Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 1868.

The Enforcement of Negro Suffrage.

The Radicals are fully resolved to force negro suffrage and negro equality upon every State. They regard that as the one grand object yet to be obtained through the agency of their party. They declare that their triumph in the late election would be incomplete and meaningless if it did not lead to such a result. Holding to these views they boldly announce their determination not to rest until their cherished project is successfully carried out.

They have tried to secure an endorsement of negro equality by a popular vote in different Northern States, but, one after another of the larger and more populous of them have rejected it by overwhelming majorities. The Radicals have been thus plainly told that a vast majority of the people of the North are sternly opposed to any such degradation of the right of suffrage, and bitterly hostile to granting to negroes the right to sit on juries, to hold office, and to exercise such political functions as have heretofore been confined to white men. Any party which had a decent respect for popular opinion would heed the voice of the people, thus plainly and emphatically expressed through the ballot box.

Do the Radicals intend to yield obedience to the popular will? Not they. They boldly declare their determination to enforce by indirection what they can not accomplish by legitimate means. They intend to get the present Congress, in which they have a controlling majority of two-thirds, to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, taking the power of regulating suffrage and qualification for official position out of the hands of the States, to which of right it belongs, and conferring it upon Congress. Radical Legislatures in the North are expected to unite with Negro Legislatures in the South to fasten negro equality upon the people of all the States, without their consent, and against the clearly expressed will of a larger majority of them.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania is expected to ratify such an amendment. Will it do so? We can hardly believe it will. We can scarcely conceive that men elected without the slightest reference to such a question will dare to fasten negro equality upon the people of this State without their consent, and in defiance of what is well known to be the will of a vast majority.

The people have a right to demand that this question shall be submitted to them for decision. When Congress passes the proposed amendment, the present legislatures of the different States will be in duty bound to submit the question to the voters for determination. Legislatures to be elected upon the matter at issue will be the only proper tribunals to decide upon it. It would be rank usurpation of power, and the grossest outrage upon the people for legislators who were chosen without any reference to the ratification of such an amendment, to attempt to act independently of their constituents in so important a matter.

We defy them to do so. We dare the present Legislature of Pennsylvania to attempt to enforce negro suffrage, and consequent negro equality, upon the people of this State, without submitting it to a popular vote. The assumption that the right of the people of each State to regulate suffrage can be taken away from them by a Congress which is about to expire, and by State Legislatures elected without reference to such action, must rouse the masses of this State, and of other Northern States, to the highest pitch of indignation. The people of Pennsylvania will not tamely submit to have their most sacred rights, reserved by them when the Constitution of the United States was framed, thus violently wrested from their grasp forever. They will resent such an outrage in a proper manner, and the sooner any members of the Legislature who may be inclined to sanction such infamous action are brought to a realizing sense of what will be the result, the better for them.

Let the people of Pennsylvania sternly demand that this question shall be submitted to a popular vote. Let every white man within the limits of the Commonwealth, who is opposed to Negro Suffrage and Negro Equality, unite in an earnest protest against the contemplated outrage. Let this be done without distinction of party. Let it be proclaimed throughout the length and breadth of the State, from the Delaware to the Ohio, and from New York to the Maryland line, *that any member of the Legislature who votes for the ratification of the proposed amendment, regarding Negro Suffrage, will be regarded as a usurper of the rights of the people and a traitor to his State and Country.*

Let the people sternly demand that the question shall be submitted to them for decision, and the members of the legislature will not dare to refuse.

Geary and Covode.

The Democratic papers in the 21st Congressional district of this State are naturally indignant at the course pursued by Gov. Geary in declining to certify the election of Hon. Henry D. Foster. They charge, and we have no doubt with entire truth, that Covode bribed Geary to commit this act of injustice by promising to give him the vote of the delegates from that district to renominate him for Governor. Covode managed to get a tool of his appointed Return Judge from Indiana county, one Doty, a despicable fellow who paid no regard to the oath he took as an officer. This Doty undertook to certify Covode's election with all the returns against him. Geary, thereupon, lends himself as a party to one of the grossest outrages which has ever been attempted. Out in that section of the State, where the antecedents of Geary are well known, this iniquitous conduct excites no surprise. He had the reputation of being dishonest and corrupt when he held a position on the public works, and none of those who were acquainted with him at that time have the slightest respect for him. Leading men of his own party in this county and elsewhere in the State have found him to be untruthful and unreliable, and numbers of them feel that he has disgraced the high official position for which he was nominated as the tool of Simon Cameron, and by which he was elected in a period of excitement. Should he be re-nominated it will be against the earnest protest of many of the purest and best men in his own party, and he cannot be re-elected, if the Democracy bring forward a popular and trustworthy candidate.

Inequality of Representation.

