Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1870.

Our New Dress.

We present the INTELLIGENCER to its many readers to-day, at the beginning of the New Year, in an entire new dress. That it makes a handsome appearance we think all will admit. The type is the same in style as that formerly used, and we think it cannot be surpassed in beauty or clearness of impression. It is from the Foundry of that well-known establishment in Philadelphia, still called Johnson's, but now owned and conducted by McKellar, Smiths & Jordan. The appearance of the INTELLIGENCER has always been a matter of pride with us, and we have made some minor changes which, we think, give it a still more attractive look.

With the beginning of the New Year the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER enters upon its seventy-first volume, having had a prosperous existence for nearly three quarters of a century. It is one of the largest, and confessedly one of the handsomest weekly journals published in the country. The DAILY is now well advanced in the sixth year of its existence, and the paper was never in so flourishing a condition as at present.

With thanks to our many patrons, and good wishes to our multitude of readers, we come to them in our new dress, determined to make both our DAILY and WEEKLY editions all that can be demanded or expected. To that end all our energies shall be directed, and neither expense nor pains will be spared to accomplish our purpose.

We would suggest to our friends that the present is a good time for them to exert themselves in procuring subscribers to the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER. A little effort on the part of each reader would be productive of most satisfactory results. Let each one see if he can not induce a neighbor to subscribe. Try it friends! You can say to all with truth that no better or cheaper paper is published in Pennsylvania.

The Law of Libel.

The Pittsburgh *Chronicle*, the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, and other Radical journals are calling for a revision of the law of libel in this State. As it stands at present, the law of Pennsylvania is as harsh as that which had its origin in the infamous Star Chamber Court of England. The press of this State is effectually muzzled by it, unless editors choose to take the risk of prosecution, imprisonment and fine for telling truths that ought to be made public. In such prosecutions the truth is not allowed to be given *in* evidence as justification.—Even the constitutional provision guaranteeing free discussion of the conduct of public officials, has been so narrowed by judicial decisions that it affords no adequate protection. The press may criticise the official acts of men holding public positions, but great care must be taken not to exceed the narrow limit of indulgence. The old English rules which hedged about kings and nobles, and kept their persons sacred from criticism, are the rules administered in prosecutions for libel by our courts of justice to-day. No newspaper editor dares to speak freely of any man who may hold office without rendering himself liable to prosecution. We may know that men who assume to make laws for the people are gamblers, thieves, keepers of a bawdy house, or what not; but we can not so much as name the fact without being rendered liable to prosecution for liable.

This is not as it should be under a Republican form of government, where a free discussion of the official acts and the private character of our public servants is the only safeguard of our institutions. The Old Star Chamber law of libel was once abrogated by act of Assembly in this State, and for some years editors were allowed to give the truth in evidence as a justification for what they might publish. The existence of such a wise and just enactment did not lead to any undue license. The press of Pennsylvania was never more decorous in its conduct than it was during the existence of the statute introduced by Hon. J. Lawrence Getz. Newspaper men are the last to abuse their privileges. They are less influenced by private passion and individual animosities than any other class of people. When they speak harshly of public men they are almost invariably moved thereto by proper considerations. Let them be held to the strictest accountability for the publication of any falsehood which may have a tendency to blacken the character of any man living or dead; but let there be no law in our State to shield dishonesty and to prevent the exposure of corruption, fraud and rascality.

This is a matter in which not only the press but the people of the State have an interest; and no honest member of the Legislature will refuse to vote for a proper modification of the law of libel. Now is the time to effect the desired change. Let us have a bill prepared and presented early in the present session. Let the press of the State unite in demanding the passage of a law which will protect editors from malicious prosecutions by men who dare not bring an action in the civil Courts, where the truth of the matter published can be examined into. Let the improper distinctions between prosecutions for libel and actions for damages be done away with. Let the truth be as freely given in one case as in the other. No editor in the Commonwealth will ask anything more, and that they have a right to demand. If they make the demand in a proper manner it will certainly be granted.

THE Philadelphia *Morning Post* has a letter from Harrisburg in which we find the following very significant item:

> The Scull-Findlay contest has not yet been decided in the Senate, but as this measure was made the subject of a caucus, there is scarcely any doubt that the former will receive his seat. The matter not having been decided on Friday, there will now arise a legal question as to the right of Mr. Findlay to file a petition of contest, as the specified time for submitting such a document has already passed.

The only inference to be drawn from the above statement is that the case was decided in advance by a caucus, before a single particle of the testimony was heard, and that Mr. Findlay is now to be deprived of his right to contest, because regarding himself as the sitting member he declined to admit that he had no claims to such a position. It is at once a confession of the utter lack of honesty which prevails among the Radicals of the State Senate, and an admission that they have deliberately determined to commit a glaring outrage.

A VIGOROUS attempt was made to secure the admission of Virginia immediately upon the re-assembling of Congress, and a majority of both Houses seemed to be in favor of it, but the extreme Radicals refuse to allow the State to come in until the Legislature ratifies the Fifteenth Amendment. They resorted to fillibustering in the House to accomplish their purposes. What is a constitutional amendment worth which has to be carried by such means? It can never be properly regarded as legal or binding.

THE Indiana Democratic Convention met at Indianapolis on Saturday, and nominated James L. Worden for Judge of the Supreme Court, and B. W. Hanna for Attorney General. Resolutions were adopted declaring for a tariff for revenue only, a revision of the taxes, greenback payment of the Five-twenties, and the taxing of U. S. bonds, denouncing the ratification of the Suffrage Amendment, and opposing any change in the naturalization laws.

Three sons of George Brown, of Brooklyn, aged respectively 7, 9 and 11 years, were drowned while skating at Norwich, Conn., on Saturday.

The Governor's Message.

The Annual Message of Gov. Geary is of almost interminable length, and many people will be deterred from wading through so many columns of solid type. The small Radical newspapers in the country districts will be compelled to devote all their space to it for a month to come, to publish it in sections, like a serial story, with the words "to be continued" appended to the different instalments. It is a pity the Governor employed so verbose a writer to get up the document. All that it contains might have been given to the public in better and stronger English with less than half the amount of verbiage which the Message contains.

That portion of the Message which relates to our local affairs will meet with very little unfavorable comment. The State finances are not in as good a condition as they might have been under wiser and more economical management, but the taxes gathered have proved sufficient to allow for immense waste and to leave a balance to be applied to the reduction of the debt. During the year the ordinary expenses of the Government reached the very high figure of $2,485,114.27, a sum vastly greater than was ever expended under Democratic rule, and much larger than necessary. Of interest on the State debt there was paid at the State Treasury $170,-665.74, and by Commissioners of the Sinking Fund $1,725,587.97. Of loans there were paid during the year the following sums: Loans redeemed by the State Treasurer, $109,644.08, loans redeemed by Commissioners of Sinking Fund, $362,762.09. The receipts during the year were $5,241,711.28, and the expenditures $4,853,744.16. The amount of the State debt on the 1st day of December was $32,814,540.95. Most of this debt was incurred for public improvements, and the works which cost so large a sum have been passed into private hands without any material reduction of the debt.

Governor Geary boldly assails the present system of appointing a State Treasurer, and condemns the method now employed in the handling of the State funds. He declares that the men who have latterly held the office have mysteriously grown rich on a salary of seventeen hundred dollars, and calls upon the Legislature to effect a complete reform in this matter. Of course their will be no objection on the part of any Democrat to the inauguration of a reform which the journals of the party all advocate. Mr. Wallace has already introduced a bill to effect the object so strongly urged by the Governor, and he will urge it with the same vigor with which he advocated a similar measure at the last session. If the present corrupt system is continued, the Radical majority in the Legislature will be solely responsible.

