Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1869.

### End of the Fortieth Congress.

The present Congress expires by constitutional limitation on the 4th day of this month. It will pass out of existence unhonored and unregretted. It has been plethoric of promises, but most lean of performance. At the conclusion of the last session we summed up its public acts, and found that less than a dozen bills of any importance had been passed, and the session which now concludes its existence has been quite as unprofitable. The financial system has been left in the same disordered condition in which this Fortieth Congress found it. No important amendments have been made in the revenue laws, the only changes made being in favor of a few wealthy monopolists. The Yankee manufacturers of New England have dictated their own terms, and such rascally acts as the Copper Bill, have received attention to the exclusion of more important legislation, because the favored few interested were abundantly able to lobby their schemes through by corrupt means. If this Congress had deliberately set itself to work to devise means for making the rich richer and the poor poorer it could not have been more successful.

This Fortieth Congress spent nearly the whole of its first session in devising ways and means for securing the election of a Radical President. To that end it framed an ever changing system of reconstruction which resembled Penelope's web, the work done one day being undone the next. In utter defiance of the Constitution, regardless of their oaths and completely reckless of consequences, the members proceeded to carry out their designs. States were decided to be in or out of the Union, just as suited party purposes, and law-making became a mere farce.

With a two thirds majority the Radicals of the Fortieth Congress were possessed of supreme power, which they abused in many ways. They were only prevented from removing a President, who had been guilty of no impeachable offense, by the conscientious scruples of a few members of the Senate. In no single measure has this Congress manifested a proper regard for the true interests of the nation. It has continually groveled in the mire of partisan politics, never having the strength of wing necessary to lift it into the higher and purer atmosphere of patriotism.

Its last act is the attempt to force negro equality upon the people of the Northern States, in spite of the declaration to the country of the platform on which Grant was elected. For this and other misdeeds the Republican party must answer to the people after this corrupt Congress has ceased to exist.—That is was shamelessly corrupt prominent Radical newspapers freely admit, and the charge that members of the House and grave Senators have grown immensely rich on bribes is currently credited by all who are well informed. It is sad indeed to think that our National Legislature should have fallen so low.

We congratulate the country upon the dissolution of the Fortieth Congress, and most heartily do we wish we could truthfully say there was good reason to expect better things of its successor.

### Eager for Negro Equality.

The telegraph announces the fact that the Kansas Legislature has endorsed the negro suffrage amendment, and Radical newspapers throughout the country are heralding this as "the first gun." The members of the Kansas Legislature have shown most unseemly and foolish haste in the matter. There are certain formalities to be observed in this little matter of amending the Constitution of the United States. The founders of the Republic were careful to hedge their great work about with proper restrictions, wisely designed to prevent sudden changes from being rashly made in the heat of popular excitement. Not only has any amendment to be passed upon by a vote of each House of Congress, but, after that, another concurrent resolution has to be adopted requesting the President to transmit the proposed amendment to the Governors of the different States, to be laid by them before the Legislatures for their action. Such a resolution is still pending in Congress, having been offered by Senator Stewart on Saturday. Senator Davis, of Kentucky, objecting to its being passed upon out of its order, it was forced to lie over. So the proposed negro suffrage amendment is not yet properly before any State Legislature.

The superserviceable zeal of the Kansas Radicals was therefore entirely superfluous, and their adoption of the negro suffrage amendment informal and invalid. They will have to do it all over again after the proper and regular preliminary steps have been taken in the matter.

The Radical Legislature of our State was saved from the discredit of making such a blunder by their habitual disinclination to stick to work. They concluded to take a long holiday in honor of Grant's inauguration, and so adjourned for ten days. Whether they will dare to force negro suffrage upon the people of Pennsylvania, without allowing them to vote upon it, remains to be seen. It is our opinion that they will consummate the outrage. They can only be prevented from so doing by remonstrances from the people. Let these be freely circulated and forwarded at once to Harrisburg.

McPherson has so made up the roll of the next Congress as to exclude the delegations from Georgia and Louisiana; but while he was working at this rascally piece of business, a negro carpet-bagger, who claims a seat from Louisiana, was engaged in addressing the House, and the Radicals were seriously deliberating upon the propriety of admitting him. A majority of the delegates to the next Congress from Georgia and Louisiana are white Democrats. If they had been black Radicals, Mr. McPherson would not have thought of excluding them.

### Grant and the Pennsylvania Radicals.

The Radicals of our State are still in the dark as to who will be chosen to represent Pennsylvania in Grant's Cabinet. All that is so far decided is that Andrew G. Curtin will not be chosen. The different factions are fighting among themselves like a set of hungry dogs over a bone. There is plunder in prospect, and that is always the chief attraction to Pennsylvanian Radicals of every degree.

