THE LANCASTER WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1871.

Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1871.

Obituary.

Hon. Isaac E. Hiester.

On Saturday, the 28th ult., this community was greatly shocked by the announcement that Hon. Isaac E. Hiester, had been stricken down by paralysis. From that until 8½ o'clock on Monday morning, he lingered in a semi-conscious condition, never speaking, but being able to recognize the friends who gathered around his bed in anxious solicitude.

The deceased was the son of Hon. Wm. Hiester, and a grand-nephew of Gov. Joseph Hiester. He was born in May, 1824. At an early age he was sent to the Moravian school for boys at Litiz, afterward to the Abbeville Academy, and subsequently to Bolmar's Institute, at West Chester, where he was prepared for college. In 1838 he entered Yale and continued his studies, graduating with high honor. He read law in this city with Thomas E. Franklin, Esq., and was admitted to the bar in September of 1845. Mr. Hiester came to the bar well-fitted for the duties of his profession, and rose rapidly in its ranks. In 1848 he was appointed District Attorney of Lancaster county by the Attorney-General of the State. In 1852 he was elected to Congress by the Whig party, and, young as he was, made his mark in that body, delivering a brilliant speech against the Kansas-Nebraska bill. When the Know-Nothing party sprung up Mr. Hiester's convictions led him to do battle against the illiberal policy of that organization, and he was left to stand with a fragment of the better and more liberal-minded men of the old Whig party, by whom he was again nominated for Congress in 1854, when he was defeated by the Know-Nothing candidate. Being a man of conscientious convictions, and too high-minded ever to trim his course so as to court popular favor at the expense of political principle, Mr. Hiester connected himself with the organization which represented his sentiments, and from the decease of the Whig party was always known as a leading Democrat. In 1856 he accepted the nomination of the Democratic party for Congress, but even his popularity was not sufficient to overcome the immense Republican majority of this county. Mr. Hiester was no office-seeker, and he neither desired nor would have accepted any Federal appointment. He was devoted to the arduous duties of his profession, and acquired a wide reputation as a lawyer. He was more than once solicited to become a Democratic candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, and might easily have been nominated, but he steadily declined the proffered honor. He was elected a delegate at large to the National Democratic Convention of 1868, and was distinguished as one of those who most strongly opposed the retro-active tendencies of that body, being in full sympathy with the younger and more liberal men of the party. At that convention Mr. Hiester was chosen to represent the State of Pennsylvania in the Democratic National Executive Committee.

Isaac E. Hiester was a lawyer of the old school, a man noted for the courteousness of his manner in association with fellow-members of the bar, and one whose word, however lightly passed, was never known to be broken. He possessed a mind strongly analytical and well fitted to grapple successfully with every legal difficulty. He loved his profession as a science, and was looked up to by the younger members of the bar as a model worthy of imitation.—He was an able and eloquent advocate, distinguished alike for his great skill in arguing a point of law before a bench of Judges, and for his power of appealing successfully to a jury. The records of the Courts of this county and the reports of the Supreme Court of the State, through a series of twenty-five years, show how extensive his practice was. Though inheriting a large fortune he pursued his profession with the same ardor as if his livelihood depended upon his exertions, and added largely to his ancestral wealth by his own efforts.

The announcement of Mr. Hiester's illness cast a gloom over the entire community, and day by day people of all classes have been eagerly seeking to learn his condition. On all sides might be heard the most anxious inquiries in regard to him accompanied by the earnest hope that he would speedily recover. The decease of such a man, in the prime of life, and in the very midst of his usefulness, is one of those mysterious dispensations of Divine Providence which are calculated to remind us most forcibly of the uncertainty of human life. Mr. Hiester was a consistent member of the Episcopal Church, having united himself to that body some months since. He leaves behind him a bereaved widow, but no children to mourn his loss. In his death the bar of Lancaster county and the community at large have suffered a loss which can not be speedily repaired.

A Brother-in-law in Trouble.

The Senate does not seem to be disposed to confirm the appointment of Grant's brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Kramer, as Minister to Denmark. Sumner handled the reverend relative of Ulysses without gloves, and another Senator read over the long list of his excellency's relatives who had been given fat offices. The Rev. Kramer was slapped in the face when he was Consul at Leipsic, and, after complaining to the authorities, he came home and was appointed Minister. He is said to be utterly unfit for the position, and without a thing to recommend him except his relation to the President's sister.

How Cessna Voted the Negroes.

An examination of the negro voters of Chambersburg shows that over two hundred of them voted on tax receipts furnished and paid for by John Cessna. One of his henchmen held the receipts, and the nigs were informed that they could not vote without these little slips of paper. The amount of tax paid for each negro was twenty-eight cents, and they were charged twenty-five cents a piece for the receipts. So Cessna only lost three cents on each darkey.

THE Philadelphia *Ledger* concludes an able article on election abuses by calling upon the Legislature to authorize a Constitutional Convention "*evenly* divided between the political parties, and in this way try to secure such a system of election laws as will restore them to their old-time position of fair expression of the will of the people." The *Ledger* is right. A partisan Convention can not be trusted to do that work. What is needed is a Convention "*evenly* divided."

IN the Senate of New York, yesterday, Mr. Murphy offered a joint resolution for an amendment to the State Constitution disfranchising criminals and persons convicted of bribery at elections.—Mr. Tweed, saying that this was the Democratic platform, asked unanimous consent to its consideration, but Mr. Woodin objected, and it went over.

THE Legislative Joint Committee drawn in the Price-Lynd Judicial contested election case, having held three meetings at which the contestant failed to appear, have resolved to report in favor of Lynd, the sitting Judge. The Committee was composed of Republicans exclusively.

THE infamous and odious test-oath has been repealed. This practically enfranchises nine-tenths of the white men in the South.

THE public debt statement for February 1st, shows a decrease of $4,040,980 since January 1st.

Frauds in the State Printing.

That the people of Pennsylvania have been annually cheated out of a round sum of money for some years past, by those who have had the management of the public printing, seems to be conceded. The attention of the Legislature and of the public was very forcibly attracted to this business, when an offer was made to do all the State printing, provided for by law, at 99½ per cent. below the rates fixed before the war, when labor and material were cheaper than they are to-day. When one of the bidders offered to take twelve cents and a half for doing a hundred dollars worth of work, it is not strange that there should have been surprise on the part of members of the Legislature, and wonder among their constituents. It was evident at a glance that the State printer must be up to ways that are dark to enable him to do work at such prices.

Three years ago, when the last letting of the State printing occurred, Mr. P. Gray Meek, a member of the House from Centre County, himself a practical printer, called the attention of the House to the evidences of mismanagement, and the opportunity for the perpetration of frauds which existed under the system, which had been employed. Mr. Meek did what he could at that time to induce the Committee, of which he was member, to take some action whereby the State might be protected but the Republican majority refused to listen to his representations and permitted the whole subject to pass without any proper consideration. On the last day of the session, Mr. Meek made a minority report which concluded as follows:

Under Act of Assembly of 1864 the heads of Departments were authorized to order such printing as they may deem necessary, and in such manner as they may prescribe. The law under which the State printing is contracted for specifies how a certain class of work shall be done, and the contract fixes the rate per centum below regular trade rates at which the present State printer has agreed to do this work. The courts it is ascertained have decided that all work not ordered in accordance with the specifications in the act of 1856 is not subject to the deduction of the per centum fixed in the contract price, and for some reason or other, unknown to the minority of your committee, the heads of departments *order a large amount of printing*, in fact nearly all of it, to be done *otherwise than in accordance with* the specifications, thus giving the State printer an opportunity to charge full rates for nearly all the work done for the State. The minority would therefore recommend the repeal of the act of 1864 authorizing the heads of departments and the clerks of both houses of the Legislature to order such work done as they may deem necessary in the manner they may prescribe; and the passage of an act requiring all printing, lithographing, collating, binding, ruling, &c., done for the State should be subject to the discount named in the contract for doing the work.

