NEWS FROM ALL NATIONS.

PROFESSOR SWING gathers in $20,000 yearly.

THE Yankees are sending coffins to England.

WYOMING territory jurymen draw $5 per day pay.

A MILK inspector is contemplated in Massachusetts.

THERE is but one negro member in the Georgia house.

SENATOR BOOTH, of California is to move to Indianapolis.

LADIES' leather belts are studded with steel nail heads.

GERMANY proposes to take part in the Paris exposition.

FIFTY-FOUR railroads were sold under foreclosure in 1877.

MOSS green with sky blue is the stylish combination of colors.

THE widows of Brigham Young are beginning to re-marry.

FLORIDA hotels are now serving shad, green peas and tomatos.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT is organizing an Arctic exploring expedition.

THE fifteen State Legislatures now in session cost $33,000 a day.

KENTUCKY and Tennessee have female State librarians.

A CATAMOUNT, four feet in length, has been shot at Jersey Shore.

THE City of Brussels, from New York, has arrived in London.

COUNTERFEIT ten cent pieces have lately been but in circulation.

SENATOR elect Friday, of California, was formely a dry goods clerk.

FOUR hundred and ninety school houses were built in Ohio last year.

A THREE months baby in one of the oil counties only weighs 2½ pounds.

BUFFALO has two societies for the prevention of cruelty to children.

CENTRAL American news is threatening but war has not yet been declared.

ZACH CHANDLER is going to build a block of stores in Detroit this spring.

BUT one passenger has left on an European steamer from Boston this year.

FORTY thousand tulip beds are to be planted by the Dutch at the Paris exposition.

EVERY male citizen of Atlanta, Ga., is taxed $5 for the maintenance of the streets.

THE will of the late Chief Justice Pearson, of North Carolina, was written in pencil.

A BILL before the Legislature of Virginia provides for a tax of one cent each upon cigars.

THE colored Baptists of Virginia have built and paid for 50 churches the past year.

THE Brookville *Jeffersonian* names Hon. George A. Jenks as its candidate for governor.

THERE are now 27 religious periodicals published in German for the German Lutherans of this country.

MILWAUKEE is so healthy that one of her undertakers has been compelled to sell his stock of coffins at auction.

THERE are only two consecrated Roman Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Boston, all the rest being in debt.

GEN. GARIBALDI has written to King Humbert I, begging him to follow his father's footsteps.

BISHOP STEVENS, presided at the local option meeting in Philadelphia on Monday evening.

AN English physician revives the faded faith in blue glass by declaring that it is almost a sure cure for insanity.

ELIZABETH RUHE, who was sixty years old and resided near Allentown, committed suicide by cutting her throat.

PHILIP FLENNER, aged over 100 years and a soldier of the war of 1812, died a few days ago in Cambria county.

A DIVISION of the French Mediterranean squadron left Toulon for the Levant last week.

By the explosion of an oil tank Constable Hook, N. J., Sunday, one employee was instantly killed and several wounded.

AT Wells, Me., Sunday night, a five year old girl was fatally shot by some party unknown. The motive is a mystery.

D. H. NEIMAN, of the Easton *Sentinel* was elected President of the Pennsylvania Editorial Association at the meeting in Harrisburg last week.

THE total Russian losses during the war, up to the 5th inst., aggregate eighty thousand four hundred and thirty-five men.

JOHN BRIGHT says that one-third of all the land of the United Kingdom, being no less than 23,000,000 acres, belongs to 925 men.

THE figure of Liberty was first introduced on dimes and half dimes in 1836, but the circle of stars did not appear till 1838.

BETHLEHEM is $70,000 in debt, and asks the Legislature to take away its power to collect a large portion of its water tax.

THE business of the Beaver Post-office has increased sufficiently to take it out of the fourth class and put it among the third-class post-offices.

A HARRISBURG man, who has been married eleven years and has eleven children, invited his friends recently to his "annual annual bawl."

THE work of completing the extension on the Lehigh and Lackawanna (Bath) road, from Bath to Stroudsburg, is being pushed vigorously forward.

THE commissioners of Columbia county offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of John Van Liew near Bloomsburg last September.

ON the Muncy hill an unknown man was found hanging to the branch of a tree lately. His dead body was discovered by a man out hunting.

JOHN C. M'DONOUGH, the actor, accidentally shot himself in the left breast, just above the heart, on Thursday. The ball did not strike any vital point.

CHARLES SPOEHRLE, of Pottsville, was to have been taken to the almhouse on Thursday, but the old man died while warming himself prior to taking the trip.

IN Centre county reside a family named Musser which weighs 1185 pounds. The lightest weighs 223 pounds and the heaviest 252. There are five of them.

A GENERAL census has just been taken in Spain, and for the first time in the history of the country the question of religious connection has been asked.

IT is rumored that a marriage will be arranged between his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and the Princess Louise, the daughter of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia.

