Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1871.

A New Volume of the Weekly Intelligencer.

With the present issue the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER enters upon a new volume. According to the method of enumeration adopted by our predecessors, the new volume will be the Seventy-second. But it ought, in reality, and according to the custom which prevails in the newspaper world, to be entitled the Seventy-sixth. The *Journal* which was established in 1794, was afterwards consolidated with the INTELLIGENCER, which was established in 1799, the name of the *Intelligencer & Journal* being adopted; the latter title has since been dropped to shorten the name. Had the usual course been pursued when the consolidation took place under the management of Col. John W. Forney, the date of starting the elder paper would have been adopted as the time of beginning, no matter what modification of name might have been made. For almost three quarters of a century the INTELLIGENCER has held a prominent position among the newspapers of Pennsylvania, having always been recognized as a leading Democratic Journal. It has been potential as a party organ in the past, and has had considerable to do with moulding the public policy of the Commonwealth. It has always been a successful newspaper in a pecuniary point of view, and has, from time to time, had in its employ some of the very best newspaper talent in the State. For three quarters of a century it has been regularly received into many families in Lancaster county and elsewhere without interruption, being read by fathers and afterwards by their sons and grandsons who constitute the present generation.

Since the establishment of the DAILY INTELLIGENCER in 1864, the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER has been enlarged twice and it is to-day unsurpassed in size by any Democratic news-paper published in the State. Great care is taken in the selection and arrangement of the matter which is used to make up the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER, so as to meet the wants of its very large circle of country readers. It presents each week a greater variety of first class Literary, Scientific, Miscellaneous, Political and Agricultural matter, and gives all the latest news of the week, by mail and telegraph from all parts of the world up to the latest hour before going to press. It pays particular attention to the markets, and furnishes very full reports received by telegraph immediately before it is put to press. To such as receive it, the WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER commends itself, and its large and rapidly increasing circulation furnishes the most convincing proof of the high estimation in which it is held. The proprietors will spare no pains or expense to make the present volume more valuable than any which has preceded it. They have the means to do so at their command, and will more than fulfil the expectations of the host of kind patrons who have so long looked to it for the latest and most reliable news.

In entering upon a new volume with a new year, we cordially extend the kindly greetings of the season to all our readers, wishing them, one and all, a happy and a prosperous New Year.

The Old Year and the New.

The year which has just passed away has been one of peace and plenty in our country. No blight has marred the hopes of the husbandman, and the iron hoof of the war steed has not trampled his harvest into the earth. What was sown in expectation has been reaped in abundance, and there has been no lack in the material products of our varied industries. Health has blessed our people, and no dire epidemic has staked with wasting hand through the land.—While a bloody and relentless war has devastated the fairest fields of Europe, we have enjoyed the blessings of profound peace. For all these things we ought to be sincerely and truly thankful to the Great Giver of all good.

The past year has been one of quiet political mutations in the United States. The people have shown that they are ready to respond with alacrity to the call of wise and liberal leaders, and the party which inaugurated a reign of proscription, and sought to perpetuate its power by violence, has been signally rebuked. Those who were almost tempted to despair of republican institutions here had their faith restored, and their trust in popular government more firmly established. Every Democrat has good reason to rejoice as he looks back over the record of 1870. It is illuminated all along the line of its procession of months by the torch of victory. The true patriot must find encouragement in the readiness with which the American people rise above the tramels of party prejudice, and respond to the call of those who boldly advocate true political principles. So long as that is the case, our government must continue to rest secure upon the broad basis of an enlightened public opinion.

The year upon which we have just entered hides within its womb the events of an uncertain future. Trade is dull, but the past has taught our business men caution. There may be no good ground for predicting a large increase of business, but proper sagacity will enable those who are wise to tide over any financial disturbances which are likely to occur. Congress has been taught caution, and we may safely predict that few wild projects will find support. Little will be done to aid the business community, and perhaps the less that is attempted by the present Congress the better it will be for the country. We ought to enjoy another year of profound peace, and we shall do so unless the executive should embroil us in a war through his San Domingo Job, or Schenck be allowed to blunder into hostilities with England upon questions which ordinary diplomatic sagacity might speedily adjust to the satisfaction of all who are concerned.

The year 1871 opens before us with a reasonably fair prospect. Let us hope that it will brighten with each succeeding month.

GERRIT SMITH, the quondam candidate of the Abolitionists for President, is opposed to the annexation of San Domingo, because he thinks it is wrong to "take from one zone to add to another"—that it is "a war against nature." He says the torrid zone belongs to the black man, and "if nature had free and full play there would be a black belt—a belt of black humanity—all around the earth." We are in favor of letting nature have "free and full play." San Domingo belongs to the black man, and we wish they were all there.

