

Lancaster Intelligencer.

SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 20, 1883.

To Get Pure Water.

A proposition has been made in the Legislature to raise a commission to examine into the question of the pollution of the water-courses of the state. Such an examination is very advisable, but probably could be as well made by a committee of the Legislature as by an outside commission, and certainly a more speedy determination of the needed legislation might be in this way obtained. It will probably be found that after all the question is a very simple one, easily solved and needing very little legislation. The fact is, that the law now requires water-courses to be kept clear of any extraordinary pollution. This is the common law, which has existed for ages. It has not been modified by statute and does not need to be. Its rule is that the water received upon the land of any owner must be discharged from it as received, with only such diminution in volume and change in character as would naturally result from flowing through the land and from the necessary use of it in ordinary occupations carried on upon the land. The only question is whether the artificial admission into the flowing stream of the sewerage of the land it passes through, and of the chemically charged waters of manufactures located thereon, is a permissible pollution of the water. If the owners of the land below are entitled to pure water, certainly it cannot be made impure by owners of the land above. That they are entitled to pure water seems to be well enough settled, and the only question open for decision is as to whether the water that comes to them is pure. This, under the law, would be for the determination of a jury. A familiar instance of the pollution of water in this vicinity is the washing of iron ore, and the consequent muddying of the stream. This the law forbids; and consequently the operators of ore mines have to retain the muddied water within dams, wherein the mud settles to the bottom, letting the clear water run off over the banks. Mills that put foreign substances into the water with which they wash their materials may certainly be required to cleanse the water in a similar or other effective way before restoring it to the stream whence they took it. So, it would seem, may cities be required to cleanse the water they use to flush their streets and sewers before putting it into the stream to flow across their boundaries into their neighbor's territory. The law is sufficient. What is needed is its enforcement. It is practicable to clean the foul water of towns and factories, and as public sentiment now pronounces it to be necessary, doubtless ways will soon be found in which it may be readily done.

Wasting Time.

It will be difficult for the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature to satisfactorily explain why they have refused to make any material alteration in the hours of holding sessions to consider and dispatch the public business. Under the rules and precedents there are actually only three working days in the week—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The night session on Monday amounts to nothing and the morning session on Friday is characterized by the lack of attendance and slovenliness of proceedings. The members are paid \$10 per day for seven days in the week, and even when they work three days they are very short days, beginning at 11 o'clock a. m. There are many of the members who cannot earn \$10 a day at home; few of them can afford to begin work as late as eleven o'clock in the morning; and those whose time is valuable to them at home, one would think, would be desirous of dispatching the business of the Legislature and hastening its adjournment. Why does not the Legislature assemble daily at 10 and give at least six hours every day to public sessions, except, perhaps, on Saturday and Monday, when it might respectively adjourn at 12 and meet at 2 p. m. It is contended that members want to spend the Sabbath at home, but there is no justification for this indulgence, since a large minority cannot enjoy it even if an adjournment of three days takes place. Very few of the members who leave Harrisburg during these weekly adjournments pay railroad fare, and few of them would go if they did not travel on free passes. If the members of the Legislature would apply themselves to work with the purpose of getting through with it, the session would never need continue beyond a hundred days. The lopping off of some unnecessary offices in the House was not so much of a reform because of the amount saved to the state in their salaries as because of the willingness manifested by the members in the majority to do the right thing even at the sacrifice of patronage within their control. But in this second test of their devotion to public duties the members of the Legislature have almost unanimously failed. Those who have voted against the proposition to devote more time to the public business show a signal incapacity for that true and substantial reformation which each must begin upon himself.

