

Lancaster Intelligencer.

THURSDAY EVENING DEC. 7, 1882.

Results of a Great Science.

The astronomers had a field day yesterday, and are delighted with the generally propitious sky that was given them. They had made great preparations for their observations, which they regarded as of the very highest importance; as was exhibited when one of them used the telegraph and the associated press to beg the public prayers of the people, assembled in their churches, for a clear sky. It is evident that astronomers at least consider themselves to be on good terms with the doctors of revealed religion, since they asked for aid and favor from the preachers; possibly it is only the geological scientists who find themselves on doubtful terms with the teachers of divinity. Astronomy is a very pleasant and enticing study, and we rejoice with its professors that they were enabled yesterday to make observations satisfactory to them. A man who knows anything about astronomy is naturally an object of awe, if not of adoration, to the generally uninformed public. We all have studied the science at school, and we are equally and woefully ignorant of it out of school. It seems remarkable that a science so universally studied, so generally interesting, and so easily comprehended, should be neglected by people of intelligence. It is seldom that you meet anyone who pretends to have more than a general comprehension of the movements of the heavenly bodies, and probably the astronomical knowledge of the most of folks is limited to the fact that the earth, an orange shaped body, revolves upon its axis around the sun. This is an improvement on the ancient ignorance which put our orb upon a big turtle's back and revolved the sun about it.

The astronomical calculations which brought Venus to the verge of the sun at the moment she really appeared there, before the eyes of all the people who had been summoned to the spectacle, were certainly very wonderful in their results, however simple they may have been to these professors. The native Americans, whom the Spaniards in their invasion awed with the prediction of a solar eclipse, had not much more reason for wonder at the fulfillment of the prophecy than had we when Venus advanced upon the sun's disk at the time advertised for her appearance there. For though we know how the knowledge came to the learned astronomers that the inflexible paths of the heavenly bodies place them punctually in their appointed places, it is yet startling to be thus shown the apparently supernatural knowledge that science gives its votaries. All the exertion of the professors yesterday was for the purpose of obtaining data for the more accurate measurement of the sun's distance from the earth. This knowledge, while of great importance in astronomical investigation, is not of any practical account to humanity. It does not make us healthier or wealthier, and hardly even happier, outside the class of astronomical specialists. Probably it is because of the practical unimportance of the science that it engages so little of men's attention, despite its beauty and interest. The hope of productive discovery animates the inquiry into other sciences; but astronomy furnishes nothing to its students but pleasure and fame.

The governor of Louisiana has given Kellogg the certificate of his election to Congress after taking proper time to consider the objection made as to his eligibility because of non residence. Kellogg, though a notorious scoundrel, is entitled to represent his Louisiana constituency if they want him. Congress might be a decent body if it exercised the power of rejecting infamous men as its members; but it is better that it should continue its practice of letting in all the black sheep that the people want to send among them; because it would be difficult to draw the line between the sufficiently decent and the too bad entirely; and moreover there would be quite too convenient an opportunity given to political partisanship to sustain itself by a too particular criticism of its political opponents. The only way is to leave the people alone in the decision as to the fitness of their representatives and to admit all, black, white and grey, who appear with proper credentials and a majority endorsement. Kellogg is a man who has richly earned hanging, and who would adorn a penitentiary cell better than a congressional seat, but the Louisiana negroes have said otherwise, and they, alas, have voice.

This Republican majority in Congress has an opportunity at this session to settle the tariff and tax questions if it will. That a wise statesmanship would lead the party to do this is manifest; but it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Republican party is sufficiently unanimous in sentiment to enable its representatives to agree upon a policy to support. Obviously the party should, as it is about going out of power, make a strenuous effort to leave a good odor behind it; and it has a splendid chance, by dealing wisely with the revenue, to commend itself to the favor of the people. If the leaders can agree upon what would be acceptable to public sentiment they should have no difficulty in enacting it. They may make a mistake in their judgment, but they cannot lose much if they do, while if they hit, they may make a ten strike. However, there is little use in giving good advice to a party so badly demoralized as the Republican; it is not in a condition to act, however plain it may appear that action is necessary for it. Nothing is likely to be done at this session in revising the revenue.