The inequality and injustice of the apportionment of members of the Legislature of this State is seen wherever we look. Luzerne county polls 750 more votes than Lancaster. Yet Luzerne has one Senator and three Assemblymen, while Lancaster has two Senators and four Assemblymen. Luzerne is Democratic and Lancaster Radical. That is why so unjust a distinction is made. Lancaster is a Congressional district, and another county is added to Luzerne. In this we have another exhibition of the palpable unfairness of the present apportionment, by which the will of the people is defeated.

NOBODY seems to know what to do with the Indians. General Sherman, even gives 'em up. It is now our turn at the conundrum.

Give 'em the ballot.

Will anybody suggest an objection?

How Can the Prevailing Corruption be Checked?

Very few persons seem to realize how great a change has passed upon this nation within the last eight years. We are no more the same people. Old methods of thought and action seem to have become completely obsolete. We have learned to despise the homely ways and the slower methods of those who preceded us. Now all men hasten to become rich, and few stop to inquire whether the means they employ are strictly honest and entirely reputable. A degree of demoralization prevails which is absolutely alarming. The business community in our large cities seems to have become perfectly debauched. Witness the history of the past two weeks in that financial centre, Wall street, New York, where from day to day those who have had the custody of trust funds, have been shown to be engaged in the most gigantic and disreputable schemes of swindling. The old time honor which prevailed in trade no longer exists, and the worst system of paper money the world ever saw, has converted business of nearly every description into a mere gambling game, where each player is trying to take advantage of the man who stands next to him.

In politics corruption has spread more widely, and taken a deeper hold, if possible, than in the business world. The immense sums of money annually wielded and expended by the government have held out such temptations, that the old time virtue and public spirit have gone down before them. It has come to pass that office no more seeks the man, and worse still, the best and most deserving citizens no more seek office. The day when good, and great, and pure men were solicited to become candidates for public position has gone by. A multitude of greedy fellows are always waiting to seize upon every vacant public position. Nominations for elective offices are secured by the most disreputable means. Base men employ baser tools to operate on the basest portion of the community, and in pot-houses and grog-shops it is settled who shall be the candidates to be voted for. This is not only true of the larger cities. It is also true, to a great extent, of the rural districts. Men seek office not that they may do the State service, but from mere mercenary motives. When our politics has become such a cess pool of filthiness, is it any wonder that corrupt men are found in high places? Is it strange that the Pennsylvania Legislature has ranked as a mere purchaseable commodity for several years past? Is it to be wondered that Simon Cameron could buy a seat in the United States Senate; and that the Radical members elect are even now engaged in calculating how much they can each make by a similar sale of themselves this winter? Should it excite surprise when we are told that the whiskey ring is omnipotent at Washington, controlling, not only Congress, but, the heads of departments? Is it strange that such men as have been sent to Congress since Radicalism has had control of the Government should be deeply engaged in jobbery and in plundering the treasury by a multitude of devices? Why, it has come to pass that an honest official of any description is laughed at. Radicalism has so seared the public conscience that rascality scarcely meets with a frown, unless it is of a petty character, or does its work in a bungling manner. The sharp scoundrel who steals millions dexterously is admitted into the best society, and becomes a leader of our shoddy aristocracy.

Is there no remedy for all this? Shall we look to the pulpit? Why, even the pulpit has, to a large extent, become an upholder of the very thing of which we complain. Thousands of professing ministers of the gospel have bedraggled their robes, which should be sacred, in the filth and mire of Radical politics, and have been busier with pot-house politicians in deciding who should be elected, then ever they were in the work of saving souls. Their bibles have been ransacked for passages from which to draw texts for political sermons, their pulpits have been desecrated by partisan harangues, and they have injected stump speeches into the prayers they offered in the temple of God on the day which was set apart as sacred from worldly things. Such a pulpit as we have now will not save this nation from the perils by which it is surrounded.

What can be done to check this widespread and increasing corruption. We answer, let every honest man in the country become a preacher. Let every upright man expose the rascalities and the frauds which prevail both in business and politics. Let every pure man speak out boldly against the iniquities which exist, regardless of party affiliations, and earing not on whose head his blows may fall. Let every patriotic man resolve that he will never vote for any candidate who is ever suspected of taking a bribe or of using his office for a corrupt and unworthy purpose. Until this is done things will only go on, as they have been doing, from bad to worse, until the cancer of corruption eats away the vitals of the nation, and this Government falls a prey to those agencies which have destroyed all the republics which have preceded it.

THE question of doubling the number of cadets at West Point is being agitated in Radical circles. Who wants more military officers? We have enough of men who have seen service to officer all the soldiers we are likely to employ for years to come. The army as now organized is costing three times as much as it should. There are multitudes of officers receiving pay who ought to be mustered out, and given a chance to employ what talents they may have in making a living for themselves. The people do not want to be taxed to keep up a vast horde of military drones. What the country needs is the retrenchment of expenditures in every possible way. So let us hear no more of devices for increasing the burthens of taxation which now press so heavily upon the masses.

