Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1870.

Dickey vs. Dawes.

Our Congressman, Hon. O. J. Dickey, undertook, the other day, to reply to the speech of Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, which we publish elsewhere. The charges made by Mr. Dawes are of a very grave character. He shows most conclusively that the present administration has so far proven to be the most extravagant and costly one with which this country was ever afflicted in a time of peace. While the people are groaning under the most burthensome taxation, with business of every description in a declining condition, appropriations greatly exceeding those of any year of Andrew Johnson's administration are asked for by Grant's Secretary of the Treasury. Among other estimates for the current year he calls attention to the item of $800,000 for Leagus Island, which would be in addition to the $3,000,000 to be obtained from the sale of the present Navy Yard at Philadelphia. He denounced such expenditures as $577,856 for the Portsmouth Navy Yard against $50,000 expended last year; $747,341 for the Navy Yard at Boston against $100,000 last year, and so on through the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for Navy Yards alone, until a total of $3,607,394 is piled up against $451,000 last year. He showed that the appropriations for *public* works, alone, demanded by the present Secretary of the Navy, amount to $24,625,173 against $5,493,000 last year; and that the total estimates for the Navy for the present year amount to $28,441,761 against $15,065,666 appropriated last year.

In summing up Mr. Dawes shows that the estimates of the administration which came into power with professions of retrenchment and reform amount in the very first year to $331,079,174.69, an increase of $42,682,537.01 over the appropriations for the last year of Andrew Johnson's administration. Mr. Dawes confines his criticism to the estimates already made for which the money is actually demanded. He did not take into account the millions which Grant proposes to spend for earthquakes and tornadoes in the tropical isles to off-set the icebergs of Alaska; nor the other numerous millions more which will be required to complete the vast public works which the administration proposes to commence in the very first months of a term pledged to retrenchment and economy in public expenditures. That Mr. Dawes is decidedly within the mark, instead of being beyond it, the future will abundantly demonstrate. We do not wonder that his exposure has created a decided sensation in Radical circles, and are not surprised that Grant is excited over such a speech, coming as it does from one of the extreme Radical representatives of Massachusetts. Nor is it strange that a desperate effort should be made to discredit the statements of Mr. Dawes, backed up as they are by an army of figures that can not be gainsayed.

Our Congressman is an impulsive little man, not gifted with much caution, and greatly in the habit of blurting out whatever comes uppermost when he gets on his legs to talk. He rushed gallantly to the defense of General Grant, and in his effort to excuse him did not seem to care who else might be made to suffer. Mr. Dickey did not succeed in showing that Mr. Dawes was mistaken to the extent of one penny in the alarming estimate which he made. He did not even attempt anything of that kind; but, with a reckless disregard of the feelings of his fellow-members of the House, and a total want of care for the reputation of Radical Senators, he proceeded in a labored attempt to show that Congress is responsible for much of the frightful extravagance which prevails. Admitting that Mr. Dickey's position is correct, it leaves the Republican party in no better condition. The fact still stands uncontradicted that the first year of Grant's administration will cost the country between forty and fifty millions of dollars more than any year of Andrew Johnson's rule. The highest sum ever expended by a Democratic administration, was some eighty millions. Let the taxpayers compare that with the three hundred and thirty millions demanded by Grant, and they will have a fair illustration of the comparative economy of the two political parties.

Judge Woodward and League Island.

Hon. George W. Woodward voted against the League Island Bill, and some Radical newspapers in this State are cursing at him for so doing. We imagine the taxpayers will thank Judge Woodward for saving them from unnecessary expense. This is not the proper time for the commencement of gigantic projects which must entail an enormous annual expenditure. We can certainly get along in time of profound peace with naval facilities which proved to be amply sufficient during the late gigantic war. What is needed now is a rigid retrenchment of expenditures, and a reduction of taxation.

That is what the Radicals promised to give us as soon as they got rid of Andy Johnson. Yet, we find Grant's administration, in the very first year of its existence, demanding fifty millions more money than was expended during the last year of his predecessor's rule. Mr. Dawes visited the departments, and each one of them insisted that the full amount asked for would be required to carry it through the year. He had an interview with Grant, and was informed by him that he had carefully examined the estimate for the War Department, and that no reduction therein could be tolerated. If there is to be economy practiced a beginning must be made somewhere, and we think, with Judge Woodward, that the refusal to grant several millions to establish a single new Navy Yard at League Island or any other point is right. The time for such things may come, but it certainly is not now, when the people are taxed almost beyond endurance. Let the Democrats in Congress vote steadily, and as a unit, against every unnecessary expenditure of money. The political battle of the future is to be fought upon financial questions, and upon them the next Presidential election will turn. It behooves the Democracy to take a proper position and to stand to it firmly. If they do so they will lay the foundation for success; if they do not they will deserve to be beaten.

Grant Refuses a Present.