The Message presents a statement of the condition of the common schools, which is satisfactory in the main. Attention is called to the fact that there are not less than seventy-five thousand children who do not attend any school, and the Legislature is urged to do all in its power to correct this great evil. The Soldier's Orphan Schools are commended to the continued care of the Legislature, and, as the sum appropriated, has fallen short of the amount expended during the year, it is recommended that the deficiency be made up. For the year ending May 1st, 1871, it is estimated that $534,500 will be required to sustain these schools. There have been rumors of jobbery, corruption and extravagance in the management of these schools, and the matter ought to command the attention of the Legislature. The Governor says nothing about these reports. The Agricultural College is favorably spoken of, though we doubt whether the facts would justify any laudation of that institution, as at present conducted.

The Governor regards the militia of the State as an efficient organization, and speaks loudly in praise of the volunteer companies of Philadelphia. He has a good word for a work which seems to have been very badly done so far as it has progressed, and recommends liberal appropriations for the benefit of Mr. Bates, the incompetent who has been engaged in compiling a history of the Pennsylvania volunteers. The establishment of a home for disabled soldiers is strongly recommended, and will command the attention of the Legislature.

The institution of an Insurance Department is urged, and also the taxation of foreign insurance companies doing business within the State. This is an important matter, and deserving of serious consideration.

The Avondale disaster is made the subject of extended comment, and the passage of a stringent law for the protection of miners is insisted upon. We have no doubt full justice will be done to that numerous class of our laboring population at the present session.

The Board of Public Charities established last winter is complimented; a new Geological survey is recommended; the appointment of Gas Inspectors for different cities is asked for; the establishment of a Bureau of Statistics is urged, and other suggestions made which would increase the number of public officials.

We are glad to be informed that the Commissioners appointed to revise the Civil Code of the State are makfng "satisfactory progress." That is more than was expected of them, and we suspect the opinion of the legal profession will differ from that of the Governor when the result of the labors of the Commissioners is given to the public.

The Governor concludes his review of State Affairs by a long and strong appeal to the public to discourage applications for the pardon of criminals. His past course in this respect has shown that he is capable of turning loose dangerous parties, and he begs to be delivered from further temptation. It is to be hoped that his prayer will be regarded, and his virtue be left unassailed by pardon brokers. So shall rogues and ruffians suffer the proper penalties for their crimes, the lawless be deterred from evil doing, and the safety of the community be assured.

It would have been better for the reputation of Gov. Geary if the writer of the Message had induced him to end with his remarks upon the subject of pardons. When he enters the domain of national politics he makes an exhibition of marked ignorance and stupidity. He is unnecessarily strong in his advocacy of a high protective tariff, indulges in a ridiculous laudation of national banks, and seems to think a depreciated paper currency preferable to gold as a circulating medium. But he reserved his force for a loud blast in favor of the Cuban patriots. He flies in the face of Grant's Message on this question, and insists upon taking immediate action for the purpose of annexing the Queen of Antilles. Whether he expects the Legislature to organize an expedition for that purpose, and to put him at the head of the military power of Pennsylvania, or contemplates some other impracticable scheme we know not. Certain it is that "the hero of the battle above the clouds" seems to be in dead earnest about the Cuba business. Query—did he get a portion of the fund raised by the Cuban Junta? The *Express* ought to examine into the matter. Geary and the Philadelphia *Post* are in the same boat. We call the especial attention of our neighbor to this significant fact.

THE New York *Tribune* publishes, with approving comments, a long and able letter from a distinguished Republican statesman, in which the fatal heresies of Drake's assault upon the Supreme Court are mercilessly exposed. We are glad to see that there is some slight evidence that the Republican party are not ready to go in a body for the perpetration of the last and grossest outrage which has been proposed.

A Meeting of Farmers—Wages to be Reduced.

Certain farmers of Upper Oxford and adjoining townships, in Chester county, held a meeting last week, to consider the question of farm labor. A free discussion of the condition and prospects of the farming community in this section of Pennsylvania was had. The opinion expressed by the speakers was that farmers could not continue to raise grain without a decided reduction in the price of labor, and a resolution was passed pledging those present to reduce the wages of farm hands *twenty-five per cent.*, and recommending other farmers to follow their example.

Other branches of industry have been complaining grievously for some time, and the agricultural community is now feeling the effect of unwise legislation. While grain is down to a minimum price, with little likelihood of a rise, almost everything that the farmer uses is made excessively dear by an incongruous system of taxation. The eleven tariffs which have been enacted within the past ten years, have all been framed in accordance with the dictation of certain interests which have combined to secure legislation for their exclusive benefit. A ring has been formed by the monopolists, and Congress has been controlled by agencies which are potent in our degenerate days.

Every body of capitalists, which could command money or political influence, has kept a set of lobbly agents at Washington to manipulate legislation. The manufacturers of salt furnish an example which ought to be sufficient to open the eyes of every farmer to the iniquities of the present tariff system. Up to 1860, the duty laid upon this article of prime necessity was merely nominal. In March, 1861, when the party which pretends to protect industry began operations, the tariff on salt was increased to four cents a bushel; in August, 1861, it was raised to twelve cents a bushel, and in July, 1862, to eighteen cents per hundred pounds, *and that in gold*. The invoice price of salt at Turk's Island, averages ten cents per bushel, at Cadiz seven cents, at Liverpool eight cents. The tariff duty on this article is, therefore, from 100 to 175 per centage, on its foreign cost; and this the consumers are compelled to pay without receiving any compensatory benefit. Salt in 1861 was about 23 cents a bushel; it is now about three times that. It enters largely into the consumption of every farmer. It is one of the prime necessities of life for man and beast. It is used in a thousand ways. To see how Congress has been legislating against the farmer and in favor of greedy monopolists it is only necessary to refer to the books of the Onondaga Salt Company of New York, which shows that it started in 1860, just in time to come under the Morrill tariff bill with a capital of $160,000. Up to the end of 1867 it had already divided among the shareholders within a fraction of two million dollars of profits. We commend this single specimen of Radical legislation to the consideration of the farmers of Chester and Lancaster counties, with the assurance that it is but a sample of what has been done.

A pretense has been made of favoring the agricultural community by the party in power. No direct tax has been laid upon the land or its crude products, and because they did not meet the Federal tax-gatherer face to face many farmers were foolish enough to think they were the subjects of special care on the part of our Radical rulers. While all agricultural products commanded an exorbitant price the farmers had no sympathy for those who found it difficult to buy bread. They were selfish in their good fortune and did not foresee the evil day which has come upon them.

The farmers of Lancaster and Chester counties, have been among the strongest supporters of the policy which is now pinching them so severely. A majority of them have steadily voted for Radical candidates, and against the Democratic party. This they have done, partly from mistaken motives of self-interest, and partly on account of a blind and unreasoning prejudice.

They have helped materially to sustain a false financial system which makes gold and silver mere commodities of merchandize, and floods the country with a depreciated and fluctuating paper currency; they have propped up a national banking system which takes twenty million dollars a year out of the pockets of the producing classes, without rendering them any compensatory benefits therefor; they have aided the ring to frame and keep in force the most odious tariff that was ever devised, for the purpose of discriminating in favor of a few greedy monopolists and against the great body of consumers; they have assisted in destroying American ship building, and have thus prevented their grain from being carried abroad at cheap rates; they have voted against any reduction of the exorbitant rate of interest now being paid on United States bonds, and have thus locked up capital which should circulate freely, and have added largely to the taxes under which they now groan; they have encouraged a constant increase of the vast army of useless officials, a majority of whom are mere idle drones in the hive of industry; and have given countenance and sanction to the grossest and most unrestrained extravagance in National and State Governments. They have not only steadily voted to keep up these abuses, but they have used all their influence to compel those under them to vote with them.—For these sins of omission and commission, they ought to repent in sack-cloth and ashes.

