

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 23, 1881.

The Inauguration.

President Arthur continues to merit the opinion of his character which is spread abroad among the people. He concluded to have himself sworn into office a second time. On this occasion the surroundings were appropriate. The deed was done in the capitol at Washington, the oath was administered by the chief justice of the United States, before the members of the cabinet and George Bliss. The presence of the latter individual might have been dispensed with; but one may not reasonably object to the impudent intrusion of insects; and in our judgment President Arthur was sworn in time number two quite "according to Gunter." But it occurs to us that men of ordinary regard for the binding character of an oath would not think that they needed to be twice sworn to do their duty; and would indeed very greatly incline to object to the repetition. It seems to be treating the first oath with light regard; if it was solemnly taken in a lawful way it certainly was too complete an act to be properly repeated. The oath of Arthur in New York before Judge Brady was as good as the one taken in the capitol before the chief justice, though the surroundings were less appropriate; and we do not believe that a thoroughly conscientious man would have cared to repeat the oath. Mr. Hayes alone of his predecessors is said to have done this, having first privately taken the oath on March 4th, being Sunday, and repeated it the next day at the public inauguration ceremonies. Hayes was alarmed lest Tilden should dispute his title; and anyway he is not an illustrious example to be followed. President Arthur is said to have been moved to repeat his oath by the suggestion that the one taken before the state judge in New York was not a matter of federal record, and because of his desire to follow the example of his predecessors in securing their office at the hands of a federal judge. But this consideration should have kept him from taking the midnight oath in New York, which was reduced to writing, signed and attested, and when recorded in a federal office, would have been a federal record.

The president delivered a brief inaugural from manuscript and demonstrated that he is not a master of the English language. It is not well done, to speak of "the sorrow which mourns the bereavement." But it is not a serious fault in an executive officer that he does not write elegant English; if he will but think well and act well, he may be permitted to express himself as awkwardly as he pleases. In action and thought, not oration, is the best strength of a president. But we fear that the present officer is a poor thinker, too. There is nothing striking or original in his inaugural thoughts; and in view of the fact that he has summoned a special session of the Senate for October 10—as was manifestly his urgent duty to do—he should either have referred to this in his address, or left unsaid what he said about an extra session of Congress, leaving the public to think for a day that he would not exercise the wisdom of our fathers, "who, foreseeing the most dire possibilities, made sure that the government should never be imperiled because of the uncertainty of human life."

The Struggling Facctions.

The internecine fight in the Republican party in New York fiercely wages while the funeral of Garfield, the victim of that contest, progresses. The Republican convention held at Utica, Conkling's home, to select delegates to the state convention, was about evenly divided between Conkling and anti-Conkling, with the organization in the control of the latter, so that Conkling's friends bolted and set up a convention for themselves which sent a list of delegates, including their chief, to contest the seats of their opponents in the state convention. The fight between the factions will thus certainly wage in that body; and the influence of the president will be demanded by Conkling and will doubtless be obtained. President Garfield carried the state against Conkling by his interference, and it is not reasonable to expect that President Arthur will have less power, or that he will refrain from exercising it. He has been in the forefront of this fight himself in New York. It is his as much as Conkling's. As vice president he put himself to work at Albany to counteract the efforts of Garfield against his friends. The administration power has changed sides in the New York battle and will control its result now as before. But what a commentary on the sincerity of politicians is presented by the sad faces and weeping eyes of the Republican factions at the open grave of Garfield and their fierce struggles for supremacy, while the body is moving to its sepulchre! It is hardly unjust to suspect that they are crocodile tears that are being shed by one party for a man whose death so greatly forward an aim of their ambition, which they follow so vigorously as not to be able even to cease their struggle for it in this solemn hour; and the other party, whose strong shield and buckler has fallen, still thinks so much of its material interests as to lock horns, while yet his body lies unburied, to secure a political advantage.

This Utica fight at this hour was certainly scandalous. A political struggle would have been sufficiently obnoxious to good taste, and in some of the states a halt has been called in the progress of the election contest. But here we have Republicans pitted against Republicans, hypocritically passing resolutions expressive of their intense grief for the dead president, at the very moment in which they have their hands on each other's throats, in a battle which has caused that president's murder, and on which his death works a most potent influence. Arthur looks sad and weeps; Conkling struggles; but their hearts are together.

