pearson said that owing to the lateness of the hour he would postpone the delivery of his charge until this morning. The crier was then requsted to adjourn the court, but the order was revoked at the instance of several attorneys, who stated that some business remained to be transacted. The several counsel representing the commonwealth and defense arrayed themselves in front of the judges' bench and soon an animated though suppressed conversation was in progress. The attorneys had agreed on a continuance of the untried legislative bribery cases until the April term and were pleading with the court to grant them their request. The one side was as earnest for the postponement as the other. Judge Pearson at first looked unfavorably on the proposition because of the additional expense a continuance would put on the county. Several remarks were made that indicated very strongly that the cases were to be prosecuted no farther—in other words that *nolle prssoquis* would be entered. Some of the commonwealth's counsel said the principal defendants had been driven to a confession of their crime and the ends of justice had been satisfied. The court finally agreed to the demand made upon it, and the cases of A. W. Leisenring, Christian Long, Edward McCune, George F. Smith, Daniel Clarke and Dr. Shoemaker will never be tried.

Counsel also agreed on the 29th inst. as the time for the imposition of sentences on Kemble, Salter, Crawford and Rumberger and the court fixed that day.

A PHLEGETHON OF HATE.

What Col. Forney Thinks Deserves Reprobation.

Progress.

The violent and undignified speech of John A. Logan, the Republican senator in Congress, last Friday, against the bill to restore Gen. Fitz John Porter to the United States army, in accordance with the report of three of the oldest and most blameless officers in the regular army, Major General W. M. Schofield, Brigadier General A. H. Terry and Col. G. W. Getty, chosen to examine his case by the president in compliance with the respectful, urgent and oft-repeated appeal of General Porter himself. It will be remembered that General Fitz John Porter was cashiered for alleged misconduct at the second battle of Manassas, in 1862. He has been after seventeen years of vain petition and prayer accorded a full and patient trial at West Point, of eight months, from June, 1878, to March, 1879, before the gallant veterans above named; and by them unanimously acquitted, and his restoration recommended. One would suppose that a case in the hands of such men would not only receive impartial unbiased attention, but that its decision would be received by others. Not only time had moderated party passion, but hundreds of brave, humane, Christian men of both parties, chiefly Republicans, among them such men as Horace Greeley, Henry Wilson, Edward Everett, R. C. Winthrop, Lafayette S. Foster, Governor Curtin and ex-Presidents Fillmore and Pierce, had warmly demanded that General Fitz John Porter should be judged by his own military peers. So far as Senator Logan, and, I regret to say, some other Republicans are concerned, none of these influences have prevailed; neither the prayer of General Porter, nor the petition of eminent men, nor the example of a forgiving president, nor the impartial action of austere and experienced veterans. Senator Logan was the leader against General Porter. Of all men he is the most distasteful to that sentiment in the Republican party which looks to the reconciliation of the sections, because having been one of the last to leave the Southern slaveholders he has always been the last to pardon them for their rebellion. To show his hatred of the generous men of the North, who have always insisted upon reconciliation, he was selected to raise his hand against General Porter; and he has done it with characteristic brutality.

FIRE RECORD.

A Montreal Hotel Destroyed—Narrow Escape of Guests.

A great fire occurred on Monday at the weaving works in Moscow. The entire building was destroyed. Twenty-four persons were burned to death and twenty-nine injured.

Three-fourths of Nevesinje, Herzegovina, were destroyed by fire yesterday, including the residence of the commandant and the post and telegraph offices. Many persons were rendered homeless, but no lives were lost. The fire originated accidentally.

A fire in the furniture establishmens of F. McQuade, who occupies the five upper stories of 71 Haverhill street, Boston, caused a loss of $8,000. The loss of J. J. Keefe & Co., manufacturers of trunks, who occupied the lower floor, was $2,000. Both were partly insured.

In Paterson, N. J., Mrs. Maatje Hall, a Holland lady over seventy years of age, had been warming her feet on a small charcoal furnace, when the fire communicated to her clothing. She was horribly burned and medical aid attempted nothing but to assuage her terrible sufferings. In New York Estella Hauser, aged three, during the temporary absence of her parents, accidentally fell upon a red-hot stove and was burned to death. When the parents returned to their apartments they discovered the child dead.