A BILL has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature to repeal the Sunday law of 1790, under which two Seventh-day Baptists were fined last year for working on Sunday.

THE Ames Methodist Church of Newark, Delaware, only the English Northern Methodist church in that city, is threatened with a Sheriff's sale unless it raises soon the sum of $7,000.

IT is reported that Germany has again informed Russia that she must submit her terms for peace to the consideration of the great powers.

A SPECIAL Committee of the British War Office reports that the Mediterranean store-rooms are filled to overflowing with supplies, sufficient for any immediate naval and military requirement.

REV. DR. STEPHEN H. TYNG has resigned the rectorship of St. Georges parish, New York after a pastorate of 33 years. He is now nearly 80 years old, but the vestry have voted him the use of the parsonage and $5000 per annum during his life.

THE Portage iron works, located at Duncansville, Blair county, together with the nail factory and two hundred and seventy acres of land, the property of the late Henry Musselman, of Lancaster county, has been sold by the executors for $10,000 to John Musselman.

AN spiralling famine is ragging throughout four provinces of North China. Nine million people are reported destitute. Children are daily sold in the markets for food. The Foreign Relief Committee appeals to America and England for assistance.

A RUMOR that Spain will sign a treaty with Santo Domingo at the end of this month, assuming a protectorate over that island, causes great excitement in Santo Domingo and Hayti, and serves to further increase the unpopularity of President Baez.

Bradford Reporter.

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

Towanda, Pa., Thursday, Jan. 31, 1878.

HARD TIMES AND THE REMEDY.

A remarkably plain and comprehensive letter from Hon. G. A. Grow, which we publish on our first page, gives the cause of the "hard times" now so prevalent, and the answer to the question, What makes so many tramps? Mr. Grow's figures and facts are worth a whole volume of the theories usually advanced by those who have attempted to solve the embarrassing and difficult question above presented. His figures show that contraction of the currency had nothing to do with producing the revulsion commencing in 1873, as the volume of currency in 1873, 1874 and 1875 was larger than in the two years preceding, and the highest amount of currency afloat was in 1874.

A few words of common sense from a practical man like Mr. Grow is of more value than all the fine-spun essays of dreamers and theorists as a cure for the disease from which the country is suffering. The cause of the present depression in business, with its attendant financial distress, is concisely given by him when he says that the stoppage in railroad building from exhaustion, the paralysis in all business caused part by that, and by production beyond the capacity of consumption, filled the land with unemployed labor; while extravagance unprecedented, in creating indebtedness, crippled all individual and public enterprises. The stagnation in business thus caused has forced honest and willing labor to beg its bread. The first remedy for the existing state of things is fidelity to public and private trusts, thus restoring confidence, and securing a faithful collection and honest disbursement of public and private revenues, and next a rigid economy in public and private expenditures. For as he justly observes, "Human ingenuity has never yet been able to devise a scheme by which an individual or association of individuals whose expenditures exceed their income, if continued, could be saved from final bankruptcy and ruin."

THE *Argus* of last week contains two anonymous communications in regard to the balance due from WM. BUNYAN, late Treasurer of this county. The facts in the case are laid before our readers in another column by a gentleman whose character for strict integrity and unflinching honesty has never been questioned, and who is fully conversant with the subject, and his statements may be implicitly relied upon.

The bill introduced by Senator DAVIES, is in compliance with a petition numerously signed by men of all political parties, asking the legislation in the name of justice. The effort of a few leaders of the Democratic party to make political capital will not be endorsed by conscientious men of either party. The relief asked for by Mr. BUNYAN is reasonable, and will not result in loss to the county.

For the information of the *Argus* correspondent we will say that the *Reporter* has never been asked to print anything on the subject, either *pro* or *con*, but we take this occasion to say that we are decidely in favor of the bill, introduced in the Senate for the relief of Mr. B.

AGAINST the lamfaroade of such loose talkers as VOORHEES common sense protests that labor prospers best when paid in the best money; that any degradation in the currently strikes first and heaviest at wages; and that confidence in the future, which is essential to the revival of industry and trade, requires fidelity to the National faith and acceptance of the highest standard of money recognized among commercial nations. If Congress were to propose a law to reduce the wages of every workingman 8 per cent, the popular response would be loud and plain, and if it were to enact that business shall be so disturbed that no man can tell the financial ground upon which he stands, indignation would find strong modes of expression. Both of these things the Bland Silver Bill embodies, and the country is only beginning to condemn it and to insist that it must not become a law.—*Utica Herald.*

GATH writes to the Cincinnati *Gazette* about the mistress of the White House in this manner: "Washington has only one woman to talk about this winter— Mrs. HAYES. She is every womans envy. Even the reaction or undertow of sentiment which generally carries off all vaunted Washington ladies has excepted her The silverness of her laugh if put into the Bland bill, might popularize the cartwheel dollar. Her style of wearing her hair has already revived the comb trade and the tortoise shell interest.