The failure of the dates of the end of the fiscal year and county year to concur makes it difficult to ascertain at any given time the real debt of Lancaster county. In justice to ourselves, as well as the commissioners, we present in the account of an interview with them today some facts which are of general interest, and which correct some inaccurate conclusions drawn from the annual reports.

MINOR TOPICS.

While one president was dying John Sherman seems to have been abusing two of his predecessors whose ashes lacheta Sherman is not fit to unloose.

The present active campaign in Virginia is still further enlivened by an alleged forgery sensation, in which some compromising letters accredited to one of the Malbone candidates, who strenuously denies their authorship, are the centre of interest.

The Tribune yesterday gave a conspicuous place to an elegiac poem upon Garfield, the last verse of which contained this allusion to President Arthur: "Ay! who less worthy now may take that chair."

HUGH HASTINGS, Arthur's next friend and journalistic spokesman, declares that Merritt's management of the New York county house will be shown up before the next session is ended as one of the most corrupt of corrupt citadels of Hayesism, surpassing even the star-quoite and How-gate exposures.

The Press prints a special from Washington concerning President Arthur's cabinet, which it says "comes to us from a source which has peculiar facilities for correct information and which gives it more than ordinary significance." According to this dispatch there will before winter be some changes in the cabinet. It is announced, however, that Secretaries Blaine and Windom at least will remain.

It will be recalled that it was announced that the president had signed his name one day, simply to test his nerves. It was before he wrote the letter to his mother. The signature was said to have been good, but the fact was concealed that the sick man wrote something else of a very significant character. He took the pen from the doctor, and, thinking awhile, wrote these words: "Strangulatus Pro Republica." (Strangled for the Republic.)

Under the title "President Garfield—September 6th, 1881," the London Spectator of September 10, just received, prints as its only poetical contribution, the following lines. September 6, it will be remembered, was the day on which President Garfield was taken from Washington to Long Branch: "The hush of the sick room; the muted tread; The questioning eye; the mute lip; and the listening ear; When the child and mother watch, with twist and tear, A father, his hands, his living, dying head; The hush of a great nation, when its head Lies stricken; Lo, along the streets new pale, Their ranks of crows, this gray September morn; 'Mid streets and brows unbonneted, And reverent speechlessness—a people's wail; Nay, but a people's silence thro' the soul Of the wide world; its subtle throes roll, O brother nation! England, for her part, With thee; God willing, who whose heart Thro'bid with thy pain, shall with thy joy re-act."

PERSONAL.

"OLL" COMBS, who writes blood-curdling stories for dime novels, lives on a fine estate in Iowa. His wife is a sister of Senator Kellogg, of Louisiana. He has been several times a member of the Iowa Legislature.

Dr. AGNEW will deliver the introductory lecture of the winter course in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania on Monday, October 3. His public prominence at this time will attract to a general lecture by Dr. Agnew more than a common degree of attention.

The malarial influences which possibly helped to hasten the death of the late president, and which prostrated little Jimmie Garfield, who lies now suffering at Williamstown from intermittent fever, and twelve of the attendants of the president, are said to be the reasons ARTHUR will not go to the White House now.

JOHN SHERMAN did get off that speech at Wooster, Ohio, on Monday night according to advertisement, but it has attracted no notice because far more important matters have absorbed the public attention. The chief features of the speech were an assault upon Jefferson and Madison and an attempt to keep alive the dying embers of sectionalism.

Railroad Tragedies.

An engine on the Lehigh Valley railroad struck Michael Ledwards, a track-walker, near Penn Haven Junction, and killed him instantly. He was fifty-five years old and without friends or family.

On the Philadelphia & Reading railroad between Gordon and Locust Dale, as a train consisting of ten or fifteen gondola cars, on which were water tanks used to carry water to the collieries, was ascending the heavy grade the rear part of the train broke loose and ran down the grade with fearful speed and collided with an empty coal train, instantly killing the fireman, Thomas Yost, of Locust Dale, and George Kenney, of Philadelphia, and seriously injuring John Paul, of Gordon. The engine escaped unharmed by jumping from the track and striking a tree, exploding, killing four men and wrecking the engine, and ten or a dozen cars. The men killed were Geo. G. Adams, the engineer; Simon Bailey, fireman; John Denny, of the St. Louis & San Francisco road, and a stranger named O'Neil, all of whom were in the cab at the time, and were blown from 100 to 200 yards distant and terribly mangled. Bailey's head was blown completely off, and could not be found.