The impertinence of the St. Louis press in inquiring into the relations of Mr. Gebhardt and Mrs. Laney, and the brutality of its reports, have exceeded anything in that line yet encountered by these notorious people. They have shown hitherto an indifference to public criticism, or rather have invited it to a degree that stimulated newspaper enterprise, yet the most abandoned could hardly be expected to tolerate such freedom with their names as Western journalism permits. Hence Gebhardt and a reporter have come to the edge of a physical encounter, and are reported to be hunting each other with horse pistols. The situation is calculated to help both the newspaper and the dramatic business, especially as the Lily herself impends over the approaching encounter, ready to rush between the belligerents whenever the hostile meeting happens.

THE report of the grand jury is varied somewhat from the ordinary run of such documents by the recommendation that the present jail, which has proved so often inadequate, be torn down and built upon the other side of the creek, the net cost of such an enterprise being estimated at \$20,000 and the occasion for it being found in the limited capacity and bad condition of the prison, and in the injury resulting to its inmates from the present system of light and ventilation. The reasons adduced by the grand inquest are hardly of the weight which the importance of their proposition would suggest; nor is it likely that the grand jury have been able to approximate with any certainty the cost which the execution of their suggestion would involve. It would certainly have been a good thing for the city and for the development of beautiful suburbs in the eastern part of it had the public buildings never been located there. But these considerations should have been weighed before the jail was built, certainly before the later great expenditures for the lunatic asylum and new almshouses were contracted. A bill is to be introduced into the Legislature permitting certain grades of convicts to be sent to the penitentiary, which will reduce the demand for cell room at the prison, and the horrors of bunnies' hall can certainly be alleviated at less expense than would be necessitated by the erection of a new jail.

ON estimated friend, Judge Patterson, has some fears that the public may begin to think the newspapers know the business of the court better than the court knows itself. There is some ground for his apprehension.

It seems after all the gabble about Governor elect Pattison declining to ride from the station to the executive mansion, on his arrival in Harrisburg, in a carriage got for him by the local committee, that there was no carriage there for him at all, and that even the ladies accompanying his party had to be crowded into a city omnibus, the only conveyance at hand. The accommodations around the Harrisburg station are usually so limited that this can be readily believed. Very naturally, Governor Pattison would have preferred the privacy of a carriage ride to the publicity of a pedestrian tour, but as there was no carriage to meet him, he was bound to walk—and to be misrepresented.

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ANOTHER HOTEL FIRE.

PANIC AMONG THE TERRIFIED GUESTS.—A Fortunate Escape of a Party.—The Building Swept Away.

The Quincy house, one of the largest hotels in Quincy, Ill., was burned Friday morning. The fire was discovered by one of the guests on the third floor. Many of the guests were in the dining-room, but a large number of them were still asleep. Men, women and children rushed to the street, few waiting to dress, and although the fire spread rapidly, no lives were lost. The hotel building was owned by J. L. Morris, and valued at \$100,000. It was leased by G. P. Vay, who owned the furniture and fixtures. His loss will foot up \$15,000. The hotel was built in 1858, and cost originally \$100,000. It was 110 by 200 feet and four stories in height. Mr. Morris had \$12,500 insurance. There was about \$4,000 insurance on the furniture. The fire caught on a defective flue.

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CLARA A. SCOTT'S SCANDALOUS STORY.

Clara A. Scott, of New York, presented through Speaker Keifer, a petition asking \$10,000 of Congress, partly because of her services as a nurse during the war and partly because of the alleged persecution of a certain United States Senator (not named), who has driven her from the departments because she would not yield to his temptations.

Star Route Yesterday. Frank E. Shaw was yesterday indicted by the grand jury at Washington on a charge of having injured Edwin D. Doniphon, juror in the first Star Route trial, by a large sum of money to favor Stephen W. Dorsey, one of the defendants in the case. Dickson is the only one of the Star Route cases now remaining to be considered by the grand jury.

Justice Lowell and Nelson, of the United States circuit court, at Boston granted to day the injunction prayed for by Theodore Thomas, of New York, which restrains Joseph L. Lannon from performing the same trial before the grand jury as "Redemption," at Boston.