The Radical farmers of Chester county may succeed in grinding the faces of the poor. They may compel working men to toil from daylight until dark, for one-fourth less wages than they now receive. They may make the home of the laborer utterly cheerless. They may deny him all the luxuries of life, and place many of the necessaries beyond his reach. They may compel him to go about clad in patched garments, prevent his wife from wearing a decent Sunday gown, and clothe his children in rags. They may reduce those who toil in the fields to the degraded condition of the peasantry of England or Ireland.—But, they will find in the end that the evils of which they complain are not to be remedied by any such narrow minded policy. The whole country is suffering from the effect of false and pernicious legislation. What is needed just now is wise and pure statesmanship. So long as a corrupt Congress is controlled in its action by a cabal of monopolists the farmers and laboring men, the producers of the country, may expect to be ground down by an accumulation of burthens too grievous to be borne. Let the axe be laid at the root of the tree, which produces such evil political fruit.

The Fifteenth Amendment.

The Democratic Legislature of New York has promptly repealed the ratification of the proposed Fifteenth Amendment, and the Reform members of the Ohio Legislature have united with the Democrats in the organization of that body. The attempt to force negro equality upon the country seems likely to meet with serious checks when its advocates were just congratulating themselves on the accomplishment of their design.

THE strike of the operators of the Western Union Telegraph Company seems likely to break down. Fifteen operators in Philadelphia have returned to work and signed a card, regretting their connection with the Telegrapher's League. An attempt will be made to make capital out of the strike for the project of placing the telegraph under Government control in this country. That such an arrangement would prove to be improper, we have always believed, and we have no doubt that results would speedily prove the soundness of the views of those who oppose the projected change.

A Creditable Contrast.

The action of the Democratic Members of the Lower House of our State Legislatnre presents a decided and most creditable contrast to that of the Radicals.

The election of a Speaker from that body was regarded as the test question between the corrupt ring and its opponents. The thieves and the corruptionists, the roosters and the pinchers were all fast friends of Butler B. Strang. He has ability, but not a particle of political honesty, or official integrity. He was the champion of the extra pasters and folders last session, and the best prop and reliable support of every piece of corrupt legislation that was presented. With him in the chair, the roosters of the ring will have easy work to insure the success of every villianous scheme they may contrive or present.

In order to break the force of Strang's election, and with the deliberate purpose of shutting the mouths of honest men, and silencing every newspaper in the State, the creatures of the Ring determined to force the nomination of Samuel Josephs on the Democratic caucus. To that end Ex-Speaker Clarke and other prominent Republican members of the Legislature labored most diligently. New Democratic members were threatened and coaxed. They were told that they could not get places on any committee without the assistance of Josephs, who was declared to be the special favorite and confidential crony of Speaker Strang.

The game would not work. With commendable integrity and marked honesty a very large majority of the Democratic members determined to have nothing to do with Sam Josephs, and as little to do with any man he might recommend. The result was that immediately after Josephs resigned in favor of Dr. Porter, of York, a number of those who had supported the Doctor went over to Mr. Brown, of Clarion.—Mr. Brown is a man of unimpeachable integrity. His record shows that he voted steadily against every corrupt piece of legislation that came up last session. To that he owes the fact of his re-election.

The Democratic party of Pennsylvania is honest, and will reward political integrity. It will be a happy day for the State when it again comes into power.

The Contested Seats in the Legislature.

If the Radical majority of our State Senate consummate the deliberate outrage of summarily ejecting Hiram Findley from the seat to which he is unquestionably entitled, and allow Mr. Watt to retain that to which Alexander J. Diamond was undoubtedly elected, they will do so in spite of the solemn warnings from the newspaper press of their own party. Radical journalists have the good sense to see that their party can not afford to disregard the result of the ballot, and to treat elections as if they had never been held. That kind of political brigandism will assuredly be rebuked by the honest voters of Pennsylvania. They will not hold connection with any party which is ready to belie every profession of honesty, and will not tolerate palpable perjury on the part of a majority of the State Senate. There is not an honest Republican editor in the State who does not know that Mr. Diamond was deliberately cheated out of his rights by a rascally board of return judges, and that Mr. Findley was legally elected. Quite a number of Republican newspapers have already spoken out in reference to these cases. The *Express* of last Saturday says:

> In the name of all the honest portion, including nine-tenths (and more we hope) of the Republican party, we protest against deciding contested seats in the Legislature, not according to their real merits and in favor of the candidate who received an actual majority of the legal votes, but according to the party predilections of a majority of the members who are to determine the case. The action of the Senate yesterday in refusing the motion of Senator Lowry in regard to the contested seat in the twentieth (Bedford and Somerset) district, impels us to utter this caution, though it may be that the vote upon his motion does not infallibly indicate the predetermination of the majority of the Senators to go for party, right or wrong. We trust the result will demonstrate that the Senators who believe that honesty is the best and the only true policy, are at least sufficiently numerous to have the casting votes in that body.

The two Senators from Lancaster county have had the reputation of being honest and conscientious men. Now is the time for them to show whether they deserve to be so esteemed. They can not vote blindly with their party on these contested election cases and expect to be thereafter looked upon as men of integrity. If they wish to stand clear in the eyes of the world let them boldly dare to do what is right.

We notice that by singular good luck the Democrats have chanced to secure a majority on both the committees drawn to determine the contested cases in the House. We expect them to act with perfect fairness, to weigh well all the testimony and, laying aside all partisan prejudice, to decide according to the evidence. The reputation of the Democratic party for fairness and integrity must not be impaired by injustice, no matter what our opponents may do.

How the Price of Coal is to be Raised.

The coal operators have hit upon a plan to increase the price of coal without incurring any direct responsibility.—They propose to reduce the wages of the miners, alleging that the price of coal has fallen so low that they can no longer afford to pay according to the terms of the "basis" as it is called. This basis, or agreement, was entered into at the time of the last suspension between the Coal Association (the operators) and the Miners' Union. According to the basis, when the price of coal at Port Carbon is $3 per ton, then miners' wages should be $14; inside laborers, $12; and outside laborers $11 per week; and for every 25 cents that the price of coal advanced above $3, five per cent. was to be added to these wages. They propose to reduce this "basis" 40 per cent. A partial strike has already resulted, and a complete strike will likely follow in the valleys. The operators think that by it the supply of coal will be kept back and prices enhanced; that they will be more than repaid for a month or two of idleness by this increased price; that by their own action in proposing a reduction they have staved off a demand for an increase, and have it in their power at any time to go to work at the old prices, or, perhaps, to effect a compromise at a reduction of these. No coal is being shipped at present from the Schuylkill region.

The Contest for State Treasurer.

The contest for State Treasurer ended yesterday in the nomination of Mackey by the Republican caucus. What have the *Express* and *Father Abraham* to say to this undoubted triumph of the ring? We hope their virtuous indignation has not oozed out. Now is the very nick of time for them to speak out in denunciation of the corrupt means by which Mackey's election was secured.

THE Clerks in the office of the Congressional Printer have made application to Secretary Boutwell for an increase of compensation of twenty per cent., running back two years. They make this claim on the ground that the laws give the officers of the United States Senate this compensation, and that they are by construction a branch of the Secretary's office of the Senate. Secretary Boutwell has referred the matter to the First Comptroller of the Treasury for decision as to the correctness of the ground on which the claim is based.

The Reading Adler.

This able German newspaper, familiarly known as the "Berks County Bible," has entered upon its seventy-fourth year in new type. It is just three years older than the INTELLIGENCER, and like ourselves has increased in size and prospered from the beginning. We wish our ancient cotemporary a continued career of financial and political success.

The Monthly Statement of the Public Debt--An Increase of $3,819,390.