The first present Mr. Grant has declined arrived Friday by express from Cleveland. This was a dog directed to the President. The express charges on him were $10. Mr. Grant refused to received him at that price, saying there was no use for dogs at the Executive Mansion, whereupon the express agent retired muttering, and still keeps as a memento the one offering which has been turned away from the White House since the 4th of March.

No Public Documents.

Up to this time the State Legislature has refused to print any public documents, and that will account for the fact that none have been received. Usually the mails were heretofore burthened with a huge lot of trash by this time. We think the taxpayers will be perfectly satisfied to do without them.

GRANT is said to be very anxious that the proposed purchases of San Domingo and St. Thomas shall be ratified. He wants a batch of earthquakes and tornadoes in the tropical isles to offset Seward's iceberga in Alaska.

A suspension of work in the construction and steam engineering departments of the New York, Philadelphia and Portsmouth Navy Yards has been ordered. This will throw out of employment over 3000 persons.

The Fifteenth Amendment.

The Fifteenth Amendment has haunted the Republicans a long while. It is the last of the questions which were given to the country by the war and which belong immediately to the passions and *rationale* of the war. The Republicans ought to desire to keep it open as long as possible; for they have everything to gain from it as it stands. But when the Fifteenth Amendment becomes a sealed book there will be an end of legal artifices in behalf of the civil and political status of the negro.—He has been made a freeman, a citizen and a voter. What else? To this extent laws can certainly be made effectual. But no further. To take another step in advance" is impossible in law. The very next step beyond is an invasion of human nature. Yet the more irresponsible of the Radical leaders will attempt to force the Republicans to take it, and in doing so will divide their strength.

Every one of the Southern States reconstructed under the Fifteenth Amendment will fall into the hands of the Democratic party, and the Republicans can not risk a division in the North. On suffrage they can hold together—not on any other proposition concerning the negro. Suffrage being settled leaves the ultras nothing to do but to agitate for social equality, which can not be made to work as a political instrument. Besides, the disappearance of the negro question as a live and progressive element in our politics will clear the field for now divisions and combinations upon financial topics, from which the Democrats have everything to hope. So that the jubilation in Radical circles over the Fifteenth Amendment is pure effervescence and amounts to nothing at all. A very few months of universal suffrage will develop the truth of this most thoroughly.

As to the principle of State rights which is struck at by the Fifteenth Amendment, New England had better look out. She is now the apostle of centralization, when she owes her own unequal power to the strict observance of State lines and jurisdiction. Virginia was cut in two. Texas is to be cut in four. The same power may reduce the six New England States to one. That is the moral part of the Fifteenth Amendment which the sharper of the Yankees should look to. The South went to war to preserve slavery and lost it. New England is trying to ruin the South in order to get a consolidation of the government by which she can only apprehend the loss of her individuality and power.

Prison Reform.

Under the above caption the *Express* publishes rather a caustic editorial on the Inspectors of the County Prison. It asserts, with decided positiveness, that the people of the county, at the primary election of last fall, decided by a large majority in favor of effecting a complete revolution in the management of that institution. Mr. Sensenig, the Keeper who has had control of it for some time past, was regarded as being peculiarly obnoxious, and reports derogatory to his character have been freely circulated among Radical politicians and the community in general. According to the *Express* his removal was decided upon and demanded by the Republican voters at the last primary election. Yet he has been re-elected. There are rumors that one of the Inspectors received no less than two thousand dollars for his vote. This report is currently circulated in Radical quarters where all the facts ought to be well known. The report of the County Auditors shows how large sums of money can be made in the management of the County Prison, and people who profess to be posted say that their figures are far within bounds; that the profits are much larger than the Auditors estimate them to be. If that be so we can understand how it would pay a candidate for Keeper of the county prison to buy a vote at the seemingly exorbitant price of two thousand dollars.

With the suggestion of the *Express*, that there ought to be a complete reform in the management of the County Prison we fully agree, and we believe, with it, that to transfer the control of the Prison to the Court of the county, and to remove it from the sphere of politics altogether, would be right and proper. We hope our cotemporary, which seems to have much influence with the members from this county, will insist upon the passage of a law embracing its proposition. The Lancaster county members can have such an Act of Assembly passed without the slightest difficulty.—All they need do is to draw a proper bill to that effect. The rule which prevails, by which local legislation is never interfered with by outsiders, will insure its adoption without a word of objection from any quarter. If the proposed reform is not promptly effected we shall be forced to conclude that our members are in favor of a continuance of the corruption which now exists in the management of the County Prison; and compelled to believe that the *Express* is either destitute of influence or dishonest in its professions in favor of reform.

Forty Ballots.

On Monday last the Prison Inspectors balloted *forty times* for a Physician to the County Prison. Just think of it! Six Prison Inspectors, each with a candidate of his own, gravely balloting forty times to determine who should have charge of the health of the County Prison! Does any one suppose these officials were thus obstinate because each believed his choice to be best fitted to discharge the duties of the office? We reckon not. There is surely no living soul so simple as to believe that. It is only another dirty little scramble over the scraps of patronage that fall from the political table. The health of the prisoners, and the fitness of the Prison Physician for his place, are secondary considerations with the officials. Each one had an object to serve in getting his man elected. Hence these forty ballots.

