EVENING BULLETIN.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1866. STATE EDUCATION.

The State Convention of School Superintendents which has just adjourned at Harrisburg, has presented to the public many facts and suggestions which deserve the most thoughtful consideration and energetic action of the citizens of this Commonwealth generally. Every county in the State (excepting Philadelphia, which has an independent schoolsystem), Beaver, Clarion, Elk, Erie, Forrest, Fulton, Indiana, Lancaster, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Pike, Sullivan, Tioga and Venango, was represented by its superintendent, and there seems to have been a free and intelligent interchange of opinions and experiences upon the general educational interests of the State. The debates of the Convention do not appear to have resulted in any positive action, the most important proposition, that of extending the school term from four to six months. having been voted down; but much valuable information was developed by these discussions. The condition of many of the school houses and the qualifications of many of the teachers are alike degraceful to the State. The Superintendent of Bedford county declared that "their schoolhouses are unfit to contain brutes:" while Mr. Armstrong, of Luzerne, boldly asserted that "not one-fifth of the teachers in his county who held permanent certificates were fit to hold them."

Here are two radical defects in the working of our public-school system. School houses such as may be seen scattered all over the State, in which one would not like to stable a valuable horse; ugly in appearance, uncomfortable in arrangement, exposed on all sides to the inclemency of the weather, scarcely decent in any of their appointments, tumbling to pieces with neglect and decay, are not only a disgrace to the State, but an effectual bar to educational improvement. Teachers, often appointed by boards of school directors more ignorant | not the man of our choice; we did not than themselves, dragging through a meagre examination by the skin of their teeth, with no reference to their natural qualifications for interesting instructing and controlling the young, are not the sort of people who should be entrusted with the education of the future legislators and rulers of this commonwealth and country. And yet these are the facts brought out, not by any means for the first time, by the late School Convention.

There is another important fact which was made the subject of one of the superintendents' reports. Irregularity of attendance is increasing in almost every school district. The report gives some singular statistics on this subject. It appears that "Pittsburgh, with all its perfections of teachers, buildings, &c. secures, according to statistics, only an average of 53 per cent. in attendance, whilst Patton district, in the same houses, middling teachers and months' school term, has an average of 86 per cent. West Chester, well supplied, has 49 per cent., whilst East Vincent, in the same county, with school houses scattered and six months' term, has 89 per cent of its enrolled pupils in attendance. Reading city has only 51 per cent of its pupils in attendance, which is the lowest figure of any district in Berks county." The report argues, with much plausibility, from these and other similar statistics, that good school houses and teachers will not. alone, correct irregular attendance, but that the attendance of the scholars can only be secured by compulsory legislation. Boston, where 91 per cent. of enrolled pupils are in attendance, and Massachusetts generally, where the average is 76 per cent. against an average in this State of only 62 per cent., are cited in favor of such legislation.

That the State has a right to expect parents and guardians to enforce the attendance of their children or wards at school, cannot be denied. The prosperity of the State depends upon the educated intelligence of its citizens, and no man has a right to bring up his children in ignorance, in a land where education may be had. But we are not prepared to admit that the existing evil is only to be cured by direct and compulsory legislation. The experience and observation of many years warrant the opinion that commodious school houses, presided over by teachers who are not mere mercenaries, but whose hearts are thoroughly in their work, and whose heads are thoroughly furnished for the difficult business of winning the affections and stimulating the ambition of their scholars, will not long present these beggarly accounts of empty benches, that are now so bitterly complained of. Boys and girls, in this free country, cannot be successfully driven to school, either by parents or legislators. and until the present miserable sheds and barns, that pass for county school houses, are replaced by decent, commodious and attractive buildings, and until the blockheads and incapables who now, in so many places, are laboring to beat into the backs of boys what they have not brains enough to get into their heads. are cleared out and their places taken by efficient and conscientious teachers, worthy of the name, it is in vain to look for any general improvement in the average either of the attendance, deportment or attainments of the pupils.

A CONCESSION. Ex-Governor Perry, of South Carolina, is of opinion that "if the proposition is made by the North for the calling of a ational Convention of the wisest and test men of both sections, the South l accede to the call without delay."

to the South for this concession. The experiment was tried in Philadelphia in August last, and it proved to be somewhat of a failure, a fact that is due, perhaps, to the fact that the "wisest and greatest men" of both sections declined to take part in it. The days of conventions came to an end in April, 1861. The Southerners tried the recourse to another arbitrament about that time, and they will have to abide by the result of their own appeal.

