Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1871.

Meeting of Congress.

On Monday this National body convened at Washington, and entered upon another prolonged, and, so far as precedent holds out any promise, a profitless session. There are many measures demanding the earnest attention and prompt action of Congress—some of them underlying the very foundation, and seriously affecting not only the peace, but the prosperity of the Nation. Yet it is doubtful whether any thought will be given to questions outside of those affecting party interests. Ben Butler, who, if his opinions be not of an *ex-cathedra* character, has at least determined to figure in the *role* of a self-constituted spokesman for the Radical cohorts, has announced that the present session of Congress is to be devoted to President-making. Butler is not easily snubbed, and any experiment in that direction is somewhat hazardous to the parties who exercise the temerity. He is posted, too; for he is not one to be kept out of the ring, or to play second fiddle to any leader; and, when he gives utterance to any prediction, with his knowing leer and strabismical squint, there is high warrant for accepting it as at least probable. In the House, since Schenck has gone abroad to emulate Grant in stock-speculations, he is the acknowledged leader of the Radicals, as Morton is in the Senate; and, as the President is determined to secure a renomination and re-election, the first and greatest care of these two worthies will be to see that the wires are judiciously and effectively pulled to that end. The precedent of permitting the people, through properly chosen delegates, is to be ignored, and Congress invested with all the President-making paraphernalia.

True, our European complications demand attention. Spain has openly and persistently insulted our Nationality as well as the rights of humanity, but that matters little in comparison with securing Grant's re-election. Our Navy has been permitted to dwindle into comparative impotency for the maintenance of our rights; and, as for the Army, it cannot be spared from hunting down women and children in the Southern States, and keeping in subjection imaginary Ku-Klux. Even the Piegan massacres upon our Western Frontiers have to be endured for the same reason; and ten thousand additional troops are to be called into requisition to still further crush out the lingering spark of prosperity in sections already impoverished by the military satraps of Grant and his infamous administration. Once seated for a second term, in the Presidential Chair, with full power for carrying out the monarchical programme recently proclaimed by Morton, there may be time for turning attention to other matters; but until then, as Butler announced, the time of Congress is to be devoted to President-making in the interest of Ulysses.

Misconduct of Boutwell.

Whatever may be said of Greeley, there is no denying the fact that he has the faculty of telling unpalatable truths, even at the expense of his own party. No winks, nods, or frowns can keep his mouth shut, or his pen idle when he has anything to ventilate; and it is for this cause that Grant and his officials are made the subjects of his merciless exposure. Secretary Boutwell is now accused through the columns of the *Tribune*, with gross misconduct. It is asserted that the five-twenty bonds sent in by the banks of this country are retained in the hands of the Treasury officers, accumulating interest, after the consolidated five-per-cents. are issued, and that the interest is then to be paid over to "the syndicate," which has never had anything to do with these bonds, and has no more right to the interest than any other association in the land. This, if the *Tribune* is correct, is a device to evade the law limiting the expense of negotiating the new loan. We cannot believe that Mr. Boutwell, in whose official integrity we have entire confidence, has been guilty of conniving at such a scheme of public robbery as this. But there are so many rumors and theories abroad concerning "the syndicate" and its receipts from the Treasury, that a full, unreserved explanation of them must be given to Congress and the people at once.

Shallow Pretensions.

The Washington *Patriot* says that Grant is to be urged for re-election, upon the ground that he has introduced honesty and economy into the revenue, and brought the civil service into a condition of integrity and wholesomeness! It thinks his claims as a Reformer merit consideration, and adds: "If he cannot go before the people upon these in 1872, it is difficult to say what he will have to go upon. The debt to him as a soldier was paid in 1868. As a statesman he is confessedly not brilliant. As an annexationist his career has not been pointedly successful. In buncombe he cannot hold a candle to Butler. In Ku-Kluxery, though daily improving, he is still Governor Morton's inferior, and will remain so. In platitude he ranks lower than Conkling; in piety is excelled by Howard and Harlan; and in speech-making is not only brief, but poor and thin, without being plain or neat. Hence, unless he proposes to challenge suffrage as the champion present-taker of his land and day and generation, the President must base his claims to popular support upon his achievements as a reformer in the finances, and in the civil service of the United States."

Murphy a Defaulter in Half a Million!

Notwithstanding Grant's expression of confidence in the honesty of his Long Branch Cottage friend, Tom Murphy, it now turns out that he is a defaulter to the Government in over half a million of dollars. The *Tribune* says, "Startling and irrefutable as was the evidence published in the *Tribune* of Sept. 22, concerning Collector Murphy's hat-frauds upon the Government during the war, it sinks into insignificance when compared with the evidence which has recently come to light and which proves him to be a defaulter to the Government, on one contract alone, to the amount of $460,000. This with the $55,000 loss on the shoddy hats furnished by him, makes Murphy an actual defaulter to the Government for over $510,000."

Another Loyalist to be Let Off.

