



MIFFLINTOWN, Wednesday Morning, January 31, 1871. B. F. SCHWEIER, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

460 P. ROWELL & CO., 40 Park Row, New York and S. M. PETTINGILL & CO., 37 Park Row, N. Y.

Governor Geary's Message. Our space is too limited to allow us to publish the whole of His Excellency's message. After prefatory remarks, the finance of the State is reviewed.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. On this all-important subject we give His Excellency's remarks in full: Four years' experience as an executive officer has given me abundant opportunity for careful observation upon the workings of our fundamental law and the legislation of the State.

The last convention for this purpose was held in 1838. During 32 years which have since elapsed, sundry amendments have been made by joint resolutions of the General Assembly.

This is a progressive period, and our State has outgrown its fundamental law. That law should, therefore, be made to keep pace with the age in which we live. The existing Constitution, including the amendments of 1857 and 1864, impose many wholesome restrictions on the power and jurisdiction of the Legislature; but experience has demonstrated their inadequacy to protect the people against the evils intended to be remedied.

The subjects of the "revision of the Civil Code" and "Writs of Error in Criminal Cases" we pass over for the present. APPOINTMENT. The important duty devolves upon you to apportion, in accordance with the last census, the representation to the General Assembly and to Congress.

MILITARY HISTORY. The Legislature, in 1864, passed an act authorizing the Governor "to appoint some competent person to prepare a military history of Pennsylvania volunteers and militia."

Practically, the whole theory of our Constitution and government is subverted and destroyed by the present system of local enactments. Representative government is based on the idea that the laws shall be framed by, and be the result of, the collective wisdom of the people's representatives.

ber representing the locality or by some one from the district interested in the proposed law. By what is called courtesy, it is considered a breach of etiquette for any member of the Senate or House to interfere with or oppose a merely private or local bill of any other member.

The "Rights of French Citizens" refers to the treaty between France and the United States signed February 23, 1854, which stipulated "that the citizens of the respective countries should mutually have the general rights to hold real and personal estate, and to enjoy the same."

Special legislation is the great and impure fountain of corruption, private speculation, and public wrong. It has become a reproach to republican government, and is one of the most alarming evils of the times. Judicious amendments to the Constitution would arrest and destroy the growing evil; and it is the duty of every patriotic citizen to cooperate in all lawful measures to effect so desirable a consummation.

The subject of minority representation is now much agitated, and is receiving a large share of consideration among thoughtful and considerate men. It embraces problems of great political importance, and its manifest justice commends it to the public favor.

The members of the General Assembly should be increased in number. There should be a fundamental limitation to the powers of corporations. There is absolute necessity for greater security for the public funds and for their proper distribution.

The State Treasurer, Superintendent of Common Schools, and a Lieutenant Governor, the latter to preside over the Senate, and perform the duties of Governor, in case of his absence, sickness, or death, should be elected by the people. The Attorney General, Secretary of the State, and the Adjutant General should, for obvious reasons, continue to be appointed by the Governor.

The necessity for constitutional reform is appreciated and admitted by all who have reflected upon the subject, and without distinction of party the press has been outspoken, and has almost unanimously sanctioned the calling, at an early day, of a constitutional convention.

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completed before the 1st of June next. The book itself affords the best commentary or criticism of the manner in which the author has discharged his duties. It puts in concise form and perpetuates the most important portion of our history, which otherwise would have been forever lost.

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protection to labor against competition from abroad. Labor in the United States commands higher wages than in any other country. Consequently our working men are the more elevated.

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tion to this subject. A neglect to have done so might have been construed as an endorsement of a measure that meets my unqualified disapproval. The civil authorities of Pennsylvania have always been, and are still, competent to protect its citizens in the exercise of their elective franchise, and the proper and only time for United States military forces to intervene will be when the power of the Commonwealth is exhausted and their aid is lawfully required.

His Excellency recommends Philadelphia as the proper place at which to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the nation's existence. The 4th of July, 1876, is the day, and concludes the message as follows:

It is my sincere desire that we may cultivate the spirit of good will, forbearance, kindness, and charity, and unite in constant efforts to promote the public good and general prosperity. JOHN W. GEARY, Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, Jan. 4, 1871.

Reports and Magazines. Our space is limited to such a degree that we can barely notice the receipt of the following Reports and Magazines: Auditor General Hartranft's report of the Finances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the year 1870; Superintendent (Col. Geo. F. McFarland's) report of Soldiers' Orphan Schools, made to the Governor in pursuance of law, for the year 1870.

THE CHINESE COOLIE. The introduction of "Chinese Coolie," or "contract labor," is one of the greatest evils that can befall the toiling millions of our country. Their presence is not only degrading, but impoverishing and paralyzing to our patriotic and intelligent workmen.

Mr. Hyde, near Alton, Illinois, has on one hundred acres of his farm 2,000 apple trees, 3,000 pear trees, including 5-300 standard, 1,500 peach trees, 500 cherry trees, 3,000 grape vines, one acre of Lawton blackberries, 600 gooseberry bushes, 600 currant bushes. At the time of statement the ground was prepared for 1,000 additional peach trees.

During the past year the dog-catchers of Philadelphia captured 2,650 canines. German is to be taught in the Scranton public schools.

Notice of Election. NOTICE is hereby given that the annual election for Managers of the Juniata County Agricultural Society will be held at the house of John McManigal, Perryville, on FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1871, between the hours of 1 and 4 P. M.

Notice of Collectors. COLLECTORS of State and County Taxes, prior to 1870, will be required to settle their respective duplicates at or before the February term of Court; also, the Collectors of 1870 will be required to settle their Duplicates at or before the April term of Court, as no further indulgence can be given.

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On the third inst., a battle was fought in the north of France at or near the village of Bapaume, between the forces under the French Gen. Faidherbe and the forces under the German Gen. Manteuffel. Both Generals claim to have been victorious. Some one has escaped from Paris who reports provisions plenty in that city. The report is not believed.

The following account of the assassination of General Prim was dispatched to the New York Herald from Madrid under date of January the 4th inst: The General and two aids left the Cortes at the conclusion of the debate in the afternoon, at 7 30, and entering a carriage, drove rapidly through Turco street, the shortest way from the Cortes to the war office.

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