### McClure on Geary.

Col. McClure concludes his letter with the broadest kind of an intimation that Geary told him a deliberate lie. People might be disposed to believe that McClure was exaggerating if he spoke thus of some one else than his Excellency the "humbuggedest" Governor. Those who know Geary will believe McClure's assertion, that he promised to write or telegraph to Grant in favor of Curtin, and that he failed to keep his promise.

Brownlow, the foul-mouthed hoary-headed old reprobate, who has been such a curse to Tennessee, has formally resigned as Governor, and goes into the United States Senate on the 4th of March. He will be a fit associate for leading Jacobins who now hold positions in that body, for which they are unfit. The time was when the elevation of such a coarse brute as Brownlow to the United States Senate would have been felt as a disgrace. Now he is properly regarded as quite as good as a number of his Radical compeers. So low have we fallen.

### The Rich Richer and the Poor Poorer.

For a long time it was our proudest boast that there were no privileged classes in the United States. With the abolition of hereditary titles, and the rejection of the system of entailing estates, we fancied that we had completely destroyed one of the greatest curses of European nations. Our government, as framed by the fathers of the republic, was well calculated to protect the masses from the encroachments of power; and so long as it was administered in the true democratic spirit the first and chief object of every law was the good of the people at large. Not until the Republican party became arrogant through excess of power, and reckless from repeated and successful usurpations were the rights and the wants of the masses sacrificed to the grasping greed of the few. In the midst of the excitements of the last eight years the people have been deprived of one privilege after another, and have submitted with a quietness which seemed to sanction the abuses which they ought to have rebuked promptly at the ballot-box.

Thus it has come to pass that a venal Congress has from time to time, surrendered one right of the people after another, at the solicitation of certain privileged classes who were able to pay well for the favors which were accorded to them. To such an extent has this been carried that it seems to be impossible to prevent the passage of the most iniquitous and unjust laws, when capitalists combine to corrupt Congress. A bill granting the most grinding monopoly can be put through, even over the veto of the President, if it is of sufficient importance to justify a large expenditure of money in the shape of bribes. Take the Copper bill, for instance, which is of a piece with much of the legislation of the men who are now in power. It is a law to-day, made such by the votes of two-thirds of each House of Congress, after it had been vetoed. Yet of this very bill the New York *Post*, a well-known Radical journal, says:

> A hundred brokers in Boston, and as many speculators around Lake Superior, are authorized by it to take the money of the people without any compensation. Its atrocious character has been explained briefly in Congress, and at full length in this paper, and has also been denounced by the President of the United States in a strong and conclusive veto message. No attempt whatever has been made to defend the bill on public grounds. It stands confessed as a measure to destroy the national revenue and to plunder the people, in order to enrich a band of speculators, and no argument is offered in its favor beyond a pretended necessity of buying up the political support of those speculators and their friends.

The truth is that there has been an immense amount of this kind of legislation. The manufacture of such an article of prime necessity as salt, is put into the hands of a monopoly, which is authorized to levy a tax upon every person in the nation, in order that a few favored individuals may amass colossal fortunes. With every pinch of salt which we use, we are all contributing a fraction to the enormous profits of a privileged few. The same kind of thing is to be seen going on in a hundred different shapes. Those who have capital combine to secure just such legislation as they desire, and no well managed scheme of the kind ever fails to be put through. The Yankee manufacturers dictate their own terms to a venal Congress, which does not hesitate to lay new and most grievous burthens upon the people.

Commissioner Wells, Radical as he is, has been forced to admit that from 1860 to 1868 the increase in the price of such commodities as are used by laboring men and their families was, on an average, 78 per cent., while the nominal increase in wages has only been about 50 per cent. Year by year the community is becoming more and more divided into two great classes: those who pay a large proportion of their annual income for the support of the government, and receive no direct equivalent in return; and those others who are maintained at the expense of the masses, through the government, by salaries, perquisites, stealings and monopolies. The tax-paying millions toil on, bearing their burthens as best they may, and taking too little thought of the system of Radical misrule by which they are being continually more and more oppressed. The salaried officials of the government, the thieves who hang around the public treasury, and the bloated monopolists who grind the faces of the poor have their own special interests to serve, and they do it with time, ingenuity and money to deceive a sufficient number of the taxpayers to insure a continuance of the present iniquitous system. Thus have the masses been induced to lend a seeming sanction to the establishment of a spurious oligarchy, composed of some sixty thousand office holders, the bondholders and the monopolists.

The constant tendency of the legislation of the Radicals has been to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Palaces and paupers are both increasing together, but in the relation of many paupers to a single palace. For every rich bondholder or monopolist who drives his coach in state, numbers of laboring men are pinched for the bare necessaries of life. The inequalities which made the curse of European life are being rapidly inaugurated among us, and certain favored classes control the government which was once the especial guardian of the masses, and pervert it into an engine of cruelty and despotism. The white people of the North have freed the negroes of the South only to place in power a party which is slowly but surely reducing the entire laboring population of the country to a condition of servile dependence upon capitalists, monopolists and salaried officials.

