Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 9, 1881.

In Harrisburg Yesterday.

The Republican state convention, which was held yesterday in Harrisburg, was one of the most docile ever known in the history of arbitrary ring domination and servile popular submission which has been written by the Republican party of this state. Until within the last two weeks it had been triumphantly, and, as the result shows, rather incautiously blazoned abroad that W. T. Davies would be the nominee for state treasurer; and that, inasmuch as he was a bolter last winter, his selection by the state convention for this distinction would be a formal approval by the organization of the righteousness of that bolt, and a forerunner of the control of the gubernatorial nomination next year by the opponents of THE FAMILY. All the while the managers of the Cameron dynasty seem to have been only waiting for their enemies' plans to fully mature that they might the more effectually frustrate them. A circular issued by Wharton Baker's clique warning the party against certain disaster if anybody but Davies was nominated, furnished provocation and pretext for the showing of hands. Gen. Baily, of Fayette, was made the Cameron-Quay candidate and his sole political distinction was proclaimed to be that he had been a faithful though obscure member of the Grant guard at Chicago. He was Mr. Quay's choice and as such at least 150 of the delegates who were corralled into his support gave him their votes. Beyond a few of his immediate neighbors none of them knew him or had ever heard of him before. They went into a caucus called in his interest and agreed, exactly as Quay and Magee directed, who should make each motion and what all the motions should be on the floor of the convention, and how they should vote on every matter that the grace of the management allowed to be introduced. The programme was slavishly adhered to and the convention might as well have adjourned after the ring caucus dissolved.

It is true Davies was a poor selection as the head of an aggressive independent movement in Republican politics. The element that supported him was as unfortunate as in its choice of Grow last winter. Davies is a time-serving politician, and had long trained with the Cameron faction. He would have been glad to have had its support, sought it, and expected it; and even now his defeat is embittered by his reflection that it was effected by his relations with the Independent element of his party. So long as that wing of the party selects such men as Grow and Davies as its candidates, it will lose not only success but credit in its struggles, and save not even honor in defeat.

None the less the winning faction saw in Davies's punishment a chance to avenge the defeat of Oliver and the overthrow of the caucus last winter, and they went to the end of their tether. It was not enough to rule the convention with a caucus and make Quay its chairman, but the resolutions were directed by a studious effort to exclude everything offensive to the ring and the capsheaf of its impudence is the brazen selection of the notorious Tom Cooper as the official head of the party organization in Pennsylvania.

The Republican party yesterday shouldered up for luggage in this campaign nearly everything that has been iniquitous and shameful in our state government for the past fifteen years. It must have been in a spirit of satire that the convention declared "its active support in the prompt and courageous correction of all governmental abuses," when it made as its chairman the living exponent of these abuses in our state administration and put its campaign into the hands of the most pliant tool which a corrupt and audacious ring has had in either of the legislative bodies of the commonwealth.

THE platform of the Republican state convention is a most remarkable literary composition and political deliverance. Senator Thomas V. Cooper and Edward MacPherson, esq., are credited with its several authorship. That it was not a joint production is painfully manifest, and we must insist that its authors have done discredit to their profession of journalism in their attempt to declare Republican principles. There is the slushiest sort of a mixture of sympathy with the president's affliction and approval of his administration—two matters that should have been treated of in separate planks, and upon which there might at least have been some distinct utterances if any opinion was intended to be expressed about them. The high-sounding Reform pretensions of the platform are, it will be seen, entirely vague and general. Upon no one of the living questions of state policy has it anything to say. The pilfering in the departments, the abuses of the state treasury, the aggressive power of corporations, the legislative wrongs of the suffering people, the raids upon the public funds, the pardon of convicted lobbyists, and subjects of like import, get no attention in the platform of Mr. Quay's convention for Mr. Cooper's campaign.

IN the death of Sidney Lanier, American literature loses one of its most scholarly, original and promising young poets. His compositions were unique and musical, and often unappreciated and misunderstood. But they have fixed lodgment in the literary development of the age, and such productions as his "Corn," the weird cantata written for the centennial, and the exquisite "Ballad of the Trees" will live in our literature. He had much of the "elusive quality" of the poet, which only those who measure poetry like tape deny to be a genuine poetic quality.

THE rapid improvement in the president's condition indicates the wisdom of his removal to a better atmosphere than that which was vitiated by the breezes from the Potomac flats. He is getting along so well that he growls a little at his physicians and reduces their number.

THE Philadelphia *Press* is displeased because the New York Democratic state committee, in deprecating the assault by force upon the dignity of the presidency, recalled the assault by fraud four years ago. We can appreciate the feelings of Republicans at seeing the ghost of murdered Banquo, but we cannot understand by what reasoning the American public can be expected to forget the assault of the return-tinker and yet keep vividly in mind the desperate deviltry of the assassin.