Another shocking disaster is reported from the Mississippi river, by the explosion of a boiler on a steamboat near New Orleans fifteen persons were sent into eternity on very short notice. It does certainly seem that there is criminal negligence somewhere that might profitably be made the subject of an investigation that would investigate and possibly put an end to the alarming frequency of such "accidents."

FIFTEEN LIVES LOST.

THE HAVOC DONE BY ESCAPING STEAM. Explosion of a Boiler in a Steamboat Near New Orleans—Passengers and Crew.

At 6 o'clock Wednesday morning the steam propeller Morning Star exploded her boiler near Bellair plantation, not far from New Orleans. Fifteen lives were lost and four persons so badly scalded that their lives are despaired of. The boat was about one hundred yards from shore at the time, and 13 persons jumped overboard. Of these 10 were drowned, while three, the engineer, Mark Pennywit, a boilermaker named John Ryan, and a white man whose name is not known, (the two latter passengers), were saved. The engineer was very badly scalded, as was also Ryan, but the other was unhurt. Of those who were scalded and taken off the boat by the steamboat Sunbeam, two died en route to New Orleans. A negro named Nancey, who was from Paris on a plantation, and a boy one year old, named Joseph Simoderin, whose parents reside on the lower coast, and who was going to the city with his uncle Frank on a visit to his grandparents. The Sunbeam reached New Orleans about 11 o'clock, and the accident soon became generally known along the levee. Capt. O'Neil and Corp. Lynch were on the plank soon after the stage-plank was launched ashore, and upon learning that a number of the wounded were abroad telegraphed for a charity wagon to convey them to the hospital.

The sufferings of the victims who were still alive were frightful to behold. Holt was writing in agony on a mattress on the after part of the lower deck of the Sunbeam, and near him were the still living and suffering colored woman Sarah Young, and the poor boy William Frites. The engineer, Mark Pennywit, was in the after cabin of the Sunbeam, as were also James Ryan and the other white man who had been scalded, but who escaped ashore with Ryan. The woman Sarah Young, was first carried ashore, then the boy Frites, then Holt, and lastly Pennywit. The three first named were transported to the Charity hospital, while the engineer was conveyed to the Toure infirmary. Half an hour after reaching the Charity hospital Sarah Young died. Ward No. 28, and at 6 o'clock the boy Frites also died. They had been shockingly scalded, as was also Holt, whose injuries were pronounced fatal. Large flakes of skin and flesh fell from the legs, arms and bodies of the unfortunate, and the pain which was not alleviated by drugs, as it was impossible to administer opiates. Ryan was also transferred to the Charity hospital, but was not seriously injured, and at last accounts was doing well.

Mr. Francis Howell, clerk of the Sunbeam, was interviewed regarding the disaster, and stated that at the time the Sunbeam was about 100 yards ahead of the Morning Star, both coming up stream. Suddenly he heard a faint rushing noise, similar to that made by a locomotive when the boiler has exploded, and he looked up and saw a cloud of steam escaping forward and aft of the Morning Star, and saw people jumping overboard. The Sunbeam was rounded to and the life boat lowered. There were thirteen persons on board, and nine of them sank before the boat reached them. Four swam toward the shore, and three of them reached it alive but one, the fireman of the Morning Star, sank and was drowned. The Sunbeam went to the assistance of those who remained on the Morning Star, and they were transferred to this vessel and brought to the city. En route the officers of the Sunbeam rendered the unfortunates every assistance and supplied their wants as well as was possible under the circumstances. The Morning Star was not damaged much by the explosion, the havoc made in the lives of the passengers being due to the escaping steam. How many were scalded of those who were chronicled is not known, as none of the bodies have been recovered. As soon as the Morning Star was sighted, the pilot of the Morning Star headed the boat ashore, but she struck a sand bank and grounded a few yards from the bank. Both heads of the boiler were blown out simultaneously and the steam escaped into the cabins fore and aft. The boat was not damaged much by the explosion, and those in the upper deck escaped injury altogether. The boat was built at Mason City, W. Va., in 1880, and was a small-sized, but fast traveler. H. W. Pennywit was her captain, and he and his brother Mark were the owners. Captain Pennywit was unhurt. The doctors are not yet able to pronounce upon the character of Engineer Pennywit's injuries.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. Cameron Said to Favor Mylin—No Quarter for the Democrats.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Times telegraphs as follows to that journal: The mission of Senator George Handy Smith and ex-Registral Dunn to Washington has been misunderstood by the press. The general belief was to take a quiet look over the field as a probable candidate for sergeant-at-arms to the new Senate. He is too discreet to butt against stone walls, and he will not be a candidate if there shall not be a good deal of success; but if the lay shall look promising, he will be a candidate. He will be cordially supported by Cameron, and it is probable that Mitchell will favor him. If the two Pennsylvania senators shall unite in favor of Dunn he will have more than an even chance to win the place and all admit that he would make an excellent officer. Senator Smith has not been here looking after a district commissioner, as has been intimated. He came to have a close conference with Cameron, with whom he is in perfect accord, about the organization of the Senate. Cameron is implacably hostile to any recognition of the Independent senators in Pennsylvania, and he will not sanction the proposition to oblige Cameron, and the Independent senators. He will rally to the side of Mr. Mitchell, of your city, or Mylin, of Lancaster, and give the Independents their choice to support the caucus candidate or break from the party. If they break, and threaten a successful combination with the Democrats, Cameron will attempt to counteract them by throwing the Star-walk votes to Wallace if thereby he can defeat the Democratic Independent fusion. Senator Smith has been going over this matter with Cameron, and he will return to obey Cameron's wishes, and will not take the Star-walk named for president of the Senate, Cameron prefers Mylin, but he will take Reburn if necessary.