### The Next House.

The House Clerk will not call Representatives from Georgia and Louisiana, on the assembling of the next Congress, unless the House so orders, it is said. Excluding these States, and several contested seats, where neither party holds a certificate of election, the House will stand 137 Republicans to 62 Democrats. So says the Tribune, and THIS IS DONE IN ORDER TO GET TWO-THIRDS OF THE HOUSE! Every day, we hear gentlemen of the Republican party regretting, in the interests of the country, that the Republican party, is as strong as it is in Congress. But these gentlemen ought to know, that it is made strong by force, by violence, and by revolution. Democratic Senators and Representatives for six years, have been expelled, to give the Radical party a two thirds power, and now the attempt is to be renewed in the 41st Congress.

We publish elsewhere an account of an important interview between Gen. Grant and Col. A. K. McClure. It indicates that there is to be no peace between the contending Radical factions in this State. The declaration of Gen. Grant *that he belongs to no political party, though a political party elected him* is omnious. The few days that intervene between this and the 4th of March will be full of interest and excitement, and when Grant's Cabinet is announced, we expect to hear some steep swearing.

### Democratic Victory in Maine.

For the first time since 1830 the Democrats have carried the City of Portland in the Radical State of Maine. As passion subsides the eyes of the masses are being opened, and the light which now breaks in the East will spread over the whole horizon before long.

General Grant is reported to have said a severe thing about some of his party. He remarked the other day that no one wanted the Tenure-of-Office bill retained except the thieves and scoundrels and their friends.

### Temperance in Politics.

At the State Temperance Convention, which was held in Harrisburg last week, resolutions were adopted pledging the members of the different temperance societies of the State to support no man for office "who denies the application of the just power of civil government to the suppression of the liquor traffic." Another resolution was also adopted appointing a State Central Committee, to consist of one from each county, with "power to execute the measures of the Convention, to raise money, employ agents, call State, District and County Conventions, and to perform all duties usually performed by such committees."

After this action we suppose we ought to consider that the temperance men of Pennsylvania have regularly entered the field as a distinctive party. How they intend to conduct their campaigns we do not know. It is not likely that they will run independent candidates for office, as they are not strong enough for that. But will they adhere to these resolutions? We have seen some such work attempted before. It is only a year or so since we had a Temperance Convention in Lancaster. It was rather a spirited assemblage, and resolutions very similar to those adopted by the State Convention were passed. But, did the members adhere to the determination they then expressed with so much vaunting? Not they. We have a very distinct recollection of hearing the same voices which urged the proscription of drinking candidates, warmly advocating the election of the whole Radical ticket from top to bottom. That the candidates upon it were temperance men no one can pretend to claim. Grant was denounced by the highest Radical authority in the country as a drunkard, the two State officers were neither of them averse to a glass of good wine, or something stronger, while the county ticket was made up of a set of jolly good fellows who have never been known "to go back upon their liquor." Whiskey flowed as freely as water at the nominating elections, and was a potent Radical weapon throughout the campaign. We saw these things, and listened in vain for a word of admonition or remonstrance from Bro. Black and those who follow where he leads.

Are these temperance reformers mere hypocrites? Do they get together periodically for the sake of passing resolutions for buncombe merely? Is all their noise about reform to be regarded "as the crackling of thorns under a pot?" Are drinking men good enough to fill the highest offices if they stand on the Radical platform?

We put these questions in all seriousness. These temperance agitators have lost the respect of the people. Their practice does not agree with their preaching. They are silent when they should speak out, and vex the public ear from time to time with a clamor which is regarded as meaningless. Until they live up to the doctrines they enunciate they will accomplish nothing. The truth is that a set of small fry Radical politicians have obtained control of the organization, and they are killing it by their persistent attempts to prostitute it into an agency for their own personal and political advancement. Every attempt to introduce the temperance reform into the political arena has proved disastrous to it. When its advocates abandon the high moral ground which is their legitimate sphere, they are speedily shorn of their strength. A few tricky political adventurers mount the organization and attempt to ride into office upon it; and thus serious injury is done to a movement which ought to accomplish great and lasting good. Let the true friends of temperance in Pennsylvania lift the association to its proper level, and they will speedily see abundant reason to rejoice in the reclamation of multitudes from the evils of drinking.

