

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 25, 1881.

Lame Argument, but Good Sense.

We believe in the strict construction of written constitutions; and there is no disputing that Attorney-General Palmer is a strict constructionist of the strictest kind. We would that he could favor the Legislature with some further interpretations that might have the effect of putting life into the plain letter of the constitution in many of its provisions which now are inert if not dead.

We will not deny the attorney-general's conclusion that the direction of the constitution that "the members of the General Assembly shall receive such salary and mileage for regular and special sessions as shall be fixed by law, and no other compensation whatever," prohibits them from receiving a salary of a thousand dollars per session and ten dollars a day for each day not exceeding fifty that the session shall extend beyond a hundred days.

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It has been generally supposed that the Pennsylvania railroad company was not under the operations of the new constitution, having never accepted its provisions. It seems, however, that in the Philadelphia court of common pleas, No. 2, Judges Hare, Zell and Mitchell, gave a unanimous opinion that the only authority given by councils by ordinance to this company to construct the Filbert street elevated road was by legislative authority, subsequent to the date of the taking effect of the new constitution, i. e., January 1, 1874, and by the acceptance of an ordinance of councils which could become legally operative only by virtue of legislation of June 9, 1874, the court has declared: "With the consent of the city, under the act of 1874, she may longitudinally appropriate any street to the construction of a branch road. The request of the railroad company for the assent of the city is in law an acceptance of the present constitution of the state."

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H. J. RAMSDALE has sued the city of Washington for \$20,000 damages for injuries received by a fall in the slippery streets last January. A REEDER MULLER, United States gauger for the Easton district, has died of consumption, aged 84 years. He was the youngest man from Pennsylvania in the service of the Union during the rebellion, having enlisted September 25, 1861, when he was thirteen and a-half years old.

A West Philadelphia young and married woman donned one of her husband's suits of clothes on Wednesday night in a mischievous mood, and accompanied by a little girl took a promenade. A sixteen-year-old policeman detected the masquerade by the awkwardness of her gait, and took her to the police station. The mischievousness was all out of her by the time her husband came and released her.

Two young ladies of alleged "respectability," of Buffalo, were anxious to see Sara Bernhardt play Camille, but being unable to pay the \$3 per seat in the lower portion of the house, blackened their faces, and passing themselves off as negroes, went into the gallery where the admission was only \$1. The ruse was quickly discovered, and the young women's associates, the gallery gods, "made it pleasant" for them between the acts.

The latest news by mail. The market and the Excelsior house, at Plano, Ill., were destroyed by fire yesterday. Total loss, \$11,000; insurance, light. Edwin Lockwood, formerly a foreman at the Camden & Amboy railroad shops at Bordentown, N. J., committed suicide by jumping into the creek from the railroad bridge.

The son of the late Lewis Clapp, of Illinois, has succeeded in breaking his father's will by which he bequeathed \$100,000 for the establishment of an agricultural college, conditioned on the county raising \$100,000. Mrs. P. F. Murray has died at Columbus, Ohio, from the effects of malaria. She made a statement, declaring that it was performed by Dr. Willoughby, at her own request and in direct opposition to her husband's wishes. Dr. Willoughby will be tried on a charge of manslaughter. Samuel McGee was shot and killed last September in a saloon kept by Samuel Hawthorn, in Vicksburg, Miss. Hawthorn was arrested and tried for murder. He was convicted and admitted to bail, pending appeal, after which he sold his saloon and fled. Yesterday he was arrested while boarding an rapid bound steamship at New York.

THE MARVELOUS CLAIM OF HARRY HUBB TO THE KIND CONSIDERATION OF THE REFORMERS, FOR HIS ALLEGED SAYING IN THE IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF BUCKETS, BROOMS AND SOAP, IS OFFSET BY THE DISCOVERY THAT HE HAS CREATED A NEW OFFICE AND A NEW SALARY OF \$1,000 FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS, LETTER PAPERS AND ENVELOPES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE.

THE HOUSE at Harrisburg spent an entertaining hour or two yesterday morning discussing that clause of the appropriation bill which provides pay for the stationary storekeeper. This is a brand new office, a private enterprise of Chief Clerk Hubb, and the law does not authorize the appointment. Hubb wants \$1,000 for his appointee.

SECRETARY BURCH of the Senate withheld Senator Sharon's pay for the entire period of the extra session of 1879, and it was covered back into the national treasury. Mr. Sharon accepted the decision without remark, although it is claimed that he made the point that there was no authority under which his pay could have been withheld.

FOR the four months ended February our exports of provisions and tallow were \$32,163,399 against \$34,196,435 for the corresponding period a year ago. For ten months our dairy product exported increased from \$15,909,907 to \$22,219,097. Despite the "diseased pork" scare our exports in that line for February 1881, were 50 per cent. more than for February, 1880.

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PERSONAL.

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In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, T. M. Sinclair, managing partner of the pork packing firm of T. M. Sinclair & Co., fell through a hatchway in the main building of their establishment down upon the flagged floor below, a distance of thirteen feet, producing a fracture of the brain, which resulted in death. He was unconscious until his death. Although only 35 years old, he was one of the largest business operators in the West, the firm of which he was president receiving annually through him a million of dollars from that locality.