General Burbridge, of Kentucky, has been called to account for fraud in the settlement of Army Quartermasters' accounts. He is "loyal," and will be let off easy. It is not the fashion of Radicalism to punish its thieving friends.—Their name is legion. Some of them have stolen funds and swindled the government and the tax-payer out of millions; some have swindled both the government and the poor people who trusted them with their hard earnings; some have out-Tammanied the sum total of the Tammany frauds. How happens it that they are not only suffered to go unpunished, but no Republican editor ever mentions them?

The Two Radical Wings.

There are now two parties in the country, says the *Sun*, claiming the title of Republican. One is the real Republican party; the other the party of Grant's office-holders. At the head of one is Dr. Greeley, who founded the party in 1854, and has been its ablest leader in the press. At the head of the other is Gen. Grant, who never voted a Republican ticket until he voted for himself for President, and who in 1856, when the real Republicans rallied for their principles with Fremont as their leader, voted for Buchanan and the pro-slavery Democracy.

The Annual Reports.

We give, to-day, the President's Message in full, and as it occupies a large share of our available space, we have room for but brief allusion to the reports from the various departments.—The Presidential document can be read, and the merits of its recommendations judged, without any comment of ours. Hereafter we may have some suggestions to make with regard to it.

The report of the Secretary of War gives a general review of the operations and conditions of the army during the past year, the details being left for discussion in the reports of the various department and bureau officers. In consideration of the great and important duties devolving upon the army, the Secretary expresses the hope that the present estimates, which he claims are based upon most economical calculations, will be permitted to stand.—Several economical measures, by which a saving can be effected, are suggested, and the permission of Congress to put them in operation is asked. The report of the Secretary makes a very satisfactory exhibit of the efficiency of the army, and indicates that its general management is most excellent.

In closing his report, the Secretary finds it necessary to make the statement, in conformity to the programme marked out by the President, that it has been found necessary to retain about one-sixth of the whole army in those States of the Southeast of the Mississippi which were engaged in the rebellion, for the purpose of putting down a second rebellion and bringing its leaders to punishment. By what process of reasoning the Secretary arrives at the necessity of this course, apart from political motives, he does not tell us.

The Secretary of the Navy furnishes the information that the Navy of the United States now consists of 179 ships of all classes and conditions; of these 29 are sailing vessels and the remainder steamers of various classes, including 59 monitors, all of which, but one are laid up in ordinary. There are on the stocks 15 vessels; and a very large proportion of these having been built in great haste during the war out of unseasoned live-oak to meet a sudden emergency, are practically worthless; and the Secretary contends that, as they have faithfully performed the duty for which they were constructed, the Government can well afford to lose them.

The total expenditures of the Navy Department since the last report have been $19,265,240.52, and the appropriations for the current fiscal year amount to $20,964,717.25. The estimates for the general expenses of the service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, amount to $19,925,507.02.

The report of the Postmaster-General is somewhat voluminous. According to it, the service in this country will compare favorably with that of any European nation, when due allowance is made for the vast extent of our territory, and the sparseness of the population in many sections. The Postmaster-General has under his command an army of 43,953 men, and the service rendered by them to the country is better performed, perhaps, than that of any other branch of the Government. There continues to be a steady increase in the operations of the department, the figures for the last fiscal year showing the increase of revenue to be considerably above the increase in the expenditures, a favorable showing under any circumstances, and especially so, from its rarity, in connection with governmental administration.

From the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, it appears that the total amount of revenue received from all sources, excluding the duty upon the circulation among the National Banks, is $144,011,176 24. Commissioner Douglass, after commenting on the general working of the machinery for the collection of the revenue from distillers and others, makes a decided stand on the question of the tobacco trade; animadverts strongly on the manner in which it is received into bond, and almost makes an assertion that the United States Treasury has hitherto been grossly swindled by those who deal in the commodity. He has made several recommendations for the prevention of such frauds in the future.

Party Re-organization in New York.

Strong evidences are every day furnished of the existence of the Democratic party, notwithstanding the Radical cry that it is dead, and of its vigorous strength and undiminished activity. Ever since the day of election there has been an universal inquiring among Democrats in regard to the re-organization of the party in New York City; and we observe that a meeting is to be held during the present week, under the auspices of some of the most prominent Democratic Reformers, at which a programme will be marked out for the ensuing year. Everything looks promising for the future of the party both in the City and State; and, under the new order of things instituted by the anti-Tammany Democracy, thousands of Reformers heretofore co-operating with the Republican party, will assist in swelling the majority in New York and Kings county to such overwhelming numbers that a complete State triumph in '72 will be rendered certain.

German Gold and the New U. S. 5-Per-Cent. Bonds.

