## STATE NEWS.

JOHN KLINE, of Wilkes-Barre, has a trout in his aquarium which is twenty-one inches in length and weighs over four pounds.

THIRTY-eight hundred cars were built at the Packerton (Carbon county) shops last year.

THE Hazelton *Sentinel* says that a vein of coal, ten feet thick, has been discovered at South Sugar Loaf Mountain.

THE Wilkes-Barre Coal and Iron Company has just taken a twelve years' lease of a large wharf at New Haven, Connecticut, and will build a great coal depot there.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature fixing the rate of interest at 6 per cent. and providing for a forfeiture of the whole amount of the debt where a greater sum is taken.

ARIO PARDEE esq., has just presented the Presbyterian Congregation of Hazleton with a beautiful church edifice, costing $40,000. His brother-in-law, Geo. B. Markle has furnished the church with a $5,000 organ.

THE Scranton school board claim a deficit of $10,774.74 in Beamishes account. His bondsmen offer to compromise by paying $6,008, which was refused at the last meeting of the board. Beamish is still *non est* but supposed to be hiding in or about Scranton.

THE Mansfield *Advertiser* says: "One morning last week, in the Normal chapel, Prof. Verril asked twelve male students to volunteer to clear the snow from some of the walks about the buildings. There being no immediate response, twice that number of lady students arose and offered their services. And they performed the work faithfully and well."

JOHN D. THOMAS, a saloon keeper in Plymouth, was shot dead in the basement of his place on Monday night. He was aroused by a party of men who demanded of Thomas the surrender of a watch and chain said to have been stolen from one of them. Thomas stated he knew nothing about the watch, when one of the party drew a pistol and shot him through the heart. One of the assailants is thought to be a Cornishman named Striker.

TIMOTHY COLLINS, who it will be remembered shot and killed Frank Nalon in December last while the latter in company with others made a forcible entry into Collin's premises for the purpose of beating him, was tried yesterday and acquitted, the jury rendering a verdict of 'not guilty' in a few moments after leaving their seats. The companions of Nalon will be tried today and will no doubt be severely punished. Collins returned to his home in Cork lane last night.

WHILE they were making the final disposition in the Montour county court of the estate of John Y. Sechler, as settled by his administrator, the deceased walked in, and, after twenty years' absence, proposed to resume the management of his property. His father, who was also his administrator, did not at first recognize his prodigal son, but later on, says the Danville *Intelligencer*, acknowledged him. He left home at the age of sixteen and returns aged thirty-six, having wandered far and wide in many countries.

THE New York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* says: The heavy decline in Reading stocks and bonds, within the short time past, has no doubt produced an uneasy feeling in a variety of interests more or less connected with that corporation and this uneasiness was aggravated by a telegram from Harrisburg to the effect that the coal shippers, retail dealers and iron men of eastern Pennsylvania are again about to petition the legislature to annul the charter of the Reading coal and iron company.

IN a recent article on Covington, Tioga County, the Elmira *Advertiser* says that at the glass works at that place the Antrim sandstone is used in preference to any other. The supply of this material is practically exhaustless, and it is of a superior quality, requiring less burning, melting at a lower temperature and requiring the use of less soda ash. At the same time it makes as fine an article of glass as can be produced in the country. We trust the time may soon come when this valuable material will be utilized nearer home.

THE bids for public printing and binding for four years from June next were opened in the office of the secretary of state last week. The contract was awarded to Lane S. Hart. The following were the bids: Lane S. Hart, 38¾ per cent. below rates fixed by act of assembly, or one half per cent. below lowest bidder. Mr. Hart also had a schedule bid. Charles H. Bergner, 37½ per cent. B. F. Meyers, 33⅓ per cent. J. R. Piper & Co., 40 per cent. below rates fixed by act of assembly on composition, ruling and blank books, 15 per cent. below such rates for all other work.

JESSE K. PRYOR, late publisher of the Sullivan County *Democrat*, who was a member of Gov. Garey's white star division, proposes to have a monument erected over the neglected grave of their late comrade and commander, and in order that this may be properly done suggests that each member of the old command, and such citizens as feel interested in the matter contribute one dollar for the purpose named. Until the reunion of the organization of which Garey was commander, Mr. Pryor will receive all contributions and faithfully devote them to the use for which they are intended.