IT does not seem that Reverdy Johnson is making any very satisfactory progress in the settlement of the Alabama claims. The plan said to be agreed upon is that the Queen of England shall name two commissioners and the President one. The commission is to set at Washington to consider all claims which may be presented, and in case of a disagreement the matter is to be referred to some one of the Sovereigns of Europe for final adjudication. We rather think the chance of the claimants to secure justice before such a tribunal would be a little slim. It is a specimen of Seward's work.

A Washington correspondent intimates that Simon Cameron is likely to be made Secretary of the Treasury under Grant. God save the mark! What an appointment that would be! The man who laid the foundation of his fortune by palming off Middletown bank notes upon the Winnebago Indians—the man whom Lincoln had to turn out of the War Department to stop the wholesale plunder of the public treasury—the man whom Thaddeus Stevens described in his grimly humorous way by declaring he "*would not steal a red hot stove*"—such a man for Secretary of the Treasury. "Angels and ministers of grace defend us."

IN Mobile the other day the lawyers and other officers attached to the United States District Court assembled, but no Judge was present. The notorious and miserably corrupt wretch, Dick Busteed was detained at Washington to answer serious charges which have been made against him. Lincoln gave some queer specimens of Judges to Southern Courts, and Dick Busteed was one of them.

Democrats in the Next Congress.

The Democrats elected enough members to destroy the two-thirds Radical majority in the next Congress. These Democratic representatives were fairly elected, and those who had the smallest majorities were forced to contend against the most shameless frauds and the most unblushing corruption. With a perfectly fair election we should have had a still larger representation in the next Congress, and the majority of the Democratic members would have been greater in their several districts. There is not a Democratic member who has any reason to dread the closest scrutiny into his election, if the examination be made by honest men and honestly conducted. But, will that be the method of proceedure? That is the question. Judging by the past it will not. The whole country knows that numbers of legally elected Democrats, both in the House and the Senate, were deliberately turned out of seats to which they had been fairly chosen, in order to enable the Radicals to hold a two-thirds majority in both Houses of the present Congress. Will they try the same game over again? We notice that a number of Radical journals are already predicting that they will have a two-third majority in the House again before the middle of the first session of the next Congress. How they intend to gain that ascendency every man knows. It can only be done by the most unblushing disregard of all justice and by setting at naught the will of the people plainly and clearly expressed in the recent State elections.

How can the contemplated outrage be averted? We confess we know of no peaceable method. To such a pass have affairs come in this government that the people must submit to see law, and justice, and the sovereign will of the electors trampled under foot by an insolent, lawless and corrupt faction, or else a resort must be had to revolution. The time may not be very far distant when the people will have to take matters in their own hands. If a Republican Government is to continue to exist in this country there must be an end to such outrages as the Radicals have already perpetrated. If they are allowed to turn six or ten Democrats out of their seats to insure a two thirds majority in a Congress, which has usurped the powers of the other branches of the Government, they will not hesitate to turn out twenty or fifty after the next election, if necessary to enable them to continue their rule. That such usurpation must inevitably lead to revolution is absolutely certain. It remains to be seen how far the next Congress will go in the part of usurpation and outrage marked out by the present body. They may stop short, or they may boldly advance to a point where the people will be forced to interfere and to assert their rights, and to rescue our Republican institutions by force from those who would destroy the last vestige of them.

The time may not be far distant when the people will be compelled to go to Washington, and give orders to a Radical Congress as imperative as those of Oliver Cromwell to the British Parliament.

New Whiskey Tax.

Those who know say the reduction of the tax on whiskey was made at the request of "the ring." They wanted to lay in a big supply at a low rate, and relied upon their influence over Congress to secure an advance as soon as they had a large stock on hand. It is said to be certain that a change will be made at the next session of Congress as soon as the members of "the ring" are fully prepared for it. "The ring" has an immense quantity of whiskey on hand already, and will increase its stores up to the day when the tax is raised.—The Whiskey Ring has the Radical majority of the present Congress completely under its control, and there is no doubt that the corrupt combination will have things its own way. In the meantime the Tenure-of-Office Law protects all the whiskey thieves in the country, and enables them to continue their plundering without let or hinderance. There is no doubt that Radical Congressmen are bought and sold, like sheep in the shambles, by the whiskey ring and other gigantic monied monopolies. The present Congress is as corrupt as any Radical Legislature of Pennsylvania ever was. How corrupt they have been, all men know.

Thanksgiving.

Far be from us to say that we have nothing to be thankful for. Even in misery it becomes the human worm to be thankful that it is no worse. Therefore let us kill the fatted calf, roast the fatted Turkies, fricksaee the fatted chicken, bake the traditional pumpkin pie, uncork the generous wine, and cut of the fullness of well distended stomachs (the heart is out of fashion) give thanks for the abundance which surrounds us.

