Congressional Proceedings.

TUESDAY, Feb. 14.

In the United States Senate, the House resolution appropriating $5000 to George F. Robinson, for saving the life of Secretary Belknap, in April, 1865, was concurred in. The bill for the redemption and sale of lands held for direct taxes, was reported from the Finance Committee, with amendments. The Post Office Appropriation bill was also reported. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill, which was referred, relating to the selection of cadets to the Military and Naval Academies. The Gulf Steamship bill was passed, with various amendments, by a vote of 29 to 21. It provides for an annual subsidy of $100,000. A bill was passed, appropriating $14,000 for compensation of Nicholas Trist, as negotiator of the Treaty of Guadaloupe. The House bill relating to telegraphic communication with foreign countries was considered, pending which the Senate adjourned.

In the House, the report in the contested case of Sheafe vs. Tillman, of the Fourth District of Tennessee, which declare Tillman, the sitting member, entitled to his seat, and gives Sheafe $4500 for the expense of his contest, was adopted. The resolutions reported by the Military Committee in reference to the West Point troubles were discussed. Mr. Johnson offered an additional resolution looking to the trial of the officers of the Academy. The previous question being seconded, the House, without further action, adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15.

In the U. S. Senate, on motion of Mr. Sumner, the Secretary of the Navy was directed to communicate a copy of the instructions to the commander of the Tennessee on her present cruise; also, the names and armaments of U. S. ships in Dominican waters since the commencement of the recent negotiations. The joint resolution of the Indiana Legislature rescinding the Fifteenth Amendment was taken up, and debated by Messrs. Morton and Blair. The Legislative Appropriation bill was considered. Mr. Sumner's Supplementary Civil Rights bill was reported adversely. A conference report on the District Territorial bill was agreed to. The Legislative Appropriation bill was again considered late night session, but finally disposed of.

In the House, the bill to enforce the rights of citizens under the Fifteenth Amendment was discussed at length, and passed. Yeas 111, nays 63. Mr. Bush introduced a bill to incorporate the European and American Telegraph Company, which was referred. Mr. Cook made a conference report on the District of Columbia Territorial bill, which was half over until today. An evening session was held at which reports from the Judiciary Committee were considered.

THURSDAY, Feb. 16.

In the United States Senate, Mr. Poole submitted affidavits from citizens of North Carolina, verifying signatures to a remonstrance recently presented by him against removing the disabilities of Senators-elect Vance and Representatives-elect Waddell. Two new appropriations were separately referred. Bills were reported to enable the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company to mortgage its road, etc.; authorizing conveyance of an elkote pre-emption claim; providing the issuance of patents; providing for recovery of damages for loss of the Oneida; to prevent cruelty to animals in transit, and authorizing the enlistment of 300 additional seamen in the navy. Mr. Howe introduced a bill, which was referred to encourage the laying of ocean telegraph cables, and secure the same to the United States. Mr. Sawyer introduced a bill to repeal the test oath. Referred. The bill for the relief of certain naval contractors was reported back with the President's veto, and the vetoes being on its passage over the veto, the yeas were 2, and the nays 57, so the bill failed. A similar bill, with the objectionable clause omitted, was then reported and passed. Mr. Cameron called up the Centennial Celebration bill, and several Senators called for the reading of it. Pending Messrs. Conkling and Bowman called for the reading of particular portions, thus consuming the morning hour, until the Legislative Appropriation bill came up in order. Mr. Sherman, having charge of the latter bill, to allow a vote to be taken on the Philadelphia Celebration, but Mr. Cole refused. The Legislative Appropriation bill was then proceeded with. Pending its consideration the Senate went into Executive Session, and soon after adjourned.

In the House, the report of the Military Committee on the West Point troubles was recommitted. The resolutions reported by the Committee, directing the restoration of Cadets Bard, Barnes and Flickinger, the dismissal of the leaders and instigators of the First Class, and the reassignment of the others, were agreed to. Mr. Johnson's amendment, as an additional resolution, directing an inquiry into the conduct of the officers, was also adopted. The bill reported from the Commerce Committee, as substitute for the Senate bill, to provide for better security of life on steam vessels, was passed. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17.

In the United States Senate the credentials of Eli Saulsbury as Senator from Delaware for six years, from March 4th next, were presented. The bill organizing the Territory of Alaska, was reported adversely. A bill was reported granting the right of way to the Southern Utah Railroad; also, the House bill to protect the National cemeteries and for other purposes; also, the bill relating to the selection of cadets to the Naval and Military Academies. The Legislative Appropriation bill was considered. Mr. Trumbull introduced a bill providing for Assistant Treasurers at Chicago and Washington. After a short executive session, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, the Army Appropriation bill was considered. The conference report on the bill creating a Territorial Government for the District of Columbia, was agreed to, and the bill goes to the President. other District bills were considered. Mr. Hooper introduced a bill, regulating the forms to be observed in the ascertainment of spirits. The River and Harbor Appropriation bill was reported and made the order for Monday next. An evening session was held solely for debate on the Educational bill.

