Lancaster Intelligencer.

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 28, 1882.

The Convention Reunion.

The presence in our city of a number of the members of the Constitutional convention, assembled here purely for purposes of social reunion, cannot fail to recall the valuable labors of that distinguished body of men. In its personnel the convention was probably the most eminent and weighty, for its number, that ever was gathered together in this state. There were some small men in it, to be sure, who crawled in by the devices of the politician, but as a class the members were distinguished in their various walks of life. Many of the most celebrated and ablest lawyers, railroad directors, financiers and publicists of the state were on the roll of its membership and left their impress upon its work.

Ten years have elapsed since their election and less than nine since the adoption of their work by a popular majority of over one hundred thousand. The test of time has discovered that some of that work was crude and imperfect; some, perhaps, not well advised. Some of the beneficent and urgent reforms projected and adopted by the framers of the new fundamental law have failed to become effective by the criminal negligence or ignorance of legislatures which were ordered to put them into effect; but, upon the whole, the people readily accepted their constitution as a welcome relief from an order of things that had become intolerable, and, after the lapse of these years, a proposition to revoke the new and restore the old would be voted down by a much more emphatic expression of popular opinion than adopted the constitution of 1873.

The present reunion is the sequence of a series of similar occasions the institution of which arose entirely out of the kindly personal feelings engendered by the associations of the convention. Its members were, for the most part, men of culture and congenial tastes, and being imbued with a common high purpose, approaching their ends by different means and in different lines, they did not sacrifice those purposes to partisan interests nor mar their deliberations with the wrangles that too often disgrace the history of legislation. Under such circumstances, their annual reunion, fitly fixed at about the season when their work was adopted, cannot fail to be an occasion of satisfaction to the participants, and one worthy of note by the people of the commonwealth. Year by year the ranks are being thinned by death, and it is with melancholy gratification that at this time are recalled the private and public virtues of some of the distinguished men, whose counsels were felt in the convention, but whose presence will be missed from the festal board. Nor is it to be forgotten, as a matter of congratulation by the members and of pride by the people, that since the last reunion two members of the convention, nominees of the state Democracy, Messrs. Clark and Elliott, have been honored with election to high place. Among the conspicuous merits which were placed to their credit in the late campaign was the fact that they had been useful members of the constitutional convention of 1873.

A Doubtful Device.

The Senate has adopted the civil service scheme with but five votes recorded against it to thirty-nine in its favor; of whom fourteen were those of Democratic senators. Senator Brown moved to amend the title of the bill to make it read "an act to perpetuate in office the Republicans who now control the patronage of the government." The fourteen Democrats who voted for the bill probably did not have Senator Brown's idea of its political effect; or else they thought that the good it promised the country was greater than the injury it did their party. They were quite right in considering the good of the country before that of their party, but their judgment in the matter needs to be good to save them harmless. It has before now happened to some of these senators that they mistakenly sacrificed their party to the country. Senator Bayard conspicuously failed in political sagacity when he voted for the electoral commission bill; which injured both his party and the country. The soundness of his judgment in giving to the Republican officeholders continued possession of their fat berths, under the incoming Democratic administration, is made questionable by its previous failure in a great question. Senator Bayard, with all his great qualifications as a representative of the people, lacks somewhat of the horse sense which would make him perfect. The measure to which he has given his approval and advocacy, along with Senator Pendleton and other Democratic light weights in the Senate may have merits to atone for its defects, but these are so great that it is very doubtful whether there is sufficient virtue in the bill to redeem them. We cannot see these excellencies in the exaggeration in which they appear to the advocates of the measure; not even after the amendment has been adopted which declares that "no person habitually using intoxicating beverages shall be appointed to or retained in any office business or employment to which the provisions of this act are applicable." That provision may bear hardly or lightly upon the whisky drinkers just as the authorities are disposed to construe the term "habitual" use. It may be held to bar from office only those who are drunk all the time, in which case it would be innocent enough; or it may rule out every man who takes a drink, in which case it would not be so innocent. But it is a pity, when the Senate consented to put upon the examining board the responsibility of deciding whether an assistant for office was an habitual user of intoxicating beverages, as well as whether he habitually used good grammar, that it did not also see fit to authorize an examination into all the moral attributes of the would-be official. The amendment of Senator Edmunds, that no one guilty of any immoral habit, should pass the muster was voted down after considerable vacillation. Perhaps the Senate felt diffident of the capacity of any examining board to decide as to a man's morals; a distrust which was well justified and might probably have been extended to the success of such a board in detecting the qualifications of a man to be a good officer of the United States in responsible places where moral attributes are as important as mental.

THE attorney general subscribes himself "Brewster, attorney general," and severely rebukes a subordinate who ventures to remind him that he sent a personal letter in an official, franked envelope, against the law.