But, while we thus estimate all the full measure of our physical enjoyment, let us temper our gluttonous tasks with thoughts of the multitudes of our kindred who are without food over which to be festive; let us remember with a spirit of forgiveness and true Christian charity, those of our own race who are struggling for an existence with the bayonets of the Government pointed at their throats, and the brand of the negro flaming near the eaves of their dwellings. Let us pray that, (for prayers were once the fashion on Thanksgiving day) a firm and lasting peace may be speedily established between the different sections of our country—a peace founded in true fraternal feeling, never again to be broken. Let us pray that to the incoming administration may be vouchsafed the wisdom, the will, and the ability to restore the blessings we have lost, and to render the Nation more happy and prosperous than it ever was before.

Judge Chase Does Away with the Iron-Clad Oath.

Chief Justice Chase, in the Supreme Court, at Richmond, decided that the iron-clad oath should not be administered to the grand jurymen, as it rather hindered than furthered the ends of justice. A new grand jury was then summoned on this decision, and will only take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

This decision is eminently wise and proper. Under the iron-clad oath very few of the more intelligent white men of the South could be sworn as jurors. Chief Justice Chase has acted wisely in doing away with it, and all honest and sensible men will heartily approve of what he has done.

Another of Butler's Thefts.

Ben. Butler certainly possesses the spirit of a thief. Whether he really did steal as many spoons in the South as some say, we cannot tell, but sure it is, that he stole the seat which belongs of right to our Congressman elect. The ungracious Beast has unceremoniously appropriated to his own use the desk lately occupied by Thad. Stevens, and Col. Dickey will be compelled to take a back seat right along side of John Morrissy. What a juxtaposition that will be.

IT is reported that Simon Cameron declares he will take no part in the Senatorial fight, and that neither his son nor his son-in-law will be in the field. We presume that means that he is backing some one else whom he can control. The "Big Indian" will be somewhere when the battle is going on, and we are ready to lay a handsome wager that his man will be elected. We advise all interested to be prepared for cunning strategy. Simon never gives up, and he was never known to fail in such a game as the one which is now going on.

Another Increase of the Public Debt.

Special despatches from Washington announce that the forthcoming monthly statement will show another large increase in the public debt. It is the same old story. In vain does each laboring man in the nation toil from one to two hours every day to pay the amount demanded from him by the government, and collected in the shape of taxes which increase the price of every article he eats, wears, or uses in any way.

Hundreds of millions of money wrung from the sweat of the laboring classes are poured into the public treasury annually. More than enough is raised to pay all the necessary expenditures of the government, and to leave a large surplus to be applied to the reduction of that terrible incubus, the national debt: but it still increases.

Is it any wonder! Sixty thousand salaried officials, the parasites of the dominant party, are to be maintained in luxurious ease. A standing army of sixty thousand men is to be kept on foot in time of profound peace to enforce negro rule in the South. A horde of thieves, almost innumerable, have their arms in the public treasury up to their elbows.

Is it strange then that the public debt increases constantly and steadily? Toil on ye miserable bond slaves! Work steadily and laboriously! Give from one to two hours of every day's service to the maintenance of those who live luxuriously, without labor, at your expense! Stint, yourselves and your families in the necessaries of life, and never taste its luxuries! Your Radical task masters demand that of you, and you cannot hope to escape from thraldom while they rule. Many of you voted to continue them in power, and have no right to complain.

But, while you toil, remember that your burthens are constantly increasing. The fate of the downtrodden masses of Europe threatens you. Rich monopolists, bloated capitalists, bondholders, national bank directors, and a shoddy aristocracy have their feet on your necks—and they will keep them there, so long as you white slaves of the North submit to be thus trodden down.

Why shouldn't the national debt increase? Is not money needed to maintain the infamous system which the Radicals have inaugurated? Of course it is. And, where could it be obtained, except from the public treasury, into which is constantly poured the hard earnings of the toiling masses.

If the government was honestly administered it would cost one half less than it does. But then, the innumerable horde of idle partisan retainers could not live in ease. They do the dirty work of the Radical party, and they must be well paid—paid out of the toil of the hard working masses of the North. Negro slavery is done away with, and white slavery has taken its place in the United States. When will the white slaves be emancipated, and how?

Out for Negro Suffrage.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph*, and the Lancaster *Express* are both out in long editorials advocating the infamous scheme of forcing negro suffrage upon the people of Pennsylvania, by the joint action of an expiring Congress and State Legislatures elected without authority to decide such a question. We insist upon it that this outrage shall not be perpetrated.