An unknown young man, passenger on the fast train from Philadelphia to Pottsville, was instantly killed at Tuckerton. His head was entirely severed from his body, and the remains were placed in the baggage car and taken to Pottsville, but he has not been identified yet. He boarded the train at Pottsville, and stood on the platform of the second car. It is believed he was intoxicated, and was supposed to be returning from the firemen's parade at Reading.

AT WASHINGTON.

THE DEAD PRESIDENT.

President Arthur's Family. The household now called to the White House by the death of President Garfield has no lady presiding over it. President Arthur lost his wife a year ago last spring, and acute feelings over her loss is among the sad recollections which press upon the president at this time. She was the daughter of Lieutenant-Commander Herndon of the United States navy, who was killed in the Central American war. A gold medal in recognition of his bravery was voted by Congress by his widow, and a monument to his memory was erected in the naval academy grounds at Annapolis. Mr. Arthur married Miss Herndon in the early part of his career as a lawyer in New York city. He has two children—one a youth of 17 named after his father, but called Allan by the family, the other, a girl of 11, named Nellie. These, with the servants, constitute the household of the modest Lexington avenue residence.

The president has one brother, Major Wm. Arthur, of the regular army. He has three married sisters. Of these Mrs. Mary McElroy, of Albany, has spent much time at his house of late, and has looked as much after his household affairs as she could. President Arthur's accession to his new responsibilities has been too recent for him to give any consideration to family arrangements for his residence at Washington, but if the cabinet were finally settled, Mrs. McElroy will most probably be the lady who will preside in the White House.

Floral Offerings. Among the floral devices exhibited on the catafalque are four beautiful flower pieces received from the White House, and placed at the head of the bier. They were arranged by Henry Puster, superintendent of the White House conservatory. The first is a circular piece of white roses, radiating from a central point, and with a broken shaft, and resting upon a pedestal of white roses, Marshal Neil, and tuberoses, relieved with maiden-hair ferns, the broken up being of purple immortelles and surrounded by a white dove with head bent downwards towards the broken shaft. Another to this is a very elaborate piece, representing the heavenly gate ajar. The gate posts are about four feet high, surmounted by circular halls of purple immortelles, and like the first, composed mainly of white roses, relieved with ferns. Between the posts are half-opened gates of Marshal Neil roses and ferns. The third piece represents the crown of glory, and is also of white roses and ferns, and surmounted by a crown of white roses, and a large pillow of white roses with a border of one row of delicate pink roses and a heavy fringe of ferns and ivy leaves upon a slender shaft of fern and ivy leaves. Surrounding the pillow is a white dove with wings extended as if about to take its flight upwards to the heavens.

The Autopsy in Dispute. The features of the dead president have become very much discolored and spotted. It is said that the embalming process was not able to overcome the blood poisoning and was therefore not perfect. The features are now so changed that his most intimate friends fail to recognize him. A leading surgeon says the report of the autopsy fails to give general satisfaction to the medical profession, who regard it as incomplete and lacking in details. They are anxiously awaiting the promised revised report, which is expected to be ready in a few days. A leading surgeon writes his opinion, and submits it to another consultation of all those who were present at the autopsy. It has become generally known that Dr. Boynton is not satisfied with the official report of the autopsy, and that he is full of gross errors and false statements. It is further said that he charges the attending surgeons with having suppressed many important facts, and with not having made the autopsy complete, but only partially so. It is not known what Dr. Boynton will have anything to say at present, but at a later date it is understood he will make public a detailed account of the autopsy, and how it was conducted. He thinks it was unwise that the surgeons who treated the president should be permitted to conduct the autopsy, and believed that eminent surgeons of Philadelphia and New York should have been called to make it.