THEY order these things better in New Jersey. The details of a terrible double tragedy in Trenton yesterday will be found in our news columns. And yet it is related that "as it is a clear case of suicide there will be no inquest by the coroner." There's a pointer for the Lancaster county coroner.

THE tobacco tax was the subject of a public meeting of local dealers in Philadelphia Wednesday evening, at which prominent tradesmen denounced the tax and the espionage of the revenue department in no scant terms, and demanded their immediate abolition. They also recite that in justice and equity, the money advanced to the government should be returned by allowing a rebate on such stock of tax-paid tobacco, cigars, snuff, etc., as may be on hand, in unbroken packages, at the time the repeal goes into effect.

THE OUTGOING YEAR.

Silent and bowed and with averted face,
His sceptre broken — throneless and disdiademed—
He waits the severing of the slender cord
That binds him to the living. A little while,
And gathered to the ages he will sleep
Among the centuries. What though he gave
To human thought and purpose high reward,
And crowned with living bays th' elect of Fame;
What though he wrote his name on History's page
In lines of vivid flame with pen of fire,—
Yet must he sink, as sinks a grain of sand
In the broad current that resistless bears
Its atoms to the sea. And they whose brows
He crowned, whose bosoms filled with sheaves,
Into whose cups he poured the oil and wine,
Inconstant, turn them to the young and new,
And greet the Coming Monarch with "All Hail!"

—Elizabeth W. Griswold in Century.

THE phrase, "Who struck Billy Patterson?" is said to have originated during a melee in the early days of Franklin county, Ga., when a wealthy merchant of Baltimore, rejoicing in that euphonious cognomen, was struck from behind while trying to make peace among the combatants. Mr. Patterson immediately called out in a tone that showed him to be fighting mad, "Who struck Billy Patterson?" and repeated the demand with an offer of $100, and finally as much as $1,000 reward for the desired information which was not, however, forthcoming, as the angry man is reported to have been "as strong as a bear and as brave as a lion," though ordinarily of a very peaceable disposition. Years afterward in his will, he related the above facts and bequeathed $1,000 to be paid by his executor to the man who would tell "who struck Billy Patterson." His will is recorded in the ordinary's office at Carnesville, Franklin county, Ga., and we are told that anyone curious about the matter can there find it and verify the preceding statements.

THE Senate has passed the Pendleton civil service bill by a vote of 39 to 5. This looks decisive enough to indicate its speedy adoption by the House, where it will be called up at an early opportunity, but where report says it will encounter vigorous opposition. The civil service bill of Mr. Kasson now pending before that body embraces provisions for a fixed tenure of office and examinations with the view of fitness for the particular service required. The class favoring such provisions is largely represented in the House, and it is more than probable that the bill finally passed there will differ radically from the one sent over by the Senate. The questions of Congressional influence, tenure of office and methods of making appointments will be discussed from a somewhat different point of view, so that when the bill goes back to the Senate it will, no doubt, be so materially altered and amended as to force its reference to a conference committee. There the bill will have to be again modified so as to harmonize the two houses, or the committee may not be able at all to reach an agreement, and thus the bill will fall, so to speak, between the two houses.

WESTERN Pennsylvania, ever noted for the picturesque character of its love-making and all those things appertaining to affairs of the heart, comes gamely to the front with a holiday sensation, wherein two residents of the Smoky City, rival claimants for the hand of a maiden fair to see, agreed upon the Marquis of Queensbury rules as the most proper and convincing love test. So in the presence of a large crowd of encouraging spectators, and with the usual accompaniments of seconds and umpires, the two brawny lovers proceeded to pummel each other in the most approved fashion, secure from the intervention of the lynx-eyed guardians of the peace. One meeting was not enough, as neither man would concede his defeat nor that his claims to the young lady's hand had been vanquished. So a second mill was arranged, and this time the veracious scribe reports eighteen of the liveliest kind of rounds to have been fought, the result of which was that one of the contestants had his ear knocked off and was so completely prostrated that it is believed that he will die, while the other is so bruised and disfigured that the girl probably won't have him now that he has won her with his knotty knuckles. Zest was given to the occasion by the spectators joining in at intervals and shooting into the crowd with more or less serious effect. Altogether the affair seems to have been a highly exciting one and a unique contribution to the festivities of the Christmastide.

A Party of Hunters Drowned.

A sloop capsized in a storm near the mouth of the Bayou Toxar and six hunters who were on board were drowned. Their names are Alexander Darty, Wm. Howard, Noah Saunders, Peter Saunders, Robert Duncan and J. Jones.

SUICIDE OF THE TWINS.

OFFICER JARVIS' ASSAILANTS DROWN THEMSELVES.

Deliberately Meeting Death in Trenton, N. J., Because They Feared Arrest and the Hangman's Rope.

Philadelphia Record.

