Gazette and Democrat.

READING, PA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1863.

HAIL! brightest banner that floats on the gale,
Flag of the country of Washington, hail!
Red are thy stripes with the blood of the brave,
Bright are thy stars as the sun on the wave;
Wrapt in thy folds are the hopes of the Free,
Banner of Washington! blessings on thee!

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

READING, PA., April 11th, 1863.

WM. R. ALBRIGHT, ESQ., *Chairman Democratic Standing Committee of Berks County.*

Sir:—Recent events, now fresh in your memory, have developed a feverish excitement in the public mind, which in this fearful crisis of our country's history, is well calculated to alarm every lover of law and order.

No portion of the citizens of our common country are more devoted to the support and maintenance, in all their vigor and integrity, of the Constitution and the laws, than the Democracy of Berks—they do not now nor have they at any time for a moment contemplated any act in derogation of either; conscious of the purity of their motives and moral rectitude of their conduct, they have for some time felt alarm at the frequency and boldness with which both their motives and conduct have been assailed. Still, they were willing patiently to bear these foul aspersions because until very recently they suffered only in common with their fellow-citizens entertaining similar political sentiments, in other counties and in other States. This privilege has now been denied them: information has been lodged, founded on mere rumor, which has ended in the arrest of some of her citizens whose characters, heretofore, have never been called in question; and this has been followed by a partisan Press, charging openly upon the whole body of the Democratic citizens of Berks, crimes which if true would render them unworthy of citizenship in a free country. These charges have been spread far and wide over the land, and as no one except the people themselves can properly vindicate their own character and publish to the world their own sentiments and opinions, we as individual members of that party, respectfully request you, as its proper organ, to call a general

Mass Meeting of the Democracy of Berks,

to be held at Reading at the earliest day convenient, for the purpose of *repudiating with scorn the foul charges brought against them*, and of publishing to the country the *sentiments and opinions entertained by them.*

S. S. Ancona,	A. B. Wanner,
Hiester Clymer,	Jonathan L. Spengler,
J. Hagenman,	Michael Ruth,
Geo. W. Bruckman,	Isaac S. Ruth,
J. Lawrence Getz,	P. S. Ludwig,
Jacob K. McKenty,	D. L. Wenrich,
J. Glancy Jones,	John W. Fisher,
D. B. Bucks,	Ephraim Armstrong,
Michael W. Ruth,	Levi Moyer,
Anthony Spaid,	Isaac Laucks,
Edward M. Clymer,	Michael K. Boyer,
William S. Young,	Charles H. Fritz,
Henry Goodman,	Henry Brobst,
Daniel Goodman,	Charles Kessler,
Peter Shippen,	Wm. Rosenthal,
Lewis Eisenhauer,	J. H. Rain,
J. S. Ringgold,	A. W. Kauffman,
George M. Kunentzunt,	Jonathan Hiester,
Frederick Lauer,	Jacob Shell,
Jesse G. Hawley,	Benjamin W. Brossman,
August Bockmuhl,	Elias Bartram,
Daniel J. Werner,	Solomon Boyer,
Franklin Zerbe,	Joseph S. Heins,
H. H. Manderbach,	Aaron K. Balthaser,
Louis A. Livingood,	Samuel Balthaser,
George Filbert,	Samuel Althouse,
Michael Seltzer,	John Heckman,
Daniel Sohl,	John Clauser,
Jacob Shartle,	Matthias Blatt,
Jonathan Backenstos,	Joseph K. Bentzlinger,
John Himmelberger, sen.	Augustus L. Werner,
John H. Himmelberger,	John W. Althouse,
Wilson Himmelberger,	Isaac W. Althouse,
Nathan Blatt,	George Y. Ritter,
Franklin Bucks,	Samuel Zimmerman,
William Althouse,	Michael Kauffman,
George K. Haag,	Samuel S. Graeff,
John H. Kline,	George S. Boltz,
John Becker, jr.,	Henry A. Olinger,
Adam S. Haas,	Jacob Lenhart,
Isaac B. Althouse,	Elias H. Noecker,
J. Franklin Fichthorn,	John B. Backenstos,
Edward K. Bohn,	Adam M. Bohn,
Adam Werner,	John H. Hoover,
Isaac Sharman,	Levi F. Dietrich,
Charles Lambert,	Charles F. Diehl,
Levi Spayd,	Pennsville Backenstos,
Bennsville Lengel,	Jacob Kauffman,
Gabriel Dundore,	Gus F. Illig,
Israel J. Gruber,	Adam L. Fisher,
William Stump,	Jacob Tice,
Gabriel Fidler,	M. S. Thirwechter,
Adam Gruber,	Harrison Oxenrider,
John S. Wenrich,	John A. Shell,
Amos Guldin,	Benjamin Trontman,
John Gruber,	Isaac F. Beckey,
John Bricker,	Edward Illig,
Jared Fidler,	John A. Graff,
Levi K. Balthaser,	Joshua S. Bickel,
Daniel S. Strauser,	Jacob Ernst,
William R. Hix,	William Renno,
James Babb,	Samuel Reifsnyder, jr.,
David Guldin,	John S. Dundore,
Joseph Strouse,	John Brosman,
John Oxenrider,	William S. Kiseling,
Richard S. Ludwig,	John S. Heane,
Elijah Fisher,	Adam Leiss,
John Hoover, sen.	Jacob Noll,
Charles Spohn,	Reuben Adams,
Reily L. Fisher,	John K. Brown,
William Werner,	John L. Fisher,
Isaac Hain,	Ludwig Fisher,
Daniel Wenrich,	Emanuel Gruber,
Moses Gockley,	John Richard,
Richard Hain,	William Kiss,
Michael Newman,	Enoch Gaul,
Joseph Doehl,	Israel R. Kalbach.

