

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 17, 1882.

The Number of Representatives.

A great deal of energy is wasted in this world over comparatively unimportant matters, and the House of Representatives illustrates the fact in the agitation it suffers in settling the exact number of representatives it shall consist of for the next decade. The numbers contended for vary from the present representation of two hundred and ninety-four to three hundred and twenty-six; not a very wide range of numbers and certainly no very gross injury would be done to anybody if anyone of the intermediate figures was selected. Still there are shades of difference and preference quite sufficient to disturb the representatives' minds and to keep the question of the ratio undecided for two years and in two Congresses. Now at last by a mighty effort a resolution has been come to and 325 is the number selected. It is probably as good as any other or it may be a trifle better or worse. A great many congressmen wanted to keep down the number, arguing that the business of the House was now embarrassed by its size. But a score or two more or less in three hundred representatives will not make much difference either way. The House does seem to be too large now for its orderly conduct, and so it might as well be made a good deal larger and more fully execute the idea of its representative character. It is a question whether seven hundred or a thousand members would not be better than three hundred, which may be said to be either too large or too small a body. If the desks were taken out of the hall, it would readily hold three times the number of its present membership; and it would be safe to say that the additional members would not cause so much noise and confusion in the room as is directly and indirectly occasioned by furnishing each representative with a desk. The question is between the value of a desk and the representatives, the space of whose seats it occupies.

Legislation for Railroads.

Mr. Jay Gould has had a great deal of experience in fixing up railroad matters to suit himself by the use of legislation; and so have the Pennsylvania railroad people. Both have been out of the business of late, but now reappear together in the New Jersey field, where a bill has just been passed to enable their friends who are now in control of the New Jersey Central railroad to remain there, notwithstanding Gowen and Jewett have obtained the majority of the stock. The device used is an old one, being simply the conversion of bonds into stock. There is certainly no objection to permitting stockholders to pay their debts, although it does not look well for a Legislature to be playing into the hands of men whose present advantage it is to urge so apparently innocent a measure. If Mr. Gould, however, never proposes any more legislation in his interest he will not be the object of much animadversion for his bad citizenship. The people who want to control the New Jersey Central or any other railroad in the interest of their schemes might fairly be required to purchase the whole road, bonds as well as stock, and not simply the majority of them. Great injustice is done under the power conferred upon the majority of the stockholders and the wrongs suffered by the minority have long since called for redress.

During the first year of Kitch's administration of the water works, the reservoirs were kept about 100 feet higher than before, allowing many persons on higher grounds water who had not before had an opportunity to use it. The summer of 1880 was drier and hotter than that of the year before, and there was a largely increased use of water for sprinkling over the previous year. Besides these special occasions for an increase of water consumption, there were 155 new connections made by that year, the largest number ever known in the time. These facts explain why there had to be pumped 900,000 more gallons daily than in the year before. That it should have cost the city only \$1,250,000 more for coal is a higher tribute to the economy of Democratic administration; but even this increase is not founded by the largely increased receipts from water rents and the reduction of "water works general" expenses.

We are glad to hear that the Examiner calls it "plundering" for any public official to take double pay for doing his regular work or to get pay for doing what is properly the work of some other paid official. Whether the Examiner is right in saying Mr. Beyer, prison solicitor, has done this may be called in question, but the practice is one that cannot be honored by however long a service. For years this and like practices have prevailed in Lancaster county and the INTELLIGENCER has been exposing and denouncing them, while the Examiner has been defending them, or has kept silent as he ridiculed our criticism of it as "fuss" and "gush." At last it is wakened to a proper appreciation of these abuses and begins to call things by their right names. We hope it will not falter in the good work. And now will it please tell us what it calls the "extras" which have been for years allowed the clerk of the commissioners, the county solicitor and the extraordinary "extras" allowed the prothonotary, the late register and clerk of quarter sessions by Commissioner Coble and Bushong?

The Republicans are indulging in some self-congratulation over supposed Democratic defections and are inspiring their party with many such wild reports. Some of them have been freely circulating the story that W. C. Pyle is supporting Stauffer and opposing MacGonigle. Like most of the campaign canards originating in a "facility for lying," there is not a word of truth in this story about Mr. Pyle. He is for MacGonigle first, last and all the time, as are the Democrats of the city almost without exception.