IN the first years of the war says the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, the Democracy had not a single Governor in all the Union. Now they have Governors in the following States, or will have them after January 1, 1871, viz.: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, California, Oregon and Nevada. Counting Gratz Brown, in Missouri, whom they elected, they have fifteen Governors out of thirty-seven. To them we shall add, in 1871, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; and in 1872 shall take Indiana, Illinois, and the remainder of the Southern States.

INGRATITUDE.—Hoyle, member of Congress from the Columbia (S. C.) District, upon whose recommendation the negro Smith, was sent to West Point, was beaten in the recent election for Congress by a negro.

THE Louisville *Courier-Journal* says it is assured that Rainey, the negro Congressman, never went to school a day in his life, and yet he has contrived to educate himself so well that when reading a newspaper he doesn't hold it upside down more than half the time.

That Inventory.

That is a very small hole out of which the Honorable Executors of Thaddeus Stevens are striving to creep, to avoid being compelled to exhibit an Inventory of the Estate which has come into their hands. To the Citation which has been obtained against them by the Counsel of the City and the County, they have filed a Demurrer; a legal plea which admits the truth of the allegations made by the other side, but contends that though they be true, the law does not afford the relief applied for.—Mr. Dickey, in behalf of himself and his colleagues, contended in his argument of the case that the City and County of Lancaster had no concern in the Estate and were not its creditors, notwithstanding a large sum might be due from it for taxes; which argument we do not think is any sounder in its law than it is in its common sense. There is perhaps more technical strength in another position taken by the Executors, which was that the Citation should have issued from the Register's Court, instead of the Orphans' Court. But what an exceedingly captious objection this is, and how clearly does their stooping to present it, show the intense desire of these Executors to conceal the sought-for Inventory. The only difference between the Register's Court and the Orphans' Court, is, that in the former, the Register sits with Judges Long and Hayes, in the place of Associate Judge Libhart. The difference may have more of substantial value to the Executors than we are willing to believe. They may be more sure of controlling Register Shenck than they are of influencing Judge Libhart, who is an impartial and independent Judge. Judge Hayes is of a more excitable temperament, and it is not difficult to tell how in this case his sympathies may unconsciously bias his judgment. The Register has been very easy with these Executors, heretofore, and they probably expect his complacence to continue indefinitely, although Judge Long pointedly remarked during the argument, that the law made it the duty of the Register to collect the collateral inheritance tax due the State, from all estates which were liable to it. Mr. Dickey says that thus far the Register has not said a word to the Executors which would lead them to infer that he would like to have this tax, or at least some information in regard to the value of the Estate, so that he might know what his five per cent. of it would amount to. This is the more singular as the Register is generally very solicitous to collect this tax at the end of the first year of the administration, and this Estate of Mr. Stevens being reputed to be very large, the restraint which the Register has imposed upon his natural desire to collect his fees, is quite an unprecedented occurrence in the history of County officials. After the pointed admonition of Judge Long, however, Mr. Shenck can hardly feel justified in continuing to practice any longer this unexampled self-restraint and magnanimity.

Every one on reading the proceedings on the argument of this case has probably asked himself, what are the reasons which induce the Executors of this Estate so to earnestly resist the effort which is made to compel them to file an Inventory? What strong reasons prevented them from filing this paper nearly two and a half years ago, at the time they were required by the law and their oaths to do it? Surely they must have been very strong. What were they? Mr. Dickey said in his argument they had been freely disclosed to all friends who inquired for them in a friendly manner. If this is so, we can only say that very few such persons could have made inquiry, and that these few have kept the information received very closely to themselves, if it was at all of a creditable nature; for no whisper of any reasons of that character have ever reached the public ear. The profound secrecy maintained as to the conclusion of the Inventory has naturally caused the people to believe that there is truth in the rumor that Mr. Stevens left a very large estate, which in itself was a rather suspicious circumstance, as he was well known to be all but bankrupt five years before his death. Another rumor also has gained credence, which is that among the assets of the Estate are included a large amount of Pacific Railroad stock, and other securities of a similar character. One of those "friendly inquirers" in whom Mr. Dickey tells us that he has confided, assures us that this charge is a mistake; but he is as close as an oyster as to any further divulgement of the mysterious confidences of the stern-visaged Oliver. The latter said in his speech that he was debarred by his Demurrer from entering into the reasons which had prevented the filing of the Inventory; which was, to call it by the mildest possible term, a very disingenuous statement on the part of our Honorable friend. He would have more truthfully said that the Demurrer afforded him a pretext for concealing these reasons, which he was glad to avail himself of. Indeed the fierce-spoken Oliver was rather ashamed of his invacacity in making the statement alluded to, for he immediately supplemented it by saying that they did not propose to divulge their reasons anyhow, and were willing that the insinuations against them should pass for what they are worth.