William and Jacob Rusk, the twin brothers of this city, who stabbed Officer Jarvis on Christmas night, committed suicide in Trenton, N. J., yesterday, by drowning themselves in a stream known as the Water Power, adjacent to the state house. They took off their coats and hats, laid them on the bank, tied their hands and feet fast with a clothesline, then bound themselves together and jumped from a bridge into the water. The body of William was found in the afternoon, at half past six o'clock, and that of Jacob at nine o'clock last night. Their brother John was present at the finding of the bodies. When the first one was pulled out John hauled it up to the bank, threw himself upon it in an agonizing manner, and at the same time uttered imprecations against the Philadelphia police who, he said, had dogged his brothers and made them commit self destruction. The bodies were dressed in workingmen's clothes, and looked as much like each other in the features as if both had but one life and soul.

They stabbed Police Officer Jarvis while he and another officer were trying to arrest them for obstructing the sidewalk. After the stabbing they were taken to Trenton by their brother John to escape arrest. They came on the Owl line over the Bound Brook route, arriving at 2 o'clock in the morning. They were taken to the house of James Mills, a tobacconist, on Willow street, whose sister is married to John Rusk.

Here they were concealed all day. They retired to bed at night and early yesterday morning, about 2 o'clock, they arose and dressed themselves. They told their sister in-law that they were going to drown themselves and that their clothes would be found on the bank where they would jump into the water. They then went out in the yard, cut a large piece from the clothes line, and hurriedly departed. The sister in law followed part of the way, but soon lost sight of them.

In the morning, about six o'clock, Thomas Hill, a night watchman, found the clothes on the bank, and wondered what was the matter. He took them to the police station, but still no light was thrown on the mystery.

In the meanwhile Mrs. Rusk telegraphed to her husband, John, who had gone back to Philadelphia, acquainting him of what his brothers had said and done. He returned to Trenton, saw the watchman who had found the clothes, and identifying the latter his worst fears were aroused. He visited the water power and employed Thomas and William Ford to drag the stream. They began at four o'clock and were rewarded for their efforts by finding William's body at half-past 6. Not more than half a dozen persons were present, and the scene in the midst of darkness, with the dead body on the side of the bank, the brother venting his rage against those whom he charged with having driven the unfortunate man to suicide, the splashing of the oars in the water, with the two ghost-like figures in the little boat, all left an impression on the few spectators which will not soon be forgotten.

The coroner viewed the bodies and ordered them to be taken to the Morgue, where they now lie. An inquest will be held to day.

Chief of Police Givin sent a dispatch to the Trenton authorities on Tuesday to the effect that the Rusks had fled to that city, and giving orders to arrest them. The efforts, if any, made by the Trenton police to capture them seems to have been very feeble. The house where they stopped is near the heart of the city, and any one possessed of the least detective skill, if he tried, might have arrested them. They were 26 years of age, and their appearance while alive was anything but prepossessing.

The news created a great sensation in the neighborhood where the Rusk brothers lived, and especially at the Tenth district police station, where information of the suicide was received at an early hour in the evening, but was at first discredited.

Lieut. Beale pooh-hooded the story as "they were not the kind of men to kill themselves." Information has been received at the station house that the brothers had taken a small row-boat a few hours after the assault on Jarvis and gone up the river, it was supposed on their way to Trenton. Steps were at once taken to have that city closely watched.

Last night the following message to the chief of police in this city was sent to the lieutenant:

"The Rusk boys have been in our city. We hunted them so closely that they drowned themselves in the canal here. We have found one of the bodies, and expect to recover the other to night.

C. H. McCHESNEY,
"Chief of Police, Trenton."

At No. 140 North Girard avenue, where the mother of the boys and two sisters live, no news had been received early in the evening except that which came from talk on the street. Mrs. Rusk and her two daughters said that they could not credit the story, and did not appear to be very much excited over the affair. They said that they had not seen or heard from the boys since the evening before the assault occurred.

The record of the two dead men is discreditable. They have lived on Girard avenue ever since they were born. For years past they have been members of, or in some manner associated with, a social organization known as the "White Fawn," which until within a year had its headquarters at Nos. 1219 and 1221 Mascher street. Eight months ago the club was broken up, as the respectable members refused to go on with it, and organized the Howard and Girard avenue. The effects of the club were divided, and it is said the Rusk boys and some of their companions retaining the old name organized themselves, and had occupied rooms on Girard avenue, below Leopard street. These headquarters were given up, it is said, in order to get the money for the effects to defend William Rusk, when he was being tried for an assault upon Officer Jarvis, on June 4 last. In Februry, 1877, John McCool was stabbed and killed at a ball given by the American Mechanics, at Fourth and George streets. The stab was intended for Officer Harry Deal, who was attempting to arrest William Rusk. On his death bed he positively indentified William Rusk as his murderer, but the defense exhibited the twin brother, Jacob, at the trial, and the jury gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt.

On the night of June 21, 1880, the two brothers were in company with John Hughes when he made a deadly assault upon Officer Jarvis, and on June 4 William terribly beat that officer himself. He was tried, but again escaped.