They Gnaw a File.

We can easily excuse the disinclination of our esteemed Republican contemporaries to meet the real issues of the present city campaign. Neither of them has yet ventured to explain how it is that while Stauffer's administration in four years, piled \$169,000 increase upon the bonded city debt, and left floating obligations of \$30,000. Mayor MacGonigle's administration in four years paid that \$30,000 of floating debt, and decreased the interest-bearing debt over \$15,000, besides "making such valuable and costly permanent improvements as the laying of three squares and Centre square with Belgian blocks, macadamizing of many squares, paying street damages, erection of a new Worthington pump, thorough and permanent repairs of the eastern reservoir, laying of new mains and many other improvements in the water works department." This difference of about \$245,000 in favor of the city, effected by Mayor MacGonigle's honest, efficient and economical administration is to them a stumbling block. They can neither get around it nor over it, nor can they remove it. Quite naturally then they seek to evade the real issue, and after the manner of ancient hypercrites, strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. They refuse to concede anything of credit to an administration which on an average was worth to the taxpayers \$60,000 per year more than Stauffer's, but are much exercised and troubled at the report of the superintendent of the water works that he required \$1,450,000 worth of coal than Supt. Hallbach to pump by steam \$1,240,000 more gallons of water into the reservoir. This consummation, which affects our contemporaries so seriously, seems to carry its answer on its face, for obviously if \$2,740,000 more gallons of water were pumped up, it is not strange that \$1,450,000 more of coal would be required, especially when it is remembered that the coal used by Hallbach was furnished to the city by contract at \$2.21 per ton, while that used by Kitch cost on an average \$3.04 a difference for which, of course, Kitch was in no degree responsible, but which will go very far to explain the increase in the total price of coal used, and to illustrate the very much cheaper service at the water works under Kitch than Hallbach.

The New Era seems to admit that the reported service was cheaper, but discredits the report of it and intimates that not so many gallons were pumped into the reservoirs as are reported for 1880. Concerning this we need only say that the means employed by Kitch to compute the amount of water pumped into the basins are exactly those which Hallbach made his measurements. It has been some eight months since Supt. Kitch, in his report to councils said:

The average daily consumption of water during my term was 2,905,706 gallons. Our population is 25,816, making one per capita consumption 113 gallons. This is exceeded by but one city in the United States that we have statistics of—Pittsburgh. In New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, Boston, St. Louis and a dozen other large cities, it is but 65 gallons per capita, on an average. In 21 large foreign cities it is but 25 gallons per capita. Providence, R. I., with four times the population of Lancaster, uses but little more than we do, and the small per capita consumption is accounted for by the meter system of charges. That report was published at the time it was made and its accuracy was never before questioned. That this amount of water was used cannot be gained. It is computed by the revolutions of the Birkenbine wheels and the automatic register of the Worthington engine. The people no doubt consumed it freely because they had an abundant supply. The superintendent has no control over their consumption of it. It is his business to keep the reservoirs full, and if, to do this, he had to pump nearly 2 1/2 per cent. more per day than Hallbach, the people are grateful for having had this abundant supply at an increased cost of only \$1,450,000 for coal, especially when in other details of running the water works, as is shown below, much larger savings than this were effected.

In undertaking to explain this increase of water supply and consumption, the New Era would have been immeasurably aided by this item, found, too, in Water Superintendent Kitch's report for 1880:

During the year 152 1/2-inch ferrules and 1-inch ferrule have been inserted, and one 4-inch connection, being a greater number of new repairs in one year than we ever had.

And, corresponding with this increase of consumers, we find that the receipts from water rents under Kitch were \$1,541.22 more than under Hallbach—or three times as much as the increased cost of coal.

