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NEWS ITEMS.

Captain General Dulce, of Cuba, issued a proclamation on Saturday abolishing court-martial for the trial of civil cases. Well-informed Cubans assert that the revolutionists are constantly receiving accessions from within and without the island.

The State Grant and Colfax Club of Virginia, as an offset to the operations of the Compromise Committee in Washington, have adopted a memorial to Congress asking that, in view of the deceptions practiced by persons whose disabilities have been removed, no further steps be taken in that direction until the applicants have proved that favor reconstruction by voting for it in the coming election.

It is reported that the white man named Anderson Upton, and the three negroes, who murdered and robbed one Martin and his two sisters, a few weeks ago, at their home in Columbia, S. C., and then fired their house, were recently taken from the County Jail in which they had been confined, and lynched. The four had confessed their guilt, and were awaiting sentence.

The examination in the case of the United States against Justin Arnold, David Wiles, Daniel Hess, and Alexander M. Sheldon, of Oneida, Madison County, N. Y., charged with conspiracy to defraud the Government, is in progress in Oswego. Arnold and Wiles own a distillery at Oneida, and Sheldon and Hess are rectifiers doing business in the vicinity of the distillery and in conjunction with it. It is charged that these parties have defrauded the revenue to the extent of \$50,000.

Advices from Hayti give additional particulars of the recent campaign of Salnave in the Southern Peninsula. He captured the City of Miragoane, but was driven out by the rebels. He retook the city, and destroyed a portion of it. He then captured six other towns on the sea coast, the inhabitants aided him in driving out the rebels. He next returned to Port-au-Prince, and it is believed that his campaign will lead to the surrender of Jacmel and Jeremie. It is reported that a cargo of arms and ammunition shipped from Boston to the rebels had reached their destination. The Government monopoly of the coffee trade was removed on the 30th of December, and the traffic opened to competition under certain restrictions.

A fatal fight occurred on Friday night last at a spelling-school at Silver Lake, Kosciusko County, Ind., between two young men, named Geo. Haines and Geo. Barbour. Some difficulty had occurred a night or two before between them, and they had arranged to meet and fight it out. Haines knocked Barbour down and stabbed him, the knife entering his heart and killing him instantly. Haines made his escape, but officers are on his track.—Barbour had been but a short time married. Haines' brother has been arrested as a participant.

An interesting case has just been decided in Mansfield, Ohio. It was brought by the city against the agents of John A. Wertz, of Toledo, for violation of city ordinance imposing a license fee of \$30 to \$75 per day for auctioneering goods and notions by persons not residents of the city. A verdict was rendered for the defendant. The dry goods merchants of the City are far from satisfied with the result.

A desperado recently appeared in Montgomery, Texas, and in a short time made himself odious to the citizens by his quarrelsome disposition. One day last week he rode his horse into the store of Messrs. Smith & Peal, and on being ordered out he drew his pistol, but before he could fire it was fired upon by Mr. Smith or Mr. Peal with a double barrel shot-gun. Although badly wounded, he ran out into the street, and by some fatality met a party of citizens who were hunting him for the purpose of causing his arrest for passing counterfeit money. He ran in another direction, when some one in the party fired upon him and he fell. A Mr. Oliver and two brothers named McGrew, (who, it seems, were in the habit of associating with the desperado,) ran up to his rescue with pistols drawn, when they were fired upon by the crowd and all three killed.

A resolution was introduced in the Kentucky Legislature, on Saturday, requesting Congress to remove all political disabilities that may have been attached to any citizens of Kentucky by virtue of the Fourteenth Constitutional Amendment.

When Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer in Illinois, he and the Judge once got to bantering one another about trading horses, and it was agreed that the next morning at 9 o'clock, they should make a trade, the horses to be unseen up to that hour, and no backing out under a forfeit of \$25. At the hour appointed the Judge came up, leading the sorriest looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a good one saw horse on his shoulder. Wood was the shouts and laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased, when Mr. Lincoln, on surveying the Judge's animal, set down his saw horse and exclaimed: "Well, Judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

Memorial from the Union League Club Concerning the Naturalization Laws.

