Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1871.

The Pennsylvania Railroad in Virginia.

There is at present extraordinary quietude in legislative affairs at Harrisburg; which we presume is mainly owing to the fact that the Pennsylvania Railroad officials are now busily engaged at Richmond, in laying siege to the Legislature of Virginia. These famous manipulators, although perfectly competent to manage one State at a time, seem to doubt their ability to properly attend to two big ones at once; and so we may expect the quietude of Harrisburg to continue for a week or two, until, Virginia being swallowed, the boa-constrictor is ready for its old meal upon Pennsylvania. Virginia being a virgin State, which has never heretofore been corruptly approached by the seductive managers of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has naturally given them a great deal of trouble, and there are even indications that they may be unsuccessful in their present vigorous attempt to take possession of her.

Our readers will naturally wonder what railroad connections the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, running east and west, can possibly want with roads running north and south in eastern Virginia; since it would seem to be physically impossible for the latter to throw any important trade upon the former. The simple answer, probably, is that the Pennsylvania Railroad has no such wants or interests, but its managers and the freight monopoly barnacles that are attached to it, may obviously have important private interests to subserve in controlling freights anywhere; and they are sufficiently unscrupulous, to use the immense power and resources of the railroad which they manage in obtaining this control. The Pennsylvania Railroad managers are striving now to get possession of a through line of railroad from New York to New Orleans, along the Atlantic coast and through the cotton States; their object being to obtain control of the cotton and other freight of the South and Southwest, of which they will probably throw what they can upon the western connections of their main line at Cincinnati. They cannot otherwise get any of this freight upon the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, unless they take it around from Baltimore by way of Harrisburg or Lancaster. They, however, act in concert with the direct lines from New York to Baltimore, from which latter city they have lately finished a road of their own to Washington. They have a charter for a railroad from Washington to Fredericksburg, in Virginia. They also control the line of railroad from Richmond to the Southwest, passing through Danville, Va., Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga. There is, therefore, wanting in their through line only the short link between Richmond and Fredericksburg; and this is what they are striving now to obtain from the Virginia Legislature. They are encountering fierce opposition, and have found it necessary to buy a newspaper in Richmond to obtain an organ of their views. The proprietor of the Richmond *Enquirer* could not be bought to advocate their schemes, but he sold them his newspaper, and under their conduct this ancient organ of the Democracy is daily demeaning itself by advocating the surrender of Virginia to the mercenary cohort of Pennsylvania Railroad managers. The Press of the State is nearly unanimously opposed to assuming the yoke which these men would impose upon Virginia, and it is to be hoped that they may be successful in their effort to evade it. They are aided by divers railroad interests, the parties concerned in which, though they are probably as selfish in their motives as the Pennsylvania Railroad people, are still doing a good work in striving to prevent the people of Virginia from being laid, bound hand and foot, at the feet of a gigantic, soulless railroad corporation.

It should be the policy of the Legislature of Virginia, as of the Legislatures of all other States, in chartering railroads to carefully guard against the possibility of their creature acquiring too great power, and becoming greater than its creator. They should be anxious always to create diverse and competing railroad interests within their borders, and should strive to make them, as much as possible, of equal power; aiming to so control them that none of them may ever grow to be such big fish as to attempt to swallow the smaller ones whole. With several competing railroads in a State, none of which are allowed to become so powerful as to engulf the others, the local interests of the State will prosper; and the people will govern their State and their railroads. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are shining examples of the fate which overtakes States which are traversed by inanimoth through-line railroads of over-whelming power; they are governed by them. The number of large and distinct railroad interests, which now exist in Virginia, will render it comparatively easy for her Legislators, if they are wise, to control them for the best interests of the State. The aim should be to keep their power in equilibrium, and prevent one from overshadowing another. With the Baltimore and Ohio, Chesapeake and Ohio, Atlantic, Mississipi and Ohio, Pennsylvania and other great railroads, to play off against each other, this should not be difficult.

Virginia will be fortunate if she escapes from the deadly grasp of the Pennsylvania Railroad. We in Pennsylvania have had sad experience of the management of this road, which uses our State but as a pathway by which the products of the West may reach the ships of New York. Local interests along the line of the Road are ruthlessly sacrificed and manufactories are prevented from springing up thereon because of the discrimination in freights made against the towns on the line for whose carrying trade the Railroad has no competition, and in favor of localities outside of the State which are blessed with a choice of railways to take their goods to market. Here in the City of Lancaster, a town of 22,000 population, no less than three passenger trains a day rush at rapid speed across our streets, not deigning to stop an instant within our limits to accommodate the travel of our city. Such may be the fate of Richmond if this road gets its charter to Fredericksburg. Some of these days it will see passenger trains being driven rapidly across its outskirts without stopping, because the exigencies of competition for "through" travel forbid the accommodation of local traffic. Even Philadelphia is treated in this way by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and a through train rushes through it every night from New York to the West without stopping. The interests of Philadelphia, the mother of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a city that built it and nursed it into vigor, are sacrificed to those of New York because the Road finds its profit in so doing; and its managers know no guide but self-interest. As their organ, the Richmond *Enquirer* says, "they are not bothering themselves with the question of building up this or that town." No indeed! they bother themselves about nothing but the building up of a railroad monopoly. They control a grand and mighty work which has but one fault; it is *too* vast. It confers too great power upon the men who wield it, and perhaps they would be more than human if they did not abuse it.

