Local Intelligence.

THE NEW FILE MANUFACTORY.—We visited on Tuesday afternoon the large buildings erected during the past summer, at south-west corner of Plum and Chestnut streets, this city, by the Lancaster File Company. These buildings are quite large in size, are constructed of the very best brick, and are covered with slate, so as to render them almost or quite fire proof. The first building fronting on Chestnut street is 116 feet long and 30 feet wide, and contains the office, the packing room, and the very large room in which the files are cut. The packing room and office are each about 16 feet square, and are so constructed as to be admirably adapted for the respective uses to which they are to be put. The remainder of this large building is entirely occupied by the cutting room, which is about 100 feet long and 30 feet wide, and is lighted by very large double windows, so arranged as to enable the workmen to see to do their work properly. The interior arrangements of this large room are not as yet finished, but when they are fully completed there will be benches sufficient for sixty cutters to work at the same time, while each will have ample space and light to work to the best advantage and to finish files of the very finest quality.

The second building is located a few feet east of the one just described, and has in it west end the hardening and tempering room which contains a large cooling tub, and is being fitted up with all the furnaces and appurtenances requisite for giving the metal the proper degree of hardness for being made into files by the subsequent processes. East of this room and adjoining it is the large and commodious room used as a repair shop, and from it we entered the grinding room, where there are at present six mammoth grindstones running, and in which it is contemplated to place seven more, the places designed for them being now almost ready for their reception. Here the files are ground smooth, preparatory to their being finally roughened in the cutting room. Next to the room just described, and in the extreme east end of the building is the apartment used as a smith shop; in this shop the files are forged, and also in it are located the annealing furnaces where files undergo a certain process in order to make them ready for cutting. This shop is entirely free from sulpher and smoke, and is provided with excellent ventilation, by which all such unwholesome fumes are entirely carried away, and the health of the workmen secured.

Immediately south of this smith shop, adjoining the main building and extending along Plum street is the Foundry. This building is 50 feet long by 35 feet wide and in it will be placed the malleable furnaces used for making malleable castings. These furnaces are not as yet in place and consequently no description of them can at this time be given; the number of furnaces to be provided will be increased as the growing wants of the establishment may demand. In the Spring the erection of an additional building will be commenced which is to be 80 feet long and 35 feet wide in which steel will be made by M. F. C. Curie's patent process. This new building is to be built in a line with the Engine House, and west of and parallel with the Foundry building. The Boiler and Engine House is South of the grinding room and the repair shop and is in size 35 by 27 feet. The engine for driving the machinery of the manufactory is a splendid one; it is of sixty horse power and the fly wheel is about 6 feet in circumference; the engine works well and will when entirely completed be furnished with all the modern appliances to secure steadiness of motion and power; it was constructed by Harborger & Co., of this city, and reflects great credit upon their skill as stationary engine builders. The steam is supplied by three large boilers each 41 inches in diameter and 12 feet long; they are to have glass gages and will be supplied with all the apparatus essential to insure safety and to obtain a large supply of steam with the least expenditure of material. The buildings are supplied with water and gas throughout their whole extent and the Company have spared no expense in order to make them and the machinery which they contain as perfect as possible, and they further propose by employing none but the very best workmen to manufacture files not inferior in any respect to those made elsewhere. The files now being manufactured by the Company are made of the best steel and have in every instance given entire satisfaction to their purchasers. Cases containing some fine specimens of files, axes and hammers, made of iron converted into steel by means of Mr. Curie's patent process were shown us in the packing room of the establishment; this steel is of the best quality and the edge tools and files manufactured out of it are warranted equal to any others in the market and when subjected to the severest trials have fully met the high opinions formed of their durability. Mr. Curie had a collection of these edge tools and files on exhibition at the State Fair at Harrisburg last September and also at the York County Fair at York borough and at both places their merits secured for them a Premium. We propose again visiting the File Works after they are fairly in operation, and whatever new additions to the buildings or machinery may be by that time made we will inform our readers respecting them.