Let the question be submitted to the people at the next election for members of the Legislature. If the members elect should dare to force it upon the people of this State, without their consent, they will dig their political graves, and consign the Republican party to destruction. A storm of popular indignation will be excited such as was never witnessed in Pennsylvania before. The Republican party would lose five white votes for every negro vote thus gained. Common political prudence would seem to demand the submission of the question of negro suffrage to the people of every State. Let it be done. Let the people, without respect to party, demand that it be done. Let petitions be circulated in every township; and let all conservative Republicans unite with the Democrats in a demand that the question be submitted to the people for their decision at the ballot box.

A Specimen of Negro Legislation.

The Alabama Legislature has adopted several sections of a bill to punish Ku-Kluxism. The bill declares it to be no crime to shoot any person who appears with a mask on his face after dark. Such legislation was never heard of before in any civilized country. A law of that kind must tend to make human life very cheap, and will only be calculated to increase the difficulties which it professes to be designed to prevent. It is a specimen of the kind of crude, unwise and barbarous legislation which may be expected from a legislature made up of ignorant and vicious whites and negroes equally ignorant but not more vicious. Such a law instead of diminishing disorder in Alabama must increase it. It will cause every man who was engaged in the rebellion to go armed to the teeth, and will lead directly to scenes of violence and bloodshed.

A Negro Congressman.

The Radicals have at length succeeded in accomplishing one of their most cherished projects. By throwing out the votes of twelve Democratic parishes in Louisiana they have managed to secure the return of a negro to Congress. The name of the happy darkey is Menard. By the patent Radical method of rejecting what votes they please and counting only what suits them, this African representative is sent to Washington to fill the unexpired term of a dead carpet-bagger named Mann. We congratulate the Republican party on this magnificent triumph of their policy. Let them rejoice now that they have succeeded in accomplishing their most dearly cherished purpose.

The Ashes of Columbus.

A Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Gazette* says:

An interesting fact has just come to the knowledge of the Government here, which may aid, in some degree, the negotiations of Mr. Seward for a naval depot in the West Indies. While the heart of Christopher Columbus is preserved in Havana, his ashes are in an iron coffin buried beneath the floor of a chapel in an old church in St. Domingo. It is also intimated that these ashes can be secured by our Government and that President Baez will allow them to be transferred to this city for proper interment.

We hope an effort will be made to secure the ashes of the discoverer of this continent for appropriate interment at our National Capitol. That is where they ought to be placed. A magnificent and appropriate tomb should be erected over them, either by the government, or by voluntary subscriptions from the people of the United States. Every one would feel like contributing for such a purpose.

Swindling by a National Bank.

Elsewhere we publish an account of the swindling transaction of the Merchant's National Bank of Washington City. The statement is from the New York *Sun*, a Republican newspaper. The whole system of National Banking is wrong. It naturally leads to rascality, and will yet be found to be a most fruitful source of corruption and fraud. The sooner it is done away with the better for the country.

Passports.

The State Department suggests to travelers that, in view of the troubled condition of a good many foreign countries, passports are a very desirable thing for American travelers, and that they cost about five dollars a piece. Passports are given only to citizens of the United States, upon applications supported by proof of citizenship. Applications should be made to the Secretary of State in Washington.

The Army Not to be Reduced.

If there be any hopeful individuals in the country who have been credulous enough to suppose that reckless expenditure would be checked under Grant, we think they are doomed to disappointment. In his report he advises against any reduction of the army. It is to be kept at its present standard, and the people are to be taxed at the rate of about one hundred and fifty millions of dollars a year for its support. Every infantry regiment in service costs two million dollars per annum, and the cavalry still more. The working men of the North foot the bill. Every thing they buy is increased in price to maintain a vast standing army in time of profound peace, and they are condemned to work from one to two hours a day to supply the money which is thus worse than wasted, the Government requiring that amount of extra work from them to support these useless troops. General Grant thus advises the maintenance of an enormous army, just at the very time when the Secretary of the Treasury reports another large increase in the national debt. Without decided retrenchment national bankruptcy is inevitable, and there is no branch of the Government in which such retrenchment is more imperatively demanded than in the army. In declining to favor a reduction of the useless force now kept on foot, General Grant destroys the expectation that such economy will be practiced under his administration as the interests of the nation imperatively requires. We are sorry to see this. We did hope he would comprehend the absolute necessity for retrenchment of expenditures which every sagacious man knows to exist.

Another Candidate for U. S. Senator.

The Radicals have a new candidate for U. S. Senator. It is now announced that J. Edgar Thompson, Esq., of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has the inside track. If Mr. Thos. A. Scott is in favor of the project, and will visit Harrisburg, and stay long enough to become personally acquainted with the Republican members, we are inclined to believe he can convince the most committed man among them that Mr. Thompson is just the man for U. S. Senator. W know nothing about his fitness for he position, but that is not the question. The only kind of ability that will be looked to is financial ability. The office is to be sold to the highest bidder, and he who pays most liberally for votes will be elected. It is humiliating to think so, but no man doubts that such is the case.