A LIVELY CORPSE.

The Philadelphia Record tries to-day a full and interesting resume of his discoveries as to Dr. Buchanan's famous bogus diploma doctor, doctor, doctor, doctor, together with the confession of Dr. Buchanan as given to Mr. John Norris, the enterprising journalist through whose zeal, backed by the Record's liberality, the disclosure was made. Following is an abstract of the Record's story.

When Buchanan was strangled, and the trick of his alleged drowning was completely exposed by his arrest in Michigan last September, the old man saw that his last hope of escape had vanished, and he accepted an inevitable and bowed to the supremacy of the law. On returning to this city he promised to do all that man could do to right the wrongs he had committed. He confessed judgment of ouster in the two suits brought by the General Assembly to annul the diploma of the Eclectic medical college of Pennsylvania and the American university of Philadelphia. He also gave a power of attorney to confess judgment of ouster for him against the Livingston University of America, chartered in the State of West Virginia, which charter has been annulled by the Legislature of West Virginia. He has given up all the books he had—the matriculation books, the minutes of faculty, minutes of trustees, account books, annual minutes—and a mass of valuable information, including a list of foreign diplomas sold, and a catalogue of addresses including over 5,000 names of persons who had corresponded with him. He gives the names of wholesale druggists in Philadelphia who have sold the diplomas, and gives the names of the parties to whom the diplomas were issued. He relates how diplomas were signed by the faculty; how in one instance three professors, for \$3 each signed 500 diplomas for him, and for \$20 the diplomas which were to go abroad were certified to by a Spanish consul. In all, about 10,000 names are tangled up in his disclosures. He has given the names of many professional abortionists and the means whereby they destroy life. He tells of the various quack nostrums that are advertised to cure all diseases, and of the impostors who prey on public credulity. He tells of faith in the supernatural; of a fortune teller in Philadelphia who reads destiny under the light of candles made of human hair. He tells of a doctor going to Europe annually and brings back low powders which he represented were compounded at the shrine of Cupid in Minerva's Temple. He describes how one concern sells the pulverized gizzard of a chicken as a compound to produce official digestion. He recites incidents wherein he robbed graves, and how, on one Saturday morning, stole five dead bodies from Blockley Almshouse. He tells how he kept himself clear of the courts and their penalties. He tells of a five-year concern in this country and in Europe by which degrees are sold. He figures that fully 20,000 bogus diplomas are current in America and 40,000 more in Europe. He gives the authorities a level by which they can spot every diploma in America.

He tells of the exposure of Buchanan's business the charters of the American University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery and the Livingston University of America at Charleston, S. C. He says he has annulled, and bills have been introduced into the state Legislature to repeal the charters of the Quaker City Business College, the Penn Medical University, the Philadelphia Electropathic Institution and the Philadelphia College of Medicine. The law has been framed for approval by the state Legislature regulating the practice of medicine, protecting the people from incompetent practitioners, and elevating the standard of medical education.

To protect the public from the interference, Buchanan says he paid \$50 to each of thirteen members of the education committee of the state Legislature in 1871, and \$3,000 to the legislative investigating committee of 1872. He says he was in Canada and his return to Philadelphia public curiosity was satisfied upon every point of the dean's strange doings except as to the identity of the man who had personated him and had jumped from a ferry boat into the Delaware river. He says he is going to clear up that phase of the case and to reveal the ingenious details of the whole proceeding. The idea was prompted in the minds of the conspirators by recollection of a former pupil of Buchanan's college named Foster. This man married a Pine Street widow, at which time he was after the marriage ceremony he disappeared. At the same time the lady's money also vanished. No trace of the man was obtained until one day news was brought of the finding of his hat, coat and trunk in a rowing boat which was adrift in the St. Lawrence river. His wife never heard of him afterward but Buchanan and his friends received word from the fugitive in California and they often chuckled over Foster's smart dodge. As in 1865, Foster was a widely known intimate acquaintance of Buchanan, was openly pressed by the officers of the law, and it was proposed that he should be personated in jumping from a ferryboat into the river. A good swimmer had been engaged to do everything in his readiness, but some unexpected slip occurred in the arrangements and the scheme was abandoned to be revived six years later, when Dean Buchanan found himself in danger of the law. Buchanan says Foster was at the bottom of it and that Foster was a man who was to dress in resemblance of the pudgy little doctor. On the night of 16th of August last, Buchanan went to the Market street ferry, where Vanduser and a man named Sheppard, both known as "Shep," were waiting. Buchanan gave his coat to his double and then drove off in a carriage to the Connecticut railroad junction, and "Shep" passed on to the ferry-boat, to be saluted by Helton as "Doc," and to be pointed out by "Shep" as Buchanan. Of course "Shep" had nothing to say to anyone on the boat, and this point was used by Vanduser to impress on the deck-hands the fact that "the doctor is acting strangely to-night." As the ferry was crossed to enter the canal separating Ridley park from Windmill Island a skiff crossed its bow and lay close in under the shadow of the piles that just from the point of the Island. "Shep" stripped himself of Buchanan's coat and plunged overboard. The excited passengers on the boat rushed wildly about and watched for the unfortunate rise. 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