A Day of Fasting and Prayer. The following proclamation has been issued by President Arthur: "By the president of the United States of America—A Proclamation: 'WHEREAS, In His inscrutable wisdom it has pleased God to remove from us the illustrious head of nation, James A. Garfield, late president of the United States; and whereas, it is fitting that the deep grief which fills all hearts should manifest itself with one accord toward the Throne of Infinite Grace; and that we should bow before the Almighty and seek from him that consolation in our affliction and that sanctification of our loss which He is able and willing to vouch safe. 'Now, therefore, in obedience to sacred duty, and in accordance with the desire of the people of the United States, I do hereby appoint Monday next, the twenty-sixth day of September, on which day the remains of our honored and beloved dead will be consigned to their last resting place on earth, to be observed throughout the United States as a day of humiliation and mourning; and I earnestly recommend all the people to assemble on that day in their respective places of Divine worship, there to render alike their homage to God, and their thanks to His will of the Almighty God, and of reverence and love for the memory and character of our late chief magistrate. 'In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed, at the city of Washington the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord 1881, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and sixth. [Signed] 'JAMES A. ARTHUR, President of the United States.' 'JAMES G. BLAINE, 'Secretary of State.'

STATE ITEMS. Independent Wolfe's room at the Girard has been robbed of his notes of this forthcoming Greatest Effort.

William Lowmy, a sufferer from dyspepsia, living near West Chester, put an end to his misery by cutting his throat with a razor.

Some lumbermen were cutting logs on a hillside near Bradford, and one piece of timber rolled down and fatally crushed Edna Mead, three years old, who was playing below in its path.

Joseph Thomkorton, a prominent citizen of Greene county, died near Waynesburg on the 5th instant, in his 97th year. His funeral was attended by his two brothers, 93 and 91 years old, respectively. He leaves 110 living descendants.

Wm. Neis, of New Hope, a driver on the Lehigh canal, was kicked by a mule at Match Creek, and instantly killed. The blow broke his neck and he was found lying dead on the towpath. He was 40 years old.

D. S. Blackburn, a Pittsburgh druggist, was arrested and gave bail in the sum of \$5,000 for a hearing before Alderman Burke on the charge of selling illegally

LANCASTER IN COUNCIL.

Proceedings of the Fortieth Convention of East Pennsylvania Synod.

Thursday afternoon's session opened with a well-filled church. Rev. W. Hufford, of Easton, led in prayer. After preliminary business the president announced the following committees: No. 1. On resolutions, Revs. L. E. Albert, L. M. Heilmann, Theo. B. Klein. No. 2. On minutes of 1880, Revs. J. W. Finkbeiner, J. M. Deitzler, Mr. Robt. Roemer. No. 3. On religious services, Revs. S. Stall, Emil Meister, Mr. S. S. High. No. 4. Minutes of Eastern Conference, Revs. J. H. Leiser, P. C. Croll, Mr. R. D. Hartzell. No. 5. Minutes of Philadelphia conference, Revs. H. Stook, E. S. Henry, and Mr. S. Fehl. No. 6. Minutes of Lebanon conference, Revs. D. T. Koser, B. B. Collins and Mr. Jas. H. Keisel. No. 7. Minutes of Harrisburg conference, Revs. H. Stook, E. S. Henry, and Mr. S. Fehl. No. 8. Minutes of sister synods, Revs. P. Raby, M. Fersner and Mr. Cassel. No. 9. State of the church, Revs. S. A. Holman, S. Desher and Mr. W. J. Miller. No. 10. Expenses, Revs. H. Hufford, Geo. C. Henry and Mr. Smith. No. 11. Papers of D.A. Shetler, Revs. C. A. Hay, D. D. Joel Swartz, D. D., and O. F. Waage. No. 12. Papers of licentiate W. S. Delp, Rev. H. Huber, C. Riemsnyder and S. Yingling. No. 13. Application of Springfield, Revs. W. C. Conrad, D. D., E. S. Henry and Mr. C. C. Rohrbach. No. 14. Papers from Lutheraub church, W. H. Durnay, W. S. Burr and J. Peter. The rest of the session was left open for committee work.