MINOR TOPICS.

DAVIES is another early worm that got out in good time to be caught.

THE *Press* had plenty of editors and enterprise at the state convention, but no votes.

WILL wonders never cease? Here is an English scientist going to farm by electricity as his plan, published on our first page, sets forth in detail.

THE New York *Times* thinks "the committee which drafted the platform of the Republican state convention of Pennsylvania seems to have been sorely puzzled to find anything to say."

THE railways now building in various parts of Bengal, and those which are projected there, indicate rapid progress in the extension of facilities for rapid intercommunication between the districts of that rich province of the Indian empire.

THERE are many signs of returning prosperity for canal navigation in European states notably so in Holland and Northern Germany, and especially in France, where it promises to exert a marked influence on railway rates.

IF some of the able editors of the *Press*, who had a convention in Harrisburg yesterday, had been searched, a platform might have been found containing emphatic condemnation of the stationery steals. The matter seems to have been overlooked.

QUAY and Cooper give notice that "as Republicans we are in favor of any proper and well considered reform, either in the government of the nation, the state, municipality or county; and we court suggestions to any or all of these ends." It is to be hoped reformers will not be backward with their suggestions.

THE latest returns of live stock and fresh meat importations from the United States and Canada into England at the port of Liverpool show large increases. For a single week in August the quantity of live stock was double the quantity for the week preceding it, and in fresh meat there was considerable advance, particularly in beef.

THE *New Era* has discovered that "the Pardon Mill which took such fine care of Boss Kemble and his fellow legislative corruptionists, to the infinite disgust of all honest men, assumed the management of the Republican state convention." But the "pardon mill" is henceforth to grind out "economical and honest administration," Tom Cooper is at the wheel.

President GARFIELD is now regarded by the physicians and the cabinet as in a much more hopeful condition than he has been for thirty days. While there has been only a hope, and at times only a very slender one, of his recovery for some time, there is now a reasonable expectation that he is safe. He has been cheerful and confident himself during all the day, and a feeling of general confidence prevails as to his speedy recovery. "For the first time during the last three weeks it may now be said that there is warrant for a rational belief that he will be spared to the nation," writes Col. McClure from Long Branch.

PERSONAL.

Prince FREDERICK, uncle of the King of the Netherlands, is dead.

EDW. MACPHERSON is in town on business relating to the Thaddeus Stevens estate.

Ex-Secretary ROBESON, who was recently robbed on a street car in Philadelphia, has refused to go into court to testify against the pickpocket.

Rev. JACOB MULFORD, ex-lawyer, temperance advocate, and, until a few weeks ago, pastor of the Greenland M. E. church in Camden county, N. J., has committed suicide.

A brilliant New York wedding on the tapis is that of Miss VANDERBILT, the youngest daughter of William H. Vanderbilt, and Dr. WEBB, a son of James Watson Webb.

Vice President ARTHUR remained quietly at his house yesterday and did not attend any of the churches where prayers were being offered for the recovery of the president.

Rev. JOHN M. CROZIER, pastor of the Third Reformed Presbyterian church, Deal street, east of Frankford road, Philadelphia, died on Wednesday night, in his 29th year.

STEPHEN S. FOSTER, prominent as an agitator for anti-slavery, temperance and women's rights, has died at his farm, in the suburbs of Worcester, Mass., at the age of 71 years.

PEACHY R. GRATTAN, an eminent lawyer and author of "Grattan's Reports," died at Ashland, Va., last night, at the age of 80 years, during 40 of which he held the position of law reporter of the Virginia supreme court of appeals.

Judge LOREN P. WALDO, the oldest member of the Connecticut bar, died last night, at Hartford, at the age of 80 years. He was a member of the Thirty-first Congress and was a judge of the supreme court.

SIDNEY LANIER, musician, poet and scholar, died yesterday at Lynn, a little hamlet among the hills of North Carolina, whither he had gone in search of health. He was but thirty nine years old, and his Centennial cantata, his other poems and his work as professor of literature in Johns Hopkins university had made him famous on both continents as one of the rising stars in American literature and in the development of the new South.

PERE HYACINTHE, who, through some canonical difficulties, had not hitherto been allowed to preach in the Anglican church, has beeen invited to preach in the English churches in the Channel Islands, where he is at this moment. The Gallican movement, though looked upon coldly by most people here, would therefore appear to be exercising a real influence over the religious thought of the day. Six American clergymen of the various denominations were present at Pere Hyacinth's church the other day. Among them were Professor Mitchell and one of the revisers of the New Testament.