The statements in regard to the public debt which are put forth monthly by Mr. Boutwell do not make an honest exhibit. They are fraudulent and deceptive. The following statement from the financial columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger* shows how a decrease of the national debt is made apparent when there has been an actual increase for the past month of nearly four million dollars. It says:

> The form of the monthly debt statement as it emanates from the Department, is not universally followed. Many of our cotemporaries include the Pacific Railroad bonds in the debt, and they certainly are a liability of the Government, though their payment may be abundantly secured by the Company. Others again deal directly with the principal of the debt, omitting altogether from the statement the amount of accrued interest, which serves more to confuse than to enlighten. Observing these forms the debt statement of the 1st inst. shows that the debt bearing coin interest has increased $1,100 during the month, if no account is taken of the $13,000,000 bonds that have been purchased. The currency interest debt has decreased $140,000. The debt bearing no interest has increased $4,184,380, while the matured debt outstanding is $151,090 less than last month. The net increase in the debt is thus $3,894,390. The coin in the Treasury has increased $3,189,-526, and the currency $971,197. Taking in here the $13,000,000 of bonds purchased, we have a net increase of $17,160,723 in the Treasury assets, and a diminution of $13,-266,333 in the debt, less assets in the Treasury. According to the Secretary's statement, ignoring the Pacific Railroad subsidy bonds, and combining accrued interest with principal, the debt less assets in the Treasury, is $2,448,746,953—a diminution of $4,812,781 during the month, and $76,716,306 since March 1, 1869. The coin interest accrued according to the Secretary's Statement is $48,797,638, against $41,270,486 last month. The currency interest is stated at $1,120,900 against $1,118,900 last month. The interest due on the matured debt is $544,906; last month it was $558,506. The interest on the Pacific Railroad subsidy bonds, of which the Secretary makes no account in his totals, is $1,890,856; a month ago it was $1,-536,205. The Pacific Railroad Companies have, during the month, repaid by transportation $24,359 of the interest already paid by the United States on these bonds making a total repayment of $1,861,089, leaving still to be refunded $3,123,732. According to the Treasury statement the amount of coin in the Treasury at the close of 1869 was $159,-000,000. From this deduct the following coin liabilities:
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> Deposits against certificates........$40,170,000
> Interest due January 1.............. 31,840,000
> Overdue interest..................... 5,240,000
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> Leaves the present coin liabilities.$77,250,000
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> Deducting this $77,250,000 of present gold liabilities, the Treasury holds $31,909,000 of coin not subject to present demand. Of this balance, however $11,717,000 is to be regarded as accrued interest, payable in March and May; leaving on the 1st of January, $20,192,000 of gold which can be regarded as strictly belonging to the Treasury. The above $77,250,000 of coin due from the Treasury to the public, upon one account or another, represents so much supply virtually within the control of the market; and adding to this, say $7,500,000 for coin, in the banks and private vaults, the total supply of gold on the market would appear to be about $85,000,000.

The Truth About Geary and his Message.

The Philadelphia *Post* does not seem to feel itself bound to compliment Governor Geary and his Message at the expense of the truth. It says:

> The Governor's Message is a fair document, though none of its subjects are treated with more than average ability. In this respect it is like all other messages of the kind: it is very rarely that Mayors, Governors or Presidents in their official essays upon public affairs show the comprehension of the subject, the skill in suggesting remedies for evils, the power and clearness of statement, displayed by the leading journals of the country. Anybody can be an average Governor, with a Cabinet to advise him and a hundred newspapers to teach him the will of the people and debate the great questions of the hour. Even Governor Geary can send forth a message to the Legislature which will generally receive public approval, yet if he were to undertake to edit a daily paper in Philadelphia he would ruin it in a week. It is a notable fact that almost every idea in this Message was first suggested by the press of Pennsylvania.
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> We attach no particular importance to a message of this kind. It has come to be a formality. Last year the Legislature treated some of the important suggestions of the Governor with indifference, and this year it is not unlikely that they will repeat their contempt. The suggestions may be intrinsically good, but the governor has no power to enforce them. Governor Geary is not respected by the Legislature, nor by the people, and this deprives what is good in his Message of the weight it should properly have. It is not the least misfortune of the State that this should be so.

Geary County--The Name to be Handed Down to Future Generations.

Hans Geary desires to make sure of having his name transmitted to posterity, and proposes to have a new county framed from parts of Westmoreland and Indiana, which is to embrace the birth-spot of our illustrious Governor and to bear his patronymic appellation. The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Post* says:

> There is a movement on foot to form an additional county from Westmoreland and Indiana counties. Who the father of the bill is, has not yet leaked out, but rumor has associated the name of the Governor with the project. Whether this is so or not, may be learned from the following:
>
> The birthplace of his Excellency is known as New Alexander. "There," in the language of the Governor, "is the branch from which I cut a fishing pole; there is the tree from which I shot a squirrel; there is the rocky bluff on which I gathered a bird's nest." In closing this exceedingly classical and characteristic speech, he said, "*In fact I think a man partakes of the geological formation of the country in which he was born.*" The idea now is to fence in the hallowed spot, to the end that it may be kept in remembrance by a grateful people who recently recognized the personal popularity of the Governor; to surround it with sufficient ground out of which to form a county that shall for all future times be known as Geary County. The matter has been fully canvassed in the section of the State which is to be thus honored, and a majority of the residents are said to be in favor of it. However, there is a lively fight going on as to the selection of the town that shall be designated as the county seat. The birthplace of Geary is anxious for the honor, while the inhabitants of the progressive borough of Blairsville claim that, being more populous and more centrally situated, and, in addition, a prominent railroad locality, they should be favored. There is scarcely any doubt of the passage of this measure.

THE Legislature of Maryland, which assembled on Tuesday, is unanimously Democratic in both branches, as it was last year. It numbers among its members many of the best men in the State. It is not considered to be good reason for suspecting a man's honesty to know that he is a member of the Maryland Legislature. That is a stigma which has been brought upon Pennsylvania by the Radicals.

A LIBERAL PARTY is in power in South Carolina, most of them negroes. There are of it as officers and members of the Legislature 165. An adjournment was had for thirteen days, and it was voted that each member and employee should draw his pay during the adjournment. The cost is just $12,870 to the State!

Organization of the Ohio Legislature--Triumph of the Democrats and Conservatives.

COLUMBUS, Jan. 3.—The General Assembly met at ten o'clock to-day. The Senate organized by electing C. T. Hall, (Rep.) clerk, and R. F. Churchill, (Dem.) sergeant-at-arms. The House partially organized by electing A. J. Cunningham, (reform,) of Hamilton county, Speaker. The vote stood: Cunningham, 57; Dennis, 54; Hitchcock, 1. Cunningham received the entire Democratic vote, and by voting for himself was elected. Amos Layman, (Dem.) was elected clerk. Three reformers from Hamilton county voted steadily with the Democrats.

The house completed its organization last evening. Alex. Keeler, (Democrat,) of Hamilton county, was elected sergeant-at-arms. The organization of the House, in the main, is considered a Democratic triumph.

Resolutions ratifying the Fifteenth Amendment were introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

The annual message of Governor Hayes was delivered to the General Assembly this afternoon. It is quite short, and only alludes to national matters by recommending the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Referring to the State finances, he estimates the receipts for the current year at $4,791,144 50 and disbursements at $4,477,899 60. The total debt of the State is given at $9,855,938 27. The Governor recommends a revision of the financial laws of Ohio; the adoption of a plan for the classification of convicts in the penitentiary; that provision be made for the establishment of an agricultural college, and that aid be rendered to the Soldiers' Orphans' Home.

The cannon presented by Lafayette to Gen. Cropper, now in the Central Park Arsenal building, was cast in 1751, and bears on its surface the motto, "*Ultimo ratio regum*"—the last argument of Kings. It is inscribed also with the names of Henri d'en de Bourbon and Charles Comte d'Angouleme. It was cast by Berenger, of Duache.

DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Fight Over State Treasurer.

Desperate Effort to Beat Mackey.

The Unpaid Balances.