(*And Five Hundred others.*)

In compliance with the above request and recommendation, and in view of the emergencies and for the reasons therein set forth, I hereby appoint

TUESDAY NEXT, APRIL 21st, 1863,

FOR A

MASS MEETING

OF THE

DEMOCRACY OF BERKS COUNTY,

To be held at the COURT HOUSE in the City of READING,

At 1 o'clock, P. M.

W. B. ALBRIGHT,
Chairman of the Democratic Standing Committee.

Reading, April 14, 1863.

P. S.—The Members of the Standing Committee are requested to meet at the Keystone House, at 11 o'clock, A. M., of said day.

☞ OUR CORRESPONDENT X has sent us a rejoinder to the *Journal* of last week. We are compelled to postpone its publication until next Saturday, on account of the pressure of War News and local matters upon our columns this morning.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The Report of the minority of the Committee on Federal Relations, of the State Senate, on the petitions of citizens of Pennsylvania for a National Convention of the States as a means of peace and restoration of the Union, will be found on the fourth page of this week's paper. It was in type for insertion last week, but crowded out by a press of other matter that could not be deferred.

COUNTY MEETING.

The call for a General Mass Meeting of the Democrats of Berks county, will be found at the head of this column. Its object is sufficiently explained in the letter to the Chairman of the Standing Committee, requesting him to make the call. The events which have occurred within the last fortnight in this county, and the high-handed attempts which have been made to affix the brand of treason upon a people who have never yet faltered in their obedience to the Constitution and Laws, and to overawe them from the peaceful exercise of their rights as freemen, render such a meeting at this time not only proper but necessary, for the purpose of vindicating their reputation from the foul and false aspersions which partizan malignity has cast upon them, and taking measures of self-protection against any interference with their rights and privileges as citizens of a free country, by the threats, intimidations and open violence of lawless mobs. We hope to see this meeting fully attended, as it doubtless will be, and that the Democracy of Berks will speak out freely and fearlessly as becomes a people who acknowledge no master but the Constitution and laws of their own making.

The names appended to the above call are but a small portion of the actual signatures received. The crowded state of our columns compels us to omit at least *five hundred*, embracing law-abiding and Union-loving citizens of every district of the county.

GOV. CURTIN WITHDRAWS.

