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THE INTELLIGENCER,

LANCASTER, PA

The Lancaster Intelligencer.

LANCASTER, DECEMBER 20, 1884.

The Inter-State Commerce Bill. The House of Representatives is debating the Reagan bill to regulate the charges on inter-state commerce by railroad comnaules. We are not now sufficiently familiar with all the features of the bill to state an opinion as to them, but the general result intended to be secured is one which we heartily approve. In seems to have become essential that Congress shall legislate upon the subject. It is one which no state can justly handle, because it can control only the railroads within its borders and it is not practicable to put restrictions upon them which will place them at a disadvantage over competing roads through other states. The need of each state is to secure to its own citizens rates of carriage as low in proportion to distance as are obtained by those of other states who use her territory as highways over which to fetch and carry their goods. But Pennsylvania is prevented from protecting her people from unjust discriminations by the fact that such discrimination is forced upon the railroads she controls by the rivalry of those which are outside her borders.

Congress only, therefore, can adequately legislate upon this subject; and its power over it is ample. We undoubtedly need legislation which will enforce the precept of the common law requiring carriers of goods to carry for all upon equal terms. The railroad companies are now in fact the legislature of the country, so far as its traffic is concerned. They regulate it at their will and according to their ideas of their interest, localities favorably situated for competition in carriage obtaining the advantage of the lowest rates. Pennsylvania suffers severely from this power of te railfoads to determine the prosperity of localities, since the chief centres of railroad competition are East and West of it.

Mr. Phelps of New Jersey, declared in the House that the railroads would not obey the law if it was passed; and that they would cease to work their lines if they could not defeat it in the courts or defy it under support of popular opinion. No doubt they would kick against the restrictions imposed upon them, but they would not be strong enough to defeat the law, which would have the hearty support of the people; nor would it be injurious in the end to the railroads. They would all ccome under its harrow and their ruinous competition would be abated. It would give them such a schedule of rates under the protection of the law as they have for some time been Evainly attempting to enforce among themselves by agreement and penalties. The railroads now in their eagerness for business fail to keep their pooling agreements ; and they ought to welcome a law which would bring them all under the obligation to charge one rate of freight per mile of distance covered.

The Giving of Gifts.

There is danger that the beautiful and highly symbolical custom of giving Christmas presents, like the bestowal of bridal gifts, will become inexpressive, burdensome and finally perforce fall into disuse by reason of the prevailing tendency to extravagance in social life. The old saw of not looking a gift horse in the mouth is a very proper sentiment, and no more the giver than the one who gets should consider that the appreciation of a present depends upon its cost. Whenever one begins to calculate the price, or to underestimate the fitness of a gift because of its moderate cost, or to consider the exchange of values in the reciprocity of present-making, it is manifest that there is something lacking of the proper feeling to characterize the custom.

Again, it is by no means the most costly articles that are the fittest or even the most acceptable for presents. Delicacy of taste, appropriateness of design, the gratification of wholesome sentiment and often the adaptation to necessities are considerations to which cost should always be subordinated, and in these hard times this generally may be due to the comfort of those who set out to purchase gifts. Let all the conditions of those on whom presents are to be bestowed becarefully studied and a proper regard for them will solve many of the problems of expense now bothering heads ntent on buying Christmas gifts.

Above all let Emerson's memorable words be ever kept in mind : " The only gift is a portion of thyself. Thou must bleed for me. Therefore the poet brings his poem; the shepherd, his lamb; the farmer, corn; the miner, a gem; the sailor, corals and shells; the painter, his picture; the girl, a handkerchief of her own sewing. Flowers and fruits are always fit presents; dowers because they are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty outvalues all the utilities of the world. Fruits are acceptable gifts, because they are the flower of commodities, and admit of fantistic values being attached to them."