For a year or two the brothers followed shoemaking, at No. 124 North Girard avenue, but have generally refused to do any sort of honest work.

A HUSBAND'S SUDDEN DEATH.

His Wife Suspected of Poisoning Him.

Fishkill Landing is in a wild state of excitement over the death of a well-to-do boatman named David W. Pay, aged forty-five years, who partook of a glass of water and piece of pie on the 19th inst., and immediately afterward commenced to vomit, with a terrible burning pain in his mouth and throat. Dr. Tiel, his physician, was in attendance, and as he did not obtain any relief, Dr. H. C. Wilson was called in consultation and at midnight the patient expired in great agony. The suspicious circumstances of the case prompted the attendant physician to communicate with Dr. J. P. Schenck, the coroner, who empaneled a jury, and from statements made to them by the doctors, they ordered a post mortem examination to take place immediately, when Drs. Tiel, Wilson, Moith, Schenck and Slack took part in the proceedings. The coroner took the fluids from the stomach, to be analyzed by Professor Doremus in New York. Suspicion is directed to the wife, who, four years since, was married to Mr. Pay, when she was only sixteen years of age. She denies that she poisoned him. The deceased leaves a grown up daughter, who has resided in Mattewan since the second marriage.

The Suicidal Mania.

Mrs. Samuel Hartzook, of Greene county, attempted suicide by hanging. Her youngest daughter discovered her as she was about to swing off and saved her mother's life. Domestic unhappiness was the cause.

Sergeant Rufus Somerly, of the Sixth cavalry, committed suicide at Fort Lowell, Arizona, by shooting himself with a carbine in the presence of his company. He was a graduate of West Point, and formerly a lieutenant in the Sixth cavalry, but was compelled to resign on account of drunkenness and misconduct. His suicide is attributed to drink.

The body of Chauncey W. Huff, the missing cashier of the Union steamboat company, was found in the canal at Buffalo, N. Y. Whether he committed suicide or was murdered is not known at present. Huff has disappeared at intervals of six to seven years several times before, but has always returned, and up to a week or so ago it was expected that would be the case in this instance, but yesterday's developments clear up the case.

Some Tragic Occurrences.

Two brothers named Bullard were killed yesterday at Lebanon, Ala., by two brothers named Jacoway in a quarrel. All were men of prominence.

During a fight in Staple's grocery store, at Owensboro, Ky., on Christmas night, between a man named Morris and a negro, James Montgomery, who heard the noise, stepped into the room just as Norris fired, and received the ball in his abdomen, which caused his death.

Marcus Pike, 18 years old, residing with Annie McKeon, his 20 year-old married sister, at No. 535 Greenwich street, New York, found a toy pistol, and in a joking manner presented it at Mrs. McKeon when it exploded, the ball lodging in the roof of her mouth. The wound may prove fatal. Pike was arrested.

A little girl named Gannon, residing with her parents on Pringle Hill, near Dallas, Luzerne county, swallowed a piece of slate pencil. A physician was summoned, who said the only way to save the child's life would be to cut open the throat and extract the pencil. The mother would not consent to the operation and the child died shortly afterward.

A quarrel occurred at the cotton store, Rock Castle county, Ky., on Christmas day, in which John Townsend was disputing with Champ Mullins, when the latter's son shot Townsend in the head and then jumped upon the body, which was bruised terribly. Townsend is probably dead. Reports come that two other men were killed, but this lacks confirmation.

Three Desperate Cow-Boys Lynched.

Three men were lynched at Pineville, Crook county, Oregon, Monday night. All that is known of the affair is that the victims are cow-boys, of desperate character, and were hung on general principles.

PERSONAL.

Mr. W. W. CORCORAN, the banker of Washington, yesterday celebrated his 81th birthday.

DR. MARON, a well-known writer on political economy, shot his wife and himself yesterday at London.

CONRAD B. DAY, the new grand master of the Masonic order in this state, has appointed Governor Pattison senior grand deacon, and W. A. Morton, of this city, deputy grand master for Lancaster county.

LADY MACNAGHTER, daughter of Wm. Howard ("Bull Run") Russel L. L. D., the well-known newspaper correspondent and wife of Sir Francis Edmund Workman-MacNaghter, an Irish baronet, has eloped with a young agent, leaving several children behind her.

THOMAS IMLAY and wife, of Imlaystown, who celebrated a few days ago the seventieth anniversary of their wedding, were married when he was 22 and she 18 years of age. They have had twelve children, and ten of them are now living with large families of their own, there being about 120 grandchildren.

MRS. GARFIELD is entertaining a few of the friends of the late president at her home in Cleveland. She looks much better than she did early in the summer. There is a better color in her face and she is more fleshy. She looks older and is more careworn and numerous wrinkles have appeared in the face. Her dress is wonderfully plain, as is that also of her husband's mother.