On Thursday last Mr. Le Blond, of Ohio, speaking in Congress for the Democratic party, read Mr. Andrew Johnson out of the organization of which he was the spokesman. Last night the "National Union Club" of the Fifteenth Ward, in this city, assembled in their might and majesty, and read the Democratic party out of Mr. Johnson, and it is not quite clear, from their published

A FUNEREAL MUDDLE.

proceedings, whether they did not also read Mr. Johnson himself out of the Johnson party. At all events they scolded A. J. because he had overlooked their merits in making his appointments, only as men can scold, who have been "left out in the cold," when the loaves and fishes are being passed around. They even went so far as to resolve as follows: "Resolved, That the National Union Johnson Club of the Fifteenth Ward do respectfully but earnestly protest to the President against the manner in which appoint-

ments have been made in this city.

"Resolved, That we will, at every hazard, maintain in its integrity the organization of the National Union Party, and under no circumstances allow our organization to be used by any other party to further their schemes."

As Sir Lucius O'Trigger would remark," it is a very pretty quarrel as it stands." Mr. LeBlond says, "we have no interest in the executive on this side of the House, not the least;" the Fifteenth Ward National Union Club retorts by saying that in supporting Andrew Johnson they "did not agree to become the tools of the Democratic party and assist to restore it to power." Says Mr. Le Blond, "Mr. Johnson is put him there." Says the F. W. N. U. "In nearly every State in the Union the National Union men were simply used by the Democratic party to place the reins of Government in their hands." Mr. LeBlond declares that "the Democratic party did not receive any benefits from Mr. Johnson in the late campaign;" the F. W. N. U. C. responds that "here, in Philadelphia, the claims of the original friends of President Johnson are ignored and the worst class of Democrats placed in position." "We never dropped Mr. Johnson, for we never took him up," shouts Mr. Le Blond derisively; "The manner in which the patronage of the Government in this city has been dispensed is disgraceful," mournfully ejaculates the F. W. N. U. C. Mr. LeBlond, rising with the occasion, protests that "to shoulder Andrew Johnson would destroy any party in the world," and the F. W. N. county, with remote and ordinary U. C., not to be outdone, says that "the dent has allowed a few reckless politicians, who assumed to represent his friends, to control all the appointments. Men who two years ago de-

nounced him as a traitor and a usurper are now the dispensers of his favors. \bar{n} Both the F. W. N. U. C. and Mr. Le-Blond tell a good deal of truth in their criminations and recriminations; but it may well be questioned whether it is decent to go to quarreling in this manner over their defunct Cæsar. As the little boy once remarked philosophically, "it is none of our funeral;" but everybody expects to see at least a semblance of decency upon such mournful occasions.

HIGHLY PROBABLE.

The New York Times says: "We hardly suppose that the proposition of Senator Wade for amending the Constitution, by making the President ineligible for re-election, can be taken as a blow aimed at the present incumbent of the Presidential chair."

Is this intended as a quiet hint at the proverbial difficulty of spoiling tainted fish? The country will agree with Mr. Raymond that no sane man will take any action towards rendering the present incumbent of the executive chair ineligible for re-election. Mr. Johnson settled that question very decidedly when he "swung around the circle" on his recent Western trip. Senator Wade is not the man (to use a phrase of the President's), to waste ammunition upon dead game. The proposed amendment could be postponed for three or four years without in the slightest degree increasing the chances of Mr. Johnson's re-election.

AN IMPORTANT CONFESSION. Mr. Postmaster-General Randall, in his report, recommends an increase of the salaries of the clerks in his depart-

ment. He says: "The salaries of clerks in the Post Office "The salaries of clerks in the Post Office Department during the four years of war were not increased, while all the expenses of living were more than doubled. The salaries were fixed in times of peace and low prices. They were not raised when wan raised prices. Clerks were compelled to run in debt, and, in many cases, their families suffered from want."