NEW MACHINE SHOP AND FOUNDRY.—Landis & Company have built, during the past summer, a new machine shop and foundry near the corner of James and Duke streets this city. The machine shop fronts on James street and is in size 75 feet long and 33 feet wide; it is two story high, built of brick, and is covered with slate. The office is located in the north east part of this building and is about 12 feet square. The first floor of the machine shop contains the turning lathes, planer, bolt cutter, drill presses, etc. The second story is used by those engaged on wood work and contains a splendid planing machine, and also a tenoning machine, and scroll saw—both the latter being of the most approved pattern. The wood planer is of S. A. Wood's patent; it is a 16 feet dimension planer and is not surpassed by any machine of the kind in this city. It will plane with equal facility and exactness a log two feet square or a stick one-eighth of an inch square, and can readily be adjusted to plane sticks of all the intermediate sizes. The cylinder of the planer is only six inches in diameter yet it makes 4,640 revolutions in a minute and the edges of its knives pass through a space in that time which, if extended in a straight line, would exceed a mile in distance. The mind can hardly comprehend motion so rapid as this, and the thought suggests itself that many of our citizens pass daily such mechanical wonders, and daily hear the hum of machinery without stopping to see it operate, or taking the least interest in these wonderful labor saving machines—the most beneficial and useful products of man's ingenuity and skill.

The foundry is built to the west end of the machine shop, extending southward, and is 60 feet long and 35 feet wide; a portion of this foundry building, 20 by 35 feet, is used as a smithshop; the remainder of the building is exclusively devoted to casting purposes. A patent crane is used in the foundry for moving the heavy castings from one portion of it to another; it is a most convenient affair, as with it a boy can move a casting weighing four tons to any part of the foundry. Next to the foundry on the east is the iron house, a building used as a store room for old iron, and also for coal; this building is 20 feet square. North of the iron house and adjoining the machine shop and foundry is the boiler and engine house; the engine room is 12 feet square. The boiler is 41 inches in diameter and 12 feet long; the engine is of 20 horse power, and is a splendid piece of mechanism. Messrs. Landis have attached to the engine one of Snyder and Jenkins' latest improved governors by means of which the impelling power is properly distributed and uniform action thereby secured. The machine shop is heated in all its parts by steam conveyed through it by means of large pipes, so that the ordinary plan of heating by means of stoves is dispensed with, and greater security against fire obtained; the proprietors also propose as soon as practicable to have the buildings lighted with gas. The foundry, iron house, and engine house are like the main building constructed of brick and roofed with slate.

HORSE STEALING.—A correspondent of the Oxford *Press* states that for the last three months the citizens of the southern part of Lancaster county, have lived in constant dread of thieves that seem to have made Fulton and adjoining townships a field for the (thus far) successful vocation of horse-stealing. The list of those who have lost horses of late has become fearfully larger. First, we have Messrs. Thompson and Cummings, of Pleasant Grove, who had a fine horse, top buggy, buffalo robe, and a suit of clothes stolen. Next comes John Thompson, of Rising Sun, with a close of horse and buggy; then Mr. Walker, of Little Britain, with horse and harness; and last on the list we have to chronicle the loss of John Kryder, residing near Chestnut Level, who had three horses—all he owned—stolen from his stables, Tuesday evening the 5th inst. The particulars of this last wholesale stealing are as follows:

Mr. Kryder returned home from the lime quarries with his team early in the evening, fed and curried his horses about 7 o'clock. The thieves were evidently on the alert and stole them soon after Kryder returned to the house; judging from the fact of their having only time to eat their oats, the hay in the manger not being disturbed. Between 9 and 10 o'clock three men—riding as many horses—were met by a citizen of Fulton on the Lancaster road just north of the residence of Robert Barnes. From the description of the horses—two bays and one gray, they were certainly the party escaping with the stolen booty. Thus far no trace of the direction taken or the horses has been discovered by Mr. Kryder; and we presume he will have no better luck than others who have lost in a similar way.

That thieves can come into so thickly a settled country, select good horses, steal them with impunity and make good their escape, is rather mysterious. Such, how ever, is the naked fact, and it is now time that our citizens take some general action for mutual protection. A call has been made, and it is be hoped that every individual in this section, who possesses a horse will turn out, and with an earnestness that the occasion demands endeavor to do something to make more secure his own and neighbor's property.