REORGANIZATION.

Party Rules and Regulations.

Chambersburg Valley Spirit.

The committee on rules appointed at the last meeting of the Democratic state committee will convene for the first time next week and, since it is determined to do something, it would be well that its work be performed under all the light that Democrats can give it.

One proposition likely to receive the attention of the committee is the future composition of the state committee. Some persons have advocated the formation of a state committee from the chairmen of each county committee but we trust this recommendation will not be made by the committee on rules. If anything above personal advancement is considered in the selection of a county committee chairman, and let us hope there is, it is the peculiar fitness of that chairman for local work. His acquaintance, in most of cases, does not extend beyond his county, and his knowledge of political tactics has been acquired only by local experience. He is, in a measure, under the direction of the local candidates, whose will he is to work, and as a sub captain may perform much valuable labor. But as an adviser, it is altogether likely, he would prove a failure. Members of the state committee should be chosen because of their eminent personal fitness and their ability. They are to be commanders, laying out a plan, or plans, for their lieutenants—chairmen of county committees and others—to follow. These local chairmen should be consulted freely, for their experience, when directly or indirectly made use of, is often of great practical value, but their elevation to a membership in the state committee would evidently destroy much of their local usefulness.

An executive, or working, committee acting under the directions of the general committee might be selected, mainly or wholly from the state committee, and the general plans laid out by the committee might thus be promptly and intelligently put into effect. The officers of the state committee might either be selected from its membership or outside of it. The executive committee should, of course, be officered by one of its own members. The best reason for allowing either of the committees to choose its own officers is that there is a greater likelihood of the members being in harmony with their chief. But to this plan of selection there are objections which present themselves. At present we can see no need for one or the other of such committees employing a permanent paid secretary.

We do not think our conventions are too large. They are never unwieldly. But the representation allotted senatorial distriats might be proportioned among the several counties and the senatorial district delegate system be abolished. This class of delegates is a constant promoter of dissension and strife in senatorial districts. In four cases out of five such delegates are likely to represent only the sentiment of the county which happens by chance, common consent or alternation to secure them, and leave the balance of the district unvoiced. They are counterfeit representatives in most cases, since they do not wholly represent, and may as well be rejected.

The vote of the party seems a fair basis for convention representation, yet the minority must not be overwhelmed, or any difficulties placed in its way to discourage; and the committee may well proceed with great caution when it comes to consider a change in this direction.

The temporory organization of any convention may be safely left to that convention to determine. The freedom of the delegate's choice must be in no way abridged, either in the selection of the officers of his convention or of the candidates who are to compose the tickets which he is to aid in forming.

It must be remembered that many counties have a brief series of rules to facilitate business in their local conventions, to provide for the selection of delegates to state conventions, etc., etc. This committee of course will not interfere with these, since such interference now on the eve of an important campaign would create dissension where only harmony exists.

We have not entered into any detailed consideration of "new rules" for the reason that our feelings are that the fewer rules we have as a party the better for us. Our local organization in this state has been well kept up through a long line of defeats with the system under which we are now working and as it cems to have afforded an easy way through all our troubles in the past we have felt in no haste to favor or urge a change. The matter now lies with this committee and later with the state convention and we have no fears that the best interests of the party will not at all times be carefully and conscientiously considered and regarded.

STATE ITEMS.

Elias Rhodes, an employee of the Reading railroad, was killed yesterday by falling from the railroad bridge at Yardley, near Trenton.

Isaac Shallcross, who died on the 6th inst., in the eighty-fourth year of his age in Frankford was an old-time teacher and surveyor.

Miss Minnie Schooley, a sixteen year-old maiden of Easton, took two ounces of laudanum "all for love," but a stomach pump prevented the accomplishment of her desperate design.

The big steam hammer, made for the Black Diamond steel works, Pittsburgh, has been put in operation. The hammer weighs 17 tons and will work steel ingots two feet square. The motive power for this monster will be furnished by an engine with 40-inch cylinders requiring 80 pounds of steam.

Benjamin Freeman, a colored prisoner in the Fayette county jail, committed suicide by hanging. He made a rope out of strips torn from his blankets and tied it to the water pipe that runs through his cell. He was committed on chargrs of carrying concealed weapons. He was fifty years old and leaves a family.

J. H. Lambert, writing to the *Times* from Harrisburg during the Republican convention, said: "I never saw a time when the general run of the delegates seemed so willing to be shown which way to go. 'I'm not instructed,' says an interior delegate; 'show me to Quay's room;' and the carpet on the way to Quay's room is pretty badly worn."