Our contemporaries inquire why there was so much greater use of the Worthington engine under Kitch and relatively less use of the water pumps. They could have found a ready answer in the report of Water Superintendent Kitch for 1880. On page 15 of the city reports they could have seen that during September, October and November one Birkenbine pump could not be operated at all, being under necessary repairs; and that all during the months of June, July, August and September the water was very low and little power could be obtained for the water pumps. During his entire administration Water Superintendent Kitch has run the water pumps, whenever practicable, to their full capacity. He could have no possible interest in doing anything else.

But, besides an increase of water rents to the amount of three-fold the increased cost of coal consumed, and besides an increased average supply of 900,000 gallons of water per day, there are other points of comparison which are greatly to the advantage of the present administration of the water works. Notwithstanding the much higher price of coal, Supt. Kitch pumped water by steam power at a cost to the city of \$7.74 per million gallons, while the same service under Hallbach cost \$8.69; the pumping by water power under Kitch only cost \$3.57 per million gallons, while under Hallbach the same service cost \$3.76, a very material saving to the city under Kitch. The results of these economies are plainly seen in the expenditures for "water works general." These under the last year of Hallbach, exclu-

sive of repairs to the eastern reservoir, amounted to \$6,510.53, while the expenditures for water works general, under Kitch, exclusive of permanent and unusual repairs to the eastern reservoir, were only \$4,757.41—a difference of \$2,023.12 in favor of the Democratic administration. These figures may explain why the old jobbers and tinkers want to again get their work in at the water works.

Our Republican contemporaries may not be able to understand these figures. But the taxpayers can.

As the New Era has "lost all faith in the multiplication table," we will not expect it to tell us why, if a Democratic administration can pump water by steam at a cost to the city of only \$7.74 per million gallons, when coal is \$3.06 a ton, a Republican administration expends \$8.69 per million gallons for the same service, when coal is only \$2.21 per ton. The double rule of three will work out the answer in favor of Democratic economy "by a large majority."

An extract that we republish from Mayor MacGonigle's last annual message—which has been before the public for months and has never been gained—puts the responsibility for an increase of the city tax just where it belongs, upon a profligate Republican street committee. Should our citizens be so short-sighted as to let such men as that committee again get control of city affairs they may expect more floating debts and more increase of tax.

The Examiner commends the economy of pumping water into the reservoir by water power. It is right, and Supt. Kitch has used the water pumps whenever practicable, and he has pumped with them at a cost to the city of \$3.57 per million gallons pumped, while the same service under Hallbach cost \$3.76 per million gallons.

The president on Wednesday evening gave a state dinner to the diplomatic corps. It was notable in being the first state dinner of the administration; the first in the refurbished, repainted and repapered executive mansion; the first in four years to the foreign legations, for whom, during the last three years of his presidency, Mr. Hayes gave an annual dinner party in place of a dinner; and the most elegant in certain of its appointments known in many years at the mansion.

As Mr. MacGONIGLE'S administration has paid off \$15,000 of the city debt, and therefore decreased the tax burden 40 cents on every \$100 valuation, and as W. D. Stauffer's administration increased the debt \$200,000, and therefore increased the tax burden \$1.75 on every \$100 valuation, therefore every owner of property in this city who is in favor of low taxes, and every tenant in favor of low rents, should give to John T. MacGonigle his vote for mayor on Tuesday next.

The Carlisle Volunteer, Dem., points out that a noticeable feature of our nominations for governor is the way they have been concentrated in certain districts of limited number and limited area. Four counties adjoining Centre have had the candidate six times in the last forty-four years; and six counties, of which Schuylkill is the centre, have had the candidate eight times within the last thirty-eight years. The balance of the state has had the candidate only once in these forty-four years.

The colored citizens of Harrisburg assembled in mass meeting on Wednesday night to discuss the recent refusal of the mayor of the city, a Republican, to give their race representation on the police force. Speeches were made by Professor W. Howard Day, Major Simpson and others, after which a series of resolutions were reported and unanimously adopted. The resolutions recite that whereas colored patriots have been appointed by Democratic mayors in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Williamsport, the refusal to appoint them in Harrisburg is detrimental to the best interests of the party and the outgrowth of a prejudice which the mayor and the party cannot too soon remove, and that the colored people will pursue what they deem the best course for their own respect and protection until what they think right and just is accorded them.