The Income Tax.

By law the limitation on income taxes expires during the present year; and although the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has, in his annual report, recommended the continuance of this tax, either at five per centum or a reduced rate, Congress has not acted upon the same. The question is now mooted as to when this limitation expires, and the matter has been carefully examined by the officials of the Treasury Department, with a view to its determination. Although no definite action has been announced, it is known that the Commissioner will decide that income taxes are to be assessed up to the end of and including the current year of 1870, and that the levy will be made accordingly. This will be a matter of surprise to the taxpayers, and occasion quite an excitement among those who return large incomes. It is understood that strong opposition will be made to the further continuance of this tax by Congress.

Female Mormons in Mass Meeting.

The women of Salt Lake City have held a Mass Meeting and unanimously resolved that polygamy is the best and most desirable relation that can exist between the sexes. They declare that the institution is divine in its origin, benign in its influences, and calculated to produce perfect happiness. They proclaim their unflinching determination to stand by the system to the last, in spite of a Gentile Congress and all opposing agencies. They seem to be fully as plucky as their short-haired sisters of the East, who insist upon the right of marrying and unmarrying themselves at pleasure, holding office, and doing as they fancy generally. Strangely perverse and perplexing is the conduct of the female branch of humanity. Who can fully understand the motives by which they are actuated,—who explain them satisfactorily.

The Franking Privilege.

The following is an official copy of the bill abolishing the franking privilege which was so promptly passed by the lower House of Congress:

Be it enacted, &c., That no law and no rule of any house of Congress, or order of any department of the government, or of any person, shall hereafter give to any franks issued by the United States mails, free of charge, any letter, document, or other mailable matter, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the act shall take effect on and after the 1st day of July, 1870.

The above is certainly sweeping. It it should be adopted by the Senate and signed by the President, not an ounce of free matter will be carried in the mails after the first day of next July.

In their great readiness to respond to the request of the Postmaster-General, the framer of the bill forgot a main point in his recommendation. Mr. Cresswell took good care to make an exception in favor of county newspapers, which are now circulated within the different counties where they are published free of postage. This is an accommodation to the people which the government ought to afford. The amount of trouble and annoyance saved to residents of the rural districts, who are the principal subscribers to county papers, more than compensates for the sum which might be saved by renewing the postage on such journals. In his report Mr. Cresswell said:

The objection that Congress may desire to print and disseminate public documents should not avail against the appeal of the department for deliverance from the frauds that are fast overwhelming it. If the privilege be abolished official publications may still be forwarded in the mails. It is only asked that they, like private matter, may be chargeable with postage. If it be urged that this would prevent or impede the diffusion of the knowledge of public affairs among the people, then it may be said in reply that if it be the purpose of Congress to give information to the people, a few more telling expedients may be resorted to. An unburdened press, managed and directed by private enterprise, can do more than Congress to enlighten the masses. Better far that the franking privilege be abolished, and that all newspapers sent to bona fide subscribers from a known office of publication should be carried free, without regard to weight, throughout the United States, as now throughout the county wherein printed and published. The receipts of the department last year from newspapers and pamphlets amounted to $77,872. This portion of its receipts the department can forego, provided it can be protected against the frauds inseparable from the franking privilege.

We suppose the sweeping bill put through the House so hurriedly will be amended in the Senate, so as to accord with the views of the Postmaster General on the subject of newspapers. We are sure it ought so to be modified. To destroy the sytem now in operation will be to put the masses to a decided inconvenience without assuring any compensatory benefit to the Post Office Department.

How Washington City is Governed.

There is a fierce quarrel going on in Washington City between two wings of the Republican party over the municipal offices. Affairs have been so badly managed by the present officials as to cause a revolt in the Radical ranks, and a meeting, embracing many of the best white men of the party, was held for the purpose of expressing their views and devising some remedy for existing evils. The room in which they were assembled was invaded by a gang of disorderly, drunken negroes, who had been supplied with liquor and urged on by the city officials, who desire to hold on to their nice fat places. The result was that the assembly was completely at the mercy of a howling mob of blacks, and the objects of the meeting completely defeated. This is a specimen of the kind of order which prevails at the National Capital since the admission of negroes to the rights of citizenship. Bad, incompetent and dishonest men have been elected by negro votes, and the municipal affairs have been so illy and extravagantly managed that the decent white citizens of Washington, without respect to party, are largely in favor of abolishing the present system of municipal government altogether, and of transferring the entire control of the city to a Commission to be appointed by Congress. But for the fact that all the influence of the Administration was exerted to elect the present incompetent and corrupt officials, Washington city would not be so sadly misgoverned as it is at present. It is now in a sad condition truly, and there seems to be no hope of relief except in the abolition of popular government, and the transfer of power to a set of Commissioners chosen by Congress. What a commentary is furnished upon the policy of the Radicals by these facts!