Geary for Negro Suffrage,

Governor Geary made a speech before the Te chers' Institute of Chester county the other day, in which, to suit himself to the advanced ideas of the Radicals of that section, he took strong ground in favor of negro suffrage in Pennsylvania. His remarks on that subject were suppressed by the Republican papers, and a believer in the doctrine takes the *Advertiser* to task for this omission. The editor apologizes as follows:

We cannot say why the omission was made. We had nothing to do with the report, but simply published it as sent to us. The Governor is in favor of impartial suffrage, and if any of our friends feel able to furnish even a synopsis of what he said touching the particular subject, we shall have no objection to inserting the same in our columns.

By all means let us have it. Since Geary is likely to be a candidate for re-election the people ought to know what he has to say in favor of negro equality in Pennsylvania.

THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS will assemble on March 4th, 1869, instead of the first Monday of December in that year. This change in the time was ordered by an act of Congress, passed January 22d, 1867, which provided as follows: "In addition to the present regular time of the meeting of Congress there shall be a meeting of the Fortieth Congress of the United States, and of each successive Congress thereafter, at 12 o'clock M., on the 4th day of March, the day on which the term begins for which the Congress is elected, except that when the 4th of March occurs on Sunday, the meeting shall take place at the same hour on the next succeeding day."

SOME negroes in Washington had a meeting in Washington city on Thanksgiving night to consult about laying the corner stone of a Church. The colored brethren debated the subject for a while, the contest of words grew warm, the participators came to blows, nearly a hundred were speedily engaged in a regular fight, the police had to be called in, and the casualties were one negro killed outright and quite a number seriously injured. One of the officers was badly hurt and another slightly, before the belligerent black christians were reduced to order. The negroes vote and hold office in Washington. "Let us have peace."

The Eight-Hour System.

Attorney General Evarts has given the President an opinion on the eight-hour question, which is not entirely in accordance with the decision of Secretary Schofield, that in no case can a full day's wages be given for eight hours' work. The law leaves it discretionary with the Department to pay full wages if it is found that the same amount of work can be obtained in eight hours as formerly in ten.

Defaced or Mutilated Currency.

The receipt circular of the Treasurer calling in defaced or mutilated legal-tender notes and all notes of the denomination of $50 is not intended to apply to private parties, as some suppose. It is addressed to assistant treasurers and to such banks as are depositories of public moneys.

THE women of Washington are working vigorously for the purpose of securing, if possible, female suffrage in the District of Columbia. The city is to be canvassed for signatures to petitions to Congress, asking that the privilege of voting be granted to the women. The ladies are "pushing things." If they don't succeed it will not be for want of persevering effort.

Chief Justice Chase and the Test Oath.

The following is the decission in full of Chief Justice Chase concerning the test oath, made in the United States Circuit Court for Virginia on Wednesday:

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury: When sworn yesterday there was administered to you, besides the usual oath, an additional oath which, by the act of Congress, is not required to be taken unless upon motion, by the district attorney or by the direction of the court, in the exercise of its own discretion. An order of the court at each term is required by the act. At this term the district attorney has made no motion, nor has the court given any direction that the additional oath be administered. It was administered by the clerk in accordance with the practice which has heretofore existed.

Scruples at taking it, expressed by some of the grand jurors known to be among those best qualified for the responsible duties of their position, have induced us to inquire whether the public interests now demand that the taking of it be required, and we are satisfied that while the matters affirmed in it are proper cause of challenge in particular cases, the ends of justice will be hindered and defeated rather than promoted and secured by directing it to be administered, unless some special occasion shall demand it. No such special occasion now exists, and inasmuch as the required number of grand jurors have not yet been sworn, we will order that those who have been sworn be discharged, and the marshall will summon another grand jury in the usual manner.

The Trial of Jeff. Davis.

Richmond Nov. 30.—This morning in the United States Circuit Court, Robert Ould, bounsel for Jeff Davis, made a motion to quash the indictment against Jeff. Davis, on the Ground that the fourteenth amendment prescribes the mode of punishment for participation in the rebellion, which is disfranchisement, and no other punishment is prescribed. The prosecuting attorney moved to postpone the motion until the latter part of the term. Chief Justice Chase decided to hear the argument on the motion on Thursday next.

THE ELECTIONS.

The Official Vote as far as Received.