The language used by Mr. Meek lets in considerable light upon the management of the State printing. It shows that the law of 1856, by which the work to be done for the State was rated at a fixed price, has come to be a dead letter. The Act of 1864 which gives Heads of Departments and the Clerks of the two Houses authority to order work in such manner as they may see fit, took nearly all the State printing out of the provisions of the law of 1856, and this Act of 1864, which opened the door to extravagance and fraud, was made still wider in its application by a decision of the Dauphin County Court. The Republican majority of the Committee was sustained by the Republican majority of the House, and Mr. Meek's report was unceremoniously tabled.

Under the loose system which has prevailed since the law of 1856 was virtually repealed by indirection, the cost of the State printing has swelled enormously. In 1856 the cost to the State, under Democratic rule, was $35,282 79. In 1870, after a long term of Republican rule, the cost of the State printing had swelled to the sum of $147,738 93, an increase of $112,452 14, and $71,090 91 more than it amounted to in 1864, when the war was being waged and an immense amount of extra printing being done for all the departments of the State government.

It would be an endless task to show up all the means, great and small, by which the State is swindled in this single matter of public printing, but a few facts will help the tax-payers to get some insight into the matter. The State furnishes all the paper used for State printing, and it is purchased under the supervision of an official who is known as the Superintendent of Public Printing and Binding. If this position were filled by an honest man, the State would neither be cheated in the purchase of paper nor in the work done by the State printer. But there is abundant evidence to show that it has been badly swindled in both. The correspondent of a leading Philadelphia paper wrote from Harrisburg a few days ago, as follows:

In the matter of the contract for furnishing paper to the State, frauds of the most palpable and barefaced character have been practised. The contract of one year was let to a party by the Superintendent of Public Printing, at a figure at least 20 per cent. more than the same amount of paper, of the same quality, could have been furnished from other quarters, or in open market, and what rendered the thing still worse, not a single sheet of the kind of paper contracted to be furnished was furnished, under the contract, but a much inferior article; and notwithstanding all this was made apparent to the Superintendent, at the last letting, he awarded the contract for this year to the same parties, who were not the lowest bidders for all the quantities of paper advertised for. These things should be remedied. But will they?

The charges made in the above paragraph are believed to be within the mark by those who are best informed. Nay, those who ought to know go still further, and openly declare that large amounts of paper have been paid for by the State, which were never received, or large lots charged at double their amount. If these charges be true, it is easy to see how the bill for public printing has been so enormously swollen.

But there are a multitude of minor opportunities for swindling the State, at the command of the State printer, under the present loose system of contracting with him. The work done under his bid amounts to a mere fraction of the whole amount, and he could well afford to pay for the privilege of doing that, if allowed to charge, as he has done for years past, for the balance. For five common cards, furnished to each member of the Legislature, with his name and county printed on them, the State is charged $130, when $20 would pay well for the work. A little pamphlet of twelve pages, called a Legislative Directory, is charged for at the rate of $66 per thousand copies, when money could be made on it at $20. More bills and documents are said to be habitually charged for than are received, and various other devices are resorted to swell the bill against the State.

It was high time for a change, and, now that the attention of the people has been called to this business, they will be content with nothing less than such a Radical change as will protect them from similar impositions in the future. The Legislature has the power to remedy all the evils complained of, and the tax-payers expect them to do so. Let a bill be passed which will prevent the State printer from robbing the State Treasury, and then let the work be given to the lowest bidder. The amount of work might also be materially reduced and money saved thereby. Let us have complete reform in this matter.

W. M. HALL, ESQ., of Bedford, has been appointed by Governor Geary to the Judgeship of the 16th Judicial District, composed of the counties of Franklin, Fulton, Bedford and Somerset, made vacant by the death of Judge King. Mr. Hall was one of the Commissioners to codify the laws of the State. He is a gentleman of considerable learning and ability.

THE election in the Seventeenth Legislative District (Philadelphia) to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Joseph A. Campbell, was held Wednesday. The returns elect G. W. Griffiths, Republican, by 456 majority.

Cessna and the Chorpenning Fraud.

We publish elsewhere a full account of the active connection of John Cessna with the Chorpenning fraud. It is needless to say that this is one of the most outrageous attempts to swindle the government that was ever made or discovered. John Cessna is too smart not to have known the nature of the transaction in which he was engaged. What he did was done with his eyes wide open. It would be quite as easy to catch a weasel asleep, as to "shut up his eye.

It is said that the affidavits on which Chorpenning based his exorbitant and false claims, and which were professed to be made before an alcalde in New Mexico, were cunningly manufactured within the limits of Cessna's District, in a little town in Somerset County, before a country Justice of the Peace. John Cessna may not have been fully aware of all the iniquity involved in the outrageous swindle, but he could hardly have been ignorant of the main facts.—He must have known when he introduced his joint resolution, and had it hurried so rapidly and so secretly through both Houses, on the very last day of the session, that he was engaged in the villainous attempt to swindle the government. He sat dumb under the damaging exposure of his conduct which was made by Mr. Dawes, when all eyes in the House were turned upon him, and when he was expected, by the few friends he has, to deny his guilt, he opened not his mouth.

Never before was any member of Congress from Pennsylvania so openly and so deeply disgraced. John Cessna ought to be ashamed to show his face in the hall of the House hereafter. Fortunately for the credit of the Commonwealth, he will disappear from public life forever in a few days. He has utterly failed to make any case on which to base the contest against Mr. Meyers, and the exposure of his conduct in the Chorpenning swindle will leave him without a friend among the more respectable Republicans in Congress. He has sounded all the depth of political baseness, and will be allowed to sink into obscurity without a single regret on the part of any decent man in the State of Pennsylvania.

The End of the Dechert Contest.

After the majority of the Committee made their report in the case, declaring the petition of Mr. Lyndall to be insufficient in its averments to justify a contest, the minority made a dissenting report. This report contained very gross inaccuracies. Mr. Graham had clipped a column of figures from an editorial which appeared in Forney's *Press*, and had pasted them in as part of his report. The figures were inaccurate, and did, what it is said figures will not do—they lied. The falsehoods contained in them, and consequently in the minority report, were at once exposed by the Democratic members of the Committee, to the entire satisfaction of the Senate and the great shame and confusion of Mr. Graham, who begged leave to withdraw his report for amendment. Leave was of course granted, and he presented another report on Monday night. To that the Committee replied, exposing other fallacies and falsehoods, whereupon the Committee was discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

That justice has been done in thus disposing of the attempt to reverse the decision of the people of the first Senatorial district at the polls, will be the general opinion of all honest and fair-minded men. It is time to put a stop to this thing of contesting elections which are fairly and honestly made. It has grown to be one of the greatest abuses in our National and State governments, and has become a fruitful source of unnecessary expense.

A Non-Partisan Convention.

The propriety of providing that the convention to reform the State Constitution shall be perfectly non-partisan in its character, will no doubt be fully recognized by the Legislature. The following resolution has just been introduced into the Senate by Mr. Billingfelt:

Resolved, That the committee on constitutional reform be, and they are hereby, instructed to embody in their bill, to be framed for the calling of a convention to amend the constitution of Pennsylvania, a provision for equal representation, consisting of an equal number of delegates from each Senatorial or Congressional District, all to be elected at large, with the privilege for each elector to vote for only one-half the number of delegates to be elected to said convention, so that said convention may be relieved from all peril of partisan control.

The plan suggested by Mr. Billingfelt would secure the desired end. It matters not about the form of election so the result be reached. If we are to have a convention in which the people of Pennsylvania can have full confidence it must be perfectly non-partisan. With the two parties equally divided there will be no temptation to introduce partisan measures, and the business of the convention will be confined to reforms in which all the people of the State will have an equal interest. The work of such a convention would be well done, and endorsed by the people of the State without respect to party. The Senate has the power to insure the adoption of a bill which would give us a non-partisan convention, and it must see to it that no bill is allowed to pass which does not provide for equal representation of the two great political parties.