SATURDAY, Feb. 18.

In the United States Senate, Mr. Howard, of Michigan, offered a resolution, recommending that the High Commissioners of settlement of the questions to be submitted to them, may include the cession to the United States of the British North American possessions lying westward of Hudson Bay, and the main continental coast line with the Arctic Ocean and the outlet of Lake Superior, with free navigation to the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. He asked consent for the consideration of the resolution, but Mr. Cameron objected. Mr. Buckingham introduced a bill amendatory of the Patent laws, which was referred. The Legislative Appropriation bill was considered, and after Executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the House, the Army Appropriation bill was passed, and the Northwestern Boundary bill laid over as unfinished business. The report of the Judiciary Committee in the McGarrahan case was considered, the previous question was moved and seconded, and the House then adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 20.

In the U. S. Senate, Mr. Stewart, from the Judiciary Committee, reported favorably the House bill to guard the purity of elections. The Legislative Appropriation bill was considered, and an amendment repealing the prohibition against pardons as evidence in the Court of Claims, was adopted by the casting vote of the Vice President. The House bill allowing homestead settlers, in case of sickness, to make affidavits at their residences, and extending the time for filing bounty claims, were reported. Adjourned.

In the House, bills were introduced to prevent the counterfeit being used for the circulation of counterfeits; to set apart the proceeds of the sale of public lands for the establishment of free schools; and directing that the liability of the New York Central Railroad Company for 3-4 of a cent per ton, be determined, as in the case of individuals, by the proper Government authorities. The bill authorizing the President to appoint a Joint commission to establish the North-Western boundary line, was passed. A despatch was read announcing the safety of the steamer Tennessee. The Sundry Civil Appropriations bill was reported, and made the order for to-day. It appropriates $40,000,000, including $4,500,000 for pensions of 1872. The report of the Judiciary Committee on the McGarrahan claim was considered, and Mr. Bingham's substitute was adopted. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to cause the transcription of the patent in the Pancho Grande to be recorded, and requires the President to do in the premises whatever he may deem equitable, without regard to any action had subsequent to the date of the patent referred. A motion to reconsider the vote adopting the resolution was then tabled, yeas, 110, nays, 92—making the action of the House final. The House then adjourned.

The State Legislature.

HARRISBURG, Tuesday, Feb. 14.

SENATE.—This was Private Calendar day and no business of public importance was transacted in either House. The bill incorporating the Lancaster and Trintville turnpike road company passed.

HOUSE.—The two Houses met in Joint Convention to consider bids and award the contract for the public printing. A supplement to an act relating to the fees of the several county officers of the county of Lancaster, approved the 3d day of April, A. D. 1869, was passed.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 15, 1871.

SENATE.—An act was reported to abolish the office of Superintendent of Public Printing, transferring the duties to the Auditor-General.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Reinoehl, a bill allowing the Court of Quarter Sessions of Lancaster county to grant certain tavern licenses was passed. A bill was reported providing for an additional Notary Public in Lancaster county. The Senate bill authorizing female tax-payers to be elected School Directors was amended in committee by substituting the word "woman" for "female." A resolution was adopted fixing a special session on Thursday week at 3 o'clock P. M., to consider the Constitutional Reform bill. The House passed a joint resolution adjourning both branches from to-morrow to Thursday next.

HARRISBURG, February 16

SENATE.—Mr. Billingfelt presented a petition from 220 citizens of West Earl township, for the repeal of the dog tax in that township. Mr. Wartel presented a remonstrance of citizens of Lancaster county against the passage of any act by the Legislature authorizing the loaning or giving of the bonds or securities held by the State for any other purpose than the payment of the public debt. Mr. Wartel introduced a supplement to an act to revise, amend, and consolidate the several laws taxing corporations, bankers and brokers, approved May 1st, 1868, repealing the same so far as it relates to private bankers and brokers.—Bills were introduced, authorizing the free vote on county, township, ward and borough officers and school directors, and repealing the sixth section of the act relating to tax on brokers and bankers.

HOUSE.—Various bills were passed, among them the bill regulating the selection of juries for the Senate bill providing that three persons may form a railroad company where the road is not more than five miles long. In the House, the bill regulating the number of passengers to be carried in street cars, etc., was indefinitely postponed.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 17.