### Grant's Policy Towards the South.

The opinion of General Grant on different questions is much sought for now, and the utterances which fall from his lips are eagerly taken up and repeated all over the country. Mr. Boutwell being about to report a resolution declaring that the State of Georgia "having failed to comply with the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, especially the laws known as the reconstruction acts, and the Senate having refused to admit the Senators from that State to seats in the Senate, the Representatives from Georgia are not entitled to seats in the present Congress," Mr. P. M. B. Young, who represents the Seventh Georgia District called upon General Grant and laid the case before him last Friday. Mr. Young's interview with the President elect proved to be quite satisfactory, and the Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald* says:

> Mr. Young represents Grant as in favor of allowing Georgia to be represented in Congress. He does not approve of the conduct of the Legislature of that State in expelling its negro members, but he is of opinion that the best way to settle that difficulty is in the courts, and not by keeping the Georgia delegation out of the House. In Grant's opinion nothing is to be gained by this except more delay in the work of ultimate and complete reconstruction, and additional discontent and trouble among the people of the South.

We sincerely hope General Grant has been correctly reported. There is much practical wisdom in the sentiments attributed to him. The policy indicated in the above extract is the only true one, and, if he really desires to restore true peace and prosperity he can not follow any other. Such a course of action would not suit the extreme Radicals, but a vast majority of the people, North and South would hail its adoption as eminently wise and proper.

### A Perfect Pen Picture.

The Chicago *Tribune*, which is one of the most Radical journals in the country, has been indulging in some very free criticism of its party of late. It says:

> "Instead of morality we have hideous and disgusting corruption, which there is no attempt to hide and not honesty enough to be ashamed of. From primary meetings to national elections is an unbroken chain of bargains, of buying votes, and selling of legislatures. Laws are made not for the public welfare, but to subserve private interests, and are bought by the purchase of members of legislatures at so much a head in money or office. Office is sought and accepted, whether legislative or *executive*, not with any purpose of faithfully discharging its duties at a fixed emolument, but for what can be made out of it by wholesale theit or plundering the public. Never before in this country has there been such destitution of public morality, or any such well-grounded reason for fearing that we may not be able to get back to a healthy state without serious convulsion."

That the above is a perfectly correct pen picture, a true portrait of the party which boasts of possessing "all the morality," no one who is familiar with the politics of the day can doubt.

### Who Was the Thief?

The *Inquirer* has the following pertinent paragraph which ought to bring an answer from some one:

> As yet we have received no intelligence in regard to the identity of the individual who stole the testimony in the Hackman Whisky case, from the Department at Washington. Mr. Wurfel does not tell us who stole it. Mr. Dickey is silent. Even Mr. Musselman, voluble as he was a short time since, does not venture to speak. The *Express* is often well posted on affairs of the kind, can it not give the desired information? Who stole that testimony?

### How the Money Goes.

The New York *Tribune* says:

> The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House makes at least $20,000 a session. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, we presume, makes a great deal more. As to what the Clerk of the House and the Secretary make we, of course, cannot say, but around this capitol there are many sinecures. People are employed to do very much what the "Superintendent of the Crypt" has been doing for forty years.
>
> That is one of the ways a Radical Congress disposes of the money which is wrung from the people by oppressive taxation.

### The Negro Suffrage Amendment.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, by which every negro, Indian and Chinaman is to be made a voter, has passed both Houses of Congress, if not by a full two-third vote at least by such a vote as the Radicals regard as sufficient. It now goes to the State Legislatures for endorsement. There is a probability that it may fail to secure the sanction of three-fourths of the States. What will the present Legislature of this State do in regard to it? It was not elected with reference to any such issue. Will the Radical majority dare to force negro suffrage upon Pennsylvania without first allowing the people to express an opinion upon it? If they do, we predict that they will excite a storm of indignation which will sweep the Republican party out of power at the next State election.

The people of this State have it in their power to prevent any such outrage. The Legislature has adjourned until March 8th, and a week may reasonably be expected to be consumed in debate on this subject after it re-assembles. There is, therefore, time for the people to send in remonstrances. We saw several such in the hands of a gentleman from a strong Radical county the other day, *and very many of the signers were Republicans.* Let remonstrances protesting against the endorsement of negro suffrage be widely circulated. The following is the proper form:

> REMONSTRANCE.
>
> *To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met:*
>
> The undersigned, citizens of Lancaster county without distinction of party, do most respectfully but earnestly and solemnly remonstrate against the ratification, by your honorable bodies, of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any State, by reason of race, or color, or previous condition of slavery of any citizen or class of citizens of the United States." We do protest against the ratification of the same, for the reason that under the Constitution, as it now stands, *the people* of the several States have complete control over the question of suffrage, and *the people* have not been consulted as to whether they are willing to part with this important privilege, and in the language of the platform upon which General Grant was elected to the Presidency, we do declare that "the question of suffrage in all the loyal States properly belongs to the people of those States." We, therefore, do most solemnly remonstrate against the ratification of the proposed amendment, known as Article XV., by the present Legislature. Respectfully submitted.