The Union League Club has lately appointed a committee, of which Hon. R. C. Hawkins is Chairman, and Col. Granville P. Harris Secretary, to memorialize Congress for such a change in the naturalization laws as will prevent future frauds, and to enact a general law on the subject. The memorial of which the following is a copy, is now in circulation throughout the country, and we trust all good citizens, without distinction of party will give it their support:

To the Honorable, the Congress of the United States: Your petitioners, citizens of the United States, native and naturalized, respectfully represent: That it is alleged and generally believed, and as we are convinced can be clearly proved, that for some years past, and especially in the recent election, gross frauds have been perpetrated upon the suffrage, by the naturalization of persons not entitled to citizenship according to law, and upon evidence manifestly false and fraudulent, by the issue of certificates of naturalization in blank, or to other persons than those whose names are inserted; and that by such means, and by the use of such certificates, and a corrupt and wicked use of the powers of State Courts and their officers in this matter. Every good citizen abhors such acts as grievous crimes against the safety of the commonwealth and the liberty of the people. We believe that the existing laws on the subject of naturalization are inadequate effectually to prevent or punish these crimes, and we ask that they should be revised and made more efficient.—We respectfully ask your honorable body in your wisdom to frame or enact a law or laws:

- 1. Which shall restrict the power of conferring the citizenship of the United States to the Courts of the United States; or, where these Courts are not as accessible as tribunals possessing this power should always be to the worthy emigrant, to officers of the United States, such for example, as the registers in Bankruptcy, who can be found in any Congressional District, and may be required to hold sessions in each county.
2. Which shall require of all persons the record in the Courts and in the office of the Secretary of State, of the declaration of an intention, a certain period of time before naturalization, and forbidding any other proof of such declaration or the period of residence in the country except such record.
3. Which shall provide for the publication of the names and residences, and description of all persons declaring their intentions, and of all persons to be naturalized; and shall authorize any citizen to appear in open court in order to contest the right of any such person to naturalization now or hereafter improperly granted.
4. Which shall provide for the effectual punishment of all persons who are concerned in any forgery, or fraud in making, obtaining, or using any false or wrongful order or certificate of naturalization.
5. Which shall declare null and void every certificate or order of naturalization heretofore made in fraud, or in violation of the existing law, and shall make it a felony for any person to utter or use in any such order or certificate.
6. And inasmuch as the acts of naturalization now in force were passed at various times, and doubts exist as to the effect of some of them we submit that a general act is expedient, in which the whole law on the subject shall be embodied and clearly expressed.

And your petitioners respectfully refer to the act of 1802, passed during the Administration of Thomas Jefferson, and repeated until 1823, for the outline of such a system of registration of persons applying to become citizens, as we pray you to restore.

A PEN PORTRAIT OF MRS. JEFFERSON DAVIS.—In his forthcoming book on Mrs. Davis, Mr. E. A. Pollard writes as follows of Mrs. Davis, during confederate days in Richmond: Mrs. Davis was a brawny, able-bodied woman, who had much more of masculine mien than of feminine grace; her complexion was tawny, even to the point of malnutrition; a woman loud and coarse in her manners, full of social self-assertion, not the one of her sex who would have been supposed to win the confidence of a delicate man like Mr. Davis—whimsical in his health, a victim of "nerves" nice and morbid in his social tastes—although the submission of such a creature by the force of her character. Mr. Davis deferred to her in the social regulations she would impose upon Richmond. She demanded the etiquette of Washington, that the President's lady should rather not call. She introduced what was unknown in Richmond—liveried servants; and when every horse was impressed in the military service, the citizens forced to go on foot remarked with some disdain the elegant equipage of Mrs. Davis, that passed much more time before the shops of Main street than the aristocratic residences of Grace and Franklin.

CATHOLICS ON COLOR.—The Catholics are laboring among the freedmen in Baltimore; in their schools and churches white and black sit together. The priests openly declare the doctrine that "God makes no distinction, and the church cannot." Commenting upon the above paragraph, the Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph, the leading organ of the Catholic Church in the west, which is edited by the Very Rev. Edward Purcell, brother of the Most Rev. Archbishop Purcell, says: The above is from the last number of the Presbyterian Witness. When was the writer of that item born—where has he lived? he must have been taken a Rip Van Winkle snooze for eighteen hundred years. The Catholic Church has always done this. Blacks and whites study and recite and sit side by side at the College of the Propaganda, Rome. There are now seventeen negroes being educated for priests in one institution in Naples. Last year, a negro student carried off the highest prize at the Propaganda, Rome. The same equality prevails in her churches throughout the world.

The Governor's Message.

The Governor, in his message, after tendering his congratulations to the Legislature, gives the following statement of the financial condition of the Commonwealth:

Table with financial data: The reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurers show that the balances in the Treasury, Nov. 30th, 1867, was \$4,061,286 45. Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30th, 1868, \$9,918,218 01.

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30th, 1868, \$1,013,416 87

The total reduction of the State debt for the past two years and three months, amounts to \$4,202,326 14. The entire debt of the State is \$33,286,946 13.

The message recommends that there be further safeguards provided for keeping the moneys of the State, and that in the event of any large accumulation into the Treasury, it be used to purchase the outstanding bonds of the State.

The message commends the education of the masses to the fostering care of the Legislature and gives the prominent facts in relation to the progress made by the common schools of the Commonwealth.