Cabinet Changes.

Forney's *Press* announces, seemingly on authority, that Ben. Butler is to be made Secretary of State, and other changes to be effected in Grant's Cabinet before the 5th day of March. The country will not regard the exchange of Butler for Fish as any improvement. His absurd speech in reference to Canada and the fishery question will cause alarm. It may be that Grant will be induced to recede from what is announced to be his present intention though he has been guilty of so many gross blunders that the country will be disappointed at nothing he may do.

Starving Birds.

The journals in Maryland report that great distress prevails among the birds in that region of country, as owing to the ground being covered with snow, they are deprived of their usual means of obtaining food, and seem to be in a starving condition. The partridges, crows and hawks seem to be most seriously distressed, and the hawks, much tamer than usual, congregate boldly around the barn-yards for food.

PROF. O. L. C. HUGES, formerly a negro barber in Lancaster and since editor of the defunct *Genius of Liberty*, in Harrisburg, and Major T. Morris Chester, a safron-colored disciple of Blackstone, have filed cross-suits for libel against each other in the courts of Dauphin County. Last election-day they were as thick as two thieves together, and drove around the city in the same carriage encouraging the sable suffragans to vote early and often.

EMOTIONAL insanity is evidently not duly appreciated in Ohio. Dr. Galentine, the dentist who shot Dr. Jones, a physician, for being too intimate with his wife, has been found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The jurors no doubt thought such killings were getting to be too common.

THE New York *Tribune* dubes the land grabbers Land Pirates, and styles the subsidy schemes Water Rats. We hope the giving these dogs a bad name may prove to be as effective as hanging them.

WOULD-BE-MEMBERS of Congress—Radical reprobates who failed to show even such claims to a seat as John Cessna would consider sufficient, carried off $51,500 of the money wrung from honest hard-working tax-payers last year. Let that little steal be remembered together with the multitude of big ones.

How to Prevent Constitutional Reform.

If we are to judge the intention of certain leading Republicans in our State Legislature by their acts, we should be compelled to conclude that they intend to prevent any Constitutional reform. Several bills of a partisan character have been introduced, one in the Senate by Mr. Connell, of Philadelphia, and one in the House by Mr. Mann, of Potter. Each of these distributes the delegates to a Constitutional Convention according to the present unequal apportionment, with the design of securing a decided Republican majority in that body The Democrats would be wanting in spirit and regardless of the public good if they allowed any such bill to pass. They are ready and willing to vote for a bill which will give equal representation to the two great political parties in a Constitutional Convention, but they will not, and they ought not to allow any act to pass which would give either party a majority. Only from a non-partisan Convention can proper reforms be expected. If either party should have a majority, the time of the Convention would be consumed in efforts to secure partisan advantages, bitterness of feeling would be engendered, the confidence of the people in the action of the Convention would be shaken, and the amended Constitution would be likely to be rejected when it came before the people. The action of the Republican majority in the House, in rushing through the crude bill prepared by Mr. Mann, shows a settled determination to give a strongly partisan character to the contemplated Constitutional Convention. To that the Democratic members of the Legislature will never submit. They will support any bill which will insure *equality* of representation, but none other; and, in so doing, they will be sustained by the independent press of the State and by a vast majority of the people of Pennsylvania.

Influence of the Pennsylvania Central.

The Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company made a United States Senator of one of its solicitors on the retirement of Hon. C. R. Buckalew, and a Pennsylvania Member of Congress declared the other day, in explanation of his action on the Cincinnati Bridge question, that he dared not cast his vote in opposition to the interest of the Pennsylvania Central, as that Company could defeat his renomination and prevent his return to Congress. The Senator and the Member of Congress referred to are both members of the Radical, party in good standing. It was a member of the same party who entered the lower House of our State Legislature, two or three years ago, on the last day of the session and exclaimed: "I have just seen Tom. Scott, and he informs me that he has nothing more for the Legislature to do; I move, therefore, that this body do now adjourn." The motion was carried; the House adjourned *sine die*, and the servants of the great corporation stepped up to the Captain's office and drew their pay for services rendered.

How Cessna Engineered the Chorpenning Fraud.

Those who know John Cessna know him to be a lawyer fertile in rascally expedients. He combines within himself all the bad qualities of the notorious firm of Quirk, Gammon & Snap, immortalized in Warren's "Ten Thousand a Year." He was the very man to engineer the Chorpenning fraud through Congress. The Washington *Patriot* tells how he managed the job. It says:

"On the 14th of July, Mr. Cessna, not a member of the Committee on Post Offices, succeeded by his personal misrepresentations in passing a joint resolution so artfully drawn as to conceal its design, and predicated upon the basis of the law of 1857, which was itself a fraud upon Congress, and so exposed by Postmaster-General Brown. No human being but the interested parties could understand the scope of Mr. Cessna's plundering scheme, and it was so well managed that all debate was prevented, and no call of the yeas and nays could be obtained. All the preparations had been made for expedition. The bill was engrossed in advance, hurried to the Senate, sent back with an amendment, repassed, and was the first thing signed and returned by the President the next morning. All this occurred between 3 P. M. and 9 A. M. of the ensuing last day of the session."

Compliments.

We are not much given to sounding our own praise, but here are a couple of recent notices of the INTELLIGENCER, so cordial and so complimentary, that we can not refrain from publishing them:

The Lancaster Intelligencer.

As regular as the rising of the sun, comes this old and favorite Democratic journal to our table. On our whole list of exchanges there is none better—none that deserves a warmer support from the Democracy, and none that battles more earnestly and vigorously for the success of our cause. Published in the blackest, bitterest Radical county there is in the State, it is only so much the better because it knows so much the more of Radical follies, frailties and designs. Besides being one of the best, it is one of the largest papers in the State, and its extensive circulation makes it one of the most valuable advertising mediums in the country.—We only wish there were more *Intelligencers*, and more editors like H. G. Smith, Esq.,—Radical rascals would find a rougher road to travel than they ever have.—*Bellefonte Watchman*.

In another column we publish the prospectus of the LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER, one of the leading Democratic journals in the eastern part of the State. The INTELLIGENCER is a favorite exchange of ours, and we should be glad to see it attain to a large circulation in this section. The daily we regard as the ablest and most judiciously conducted paper, in proportion to its size and patronage, that we are acquainted with. The weekly we do not see, but being made up out of the daily, it of course is none the less meritorious.—*Erie Observer*.

IN Michigan, Grand Juries have been abolished. The law provides that the District Attorney shall present all crimes for trial by indictment, and that no information shall be presented, except in cases which have been first examined by Justices of the Peace. Should the District Attorney decline to draw an information, he is directed to report the case with the evidence to the Circuit Judge. The law further provides for an arraignment before the County Judge, so that if the defendant should plead guilty, he may at once be sentenced, and not be compelled to lie in jail awaiting the session of the Circuit Court. A similar law has been introduced into the Wisconsin Legislature.

THE news from France is meagre and unsatisfactory, but enough to show that a bitter quarrel has broken out between the contending factions of the Republicans. Favre leads one party and Gambetta the other. The future is in great doubt, and it is possible, if not probable, that one of the Orleanist princes will be placed on the throne, or the Bonaparte dynasty restored. Bismarck has forbidden the circulation of newspapers between departments during the armistice. That is not calculated to secure a free election, which is what is needed.

Newspaper Change.

The *Valley Democrat*, an excellent local paper published at Mechanicsburg, Cumberland county, has changed hands. Mr. T. F. Singiser has sold the establishment to Messrs. R. H. Thomas and A. H. Brinks. The new firm have changed the name of the paper to the *Valley Independent*, and intend to publish it as an independent newspaper.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES of the two houses of Congress still fail to agree on the technical question of the right of the Senate to introduce the Income Tax Repeal bill. The same bill was defeated last session by parliamentary humbuggery, and it is evident that the present strategy is intended to serve the same purpose.