SENATE. Mr. Osterhout introduced an act creating a Court of Appeals for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and conferring jurisdiction thereon. The bill provides that the court shall consist of three judges, two of whom shall be commissioned by the Governor, one for the term of 15 years, one for five, and the other for 10 years, and the third elected at the next general election for a term of 15 years; and one such person shall in like manner be elected by every judicial district thereafter. For the purpose of holding said court the State shall be divided into 15 six districts. Mr. Buckalew, from the Committee on Constitutional Reform, reported an act to provide for the revision and amendment of the Constitution of the Commonwealth. The election for members of the Convention is to be held on the second Tuesday of next June. Thirty-two members at large and one hundred and eight district members are to be chosen, of which Philadelphia is to have nineteen. The members, except in Allegheny and Luzerne, are to be elected by the cumulative system. The bill authorizing the courts to grant licenses to certain taverns and restaurants in Lancaster county was passed. The Senate did not concur in the joint resolution of the House, adjourning that body from today until Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 30 o'clock P. M., but adjourned to Thursday, the 23d, at 3 P. M.

HOUSE.—The supplement to the act creating the Lancaster County Prison, was reported from the Senate with amendments, providing that the bill go into effect at this year's election, and fixing the keeper's salary at $1200, in which the House concurred, but subsequently reconsidered its action, and concurred, after considerable filibustering. The resolution paying the widows of Senator Watt and Representative Campbell was amended by the Senate, giving them $1,000 and mileage in each case. The amendment was concurred in. The bill establishing an additional Court in Cambria, and the bill providing for the establishment of a State road in Elk county, were returned with the Governor's veto.—Mr. Smith read in place an act to repeal the act of April 29, 1841, so far as it imposes a tax of two per cent. on every dollar of salary and emoluments, on persons holding public offices, or offices under corporations, and also repealing the provision imposing a tax of one per cent. on incomes of tradesmen, &c., exceeding $2000; Mr. Johnston, an act repealing all laws exempting property from taxation, and Mr. Boileau, a joint resolution asking for the repeal of the income tax law, "because inquisitorial and oppressive," besides being in the nature of a direct tax and questionable on the score of constitutionality. The House adjourned until February 27th, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Sketch of George Washington Barton.

Col. John W. Forney, in his anecdotes of public men thus speaks of this well remembered Lancasterian:

Barton was an orator I have never heard surpassed in the United States Congress, and I may safely say this, as I never heard Henry Clay. He lived, unhappily, in the days when short-hand reporting was in its infancy. His utterance was so rapid, his retorts so sharp, his wit so incisive, that would have required a rare adept to follow him.

He was the favorite orator of every south-side ale-house in Lancaster city, of Saturday evening and his memory, Mr. Buchanan, delighted to have him at his frequent dinner parties, and to introduce him to his distinguished guests as a prodigy. He read much and remembered everything, and thus acquired a style all his own. His declamation was peculiar to himself, but his English was exact and pure. Rich and figurative to a degree, it was always classic and correct. Some of his sallies and outbursts, if reported at the time, would survive like the best of Curran, Phillips, or Webster. He resembled Rufus Choate in astonishing rapidity of speech and in splendor of diction. How often I have regretted that his memorable passages were not preserved. The courts of Pennsylvania and the Democratic conventions resounded with his unparalleled eloquence, and when he reached Don Francisco he leaped into a practice that promised to lead all others. His last speech in that city is still spoken of as one never equalled and never forgotten. I will not attempt to give an idea of one of the many I recollect, for fear of doing injustice to his very great talents. His respected widow, living in Philadelphia, has some of his MSS. in her possession, and will, I hope, soon present a memoir of her gifted husband.

A Steamship Subsidy Job.

A bill has passed the Senate, granting a subsidy of $150,000 per annum for building three steamships to Mr. Conkling, for monthly trips between New Orleans and Mexico. In the ten years the subsidy will amount to $1,500,000, and the bill is simply a proposition to take this large amount out of the pockets of the people and bestow it as a gift upon the company owning and sailing the steamers. This dishonest bonus takes the guise of a compensation for carrying the mails. The correspondence passing between the United States and Mexico is very trifling, and there is no just reason why the government should annually pay for such a mail service two or three hundred thousand dollars, when it will receive back in postage. Those who have business connections with Mexico should pay for the conveyance of their own letters, which can easily reach their destination through the agency of the express companies. There is regular communication between our ports and Havana, and also between Havana and Vera Cruz; and the express companies convey letters, as they do money and drafts, for a fair compensation. This subsidy has never been asked for by those having occasion to correspond with Mexico, but only by the graceless jobbers who hope to feather their nest by running the proposed line.—*N. Y. World.*

Death of One of Napoleon's Soldiers.

Mr. Peter Young died at his residence in Page county, Va., on the 24th ultimo, aged eighty-four years and sixteen days. He was born near Darmstadt Hesse, in Germany, in 1787. He served as a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte eleven years—made one of the number of the three hundred thousand men that invaded Russia at the time of the burning of Moscow, and also one of the thirty thousand who reached their homes in that disastrous retreat across the Alps. He would often recount the scenes he had witnessed, and said that at night they would lie down around their camp-fires, and in the morning there would be a circle of dead men around the fires. He was in the battle of Leipsic, and many others. In 1818 he emigrated to America. He retained his war accoutrements, such as his blanket, with number upon it, and his uniform, until the day of his death.