This is good logic, and Mr. Randall is certainly justified in presenting to Congress the claims of these poorly-paid clerks and urging a better compensation for them. But he goes a step farther, and pays a tribute to them which is worthy of special note. He adds:

"They worked faithfully and skillfully and honestly in discharging important duties for the Government. I submit that they ought to have some reasonable allowance for the past, and an increase of salary in the future."

Here is a voluntary admission by the Postmaster General that the employees of his department have, as a class, been faithful, skillful and honest. How does he reconcile this confession with his wholesale slaughter of these men, all over expectation of crowded audiences at these brth will possibly be much obliged the country, for maintaining the prin-choice entertainments.

ciples of the Republican party? There is no pretence that the postmasters and clerks who have been discharged under Mr. Randall, and who have been "compelled to run in debt," while "their families suffered from want," were less faithful, skillful or honest than those who have taken their places. On the contrary, Mr. Randall knows that the very reverse of this is true, and that all that he has demanded of his present appointees has been absolute compliance with Mr. Johnson's defunct policy. The Postmaster General has inadvertently paid a compliment to his clerks, at the expense of his own reputation, and has confessed himself the mere tool of the President in punishing men, who, by his own confession, worked faithfully and skilfully and honestly in discharging important duties for the Government."

A TELEGRAPHIC BLUNDER. The United States Associated Press yesterday afternoon transmitted to the various papers, a despatch headed 'Message of the Governor of New York," which caused no small bewilderment to thousands of readers who were at a loss to account for the sudden sumersault which Governor Fenton had apparently executed, in bewailing the action of Congress and denouncing the course of the "Radicals." The despatch was received at this office just before the late edition of the BULLETIN went to press, and so escaped the usual scrutiny to which all matters intended for publication are subjected. Upon examination it will be seen that Governor Fenton had nothing to do with the message, but that it was the production of Governor Patton, of Alabama, quite a different style of person. The message may be found correctly printed, as transmitted by the New York Associated Press, in an earlier edition of yesterday's BULLETIN.

THE NEW FIRE ORDINANCE. A committee of firemen had a conference yesterday afternoon with the Committee of Fire and Trusts upon the subject of re-organizing the Fire Department. The firemen proposed to amend the ordinance now before Councils. As the amendments would leave the Department substantially in its present condition, it is not probable that Councils will take a step backward in the work of reform. They will doubtless consult the public good, and not be governed by the protests of a body of men who, however meritorious they may be, are too restive under lawful restraints for the peace, profit and good order of the community at large.

French Opera. The attendance at the Academy of Music, last evening, was large. The Phlegmatic Five Hundred were there in full force, and several of them were seen to applaud quite warmly on two or three occasions. The rest of the audience was "large and respectable," and was very enthusiastic over a most excellent performance of Zampa. Miles. Naddie and Laurentis sang and acted admirably, as did M. Armand, who, with a fine presence, has a tenor voice that is particularly good in its upper notes. The other parts and the chorus and orchestra were extremely good. The one-act opera of Le Maitre de Chapelle, by Paer, is a charming and most amusing little trifle, in which M. Wilhem distinguishes himself by most excellent singing and amusing acting, being extremely well supported by Mile. Laurentis. They were repeatedly applauded, and were called out at the close. The troupe plays Auber's Crown Diamonds this afternoon. There is reason to hope that the success which has attended these two performances will induce this capital company to visit Philadelphia frequently during the present season.

The Bistori Beason. The world of refinement and fashion is on the qui vive for the first appearance of the great Italian actress, Mme. Ristori, which will take place at the Academy of Music on Monday evening. The opening play is Legouvé's splendid tragedy of Medea, translated into Italian verse by Montanelli. There is no one of her plays in which the great artiste appears to more advantage than this. All who design hearing Ristori should provide themselves with the libretto in advance. On Tuesday evening Ristori and her troupe appear in a translation of Schiller's Mary Stuart, in which she is surpassingly fine.