Governor Curtin has adopted the famous opinion of honest Jack Falstaff, that "the better part of valor is discretion." In a message to the Legislature, on the day of their adjournment, he announces his determination to withdraw from the canvass for a re-nomination for Governor. Failing health, and the offer by the President of "a high position at the expiration of his present term of office," are the reasons assigned for his withdrawal. We think he has acted wisely, for the prospect of two successive, and, as they are sure to be, fierce and exciting conflicts—first, for the nomination, and afterward, before the people, for the office, with extreme doubt as to the result in either case, might well appal a man of stronger nerves and more robust physical condition than the Governor now possesses. Those who have seen him lately, will certify to the fact of his shattered health, and commend the prudence of his choice to consult personal comfort in preference to political ambition. But, it is singular that the President should offer him the high position alluded to, so long a time in advance. We do not think another instance can be found of record, in which an officer of the Federal Government has been appointed *eight months* before he was expected to enter upon his duties. If it were proper to regard such a matter in any other than a serious light, we would be disposed to set it down as one of the sly jokes for which the President is chiefly distinguished. It has very much the appearance of the bargains that are sometimes made by parents with their refractory sons—an offer of a tempting reward in future upon condition of good behaviour in the interval. The only hold the Administration now has upon Pennsylvania, is through her Governor. The Legislature, the other State officers, and a majority of the people, are opposed to it. But Pennsylvania is too important a State to lose in carrying out the Abolition programme. That must be sustained, Union or no Union; the Conscription Law must be enforced; the "Copperheads" must be taught submission; their impudent claim to the rights of free speech, free discussion, and a free press, must be put down; the absolute authority of the Administration to set aside Constitution, law and State sovereignty, and to do whatsoever it pleases, under "the War Power," must be maintained; and Abolition rule must be perpetuated, if need be, at the point of the bayonet. Governor Curtin is the man who must assist in this work, so far as it is to be done in Pennsylvania: and therefore the President tells him to stay where he is, and, to *secure* his fealty to his masters—for the Governor has not been, heretofore, one of the most willing tools of the Administration—holds out to him the reward he seeks, to be conferred *after* his work is done. In this light, and we can view it in no other, the tender of office to Governor Curtin, is by no means a compliment, but the mere *purchase* of support. However, the bargain has been struck, and from this date forward, we may expect to see the Administration policy rigidly enforced in Pennsylvania, so far as her Governor has power to enforce it. We have no more to say, except to inform our readers that the "high position" which has been tendered to Governor Curtin is understood to be the Mission to Spain.

HON. HIESTER CLYMER.

The prospects of the nomination of this gentleman as the Democratic candidate for Governor, are every day brightening. His manly, fearless and at the same time truly constitutional and patriotic course in the State Senate during the session just closed, has won him hosts of friends throughout the Commonwealth, who will work zealously to make him the leader of the party in the approaching canvass. In addition to the counties that have already elected delegates for him, we are gratified to publish the following recent demonstrations in his favor from strong Democratic districts:

THIRTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.—The Democratic Senatorial conferees of the 13th district, composed of the counties of Snyder, Montour, Northumberland and Columbia, met at Northumberland and elected Isaac Raker Senatorial Delegate to the Democratic State Convention, with instructions to vote for HIESTER CLYMER as the nominee of the Democratic party for Governor.

PERRY COUNTY.—The Democratic Convention of Perry county met at Bloomfield on Monday, the 13th, and elected Henry D. Egolf Representative delegate to the 17th of June Democratic State Convention, unanimously instructing him to vote for the nomination of HIESTER CLYMER as the candidate of the Democratic party for Governor.

These instructions are an index of the rising popularity of Mr. CLYMER, and will encourage his friends at home to more active efforts in favor of his nomination. An abler or purer man, or one who unites within himself more of the elements of political strength, cannot be chosen. And this, we believe, is beginning to be the prevailing opinion of the Democracy of the State at large.

The *Adler*, our old German organ, in its issue of the 7th inst., published Mr. CLYMER's late speech in the Senate on national affairs, accompanied with the following remarks, which it affords us pleasure to heartily endorse:

"This speech exhibits Mr. Clymer in the light of both a fearless and a talented and eloquent man, and therefore it is deserving of the attention of the people as it will undoubtedly obtain the appreciation of his more immediate constituents in Berks county. There is in it a determined and firm language, which bears evidence of settled views and opinions, and of the courage to set them forth at the right place and at the right time.