M. DE BRAZZA considers it possible to complete the exploration of the Upper Congo in two years. M. De Brazza's object is to maintain the position already achieved by founding eight chief and twelve minor stations, forming a chain to Brazzaville from Gaboon and from the sea. In order to mark the pacific character of the mission, it goes under the auspices of the ministries of foreign affairs and public instruction.

VICE PRESIDENT A. H. FETTEROLF was yesterday, after six ballots, elected to the presidency of Girard college, made vacant by the death of William H. Allen, LL. D. The candidates for the position were: Henry D. Gregory, Geo. I. Riche, A. H. Fetterolf, General Chas. F. Ruff, General Jas. A. Beaver, Henry K. Trask, General Wm. F. Reynolds, LeRoy F. Griffin, Colonel Richard H. Rush, Cyrus Northrop, Geo. W. Fetter, Lewis M. Haupt, W. H. Baker, Robert Cornelius, F. E. Rockwood.

MISS NUTT, the daughter of the victim of the Uniontown tragedy, whose name has been dragged into the affair, denies all the rumors associating her with the fatal encounter, and says that the contents of the letters which passed between her father and his antagonist in no way affected her personally. Miss Nutt's lady friends who have known her long and intimately just as earnestly deny the aspersions that have been cast upon her character. The young lady is probably twenty-three or twenty-four years of age. She was the idol of her father, well educated, naturally bright and very pretty. She is a brilliant conversationalist, an excellent musician, and was the favorite not alone of her family but of all her associates.

HON. SAMUEL B. DICK, the retiring Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order in this state, was yesterday (St. John's Day) presented by the lodge with a chaste and costly grand master's jewel. It consisted of a compass and square of heavy gold. A first water diamond of the size of a large pea glistens on the joint of the compass, and across the face of the square there is a representation in gold of the sun descending behind a cloud. The reverse is appropriately described. The officers of the lodge newly installed are R. W. Grand Master, Conrad B. Day; R. W. Deputy Grand Master, E. Coppee Mitchell; R. W. Senior Grand Warden, Joseph Eichbaum; R. W. Junior Grand Warden, Clifford P. MacCalla; R. W. Grand Treasurer, Thomas R. Patton; R. W. Grand Secretary, Michael Nesbit.

IS IT REFORM?

THE NEW CIVIL SERVICE BILL.

What the Pendleton Measure Proposes to Accomplish—Provisions of the New Bill.

The amended Pendleton civil service bill passed the Senate yesterday by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Aldrich, Allison, Anthony, Bayard, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Cameron of Wisconsin, Chilcott, Cockrell, Coke, Conger, Davis of Illinois, Davis of West Virginia, Edmunds, Frye, Garland, George, Gorman, Groom, Harrison, Hawley, Hill, Hoar, Jackson, Jones of Florida, Jones of Nevada, Lamar, Lapham, Logan, Miller of California, Miller of New York, Morrill, Pendleton, Platt, Plumb, Rollins, Sewell, Vest, Walker and Windom—39.

Nays—Messrs. Brown, Call, Jones, McPherson and Morgan—5.

The following pairs were announced: Messrs. Bean, Hale, Dawes, Saunders, Butler, Johnston, Kellogg and Sawyer, who would have voted aye, were paired with Barrow, Beck, Maxey, Williams, Pugh, Voorhees, Vance and Camden, who would have voted no.

Before it passed, Mr. Brown moved to amend the title of the bill so as to make it read, "An act to perpetuate in office the Republicans who now control the patronage of the government." Lost.