IN Philadelphia negroes have been admitted to the jury-box. In Lancaster county, with its big Radical majority, not a single darkey has been allowed his "inalienable right" to dispense law under the XVth Amendment. Is the negro to be thus ignored in the Court where Thad. Stevens practised?

The Insecurity of Our Prison.

The ease with which prisoners effect their escape from our prison is certainly remarkable. Every few months some desperate villain picks his way through the walls of the building and goes forth to prey again upon society. The account of the escape of the negro burglar Hamilton, which we publish elsewhere, shows that the prison was poorly constructed. No doubt the contractor was bent upon making all the money he could out of the job, and that will account for the inferior character of the mason-work. One would suppose that where lime is so plenty and so cheap as it is in Lancaster county, enough would be used to make good mortar for laying the stones of a prison which is used as a penitentiary, but we find that even in so small a matter the builder cheated the tax-payers. It really seems as if nothing can be honestly done in this country any more. Almost every branch of business seems to have become demoralized, and public work of all kinds is apt to be poorly executed no matter what may be the price paid for having it done. If the Lancaster County Prison cannot be made secure, the public will soon demand the repeal of the law which allows felons to be confined within it for any long period, and our criminals will have to be sent to the Eastern Penitentiary for safe-keeping.

That the numerous escapes which have occurred at our prison might have been prevented, by proper care on the part of the officials, the facts very clearly show. When Le Barron, the burglar, escaped, the watchman whose duty it was to look after him was boozing in a beer-house down town. Smith, the horse-thief, who made his exit last week, duped the under-keeper by a show of good conduct, and let himself down by a line from the tower.

The truth is that our prison has been run as a political machine, instead of being conducted as such an institution should be. It has been made a harbor for incompetent persons who have owed their appointment to political influence. The officials have been chosen, not on account of any fitness for the peculiar duties attaching to their offices, but on account of their relationship to the Inspectors, the Keeper, or some influential politician. Under the new Prison Bill the Keeper is made elective.—If the people choose a first-class man many of the evils which surround the prison may be done away with, but the mere fact that the office is made elective does not insure any reform. A ring of errupt politicians will fight desperately to secure the nomination of one of their creatures, and he will be elected if he secures a bare majority or a plurality of the votes cast at the primary elections. It will require more vigilance than the people of Lancaster County have heretofore exhibited to insure such reforms as are needed under the provisions of the new Prison Bill. Let that fact be kept steadily in view by every conscientious man in the Republican party.

The Spring Elections.

The old plan of electing township officers in the Spring worked well for many years. The people of the different townships met together, put up good men for the different positions to be filled, and elected them quietly. As a general thing the party which was in the majority succeeded in carrying its regularly nominated ticket through at the Spring elections, but it frequently happened that improper candidates were beaten. The sturdy yeomanry of the State would not be bound by party usage at the Spring elections, and that fact, which was well understood by the managers of each party, led to the nomination of unexceptionable men in most cases. A couple of years ago a law was passed abolishing the spring elections, and enacting that township officers should be chosen at the general election in October. The change was not found to work well, and the people of the rural districts desire a return to the old system. In accordance with their wish a bill re-establishing Spring elections has passed the Senate by an almost unanimous vote, and is now before the House. We have no doubt it will pass that body, as it undoubtedly ought to do. In the excitement attendant upon a general election the people of the different townships cannot pay that attention to their township tickets which ought to be given to them. Township affairs are important, and the officers who control them should be the best men within the limits of these subdivisions of the State. The people of Pennsylvania would be less affected by the acts of an incompetent Governor than by the combined action of incompetent township officials. Let the Spring elections be restored.

Adjourned Over.

Business has been dull at Harrisburg this winter, and the members are not content with the usual adjournment from Thursday or Friday of each week to the following Monday night or Tuesday morning. The House has adjourned over to the 27th, and the Senate until the 23d. The probabilities are that the present session will be a long one. The apportionment will take much time and there will likely be a protracted struggle over the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. So far very little business of importance has been transacted.

If the power of our Legislature was restricted to the passage of public laws, as it should be, and the mass of private legislation which engages the attention of members cut up by the roots, as it ought to be, we could get along very well with biennial sessions. In thirteen States the Legislatures only meet once in two years, and they have better laws and more honest legislators than those States which have annual sessions.

New Judicial Districts.