A fire broke out in the cellar of the Express house, Montreal, Canada. Daniel McGaraghan, proprietor, at an early hour yesterday morning, and soon spread to the upper flats. The guests were asleep at the time and had a narrow escape from being burned to death, a number being obliged to jump from the windows on the second-story to save their lives. The interior of the premises was completely gutted and the loss will exceed $20,000. The insurance on the building and furniture amounts to $33,000.

State Appropriation.

School Journal.

The issue of the school warrants has gone steadily forward since the last announcement. In all probability all of them will have been issued before this notice shall meet the eyes of the local school officers. To issue a warrant, however, is one thing; to secure the money for it is quite another. The state treasurer has paid probably one-fourth of the number issued; but when he will have money to pay the rest this department is not advised. If we could announce that he could *pay up to a certain number by a certain date*, we would gladly do it, but we are not so authorized. We can therefore give no better advice concerning the disposition of the warrants now than we have heretofore given. We hope it may be different next month.

The property of the Lehigh slate company was sold by the sheriff to Alex. Wilson, of Easton, for $37,000.

A Hesitating Judge.

Philadelphia Times.

The Lancaster INTELLIGENCER, whose editors are hanging by the eye-lids as members of the Lancaster bar, have very properly called the attention of Judge Patterson to the fact that several cases reserved by him some weeks ago for decision, insluding the cases of Messrs Steinman and Hensel, for alleged contempt of court, seem to have escaped his attention. The promptness with which Judge Patterson directed the rule against the respondents, without action of the bar, or formal complaint of any kind, requiring them to answer as lawyers for their public criticism of concluded legal proceedings as editors, certainly implied that he well understood the legal grounds on which he based his action and an early decision was reasonably expected.

It is now more than a month since Judge Patterson heard the argument on his own rule upon Messrs. Steinman and Hensel to show cause why he should not strike their names from the Lancaster bar; but he evidently inclines either to dispute with his own purposes or to question his right to do what he manifestly intended to do when he hurled his judicial arrow at the independent editors. It is possible that there are considerations of expediency which have halted a settled judicial intent, and it is more probable that it has finally dawned upon a very commonplace judge that he is not the authorized censor of the press of Pennsylvania, with plenary power to punish editors who happen to be members of the bar, without trial, as his malice or caprice may dictate. Whatever may have been the persuasive agent, it is clear that Judge Patterson has concluded to make haste slowly, and the exhausted patience of those who are awaiting his judgment has publicly summoned him to the performance of his duty.

There have been intimations that Judge Patterson would evade the issue brought upon himself by permitting the rule to sleep indefinitely in the judicial pigeon-holes; but the question involved in the dispute is of vastly too much moment to the bar and to the press to permit him to escape the responsibility he publicly assumed without formal complaint or even suggestion from any one but himself. It involves the fundamental principle of the freedom of the press, so distinctly protected by the constitution, and every newspaper published and every member of the bar is more or less directly interested in the determination of the law. If men like Judge Patterson, who have not only their intellectual peers but their superiors on the editorial staff of every important newspaper in the state, can summarily punish lawyer editors for contempt by fine, imprisonment or dismissal from the bar, it is quite time that the bar and the press were judicially informed of the fact; and Messrs. Steinman and Hensel very properly insist upon Judge Patterson following up his proceedings to judgment. He is not in the most comfortable position in which a judge could be placed, but he must remember that he is just where his folly put himself, and he must get out of it the best way he can. If he reverses himself by the dismissal of the rule, he will find lucid explanation somewhat difficult, but if he does not reverse himself, he will be reasonably certain to be reversed by the supreme court; and either horn of the dilemma is uninviting. Judge Patterson may have the consolation, however, that other judges in Pennsylvania have made fools of themselves by strutting fantastically before the public in the abuse of their brief authority; and it may add to his comfort to know that such judges seldom commit such follies more than once.

OUR SIMON.

What He Did For Lincoln in 1864.

Harrisburg Telegraph, FAMILY Organ.