At the next session of the board of pardons an effort will be made to secure a pardon for W. Howard Fussell, who was convicted in November last for keeping a disorderly house, known as "In Berlin," on Sansom street, Philadelphia, above Ninth, and with selling liquor to minors. He was sentenced to undergo an imprisonment of fourteen months and pay a fine of $500.

During the progress of festivities in the celebration of Mrs. Miller's birthday in Easton, the latter's daughter was engaged in swinging a hammock in which Mrs. Bowers, one of the guests, was enjoying herself. The hammock tilted over, causing Mrs. Bowers to fall heavily to the pavement below and strike on her face with great force. Miss Miller, at the sight of the accident, fell into convulsions in which she remained about an hour.

THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

CONTROLLED BY CAMERON.

The Harrisburg Convention Nominates the Ring Ticket.

In the so-called Republican state convention in Harrisburg yesterday committees were appointed as prearranged, the Hon. C. W. Gilfillan, of Venango, being made chairman of committee on platform, Col. Geo. S. Gallupe, of Allegheny, chairman of committee on permanent organization, and McCleery, of Allegheny, on contested seats. General Harry White was made permanent chairman, and after a characteristic speech from him the platform was adopted as reported by the committee, not, however, until a delegate from Chester had moved to cut down the effusive declaration concerning Garfield to a simple endorsement of his administration first, last and all the time. This proposition after some wrangling was laid on the table.

The convention was then somewhat enlivened and a good deal bored by speeches nominating and seconding the nominations of the two candidates for state treasurer. Attorney-General Palmer named Baily and Davies was urged in a homely and long-drawn-out harangue by his constituent, ex-Senator Landon, who made some good points, and illustrated with frontier stories the dangers into which the ring was running itself and the party by riding roughshod over the wishes of the people. He protested against a candidate whose only distinction was that he had been one of the 306 at Chicago. Although he said he supposed he and others of Davies's friends would have to vote for any candidate named by the convention, he begged it for God's sake not to force upon the party one whose candidacy would be construed as opposition to the sick and suffering president. Senator Lee, of Venango county, conspicuous in the senatorial bolt last winter, followed in a speech for Davies and against the sudden opposition sprung upon him. The convention settled down to a ballot, and Baily had 157 votes to 84 for Davies. Philadelphia, Allegheny and the Democratic counties of the state contributed largely to Baily's strength. Gen. S. M. Baily, of Fayette county, was then declared to be the party nominee for state treasurer.

The platform is as follows:

Resolved, First—That the Republican party of Pennsylvania is in most hearty accord with the administration of President Garfield, and while uniting in the prayers of all good people for his speedy recovery, pledges continued fealty and the most active support in the prompt and courageous correction of all governmental abuses. As Republicans we are in favor of any proper and well-considered reform, either in the government of the nation, the state, municipality or county; and we court suggestions to any or all these ends, and only ask that in their advocacy well-established safeguards shall not be hastily supplanted by experiments. The administration of President Garfield has set the right example in this direction, and while firmly adhering to the principles and better practices of the great party which called it into existence, it yet insists upon faithfulness and honesty in every branch of the public service. The bullet of an assassin should not interrupt this work. It should be pursued while its author lives, and beyond his life, if, through increasing misfortune, it should be taken away.

Second—The Republican party has ever been progressive and reformatory, and while realizing that nothing in government is wholly right, we desire it to be always brave enough to seek every avenue of approach to the right, to the end that all our people may enjoy that ever-increasing blessing of good government.

Third—That to President James A. Garfield, this tender and loving, this struggling and suffering, this pure and brave man, now become the beloved of this people and the admired of all peoples, we tender for ourselves and our constituents assurances of deep and heartfelt sympathy; and keenly appreciating the value of such a life to his country we express the prayerful hope that he may soon be restored to the discharge of the important duties for which he is remarkably qualified, and from which by a peculiarly infamous crime and an undeserved assault upon whom for a conscientious exercise of proper executive power, he has been temporarily withdrawn.

Fourth—That in state, as in nation, the Republican party is committed to the course of economical and honest administration. We demand the use of all necessary means and the enforcement of all laws intended to prevent fraud and waste, and we require a close and watchful guardianship over all of the multifarious interests committed to the care of our organization.

Fifth—That in any revision of our tariff legislation which may be made, care shall be taken to discriminate in favor of our industries and thereby to promote the causes which are rapidly making America a controlling power in finances as it already is an established leader in political thought.

Sixth—That the administration of Gov. Hoyt merits our warmest approval. We regard with satisfaction the results of a purely Republican administration under his leadership, in which all departments have been faithfully conducted, the credit of the state raised to the highest point, and its finances placed upon a proper basis without increasing the burdens of the people.