BEN. FINCH, a harmless lunatic, well-known throughout Wayne, Luzerne and Susquehanna counties, died in the Abington (Luzerne Co.) poor house, on Saturday evening, aged 80 years. Early in life he formed a deep attachment for a young lady which was not reciprocated on her part, and the consequent mortification and disappointment dethroned his reason. At times, his mind would seem to be entirely clear, especially upon the Bible and religious subjects, with which he was perfectly familiar, and then it would wander to riches, he always imagining himself to be worth millions. Generally good natured, he was many times made the victim of innocent jokes. No one ever refused him a meal, or the mere pittance he frequently asked. He has gone, and who of us can tell but that he faithfully performed his part in life's drama?—*Wayne Citizen.*

THE State Editorial Convention met at Harrisburg last Thursday, about forty members being present. Dr. W. H. Bradley, chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that at a meeting of the Executive Committee, held during 1876, it was agreed that the usual summer excursion be dispensed with. The report of the secretary and treasurer was read and accepted. The following officers were elected: President, Y. S. Walter; vice presidents, J. G. B. Kinsloe, Clayton McMichael, and R. H. Thomas; recording secretary and treasury, R. S. Menamin; corresponding treasurer, Thomas V. Cooper; assistant recording secretary, A. W. Miltonsen. A communication was read from the Book Trade Association, of Philadelphia, asking the Editorial Association of Pennsylvania to take measures to oppose the bill introduced into Congress abolishing the import duty on books. The following was adopted: *Resolved*, That books, engravings, periodicals, maps, and charts; and o her products of the printing press, should bear their proportion of taxation. A resolution of thanks to the retiring officers was also adopted.

THE following is a copy of the memorial of the Pittsburgh Council presented to the House Monday night by Mr. Frazier: WHEREAS, The mayor of Philadelphia, at a recent meeting of councils in that city, presented a message, setting forth his reasons why a determined effort should be made on their part to secure the removal of the State Capitol to the building known as "Memorial Hall," and situated on the grounds where the Centennial Exhibition was held; and whereas, Philadelphia has always had or controlled the lion's share of all State appropriations and appointments, such share and control being largely in excess of what she is entitled to by reason of her population and taxable property; and whereas, the contemplated change of the State Capitol will involve an expenditure of millions of dollars of the people's money to benefit Philadelphia and her citizens; therefore, *Resolved*, That, as the balance of this State is not a suburb of Philadelphia, we earnestly request representatives at Harrisburg to oppose all attempts to saddle the people of the State with the cost of such removal. *Resolved*, That, if the indications are such as lead our representatives to believe that legislation to effect the removal will be asked at this or any subsequent meeting of the legislature, we now request them to take immediate and proper steps to create the new State of Pennsylvania.


# Bradford Reporter.

EDITORS:
E. O. GOODRICH. S. W. ALVORD.

Towanda, Pa., Thursday, February 1, 1877.


WE are indebted to A. K. MCCLURE for a copy of the Philadelphia *Times* Almanac for 1877. It is replete with useful and statistical information. Every politician and business man should have a copy. It contains the vote for President and Vice-President in all the States, the names of the Judges, both of this State and the United States, history of National Conventions from WASHINGTON to GRANT, proceedings of Democratic and Republican National Conventions for 1876, of Democratic and Republican State Conventions for 1876, vote for county officers in 1876 and list of county officers for 1877, the vote for Congressmen, and also the vote for President by districts, in 1876, a list of county officers, carefully revised, synoposis of the election laws, abstract of the game laws of this State and much other valuable information. It is an invaluable text-book. It is mailed free of postage, on receipt of 10 cents, 50 copies for $3; 100 copies for $5.

THE Hon. Galusha A. GROW's letter to the *Tribune* on the electoral count has prompted *The Chicago Journal* to make the following remarks about ex-Speakers of the House: "There have been thirty-three Speakers of the National House of Representatives, including the present incumbent. Five of the ex-Speakers are still living—ROBERT C. WINTHROP, Gen. BANKS, GALUSHA A. GROW, SCHUYLER COLFAX, and Senator BLAINE. The former is now a very old man, and takes no part in the discussion of public affairs. The others have each, in one way or another, given expression to their views as regards the rights and duties of the President of the Senate in counting the electoral votes. They are the highest American authorities in this country on matters relating to the powers and privileges of a presiding officer. Without any consultation they agree."

Gen. LEW WALLACE was honored with an invitation to attend the third count of the vote of Florida, authorized by the Legislature. He responded in a vivacious and good-natured letter, stating that he could not understand why he was asked to be present, and adding: "If the purpose of the notice was to give me opportunity to fence public opinion against the effect of your canvass, or the law by virtue of which it is to be, I hope you will take no offense if I respectfully decline to avail myself of the privilege. Public opinion in our country is very practical; it is unpoetic and dispassionate; it subsists on the actual; it breakfasts on facts, dines on facts, sups on facts—it goes through strategies as cannon balls go through cobwebs. Indeed, if I were to try, I could not fence it around any more than able and learned gentlemen can blind it when disposed to do so. If you will allow me to formulate present public opinion upon the subject of the electoral vote of Florida, it is that a final judgment of a competent tribunal, once entered and signed, cannot be altered or reserved by a subsequent enactment of a Legislature of direct or individual effect."