Germany refused to take paper for the immense indemnity paid to her by France, and the gold flowed in faster than German mints could re-coin it. A large portion of the gold was sent to England to be re-coined. The excess of specie in the German markets has been so great that the speculators have risen on every hand. Values depreciated, and gold coin flowed to England, and this has been favorable to the sale of the new U. S. 5-per-cent. bonds.—Such a spirit of speculation has not been witnessed in Germany for many years. Extravagant enterprises are formed, corporations and joint stock companies are springing up, and it is feared that the John Law and South Sea bubbles will be represented in Germany, with disastrous results, when the reaction comes. The Bank of France has issued 500,000,000 francs in notes to supply the place of specie withdrawn.

Its Composition.

The composition of the Ways and Means Committee, is very generally looked upon as in the interest of Revenue Reform, and meets with great disfavor among Pennsylvanians. The Protectionists are, Messrs. Dawes, Kelley, Roberts and Maynard. The Revenue Reformers, Messrs. Burchard, of Illinois, and Finkelnburg, of Missouri; Democrats, Messrs. Brooks, of New York, Beck and Kerr, thus giving the Revenue Reformers one majority. Finkelnburg is a pronounced Revenue Reformer, while Burchard, of Illinois, uniformly voted for a low rate of duties in the last Congress.

New Members Sworn In.

The following new members of the House were sworn in at the meeting of Congress on Monday: Kellogg, of Connecticut; Houghton, Sargent and Coughlin, of California; Knapp and Beveridge, of Illinois; Foster, of Michigan; and Conner and Hancock, of Texas. The credentials of Messrs. Herndon and Clark, of Texas, were referred to the Election Committee.—Messrs. Chapman, delegate from the District of Columbia, and Clagett, from Montana, were sworn in.

The Prince of Wales.

From the telegraphic reports there is every reason to believe that the Prince of Wales is out of danger. Politically this fact is of considerable importance, as the disturbances that might have ensued in England upon his death will be happily prevented.

The Happy Family.

Were it not for the sufferings entailed upon the country by the countless Radical excesses and pilferings which are being daily exposed, there would be found rich food for amusements in the accusations of leading Republican journals on the one hand, and retaliation, with attempted defence, on the other. New York city is most prominent in these pleasing little partisan episodes, as it has been the leading locality for official peculations; and, between the *Tribune* and the *Times*, with a continuous cannonading by the *Sun*, the outsiders are in a fair way of becoming thoroughly posted as to the extent of official thieving. The *Tribune* boldly accuses Grant's friend, Tom Murphy, whose honesty he endorsed, with having stolen over half a million of dollars. The *Times* comes to the rescue of honest Tom, and soundly berates the *Tribune* for its indiscreet betrayal of family secrets, at the same time offering the Long Branch Cottage *protege* of the President the empty consolatory advice to sue the Sage of Chapaqua for libel.—The *Times*, however, in strange contradiction to its self-assured character of the great Reform organ, makes no proper refutation of the *Tribune's* alleged truths, but contents itself with wholesale abuse of its great cotemporary, and declares:

"It is the most unfair paper in the world—it misrepresents its opponents without scruple or remorse, and it will hesitate at nothing to destroy a reputation. This kind of malice generally over-reaches itself and in the slight influence which the *Tribune* exercises to-day compared with that which it formerly exercised, may be seen an example of the retribution which overtakes newspapers when they resolve to go on without conscience or principle."

In this matter, as in the testimony of George Jones before the Grand Jury, and his inability to prove anything against Mayor Hall, the *Tribune* has undoubtedly caught the *Times* where the hair is short, and given it no power to return the compliment. We find the *Times*, too, still sneering and insulting Messrs. Astor, Cooper, and others, who thoughtlessly white-washed Tammany Ring a year ago. Now, until it proves the *Tribune* to be a falsifier, it ought to bear in mind that these gentlemen only did then what President Grant is doing now—"efficiency, honesty and zeal." There is this difference: They whitewashed without having any facts proven to them. Grant whitewashed in the face of astounding affidavits, showing that Murphy was as great a Tammany swindler as any of the Ring.

The *Tribune* has proven, with as great force as facts, figures, and sworn statements can prove, that the man whom the President so cheerfully endorsed for his "efficiency, honesty and zeal," is actually a defaulter to the government in over half a million, and the means resorted to by Murphy to cover up his rascalities are of so disreputable a character, that he stands doubly condemned as a villian.

It would be a fortunate thing for the country if some one of the Radical family, as well posted as Greeley is, would undertake a ventilation of the Philadelphia defalcations and embezzlements. There is just as prolific a source for startling exposures in that city as there is in New York; and everything is tending to such an exposition of Radical official outrages as will tell with most damaging effect upon the aspirations of our imbecile Presidential adventurer and his obsequious backers.

Our Relations with Spain.

The cloud of war grows still more threatening; and yet we are represented as being in no suitable condition to avenge an insult or protect our citizens and commerce. Spain has openly defied us. Two years ago she promised solemnly to carry on the war in Cuba—a war which our Administration officially ignores—in a civilized manner.