Chase, Seward, Stevens, Sumner and their coadjutors, were ready, during the winter of 1863-64, to set Old Abe aside, and had begun the machination to accomplish this. The purpose was an uconcealed one. It had made estrangements in the cabinet. Mr. Wells knew all about it; so did Attorney General Bates—and the fact was well known to Mr. Lincoln himself that Chase and Seward were ready to sacrifice him in the Baltimore convention when the time came for it to meet. At this juncture General Cameron made his movement with the Pennsylvania Legislature, or rather the Republican members of the Legislature. The document signed by the Republican officers and members of that body and by heads of departments of the state government was prepared entirely at the dictation of General Cameron. No living man except the private secretary of Gen. C. knew of the document or its purpose, until it was ready for signature, and the first man who signed it was the first to know of its import. It was the publication of that document which upset all the plans and intrigues of Mr. Lincoln's opponents. It aroused the people. The Republicans in state Legislatures then in session followed closely after the example of those in Pennsylvania, so that by the 1st of February, 1864, the Republicans in every state then in the Union declared themselves for Lincoln's renomination. Had the Pennsylvania movement not been made at the moment Gen. Cameron took his bold step, there would have been trouble in the Baltimore convention, because opposition to Mr. Lincoln could have secured delegates to that body without the mass of the party knowing it, and then by the intrigues peculiar to that element, perhaps defeated his renomination. We are the more emphatic in our repetition of his incident of political history, because we know precisely of what we write. It is fact clear, clean and substantial; and on it we base the record which will never be effaced that the renomination of Abraham Lincoln was secured against the intrigues started to defeat it by one bold, able and sagacious move made by Simon Cameron in the winter of 1864, circumventing Chase, Seward and their coadjutors who were ready to set him aside.

STATE ITEMS.

Patrick Lawler was killed at West Lehigh colliery, Mahanoy City, by a fall of top coal. He leaves a family.

Judge Cummin, of Williamsport, has set up a breakwater against the growth of the social evil there by sentencing four bawdy house keepers to 18 months' imprisonment.

At No. 54 North Sixth street, Philadelphia, William Creekmore, a young man, residing in Camden, was engaged in painting the ceiling of a printing office, when his coat caught in a revolving shaft, which whirled him around until his head was fractured in several places and the lower part of the body was terribly mangled, causing immediate death. Creekmore leaves a wife and four children.

Up to Tuesday between 200 and 225 rafts had reached Lock Haven, about 75 of which have passed below. It is difficult to estimate the number of rafts that will be put in this season, some place it as high as 1,200, while others say it will not reach over 800. The winter has been unfavorable for lumbering and only about one-third of the stock cut will be got in, unless there should be more snow.

Girard college now contains 870 orphans, and its income has so increased since Girard's death that the new buildings necessary to receive this large number have been built entirely from that income without trenching on the fund. The college has thus far received and educated 3,454 orphan and has indentured under the provisions of the will 1,028 boys. A large proportion of those who have left its walls are doing satisfactorily in life, while a few have already attained distinction.

The development of Mr. Girard's coal lands in Pennsylvania has raised the gross income of the estate from $67,953.44 (the year after his death) to $877,165 in 1879.

Political Rumors Concerning Philadelphia.

Messrs. McManes, Leeds, Kerns, and Roberts arrived in Washington on Tuesday, and yesterday had a long interview with Secretary Sherman respecting politics and Philadelphia appointments. The secretary was much pleased with their visit and indicated a disposition to accede to their wishes. Collector Tutton also arrived to look over the ground for a renomination, as his commission will expire about June.

As far as has been ascertained, the slate of Mr. McManes and his friends is to make Colonel Snowden collector, Postmaster Hartranft superintendent of the mint, and Marshal Kerns postmaster. There is now little or no probability of Tutten's re-appointment. It was due to Representative Harmer's influence that he was retained when the raid was made on him several years ago. It was then understood that he would be permitted to finish out the term of his commission. The collector, however, is sanguine of succeeding in obtaining a renomination.

In regard to ex-Governor Hartranft, it is claimed that the Philadelphia mint has generally been managed by ex-governors of Pennsylvania, and that the postoffice is hardly of sufficient importance for an ex-governor. The visiting Philadelphia statesmen are also in conference with Senator Cameron.

New Jersey Straws.

Tuesday's municipal election in Camden N. J., has resulted in a victory for the Democracy. Those conceded to be elected are: Mayor, Claudius W. Bradshaw, D; Recorder, F. W. Tarr, D; Receiver of Taxes, George M. Thrasher, R; City Assessor, Mr. Grubb, R.; and five Democrats out of eight councilman. The return judges will announce the result of their official count to-morrow evening.

The entire Democratic ticket, with the exception of a councilmanic candidate, has been successful at the municipal election in Gloucester N. J.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

PHILADELPHIA M. E. CONFERENCE.

The Methodist Ministers in Annual Council.

The ninety-third annual session of the Philadelphia conference of the Methodist Episcopal church convened yesterday morning in the Union M. E. church, Fourth street, below Arch, Philadelphia.