The City Fluances. We have waited in vain for some one to explain on behalf of the present administration of the city government how it procoses to carry on the necessary work of the raicipality when some of the appropriaations for the fiscal year are exhausted at end of the first six months, and of thers there are not left more than from 15 to 25 per cent. We are not disappointed hat no one essays to make an explanation, for obviously there is no escape from the flemms that such management either exre about to be created.

It must be remembered that Lancaster city has reached the limit of the constitutional debt. No more bonded obligations can be issued, no temporary loans can be made nor floating debt incurred. All expenditures in excess of the appropriations are illegal; all debts so created are void, and councils have expressly declared that committees or city officers authorizing such expenditure shall be held individually

With this plain state of facts before them the councils should at the next meeting overhaul the municipal finances and call their committees and city officials to account. This is December; the fiscal year does not end until May 31, next. Meantime the water and market rents for next year are to be absorbed for the present year's appropriations, so that the city is always at least six months ahead of its means. These things need attention.

THE facility with which Joseph Herzog, for years, has pursued the business of obtaining from our banks the discount of forged notes seems to show very clearly that there is something wrong in the manner in which they are accustomed to do this business. As nearly all the banks in the city have been his victims, the fault seems to be in the system rather than in

the negligence of the officers. One lesson they have learned is that it is not well to trust too much to fair appearance. They are said to have been great admirers of Mr. Herzog's business methods. He always paid his notes before they were due, and did not ask for their renewal. These are excellent recommendations to bank officers. They make a few days interest and seem to have a prosperous customer. Liberality and promptitude are seen to be virtues which the shrewd swindler puts on as a cloak to his schemes.

THOSE who are interested in the insane custom of matrimonial presents-and few there are who do not willy nilly, belongs to this category,-should take pause when they next think of sanctioning this social barbarie habit. The particulars of the Paxton-Willard elopementare still fresh in the public mind. The young lady, it will be remembered, was engaged to a distinguished son of New Jersey, and the cards were out and a number of presents already sent. The father of Miss Willard was on his way from Europe to bless the union. Meanwhile Mr. Paxton and Miss Williard were quietly married, leaving the New Jersey suitor in the lurch. When the father of Miss Willard reached Washington; and was made acquainted with the change of the young lady's mind he caused to be re turned to the donors the wedding presents which had been sent to his daughter in anticipation of her marrying the other fellow, Now comes Paxton, however, and threatens to sue his father-in-law for their value, both for himself and wife, taking the ground that the presents belonged to Miss Willard, now Mrs. Paxton, and to no one else.

Business failures and divorces seem now to have the call.

THESE are strong words that Senator Bayard uses to express the great labor that President-elect Cleveland must face on March 4: "Mr. Cleveland is confronted with an enormous task, the like of which has hardly a parallel in history. The Democratic party is the legatee of the most monstrous system of mismanagement. Every department of the puplic service is mismanagedor conducted in such a way as it should not be." And yet anyone who has given any attention to the career of the next president must reach the conclusion that he is the fittest man for the emergency. He has been fighting corruption in city and state for many years, and the armor of honesty with which he is panophied has proved unassailable to even the most skilful thrusts of unsernpulous jobbers. It is fitting that his great work in the past should receive for its capstone the coming reform in the national administration.

With the crisp, bracing air of to-day comes to the well-clad a feeling of healthy satisfaction that their lines have been east in pleasant places, and insensibly with it a desire to reach in the pocket for means to lift the less fortunate poorer brother to the same happy plane of enjoyment. Citizens of Lancaster have much to be thankful for in their sanitary surroundings. The thought, perhaps, does not occur to them until comparison is made with other places. Prof. Adler has pointed out that in two blocks of houses in the Bend of Baxter and Mulberry streets, New York, there had been no less than 633 deaths in three years. In one house, No. 31 Baxter street, there have been eleven deaths in twelve months. The misery that must ensue on wintry days in these human pens exceed the power of pen to express,

THE glory of the Washington momument is to be short-lived. An iron tower of the astonishing height of 1,000 feet is to be erected in the grounds of the French exhibition in

EVEN dimples can be manufactured on women with soft, pulpy checks or chins. A spot is smeared with colorless gine, and then the flesh is pressed in with the point of a pencil. The stiffened indentation retains the shape of a dimple. Care must be observed in smiling suddenly lest it be fractured.