Frozen to Death. James Carran, who resides near Mineville, Essex county, N. Y., was found by his wife frozen stiff, within sight of his house. The night previous, after imbibing freely, he had started to walk home, and sank down in the snow.

Terrible Domestic Tragedy. On Thursday night, Harvey Taylor, of Richfield Springs, N. Y., killed his wife and mother-in-law, and then hanged himself.

Seating the Dead from a Vault. The St. Marc De Monnier vault in Montreal was desecrated again last night, and three bodies stolen by mystical thieves.

PERSONAL. PAUL DE CHAMILLE, the African traveler, arrived in Washington on Thursday night. GEN. McCLELLAN is mentioned as a possible successor of Dr. McCosh in the presidency of Princeton college.

EX-SUBJECT THURSDAY HENRY RAWLE has sold his palatial residence in Erie, Pa., receiving therefor \$30,000. HENRY T. B. EVERETT, D. D., Governor of Pennsylvania, is mentioned as a possible successor of Dr. McCosh in the presidency of Princeton college.

EDWARD RANSOM, editor of the Hudson County Ledger, was arraigned Friday in Jersey City on an indictment for libelling Mayor Tansing. He gave bail to appear for trial.

HON. MONTGOMERY BLAIR has purchased the estate of his father, deceased, at Silver Spring, Montgomery county, Md., comprising 514 acres, and he paid \$22,000 for it.

DEANESS J. HURLEY and wife, of Providence, R. I., died within 20 minutes of each other on Thursday. The wife was 30 years the senior of her husband. Each had been ill for some time.

LEWIS GOV. JOHN MARSHALL HAMMILL, who has become Governor of Missouri by the election of Governor Culbert to the Senate, is but 36 years of age and is a native of Ohio.

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Mrs. D. POSTER, of New Orleans, has gone to Washington for the purpose of selling to the United States the original draft of the Confederate States constitution for \$50,000—if she can.

GOV. STEPHENS, of Georgia, who is to leave the palace at Savannah next month, has promised to deliver an address to the colored people in the afternoon of the same day, if his health and strength permit.

MARY WALKER'S present costume in England is a Prince Albert coat, high silk hat, and a pair of black stockings. She carries a cane, and her hair is carefully curled, so that she had done it herself. Instead of wearing an overcoat on cold days, she wraps herself in a heavy shawl.

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THE SCALES OF JUSTICE.

COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS.

What the Grand Jury Has to Say in Their Final Report.—Sentence of the Tobacco Buyers. Friday afternoon.—John Kaufman was indicted for assault and battery upon Samuel Plaster, of Maudlin, who testified that on the 16th of December, at a shooting match, in Rapho township, the defendant struck him on the arm, and when he interfered he struck him on the arm. The defense was that Kaufman merely reached for the boy, who was very young, but did not strike him nor the old man. The jury rendered a verdict of not guilty, with Samuel Plaster, the prosecutor, to pay the costs.

In the cases of Com'ly vs. Geo. Brown, charged with false pretense, the jury rendered verdict of guilty, with costs. Com'ly vs. Thomas G. Wise, assault and battery. The defendant is teacher of a school in Salisbury township, and it was alleged that on the 4th of January he assaulted one of his pupils named George Palmer, by striking him so doing he beat him with a thick stick so severely that his back was covered with bruises and welts for some time afterwards. The boy, on cross-examination, admitted that he had in a whisper used bad language in the school room. The defendant was that upon this day the teacher heard the boy swearing in the school room. For that he whipped him with a small stick, but not as severely as alleged, nor more so than necessary.

Com'ly vs. George Kirk, colored, of this city, carrying concealed weapons. It appeared from the evidence that in September last the defendant went to the house of A. L. Krieger, on Millin street, and after creating a good deal of disturbance saw a revolver, and took it, and carried it home, and threatened to kill everyone around him. The defense was that upon this day the defendant went to Atglen to attend a hearing; he expected to have to walk back and borrowed the weapon from Krieger, by leaving it in the cars, however, and drank wine; and did not remember much about what occurred afterward until he was in the station house. Witnesses were called to prove the defendant's good character for peace previous to this charge. Jury out.

