Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1865.

"The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any branch of government; and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thought and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of men; and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject; being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in public capacities, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence."—*Constitution of Pennsylvania.*

Selling the Legislature.

A decided stir was made in the State Senate yesterday morning by the announcement that certain outside parties, known in the language of the day as "lobby members," had sold out that dignified body for the moderate sum of $20,000. That looks cheap; but what will the House say when they learn that they were sold in the same transaction for the insignificant amount of $5,000, in the depreciated currency of the day. The money was duly paid by the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, on the assurance that it was the very smallest amount for which a bill, in which the company was interested, could be got through.

When the Senate found out what had been done, they grew most virtuously indignant against the lobby members. It is strange they did not reflect that nothing could have enabled these outside "skinners" to carry out such a scheme, except the entire prevalence of the belief that both Houses of our Legislature are always on the market, ready to be sold out to the highest bidder. There are a number of perfectly honest and incorruptible men in our State Legislature, but it is a recognized fact that almost any bill can be put through if money enough is employed. Sad and shameful as such a state of things may be, it is the order of these days of professed patriotism and shoddy loyalty. The bill for which the sums of money mentioned were paid is said to be perfectly meritorious, and sure to pass on its own merits.

The swindle was perpetrated on the strength of the well known corruption of our present Legislature. It is clear that in this transaction at least the hands of Senators were clean. The parties who received the money were compelled to disgorge. Is it not, however, most abundantly true, that no such bargain and sale could ever have been attempted, but for the well-understood fact that our Legislature can be bribed, and that cheaply?

The Cruelty of Abolition.

The much-vaunted tender mercies of the fanatical philanthropists of New England have turned out to be the bitterest cruelties. It is vain to attempt to disguise them in the gush of hypocritical and pretended philanthropy. Not only have have all the real and fictitious modes of slave life on the plantations of the South been outdone, but even the horrid barbarism of the slave trade has been put to the blush by the greater and more extended miseries inflicted upon the negro slaves of the South by their pretended friends of the North. They have been enticed away from homes in which they lived as happy as any other class of laborers in the world, and huddled together in contraband camps to rot and die by thousands. The half of the miseries thus inflicted will remain forever untold; but enough is known to enable all men to see how greatly for the worse has been the sudden exchange made by the negroes from slavery for the freedom provided for them by the New England abolitionists. The following extracts are all from the most intensely loyal sources, and it is abundantly true that the picture is in no instance overdrawn:

Piquette's Report of Hospital at New Orleans.

"I have now under my charge nearly eight hundred colored persons of both sexes, and of all ages, most of them sick, and many of them destitute."

Brigg's Report, Nobern, N. C.

"There is extreme destitution."

Gen. Saxton's Circular, Beaufort, S. C.

"They have arrived on the coast after long marches and severe privations, weary, famished, and almost naked. Seven hundred of these wretched people arrived at Beaufort on Christmas night, in a state of misery which would have moved to pity a heart of stone, and these are the advance of a host not less destitute.

"The stores of the Government, already overtaxed to supply a large army, are not available to relieve their wants, and unless the charity of the North comes speedily to the rescue, they must die by hundreds from exposure and disease."

Miss Merrick's Report, Fernandina, Fla.

"A more wretched looking company could not be pictured than these, with their plantation rags and bare feet. It was hard to turn any away, but we could do no better than to do so, with a word of hope, which was received with a poor grace by those to whom it came, unaccompanied by material aid. When one is hungry or naked, a Bible or hymn book don't exactly satisfy."

Col. Eaton's Report, Tennessee.

"Our efforts to do anything for these people, as they herded together in masses, when founded on any expectation that would help themselves, often failed; they had become so completely broken down in spirit, though suffering that it was almost impossible to arouse them. The camp at Young's Point, during the summer of 1864, has been a vast charnel-house—thousands of the people dying, without wellones enough to inter the dead."

Report of Executive Committee.

"The increased suffering among the freedmen, resulting from the expeditions of Gen. Sherman and others, have brought within our reach multitudes of wretched men, women and children, whose needs must be met by large shipments, and by the most speedy means of conveyance."

Rev. T. W. Lewis's Letter, Beaufort.

"Two thousand of them (freedmen) have arrived at Beaufort, and are encamped in 'bough houses' in the woods in this vicinity. They can earn their own living on the plantations as soon as spring opens. Government gives them one ration per day for the present, but they are very destitute of bedding, clothing, cooking utensils, everything."

Mrs. Young's Letter, Dayton Plantation.

"We have been importuned by newly arrived contrabands for wearing apparel as well as food, until we have given everything we could spare, and have also purchased new for them; but the demand increases with every new arrival from Savannah. I have had two packages and one box from the North sent for them, which was immediately disposed of, but that was only a drop in the bucket. They came to the ladies 'in de big house,' and their cry is, 'Do, for God's sake, missis, gi've a warm coat, we can't stan' dis; we perish, we hunger, we toss out dis way and dat, till we sick, an' de col' wedder so hard we perish; an' when de Yankee took we, he no let we take anything, on'y jest what we hab on we, an' we hab no place to go."