The bill provides for the appointment by the president, with the consent of the Senate, of a civil service commission to consist of three persons, not more than two of whom shall be adherents of the same party, and who shall hold no other office under the United States. Their salary is to be $3,500, together with necessary traveling expenses. The fitness of applicants for appointment in the civil service is to be be tested by open, competative examinations of a practical character. The offices and employments are to be classified and filled, according to grade, from among those graded highest in the examinations. Appointments in the departments at Washington are to be apportioned among the states and territories and the District of Columbia upon the basis of population. There is to be a period of probation before any absolute appointments. Promotions are to be made from lower grades to higher ones on the basis of merit and competition. No person in the public service is to be, for that reason, under any obligation to contribute to any political fund or to render any political service, and will not be removed, or otherwise prejudiced, for refusing. No person in the civil service is to have any right to use his official authority or influence to coerce the political action of any person or body. There are to be non-competitive examinations in proper cases, when competent persons do not compete after notice has been given of a vacancy. The commission is to make regulations for and have have control of the examinations, subject to rules that may be made by the president. The commission is authorized to employ a chief examiner at a salary of $3,000, with necessary traveling expenses. He is to act with the examining boards as far as practicable, and to secure accuracy, uniformity, and justice in their proceedings. The commission is to select boards of examiners in the different states and territories, to consist of not less than three persons in the official service of the United States, and where there are persons to be examined in any state or territory, examinations are to be held therein at least twice a year. Any commissioner, examiner, copyist, messenger or other person in the public service who willfully or corruptly defeats, deceives, or obstructs any person in his or her right of examination, or who makes a false report upon an examination, or falsely and corruptly grades any person examined, or makes a false representation concerning such person, or gives special or secret information for the purpose of improving or injuring the prospects or chances of a candidate, is to be punishable by a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000, or by imprisonment not less than 10 days nor more than one year, or by fine and imprisoument. Within 60 days after the passage of the act in becomes the duty of the secretary of the treasury to classify, under the 163d section, Revised statutes, the clerks and employees of the collectors, naval officers, surveyors and appraisers in every customs district, where the whole number of such persons is not less than fifty, and there after, from time to time, on direction of the president to similarly classify the employees in any other customs district. The postmaster general is to arrange for similar classifications in his department, and provision is made for classifications in all the departments and offices mentioned in the 158th section of the revised statutes. After six months from the passage of the act no officer or clerk is to be appointed, and no person to be employed or promoted in any of the classes until he has passed an examination, or is shown to be especially exempted from such an examination. Nothing therein however is to be construed to take from those honorably discharged from the army or navy any preference conferred by 1,745 Revised statutes, or to take from the president any authority not inconsistent with this act conferred by the 2,773d section of the Revised statutes. No officer not in the executive branch of the government, and no person employed merely as a laborer or workman, is to be required to be classified and, unless by direction of the Senate, no person nominated for confirmation by the Senate is to be classified or required to pass an examination. Whenever there are two or more members of a family in the public service in the grades covered by the act, no other members of such family are to be eligible to appointment in them. No recommendation of any applicant given by a senator or member of the house, except as to the character or residence of the applicant, is to be received or considered by any person concerned in making any examination or appointment. No person habitually using intoxicating beverages in excess is to be appointed or retained in any office, business of employment to which the provisions of the act are applicable.

It is further provided that no senator or representative or territorial representative in Congress, or delegate elect, or any officer or employee of either House, and no executive, judicial, military, or naval officer of the United States, and no clerk or employee of any department, branch, or bureau of the executive, judicial, or military or naval service of the United States shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political purpose whatever, from any officer clerk or employee of the United States, or any department, branch or bureau thereof, or from any person receiving any salary or compensation from moneys derived from the treasury of the United States. No person in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by any employee of the United States mentioned in this act, shall solicit in any manner whatever, or receive any contribution of money or any other thing of value for any political purpose whatever. No officer or employee of the United States mentioned in the act shall discharge or promote or degrade or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of any other officer or employee, or promise or threaten so to do, for giving or withholding or neglecting to make any contribution of money or other valuable thing for any political purpose. No officer, clerk, or other person in the service of the United States shall, directly or indirectly, give or hand over to any other officer of the United States, or to any senator or member of the House, or territorial delegate, or other person acting for such senator, member or delegate, any money or other valuable thing on account of, or to be applied to the promotion of any political object whatever. Any person who violates any of these provisions is to be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and punished by a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

COAL DEVELOPMENT

The Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company.

A charter was granted yesterday afternoon at the state department to the Clearfield Bituminous coal company. The capital stock is placed at $5,000,000. Among the incorporators are William H. Vanderbilt, Cornelius Vanderbilt, William A. Wallace, S. R Peale, James Tillinghast, George F. Magee, C. J. Langdon, John Lang, J. D. F. See, William D. Kelly (Elmira), John G. Reading, Joseph M. Gazzam and Bishop L. Wallace. The object of the new corporation is to mine and sell coal, iron ore, fire clay and other minerals and to manufacture and sell coke made from bituminous coal. The principal office will be at Clearfield, and the business will be transacted in Clearfield and Centre counties. The outlet north and east for the business of the new corporation, it is stated, will be through the Susquehanna & Southwestern railroad, a charter for which was granted last August, and of which William A. Wallace is president. The railroad corporation has a capital of $4,000,000, and its lines will pass through Lycoming, Clinton, Centre and Clearfield counties, portions of the state that have never been practically developed. The Reading system from New York and Philadelphia, it is alleged, will give a ready and cheap transportation to the east, while the Pine Creek & Buffalo road will supply an outlet to Buffalo and the great lakes.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Secures a Big Coal Tonnage.

