

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 are 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.

THE FASTEST TIME.

MEETING OF BOTH BRANCHES LAST EVENING. A SPECIAL MEETING OF BOTH BRANCHES OF COUNCILS WAS HELD LAST EVENING IN THEIR HALLS.

Meeting of Both Branches Last Evening. A special meeting of both branches of councils was held last evening in their halls. Select council was called to order by the following members present: Messrs. Brown, Adams, Wolf, Zecher and Burger, president. There was nothing transacted in select council, except that the following committee was named to act in conjunction with a committee from common council, the members being Messrs. Evans, Brown, Wolf, Wise and Zecher. They were authorized to incur such expenses as they thought necessary. Adjourned.

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. Laurent, 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.

The communication from Scranton being read, it was resolved that a committee be appointed to receive and entertain the gentlemen from Scranton. The president appointed Messrs. Beard, Bohemus, Dinkler, McKelips and McLaughlin. No more money for street improvements. The resolution adopted favorably upon 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 on the Sixth ward and several other portions of town require attention. Mr. Beard believed that as there was already about \$3,000 given from the contingent fund to the street committee, no more should be transferred from the contingent fund. Mr. Beard explained that the \$3,000 taken from the contingent fund was devoted to the opening of streets in the Eighth ward; this was necessary. During the last few weeks there were petitions after petitions sent to the committee to open streets in the Sixth ward and in the other eight wards. It was proposed to make gutters and sidewalks on the streets. Mr. Beard thought that a little party was good enough now and then for the Eighth and Sixth wards, but there were other considerations why this money should not be used. He did not want to take the money from the contingent fund, but he would like to see the property of doing it.

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 in favor of the resolution and thirteen opposed it, it being therefore lost.

TWO TRAGEDIES IN RUSSIA.

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

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 at the state of Warsaw by their 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 St. Petersburg, which resulted in the execution 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.

A PROBABLE FATAL QUARREL.

A Pittston Hotelkeeper Shoots the Son of the Woman He Married and Deserted. William Surtees, a well known hotel keeper of Pittston, and Alexander Smith, his step-son, and a resident of Alden station, near Wilkesbarre, met at a foot race at Leok Park Thursday, and at once began to renew an old quarrel of long standing. Some years ago Surtees deserted Smith's mother, eloping with another married woman, the well known Rhodie. Ever since then bad blood has existed between the men, and this morning when Surtees was about to take his dinner at the hotel, he said to Smith: "Well, Alexander, how are you?" Smith answered, in a gruff manner, that he was "all right; but you are not," meaning Surtees.

Wreck Near Atentown.

Atentown, Pa., Nov. 16.—At 10 o'clock this morning a mass of rock fell from the roof of a tunnel on the Portkennon road near Vera Cruz. A freight train was passing, and a number of cars and blocking the road.

THE ENDING OF THE SESSION.

Rev. Max Hark Talks About Reading for the Young.—Dr. Wickersham Speaks.—The Rev. Lecturer.

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He gave numerous examples of the kind of books which are being read by the girls. Tell him what kind of books your children read, and he will tell you what kind of citizens they will make when they reach manhood. There are about 25,000 books published every year, and the best of these are being read by the place in the hands of children, and yet very many of them come into their hands and are eagerly read by them. Tens 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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THE ENDING OF THE SESSION.

Rev. Max Hark Talks About Reading for the Young.—Dr. Wickersham Speaks.—The Rev. Lecturer.

Rev. Max Hark Talks About Reading for the Young.—Dr. Wickersham Speaks.—The Rev. Lecturer. The institute opened its sessions with the singing of several musical selections, after which Rev. J. M. Hark, of the Moravian church, delivered an interesting address on the subject of "Reading Matter for our Young Folks."

He gave numerous examples of the kind of books which are being read by the girls. Tell him what kind of books your children read, and he will tell you what kind of citizens they will make when they reach manhood. There are about 25,000 books published every year, and the best of these are being read by the place in the hands of children, and yet very many of them come into their hands and are eagerly read by them. Tens 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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