JUDGE DAVIS, the newly elected Senator from Illinois, is tall and powerfully built. His face is almost a typical Anglo-Saxon one. His features are not finely cut, nor is their expression intellectual; but they are harmonious, and there is a look of good humor, common sense, and careless, self-confident manhood in the whole countenance. He wears a narrow frill of gray whiskers around his face and under his chin, setting off his hale, ruddy complexion to advantage. He has an air of perfect fearlessness, befitting one never cowed or broken by sickness or defeat. All his movements are said to suggest SANFORD E. CHURCH, Chief-Justice of New-York, as he was in 1872, before sickness touched him. Some interesting anecdotes are connected with Judge DAVIS' judicial history. A well-to-do farmer was once convicted before him of having counterfeit United States notes in his possession, with the intention of passing them. Before pronouncing sentence Judge DAVIS asked him if he had arranged his affairs in anticipation of his enforced absence from home. The farmer replied that the conviction was a surprise to him, and nothing was in order, but that he could settle his business in about ten days. No one was found to go on his bail bond, and the Judge allowed him to depart on his own recognizance. The lawyers laughed at the idea of the farmer being fool enough to come back again, but Judge DAVIS insisted that he had not "taken to the tall timber." His judgment of human nature was confirmed, for the farmer appeared at the appointed time and received his sentence. A loyal Virginian once began a suit before him for a review of the proceedure confiscating $100,000 in State bonds. Senator McDONALD argued that as the Confiscation act made the proceedure in the nature of an admiralty seizure, there could be no review. "Well," said the Judge, "there may be no precedent, as you say, McDONALD, for a review in an admiralty case, but when such a thing as this can happen, it is time there was a precedent, and I am going to make one."

PETITIONS are being extensively circulated in this State, in favor of a stay of execution law.

## THE TABLES TURNED.

The compromise bill has become a law. Simultaneously with its passage by Congress the man whom it was supposed by the Democrats would be selected as the fifth judge, was elected a U. S. Senator, thus removing Judge DAVIS from the list and compelling the selection of a justice politically in sympathy with Governor HAYES. This turn of the tables is not pleasing to the Democrats, but the scheme by which they had hoped to count TILDEN in may become the weapon of their distruction. Whatever may be the decision of the committee, however, the objections to the plan remain. It will be fortunate, indeed, if the "compromise," in years to come, does not prove a "skeleton" to both political parties, and become the source of endless trouble in the determination of future Presidential contests. We heartily agree with the *Tribune's* view of the question:

"Things have changed. After an all-night's session the Senate passed the Electoral bill by a vote of 47 to 17 at early breakfast-time this morning. Before noon the Legislature of Illinois elected Justice David Davis a United States Senator by Democratic votes. Under the circumstances we may fairly presume that Mr. Davis will not be considered eligible as the odd member of the proposed tribunal. It would be an insult to the moral sense of the country to select, as the professedly impartial arbiter in the Presidential contest, a man who had just been chosen to a high political office by a partisan vote. If there are Democratic members who would propose such a departure from the professed object of the bill, we take it for granted that there will be no Republican member who will consent to it, or to any appeal to chance of which that can be a possible result.

The remaining Judges of the Supreme Court are all Republicans. If the bill passes the House, it will submit all pending questions to a tribunal of which a majority will be supporters of Gov. Hayes. To those who consider only the immediate party aspect of the measure, this will make a very great difference. But the *Tribune* has not opposed this bill on the ground that it would result in the selection of one man rather than than another. We have opposed the bill because it necessarily confers improper powers upon one unknown man, and because it virtually enables that man to seize authority which does not belong to any man or body of men in the country. These objections stand. It is wrong to confer upon any tribunal thus created the power to determine whether the electoral vote of a State can be thrown out, and that power, we presume, Democrats will be in less haste to grant, since it appears that it must be exercised by political opponents.

No matter what party may profit by it, the bill is wrong in principle, and ought to be defeated. It establishes a most dangerous precedent, not the less dangerous if, as now seems probable, the tribunal is to be composed of men who will doubtless refuse in this instance to go behind the certificates of a State. The example will stand. In any future contest, it will be quoted with great effect as a reason for intrusting the same power to a similar tribunal. That example would be, in itself, a revolution in our form of government, a departure from the Constitution and the practices of the fathers. Its consequences no man can foresee. Inasmuch as the Democratic party cannot now so certainly gain by its adoption, what good reason can there be for establishing so dangerous a precedent? Let us go back to the Constitution as the fathers interpreted it. A mode of counting good enough for Washington, Adams, and Madison, ought to be good enough for the men of 1877."

WILLIAM H. SEWARD had a Damon and Pythias sort of friendship with Judge SACKETT of Central New York. After the expiration of Mr. SEWARD's term as Governor, he was in great pecuniary distress, and likely to lose all his possessions. He struggled with the perseverance characteristic of the man to relieve himself, but unsuccessfully. He must raise $25,000 or go to the wall. He applied to many of his fair-weather friends, but was met by a flat refusal, or cold indifference, till he called on Judge SACKETT, who said, "You know I have little or no money, but I can furnish you with something from which you can realize the needed sum," and he forthwith executed a mortgage on his farm, and on this was raised the $25,000 which saved his fortune, and he soon after relieved his friend from all anxiety that anything disastrous could grow out of his action. He said, in substance, "There is no service which I can render this man, small or great, which should be, or will be, refused," and such service as this might well make a grateful and devoted friend of its recipient.