Diet of a French Workman.

He is up at early dawn. In fact everybody rises soon abroad. There is more business done before ten o'clock in Paris than there is in London before eleven. There are two places where breakfast may be had—the *cremerie* and the soup shop. Some excellent coffee, with milk, costs less than 1½d, and the bread with butter 1d. For dinner the soup will cost 1½d; the plate of meat 2d; half a bottle of wholesome wine 4d, or a quarter of a bottle 2d, or a pint of beer or milk 2d, and all of good quality. In many places they give soup, a piece of mutton or *beef a la mode*, bread, and half a bottle of wine for 60 centimes, or about 11 cents of our money.

The Swedish steam frigate Venadis has arrived at New York. She carries 22 guns, has a crew of 301, and is supplied with engines of 400 horse power.

A History of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps.

An advance copy of a volume of over seven hundred pages, written and compiled by J. R. Sypher, Esq., of this city, has been laid upon our table. The publishers are Elias Barr & Co., of this place. The book is well gotten up so far as regards mechanical execution. It professes to be a history of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. We have not had time to examine it critically in detail. We have, however, read the introductory chapter with surprise. In it the author, without any possible provocation, makes a mean and malicious attack upon ex-President James Buchanan. This is done in terms of utter untruthfulness, which completely falsify history, and are not to be regarded otherwise than as a studied insult to the whole body of the democratic party of the North; to which very many of the bravest and best, both of the officers and the privates of the gallant Reserves, were and still are devotedly attached. The entire introductory chapter is a tissue of false statements. All the exploded lies about Northern arsenals being robbed to furnish arms to the South, together with other numerous and gross falsehoods are jumbled together in a clumsy manner, and paraded with such a spirit of bigoted partisan malignity as would of itself prove the author's entire unfitness for preparing any work with the accuracy and impartiality necessary to give it historic value.

It is well known that Mr. Buchanan will soon give to the public a full documentary history of the latter part of his administration. In it will be found a complete and ample vindication of himself and of the democratic party, from every one of the charges which have been paraded in abolition prints during the last four years. The public records, when once they are spread before the world, will give the lie to all such base slanders.

The author of the book before us has neither the qualifications nor the literary reputation which would seem to us to be needed by the man who should write the history of the Pennsylvania Reserves. They are worthy to have the record of their brave deeds well preserved, and we understand that one of the officers is engaged in the preparation of such a work. None other than a military man, and one connected with the organization, would seem to us to be so well fitted to write the history of that heroic body of soldiers. We are surprised that an obscure civilian like Mr. Sypher should have attempted it. This volume of his will be likely to prove only another of the many abortive attempts to make money by bookmaking.

The Depletion of Our Population.

In many of the poorer and more sparsely settled rural districts of this State the present merciless conscription is being most severely felt. Former calls for volunteers, and preceding drafts, have so thinned out the able-bodied male population that in some counties there is a great scarcity of agricultural laborers. During the coming season the want of strong arms to till the soil will be severely felt. Our country exchanges indicate clearly the great distress that prevails already, and deplore the future mischiefs that must inevitably follow.

The Ebensburg *Democrat* says:

This dynasty has laid a heavy hand on our flourishing county. Before this administration got their claws on our people, there were few communities that were more flourishing than Cambria county. Contentment, competence and comfort were universally enjoyed, north, south, east and west. The despoilers came and at first took all the money that could be raised in all the rural districts for commutation. They gobbled up thousands upon thousands of dollars earned and saved by the energy, industry and economy of our population. When that fund was exhausted they dragged, or hunted away, the vigorous part of our population, so that there are not enough, nor half enough, men left to till the soil. What crops will be planted this season will be put in by women and children; many of the farms will be entirely vacant with none to cultivate or take care of them; perhaps some aged man or cripple may hobble about and view the waste that is pervading his once beloved home. Still they call for four hundred and seventeen more men for this instalment from the rural townships. "It is calling spirits from the vasty deep"—they are not here; many of them are gone to their last reckoning and have left their bones bleaching on Southern soil. When the nations are called to account, and the rulers to judgment," there may Abraham Lincoln meet them face to face, and give a *true* account of the deeds done in this country, for his last joke will have been told ere that time.

What is said of Cambria county is true of many other sections of this State. The woes of this war are pressing most heavily upon such sections as are making no money out of it. Our large cities and towns are enjoying a fictitious prosperity, but it is at the expense of other sections of the State and country.

The Recent Flood.