The Examiner has either been misinformed or states what it knows is not true when it says "that in Lancaster the Democrats assess the mayor's Democratic policy annually \$40, for the election (corruption) fund." No such assessment or other assessment has ever been made upon the police under Mayor MacGonigle, nor upon any other Democratic officeholder or candidate for any city office, within the past six or eight years at least. Every Democratic officer, like every other Democratic citizen, is and has been at entire liberty to subscribe voluntarily just whatever he sees fit to the Democratic campaign fund; and of this right to give more or less, or nothing at all, the policemen have availed themselves, without any more uniformity in their subscriptions than in those of other Democrats. Whether they have seen fit to contribute liberally or sparingly or to not contribute at all, they have neither been coerced, threatened, nor influenced by any consideration except their own inclination. For of all parties interested in the campaign Mayor MacGonigle has neither known nor inquired, nor will he know what any person who owes his appointment to him has contributed to the campaign fund. Unlike a very great many persons elected to office in this county he will be able to take his oath of office without committing perjury, and to discharge its duties unhampered by pledges, promises or obligations of any kind conflicting with the public interests.

A heavy gale at Helena, Arkansas, yesterday morning, drove waves several feet high over the embankment in front of Commercial Row. Between 12 and 1 o'clock the fire alarm bells sounded and the stores were closed, merchants and others hastening to the scene of threatened disaster. The gale soon subsided and by 2 o'clock the river was calm. At that hour, however, two breaks occurred in the levee at the upper end of Williamson Place, two miles below the city. The breaks aggregated 300 yards in length and the water poured through a spillway. It was hoped the flood could be kept out of the city by closing the Midland railroad embankment, and a large force of men were set at work doing so by the city authorities.

TO-DAY'S TOPICS.

THE EVENTS OF A DAY.

CRIMINAL AND CALAMITOUS.

The Drift of State Legislation. The Senate of Wisconsin yesterday passed a bill restoring capital punishment. At a meeting of the New Jersey board of education in Trenton, yesterday, Ellis F. Appar was re-elected superintendent of public schools.

The New Brunswick legislature was opened yesterday. The lieutenant governor in his speech said the provincial government intended to start a breeding farm for the improvement of stock.

The Mutual Union telegraph company yesterday filed a petition in the office of the secretary of state, at Albany, increasing its capital \$10,000,000.

A "mass constitutional prohibition convention," is session at Minneapolis, adjourned yesterday, after agreeing to a resolution denying the state the right to adopt a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture, importation or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

The population of British Columbia, according to the last census is 49,459, of which 4,230 are Chinese and 26,500 Indians. Mr. Poppe, the Canadian minister of agriculture, stated in the Dominion Parliament yesterday that last year 2,154 people had gone from Ontario into Manitoba and the Northwest, 2,758 from the United States, and 4,384 from other countries.

Trade and Commerce. The ship General Knox sailed yesterday from Norfolk, Virginia, with 3,586 bales of cotton.

A telegram from Poughkeepsie, reporting the continuance of the thaw, and another rain storm last night, says the ice harvest on the Hudson is practically ended, with about half a crop hoisted.

Telegraphic connection was being established yesterday between Madison, Indiana, and Milton, Carrolton and Frankfort, in Kentucky, as well as intermediate points on the Kentucky river. The Ohio river at Madison is spanned by a wire stretching from bluff to bluff four hundred feet above the level of the river.

James Gere, 13 years of age, was drowned in the Oswego canal, near Syracuse, on Wednesday evening, while trying to save a companion.

Joseph Fox, aged 65 years, was killed by a train in Trenton, New Jersey, yesterday.

William Warner was killed yesterday in Providence by a train backing in the railroad yard where he was employed.

Robert Kansas, yesterday morning, destroyed twelve stores, two hotels, the postoffice, Masonic and Odd Fellows' halls and two dwellings. Loss \$76,000.

The wholesale confectionery and notion store in Elyria, Ohio, in Louisville, Ky., burned yesterday morning. Loss \$60,000.