PERSONAL.

FEBDINAND WARD is a scamp, but he showed good taste in the selection of his HENRY WARD BEECHER will not be ries by WARD BRECHER will not be invited to the annual dinner of the New England society this year. The intended snub is for the purpose of punishing the Plymouth divine for not supporting Blaine. MARY ANDERSON talks of appearing in MARY ANDERSON takes of appearing in Paris, but not only would the expense be very great, but it is an open question whether there would be a sufficient num-ber of people in Paris who would support a

drama acted in English. EATEN BY RATS.

The Dead Body of an Uunknown Man Found in An Unoccupied Building.

A mystery somewhat similar to the Carlton hotel horror has been developed in Philadelphia. Pier No. 9 South wharves is used by Cope Brothers, shipping merchants at No. 1 Walnut street, as a landing place for the vessels operated by the firm. About twenty five or thirty feet from the water is a small one story frame shanty about fifteen feet long by about ten in width. The place has not been used for some time. This morning one of the firm of Cope Brothers, seeing that the weather was gradually getting colder, sent one of his employes, Shreve D. Smith, a young man, down to the wharf for the purpose of letting the water out of the boilers there. Just as he was stooping to open the valve which would allow the water to flow out, his feet kicked something on the floor, and reaching down he felt the leg of a human being. He was overcome with fright and made a boilt for the door, bursting it off its hinges. Word was at once sent to the coroner, and the body which was that of a man apparently about fifty years, was taken to the morgue. The body had evidently been lying in the shanty for some time, as the flesh on several parts of the body was caten away by the rats. The arms were folded across the body, and the flesh from the tips of the fingers up above the elbows was eaten off clear to the bone. The legs, from the tops of the rough leather shoes up on the knees, were also devoid of flesh. The head, which at one time was covered with a thin growth of gray hair, was fleshless and the features were totally unrecognizable. A search through the pockets of the clothing brought to light nothing which would throw any light on the question as to who the man was. of the firm of Cope Brothers, seeing that

HERE AND THERE.

There were three accidents on the Pennsylvania railroad on Thursday—all caused, it is said, by the sudden cold snap. Two broken rails and the fracture of a locomotive wheel flange, awakened the attention of passengers to the perils they suffer from the exposure of metallic railroad equipment to sudden changes of the weather.

The new asphaltum pavement laid around the public buildings in Philadelphia, when it got the first covering of snow on it presented a surface so slippery that the smoothly-shod horses of the street ears found it impossible to get along. They fell at almost every step and as many as a dozen cars blocked the line at a time. It was hours before the difficulty was obviated and the usual ten trips daily each way of the ears were reduced on Thurs day to nine. The route of these cars, which are expected to traverse the distance twenty times a day, is from the ferry to Forty-first

uplishments.

Ten or twelve years ago Irving was known only as a comedian. A gentleman who paid two shillings to see him when he was the rage of London six years ago tells me that his support there was immeasurably better and the magnitude and exactness of his stage appointments in London far exceeded the presentation of his plays here. Yet most of the people who see him here pay \$2.50 for the privilege.

One of the most accomplished journalists f the country recently made this observa-on: "I don't see how the New Orleans cans is a thousand inites from prosperity and tense population, the centre of a poor coun-ry, and I don't see where the people are oming from to keep their turnstiles busy."

Nevertheless the management has gone to work with a good deal of grit and deserves success. Some of the Peunsylvania editors are talking about devising an excursion to go down the last two weeks of January. Why

It is rumored that the Philadelphia Caron It is rumored that the l'intaderiphia Caroni-ele-Herald has at length concluded upon a plun to make a journalistic sensation and attract to itself the attention which has thus far failed it. Wharton Barker, its owner, proposes to writ up what he knows of the inside of the Garfield administration, and of the scheme which was on foot to set up a the scheme which was on foot to get up difficulty between this country and England over Canada, resulting in war, conquest and annexation. The Dominion was to have passed tariff laws discriminating against the other country and in favor of United State England's refusal to ratify these or to permit them was to have been the protext for inter-national difficulties.

