LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH

Reception of the Grand Duke Alexis.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—At 11 o'clock this morning the steamer Mary Powell, with the Reception Committe and about five hundred persons, including a large number of ladies, proceeded down the bay.—Over a thousand persons assembled at the pier, to witness the departure of the steamer, gaily decked with Russian and American flags. Nearly all the vessels in the bay are dressed with flags. Many of them display Russian colors. The steamer Henry Smith with the Executive Committee has sailed for the Narrows.

Broadway is thronged with persons, awaiting the parade, and a great number arrived from the country in the early trains. All the buildings in Broadway, and other principal streets, are decorated with flags. The National Guards are out in full force. The weather is fine. The reception will be brilliant. The regiments of the National Guard are now marching down Broadway, and forming in line from Battery Place to Canal street. The line was formed in Fourteenth street, and they marched down about noon, the twelfth regiment headed the line. Broadway from Union Square to the Battery, is thronged with people, and below Canal street, where the military display can be witnessed, the crowd is so immense that locomotion is almost impossible. Every window and every spot from which a view can be obtained is occupied, and New York has not, since the war, seen so brilliant a military display. The reception of the Grand Duke on the whole line of march will undoubtedly be of the most brilliant and enthusiastic character.

Mines Caving In.

The effect of the caving in of the mines of Hyde Park, bids fair to be decidedly threatening. The mines of the first vein of the Oxford shaft had caved in, causing the earth to settle some two feet and forming great cracks in the surface. The area of ground, which is thickly covered by buildings and handsome dwellings, is about twenty acres. The boundary of the fall is marked by a crack which varies in width and depth. This crack, passing through the front yard of the Welsh Calvanistic church, goes through the dwelling and store of Mr. Thomas Phillips, Herman's hotel, and the adjoining property, breaking their walls and rocking the buildings from cellar to garret.

Crossing Scranton avenue it crosses the corner of Fellow's hall building, breaking open the foundation wall and causing a large opening in the cellar wall, and injuring the entire building. From this point it runs in an easterly direction, through the property of Dr. Heath, Daniel Howell, D. T. Richards, Esquire Snyder (formerly Judge Dunn's) to Chestnut Hill; from thence diagonally to Scranton avenue, where traces of the fall were lost. But the effects of the fall are still visible in the settling of the earth about Mr. Heerman's residence and other dwellings between this point and the place from which we first started. In all of the buildings, and particularly those of Messrs. Phillips, Richard, Howell and the hotel and Fellows Hall, is the destructive effects of this disaster most clearly visible, as hardly any part of them remains tuninjured. Walls and ceilings, broken floors, sunken windows, broken waterpipes and gas pipes, water closets, wells and cellars have literally lost their bottoms, causing a destruction of property amounting to $30,000. There were three distinct shocks, each one loud enough to arouse everybody. In a few minutes Mount Cobb was crowded with men, women and children, who were greatly frightened. When the residence of Mr. D. T. Richards was shaken, the family were compelled to flee in order to save their lives; so great was the destruction that the house must be rebuilt. The Heerman's house is so badly used up it must be pulled down.

The post office has sunk some eighteen inches, and still continues settling. A large cistern in kitchen was pierced, and is now dry. In fact, not a drop of water can be had in any cistern in any part of the injured portion. The houses of J. H. Millspaugh, William Price, Judge W. C. Ward, S. Moore, and Mr. Ashby, were badly damaged. That of Edward Heerman, settled eighteen inches below the surface, but otherwise is comparatively uninjured. The Oxford shaft is situated in the centre of Hyde Park and is the property of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company.

SCRANTON, PA., Nov. 17.—The ground at Hyde Park has settled down another foot since yesterday, but it is thought that there is no danger of further damage to buildings. Losses will exceed $40,000. Since the excitement of yesterday hundreds of spectators have visited the scene of the disaster.

The Democratic Outlook.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Gazette* writes as follows of Democratic prospects:

"Prominent democrats now here, and recently in this city, represent that a very general interchange of opinions is going on by letters and personal conference among Democrats, relative to the future action of the party in the coming Presidential canvass. Some advise a Convention of the Democratic party and regular nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, irrespective of the action of the Conservatives of the Republican party. Others suggest a nomination by Conservative Republicans, or those opposed to the present Administration, and afterwards, if practicable, a coalition of the Democrats with the Conservative elements.

"Generally it is advised that a final settlement of this question be postponed until the meeting of Congress, when a caucus of the Democratic Senators and Representatives, with the lights of the party outside, will consider the matter and recommend the proper action. It is regarded as certain success for the Democrats if they shall nominate a candidate of great power in Pennsylvania; but the fear that injudicious counsel may prevail and prevent such selection, induces some influential members, other also disposed, to advise a coalition.

"From an analysis of the votes in the State elections of last week, it is found that, generally, where a fair test was had, the Democratic or Conservative vote has gained, and this fact should assure the Democrats that by a wise selection of standard-bearers, men whose record is unimpeachable, and whose past history is typical of the advanced ideas of the present day, the Democratic party can carry the next Presidential election beyond a reasonable doubt."