Bills are now before Congress creating half a dozen or more new Judicial Districts in different States. The New York *Tribune* insists upon it that there is not the slightest necessity for any increase in the number of Federal Courts, and it charges that the newly made districts are to be established for the sole purpose of providing comfortable places of retirement for defeated members of Congress. The *Tribune* wants to know whether representatives who thus liberally dispense public funds and places to their fellows, fear that they will be in need of like favors in the future. The results of recent elections are calculated to remind Radical Congressmen of the uncertainty of the political future.—Numbers of those who went forth last summer full of *confidence*, returned to Washington after the *frosts* of October saddened by unexpected defeat. It is for these forlorn gentlemen that the new Judicial Districts are being created.

A Genuine Negro in Congress.

A genuine negro has at last taken his seat on the Republican side of the House. He is a member of Congress from South Carolina, and his full title is Honorable R. B. Elliott. He is a Simon-pure African, as black as coal, and with all the distinguishing features of the race. The other negro members are very much mixed. The white Radicals in Congress did not exhibit any marked degree of cordial feeling toward the new brother. He was just a little too much African for most of them.

Pensions for Soldiers of 1812.

The President has signed the bill granting pensions to surviving soldiers of the war of 1812, and to widows who were married to soldiers of that war at the time of their enlistment. As most of the widows of the heroes of that struggle were *married* after the war was over, comparatively *few* will receive relief under this bill.

THE railroad monopolists will attempt to control the political conventions in California this year. They have decided to labor against the renomination of Governor Haight by the Democrats, as he has shown them no favor.

Congressional Interference in Elections.

On Wednesday the right of Congress to regulate suffrage in the States was the principal subject of discussion in each of the two houses of Congress. In the Senate Mr. Morton, who is regarded as the mouthpiece of the President, took occasion, in noticing the joint resolution of the Indiana Legislature withdrawing that State's alleged ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, to make a bitter assault on the Democratic party. He denounced all such action as that taken by the Indiana Legislature as revolutionary, and indulged in much of that coarse vituperation which makes up the body of speeches delivered by Radical orators in Congress and on the stump. Senator Blair replied to Mr. Morton in a very vigorous speech, showing how the odious Fifteenth Amendment had been forced through the Legislatures of the different States against the will of the people. He admitted the binding force of a Constitutional amendment which had received the form of legal sanction, even when such formal endorsement was made in opposition to the will of the people. Neither Senator Blair, nor any other Democrat in the country proposes to make violent resistance to the Fifteenth Amendment, notwithstanding the fact that it was passed by Northern Legislatures over the remonstrances of a majority of the people, and put through Southern Legislatures at the point of the bayonet. Whilst the Fifteenth Amendment stands it will be obeyed, but obedience will not prevent denunciation of the method by which it was forced upon the people, or a free discussion of the effect of negro suffrage upon our institutions. Mr. Blair's answer to Senator Morton completely demolished the wind mill, which that gentleman had created out of the action of the Indiana Legislature.

In the House the bill reported by the Judiciary Committee to enforce the rights of citizens under the Fifteenth Amendment, came up as the regular order of the day. It was championed by leading Radicals, and opposed and exposed by the Democrats. Very able speeches against it were made by Messrs Eldridge, Cox, Woodward, Stiles, Axtell, Mayham and Voorhees. The Republicans replied without effect to the convincing arguments of the Democrats against the bill, and the military feature, against which Governor Geary so vigorously protested, was finally stricken out, enough of the more decent Republicans voting with the Democrats to kill that provision. Thus amended the act passed, and it now goes to the Senate.

The bill is an infamous attempt to create an army of federal officers to whom is to be intrusted the supervision and control of elections in the different States. It is founded upon false assumptions and is a mere blind to cover up contemplated frauds and outrages. Though every Democrat in the North and many thousands of decent Republicans were bitterly opposed to the manner in which the Fifteenth Amendment was given a seeming ratification, no attempt was made to resist its operation. In Pennsylvania, and throughout the entire North, the negroes have voted without let or hindrance at every election which has taken place since the Fifteenth Amendment was declared to be adopted. In this State the Democrats had a majority in one-half the election districts, but, not in a single instance was a colored man denied the right to vote or hindered in so doing.

The Democratic party is a law-abiding party. It yields a ready obedience to every enactment which is binding upon the citizen, and appeals to the people to remedy existing evils through the peaceful agency of the ballot-box. The bill which has just passed the Lower House of Congress is the crowning act of the many usurpations of power which have been attempted by the Radical majority. It strikes at the very basis of our system of free elections, and proposes to transfer the entire control of them to a set of officials who are to be appointed by underlings of the administration. There is not even the slightest guaranty that the creatures who will be chosen to control the election officers of the States, and to over-ride the laws of the land by their arbitrary decrees, will be either honest or capable. The basest tools that partisan malignity can select, may be chosen to stand in front and in rear of the ballot-box in which the citizen deposits his ballot. At the last election in New York City the federal officers, who were selected to supervise the ballot-boxes, were in many instances convicted criminals and infamous creatures, who would freely perjure themselves for a very slight consideration. The law just passed by the House extends the system under which such outrages were committed, adds to the power of the officials, and augments the penalties for opposing their decrees.

