

The Bloomfield Times.

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NEW BLOOMFIELD, PENNA. Tuesday, October 24, 1871.

THE Senatorial Return Judge for Franklin Co. has we learn signed the certificate of Mr. Weakley's election, and application has been made to the Supreme Court in Pittsburg for a mandamus to compel the Cumberland county judge to perform his duty.

THE lease of the rail roads running from Philadelphia to N. Y. to the P. R. R. Co. has been completed and they will soon assume its control. The lease meets with much opposition in New York. This gives the P. R. R. complete control of a road from N. Y. City to the Mississippi river.

CONSIDERABLE interest is manifested at the present time respecting the decision of the United States Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the legal tender act. It will be remembered that the court at its last session reserved its decision on the question until the present term. The opinion of the court in the case will be delivered by Chief Justice Chase on Friday the 27th instant.

THE PRESIDENT has issued a proclamation declaring martial law and suspending the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus within the counties of Spartanburg, York, Marion, Chester, Laurens, Newbury, Fairfield, Lancaster and Chesterfield, in the State of South Carolina, in respect to all persons arrested by the Marshal of the United States for the said district of South Carolina, or by any of his deputies, or by any military officers of the United States, or by any soldier or citizen acting under the orders of said marshal, deputy or such military officer within any of the said counties.

SOME of the Eastern fisherman are trying to get this government into a difficulty with England on the fishery question. The Schooner "Horton" belonging to Gloucester Mass., was recently captured by a British vessel for encroaching on forbidden waters. She was taken to Halifax, but her owners managed to put a crew on her, sailed out of port in the night, reaching Gloucester in safety though eagerly chased by English gunboats.

The fisherman say she shall not be given up, though it is probable she will be claimed by the English, and must be given them, or serious difficulties will be the result. It is high time that this vexed fishery question was definitely settled.

THE MEN selected by the boards of Judges of Cumberland and Franklin counties, to meet and foot up the votes cast for Senator in the 19th district and issue the certificate of election—although they admit that Mr. Weakley received a large majority of the votes and sent the records proving that fact to the state department—refused to issue the certificate. As an excuse for this non-compliance with the law, they assert that Mr. Weakley's majority was due to bribery and corruption, though they neglect to state what means were used to induce them to attempt the performance of duties which belong only to the Senate or the courts. If obscure individuals can decide such important questions, where is the necessity of Senate or Judges?

A NEW COURT. In this Judicial district, we have had a new court established by one, Frederick Corman, who evidently is a disciple of Jim Heflinger and believes that "Judges should only come from Carlisle." This person was selected by the board of return judges of Cumberland, to take their returns and meet like messengers from Perry and Juniata, whose duty it was to foot up the joint vote of the three counties for Judge, and issue the certificate to the candidate having a majority. Corman however became so unduly excited by the supposed importance of the errand upon which he was sent, that he attempted to assume duties which belong only to the highest Judicial authority in the state, and to decide upon the legality of the vote, upon which the return he brought was based. Having decided adversely to Mr. Junkin, he refused to perform the duty which was required of him, and did not sign the certificates of election. The requisite documents were however signed by representatives from the other two counties, and forwarded to the proper authority, which will secure Mr. Junkin the commission as President Judge of the 9th Judicial district. We congratulate Perry county upon the honor of having that office filled by one of her citizens, and one too, who will no doubt fill the position with credit to the county and satisfaction to the district.

Tried by Fire. A large portion of the West seems to be passing through an ordeal of fire. The terrible calamity at Chicago has taken the attention of the public in a great measure from the fires which have been devastating the country around lake Michigan.

Perhaps the worst of all these fires has been that terrible one in the neighborhood of Green Bay, Wisconsin, which, commencing near New London, has raged throughout the country east and north beyond the Menominee river. This is a region which has not yet been to any great extent reduced from its primeval forest condition, and its scanty population subsists to a great extent by getting and transporting lumber, which they obtain in illimitable quantities from the great pine forests with which the soil is covered. Altogether the fire is computed to have devastated no less than three thousand square miles, and probably not fewer than one or two thousand lives have been sacrificed. A letter from Green Bay says: "Fully two hundred families, burned out of house and home, have now come to this place, destitute of everything, and at least a hundred more families are in an equally bad condition. Houses, barns, farm buildings, fences, bridges on the roads—absolutely everything has been swept away.

Advancing steadily onward the fire at last enveloped and destroyed the little town of Peshtigo. We have still to receive full accounts of the tragedy, but we know already that between six and seven hundred unfortunate people have perished. The village is some seven miles from the harbor, and on Sunday evening, the 8th inst., the same wind probably that worked the ruin of Chicago, blowing with the force of a hurricane, fanned the smouldering fire in the forests around into a blaze, and drove the fire into the village.

There was no possibility of checking the flames and the surrounding forests presented one mass of fire. The people could only fly to the river for safety. Those living in close proximity to the water reached it and waded in till it reached their necks. Here they remained from two to four hours and by wetting their heads were able to escape with life. But many were badly burned about the head and face while in the water. Many were drowned. Others, women and children, died from exposure.—Those who lived only one or two streets from the river were stricken down by the flames and burned to death before reaching the water; whole families were destroyed. In the morning the streets were strewn with dead bodies.

Eight or nine bodies in one corner were found near together. One family consisting of father, mother, and six children were found dead together within three feet of the water. It is supposed that the inmates of the Peshtigo company's boarding house, 109 and upwards in number, nearly all perished. Every report from the neighboring settlements brings information of houses burned and many lives lost. The immense pail factory and large saw-mills, and the stores, bridges, locomotives and cars were burned, and every kind of property destroyed.

Another village burned was Menominee, at the mouth of the Menominee river.—One hundred and fifty buildings were burned. There were no lives lost there, however, far as known.