Seventeen cases of smallpox and five deaths from the disease were reported in Richmond, Virginia, last week.

Ellen Stevin died yesterday morning in the New York dispensary while under the influence of ether, administered to her by the surgeons previous to performing an operation on her arm.

Philip Shafer, setter-up of stationary engines for the Porter manufacturing company in Syracuse, had his left leg caught in the main shaft in the company's factory yesterday morning. The limb was wound four times around the shaft and torn from his body, but it is thought he will recover.

Henry Strausberger, a stranger, committed suicide in Reading yesterday by shooting himself with a pistol. Indigence is supposed to have been the cause.

Bodies, showing evidence of murder, were found in the Rio Grande river near Laredo, Texas on Wednesday. One of them had a rope around the neck.

In the Lenahan murder case at Sioux City, Iowa, the coroner's jury yesterday returned a verdict that Lenahan came to his death from a shot from a revolver in the hands of Maggie Lenahan, and that her mother and sister Annie and Herbert Birch are accessories. Maggie Lenahan and her mother confessed the crime, the motive being Lenahan's refusal to allow one of his daughters to marry Birch.

A WHEELING SCANDAL.

Hon. A. W. Campbell's Reasons For Sitting For A Divorce.

Hon. A. W. Campbell, editor of the Wheeling Intelligencer, who became prominent in the Chicago convention because he would not vote for Conkling's resolution to support the nominee of the convention, has commenced proceedings at Wheeling for a divorce from his wife. One night while in the city he was opposed by a colored hostler who was friendly to the fugitive, but finally discovered the man crouched down in a dark corner of a stall; drawing him out into the light, Mr. Campbell, who is a man of powerful physique, jerked him to his feet to get a look at his face. On recognizing him, he said: "Oh, yes, you, is it, that's all I want to know," and walked away.

Mr. Campbell went to a hotel and spent the remainder of the night. The next day he began a suit for divorce from his wife on the ground of adultery. The man whom he had seen down in the ively stable was George K. Wheat, the leading merchant of Wheeling and one of the wealthiest men of the city. Mrs. Campbell is young and very beautiful and well educated. Mr. Campbell married her about four years ago, when she was a teacher in the female seminary at Wheeling. She is Campbell's second wife; her maiden name was Mary Halliwell. Mr. Wheat is married and has several grown-up children, among whom are four accomplished daughters. The event is the talk of Wheeling, but owing to the prominence of the parties concerned the papers of that city have refrained from mentioning it.

King Carnival.

The carnival fooleries in New Orleans began last night with the eighth annual pageant of the Knights of Momus. The procession and tableaux illustrated the Hindu epic poem of Ramayana, by Valmiki.

AN ACADEMY BURNED.

BYATT'S MILITARY COLLEGE AT CHESTER TOTALLY DESTROYED.

A fire breaks out in the Laboratory Destroying the Fine Building and Involving a Loss of \$200,000. Partially Covered by Insurance.

The city of Chester, in Delaware county, has suffered a great loss in the destruction by fire, last evening, of the well-known, large and conspicuous Military Academy, situated on an eminence about one mile northeast of the depot and near the outer bounds of the city. The building was four stories in height, including a high basement. It was very soundly built of stone and was 230 feet long by 30 feet wide. The entire front of the building was elevated and formed an additional story, and in this part of the structure wherein was the laboratory, the fire occurred. From this story access is open to the left on either side. The origin of the fire in the laboratory was unknown, as that department was vacant at the time.

The cadets finished their afternoon drill shortly after five o'clock, and upon retiring to their rooms smoke was discovered on the upper floor, and flames were seen breaking through the ceiling from the loft, as it was called, and the fire had been burning in the loft for perhaps an hour before it was discovered, and had in the meantime spread through the loft in both directions. The alarm was given, and the fire extinguishers of the academy brought into requisition, but the flames had attained too much headway to make them available, and the alarm was sent out to the fire department. It was a considerable length of time before any of the apparatus arrived, owing to the bad condition of the streets leading to the burning building. By this time the whole upper story of the vast building was one sheet of flame, and all efforts to save it were abandoned, and attention turned to getting out its contents.