It has been disclosed that the latter resolution was inserted by Edward McPherson, and that the Cameron men at first opposed the last clause as an insinuation that Guiteau's act was committed on behalf of the Stalwarts. It was finally consented by the ring only upon a pressure for it by the rural members of the committee, who were for the strongest possible expression of sympathy with Garfield.

The Independents resent the action of the convention as a rebuke to the bolters in the senatorial contest and as an insult to the federal administration. The regulars ward off the latter charge by pointing to the fulsome praise of Garfield in the platform, but admit that the convention was handled so as to punish the rebels and make bolting odious, and that this year's action was only the initiatory step to an unending proscription of the kickers. The delegates scattered to their homes almost before the convention adjourned, and the comments of the state press will have to be waited for to determine whether there will be any echoes to the mutterings of a bolt which were expressed by Wolfe, Wharton Barker and a few others, but which met with no encouragement from the delegates.

There was a funny fuss about a contested seat from Schuylkill, where a man named Phillips had been elected last year, but since became an Independent. Sam Losch made a contest against him, and the committee on credentials rather grotesquely decided that Phillips was not entitled to the seat, but that he ought to be allowed to keep the seat. This was agreed to, although McCleery, of Pittsburgh, who was chairman of the committee, refused to make the report.

In the opinion of the *Times* the resolutions adopted at Harrisburg yesterday are among the most wonderful productions of their kind that have been presented to an admiring public in a long time. It appears from this official declaration, though it would not have been generally suspected, that the one-absorbing purpose of Quay, Magee and Cooper, Leeds, McManes and the rest of them is Reform, with the largest kind of an R.

BEFORE AND AFTER.

BRAVE WORDS, THESE, BRETHREN.

The Duty of the Convention.

Philadelphia Press, Sept. 8.

The convention which meets at Harrisburg to day is charged with grave responsibilities. The manner in which it performs its important duty will exercise a potent influence on the future of the Republican party. It is within the power of the representatives who will gather in the capitol, by conciliatory counsels and prudent action, to unite the party and make it irresistible. And it is equally within their power, by pursuing an arbitrary and proscriptive course, to sow the seeds of discord and disaster. * * * * It is for you to determine whether the party shall enter upon the campaign with the unity and the inspiration of victory or whether it shall at the very outset trample on the influences and repel the votes which are indispensable to success * * * and to make sure that the Republican party of Pennsylvania shall not be arrayed against the honored president who is waging the heroic battle between life and death, but shall uphold and strengthen his hands. * * * You cannot safely proclaim in the present state of the public temper that the arbitrary power of the machine shall ride roughshod over the unmistakable sentiment of the people. If President Garfield shall live you cannot prudently undertake in this hour of his trial to array the Republican party of Pennsylvania against him and flaunt in the face of the country a reassertion of the offensive domination weich was rebuked and defeated in his nomination.

AFTER.

The Work of the Convention.

Not from the Philadelphia Press, Sept. 9.

The work of yesterday's convention must exercise "a potent influence" for evil "on the future of the Republican party." While it was "within the power" of the convention, "by conciliatory counsels and prudent action" to have "united the party and made it irresistible" it chose to pursue "an arbitrary and proscriptive course," and to "sow the seeds of discord and disaster." The foolish and unpatriotic majority of the convention led their party into the path of danger and defeat.

Having "trampled upon the influences" and "repelled the votes indespensable to success;" having "made war upon a leader who has rendered conspicuous service to the Republican party;" having "raised the standard of faction" and proscribed the better element of the party; having, finally, arrayed the party organization of Pennsylvania against its "honored president" now "waging the heroic battle between life and death," the men who controlled yesterday's convention can not ask "honorable and right minded Republicans" to endorse their folly and consummate their blunder, worse than a crime.

"The question of men is of small consequence. The question of principle is of supreme importance"; and when "the machine" rides "roughshod over the unmistakable sentiment of the people," the best interests of the people and the Republican party, require the wreck of that "machine." "The offensive domination which was rebuked and defeated" in the nomination of President Garfield now speculates upon the chances of his death by exercising its notorious "appliances" to promote the wishes of the politicians who are against him and to defeat the people who are with him. From the decrees of the caucus and the verdict of the ring the *Press* appeals the cause of the president and of the people to the judgment of the voters at the ballot box.

LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

Governor Bigelow, of Connecticut, has designated Tuesday, September, 13, as a day of prayer for the president's recovery.

The planing mill of Plumbley & Son at Buffalo was completely destroyed by fire yesterday. Loss, $25,000; fully insured.