GREAT BOOK SALE.—Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons Messrs. Thomas & Sons will sell a very fine selection of elegantly bound books, suitable for Christmas and New Years' gifts, from the stock of Messrs D. Appleton & Co. Among the works in the catalogue we find the Waverly Novels, 25 vols., with Proof Plates; Dickens's works, with over 500 Designs by Cruikshank; Lever's Complete Works, illustrated by Phiz; Complete and Uniform Edition of Macaulay's works; Mew Ameri can Cyclopædia; Shakspeare's Works; Life of Man Symbolized; The Holy Bible, new edition, and Milton's Paradise Lost, illustrated by Dore; Galleries of Berlin, Dresden, Munich and Vienna; choice editions of the Poets, and many other superb Gift Books, with the best standard literature. The list runs up to number 700 in the catalogue, which may now be had of Messrs. Thomas & Sons. Every work in the catalogue will be sold without reserve, and this is the only sale Messrs. Appleton & Co. will have in this city during the year. No lover of valuable literary works, handsomely printed and bound, should miss this sale.

Musical.-Mr. Jarvis commences his fifth season of classical entertainments, on Thursday next, at the Foyer of the Academy. Four performances are to be given, on December 13th, January 24th, February 28th and March 21st, commencing at four o'clock, and continuing for about an hour and a half. Mr. Jarvis will be assisted by Messrs. Gaertner and Schintz. The programme for the first matinee comprises a sonata by Beethoven (op. 69): a violin solo by David; a pisno solo by Liszt; and a grand trio (op. 66) by Mendelssohn The rapidly growing taste for the pure, classical standards of music, warrants the [For the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. JOHNSON AND BAYMOND.

A TALE OF A TURNED COAT.

When Andrew J. and Henry J. Struck bands in the Wigwam, one fine day, Both Henry J. and Andrew J. Thought they'd an easy game to play, But the people punished Andrew J., And Henry J, in dire dismay, From the Bread and Butternuts fled away, Leaving Andrew the game alone to play.

Now Henry J. begins to pray, Like a sheep that has blindly lost his way, To come in the fold again, to stay, Vowing no more from the flock to stray. He says that the tailor, named A. J., Had promised to turn his coat in a day, And make it fit in an elegant way. But the bungling tailor, named A. J., 6 Had quite forgotten the needle's play, And, being without a machine of Singer's, His stitches wandered in every way;

While, with every goose that he did essay, He scorched the cloth and burnt his fingers. So Henry J., when he saw the garment, Frothed and foamed like a very varmint.

He patched the blue all over with gray,

'They told me," he cried, "O, blundering Andy, That you with the needle were very handy,

And, though you were down on ducks that were dead. You were "right on the goose," at least they said.

'O downy duck! O downy goose! You are brought to a very ignoble use. Poor water-fowl, I fear some plotter, Has watered his fowl, or fouled his water With essence of rye or confederate ink, A dangerous thing when he takes a drink When down on a duck, he'll do, it is clear, To stuff a pillow or tickle an ear, But when on the goose his fingers repose, He's very apt to ruin the clothes: So with either water-fow! that you please, Whether geese of iron or living geese, Or e'en dead ducks, Pm sure his deduction Is wrong, if he calls th.s Reconstruction!"

Then rose and blustered the tailor Andrew, With breath as fierce as ever a man drew; You dare to say that I am a blunderer, You impudent, penny-pipe ape of the Thun-

derer! O. Henry J., why will you say That coat don't fit your stately figure? I fear, H. J., you would shirk your pay, Or put it off till the dreadful day When the right of voting is given the

nigger. You asked me, Henry, to turn your coat; I turned it and now I come as a claimant Upon your service—that's my payment, Give it at once; I want no note;

For. H. J. Raymond. The job may be lame, and Yet, whether change of Raymond or raiment. 'Twas done to order, so where's my pay-

ment?"

"Payment! payment! For such a raiment? Andrew, 'twould be a folly and sin, too; Your fits are tight, And it wouldn't be right Such a bad habit as this to get into,"

"It cannot be tight, it cannot be too little. It fits as nicely as that of Doolittle. The beautiful tail, observe a while, Has a graceful Southern slope; the sleeve Is good to laugh in, when Yankees grieve And as for the collar, sublime production! I call it the Collar of Reconstruction. Seward and Browning helped design it. But I got a Southern stuff to line it-A cotton buckram to stiffen the neck And give all Northern leanings a check. Cowan and Norton like it, and why'll You not take it and give it a trial?

"Give it a trial? Andrew J., Your Policy fashion has had its day. I thought it good in the Wigwam weather, But for Northern climes it's flimsy-rether; And all the coats that you turned, I see, Look shabby and ragged and beggarly; Their owners shiver, and, showing the holes, Say they got them all at the last fall's polls-So take mine back; at last I learn There are better garments than coats you

turn, And a naked back I can bear, in sooth, If I only stick to the naked truth."