PARTRIDGES.—The Reading *Times* says that an amateur gunner of that city visited Harrisburg on the 11th inst., to purchase two thousand partridges with which to stock Berks county. The *Times* adds "that his success was not very flattering as the open winter and scarcity of snow has prevented the hunters from netting them."

THE DELAWARE RIVER AND LANCASTER RAILROAD.—The Commissioners of this projected railroad met Thursday at Sprecher's Exchange Hotel, East King street, this city. Gen. Geo. M. Steinman, of this city, acted as chairman, and Dr. W. L. Diffenderfer, of New Holland, as secretary. The minutes of the last meeting of the Commissioners, which was held at Phœnixville, were read and approved. The chairman stated that Mr. Reeves, a party residing in Philadelphia, a man of much influence and who is interested in the construction of the road, had telegraphed to him that unavoidable circumstances prevented him from being present at the meeting of the Commissioners.

Mr. George D. Sprecher, of this city, stated that he had been very unsuccessful in obtaining funds from parties in Lancaster; that he had succeeded in selling but a small amount of stock—an amount so small that he was ashamed to state it; he had called upon some of our prominent business men and they had refused to render any aid to the projected railway, stating to him (Mr. S.) that the proper way to have the road built would be to let some existing Railroad Company build the road, and that if a Railroad Company would undertake to build it they would then subscribe liberally to aid in its construction. Mr. Sprecher said that to aid in its construction in this way he had no doubt but that $150,000 or $200,000 could be procured in Lancaster, but that so far Lancaster had done but little—almost nothing—towards helping the enterprise.

The Commissioners from the other counties through which the road will pass stated that they had been more successful; that along the line of the proposed railway, considerable money had already been subscribed, and that much more would be forthcoming when the precise route the road would take should be agreed upon.

Upon adding up the amounts subscribed, the total amount was found to be about $102,000, to which sum Lancaster city had contributed nothing. It was then stated that there still remained $38,000 to be raised before the road could be located or a Board of Directors elected.

Mr. Sprecher offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the committee of five on subscription, be empowered to solicit subscriptions, and to call to aid them in securing subscriptions any persons whom they may deem suitable, whether such persons be commissioners or not.

Mr. I. W. Guilden presented a resolution that if any one of the committee of five on subscriptions should neglect or refuse to act, that the other four be empowered to appoint a suitable person in his place. The resolution was adopted.

On motion, it was also resolved that all stock subscribed on the route of the proposed railroad between Lancaster and Phœnixville be subscribed with the understanding that said road be located on the North side of the Welsh Mountain.

Dr. W. L. Diffenderfer was on motion designated to act as Treasurer of whatever funds might be raised for the present toward forwarding the enterprise upon his giving security for their safe custody.

The Committee of Five to solicit subscriptions for the new railroad consists of the following gentlemen: Messrs. I. W. Guilden, Samuel K. Cassel, Jacob Z. Plank, George D. Sprecher and S. P. Moyer.

The above committee were on motion authorized to meet for the purpose of transacting business wherever they may deem proper provided they give due notice that a meeting is to be held.

During the progress of the meeting several resolutions were presented but, after some discussion relative to their propriety, those presenting them withdrew them from the further consideration of the meeting.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

THE MORTGAGE LAW.—By the following note from Senator Davis, of Berks county, to the Berks and Schuylkill *Journal*, it appears that the State Tax on Mortgages was not repealed by the law passed at the last session of the Legislature of this State.—Mortgages were merely exempted from local taxation by this act:

Editors of Berks and Schuylkill Journal:

GENTLEMEN—The act of last winter exempting mortgages, judgments, &c., from taxation passed the Senate unanimously as a general law, applying to the whole State, and exempting from all taxation, State as well as local; the House however made it a local law, applying only forty-three counties, and of course taxes for State purposes were excepted.