THE House of Representatives in Washington have concluded to fight Brigham Young and Mormonism by Federal laws, instead of powder and ball, and to this end on Saturday it was agreed that the re-districting of the Territory be taken from the Legislature and given to U. S. Judges, who have lately perplexed the Mormon authorities. The authority to grant private charters, by which prominent Mormons were enriching themselves with mining lands is also taken from the Legislature.

Soldiers' Orphan Schools.

The mismanagement of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools, which had grown up under the late Superintendent, Col. McFarland, led to much comment. The course of Governor Geary in continuing McFarland in office, after the Senate refused to confirm him, was justly condemned. A very proper bill was introduced in the Senate early in the present session, which provides for the abolition of the department created for the management of these schools, and transfers the care of them to the State Superintendent of Common Schools.—The debate in the Senate was damaging to McFarland, and, from the temper of the Legislature, it was evident that the Senate bill would pass both branches. Seeing that he could no longer maintain an illegal hold upon the office, out of which he had managed to make so much money, Col. McFarland forwarded to the Governor on Thursday last a letter of resignation. He resigned to escape the ignominy of being virtually expelled by the abolition of his office. His friend, the Governor, accepted his resignation with profound regret, and proceeded at once to appoint Mr. James P. Wickersham Superintendent of the Orphan Schools, thus making a virtue out of a necessity, and complying with the terms of the proposed law before its passage. Had the Governor allowed time for the passage of the bill the Superintendent of Common Schools would have taken the place held by McFarland without executive intervention. As the law contains proper provisions for the regulation of the Orphan Schools it will no doubt be pushed through, as it ought to be. That Professor Wickersham will discharge the new duties devolved upon him to the best of his ability we have no doubt.

The Steamship Subsidy Business.

The assurance is now repeatedly given from Washington that all thes ubsidy bills, steamship and railroad, now before Congress, are doomed to defeat. We shall feel surer about this when the last day of the session finds them dead or unacted on; for, as the New York *Journal of Commerce* truly says, some of them have a power of vitality in their bodies and will die hard. Contrasted with the enormous demands of the subsidy hunters, particularly the steamship men, the same paper sets the modest request of a number of shipowners and merchants, who are now signing a remonstrance against aid to steamships "under the specious pretense" of reviving American commerce, and asking only for the privilege of buying ships in the cheapest market, as thereby alone can they complete with the rest of the world.

Life Insurance.

It is announced that so many policies have been allowed to lapse since the failure of the Farmers and Mechanics' Life Insurance Company of New York, that the "receiver of that Company, appointed by the Supreme Court, finds himself in possession of sufficient assets to reinsure all the policies remaining in force, and that, under the direction of the Court, he has transferred the assets to the Empire Mutual Insurance Company, who have assumed all the outstanding policies, including policies already matured by death." This is very well so far as it goes, but it is claimed that all those insured at the time of the failure of the Company are entitled to an equitable share of the assets, and that no policy-holder should forfeit his interest in the Company for declining to put more money into a concern that was confessedly bankrupt.

THE Senate of Missouri, on Friday, passed a joint resolution, instructing Missouri's Representatives in Congress to vote against any further appropriation for the National Capitol at Washington, and to urge its removal to "some more central and convenient point."

IT is announced that Minister Schenck may not go to England for several weeks yet. It is understood that he is detained to await the result of negotiations upon the fishery question, now pending at Washington.

THERE is a rumor in Washington that Grant will veto the bill repealing the test-oath. It is likely true. He is narrow-minded enough to do so.

State Items.

Mayor Callow, of Pittsburgh, fined Mrs. Bittner thirty dollars and costs, because she tried to commit suicide and failed.

The population of Harrisburg, as given in the new directory just issued, foots up males 11,895, females 12,901; total, 24,796.

Frederick Otley, residing at No. 410 East Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, was choked to death while eating supper, on Tuesday evening last.

On Saturday, January 28th, John F. Lindsey, of West Pennsborough, Cumberland County, had his right foot crushed almost into a jelly by a heavy saw log falling upon it.

A German named Charles King, was arrested in Reading on the 1st inst., on the charge of horse-stealing. He had sold a fine bay horse for about one-third its value, and on being questioned about it told several conflicting stories.

Some two weeks ago a dog belonging to Levi Young, of Petersville, Northampton County, went mad, took a tour throughout the country, bit all the dogs he fell in with, together with whole herds of cattle, swine, &c., and worse than all, bit a child in the neighborhood of Moorestown. Fifteen of the dogs were killed, and that is said to be less than half the number bitten.

Robert King has been sent to prison by Alderman Morrow, of Philadelphia, for the theft of an umbrella. This is the first case on record where a man has been prosecuted for stealing an umbrella. Robert is evidently not posted in the ways of the world. The proper way for him to have done was to borrow the article and never return it. That is the genteel way of stealing umbrellas, books, etc.

In Philadelphia the other day the employees of the Sixth Street Passenger Railway threw the snow from the track towards the curb. This interfered with the labors of a drayman connected with a large paper house, and he at once shoveled the snow back upon the track, thus impeding the cars The railroad men contended that they had a right to clean their track, and again shoveled it off. The spunkey drayman told them he was willing to cart away his own snow but not theirs, and again deposited it on the track. The matter will probably go to court.

News Items.

The cadet barracks at West Point waa partially destroyed by fire yesterday morning. Loss $50,000.

Elnathan Hendrickson, a farmer of Hopeville, N. J., was instantly killed by the kick of a mule last Saturday night.

Mrs. Laura Fair has been indicted at San Francisco for the murder of A. P. Crittenden, on the ferry-boat El Capitan, in November last.

The deaths in Philadelphia last week numbered 312—an increase of 45 over the number for the previous week.—There were 65 deaths from consumption and 38 from inflammation of the lungs.

The abstract of the condition of the 1648 National Banks of the United States, on December 28th last, shows resources and liabilities aggregating $1,538,998,105.

At Evansville, Ind., on Saturday, Nettie Brown shot and dangerously wounded her lover, Jeff. Gilman. She is under arrest. Gilman is not expected to recover. Gilman asserts that the girl shot him while he was asleep, and she says she done it while he was about to strike her with a hatchet.

During the session of the Senate of Arkansas, on Saturday, Lieutenant Governor Johnston, who presided, received a letter announcing the death of a member of his family, and was so affected that he swooned. On his recovery and an explanation of the cause, the Senate adjourned out of respect to his affliction.

The Germans of Cincinnati held a jubilee, in honor of the victories of their countrymen, on Saturday night. All the German societies walked in procession, and the houses of the Germans were illuminated and decorated with flags. A meeting was held at Sængerfest Hall, speeches being made by Judge Stover, Fred. Hassureck, Rev. Father Schwarenger of the Catholic church, and others.

The Test-Oath Bill.

The bill recently passing both Houses of Congress to relieve certain classes of persons from the necessity of taking the test-oath, or "iron-clad," previous to entering on office under the Federal government, may have its significance made clearer by a word of comment. The political disabilities originally imposed on the Southerners are summed up in two branches: the fourteenth amendment, excluding from office all who held office before the war; and the "iron-clad," excluding all who stood by the South in the war, even though not holding office before. By act of Congress of July 11, 1868, it was provided that those amenable to the fourteenth amendment should, on having the disabilities thereby imposed removed, take a certain form of oath before entering on office, and the bill just passing Congress is to allow all who are not amenable to the fourteenth amendment, but are to the "iron-clad," to hold office on taking the same oath. The act for those relieved from the fourteenth amendment is as follows:

AN ACT prescribing an oath of office to be taken by persons from whom legal disabilities shall have been removed.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That whenever any person who has participated in the late rebellion, and from whom all legal disabilities arising therefrom have been removed by act of Congress by a vote of two-thirds of each House, has been or shall be elected or appointed to any office or place of trust in or under the government of the United States, he shall, before entering upon the duties thereof, instead of the oath prescribed by the act of July 2, 1862, take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation: I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Approved July 11, 1868.