And then Barker will relate the negotiations at Chicago which failed to nominate Harrison, and which were modified to permit Blaine's nominamation; and how much money was raised and sent to Maine, and what part of it was returned. The Caronicle-Heratd may yet be a parser. yet be a paper.

No slight degree of indignation is felt among the Philadelphia Democrats and by the personal and political friends of Mr. Ran-dall at the high-flyer style of denunciation in which Mr. Watterson indulges, over his pro-posed visit to the South. He goes as he went before at the invitation and as the guest of efore at the invitation and as the guest of business men, who are anxious to cultivate a better acquaintance of the masses of the Southern people, with trusted Democratic leaders of the North. Denunciation of such leasters of the North. Denunciation of such interchange of courtesies in advance is, to say the least, ungenerous, and the fiery editor of the Louisville Coerier has only given his more generous fellow-citizens a pretext to pile on their hospitality.

Dan Ermentrout is one of the Pennsylvania congressmen who will likely take in the New Orleans Exposition during the Christ

brown-covered volume, bound in muslin, plain and meck-looking. The title page IAYS OF MY HOME

WILLIAM B. TICKNOR.
MDCCCXLIII.
There are 122 pages of it, containing the carlier of Whittiers poems. The volume is dedicated to John Pierepont and the ode of

thought.

And on the margin of the page below, some one has written in pencil "Nehemiah IV. 18: For the builders every one had his sword girded by his side," I recall the extract readily, because the story of Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem's walls by ordering every man to put up that part which ran by his own house is an effective way of enforcing the lesson of doing political work in detail—or any other kind of work for that matter. This old edition of Whittier used to sell at 30 cents. It was the second work of foems

Invitation. You are requested to call at the old postoffice building, Centre Square, Lancaster, Pa., where will be given a practical exhibition of Hecker's Self-raising Buckwheat and Flours, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 17, 18, 19, 20, 1881. Ladies specially invited. deci7-41d Mosr violent explosions of coughing are stop-ped by Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Pike's Toothache Props cure in one minute. 415-1wdcod&w

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There are critics and critics. At one of the crowded popular receptions to Henry Irving in Philadelphia the other night, a cranky old man said bluntly to him: "I took my family to see you in "Hamlet. You can't play Homelet al-ad bit." John Stewart, lawyer and politicism, who is an ardent Shak-speracan student and critical patron of the decomposition of the decomposition of the statement of the contraction of the statement of the contraction of the statement of drama, praises Irving's Heinfet to the ex-treme; and ex-Senator Charles R. Buckalow speaks in lavish praise of Ellen Terry's ne-

show can be a very successful affair. I was down there a few weeks ago and was sur-prised to find on what a scale the scheme has been laid out. The preparations were as if for the Philadelphia Centennial. New Or-

As I write I have lying before me a little

POEMS JOHN G. WHITTIER.

ledication concludes with the stanza : And girded for thy constant light with wrong, Like Nehemiah fighting while he wrought The broken walls of Zion, even thy song Hath a rude martial tone, a blow in every thought.

at 50 cents. It was the second work of poems he ever published. But the edition was small; the numbers of it are so rare that one of the poet's blographers says its existence is of the poet's Subgraph of Presume that book-hunters would cagerly snap it up at \$10 a copy. SINDRAD.

The sign was displayed and somebody went in to see if a man who was fired of his wife could go there and trade heroff for another one. Found it impracticable. The best exchange for women is that which is promoted by Brown's Tron Bitters, Exchange poor health for good. Broken down and debilitated ladles with imprecished blood find viger and joy in the enrichment which this prince of tonics bestows on them.

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