The department of Soldiers' Orphans is referred to, and a liberal support for this department is suggested. The Agricultural College is mentioned, and the instruction there imparted is commended, and parents desirous of securing the benefits which arise from this system are recommended to purchase shares in the State. There are now 77 winter military companies in the State, and others are making preparations for organization.

The military State Agency at Washington ceased to exist on the 21st of July, and the books and papers of that office have been transferred to the Adjutant General's office. The enactment of a Registry law is earnestly advocated, and this important suggestion cannot fail to receive prompt attention at the hands of the Legislature.

The revision of the civil code is being actively promoted, and it is expected to be completed within the time prescribed. The establishment of an Insurance Department is again recommended, and its necessity fully demonstrated. When it is remembered that the District Attorney of Philadelphia, last year charged the State over \$30,000 for looking after Insurance Companies, the urgent need of a measure of this kind will be fully appreciated.

The necessity for a department of statistics is recognized, and the Legislature is asked to make provisions for such a bureau. The suggestion is a good one, and should be acted upon without delay. The decease of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens and Darwin A. Finney is appropriately referred to, and a list of the pardons granted is furnished. The message closes with some pertinent observations on the state of the country. The message on the whole is clear and concise, but comprehensive and in every respect satisfactory to the people.

The Reno Tragedy.

A SISTER'S OATH OF VENGEANCE.

The following interesting details did not appear in the hastily prepared reports first published of the lynching of the Renos and Charles Anderson. Frank Reno and Charles Anderson were married. After the bodies had been laid out upon the floor in the jail hall, the wives of these two men and Miss Reno, the sister of three brothers, were permitted to enter the hall to take their last look of those who, although covered with crime, were in their lives all the world to them. Ah, what a scene was there! What grief and anguish! What unutterable woe! The three women entered, paler by far than the dead bodies stretched out so stark and ghastly upon the prison floor. First came from those despairing women such piercing shrieks as love can utter when it feels that all it lived for is lost forever. Then tears like rain, bursting from overflow fountains, and moans so touching in their plaintiveness and utter despair that not even the most stolid could keep from weeping. Then followed that quiet, almost stolid look, a sort of blank, purposeless agony, that tells that hearts are breaking, that grief's work is perfectly done. Great God! what a spectacle of utter woe it was! The outbreak of grief ended, the quiet of despair settled upon the faces of the women. But not long did one of them remain under the burden. The sister of the three Reno brothers, an intelligent and handsome young lady, dried her eyes with her handkerchief, then, taking the grief-stricken piece of linen, she placed it over the face of her brother William, who to the last declared his innocence; then she knelt beside the dead man, and laid her left hand over his heart, and raising her right hand toward heaven, she took this terrible oath: "Oh! my poor murdered brother, may God curse your sister if she avenges not your death terribly and fully. This I will do, so help me God!" What a tragic scene was this—the dark, strong walls on all sides, and the cold stone floor under her knees—the sable garments of the bereaved sister, the pale face turned upward and the white hand pointing heavenward! What a tableau of death, despair, love and revenge.

IN A HORSE.—One Christmas day, some years ago, some rather fast young fellows hired a horse from a livery stable in the town of G—, and determined to have a good time generally. One of the horses never recovered from the effects of the ride, and the livery man sued the rider for the value of him. The lawyer for the plaintiff was an ox-judge. He was a good lawyer, but fond of his toddy. He was trying to prove by one of his witnesses that all were drunk, and commenced by asking him: "Where did you stop first after leaving the livery stable?" "We stepped at Michael N—."

"Did you take a horn there?" asked the judge. "Yes." "Where did you stop next?" "At the —Gardens." "Did you take a horn there?" "Yes." "Where did you stop next?" "At the Four-Mile house." By this time the witness began to smell a rat. "Horn!" says he, "I want to know what has a horn to do with this case. I suppose because you are a drinking kind of a fellow yourself you think that every other body is drunk." "You ought to have heard the explosion which shook the court room. The ox-judge did not ask the witness any more questions.—[Exchange.]

The Millonaire Artist.

A Paris paper has the following very pretty story.

M. Robert, an immensely wealthy and highly accomplished gentleman, well known not only for his valuable collections of paintings and mediæval relics, but for his rare skill as a designer and painter, hearing that one of his tenants, M. Villars, whom he had never seen, kept one of the most extensive establishments in France, called on him with a view to make his acquaintance.

Entering the counting house, he found a good-natured eccentric gentleman of middle age, who greeted him, and exclaimed:—"I suppose that you also have seen my advertisement, and have come to apply for that situation as designer?"

For a joke, M. Robert replied he had. M. Villars supplied him with paints and brushes, and requested him to produce a basket. M. Robert soon found that what M. Villars really wanted was an artist who would strictly carry out his own ideas, and that these were pure, and formed on an extensive knowledge of art. In a short time he produced a sketch which suited the employer to nicety.