End of a Libel Suit.

"Honest" Andy Armstrong has come to grief again. His libel suit against *Father Abraham* has turned out to be a profitless venture. The charge was that he had pocketed about $83 more mileage than he was justly entitled to. Andy claimed $10,000 damages. When the case came before the Arbitrators, the defendants produced the original records from Harrisburg, which showed that "Honest Andy" being entitled to $1,000 salary, $25 for stationary and $8.40 for mileage, had pocketed $1,116.80, or $83.40 more than he was entitled to. The *Father Abraham*, in its report of the case says:

Mr. Taggart (who was then cashier in Treasury Department,) was called to the stand and sworn. He testified that when Mr. Armstrong presented said warrant for payment, *he called his attention to the manifest mistake, by asking him (Mr. Armstrong) whether the amount was right, and the latter assured him it was, whereupon he paid him the money.*

The publication of the article was not denied by the defendants, and the Arbitrators, Messrs. William M. Slaymaker, George B. Mowery, and Samuel M. Myers decided that there was no cause of action. It remains to be seen whether "Honest Andy" will try his luck before a jury after such a defeat in a preliminary trial.

A Manly Reply.

Governor Alcorn, of Mississippi, though elected as a Radical, does not forget that he is a native of the State, and that he has a character to sustain. In his letter refusing to be instructed as Provisional Governor by the military authorities, he speaks out in the following manly manner:

I regret, General, that I do not feel at liberty to accept the commission which you do me the honor of placing in my hands. Coming from the military authority, and subject for its support to the military power, the fitness of things appears to me to forbid my acceptance of it while I hold in immediate prospect the position of civil Governor by that sanction most acceptable to my instincts as an American citizen—that of popular choice. Inasmuch as I have trampled upon many prejudices of my education to arrive at the conclusion of sound policy in promoting the interests of my fellow-citizens of the State in the question of reconstruction, I may, perhaps, be indulged in the frank confession that under the fellowship of error and chastisement by which I am bound to the Southern people, I am constrained by an irresistible force of my heart to draw back from lot or part in their government by any other right than that of their consent.

When the Southern States are once fairly in the Union, the Radical party will be speedily annihilated in that section. Such men as Alcorn will desert it promptly.

THINGS are working as might be expected under the combined rule of negroes, carpet-baggers, scalywags and bayonets in the South. General Terry summarily turned out two more white State Senators on Saturday, giving their places to negroes. The Louisiana Legislature is spending its time in devising methods of enforcing social equality between blacks and whites; a bill has been passed giving the Governor almost absolute control of elections; and the property holders in New Orleans are holding meetings to devise means of protecting "the credit of the State and the liberties of the people against ruinous legislation."

The Alabama Senate spent Saturday in discussing a memorial asking Congress to remove disabilities. The House spent six hours debating a resolution to expel a member for the publication of a letter reflecting upon the Legislature.

Postal Telegraph.

There seems to be a strong probability that the telegraph will soon be put under the control of the Government. The Postal Committees of the two Houses are said to favor the creation of such monopoly, officers in prominent newspapers have so zealously urged the measure that there is good reason to believe that a majority of the members of Congress are inclined to vote for it. That the New York *Herald*, which wants to break down the associated press news agency, and a number of papers in Philadelphia and elsewhere, are actuated by selfish motives, we have no doubt. They have persistently urged the government to assume control of the telegraphic lines, not because they honestly believe the proposed system would be more conducive to the public good than the present one, but because they have a direct personal interest in effecting a change. At first sight there might seem to be some advantage to be derived from having the telegraph under control of the government, with offices established and managed as post offices now are. The idea which has been conferred on the scheme that of "Postal Telegraph" has a tendency to popularize it. That it would work badly in the end is our honest conviction.

We are opposed to the assumption by the government of any business which can be so legitimately and effectively conducted by private enterprise, as that of telegraphing. The lines now in existence are extended to every point in the country where there is any possibility of making the offices pay, and many do not actually clear expenses. Rival companies are constantly springing up, and competition has reduced the rates to a standard that does not admit of large profits. It is an acknowledged fact that private enterprises are always more economically conducted than such as are under governmental control. The mails of the country could be carried by a private company for much less than the post office department now costs. If members of Congress do not believe that, let them offer to receive a contract for the mail service of the United States and they will find plenty of responsible parties willing to take it at much less than is annually paid. That the service would be as honestly and as effectively managed as it now is we have no doubt. Still there are certain good and sufficient reasons why the government should continue to manage the postal system; but the same argument will not hold good when applied to the telegraph lines of the country.