Illness of Senator Sumner.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Mr. Sumner had quite a serious attack of sickness on Friday, and was obliged to leave the Senate Chamber. On Saturday morning he was worse, and rumors were in circulation at the Capitol that his illness was of a dangerous character. His physician to-day, however, denies that he is any worse, and gives encouragement that he will be able to resume his labors in the Senate in a few days.

Negro Jurors in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia *Public Record* says:

On Monday a mulatto man was empanelled as a juror to try a case before Judge Thayer, in the District Court. This is the first instance in which a colored man has been sworn as a juror in this Commonwealth. Several colored men have been drawn as petit jurors, but none happened to be drawn to try a case. Yesterday, two very black men were sworn to try an important case in the Supreme Court at nisi prius, before Justice Read. These colored jurors all appear to be intelligent men, and have thus far rendered satisfaction, though they have not yet rendered a verdict. Their presence in the jury-box created a great deal of comment, but, is not combatted by the white jurymen.

Manuscripts not Returned.

The manuscript contributions sent to the Harpers during the past year for their three periodicals—the *Monthly*, the *Weekly* and the *Bazar*—amount to six thousand five hundred. More than nine-tenths of all the offered articles—poems, tales, sketches, essays, etc.—were rejected. A description of all the rejected articles, with an opinion of each one of them, is kept in a series of large reference books, which are inspected from time to time by the head of the firm. After a manuscript has been received and the fact duly recorded, it is carefully put up in its envelope, so that it may at any time be returned to its writer. In the rush of daily newspaper life this sort of thing cannot be undertaken—hence "rejected manuscripts not returned" is the motto of the daily press.

THE BOWEN BIGAMY CASE.

A Radical Congressman Escapes the Penitentiary by Bribing a Juror.

The Washington *Star* of last evening gives the following report of the conclusion of the trial of Congressman Bowen, for bigamy, in the criminal Court of that city:

The jury in the case of Hon. C. C. Bowen, charged with bigamy, were unable to agree on a verdict, standing eleven for conviction to one for acquittal, and were this morning discharged, which necessitates a new trial. Judge Wylie, in discharging the jurors, said that if the prosecution failed to obtain a verdict on that evidence, he did not think they would ever have a verdict. He said that one bribed juror was more than a match for his eleven fellows, but he did not mean to insinuate that there was a bribed juror on this panel. He did not see how a juror could hesitate for a moment on finding a verdict in a case like this, and he thought that the evidence of two witnesses who testified to their own infamy should not have much weight—a wretch of that kind ought not to be believed.

Mr. Riddle said he felt it was his duty to protest against the court using such language in reference to a case not disposed of.

Judge Wylie said he would retract nothing, and felt called upon to say what he had to say. He repeated that the testimony of Wilkinson that he had married this woman was enough to cause the jury not to heed it.

Mr. Merrick said the woman (Mrs. Parke Bowen) had told him that she was not married to Bowen.

Mr. Harrington remarked that Bowen had admitted to him that he was married to her. He spoke of a warrant against Wilkinson, and he would like to know why he had left so soon if he did not fear the consequences.

Mr. Merrick replied that he was not responsible for the witness. He believed if the defense had asked the Court to instruct the jury that the prosecution had not made out a case, that the Court would have done so.

Judge Wylie remarked that he would have probably done so if the motion had been made at that time; but the defense had, by introducing evidence, expected the court to submit testimony and damaged their case.

Judge Fisher here moved that the defendant be put under a new bond.

Judge Wylie deemed to make such order.

Some discussion ensued, when Mr. Riddle moved that the Court adjourn.

Judge Wylie said that the making of such motion was a gross insult to the court. It was not understood now, but desired it to be understood that the court would not hear such motions.

The jury was discharged and the court then adjourned.

It is understood that when the jury came into court this morning they stood eleven for conviction and one for acquittal. Rumor says that that was Mr. Joseph E. Dunning, who held out.)

About one o'clock, this afternoon Bowen was again arrested on a charge of marrying Mrs. Pelagrew King when he had another wife living, namely, Frances Hicks King, whom he is said to have married in 1852 in Augusta, Georgia. This makes three alleged living wives for Bowen that have turned up thus far.

The warrant was placed in the hands of Detective Charvoz, of the Metropolitan police force, for service. Detective Charvoz went to Mr. Bowen's residence about 2 o'clock and served the warrant. Mr. Bowen expressed no surprise other than to ask when they would cease coming after him, and went with the officer to the Police Court.

THE HOLDEN IMPEACHMENT.

Exciting Scene During the Examination of Josiah Turner, Jr.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 16, 1871.—The intense interest in the impeachment trial reached its acme to-day, and at one time there was a scene of excitement in the Court that for a while looked as if it would result in a personal encounter, if not a general melee.