This was the Tale of the Turnéd Coat. Told by Raymond, that man of note, Who, though by trade a writer, can talk as Glibly as any one in a caucus.

The members listened with frown and laugh-

They are tender-hearted sons of men-And though not killing a fatted calf. They took the Prodigal back again. But as for Andrew, the bad tailore, He is merry Andrew now no more: "My trade is ruined, my goose is plucked; I have nothing left me to reconstruct!" This is the song he is sadly singing As round the circle he's slowly swinging. Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1866.

John B. Myers & Co., Auctioneers, Nos. 233 and 234 Market street, will hold during next week the following important sales, viz:

ON MONDAY, December 10, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue on four months' credit, about 800 lots of French, Saxony, British and india Jury Goods, including a line of rich Paris Cachmere Shawls, just landed, for Holiday sales, including many new patterns of D uble Warp'r hawks, with pure white effects, in the style of the most elegant India Camel's Hair Shawls, of the manufacture of Messra. Hennequin & Co. Also, Merinos, Poolins, Alpacas, Rops, Mohairs, Delaines, All wool Plaids. Fpli glines, &c. Also, Dress Silas, Hoop and Balmoral is kirts, Handsome Furs, Holiday Gloves, Icaris, &c. Also, an invoice of Fancy Carriage and Filegia Robes, for city trade.

ON TUESDAY, December 11, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 1200 package. Boots, Shoes, Balmorals, &c., embracing a prime and facture.

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On Thursday, December 13, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, on four months' crydit and part for cash, 850 ackages and lots of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, including Cloths, Cassimeres, Satinets, Esqui maux. Moscows, Castora Ratines, Chinchillas, dcc. Also, Dress Gooos, Silks, Shawls, Linens, Hosiery, Gloves, britts and Drawers, 'les, Balmoral and Hoop Skirts. Sewings, Umbrellas and Paraols, &c Also, 160 packages Cotton and Woolen Domestics.

On Friday, December 14, at 11 o'clock, by catalogue, on four months' credit, about 200 pieces of Superfine and Fine Ingrain, Royal Danask, Venetian, List, Hemp, Cottage, and Rag Carpetings.

Riegant Books at Auction.

On Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons of next week will be sold a large consignment of superb Gift Books, from the celebrated New York publishing how eof Messis. D. Appleton & Co. The catalogue of over fifty pages comprises the most expensive books, in splendid bluding. We notice particularly The Bible, illustrated by G. Dore: Don Quixote. Dore's it usurators; Dante's Vision of Hell. G. Dore: Milton's Paradise List. B. Dore; The Life of Mau Bymbolized, elegantly en bellished; Cooper Vignettes, Artist's proofs, Waverley Boyels, India proof illustrations; Dickens's and Lever's Works, the famous modern Poes; all superbly bound, in a great variety of styles pasking the lines 100 of books for holiday pres mis eyer offered at auction in this city. The sale will be at the street.

Extensive Sale of Real Estate and Stocks.

Thoms & S in will sell on Tuesday next, at the Excharge, a large amount of bank and other stocks; very valuable lot and, stables, No. 663 North Broad street.

Ill feet front; residences, Twenty second and Arch streets, 1135 * pruce, Seventh and Button wood; desirable country sext and farm; known as "Greenwood," Chester country, Pennsylvania; several very desirable small dwillings, lots, &c., by order of Orphasa' Court. Executors. Trustees and others. See pamphlet catalogues, issued to-day, and full advertisements on third page.

Auction Notice Sale of Boots and Shoes.
Philip Ford & Co., Anctioneers, will sell at their store, No. 506 Market street, on Monday morning, December 10, commencing at ten o'clock, a large and desirable assortment of Boots, Shoes, Brogans; Balmorals &c.

norals. &c. To which the attention of buyers is called. Sale of a Valuable Store, No. 207 Market street, by order of the Orphans' Court. Jomes A. Freeman's sale, on Wednesday next, in-cludes a valuable four-story brick store, No 207 Market street, the Estate of Margaret Hall, deceased.

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ADAM CRO-GROVE, W. P. REYNOLDS, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6, 1866.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6, 1866.

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