IT is not the "bloated bondholders" who are depositors in the savings banks of the country. The $1,600,000,000 deposited in these institutions belongs mainly to thrifty working men and women. If the silver bill becomes a law the loss of these depositors will not be less than $100,000,000. Many of the "bloated bondholders" who are borrowers of the savings-bank funds will really profit by the losses which the depositors in those institutions sustain if silver is made a legal tender for large amounts.

HONOLULU papers announce the death in December of WILLIAM P. RAGSDALE, Governor of the leper Settlement on the Island of Molokai, Sandwich Islands. "BILL RAGSDALE," as he was popularly known, was a Hawaiian by birth, his mother having been a native and his father an American. He was a lawyer, speaking English as fluently as Hawaiian, and the most noted orator of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The manner in which RAGSDALE discovered that he had the leprosy, as told by himself, is interesting. He resided for a number of years on the Island of Hawaii, and had an office at Hilo, the capital of the island. One night he was studying up a law case in which he was deeply interested, when the chimney from his lamp fell on the table. Although the chimney was hot as fire, "Bill," in his excitement, picked it up and set it in its place without experiencing inconvenience, such as would naturally result to a really sound person handling a hot lamp-chimney. He reflected for a moment, looked at his hand, but could not discover the least sign that it had been burned. He then took off and put on the chimney repeatedly, and with the same result. This experience convinced him that he was among the afflicted, and he lost no time in communicating with the authorities. An examination was made, and medical authority declared that he was afflicted with leprosy. The police did not arrest him, however owing to his exalted position, as was common with those suspected of being lepers, so he voluntarily delivered himself up as a victim of the terrible disease. He was then sent to Molokai and installed as Governor of the Leper Settlement, which position he held up to the time of his death. During his administration of affairs he was as successful as he was popular. There were and are about 800 lepers on the settlement, but by his tact and kindheartedness RAGSDALE made the most extraordinary and saddest community on the face of the earth as cheerful and happy as the unfortunates could be. By his advice the Government made many reforms and the lepers recognized him a a father.

THE MATHEWS silver resolution, which passed the Senate on Friday last by a vote of 43 to 22, reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of representatives concurring therein,) That all the bonds of the United States issued, or authorized to be issued under the said acts of Congress hereinbefore recited, are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the government of the United States, in silver dollars of the coinage of the United States containing 412½ grains each of standard silver, and that to restore to its coinage such silver coin as a legal-tender in payment of said bonds, principal and interest, is not in violation of the public faith, nor in derogation of the rights of the public credit."

SENATOR CAMERON, of this State, voted in favor of the resolution.

On Monday the bill passed the House by more than a two-thirds vote. Col. OVERTON, we are pleased to notice, voted against the bill.

THE members of the present Legislature are classified as follows: Of the Senators, 21 are lawyers, 7 physicians, 6 merchants, 5 farmers, 3 journalists, 2 manufacturers, 2 contractors, 2 politicians, 1 teacher and 1 oil gauger. The oldest Senator is H. G. BUSSEY, of York, born in 1816, and the youngest is J. C. NEWMYER, of Allegheny, born in 1848. Of the Representatives, 52 are merchants, 41 are tradesmen and clerks, 37 are farmers, 24 are lawyers, 15 are physicians, 10 are manufacturers, 8 are teachers, 6 are oil producers, 3 are editors, 2 bankers, 2 railroad conductors and 1 hotel-keeper. HENRY SCARBOROUGH, of Berks, born 1806, is the oldest Representative, and SAMUEL S. JONES, of Luzerne, born in 1850, is the youngest.

THE Commissioner of Agriculture has made his annual report. The losses from Winter-killing, the fly, the chinch bug, grasshoppers, rust, smut, &c., have this season been far less than usual. The heaviest production is in the section of the lightest yield last year—the northwestern Spring wheat states, whose product fell off 36,000,000 bushels. The aggregate in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska is double that of last year and nearly 20,000,000 bushels greater than that of '75. The entire crop promises to exceede that of last year by 70,000,000 bushels, leaving 100,000,000 bushels for exportation, with a surplus remainig above the actual requirment of consumption. Other crops have generally been good.

HOW MUCH WAS PAID.— During 1877 there were in round numbers $47,000,000 of the national debt paid off or nearly four millions per month. Still we hear the Democratic cry of extravagance and fraud. When the Democrats were in power their frauds and extravagances took an entirely different shape. The public debt then inceeased from year to year and the money drawn from taxpayers went into the pockets of Democratic officeholders instead of going to reduce the debt.

COL OVERTON voted on Monday against grapting subsides of any kind to corporations. The district never had a representative more vigilant and watchful of the public interests than the Colonel.

A TREATY of peace has been consummated between Russia and Turkey, and the Russian army is to be withdrawn from the domains of the Porte.

LETTERS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

TO RESUME OR NOT TO RESUME—THAT'S THE QUESTION.