A STAMPEDE OF STUDENTS. Madison University and Colgate Academy Depopulated on Account of Siphonitis.

Madison university and Colgate academy, located at Hamilton, are largely patronized by the citizens of Syracuse. The regular stampede of students to their homes has just been made. Malignant diphtheria prevails in all branches of the institution and the wildest excitement exists. Owing to the large influx of students to Syracuse, the board of health are being taken measures to prevent any spread of the scourge. About a week ago two students rooming in the east college building were stricken with the disease and died. Their classmates nursed them and as a result the disease became epidemic. It has resulted very disastrous to the two branches of the institution. Out of about five hundred students between two hundred and three hundred remain. Many of them sought boarding

THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

WHAT THE FATHERS DID LAST NIGHT.

Dr. Fitzpatrick Receives the Reward for Causing the Arrest of the Firebug—Councilman Goodman Resigns.

There was a stated meeting of both branches of city council last evening. Select Council.

The following named members were present: Messrs. Baker, Baldwin, Bitner, Brown, Evans, Wise, Wolf, Zecher, and Burger—present.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The report of the city treasurer and receiver of taxes for the month of November was read. It shows a balance in the treasury of \$29,457.99.

Mr. Evans, from the finance committee, presented their monthly report, from which it appeared that they had been approved to the amount of \$7,400.49.

Mr. Fitzpatrick presented a bill from Dr. Fitzpatrick for \$500, for the arrest and conviction of Brimmer, the incendiary who fired the poorhouse barn.

Mr. Wolf moved that the mayor be directed to draw his warrant in favor of Dr. Fitzpatrick for the amount claimed. Mr. Baker said he believed Dr. Fitzpatrick was entitled to the reward offered by the city for the conviction of incendiaries, but he understood there were other claimants. He asked whether the city would be secured against these claimants in case the reward was paid to Dr. Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Wolf said the chief of police had presented a bill for the same amount, but everybody who knew anything about the matter knew that Dr. Fitzpatrick had fairly earned the reward.

Mr. Evans said the chief of police had no claim to the reward. The supreme court had decided that officers could not recover in such cases. Dr. Fitzpatrick had detected and arrested the incendiary, and it was through his plans and exertions that the whole gang of incendiaries had been brought to justice, and thousands of dollars' worth of property thereby saved.

THE VIRGINIA FRAUDS.

A Sensation in the United States Circuit Court at Richmond.

The investigation into the alleged election frauds in Virginia is progressing slowly in the United States circuit court in Richmond. Dr. Fitzpatrick is prosecuting these cases against his late political opponent, Congressman DeZendorf, the recently defeated anti-Mahone candidate, testified in response to the summons served on him. Congressman DeZendorf, John S. Wise, who is the district attorney, is prosecuting these cases against his late political opponent, Congressman DeZendorf, the recently defeated anti-Mahone candidate, testified in response to the summons served on him.