The cadets were kept under strict discipline by their drill nearly everything was removed from the building before the fire reached it. Of course, in the hasty removal necessary under the circumstances, much of the furniture was considerably damaged. The goods were all packed on the ground, and the academy, and the heavy rain which commenced falling shortly after damaged much of the finer furniture and beds before the fire department, when it did get to work, had to draw its water from a point one hundred and fifty yards distant, but by its exertions the drill house, a one-story stone building, about two hundred and fifty feet long, situated just north of the academy, was saved.

The cadets, 142 in number, escaped all injury in any way, many of them, however, were clothed in the confusion. They were all returned to their homes in the evening trains. The flames in the course of half an hour after they were discovered enveloped the whole building and lit up the country for miles around.

At 10 o'clock last night the bare walls of the building, smoke begrimed and blackened, were all standing, and the debris, including a large quantity of coal in the cellar and the window frames, burning briskly. At about the above hour the large party of commissioners, who had come to the building was one mass of flames, and was allowed to burn, as no further damage could occur from it.

The structure was known as the Pennsylvania military academy, and was, since its construction, in charge of Colonel Hyatt, by whose name the academy was more popularly known. The corner stone was laid in June, 1867, and the whole building was completed and occupied the following year. It was very successful from its start and at the time of its destruction was in full operation. The building and furniture cost about \$100,000. The insurance on the building is \$50,000 and on the apparatus, furniture, machinery between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Colonel Hyatt states that the academy will be rebuilt at once, and in the meantime other quarters will be obtained in order to continue the business of the institution.

"WE CALL IT PLUNDERING." The Examiner Resolves to be a Retormer. Examiner.

We give Mr. Beyer the full benefit of his explanation, and all it shows is that as a "reformer" appointed by a board that laid great claims to reforming old and extravagant methods, he dropped into this familiar rut of taking all he can get. We dissent from the position that his \$109 is only a general rate, and that the mean time other quarters will be obtained in order to continue the business of the institution.

We believe he has no business to act as clerk to take the inventory and charge extra for it. That should be the work of the board and the clerk and keeper. He has no business to receive extra pay for drawing the annual report or preparing the treasurer's account, or for filing it. The business of the solicitor is to attend to all the legal business of the prison for the salary paid him, and the clerk's business is to do the clerking, and the postmaster's to collect the postage for it.

If this is a practice that has grown in the prison, it should be reformed, and Mr. Beyer, who went in on the reform wave, should have practiced it, instead of which he has been grabbing all he could get, and now justifies his getting, by saying that the men he and his "reform" associates declared were public plunderers received the same. But he does reduce the amount that went into his pocket from \$190.88 to \$170.08 which is a proper credit. But Mr. Beyer is credited with having received for costs paid on appeals \$11.15, which may be independent of what he claims to have paid to the prothonotary.

But to show that Mr. Beyer in his struggle to be continued solicitor was that "reform" should prevail at the prison, but that thirft should follow, we have another good sized bonanza to open through which he grabbed \$141.31 in the way of commissions, by which he is getting out bills to the customers of the prison. Mr. Beyer sent out bills amounting to \$1,413.82, which should all have been collected by the prison clerk. Mr. Beyer presented bills to such well known citizens as John L. Bitter, Milton Heibelbargh, Dr. John L. Atlee, Levi Sensenig, John K. Reed, Dana Graham, S. H. Reynolds, Hayden Tashdy, Thomas A. Wiley, Haise & Kaufman, and to such corporations as the Lancaster county poor house, the Lancaster home, and collected ten per cent. and the postage for change. The idea of placing the bill's of such parties in the hands of the "solicitor" could only be for the purpose of putting money into Mr. Beyer's pocket.

It is some \$150 a faro to pay Mr. Beyer \$101.25 to collect a bill from John H. Bitter, or \$10.95 from Levi Sensenig, or \$12.15 from the Lancaster county poor house, or \$16.99 from the Children's home. This may be called "reform," but we call it plundering, and it is no excuse that other "solicitors" did it.

Among the Universities.