For two years she has systematically insulted us at every possible opportunity, by murdering our citizens in Cuba, confiscating their property, and exiling our representatives. She now drives a native-born American citizen, Mr. John Nenninger, out of Havana, without charge brought, and without trial, orders him to reside in Spain; and Mr. Nenninger is obliged to obey, because he holds property in Cuba, which, in case of disobedience on his part, would be confiscated.

Our acting Consul-General in Havana, Mr. Hall, sends for a fleet to protect American citizens in that city, and we have none to send.

The Washington correspondent of the *Herald*, states, on the highest authority, "that *the United States cannot cope with Spain, even were it possible to concentrate its whole naval power for such a purpose*."

Of the ignominy of such a condition it is not our province to speak at this critical moment. In time the just indignation of the people will fall upon those who have caused such a state of things. But if we cannot protect our citizens in Cuba from the outrages of the volunteers which Spain declares herself impotent to suppress, let President Grant recognize the belligerency of the Cubans, and they will do our work for us. If we "are unable to cope with Spain," the Cubans are. They have been successfully coping with her for three years, in spite of Hamilton Fish, Sidney Webster, and all the rest of the shameless gang constituting the Cuban Ring, compared to which the dismembered Tammany Ring was harmless.

Old Fogyism.

It is authoritatively stated that the King of Siam offered an elephant to the Hon. W. H. Seward, during the late visit of the latter to his country, and that the ex-Premier courteously but reluctantly refused to accept this small token of disinterested but royal friendship and graciousness.

Don Platt of the *Capital* regards Mr. Seward's refusal to accept the present as conclusive evidence of his old fogyism, stamping him as a relic of the past generation of American statesmen, and adds: "President Grant would never have refused that elephant. Rather than have been guilty of such an act of discourtesy (and that to royalty, too!) he would have had the animal cut up and packed away in barrels with brine. It is on record that a Chinese delegation in San Francisco sent his Excellency two barrels of pickled pups as a slight testimonial of oriental regard. It is not on record that his Excellency wounded the tender feelings of the almond-eyed opium-eaters by returning or by refusing to accept their humble offering."

Snubbed.

A colored man, named Thomas J. Dorsey, 1,231, Locust street, Philadelphia, addressed a letter to the Grand Duke, complaining that he was refused a ticket to the ball given him, for no other reason than on account of his color. He thinks his money is as good as any white flunkey, and is confident the act would not have been tolerated in Russia.

A MOVEMENT has been made in the House toward sifting the President's military usurpations in the South. Mr. Beck offered a resolution, asking information of the President relative to the proclamation of martial law in South Carolina, and of all the facts on which the proclamation was based. Referred to the Committee on Insurrectionary States.

THE Tammany Ring in New York has been broken up, their frauds exposed, and their chief perpetrators arrested, and placed under trial. There still exists a Radical Tammany in Philadelphia, even worse than that of New York. It is known as the Union League. The debt of Philadelphia is nearly $57,000,000; an increase of about *forty millions* in the ten years that city has been controlled by the Radical party.

Radical Troubles in Ohio.

According to Washington advices, the Senatorial question is growing interesting. Seven Republican members of the Legislature, enough to control the election of Senator, declare that they will never vote for John Sherman, and that they will not even go into Republican caucus unless they can have a pledge that some other Republican will be named. Neither will they vote for Delano, and he has retired from the contest. They want the Republicans to nominate ex-Secretary Cox, and will unite with the Democrats on him if the Radicals refuse. The Sherman Republicans say they will never consent to vote for General Cox. On the other hand, if the Republican caucus should nominate General Cox, there are many Democrats who would vote for him, rather than see him defeated by Sherman's friends.

Senator Sherman closed up the special meeting of the Senate Finance Committee a few days since and hurried home in great tribulation. He hopes to be able to employ the Federal patronage in such a way, in the sections where the seven champions of reform reside, as to induce their constituents to instruct them to vote for him. Delano is bitterly opposed to Sherman's re-election, while at the same time he would prefer some other man than his predecessor, ex-Secretary Cox. Old Ben Wade would be glad to obtain the favorable consideration of the mighty seven, but they are opposed to Santo Domingo. Grant will do everything in his power to prevent the election of Cox; and both the President and Delano would like to see a compromise upon General Schenck.

Colored Lawyers in Kentucky.

Kentucky has finished another case for the interference of Grant's bayonet-rule. On the 24th inst., an innovation upon the old-time customs and prejudices of the Kentucky bar, says the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, was made in the examination of N. R. Harper and Geo. A. Griffiths, both colored, as to their fitness for the practice of law in the State Courts, and was consummated by their being licensed and fully admitted to the bar of this State. They had passed a very creditable examination, and were complimented by the Judges on the manner in which they acquitted themselves, and it is predicted by their friends that they will reflect credit upon their race by the ability with which they will fulfill the duties of their profession. They have inaugurated a new dispensation, the dignity of which it is incumbent upon them to uphold, and the *Courier* does not think that they will receive anything but the kindest treatment from the white members of their profession. Will the Radical press make a note of this? We think it is rather doubtful, for they are not disposed to give credit where there is in any act anything to disprove their shallow cry, that Kentucky is so rebellious as to need military interference.