"We cannot allow this occasion to pass by, without acknowledging at this place our high satisfaction at the excellent and dignified attitude of Senator Clymer during the whole present session. Always at his post, with vigilant eye watching and guarding the interests of his County and of the State generally, he suffered no opportunity to pass for advocating, and as far as was possible, for bringing the principles of Democracy to bear on all the general acts before the Senate. He has made thereby naturally hosts of friends in all parts of the State.

"Berks county has every reason to be proud of this, her son, and may justly expect, that he, recommended as he was by the Democracy of the county in their late Convention as a candidate for Governor, will receive the fullest regard in the June Convention at the hands also of the Democracy of the State. There is scarcely any doubt whatever, that with Hiester Clymer as the candidate for Governor, the most splendid election campaign can and will be fought through with the surest success by the Democracy in the coming fall election."

THE NINE MONTHS' MEN.—The main object of the recent visit of Governor Curtin to the army of the Potomac, we are informed, was for the purpose of promoting the success of the re-enlistment of those whose terms will expire in a few weeks. In this, the information is, that he has been highly successful; and it is believed that at least two-thirds of the nine months' men will re enlist, after they have had a month's leisure and recreation at home. All who re-enlist will receive the full bounties, and their number will go to make up our quota of the new call that will be made under the Conscript law.—*Philadelphia Press.*

NEW COUNTERFEIT.—The following new and dangerous counterfeit on the notes of a Bank that has a considerable circulation in this vicinity, is noticed in the last issue of *Peterson's Detector*;

Farmers' and Drovers' Bank, Waynesburg, Pa.—5s, altered—vig. farmers loading hay: right end, 5, portrait of a girl; left end, *Five*, female kneeling, with sheaf of grain on her head.

ELECTION NEWS.

The most cheering news we can present to our readers this week, after the reverses that our gallant forces have encountered within the last ten days, are the late returns of elections in various States and districts.

Milwaukee city and county have given nearly 5,000 Democratic majority, electing nearly all the Democratic nominees for the municipal offices. La Crosse, Kenosha, and other large towns, hitherto generally Abolition, have gone the same way; and it is believed that the Democratic candidate for Supreme Judge in the State at large, (Wisconsin) is elected.

Detroit, Michigan, gives 700 Democratic majority, and the State at large shows great Democratic gains.

St. Paul, Minnesota, has gone Democratic, under very discouraging circumstances.

Ohio, with the exception of Cincinnati, Cleveland and a few other places, has made a clean Democratic sweep, carrying the State by a majority estimated at 25,000 to 30,000—more than three times as large as it was last fall.

The Democrats have carried Trenton, N. J., by a majority of about 400. Franklin S. Mills is re elected Mayor by a handsome majority, and the Democrats have carried five of the six wards, electing their whole city ticket and making a clean sweep.

In Connecticut the Democrats have carried Hartford by 450 majority—a gain of nearly 100 since the general election,—electing fourteen Councilmen and three Aldermen, to ten Abolition Councilmen and two Aldermen. For one Alderman there is a tie. The city of New Haven has been carried by the Democrats by 130 more majority than Seymour received for Governor. The State is to day Democratic.

The Charter election in Albany, New York, on Tuesday, terminated gloriously for the Democracy. The *Argus* says the victory is unexampled in their history. The Democrats elected ten of the eleven Aldermen and eight of ten Supervisors—every ward but the 4th being Democratic, and the Abolition majority in that ward being small. There were upwards of 8,000 votes polled, and the average Democratic majority was 2,616. So we go. Depend upon it "there's a good time coming."

THE LEGISLATURE.

The State Legislature adjourned finally on Wednesday at noon. The General Appropriation bill, and all the necessary measures for keeping the machinery of our State Government in running order for the next nine months, were perfected and passed previous to the close of the session, so that there is no likelihood of a special meeting of the Legislature during the summer.

According to custom, on the last day of the session, the Speaker of the Senate, Mr. LAWRENCE, resigned the Chair, and the Hon. JOHN F. PENNEY, (Rep.) of Allegheny county, was elected Speaker for the recess. The Democratic Senators voted for the Hon. HIESTER CLYMER, of Berks. Mr. Penney had 19 votes, and Mr. Clymer 13. The latter received the compliment of a unanimous nomination by the Democratic caucus.

We are obliged to defer our report of the last six days' proceedings of the Legislature until next week.