Bullock, Kimball & Co.

They have a precious set of scamps in Georgia, where affairs have been pretty well mixed up in consequence of the resignation of Governor Bullock, and the business failure of his henchman, H. J. Kimball.—Sundry "jobs" and questionable transactions in which the latter was engaged are being brought prominently before the public and made the subjects of a thorough investigation. Among other things full particulars of the "opera house job," as it is called, are now published, and another royal road to fortune, if not to learning, is discovered. The building, which is now the State Capitol, was commenced by a company soon after the close of the war, and was intended to be an opera house. But the company failed to equal the demand, and the property was sold at auction to Kimball for $20,000. He completed the building at a cost of $70,000, and then offered to sell it to the State for $250,000, but the Legislature refused to buy it. By the time the next Legislature met the price had gone up to $280,000, for which sum the bargain was concluded and the building became the capitol of the State. The real value of the building, which is of brick with light stone trimmings and a Mansard roof, is not, probably, over $150,000.

A Sample Carpet-Bagger.

In discussing the financial affairs of South Carolina, the *Nation* says that the charges of fraudulent transactions are supported by the history of some of the State officers. It gives the case of the State Treasurer, Mr. Niles G. Parker, who, it says, kept a bar at Haverhill, Mass., before the war. He entered the army; served, as worse men did, with credit; then settled as a carpet-bagger in Charles on; opened another grocery; "went into politics;" was made an alderman; cultivated the negro vote; failed in business, and paid thirty cents on the dollar; rose rapidly in politics; became State Treasurer, and is now reputed to be worth a million, and has plenty of diamonds.

Put behind such men the most corrupt and generous legislature that perhaps ever carrated free government in a civilized state, and we see why the financial condition of the State is suspected. "New York," the *Nation* adds, "is certainly the last place for such a 'Treasurer' to come to just at this moment asking credit. We are too familiar with this kind of financier."

Gigantic Lumber Trade.

As the recent fire in Chicago will create an extraordinary demand for the labor of carpenters, brick-layers and other skilled laborers for some time to come, so the conflagration in the Western forests will make a great deal of work for the lumbermen during the coming Winter. In the regions around Bay City, Sherboygan, Saginaw, and other districts where the fires have razed, preparations are making for the most gigantic lumbering operations the ensuing season, in order to save the trees which have been killed, but not destroyed by the fire, and which if not cut down at once will be injured by the worms. This will make work plenty for the settlers who have been burned out, and doubtless prevent a great deal of suffering which would otherwise occur among those who have lost their homes by the flames.

A New Office Applied For.

The Post-office Department at Washington has received from the Secretary of the Treasury a box containing 19,500 cancelled postage and revenue stamps. These stamps were forwarded to the Treasury by a lady residing at Bridgeport, Conn., who says she is one of a Bible class, and that she was told by the Superintendent of her Sunday-school that if she would collect 1,000,000 stamps the Government would give her $300. She therefore forwarded a part, and requests pay for them *pro rata*. She says that if the Government wants a collector of defaced stamps she will accept such a position for a reasonable compensation. General Terrell replied that cancelled stamps possess no value whatever, and that the newspaper rumor that the Government will pay for such stamps is doubtless intended as a sell.

A Law-Abiding Governor.

Gov. Palmer, of Illinois, is a lawyer, a soldier, and a politician. He is an excellent lawyer; he was a soldier of such merit that he rose from the ranks to the command of an army and a department. But it is the custom with Western men and Western papers to say that he is a bad politician. If this is true, it is the fault of politics, and not his. It means that he will never sign a bill with a job in it by means of which influential party friends are to profit. He never uses his appointing power for his own advantage. He will not swerve one hair's breadth from what he holds to be the law to save his own popularity or his party's majority. He is so good a lawyer that he never goes false to his convictions. For these sufficient reasons the "practical" politicians agree that his public career is ended with his present term. If the "practical" men are to continue to have it their own way in the future, as they have too much in the past, this may be true.

Just now they seem sure that the Governor has made a great mistake in urging the indictment of the Mayor of Chicago, of Gen. Sheridan, and of Gen. F. T. Sherman, for the shooting of Col. Grosvenor, and subsequently in laying before the Legislature the considerations which moved him to this action. His message has excited in Chicago a storm of denunciation singularly at variance with the calm and temperate tone in which it is couched. He meets the usual fate of men who keep their wits about them in times of general excitement and tumult, and who presume to recall to their fellow-citizens the memory of their mistakes and follies.