Respectfully yours,

J. B. DAVIS.

ABOUT AIR.—A Prominent physician attributes much of the sickness in winter to the bad effects of coal gas. He says in nine out of ten houses that he enters he notices coal gas in the air they breathe. Many times he finds the damper in the stove pipe closed to save coal, and the result is a room full of gas, not noticed by the inmates, perhaps, but by those who come in from the fresh air. These are important suggestions, too little heeded. The injurious atmosphere from this cause, at first greatly offensive, becomes accommodated to the sense after short endurance and unconsciously to its victims acts perniciously upon the vital organs. Too much importance cannot be attached to the presence of a pure atmosphere, and the cold months, imposing house confinement more strictly, is the season when it should be especially guarded against.

FAMILY ICE HOUSES.—A plan of constructing a cheap ice-house sufficient for the wants of a large family living in the country, near a pond of fresh water, has recently been suggested. A frame building twelve feet square and eight or nine feet high, it is asserted, will be sufficiently capacious for all purposes. The house should be supported on posts elevated a few inches above the ground, to secure proper drainage and should be constructed of three inch joists, with an outer boarding, and having inside another series of uprights, also boarded from six to nine inches removed from the outer shell. The floor should be made of solid plank, and the space between the two walls should be filled with tan, saw-dust, straw or chaff; when a roof of good pitch is added, the ice house is complete. A drain for water should be made from the floor, and the space above the uprights, between a loose flooring and the pitch of the roof, filled with straw or hay, or some similar dry porous material. On the roof should be a ventilator, the top defended from the rain or snow. The ice should be packed in one solid mass, the sides not reaching the inner walls of the building, but allowing a space of from six to twelve inches all around. The top of the ice should be covered with straw, and the door should be like the sides of the building, or double doors should be made, one in the outer and the other in the inner wall. No other fastenings or any climbing vine should be planted around the building, and should be made to creep up the walls and over the roof, as an additional defense against the burning summer sun. A building of this kind, it is asserted, could be erected in one or two days by two men, even if they were not practical carpenters.

THIS YEAR AND THE METHODISTS.—The year 1869 is destined to be the most important in the annals of American Methodism. During the year the people will be called upon to decide whether or no they will accept the measures proposed to them by the last General Conference, for the admission of lay representatives to that assembly and the Annual Conferences. It is also an important fact that a new constituency has been created by the late General Conference; all members of the church over twenty-one years of age, whether men or women, will be eligible to vote upon this question.

HOW TO REDUCE GAS BILLS.—As any hint which may give light upon the subject will be interesting to many of our patrons, we present the following rules which we find in an exchange:

First—In lighting your gas, turn the gas on the metre about one-half, then light the gas, and regulate the lights by the stop-cock that lets the gas into the metre. This prevents the pressure of gas from making it spurt out of the burners, because the pressure of gas on the metre the faster it moves, and the larger will be the gas bill.

Second—From the time the gas is usually lighted until half past eight or nine o'clock the pressure is the same. After the stores and shops are closed, the pressure is then greater on the metres in use, and the stop-cock should be turned at the metre so as to regulate the pressure.

ITEMS.—We copy the following items of local interest from the Oxford *Press*.

The peach trees were very greatly injured by the recent heavy sleet throughout our section. We hear that some orchards were totally ruined.

Captain William S. Underwood, of Penn township, has been appointed Mercantile Appraiser, by the Commissioners of Chester county. A clever selection.

The old board of Directors of the National Bank of Oxford was re-elected yesterday. The Bank has declared a dividend of four per cent for the last six months.

A. K. Peters, of Upper Oxford, lost a very valuable mare on the 8th inst. He had driven her to Lancaster on Wednesday and back on Thursday, and found her dead in the stable the next morning. He noticed that she did not seem well, but did not apprehend anything until too late. Supposed to be lung fever.

A correspondent says: "The little congregation of Colerain Church, near Andrews' Bridge, made their esteemed pastor, the Rev. W. F. P. Noble, a New Year's donation gift of some of the substantials of housekeeping. Two wagons, pretty well loaded, deposited their contents of eatables at his door, and the hearts of the givers and receivers were as bright as the icy scene around them."

ECLIPSE.—It is stated that a partial eclipse of the moon, visible in this locality, will occur on to-morrow (Saturday) evening. It will begin at twenty minutes past seven and end at 9.45. The eclipse will be at its height at half past eight.