Governor Holden occupied his usual seat among his counsel, while Mr. Josiah Turner, Jr., editor of the *Sentinel*, was placed on the stand, a witness for the managers. The fifth article of impeachment charges Holden with the illegal arrest, by Kirk's gang, of Turner, in the county of Orange, which has not been declared in a state of insurrection, and the response of Holden charges Turner with inciting riot, assassination and bloodshed. Both are bitter partisan editors. During the examination the following questions were put to Turner by counsel:

Counsel.—Have you read the allegations contained in the respondent's answer concerning you?

Turner.—I have.

Counsel.—State whether the said allegations are true or false.

Turner.—False as malice and hate could make them.

This was pronounced in a clear, calm and determined manner, and amid a death-like stillness in the crowded chamber. Holden grew pale and nervous, as if to say something, but was unable to do so from excitement, and he sat down.—The entire audience and the court shared the excitement, particularly the negroes in the galleries, who looked daggers at Turner. Counsel for Holden then, in cross-examination, asked:

"Mr. Turner, are your feelings towards Governor Holden kindly or unkindly?"

Turner—My feelings towards him are those of any good man towards any bad man.

Counsel insisted on a direct reply, and Turner repeated what he had said before, but the Chief Justice ruling that a direct answer must be given, Turner said his feelings towards him were engendered by his heated political course, and were unkind.

Upon this Governor Holden again rose, livid with rage and excitement, and demanded of the Chief Justice that he should be protected from insult. Turner stood within six feet of the Governor, and the latter stooped to pick up his cane after his appeal to the Chief Justice, which everybody believed to be the preliminary movement to an attack on Turner.

For a moment there was a feeling as if a scene of bloodshed was about to ensue. But the Governor at ones turned, took his hat, left his seat and walked down the main aisle and out of the Chamber.

Senator Edwards rose and stated that the respondent had no right to a voice on the floor except through counsel, and the Chief Justice ruled accordingly. This ended the scene.

Senator Graham testified to seeing a written order for Turner's arrest, in the handwriting of Holden, in the hands of one of Kirk's officers. The examination of Holden's witnesses will be commenced in a day or two.

An Alleged Fraudulent Divorce.

James Simpson was married to Maria Hanrahan in 1851, and lived with her three years. In 1854, the husband suddenly disappeared, and the wife mourned him as dead until 1868, when she received legal notice that he had brought a suit for divorce from her in St. Charles, Mo., claiming that place. Mrs. Simpson told the story of her married life, and the motion for divorce was promptly denied. Almost a year afterward Mrs. Simpson was served with a second notice of application for divorce in a suit filed by her husband in the Circuit Court of St. Louis, and again the wife traveled across half a continent to defend her rights. Her cause was so ably pleaded that not only was her petition for divorce refused, but the Court in addition awarded $200 a year for her support. A few days ago Mrs. Simpson was informed that her husband had married again and was living at No. 123 East Ninety-third street, in this city. She immediately appeared before Justice Cox at the Jefferson Market Police Court, and made a complaint against Simpson, who was arrested for bigamy, and brought before the Justice yesterday. In answer to the charge he produced a grant of divorce, bearing the seal of the Circuit Court of Kansas, and also a receipt for an advertisement inserted in an obscure newspaper, informing her of the suit. Justice Cox committed the prisoner in default of $2,000 bail to appear for trial.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

"The Keystone State."

It seems that a controversy has sprung up in regard to the origin of this designation as applied to the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Hazlehurst, a gentleman in Pennsylvania, Mr. S. Hayden, published a communication in the Athens *Gleaner*, in which he assigned the origin of this phrase to the facts that at the close of the last century, while the public buildings were in progress in Washington, a part of the stone material that was not needed or was rejected was used to build a bridge over "Rock Creek," between Washington and Georgetown; that this bridge had an arch composed of thirteen stones, on the face of each of which the architect caused the name or initial of one of the thirteen States of the Union to be carved; that as he commenced in the usual order in which the States were always recited, according to their geographical positions, the name of Pennsylvania happened to be placed on the key-stone, or middle stone, of the arch. Hence sprung a popular habit in that locality of speaking of Pennsylvania as "the Keystone State." This bridge, in the lapse of time, gave way to another, and the stones bearing the names or initials of the States disappeared. But the popular use of this phrase continued and spread all over the country. This account of its origin may well be received as correct, since it had the sanction of the late Colonel Peter Force, of Washington, who remembered the bridge, and who was a perfectly accurate and trustworthy antiquarian. It was he who gave this origin of the popular phrase to Mr. Hazlehurst.—*N. Y. World.*

Swindling in Philadelphia.