Below we give the official vote of November 3 for President in such States as have thus far been announced, as well as that for State officers:

	Rep.	Dem	Maj.
PENNSYLVANIA.			
Auditor Gen., Oct.	331,416	321,739	9,677R
Surveyor Gen., Oct	331,134	321,955	9,179R
President, Nov.	342,280	313,382	28,898R
NEW JERSEY.			
President, Nov.	80,121	83,001	2,880D
Governor, Nov.	79,333	83,951	4,618D
CONNECTICUT.			
Governor, April	48,777	50,541	1,764D
President, Nov.	50,995	47,942	3,043R
DELAWARE.			
President, Nov.	7,615	10,960	3,345D
Congress, Nov.	7,636	10,971	3,335D
VERMONT.			
Governor, Sept.	42,627	15,274	27,253R
President, Nov.	44,157	12,015	32,122R
NEW YORK.			
President, Nov.	420,259	429,675	9,416D
Governor, Nov.	410,952	438,198	27,246D
ILLINOIS.			
President, Nov.	250,293	199,143	51,150R
Congress, Nov.	240,422	199,789	40,633R
Sec'y of State, Nov.	249,952	199,484	50,468R
INDIANA.			
Governor, Oct.	171,576	170,611	961R
President, Nov.	.....	.....	10,146R
OHIO.			
Sec'y of State, Oct.	267,068	249,687	17,381R
President, Nov.	280,222	239,032	41,190R
MASSACHUSETTS.			
President, Nov.	136,379	59,103	77,276R
Governor, Nov.	132,121	63,386	41,190R
Auditor, Nov.	135,128	61,224	73,894R
RHODE ISLAND.			
President, Nov.	12,993	6,518	6,418R
SOUTH CAROLINA.			
President, Nov.	62,300	45,137	17,163R
NEW HAMPSHIRE.			
President, Nov.	37,718	30,571	7,147R
MINNESOTA.			
President, Nov.	43,996	28,117	15,549R
Negro Suff., Nov.	39,094	29,970	8,924R

How a National Bank is Liquidating.

The failure of the Merchants' National Bank of Washington in 1865 attracted attention to other banks the Government deposits in their vaults; and to the and surprise of the United States Treasurer, Gen. Spinner he found that the National Bank of the Metropolis, of this city, had over one million of dollars on deposit, while it had given but one hundred thousand dollars security. The pressure he at once made upon it for this money developed the fact that the bank had, through the grossest mismanagement, become insolvent, or would be if the Government funds were at once withdrawn. By pressing it closely its available securities were at once converted into money, and the Government funds to a large extent returned. While this return was being made, the bank deposited with Gen. Spinner $300,000 more as security for its deposits, making a total of $400,000 United States bonds, in addition to $,000 deposited to secure their circulation of $180,000. The bank arranged or compromised with its private depositors, and went into "voluntary liquidation" three years ago. The office furniture was sold at auction, and the bank was closed up. A room was rented in a back street, and for a time an appearance of an office was kept up by having a boy there to tell inquiring persons that he did not know anything about the affairs of the bank, and he did not know who did. Soon, however, even that little display of liquidation was abandoned, and the books and tellers disappeared, and no one knows where. To-day the bank has no existence known to the notaries, to the other banks, to Gen. Spinner or Comptroller Hulburd. The latter was asked for information, but was unable to tell more than that the last quarterly report of the bank was signed by "A. F. Weaver, acting assistant cashier." No one in the office knew if there was such a man, and an examination of the last Washington City Directory disclosed the name of A. F. Weaver as residing upon G street. No number was given, probably to save that gentleman from annoyance, if there be such a person. The report of the Comptroller, issued one year ago, reports this bank as in "voluntary liquidation." The Government deposits are put down at $552,713; the amount of United States bonds on deposit to secure deposits at $400,000; the amount of bonds to secure circulation, $202,000; amount of circulation out, $178,000. An inquiry at the Treasurer's office develops the fact that the bank draws semi-annually the interest in gold upon the $202,000 of United States securities, and has graciously returned to the Government, within the last year, $32,000 in currency. Gen. Spinner has repeatedly asked the Comptroller to appoint a receiver, but he declines, and leaves it to the stockholders to elect one. And the Comptroller decides not to interfere in such a liquidation. This bank has an arrangement with some bank, or some one in New York, to give legal tenders for its notes if any are offered for redemption, and then the notes so redeemed are set afloat again, rendering the redemption a farce. Four years ago the bondholders were men of property and could have been held responsible for the amount of their stock; what or who they are no one can tell, nor can any one imagine who they will be years hence when the bank is liquidated, or how many of those who had property in their names three years ago *have it now*. It is rumored that the bank has a large portion of its stock held by persons in the Treasury Department who will not allow any interference with the nice little arrangement. This is but one of the many leaks in the Treasury which Mr. McCulloch prefers to tolerate rather than to interfere with or try to arrest.

Hole-in-the-Day's Wife.

From the La Grosse Democrat.

We see by the St. Paul papers that the white wife of the late Chippewa chieftain, Hole-in-the-Day, is in Minneapolis, Minn., with her six-months-old infant in her arms, looking for a situation as servant in some family.

She was, previous to her marriage, a dining room waiter-girl at Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C. She first saw this Indian chief at that hotel, he being in Washington for the purpose of transacting some government business.