This law has its origin in the desperate needs of the Radical party. Recent elections have alarmed the leaders of that corrupt organization. They see that the Democracy will sweep the country in 1872 if a free election is allowed, and they propose to provide an agency, by which a fair and honest expression of public opinion may be prevented. That any such device can save the Republican candidate for President from defeat we do not believe. The jealousy of the people of the Northern States has been aroused, and this act will intensify that feeling. The citizens of Pennsylvania will resent any attempted interference by Federal officials with elections in this Commonwealth. They know that the Constitution of the United States recognizes the right of the people of each State to determine for themselves who shall be entitled to exercise the right of suffrage, and every attempted interference of the Radical majority in Congress with that cherished right will add largely to the strength of the Democratic party.

More Cumulative Voting.

The Senate Committee on Elections has unanimously reported a bill prepared by Hon. C. R. Buckalew, applying the cumulative system of voting to the election of County Commissioners and Auditors, and to the election of borough, ward and township officers generally. We have repeatedly expressed our approval of this system, and we hope Mr. Buckalew's bill may speedily become a law. It has been put in operation in the town of Bloomfield, Mr. Buckalew's home, and has been found to work admirably. There is not a county in the Commonwealth which would not be benefited by having the minority represented in the Board of County Commissioners and Auditors, and not a borough, ward or township in which the cumulative system of voting would not be productive of good results.

GENERAL KILPATRICK is talked of as the next Radical candidate for Governor of New Jersey. We hope he may be nominated and beaten. He is one-half blatherskite, the other half blackguard. He took a disreputable woman with him to Chili, and disgraced this country by attempting to introduce her into the society of respectable ladies at Lima.

GOVERNOR STEVENSON, of Kentucky, vacated his office on Monday to accept the United States Senatorship. He takes his seat on the 4th of March. Lieutenant-Governor Leslie succeeds him as Governor. Mr. Leslie will be a candidate for the nomination for Governor before the Democratic Convention, which meets in May.

THE Young Men's Christian Association of York have engaged Nasby to lecture for them. They will be likely to hear such a harangue as no Christian can listen to without blushing. The church which employed him to lecture in Lancaster was heartily ashamed of him. He wound up by getting beastly drunk after the lecture was over.

The Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic party occupies a peculiar position in the State of Pennsylvania at the present time. After struggling manfully in the minority for more than a decade, it has at last reached a stand-point from which it may start anew on a career of success. It has placed within its grasp the means by which it may carry this great State at the next general election, and make sure of its twenty-six electoral votes in the Presidential contest of 1872. It holds the vantage ground and can break down the Radical party. That result, so devoutly to be desired, can be achieved by wise councils and careful management, or it can be forfeited by folly. The people of Pennsylvania are eminently conservative in their methods of thought. Ordinarily they move slowly, and they adhere to opinions once formed with great obstinacy. Gradually the voters of the rural districts have been attracted to the Democratic party, until the majority against it has been reduced to nothing. To-day parties in this State are very evenly divided, with the chances of future success in favor of the Democracy.

The State election which takes place next fall will excite much interest. The leaders of the Republican party will see and feel its importance. They will understand how great an influence will be exerted upon the elections of 1872 by the result of 1871, and the whole power of the State and the National administrations will be exerted to prevent a Democratic triumph next October. No means will be spared to secure the election of the Republican candidates for Auditor and Surveyor-General. It is well that the Democracy should understand in the start that they will have no light task set before them, if they propose to carry the State. That they have the advantage now, we do believe, but that it may be readily lost we are just as confident. The next election will be sure to bring out a very full vote of both parties. The State will be redistricted and members of the Legislature will be chosen under the new apportionment. That will add largely to the interest of the election. We can not rely upon the apathy of Republicans in the coming contest. We must carry an undisputed majority of the people with us if we expect to gain a victory.

In view of these circumstances, no one will attempt to deny that a very grave responsibility will rest upon the delegates to the next Democratic State Convention. They can give us either victory or defeat. If, being actuated by unselfish motives, they look only to the interests of the Democratic party, they can frame a platform which will be endorsed by a decided majority of the voters of Pennsylvania, and nominate candidates who will be sure to be elected. There must be no unseemly scramble over the offices, and care must be taken that the best and most available candidates are selected. Neither local claims nor personal preferences must be allowed to influence the delegates in their action. They must come together in a proper spirit, prepared to make any sacrifice which may be demanded by the best interests of the party. Of candidates there will be an abundance, and it will not be difficult to select the right kind of men from the list. All that will be required to insure success is a proper degree of prudence on the part of delegates. They will make or mar the future of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania. Let each one of them remember that.

Constitutional Reform.