Nearly all our country exchanges are filled with accounts of the ravages of the recent great flood. Every insignificant creek in the northern and western part of the State seems to have been swollen to the magnitude of a rapid river. The destruction of property in this State will amount, in the aggregate, to many millions of dollars. The Clinton *Democrat*, which comes with but a half sheet, gives the following account of the doings of the flood at Lock Haven:

At Lock Haven the west span of the common road bridge was carried away, and the lower part of the next span all torn off save the arches. The town of Lock Haven, during Friday, had the appearance of Venice; the streets were navigated by boats and "dog rafts," carrying their occupants to places of greater safety; several hundred persons took refuge in the Court House, where they had to be supplied with provisions by means of boats. A number of small houses in the back part of the town were entirely submerged; in others, the water rose to the second story. Crowds of people were seen on the adjacent hills, viewing the novel spectacle of a town situated in a lake a mile and a half in width. The water was about four feet deep at the railroad depot, and stood two feet upon the floor of the engine house and machine shop. Several hundred feet of the railroad track between the round-house and Lusk's run have been washed away. Many persons lost their horses, cows, pigs, etc., below town and along Bald Eagle creek, and after the water subsided dead pigs, cows and chickens were found strewn all over town. Every cellar in town, with few exceptions, was full of water, and hence an immense amount of damage has been sustained in the destruction of provisions, groceries and other property. The basements of all the churches were inundated, and all the books, melodeons, &c., connected with the Sabbath schools destroyed.

Notwithstanding the prevalence of the *aqueous* in our streets and domiciles, old Bourbon asserted its power, and a large portion of the denizens of our once prosperous, but now, alas! beflooded and bemired town, as the deluge rose, were hilariously, hysterically, dolefully, and, in some instances, Vice-Presidentially "incoherent."

It is impossible at this time to approximate to the amount of damage done by this freshet. Some, however, estimate it at a milion of dollars.

☞ The Democracy of Michigan knocked off, in the late election, 20,000 of the 25,000 majority by which the abolition Republicans carried the State last fall. The people of that State have evidently discovered once more that there is some difference between the promises made by the administration leaders before election and their performance after it.

The Situation and the Prospect.

A special correspondent of the New York *World* gives the following review of the situation, and indulges in some serious reflections upon the probable results of military movements. He arranges his information and his ideas under appropriate heads, as follows:

MR. LINCOLN'S OPINION ON THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

Mr. Lincoln, who must have become somewhat wiser by experience, said in my presence this morning: "I think this year is going to be one of the hardest fighting years we have yet gone through; if fighting is up at the end of December next, we must consider ourselves as exceedingly fortunate." I inferred from these words that our worthy President wears two masks: the one he carries in making speeches shows an unlimited confidence in the coming downfall of the rebellion; the other, which he wears among his intimate friends, expresses, on the contrary, some doubt and uneasiness on the subject. This is the misfortune of his position. Publicly he must assume an absolute confidence in his power of promptly crushing the South—if he doubted it he would be crushed himself. But privately, nothing prevents him from giving vent to his own thoughts and from regretting more than once that he accepted the nomination of the Chicago Convention in 1860.

A MILITARY CRITIC UPON SOUTHERN RESOURCES.

As a contrast to the flattering, and I fear deceitful, picture we form of our own resources, and of the weakness of the South, I will mention a few passages of a conversation I had, this week, with a military critic of some experience, who was with General Sherman when he entered Savannah, and who had in consequence ample opportunity to study the question on both sides. As that gentleman is a foreigner he could not, of course, espouse all our ideas and sentiments, neither has he those of the South. He thinks the South has always been weak, and that the reason of its apparent strength is to be found in the inefficiency of our military organization more than in anything else. "I was struck," said he, "to find, in our march through Georgia, the villages and cities more than half depopulated, the farms abandoned, everywhere an overflowing population of blacks in the midst of which a few Caucasians were to be seen, too old or too young for the rude service of the camp, and here and there a few women crying over their departed husbands, or requesting me to carry to those who were still alive in the ranks a few lines written with a trembling hand and half defaced by their tears. Inquiring of one of these women if she wanted me to say anything to her husband in case I should meet him on the battle field, or in the hospital, or in prison, 'Nothing,' replied she, 'except to follow his flag.' The spectacle impressed me in two different ways—in the depopulation of Georgia I saw the proof of great material weakness; but in the answer of the woman an evidence of great moral strength. The South is precisely in the condition represented by these two facts—poor in resources, but strong in courage and faith.

THE REBELLION FROM A HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW.

"I know that moral strength is a powerless weapon unless it has a sufficient number of bayonets to back it, and I know, also, this is hardly the case with the South. Three to one is now about the proportion of our forces in relation to those of the South, and if the contest was to be decided all at once, in open field, the result would not be a moment doubtful; the South would be crushed and annihilated at once. But things, I am afraid, are not to be carried in that style. And here I call your attention to that moral courage to which I have alluded, and which, if it means anything, means endurance, resignation to sufferings, fortitude in adversity, and faith in Providence. If the Confederates really possess those virtues, I do not see why they would not stand four years of war yet, just as the Romans stood, during the same length of time, the four hundred thousand men brought by Hannibal into Italy, the capture of nearly all their cities, the siege of Rome, the destruction of all their communications, and the enslaving of three-fourths of their population. Numerous illustrations could be brought forward to show that nations far more reduced than the South, have, by the strength alone of their unconquerable spirit, finally reached their object, and conquered their independence.