Adjourned to meet at 7:15. Dr. F. W. Conrad closed with a comprehensive and touching prayer. A large audience was gathered last evening at the farewell meeting for the departing missionaries. The old missionary hymn, "Farewell to the Holy Mountains," was started and the whole congregation joined in its singing with fervor. Dr. F. W. Conrad led in prayer, after which Jesus' Small Hymn was sung. Dr. Baum spoke briefly and feelingly. Rev. Geo. Scholl, of Baltimore, followed. He said that this was an hour in the day when a man might feel that he would like to ask what greater sacrifice is required to say that his missionary sentiment is a common one. It was a subject of vast responsibility. It was the beginning of the Christian era inaugurated in heaven. What a glorious mission to be proud of! With \$5,500,000 spent annually, with over 3,500 missionaries in the field, with over 20,000 heathen and 1,200,000 of subjects for Christian effort, it is well to ask what greater sacrifice is required to still further usher in the reign of the Prince of Peace? He closed with a stirring appeal for more activity.

Rev. A. D. Rowe, of India, who is just on the eve of returning to his foreign work, closed with a few pertinent and touching remarks, saying that the great need and first requisite was sympathy. That word expressed the great difference between Christ and heathen lands. The missionaries and ladies then took their carriage to the church door and were driven to the depot where they took the cars for New York, whence they will sail for India and Africa on Sunday.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 a. m. Synod opened with prayer by Rev. D. Hamm, of Bryansville. The secretary and treasurer presented their accounts. Rev. S. Stall laid on the table a motion to the effect that when synod adjourned it meet again next September at Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Dr. Conrad read a carefully prepared statement on a vacant congregation in the vicinity of Gettysburg. Dr. Hay, chairman of the education committee, presented his report on the students and finances of the synod at the theological seminary at Gettysburg. Considerable discussion was elicited. Brief reports on the application for help and pastors' fund the latter being freely ventilated. Six hundred dollars additional is to be raised.

The following visiting members of sister denominations and synods were received: Rev. W. Albert, of Carlisle, J. W. Goodlin, Rev. Pa. L. A. Gotwald, York, Pa., Rev. J. A. Haekenberg, of central synod, Rev. A. J. Collum, St. Paul's M. E. church, and Rev. W. C. Robinson, Duke street M. E. church. The report for the conference committee was received with the proposed amendment by J. H. Menges of Philadelphia that tobacco be added and regarded with the same abhorrence. Dr. Swartz added an amendment which was passed that any member sign the application for liquor should be subject for church discipline.

Dr. Hay offered a resolution providing that as such a satisfactory address on missions had been delivered last evening the regular sermon appointed for Monday evening on Foreign Missions be dispensed with. The resolution was adopted.

FINANCES. The financial report of Dr. L. E. Albert was as follows: Synodical Treasury—Received, \$348.59; balance, \$1,963.72; Educational Fund—Received, \$1,868.72; disbursed, \$1,574.63; balance, \$291.07; Home Missions—Received, \$1,372.12; disbursed, \$1,872.12; Foreign Missions—Received from secretary, \$1,963.72; disbursed, \$1,963.72; Pastors' Fund—Received from secretary, \$65.27; disbursed, \$65.27; Orphans Home—Received, \$585.80; disbursed, \$585.80; Pub. Society—Received from secretary, \$11; disbursed, \$11; Church Extension—Received, \$1,006.77; disbursed, \$1,006.77; balance, \$1; Women's H. and F. Missionary Society—Received from secretary, \$184; disbursed, \$130; balance, \$54; Children's H. and F. Missionary Society—Received from secretary, \$214.56; disbursed, \$214.56; General Synod—Received from secretary, \$131.88; disbursed, \$134.88; balance, \$7; Three Rivers—Received from secretary, \$25; disbursed, \$25; Theological Seminary—Received from secretary, \$10. Whole amount received from secretaries, \$8,219.29; Balance from synod, \$62.84; Total, \$8,282.13; Whole amount disbursed, \$7,981.53; Balance, \$300.60.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. A RASCALLY FELLOW. Dane Coskie is the name of a Philadelphia vagabond, of good family, who has led somewhat of a roving life, has spent part of it at sea and about two years ago came into this county, and has worked among the farmers of Hempfield and Manor. Some time since he worked for Joseph Charles, near Mountville, and while there became acquainted with a fellow laborer named Elijah Collins, from whom he no doubt learned that Collins had saved some money, which he kept in his pocket in the room that he slept in. He left Mr. Charles's employ some time ago, but has hung around the neighborhood since, and on Sunday evening (in company with another man—it is supposed—who was concerned in the barn fire) called there and asked for Collins. He was told that Collins was away and he made a motion to leave, but it is supposed Coskie waited until the family retired, then opened Collins' window, entered his room, broke open his trunk and took the money, and then he departed. He was met by Collins coming home, who had no idea then that he had been robbed, but next morning traced Coskie to Columbia where it was found he had the note changed at the First national bank, and the money came to this city. He stopped at the Sorrel Horse hotel, where plenty of money, went out and bought a new suit, arrayed himself in it and a few minutes before Collins reached the city in pursuit of him, he had gone to a disreputable ranch on the river, where he was visited all knowledge of him was denied by the inmates, and if he was anywhere in that neighborhood he was concealed from the officers by those who knew his whereabouts. He has likely got to Philadelphia and thence shipped for a sea-faring life.