We are opposed on general and sound principles to the creation of such a monopoly. We are opposed to the creation of an enormous supplementary army of government officials. We have enough such creatures already. We are opposed to entrusting all the secrets of the business world and the general community to government employees. They are safer in private hands. We are strongly opposed to the creation of a gigantic government monopoly in telegraphing or anything else. The whole system is false and pernicious to the last degree, and it ought never to be encouraged by the people or favored by their representatives.

We look to the Democratic members of Congress for a complete exposure of the evils connected with the proposed change. It is their duty to ventilate the matter thoroughly. Let them do so fearlessly and fully.

The Watt-Diamond Contest.

A minority of Radical State Senators on the committee appointed to try the contested election case of Diamond vs. Watt, attempted to take snap judgment by entering a motion to quash the petition of Mr. Diamond. That this was done with the design of preventing an examination into the merits of the case, and an exposure of the high handed outrage perpetrated by the board of Return Judges' which summarily rejected returns enough to give the seat to Watt there is no doubt. After able arguments on both sides, in which L. W. Cassidy, Esq., particularly distinguished himself, the motion to quash was voted down, and the case will now go on in the regular course of such proceedings. That Mr. Diamond will be abundantly able to establish his right to the seat, now unlawfully held by his Radical opponent, we have no reason to doubt.—Let the facts be fully inquired into, and justice be done. That is all Mr. Diamond asks.

The Philadelphia *Day*, a Republican newspaper thus alludes to this case:

The Harrisburg correspondent of *The Press*, in a late letter, says, "Watt will unquestionably be able to retain his seat." If this be true, the Senate will ratify one of the most skillfully contrived frauds ever committed. It is an admitted fact, even among Mr. Watt's warmest personal and political friends in this city, that the return, by virtue of which he holds his seat, is a forged and forgery, and if the Senate admit him as a member, after investigating the case, they will disgrace themselves, and practically disfranchise the citizens of the Second Senatorial District, so far as their representation in the State Senate is concerned.

Is the Senate utterly destitute of conscience? Are its Republican members composed of such unmanly, time-servers, and deaf to the dictates of even sound party policy? If they admit Mr. Watt we must so conclude. But it may be that the correspondent from whom we have quoted was one of the twoheads and his positive manner of speaking would indicate, and the result may prove that the Senate is not lost to all sense of propriety. *Nous verrons!*

The *Morning Post*, the *Sunday Despatch* and other Republican journals have spoken in equally decided terms. Forney's *Press* is the only paper in Philadelphia which has the hardihood to defend the rascally means by which Watt obtained the seat he now holds.

The Negro Senator.

The Negro Senator from Mississippi has put in an appearance at Washington. He was warmly welcomed to the floor of the U. S. Senate by a number of Radical members. A question as to his right to a seat will be raised, under that clause of the Constitution which provides that no one shall be eligible to a seat in the United States Senate who has not been a citizen of the United States for nine years. It is held that negroes first become citizens on the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, but the Radicals will no doubt admit Revels to a seat. They can not do otherwise without impairing the consistency of their party. There is no necessity for it, but it will be done nevertheless. A Radical newspaper correspondent says, "Revels is, in person, short, stout, with characteristic features, a yellow skin and conical shaped head." In other words he is a mulatto, with the negro characteristics predominating.

WHO, with a lively sense of individualities, can blame two young ladies, white for refusing, at Columbus, Ohio, to be dipped into a pool of water, in a church, immediately after an odoriferous and oily negro had been immersed therein. It would not have been the pleasantest thing to take a dip after some not too sweetly-scented white person.—The Radical papers pitch into the young ladies for yielding to an instinct which was born with all-decent Caucasians; but we should like to have the irate editors tell us which of their wives or daughters would have consented to enjoy the rejected experience had it been offered her.

"WE thank Thee for this Economical Administration," was the prayer of the Chaplain of the Senate to the Throne of Grace on the first Monday in December last, when the Forty-first Congress reassembled in a blaze of loyalty. What does he think of it now, in the light of the exposure of the petty larceny of the Senate for all sorts of stationery, in the shape of elegant gifts, cutlery, fancy papers, etc.? If ever a party were indictable in a case of false pretences, it is the Radical party in Washington.

GEN. CANBY has turned over the government of Virginia entirely to the civil authorities.

Col. McClure and the South Carolina Legislature.