We publish elsewhere the bill prepared by Hon. C. R. Buckalew providing for the call of a Convention to revise the Constitution of Pennsylvania. We understand that it is so arranged as to insure an even distribution of members between the two political parties, if the Democrats carry Luzerne county, of which we suppose there can be no reasonable doubt. But while applying the system of cumulative voting to other sections, why not extend it to Allegheny and Luzerne, as well as to the rest of the State, and thus render it impossible for either party to secure a majority of the convention.—We deem it to be absolutely essential that the convention should be perfectly non-partisan in its composition. Only in such a convention will the people of the State have entire confidence. When the Constitution of New Jersey was revised, though the Democrats were largely in the majority, a convention evenly divided between the two great parties was provided for, and no body ever assembled in the State which contained so many of the best men. We hope Mr. Buckalew's bill may be so amended as to render it absolutely certain that neither party can have a majority in the convention, and then be speedily adopted by both houses. If the demand of the people for constitutional reform is to be defeated let the Republicans take the responsibility of rejecting a bill which provides for a non-partisan convention. We do not believe they will dare to do so.

The Coal Question.

There is much excitement among the coal-miners in the Anthracite regions of our State. The miners have been suffering greatly from the effects of the strike. They expected to resume work on the 15th, but just when they had settled a basis with the operators the railroads put up the price of freights. The Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh and Susquehanna advanced tolls between Wilkesbarre and Port Johnson and Elizabethport from $2.75 to $7.10. Similar trouble has been experienced with the Reading Company. This increase in the tariff of freights compels operators to keep their works closed, and the miners are left in a destitute condition, and without means of support. The Legislature of the State should take prompt action in this matter. A regular rate of charges for carrying coal should be fixed by law, and so fixed that the law cannot be evaded. The interests of producers and consumers alike demand such protection from the state. Railroad monopolies have had things their own way in Pennsylvania long enough.

SENATOR SUMNER proposes to mix the white and black children together in the schools of Washington city. The negroes, with a very few foolish exceptions, would prefer schools by themselves, but Sumner, with the stubbornness of a true fanatic, insists upon doing violence to the feelings of both whites and blacks in order that his ideas of equality may be carried out. The forcing of two or three negro children into some of the public schools of the city a year or two ago, damaged them greatly. Sumner and such as he, would break them up root and branch, rather than see their peculiar notions abandoned.

THE bill changing the name of the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad to the Washington and Richmond, and extending it to Richmond, has been ordered to engrossment in the Virginia House of Representatives by a vote of 75 to 51. This is the bill which gives the Pennsylvania Central connection with the Southern Railroads.

THE Democrats of the Senate have very properly taken a stand against the adoption of the report of the Commissioners who were appointed to revise the Civil Code. It is a very imperfect piece of work, and should be carefully revised by a Committee of eminent lawyers before adoption.

THE son of John Y. Mason, of Virginia, was a sub-lieutenant in the Imperial army of France. In a series of recent battles he was wounded four times, and is now a captain.

A WAR of races is waging among the pupils of the white and colored schools at Galesburg, Illinois. The City Marshal was obliged to interfere in a recent combat.

Loss of Lancaster under the New Apportionment.

A comparison of the table of taxables, upon which the apportionment of the State for members of the Legislature is to be made, shows that Lancaster county cannot expect to have more than one Senator and three members of the House during the next seven years. Other parts of the Commonwealth have outstripped this county in population. The mining and manufacturing sections of the State have drawn to them immense numbers of inhabitants, while the agricultural districts have barely held their own. The great farming county of Lancaster has increased its population very little during the last ten years.—That will account for some of the loss we shall suffer in representation, but the truth is this county was given more than its fair share of members when the last apportionment was made. The *Examiner* has heretofore admitted that we were not entitled to two Senators. It has, however, held that we ought to be allowed four members of the lower House under the new apportionment. It is now forced to admit, that the figures only entitle us to three.

An examination of the figures shows that the number of taxables to each Senator under the new apportionment will be nearly 28,000, and for members of the House 8,600, or over. The number of taxables returned by the Commissioners of Lancaster county is 28,525, just enough to give us one Senator, and a fraction of one-fourth more than is sufficient to entitle us to three members of the lower House. Of course we cannot expect to be allowed a member for the fractional fourth, and so the loss to Lancaster county of a Senator and an Assemblyman is certain.