THE Electoral Commission has been chosen. The Senators are FRELINGHUYSEN, MORTON and EDMUNDS, Republicans, and THURMAN and BAYARD, Democrats. The House Committee consists of Messrs. PAYNE, HUNTER and ABBOTT, Democrats, and GARFIELD and HOAR, Republicans.

In signing the bill the President transmitted a message to Congress, giving his reasons for the act. We regret that want of space compels us to omit the document. The message undoubtedly expresses the honest convictions of the President, but will not be approved by the masses of the Republican party.

THE manner in which the Democrats conducted the late campaign in Ohio is being developed by an investigation in Cincinnati. The Democratic Sheriff has been lodged in jail for participation in election frauds, and there is no doubt that Mr. BANNING, who was declared elected to Congress, secured his seat by fraud.

WE have not the least doubt that HAYES and WHEELER were elected in November, and that the Commission will so declare, but this does not alter our first conviction that the method resorted to is unfair and unconstitutional.

## THE ASHTABULA BRIDGE.

The cause of the horrible railroad accident at Ashtabula is still occupying the attention of the coroner's jury, as well as mechanics and scientific men all over the country. Our former townsman, GEORGE R. BRAMHALL, who has a large circle of friends and acquaintances in this county, in a letter to the Chicago *Tribune* gives his view of the matter. Mr. B.'s theory is reasonable, and has been endorsed by leading bridge-builders. We make the following extracts from the letter:

"Surely there is some reasonable and rational cause for all these accidents, which must be looked for in other directions. There are some facts in connection with Chief Engineer Collins' statement to a reporter, Jan. 8, that will bear examination. In reply to the questions of the reporter in regard to the bridge having been built for a single or double track, he (Mr. Collins) pointing to the abutment, said, 'See for yourself where the bridge rested on the pier. Sixteen feet wide up there. Doesn't that answer your question?' He further said that it was intended for a double track when the Company was ready to lay one, and that it was constructed sixteen feet wide (which means from out to out), and perfectly well-made, as far as he knew.

"The conclusions to be drawn from Mr. Collins' own language are, that the bridge was used a number of years as a single-track bridge. It will be important to know for a certainty whether the track, while it was so used, was laid in the centre of the bridge or on the outside; and, likewise, whether the tests which it is claimed were applied were made while the track was in the centre or on one side of the bridge. There seems to be a shade of evasiveness in Mr. Collins' replies, which would lead to some doubts whether the bridge was originally intended for a double track. So far we have only Mr. Collins' word for it. From all the reports and information that can be gathered, the bridge was what is termed among mechanics and bridge-builders a single-truss bridge, and, being set over a deep ravine, the track was laid over the top chords of the bridge, as a matter of necessity or choice,—probably the latter, as it would lessen the expense in the construction of the abutments.

"There are two considerations involved in the construction of the bridge which might go further to disprove Mr. Collins' assertion in regard to having a double track originally. The first is, that it was only a single-truss bridge, and the fact being that the tracks were laid over the top of the bridge, there doesn't appear to be any apparent reason why the bridge was not built wider and another truss added in the centre of the bridge, if it was intended for a double-track bridge. Secondly, Mr. Collins says it was constructed sixteen feet wide, which would not permit the passenger coaches to pass each other without doing one of two things which might be considered a little dangerous. Passenger coaches are from ten feet to ten feet four inches in width, and they could not pass without running within twelve inches of each other, which would be extremely close, owing to the sway of the cars, or else the bearing for the outside rail would have to rest on the ties some considerable distance outside the truss or bridge, without any support except the strength of the sleepers or ties.

"Now, by placing the inside rails six feet from centre to centre, two passenger coaches could pass each other and have one foot of space between them. The inside rails, laid that distance apart, would bring the outside rails just even with the outside of the truss or bridge, and the distance between the two inside rails being six feet, and the width of the two tracks five feet each, would make up the sixteen feet, according to Mr. Collins' statement.

"Allowing that the rails were placed as stated, which in all probability was a fact, and, further-more, that it was never intended that passenger trains should pass each other on the bridge, still, at the same time, there would be plenty of room for freight trains to pass, without any danger or inconvenience as to the width of the bridge. But the fact still remains that the tracks, owing to the width of the bridge, had to be laid so that the centre of the train, or weight to be supported, was placed or carried from five and a half to six feet one side of the centre of the bridge, which was at a cost or loss of nearly one-half the strength of the bridge. In other words, at the time of the passing of a heavy train over the bridge, only a little over one-half the whole of the combined strength of the bridge was available. Whenever a train passed over, going either east or west, one or the other of the trusses had all or nearly all of the weight to carry. Had there been a middle truss it would have obviated all the difficulty, and in all human probability the bridge would be standing to-day.