A. K. McClure, a politician who has a reputation in Pennsylvania, which no man ought to enjoy, has gone South and is now actively working in the field. He is lobbying certain enterprises through the Legislature of South Carolina. The faith of the State is to be pledged as security for the stocks of McClure's railroads, and that gentleman expects to succeed in repairing his shattered fortunes at the expense of the property holders of the Palmetto State. We should not be surprised to see him recover in this way some of the thousands he is reported to have lost at the faro table. Col. McClure is one of the most plausible politicians in the country. And he has been noted as a successful manipulator of legislative projects of a fabulous character. He is the very personification of that fictitious character Oily Gammon. He will stop at nothing to secure the accomplishment of his designs, and will bring all the appliances by which the Pennsylvania Legislature has been corrupted, to bear upon the negro law-givers of South Carolina. Ye gods! we notice that he has had printed in the Chambersburg *Repository* a most flattering notice of the sable solons among whom he is laboring. He eulogizes the leading men among them, as he used to eulogize politicians in this State whom he expected to use. The Col. lays on the "soft soap" with an unsparing hand, and we have no doubt the ex-barbers, ex-porters and ex-field-hands will be delighted when they receive extra copies of the *Repository*, and see his letter copied by leading Radical journals. Of course the Colonel does not rely upon flattery alone to carry the projects through. He will have more substantial reasons to offer, and the negro legislators of South Carolina will have to be more incorruptibly honest than Col. McClure ever found a Radical majority in Harrisburg, if he does not succeed in carrying out his projects.—The State of South Carolina is to be saddled with debt by a Negro Legislature in order that Col. McClure and a few other impudent and impecunious adventurers may make money. In contrast with such swindlers Dick Turpin and Jack Shepherd shine out as honest men, and highway robbery looks respectable.

Increasing the Rate of Taxation.

As old cocks crow the young ones learn, and petty rascals take their cue from those of larger calibre. The Commissioners of Lancaster county, being desirous of imitating the financial system which has brought the management of the State Treasury into such deserved ill-repute, are determined to keep a big unexpended balance constantly on hand. Last year the County Tax was levied at a valuation of 3½ mills on the dollar—now it is suddenly increased to 5 mills—and that when the Auditors' Report shows that there is in the treasury an unexpended balance of $58,919.22, with which to meet the current expenses of the coming year. At the commencement of the last fiscal year the unexpended balance was more than twenty thousand less than it is at present, and a tax of 3½ mills on the dollar of valuation met all expenses and left a large surplus. Why then increase the rate at a time when farm products are ranging lower than they have done for years? That is a question the taxpayers of Lancaster county would like to have answered. Can the County Commissioners furnish a satisfactory reply? Our columns are open to them, or to any supporter or defender of their seemingly very reprehensible conduct. There are rumors that an immense amount of bridge building and other work is to be let out at private contract, during the present year, but, as this lacks confirmation, we can only urge the County Commissioners to give a proper explanation of their conduct.

HON. FRANK P. BLAIR, JR., was prevented from voting in Missouri because he refused to take the oath of "loyalty" prescribed by the Constitution of that State. The Supreme Court of Missouri endorsed the action. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that tribunal is equally divided upon the issue. This shuts the ballot-box against Mr. Blair in Missouri so long as he refuses to bow his knee to bigoted, partizan legislation.

So long as John W. Geary lives he will continue to make himself ridiculous by displaying his vanity and indulging in extravagant self-laudation. At his reception, the other evening, some one asked him if he did not dance. "No," said his Excellency, "I have not danced since the war; *my legs are too full of bullet holes.*" Comment would be utterly superfluous.

WENDELL PHILLIPS thinks William Penn would have been a "dough face" had he lived in New England. The Boston Radical Club has been engaged in smoothing down the Quakers with velvet with one hand, and tearing their skins off with a curry-comb with the other.

"The Colored Troops Fought Bravely."

By the published programme for the inauguration ceremonies of yesterday it was seen that the Excelsior Reserves, a colored regiment from Philadelphia, were given the post of honor. The Chief Marshal of the occasion, acting by the authority and in behalf of the joint committees of the Senate and House, deliberately assigned these negroes the place nearest the men who fitly or unfitly in that procession represented the dignity and honor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That programme was a deliberate insult to the citizen soldiery and the brave firemen who intended to take part in the ceremonies; but it was for a purpose—there was method in the insult; it was to teach the Anglo-Saxon, the Teuton and the Celt, of whom our volunteers and fire organizations are made up, that a new era had dawned; that a new nation had been born; that side by side with, nay, in advance of, those whose energies have made us the people we are, were to be placed these representatives of an inferior and a mongrel race, that thus they might by such contact be familiarized with the fact of which radicalism boasts as its greatest triumph; that they might be taught by this public compingling of the races, this elexation of the black at the expense of the white, that the day had dawned in which the inferior were made the equal of the superior, that the ballot, the public school, the jury box, the workshop and the foundry were open the property of the negro and to be contaminated by his odorous presence and his inert and stolid faculties. We know that it is one of the dogmas of these Radical worthies who would thus debase the character and break the high spirit of a free people, that habit is one of nature's laws, that men can be brought by practice and persistence to accept any given condition of things, and that thus the African, an impediment in our pathway of progress, may be made for their benefit a positive element of political power.—*Patriot.*

The Lancaster Intelligencer.