The Vermont lumber company's mill, at Westport, Vt., has been burned. The loss is $5,000; insurance $4,000.

The man Womters, who attempted to blow up several families at Lille, France, some time ago, has committed suicide.

The authorities at Aden have established a quarantine against vessels from the Arabian coast in consequence of cholera.

Baseball: At Buffalo—Buffalo 8; Chicago, 1. At Troy—Troy, 12; Worcester, 5. At Providence—Providence, 7; Boston, 1.

The house of Engine company No. 4, in Elizabeth, N. J., was gutted by fire yesterday morning. The loss is $2,500; covered by insurance.

A slaughter house occupied by Libby, McNeill & Libby, at the Chicago stock yards, was burned yesterday morning, throwing several hundred men out of employment. The entire loss is about $100,000.

The Home Lawn hotel, at Newtonville, near Albany, N. Y., was burned. Loss about $10,000. There were 15 families boarding at the hotel, all of whom escaped from the premises uninjured, though with some difficulty.

In Ithaca, N. Y., three thousand people assembled to a banquet provided for fifty-year residents of Tompkins county. A large grand stand, containing the speakers and three hundred aged honorary guests, crashed to the ground, injuring four people, but none fatally.

Sixty one persons were burned to death in one day in the recent forest fires of Algeria. Many persons were wounded, and 682 dwellings were destroyed. The value of the cattle, grain and other articles devoured by the flames is 200,000 francs.

Prof. G. A. Rogers went up from Point of Pines, Mass., in his "Oak Hall" balloon with 24,000 cubic feet of gas. In descending at Long Beach the bag ripped about 600 feet above the earth, and when 150 feet from ground shot down like lead, striking on the edge of the beach with terrific force. Rogers was conscious though all jammed up and is in a critical condition.

A prisoner in the Baltimore penitentiary for a long time, insisted on the marvelous story that he had placed in a Philadelphia hotel keeper's charge a package containing $20,000 worth of valuables as security for a $25 loan. Finally he prevailed on an examination of the matter and, sure enough, the proprietor of the North American hotel, on South 8th street, was induced to give up the package when assured that the warden of the Baltimore penitentiary would repay the advance. The box was opened—and lo! proofs of the truth of the convict's story! A diamond ring, with nine stones, worth fully $7,000; United States bonds, each bearing one year's fringe of coupons, with a face value of $15,850, and an actual market value of $19,000.

Vennor's Guesses.

Prof. Henry G. Vennor, the Canadian weather prophet, has arrived in Washington and registered at the Arlington hotel. He wrote out for the *Post* this forecast of the weather:

"Indications recently observed and gathered from the telegraphic dispatches of the day, appear to me to point to very wet weather generally over the North American continent and perhaps particularly in the northwest territories on and after the 15th of the present month, while in England and Scotland cold and stormy weather posibly with a snowfall in the northern sections, is likely to occur in the neighborhood of the 21st and 22d days. The wet weather on this side is likely to continue through the latter half of the present month and into October. During this latter month the outery is likely to be "too much rain," and sleet and snow will fall early in the northern sections, with sharp frosts. In November frosts will disappear again for a time, and some very fine and balmy weather is likely to form a feature in the month."

AN AWFUL CALAMITY.

The Dreadful Forest Fires.

In addition to the destruction of property and lives from forest fires reported in our telegraphic advices yesterday from Michigan Mrs. Strong and two children; Humphrey, stage driver; Mrs. Frank Dennison, child and sister, and George Krietch, who went to their rescue have perished. Twenty persons are are reported to be burned to death in Custer nownship, Sanilac county. In Bingham township: Thomas Barnes, wife, sister, mother and two children. In Austin township, an old man named Payne, and Michael Welsh, wife and two children. Nearly every farmer in that township has lost either his house, barn or crops, or all of them. The loss of life and property is immense. Dead bodies are being brought in from all directions. It is estimated that 500 human beings have perished, and that 5,000 people are homeless and in want of immediate assistance. The farmers in the newer townships lose stock, houses, barns, crops—everything. A farmer from Austin township saved his family of eight children in a field of buckwheat, but the whole country in that part is totally destroyed and many lives have been lost. The loss of livestock is simply immense. The older settled townships escaped with but little loss, but in most of the newer townships nothing remains but a fire-swept, blackened wilderness.

The entire section of the country lying to the north and east of Mariette has been on fire, and the number of families rendered homeless will reach the hundreds. Seventeen persons are known to have met their death by fire. The horse of Ira Humphrey, a mail courier, came home badly burned, with a card attached to the saddle written by Humphrey, stating his peril from fire. A relief party found him in the road dead. He was entirely denuded, his clothes either having been burned on his person or taken off by himself in his desperation."