The Jewish New Year. The Jewish people throughout the world this evening celebrated the celebration of the festival of "Rosh Hashanah," or the New Year. The coming year is numbered 5643 in the Jewish calendar, and covers the period of time between Sept. 24, 1881 and Sept. 13, 1882. The festival of "Rosh Hashanah" is also designated as "Yom Hazikaron," or Day of Remembrance, is one of the most important in the Jewish ritual, and is more generally observed than any other event in the calendar, except "Yom Kippur," or the Day of Atonement. The orthodox Israelites celebrate two days, viz., Saturday and Sunday, while the Reform Jews, as those who have accepted the new dispensation are designated, content themselves with one day's celebration. On the 3d prox. occurs the solemn fast of "Yom Kippur," and the interval between the two events is known as the "Ten Days of Penitence." By the orthodox Hebrews they are devoted to propitiatory prayers and acts of piety and penitence, in preparation for the great Day of Atonement. Business is suspended throughout the day among the Jewish community during these holy days, and all unite in welcoming the new year in a becoming manner.

IN GERMANY.

AMONG THE AMISH AND DENKERS.

Tracing Resemblances to our Local Sets. Special Correspondence INTELLIGENCER. ZWEIFBRUCKEN, Germany, Sept. 4, 1881. I have just visited an Amish family who live a few miles from this town and am now waiting to take the railroad back to Speier. The family is named Stalter, and consists of the parents, six children, and two aunts of the latter. It must be considered a rich farming family, as one of the sons just brought me to the station in a two-horse carriage. Yet the house was furnished with a simplicity equal to if not greater than similar ones at home.

I was very hospitably entertained by the Stalter family and was able to gather considerable information. I heard of none of our Lancaster county names here, but Guth (no good?) Jacob Stalter no longer dresses like our Amish people in Lancaster county. His wife did, however, show me a waistcoat which her husband once wore, which had hooks and eyes instead of buttons, but as it was made of black satin, I told him that our Amish people would think he was proud. I understand that the Amish people here very much resemble the other Mennonites except that they still hold to feet-washing. They hold their meetings in a house or hall, and not around private houses as with us. The community or meeting to which Mr. Stalter belongs still have ministers among themselves, but they know of another where the minister is paid.

As my host, Jacob Stalter, has traveled in Switzerland, he may be interesting to mention something that he said. All the Mennonites in the country where I now am (the Palatinat) came from Switzerland, he says. He added that when they came from Switzerland (whence they were banished by some of the Reformed church) many of them were weavers, but now they have earned money, and are all, or almost all, farmers.

While Mr. Stalter was in Switzerland he met a family of Amish there named Stauffer, who still wore hooks and eyes. They lived near the town of Basle and sold milk there (Basle having about 50,000 inhabitants). There are also Stauffers in Alsace, near Basle, who are Amish. All of the Mennonites that Mr. Stalter saw in Switzerland were farmers, and they were mostly Amish. He gave me the names of several families, but the only ones that I recognized as being found in Lancaster county were Wenger and Schwartz. As to the manner in which the Stalter family are likely to escape a part of the heavy military service required in this country, I will make a few remarks. Since the year 1871 (or about the close of the great war between France and Germany) every young man in Germany must perform military service at the age of twenty. If they prefer they may begin at sixteen. They go usually into great stone barracks to remain for three years. But the three years' service can be turned into one year's and otherwise lightened, thus: First, the young man must have been three years in a common public school, or Volks-schule. Then he must go six years in a school of higher grade, or a German gymnasium, a Real-schule, where he studies one foreign language, either French or English, chemistry, physics, mathematics, history, natural history. At the end of these six years if he cannot pass his examination he may go back and stay another year. Then he will be ready to enter upon the mitigated military service for one year only. If he stays in the barracks he will receive coffee and brown bread for breakfast, soup, meat and potatoes for dinner (with some variation, I believe, such as the "remarkably good" liver dumplings). He will buy his own supper out of his liberal daily allowance of five and a half cents. But if he does not wish to live in garrison he can take a room elsewhere, and go through all the military exercises with the other soldiers and board himself, or pay for his board—happy man! But besides this, if he goes in for one year only he must furnish his own warlike trappings.