"It will not be forgotten that a similar calamity occurred three years ago last May at Dixon, Ill., where the same principles were involved, of carrying a large body or multitude of people on one side of the bridge, sacrificing the lives of fifty or sixty men, women, and children. If the people had stood in the centre of the bridge, it would have lessened the danger to such an extent that it is hardly possible that the accident could have occurred, the strain on the Dixon bridge being the same as that to which the Ashtabula bridge was subjected. To illustrate still further, and the illustration will be applicable in both cases: It will be remembered that the Dixon bridge broke down under the weight of about 300 people standing on one side of the bridge. Now, while the people stood on this side of the bridge, the opposite side of the bridge or truss had no weight to carry, and might almost have been dispensed with so far as rendering assistance to the overloaded part went, because it was not available, and it was impossible to command or secure the whole combined strength of the bridge, owing to the position of the weight. As the bridge went, the opposite truss that should have helped to sustain the weight only helped to complete the destruction by falling on the people as they slid off the broken side of the bridge. This accident proved beyond all question the importance of authorities and corporations enforcing stringent rules and regulations in regard to the use of bridges.

"This bridge which has been referred to several times since the disaster at Ashtabula, in proof, as it is claimed, of the improbability or insecurity of iron in the construction of bridges proves nothing. It is true it was an iron bridge, the plan being similar to a wooden lattice-bridge, and was constructed of wrought and cast iron, the cast iron being used indiscriminately and very injudiciously, as the result has proved.

"Mr. Tomlinson, in giving his evidence at the inquest at Ashtabula, Jan. 14, says the bridge was constructed to carry a moving load of from two to three tons to the lineal foot. Does Mr. Tomlinson mean the whole combined strength of the bridge? Again, he says that if the iron had been good and wrought, according to patterns, and placed in proper positions, he thinks it would have been perfectly safe. Mr. Tomlinson is referred to here in connection with the use of cast iron, as one might infer from his language that more or less had been used.

"Iron bridges have been built, and are building now in this country, that with proper care, unless overtaken by an earthquake, or the abutments and piers give way, will stand for ages to come.

"In regard to the relative merits of wood and iron in the construction of bridges, taking all things into consideration, the preferences are all decidedly in favor of iron for strength and durability. I do not believe any serious results have ever occurred from the effects of *frost*. Where there have been accidents, causes have and will be found sufficient to account for the disaster without calling in the aid of frost. As iron and wood are the only materials we have for practical bridge building, the preferences being generally for iron, the only means of insuring perfect safety is, that, in construction of a bridge, either of wood or iron, the material be of the best of its kind, and that it be constructed upon the best principles known and in use. The workmanship, also, in every detail and minutia, must be honestly and faithfully done, so that when the structure is completed you have a perfect bridge. After it is turned over to public use it should be guarded and protected by laws and severe penalties, if need be, to insure its preservation. Herein lies, to my mind, largely the solution of the bridge question."

## THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 26.—This was a lively day in the House. The dull routine of proceedings was enlivened by an exceedingly animated political contest. Mr. Richardson offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the action of the United States Senate, in passing the Electoral bill as reported from the Committee, meets our unqualified approval.

A motion to read the resolution a second time was defeated by a vote of 74 yeas to 83 nays. Mr. Long, of Allegheny, then offered the following:

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, That the vote cast by the authorized Electors for President and Vice President of the United States indicates the election of Rutherford B. Hayes and William A. Wheeler to those offices respectively, and they of right ought to be inaugurated at the national capital on the ensuing 4th day of March by the constituted authorities.

On this resolution a call for the main question was sustained by a vote of 89 yeas to 67 nays. Seeing the resolution was likely to pass, the Democrats sought to defeat it by withdrawing from the House, thus leaving it without a quorum. Upon the question of the adoption of the resolution, the first call showed 89 yeas and only one negative vote. The stampede of the Democrats was momentarily successful, as the House lacked 11 of a quorum. The Speaker ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in such absent members as he could, and to prevent those then in who had refused to vote from leaving the hall. A second call of the House showed 105 members present, and the yeas and nays were then taken with the following result: Yeas 94, nays 21. Much amusement was occasioned by the manner in which the Democrats were forced into voting on the resolution, though entire good feeling characterized the proceedings.—*New York Times.*