M. Robert very gravely engaged himself, exacted good wages, and insisted on having several new articles of furniture bought and placed in the room assigned to him. But when he was introduced to the work-rooms, and found 150 girls, many of them young and beautiful, busily employed, and was informed that he would be required to furnish them with designs, and show the young women how they were to be carried out, the young artist began to feel as if he should have to be carried out himself—being very susceptible.

"Working for a living," said he to himself, "is not entirely devoid of attractions. Let us work!"

M. Robert being an accomplished artist, delighted his employer, and he soon found a remarkable facination in seeing his designs realized in steel, silver, enamel or wood. He took a pleasure, hitherto unknown, in seeing his works in shop windows, and finding them in the abodes of his friends. The work-shop life was, of course, kept carefully concealed from "society;" nor did his employer suspect that his artist was his landlord. But M. Robert soon found a more intense object of facination in the daughter of M. Villars, a young lady who also took part in the duties of the factory. The damsel was as remarkable for her accomplishments as for her extraordinary beauty; and M. Robert soon found that as regards taste and culture in all matters which specially interested him, he had never met any one like her. Step by step, the pair fell in love; and little by little the artist so ingratiated himself with the father, that the latter, after due deliberation, consented to their union.

Previous to the marriage the old gentleman one day spoke of a dowry. And "I suppose," added M. Robert, gravely "that I, too, must settle something on my wife. Well, I will." This caused a peal of laughter, which redoubled when the artist added, "And I will settle this piece of property, house and all, with the buildings adjoining, on her."

But what was their amazement, when M. Robert drew forth the title deeds, and said: "You seem to forget that I am your landlord? Isn't my name Robert?" The young lady did not faint, but papa nearly died of astonishment and joy.—This was a magnificent wedding, but the bridegroom has not given up business.—He declares that there is as much amusement in being useful as in amusing one's self.

Pennsylvania Finances.

No State stands higher, financially, than the State of Pennsylvania while under the administration of John W. Geary.

The New York True Democrat, in a very able editorial on this subject, says:

"The State debt has been decreased the past year two millions, four hundred and fourteen thousand, eight hundred and sixteen dollars and sixty-four cents (\$2,414,816.64). This speaks well for the management of our finances, and refutes the charges of extravagance so frequently made by the Democratic oracles and organs." The State debt has steadily decreased since the Republican party has controlled the State, notwithstanding the fact of the burdens entailed by a great war, involving the necessity for raising vast sums of money to sustain the general government.

"The Democracy have charged, times without number, that the Republican policy would lead the State into bankruptcy and the people to ruin. The debt continually increased while the Democracy were in power, and has steadily decreased since they have ceased to control the State. Republican theories may all be wrong, and Democratic theories may be mathematically correct; but the practical part of these theories seems to favor the Republican idea and to be in opposition to the Democratic doctrine. While we are gradually paying the debt and making it less every year, taxpayers will do well to make no change. If a man has a competent business man as his employ, he should retain him, and not discharge him to make room for another whose qualifications and integrity are both in doubt.

"The Democratic party under James Buchanan, in time of profound peace, increased the national debt at the rate of fifty millions a year. They have steadily and fearfully increased the expenses of New York city in their capacity for plunder, and which some day will have to be settled and adjusted through the agency of a Vigilance Committee. They nearly swamped this Commonwealth by a huge debt, and their management of financial matters in York county is characteristic of the tendency of the Democracy to extravagance."

We suppose our friend Chase fully comprehends the meaning of what he says about "Democratic economy," as the "time-honored Democracy" seem to have a life lease on the good city of York. We can but encourage him to "fight it out on that line," and to continue to give them True Democracy by the column.

A new way of collecting a bad debt was most effectively tried in the Rue de la Seine, in Paris, before the lodging of a somewhat dissipated student. A man was observed walking up and down before the house, having upon his back a large placard, with the words: "Monsieur C— owes me for thirty bottles of St. Roccus, I am waiting until he pays for them." He did not wait very long.

Doctor, said an old lady, the other day, to her family physician, "kin you tell me how it is that some folks is born dumb?" "Why, hem! certainly, madam," replied the doctor, "it is owing to the fact that they came into the world without the power of speech!" "La, me," remarked the old lady; "now just see what it is to have a physic education.—I've axed my old man more nor a hundred times that as some thing, and all that I could get out of him was, 'kase they is.'"

A wife wanted her husband to sympathize with her in a feminine quarrel; but he refused, saying, "I've lived long enough to learn that one woman's just as good as another, if not better." "And I," retorted the exasperated wife, "have lived long to learn that one man is as bad as another if not worse!"

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Critical Notices of the Press.

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We can account for its success only by the simple fact that it meets precisely the popular taste, furnishing a variety of pleasing and instructive reading for all.—Zion's Herald, Boston.

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Critical Notices of the Press.

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