Railroad Managers Interested.

Another Triumph for Simon Cameron and His Son Don.

Bad Conduct of Radical Senators in the Findlay Case.

John Cessna on Hand With an Axe to Grind.

Comparative Talent of Parties in the Legislature.

Fight Between Geary and Radical Members of the Legislature.

Perfect Organization of the Ring.

Contrary to expectation the fight over the rich spoils attaching to the office of State Treasurer did not end with the organization of the two Houses. The Mackey men regarded the election of Strang as a positive triumph for them, but certain knowing supporters of Irwin predicted on Tuesday morning that both Stinson and Strang would indicate their opposition to the gay and festive Pittsburgh bank clerk in their speeches, and throw the organization of the two Houses in favor of Irwin. This proved to be but an ill-founded rumor, and it was dissipated as soon as the two Speakers had got off the little addresses they had prepared so carefully. Then it was reported, on what seemed for the moment to be good authority, that the Pennsylvania Railroad was going into the fight, as the champion of Irwin, with a determination to beat Mackey, let it cost what it might. An existing feud between Tom. Scott and Don Cameron gave strength to this report, which had some props to sustain it.

It seems there are certain "unpaid balances" of the money promised to members for votes given in the Radical caucus last year, when John Scott was nominated for Senator and Mackey for State Treasurer. The secret of that disreputable transaction is substantially as follows: Simon Cameron, knowing that the Pennsylvania Railroad intended to mix in the Senatorial contest, went to J. Edgar Thompson, the President of the road, and suggested a union of forces in favor of John K. Moorehead. Mr. Thompson could not see that, but intimated his preference for John Scott, of Huntingdon. Simon considered, and concluded that by "hunting in couples" with the Pennsylvania Central on the Senatorship, he could oust Irwin from the State Treasury, and administer the *coup de grace* to the Curtin faction. Irwin was strong personally, but the "solid arguments" adduced by Simon's astute son and able Lieutenant, J. Donald Cameron, proved stronger than the pledges already made by certain Republican members to Mr. Irwin. Some sold themselves cheap, and others got more than they ever made honestly for a single vote. It is said that a check for $10,-000 was handed over to be divided between three of the Lancaster county members. We heard, on good authority, that Mr. Hopkins refused to pocket the $3,500 thus tendered to him; but we never heard it hinted that the other two were troubled by any such scruples of conscience. It is said many members only got a part of what was promised them, Don Cameron claiming that the Pennsylvania Railroad was to bear its proportion of the expenditures. Out of this the feud between Tom Scott and Don Cameron is said to have grown; the Pennsylvania Central having refused to "fork up," leaving Don Cameron with his promises to purchased members only partly fulfilled.

On Tuesday afternoon and night the fight between Mackey and Irwin raged fiercely. Late in the day Sam. Moon, a reputed lobby agent and financial representative of the Pennsylvania Central, is reported to have written to Gen. Irwin: "The time for concealment has passed. The war shall now begin, and it shall be prosecuted unrelentingly." This letter was written just subsequent to an interview with a gentleman prominent in the Mackey interest, at which the following conversation is reported to have taken place:

> Visitor. "Well, Messrs. Strang and Selfridge are elected. How are you on the State Treasurership?"
> Agent of Penn'a R. R. "I am for General Irwin."
> Visitor. "That means war."
> Agent. "Call it by what name you will, that is the position."

As soon as Don Cameron learned this he telegraphed to J. Edgar Thompson, at Philadelphia, to know whether the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was thus going into the fight. Mr. Thompson replied as follows:

> "J. D. Cameron—I have not intimated any preference with reference to the State Treasurer. No one has any authority to use the name of the company in this matter. J. EDGAR THOMSON."

The contents of that despatch saddened a number of members who had heretofore refused to commit themselves, in the hope that a big fight between two such important interests would make votes worth almost any price that might be named. Thos. A. Scott shortly afterwards intimated that he occupied a position similar to that of Mr. Thompson, and Sam. Moon found himself to be a financial agent without finances to make a fight. The backers of Irwin put up all the money they could raise, and were lavish of promises, but a count of noses soon showed that Mackey had the inside track. Still the friends of Irwin kept up their boasts, and threw out mysterious hints about developments yet to be made. All was excitement about the Lochiel, and the halls and corridors were filled with an anxious crowd up to a late hour. There was the usual liberal consumption of whiskey, and consequent loud talking. Not until after midnight was quiet restored. Lists were opened for the signatures of members during the evening, and by the time the crowd about the Lochiel dispersed to sleep off the fumes of the liquor they had imbibed, those who were posted knew that Irwin was "a dead cock in the pit." As we said in a former article the nomination of Strang was the trumph of Mackey, so understood to be at the time it was effected, and the Lancaster delegation were not ignorant of the fact. We do not know that there was much choice between the candidates for State Treasurer. Certain it is that both used money freely, and that they were backed up by certain banks which expected to profit largely by having large sums of the public money deposited with them. But for the smothered feud between Tom. Scott and the Camerons, father and son, the fight would have ended with the triumph of Strang. The hopes of the Irwin faction were only kept alive after that by undefined expectations, that the influence of the Pennsylvania railroad would be thrown in the scale against Mackey. It was by means of money to be furnished by that corporation that they expected to succeed. The moment it was known that the bottom was out of that tub, the greedy adventurers, who had been holding their votes for disposal to the highest bidder, hastened to place their names on Mackey's list of supporters. Strang wanted the caucus called at once, but Stinson held out until Wednesday morning when he yielded.—Twelve o'clock of that day was fixed on as the hour for meeting, but it was two hours later when the Senate adjourned, and the assemblage convened. Senator Graham was elected to preside, and on the first ballot R. W. Mackey received fifty votes, and W. W. Irwin eight. Billingfelt, Reinoehl and Godshalk, supported Irwin, the balance of the Lancaster delegation voted for Mackey, or were among the absentees.

Since the decision of the caucus there has been some loud talk about bolting, but knowing Republican politicians say it is only what one of them styles "a little pinch"—that is, an effort to extort more money from Mackey & Co. It has been suggested that the Democrats might be induced to go for Irwin, and thus elect him, but that rumor has no foundation. They regard Irwin as very little better than Mackey, and have looked upon the contest as a disreputable struggle between two aspirants who were equally ready to achieve their object by corrupt means. They might be induced to go in a body for a new and perfectly honest candidate, if such a man should be put forward, but it is not probable that such a thing will be done.

Irwin is in reality no better than Mackey. Under him the same evils prevailed, and he and his friends did not scruple to use the same means that his opponents employed so successfully. The evils connected with the office of State Treasurer lie too deep to be healed by the selection of any individual incumbent. They are to be sought in that system which allows the State Treasurer to distribute one or two million dollars of the money belonging to the State among different banks, or to place it as loans in the hands of his friends and favorites. Although there is a nominal balance in the State Treasury of nearly a million and a half, and has been during the past year, a leading Republican paper says it is not long since the State Treasurer or one of his officials begged for time for the payment of two-fifths of an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars due the State Lunatic Asylum. If he had not at command $10,000, out of $1,500,000 of funds, it is high time the people should know where the money was. Cash or *bona fide* bank balances being, according to this rumor, not under his control, how was this sum represented. Did it consist in part or in whole of the *due bills* of influential politicians, or the notes of speculators. If so, the people of this State may expect such a system to end, where it has ended in other States, and to find themselves subjected, not merely to a continuous loss of interest through a series of years, but finally to the loss of a large portion of the principal, which is handled in this dangerous and dishonest manner. The bill presented by Mr. Wallace, which provides for a complete change in the management of the State Treasury, ought to be promptly passed. Thus shall the safety of the State funds be secured, and one great source of corruption and debauchery be removed.