An examinuction of the votes in Congress shows that the honorable members who voted for the silver bill, are very generally the same who voted for the repeal of the resumption act. Why these two measures, which have no analogy and no relationship whatever to each other, should thus be bound together like the Siamese twins, brought into the world and fathered by the same men, no person living is wise enough to tell. The only valid objection to the resumption act which has ever been made, is the difficulty of maintaining resumption after it is begun, without previously having lessened the quantity of gold in the country, and the disturbance of values attendant on a change from a paper to a gold basis.

This objection has been made by some of these very silver bill men. Now if it be true, as Stanley Matthews and the others argue, that silver is "in the bond," and that the "Shylock's" instead of a pound of gold, can only exact a pound of silver, that the national credit and character for honesty cannot suffer by the passage of the silver bill, and the payment of the national and all other debts, principal and interest in silver, then there would be nothing in the world to hinder resumption the very day the silver bill should be passed and signed by the President. When that day arrives the riddle is already solved. With greenbacks worth six cents on the dollar more than silver, very few would be presented at the Treasury for redemption.

Only fools would be likely to change dollars worth 98 cents for those only worth 92, but should they all be presented, there would be no difficulty in getting the silver to pay them.

If Flood and O'Brien and the Nevada Senators could not furnish enough, ample supplies could be obtained from London and Berlin at much less than the price of greenbacks. We may safely say that no greenbacks would be presented at the Treasury, and no matter how great the desire Secretary Sherman might have to destroy them, his destructive feelings would not be gratified, for he would not be able to see one twice a year unless he saw it in a broker's show-window, or bought it at a premium. The internal revenue would all be collected in silver, and the government officers might be obliged to receive their salaries in silver or do without them.

We are not in favor of the silver bill as it passed the House, we believe that a silver dollar should contain a dollar's worth of silver. We are endeavoring to show that if the silver bill should become a law, there would not be the slightest obstacle to immediate resumption in silver, that resumption would not only be perfectly safe, but profitable to the government, that if the silver Congressmen are honest, sincere and patriotic in their efforts to remonetize an inferior coin in order to make money cheap, they are inconsistent, unwise, and short-sighted in repealing the resumption act at the very time they shall have made it (by the passage of the silver bill) safe, practicable and profitable, for the government to resume. The three hundred and fifty-one millions of dollars in greenbacks could be redeemed in silver and twenty-one millions of dollars saved by the operation. If Justice and Equity will sanction the payment of the bonds in silver, they would certainly justify the payment of the greenbacks in the same coin. Why then would they repeal the resumption act? They are trying *to serve two masters*, the men who desire paper inflation, and the producers of silver who desire a market for their product.

The greenbackers will not allow a note to be canceled, and the silver producers will not consent to a dollar that is worth one hundred cents. Both are agreed that inflation shall take place, and both parties are determined to avoid even the appearance of contraction and so resolved to repeal the resumption act. We believe that many, if not a majority of the Congressmen, who threaten an insurrection in case their bills are vetoed in the Senate or at the White House, do not care a cent what becomes of them so that they succeed in making political capital for themselves. It is not improbable that they would prefer to have their bills fail, because if their bills were passed, and did not afford the relief which they had promised the people their occupation would be gone, they could obtain leave of absence, and as first class demagogues take their places on the retired list. They know there is a wide-spread feeling of depression and discontent in the minds of the people owing to the hard times, the enforced collection of debts, shrinkage in the value of property, the reduction of wages, the alarming number of bankruptcies, the breaking of savings banks and insurance companies, and they are endeavoring to use these troubles and excitements for their own personal advantage. They are charging all the blame for the hard times on the party which has been in power, they are making new political issues and fanning the flames of disorder and discontent, hoping thereby to secure their re-election and continuance in office.

If the silver bill should fail and the resumption act stand, will resumption take place in 1879? It is understood Secretary Sherman thinks that without any additional legislation there will be no difficulty in resuming at the time appointed, and should gold continue to decline as it has for six months past, greenbacks will be at par with gold long before the first of January next, and resumption will come as easily and quietly as the sun rises. Many persons honestly believe what they have been told by designing men, that the government has destroyed more than three hundred millions of the greenback money in circulation at the close of the war, and that the withdrawal of so large a sum from the channels of business is what caused the money panic, and brought on the hard times. This is not a correct presentation of the facts. The compound interest notes and a few 5 per cent. notes, together amounting to two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and which had never been in general circulation as money at all, and had never intended to be put into circulation, because the currency was already so much inflated that the issue of another batch of ordinary greenbacks would have produced financial ruin, were after the close of the war called in and canceled. Public necessity demanded their issue, and good policy required their payment as soon as possible, because of the excessive interest they bore. Their withdrawal did not contract the currency any more than the withdrawal of government bonds, for being more valuable, they had been held with greater tenacity than bonds. There is an abundance of money in the country, and has been all the time, but want of confidence prevents its employment, and the repeal of the resumption act is calculated to increase general distrust of moneyed men and keep their capital idle.