We have heretofore neglected to mention that the Daily and Weekly LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER, one of the most spirited and most ably conducted Democratic papers in Pennsylvania, has recently appeared in a new dress of beautiful type. It is one of the neatest printed papers in the State, and one of the most welcome of our exchanges. It gives us pleasure to be able to record these evidences of its prosperity, and we hope that the enterprise will be properly appreciated by the Lancaster county Democracy, as it is certainly worthy of their most enthusiastic support.—*Democratic Press* (York) *Pa.*

The Cincinnati *Times* in speaking of the follies "En Chignon" says:

Taken as a class, women can contrive more outlandish and ugly fashions than one would think it possible without the gift of inspiration. Take, for instance, the waterfall. First, it represents a bladder of Scotch snuff, next, it is hung down a woman's back like a canvas-covered ham afterward, it counterfeited a turnip on the back of the head; now it sticks straight out behind, and looks like a wire muzzle on a greyhound. Nestling in the midst of this stretch of hair, reposes a little batter cake of a bonnet, like a jockey saddle on a long backed race horse.

Late Items.

Rich gold discoveries are reported in lower California.

A severe earthquake occurred at Virginia City, Nevada, on Saturday.

H. R. Revels, colored Senator elect from Mississippi, has arrived in Washington.

The Consolidated Bank of Louisiana, at New Orleans, has been robbed of $80,000 since Saturday night.

Herman Dorr, insurance agent, of Boston, was killed by falling from a train, on the Old Colony Railroad, last Saturday evening.

A painstaking investigator has found out that there are 11,000 youth attending private schools in New York city.

The disabled soldiers, who guard hand organs have petitioned for the removal of the onerous tax imposed upon their means of livelihood.

The trigonometrical survey of England and Wales, on the scale of one inch to a mile, has been completed. It was commenced in the year 1791.

The first discoverer of gold in California is said to be a destitute condition in El Dorado county. A subscription has been started for him.

Thirteen pieces of gold were found inside of a fowl killed at Stonington, Conn., the other day. They were supposed to have been originally gold beads.

The President yesterday nominated John Eaton, Tn., of Tennessee, for Commissioner of Education, in place of Barnard, to be removed.

Five cars were smashed by an accident on the Pacific Railroad, east of Ogden, on Saturday morning, and three persons were killed.

The lower House of the California Legislature, by a vote of 51 to 8, has concurred with the Senate in rejecting the suffrage amendment.

At Lowell, Mass., yesterday, a snow slide from the roof of a church threw down a chimney, and killed a man who was passing along the street.

The internal revenue receipts for January have been $12,479,000, an increase of $1,360,000 over the receipts of January, 1869.

The State of Illinois now has 5,185 miles of railroad, of which 4,788 are open for business, costing with their equipments, $115,568,542.

Grundy county, Iowa, bought a $2,700 safe last month, and at the beginning of the year its treasurer had just eleven cents to put into it.

The newspapers are quite busy chronicling the movements of the young Prince on one page, and rebuking their neighbors for snobbery and flunkeyism on the other.

A little girl who was lost in the streets of London recently, on being questioned as to her parentage and place of birth, declared that she was "the child of sin" and "was born in wrath!"

A large number of bills are before Congress. Already during the present session, 985 bills and 39 to 40 joint resolutions have been introduced in the House.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the sale of one million in gold each week during February, and the purchase of one million of bonds in each alternate week for the sinking fund.

There is a proposition before the Illinois State Constitutional Convention to abolish the Senate, and vest the legislative authority of the State in a single body, to be called the Legislative Assembly, composed of 300 members.

General Canby yesterday ordered all military commissions in Virginia to cease, and all trials of citizens by such to be turned over to the civil courts. Governor Walker also called the Legislature to meet on February 14th.

Mrs. Southworth has written another novel, entitled "The Maiden Widow." Her publisher, Mr. Peterson, who has read it, says it is one of her most power fully written efforts. Mrs. Southworth is believed by many of her admirers to stand at the head of all female writers.

A large Fenian military demonstration took place at Buffalo on Saturday night, and the first of a series of mass meetings was held, at which the Administration at Washington was denounced for not demanding the release of Irish-Americans confined in English prisons.

At Pittsburg, yesterday, two strangers entered the Third National Bank, and obtained $3200 on a check for $8000 on the Corn Exchange Bank of New York, which was subsequently discovered to be forged. They also obtained $2500 from the Second National Bank on a similar forged check. Both escaped.

A physician, examining a student as to his progress, asked him, "Should a man fall into a well forty feet deep, and strike his head against one of the tools with which he had been digging, what would be your course if called in as a surgeon?" The student replied, "I should advise them to let the man lie and fill up the well."

Mr. John H. Stephens died recently at his residence in Newark, N. J., having reached nearly 100 years of age. Mr. Stephens has been noted for several years as one of the wealthiest citizens of Newark, the value of his estate being now estimated at about one and a quarter millions of dollars, the largest part of which is in improved real estate.

A young man at Muscatine, Iowa, lately crawled into a boiler to clean it out, but the engineer, being ignorant of the fact, closed the door and fired up. The young man became uncomfortably warm, and to his horror discovered the boiler filling with water. His shrieks were unheard, but fortunately the engineer opened the door and the half suffocated prisoner was released.