In Ludlow-Street Jail.

The *Tribune*, in chronicling the fact that Richard B. Connolly is in Ludlow-Street Jail, says, the announcement has a novel and refreshing sound in a City so long misgoverned by the wickedly dishonest Ring of which Mr. Connolly was a member. The long comedy of keeping up appearances by the guilty ones is over, and the little farce of lodging one of the conspirators at a Broadway hotel, under semblance of arrest, is also closed. There should be nothing strange in the fact that rogues are indicted, arrested, and sent to jail in New York; but we have become so accustomed to seeing them sitting in high places that this turn of the kaleidoscope surprises. Now, then, let Mr. Connolly have the consoling company of his fellow-craftsmen of the Tammany Ring.

Senator Sumner to Be Won Over.

It is reported in Washington circles that the advocates of harmony in the Republican party will have several propositions to make toward insuring that event when Congress meets. In case the President does not renew his San Domingo resolutions in the forthcoming message, the effort will be made to have Senator Sumner replaced at the head of the Committee on Foreign Relations, with the hope that in such case that Senator will frown upon the movement now steadily gaining strength to nominate some other Republican in the place of Grant for the next Presidency. There are very few here who believe in the success of these negociations.

How the Tweed Charter Was Granted.

Tweed would never be denied his seat by Radicals of the N. Y. Senate, for the check-book, and the statement of his bank account, are accusers which they dare not face. What is called the Tweed charter was passed mainly by Republican votes, and almost all these votes were bought. All but two Republican Senators received pay, whereas only one Democrat got a cent, and that one merely asked enough to cover his election expenses. Tweed stole as much to bribe Republicans as he did to benefit himself, and a fair share of the six millions about which so much clamor is made was used in that way.

The Right Way to Serve Them.

The carpet-baggers elected in Mississippi are not yet installed in office; neither are they likely to be very soon. The Democracy of that State have very generally agreed, under no circumstances, and for no consideration to become bondsmen for the newly chosen officers. It has generally happened that, in order to secure clerkships and places of deputies for themselves or friends, solvent men in each county have been found who became bondsmen for sheriffs and county treasurers, and other like officers. This will not be done in the future; so "the elect" must be content to remain in their own bonds—the "bonds of iniquity."

THE West Chester *Jeffersonian* is decidedly opposed to the "passive" policy, and insists that for the Democratic party to make no nomination, but to support the candidate of the dissatisfied or "outs," will never do. It is equally opposed to the nomination of any "fishy" Republican, or endorsing any of the Radical usurpations or outrages upon our Constitutional liberties. It further regards it ill-timed and foolish for the Democratic press at this time to discuss the question of who shall be the nominee of the party.

A GOOD IDEA, and one which might be profitably copied in every city where there are street-railway lines, is that of a Texas town. In Houston every street-car conductor is an officer of the law, empowered to arrest any one misbehaving on his beat, which is his car. In New York, Philadelphia and other places the conductors are not unfrequently found allied in sympathy and acting in concert with roughs.

In the Democratic Column

The Jackson (Mississippi) *Clarion* claims that the Democrats cast a majority of the popular vote in that State, at the recent election, and that the Radicals have retained their power in the Legislature through a dishonest organization of the Senate and Assembly districts. Good! put Mississippi in the Democratic column.

COAL-MATTERS.—At the recent coal-sales in New York there was a decided reduction in the price, since which time there is talk of a strike among the miners next month, in and about Scranton.

HON. WAYNE MACVEIGH, ex-Minister to Turkey, has been invited to deliver the opening lecture in Library Hall, Reading, this season. We understand that he has accepted the invitation.

Why General Sherman Was Sent Abroad.

The New York *Sun* thinks it not strange that General Sherman is sent abroad at the present time, and intimates that pretexts may be found for keeping him away until after the Presidential election. Indeed, adds the *Sun*, it is doubtful if General Sherman could be safely trusted to use the military forces of the country to control elections in the Southern States, according to the programme which has been indicated from Washington as necessary to secure the continuance of Grant in power. The night previous to his departure for Europe he remarked, that he believed the government had made a mistake in the treatment of the South. He said:

They are not all rascals in the South. A majority of the people are the best citizens of the republic. The young that followed the retreating Confederates into Texas, the men of the Army of Virginia, and the lads of the West, who leaned towards the South, were capital fellows, though mistaken. These in my opinion, should have been appointed to positions under the government, as marshals, postmasters, internal revenue collectors, and to other Federal and State offices, instead of being driven into opposition. I really believe that these young men represented the South, and that they were ready to cry *peccavi*, and support the government. I am sorry they were not treated properly, but it will be right in the end.