THE HARRISBURG CHILD-MURDER.—Our readers will doubtless remember the case of a little girl named Mary Elizabeth German, of Harrisburg, who was decoyed from her home on the night of the 3d of October last, and brutally murdered by some fiend in human shape, who, notwithstanding the most diligent search was made for him, under the incentive of the offer of large rewards, escaped detection for the time. We now learn that the old adage, "murder will out," seems about to be verified by the discovery of the murderer of this poor child. The Harrisburg *Patriot & Union* of Thursday, says:

"Some days ago Mrs. Weitzel of this city, accompanied by Mr. Emanuel German and officer Fleck, went to Dayton, Ohio, to examine an alleged murderer confined in the prison there, supposed to be the fiend that outraged and murdered little Mary Elizabeth German in the month of October last. The District Attorney has information from officer Fleck to the effect that the witness, Mrs. Weitzel, at once identified the prisoner as the individual in whose company she had seen the deceased on the evening prior to the murder. What revelations, if any, the prisoner made in regard to that horrible tragedy, is not stated, and we must await officer Fleck's return for further developments. It will be a relief to our whole community to know that the perpetrator of the most fiendish outrage on record has at last been detected. Should he escape conviction on the charge for which he was arrested at Dayton, he will be brought here for trial."

BOARD OF CONTROLLERS.

The stated monthly meeting of the Board was held on Monday evening, April 13th, 1863, in the High School building.

The following members were present:—

Messrs. Arnold, Briner, Eckert, Frees, Garnand, Hagenman, Hahn, Hain, Hoff, Hicker, Jones, Knerr, Maxton, McCauley, McCurdy, Mengel, Mors, Mulligan, Peace, Peacock, Richards, Roland, Ruppert, Shearer, Stout, Turner, Van Leer—27.

Absent—Messrs Getz, Robinson, Seidel—3.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Standing Committees were called upon for reports.

The Committee on Finance presented the following bills, which, on motion, were ordered to be paid:

Samuel Hechler, supplies for Schools,	$77 58
Whitman & Haas, printing and advertising,	9 87
J. L. Stichter, glass, nails, &c., 4th Ward,	5 57
Strickland & Brooks, repairs 3d and 4th Ward,	15 00
Estate of D. H. Ross, rent for Colored School,	18 00
Charles Fried, binding Register and Reports,	9 25
John Kissinger, repairing, 1st Ward,	9 94
S. F. Ruppert, supplies for 4th Ward,	3 91
Abraham Kline, kindling wood, 4th Ward,	6 25
F. Wechsler, repairing,	3 90
George R. Frill, coal for 4th Ward,	4 50
Jacob Kunsman, repairing, 3d Ward,	5 00
A. H. & S. M. Doysher, lumber, 1st Ward,	2 94
—— Wanner, corn cobs, 5th Ward,	2 00
James E. Frill, repairing, 1st Ward,	2 05
C. K. Snell, coal scuttle, 1st Ward,	0 75
Buchanan & Hultinger, plastering, 3d Ward,	1 50
M. Harbster, ink well lids, 4th Ward,	1 08
Samuel Robinson I geography, 1st Ward,	1 00
Jacob Shaffer, wood, 1st Ward,	1 10
James Hoffmaster, bricklaying, 1st Ward,	0 62

Mr. Hagenman moved that all collectors of School Taxes, who shall settle their duplicates for 1862, and pay the amount due to the Treasurer, on or before the first day of June next, be allowed a commission of 10 per cent. on the amount collected.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Stout moved that the Secretary be authorized to have printed lists of the Directors in the various Wards, and of the Standing Committees of the Board for the use of the members.

The motion was adopted.

The special Committee to consider the expediency of raising the salaries of the Teachers, Mr. Knerr Chairman, made a report, which, on motion, was referred back to the Committee, with instructions to re-consider.

The special Committee appointed some time since relative to reducing the number of Grammar Schools and the improvement of the Primaries, reported progress and were continued.

The following is a summary of Teachers' Reports for month of March, 1863:

	On Roll.	*Aggregate Attendance.*
Boys,	2135	1699
Girls	1965	1481
Total,	4100	3080

LEWIS BRINER, Secretary.