It appears from the Governor's message that on the 11th day of October Gen. Sheridan, under authority which he claims to have received from the Mayor of the city, issued to Gen. Frank T. Sherman an order to organize a regiment of infantry "to serve as guards for the protection of the remaining portion of the city of Chicago for the period of twenty days." This regiment consisted in part of companies of State militia and of recruits enlisted under Gen. Sheridan's authority. Among them was a company of boys from the Chicago University, under the command of Capt. Colston. They took an unusual oath of allegiance and obedience. To use Gov. Palmer's words,

"Supported by this force, Lieut-General Sheridan proceeded to establish military rule throughout the city. His guards were established and his sentinels posted on the public streets, with orders from him, or from some of his subordinates, to arrest citizens who might, in the judgment of such guards and sentinels, be suspicious persons, and to fire upon and wound any person who should refuse to obey their commands; and one citizen of the city, who was quietly passing along one of the streets, was ordered by a sentinel to halt, and, upon his refusing to obey, was shot and mortally wounded."

Theodore N. Treat, a boy of sixteen, a student in the University, hailed and shot on the night of the 20th of October, Colonel Thomas M. Cornwell, a prominent citizen, who was passing the sentry on his way home. The fatal accident seemed to arouse the public sentiment which had been apathetically consenting to the substitution of military law and military rule, and the state of siege was terminated two days later.—Gov. Palmer contends that the force of Gen. Sherman's was raised utterly without legal authority, that it had no right to perform any military functions whatever and that in inflicting death, even in pursuance of a pretended duty, its officers rendered themselves liable to an indictment for murder. In this view of the situation, Governor Palmer took the responsibility of formally advising the Attorney General of the State and District-Attorney of their duty in the premises.

As the Grand Jury of Cook county have refused to indict any one on account of the death of Col. Grosvenor, it may be said that this is now a barren discussion. But it is dangerous to pass in silence any infraction of the principles upon which our Democracy rests. In this case there was no harm intended. The Mayor of Chicago, influenced by the prevailing excitement and unconscious of the full significance of his act, surrendered his authority unnecessarily. Gen. Sheridan, whose faults always lean to virtue's side, assumed the responsibility which was thus offered him with the best intentions, without inquiring, and probably without caring much, what the law of the case was. But Gov. Palmer could not be permitted to look with indifference upon a proceeding which contravened the fundamental law of the State and the nation. He has done well in making his protest, even if he accomplishes nothing but his denunciation by it. The tone of the Chicago press is certainly not calculated to encourage him in his championship of law. One paper thus decently comments upon his message: "Governor Palmer has deliberately convicted himself of being either a fool or a knave. Until his dying day the infamy of this record will stick to and confound him." Another, with more courtesy, but equal disregard of the principles involved, says: "Granting that the Governor's motives are laudably right, we are bound to say that we do not see the usefulness of such transcendentalism at the present time." When the vindication of law, for the sake of such a transcendentalism, is not deemed worth while, it does not indicate a wholesome state of public opinion. All this Gov. Palmer has braved, and, what is far worse, he stands, without flinching, the injurious praise of his enemies, who have found himself avowed of an inordinate and self-seeking ambition, even in acts which are full of self-sacrifice. But, with all this, in a time when getting and holding office by any means seems to so many men the only object of living, it must be a singular satisfaction to deliberately prefer duty to popularity; to see his majority turn against him for saying words like these:

"While I continue to occupy the place to which I have been assigned by my fellow-citizens, it is my duty to exert all the powers they have conferred upon me to maintain the adjustments of political power, precisely as the people of the United States and of the State of Illinois have, by their own solemn Constitutions, determined. I am not at liberty, even by my silence or indifference, to consent to acts that will by their direct consequences or by their influence and example, insidiously change the spirit and substance of our institutions, while the forms of the government apparently remain unaltered."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Interesting Statistics

From the latest tables compiled in the Census office, it is ascertained that the number of blind persons in the United States is 20,250; distributed in States and Territories as follows: Alabama, 61; Arkansas, 333; California, 179; Connecticut, 252; Delaware, 68; Florida, 85; Georgia, 740; Illinois, 1,042; Indiana, 901; Iowa, 465; Kansas, 129; Kentucky, 978; Louisiana, 447; Maine, 324; Maryland, 427; Massachusetts, 761; Michigan, 418; Minnesota, 103; Mississippi, 474; Missouri, 983; Nebraska, 42; Nevada, 4; New Hampshire, 236; New Jersey, 317; New York, 2,213; North Carolina, 835; Ohio, 1,396; Oregon, 35; Pennsylvania, 1,767; Rhode Island, 127; South Carolina, 541; Tennessee, 876; Texas, 404; Vermont, 189; Virginia, 968; Wisconsin, 469; Arizona, 1; Colorado, 26; Dakota, 5; District of Columbia, 78; Idaho, 4; New Mexico, 152; Utah, 29; Washington, 5; Wyoming, 2.

Aid of the South for Chicago.