A few days ago a man appeared in Philadelphia, giving his name as R. Barnwell Rhett, and alleging that he had just arrived from Charleston, S. C., for the purpose of purchasing valuable goods. He visited several firms and made purchases, saying that he would call the next day and settle the bills. The next day a porter of one of the establishments, attempted to be swindled was sent by the swindler to the other firms with orders or checks to forward the goods to certain parties in Charleston. It was soon discovered, however, that the orders or checks were forgeries, and only one firm suffered to the extent of $390 in kid gloves. The swindler, it appears, assumed the name of the Hon. Barnwell Rhett, who happened to be boarding at the Continental. Upon proceeding to the hotel the parties concerned discovered that the *bona fide* Mr. Rhett, of South Carolina, was stopping there, and was living in entire innocence of the thought that a rascal was, under his name, perpetrating villainies in this city.—*Philadelphia Telegraph.*

The Latest News from Europe.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The *Standard* is informed that the health of the Emperor of Germany leads to grave anticipations.

The *Telegraph* has a despatch from Saarbruck, which says, all the wounded, capable of re|o'n'ing their regiments are being sent to the front.

VIENNA, Feb. 20.—The Reichsracht reassembled to-day. The new ministry were present, and the ministerial statement was submitted. It appears therefrom that the government will abide by the Constitution, but is willing to initiate measures for the alleviation of the unnecessary restriction upon the autonomy of the provinces.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The statement that Hon. John Bright is likely to return shortly to Parliamentary duties is not well founded. He will not probably resume his duties at this session, and his appearance in the House is most likely to be prevented by a visit to his constituents. Bright's health is progressing steadily towards restoration.

A despatch from Paris dated February 20th, says: It is probable the armistice will be extended until March 1st.

Scarcity of fuel is much felt, and the administration of the Northern Railway shares its fuel with the population. Coal is arriving daily, and Paris will be lighted with gas on Saturday.

The London mails for Paris are now forwarded via Calais.

The London *Daily News* says, seventeen vessels are in the French port of Dunkirk, all formidably armed.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21,—The wooden manufacturers and wooden commission merchants before the Ways and Means Committee, ask a uniform duty of 3 cts., as on carpets, wools or free wools, and consent to a reduction of 30 per cent. ad valorem on manufacturers' woolens. The speakers were for Mr Spalding, of the firm of Hunt & Co., of New York, Mr. Hunt, of the firm of Tillinghast & Co., and Mr. Haines, of Rhode Island. This is the first time manufacturers have appeared asking for a reduction of the tariff.

Senator Sumner is considerably improved this morning, and the doctors have forbidden him to receive company or to engage in any business for fear of a relapse. It is not likely he will be able to resume his seat in the Senate this session.

Senator Cameron has had to-morrow set apart for the consideration of the bill for building a National Exposition at Philadelphia, in connection with the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of American Independence.

The executive mansion is thrown open to visitors, an immense number of whom are availing themselves of the opportunity to pass through the east room and the different parlors. In the departments no business is being transacted.

The bill introduced in the Senate to-day, by Mr. Wilson, provides for appropriation of the proceeds of public lands for three years after the passage of the act in aid of the schools in the States lately in rebellion.

Mr. Boutwell's bill to increase the salaries of heads of bureaus and other officers in the Treasury, was considered to-day by the Committee on Appropriations, and will be reported to the House next week. Notwithstanding a general opposition to an increase of salaries, it is thought the recommendation of the Secretary will be adopted.

From New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—About 2 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the two-story brick Slaughter-house of Davis & Harrington, Nos. 772 and 774 First Avenue, destroying the entire building and three hundred sheep. Loss on building, $35,000, on wool, $7,000. The fire originated in the drying room, supposed by wool coming in contact with the stove.

At the annual election of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Raritan Railroad Company to-day, the old officers and managers were unanimously elected.

Alexander Hadden, was arrested some time ago on a charge of perjury in a bankruptcy case, to-day renewed his bail in $40,000.

The Last Act of Schoepge.

A petition signed by thousands of citizens of Cumberland county, asking for the pardon of Paul Schoepge, will soon be presented to Governor Geary. Schoepge is likely relinquished all his claims to the estate of the late Miss Steinecke for benevolent and charitable purposes. The deed of assignment is dated Carlisle, February 11, 1871, and witnessed by Jacob J. Shyrock, Esq., Foreman and P. E. Beltzhoover, attorney-at-law. It disposes of the total amount of her property, which is valued at $75,000, in the following manner: Six thousand dollars to Dickinson College, for education for divinity students, preferably the poor of Carlisle, Pa.; thirty thousand dollars for the erection of a hospital within the borough of Carlisle for poor sick persons of Cumberland county and of the State of Pennsylvania; twenty five thousand dollars, the interest thereof endowed as salary for a resident physician of the hospital, erected by the sum above mentioned; fourteen thousand dollars, the interest thereof to be expended for hospital purposes, according to the disposition of the board of managers of the said hospital, with the proviso, that any surplus of the interest of the fourteen thousand dollars not needed for hospital purposes, be invested in defraying the expenses of the medical education of a young man of Cumberland county, of respectable family and good character, who may have made the rudiments of his medical education in the hospital above mentioned, and through the resident physician of the said hospital.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

Lynchers Convicted of Murder in the First Degree.