ITEMS.—We find the following items of local interest in the West Chester *Republican*:

The National Bank of Coatesville has just declared a dividend of six per cent. clear of U. S. taxes.

The amount of loans paid by the commissioners of Chester county during the last year amounted to $62 995 27.

Isaac B. Hill, a brakesman on the P. R. R., had his hand crushed a few days since while coupling cars at Coatesville.

Dr. Stone, of this county, shot a chicken hawk recently that measured four feet between the tips of the wings.

REAPPOINTED.—Capt. Jacob B. Gompf, of this city, has been appointed by Gov. Geary, notary public for Lancaster county.

MORE HORSE STEALING.—The Oxford *Press* states that on the night of the 8th inst., two horses were stolen from the premises of John Cummings, in Drumore township, Lancaster county, which, however, were recovered the next day, with the harness on. It is supposed the thieves could not get suited in a buggy and the horses were turned loose. About the same time the stable of Mahlon Pusey, in the same neighborhood, was entered and one of his horses harnessed, but was not taken out. It is thought the thief was frightened off, or could not find a bridle, as there was none in the stable.

This is indeed becoming a serious matter, as a gang of desperadoes seem to be prowling over the whole of the lower townships. A company for the detection of thieves and the recovery of stolen property is being formed in Fulton township, and one in Colerain, which all the farmers would do well to join. A vigilance committee seems to be necessary, to be constantly on the alert, and all suspicious characters overhauled. If any of these horse thieves are caught they should receive the utmost punishment of the law.

COLUMBIA ITEMS.—We take the following items from the *Spy*:

The following persons have been elected officers of the Columbia Debating Society: President, A. O Newpher; Vice President, B. F. Steiger; Secretary, J. M. Graybill; Treasurer, D. B. Case; Curators, W. Hays Grier, J. L. Pinkerton, G. T. Forbes.

Edward Stevenson, a colored man, aged 54 years, was found dead on Thursday morning, at his home in Washington Borough. Samuel Evans, Coroner, held an inquest on the body. The deceased was apparently in good health when he retired to bed. From the evidence, it appeared that he died of heart disease.

While John Sheets was engaged in digging a trench below Hershey's mill, on Thursday afternoon, he came upon the bones of a person who had evidently been buried a great many years. A pipe filled with tobacco was found with them, in a good state of preservation. The teeth and skull were also in good condition.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Susquehanna Iron Company, held on Wednesday, the 13th inst., the following persons were elected to serve as Directors for the ensuing year:

George Bogle, E. Hershey, John Q. Denny, C. S Kauffman, Robert Crane, Wm. Patton, M. M. Strickler, John Paine and J. G. Hess.

REINSTATED.—We learn from the *Express* that Jacob K. Landis, of Rohrerstown, who had been pronounced an habitual drunkard by a commission in 1842, petitioned the Court to be reinstated, alleging that he had reformed, and at the December Court it was argued before the Judges, and the majority of the Court favored the petition, and he was accordingly reinstated in his property, consisting of a farm and town property which had for twenty-five years been in the hands of the committee. M. M. Rutt, Esq., appeared for the petitioner, and N. Ellmaker, Esq., for committee.

SUDDEN DEATH.—John Witmer, aged about 40 years, formerly engaged in School teaching, died suddenly at his residence in Millersville, a few days ago, of apoplexy.

GENERAL FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

His Views on the Political Situation—The Impending Dangers to the Republic—Negro Suffrage the Rock on Which It Will Split—Grant an Ambitious Man—His Opinion of the President Elect.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1869.

General Frank Blair arrived here on Thursday last, and will spend a few days with the members of his family, most of whom reside in and around Washington, after which he intends to return to St. Louis.

The General is looking remarkably well, and in a conversation with your correspondent seemed to be entirely reconciled to the turn which the political affairs of the country have taken. He has seen no reason to change his views, so frequently expressed during the late political campaign, in regard to the dangers impending over the nation through the ambition of General Grant and the machinations of the Radical party.