Seven students have been expelled from Williston seminary at East Hampton, Massachusetts, for insubordination. Most of the students are excellent, but the trouble in the other classes is believed to be "substantially over."

Parkham Adams, aged 14 years, a student of the University of Tennessee, is dying in Knoxville from the effects of smoking 40 cigarettes and inhaling the smoke "on a waz."

Services were held yesterday in Harvard college on the body of Ko Kun Hua, late professor of Chinese. There were present the faculty of the college and a large num-

BERATED BY A MANIAC.

TERRIBLE CRIME THIS MORNING.

A MADWOMAN'S DREADFUL DEED.

SHE KILLS HER AGED MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Mrs. Mary Masch, of 404 East Orange Street, splits upon the Head of Her Husband's Mother—Particulars of the Shocking Affair.

A terrible tragedy was enacted at No. 404 East Orange street, near Plum, this morning, between 7 and 8 o'clock. Mrs. Mary Masch, killed her mother-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Masch by dealing her several blows upon the head with a hatchet, crushing her skull in several places and causing her death within a few minutes after the assault.

At the hour named, Miss Marion, who lives with her sister, Mrs. Rose Donnelly, at 406 East Orange street, adjoining the residence of the Masch family, heard screams and a heavy thud, as if some one had fallen. She told Mrs. Donnelly that she feared something was wrong next door, and that she had better go over and see what was the matter. Thinking that perhaps the children were being punished and the noise was made by them, Mrs. Donnelly did not like to intrude, but making an excuse to get a bucket of water went into the yard. She found Masch's kitchen door and windows closed, and the dining room shutters bowed, peeping in through the shutters she saw something lying on the floor, and looking more closely thought it was old Mrs. Masch, who being pained, had fallen. At this instant young Mrs. Masch came rushing to the window into which Mrs. Donnelly was looking, and with clenched fists and glaring eyes, shrieked aloud, "I've killed her; I've killed her!" Terrified, Mrs. Donnelly replied, "Oh, Mrs. Masch, why did you do so?" and the answer she received was, "I killed her; I killed her, because I want to be killed." Mrs. Donnelly fearing that Mrs. Masch, who appeared to be insane, would kill her children also, ran off and gave the alarm to several neighbors, urging them to go to the house and save the children. She then sent her own boy to Best's boiler works where Mr. Masch was at work, telling him to hasten home as something was wrong there. Mr. Masch left his work and hurried home. He found the front door locked, but on knocking his wife admitted him, saying as she did so, "I've killed mother!"

What the Husband and Son Saw. A horrible spectacle met the husband's gaze. His wife, wild and disheveled, staring at him with the glare of a maniac, and his mother, covered with sweat and water in her own blood, lying upon the floor in the throes of death, the furniture of the room in which the dreadful deed was done being spattered with blood, while the instrument of death—an ordinary hatchet—lay upon the floor, both helve and hatchet being smeared with the blood of his mother. Upstairs his two little children were shrieking with fright, having, apparently, come part way down stairs, and, seeing the bloody scene, ran back to their room.

Within a few minutes a very large crowd had gathered in and about the premises. Physicians and priests were sent for, and were soon on hand, but the victim had died before their arrival.

Mrs. Masch's body was placed upon a settee in the room in which she was killed, the children were taken to Mrs. Donnelly's for safety, and young Mrs. Masch was placed for a time under guard upstairs.

The Coroner Summoned.

Coroner Shiffer being notified of the occurrence emanated the following named jurors and visited the scene: Wm. Roebn, George Hunter, T. F. McEligott, George Laaman, C. A. Gast and C. E. Stoner.

The Scene of the Tragedy.

The house in which the terrible deed was enacted is a small two-story brick, with a front and back room on the first floor and a frame kitchen in the rear. The front room is plainly but neatly furnished with a number of attractive pictures hanging on the wall—among them a fine colored engraving of the Crucifixion. The back room in which the homicide took place, is furnished with ordinary dining room and kitchen furniture, including a cook stove, breakfast table, sink, settee, a few chairs and a rag carpet. From this room stairways lead down to the cellar and up to the second floor. A door leads out to the back kitchen, and a window looks out upon the yard. It was into this window that Mrs. Donnelly peered and made discovery of the homicide.