Another family lived close by Jacob Stalter's who were named Oesch. I think the same name is in Lancaster county as Esch. They have, however, joined the Tankers, or those who immerse. It seems that they call themselves Believers, and are by some called Frolichner, from a Swiss preacher named Frolich. (The same name, or Frohlich, is found in Lancaster county.) That this family of Oesch are of the old Amish stock seems to be further indicated by their having in the house the old Amish hymn book, of which I spoke in my volume, "Pennsylvania Dutch and Other Essays." The volume here is called "Ons Bund" (and, to translate the rest of the title, "some beautiful Christian songs which were written by the Swiss Brethren when imprisoned in the castle at Passau, and by other orthodox Christians here and there. Basle, 1809.") The Oesch family have also the great Martyr book, well known in Lancaster county. This one bore on its title page something which may also interest our fellow citizens; abbreviated and translated thus: "The Bloody Spectacle or Martyr's Mirror, by T. J. V. Braght, afterwards turned into German by the brotherhood at Ephrata, Pa., and by them printed in the year 1748, now revised and printed anew by the united brotherhood in Europe." (The book had board covers, about three-fourths of an inch thick, covered with leather, and I think bore date 1780.) I have seen it translated into English in Lancaster county, and it must be considered one of the weightiest labors of the late Daniel Rupp.

As regards bearing arms, it seems that these Denkers stand in a different position from many of the European Mennonites. They do not go to war. If they are forced to do so they go to America. They go into the garrisons, but they will not take arms. They are then taken before a military judge and sometimes he sends them to prison; when allowed to come out they can work in the barracks in attending to bread baking, to the care of the horses, etc., but will not take arms, even possibly if they should be threatened with death. But they are not always sent to prison; when the matter is understood by the

THE COUNTY FINANCES.

The Debt and Annual Interest.

To the statement published in Wednesday's INTELLIGENCER, based on the financial report, that the difference between the county treasury receipts and the county commissioner's orders does not indicate exactly a deficiency of \$200,000, but "very plainly shows that the county spends a great deal more than it collects, which is very bad housekeeping." County Commissioner Montgomery excepts; also to the conclusion that "the interest on county bonds rates \$13,168.85, indicating at 4 per cent, a county debt of between \$400,000 and \$500,000." Respecting the fact that "besides his salary as solicitor, H. H. Fulton got \$75 fee in the case of A. W. Adams et al. vs. the county, and J. H. Brown, et al. vs. the county," Mr. Montgomery also says that he objected and voted against these payments.

In a call at the commissioners' office today, all the commissioners and clerk Willis being present, a representative of the INTELLIGENCER was given information that the bonded debt of the county Jan. 1, 1876 was \$297,933.19, balance in treasury \$29,330.95, difference \$268,602.24; Jan. 1, 1879, bonded debt \$340,766.90, balance \$16,107.70, difference \$324,659.20; alleged total bonded debt under the act of 1876, bonded debt \$567,057.45; balance in treasury \$62,515.34; balance in treasury \$629,572.79; difference \$268,212.96; alleged decrease during the term of the present board \$61,435.33. In view of the unusually large current balance on January 1, and the possible claims for interest and other purposes during the next few months, the INTELLIGENCER was not disposed to accept this exhibit as a showing of the real debt of the county.

Examination of the bond book shows the interest on the county bonds to be \$301,054; in 1876, however, a balance in the treasury, which, with the further receipts of the present year and reduced expenses, will enable a further reduction in the bonded debt. It is believed that the amount of course now be calculated, but it is evident that the present board have reduced the bonded debt some \$40,000, while their predecessors increased it about that much.