Horace Greeley Championed.

Our neighbor, the *Inquirer*, has a leading editorial in defence of Horace Greeley, and lending a *quasi* endorsement to his nomination for the Presidency. Those journals which sneer at Mr. Greeley in connection with a Presidential nomination by the Republicans, are pretty severely rapped over the knuckles. The *Inquirer* says:

"In looking over the list of journals engaged in this crusade, the first thing which strikes the observer, is the fact that a large majority of them are owned, or controlled by men who hold Government offices.—These, no doubt, fear that any change in the Federal administration would be likely to result in their removal, conscious, as they are, that they hold their positions, not as a reward of merit, or long and faithful service to the party, but simply from the accident of having influential friends in a position to speak in their behalf. Hence they deem it an act of self-defense, or rather self-preservation, to assail Mr. Greeley, whose admitted honesty, were he the National Executive, would not permit him to retain in important positions undeserving or unpaitided men."

Should Make Haste.

"The Government" should make haste slowly in its war upon the leading feature of Mormonism. The South is being depopulated so rapidly by the wholesale expatriation of the whites, and by the vicious life of the blacks, that presently some such system may be needful to restore those wasted and mournful scenes of the desolation wrought by a "paternal Government."

How Colfax Views It.

Vice-President Colfax is evidently not of those who think the Democracy dead. While hopeful of his party in 1872 he expects the canvass will be exciting and sharply contested. In his opinion the Democracy is least dangerous when most confident, but most to be feared when adversity has chastised them into prudence.

AT a special election recently held in San Luis, Obispo county, California, for a member of the State Senate, a Democrat was elected, so that body is now in the hands of Democrats, which will tend to check the threatened irregular action of the Radicals.

HON. WILLIAM MILLWARD, Director of the Mint under President Johnson, died at Chesapeake City last week. He was at one time Representative in Congress from the Third district of this State.

State Items.

Scarlet fever is raging in parts of Butler county.

Corner-loungers are promptly arrested in Altoona.

Chester county produces the largest pigs in the country.

They have good sleighing in Clearfield county.

Allentown is being supplied with new fire-plugs.

Olive Logan is on a lecturing tour in Clarion and Jefferson counties.

The Pottsville street-railroad is to be completed to Minersville this week.

The Pine Creek Railroad Company is to be constructed without State aid.

Judge Woods is reported to be slowly recovering from an attack of paralysis.

The insane asylum at Danville will not be ready for patients this Winter.

Scranton is preparing to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns in January.

The Delaware and Hudson Mining Company pay monthly $600,000.

The old style hucksters continue to do business at the York railroad station.

A new M. E. Church will be dedicated at Ghent, Bradford county, on the 14th inst.

Gas has been struck in Corry. In many parts of the State the complaint is gas strikes a poor light.

Erie city has the first and second Deputy Commissioners of Internal Revenue in the bureau at Washington.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Society has 785 life members, who have paid the fee of $20.

Berks county consumes more lager and gives larger Democratic majorities than any other county in the State.

The military of Pottsville, with those of Shamokin, had a Thanksgiving parade.

John W. Mish, of Lebanon, had a special invitation to attend the Alexis ball in New York.

Cornwall ore banks, five miles south of Lebanon, are the largest iron-ore deposits on the hemisphere.

Almost every city and borough in the State has its home for friendless children well sustained.

The amount of Shamokin coal shipped from Sunbury this year by canal will exceed 75,000 tons.

The Lycoming Insurance Company paid losses in Lock Haven during the past year to the amount of $7,751.50.

The borough authorities of Indiana have provided a hospital for small-pox patients.

Immense amounts of venison are shipped from Clearfield to the Eastern market.

The Uniontown *Genius* says that the small pox is on the increase in Fayette county.

County jails are not secure places to detain prisoners, if we may judge from the number of escapes made therefrom.

The *Star and Sentinel*, of Gettysburg, entered on its seventy-second volume last week.

Joseph Fiester, of Laporte township, Sullivan county, has killed nine deer this Fall. He killed six of them in one week.

The Lewisburg *Chronicle* announces that it will publish the legal card of Robert T. Lincoln, Chicago, free for one year.

There is a contest among the Republicans of Greene and Fayette, as to which county is entitled to the candidate for Senator.

Snow storms in Warren county have already been severe enough to render some of the township roads hard to travel.

James Ellis, Sr., one of the oldest residents of the northern part of Chester county, died suddenly on the 20th inst., in East Coventry township.

Hon. John Thompson has been connected with the Schuylkill bridge at Pottstown, as a manager, nearly forty years—since April, 1832.

One hundred citizens of Huntingdon have petitioned the council of the borough to place a town clock in the tower of the Presbyterian Church.

The effort to stock the Lehigh river with black bass has been a failure, on account of disappointment in receiving the Fish from Harper's Ferry.