There are $645,000 in the sinking fund of Pennsylvania for the payment of State bonds over due, on which the interest has been stopped after notice given to the bondholders more than three months ago, but the bonds have not been presented at the Treasury, nor the money called for, probably because the owners have no use for it and don't know what to do with it.

There has not been contraction of the currency enough to hurt anybody, the trouble all came from attempting too much from over trading our capital, or trading without any capital at all, buying heavy stocks of goods to sell on a falling market, contracting big debts when property was dear to be paid when property became cheap, borrowing money to build railroads and borrowing money to pay the interest, and also the dividends.

These, to say nothing of the extravagance in living which too many indulged, reckless speculations, bubbles, and air castles erected which blew away at the first breath of the storm were enough to make hard times, and the wonder is that they are no worse.

What we need is not more money, but more economy in its expenditure, more saving habits, and greater caution in contracting debts. Instead of more silver, gold, paper or nickel, we need industry, patience, fortitude, cheerfulness. These in good time will beget Confidence, the god of the business world, and confidence will soon unlock the hoarded capital and restore the lost prosperity.

CASTELAR.

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 26, 1878.

The "lock" in regard to the order of business having at last been broken, legislation has been progressing somewhat more likely during the last ten or twelve days than formerly.

A resolution, offered by Mr. Wise, of Greene county, was passed in the House, recently, which indicates a feeling in that body against the charging of illegal interest. The following is the resolution:

Resolved, That the judiciary committee general be and are hereby instructed to inquire and report to the house whether under the constitution and laws of this commonwealth the taking of usurious rates of interest for the loan of money by any judicial officer of this state is such a violation of law as to justify impeachment and removal from office.

If it is wrong for the layman or common citizen to lend his money and take usurious interest, it is certainly a greater crime for a Judge to thus violate the law and there ought to be some way to properly punish him.

The report of the Committee of Conference, on the order of business, referred to in a former letter, as having passed the Senate, was voted down in the House by a very decided vote when it was reached, but, at the next session, on Tuesday, the 15th inst., after a protracted discussion, in which a good deal of feeling was displayed, the House passed the same resolution on the subject that was adopted in the Senate, on the first day of the session. Thus business was inaugurated, and bills from Committees were promptly reported.

Among the more important bills which have been reported from committees affirmatively, are the following:

Providing for the re-enactment of the local option law.

An act to remedy the evil arising from charging more than the legal rate of interest. The bill provides for the forfeiture of eight times the amount of interest illegally charged or taken.

An act to establish new counties in this Commonwealth:

To provide for the division of counties of this Commonwealth, and the erection of new counties therefrom.

The following resolution was reported affirmatively from Committee on Federal Relations:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House that the bill to repeal the resumption act now pending in Congress ought to become a law.

The first new county bill indicated is for general application, while the second is to suit the case of Luzerne County.

The general appropriation bill has been reported from committee favorably. The sums appropriated to most of the items are changed from last year, but the aggregate amount will be about the same as then. The following are the proposed appropriations: Interest on public debt, $1,250,000; common schools, $1,000,000; President and Associate Judges, $480,000; legislative expenses, $400,000; soldiers' orphans' schools, $350,000; executive departments, $180,000; printing and binding, $20,000; public grounds, $10,000; miscellaneous, $50,000; *Legislative Record*, about $25,000. The applications for appropriations for State and other institutions foot up over $1,500,000, of which not more than $700,000 will be allowed.

Bills providing for stay of execution for two years; providing the manner in which the courts may divide boroughs and wards, and to provide for boards of arbitration between employers and employes, have also been reported favorably.

The action of the House, indefinitely postponing the resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the riots of last summer, was reconsidered on Wednesday, the 16th inst. The motion to reconsider was made by Mr. Huhn, of Philadelphia, and was carried, yeas 102, nays 69.

Among the bills reported favorably in the Senate, on the 17th inst., were the following:

Senate bill No. 22, with a long title, meaning a free pipe Line.

Enabling mechanics to amend their liens.

Enlarging the jurisdiction of the court of common pleas relative to granting charters of incorporations to mutual savings fund, land, loan and building associations and confirming charters heretofore granted.

Permitting defendants to testify in criminal cases.

Permitting surviving partners to testify to matters having occurred between the surviving partners, plaintiffs and defendants.

Providing for the bringing of actions against married women when the husband shall have deserted or secreted himself from her and is absent from and living out of the county in which she resides.

Exempting druggists and their clerks from serving as jurors.

Creating a middle penitentiary district and providing for the erection of a penitentiary.

Authorizing the state treasurer to pay the necessary expenses incident to the calling out of the National Guard to suppress the riots in July and August. The bill has been amended to provide for an expenditure of $610,000, instead of $615,000.

The bill providing for the holding of all the sessions of the supreme court at Harrisburg was reported negatively.