The conversation turning upon the probable results of the Presidential election, General Blair said that he was filled with apprehensions for the future. Gen. Grant is an able and upright man, and has proved himself to be by far the most skillful general in the two armies which fought out the great rebellion; but he is also a very ambitious man and cunning to the last degree. He has an objective point toward which all his plans and exertions tend, far elevated, in personal agrandizement, above that ever aimed at by any other American, living or dead.

He believed that his modest department and his apparent aversion to being lauded and feasted as a hero are the effects of deep dissimulation and the shrewd measures of a wily and ambitious man, assumed for the purpose of gaining the object sought. General Grant is too wise to raise opposition; he reaches the object he has in view by means of masterly strategy. He protests against being made the recipient of honor and power, confesses his unworthiness and incompetency to meet the responsibilities sought to be imposed upon him; but he is fully aware of the limit to which he can carry his modest opposition without incurring the dangers of being taken at his word, and graciously permits himself to be dragged into power. His motives in resisting the offer to make him a ruler were similar to those which actuated Julius Cæsar when he thrice refused the Roman crown.

When Gen. Grant commanded in the field he displayed much wisdom and secured success by never happening in the way of other ambitious men, who were for the time being his superiors. This was the mistake which proved fatal to the hopes of many of our military leaders. When Gen. McClellan was within a few miles of Richmond with a large and well appointed army he did not make any attempt to conceal his political aspirations. The radicals saw that if he went into Richmond they would have to evacuate the White House in 1865. He thus excited his opponents into action. His plans were defeated and he was overthrown. He afterwards made a bid for the republican nomination by writing a letter declaring it as his opinion that slavery ought to be abolished as a military necessity in his district. This bold stroke was parried by President Lincoln, who appropriated all his thunder, and abolished slavery in every district, and cut off Gen. McClellan's official head. Gen. Grant never committed such blunders; his management was so skillful that he obliged others to perform, seeming highly against his wishes, the very service for the attainment of which he had been maneuvering.

Having been asked what act of General Grant's could be selected to furnish a fair proof of the dangerous ambition that General Blair thought he possessed he replied that the very position he now occupies was an unmistakable indication of it. From an earnest pro-slavery man he had not permitted himself to be pledged to the support of negro suffrage and domination? General Grant is remarkable for a steadfast adherence to principles, and to his mind it seemed very clear that Grant must have been controlled by an inordinate desire for power to thus abandon his life-long principles and pledge himself to their utter destruction.

Even supposing that every act of General Grant may conduce to the peace and prosperity of the country, that one principle, the destruction of the elective franchise by degrading it to a level with the most abject ignorance and the vilest corruption, will alone work the ruin of this republic. No benefits that his administration may confer can save the nation from the peril which threatens to engulf it by this degradation of the ballot box.

No man is more fully aware of the great danger that menaces the country through the radical doctrine of immediate and perfect equality between the negroes and the whites than General Grant. The conviction is, therefore, unavoidable that some extraordinarily powerful temptation is leading Grant on to a fixed goal, to reach which the principles of a lifetime will be sacrificed.

The manner in which the existing political principles will overthrow our present form of government, the General thinks, is now clearly foreadowed. A minority rules the country, and, as in all cases where a minority controls, the equilibrium is preserved by military authority. If all the whites in the country had the right of suffrage the case would be far different, but they have not. A large portion are kept down by the bayonet. If the question of negro suffrage, pure and simple, were submitted for the acceptance or rejection of the loyal States the pernicious dogma would be overwhelmingly repudiated. But the dominant party is pledged to confer the elective franchise upon the negroes of every State, and it will be done.

The character of the carpet-baggers who now misrepresent the newly reconstructed States in Congress is a fair indication of what a depth of degradation the ballot-box has reached through the radical policy, and when the negroes of the whole country vote the character of the officers elected will be considerably below the moral and intellectual standard of those now administering the government.

Then the needs of the nation will be neglected or badly attended to. Taxation will be rather increased than diminished. Plundering the public Treasury will become respectable. Anarchy and misrule will flourish triumphant; and no better results than these can be expected from so fearful a vitation of the corner-stone of Republicanism, the ballot box.