A one-year old child of Mr. J. J. Williams, of Tyrone, was burned to death on Thursday of last week, during the temporary absence of its mother.

A survey is about being made of the route proposed for a railroad from Pittsburgh to Harmony and Zelienople, in Butler county.

More money will be invested in the iron business in the year 1872, in Pennsylvania, than was put in the same business five years previous.

Some idea may be formed of the streets of Allentown, when it is known that a Saratoga trunk fell from an Express wagon and was lost in the mud.

The chief engineer of the Peach Bottom Railroad Company is making preparations to put an engineer corps on the road.

THE LANCASTER COMMON SCHOOLS.

A Letter from Mr. Wickersham.

Messrs. Editors:—The strictures which have appeared in your paper concerning certain remarks of mine before the late County Teachers' Institute, in reference to the Common Schools of Lancaster, seem to call for some additional statements on my part.

But, first, let me say that these remarks were made on "Director's day," to Directors, many of whom were present and some of whom took part in the proceedings. And, further, that I am as proud of all Lancaster city has to be proud of as any one: I send my children to the public schools, and to no others; and I would not be very likely, therefore, to find fault with them except with a desire to make them better. There is wholesome truth, which some men would do well to heed, in the old maxim, "Our best friends are those who tell us of our faults and teach us how to correct them."

In the course of my remarks at the Institute, I called the attention of the Directors of the city, incidentally, to two things, first, *the number of children not in attendance at the public schools*; and second, *the inferior school accommodations provided*.—With your permission, I propose now to press these matters upon their attention in a more direct way. In so doing, I shall refuse to follow the example of "A Director," in his communication published in your paper of Wednesday, the 22d inst., in the use of personalities, as I have no personal end to gain in the matter, and I regard all his assertions and allusions of this character as perfectly harmless.

1. The fact mainly relied upon in the remarks at the Institute, to prove that a considerable number of children who ought to do so did not attend the public schools of Lancaster, was the small number in attendance in proportion to the population, in comparison with other places named. This will appear still more evident from the following table embracing a more extended comparison:

PLACES.	Population according to Census of 1870.	Average number attending schools.	Proportion to population.
Lancaster	20,233	2,834	1 7
Allegheny	53,180	7,235	10
Altoona	10,610	1,270	11
Allentown	13,884	1,625	11
Chester	9,485	1,135	11¼
Danville	8,236	1,026	15½
Easton	10,987	1,362	14 5
Erie	19,646	1,367	7
Harrisburg	23,104	2,017	11½
Norristown	10,758	1,196	11
Philadelphia	674,022	74,959	10
Pittsburgh	86,076	7,774	8½
Pottsville	14,802	1,456	10
Reading	33,930	4,883	13½
Scranton	35,092	1,994	5
Williamsport	16,034	2,516	15
Wilkesbarre	16,174	1,296	8
York	11,003	1,189	10½
Total	1,060,926	110,466	10

Prof. Wickersham persists in claiming the former as the criterion; we insist on the latter as the true basis whereby to judge or compare one school district by another—because, surely, the mere fact of placing a boy's name on the school register, and sending him one day to school, is not educating him. Again, the character of populations differ—some are more shifting than others—which fact greatly affects the number on the roll, without touching materially the question of education. As an additional proof why the *average* attendance ought to be taken as the better test, I respectfully refer to Mr. Burrowes' views—true, not on this precise question, but still not the less apposite. Mr. B., in the *School Journal*, the official organ of the School Department, in commenting on the different schemes of apportioning the State's annual appropriations among the school districts of the Commonwealth in the most equitable manner, says:

"Now we have always believed that the distribution should be by neither mode, but that the fund coming from the State should be divided according to *actual average attendance* in each district."

If then, our schools, as judged by this standard stand higher than those in our sister cities—as the tabular statement shows they do—"the school accommodations" can hardly be inferior. The public will see that in this whole matter, I have followed him by taking his own cities, selected by him to prove his case against us. I have not sought out others more favorable to us, nor have I now time to follow him up in some of his irrelevant sallies, because I have no quarrel with him. I will venture to say, without egotism, that as a whole our public schools stand much higher than the average in the State—much higher than they did some years ago—and this was accomplished without the aid of our accuser. Still, as I have said in my first communication, they are, like others, open to much improvement, and it is the high duty of every one to assist in accomplishing this great purpose. A DIRECTOR.

Ninety-Eight Electoral Votes.

[From the Advertiser and Mail.]

We have already stated the fact, and here reiterate it, that, counting in the vote of Mississippi, there are now ninety-eight electoral votes in the South and Southwest certain to be cast, if allowed a lawful and peaceful expression, for a Liberal Democratic and Conservative Presidential ticket next year. With this intelligence in their possession, it is important that the North and West shall fully understand the character of the Constituencies which give authority in the Electoral Colleges to these Democratic and Conservative Electors.—The leading thoughts and characteristics of this body of voters should be noticed and carefully considered. We will state them:

First. There is not a man among them now in favor of secession.