NASBY steps forward now with his plan for the settlement of the Presidential dispute. Nothing but its late appearance could have prevented its adoption. He suggests that a representative Republican and a representative Democrat decide the question by a game of seven-up, and adds: "I wood sejest ez the representative Republikin for this purpose Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN uv Noo Jersey. For the representative Dimocrat ther ain't no need for my namin' him at all. The entire Dimocrisy in one voice wood exclaim, 'JOHN MORRISSEY.' Spoze it wuz agreed to hev it seven-up and the best two in three. Think uv these reports from the Assoshiated Press: 'The Presidential Games!—FRELINHUYSEN, two!—MORRISSEY, one!—Thanksgivin in the Churches!—The Freedmen Jubilant! Later!—MORRISSEY turns Jack, and makes High, Low, and Game!—End uv the First Game—MORRISSEY shows out on high and low!—FRELINHUYSEN accuses him uv cheetin!—A day of fastin ordered, and the gin mills illuminated!' Then the second game: 'The first game conceded to MORRISSEY!—Gold rises to 12!—The manufacturers disheartened!—The South jubilant!—FRELINHUYSEN deals! MORRISSEY begs! FRELINHUYSEN gives him one, and MORRISSEY claims a misdeal, which the umpire allows! MORRISSEY makes four! The niggers discurridged and the South jubilant! Second hand—FRELINHUYSEN makes high and low, and MORRISSEY jack and game!—MORRISSEY one pint to go and his deal!—The Presidential question settled!—MORRISSEY turns jack, winnin the rub, and electin TILDEN and Reform!—Congratulatory dispatch from the President elect!—Chagrin of the Republikins!—MORRISSEY serenadid!—"I simply did my dooty!" MORRISSEY to be Secretary of the Treasury!'"

GOVERNOR MORTON, the able and fearless Senator from Indiana, who led the opposition to the Compromise bill, has received the following eulogistic endorsement from a large number of his constituents:

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 26, 1877.

*Hon. O. P. Morton, United States Senate, Washington:*

DEAR SIR: We, your fellow townsmen of the City of Indianapolis, having read with great interest your argument in opposition to the proposed compromise bill, desire to assure you that we most heartily approve your course in opposing said bill. We feel sure that a very large majority of the Republicans of Indiana are opposed to the measure.

## LETTERS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

### LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 22, 1877.

One of the most delicate duties to be performed by the Speaker of the Legislative body, is the satisfactory selection of its standing committees. That work in the House has now been accomplished. It is exceedingly difficult, because it is the first work to be done, and the parties must necessarily be strangers to each other. It is in the Committee Rooms where the real labor of legislation is done. There are not perhaps any more in number of committees needed than in the olden time, but there are twice the number of members to be ranked into the various departments of legislation as represented by those committees, as the various industries, charities, sciences, etc., to be selected, if possible, in accordance with the proclivities and experience of each of those two hundred members. It is something more than the work of an hour to classify the work of these men. There needs to be a "fitness of things" to satisfy parties and succeed satisfactorily. To select from agriculturists or miners to fill the Judiciary Committee, or from the bar or medical faculty to develop mining, would be a transposition of proprieties which could work out nothing but disorder. But whatever the labor may have been, it is now satisfactorily accomplished, and no words of complaint or dissatisfaction is heard. There is no doubt but that we have a strong, united, intellectual force, one that cannot fail to accomplish in a proper manner all needful legislation. It may be said, upon the authority of the chief clerk, that we have not in years had a body which would rate so high, morally and intellectually, as the present. There has always been more danger of legislating too much, than too little. "The world is governed too much." And if the present status is what may be expected, all due attention will be given to that axiom.

From what has already come under my observation, I cannot hesitate to say a kind word for the Democratic side of the House. Questions may arise which may bring out some of the old-time leaven, but thus far they have exhibited an honorable opposition. The old Copperhead virus is not dominant, and so long as they manifest a real disposition to favor reforms in our government, or rather so long as they are in favor of a Republican government to reform, I cannot only tolerate but even fellowship to such a Democracy. Men may honestly differ as to the best mode of arriving at the same result; we can stand that; but when they, as in times past, are willing to acquiesce in, or even tolerate, the dismemberment of the Union, or favor measures which they must know can lead to no other end, then they should receive no recognition as honorable men.

Among the members of fair men on the Democratic side of the House, may be mentioned the two Jacksons from near home—Sullivan and Wyoming—Faunce, of Philadelphia; Daniel L. Sherwood, of Northumberland; and last, but by no means least, Mr. Schnatterly, of Fayette. The latter gentleman is looking for room aloft, and he will find it. Others may develop themselves, but these are reliable members as viewed from a Democratic standpoint.

An act will soon be read in place, to make the offices of County Commissioners and County Auditors salaried.

The act changing the manner of assessing and collecting taxes, heretofore alluded to, and now in committee, upon a more critical examination prove to have many very serious defects, in that it makes no provisions for securing State revenue by taxing corporations as heretofore, and in fixing upon the respective counties a ratio for State purposes, based on personal property and providing no way of changing that pro rata as counties may appreciate or diminish in growth and wealth. It is a matter of much importance to all classes, and as it is one of such extreme delicacy in adjusting fairly, it will require the skill of our very best experts in legislation, and plenty of time.

The State Board of Agriculture, inaugurated last winter to take effect on the 24th of the present month, at which time a meeting of the Board was advertized in the act, has been postponed to the first day of February ensuing. If it is not encumbered with too much machinery, it may be a useful auxiliary to that essential industry. At all events the farmers of the State cannot fail to keep an eye on all efforts to strengthen and encourage the department of agriculture.