Cut that out, attach paper for signatures to it, *and be sure to get your Republican neighbors to sign it.* Multitudes of them will be glad to do so. See to it that they have an opportunity. Do not wait to have a single paper circulated throughout an entire election district. There is no time for that. Get the names of your neighbors, Democrats and Republicans, to a remonstrance and send it at once to Hon. W. A. Wallace, Gen. Wm. McCandless, or to Senators Billingfelt or Fisher. If a proper effort is promptly made the present Legislature can be deterred from endorsing the outrageous proposition.

### Radical Extravagance.

The Radical majority in Congress are not content with a direct spending of the money of the workingmen of the nation by their extravagance in voting themselves appropriations, but they also waste the resources of the people in many indirect ways. Their tyrannical, impolitic and unconstitutional reconstruction of the Southern States, has already cost the people millions of dollars, and has retarded the growth and prosperity of the fairest portion of our country. They have, by giving the Southern States over to the control of the negroes and the infamous, irresponsible carpet-baggers from New England, greatly checked emigration from Europe and the Northern States to the South. Industrious, prudent and energetic white men do not care about placing themselves and their wives and little ones with their property at the mercy of the carpet-baggers and negroes who are, at present, the law makers of the Southern States. The Radicals are themselves responsible for the poverty of the South, for the scarcity of money and absence of thrift, which has existed there since the termination of the war. And while they prevent the Southern people from aiding those of the North in paying the interest of our great National debt, they by a reckless course of legislation even add to our annual National expenses. The following instance very properly shows how the spirit of Radicalism impels even the United States Senate to adopt measures injurious to the public interest.

The Senate, the other day, reconsidered a resolution which had been adopted, to print a memorial of Duff Green, in relation to the national finances, not on the score of economy, but for the avowed reason that the petitioner "had been a notorious rebel." Such spiteful vindictiveness is as disgraceful as it is puerile. Even if "notorious rebels" are never to be forgiven, it is, according to the general voice of the civilized world and the dictates of common sense, allowable to learn even from an enemy. But what is common sense or the civilized world to the "Crooly loil?"

### Across the Continent.

Great preparations are being made to celebrate the completion of the Pacific Railroad. It will be formally opened by a grand excursion on the 4th of next July. Gov. Haight of California has received an invitation to meet the Governors of other States in Chicago, to participate in the opening excursion. Part of the programme is said to be the simultaneous starting of two "through trains," one from New York, the other from San Francisco. It will be the biggest railroad event the world has seen.

### Defeat of the Police Bill.

The iniquitous bill, by which it was proposed to deprive the Democratic Mayor of Philadelphia of all control of the police, has been very properly defeated in the Senate by the votes of several honest and conscientious Republicans who united with the Democrats. Messrs. Fisher, Lowry, Osterhout, Robinson, Stuttzman and Taylor refused to be driven by the party lash into voting for so an unjust and improper a measure. For their independent and manly course they deserve the praise of all honorable men.

### Spain.

The news from Spain clearly indicates that the rebellion which unseated Isabella was not undertaken for the relief of the people, but merely to substitute one crowned tyrant and spendthrift for another. The leaders of the revolution have, to use an expressive vulgarism, "sold" their adherents magnificently. A few concessions to feed popular clamor may be made by the new dynasty (which will undoubtedly be the Bourbonic one of the Duke de Montpensier), but the condition of the Kingdom will ultimately be no better than it was under Isabella.

The Oswego *Gazette* chronicles a splendid Democratic victory in Tioga county.

"In the Board of County Supervisors last year there was but one Democrat. Of the nine towns in this county, this year the Democrats elect supervisors in five, and in two other towns they have succeeded in defeating the Regular Republican candidates by supporting bolters. The supervisor elections in other interior counties show Democratic gains almost as satisfactory."

The movement in Congress to force negro suffrage on the North is having its effect silently, but thoroughly.

### The Northern Central Railroad.

J. Don Cameron, Esq., has been re-elected President of the Northern Central Railroad, and John W. Dubarry, Esq., Vice President. These gentlemen have proved to be most efficient officers and under their management the road has been very successfully conducted.

### Reform in the Office of State Treasurer.

When General Irwin was unexpectedly defeated for State Treasurer we called attention to the evil system which prevails in the management of the State funds. It was known at the time, and has never been denied that the late Treasurer was thrown overboard and the present incumbent chosen at the dictation of certain banks. These institutions wanted to be made the depositories of the public funds, and it is currently reported and generally believed that they furnished some seventy-five thousand dollars to buy up the necessary amount of votes to make Mr. Mackey the caucus nominee of the Republican party for State Treasurer. When a few banks are willing to advance such a sum of money to secure the election of a State Treasurer in their interest, we may be sure that there is a very large sized cat in the meal tub.