The bill just passed for those amenable to the "iron-clad," only reads thus:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That when any person, who is not rendered ineligible to office by the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution, shall be elected or appointed to any office of honor or trust under the government of the United States, and shall not be able, on account of his participation in the late rebellion, to take the oath prescribed in the act of Congress approved the 2d of July, 1862, said person shall, in lieu of said oath, before entering upon the duties of said office, take and subscribe to the oath prescribed in an act of Congress entitled "An act prescribing an oath of office to be taken by persons from whom legal disabilities shall have been removed."

Approved 11th of July, 1868.

So that, with the President's approval of the above bill, the law as to Confederates holding office is that any man relieved of his disabilities under the fourteenth amendment, or any man never amenable thereto, may hold any office, State or Federal, on taking the oath prescribed in the act of July 11, 1868, above quoted. Those not relieved from amenability to the fourteenth amendment are still disfranchised.—*N. Y. World*.

A Sensible Speech.

William V. McGrath, Esq., was installed President of the Americus Club, of Philadelphia, on Wednesday evening, and, on taking the chair, he made a very sensible speech from which we make the following extract:

The time has come when the Democratic party can control the government of the city, State and nation if it will, and I respectfully suggest that the time has also come when some Democratic organization in this city shall enter its protest against, and its members determine to prevent, the frittering away of the splendid opportunity afforded the party of regaining political power.

To be successful, we must guarantee in the character of our Representatives an honest and intelligent discharge of official duty. Among the sixty thousand members of the party in this city, there is abundant ability and integrity to discharge faithfully all the public duties of the municipal government. Why, then, deter conservative citizens, who are tired of the misrule of our opponents, from joining us by presenting as our Representatives our worst members? The people of business and property, who look to the law for the protection of both, are they who determine elections in this city for or against us, according to the character and qualifications of our candidates. And the people of property in this city are not merely the rich. More property here is held by the masses than anywhere else. Building associations and the incentives to industry offered here have made the working people of this city, to a large extent, the owners of houses in which they live. And think you that the people who, by patient toil and the exercise of rigid economy, have acquired homes for themselves and families, will confide the agency of their property, or the guardianship of the interests of their families to those in whose ability or integrity they have no confidence?

The experience of the past has proved that it is worse than idle to make nominations unfairly, or select unfit candidates.—Let us, therefore, determine to aid in correcting our mistakes in this respect for the future. Let us assist in establishing the standard of good personal, as well as political, character and ability in nominations. It is not necessary to hunt for good candidates alone amongst those who have grown old in acquisition of wealth in business pursuits, or among those who have heretofore satisfactorily discharged the duties of official positions; they may be found among the many active, intelligent young and middle-aged men of the party—men of steady business habits and good moral standing in the community, against whom their political opponents could, in truth, utter no word of censure or reproach—these are the men to fittingly represent the Democratic party and give it success.

A Warning.—Danger of Fire in Sleeping Rooms.

The Worcester (Mass.) *Gazette*, of Jan. 28th, says: "A narrow escape from an awful tragedy occurred this morning in this city, the recital of which should impress the minds of its readers with the importance of care and prudence in the management of coal-fires. A mother and two daughters, residing on Summer street, retired to rest last evening as usual, leaving a coal-fire burning in their sleeping room. Just before retiring the stove was filled with fresh coal, and by some oversight the damper to the stove was turned so as to prevent the proper escape of gas into the chimney. All the parties went to sleep without discovering the mistake, and slept through the night, till 5 o'clock this morning, when the mother awoke, with an intense headache; she was sufficiently conscious to suspect the cause, and attempted to rise, but was unable. She aroused one of her daughters with some difficulty and directed her to open the window, which was at length accomplished, the daughter falling once or twice in attempting to cross the room. The admission of fresh air aroused all the sufferers, but brought with it exeruciating pains in the head, and terrible nausea and vomiting. Neighbors were called in and Dr. Schofield was summoned, and after a long period of intense suffering all the parties were relieved and out of danger."

A Comic Crœsus.

John E. Owens is said to be the wealthiest of American actors, and owns a farm of about 400 acres, near Baltimore, Md., his native city, and is reported to be worth $700,000. The "nest egg" of his great fortune was realized from his original performance of "Jakey" in a Philadelphia Mose, at the Arch Street Theatre, in 1849. When the piece was produced, Mr. Owens was in the receipt of a salary of $14 per week, from the late Wm. E. Burton, then manager. On the third week of the run, his salary was increased to $200 a week, and before the close of the year he was "starring" it through the West, with rich success. It was from the profits of this production that Mr Burton was enabled to purchase the Chambers Street Theatre in New York, and thus to enter upon a career which led to fortune. To Mr. Owens belongs the distinction of having filled the largest "star" engagement known in the annals of the American stage—that of "Solon Shingle," run at the Broadway Theatre, New York. It covered a term of ten months, and netted for Mr. Owens $60,000.

The Cholera in India.

Epidemic cholera is spreading throughout India at a very alarming rate. The disease is reported to have originally shown itself among the pilgrims who have arrived at Punderpore to worship at the shrine of the god Vithoba. It is represented to be of the most violent form, upward of a thousand deaths having already occurred from it. Dr. Bryden, of the India Sanitary Commission, in a late annual report, supplies a very elaborate paper on the spread of the cholera in India. He traces the march of the disease by a clearly defined course, and attempts to prove that its journey is directed by the monsoon. It has been beforetimes claimed that the cholera was borne on "the wings of the wind" from country to country, originating generally in the East, and by inevitable stages traveling westward. The report of the commission above mentioned concludes with the opinion that this fearful disease is inevitable, and that no human efforts can impede its advance. India is a long way off from us, but it will be remembered that the epidemic of 1817, which appeared in the Ganges, broke away from those marshy regions and traveled around the world, counting its victims by hundreds of thousands, a curious feature of that visitation being that it journeyed with the precision of an old traveler, pursuing the course of rivers and common roads until it had stopped at almost every point of the habitable globe, ending its journey, apparently, at New Orleans.

Death of a Lineal Descendent of Oliver Cromwell.

Captain Joseph Howard Cromwell died last week, at his residence at Yellow Springs Ohio, aged eighty-five years. He was one of our oldest citizens, and for forty years one of the most prominent and useful. He was believed to be a lineal descendent of Oliver Cromwell. A grandson of Henry, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland third son of the great Cromwell, settled in Maryland early in the eighteenth century, and one of his grandsons is the subject of our sketch. He was born on a farm near Baltimore in May, 1786.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

THE EXECUTION OF HANLON.

Last Hours of the Child Murderer.

His Last Words.

There being no intention to take advantage of the writ of error in the case, and the appeal made by Hanlon's spiritual advisers for a respite not being pressed, after the Governor's first refusal to listen to it, the condemned man could do nothing but prepare for death in his miserable way.

The family of Hanlon—his wife, mother and sisters—called to see him for the last time. The leave-taking was painful in the extreme, especially with the sisters, who manifested a strong attachment for John during the trial.

Some time was spent alone with his spiritual advisers, and, after they left, Inspector Chandler, Keichline and others called to say a few parting words. To one of the prison officials who referred to the few remaining hours of life left him, he said he did not fear to die, and when the hour arrived it would find him ready. But he talked very little about the occurrence, and it was avoided by others.

In a conversation on Monday last Hanlon alluded freely to the murder and denied positively that he had ever made the statement which Michael Dunn swore to in court. All efforts to get him to admit or deny his guilt proved fruitless. He stated that he prayed for Detectives Smith and Taggart and Dunn, because his religion taught him so to do. It is said that he has left an important statement, which will be revealed.

He manifested the utmost composure during the entire morning, and joined earnestly with the clergymen in the devotional exercises connected with the preliminary ceremony to the hanging. His cell was the same as that occupied by Eaton, Probst, and other murderers.

