

Lancaster Intelligencer.

FRIDAY EVENING, NOV. 16, 1883.

A Doubtful Boon. We fear that the Philadelphia correspondent who so confidently declares in another column that the Democrats do not carry Philadelphia because they do not have a Democratic organ there, says a vast deal more than he can prove. It is a very common idea with which he is possessed, but it has the shadowy foundation which very common ideas very often have. If our correspondent would but have turned his eyes over to New York and observed that the great and steadfast Democratic majority in that city has grown and lived with the leading journals against it and with the ablest aid and comfort from organs, he must surely have been shaken in his belief that a Democratic organ was of any benefit at all to a party, though a newspaper may be of great value to it. It may be a comfort to a Democrat to read a journal that defends Democratic men and deeds, right or wrong, yet it does not make his party votes; but a discriminating journal, which is intelligent enough to know the right when it sees it and independent enough to proclaim it when it knows it, cannot fail to command the ear and convince the reason of the good citizen of every party. What a party wants is to be put in power when it is right; and what it needs is to be put out when it is wrong. When it is blessed with leaders, orators and organs which will proclaim this, and let their party live or die under it, it will be blessed indeed and may hope for eternal life.

The Philadelphia Democracy are not very badly off for newspaper disposal to do them justice; they are little less blessed or cursed with organs than the Republicans. Of the four morning journals of chief circulation the Ledger is certainly as much Democratic as Republican and can be relied on to be fair. The Record is quite comfortably though independently Democratic. The Times has given the greatest share of its favor to the Democracy, though now it is carried off by the strong Pittston-Cassidy antipathy which inspires its editor, whose strength and weakness is reflected in his paper. The Press is an enterprising Republican journal of tangential proclivities, which would be capable of doing great damage to the Democracy if it had earned public confidence in its honesty of motive and devotion to principle; but as it has not, it does not do any more damage, when it kicks out its heels maliciously, than does the Times when it pettishly appends itself. Altogether we do not see that the Philadelphia Democracy were whipped by the newspapers; and we are not altogether persuaded their case did not remain dough, because of the lack of a sufficient leaven of sense and unselfishness.

The alleged reductions in the rate of internal revenue taxation have not greatly reduced the amount of surplus revenue from that source; and the country is still confronted with the problem of what to do with the hundred and twenty or thirty millions of surplus revenue raised by unnecessary taxation, which is now devoted to the payment of bonds, impeding the national banks and threatening to derange our financial system. The Democrats say abolish the needless taxation. Wharton Barker, John Stewart, Gen. Heaver and other feather-heads favor a maintenance of the taxation and the continuance of the officeholders, to raise revenue for a "divide" among the states. The Standard Commercial and Lancaster Examiner, say the endorsement of Barker's "moonshine" scheme by the last Republican state convention was merely giving a rattle to a cross baby, that it was done to catch the "dukes" and "cranks," and that it never was seriously intended to adopt it as a party policy. That they are right is evident, from the fact that the Press, which recently gave its support to the scheme, now seems to desert it, and instead of favoring a "divide" of the surplus, the Press now urges its abolition by removing the tax on tobacco and by establishing free trade in sugar.

A PHILADELPHIA correspondent deals forcibly with some of the causes operating to Democratic disadvantage in the recent state elections. Of these he makes the chief the lack of an influential Democratic newspaper in Philadelphia. He is possibly correct in this, since it is seen that where there is the best party newspapers in the state— independent within the party lines and with high principle—there are the best party organizations. Nevertheless it is to be considered that many other causes operate to the disadvantage of party organizations in the larger cities nowadays; and, with all the Republican and independent newspapers in Philadelphia, the Republican party there is badly shattered every now and then. The desirability and prospective success of a live and leading Democratic newspaper in Philadelphia have long been the subject of consideration in the minds of thoughtful Pennsylvania Democrats, but there are some serious obstacles which have not yet been taken out of the way. The rats once upon a time were unanimously of the mind that a bell on the cat's neck would be entertaining to them and ornamental to her. But when it came to determine what particular rat should buckle the bell on Tabby's neck, the meeting adjourned without final action.

ALL over the country the newspapers are praising young men for going into politics. That is right. Give the young men a chance. But there is nothing phenomenal in this discovered presence of the young men in political affairs. Those who are now notable objects of such attention are no younger than were Hamilton and Jefferson, Clay and Calhoun, DeWitt Clinton and Seward, Forney, Cameron, Cassidy, Wallace, Randall and others now conspicuous in Pennsylvania politics when they first became so. They were all young once.

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Common council was called to order by the president, with the following members present: Messrs. Adams, Albring, Bare, Beard, Bohemus, Corney, Demuth, Eberman, Everts, Fritsch, Hartley, Henry, Huber, Kendig, Long, McKelips, McLaughlin, Reuter, Ross, Schaefer, St.orti, Hurst, president. The president stated that the objects of the meetings were to make arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the Scranton officials, who arrive to-day, to consider the proposition to erect a new city hall, and to take action upon the matter of transferring \$1,500 from the contingent fund to the street appropriation.