The giving of this list of prominent Mahonites, beginning with the general himself, was a surprise to what the Stevens had when DeZendorf said he had a copy of his letter which he would read. Mr. Wise stopped him by saying: "We will not go into that." The Mahonites do not relish this turn of affairs. Their auditor, S. Brown, then disappeared, and with him all trace of a bond which the Mahonites have relied upon to show the frauds they allege to have been practiced by the Mahone strikers. It is not supposed Mr. Wise will call on General Mahone to let him see the list of names, and to involve the showing of the disbursement of the Hubbell assessment fund.

THE TOBACCO TAX. Prompt Action Demanded from Congress.

At a meeting of wholesale tobacco manufacturers in St. Louis, yesterday, about forty representatives of the trade being present, a resolution was adopted requesting Congress to repeal the tax on tobacco as quickly as possible, and to allow a rebate on all unbroken packages in the hands of dealers at the time of such repeal. The resolution will be circulated throughout the state Missouri for signature, and sent to the Missouri delegation in Congress.

A telegram from Cincinnati says no meetings have been held there of tobacco dealers and manufacturers, to express views as to the abolition of the tobacco tax, and there is a unanimous sentiment that what is wanted is a repeal of the tax, whether to abolish, reduction, or to let the present tax remain. Jobbers and retailers are afraid to make orders, lest the tax be removed and loss follow. The manufacturers are running, but with reduced production.

A LONDON THEATRE BURNED. Frames Following Close Upon an Operatic Performance.

A fire broke out in the Royal Alhambra theatre in London at 12:45 o'clock this evening, and the flames spread rapidly, and the fire Leicester square, and the theatre was situated, was crowded with people. The fire was first noticed in the saloon where refreshments were served. Soon afterward the whole front of the theatre was ablaze. The flames spread rapidly, and the entire structure was soon destroyed. The district around for some distance was illuminated and the spectacle was one of appalling grandeur. The cause of the fire is unknown. Three hundred persons are thrown out of employment by the burning of the theatre.

RECORD OF FIRES. The furniture factory of William Long in New York, was destroyed on Wednesday morning. Loss, \$28,000. Several buildings in Cheltenham, Iowa, were burned on Tuesday. Loss, \$22,000. The underground fire in the cinder formations of the New Jersey steel and iron works, broke out again on Tuesday and is still burning. Workmen were engaged in digging trenches and introducing water to extinguish the flames.

The granite block at Third and Sibley streets, in East, owned by Charles Lockhart and operated by Nicholas & Dean, wholesale hardware dealers, was burned Wednesday. The store of Merrill, Salgaard & Thoring, wholesale druggists, adjoining, was damaged. The total loss is estimated at \$90,000. Deaths of Misses. Joseph Boden, about 40 years of age, was killed, and another man, named Bower, was severely injured Thursday morning by a fall of top ore in a mine near Hoyertown, Pa.

COLUMBIA NEWS.

EVENTS Along the Susquehanna—Items of Interest in and Around the Borough.

Events Along the Susquehanna—Items of Interest in and Around the Borough. Picked Up by the Intelligencer's Reporter.

Miss Mame Seltzer, who has been visiting friends here, returned to her home in Rochester, New York, this morning. Niles, Evans, Bryant and Hoy's "Meteors," a specialty company, will give one of their performances here to night.

While working on top of a 24 foot ladder this morning, Frederick Franks fell and dislocated his arm. A large dog was shot on the Lancaster turnpike this morning, because it showed signs of madness.

The high wind stirred up the dust most effectually this morning. No person ventured upon the streets unless business compelled them to leave the shelter of their home places of business. On the 23rd of December Susquehanna lodge No. 80, I. O. O. F., will celebrate the 40th year of its organization by exercises appropriate to the occasion. Preparations for a good time are now being made.

To-night the musicale will be held at the residence of Dr. J. K. Lineaweaver, on Walnut street. It is desirable that all the members who can attend will do so; as very important business will come up before the society, on early.