Among those reported favorably, in the House, on the same day, were the following:

Prohibiting banks and banking institution from charging interest on deposets.

Authorizing boroughs where rates for water are fixed by law to change the same.

To provide for the compulsory education of children.

For the more effectual prevention of mobs and riots—making each county liable for losses sustained therein from mobs.

Authorizing boroughs containing 2,000 inhabitants and upwards to levy and collect taxes for road, bridge and police purposes.

Fixing salaries of judges—Allegheny and Philadelphia courts, $7,000; judges of Second judicial district, $5,500; Twelfth judicial district, $5,000; Twenty-fourth districts, $4,000 and of the Third, Eleventh, Fifteenth, Twenty-first and Forty-third districts, $3,000 each, all others $4,000, except associate judges, who shall receive $5 per diem.

A bill which passed the Senate finally, on the 17th inst., "to make the misstatement of the business or affairs of a corporation by its directors, managers or officers a penal offence," has since been recalled from the House. The penalty provided in the bill, is a fine of not more than $10,000, and imprisonment of not less than three months or more than two years in the county jail. Senators on reflection thought the bill should be amended, as it would be impossible, it was agreed to get the proper kind of men to act as bank directors, with such a law on the statute books.

The case of O. F. Ballard, a member of the Legislature from Delaware county, who it will be remembered was arrested a few days previous to the meeting of the General Assembly, on a charge of embezzlement, and confined in the jail of Delaware county, has been before the House twice during the last few days. When arrested he claimed that a member of the Legislature was not subject to arrest under the constitution, but the Judge thought he was, and in default of bail committed him, refusing to permit the prisoner to appear before the judiciary committee to argue his case as requested. The House then passed a resolution directing the Speaker to issue a warrant commanding the Serg-ant-at-arms to bring Ballard before the committee. This was done, and the gentleman made his argument, but the committee has not reported and thus the case stands. Mr. B. is a Republican, and the Democrats, of course, think he ought to be promptly returned to jail, while the Republicans seem to think the by-point at issue should first be settled.

In the Senate on the 18th inst., a bill was passed finally, requiring "the prothonotaries of the several courts of Common Pleas to keep a separate index docket, in which shall be entered in alphabetical order, the names of all persons who may be found to be lunatics or habitual drunkards, and also the names of all persons or parties against whom injunctions have been granted restraining them from selling or in any way encumbering real estate, and the names of all parties against whom decrees in divorce have been granted."

This is an important measure, and as it will probably pass the House, parties interested can make a note of it. At the same session of the Senate, while "an act to regulate the pay of Co. Commissioners," was being discussed, Senator Davies participated—and in reply to an interrogatory made by Senator Yerkes, (in which that gentleman intimated that some of the officers in Bradford County were "receiving $30,000 a year under the fee system,") made the following brief but pointed remarks:

MR. DAVIES:—Mr. President, I am glad to have an opportunity of answering that question, and I consider it properly presented here, you would hear no complaints from the people thereof on account of the conduct of its officers, and I undertake to say that Bradford County has never had an officer that has realized any such sum as that indicated by the Senator's question, nor one-third of that amount. The county has been singularly blessed with good, pains-taking, obliging, hard-working and honest officers. Under the fee bill, as it now exists, one or two receive a greater compensation than they should. For that reason I have introduced a bill, which is now before the Committee on Constitutional Reform, reducing the fees about thirty-three and one-third per cent.

It is also the same old county, whose County Commissioners a few years ago, constructed and built a jail at an expense of some seventy thousand dollars—one of the best buildings in the Commonwealth. It was built under their supervision, and you cannot find a "job" in its construction, from the laying of the foundation stone to the final completion and furnishing of the same. But the whole was built as cheaply as a man with the money in his pocket and personally interested in its construction would have built it. For this officers should be commended, and not complained of.

The Senator from Bradford is always listened to with respectful attention.

A bill has been reported in the House, fixing the salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice at $10,000 per year, and the Associate Justices at $9,000; also,

For the prevention of drunkenness—punishing persons found under the influence of ardent spirits by a fine of $5,00, and fining policemen $25,00 for failure to arrest all cases of drunkenness coming to their knowledge; also, For the punishment of cruelty to children.

Among the bills introduced in the House, on Tuesday, the 22d inst., was one by Mr. Long, of Allegheny, relating to evidence in prosecutions for libel and slander.

This bill provides that from and after the approval and passage of this act, in all prosecutions for libel under the criminal laws of this Commonwealth, it shall be competent for the accused to produce in his own behalf and defense, testimony in support of the truth of the alleged libel or slander, and that the publication of the same was not prompted by malice, but was for and in behalf of the public benefit. That in all actions now pending or hereafter to be prosecuted for the recovery of damages sustained by libelous publications or slanderous utterances, the defendant in the action shall have the right to give evidence of the truth of the publication or utterance upon which said action is based, and that it was not prompted by malice, which facts when proven shall go to the jury in abatement or instigation of damages, which may be returned by the jury as nominal, exemplary or vindictive, as the nature of the case may warrant. Neither conviction under the criminal statutes nor a verdict for damages in a civil action shall follow when the alleged slander or libel shall be proven to be justifiable or made from proper motives for the public good, or for the purpose of warning the public against improper practices of evil-disposed persons or lawless characters.