The truth is that the State Treasurer is not selected with reference to his fitness for the office, or his readiness to discharge its duties faithfully and honestly. Mr. Mackey is expected to be the pet, the favorite and the friend, if not the tool, of certain banks. He is pledged to deposit large sums of the public money with them, for which they will pay him a percentage which will make him a rich man in a couple of years, while they will reap large profits by loaning out the people's money at high rates of interest.

Any intelligent farmer can see that there is something wrong in all this, and that it would not be difficult to devise a proper remedy. Millions of the peoples money lie in the favored banks for months, while the interest on the State debt continues to increase. The dullest man cannot fail to see that proper economy would require the prompt application of all moneys to the payment of both interest and principal.

Why is this not done? The answer is plain. It is simply because "the ring," which controls the Legislature, would oppose any such proper law. The banks control the members of "the ring," and "the ring" controls legislation. The State Treasurer should receive a fair salary, and the present improper system should be broken up. The desired change can be effected, in spite of "the ring," if the Republican press will join with the Democracy in their desire to effect this needed reform. The Harrisburg *Patriot*, the central organ of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, has an able article in condemnation of the present system. What Republican journal will have the courage to lead off on that side? We wait to see.

### McPherson vs. Grant.

In making up the roll of the next House Mr. McPherson, the Clerk, has very conveniently omitted the delegations from the States of Georgia and Louisiana. This is a most outrageous assumption of a power which he does not possess. We have come to a pretty pass in this country, when a mere subordinate officer can thus boldly deprive sovereign States of representation in the councils of the nation by a simple scratch of his pen. The purpose for which this was done is perfectly clear.—The Radicals do not trust Grant, and they are ready to resort to any desperate expedient to insure a continuance of the two thirds majority by means of which they tied the hands of Andrew Johnson, and rendered the executive branch of the government a mere nullity. Grant has already entered his protest against this outrage, and in his interview with Mr. Bingham the other day he gave him to understand that he regards such action as improper and unauthorized. But it is not likely that the Radicals who have domineered so long will submit to be controlled now. The contest between them and Grant is almost certain to continue, and he will find it more difficult to subdue them than it was to defeat Lee. He will have occasion to resort to more than one flank movement, and will find the Jacobins making as stubborn a resistance as the rebels did from the Wilderness to Appomatox Court House. If he should conclude to keep up the fight with them he will be fully sustained by the people, and the day when he forces them to submit to the authority of the Constitution, will be even more glorious than that on which he saw the diminished hosts of the rebellion lay down their arms.

### Bail by the County Commissioners.

The *Express* calls upon the Legislature to pass the bill of Senator Billingfelt, requiring the County Commissioners of Lancaster county to give bail in a proper sum for the proper discharge of their duties, and instances the frauds in bridge building as evidences of the necessity for such a law. We can see no reason why there should be any difficulty about the passage of such an act. It is a rule with our Legislature not to interfere with purely local legislation, when the representatives of a county ask it. Are the members from Lancaster in favor of protecting their constituents from such frauds as have been charged upon the present County Commissioners? If they are, the proposed bill can be put through both houses without the slightest difficulty. Should it fail to pass, the people of the county will know who are to blame. Let the *Express* turn its attention to this view of the subject.

### 1863-1868.

In the former year the Democrats had control of the Legislature, and whether the expenses were great or small that party is entitled to the credit or blame, as the case may be. Since that year the Radicals have had a majority of the Legislature, and they are in like manner responsible. The *Sentinel*, the Radical organ of Juniata county, having charged the Democrats with extravagance, in 1863, when they had control of the House of Representatives the *Democrat and Register* retorts by presenting the following exposition of the appropriations for defraying the expenses of the House for the two years named, to wit: 1863 under Democratic administration, and 1868 under Radical rule:

1863.

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|---|---|
| Auditor General's Report, page 65. | |
| Clerks and Assistant Clerks | $3,320 00 |
| Transcribing Clerks | 3,681 00 |
| Sergeant-at Arms, Doorkeepers, and Messengers | 7,933 65 |
| *Pasters and Folders* | 8,445 05 |
| Postmaster | 828 20 |
| Assistant Postmaster | 655 00 |
| Marshal of the Rotunda | 267 60 |
| Wm. F. Jones, Fireman | 300 00 |
| Daniel Best, Fireman | 300 00 |
| Jacob Ziegler, amount paid pages, | 1,300 00 |
| Paid Women | 590 00 |
| Total | $27,620 00 |

1868.