THE TACTICS OF THE WAR TO BE CHANGED.

"If you ask me whether the abandonment of their capital, and of their seashore cities; if the tearing up of their interior line of communication, and their sequestration from the world, is not a mortal blow to the Confederates, I will say that, considering the extent of country in which they can move, retreat, and establish lines of defense, these three things, however weakening they may appear, are by no means weakening to their cause. For you must not lose sight of this most important fact, that whenever the Confederates abandon the sea-shore, and withdraw to the interior of Western Virginia, Tennessee, or South Carolina, we lose, at the same time, the assistance of our navy, so advantageous to us hitherto, and are compelled to strike upon a new strategy longer and more difficult to carry out than any one we have yet pursued. Our present bases of supplies are lost, and new ones have to be established. All this requires a great deal of time and of money, and may lead to great sacrifices of men. Suppose General Lee adopts the Fabian policy—divides his army into three, which can easily be fed on account of its division; throws one into East Tennessee, one into Kentucky, and the other one into North Carolina; executes large raids upon our borders; combines his movements so as to be always in our rear and flank, avoiding battle so long as he is not sure of success, and attacking us only when there is an opportunity to do so? Don't you think he can protract the war several years longer by such a policy; and by having, as he will have, the distance, the heat, the malaria fighting on his side, much as I wish to see this war end by the overthrow of the rebellion, I cannot help thinking that as long as these rebels have one hundred thousand men in the field, and a population of blacks to fill up its depleted ranks; as long as they possess that indomitable spirit which they show, there is no chance for us of a speedy solution of the contest.

WHY THE REBELS ARE OPPOSED TO RECONSTRUCTION.

"You will no doubt say, and justly, too, that with their railroad lines destroyed, the confederates are deprived of several advantages they had hitherto enjoyed, such as the rapid transportation of provisions and ammunition from one point to another, the power of concentrating rapidly upon certain threatened positions, the facility of communication between the various armies they have now in the field, &c. All this is very true, and I agree with you that the position of the confederates is more precarious on that account than it would be otherwise. You must not forget, however, that the difficulties they are laboring under at present are common to both peoples; that pursuing them into the interior, as we will have to do when they have left Richmond, places us on exactly the same footing; no railroad on either side, but long and difficult marching through roads, forests, swamps, and morasses. This is the new aspect the war will assume, perhaps next summer and fall, when the country is pregnant with deadly exhalation, and the very air we breathe carry poison into our veins. I am aware that a great many of us, here in the North, do not believe that the Confederates will go through such hardships, but that, tired of a long and profitless war, they will prefer to lay down their arms and come back into the Union. This might have been possible with Gen. McClellan as President, for the general would have been careful to put out of the way everything which might have offended the susceptibilities or wounded the pride of the Confederates. With Mr. Lincoln, the thing is utterly impossible. His terms of reconstruction are such that no American can accept them without giving up at once all that has made him what he is, free and independent; all that the Saxon race holds as the dearest of its rights, the right of keeping its honor unsullied, and of holding up its flag high among the nations of the earth. Do not expect, then, to see the confederates come back upon such terms. They will fight and die to the last man rather than to come to terms of submission. They are so strongly and unanimously resolved to carry on the war as long as there is a fighting man in the ranks, that they have sown their fields with onions in case meat should happen to fail, onions being the best substitute for meat that can be found, and the most invigorating and wholesome vegetable in the vegetable kingdom. Such foresight, however trifling it may look on the surface, shows with what spirit the confederates are accepting this struggle, and to what privations they are decided to submit rather than to give it up without realizing their independence.

"To sum up, I will say: No nation has yet perished with a hundred thousand men in the field, and a territory vast enough to feed ten times that number; no people have yet been conquered for want of railroads, for the great battles of this century have been fought without railroads; no community has yet been brought to terms which was resolved, as unanimously as the South is, to conquer its independence, and who enjoyed such resources. That in the long run, after four years more of a bloody war, the confederates should be subjugated, is possible, but by no means certain; but that they can be subjugated sooner, I do not believe; nor is it the opinion of General Sherman himself, who talks freely on the subject. Let us then look at our difficulties in the face, prepare deliberately and confidently for the coming contest, and leave to the Republicans and friends of Mr. Lincoln the ridicule attaching to false prophets and impudent babblers."

FRANCOIS.

Items of News.

Some ninety thousand dollars, in gold and securities, deposited in the States' Savings Association of St. Louis to the credit of Mrs. Lisinka C. Brown, now the wife of the rebel Gen. Ewell, have been seized by Provost Marshal General Baker, to be confiscated to the use of the Government.