THE CONTESTED SEATS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

There are four contested seats. Two in the House, both from Philadelphia, and two in the Senate. A remarkable fact connected with the cases in the House is that on both the committees, which are drawn by lot, the Democrats though largely in the minority secured a majority. This will insure a fair hearing for the Democratic claimants. In the Senate the committee drawn in the case of Diamond vs. Watt there are five Republicans to two Democrats. In this case the right is so clearly with Mr. Diamond that the result ought not to be doubtful.—Messrs. Lowry and Warfel are on the committee, and they both claim to be conscientious men. Should they pay the slightest regard to the true state of the facts Mr. Diamond will certainly secure the seat to which he is entitled. His opponent only obtained a certificate of election through the most high-handed outrage on the part of the return judges. Judge Alison, when the case was brought before him, denounced the fraud which was perpetrated as it deserved, and the *Morning Post* and other Republican newspapers of Philadelphia, have declared that the Republican party cannot afford to decide this case in favor of the Radical claimant. We shall see how much honor and honesty there is in the majority of the Senate when this case comes to be decided.

When the 20th district was called, Senator Wallace moved that Hiram Findlay be sworn, and presented the credentials of that gentleman, signed by a return judge of each of the counties composing the district. Such a document was held by Congress sufficient to entitle Alexander Coffroth, elected from the same district, to the position of sitting member, and his Republican opponent was compelled to contest. Mr. Scull, the opponent of Mr Findlay, had no return to make except a paper signed by a single election judge of Somerset county, in which the vote of one township was entirely omitted. The motion of Mr. Wallace was usual and proper, and the position taken by him was impregnable in law, and in accordance with established usage. Harry White, prompted by John Cessna, moved to refer the case to a committee, to determine who shall be declared the sitting member. Morrow B. Lowry acted the man in this matter, and stood by Senator Wallace, disregarding the lash of party drill. Mr. Findlay not only held the only regular return, but he had the return having upon its face a record of the largest number of votes. Upon that very point a case was decided in the House when Mr. Billingfelt was a member of that body. John Cessna has a personal interest in this contest. He narrowly escaped being beaten for Congress in that district, receiving only a little over one hundred majority when the the usual majority has ranged from six to seven hundred. There is great dissatisfaction with his distribution of the offices, and he desires to appoint a Franklin county man to the position of Collector, which Mr. Scull now holds. He has been very busy in the pending contest, and was heard to declare that he had "*much experience in drawing committees.*" We suppose he expects to get a chance to exercise his peculiar skill in selecting a committee to decide this case. Harry White's committee reported in favor of making Scull the sitting member, Mr. Davis making a minority report in favor of Mr. Findlay. This is no more than was expected. White, acting as the tool of Cessna, had pre-determined the case contrary to law and precedent when he moved the appointment of the committee, and his Radical colleague was a mere tool in his hands. When the report was made Mr. Lowry moved that the hour for adjournment be extended until the case was disposed of. The motion was lost by a vote of 14 ayes to 16 nays, and the Senate adjourned until Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Senator Lowry has shown manly independence in this matter. He will not stultify himself and commit a gross outrage at the dictation of partisan necessity.

COMPARATIVE TALENT.

In the Senate the Democrats have the advantage in point of talent. The Radicals have no leaders equal to Wallace and Buckalew. Mr. Wallace has already introduced a number of important bills, among which is one looking to a complete reform of the abuses connected with the State Treasury. Mr. Buckalew has moved in the matter of cumulative voting, a project of his own origination which has excited much attention on the part of thoughtful men of both parties. Besides Wallace and Buckalew the Democrats have other able men in the Senate, and in talent the minority is confessedly more than a match for the majority. In the House the Democracy are also well represented. There is more than the average of talent among the new members and some of them will not fail to make their power felt. The corrupt ring will find precious few tools among the Democratic members who now represent the party at Harrisburg.

WAR BETWEEN GEARY AND THE LEGISLATURE.

There is no love between Geary and the leaders of his party. He has behaved so badly that even the roosters and pinchers are disgusted with him. The other day, when the usual motion was made to print his Annual Message, Republican members cried no! no! and the resolution was summarily tabled. This made Hans furious. He declared that he regarded such conduct as a direct personal insult and raved wildly. He avowed that the Republican members could be bought and sold like sheep in the shambles, and vowed that he would clean out the Augean stables. A member to whom the Governor's words were reported, suggested that his Excellency ought to read the confession of Adam Titus, in which that wretched fellow declared that he had been "brought to the gallows by his ungovernable passion." The feud is open and bitter, and is likely to be kept up. Geary was nominated first by Simon Cameron, and for some time was the subservient tool of the Winnebago Chief; but he has now fallen into the hands of the Curtin faction. He not only displaced Hon. B. F. Brewster to make room for his illegitimate brother, F. Carroll Brewster, but he has since selected as his Adjutant General, A. L. Russell, who was denounced not long ago on the floor of the United States Senate in the bitterest terms by Simon Cameron; and it is said he intends to make a near relative of A. K. M'Clure, Deputy Attorney General. It is not likely that Geary will be able to give much increased strength to the Curtin faction, as he is almost entirely destitute of political influence even within the ranks of his own party. The inauguration, which takes place on the 18th inst., promises to be slimly attended, and very little interest is taken in the affair.

ORGANIZATION OF THE RING.

The present legislature has been organized with special reference to the kind of business which engages the attention of the Ring, and there will be a perfect avalanche of paying bills brought in when the Committee fairly get to work. Lobby agents are already swarming about the hotels. It is supposed prices will range high this winter as the Ring was never so perfectly united before, and so completely master of the situation. With Stinson and Strang to engineer matters the "roosters" and "pinchers" will have "a high old time." Every fellow will be ready to take his "divy," and no one will attempt to "pull out" his comrades "hook;" which means, being interpreted from thieves' jargon, which is used at the State Capitol, into plain English, that bribery and corruption will stalk abroad, and legislative stealing be made the order of the day.

The breweries of San Francisco manufacture 135,000 barrels of beer including ale and porter, annually; employ a force of 200 men, and consume 13,500,000 pounds of barley, and 200,000 pounds of hops in the production of the above amount of malt liquors. The barley is raised in California.

State Items.

An immense printing house is to be started in Harrisburg.

A new rolling mill at South Bethlehem is to use gas for fuel.

A restaurant keeper of Bethlehem is under arrest for serving up free lunches of dog meat.

Two ten-year-old boys were recently picked up in the streets of Allegheny City, in a state of beastly intoxication.

A man named Rhine, of Wernersville, Berks county, was badly injured last week by being run over by a wagon.

The scarlet fever still continues to prevail in Reading with many fatal results.

Three persons have died of hydrophobia within twenty miles of Philadelphia, within the last fortnight.

It is estimated that the stock of flour in Philadelphia, in the hands of commission houses, exceeds one hundred thousand barrels.

Albert Price, aged about 30 years, formerly a bar-tender in Reading was recently found drowned in the Schuylkill Canal, near Bushong's paper mill, in that city.

E. T. Casidy, of Pittsburg, has been appointed by the Governor and commissioned by the State Department a notary public for the term of three years.

A small child of John Hanlin, of Bridgeport, Montgomery county, fell into a vessel of boiling water lately, and was scalded dreadfully. It is not expected to live.

Wm. Haight was found frozen to death on a road near Phillipsburg, Clearfield co., a few days ago. He had a bottle of whiskey, partially emptied, in his pocket.

The Rev. Frederick Dripps, of Brooklyn, L. I., has been called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown. Mr. Dripps is a graduate of Princeton, and a young man of ability.

A brown mare, with white spots on her forehead and breast, and without shoes on her hind feet, was stolen from Joseph Lindemuth, of Upper Bern twp., Berks county, on the 2d inst. A reward of $25 has been offered for her recovery.

A young man named High, residing in Frystown, Berks co., had part of his nose blown off and his cheek injured while "shooting New Year." He had loaded an anvil, and the charge went off prematurely, with the above result.