Under a thin humanitarian veneer the New York *Tribune* brings to mind that the South has been lacking in aid and sympathy for Chicago, to which the *World* responds: "Inadvertently that is, after all, from cities only that any organized benevolence can be expected, and that Atlanta, Selma, Columbia, Richmond, and other prominent points South were but just rising from their ashes when overwhelmed with the horrible robberies of reconstruction, it is not surprising that little has been contributed to Chicago. The burned are proprietors of property burned. New Orleans, however, sends $30,000 to Chicago, and when New Orleans was desolated with yellow fever and cried out for aid Chicago sent her $200, as pagers on record.

Grant Must be Beaten.

Gen. Grant himself is not a Republican, but a political adventurer, who finds the Radicalism of the period useful for his schemes of private greed and personal advancement. If the genuine Republicanism of the country would save itself and the system which it cherishes, it will hasten to form into line and try to break up the oligarchy that is fastening itself upon the General Government. There is, if husbanded with care and handled with efficiency, a popular majority against the President's one man party; and there is at this moment no element in any part of the Union which can be said to be unwilling to sacrifice its predictions to obtain the end desired—that is the defeat of Grant.

Civil Service Reform.

In his speech at Plymouth Church on Sunday evening, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher declared himself in favor of civil service reform. "The Administration," he exclaimed, "must reform the civil service. Every custom house is now a bribe shop, and nearly all the offices are damning and deadening to the national conscience." But how can the Administration, itself the source and promoter of this corruption, reform it? The only way to escape the evil is for the people to reform the Administration by turning it out and putting in men who will not receive presents nor take bribes.

Foreign Capital for Chicago.

On Monday next, a new bank, with a large capital, will be opened in Chicago, where it will form a most important and desirable accession just at this time. This is a branch of the Bank of Montreal, one of the strongest banking establishments of the continent; and, although a foreign institution, its influence in monetary circles in Chicago, at this juncture, cannot but be beneficient.

They Can't Lie Still.

It is said that the cause of the postage stamps bearing the portraits of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Jackson and others, curling and twisting in all kinds of shapes, is under consideration by post-office officials, and the conclusion has about been reached that those old fellows cannot lie still amid the corruption and political rascality that is going on all around them.

A Shrewd Operation.

The Czar of Russia is very shrewd. In the extensive system of railways that he is now building, he uses a different gauge from any adjoining country. Prussia ran her own cars and locomotives to the very walls of Paris.

Local Intelligence.

The Teachers' Institute.

Tuesday Afternoon.—Miss Palmer delivered a lecture on Geography and Map-drawing, and showed that the common system of teaching Geography was erroneous, and in violation of the Pestalozzian principles explained by her yesterday. Instead of beginning to teach Geography with a map of the world and descending to the continents, countries, states, counties and towns, the teacher should begin with the school-room, and its surroundings, and advance through counties, states, &c., until a knowledge of the entire surface of the globe is acquired. Local Geography, which is almost entirely neglected in the schools, she thought was of the greatest importance.

Professor Baker lectured on Natural Philosophy, taking as his special subject "The Atmosphere." He illustrated his lecture with a number of interesting experiments with the air-pump, barometer, and other philosophical apparatus.

Wednesday Morning.—The exercises were opened with reading the 147th Psalm.

S. H. Kauffman, chairman of Committee to audit Treasurer's account, stated that the Committee had performed its duty and found the account correct, but contended that several items were charged too high. The receipts were $980.93; expenditures, $908.90, leaving a balance of $72.03 in the treasury. The report was accepted and approved as read. The following persons were nominated for Committee on Permanent Certificates:

Messrs. J. H. Leaman, Ulrich Strickler, J. H. Metzler, J. B. Eshleman, I. S. Geist, C. C. Seitz, Wm. C. Shuman, Joel Eaby, J. H. Witmer, George F. Baker, Misses Mary E. Huber, Mary E. Watson, Sarah E. Powers.

Messrs. J. B. Eshleman and I. S. Geist declined, and Mr. Joel Eaby and Mary E. Huber not being eligible, are not candidates.

The question, "Should there be any closing exercises at the end of the school term," was opened by C. S. Chale. He said that too frequently special preparations are made to suit special parties; he was therefore opposed to such exercises.

Ulrich Strickler expressed himself in favor of examinations, but doubted whether exhibitions conferred sufficient benefit to compensate for the time and labor spent in getting them up. Examinations, however, should be conducted fairly and honestly.

P. H. Guehemar said, "From the fullness of the heart, the mouth speaketh," thereby intimating that Mr. Clark himself was guilty of making these special preparations. He was in favor of having a plain examination, without special preparation; he believed it to be a gratification to Directors and patrons.

M. Benedict said he was of the opinion that Mr. Clark erred in making such a sweeping assertion in regard to teachers making special preparation for closing examinations. He was in favor of examinations, but they should be confined to subjects gone over by the pupils.

S. H. Kauffman was in favor of examinations, but not in favor of exhibition that tried exhibitions, and found them to be "not worth a straw."

B. F. Hills. We are placed in the school-room to do work; if we do our work well, we are proud of it, and should show it.