In the township of Argyle, Sanilac county, the following were burned to death: Paul Whitsle, wife and five children; George Gratch, wife and three children; Mrs. Morris Welch and two children; Mrs. James Gilson and two women recently from Canada, names unknown. There were also several so badly burned that they cannot live. In some sections the fire swept everything before it, and spread with such rapidity that the people were obliged to flee with only the clothing on their backs. In Lapeer and Huron counties, back from Lake Shore, the devastation has been more serious, especially in loss of life, although the property losses have also been severe. The loss in Tuscaloosa county is estimated at $20,000.

The work of forwarding supplies of food and clothing from Detroit began last night by boat and rail.

In Millington township, Tuscola county, 21 families are left homeless; in Denmark, Guilford and Tuscola townships, of the same county, 20 or 30 families have been burned out, and many acres of timber and crops and many miles of fences destroyed by the flames. The Indian settlement, seven miles below East Saginaw, which is surrounded by a dense forest, is reported to be burned, and, doubtlees, a number of lives were lost. Thirty families lived there, and there was no mode of escape.

Flames in Eastern Woods.

The Delaware valley is filled with dense smoke from the forest fires which are breaking out in every direction about there. The beech woods, thousands of acres in extent, in Wayne and Pike counties, Pa., are afire, and fires are reported in Shohola and Blooming Grove townships, Pike county, and in Sussex county, N. J. The large swamp at the head of Fletcher lake, at the west side of Ocean Grove, was set on fire by sparks from a locomotive, and the fire is slowly eating its way through the dried peat.

Furious mountain fires have prevailed for several days past in the Berks county mountains and the sky is obscured by dense volumes of smoke. Thousands of rails and many cords of bark, together with miles of valuable timber, have been destroyed, entailing a loss of thousands of dollars. At Miller's tavern, on the summit of the Blue Mountains, rattlesnakes are fleeing from the flames and have taken possession of the hotel. A great many have been killed. Along some of the railroads not a single panel of fence remains.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

CRESWELL AND VICINITY.

The Crops, and Other Local News.

The wheat crop in this section was better than last year. On account of the long drouth the corn is not much more than half a crop. Oats were good. The crop of early potatoes was good, but the late potatoes are nothing to boast of. Garden vegetables are scarce. All you can notice in the garden are tomatoes and a few worm-eaten cabbage heads. Fruit is also scarce. There are some apples and a few peaches. Dr. E. B. Herr has the largest crop of peaches in this vicinity. He may realize $100 from his crop.

The farmers in this vicinity are so accustomed to raise large tobacco that they do not think of boasting when they have an extra crop. The tobacco in this neighborhood is good. If it was not so the buyers would not pay 40, 15 and 5 for 3 acre lots, and still offer from 30 to 35 cents for wrappers. A certain man walked into a three acre patch, and did not hunt long, until he found a leaf 46 inches in length. The most of the tobacco was set out very early. Hence the good crop. Certainly there is some small tobacco, that was set out late, and the continued dry weather kept it from growing large.

They have sampled the tobacco at the warehouse of John Steigelman, Masonville, and found it to be in excellent condition.

Messrs. D. O. Wissler & Hershey, tobacco dealers, went West this week on business.

A steer owned by D. O. Wissler was running at large on the C. & P. D. railroad, near Turkey Hill. The consequence was that he was thrown into the river and instantly killed.

A valuable Alderney cow owned by F. B. Frey, for which he paid $90, has died.

Drunks Who Fought.

Last evening two men named John Sloan and Wm. Mordereif went into the water closet at the Pennsylvania passenger depot, where they became engaged in a quarrel and Sloan was whipped. He had his face badly cut. Officers arrested both men and Sloan had his injuries attended at the station house by Dr. Fitzpatrick. This morning the mayor sent Sloan to jail for 10 days and his pugilistic friend for 15. Two other drunks got 15 days each from the mayor.

A Boy who was Probably Fatally Injured.

Last evening George Coover, aged 17, residing at Highspire, attempted to jump from a freight car, which was standing on a siding about a quarter of a mile west of Middletown, to a moving freight train, which was eastern bound and drawn by engine No. 99. He fell under the moving cars and had both legs cut off above the knees and was otherwise badly injured. He was removed to his home.

IN EUROPE.

TRACING SOME LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Mrs. Gibbons at Crefeld Germany.

Special Correspondence INTELLIGENCER.

CREFELD, Germany, Aug. 22, 1881.