The free pipe line bill was on the calendar for first reading in the Senate, on Monday night, but its friends did not call it up, evidently fearing to meet the issue. On Tuesday, however, Mr. Larmon, of Philadelphia, who is opposed to the bill, and desired to have it in its place on the calendar of bills on second reading, for Wednesday, had it read the first time. Before reaching the calendaron that day, Mr. Corbett, of Clarion, who introduced the bill and has it in charge, moved to postpone it until February 12th.

Upon this proposition there was quite a discussion, the friends of the bill apparently desiring time to gain strength for it, while the opponents of the measure seemed to think they were strong enough to kill it then, after a lengthy debate Mr. Corbett was permitted to withdraw his resolution, when Mr. Stone moved to recommit the bill to the committee on the Judiciary General, as he said with the view to amending it, so as to meet the views of gentlemen opposing it. This looked a little "ganzy," but on the ground of courtesy and to avoid any appearance of haste, the Senate, agreed to the motion to recommit, by a vote of yeas 21, nays 20. Several Senators who are known to be opposed to this bill, so well calculated to destroy the trade in oil refining, and other branches of manufacturing connected therewith, throughout the State voted in the affirmative on this motion, consequently there should not be misunderstood. There is no probability of the bill passing the Senate this session, let the "lobby" work as long and as strong as it will.

The bill appropriating money to pay the military for services in quelling the riots of last summer, which was discussed in the Senate on Wednesday, again came up on Thursday. The question was on the amendment of Mr. Dunkel, increasing the amount from $280,000 to $310,000, so as to allow commissioned officers full pay for fractions of months, on the same basis as had been allowed for the privates. The debate was warm and somewhat interesting. Mr. Dill took the ground that the prohibition was unconstitutional, or unlawful, as the amount of the pay of the officers was already fixed by law. The committee in considering the bill, and reporting it in the shape it now appeared, meant to cast no reflection upon the officers, in consequence of their conduct, although they had thrown themselves open to censure. Mr. Yerkes took a like view, and quoted from the dispatches of Adjutant General Latta, dated at Beaver, in proof of the allegation that the officers had deserted their posts during the crisis at Pittsburg. A paper, signed by a number of the officers of the National Guard at Philadelphia, was read, protesting against the proposed discrimination and regarding it as an insult. Mr. Herr made a vigorous and eloquent address, in which he scathingly stigmatized the officers for their conduct, describing their fleeing from the place of danger, stripping themselves of their military insignia, shaving off their mustaches and in other ways disgracing and disguising themselves. Other Senators eloquently defended the officers from these aspersions, but without avail, as the vote upon the amendment indicated, it having been lost by the decided vote of thirty-three to eight.

The bill again came up yesterday, (Friday) and by unanimous consent was amended to pay the line officers, Captains and First and second Lieutenants, the pay for fractions of months, which had been refused to the Field and staff officers. In this shape the bill was ordered to be prepared for a third reading, and will pass the Senate finally.

Several bills, none of which are of special interest to your section, were considered in the Senate on first and second reading, on Friday, after which it adjourned until Tuesday evening.

In the House on Friday, on motion of Mr. Long, it was agreed to take up the resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the cause and result of the railroad riots.

Mr. Kline moved to strike out the words "as well as the result of the same," and insert "and by what authority the troops of the State were called out—for what purpose, and the service and conduct of the same." Agreed to.

Mr. Summerville moved to amend, as follows; *Provided*, The cost of said committee shall not exceed $2,000, and that no member of said committee shall be appointed from a county sustaining loss. Agreed to.

The original resolution was then agreed to, as amended, by a *viva voce* vote.

Mr. Walker, of Allegheny, offered the following:

WHEREAS, Certain charges have been made regarding very severely upon the action of the commissioned officers of the National Guard, during the late riots, and more particularly at the city of Pittsburg;

And *whereas*, Proof to the contrary is challenged, and the honor of numerous citizen of this Commonwealth is at stake; be it,

Resolved, That the Military Committee of this House be and they are hereby authorized to institute an investigation of the aforesaid charge.

Mr. Faunce raised the point of order that the House had no right to call in question language used by a Senator.

Mr. Walker amended his resolution so as to come within the rules, and it was then referred to the committee appointed to investigate the railroad riots.

Mr. Weaver, of Allegheny, offered the following:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this House no change should be made by Congress in that tariff laws that would interfere with or have a tendency to cripple the manufacturing and labor interests of the country.

Pending consideration of the above the House adjourned until Monday evening at 7½ o'clock.