Mrs. Steinmeyer, a sister of Hanlon, remained with him last evening until eleven o'clock. Their parting is described as of a very affecting nature. He then indulged in prayers until two o'clock this morning, when he retired and slept soundly until five o'clock, when he arose apparently very much refreshed from a long last of seventeen days, during which time nothing has crossed his lips except a trifle of bread and water.

At eleven o'clock Sheriff Leeds proceeded to the cell and notified Hanlon that the time had come for carrying into effect the provisions of the law.

Hanlon signified his readiness to accompany the Sheriff and arose for that purpose. He walked firmly and exhibited no signs of any excitement. He mounted the steps of the gallows without any assistance whatever.

On reaching the platform the priests and Hanlon bowed down and went through a long ceremony, in which Hanlon participated earnestly, his voice being distinctly audible above that of Father Barry, who officiated on the occasion. He gave evidence of having a very retentive memory, the responses being made by him in the usually rapid manner incident to the Catholic Church, without a single interruption.

The ceremony through, Hanlon then stepped to the front of the platform, and in a firm and distinct voice said:

"To those who have ever injured me or have ever done me any wrong, I forgive them, and ask God to forgive them. And all whom I have injured in any way whatsoever, or against whom I have had any ill-feeling, I ask their forgiveness and God to forgive me."

The rope was placed around his neck, the cap over his head, and his hands pinioned, the clergy leaving the scaffold during this ceremony.

Sheriff Leeds then left and proceeded to the front of the stand, and at 11:18, A. M., the prop was disjointed, and John Hanlon's body was stretched to its full length. The only disagreeable feature in the whole affair was the dropping of one of the props which upheld the platform while the Sheriff was engaged in placing the cap over the head of Hanlon, the noise of which was enough to disturb the equanimity of those present, let alone the man who was so shortly to be launched into eternity.

The body was allowed to hang the usual time, when an examination was made and life being pronounced extinct, it was lowered down and placed in a coffin prepared for the occasion. It was handed over to the friends of Hanlon during the afternoon, his family having made a request to that effect, which the prison inspectors granted.

The neck had not been broken, and Hanlon died of strangulation. The body, before being taken down, was but slightly contorted, the left leg being drawn up. By request of the family no scientific *post mortem* examination was made.

DARING AND HEAVY ROBBERY.

The Kensington Bank of Philadelphia Robbed of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3.—About 7 o'clock last evening, the Kensington Bank of this city, situated on Beach street, near Laurel, was entered by burglars and robbed. Two men, representing themselves to be policemen and equipped in regular police uniform, called at the bank and requested admission upon important business connected with the welfare of the institution, the door was opened by the private watchmen, of whom there were two in number, and the *quasi* policemen admitted. They stated that the Lieutenant of the district had requested them to call and notify those in charge of the bank, that an attempt would be made to rob it on that evening.

Having diverted the attention of the men in some manner they suddenly seized, bound and gagged them to prevent any outcry. Then, while one of the robbers was waiting in the vicinity, they proceeded in a workmanlike manner to force the fire-proof, in which was deposited a number of valuable private boxes and packages, which had been deposited by individuals for safe-keeping.

It is estimated that they secured in the neighborhood of $200,000. The safe in which the funds of the bank were kept defied their most strenuous efforts to force, and remains intact. Had the burglars succeeded in opening this, their haul would probably have reached $1,000,000 more. This is certainly the boldest robbery ever consummated in this city.

We glean the following additional particulars from the Philadelphia papers:

A vigorous effort was made to reach the funds of the bank which were in a fire and burglar-proof safe in the vault. This, however, resisted all attempts to break open the door. Though provided with a flask of powder and fuse for blowing open the doors of the safe, the rascals were evidently afraid to use them. What amount, in money and bonds, was carried off, could not be ascertained, but it is, doubtless, very large.—Among the sufferers was Mr. David Scull, who lost bonds to the value in all of $29,000, for the recovery of which he offers a reward of $5,000; they are Five-twenties, not registered. The other sufferers are reported to be Messrs. Roland & Ervein, $6500; J. G. Ulmer, amount not stated, and Mrs. Russell, $14,000.

One of the officers of the Bank lost bonds to the value of $2,500, and a woman, in very humble circumstances, a $500 bond. The total loss is estimated by Mr. Yerkes, the President of the Bank, at about $75,000.

Arkansas Politics—Disgraceful Struggle for Office.

Private advices from Arkansas indicate that a very formidable opposition to Governor Clayton has sprung up in the Legislature since his recent election to the United States Senate two or three weeks since. It seems to have arisen mainly on the question of the succession to the Gubernational chair. The Democratic members, backed by the Republicans inimical to Clayton want Lieutenant Governor Johnston to be Governor. Clayton has always been opposed to this suggestion, and prior to the Senatorial election endeavored to have Johnston ousted from his seat on the ground that he had not subscribed to the oath of office within the time specified in the State Constitution for the performance of that act. About the time of the election for Senator, Clayton effected an arrangement for securing the Democratic support on the joint ballot for Senator by agreeing to refrain from any further proceedings against Johnston. After his election it is charged that he determined to disregard this agreement, and recently had introduced in the lower House a measure providing for the impeachment of Johnston. This was laid upon the table by a strong majority vote. A bill introduced in the Senate a few days previous, declaring vacant all offices, the incumbents of which had not taken the oath within the prescribed time, met with a violent opposition, on the ground that it would affect several excellent officers in different sections of the State as well as Johnston, against whom the opponents of the bill charged that it was specially introduced. State Senator Mallory, the mover of the bill, is Clayton's choice, and the programme is said to be to compel Johnston to vacate his seat, elect Mallory to the Presidency of the Senate, which position would entitle him to the Gubernatorial chair upon Johnston's retirement. Governor Clayton and his friends assert that as Johnson, cannot legally hold his office Mallory has the strongest claims to it, as he is by them considered one of the strongest representative Republican politicians in the State. Meanwhile Johnston holds that he was legally qualified at the proper time, and that he cannot be ousted under the Clayton programme. Should he succeed in maintaining his position and continue to receive the support of the enemies of Clayton, who have recently rallied around his standard, it will result in a terrible demoralization of the Clayton wing when that gentleman comes to the Senate.

It is rumored here that the friends of Senator McDonald, of Arkansas, who refused to enter the Senatorial contest against Clayton on the ground that the Legislature was not legally constituted, will make a strong and united effort to prevent him from being admitted to his seat, and will demand a thorough investigation into both the State election, at which the members of the Legislature were chosen, and also into the circumstances of the organization and subsequent action of that body in the matter of the Senatorial ballot. With an eye to the possible success of this measure, of which the Governor has information, it is understood that he is moving to secure an adjournment of the State Legislature prior to the 1st of March, to the end that in the event of the discovery that his chances for a seat in the Senate are hopeless, he could withdraw, and, still holding his seat as Governor, have in his hands the appointment of some one of his friends as Senator. These are the facts in the case, and it seems very evident that the Republican party of Arkansas, disintegrated as it is, will meet with a fate similar to that in several other Southern States, unless measures are very speedily adopted for restoring harmony.

SAD TALE OF SHIPWRECK.

Driven upon the Shore in a Howling Gale—Clinging to Life with Frozen Fingers—The Swoop of Death—Nine Persons Drowned.

The particulars of the wrecking of the bark Kate Smith on the New Jersey coast, during Thursday's fearful storm, are given by the four survivors of the crew. The Kate Smith hailed from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and was loaded with pig lead. She was a staunch craft of 404 tons register, nearly new, and was owned in Yarmouth. Her passage was pleasant until the storm came up on Wednesday. A gale struck her about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night, the snow at the same time falling so heavily that it was thought to be unsafe to run further before the gale. Capt. Wilson Hamilton thereupon tacked ship and stood in for the shore.