In visiting one of the old buildings of the Seventh Day Baptists, at Ephrata, in our county of Lancaster, I saw a clock which bore on its face Hoeckers, Crefeld. We read also that a certain Ludwig Hoecker established a Sabbath-school at Ephrata, long before the first Sunday-school was formed in England. (As Saturday, however, is the Sabbath of the Seventh Day Baptists, it was held on that day.) I have visited in this town a Mennonite minister, and understand from him that there once were Hoeckers here, but that they have disappeared. The name is doubtless the same as Hacker, where that name is found among our Pennsylvania or Lancaster county Germans.

I came hither from Cologne especially to learn about the Mennonites who are here. I had passed through this town on my way to Cologne; where I was appointed to attend the conference for reforming and codifying the law of nations. This conference was very favorably received by the people of Cologne, so far as raising a handsome sum of money to entertain the members, and granting a venerable picturesque hall in the city hall or *rath haus* for the sittings of the conference. The mayor of Cologne in a large double necklace, apparently of gold, received the delegates at a public meeting; he and his wife were also present at an elegant banquet given to members of the conference and their wives, in another hall of venerable recollections, and of present grandeur. But as regards attendance on the sittings by the people of Cologne themselves, this was very slender. This small attendance may have been caused in great measure by the proceedings being mostly carried on in English; but when, if ever, a universal tongue is established and generally taught, then interational conventions may be more generally established and frequented. Among Americans present at this late conference were David Dudley Field, Justice Field, of our supreme court, and President Barnard, of Columbia college, New York.

President White, of Cornell university (who was on his way home, having resigned his place of minister to Germany), was also present, and spoke at one of the meetings. Perhaps the address which was most favorably received at the conference was that of Henry Richard, member of the British Parliament, on the progress made towards arbitration as a means of settling the difficulties between nations.

The conference having closed its sessions last Friday, I made my way back to Crefeld (a ride of about an hour and a-half on the railway), to endeavor to learn something of that people here, among whom I live at home. But, first, let me remark, that this part of Germany seems to be overwhelmingly Catholic. If the reader will please take a map of Germany and find the city of Cologne, upon the Rhine, he can then locate this town of Crefeld as not far north of it and a few miles west of the river Rhine.

A gentleman of this town has estimated its population for me thus: Catholics, 56,000; Evangelical (or the united Lutheran and Reformed churches), 18,000; Jews, 1,500; Mennonites, 1,000. But the attendance at the Mennonite church yesterday morning did not seem to indicate so large a number of "Mennists" (as our Lancaster county people say).

I cannot express more fully to our own people, how much this church here differs from their own simple meetings at home, than to tell them that the preacher is paid; that he spoke from a pulpit; wore a black robe and read one of his prayers from a book. Yet what they will perhaps consider as a more inward and vital difference is this, that the Mennonites of this town bear arms. Since 1868 the Mennonites here have not been exempted from military service by the government (as those were in Pennsylvania during the rebellion who plead conscientious scruples). The Mennonites here at Crefeld serve in the army when drafted. They could, however, if they chose, take peaceful positions, such as nurses in military hospitals or clerks, but while Monnonites in East or West Prussia avail themselves of this permission those in Crefeld do not. I am told by one not a Mennist, that the positions in the army are more honorable! "Then," said I, in substance to the young preacher, "Why not join the Evangelical (Lutheran or Reformed) church, if there is so little difference between you?"

He then gave me a little pamphlet whence I learn that two of the chief differences are that these Mennonites only baptize those of mature years (and not infants); that they refuse to swear in courts of justice; making use of a privilege of the government by which they declare nearly thus: "My yes is yes, my no is no, and in testimony thereto I offer my right hand"—the handschlag.

I have, however, learned from an agreeable gentleman here, a preacher in the Evangelical (or united Reformed and Lutheran) church, that in that part of Germany to which I expect soon to travel, there are other Mennonites. These are in South Germany, and therefore nearer to Switzerland, whence our Lancaster county Mennists originally came. I think that I may be able to visit one or two of those communities in South Germany. Some of the Mennonites there, as I understand, are farmers (whereas here at Crefeld they are all townspeople), and I also hear that there are some who do not wear buttons on their coats, thus resembling our Amish.

Before closing this letter I may add that among the scattering Mennists of Switzerland who came to Crefeld (for the Mennists here are not of Swiss origin) there was one family named Hunsicker, or called Hunzinger (which is said to be the same).

Now however, the family belong to the Evangelical church, before mentioned herein.

P. E. GIBBONS.

Mite Society Festival.

Attention is called to the advertisement of the Ladies' mite society of St. Paul's M. E. church. Their festival, which opens this evening, promises to be a very pleasant affair, and as their object is a very worthy one, they will, doubtless, be liberally patronized.