The grand jury returned the bill charging Clinton Marshall, alias Keels, with forgery and bastardy, with county for costs.

In the case of Thomas Wise, charged with assault and battery, the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty with defendant to pay one half and the prosecutor one half of the costs. A bill was made to have that part of the verdict, imposing costs on the prosecutor, stricken off.

As there were no more cases for trial by jury, those of surety of the peace and desertion were taken up and the jurors were discharged.

Com'ly vs. Henry Brown, alias Miller and Wm. Hatton, surety of the peace. John Miller was the complainant. All the parties are inmates of the almshouse, where Miller has charge of a ward. He testified that the complainant threatened to kill him, and he was obliged to desert the peace, and that he had no other alternative. The court dismissed the complaint with county for costs.

Christian Sharp, convicted of assault and battery, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs.

Com'ly vs. Sarah Finebeck, of Columbia, desertion. This case was continued several times in order that the parties might have an opportunity to live together, but the wife testified that she had not gone to live with her husband, as he wanted her to live in the same house with his mother and she could not do that. The defendant testified that he had arranged his house so that his wife could live with her mother, but she still refused to go, and now lives in Philadelphia. The court ordered the defendant to pay his wife \$1 per week and the costs of presentation.

Com'ly vs. Levi P. Schneider, of Ephrata, desertion. The defendant testified that his wife, who resides in this city, testified that her husband left her three years ago. He has done nothing for her since but pay the rent on the house, and she has not seen him since. The defendant offered to do what he could to support his wife and family, but she would not accept of it. The case against Thomas Kirk, surety of the peace, and John H. Williams, desertion, were dismissed.

Com'ly vs. Jacob P. Smith, of this city, desertion. Mrs. Smith testified that her husband left her three years ago. The case was continued until April, and in the meantime the parties will try to effect a reconciliation and live together.

George Brown, who was convicted on three indictments of false pretense, was sentenced to three years and two months imprisonment.

Immediately after the cases had been disposed of the benches were taken up. All old stands, against which there were no remonstrances, were granted. The new stands, with remonstrances, were not taken up.

The Grand Jury's Final Report. The grand jury finished their final report early to-day and at 10 o'clock it was brought into court. It was read by the clerks as follows:

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions, of Lancaster, County of Pennsylvania, empaneled to inquire into, and for the county of Lancaster, at the January sessions of 1883, respectively report that the total number of indictments returned by the grand jury at the district attorney for their consideration were 124, of which 96 have been returned as true bills and the remainder ignored, and notwithstanding the number of matters made to quash on account of the illegal return of indictments by the district attorney, the district attorney infirms us that there were 124 cases disposed of. The grand inquest visited the different public institutions of the county and respectfully report as follows:

The first place we visited was the children's home, where we were met by Mrs. Haaker, who kindly conducted us through the building, and we are pleased to say that it is an honor to the county. We found it neat and clean and in good order, and the children, who were 21 in all, all seeming cheerful and happy. There is no sickness at present and no deaths have occurred for five years. We noticed that the grass in case of fire would be insufficient, and we do earnestly recommend that the grass be mowed on the north and south sides of the building. We also noticed that the water valley on the main was in bad condition, and it is our opinion that it will be almost impossible to prevent leakage, which would cause great damage to the building if it is not removed, and we recommend a hazing water gutter as the only preventative.