When these calamities fall upon us, said the General—and the day does not seem far distant—the people will be prepared for almost any change, for no change could be for the worse. Then they will call upon Grant to release them from their intolerable burdens. They will say, let us have a dictator, a king, an emperor, but "let us have peace!" Give us any form of government, only rid us of the horrible incubus that is dragging us to destruction.

It may be said that the people will not permit such a revolution. But they will. They have endured calmly a revolution almost as great already within the last few years. The political change that has taken place in Spain is not so thorough as that which has occurred in our own country. They have deposed a corrupt sovereign, but they except another in the hope that the government will be more perfectly administered. They have simply, effected a change of sovereigns. We have submitted to a radical change of republican principles.

One branch of the government has usurped powers, and the people bear it; they have so legislated that there is not a thread or fibre of the constitution that has not been snapped or strained, and the people bear it; they have unlawfully abridged the Presidential prerogatives, and the people bear it; they have overawed and silenced the voice of the Supreme Court, and the people bear it; the government is being robbed and plundered of hundreds of millions annually, and the people bear all.

When the straw falls that is to break the camel's back the people will have to bear it, for how small soever the ruling minority may be the strength of the military principle of the government will then be irresistible.

I trust that my fears may not be well founded. I hope that General Grant may turn out to be as wise, as incorruptible, as faithful, as patriotic and as trustworthy as his friends fondly believe him to be; but I must confess that my confidence in his disinterested patriotism and his modest shrinking from the exercise of unlimited power will not as firm as I could wish.

State Items.

A four days' musical convention, to be conducted by the Messrs. Root, will commence in Scranton on the 23d of February.

Taylor Pyle, of Chester county, grew the Poland oats last year. Three acres of his field, the *Village Record* says, produced sixty five bushels to the acre, and the whole field averaged fifty bushels to the acre.

Ex-Gov. W. F. Johnston and family have returned to Kittanning and taken up their permanent residence there, after an absence of many years.

The engineer corps of the Reading railroad Company are now engaged in surveying and locating the route of the proposed Pickering Valley Railroad.

There is a home for Orphan Girls, containing 47 inmates, in Rochester, Beaver county. It is under the charge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but all creeds and nationalities are admitted.

Messrs. Wells & Iredell, of the Norristown *Republican* have purchased the Lehigh *Register*, published at Allentown. Mr. Robert Iredell, Jr., is to be the resident editor.

Dr. Josephus Williams, of Allentown, Pa., Assistant Surgeon U. S. army, has been ordered to Alaska. He will now be able to verify the truth of Forney's assertions concerning its delightful climate.

The Lackawanna and Western railroad company intend, without delay, to put down a third rail or narrow gauge, between Scranton and New Hampton, a distance of 95 miles, so that narrow gauge cars may run over the hole length of their works, from Northumberland to Hoboken, 227.

Jonas Burrill, living near Mankato, Minnesota, says that from ten acres he raised 310 bushels of all No. 1 wheat, or 31 bushels to the acre; that four acres produced 260 bushels of oats, or 65 bushels to the acre; that from five acres have raised 593 bushels of corn, or 118 3-5; and lastly, 60 bushels of carrots were produced on five rods of ground one rod wide.

A Bill to Restrict Naturalization.

The following bill to restrict the naturalization of foreigners in Pennsylvania is now before our Legislature:

SECTION 1. That the several courts of this Commonwealth authorized by an act of Congress to admit aliens to become citizens of the United States, shall require the petition of such alien to be presented in open court and our Post-office address, you will duly authorized to practice in such courts, on the first Monday of each month, when in session, which day is hereby appointed for such purpose.

SEC. 2. That such petition shall contain the precise address and residence of the person or persons offering to vouch for him, and the name of such petitioner or voucher, or witnesses, together with the place of birth of such alien, and the name of the prince or state to which he has been in the United States, and in this Commonwealth, shall be forthwith entered by the clerk, or prothonotary, on a list, or docket, to be provided for that purpose, which list shall become a record of said court, and remain open for public inspection or examination in the office of said clerk or prothonotary.