This is, indeed, extraordinary. It is extraordinary that three men, reputed to be honorable, and all with Hon. prefixed to their names, should deliberately refuse for over two years to comply with a reasonable and necessary requirement of the law which they admit to be in force, and which they admit they have violated, although their oath is on record to administer the Estate "according to law." It is still more extraordinary that their reasons for failing to perform their duty are of such a nature that they deliberately prefer to incur the public odium which must inevitably attach to them for their gross and unexplained violation of law, rather than make those reasons public. Are we not justified in attributing to these Executors the strongest motives for concealment, and are we bound in looking for them to refuse consideration to grossly improper ones which may be suggested? We prefer, however, to believe that these reasons, whatever they are, have no connection with any corrupt or dishonest administration of the Estate by the Executors themselves; because we have always regarded them as honorable gentlemen, and we should be sorry to have to think otherwise of them. But as long as this deep mystery surrounds their conduct, the tongue of Rumor cannot be fastened to any particular theory, but will vibrate far and wide-spreading report after report, each one more hideous than the last.

If the items and the plethoric nature of the Inventory in question should be such as to to clearly show the public that Mr. Stevens' reputed honesty was without foundation in fact, we do not wonder that his Executors should be desirous of secluding the Inventory from the public gaze. According to Mr. Dickey they are obliged to inscribe upon his monument "high up," "Here lies the body of an honest man;" and it would be decidedly embarrassing to have this bold announcement contradicted by the records of the Court. It may be easily conceived, therefore, that the Executors are in trouble, and, "sitting between two stools," they have not been able to decide either upon filing the Inventory or ordering the Monument. They see very clearly that both cannot be produced, and that if the Inventory is drawn out, the Monument must needs remain unbuilt. Therefore if the Court kindly aids the Executors in choking off the present effort to produce the Inventory, we shall expect to see a marble pile, inscribed as aforesaid, arise in Shreiner's grave-yard as soon as the frost gets out of the ground.

The Hon. Edw. McPherson naturally feels a lively interest in the decision of this case, as it will materially affect the tone of that Biography of Mr. Stevens which Mr. Dickey tells us he is preparing. He has been greatly embarrassed in its preparation by the apprehension that notwithstanding all the care of the Executors, that 'confounded Inventory' might yet see the light; and that if he should put on 'high pressure' in dilating on the virtues of his subject, it would read awkwardly in the light of subsequent revelations drawn from the Inventory. The tone of his book depending largely therefore on the question of the publicity or non-publicity of this Inventory, Mr. McPherson desires a speedy decision of the question at issue.

A Battle of Giants.

The Honorable O. J. Dickey seems to be very well satisfied that there has been a great deal of corruption attending upon the administration of the affairs of the county. The INTELLIGENCER has frequently intimated that it entertained a similar opinion. Our Honorable friend asserts, that Mr. Landis has been guilty of illegal and fraudulent practices in the conduct of his office as County Solicitor, and generously offers to prove his allegation before a jury, should Mr. Landis desire it. We hope that Mr. Landis will take up this challenge and defend his fair name before a legal tribunal. The charge has been so directly made, that he can hardly avoid bringing the action for slander which he is invited to institute. We will promise to carefully report the trial, and spread before the people of the county the sworn testimony as to the conduct of their public servants. They will then ascertain the method of the illegal appropriations, the amounts so appropriated, the names of the appropriators, and further interesting information of a like character.

There is a deal of bad blood between Messrs. Dickey and Landis, and it will do them good to have a good square fight in Court. They will feel much better after it. We know no other way of their arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the quarrel between them. Each has grossly insulted the other and given such offence as in the good old days could only have been washed away with blood. Pistol and rapier practice, however, is no longer fashionable, and our unfortunate friends—being fashionable men—cannot therefore resort to it. The modern method of cowhide and fist exercise, which has supplanted the ancient mode, is not adapted to the physical characteristics of either party, and they show their wisdom by not resorting to it. In a combat with such weapons, both parties are so poor in their muscular development, that the party striking hardest and oftenest would be pretty sure to be the party whipped; for the delivery of the blow would rack the weak frame of the deliverer far more than it would hurt the receiver. A Court of Justice is therefore the proper place in which this matter should be settled. Let it be appealed to.

Proposed Reconstruction of North Carolina.

A delegation of North Carolina Radicals has arrived in Washington, to invoke the interference of the Federal authorities in behalf of Governor Holden. They had an interview with Grant, but he was forced to inform them that he did not believe he could help them much. They will make a strong appeal to Congress, and it is said a prominent Republican Senator from the West has intimated an intention to introduce a bill for the reconstruction of the State. He takes the ground that the course of the Democratic Legislature in impeaching Gov. Holden, and thus overthrowing the State government set in operation by Congress, would fully warrant such action. It is doubtful whether such a bill could receive any substantial support even from a majority of Radicals. The probabilities are that it would share the fate of the bill in regard to Tennessee, which was introduced a year ago and suffered to sleep in the committee to which it was referred. The reconstruction business is, to use a significant vulgarism, "about played out"—and the Radicals in Congress know it to be so. It proved to be an unprofitable venture for the Republican party from the beginning. The only parties who profited by it were a set of unscrupulous carpet-baggers and scalawags. Such reprobates as Whittemore and Butler managed to secure offices and to put money in their empty pockets, but the Republican party as an organization found itself weakened and discredited by the course of Congressional legislation. The policy of vengeance is a bad one both for rulers and people, and attempts to maintain political power by unlawful means must always recoil upon their authors under a Republican form of government.—Nothing has contributed more to break down the power of the present administration than the line of policy which has been pursued in relation to the South. Sound statesmanship would have dictated a conciliatory course of conduct instead of the vengeful policy which it has obtained.