The *Examiner* is of the opinion that a careful enumeration of the taxables by the County Commissioners would have given us a larger representation. It does not mince matters, but speaks out in very plain terms. It says:

During former administrations of the Commissioner's office, when it was not *run* in the interest of peculation and rascality, and when Peter G. Eberman was Clerk, the Senators were impressed with the importance of making a thorough assessment of every taxable, whenever such assessment was to be used in apportioning the State. But of late years the interest of the people or the party was secondary to devising ways and means to plunder the treasury, or any unfortunate who might happen to fall into the clutches of those who ruled by having the *control of two Commissioners.*

The charges contained in the paragraph which we have quoted are of a grave character. To say that the County Commissioners' office is "*run* in the interests of peculation and rascality" is such an arraignment of the majority of that body as ought not to be made except upon the basis of the very best and most satisfactory evidence. We take it for granted that the editor of the *Examiner* speaks by the card. He is no doubt prepared to back up his charges with the proof, if the Commissioners who are alluded to should feel inclined to appeal to the Courts for the vindication of their character, which is so mercilessly assailed. We shall wait with anxiety to see whether the Commissioners will allow this assault upon their official characters to pass without an attempt at vindication. To do so would be such an admission of their guilt as ought to damn them forever in the estimation of every honorable man in the county.

Death of Alice Cary.

This gifted woman, the most gifted and genial of the female poets of our day, died in New York last Sunday morning, after a severe and painful illness, in the 50th year of her age. There are few American households in which her announcement of death will not cause a pang of regret. We publish elsewhere a very interesting sketch of the two sister poets, who have been separated by the death of the elder. In a criticism on her works, the Westminister *Review* says, "No American woman has evinced in prose or poetry anything like the genius of Alice Cary."

Auditor-General.

The Carlisle *Volunteer* pays the following well merited compliment to our townsman, Hon. George Sanderson:

A number of our exchanges have expressed a preference for Hon. George Sanderson of Lancaster, for the office of Auditor General, and despite the many other names mentioned by the approaching State Convention for said position. We second the motion with all our heart. We have known Mr. S. for more than a quarter of a century, and have always found him the same uncompromising Democrat, honest man, and able defender of his principles. No man in the State would command a larger vote in old Mother Cumberland than her former respected citizen, George Sanderson.

THE number of mercantile and industrial failures for 1870 is larger than those of the two preceding years. But, at the same time, the amount of capital interested is smaller. This exhibits an increasing disadvantage for small traders, which grows out of the enormous wealth of a few capitalists; but another reason is strikes among workmen, inflicting heavy losses on employers who have small capital, and who cannot wait events, as richer men can.

GRANT is said to have given a liberal contribution in money to the Congressional Temperance Society. He can the more easily afford to do that, inasmuch as all the fine wines, whiskeys and brandies on which he regales Congressmen and others have been presented to him by aspirants for fat offices.

A CONVICT in the Indiana penitentiary asks a pardon for the following reason:

"It is true I have only 11 months longer to serve, but it is now thought that our present superintendent will be removed and a Democrat put in his place, consequently we fear we will have a hard time under a Democrat superintendent, as the convicts are principally Republicans."

News Items.

At Dayton, Ohio, on Saturday, a quarrel occurred between James Slack and H. Keller, ending in a fight, in which Slack was killed. Keller gave himself up.

Patrick Burns, convicted at St. Louis of murder in the first degree, in having been accessory to the murder of a man named Oakes Myer, has been sentenced to be hanged on the 13th of April next.

At West Lynn, Mass, yesterday morning, a farm laborer, named John McKinney, was burned to death in the tenement house he occupied. He leaves a widow and five children.

An exchange says that "Ellen Grady, a pretty servant girl, lately committed suicide because she loved Henry Riggdon, and Henry wouldn't love her back." What was the matter with her back?

William B. Wiggins, ex-Mayor of Wilmington, Delaware, has been arrested in West Virginia, by the Freedmen's Bureau, for alleged frauds on colored bounty claimants, and has been taken to Wilmington for trial.

At Memphis, Tenn., yesterday, two boys, named Graves and Boston, charged with hanging a boy named Schofield, in July last, were convicted of murder in the first degree, but recommended to the mercy of the Court.

The captain and crew of the schooner Forest King, wrecked in Barclay Sound, have arrived at Victoria. They saw captive among the Indians a white child, supposed to be the daughter of the captain of the bark John Bright, about two years ago.

A burglar named George Smith, entered a dwelling in Trenton, the other day, and stole therefrom the following articles: a fiddle, a set of false teeth, a lady's bonnet, a silver-plated cup, two coats and a vest. With such a miscellaneous assortment of plunder, his capture was an easy matter, and George is now in jail.

A mammoth fog-whistle, which has just been completed at Portland, Me., for the Lighthouse Department, is the largest ever manufactured in the United States, and probably in the world. It is an 18-inch whistle, weighs some 450 pounds, and will require a steam boiler of 50-horse power to furnish the steam to blow it.

A hurricane on Friday night destroyed or damaged a majority of the buildings left by the recent fire at Helena, Ark. Mrs. Stewart, a widow, was fatally injured and her little son instantly killed. The Baptist Church was demolished, and a number of other buildings were either demolished or badly damaged.

State Items.

The post-office at Belleview, Lebanon county, has been discontinued.

A son of Andrew Henry, three years old, was drowned in the race of Stoffer's Mill, Franklin county, on the 10th inst.