The Pennsylvania railroad company has ordered $1,000,000 to be expended in the grades of the West Penn railroad from Blairsville, Indiana county, to Butler, in order that it may be made a low grade road. At Butler a link of twenty two miles has been built to be called the West Penn and Shenango connecting railroad company, and which unites the Pennsylvania system with the Shenango and Allegheny system, the latter system uniting with the Erie and Pittsburgh system. These combined systems give a direct outlet to the lakes and touch at Cleveland, Erie and Ashtabula. The new line is intended principally for the transportation of coal, and its inception is said to belong to Mr. George B. Roberts, president of the Pennsylvania railroad company. The base of coal supplies, until other lands have been developed, will be coal territory extending for a distance of twelve miles on both sides of the West Philadelphia and the Shenango and Allegheny railroads. In these lands a syndicate has invested large amounts and formed a company, called the West Penn and Shenango coal company, with a capital of $1,000,000. In the syndicate are represented Cleveland capitalists, the McHenry's of London, and prominent gentlemen of Philadelphia, among whom is Mr. B. K. Jamison. These lands virtually control the Butler county coal fields for the lakes. A portion of the lands will be developed by January 15. It is probable that when the combined systems of railroads are in operation, about June 1, that the entire tonnage of iron ores that is brought from the lakes and worked into metal at Johnstown will be brought over these systems, the grades being more favorable and the distance shorter than by the routes now followed.

Another Disappointing Oil Well.

The attention of the oil trade has lately been directed to Forest county as the coming oil field which was to counteract the decline taking place in the production of all the old fields. The new wells in Forest county, namely, Anchor, the Reno and the Grandin, caused the late great and unexpected decline in the oil market. The supposition was that these wells opened up an oil field of great magnitude. This theory received the first blow by the sinking of the Murphy well, which was equivalent to a dry hole in this field. There still remained a very probable outlet or extension by the drilling of the Ferdig and Henne well, south of the Cooper tract and east of the Murphy well, on a 45-degree line with the Anchor Oil Company's well. This well was completed yesterday, and was a great disappointment to its owners and a great surprise to the trade by its coming in practically dry. This well, when taken in connection with the numerous other small wells and dry holes, forms a cordon two-thirds around the supposed field, and entirely negatives the "belt" theory, and reduces the new territory to a comparatively small pool.

An Obvious Duty.

Ledger.

As soon as the Democratic majority in the Harrisburgh house of Representatives gets its reform working jacket on, next Tuesday, it should call the roll of officers, employees, folders, pasters, bottle holders, &c., who have no function to perform except to draw pay, and then give them leave of absence till 1885. Such functionaries can do better work and earn more honest pay at home. More than half the places the state is made to pay for on these rolls are sinecures, which is bad enough—but that's not the worst of it, for they open the way for corrupt practices in various ramifications. Doubtless there will be statesmen in the House who will regard such an invasion of the time-honored right of the victors to the spoils as an infraction of the constitution, or a dreadful violation of law or "custom;" but we do not believe the House is likely to be cited before the supreme court to show cause why the corrupt sinecures should not be abolished. Do not forget that reform opened the way for the Democratic majority.

A Dinner to Mr. Belmont.

N. Y. World.

Mr. Perry Belmont, member for the First district of New York, has accepted an invitation from a number of Democratic gentlemen in this city to meet them at dinner at Delmonico's on Saturday evening, December 30, the object being to emphasize the share taken by the young men of the country in the recent revolt against "abuses and corruption" in the public service. The dinner has been organized by a committee consisting of Mr. Nelson J. Waterbury, jr., Mr. Herman Oelrichs, Mr. Grenville Kane, Mr. Robert Townsend and Lewis H. Sayre, M. D. Among the few invited guests representing the young element of the Democratic party are Lieutenant Governor Hill, of New York; Lieutenant Governor Black, of Pennsylvania; Mr. W. U. Hensel, chairman of the state committee of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Bayard Stockton, of New Jersey.

A Mountain Battle.

In the mountainous part of Hawkins county, Tenn., about 60 miles northeast of Knoxville, last Saturday night, some white men went to the house of a colored man named Gray for the purpose of whipping him, charging that he had stolen hogs. Admittance was denied, whereupon they fired into Gray's cabin. The fire was returned. In the battle Gray was mortally wounded and has since died, and his stepson had his thigh broken by a ball. Jim Williams, a white man, was shot in the head, and is said to be mortally wounded. Another white man named Arrick was also wounded.

REUNION.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Meeting of the Survivors' Association at the Stevens House—Distinguished Lawyers and Jurists Present.

As has been previously noticed, the annual meeting of the Constitutional association will be held at the Stevens house, this city, at 5 p. m., to-day and the annual dinner will be served promptly at six o'clock. This association is composed exclusively of the surviving members of the convention of 1873, which framed the new constitution for the state of Penesylvania, concluding its labors Nov. 3, 1873, and whose work was approved by a popular majority of over 145,000, at a special election held Dec. 16, 1873.

The present organization was formed solely for the purpose of keeping alive the pleasant associations formed during the sessions of the convention, and it has held annual meetings at this season. Last year's meeting was held in Pittsburgh, and upon invitation of Mr. Reynolds this year's reunion was fixed for Lancaster. Hon. A. G. Curtin is president of the association; Hon. Geo. N. Corson, secretary, and Hon. L. C. Cassidy, treasurer. Of the committee of arrangements for the present meeting Mr. Reynolds is chairman.