Second. There is not a man among them in favor of the restoration of negro slavery.

Third. There is not a man among them who wishes to deprive any class of citizens of any rights or privileges now enjoyed by them under the Constitution and laws of the country.

Fourth. There is not a man among them who has any inclination to disturb the union of a country; but on the contrary, *all* feel that their first interest is permanency in government; reform in the taxes and expenses of administration; procurement of capital and labor for industrial development; the eradication of legalized abuses, and the improvement of their social and political systems without offense to the freedom and just rights of any class of men, or of any citizen whatever.

Fifth. The overwhelming sentiment of the masses forming these constituencies is in favor of the unobstructed execution of the laws, and the proper punishment of all offenders.

Sixth. These constituencies are made up of a conglomerate but enlightened material composed of Federal military officers and civilians during the war, some of them distinguished by their zeal in both services, and thousands of Federal soldiers of the rank and file who remained in the South, or who have sought the South since the close of hostilities; those who were Southern Union men before, during and since the war; those who were secessionists, but who have abandoned a useless principle; those who were Democrats and Whigs opposed to the separation of the States, but who, like patriots and honorable citizens, rallied, after the initiation of the war, under the banners of their States, as the citizens of the North and West did on the other side of the contest; men of former diverse opinions, but now combined in a sincere and faithful effort to save the Republic and to preserve the principles of American liberty; men who are prepared to support Nothern men for the two first offices of the government on a platform constructed and made broad by the three millions of Northern and Western voters.

Seventh. These conservative voters are the men who since the war have supplied themselves with indomitable energy, to rescue society from the perils of semi-barbaric subversion, as now in South Carolina, and who have, at the same time, by their wonderful endurance, patience and industry saved the whole country from bankruptcy, by the production of hundreds of millions in cotton and other great commercial crops.

Here, we say are the Electoral votes, ninety-eight in number, having no aspirations except for peace and freedom and thorough accord with the predominant Northern Conservative sentiment.—Among them too, may be found many intelligent, sincere voters. They ask not for special Southern rights nor for sectional power, but for the good of all rational and decent people from one end of the United States to the other. Only *sixty one* additional Democratic and Conservative votes are needed to insure the election of a Conservative President, and a jubilee of thanksgiving and joy in assured relief from that radical revolution still sweeping on to a result whose fatal consequences no one can calculate without a shudder. Cannot the Northern and Western Democracy and Conservatives furnish sixty-one votes *for their own man and their own platform*, which the South stands ready to sustain. Surely there can be no reasonable doubt of it. The fifteen Southern States thus offer the hand of restored nationality to the North. Shall it be received or rejected? Think of the responsibility.

Standing Committees of the House.

The speaker announced the important standing committees as follows:

Elections—Messrs. M'Crary, Iowa;—Hoar, Mass.; Thomas, N. C.; Perry, Ohio; Clanton, Wis.; Eames, R. I.; Arthur, Ky.; Merrick, Md.; Rice, Ill.

Ways and Means—Messrs. Dawes, Mass.; Maynard, Tenn.; Kelly, Pa.; Brooks, N. Y.; Finkelnburg, Mo.; Burchard, Ill.; Elias H. Roberts, N. Y.; Kerr, Ind.; Beck, Ky.

Appropriations—Garfield, Ohio; Sargent, California; Dickey, Pennsylvania; Clarke, New York; Palmer, Iowa; Hall, Maine; Niblack, Indiana; Marshall, Illinois; Swann, Maryland.

Banking and Commerce—Hooper, Massachusetts; Waldron, Michigan; Smith, Vermont; Farwell, Illinois; Monroe, Ohio; Merriam, New York; Cox, New York; Randall, Pennsylvania; Dox, Alabama.

Pacific Railroad—Wheeler, N. Y.; Buffington, Mass.; Lynch, Me.; Sypher, La.; Killinger, Pa.; Beveridge, Ill.; Houghton, Cal.; Averill, Minn.; Wells, Mo.; M'Kinney, Ohio; Smith Ely, N. Y.; Harper, N. C.; M'Henry, Ky.

Claims—Blair, Mich.; Strong, Conn.; Buckley, Alabama; Holman, Ind.; Smith, N. Y.; Frye, Me.; Foster, Ohio; Smith, N. Y.; Foster, Pa.

Commerce—Shellabarger, Ohio; Sawyer, Wis.; Lynch, Me.; Conger, Mich.; Sheldon, La.; Negley, Pa.; S. Holman, Ind.; Hamilton, Md.; Townsend, N. Y.

Public Lands—Ketcham, N. Y.; Townsend, Pa.; Kellogg, Conn.; Durnell, Minn.; Rask, Wis.; McCormick M. Ritchie, Md; Slater, Oregon.

Judiciary—Bingham, Ohio.; Butler, Massachusetts; Peters, Maine; Mercur, Pennsylvania; Wilson, Indiana;