Averysboro,' at which place the rebel General Hardee claims to have defeated Sherman on Thursday last, is a small village in Cumberland County, North Carolina. It lies on the Cape Fear river, between Raleigh and Fayetteville, about equi-distance from both.

A severe "norther" drove nearly all the vessels from the mouth of the Bio Grande on the 8th, and but few have yet returned. The Prince of Wales, an iron steamer, was blown out of the water, but she may be saved. Another steamer, from New Orleans, was beached five miles below Bagdad. Her hull was a total less. Her machinery may be recovered. Other vessels (names not mentioned,) are known to have gone to pieces.

The rebel General Slaughter has prohibited the circulation of our newspapers in Texas.

Telegrams from Halifax say that the government of Nova Scotia, abandoning the hope of an early union of the provinces, will submit to the scheme for a federation of the maritime provinces only, and proceed with certain public works left in obeyance while the larger scheme was pending.

Austria and Prussia, it has been stated, have agreed upon the flag for the mercantile marine of Schleswig Holstein.—It is composed of three horizontal bands, the upper one blue, that in the middle white, and the lower one red. The blue band is to have a yellow square by the side of the staff.

The Pope has a long arrray of titles. In the *Annuaris Pontificis* for 1865 he is styled—"Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontifex of the Catholic Church Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Metropolitan of Rome, and Sovereign of the States of the Church."

Diamonds have been discovered in California, in the mountain streams and placer diggings. The largest yet found is of the value of one hundred and seventy-five dollars.

A lawyer named Aikens has recovered a verdict of $20 in the New York Supreme Court, from another named Burr, for calling the plaintiff a "traitor." The "loyal" fellows should make a note of this.

B. A. Osbon, the newspaper correspondent who was arrested in New York upon charges of furnishing for publication contraband information relative to the expedition against Fort Fisher, before the fleet had sailed, has recovered from his illness, but is still in the Old Capitol. It is believed that Osbon will have his trial before one of the military commissions now in session there, which trial will be a short one, however, as it is understood that he admits having furnished information for publication, but declines telling from whom he obtained it.

Gen. Hancock, it is said, is assigned to the department of West Virginia.—The Nineteenth corps is discontinued, and Gen. Emery is ordered to report to Gen Hancock.

The St. Louis heiress, Miss Kitterer, who a short time since was spirited away from St. Louis, has been found in Chicago. Her guardian wished her to take the veil in the Ursuline Convent, but she refuses, as she inherits $50,000.

Mr. Gough has been obliged to suspend his lectures for a time, in consequence of the failure of his voice.

Gen. McClellan is at present in Rome. "The General," says the Rome correspondent of the *Times* "has certainly no expectation of a speedy termination of the war which is now devastating his unhappy country."

A case has been tried in England, which turned upon the question whether the word "team" meant a wagon and horses or the horses only. It was decided to mean the latter, and the Duke of Marlborough, who was the plaintiff, lost the suit.

Harper's Weekly says that there have been more than fifty serious railway accidents in the country since the year opened. In the last week in February there were ten, and since the first of January more than sixty people have been killed and nearly five hundred wounded.

A majority of the soldiers in the service, from the borough of Bedford, voted the democratic ticket at the election recently held for borough-officers.

Robert Cobb Kennedy, recently convicted as a rebel spy, was hung at Fort Lafayette on last Saturday. He exhibited great recklessness on the gallows.

Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Lincoln, and a few Government officials arrived at Fortress Monroe from Washington on the special despatch steamer River Queen, and, after a short stay, proceeded up the James river to Lieut. Gen. Grant's headquarters, with intention of making a tour of inspection of our forces in front of Richmond.

Another distinguished party is forming to visit Southern ports which have recently fallen into our possession.

Secretary Welles and assistant Secretary of the Navy Fox do not contemplate being present at the hoisting of the flag over Fort Sumpter, as has been stated. The latter, however, will shortly leave Washington for the South on official business.

The first circuit court to be held by Chief Justice Chase since his appointment will be held in Baltimore on the first Monday in April.

The Navy Department has received a communication from Acting Rear-Admiral Thatcher, commanding the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, enclosing a communication from Colonel Dwight, commissioner of exchange of the Military Division of West Mississippi, in which the latter states, that the exchange of all naval officers delivered to him at Red river on the 26th of February has been effected by the delivery of the rebel naval officers at Mobile on the 4th inst., together with the delivery of the rebel Admiral Buchanan at Richmond atabout the same time.

Parisian society has been saddened by the death of a young lady of rank and fashion. On a *post mortem* examination it was found that her decease was owing to tight lacing. Her stays had forced three of her ribs into her liver. What a sensible woman!

Chas. A. Burt, the well known and wealthy brewer at Albany N. Y., was instantly killed, on Tuesday last, by the accidental falling of a stone from the top of his brewery.