LADIES' AID ASSOCIATION.

The following articles have been received by the Ladies' Aid Society, since their last acknowledgment:

Mr. and Miss Troxler, apples and rusk; Mrs. Jacob Hunter, apples and rusk; Mrs. Fred. Hunter, rusk; Mrs. Griest, rusk, feather pillow and case, pitcher; Mrs. Gilson, rusk, 2 bottles currant shrub; Mrs. Lot Benson, pickles, rusk, jelly and blackberry wine; Mrs. H. Hahn, dried fruit; Mary Seiders, 2 jars grated horse-radish; Mrs. A. Muhlenberg, rusks; Mrs. Dr. Muhlenberg, rusks; Mrs. Gregg, 2 pair woolen socks; Mrs. J. P. Jones, 2 pair socks and 2 feather pillows; Mr. Vollmer, 8 bottles catawba wine, 4 do. brandy; Mr. and Mrs. Nicolls, 1 barrel apples, currant wine, jelly, pickles, tea, rusk, and writing paper; Mrs. Anderson and Miss Biddle, white sugar, eggs, tin bucket; Mrs. F. Biddle, tin coffee pot, sugar, 5 pair woolen socks. The Ladies Aid Association are indebted to the Express Company for numerous favors during the past fall and winter.

C. C. GRIES, Secretary.

READING, April 14, 1863.

Mr. Editor:

As there will be an election for Superintendent of Schools, on Monday, the 4th day of May next, and as there seems to be a desire to have for Superintendent one who is, or has been, a practical teacher, permit me to bring to the notice of the Directors of the county, the name of JOHN RALSTON.

Mr. RALSTON has the necessary experience, having taught one of the Grammar Schools of the city for several years, and has also the capacity and energy to perform the duties of the office, and thus aid in building up the Schools and developing the intellect of the county.

Yours, DIRECTOR.

☞ THOSE DESIRING SEED POTATOES, would do well to purchase of Woodruff & Bro., Produce Commission Merchants, Nos. 4 Arch street and 54 North Wharves Philadelphia. Read advertisement.

City Affairs.

☞ THE UNION PRAYER MEETING will be held to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon, in the Evangelical Mission Church, Chestnut street, above Fifth, at 3 o'clock. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

☞ REV. DR. SCHAF, of Mercersburg, will preach in the First German Reformed Church, to-morrow (Sunday) morning, in the English, and in the evening in the German language.

☞ CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION.—Rev. A. L. Herman will administer the rite of Confirmation to his class of catechumens in St. John's Church, Hamburg, this afternoon at 1 o'clock; and to-morrow (Sunday) morning at 10 o'clock, will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

☞ ORDINATION.—Rev. Uriah H. Heilman, of Lebanon county, was, on Thursday evening last, in Emanuel Church, Hamburg, ordained to the ministry by the Lebanon Classis of the German Reformed Church. He has been called to the pastorship of the German Reformed congregation that worships in Emanuel Church.

☞ READING RAILROAD.—SPRING ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS.—We are requested to state that on Monday next, April 20th, the following changes will be made in the Passenger Train Schedule of the Reading Railroad:

Reading Accommodation Train will leave Reading at 6 A. M., instead of 6.20, and Philadelphia at 5 P. M., instead of 4.30.

The Western Express will leave the Upper Depot at 11.57 midnight—the New-York Express starting from Harrisburg at 2.15 A. M.

There will be no changes in the other Passenger Trains.

☞ ADMITTED TO THE BAR.—Tuesday, April 14, 1863, in the Court of Common Pleas, on motion of the Hon. John Banks, CHARLES HENRY JONES and RICHMOND L. JONES were admitted to practice in the several Courts of Berks county.

We understand that C. H. JONES, Esq., intends to make Philadelphia his future residence, and that R. L. JONES Esq., will practice at the Bar of Berks county.

☞ ODD FELLOWS' HALL OF READING.—At an election on Monday evening, April 6th, by the stockholders, for officers to serve the ensuing year, the result was as follows:

Managers.—George W. Bruckman, President; Louis Ritter, Secretary; Matthias Mengel, Treasurer; William S. Young, Edward D. Smith, Alexander H. Peacock, Lewis J. Hanold, William Arnold, Joel Ritter.