The Georgia Election.

The election in Georgia has resulted in the Democracy carrying the State by 40,000 majority, electing all the members of the State Senate but two, two-thirds of the members of the Lower House of the State Legislature; certainly five members of Congress, and possibly the whole seven.

This is the answer which the State returns to the numerous attempts which our Radical Congress has made to reconstruct it into a Republican State. At each trial their defeat has been more disastrous; and we apprehend, that if they try once more, there will not be even a grease spot left of Radicalism in Georgia. The new Legislature will elect two Democratic United States Senators, which will make three sets of Senators which Georgia has elected during her various stages of reconstruction.

ON the 4th of March next, at the close of the XLIST Congress, the terms of service of twenty-four Senators will expire, namely: Abbott, of North Carolina; Anthony, of Rhode Island; Cattell, of New Jersey; Cragin of New Hampshire; Fowler, of Tennessee; Hamilton, of Texas; Harris, of Louisiana; Howard, of Michigan; Howell, of Iowa; Johnson, of Virginia; Morrill, of Maine; McDonald, of Arkansas; McCreery, of Kentucky; Revels, [negro.] of Mississippi; Robertson, of South Carolina; Ross, of Kansas; Saulsbury, of Delaware; Thayer, of Nebraska; Warner, of Alabama; Windom, of Minnesota; Wilson, of Massachusetts; Willey, of West Virginia; Williams, of Oregon, and Yates, of Illinois. Of these, Messrs. Anthony, Cragin, Robertson and Hamilton have been re-elected, and the following named new men have been elected from the States named: Alcorn, of Mississippi; Cooper, of Tennessee; Goldthwaite, of Alabama; Kelley, of Oregon; Stevenson, of Kentucky; Wright, of Iowa, and Vance, of North Carolina. Two of these, Stevenson and Vance, are doubtful of admission, on account of their record in the war.

THE result of the late election in West Virginia has just been officially announced. The vote for Governor was the largest ever cast, by about seven thousand. The majority by which the Democratic candidate was chosen was two thousand one hundred and fifty.—Democratic Congressmen were chosen in the First and Third Districts, both of which are represented by Republicans in the present Congress. In the Second District the present incumbent, McGrew, is re-elected by a majority reduced from one thousand four hundred to nine hundred.

Republican Opinion of the San Domingo Job.

The quarrel between President Grant and the more independent leaders of the Republican party is likely to prove as irreconcilable as it has been bitter.—Senator Sumner must stand firm in the position he has taken, and it is certain that he will not stand alone. He is daily in receipt of numerous letters from the more thoughtful leaders of the party congratulating him upon the position he has taken in regard to the San Domingo Job, and urging him to abide firmly by the views expressed in his speech. The Republican press of the country is speaking out against Grant's pet project, and he will soon find his favorite scheme left with little support, except such as may be given to it by interested and purchasable members of Congress.—

The San Domingo job has not a single advocate among the half-dozen Republican newspapers published in this county. The *Inquirer* spoke out against the measure very plainly when the Annual Message of the President appeared, and it has since fortified the position it then took by the production of further reasons why the purchase should not be consummated. The *Examiner* deplores the excitement caused by Senator Sumner's speech, and earnestly hopes that the commissioners to be appointed to visit the island, and report upon it, may be men of a character so high as to do away with the suspicions which have been excited in the public mind. The *Express* gives expression to its views in an editorial of such positiveness that we cannot refrain from quoting a few strong paragraphs. It says:

The difference between Mr. Sumner and the President upon the question of the annexation of San Domingo, is the most political event of the present session of Congress, up to this time, and if the advice of certain superserviceable friends of the President prevails, and Mr. Sumner shall be displaced from the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, it may possibly prove to be the rock upon which the Republican party is destined to split and go to pieces.

The President, having the whole patronage of the government at his disposal, with power to dispense or withhold thousands of offices of profit, will no doubt be able to carry most of the active leading politicians of the party in favor of his policy; and these would have sustained him quite as readily and zealously if he had taken a stand in opposition to the San Domingo project. But there are also in the Republican party, a large and by no means uninfluential body of men who are Republicans from conviction and upon principle, who hold independent opinions of their own in regard to the proper policy of the government upon all questions—men who want no offices for themselves or their friends, and who will pin their faith unquestioningly upon the sleeve of no man or party; and if these men, have very small love of the Republican organization, whose virtue and unselfish devotion to principle have been its tower of strength, in many a hard fought and doubtful political battle, are driven from it, and forced into an attitude of hostility, it is not difficult to foretell the fate of what will remain of the party, though it may still muster in its ranks the dispensers and the seekers after offices, with all who prefer to follow blindly after a political leader rather than rely upon their own judgment to choose the road they ought to pursue.