Bishop Stephen M. Merrill took the chair at the appointed hour and conducted devotional exercises, after which the roll of members was called and secretaries of the conference appointed.

It was resolved that the conference meet daily at 9 a. m. and adjourn at 12 m.

The case of Rev. T. B. Miller, charged with immorality in selling bogus medical diplomas, was referred to a select committed of fifteen, with final powers, to sit in private after their appointment by the bishop and presiding elders. Rev. Wm. Major's case, at at his own request was referred to a committee of inquiry, numbering seven. Revs. W. W. McMichael and J. Stringer are on the Miller court.

The Standing Committee

appointed by the presiding elders and confirmed by the conference were:

On Public Worship—W. J. Paxson, R. J. Carson, S. W. Thomas, W. S. Pugh, C. F. Turner and N. Frame.

On Education of Ministers—A Rittenhouse, D. D., H. W. Warren, D. D., T. M. Griffith, G. D. Carrow, D. D., E. I. D. Pepper, S. A. Heilner, E. H. Hoffman; Laymen—Thomas Greenback, A. M. Barton, W. B. Trites, M. D., and C. Albright.

On Bible Cause—W. C. Robinson, J. B. Dobbins, W. B. Wood and M. Barnhill.

On Sunday Schools—T. C. Pearson, J. Pastorfield, S G. Grove, J. F. Crouch and N. D. McComas.

On Tract Cause—J. F. Meredith, J. Morrow, T. T. Everett, H. R. Callaway and S. Howell.

On Temperance—W. Mullin, D. McKee, W. H. Fries, W. C. Best and S. H. Hoover.

On Church Extension—The Conference board of church extension.

On Freedman's Aid Society—E. Stubbs, S. H. C. Smith, W. J. Mills, D. W. Gordon and D. L. Patterson.

On Ladies' and Pastors' Christian Union.—S. N. Chew, H. F. Isett, M. D. Kurtz, G. W. Maclaughlin and J. M. Wheeler.

On Missions—The presiding elders.

On Woman's Foreign Missionary Society—W. K. MacNeall, T. B. Neely, J. S. Lane, J. Lindemuth and F. Illman.

On Necessitous Cases—The trustees of the Preacher's aid society.

On Publishing the Minutes—The secretary and his associates.

On Finance—W. Graves, J. W. Rudolph, J. W. Sayers and J. D. Fox.

On General Statistics—W. Coffman, M. H. Wilson, J. B. Graff and G. W. Bradley.

On Missionary Statistics—P. S. Merrill, C. Roads, D. F. Unangst, and N. Turner.

On General Qualifications of Candidates for Admission on Trial and for Admission into full Connection—W. B. Wood, M. D. Kurtz, J. Welch, W. L. McDowell, W. J. Mills, J. R. Boyle, T. Stevens, B. T Vincent, and O. R. Cook.

The committees on conference and conference relations were stricken from the list because they were not authorized by discipline and were simply appointed for convenience.

Appropriate action was taken on the deaths of Bishops Ames and Haven, and of Dr. Dashiell.

Presiding elder's reports were read.

The Educational society held its anniversary meeting at Arch street M. E. church last evening, when addresses were delivered by Rev. H. W. Warren, D. D., Prof. C. J. Little, A. M., Rev. Dr. Brook, of Baltimore, and Dr. Foss.

The Columbia Rolling Mill.

The lively times of bygone years are now witnessed about the old rolling mill. Fires were lighted a few days ago and eleven furnaces are now in successful operation. Mr. J. W. Thomas is the manager and is a man of well-known experience, sagacious, enterprising and of wise judgment. He will run the mill himself, and allows no dictatorial terms. Some difficulty was experienced with a party of puddlers who arrived from Catasauqua about wages, &c., but now we believe all is satisfactorily arranged and the men are all at work. We are glad to see this. There is no reason why managers and proprietors should not work harmoniously together. Iron masters are the most liberal people in the world and do most in aid of the community, as well as the mechanic and laborer.—*Columbia Courant.*

Death of an Old Citizen.

Michael Brecht, an old resident of this city, died at his home, No. 136 South Prince street, last evening, about 6 o'clock. Mr. Brecht came from Heidleberg, Germany, and has resided in this city since 1848. He was the father of eleven children but four of whom are living, as follows: Bernard Brecht, street sprinkler; Frank Brecht, printer; Michael Brecht, jr., cigarmaker, and Jacob Brecht, who resides in Oil City. He was in 69th year at the time of his death.