This certainly shows good housekeeping. Instead of the \$200,000 deficiency in the county reports have to be made—the county year ending January 1 and the interest account April 1—prevents any proper exhibit of the actual county debt on any basis of the real difference between its actual receipts and expenses. The figures of the bond book indicate that at present the receipts exceed the expenditures some \$20,000 a year, instead of a deficiency of "not exactly \$200,000, as we have said the rather obscure annual report might lead one to believe."

The large amount of the interest paid was due to the fact that the bonds issued by the former board bore 5 per cent, the county now borrows money at 4, and as the debt is reduced to about \$300,000 this year's interest will be less than \$14,000 against over \$19,000 last year.

The present commissioners admit that in the first year of their term the debt was increased, but that was owing to the large expenses contracted by the board of 1879, and that in the two years since the present board have been in office they have effected a net reduction of \$40,000.

Of their own salary and mileage last year, Commissioner Montgomery's was \$1094.30, a portion of that drawn from the county treasury. In the annual report, having been due from an error in his favor in the account of 1879, Mr. Coble's account last year was \$1308. Mr. Montgomery is of the opinion that less frequent meetings of the board might save a portion of the extra fees paid the county solicitor. Mr. Montgomery opposed that; the others approved it because Solicitor Fulton insisted that it was due to him; the amount in dispute in the suit for which the lawyers were paid \$150 was \$25 and the solicitor recovered \$600, but it is said the claims of eleven other assessors were involved and a precedent for coming years.

No suit has been brought against Judge Patterson nor demand made upon him for the cost of printing his paper book in the Steinman case. The extra fees paid the county solicitor, Mr. Montgomery opposed that; the others approved it because Solicitor Fulton insisted that it was due to him; the amount in dispute in the suit for which the lawyers were paid \$150 was \$25 and the solicitor recovered \$600, but it is said the claims of eleven other assessors were involved and a precedent for coming years.

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The commissioners do not propose to voluntarily pay the \$100 fine for neglecting to publish their report, as they acted in good faith in following the example of their predecessors to postpone his publication until after the next meeting, when they discovered that the law, with good reason, directed its publication before the audit; and that having been overlooked, they deemed its subsequent publication neither justified by law nor any public necessity.

Greenwell and Veinty. The farmers are waiting with patience for rain. It is almost impossible to get the soil ready for seeding, if it does not rain.

The school here commenced on Monday, the 19th, with thirty-six pupils in attendance the first day. H. G. Dornheim, teacher.

On last Saturday Mr. S. S. Herr, one of the champion tobacco growers, owned a farm of 125 acres in Fulton township, where he intends to move next spring. A small property of 7 acres belonging to Emanuel Frey was sold on Friday, the 16th inst., at Masonville for \$2,000 to B. S. Himmelschein.

Mr. R. K. Frey saw ten cords of wood for E. B. Herr in less than four hours by steam.

Mr. B. K. Eshleman realized \$70 worth of peaches from three trees.

There have been a few tons of tobacco sold here this week; we will be able to report the correct prices next week.

Chester County Tobacco. Francis Wolf, East Bradford, Chester county, has sold his 7 1/2 acres of tobacco to Jacob Highfield of Lancaster, at 28, 17, 7 and 3. The crop will be about 5 tons in weight.

John L. Holland, of near Cochranville, sold his crop of tobacco to Lancaster parties for 24, 15, 6 and 3. Some dealers in tobacco from Lancaster were at Marshallton on Wednesday, and visited those engaged in raising the weed that vicinity with a view of purchasing their crops. The West Chester Local says that in some cases high prices were offered, but declined.

A Mirage in York County. Last Tuesday evening a mirage was witnessed by a number of persons in Conowingo township, York county, in a clear open space, between two large dark clouds, a large body of men were seen to emerge from behind the clouds, marching and drilling like a body of soldiers. The figures were plain and distinct and were visible for about twenty seconds.

Put Off. In consequence of the high degree of respect and honor manifested towards the late president, by the Workingmen's association No. 1 of Lancaster, Pa., they have postponed holding their meeting which was to have come off Sept. 24th, till Saturday Oct. 1st, 1881, at Tall's Hall.