MEMPHIS, February 20.—The Criminal Court, sitting at Jackson, rendered to-day the verdict in the case of Graves and Easton, charged with hanging a boy named Schofield, in this county, in July last. The prisoners had borne up well throughout the two days trial, which in this case was given to the jury on Saturday, they had evidently suffered much. When the clerk read, "We, the jury find the prisoners guilty of murder in the first degree," a sensation ran through the crowd, and the remarks made in the hearing of the Court," they were much affected.

Misengagnation in High Life.

The upper crust among the colored population of Washington city was on the *qui vive* as to the report in circulation that a well-known colored physician, who is one of the professors attached to the medical department of Howard University, intended married a lady his senior in years but of unadulterated Caucasian descent, and who occupies quite a prominent position in the Freedmen's Bureau in Virginia.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

PEQUEA ITEMS.—The Methodists of this township have evinced a commendable activity this winter, and have had a protracted meeting going on for the last two weeks at the M. E. Church of Mount Airy. A great number of converts have been made, there being from eight to ten penitents every night. The church is generally crowded, and people from a great distance attend the meetings.

There was a grand ball at the house of one of our townsmen, on Thursday evening, February 16th. It was well attended, and had the neighborhood not been whole longer, no doubt, there would have been a great many more there.

Pequea Lyceum met on Tuesday evening, February 14th, and after a very able lecture had between the Rev. J. S. Morgan, M. D., the following question was discussed: "Should women be elected to serve as Scho'ol Directors?" On the affirmative were Messrs. S. J. Henderson, D. H. Forney, H. H. Barr, and Jacob Engle, Jr., D. F. Morenzy, John Hendry, Esq., and L. J. Ayres. Another question discussed, was: "If a ball be fired perpendicular from a cannon, will it descend with the same force as when it starts?" On the affirmative of this question were Messrs. Dr. D. F. Morenzy, John Linville, S. J. Henderson and H. H. Kurtz. On the negative were B. S. Weiler, Richard Hall and L. J. Ayers. The Lyceum is in a flourishing condition, and the lectures of Dr. Morenzy drew vast crowds.

A correspondent of the *Inquirer* complains strongly of the sale of intoxicating liquors at public sales. The sales in the part of the country alluded to, must be very badly managed, for, although there are sales in the neighborhood every day, no spirituous liquors are allowed on or near the premises on the day of sale.

Ball playing is a great game at all the sales around here. At the sale of John Baily, near Bunn's Store, a grand game of ball was played between a party from the vicinity of Waynesburg, and a party of young men from this township. The sides were very equally divided, and the game drew a large concourse of people. When they stopped playing at half-past four o'clock, our fellows led the Waynesburgers two games.

Fox hunting is still in its glory around here and every day you can hear the baying of the hounds as they chase the sly old Reynard through the valley.

George Bailey, the celebrated cattle drover from the west, who has not been around here for several years, has returned to pay his old friends a visit, and you can just bet he is as welcome as ever.

Some of our enterprising young men, among whom are George N. Worst, George Murphy, and William Conly, intend going west in the spring. BILLINOS.

DONATION FOR THE POOR.—Mr. George S. Rowbotham, a merchant formerly of this city, otherwise designated as "Cheap John," proposes to celebrate Washington's birthday anniversary, by distributing fifty quarter-sacks of flour to the poor of Reading. He has on several previous occasions distributed as many as a thousand loaves of bread at one time to the poor of that city. This time he varies the programme by distributing flour in quantities sufficient to keep at least fifty families in bread for several weeks.

DEATH OF A VENERABLE LADY.—It will be seen by our obituary column that Mrs. Catherine Smeltz, died at her late residence in North Queen street on Monday. Mrs. Smeltz was in the 88th year of her age, and was highly appreciated by a large circle of relatives and friends for her many christian virtues.

ENCOURAGEMENT.—A letter was received yesterday from a Penningtonville subscriber, enclosing two years' subscription to the INTELLIGENCER, and containing the following encouraging postscript:

"Keep on, the cause is gaining—you publish the best newspaper in Pennsylvania."

Our subscriber has hit the nail on the head exactly. His money accompanies his compliments.

Local Intelligencer.