SEC. 3. That on the second Saturday after the publication of such petition, the said list of petitioners for naturalization, shall be called by at least two of the judges of the court in which the petition shall have been presented, and if the said petition shall be proved to the satisfaction of such court, by the testimony of one or more credible and duly qualified citizens of the United States, having a legal residence in this Commonwealth, by an oral examination of the witnesses in open court, that the contents of said petition are true, it shall be the duty of one of the said judges to enter on said list, or docket, in his own proper handwriting the words, "prayer of petition granted," with the date; and the said prothonotary shall issue to said petitioner a certificate of such naturalization, which shall also be attested by one of the judges before whom the petition shall have been heard.

SEC 4. That it shall not be lawful for any prothonotary, deputy prothonotary, clerk or deputy-clerk, to issue any certificate of naturalization, until at least three months shall have expired after the prayer of such petition shall have been granted as aforesaid; nor shall it be lawful to issue any such certificate of naturalization within three months of any general of Presidential election.

SEC 5. If any prothonotary, clerk, or the deputy, or clerk of either, or any other person, shall affix the seal of office to any naturalization paper, or duplicate thereof, or give out the same in blank, whereby it may fraudulently be used, or furnish a naturalization certificate, or duplicate thereof, to any person who shall not have been duly examined and sworn in the manner and once of one of the judges thereof, according to the act of Congress, and agreeably to the provisions of this act, he shall be guilty of high misdemeanor, and is sentenced for said persons, their aiders, or abettors, guilty of either of the misdemeanors aforesaid, shall, on conviction, be fined in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisoned in the Penitentiary for a period not exceeding three years.

SEC 6. No duplicate certificate of naturalization shall be issued by any prothonotary or clerk aforesaid, or by any of their deputies or clerks, unless the petition of the person naturalized shall be presented in open court, setting forth the date of the naturalization and the loss of the original certificate; and before a duplicate certificate shall be allowed, satisfactory proof shall be required by the court that the person petitioning is entitled to the same.

Horrible Outrage—Speedy Vengeance.

MEMPHIS, January 12.—On Saturday night a negro named Abe Laudner, belonging to the house of William Smith, an employee of the Mississippi Central Railroad, at Water Valley, Miss., and after a desperate struggle succeeded in outraging the person of Mrs. Smith, but was finally overpowered her little daughter until she was insensible. As soon as it was daylight Mrs. Smith alarmed the neighbors, when the marshal of the town went in pursuit, and soon succeeded in capturing the negro. On bringing him to town it was with the greatest difficulty that the negroes who had assembled were kept from burning him. He was placed in jail for safe keeping. That night, however, the Ku Klux in strong force came and took him out, and hung him. Yesterday morning, Mr. Smith returned home and became almost a maniac on hearing of affairs, and taking his rifle to the spot where the body was still hanging cut it down, gathered rails, built a fire, and while the body was burning upon it, danced round it like a madman.

Mrs. Bonney, Miss Doubt and Miss Adams sailed in the steamer Alaska, from New York, on Saturday, *en route* for Pekin, China, by way of California and Japan, accompanied by five other missionaries who are accredited to the latter country, and also to Amoy. They depart for their distant posts under the auspices of the Woman's Union Missionary Society of America.

A Jacksonville paper says: "There are 18,000,000 acres of land in this State subject to the claims of actual settlers under what is known as the homestead act. Any man, black or white, may take possession of one hundred and sixty acres to-day, clear it, improve it, and build a home upon it, and in five years Uncle Samuel will give him a deed of it."

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JANUARY 1ST, 1868.

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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

CAPITAL AND INCOME.

Am't of premium notes, $863,575 93	
Less amount expired..... 216,339 20	
Cash receipts, less commissions in '67	$647,236 73
Loans	66,700 13
Due from agents and others.....	1 000 00
Estimated net assessment No. 7.....	4,161 13
	28,000 00
	$751,120 99
CONTRA	
Losses and expenses paid in 1867.....	$66 722 13
Losses adjusted, not due.....	15,166 13
Balance of Capital and Assets, Jan. 1, 1868.....	670,832 73
	$751,120 99

A. S GREEN, President.
GEORGE YOUNG, Jr., Secretary.
MICHAEL S. SHUMAN, Treasurer.

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John Fendrich, John W. Stacey,
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