The soldiers of the Mexican war and members of the Scott Legion intend to participate in the inauguration ceremonies at Harrisburg on the 18th inst. Gov. Geary himself is a member of this association, having been a soldier in our war with Mexico.

If this should meet the eye of Adam Ruff, or any person acquainted with him, now about twenty-two years of age, who left his home in August 1867, since when nothing has been heard of him, a line addressed to his father, John G. Ruff, Easton, Pa., will tend to allay the mental suffering of a parent.

Rev. Mr. Curn, of Carlisle, Presiding Elder of the Methodist E. church, has appointed Rev. Mr. Westwood, of Baltimore, to fill the vacancy occasioned in York by the death of Rev. Mr. Mills, until the meeting of Conference, in March. The appointee intend to take charge of the congregation immediately.

Hon. Wm. McKennan, Judge of the Third United States Circuit, arrived at Erie on the 15th inst., and the oath of office was administered to him by Hon. Wilson McCandless, Judge of the United States Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. His Circuit embraces the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Recently two farmers named Bean and Thompson, from near Waterford, Erie county, traveling in a wagon, were assailed by foot pads who sprung from a clump of bushes by the roadside. The pads fired revolvers upon them, one ball passing through the hat of Mr. Bean, but the horse taking fright, ran off out of reach of the assailants.

During the past year the Water Department of Philadelphia has supplied water to 74,806 dwellings, 4,088 three-quarter dwellings, and 15,702 half dwellings, making a total of 94,696 dwellings. They have also supplied 27,177 bath tubs, 11,255 water closets, 16,927 horse stalls, and 16,994 wash paves. The steam boilers and engines that draw their water from the city mains report an aggregate of 12,426 horse power.

The steam colliers belonging to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co. are doing an extensive business. The Centipede sailed from Philadelphia on the 4th, for Boston, with 600 tons of coal. The Rattlesnake left Philadelphia on the 5th for Allen's Point, with 600 tons. The Company expect to launch the new collier Archilles, of 1,000 tons capacity, early in February, and they are now building three others.

The Reading Railroad Company gave notice that in accordance with the terms of the lease, they will pay, on and after the 18th of January, 1870, at their Philadelphia office, $1.50 per share clear of taxes, to the stockholders of the East Penn'a. Railroad Company, as they shall stand registered on the 1st of January, 1870. The transfer books of the East Penn'a. Railroad Company were closed on the 1st inst., and will be opened again on the 11th.

A Mrs. Miller, of Wissahickon, near Philadelphia, recently met with a dreadful death. She intended to urge her kitchen fire by pouring coal oil upon it from a can containing about a quart of the fluid. The moment that the oil reached the flames, the whole quantity in the can exploded, and the woman was enveloped in flames. She was so badly burned that the flesh came from the bones, yet she lingered several days when death ended her sufferings. Mrs. Miller was forty years of age, and leaves a husband and fourteen children.

Items of Interest.

Gustave Fischer, Sheriff of Cook county, Illinois, has absconded with from $10,000 to $20,000, borrowed funds.

The Philadelphia *Sunday Mercury* has entered upon the *twentieth year* of its existence, being the oldest Sunday journal now published in that city.

John Nixon, a respectable citizen, was shot dead at a club house in New Orleans on Saturday night. No arrests have been made.

At Helena, Montana, on Saturday evening, Moses Bowlding, a private of the Thirteenth infantry, shot dead a bill carrier of the Varieties Theatre. Bowlding was drunk at the time.

A large expedition has left St. Petersburg for the Baiken Bay of the Caspian Sea, to attempt the discovery of a means of connecting the Caspian and Aral seas by the bed of the ancient river Amudja.

Texas cattle can now be driven into Kansas until March 1. Already a vast army of bovines is in motion, and the plains are alive with long horned "critters."

A lady's apron, made of cream-colored morocco leather, beautifully embellished in a border of gold and colors, has been sent to Miss Ida Lewis, of Newport, as a testimonial from the employees of a Providence tannery.

A colored man, named Johnson, who had shot and dangerously wounded a farmer, named Cox was taken from jail at Atchison, Mo., on Tuesday night, and hanged by a mob.

An envelope containing the will of H. R. Wing, of Glenn's Falls, was found in the streets of Albany, N. Y., on Saturday. The will, which was partially burned had been stolen, with other property, from the Glenn's Falls Bank on Friday.

Herr von Dingelstadt, director of the Vienna Opera House is about to break through the traditions of the ballet. He believes the ballet to suffer from an entire want of humor, and proposes to deal with the next new ballet in a facetious manner. Amusing scenes are to awaken the sympathy of the public, and Herr Berg, a farce writer, has been charged with the task of providing a libretto full of absurd situations.

The real estate belonging to the heirs of R. F. W. Allison, late Governor of South Carolina, was recently sold under a decree in equality. Five plantations, containing 4,108 acres, which cost, originally $222,500, were sold for $42,700. Large quantities of pine and swamp lands were also sold at from 8 to 22 cents an acre. The purchase money is to be paid one-eighth cash and the balance in one, two, and three years.

There were 1,122 visitors to this wonderful valley in California in the year 1869, against 147 in 1864. It is one of the wonders of the world, and is destined to be a resort as long as its unique wonders and beauties exist. The valley, together with the Big Tree Grove near it, was granted by Congress to the State of California in 1864, and the Legislature of the State, in accepting the grant, did so "on the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public resort and recreation, inalienable for all time." The valley, therefore, is a public park, open to all the world. But there are two occupants living in it who claim 320 acres of its area, and as this claim covers a considerable proportion of the 1,100 acres of level area, it is proposed by the California press that the two squatters be bought out and induced to leave the valley to the undisputed guardianship of the mammoth trees.

List of Members of the Legislature.

The following is a list of members of the State Legislature. The names of Democrats are in *Italics*, those of Republicans in Roman letters. Alexander J. Diamond was legally elected in the 18th Senatorial District, and contests the seat of W. W. Watt. In the 20th District, Hiram Findley, Democrat, was not only legally elected, but so returned. The Radicals refuse to give him the seat to which he is *prima facie* entitled. There are also two contested cases in the House:

SENATE.

Districts—1st, Contested; 2d, A. W. Henzey; 3d, *D. A. Nagle;* 4th, George Connell; 5th, C. H. Stinson and H. J. Brooke; 6th, *R. J. Linderman;* 7th, *R. S. Brown;* 8th, *J. D. Davis;* 9th, *W. M. Randall;* 10th, *A. G. Drodhead;* 11th, P. O. Osterhout; 12th, *S. G. Turner;* 13th, A. G. Olmstead; 14th, *John R. Beck;* 15th, *C. R. Buckalew;* 16th, David Mumma; 17th, E. Billingfelt and J. B. Warfel; 18th, *A. G. Miller;* 19th, *C. M. Duncan;* 20th, Contested; 21st, J. K. Robinson and *C. J. T. M'Intire;* 22d, Harry White; 23d, *W. A. Wallace;* 24th, *A. A. Purman;* 25th, S. L. Graham and Thomas Howard; 26th, Jas. S. Rutan; 27th, James Kerr; 28th, H. Allen; 29th, M. B. Lowry.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Philadelphia—L. B. Thomas, G. Maxwell, *Sam. Josephs,* Wm. Elliot, *Edw. G. Curlin, J. F. Mooney,* Rob. Johnston, Jas. V. Stokes, *Samuel D. Dailey,* Elisha W. Davis, Wm. M. Bunn, Alex. Adair, *J. Forsythe,* John Cloud, Adam Albright, Marshall C. Hong, Watson Comly, James Miller.

Adams—*A. B. Dill.*

Allegheny—M. S. Humphreys, Alex. Miller, Joseph Walton, Jas. Taylor, D. W. White, John H. Kerr.