Wednesday Afternoon.—Prof. Hall-Maxon said that the story of the great intelligence of the elephant is all a humbug—it is just about as intelligent as a pig not more so, and it belonged to the same class of animals. The said subject of the story of the last Mrs. Adam, "this is the last of earth," is also fabulous. A work by Edwards on the emigration of birds, claims that swallows are frequently found in the bottom of ponds, in winter, in torpid state, and were cared for, warmed, and brought to life.—Naturalists do not now believe it—in fact a warm-blooded animal could not possibly live in such a place. The stories of toads found embedded in rocks, was also declared to be pure inventions. Electricity formerly believed to be sulphur in the air, on account of a peculiar smell sometimes noticed. It is now known that the smell is produced by ozone in the air. Spoke of the effects said to be produced on the weather, crops, &c., by the signs of the zodiac as being mere rubbish. Tables have been kept at Greenwich, England, for 20 years, and show that the moon has no influence whatever on the weather.

Miss Parsons followed with an exercise in Primary Instruction. Prof. Wickersham continued his lectures on literary culture in the public schools. Prof. Brooks resumed his lecture on Geometry, treating of triangles—acute, obtuse and right-angled.—Miss Parsons gave a drill in primary arithmetic, which created considerable merriment. The afternoon session terminated with some additional instruction in elocution, by Prof. Shoemaker.

Wednesday Evening.—Miss Parsons read a very well written essay on Nature's Method of Teaching.

Dr. J. W. Nevin followed with a discourse on the Historical Spirit, or the Sense of History. The speaker, while he denied the maxim of the "conservatives" that "history is philosophy teaching by example," (because it is as impossible for one age to transfer its history or experience as it is impossible for a parent to transmit his experience to his child,) maintained, nevertheless, that it was one of the most important studies in the schools, and not mere useless rubbish as it is claimed by the "radicals," who would throw aside as worthless its most valuable lessons. He believed we were on the verge of a great conflict between these opposing forces, and that the welfare of the world depended not on the triumph of either, but in our so directing their course that there may be formed a union between them. History does not belong to by-gone ages—it is active and progressive—and while it is the child of the past, it is the womb of the future. The address, which occupied almost an hour in its delivery, was listened to with much attention.

Thursday Morning.—Opened with reading of 90th psalm and prayer by Michael Benedict.

The question for discussion "How shall we teach composition" was opened by B. F. Hill. He would at first give them simple subjects as the horse, the cow, the barn, &c. He would have them put their thoughts on paper in their own language, and after they become older, he would have them attend to grammatical construction.

U. S. Clark. The proper time to begin teaching composition, is when a child begins to talk; has them to tell all they know about objects with which they are acquainted. This device thought, are only among children, but among parents.

W. W. Woods asked Mr. Clark, whether he was sure that he could thus set parents to thinking. Mr. Clark replied that he was quite sure that he could, and added that they sometimes think too much.

P. H. Goehnauer thinks it is not teaching composition until they put their ideas on paper. Intends from now on to let pupils transfer the matter in their own language to paper.

Robert Turner assigns topics; relates stories, and has his pupils to relate them in their own language; sometimes divides the subject and assigns a certain portion to each one.

J. H. Stauffer thinks we err in permitting pupils to select their own subjects, as this gives a man no learning, if taken out of books. He assigns subjects, and takes into consideration ages and the studies pursued.

Prof. J. P. Wickersham followed with an elaborate address on the Science of Teaching, and the session was closed, as usual, by Prof. Shoemaker, who, after a recapitulation of the principal points in his system of teaching elocution, concluded by drilling his class in the different tones of the voice.

Thursday Afternoon. The Court Room was more densely crowded than on any other occasion during the present meeting of the Institute, every seat being occupied, and a large number of persons being compelled for want of better accommodation to stand in the aisles.

After a few pieces of music by the choir, Prof. Haldeman took the stand and proceeded with his discourse in refutation of many popular fallacies, and unfounded statements in books on natural history.

Superintendent Evans informed the Institute that Judge Hayes, owing to the sudden death of his son, would not be able to read the paper he had prepared at his re-collection of the late Hon. Thos. H. Burrows in connection with the Common School System of Pennsylvania. It was intended however that the paper should be published as a part of the official proceedings of the Institute. Mr. Evans would like also to see the Institute adopt a series of resolutions, expressive of the feelings it entertained for the memory of Mr. Burrows, and have a committee prepared for presentation to the State Legislature requesting the erection of a monument to his memory, and a suitable appropriation for the provision of his family.

A call was made upon the School Directors present to address the Institute, if any of them chose to do so. There being no response to the invitation, Hon. O. J. Dickey was requested to deliver an address. He spoke at some length, eulogizing the founders of the School System of the State, and saying among other things that he was proud to live in a State and in an age where every boy and girl resident in the Commonwealth, could if they chose, become educated and fitted to become useful men and women.