The business meeting of the association, which will be held at 5 p. m., is devoted mainly to the election of officers and routine business. At 6 o'clock the dinner and social festivities, entirely of a private character, take place, and with these the reunion will be concluded.

The following is the menu for the dinner;

OYSTERS.
Blue Points.
SOUP.
Mock Turtle. Puree of Celery.
FISH.
Salmon. Trout Broiled
Duchesse Potatoes. Cucumbers.
Fillet of Beef. Mushroom Sauce.
Potatoes. Peas. Tomatoes.
Roast Turkey (Lancaster Co.).
Plain and with Truffles.
Potatoes. Cranberries. Celery.
Sweetbreads and Peas.
GAME.
Terrapin. Potato Chips.
Pheasants. Guinea Fowl (Lancaster Co.)
Broiled Oysters and Chicken Salad.
Crackers and Cheese.
DESSERTS.
Ices, Croquants and Wafers.
Fruit and Coffee.
Liquers.

Of the Lancaster county members of the convention, James L. Reynolds and H. G. Smith are dead; of the survivors, Hons. D. W. Patterson and S. H. Reynolds will be present this evening. From a distance J. W. F. White, W. H. Smith and Malcolm Hay, of Pittsburgh; Charles Broadhead, of Bethlehem, and T. Struthers, of Warren, arrived in this city last evening or early this morning and are registered at the Stevens house. The afternoon trains brought J. G. Frieze and wife, of Bloomsburg; Josiah Funck, of Lebanon; Jas. Ellis, of Pottsville; Col. James Boyd, of Norristown; W. E. Littleton and George M. Dallas, of Philadelphia; Chas. Hunsecker, of Norristown; John Price Wetherill, of Philadelphia; James H. Heverin, of Philadelphia; J. W. Curry, of Altoona; Thos. Ewing, of Pittsburgh; John Gibson, of York; Joel B. McCamant, Pottsville Z. H. Long, Lehighton; Joseph Baily, Perry county; Hamilton Alricks, Harrisburg; Andrew Reed, Lewistown; R. A. Lamberton, Bethlehem; Lucius Rogers, Harrisburg.

C. Heydrick, of Venango county, not a member of the convention, but a leading member of the bar of Northwestern Pennsylvania is also at the Stevens House. He visits Lancaster on private business.

Judge W. M. Bunn, of the Philadelphia *Sunday Transcript*, is also in the city. He was not a member of the last constitutional convention, but will be next time.

A Venerable Clergyman's Death.

Philadelphia Record.

Dr. William R. Work, the venerable Presbyterian clergyman of this city, died yesterday morning after several weeks illness, aged 72 years. He was a native of Lancaster county. His first charge was in Newark, Del, a church organized by himself. Later on he founded the Young Ladies' seminary of Pottstown and became its principal. After the school was thoroughly established Dr. Work removed to Philadelphia and founded the Trinity Presbyterian church on Frankford road. Subsequently he devoted himself to literary work, one of his best efforts being the revision of "Wheeler's Analysis of the Bible." The funeral of Dr. Work will take place to-morrow from the Princeton Presbyterian church, Saunders and Powelton avenue.

Too Much Christmas.

One of our prominent merchants of East King street, certainly must have been in very lively company on Christmas night, as he came home at a very early hour the next morning; and, that something was not right, was manifested by the condition he left his door, as it was found wide open. The watchman noticing the fact, rang the bell and woke some of the inmates of the house up and explained matters, and while doing so the gentleman referred to appeared at the head of the stairs, and in a stentorian voice said, "See if my new forty-five dollar overcoat is still on the rack." He evidently had too much Christmas.

The Theatre.

Agnes Herndon's "Farmer's Daughter" combination passed through this afternoon on their way to York, where they play to night.

Hartmyer & Daily played Charlotte Thompson in the "New Jane Eyre" in York last evening to a large house.

The agent of John A. Stevens' "Unknown" company is in town.

The editor of the *Opera*, a paper used in the York opera house, for a house bill, says in his "Footlight Gossip," Adams' Pantomime company will sing in Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday." The clown will be surprised to know he has an opera company.

Improvements at the Grape.

Extensive improvements are being made at the Grape hotel, North Queen street, which recently changed hands. An entire new front is being put in, which will stand in from the street; a balcony will also be placed on the front at the parlor. In the rear of the house several partitions have been torn out, making a large room, which contains several pool and billiard tables and the bar. The entire house will be repainted, papered and furnished.

The North Queen Street Row.

Last evening the young men who were in the row at J. J. Doesh's saloon on North Queen street on Saturday night, had a hearing before Alderman McConomy. As a number of the party had their faces blacked on this night it was difficult to identify them. There was sufficent evidence against Joseph McEvoy and Walter Myers to hold them and they were committed in default of bail to answer charges of assault and battery.

Two Men Missing.

The police of this city have received photographs and descriptions of two men, who are missing. They are Chauncey W. Huff, of Buff