ESCAPE OF A DESPERADO.—A negro convict, named James A. Hamilton, made his escape from the Lancaster County Prison, about 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, and has not since been heard from. He was confined in iron-clad cell No. 59, situated near the farther end of the left hand range of cells on the second floor. An examination of the cell shows that he must have worked a long time before effecting his escape. He worked at shoemaking, and several weeks ago complained that his bench was too low for him, requesting that a couple of short strips of 1-inch board might be placed on the floor under the legs of the bench, so as to raise it that much higher. This request was granted, and Hamilton at once went to work with his knife to cut through the floor of his cell, concealing his operations by placing the strips of pine exactly over the cut and setting his bench upon them while working at his trade in the day-time, or when there was any danger of his being interfered with. Having in this way removed a number of flooring boards in the southeast corner of his cell, he encountered the masonry of the arched cell below him. This he removed little by little, and probably removed little by little, and probably removed a sufficient quantity one night to night.—Having quarried away the masonry from under the floor to the depth of about a foot and the length of three feet, and broad enough to admit his body, he commenced with the brick which stone wall of the prison. Making a breach in it was not so desperate an undertaking as at first sight it would seem to be. The mortar used in the construction of the wall is of a very inferior quality, there being so little lime in it, that it can be readily reduced to pieces. Still he must have spent many nights and months at the work of removing the mortar necessary to loosen the brick. Throughout the whole proceeding, he thinks, to about a cat-nap, he was this morning found carefully piled under his bed. His bed rested on slats six feet long, and about five or six inches in width, which he cut, with his knife, and had mortised a number of holes through each of them, and had made a number of rounds to fit the mortises so that he could ladder out the pieces in a few minutes with which to scale the wall. He had made a miscalculation, however, for the long slats would not pass through the hole in the wall, on account of the bulge in the shape and position. Leaving his ladder behind him, he descended from his cell to the yard by means of a very thin but strong cord made of shoe thread. Once in the yard, he went to the washhouse, in which he entered through a shutterless window by breaking a pane of glass and removing a nail on the inside which fastended down the sash. Here he got a bed-tick and some old clothes. This room or outer lobby is a second story room over the washhouse. Breaking into it, the prisoner selected sufficient lumber to construct a ladder with which to scale the jail-yard wall. The ladder was made by lashing together with strips of bed tick and old clothes four long narrow boards, reaching to the top of the wall, and tieing across them at intervals the staves of a barrel, which happens to be standing handy for that purpose. Placing the ladder against the wall near the Orange street gate, he went over a free man, and has not yet been recaptured.

The prison officials place little time of his getting over the wall at about a quarter past one o'clock, Sunday morning. Keeper Sensenig thinks he must have escaped from the cell some hours before and been a considerable time in the yard preparing for the ascent to scale the wall. He says the escape could never have been effected had the watchmen been ordinarily vigilant and attentive to their duty, a part of which is to visit and thoroughly examine every cell three times a week. It is the duty of the night watchman to make the round of the prison-yard every half hour, and that there may be no shirking of this duty, detective clocks are placed at different points around the prison, which expose the watchman if they are not regularly visited. The clocks were found to be all right in the morning, showing that the watchman had made his rounds, and yet he had slept, and yet had neither seen the prisoner nor the aperture in the prison-wall through which he made his escape.

Mr. Sensenig believes the clocks to be tampered with to enable the prisoners to know the very time at which the watchman may be expected to appear, and governs themselves accordingly; while the watchman may hurriedly visit his clocks, and without making a thorough examination of the premises, return to his comfortable quarters in the jail. He thinks the old plan of making frequent examinations, at irregular intervals, preferable to the present system.

Hamilton has long been regarded as the most dangerous and desperate inmate of the prison. While awaiting trial he made two desperate attempts to escape. On the 22d of April, 1868, he was sentenced by our Court to seven years imprisonment; three years for breaking into the store of H. L. Hinman, and four years for subsequently breaking into the residence of Augustus Reinoehl, near this city, and one year for the larceny of an overcoat, the property of A. C. Reinoehl, Esq. He was taken to the Eastern Penitentiary, where he remained until May, 1869, when he and other Lancaster county convicts, then confined there, were returned to our prison. On the 5th of September following Hamilton made an attempt to break jail, in company with Henry Coleman and John Curtis. It will be remembered they succeeded at that time in [illegible] into the corridor, gazing on the [illegible] weepers, when they were [illegible] and after a desperate struggle [illegible] secured a day or two afterwards.

Hamilton is a bright mulatto, a native of Cambridge, Mass., is five feet five inches in height, and has a foot ten inches in length. He is quite intelligent and writes a good hand.

THE FOX HUNT.—The fox-hunt which occurred on Wednesday afternoon, at Kauffman's Tavern, on the Harrisburg Pike, cannot be called a success. A large number of horsemen, with about fifty hounds, and a great throng of footmen and looksers on were present. A purse of $16 and a pair of geese were to be the reward of the victor. The preliminaries were mostly settled—agreed a deal of time in discovering, and more whiskey being exhausted before satisfactory arrangements were completed for the letting loose of Reynard. As nearly as we can understand the arrangements, it was decided to give each party of horsemen the assistance of a certain number of footmen, who were to be "let slip" immediately after the fox had been turned loose; the hounds to be kept in leash for fifteen minutes thereaf