Mr. Wm. McComsey one of the School Directors of this city, being called upon, spoke at some length. He suggested inasmuch as the Teachers Institute had been eminently successful, and seemed to have done so much good, that it might be productive of much good to call an Institute or Convention to be composed of School Directors alone. There were many important questions that might be profitably discussed in such a Convention. Mr. McComsey cursorily reviewed the work done by our common schools during the third of a century in which they have been in operation, and said it was of the utmost importance to the people to know whether we were wiser and better, and more virtuous than under the old system.

Prof. J. P. Wickersham, State Superintendent, was the next speaker. He alluded at some length to the school statistics of the commonwealth. He stated that there had been paid to teachers this year $1,500,000 more than had ever been paid before up to 1865; that the amount expended on school houses was $3,200,000—a greater amount than had been expended by any other State in the Union. The entire school appropriation aggregated $8,500,000. Our soldiers' orphans were not only more munificently provided for than by any other State in the Union, but Pennsylvania had absolutely expended for their education more than all the other States combined—more than any other nation had done since the world began. The State, which some years ago seemed to lag behind in educational matters, now stood side by side with Massachusetts, heretofore the foremost of them all. Within the past five years, Pennsylvania has far out-stripped all other states in her educational progress.

To the School Directors he would say, that they hold the chief power in school affairs; they have the levying and appropriation of the school funds, and hold in their hands the direction of the schools. We have no state system of schools, but a system that is of the people, and by the people and for the people. We want no change—no compulsory system of education; but we want the Directors to do their duty, and to provide schools for all races, sects, classes and colors. If the American, the Irish, the German, the French, the Chinese or the black man comes and knocks at the school door, bid him come in—the school door must be open to all applicants!

While he complimented the State at large and the county generally, Prof. Wickersham was not so well pleased with the school statistics of the city, from which it appears there are but about 2,700 pupils in the public schools. Harrisburg, with a not much larger population, returns 4,500 pupils; Reading 5,500, and other towns a much larger number, in proportion to population, than Lancaster. Columbia, Manheim, Strasburg, Bainbridge and other towns in the county, have recently erected large and commodious school buildings, while Lancaster has done little or nothing in this respect. The valuation of the school property of Lancaster is set down at $40,000; that of Harrisburg at $220,000; Erie, $177,000; Allentown between $300,000 and $400,000, while most other cities are far ahead of Lancaster. Indeed there is scarcely a town in the State, of 5,000 population, but what has better school accommodations than our own. He did not wish to be considered as speaking disparagingly or as finding fault, for he was a citizen of Lancaster, himself, and wanted to be able to point with pride to her public schools. He loved the public schools and would send no child of his to any other place to learn, if he could do so, so that we can crush beneath our feet that spirit of aristocracy which looks upon them as good enough for the poor man's children, but not good enough for the wealthy.

The following persons were appointed to effect the election of a committee on permanent certificates, reported that the following named persons had been elected:

J. H. Leaman, J. H. Metzler, J. B. Eshleman, J. H. Witmer and Miss Mary E. Watson.

On motion of Mr. McComsey, of the city, seconded by Messrs. Samuel Fehl, of Conestoga and Cyrus Cramer of Providence, a Committee of five was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of calling a county convention of School Directors, and report at the Institute. The following persons were appointed:

Wm. McComsey, J. W. Jackson, George W. Mehaffey, E. G. Groff and A. M. Herr.

Superintendent Evans suggested that as the Institute was composed of the school directors of their own members, it might not be amiss for the teachers, also, to call a convention to be composed exclusively of teachers.

The afternoon session closed with an elocutionary drill and the reading of "The Berkshire School" by Prof. Shoemaker.

Tuesday Evening.—Miss Josie C. Nelson, read a very well-written essay, asking as for subject the "successful teacher."

M. Brosius, Esq., followed with a discourse on "pedagogical law," explaining with great minuteness all the laws bearing upon the subject of education, not only those now in force in our country, but those of other countries and other ages. He pronounced many of the laws as cruel and barbarous, particularly those permitting the use of the rod and ferule. He also pronounced the partiality shown by some teachers to their pupils on account of race and color. He stated that any partiality shown to white or colored pupils, rendered the teacher liable to expulsion.

Rev. J. E. Smith read an able passage on "the relation of culture to Religion," in which he showed that there was not, or never had been any conflict between the religion and true science. Many scientists who charge that there is such a conflict, and that therefore revelation is disproved by science, are frequently compelled to abandon their so called scientific truths, as the advance of true science proves them to be fallacious. Let science therefore be settled in her own principles before she taunts religion as being opposed to science. The lecture gave evidence of great research and was eloquently delivered.

"Urias Green and his Flying Machine" was very humorously read by Prof. Shoemaker, and produced much merriment.

Friday Morning.—Exercises opened with reading of the scriptures by M. Benedict, followed with prayer by the same gentleman.

On motion of B. F. Hills, it was decided to hold a Teachers' Convention sometime during the year.