Within the past few days all of the rebel officers, enlisted men, and marines who were confined in the Old Capitol Prison have been sent North, and the only prisoners remaining there are those under sentence or awaiting trial by court-martial, which is an unusually small number.

Lindsey Forney, Abraham Coons and John Reilly, were tried and convicted for murder in Hagerstown, Md., last week. The two former were sentenced to be hung, the latter to imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for eighteen years. They were soldiers, and had brutally murdered a young man named Edward Gludfelter, in the latter part of last August.

SPRING FASHIONS.

Opening Day in New York City.

The preparations for the spring openings this year were more universal, and certainly more laborious and elaborate, than they have been for some years past; and it is not surprising that the exhibitions should show evidence of this in the greater interest and variety of the display. Never before was there seen such lavish expenditure, such disregard of expense, as now. Never was there such universal extravagance in dress as now prevails. The evidence of it meets the eye at every turn. No one can walk down Broadway without becoming aware of it. No one can walk down Broadway without becoming aware of it. No one can gaze into the shop windows without becoming aware of it. No one can look at the groups of magnificently attired ladies and doubt it. Splendor is the order of the day, and the more costly an article is the more certain it is to find a purchaser. This taste for expense displays itself not only in the quality of the material, but in the profusion and elaborateness of ornamentation, which is rapidly assuming the proportions of a mania among our fashionables.

BONNETS.

The change has taken place in bonnets since our last notice of those designed for summer wear has been so thorough and radical that it seems ludicrous to retain the name.

It would have prevented a confusion of ideas and tendered greatly to preserve a desirable connection between sound and sense if we had abolished the term bonnet altogether and substituted another in its place, and coined one for the elegantly useless and stylish nondescript that this season occupies the place and usurps the name of the old and time honored bonnet. It is absurd to call by the same name two things unlike in every essential; nevertheless, for want of a new name, we must commit that absurdity and call the new style of headgear a bonnet. All that remains of the old bonnet, however, is a diminutive fanchon shaped front piece, which serves as a basis for ornamentation, and to which is generally appended a bewildering mass of lace or pensile spray or floating ribbons, so disposed as to harmonize with the present style of wearing the hair. "Waterfalls" and "Grecian curls" have driven trimming to the back of the bonnet, leaving the front and brim, towards which it converged but recently, almost denuded of ornament. As if to render the dissimilarity more complete between the old and new styles, the *chapeau Lilliput*, as we may call Fashion's last creation, will be worn frequently without strings, those erst while indispensable appendages being drawn backwards and tied under the waterfall.

The materials used in the composition of bonnets for the coming season are tulle, ribbon, silk and crape, and the trimming lace, flowers and ribbons. It is perhaps worthy of note that narrow ribbons are in high favor this season, and that for purposes of back trimming they have fairly driven all others out of the market.

Color is left, as is usual here, to the taste of the individual; for on that point fashion has issued no *fiat;* and the necessity this entails of catering for individual taste or caprice adds wonderfully to the variety and brilliancy of our New York exhibitions.

DRESS.

We have never before seen a more magnificent display of dress goods than those exhibited by our leading houses for the "opening" of the spring. The looms of France have contributed her richest and rarest specimens of silks and velvets; Belgium her costliest and most exquisite laces; India her unrivaled shawls and muslins, to meet the inexhaustible demand of our New York ladies for novelties. The tempting array spread out before our metropolitan belles is enough to unsettle the calmest mind among them.

The materials for the season are silks, satins and poplins, and for the summer light silks, organdies, grenadies, tissues and an endless variety of nondescript goods. We have seen at A. T. Stewart's some splendid silks with velvet stripes running vertically in the material, which form the most *distingue* dresses that can well be imagined.—They are sometimes composed of two colors, the ground black, with a velvet stripe of cerise color; but more frequently the groundwork and the stripe are different shades of the same color, the deeper tone of the velvet forming contrast sufficient. A black *peu de soie* sprinkled over with a tiny white pattern, was very much admired for its rarity no less than its beauty. Lord & Taylor have some elegant specimens of *morie antiques* and embroidered silks on exhibition, and some exquisite India muslins.

Some of the organdies are very beautiful and particularly worthy of notice. They are of different patterns—some plain, with a white satin stripe running longitudinally, others have tiny colored sprays embroidered on the muslin, while in striking contrast to both is another which looks as if a shower of gold had fallen on it. The effect by gas light must be brilliant in the extreme. Of course they are only suitable for young ladies.

The style in which the dresses are made contributes to more than double the original cost of the article, the trimmings are so profuse and so expensive. They are very moderate, indeed, who are content with one kind of trimming on a dress, for we have generally velvet and lace combined the first trimming, the dress the second, forming an edging to the trimming itself. All the ingenuity of the *modiste* is taxed to devise new ways to dispose both of the material and trimming.