Through the kindness of Captain Foster, I am able to announce the appointment of a special committee to consider so much of the Governor's message as relates to the operations of the Fish Department, consisting of Nisley, of Dauphin; Etta, Lancaster; Foster, Bradford; Ackerly, Luzerne; Gemmill, York; Stichby, Perry, and McHenry, of Columbia. Persons who may be interested in this question, can communicate with the members of said committee, or they will be given an opportunity to meet the committee in session at Room No. 10, H. R., on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 10 A. M.

Monday evening session was devoted to miscellaneous business, Mr. Jackson in the Chair. Petitions were presented from Allegheny against the proposed act to prohibit hunting and fishing for 10 years. Also, against the removal of the Capital to Philadelphia, claiming that all the rest of the State was not the suburbs of Philadelphia, and instructing their representatives that whenever such an act passed, the Legislature to take immediate steps for the formation of a State to be called West Pennsylvania. From Delaware county, praying for a State Board of Health; from Juniata asking a stay law for a term of two years. From Wayne fixing the compensation of County Commissioners by salary.

Reports from Ways and Means authorizing a five per cent. loan to pay State debts. An act to repeal Board of Public Charities.

Bills were read in place to appropriate money for State Lunatic Asylum, Harrisburg; for relief of two soldiers of 1812, in Allegheny. An act supplementary to the act of 1864, to promote District School Libraries. Also, quite a number making the usual appropriations to Hospitals, etc.

A spicy little squabble sprung up on a Resolution of Daniel L. Sherwood, of Northumberland, smelling out the number and cost of the various officers of the State government for the past 30 years, "All in behalf of reform." Mr. Huhn, of Philadelphia, moved its reference to Committee of Ways and Means. On that Sherwood pouted and Huhn rejoined, throwing chips into the old man's porridge, much to his apparent disgust. Huhn thought the inquiry went back just twenty-eight years too far. Was willing the proceedings of the last two years be scrutinized. Would go as far in real reform as the Democrats dare go. The reference to the Ways and Means was carried on a call of yeas and nays, 76 to 68.

### OUR NEW-YORK LETTER.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 30, 1877.

The principal political theme lately has been the passage of the Electoral Bill, Grant's action in the matter, and comments by different people according to their various prejudices and predilections. Its special importance and the fact of its really being before the Senate, woke up the old rancorous feeling that has slept since the early days when the returns were coming in, but not in any very great degree, but were it not that the newspapers kept it constantly before the public, it is doubtful if one would hear even an expression of opinion about the matter, much less any show of feeling. Grant's leaving as he did on Saturday, is of course commented on variously, those opposed to him, calling it a dodge, those in his favor, saying he merely went off for a little recreation.

Like that eccentric gentleman in the South who was connected with the Bonaparte family, "I have no prejudices, but turkey-buzzard is not good;" but what I consider political turkey-buzzard is a conundrum on the principle that "words were made to disguise thoughts." However, don't imagine that I am fitting for a New York political trimmer. The offices are filled at present.

Beecher has made himself the subject of considerable talk once more. A week ago while he was entertaining the clerical Union at his house, Mr. Frederich C. Palmer was introduced, and gave the impression that he wished to speak upon the subject of the negroes. It got wind among the congregation; an attempt was made to shut him off, but Mr. Palmer was on time Friday evening, and the communistic, spiritualistic gentleman, got ahead of the Blair-Shearman-Halliday party, much to their disgust, and had his little say. Then Mr. Beecher took the other side of the question and proceeded to say it. Hence the little episode that has gotten into the papers, under the euphonious title of "the bloody shirt speech."

Not content with having thus disturbed Mr. Beecher's calm and peaceful way, on Saturday morning about 3 o'clock, his friends and Church members, the Mallorys, were awakened by a suffocating smell of smoke. The feminine members at once sought refuge beneath the sheltering roof of their beloved pastor, it being his particular mission to save them from fire. He received them beneath his roof, and then rushed over to assist in an attempt to save the valuables. After rescuing most of these, he charged upon the cellar and there found a joist near the furnace on fire, which he extinguished with a few buckets of water, before the firemen arrived, and the Mallorys returned to their home, more than ever believing in the good works of their pastor.

To add that little bit of depreciation, necessary to prevent even a pastor from having too good an opinion of himself, his publishers are bankrupt for the second time, and they record Beecher's "Life of Christ" in their assets as "value uncertain." "Higher than a kite," was the term applied to it during the great trial.

The masculine social event last week was the French ball. Not that the feminine element was absent by any means, only that feminine element did not mean the wives, daughters or sisters of the men who were present, and the ball itself was represented as anything from a "dying friend" to "official business in Washington." Several well known brokers ostensibly went to Washington for "points," having muddled the brains of their better halves with the electoral vote, its effect on stocks, Grant's action, etc. It gave them the night at the ball and the next day to recover, as Washington is some distance away. There is an immense attempt to write it up into respectability, but heads of families, principally, do not care to have this accomplished, for once on a par with the "Charity" and their wives, daughters, sisters and mothers-in-law, would want to go, and good-bye to fun, pages in blue or pink satin, distracting dominoes, and parties like Miss Josie Mansfield in the private boxes.