The question "What assistance should be given to pupils," was re-opened by B. F. Hills. He said pupils should have all the assistance needed. The teacher must be the judge of what assistance is necessary to be given.

B. L. Dauner said there are two points in giving assistance; the first, that assistance should be given in the branches, has been pretty well discussed. We should also assist them to feel that they have our sympathies. Teach them how to think, and how to study.

J. H. Stauffer agreed with preceding speaker. Gave his method of teaching Geography.

S. L. Frey would teach them to rely upon themselves.

U. S. Clark would have pupils to find out all they can for themselves, before he would give any assistance.

M. Benedict said it is sometimes a difficult point to determine whether assistance should be given or not. Mr. Danner has said that we should have pupils feel that they have our sympathies, but he did not tell us when, how, or what to give assistance. One can only become a scholar by hard study, here pupils should be taught to discover for themselves, all they can.

M. G. Marple said we should first inquire wherein the difficulty lies. If he considers assistance necessary, he gives a little and then lets the pupil work.

Superintendent Evans said if all scholars had equal talent, there would be no difficulty. An interest must be kept up; when there is danger of enthusiasm being lost, assistance should be given, and not before. Pupils should be led on step by step, to arrive at a conclusion for themselves. Assistance should only be given after all members have failed to arrive at the point. Would have a suitable time for giving assistance.

U. S. Clark asked whether it would not be a good plan to set aside 5 minutes four times a day for the purpose of giving assistance. Mr. Evans replied that it would do.

"Should there be any closing exercises at the end of the term?" was re-opened by S. L. Frey, who declared himself in favor.

Caleb Conner expressed himself in favor of examinations, but opposed to exhibitions.

P. H. Goehnauer would not oppose exhibitions, and was decidedly in favor of examinations.

Superintendent Evans said that he was in favor of examinations, but they should be conducted in a manner satisfactory to the teacher, by the District Superintendent, where that system has been adopted, or by the Directors. Was not opposed to exhibitions, but the preparations should begin early in the term. The session was closed, as may be declaimed during the term, can be repeated at the close. Suggested that teachers have Friday afternoon exercises, consisting of compositions, declamations, &c., and have parents come in.

Music.

Prof. Byerly lectured on Grammar.

Miss Parsons followed on Primary Instruction.

Prof. Shoemaker concluded the exercises by a lecture on Elocution.

The Spelling Contest.—The following is a list of one hundred words given by Mr. W. C. Shuman, as an exercise in spelling—fifty of the words being given on Wednesday, and fifty on Thursday:

Fierily, Phlegmatic, Chlorine, Fecundity, Minx, Taint, Vilifying, Mucus, Britannic, Scholasticism, Privilege, Schism, Panegyric, Odoriferous, Bismarck, Supersede, Trafficking, Maintenance, Ipecacuanha, Dependable, Erysipelatous, Mollify, Scurrilous, Profile, Illinoisan, Aqueduct, Impassible, Ovisac, Apennine, Augur-bit, Prairie du Chien, Sovereignties, Antediluvian, Inachoanalian, Vestige, Sacerdotal, Chimneys, Sibilant, Argillaceous, Satellite, Aerated, Geysers, Anoint, Phosphorus, Canandaigua, Medullary, Counsel, Peel, Macaulay.

Hygiene, Courtesy, Gaelic, Rhythm, Seize, Hollidusburg, Noticeable, Tyrannize, Excrescence, Elixir, Ithaca, Fagot, Currier, Deference, Caldron, Cincinnati, Hypocrisy, Nucleus, Aquafortis, Misprision, Trisyllable, Cynosure, Separation, Hieroglyphics, Apocalypse, Pharaoh, Ebullition, Sizable, Termagant, Italicize, Adjustable, Scarletina, Pyrites, Inexhaustible, Prehsin, Fatn, Broad-gauge, Chasuble, Unmistakably, Vivan, Exaggerate, Cervical, Crystalline, Filament, Wilkesbarre, Acquitted, Gelatine, Interstitial, Lacteal, Isochronous.

Friday Afternoon.—Mr. Wm. McComsey, who yesterday moved the appointment of a committee of five, to take into consideration the propriety of calling a county convention of School Directors, moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the resolution had passed. The vote being reconsidered, Mr. McComsey moved for the appointment of a committee of seven for that purpose, the County Superintendent to be chairman of the committee. Adopted and the following gentlemen appointed:

Wm. McComsey, J. W. Jackson, G. W. Mehaffey, E. G. Groff, A. M. Herr, George Young, Jr., and David Evans, Chairman.

Miss Parsons gave a black-board exercise in spelling, writing the words "Baltimore" and "Manufactory," and calling upon the class to construct other words from them. A great number of words were thus constructed, and Miss Parsons stated that over 500 proper words can be constructed out of the letters contained in the word "Manufactory."

Prof. Westlake delivered a lecture on literature in public schools, confining himself principally to letter-writing, folding and directing.