The newly elected Board of Managers organized and re-elected William E. Wilson as Janitor.

☞ GOVERNMENT LOANS.—Jay Cooke has opened an agency for the sale of the U. S. 6 per cent. Government bonds, at the Reading Savings Bank, where these highly desirable securities may be obtained, in large or small amounts, free of charge for commissions, &c. These bonds bear 6 per cent. interest, which will be paid at the Bank, semi-annually, *in gold*, or its equivalent in premiums.

☞ CITY TAX FOR 1863.—Councils have passed an Ordinance fixing the rate of city tax for 1863, at 65 cents on each hundred dollars of the valuation for State and County purposes; and levying an occupation tax of $1 in addition upon all single freemen residing in the city. No other occupation tax shall be less than 25 cents.

☞ NIGHT POLICE.—William Levan, of the Third Ward, whose nomination by the Mayor as a Night Policeman was rejected by Select Council on the 30th ult., was re-nominated on Saturday last, and confirmed by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. McHose, Robinson and Smith—3.
Nays—Messrs. Levan and Hoff, President,—2.

This completes the number of Police Appointments by the Mayor.

☞ DEMOCRATIC CITY CLUB.—Jesse G. Hawley, Esq., has been invited, and has consented to deliver the first lecture of the projected series before the Democratic City Club, at its next regular meeting, on Saturday evening next, April 25th, at 8 o'clock.

☞ DEMOCRATIC WARD CLUBS.—Agreeable to the recommendation of the City Club, the Democrats of the several Wards met last Saturday evening, and organized Clubs auxiliary to the General City Club. Committees were appointed to draft a uniform Constitution for the several Ward Clubs, and to nominate officers for their organization.

The Ward Clubs will meet *this evening* at 8 o'clock, at the several places of last meeting, to receive the reports of the Committees on Constitution, Organization, &c., and to elect officers.

☞ TO THE FRIENDS OF WILLIAM HOWARD.—A letter from Solomon Sharp, Surgeon U. S. Navy, dated at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va., April 14th, 1863, and addressed to the Postmaster of this city, states that "a man of the name of William Howard, who claimed to be a citizen of Berks county, died in this Hospital on March 9th, 1863." Any information in regard to the deceased, will be given to his friends or relatives, on application to Dr. Sharp, addressed as above.

☞ HOSPITAL CLOSED.—The United States Military Hospital, which was established in the buildings of the Berks County Agricultural Society about eight months ago, has been closed, by order of the Government. The few remaining patients, 23 in number, were on Wednesday last transferred to the Hospital at Broad and Cherry streets, in Philadelphia.

☞ HEAVY ROBBERY.—Last Monday night, the Iron Safe in the office of the Freight Clerk of the Reading Railroad, at the Upper Station, was opened and robbed of the large sum of *ten thousand and ninety-six dollars.* The money had been drawn from Bank during the day, by Mr. Samuel J. Potts, the Clerk, with the intention of remitting it to Philadelphia by the next morning's train, and was placed in the money-drawer of the safe before the office was closed at night. A watchman is employed in the Freight Station, but he was temporarily absent a part of Monday night, on other duty. It is supposed that the thief or thieves entered the premises and abstracted the money during this absence. Although but two keys were known to be in existence, and both were in the possession of Mr. Potts, the safe must have been opened with a key, for in the morning it was found to be locked as usual, and the lock was not broken, but the money package was missing. Two suspicious persons were observed lounging about the depot on Monday evening, and the police are on the alert for them. They are said to have been Philadelphia or New-York thieves. It is hardly probable that the perpetrators of so heavy a robbery can escape detection.

☞ GOTTSCHALK'S CONCERT, at Keystone Hall, on Tuesday evening, was the most brilliant musical treat we have had for years. He was favored with one of Reading's best audiences, who were carried away in a perfect *furore* of enthusiasm by his wonderful playing. He is a perfect master of the Piano Forte, and the power and skill with which he fingers its keys, and produces a concord of sweet sounds almost infinite in variety of combination and expression, are almost miraculous. Under his control, the Piano becomes eloquent of music, and fills the place of any and all instruments at pleasure. Gottschalk is a true genius, and his praises cannot be too warmly sounded. Mad'lle Vivier, the young Prima Donna, who accompanied him, has a sweet, but not powerful voice, and sings with taste and expression, but she is better fitted to shine in the parlor than in the Concert hall. We cannot have too many Concerts like Gottschalk's, and they cannot be too liberally patronized.