Taking the country over, and throwing out of the count those who favor the annexation scheme solely because it is an Administration measure, we do not believe there is one Republican in ten, if there is one in fifty, in its favor. The Republican press, with the exception of that small portion which supports everything that is supposed to be popular in Presidential circles, is all but unanimous in opposition to the measure and there is not a doubt that a vast majority of their readers are of the same way of thinking. Under all the circumstances therefore there is likely to be no more suitable and conspicuous occasion than the present for the President to demonstrate to the country his readiness to stand by the sentiment and the promise he made in his letter accepting the nomination for the office he now holds, that he would "have no policy in opposition to the will of the people." Be that as it may, however, consistency, justice and party policy, all imperatively demand that the members of the party be left as free to oppose as to support the San Domingo project; and any attempt to read out of the party those who cannot be convinced by the President's arguments will most certainly result in disaster, from which it may be impossible to recover.

A few extracts from prominent Republican newspapers published elsewhere, will suffice to show that the *Express* only followed their lead in taking a stand against the San Domingo swindle. The St. Louis *Democrat*, a leading Radical journal, puts the matter before its readers, as follows:

"Does President Grant really suppose that these extraordinary efforts to push through a measure so unpopular, will add to his personal strength? This scheme has now been ventilated. What we have long known was the real motive in the San Domingo plot, is no longer concealed. It means war. After San Domingo comes Cuba, the rest of the West Indies, and the conflict with foreign powers, which this stride of aggression would inevitably provoke. And this conflict with foreign powers, it is calculated, will make the re-election of Grant a certainty. Long ago, this scheme was privately and confidentially talked of by persons who seem to be the confidants of the President, and talked of as if it were his own. His message enables everybody to judge for himself.

The *Democrat* does not regard Sumner's declaration that the country was invited to "a dance of blood" as exaggerated, and we have no doubt that it is right about the matter.

The New York *Evening Post* tries to shield the President by throwing the blame upon a set of "astute politicians," who are represented to be leading him, but it continues as follows:

"If the President's desire is to cultivate and maintain peaceful relations with other nations, he will do wisely to cast adrift the bad counsellors who are leading him in this San Domingo business, and in other matters, to essentially worse measures. Let him ask himself what we really want with San Domingo, an outlying island—or, rather, half an island—far distant from our shores? Its territory we need not covet, while we have millions of acres of our own uninhabited and undeveloped. A naval station we do not need—unless we are going to war; but we cannot go to war without being the aggressors, for we are too strong and powerful for any European nation to attack."

The Brooklyn *Eagle* asks:

Why in the world is President Grant so anxious about the annexation of San Domingo? It is intrinsically a petty matter, even by his own showing. Aside from the fact that the people are opposed to it, even a defeat on that issue would not hurt or damage the Executive very seriously, unless his adherence to the project is based upon worse reasons than he has seen fit to address. The Domingo business is known to be a job and a corrupt job. The people would prefer to believe the Chief Magistrate's associates, not himself, were interested in the matter from pecuniary motives. The President, however, will not allow them any such charitable and qualified conclusion, unless he mitigates his ardor in the premises—which he does not appear likely to do at present.

If President Grant were wise he would listen to the advice given him by Republican newspapers, but he is not likely to do so. He has, in fact, committed himself so completely to this San Domingo Job that he can not make an honorable retreat. If he were to back down now he would become an object of ridicule to his political opponents and be made the laughing stock of the country. That he will persist most obstinately to his project we have no doubt. He has determined to fight it out on the line he has marked out for himself, no matter how long it may take or what may be the cost. That the result will be the complete shipwreck of the Republican party in the next Presidential contest we have no doubt. Not even a war raised upon such an issue could save Grant. It would only render his defeat more sure and more overwhelming.

PRESIDENT GRANT despises lawyers. When they talk of a merchant's genteel clerks being "servants," he sees again that the law is an old pro-slavery concern. When they report to him that he is a "tenant-in-fee" of one of his gift houses, he thinks he knows better, for the property was given him without any fee, and how can a man be a tenant of his own estate? If one of them talks about the "conversion" of a stray mule, he wonders what more could happen himself or any other sinner; and should he be told that it is "not competent" for the Executive to do thus and so, he considers himself charged with a defect of understanding, and secretly resolves to inflict some injury upon that lawyer whenever he is sure of a safe opportunity.