The gale increased during the night. The snow fell faster and the cold was intense. At half past five o'clock on Thursday morning the vessel stranded amid the breakers of a barren beach. Vain efforts were made by the half-frozen crew to wear ship; and then, as the destruction of the vessel seemed imminent, those on board became paralyzed with fear. There were on the vessel the captain, two mates, a New York harbor pilot named Hussey, a steward, seven seamen, and Margaret Durham, wife of the steward. Finally a mate and two of the crew accepted the perilous task of embarking in a small boat for the shore, in quest of aid from a neighboring life-boat station. The boat at once filled with water, but its occupants at length reached the shore, drenched and freezing.

The nine persons left on board the stranded bark were in a pitiable condition. The cold waves broke relentlessly over the deck, preventing the launching of more boats, and in an hour from the time the bark stranded she went over on her side. The captain and pilot climbed to the maintop, the crew and Mrs. Durham clinging to the top of the cabin, all gradually growing benumbed with the cold The woman, after once being nearly washed overboard, was lashed, nearly insensible, to the rigging.

THE FIGHT FOR LIFE.

Each minute grew more unendurable, until at eight o clock the hull of the vessel caved in. At this time a mate left the shivering party on the cabin, and joined the captain and pilot in the rigging. In a few minutes more the main and mizzen-masts fell, carrying Mrs. Durham down with the wreck. She shouted, "For God's sake, help me!" but the waves choked her, lifted her from the deck and carried her far out into the sea. Her husband risked, and lost his life to save her, and disappeared in the same wave that bore her off.

THE SWOOP OF DEATH.

Eight persons were then left clinging to the wreck, but their hold on the wave-washed deck, where they had all been thrown together by the falling of the rigging, was brief. The cabin deck suddenly collapsed, and the already half-dead men were washed off one at a time, and drowned, excepting second mate Newcomb, who alone lives to tell the story. The cries of the poor wretches, as their frozen fingers were wrenched from the wreck, and their bodies were whirled away amid the waves, were frightful. George Ford, a mere boy, tried to reach the shore on a timber, but was carried out by the undertow. The captain and Newcomb were the last to be washed off the wreck, the latter being thrown upon the shore insensible.

WRECKING OF THE MARY C. ELLIOTT AND THE ALFRED HALL.

The schooner Mary C. Elliott, with a cargo of oysters and a crew of five men, was struck by a gale off Barnegat, on Monday last, and driven ashore on Little Neck bar. One hour later the schooner Alfred Hall, also an oyster boat, stranded within a hundred yards of the Elliott. The crew of the latter were taken off by a government life boat; but the captain of the Hall, being anxious to save his vessel, remained on board with a crew of five men. The gale grew stronger, however, his bark was completely wrecked, and its crew are supposed to have been drowned.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Eighteen Persons Killed Outright and many more Injured who cannot Recover.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The train leaving New York at 6 o'clock, last evening, met an oil train on the New Hamburg drawbridge. The oil train jumped the track and broke in two. The oil car tipped over on the passenger train and set it on fire. The locomotive, cars and bridge were all burned up. Three sleeping cars are among those destroyed. Eighteen persons were killed outright and many more injured who cannot recover.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Feb. 7.—An oil train on the Hudson River Railroad, bound south, and when passing New Hamburg, an axle of the oil car broke, and dragged along the ground till it reached the drawbridge, when striking the timbers, it threw the car off its track and upon the up track, in the face of the second Pacific Express. An attempt was made to stop the Express Train, but had not time enough, and it struck the oil car. Fragments of the oil car were scattered in every direction, and at once ignited, enveloping the entire Express Train in flames. The Express Train was comprised of a locomotive, one baggage car, one express car, and five or six sleeping cars. The locomotive was at once hauled into the river, and the engineer killed; the baggage and express cars were piled on top of the engine. At the same time, the Chicago sleeping car was one sheet of flame, and though desperate attempts were made to rescue the passengers, it is said not one got out alive.

Two of the other sleeping cars next to it were also wrapped in flames, but the passengers in them all got out safely, and then the bridge took fire. In less than ten minutes afterwards the whole structure fell, carrying with it the Chicago car, and burying it and its inmates out of sight, under water and among the ruins of the locomotive and express cars.

This terrible result settled all doubts as to the probability of rescuing any one, dead or alive, and then there was nothing to do till daylight. The names of the killed thus far known are Simmons, the engineer, Peter Vosburg, the conductor of the Chicago car, and a brakeman named B.H. Rine. It is also thought the Rev. Dr. Deems, of the Church of the "Stranger," of New York City, and his wife, are among the dead, as a gentleman stated that they occupied a berth in the Chicago car.

Charles Cossum, the conductor of the train, states that there were sixty-five sleeping car tickets and that fifty-two of them have found owners, indicating that but thirteen persons are missing. The passengers say that the Chicago car contained twenty-five or thirty persons and not one got out alive.

All the trains were stopped at the break this morning, and the work of recovering the dead bodies has commenced. Coroner Andrews, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has been notified, and is waiting for a train to convey him to the spot. Upon the ice near this wreck, a body was found with the entrails torn out and head and legs crushed. It has not yet been identified.

NEW HAMBURG, Feb. 7.—11 A. M.—Up to this time sixteen bodies have been recovered, including two children. All the remains will be forwarded to Poughkeepsie immediately. Experienced undertakers are in charge.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—In consequence of the break on the Hudson River Railroad, the Express trains for the north and west are making close connections and running through without change, and will leave the Harlem depot.

Turbulent San Domingo—A Proclamation by Cabral—A Lively Revolution.

The following proclamation just published by Gen. Cabral, shows that the revolutionists in San Domingo are still hopeful of overthrowing Baez, and that there is a strong opposition to annexation to the United States.

"Fellow-citizens: The South remains in arms and we are still struggling. Lately one of our columns, led by Generals Andres and Timoteo Ogando, marched to Tubano, and there met, fought and routed the enemy. Since, reinforcements to the routed troops were sent from Azua. We allowed them to reach our advanced posts, when we encountered them and signally defeated them. While this was going on General Marcos Adon, with three hundred men, routed the enemy in the canton of Otrabanda, and another column won another victory over a superior force in Petit-Trou.—In Tubano one of the enemy's Generals was killed, and in Petit-Trou another was mortally wounded. Our advantage in these four engagements consisted not only in the heavy losses inflicted upon our adversaries, but extended to the presentation of various families, among them that of the Pliro, Barriento, and to all a fraternal welcome was given. The wounded prisoners we have treated with humanity, allowing them the cares and attentions required by Christian charity. The unwounded prisoners we have dealth by with indulgence, liberality and kindness.

"As a result of our successes the war waged by us shall assume enlarged proportions. For this purpose we dispose of a sufficient force, arms of precision, a superabundance of ammunition, and of all the other resources needed by an army. The revolution shall be a glorious one, for upon its triumph depends the salvation of the Republic. Baez is the enemy we fight!

His administration is not acceptable, because it martyrizes the country with its abuses, its cruelties and acts of tyranny. Baez is betraying us. In exchange for gold he is laboring to sacrifice Dominican independence. But independence it behooves us to maintain and preserve as our best of fortunes and the most valuable heritage we can transmit to our future generations. Therefore, let all Dominicans join our ranks. From no one shall an account of past political opinions be asked. Let those who but on yesterday differed from us come and truly shall they be received as brothers. The triumph of the revolution accomplished, and the majority, in the use of the freest faculties, will be permitted to select for the administration of public affairs illustrious men of well-known honesty and patriotism. Fellow-citizens, let us be united, and together save the Dominican Republic.

"Given at army headquarters in San Juan.

JOSE MARIA CABRAL."

Resumption of Coal Operations.

ASHLAND, Pa., Feb. 1.—It is understood that operations in the Schuylkill coal region will be resumed between February 15th and 20th. Several shippers have already issued instructions to their agents in the cities of Philadelphia and New York to receive orders for coal.

"Customs More Honored in the Breach than in the Observance."