In Lebanon, on Saturday afternoon last, three frame dwellings, occupied by poor families, were destroyed by fire.

Coal has been discovered in Dover township, York county, and is pronounced by those who have tried it, to be the best kind of blacksmith's coal.

A man who registered himself as W. A. M'Kean, of St. Louis, has been arrested in Scranton on suspicion of being one of the Kensington Bank robbers.

The Chester County Republican Convention has elected delegates to the State Convention, instructing them in favor of Col. Frank C. Hooten for Auditor-General.

Mr. Herman Yoch and wife, of Allentown, recently became insane—she of religious excitement and he of consequent grief. They have been removed to the County Lunatic Asylum.

Rev. Robert James Dodds, a native of Westmoreland county, died at Aleppo, Syria, on the 11th day of December last, at which place he was laboring as a missionary.

Bucks county, Pa., has within its limits 470 manufactories of cigars and one snuff mill, the latter being at Bristol. These factories employ from thirty to fifty hands each, and pay a duty of $180,000 a year to the Government

The long talked of introduction of Coolie labor into the coal regions is about to become a fact. A contract has been signed for the importation of a number of Coolies to work a Schuylkill county colliery, and the first batch will arrive about May 1st.

W. J. P. White, of Philadelphia, has been appointed, by Governor Geary Coal-Oil Inspector, very much to the disappointment and disgust of the late Inspector Evans, for whose especial benefit the office is said to have been created.

The Paxton Furnace, Harrisburg, has a capacity of 130 tons of pig iron a week, or 7000 tons a year, and is doing a business of $200,000 a year, at the present price of iron. The firm employs 80 men, to whom it pays in wages $2500 a month. 30,000 a year.

The *Miners' Journal* says: "Mt. Carbon is excited over the story that the woman who recently had her head cut off on the railroad at that place may be seen nightly at 12 o'clock, parading the board-walk with her head under her arm."

In Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon, while Rev. John Chambers was preaching in his church, at the corner of Broad and Jefferson streets, he was attacked by partial paralysis of the face. He left his discourse unfinished, and was taken to his residence.

There are sixty-two breweries in Pittsburgh, Allegheny and vicinity. The aggregate product of these for the year 1870, was 172,032 barrels, the cost of producing which was about $1,028,267. The capital invested in the business is about $2,000,000.

A negro preacher, named William Henry Thomas, has been held for trial in Allegheny county on charges, first of threatening to kill his wife; second, of breaking up all her queensware, and third, stealing a gold watch bequeathed to her by her first husband.

There has as yet been no resumption by any of the collieries in the Pottsville, St. Clair and Ashland districts, and there is no immediate prospect of any. Seven collieries at Shamokin and one at Minersville have resumed, and three are to resume at Tamaqua.'

Jacob Schneider, of Hopewell township, York county, was engaged in threshing on Monday. He went into the house, apparently well, but a few moments afterwards was found dead. Heart disease was the supposed cause of death. Aged about 53 years.

Charles King, confined in the Berks County Prison on the charge of stealing a horse from a Mr. Keller of Thorndale, Chester county, was removed to that jurisdiction yesterday for trial, by Constable Diehl and Detective Lyon, on a requisition from the proper authorities.

A man named Dunn, while watering horses in the Susquehanna river, near Susquehanna, fell through the hole in the ice, and after floating down stream under the ice, some distance was saved by coming to a "rift," where the water was not frozen. Well, Dunn!

The pupils of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind gave an entertainment in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg on Tuesday evening. Long before the commencement of the exercises every seat and all the available standing room was occupied.

Andrew Provence, foreman for McGrann, Malone, Scott & Co., at Mont gomery Station, on the Catawissa Railroad, was killed at that place by jumping from a train of cars while in motion. His remains were sent to Philadelphia on Wednesday, where his widow and one child reside.

A Yankee sheep-dealer, named W. J. Wright, has been arrested in Washington county charged with stealing a yoke of oxen. Suspicions are aroused that a convention of the persons who has run off whole flocks of sheep from the wool-growers of the same neighborhood. When arrested he attempted to commit suicide.

A fellow convicted in the Clarion county court of last week, of two charges of violating the law, in regard to the sale of liquor, blandly requested the judge to suspend sentence for a few days till he could get married, as he feared his "girl" wouldn't have him after he had been in jail. His request was granted.

An extreme case of avarice has come to the surface in Venango county. Benjinghoff, the millionaire, at the last session of the Criminal Court at Franklin, actually fed an attorney to defend two of the men who robbed him, in order to save the $10 fee and which he had offered for their arrest and conviction.

There will be a public celebration of Washington's Birthday in the York County Court House on Wednesday next, Feb. 22d, under the auspices of the Atheneum, at 7 o'clock in the evening. A meeting of the society will be held, followed by an oration by John Gibson, Esq., and there will also be appropriate music on the occasion.