At no previous opening have we seen such variety of trimmings material, as well as variety in the arrangement of them. We have velvet, lace, gimp, cord, embroidery, fur, ribbon and braiding. We have two or more of these materials used in trimming the same dress, as we have frequently two shades of the one color in the same dress, or still more frequently, two different colors forming the dress. This is doubly desirable, because it gives two skirts on which to display the trimming to advantage, an opportunity which is never allowed to pass unimproved.

The military style is very much affected by our city belles, and jackets, which last season made their *debut* rather shyly, are now flaunting in all their bravery. These articles are made with standing collars, buttoned down the front, and braided across the front, and if every essential is the same as the military jacket.

THE CORSAGE.

There are so many styles for the corsage each so different yet all so fashionable, that every lady may consult her own taste fearlessly. From the plain pointed waist to the most profusely trimmed and elaborately fashioned corsage, all is admirable. Even the round waist, which last season could not be tolerated under any circumstances, is now putting forward its pretentions, and worn with a pointed belt, or broad belt and buckle of pearl, is quite *en regle*. The square tabs of last season are still worn, and in some instances are continued round the entire waist, in others removed to the side or over the hips. Madame Demorest exhibits a striking novelty in the form of a double breasted coat dress, which we have no doubt will be quite popular till the warm south winds revisit us again. It is made with long side tabs in front and a square coat tail, trimmed *en revers* behind. Coat sleeves, with cuffs and epaulettes. Montespan waists, and waists cut in the Figaro jacket style are still worn.

Jackets, or rather short sacques, are very popular and very suitable for home wear; but those short cloth ones we see so often in the streets are rather bleak and bare looking for the seasons, and anything but graceful.

THE SLEEVE.

The highest fashion in this important portion of the dress, which frequently gives tone to the entire, is the plain coat sleeve, tight to the wrist, but oftener loose enough to admit an under sleeve to be seen. They are invariably trimmed at the wrist and finished at the shoulder with an epaulette. Short sleeves for evening and ball dress are made with puffings of tulle or the light material of which these dresses are generally composed.

THE SKIRT.

There is one rule to be laid down with regard to the skirt, and that is, trim it. Do this, and you may exercise your free will in everything else. You may trim it in the most extravagant manner; you may rack your brain in search of something original; you may fearlessly wear the most *outre*, but if you have any regard for the opinion of the world, trim it some way. Trimmings are indispensable, and the more you can put on the better. It is impossible to particularize where there are so many varieties; but the pyramids, the gothic panels, the scroll patterns, are all elegant and all popular. Cord is getting into favor, and makes a very effective skirt trimming. Gimp is emerging from the obscurity to which it has been for some time consigned, and we doubt not it will soon be reinstated in its former position.

The rage for trimming is so great that not satisfied with its usual and legitimate field for displaying the dress, it has seized upon the jupe, and there it luxuriates. In fact the jupe is quite a noticeable feature in a lady's dress now-a-days, and the ornamentation and trimming displayed on it challenges attention. Its bright colors, its intricate braidings, its jet drops, its brows of ribbon, and its fluted flounces are—

Desrving note
In the tempestuous petticoat.

We had almost forgotten to mention the gored skirt, or rather dress, for the waist and dress form but one piece. It still retains its place, but does not advance in popularity, for good and sufficient teasons. There are very few ladies who could successfully stand the trying ordeal they would be subjected to in wearing one of these dresses. They are the most elegant style of dress for those who can wear them; but, alas, for those who rashly undertake to put them on without the necessary qualifications. The proverbial "malice of friends" will soon convince them of their mistake.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Explosion of a Powder Wagon.

WEST BROOKFIELD, Mass., March 21.—One of the four-horse teams belonging to the Barre powder mills, while passing through Wilbraham village yesterday, loaded with powder, was blown up, instantly killing the teamster and all the horses, and completely destroying the wagon.

Township Elections.

ADAMSTOWN BOROUGH.

Judge—Jacob Vonneida, 29; S. Stork, 26.
Inspectors—Franklin Woods, 24; Henry S. Shirk, 28.
Assessor—William Slote, 48.
Town Council—Isaac Fichthorn, 50; Jno. Fichthorn, 19; Edward Regar, 18; Levi Hendel, 32; William Mohn, 29; Samuel Prutzman, 33; Christian Flickinger, 16.
Constable—Jesse Behm, 44.
Justice of the Peace—Esaias Billingfelt, 47.
Supervisor—Jacob Maurer, 51.
School Directors—Henry Stauffer, 49; Abraham Lutz, 47.
Auditor—Samuel Fichthorn, 43.
Burgess—Henry Redcay, 32.

BART.