Another small market was held this morning. There were few buyers and still few sellers. Columbia does not seem to be very fortunate lately in this respect, to having large markets. Produce may be scarce, or the farmers may be holding back until the holidays. Such certainty must be the case with butter and eggs, for although the prices are high, they are exceedingly scarce. Wait until the new river bridge is built, then the York county farmers can put their articles on the Columbia market. Just wait. How long?

If a stranger who knew nothing about the transit of Venus had come to Columbia yesterday he would have wondered why so many people were looking at the sun through smoked glass. Every person seemed interested with the transit of Venus, and those who took the trouble to blacken with snoko a piece of glass saw it. The newspapers will soon be full of scientific accounts of the transit.

The Grand Army of the Republic. At the meeting of the Welsh Post No. 115, G. R. last night, several recruits were mustered in. Other business also claimed the attention of the post. Visitors were present in large numbers from York, Wrightsville, Lancaster and Marietta. Among them was General Vanier, of Newmarket, department commander and several of his staff officers. The visitors were greatly pleased with their reception.

An Independent Fellow. A strange man stepped up to a married lady a few nights since, on Second street, and offered her his company. Of course it was refused, but the fellow still insisted upon accompanying her the lady entered a store for protection. The intruder quickly disappeared. It seems amazing that a man could be so bold as to press his company upon a lady with whom he was unacquainted and that upon a street where people are continually passing. A cowardly fellow would be a mild punishment for such a person.

INSPECTING A BRIDGE.

County Commissioners and Inspectors in Charge.

To-day the county commissioners, accompanied by the inspectors appointed by the court—Wm. R. Gerhart, J. B. Swartz, and John J. Jeffries, city; George L. Buckwater, East Lampeter; John M. Smith, to pay, and John H. Brackman, Strasburg town—visited the new bridge near Kefton, and gave it final inspection. The bridge, which is of some what peculiar construction, was built by B. F. Herr and S. M. Miller. It is a low bridge and inclines slightly upstream.

The builders claim an approach to the very high water the flood will pass over it, instead of lifting it from the piers. On the other hand there is some complaint that the bridge is too short, and that during a flood the water will overflow the bank of the stream on the Providence side, and prevent an approach to the bridge, long before the water is sufficiently high to endanger the structure.

The following named members were present: Messrs. Albright, Buchanan, Cochran, Conroy, Coy, Dinsberger, Evans, Huber, Hurst, Lichty, McKillips, McLaughlin, Middleton, Moore, Power, Remy, Riddle, Scheetz, Schum, Kreen, Smechly, Davis—present.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. President Davis called the attention of councils to the fact that under the rules governing the proceedings it was almost impossible to get matters of moment originating in common council over to the select council, before that body adjourned, and at his suggestion a motion was made and carried, suspending the regular order and allowing council to take up such items as might be deemed most expedient.

Mr. Cox presented the report of the fire committee, comprising an abstract of its proceedings since last report. Resignation of Goodman. Mr. Schum presented the resignation of Councilman J. G. Goodman, of the Fourth ward, who said his business required his absence from the city so often that he was unable to properly discharge the duties of the office of councilman.

On motion of Mr. Schum the resignation was accepted. Mr. Cox stated that Mr. Eby, member

of the Third ward, had moved out of the ward and wanted to know whether that did not create a vacancy. The chair thought it did, but Mr. Hurst was not so sure about that, and said that heretofore there had been cases of members moving out of the ward, but who had nevertheless been permitted to serve out their terms. Mr. Cox moved that the seat be declared vacant, but on the suggestion of several members, action was deferred in order to give Mr. Eby the opportunity to resign if he desired. The clerk was directed to notify Mr. Eby of the action of council.

On motion of Mr. Conroy council proceeded to the election of a member to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Goodman's resignation. Mr. Schum nominated Benjamin Bartholomew, and three being no other nominations he was unanimously elected.

Mr. Hurst stated that the value of building lots in the eastern end of the city had been largely augmented by reason of the increased water facilities afforded by the erection of the dam-pipe. Mr. Smechly said this was all right, but all has not yet been accomplished that the needs of citizens in others parts of the city demand. What is required is larger mains. There was some informal talk on several subjects, among which was the suggestion from Mr. Riddle that the president might celebrate the incoming of the new year by providing a set-out for hungry councilmen. The chair promptly ruled the matter out of order and council adjourned.