The personal or political feud between Senators Fenton and Conkling, of New York, is likely to result in a great public good, in which not only Philadelphia, but other cities of the country are deeply interested. Senator Fenton has pledged himself, on the floor of the Senate, to expose to the public gaze the enormous abuses and frauds of the New York Custom House.—Senator Patterson, of New Hampshire, has also, on the authority of some of the first merchants in New York, whose names he gave, charged that one-fifth of the officials in the New York Custom House are "mere political pensioners, who perform no work for their salaries, and that a shameless system of bribery prevails in its management."

The New York *Economist*, a representative business organ, on this subject says: "The public decency is once more shocked by the revelations of custom house abuses, made in the United States Senate during the week. Nothing was disclosed that has not been perfectly familiar to business men and importers in this city. But as the number of persons more directly interested in the matter is comparatively small, the majority take little note of the wrongs beyond a general recognition of them and a shrugging of shoulders when the New York Custom House is named. In reality, however, these abuses nearly concern the whole people of the United States. Three-fourths of all the imported goods pass through the custom house in this city, and are distributed by our merchants throughout the country. Of course, any exactions or extortions of government officials must be charged to consumers in the bill of goods, so that the whole country is plundered by the harpies who are permitted to prey upon our commerce under authority of law."

It has also been stated before an Investigation Committee authorized to inquire into these abuses that one firm in New York was compelled to pay $10,000, outside the regular duties and fees, to obtain its goods in reasonable time and without official obstruction. Bribes are not only openly taken but demanded for passing travelers and emigrants' baggage. The European steam lines are as valuable to these officials as a South African diamond mine. Dishonest importers are of course desirous of covering up these frauds, while the honest are afraid to incur the enmity of the officers.

"Valuable cases of goods," continues the *Economist*, "may be detained, under one pretext or another, at the height of the season, just as the markets may have reached their turning point. Or the business of a firm may be broken up for one or more weeks by the seizure of its books, on real or trumped-up charges of under-valuation of invoices. These charges are easily made and cannot be repelled without great difficulty. The books of a heavy importing firm were recently seized on a charge of this kind. The officials offered to return them for a bribe of $2,000, and afterward came down to $500. But the firm refused, gave bonds, brought their case to trial, and gained it."

We are now likely to get at the bottom of these frauds, and it is to be hoped that the whole system will be exposed and rooted out. The whole foreign commerce of the country, involving property to the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars, is placed at the mercy of individuals who should never be subjected to such a temptation; and it is high time that a radical reform was instituted in this vast and vital branch of the civil service of the nation.—*Philadelphia Record*

Reconstruction of the President's Cabinet—Why the Present Officials are to be Superseded.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1871.—The sensation in political circles to-day was the rumor that President Grant has at last concluded to reconstruct his Cabinet. It was a secret known to a very few last evening, and to day it was whispered with great caution among those who are supposed to be in the confidence of the Administration. It seems that the President has had the subject under consideration for some time; that his attention was first called to it by certain leading politicians who are anxious to save the Republican party in 1872, and that he now sees that there must be a complete change in the Cabinet as the first step in the campaign. The members of the present Cabinet are all personally acceptable to the President, but it is said he has discovered that they do not and cannot bring him that which he most needs—namely, political strength and influence. Beginning with the Premier, Mr. Fish, and coming down to the Postmaster-General, Mr. Creswell, there is not a man in the Cabinet, it is alleged, who can command the support of the party throughout the country. They are all respectable men, but not strong, not influential even, in the States from which they hail. New Jersey, the political managers say, was carried last time by accident, and not through any effort of Robeson. Iowa would be Republican if General Belknap had never been in the Cabinet. The same is true of Massachusetts concerning Boutwell. The presence of Mr. Creswell in the Cabinet has not won Maryland to the Republican party, and Georgia has not been saved by the fact that Mr. Ackerman is Attorney-General. Mr. Delano does not possess the confidence of the Republican party any more than did Mr. Cox. Neither of them, it is asserted, could carry their own State. This is the argument of the managers, and it is said this is the way they have presented the case to the President, until at last he has come to look at the matter from their standpoint—political expediency. The time when the revolution in the Cabinet is to take place is set down on or about the 4th of March. The successors of the present incumbents are not known as yet, but it is said they will be leading men of the Republican party men who understand how to manage political machinery—men who can go into States and look after conventions; in short, men who have some status in the party which is expected to nominate and re-elect Grant in 1872. It seems to be conceded that Morton will go into the State Department. This was stated by the *Herald* first of all some weeks ago, and has never been successfully contradicted. It is probable that Mr. Delano may remain in the Interior Department. The proposed reconstruction of the Cabinet seems to be hailed with satisfaction by the leading Republicans in and out of Congress. It is a matter to which they have looked forward as inevitable. The only fear was that it would not be done in time to arouse the waning enthusiasm of the party.—*Cor. N. Y. Herald*.

Facts for Our Congressmen.

In all cases where the originators of railways and other projects asking aid from Congress, make demand for grants of the public lands, they resort to this plausible argument, viz.: that the grant will after all inure to the benefit of the Government by bringing the remaining lands into the market, and thus bring additional money into the public Treasury. Everybody who has given the least attention to what is said in Congress upon this subject, will recall to mind this familiar and specious plea, which has many a time been resorted to by members and Senators, to blind their constituents. But the plea is as false as it is plausible. We have before us a table showing every dollar of money received by the Government from the public lands from 1796 down to date, and the amount of money annually received from that source now, is not half the average of thirty to forty years ago. From 1831 to 1840 the income from the public lands ranged from three and a quarter millions to nearly twenty-five millions a year. Now, with all the additional facilities which the numerous railway grants *were to make* for additional sales of lands the Secretary of the Treasury estimates the proceeds for the year 1871-2 at three millions only. This is a fearful falling off. The Treasury received from lands about eight and a half millions in 1851; about eleven and a half millions in 1855; and about nine millions in 1856. But the receipts dropped down greatly after Congress began to run wild on railway grants, until, at the breaking out of the rebellion, they got below two millions. Going back to the large receipts of money from this source thirty-five to forty years ago, we may remind the reader that in the ordinary course of affairs, those large annual receipts should have been doubled in these days—and more than doubled—for our population has not only been increased two-fold, but immigration has been more than quintupled. With three hundred thousand immigrants annually seeking our shores, and the immense increase in our population stimulating the emigration of our own people, it is reasonably certain that the National income from the public lands at this time would have been from thirty to fifty millions a year, if the national domain had not been squandered, as it has, in all sorts of speculative schemes, to the enrichment of a few, in the specious false pretence of making an additional and better market for the Government lands. But instead of that grand revenue, we have an estimate of three millions for next year, which is less than half the average annual receipts thirty five years ago.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

Ladies' Shoe Ornaments.

The Boston *Hide and Leather Interest* states that buckles, bows and rosettes, for ornamenting ladies' slippers, boots and shoes, form quite a manufacturing business in Boston, in which some thousands of dollars are represented. The custom of wearing buckles and rosettes on slippers and shoes, and "tassels on the boots," has steadily grown, so that now large quantities of them are made all over the country. In Boston there are two or three large manufacturers and wholesale dealers who turn out on an average 15,000 pairs per week, which are sold to go to every part of the country. They are made in all colors and a considerable variety of styles, and range in price from one and three-quarters cents for the cheapest leather, to one dollar per pair for the nicest satin, with gold and silver buckles. The southern demand for these goods is brisk, and people living in that section generally buy the highest priced and most beautiful patterns, outrivaling other sections in the demand for this quality.

Demoralization among the West Point Cadets.

At a meeting of the House Military Committee, the sub-committee which recently visited West Point made a report of their investigation of the outrages committed by certain cadets upon three members of the first class. It appears that the officers of the institution did not enforce the discipline of the institution and punish the offenders, for the reasons that they were the sons of men high in civil and military station. One of them is the son of President Grant, another the son of Ajudant-General Townsend. The Committee will probably report to the House in favor of censuring the officers of the Academy and of punishing the offenders.