Judge—David McClure, 106; Morris Cooper, 86.
Inspectors—Wm. Hollis Good, 101; Geo. Pierce, 91.
Assessor—Henry Baughman, 97; J. Frank Good, 97.
Assistant Assessors—Elam Pickel, 101; Samuel Baughman, 94; Samuel Harley, 94; C. Graham, Jr., 88.
Constable—Robert H. McCullough, 96; Matthias Ault, 94.
Justice of the Peace—Wm. S. Ferree, 101; John M. Heyberger, 99; Samuel A Hughes, 95; George Whitson, 91.
Supervisor—Samuel Good, 106; George H. Pickel, 97; Levi Fogle, 97; Ross A. Campbell, 85.
School Directors—John Homsher, Jr., 111; Thomas Ferguson, 97; John M. Rutter, 96; Jeremiah Cooper, 79.
Auditor—John D. Laverty, 102; Henry Pownall, 91; Wm. L. Rakestraw, 90.
Clerk—Edwin Garret, 191.

BRECKNOCK.

Judge—Jesse Bitzer, 80; Isaac Borzenhent, 54.
Inspectors—Daniel R. Musser, 35; Michael Witwer, 62; Abram Sollenberger, 14.
Assessor—Benj. Seifrit, 131.
Constable—Rudolph Killian, 124.
Supervisor—Richard Bean, 125; Peter Laininger, 94; John Coldren 51.
School Directors—Henry Stauffer, 56; Jacob Renninger, 83; H. B. Becker, 49; Jacob Burkhert, 72.
Auditor—R. E. Shober, 114; Henry King, 114.
Clerk—Samuel Lessley, 84; Samuel Eshleman, 37.

CARNARVON.

Judge—David Styer, 107; David Kern, 43.
Inspectors—David Hurst, 115; Elisha Squibb, 42.
Assessor—John Kaufman, 109; John Quantann, 48.
Justice of the Peace—James McCan, 134.
Supervisor—David Newswanger, 115; Daniel Hertzler, 115; Levi Coffroad, 43; John Yohn, 42.
School Directors—Christian Stauffer, 117; E. D. White, 104; John J. Stultzfuss, 115; L. H. Bear, 43; George Rigg, 43; Jacob Yohn, 40.
Auditor—William Witman, sr., 42; John K. Kurtz, 112
Clerk—John Halligan, 109; David Mast, 20.

CLAY.

Judge—Hiram L. Erb, 128.
Inspectors—Henry S. Eneck, 69; Reuben Weidman, 61; Rufus Kline, 24.
Assessor—Jacob Buchter, 128.
Constable—Edwin S. Fetter, 108; Noah Scherb, 7.
Justice of the Peace—Samuel Nissley, 144; Samuel Eberly, 138.
Supervisor—John Weiland, 54; Jacob Borry, 36; Jacob R. Faust, 101; Jacob Druckenbrod, 31; Elias Eneck, 32.
School Directors—Jacob Rohrer, 118; Jacob Rornig, 122; Daniel Furlow, 16.
Auditor—Geo. W. Steinmetz, 51; G. H. Binjeman, 75.
Clerk—Hiram Erb, 97.

COCALICO EAST.

Judge—Elias Stone, 109; John S. Royer, 85.
Inspectors—George Lerah, 133; Andrew J. Ream, 59.
Assessor—J. A. Eberly, 183; Levi P. Swartz, 30.
Constable—Peter Sweigart, 139.
Justice of the Peace—J. Garman, 165.
Supervisor—Jacob Lutz, 147; Joseph Kinsey, 139; Jacob Echternach, 53.
School Directors—Henry Gockley, 116; John S. Lutz, 113; Nelson Wolfskill, (for 1 year) 109.
Auditor—Charles Carpenter, 31.
Clerk—J. R. Reddig, 101; H. Coldren, 39.

COCALICO WEST.

Judge—William M. Crouse, 86; Benj. R. Binckly, 46.
Inspectors—Andrew Young, 79; Jacob M. Shirk, 47.
Assessor—Peter B. Hartzog, 108.
Constable—Jacob Correll, 81.
Justice of the Peace—Jacob Reinhold, 56; Allen W. Mentzer, 80; Augustus Strine, 54; John P. Hibsman, 15.
Supervisor—John Gensemer, 72; Daniel Lutz, 131; Jonas Frederick, 33; Jos. Loos, 4.
School Directors—Joseph F. Shirk, 103; Daniel Sharp, 109.
Auditor—John W. Mentzer, 87; Levi W. Mentzer, 20.
Clerk—Edward Royer, 15.

COLUMBIA BOR.

Judge, Upper Ward—Augustus Pelan, 43; Peter Fraley, 72.
Lower Ward—John Hippey, 129; S. S. Detwiler, 55.
Inspectors, Upper Ward—Jos. M. Watts, 47; Michael S. Shuman, 73.
Lower Ward—Jacob Anwerter, 128; Jas. Shweder, 55.
Assessor—Jas. Barbour, 199; Dan. Herr, 106.
Constable—James McGinnis, 289.
Justice of the Peace—John W. Houston, 128; Geo. Tille, 55.

CONESTOGA.

Judge—J. R. Witmer, 166.
Inspectors—Aaron Warfel, 105; John McFadden, 35.
Assessor—Henry Martin