At Albany, on Monday night, Dennis Mitchell quarrelled with a boy named O'Neill, and was shot by the latter. He is not expected to recover.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Meeting of the Legislature.

An Important Session.

Organization of the Two Houses.

The State Treasurership.

HARRISBURG, January 3, 1871.

The annual meeting of the Legislature has drawn together more than the usual crowd of eager and excited politicians.—Since 1862 the Republicans have had control of both branches, and few Democrats have been present at the organization; but the election of Dechert gave that party control of the Senate and the dispensation of some offices. The consequence was that Bolton's Hotel, the recognized headquarters of the Democracy, was the scene of much of that busy bustle which mark such occasions. The Republicans were more evenly distributed over the town, the Lochiel having the greatest number of guests and other hotels sharing according to popularity. The Brady House, which has been renovated completely, and opened under the management of Elisha W. Davis and others, seems to be doing a thriving business.

A PRELIMINARY CAUCUS.

On Saturday afternoon the Republican members of the House had a preliminary caucus, and a committee of seven was appointed to arrange "a slate" for the offices from Chief Clerk down to the lowest subordinate. The Committee consisted of Wm. Elliott, of Philadelphia, Chairman; C. W. Stone, of Warren, Secretary; Reinoehl and Whitson, of Lancaster; Humphreys of Allegheny; Keech of Chester, and Cloud of Philadelphia. For two days the members were tormented by the hungry applicants for position, and a number of them went to Church on Sunday to escape the torture to which they were subjected.

THE CONTEST FOR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

In the meantime a fierce struggle was going on between McJunkin, of Venango, and Webb, of Bradford, for the Speakership of the House. Mr. Strang, (who is unquestionably the ablest man on the Radical side of the House,) refused to be a candidate, and Cameron and the Pennsylvania Railroad united their forces on Webb. Cameron was present in person, as usual, and his tall, gaunt form could be seen glidingthrough the corridors of the Lochiel, or towering above a group of green country members, who were much impressed by the condescension of the great Winnebago chieftain, in mingling familiarly with them. Senator Cameron has not entirely recovered from the paralytic stroke with which he was seized some two months ago. He looks worn, and the probabilities are that he is honest in declaring that he will not attempt to secure another term of office in the United States Senate. The cessation of hostilities between Cameron and the Pennsylvania Railroad, is regarded as a mere truce, and not a permanent adjustment of the old quarrel.

Webb managed to secure a reputation for honesty, by barking loudly whenever a small snake crawled out of its hole in the last House, but it is rumored that larger serpents did not arouse the Cerberus of that body. He voted against the nine million steal, but it is believed that he will rule steadily in its favor from the Speaker's chair at the present session.

The agency of the country members, who had been in such suspense, was relieved during the afternoon of Yesterday by the announcement of the disposition of places made by the committee of seven. The House Republican caucus met at half-past seven, 51 members being present. The ballot for Speaker, resulted in 38 for James H. Webb and 13 for J. D. McJunkin, which was hailed with applause. General Selfridge was nominated for Chief Clerk by acclamation; so, also, were Mr. E. G. Lee, for Assistant, and Mr. John A. Smull, Resident Clerk. Shortly after this, Mr. A. C. Smith, one of the members from Dauphin, left the caucus, being disappointed in his claims for positions.

The balance of the ticket was as follows:

Transcribing Clerks—T. Harlan, of Chester; G. Halsey, of Luzerne; T. Moorehead, of Erie; B. Eberly, of Lancaster; J. Bodine, of Tioga; Charles Summerville, of Philadelphia.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Wm. J. Ovens, of Philadelphia.

Assistants—J. G. Ramaley, of Allegheny; M. M. Mott, of Susquehanna; Isaiah Shriver, of Philadelphia.

Doorkeeper—H. K. Sample, of Pittsburgh.

Assistants—E. J. Adamson and James Boneharker, of Allegheny; J. Soldier Anderson, of Indiana.

Messenger—J. C. Flanigan, of Venango.

Assistants—S. L. Kaufman, of Lancaster; B. S. Elliott, of Bedford; James B. Carpenter, of Dauphin.

Doorkeeper of Rotunda—A. B. Wolf, of Washington.

Postmaster—A. B. McCartney, of Mercer.

Assistant—R. A. Cochran, of Washington.

Superintendent of Folding Department.—James Rems, of Philadelphia.

Assistant—Wallace Scott, of Bradford.

Folders—W. H. Wasser, of Lawrence; Edward Daugherty, of Philadelphia; Chas. Eager, of Philadelphia; C. V. Painter, of Philadelphia; W. McGraw, of Blair; H. B. Tettemer, of Bucks; C. R. McDonald, of Chester; Scott A. Marshall, of Crawford; M. Laughery, of Indiana; Henry Shirk, of Lebanon.

A MODEL OFFICIAL.