The Henry county (Iowa) *Press* gives a sketch of an old woman of one hundred years. Her name is Mary Morely. She was born in the State of Maryland, in the year 1770. Her father was an old Revolutionary soldier, and was killed in one of the last battles of that war. She had seen George Washington and most of the other eminent patriots of his day. She was married at the age of twenty-four years, has raised eleven children, and been a widow more than fifty-four years. Her husband was a soldier of the war 1812. She is seemingly as active and strong as most women of sixty.

The hero of five great wars is dead. Sir De Lacy Evans, who fought in India, in the Peninsular war, in the American war of 1812, in the Carlist war, and in the Crimean war, died in London, on the 9th inst., at the age of 83. He commanded at the sacking of Washington, and was wounded at New Orleans. He had two horses shot under him at Waterloo, and fought for two years for Christianm against Don Carlos. He distinguished himself in his old age at the Alma and Inkermann. No general in the British army at the time of his death could boast of a more distinguished career. General Evans was an Irishman. He was born at Moig, in 1787.

State Items.

A bill is before the Legislature for the charter of a railroad from West Chester to Phœnixville.

Several citizens have been arrested by the military in Warren county, Georgia, for offences alleged to have been committed several months since.

At a meeting of the working women in St. Louis, last evening, measures were taken towards establishing a co-operative store.

The Directors of the Delaware County National Bank, have re-elected Edmund Pennell, Esq., President, and Caleb Emlen, Cashier.

A well-known rat-catcher caught, recently, in Chester, Delaware county, in one the woman's face—in a lady rat, which he sold in Philadelphia at twenty cents each.

William L. Whitney has been elected Cashier of the Miner's National Bank of Pottsville, in the place of Frederick Patterson, resigned.

A new railroad is to be constructed from West Chester to Downingtown, and the route will be put under survey as soon as the weather will permit.

The Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, give notice that after the 1st of February, the price of gas will be reduced twenty-five cents per thousand, making the new price two dollars and thirty cents.

An old man named John Armagant, of Buffalo Run, Centre county, recently fell down in an epileptic fit in his own barnyard, and was mangled in a horrible manner by hogs before he was discovered and rescued.

A Mrs. Eccleston, of Hollidaysburg, dreamed not long since that a snake was trying to crawl into the cradle where her infant was sleeping, and next morning, on opening the front door, her husband discovered a black snake, about two feet long, endeavoring to make its way up the steps.

Thomas Whitler was convicted at Pittsburg recently of perjury, in falsely swearing that he had purchased liquor on Sunday at a certain tavern, and was sentenced to five years and two months in the penitentiary. Whitler's intention was to get the $25 which goes to the informer. He didn't get the $25, but he got five years and two months free lodging.

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, for the purpose of the election of officers, was held recently in Harrisburg. John C. Morris was elected President, Maj. Elbridge M'Conkey, Corresponding Secretary, S. S. Haldeman, Chemist and Geologist, and George Bergner, Librarian. Twelve members were added to the Executive Committee.

Fatal Result of a Dream.

His Last Hour Foretold by Spirits.

When Dr. Benson reached Mr. Prentice's bedside, fearing he might be found that he was too late, he was told that he was just conscious, and recognized him up to the moment of his death. Mr. Prentice's sudden change was caused by a story called "The Wreck of the Lake," which appeared in the Courier, making the annual rounds of the press for the last thirty years. A few days ago Mrs. Dr. Benson, who took a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of Mr. Prentice, clipped the extract from a newspaper, and requested her husband to ask Mr. Prentice to read it. The following is the extract:—

"It cannot be that this earth is man's only abiding place. It cannot be that our life is a bubble, cast up by eternity to float a moment upon its waves, and sink into nothingness. Else why is it the high and glorious aspirations which leap like angels from the temple of our souls, are ever wandering unsatisfied? Why is it that the rainbow and the clouds come over us with a beauty that is not of earth, and then pass off and leave us to mourn on their lovelliness? Why is it that the stars which hold their festival around the midnight throne are set above the grasp of our limited faculties, forever mocking us with their unattainable glory? And finally, why is it that bright forms of human beauty are presented to our views and taken from us, leaving a thousand strands of our affections broken back in an Alpine torrent upon our hearts? We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth. There is a realm where the rainbow never fades; where the stars are spread out before us like islands that slumber on the ocean, and where the beautiful beings which pass before us like shadows will stay forever in our presence."

During the night the doctor asked Mr. Prentice if he would read the extract. He replied that he was no longer able to read.

Shall I read it for you? asked the doctor. "Yes, yes," was the reply. The beautiful words were read, but their dying author was too near the other world to appreciate fully their significance. He muttered a few sentences, with his falling eyes turned heavenward, but the sounds were too indistinct to be intelligible. In the meantime two of Mr. Prentice's best and most beloved friends, Mr. and Mr