The next building we visited was the almshouse, which we find in perfect order, and for this Mr. John Brock, the steward, and the board of directors, are to be commended. We found there 232 males and 71 females, 5 male children and 7 female children, total, 306. At the hospital, we were met by Dr. McCreary, the newly elected resident physician, who conducted us through the building and the asylum. We found the hospital in excellent order and the repairs at the asylum not yet completed, but sufficient has been done to convince us that it will be much better arranged than before the fire. We would also recommend fire escapes to be erected at the

old hospital building at each end; there being at present no way of escape in case of fire, and that in the centre of the building, should in our opinion is not sufficient, should a fire again occur. In the hospital there are 43 males and 28 females, 3 female children and 1 male child, making a total of 73 inmates. In the asylum for the insane there are 16 white males and 18 white females, 9 colored males and 5 colored females, 1 colored male child and 2 colored female children, making a total in the asylum of 51 inmates. We saw at present at Northampton town and 21 at Harrisburg, making the total insane, dependent on the county, 118. We next visited the county prison, where we were kindly received by Keeper Burkholder, who conducted us through the buildings. We found 120 persons confined in the institution of them 45 are convicts, 11 awaiting trial and 65 are inmates of the "Bunnies' Hall." The prison has 27 cells, in which are confined 120 persons, so that each cell contains more than one inmate, and we would not only think it necessary to make provision for more room, but we also think that the building is in a very insecure condition on account of the walls having large cracks in them. It is the unanimous opinion of this grand inquest, that it is necessary to add more cell room, but deem it to be a waste of money to make any additions to the present building. We would also call the attention of the county commissioners to the propriety of removing the prison to the ground owned by the county opposite the almshouse on the east side of the Conestoga creek. This might appear like incurring a very great expense to the county, but in the long run it would be a great saving, as it would be removed and rebuilt, with all necessary additions, at a cost not exceeding \$50,000, by using the material of the building and then selling the ground which the prison now occupies. Another recommendation we would make is the removal on account of the condition in which "Bunnies' Hall" now is, it being a degree to the county. The room is 35 by 27 feet, and there are 26 men and boys confined in it, in the most filthy condition. We would recommend that this room be removed, and in its place a better one be erected in a better condition under the circumstances. We also find that the light and ventilation in the prison are injurious to the health and spirits of the inmates, and should be remedied as soon as possible. We think it proper for the commissioners to have some insurance on the hospital, asylum and almshouse, and that it is unnecessary to have any on bridges, the court house and the prison, as they are attached to the county, and we would unhesitatingly recommend that a watchman be appointed at the court house, for should there a fire occur many valuable records and papers might be destroyed. In submission of our report, we return our thanks to the honorable court, the district attorney and the sheriff for the kind attention given us. Witnesses were taken up and the jurors were discharged.

Com'ly vs. Henry Brown, alias Miller and Wm. Hatton, surety of the peace. John Miller was the complainant. All the parties are inmates of the almshouse, where Miller has charge of a ward. He testified that the complainant threatened to kill him, and he was obliged to desert the peace, and that he had no other alternative. The court dismissed the complaint with county for costs.

Christian Sharp, convicted of assault and battery, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and costs.

Com'ly vs. Sarah Finebeck, of Columbia, desertion. This case was continued several times in order that the parties might have an opportunity to live together, but the wife testified that she had not gone to live with her husband, as he wanted her to live in the same house with his mother and she could not do that. The defendant testified that he had arranged his house so that his wife could live with her mother, but she still refused to go, and now lives in Philadelphia. The court ordered the defendant to pay his wife \$1 per week and the costs of presentation.

Com'ly vs. Levi P. Schneider, of Ephrata, desertion. The defendant testified that his wife, who resides in this city, testified that her husband left her three years ago. He has done nothing for her since but pay the rent on the house, and she has not seen him since. The defendant offered to do what he could to support his wife and family, but she would not accept of it. The case against Thomas Kirk, surety of the peace, and John H. Williams, desertion, were dismissed.

Com'ly vs. Jacob P. Smith, of this city, desertion. Mrs. Smith testified that her husband left her three years ago. The case was continued until April, and in the meantime the parties will try to effect a