The Radical nominee for Sergeant-at-Arms of the House is the Hon. Wm. Ovens. The Hon. William is known to infamy as the man indicted as the brutal and cold-blooded slayer of Col. Wm. S. Riddle, a gallant soldier of the war. Col. Riddle it will be remembered called upon this man Ovens, who was a Tax Assessor, in relation to some tax matter, and in his office was foully set upon and slain.—The corridors of the hotels and all other places where men assemble re-echoed with comments upon this nomination. Col. Wm. Riddle was the brother-in-law of Thomas A. Scott, Esq., Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The question was universally asked whether the Hon. Vice President had made friends with the reputed slayer of his brother-in-law, inasmuch as it is notorious that the Pennsylvania R. R. Co. controls the Legislature of Pennsylvania in actions great and small. A humorous friend remarked today that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company reminded him of the elephant, not the elephant of the jungle, not that captured and spirit-broken elephant of the Menagerie that the poor boys who cannot command a quarter get a chance to gaze at free of cost as he is paraded through the streets, but the romantic old elephant of Oliver Goldsmith's story, which can lift a ton of dirt with its trunk in the shape of a "nine million steal," and then deftly drop the tip of its proboscis to pick up a pin in the shape of a Clerkship or a Sergeant-ship-at-Arms.

When it was rumored in Philadelphia that Johny Ahern was likely to become a candidate for Sergeant-at-Arms in the Senate, the *Morning Post*, the Harrisburg *State Journal*, and other Radical newspapers cried out in tones of assumed horror, and prayed that the State of Pennsylvania might be spared such an affliction. Johny Ahern was beaten in the Democratic caucus for Sergeant-at-Arms, but the Hon. William Ovens was nominated by that "high-toner" honest Billy Elliot, of Philadelphia, the chief of the notorious gas trust ring. The Hon. Mr. Ovens is also a beneficiary of the gas ring, and will draw his six dollars a day for suppositious services in Philadelphia while discharging his duties as Sergeant-at-Arms of the House. Ovens is a low, coarse looking fellow, and is as illiterate as John Covode himself. Such is an exhibition of the taste of the party which lays claim to all the decency. Johny Ahern is a handsome fellow, of genial disposition and good address. He is naturally impulsive, and as brave as a man can be. He has been once or twice arrested for being engaged in election squabbles, but no accusation of a criminal character was ever brought against him.

THE REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL CAUCUS.

The Republican Senatorial caucus met in the Speaker's room at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There were only about ten Senators present, little interest in the meeting being taken. Senator Olmstead presided, and Senator Rutan acted as Secretary. On motion of Senator Billingfelt, Gen. Harry White was unanimously renominated for the Speakership. The balance of the nominations were as follows:

Clerk—George W. Hammersley.

Assistants—Lucius Rogers, E. Cowan.

Transcribing Clerks—Theophilus Hiestand, W. C. Bressler, John J. Hall, John Ross.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Abraham Lutz.

Assistants—W. W. Kerr, Benjaman Newman.

Postmaster—R. L. Perry.

Doorkeeper—P. D. Bryant.

Assistants—Jacob P. Hoffman, Comley L. Jenkins.

Messenger—George Hutchinson.

Assistants—Howell Jones, F. B. Coran.

Doorkeeper of the Rotunda—E. W. Thompson.

Supt. Folding Department—John Turss.

Pasters and Folders—George L. Deitz, Edward Thomas, Robert McCall, John B. Gross, Frank Leffets, William Searfoss.

Librarian—Jacob Styer.

Speaker White was, on motion of Senator Connell, authorized to appoint a committee of five, of which he should be one, to consult with the House Committee on the Apportionment Bill, during the session.

THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL CAUCUS.

There was an eager but a good-natured contest over the offices at the disposal of the Democratic Senate, and much caucusing among members. Nearly one-half the Democratic Senators did not arrive until yesterday, and considerable difficulty was experienced in making up a slate. The caucus met at 8 o'clock last evening, and after a session of two hours the following list of officers was reported:

Speaker—William A. Wallace, of Clearfield.

Chief Clerk—Jacob Ziegler, of Butler.

Assistant Clerks—William P. Furey, of Carbon, and Timothy A. Sloan, of Philadelphia.

Transcribing Clerks—Isaias Rehrig, of Lehigh; H. C. Keiser, of Franklin; William Bayard, of ——; Wm. Merrick, of ——.

Sergeant-at-Arms—John P. Cunihan.

Assistants—J. R. Dunbar and J. A. Duncan.

Postmaster—J. H. Beale.

Doorkeeper—Mordecai Willard.

Assistants—Frank Zerbe, John Dietrick.

Messenger—John Kiefe.

Assistants—Jacob Paul and Herman Krete.

Superintendant Folding Room—Joseph J. Garrard.

Pasters and Folders—Francis Ferris, William Alfred, Alex. Dobbins, Fred. Weimer, James Burns, George Gintringer.

There was considerable dissatisfaction among the young men from Senator Dechert's district when they discovered that they had not received a single appointment, after reversing the Republican majority in the Senate and giving that body to the Democracy.