At a small settlement of five or six houses, called Birch Creek, on the State road, nine miles north of Menominee, every house was burned, and ten or twelve lives lost, only three persons escaping.

At little Sturgeon Bay there was yet another tragedy of the same horrible character, seventy-five lives being lost. All over the northern part of the State farmers have been burned out, and for weeks to come we shall receive scattered reports of persons and families who have perished in the flames.

How Did it Come There? In Philadelphia on the 2d inst., a man Thomas Buckley, sixty-four years of age, was admitted to the almshouse in a state of supposed intoxication, and placed in what is called the drunken ward. As he appeared to be suffering from some injury, he was transferred to the surgical ward, thence to the out ward, and finally back to the drunken ward again, without the nature of his hurt being ascertained. During all this time he was gradually sinking, and on the 7th he died. A post mortem examination was made, when it was discovered that a knife blade about two inches long had been driven through his skull above and in front of the ear, and was imbedded almost its entire length in the brain. The blade was not broken off, but appeared to have come from the handle by the loosening of its rivets. It was covered over by the skin, and but a slight wound was left to show where it had entered. Nobody knows how or when the injury was inflicted; but the really remarkable feature of the case is that the man should have lived at least nearly a week with a knife penetrating his brain to such a depth. THE recent elections make a change in the political complexion of the Legislature. The Senate will have 16 Democrats and 17 Republicans and the House 37 Democrats and 63 Republicans, giving a Republican majority of 27 on joint ballot.

A Curious Case. Rather a curious case has recently been brought to the notice of the police in Lawrence, Mass. A burglar after breaking into a house was captured, shot, and carried to the lock-up. Although his wound was slight, it was agreed that the surgeon should tell him he would not live more than an hour, in order to draw a confession from him. The burglar, after exacting a solemn promise from his captors that all the money in his possession should be handed over to his wife, confessed that he was the author of many burglaries that had been committed in the region, and that he had secreted in Ash Grove Church in Albany, under the pulpit, two tin boxes filled with gold and silver ware, and in his room on Arch street in that city several hundred dollars in bank notes around the wainscoting of the windows, and in other places; also, that his real name was CARLES SANBORN, and that he worked for a Mr. McDONALD in Albany. He then handed over \$1,900 in greenbacks, saying that according to the agreement, that sum, with \$800 in a savings bank in Albany and some \$400 more secreted in his room, should be given to his wife. He had not robbed for money, he said, but for the pleasure of it; it was a mania which came over him at times, and which he could not shake off until he broke in some place. The dark lantern found in his possession is a marvel of perfection, and was made by himself. SANBORN's wife who resides in Bristol, N. H., was shocked when she heard of his arrest, as she supposed he was at work in Albany. All the money and property was found concealed in the places indicated.

A Severe Gale. The high wind which prevailed here on Sunday the 15th inst., was a perfect gale further north. In New York some damage was done to shipping. At Halifax the damage done was quite serious particularly to the shipping and the wharves, some thirty vessels being wrecked. At Montreal the roof of the new St. George's Church was started during the reading of the litany, the timber in the roof being green and the bolts somewhat loose. The consternation was intense, the people rushing out in the middle of the prayers. No damage, however was done. The Cathedral spire swayed like a ship's mast. The congregation, terrified, left before the completion of the service. Miss Annie Lowe, the youngest daughter of John Lowe, late of the Gazette, was instantly killed by the falling of a tree. Many citizens were maimed by falling signs, cornices, &c.

"May and December." At Upper Sandusky, O., a sad case of poisoning was brought to light recently.—Ten or twelve years ago, Barnabas Wagoner, an old soldier of 1812, married a young girl not out of her teens, while he had reached his three-score and ten, and they lived together from the date of marriage apparently happy; but she had tired of him and formed a plot with her brother, Robert Gaster, to get rid of the old man. They engaged a travelling doctor named Fooney to do the work, agreeing to pay him \$300 therefor. Fooney procured some strychnine, and Wagoner's wife made some bread and milk sop for the old man, he being sick. The doctor put the poison into it. It was given to Wagoner, on the morning of Sept. 21, and in the evening he was dead. The \$300 not being forthcoming, the doctor threatened to expose the deed. This not bringing the money, he confessed before a proper official, and gave himself up. Mrs. Wagoner and her brother were arrested.

THE citizens of Chicago have already begun the task of rebuilding their city. Most of the banks announce their ability to pay in full and many have secured temporary quarters and resumed business. Money that was in vaults has as a general thing been found in good condition, while that deposited in iron "safes" was destroyed. The number of lives lost it is feared will exceed the first estimate. Several of the newspapers have again commenced operations, and in the second issue of the Journal was published a list of persons known to be missing numbering over five hundred, two thirds of them being women and children. From every section of the country liberal contributions roll in, and every exertion is being made to clothe and feed the needy. The space burned over measures 2,500 acres and the number of buildings destroyed will exceed ten thousand. Thick Skulls. The workmen engaged in opening a way for the projected railroad between Weldon and Garysburg, Virginia, recently found one mile from the former place, in a bank beside the river, a catacomb of skeletons, supposed to be those of Indians, of a remote age, and a lost and forgotten race. The bodies exhumed were of strange and remarkable formation. The skulls were nearly an inch in thickness; the teeth were filed sharp, as are those of cannibals, the enamel perfectly preserved; the bones were of wonderful length and strength, the femur, being as long as the leg of an ordinary man, the statue of the body being

probably as great as eight or nine feet. Near their heads were sharp, stone arrows, stone mortars, in which their corn was brayed, and the bowls of pipes apparently of soft, friable soapstone. The teeth of the skeletons are said to be as large as those of horses. One of them has been brought to the city, and presented to an officer of the Petersburg Railroad.

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