This girl, seeing him at the hotel, hearing that he was rich, and being of a romantic turn of mind (not uncommon to all females) she made herself agreeable to the chief, and finally consented to take him for better or for worse. They were married in Washington, and the affair, at the time, created not a little sensation even in the fashionable circles of the capital.

The Chief was very fond of his white wife, and made her many handsome and valuable presents; in fact he bought her everything her eyes saw and heart desired. Thus matters passed pleasantly until the assassination of Hole-in-the Day, and then her bright dreams took wings, and the bride found herself friendless and homeless, for the relatives of the Chief refused to allow her anything, even enough to carry her back to her home in Washington, and now she wanders about with her infant, seeking employment and charity which shall keep them from starving.

Arrival of the passengers of the Wrecked Steamer Star of the Union—Bravery of a Seaman.

Last evening the steamship Stars and Stripes, of the Southern Mail Steamship line, arrived at this port, having on board, in addition to its own, the passengers of the Star of the Union, wrecked off Bahia Honda, on the Coast of Cuba, some weeks ago. The passengers were all in good condition, their only, and that an important, source of complaint being that they had lost all their personal effects. They all join in high praise of the courage of one of the Seamen of the Star of the Union named John Holmes. When the vessel ran upon the reef, and there was a panic among the passengers, a boat was launched, which was swamped. The passengers were thrown upon the rocks, to which they clung, while the spray towered thirty feet over them. He quickly launched another boat, and succeeded in many with his own hands, while he encouraged others until help reached them. A Californian, whose name is supposed to be Clark, was in the swamped boat. He had $5,000 in gold, in a money belt, strapped around him, and a life-preserver around his waist. When he was thrown into the water the gold and the life-preserver shifted, and he was turned heels upward, drowning in this painful manner.—*Phil. Herald.*

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe Converted.

We hear from Florida that Mrs. Beecher Stowe, the authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who a year or two ago bought a place on the St. John's River, near Jacksonville, says she wants to live long enough to write another book to correct the mistakes of "Uncle Tom," and show that a great blunder was committed when slavery was abolished. From original condition of sentimental attachment to the negro, she has elapsed into a state of unconquerable dislike and aversion. She will not have them about her, either indoors or out.

She turned them all off her place, and allows no one with a black skin to approach her. We are told that an acquaintance of ours sought to send her a message by a black stewardess on board a steamboat, but she refused to allow the negro to approach her. Her mind, as we have been credibly informed, is very much inflamed against the negro; and this, probably, from comparing their efficiency and aptitude as laborers and servants with that of the Northern whites. Her fancy picture of the African has been spoiled, and her sentimental affection has turned in consequence, to violent aversion. Like Squeers, the milk of human sympathy in her bosom has all turned to curds and whey.—*Macon, Ga., Telegraph.*

Southwestern Virginia.

Southwestern Virginia, it is contended can be made a great wine country. It is stated that Dr. Mayo, of Botetourt county, Virginia, has published a highly interesting paper in relation to the Valley of Virginia as a wine-growing region. He contends that it has all the requisities for the profitable and successful culture of grapes. Application has been made to the Virginia and Tennessee Air Line for transportation to New York of sixty thousand pounds of grapes grown by one firm in their vineyard, near Salem, Roanoke county.

Justice to James Buchanan.

The following correspondence will explain itself. Mr. Reed deserves the thanks of the community in relieving the memory of Mr. Buchanan from the aspersions of the renegade Kelley:

MR. REED TO JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL HOLT.

CHESTNUT HILL, NEAR PHILADELPHIA, September 11, 1868.

SIR: You are probably aware that the late President Buchanan, entrusted to me the duty of preparing a memoir of his life, and to that end the executors have placed his papers in my hands. This must be my excuse for now addressing you.

I am desirous of obtaining your testimony on a single point.

The Hon. W. D. Kelley, in a speech delivered by him a few days ago in this city, among other things, said that President Buchanan consented to the surrender of General Twiggs, of the forces, &c., in 1861, and vouched for his authority for this the very respectable gentleman of this city, Mr. Edward Shippen, whom he described as Twiggs executor, and as having his letter book.

Mr. Shippen informs me he is not, and never was such executor, and has no letter book, but goes on to say he has seen some correspondence which left the impression on his mind that Twiggs long before the surrender apprised the President, and of course the War Department, of his intention to make the surrender, and that it was a matter of surprise to him that he was not sooner relieved from his command.

I have no idea that any such state of facts existed or such correspondence took place. You were appointed Secretary of War on the 23d of January, 1861, had been Postmaster General previously, and Twiggs' surrender took place on the 20th of February.

Have you any objections to give me your recollections on the subject? An early answer will much oblige me.

I have the honor to be your ob't serv't,

WILLIAM B. REED.

MR. HOLT TO MR. REED.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16th, 1868.

Hon. William B. Reed:

SIR:—