Prof. Unseld took exception to plan of directions recommended by Prof. Westlake, which was the plan now generally used, and said that as a post-office clerk and a mail-agent, who had handled many letters, he greatly preferred the plan suggested by Oliver Wendell Holmes, that the name of the *State* should be written first, followed by the name of the *County*, and *Town*, and *lastly* the name of the person to whom the letter is written.

Miss Smith, teacher of elocution in the Normal School, recited the poem "A Leap for Life," and "The Gambler's Wife."

Prof. Brooks continued his lecture on Geometry, treating of triangles and curved lines.

Superintendent Evans announced that it was the intention of Prof. Montgomery to present a gold medal to the pupil in any of the public schools who makes the greatest improvement in penmanship, during the current year. The "Barnyard Song" by Trowbridge, was recited by Prof. Shoemaker.

Prof. Baker continued his lecture on natural philosophy, treating the barometer, the syphon, magnetic battery, telegraph apparatus, burglars electric alarm-bell, &c., illustrating his remarks by experiments with the different apparatus above named.

Friday Evening.—In accordance with previous announcement, a grand Musical and Elocutionary entertainment was had. The Court-Room was crowded to its utmost capacity, every seat being occupied, and large numbers being obliged to sit on the window sills and stand in the aisles.

The entertainment was from first to last a very delightful one, and all the performers were loudly applauded.

Mr. Wm. C. Shuman, in a few remarks, announced the result of the spelling contest. Mr. Horace H. Roberts, of Washington borough, misspelled but five words of the one hundred given. He was awarded the first prize, a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary; Mr. J. D. Pyott and Mr. J. H. Eshleman, each misspelled seven words, and were each awarded, as a second prize, a beautiful copy of Charles Mackey's "One Thousand and One Gems of English Poetry;" Miss Kate Taylor misspelled ten words, and was awarded a handsomely bound copy of the "World at Home."

Saturday Morning.—The session was opened with prayer by W. F. Kessler.

J. H. Leaman chairman of the Committee on Permanent Certificates, reported that the committee had adopted last year's standard, which requires 1st, that all applicants must have their applications signed by the Directors, certifying that they have taught three years and are in possession of a professional certificate from the County Superintendent. 2d, that they must pass a satisfactory examination in the subject of teaching, and in the subject-matter of the several branches taught. 3d, they must have studied at least two works on teaching. 4th, they must be active and zealous in the cause of education, and in all the movements promotive of the interests of the profession.

The times of meeting for the examination of applicants will be on the last Saturday in January and May, respectively, in the Orphans' Court-Room at Lancaster, at 10 o'clock A. M., precisely.

Mr. Kauffman, chairman of the Committee for the purpose of considering the propriety of holding a Teachers' Convention in this county: B. F. Hills, B. S. Gates, I. S. Geist, B. D. Danner, M. Benedict, Miss Tillie Hamaker, Miss Mary E. Huber.

Mr. J. L. Witmyer from the Committee on Resolutions offered a series congratulating the Institute on the improvement of the schools; favoring the employment of teachers of both sexes; recommending primary schools; endorsing the system of teaching by object lessons; complimenting State Superintendent Wickersham, and County Superintendent Evans, for the faithful performance of their duties; denouncing the use, by teachers, of spirituous liquors and tobacco; deploring the death of Hon. Thos. H. Burrowes, and favoring a State appropriation for the benefit of his family; favoring the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors, and recommending the more general teaching of vocal music in the public schools.

Mr. Kauffman addressed the Institute at some length, congratulating the teachers present on the good work done, and urging them to still further efforts.

Mr. Keen moved that Messrs. Shuman and Frey be appointed a committee to prepare a work on music suitable for the use of the Institute.

Adjourned *sine die.*

LOCAL SCRAPS.—It is reported that Bishop Howe of the new Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, has selected Reading as the seat of his episcopal residence.

In view of the frequent escape of prisoners from the Bucks county jail, it is proposed to paste two thicknesses of paper over the cracks in the cells, and put up a five rail fence around the building.

A new tribe of Red Men was organized at Newtown Square, last Thursday. A number of members from other tribes were present.

A girl died the other day because her blood turned to Sugar. We don't believe this item, for our "devil" says he knows a girl in this city, who, if sweetness was figured upon her disease, wouldn't live a minute.

Dan Rutledge, a York oysterman, has found a small gutta-percha pipe to the bowl of which is firmly attached a number of oysters. It is supposed the pipe was dropped into the water from some passenger's pocket, and the young oysters, addicted to the use of tobacco, went for it.

A horse-thief named Louis Muller, who stole a horse and carriage during the camp meeting held at Brandywine Summit, August, 1870, and who escaped from Wilmington jail, Delaware county, has been recaptured and returned to Media, for trial.

The good people of Media having given the "cold shoulder" to political matters, as being "state and unpropitious," have turned their attention to the question whether cider is an intoxicating beverage, is now being solved in a legal manner. Four persons were bound over to appear at Court for selling cider that intoxicates. Thirty-five