Armstrong—M. M. Steele.

Beaver and Washington—W. C. Shurlock, A. J. Buffington, H. J. Vankirk.

Bedford, Fulton and Somerset—J. H. Longnecker, F. B. Long.

Berks—*Henry Brobst, A. T. C. Keffer, H. H. Schwartz.*

Blair—Joseph Robinson.

Bradford and Sullivan—J. F. Chamberlain, Jas. H. Webb.

Bucks—*Joshua Beans, E. C. McKinstry.*

Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer—C. W. M'Cracken, D. Craig, E. A. Wheeler, Alex. Leslie.

Cambria—*John Porter.*

Cameron, Clinton and McKean—*A. R. Armstrong.*

Carbon and Monroe—*Wm. B. Leonard.*

Chester—Jas. C. Roberts, Jos. C. Keech, A. Darlington.

Clarion and Jefferson—*R. B. Brown.*

Crawford—H. C. Johnson, F. W. Ames.

Clearfield, Elk, and Forest—*John G. Hall.*

Centre—*Jacob G. Meyer.*

Columbia and Montour—*George Scott.*

Cumberland—*John B. Liedig.*

Dauphin—A. C. Smith, John E. Parsons.

Delaware—Thos. V. Cooper.

Erie—C. O. Bowman, D. B. McCreary.

Fayette—*T. B. Schnatterly.*

Franklin and Perry—*G. W. Skinner, Jo. Millikin.*

Greene—*Jos. Sedgewick.*

Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Juniata—*H. G. McAteer, A. Rorer.*

Indiana and Westmoreland—D. M. Marshall, A. M. Fulton, Jacob F. Kreps.

Lancaster—A. Godschalk, A. C. Reinoehl, E. B. Herr, John E. Wiley.

Lebanon—J. B. Deininger.

Lehigh—*Adam Woolever, D. H. Creitz.*

Luzerne—*S. W. Keene,* John F. McMahon, George Cory.

Lycoming, Union, and Snyder—Theodore Hill, Thomas Church, *Andrew H. Dill.*

Montgomery—*James Eshbach, John J. Harvey.*

Northampton—*Samuel Boileau, David Engleman.*

Northumberland—*R. Montgomery.*

Pike and Wayne—*Wm. H. Dimmick.*

Potter and Tioga—B. B. Strang, J. B. Niles.

Schuylkill—*James Ellis, J. Irwin Steel, F. W. Snyder.*

Susquehanna and Wyoming—George S. Fassett, A. P. Stephens.

Venango and Warren—J. D. McJunkin, Chas. W. Stone.

York—*George R. Hursh, B. F. Porter.*

Ex-Attorney General Brewster on the Findlay-Scull Case.

He Sustains Senator Lowry's Position and shows that Mr. Findlay is Entitled to the Seat.

The subjoined letter, from the Honorable Benjamin Harris Brewster, late Attorney General of Pennsylvania, has been received by Senator Lowry. It will be seen, that Mr. Brewster regards Mr. Findlay as clearly entitled to his seat in the Senate, *prima facie*, for the Twentieth Senatorial District. The letter needs no comment. It speaks for itself.

> 706 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, January 7, 1870.
>
> *My Dear Mr. Lowry:*—I am so occupied that I cannot answer you as freely as I would like to do. However, the whole question is within a very narrow compass and will not admit of much elaborate discussion. You ask me if you have taken the right ground, and you say you are anxious not to go astray. You are right. Party has nothing to do with this. Principle alone must be considered, or confusion and legislative anarchy will be the result. The matter has been determined over and over. Indeed, no precedent can be found to uphold the proposed course. The man who holds the certificate is the elected man, and entitled to his seat. Those who dispute his certificate must contest. No legislative body can be organized on any other principle. The return judges having certified by a majority that A was duly elected, A must take the seat. If B has a dissenting opinion from one judge, or a minority, that no more entitles him to the seat than it would give a citizen a judgment in a court of law when the majority of the court had resolved the other way. In either case, the remedy is by appeal. In the meantime the occupant holds, or he must be ejected by judgment in the whole case as presented to the higher court, and that court in this case is the committee as provided by law. But there is no occasion to illustrate by analysis in this case the law—the law is imperative, and to revoke it for the mere purpose of upholding party supremacy, or from any legislative whim, must be destructive of all true legislative organization.
>
> Some years ago I gave an opinion of a like character in Judge King's case, and he was commissioned. Mr. W. L. Hirst united with me in that opinion. The papers you can get no doubt in the Secretary's office, and so I decided in the Covode and Foster case.
>
> Consistent action and strict adherence to the law is essential in such cases. The method of solving such disputes is a part of parliamentary history in England, and the course provided was adopted after much contention, and has been accepted as the wise, just and impartial way, and being accepted procured tranquility on a subject which before was the cause of much injustice. The law, as it has been applied to each gentleman who now holds his seat in your body, must be applied to this case, or you will all of you "go astray."
>
> Truly your friend,
> BENJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER.
>
> To Hon. M. B. Lowry, Senate, Harrisburg.

Rescinding the Ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment by the New York Legislature.

The New York *Herald* gives the following account of the action of the New York Legislature on this important question:

> The event of to-day is the rescinding and annulling of the resolution passed last session ratifying the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment. After a brief debate, participated in by Senators Henry C. Murphy, Thomas J. Creamer and the Republican Senator Woodin, it was rescinded by a party vote of sixteen to thirteen, and at once sent to the Assembly for concurrence. Here it met with some resistance from Mr. Husted, of Westchester; Alvord, of Onondaga, and J. H. White, of New York. They claimed that the business had passed entirely out of the hands of the Legislature; that they could no more revoke the resolution of last session than they could declare that Reuben E. Fenton was not United States Senator, and that they should proceed to elect another one. On the Democratic side, Mr. Murphy, of Albany, and Colonel Patrick, of Chemung, replied, the former taking grounds that the action of last year was not complete, because the journal of the House contained no record of the fact that the Governor had sent the resolution to the Secretary of State. All arguments, however, were mere waste of time, because the question of concurrence was a foregone conclusion. John C. Jacobs made a most brilliant speech in favor of the resolution and was loudly applauded. After a useless debate of an hour's duration the Senate resolution was concurred in by a vote of yeas 69, nays 56, and thus the ratification of the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment by the State of New York is recalled, rescinded and annulled, as far as the Legislature can do it.

A Chinese Store.

The Chinese laborers, who have gone to Texas for the purpose of working on the Pacific Railway of that State, before entering into the contract of hiring, insisted that a Chinese store should be established near the place of labor. The articles of agreement provide for the establishment of this store, and contain an inventory of the stock that must be laid in. Some of the items, and the quantity to be purchased, are as follows: 5000 quires Chinese visiting card paper; 10 pairs crape suspenders; 10 boxes foo chuck, or bean curd sticks; 50 pounds orange peel; 100 pounds pak ko; 50 pounds sugar candy; 2000 pounds salt shrimps; 50,000 fire crackers; 40 sets chop sticks and bowls; jos paper and jos sticks; 55 pounds dried oysters; 10,000 Chinese cigars; 50 pieces of silk cord, for queue strings; any quantity of salt fish, salt olives, preserved olives, peas, betel nuts, limes, dried melons, dates, mellone, kim quat, crambolo and peppermint oil.

Another Explorer Heard From.

Another missing explorer in Africa—George Schweinfurth—has been heard from. Early in 1869 he had taken up his residence at the great Seriba or Ghattas, in Djur, seven degrees north latitude. He had passed the greater part of the rainy season without suffering from fever, and was engaged in exploring the neighborhood. He intended shortly to make an excursion into the land of the Njam-Njams, a hilly country, the animal and vegetable productions of which are widely different from those of the adjoining districts. His journey has been very successful in a scientific point of view, and a part of his zoological and botanical collections may be expected in Europe next spring.