Senator Miller, of Cumberland, was too ill to leave home yesterday, but he is expected to be on hand to-day, by the hour set for the assembling of the Senate. The Republicans were building hopes upon the illness of Senator Miller, but even his death could only delay the organization of the Senate for a brief period, as the district is one of the most overwhelmingly Democratic in the State. With the report of the illness of Senator Miller came the news of the affliction of Senator Warfel, in the death of his mother, and severe illness of one of his children. Speculation as to whether Messrs. Miller and Warfel would arrive in time to participate in the organization of the Senate afforded gossip for the eager and excited crowd about the hotels.

The allotment of positions to Lancaster in the House satisfies only Reinoehl and Whitson, who get their men, while the other members get nothing.

The State Treasurership is exciting a fierce contest. Mackey has a decided majority of members in his favor, but it is regarded as certain that a sufficient number of Republicans would vote against him to defeat him if he should be nominated. The opinion seems to prevail that neither Mackey nor Irwin can be elected. The Democrats will probably present L. A. Mackey, of Lock Haven, one of the ablest financiers and most accomplished gentlemen in the State.

Schenck.

Gen. Schenck has written a letter to a Dayton editor, in which he announces that he is intrusted with the discussion of the Alabama claims and all other questions which have been withdrawn from the control of his predecessor. He will thus go out with very full powers, and he will be compelled to shoulder a responsibility in proportion to the magnitude of the affairs committed to his hands. England has shown a willingness to meet us on fair grounds in the adjustment of the Alabama claims, and the just demands of those who lost property by confederate cruizers can be adjusted without difficulty if properly presented. Mr. Schenck goes abroad with grave responsibilities resting upon his shoulders.

A Washington despatch informs us that he will present his resignation as Representative of the Third District of Ohio immediately after the re-assembling of Congress. A notice of contest has been formally served upon his successful opponent. It is signed Robert C. Schenck, and contains but one allegation to the effect that the disabled soldiers in the National Asylum were illegally deprived of the right to vote. Ben. Butler has been employed to manage the contest. The Radical majority in the House may refuse to permit Mr. Campbell to occupy the seat to which he was fairly elected under the laws of his State, but no resolution of Congress can nullify or in any way impair the binding force of a solemn decision of the Supreme Court of Ohio. After the record in contested election cases which the Radicals in Congress have made, the country will not be surprised at any outrage which may be committed in the future. The recent elections have shown, however, that such rascality cannot be carried on with impunity, and, should Mr. Campbell be unseated, he will no doubt be returned by a larger majority than he received before. Many decent Republicans would vote for him.

A Great Outrage Contemplated.

A telegram to the Philadelphia papers, from Harrisburg, announces that an attempt will be made to contest the seats of Senators Dechert and Negley. It is also rumored on good authority that a similar attempt will be made in the case of Senator Randall, of Schuylkill. That certain desperate leaders of the Radical party have the proposed programme in contemplation there is no doubt. They can get up the petitions and secure the necessary affidavits upon which to base a contest in each of these three cases without difficulty. The fact that every one of the Democratic Senators named had very large majorities would not stand in the way of making the preliminary arrangements for a contest. Success in any one of the cases could only be conceived to be possible on the supposition that a Committee might be drawn, a majority of which would decide against the evidence, and in utter disregard of their oaths. It may be the conspirators who are engaged in the project are correct in their estimate of the integrity of Republican Senators. We shall not believe that the Republican members of the State Senate will countenance such a scheme until we have the evidence of their own action to convince us. It is possible that the Republicans might regain control of the Senate through the perjury of an Election Committee, but it would be the severest blow the organization has had in Pennsylvania. It would drive multitudes of decent Republicans into the Democratic ranks.

Protection and Revenue.

The Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* in one of its diatribes against the advocates of revenue reform says:

The sum and substance of the free-trade "revenue reform" doctrine is "no import duty to be levied on any article where the like article is produced in the U. S."

To that the New York *Evening Post*, a paper which is classed with the free-trade journals of the country, replies as follows:

Not at all. The sum and substance of free-trade revenue reform is a pure revenue tax. Nothing for favor, nothing for fear, nothing for protection, nothing but the lowest amount of tax on imports consistent with the economical support of the Government. It is not asked, when duties are imposed, that the productions of the United States should be sacrificed to like articles produced abroad. All such statements are inventions of the enemy. Every one knows that for years to come a revenue tariff, even in spite of revenue reforms, will afford protection to the amount of tax levied, whatever that tax may be.

The statement of the position occupied by the revenue reformers as given by the *Post* is brief, clear and satisfactory. The people of Pennsylvania have had their eyes opened, and they gave abundant evidence at the recent Congressional elections that they were hostile to such swindling tariffs as this country has been cursed with.

A westward bound train on the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad ran off the track near Meadville yesterday morning