CUSSEWAGO.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

MR. S. W. ALVORD—SIR:—Had I not long since ceased to be surprised at any communication that may be published in the *Argus*, I should have thought, (after reading the recent articles in that paper, trying to prejudice the minds of the people against the efforts of WM. BUNYAN, late Treasurer of the County, to get an Act passed subrogating the County to the rights of said BUNYAN against the estate of G. F. MASON) that there was a want of some important ingredient in the management of that paper, and more especially after having seen the name of E. A. PARSONS to the petition, and knowing the signiture to be genuine, and being informed at the time that he thought the Act a matter of justice to Mr. BUNYAN. But let me briefly state the facts in this case, and upon the facts Mr. BUNYAN is perfectly willing to rest his case:

January 10, 1872, he entered upon the duties of Treasurer, and at that time there was settled against the former Treasurer the sum of $19,820.11; of this sum $12,634.96 was deposited in the various banks and passed to Mr. BUNYAN'S credit without one dollar in money being paid at the time, and the balance, $1,185.15, was paid to him in money. Of the sum deposited, $8,000 was in the banking house of G. F. MASON & Co.; and the firms of LAPORTE, MASON & Co. and G. F. MASON & Co. had been a place of deposit since 1850, and not one farthing had been lost by them, and G. F. MASON had been one of the bondsmen of the different Treasurers for more than twenty years, and was by the Commissioners approved as one of said bail, and at the time of Mr. BUNYAN'S entering upon the duties of his office, he was required to give bail in the sum of $50,000, and G. F. MASON'S name is upon the bail, and was considered good by the Commissioners, as also the bond to the Commowealth, approved by the Hon. F. B. STREETER and Z. FRISBIE, Judges of the Court. Mr. BUNYAN began immediately withdrawing the funds of the County from said bank as the business required, and found no difficulty in his checks being paid, until in March, and then found that there was sometimes want of funds to meet his checks, and supposing that the bank was perfectly good, but carrying heavier discounts than was prudent, he soon after took an individual bond of G. F. MASON to secure him and the county against loss, and continuing to withdraw the deposits as fast as he could find money to meet his checks, until the same was reduced to the sum of $2,647, when the bank failed and the estate went into bankruptcy, which prevented him from collecting the balance due upon the bond; and while the firm of G. F. MASON & Co. was found to be insolvent, the estate of G. F. MASON was considered perfectly good for all individual debts, and the claim of Mr. BUNYAN was filed as a personal claim, and must upon the closing up of the estate, be nearly or quite every dollar of it paid, and if this is true the question naturally arises why the necessity of an Act to relieve him of this amount. The answer is simply this: Mr. BUNYAN is a man seventy-four years of age, and has worked many years to procure him a home upon which he might make himself comfortable in his advanced age, and to issue an execution upon him must force him to dispose of a part of his humble home he has been so long procuring. Would it be just in the County, or its officers, to take a technical advantage (because she had the power so to) of an individual, and thus deprive him of his property, when by waiting a short time at most, the debt must be nearly or fully paid? By this subrogation it is only a change of security, and as I believe, without any loss to the County and a relief to Mr. BUNYAN from an unpleasant annoyance.

Respectfully yours,

JUSTICE.

TOWANDA, Jan. 29, 1878.

DEMOCRATIC RETRENCHMENT.

Congsress has once more made up its mind that the State of the country demands economy; that all useless expenditures must cease and a new era of thrift be inaugurated. To give effect to this opinion, and further the ends of good housekeeping, the Hon. Fernando Wood has succeded, by dint of perseverance and unlimited talking, in having no less than eighteen new investigation committee appointed, of eleven numbers each, with the usual power of sending for persons and papers. This is carrying economy to a point where silence concerning it ceases to be a virtue. We had an experience of this kind before. Mr. Clymer got up his committee a year or more ago, and we all know that hundreds of thousands of dollars were uselessly spent. But then there was work cut out for the Clymer committee, while Mr. Wood, as yet, has nothing for his to do. They are first to find out whether there is anything to investigate.

Such experiments are costly. Witnesses are brought from every quarter and their time and services must be paid for; and if something requiring investigation should turn up in Alaska, why the investigation committee having the matter under consideration would go there and find out all about it on the spot. How profitable such things are to the Government each one can estimate for himself. The Belknap impeachment trial cost $11,583, of which amount a son of the Sergeant-at-Arms received $756 as a clerk to his father. Senator Jone's silver commission spent $150,000. The committee on privileges and Elections spent $35,212, which includes the expense of the Electoral court. Without any crime or wrong doing having been alleged, these eighteen committee are launched upon the country and requested to do their utmost to find out whether anybody ever did anything. The whole thing from first to last is a political scheme, instituted to advance certain political ends, without any regard whatever for the interests of the country. Nobody believes these eighteen committees are called for, either upon the score of expediency or the welfare of the country. They are merely a brilliant instance of the Democratic style of depleting the treasury under the pretence of putting something into it.—*Lancaster New Era.*