A recent transaction shows how dogs are smuggled into the country. The officers on the steamship bring them over and dispose of them to the fanciers here. Five thus came into the possession of one of these men, but the Custom House officers smelled a rat (terrier) and they were seized. One of these a veritable Dandie Dinmont, which had been on exhibition at England, was valued at $200. After payment of the duties, however, the dealer was permitted to take the property.

The Home Insurance Company's 47th Semi-annual Statement shows assets on January 1, of over $6,000,000. After making every requisite provision for reinsurance, unadjusted losses and all other liabilities, the company has a net surplus of $1,602,784 over and above its cash capital of $3,000,000. This is certainly a remarkably strong financial exhibit and in times like these, it gives the public assurance of unquestionable indemnity if insured in the Home. The assets, moreover, are invested in the very best securities, and it is obvious that both the financial and the underwriting administration of this popular New York company is simply admirable.

In art matters, during the past week, we have the exhibition of water colors at the Academy of design, but many of our artists who are original and pleasing when they paint in oils, fall decidedly when they touch the more delicate tints.

English opera with Louise Kellogg in the "Flying Dutchman," occasioned a slight furore, but Aimee will have it all her own way, when she gives us opera bouffe.

This is to be the last week of "Miss Multon" and handkerchiefs will resume their normal size. Small sheets have been in demand since its introduction.

The prayer meeting is still carried on in the eternal interests of the brokers, and Mrs. VanCott is to add her influence in the way of prayer and exhortation.

The sale of the Hastie-Tracy library has been fair, though many valuable books have gone for a mere song.

Advertisements are now inserted for the purchase of superfluous wedding presents, and several people, in various lines of business, are driving a pretty trade in this way. It is now proposed that to save all this trouble, the would-be donor of a wedding gift shall send half the amount in money in an envelope, as his present will probably not bring half what he paid for it to the young couple, when they come to dispose of it.

### OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1877.

A genuine "Scotch mist," which almost ended in a London fog, enveloped the city of Washington on Friday last; and bless me! wasn't it pleasant riding through the mud to the White House! Once there, however, a broad carpet from the carriage steps to the entrance door, smoothed the way for those who went to pay their respects to the ladies of the Republican court, in silks and velvets, *en traine*. Most of these dresses were handsome visiting costumes, cut after fashions most extreme mode; thereby making the wearer look as slim as a lancet, and about as stylish. Most of the hats worn are either one of two styles,—the picturesque Gainsboro, with a wreath of feathers outside and sprays of roses inside, worn sideways or anyway, or the close fitting cap of velvet or silk, which is furnished with a frill of lace, and is quite becoming to some faces. Standing in one of the broad halls, we noticed several members of the French legation, and among them one young lady in an exquisite toilet of blue velvet; her train was from two to four yards in length, and her hat was of the palest shade of rose velvet. Her figure and manners were charming, and adjudged her a true *Parisienne* from the faultless accent of the *au revoir*, with which she left her friends; for, as you well know, it often takes but one word to speak volumes. *Apropos* of French, I have become so entirely weary of the constant application of French phrases, which embellish the columns of every newspaper letter, that I have inwardly determined to renounce them all—yet the habit once formed is not easily broken. The most refined schools in the world of letters, tell us that the too frequent use of French expressions, is a false style of writing—and in exceeding bad taste; and yet the moderns do not heed these hints. To return to the reception at the White House—after passing by the usual number of attendants and ushers, we found ourselves in the "blue room," which was radiant with gas jets, flowers, diamonds, and beautiful women. Mr. Ulysses Grant, Jr., who is a fine looking fellow, and takes one dozen lumps of sugar in his coffee at a time, presented each guest to the President, speaking in low, cultivated tones, yet uttering distinctly each name. The President gave his guests a kindly greeting. Mrs. Grant was attired in a black silk robe, trimmed with knife pleatings of pale lemon; by her side were Mrs. Sartoris and Mrs. Fred Grant. The former wore a pale blue silk, trimmed with white lace and a polonaise of *matelasse*. Mrs. Sartoris has a round girlish face, with blonde hair which falls in rings over her fair forehead; she looks perfectly happy, and those who know her well, say that she has much improved during her sojourn in England—is more matured in mind and manners, and talks easily and well. Could she be once more our own "princess Nellie," she would doubtless be a bright star in American society. Mrs. Fred Grant is a slender, black-eyed Chicago belle; her jet black hair was drawn to the top of her head, and there fastened by a coral comb and finished with puffs; her dress of *creme matelasse* and cardinal bows, was exceedingly becoming. We cannot think her a decided beauty—yet she has a very bright face—lit up