After the coroner's jury had viewed the body of the elder Mrs. Masch, and her slayer had been taken into custody, they adjourned to await the autopsy made by Drs. Compton and Welchans.

The Mad Murderess.

Mrs. Masch was found by the jury in an upstairs room. She is about 30 years of age, tall, light-complexioned, and rather good-looking. She is the mother of two very pretty little girls, one of them about six and the other between two and three years old. In about a month it is expected a third child will be born to her. Her manner this morning after the homicide, was wild and nervous, but not violent until an attempt was made to take her into custody. In conversation with some of the jurors she repeatedly availed herself of the killing, saying that she had no ill will to her victim, but being weary of life and having nothing to live for, she had killed her mother-in-law because she knew that then some one would kill her, and she wanted to die. These statements were made in a rambling disconnected way, showing very clearly that the woman is laboring under insan-

When an officer approached to remove her to jail, she resisted furiously, defying the police and everybody else, and declaring she would never leave the room unless her children could accompany her wherever she went. She was humored in this whim, and under escort of Wm. Roebn, one of the coroner's jury, accompanied by her two little girls, proceeded to the county jail upon any remarkable demonstration. When locked up, however, her children being taken away from her, she again became a raving maniac, and herself closely watched will no doubt be herself bodily hurt, or more likely take her

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CITY TAX.

How a Republican Street Committee Increased It. Mayor MacGonigle's Annual Message, 1881.

To those who do not watch closely the current of our municipal events it may seem strange that while the actual debt of the city is cut down \$15,000 for the year, the taxation for city purposes has increased two mills, or from 70 to 72 cents on the \$100 valuation. For the solution of this anomaly the reader must recall the operations in the street department in the summer of 1879. It will be recalled that at that time there was work unnecessarily and illegally undertaken, such as laying Belgian blocks in Centre square, tearing up and relaying crossings which would have served good purposes for years, ordering sewer traps which upon trial had to be abandoned, and other jobs equally unnecessary put through, aggregating on the 1st of June, 1880, nearly \$18,000. On many of the bills making up this amount, suit has been brought and judgment recovered. The costs, interest and principal of these bills now aggregate over \$30,000. Before 1874 this excess in expenditure could have been turned into funded debt, and the interest of the amount only added to the taxation. But the new constitution stopped all that, and where the aggregats of indebtedness has been reached allowed under the fundamental law, as with us, the amount in excess of the limit must be paid by direct taxation. This \$20,000 of indebtedness, made by the street committee of two years ago, must be paid; hence the two mills additional city taxation for this year. It is to be hoped that this expense will have not have been in vain, that the several departments having the city's finances to disburse will stop on the other side of that which is illegal.

I shall endeavor from time to time, as in the past, to notify councils of the condition of the appropriations. The attention of councils was called by us in special messages over and over again to the condition of the appropriation for street repairs and to the illegality of the work undertaken in the street department nearly two years ago, the payment for which by taxation is so loudly complained of now, but the effective check could not be attained until the court was appealed to and an injunction granted. How much that injunction was worth to the city may be approximately estimated by the families with the reckless extravagance which had already fastened upon the city nearly \$18,000 at the time the court came to the rescue.

Accident on the Reading Railroad.

On the Reading & Columbia railroad, about four o'clock on Thursday afternoon, two freight trains, which closely follow each other, derailed by jangles "Oshkosh" and "Ephrata," were going north. When the latter train neared Keller's siding it was out and the rear cars left to run on the siding themselves. At that moment the other train, drawn by "Oshkosh," came thundering along and, there being a dense fog, the engineer was unable to see ahead and the engine ran into the shifting cars. About a dozen cars were wrecked and the engine "Oshkosh" was badly damaged. The cowcatcher was broken to pieces and the bell, whistle and smokestack torn off. The engineer and fireman jumped from the engine and escaped. One brakeman received a slight injury. The passenger train due at Litzitz at 4:55 p. m. did not arrive until 9 o'clock in the evening. The wreck was cleared during the night.