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No More Money for Street Improvements. The resolution adopted favorably upon in select council at their last meeting, that \$1,500 be taken from the contingent fund and applied to the street appropriation for macadamizing, grading and guttering the streets of the city, was then brought up for action. Mr. Beard wanted to know what reports had been made by the committee. The president explained that the committee had reported that the money should be spent in guttering, etc., streets where the citizens have erected houses. He thought that if \$3,000 were given to the Eighth ward it was but just that \$1,500 be put in the other eight wards, to be used to make guttering and other improvements.

A rather warm discussion on the matter followed in which the necessity for the money was shown by some members and opposed by others. On a vote being taken it was found that the resolution and thirteen opposed it, it being therefore lost.

TWO TRAGEDIES IN RUSSIA.

A Young Lady Student Accused for Nihilism and Another Communist Suicide.

Nihilism in Russia has resulted in two more tragedies, both culminating at St. Petersburg Thursday, and each having a woman for its victim. Two women were hanged on the gallows, the first, a student of her own hand, evidently in full view of the fact that death awaited her in any case. The official victim was Sofia Waskopousky, a young lady student, a member of the Society of the Red Cross, one of the women arrested at the development of the insurrection at Warsaw, who was discovered to have fallen into Nihilist control, and a sister of a leading Revolutionist. It is said that on her trial, which was conducted with great dispatch and secrecy, it was shown that, owing to influence obtained at court by the insurrection being under the direct patronage of the empress, the prisoner had been engaged in intrigues with palace officials, having for their ultimate object the assassination of the czar. Time statements, in connection with the development of the insurrection at St. Petersburg, which resulted in the deposition of sixty-three of them to Siberia, have caused a profound sensation in the Russian capital. The execution of Mile. Waskopousky took place early in the morning in the presence only of official witnesses, and she is said to have met death bravely.

The suicide was a woman named Ossinsky, who had by her vehement eloquence and reckless devotion to the principles of Nihilism made herself a leader among the revolutionaries of the empire. She was a southern province of the empire. She was recently arrested at Kharkov, the capital of the province of the same name, and sent to St. Petersburg for trial. Next morning she was found dead in her cell, having hanged herself during the night, with a handkerchief, a window just above the low ceiling of the room.

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Surtees then went out on the track, and was followed by Smith, who called upon Surtees to come out and take his coat off and fight it out fair. Surtees failing to respond, Smith went for him, when Surtees drew a revolver and fired two shots, the second one striking Smith in the breast, the ball lodging near the lungs. It is thought to be fatal. Surtees was arrested.

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He gave numerous examples of the kind of reading matter which should be placed in the hands of children, and yet very many of them come into their hands and are eagerly read by them. Tons of thousands of papers, filled with pernicious reading, are also published and widely read by the children in becoming more and more important every year, because unsuitable books are becoming not only more numerous but much cheaper. How to put a stop to a taste for sensational and trashy reading is being seriously discussed by the church, the press, the Legislature and in the homes of the people. The influence of the home may generally be safely trusted, for few parents will knowingly place improper books in the hands of their children; but the power of cultivating a correct taste in reading lies largely with the schools, and to the teacher we must look more than to any other, to inspire the children with a love of a pure and better literature. Care should be taken by them to read only the best books, and to get the best books, and to get them at a comparatively easy matter to do it, and keep them in the right direction. It is by no means necessary that the children should read the same books. The teacher should discover their individual tastes and cater to them, always keeping in view the inculcation of good morals and useful knowledge. It is not necessary that the child's mind should be made a mere store house of dry facts, but that it should be developed, enlarged, and inculcated so that it may be able to receive and assimilate mental truths and the child become better and purer as it grows to manhood or womanhood.

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is found in all well-regulated business enterprises—why should not the same system be adopted in the schools. While he was not in favor of compulsory education, because it is free compulsion, he would not favor any practical means to bring absent children into the schools—even to the passage of a law which takes children out of the hands of parents and are unattended of their duty to them as to bring them up in ignorance. He thought the directors of Lancaster ought to appoint a missionary to visit all the byways in the city and find out those children who are not attending schools, and the measures to be taken to have them brought in, and in thought the county commissioners should do the same. He is doing in Berks—establish a school for the pauper children of the almshouses. Music—"Row, Cheerful Row."

Dr. H. H. Higbee made a stirring address, the object being to give much wholesome advice as to the course to be pursued by them toward the undeveloped child. Their life thought, their greatest aim should be to study how they could best inspire the child and lead him up to the study of the Bible, and the ultimate study. They should guard against hurrying the child through the path that they know so well how to tread, they should not endeavor to develop processes about too rapidly, and plunge the child into abstract primary studies. Let him use his own eyes before he is given a microscope. Don't talk to him about Washington and Columbus while he scarcely knows the world is round, and perhaps cannot tell what a foot is, or all the other things. Carefully and gradually unfold the powers of the mind. Dr. Higbee made a plea for permanent teachers in the primary schools, even if their salaries had to be raised to keep them, he guaranteed them as long as they are good and turn them out if they are bad. The most important place to fill in the whole course of education is that of primary teacher. He heard a fellow traveler say not long since that "some of the best teachers in the world are to be found in the primary schools." He was asked to say they were not, and the traveler responded: "Yes they are, all they are good for is to keep the children out of mischief." "Well," said Dr. Higbee, "the public schools of Pennsylvania are not doing so well. It is not the child that is the fault. There is much to be done in everything, even in the waste of the boy and the attempted waste of the girl. An organ will bring into the school more religion than the State. The State should be a church. Every school should be the power of music. 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