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|---|---|
| Auditor General's Report, page 111, for same items: | |
| Clerks and Assistant Clerks | $ 4,844 80 |
| Transcribing Clerks | 7,697 90 |
| Sergeant at-Arms, Doorkeepers and Messengers | 27,201 90 |
| *Pasters and Folders* | 37,723 10 |
| Postmaster | 990 00 |
| Assistant Postmasters | 933 00 |
| Marshal of the Rotunda | 804 10 |
| Daniel Best, Fireman | 721 00 |
| Jas. Freeborn " | 700 00 |
| Wm. Snoddy " | 700 00 |
| J. L. Selfridge paid Pages | 3,288 00 |
| Paid Women | 600 00 |
| Total | $86,353 80 |

### Printer Promoted.

Samuel W. Meixell, an accomplished practical printer, formerly employed upon the INTELLIGENCER, has purchased the Germantown *Chronicle*, a neat little weekly lately started. We congratulate him on his promotion from the ranks, and wish him abundant success in his new and more responsible field of labor.

It is said the public debt statement for February will be made earlier than usual. There having been no payments of any amount of interest on the public debt during the present month it is expected that a considerable decrease will be shown.

### The Struggle for Life—A Gloomy Picture.

The "*Round Table*" is painting a very discouraging picture of the hardships and poverty among the masses of the people, arising from the oppressive burthens which the tax collector is directly or indirectly placing upon their shoulders. The writer says:

> "Almost everywhere there are signs of pinch and grind. It is hard work to pay the rent, the butcher, the grocer and baker; hard work to pay for the children's schooling and clothes; cruelly hard work to squeeze out the instalments for the summer jaunt or the sewing-machine; with many, every little comfort or luxury once a matter of course is now either entirely cut off or measured out with an anxious scrutiny, a besitating caution, that turns the pleasure half into a pain. Friends whisper to each other that they do not see how they can pay their way this year and live. The cherished scheme of sending the eldest boy to college must be given up. The hope of buying the pleasant little country home must be forgotten. The piano the patient wife has been waiting for these many long years must be put off to an indefinite future. Meanwhile, to keep soul and body respectably together, most people are working harder than they ever worked before in their lives. They are wearing out the physical machine by running it at baleful speed, and keeping up appearances at the cost of nerves, peace of mind, and the chance of a healthy old age. This is no exaggerated picture. It is familiar to almost every eye that rests upon this page. Only the very rich are just now thoroughly at ease—although even their serenity is too often impaired by the speculative mania that so few having anything to speculate with escape; while nearly every one in the community who has to work for bread—who depends on a salary or stated wages for stated work—is in a chronic alternation of apprehension and despondency."

For much of this trouble, the writer goes on to show, an incompetent, if not wicked, Congress is largely responsible—in that

> "A defective and burthensome system of taxation added an iniquitous and illogical tariff, and to a ruinous authorization of wild expenditures, is what is helping paper money to crush the national industry, to bring poverty and trouble into so many households, and directly or indirectly to make life harder and more bitter than it ought to be—or than it need to be—for at least ninety-nine out of every hundred people in the land."

### Indian Civilization.

Has a fair experiment ever been made in trying to civilize the Indians? Has the Government ever done half as much for them as for the negro? We put the two questions together, not as against the negro, but in behalf of the red men, and are prompted to it by the fact that the representatives of the Choctaws have just laid before the President, through Judge Paschal, their legal attorney, a plan by which millions can be saved to the Government, and peace secured on the frontier. The whole secret is, that food is cheaper than gunpowder. Attorney General Folsom, of the Choctaw nation, states that, for $10,000,000 a year, the civilized tribes will undertake to guarantee peace, and open farms, on which they will support and educate the lawless Indians, and soon prepare them for American citizenship. The Indian service, the the President says, costs the Government $60,000,000 annually; and if this can be reduced five-sixths, accompanied by the blessings of education, labor, and peace, the experiment, at least, is worth the effort. The $10,000,000 it is proposed to expend in farms. The treaty made with the Choctaws in 1866 has resulted in great good to these Indians, and they believe their influence may be made salutary with other tribes.

The colored man and brother has got upon a new platform. He now claims to be considered "a composition of humanity." A negro woman recently asserted in a speech made in Chicago:

> "I present myself to you as a composition of humanity, for there flows through my veins a combination of four distinct nations, of which the greater part is Dutch, part Indian, part African and the lesser part Irish."

Our neighbor, the *Express*, will take notice of this new claim of the negroes upon its sympathies and will govern itself accordingly.

Gov. Hoffman, of New York, continues to veto bills which propose to do that which the Courts of the State have been empowered to effect. Much of the work done by our Legislature is of a similar character. Why can not Gov. Geary imitate the good example set by the Democratic Governor of New York? If he should resolutely set his face against all such legislation he would cut up by the roots much of the corruption which now exists. Let him try it. He ought to be willing to learn from Governor Hoffman.