John Bausman, for the past eighteen or twenty years Lock-keeper at Schuylkill Haven, died on Wednesday last, aged about 52 years. He was remarkable as being the largest man in Schuylkill county, if not in the entire State, weighing at the time of his death not much short of 412 pounds. Notwithstanding his immense size, he was active enough to follow his employment regularly.

An incendiary has made four successful attempts within the past year upon the property of John Spangler, in Mount Joy township, Adams county. First his barn was burned; then a new barn just completed; then some haystacks, and then a large stable and three horses, and farming utensils. A man named David Claysaddle has been charged with the crime and been arrested.

Some of the girls and boys of Newport, Perry county, having behaved badly at a religious revival, a member of the church, in a communication to the paper, takes them to task sharply. He says the girls "chatter and smirk, and bob their empty heads about like senseless monkeys; and shift and twist their 'bewitching' bodies, as though the benches were cushioned with chestnut burs."

The number of failures in Pennsylvania in 1870 was 134, and their aggregate amount $10,982,000. In 1869 the number of failures were 306, and their aggregate amount $7,844,000. Our business is evidently not in a healthy or satisfactory condition. The long coal strike of the summer paralyzed many dependent industries and brought ruin on many more than those directly interested.

Dr. James M. Hoffman, of Reading, who for the past six months has been acting as Surgeon in the Prussian Army, returned to this country in the steamship Samaria, which reached New York on the 11th inst. Dr. Samuel C. Ermentrout, also of Reading, who went out with Dr. Hoffman, still remains at Coblentz, in charge of a camp of French prisoners. He will, however, in all probability, leave for home shortly.

Scranton, Pa., claims the champion Newfoundland watch-dog. It is owned by Mr. D. E. Kistler, and is two years and a half old. It measures six feet two inches in length, and is thirty-five inches high. The fore leg are ten inches in circumference. The noble animal now weighs two hundred pounds, and is valued at one hundred and twenty-five dollars, while by judicious feeding they hope, by the close of winter, to get his weight up to two hundred and twenty-five pounds.

The following clerical changes and appointments in the Catholic Church have recently been made in the Diocese of Harrisburg: Rev. Thomas M'Govern transferred from Bellefonte to York; Rev. Edward Murray transferred from York to Lykens; Rev. Edward T. Field transferred from Chambersburg to Renova, Clinton county, Pa.; Rev. Mark O'Neil (recently ordained) appointed to Milton; Rev Matthew O'Connor appointed to St. Patrick's, Harrisburg; Rev. Emilius Goch appointed to attend the Poles at Shamokin, Mt. Carmel and Lykens.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The French Assembly.

Prospects of Peace.

Speech of M. Thiers.

LONDON, February 20.—A report was current at the stock exchange to-day that Germany would demand of France as the terms of peace the payment of a sum equal to two hundred and eighty millions of pounds sterling and the cession of the province of Alsace and the greater portion of Lorraine, with the fortified cities of Metz, Thionville, and Belfort.

The special correspondent of the London *Times* telegraphs from Versailles as follows: The *Moniteur* says a prolongation of the armistice would injure the position of the Germans. Germany is resolved to continue the war if compensation for the past and guarantees for the future are not given. Germany must insist on guarantees, and especially those procurable by the occupation of Paris.

No food is now allowed to leave Versailles for Paris.

BORDEAUX, Feb. 20.—In the National Assembly to-day, M. Thiers delivered a speech in the capacity of Chief Executive of the French Republic. He dwelt upon the distress and suffering which had been caused by the war and the German invasion, and upon the necessity of peace.

"Nevertheless," said M. Thiers, "the terms of peace would be courageously discussed with the Prussians, and would be accepted if consistent with the honor of France. The task of the administration is to pacify and reorganize the country, restore its credit, and reorganize its labor. When this is accomplished the country itself will decide its destiny.

The assembly subsequently adopted a preamble made by the government to send a commission of fifteen deputies to Paris to act as intermediary between the negotiators and the assembly. M. Thiers proposed that the assembly suspend its sittings during the negotiations.

Thiers, Picard and Favre left for Paris this evening.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The marriage of the Princess Louise is fixed for the 21st of March. All the British members of the High Commission are now on their way to the United States. Sir Stafford Northcote sailed from Liverpool on Saturday in the steamship Russia, for New York.

In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Gladstone, in reply to an inquiry, denied that Her Majesty's Government had not received any proposals for the purchase of the British dominions in North America. Mr. Gladstone took occasion to deprecate the introduction of questions of this character pending the sittings of the Joint High Commission at Washington.

Constitutional Reform.

The bill for the calling of a Constitutional Convention, which was prepared and offered in the Senate by Senator Buckalew, that the question of calling a convention, to revise and amend the Constitution, shall be submitted to the people for their decision on the second Tuesday of June next, at which time also members for the proposed convention shall be voted for, and if a majority of the legal voters shall be in favor of a convention, then the members chosen shall meet in the hall of the House at Harrisburg at noon