Some of our exchanges say that there are strong indications of "Dead Duck" Forney rejoining the Democratic party, since his failure to have himself elected to the United States Senate from this State and since there is a probability of Grant "kicking in the traces." We hope not—from all such unprincipled political tricksters as Forney, Good Lord deliver us!

### May a Newspaper Tell the Truth.

The question of how far newspapers may go in discussing questions of public interest, without subjecting themselves to law suits, has grown to be a very important one, not only to the press, but to the public. If newspapers are to be so trammeled that they cannot state the plain facts concerning the misdeeds of office-holders, corporations or other parties on whom the public have to depend, their principal usefulness is at an end. There have been so many instances of late in which editors have been subjected to law suits for stating what every one man will talk of to his neighbor without hindrance, that unless there is a plain understanding between the press and the public in regard to the liberty and duty of the former, there is danger that one of the strongest and most efficient bulwarks against public and private corruption may be broken down.

In a recent suit against the Cincinnati *Commercial*, Judge Taft, of the Supreme Court, gave a decision, among the principal points of which were the following:

> Falsehood and malice in these publications are essential to the plaintiff's case.—Malice generally, where words are published of a man which are libelous *per se* against his character, the law, which presumes all men honest and of good character till the contrary appears by proof, presumes that the libel is false and malicious, without any evidence on the part of him against whom it has been published; and this is a fair presumption, whenever a man has volunteered to publish or utter words defamatory of another without any such occasion of self-protection or duty as makes it necessary or pertinent for him to speak. But there is a class of cases which form exceptions to the general rule, and are essentially different from those to which I have referred. They are cases in which the language published would be libelous and subject to the presumption of falsehood and malice, but for the *occasion* upon which it was used. Such language has been used in the discharge of some public or private duty, whether legal or moral, or in the conduct of his own affairs in matters where his interest is concerned, the occasion prevents the inference of malice which the law draws from unauthorized communications, and affords a qualified defence, depending on the absence of actual malice.
>
> Certainly the right of discussion in such matters belongs to the public, and if to it, to its representatives, the newspapers. We are all interested in everything that concerns the people. Private individuals attack and defend certain measures as they think proper, and the press, speaking for each and every private member of the community, should do the same.
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> In a case lately tried in a New York Court, in which an insurance company was plaintiff against a newspaper for making certain statements which it had derived from creditable sources concerning the workings of the company, Judge Freeman, in discharging the defendant, made the following remarks:
>
> If the rule in a case like the one before me were otherwise, no newspaper could give to the public statistical information relating to any corporation or company without becoming involved in endless litigation; the slightest inaccuracy to which the ingenuity of counsel to attach an injurious meaning in the remotest degree would be seized upon and used as the foundation of a long libel suit, and a portion of our press might thus be deterred, in order to escape the annoyance, trouble, and expense in this respect, from giving to the public such general information concerning the organization, inside workings, operations and profits of large and wealthy corporations and companies, relying for their support mostly upon popular favor and the patronage of the working classes, which the people at large have a right to demand, and which the cannot very well receive through any other channel except a free, fearless, and independent press.
>
> It must eventually come to pass that those having the concerns of the public in their charge will understand that the press is a perfect right to freely discuss their actions and character. From the President of the United States to the president and managers of the smallest company for supplying a community with clothes pins, all are liable to be brought up to the bar of public opinion by the public's own attorney generals—the newspapers.—*Phil'a Post.*

### What President Johnson is Going to Do.

A correspondent of the New York *World* has had a long interview with President Johnson. We make the following extracts from his report:

HE WILL STILL DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION.

> I have no disposition, indeed, my temperament, physical strength, and habits, almost forbid me to sink into idleness at the close of my term, and there is much to be done in the country, and much in Tennessee especially, to enlist my solicitude and my efforts. I have no plan personal to myself for the future; I can truly say that I have no further ambitions to realize, and I certainly have no desire to retaliate on any the slights or the burdens which have been imposed on me. I will undoubtedly exert myself to restore the sway of the Constitution over the country, and particularly over my State; but as to any special line on which I may work, that will be wholly controlled by circumstances. As to going to Europe, too, that is entirely in doubt. After I retire from this place private business will detain me in Washington for a few days, then my family and self will go to Tennessee, and it depends just on them whether we visit Europe or not. Nothing is determined, and we will be governed by circumstances.

HE WOULD NOT MIND BEING SENATOR.

> As to returning to the Senate, I am free to say that I think there is great need there and large opportunity there for any man governed solely by principle. A Senator should have profound convictions of his own and unbending moral and physical energy and faithful support to the platform and ticket on which he was elected. They might not prove to be the best men in practice, but that he should, soon discover, and he could make a change at any time in that case. There was no difficulty about that. Then he would say, that those whom he selected would all be men who were loyal to the Union during the war, and who gave strong