We are informed that Mr. Gottschalk met a number of ladies and gentlemen at the residence of Mr. J. L. Stichter on Wednesday, and delighted them by playing his brilliant compositions "Hope" and "The Last Rose of Summer." He is as modest and unpressuming in private intercourse as he is self-possessed and unaffected in public.

IMPORTANT RAILROAD EXTENSION.

The following important supplement to the charter of the East Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which passed the House on the 31st ult., passed the Senate on Tuesday last, by a vote of 17 yeas to 13 nays, and received the Governor's approval on Wednesday:

"*Be it Enacted, &c.*, That it shall and may be lawful for the East Pennsylvania Railroad Company to extend their road to the river Delaware, and construct a bridge over the same in conjunction with any other railroad company having authority from the State of New Jersey to bridge said river, and make branch or lateral railroads not exceeding nine miles in length, and in making the same, the said Railroad Company shall be entitled to all the privileges, and be subject to all the provisions and restrictions of the act of Assembly incorporating said East Pennsylvania Railroad Company, under the name of the Reading and Lehigh Railroad Company, approved the 9th day of April, 1856."

This supplement is of great importance to the business interests of the Lehigh Valley and of our own city and county, as well as to all parties who have an interest in maintaining free and untrammeled Railroad communication between New-York and the West over our "Great Middle Route," as it is justly called. So far as the State of Pennsylvania is concerned, it makes the East Penna. Railroad Company independent of all intermediate roads Eastward, and enables it to form its own connection direct with the New-Jersey Central or whatever New-Jersey road will afford it the most advantageous route to New-York.

☞ THE NEW TOWN COUNCIL of Kutztown have organized by the election of Nathan Levan as President, Charles Kutz as Treasurer, and J. D. Wanner as Secretary.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

The April term of our county Court of Quarter Sessions, Oyer and Terminer, &c., commenced on Monday last, before Judge WOODWARD, and Associates SCHALL and SPITZER. The business was comparatively small, so that the Grand Jury, after acting upon 26 bills of indictment, 3 of which were ignored, concluded their labors on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. MAHLON F. WOLFF, Esq., of Hamburg was appointed foreman of the Grand Jury. By direction of the Court, on Tuesday afternoon, they visited the County Poor House, for the purpose of examining into the condition of the apartments used for the confinement of the insane paupers. Their presentment will be found below.

The following report of the principal cases tried, is condensed from the *Times*:

Henry Lerch was accused of having uttered threats against James Shell, of Bern township. This occurred on the first of April, in an altercation between the parties as to how much hay could be taken away by Shell, who had occupied a farm as Lerch's tenant. The defendant was ordered to pay the costs.

Helena Romig, accused of stealing a quantity of clothing belonging to Ellen Harner in this city, was found guilty and sentenced to an imprisonment of 3 months.

John Blatt, sr., indicted for an assault and battery on Chas. Heffner, plead guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of $5 and costs.

Wm. Underhill and Wm. H. Dyer were indicted for highway robbery. About two months ago a soldier, late at night, was beaten by one or both of the defendants in the upper part of the city, and stripped by Dyer, but the clothing which was alleged to have been stolen at the time, was found, together with some small change in one of the pockets of the blouse belonging to the soldier, in the alley near which the frauds occurred. The defendants are colored men. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, but on motion the Court set this verdict aside as not warranted by the evidence, and a bill for assault and battery was sent before the Grand Jury, and both defendants plead guilty to the charge. They were sentenced each to 9 months' imprisonment in the County Jail.

Daniel E. Eckert was charged with burglary in entering the dwelling house of Francis Albert, in this city, at night, with intent to steal. The crime was committed in November last, and Eckert was caught in the house. Verdict of guilty. Sentenced to pay a fine of $5 and to undergo an imprisonment of 1 year and 6 months in the Eastern Penitentiary.

John Berstler was found guilty of stealing a black horse from a neighbor, a farmer in Ontelaunee township, and then selling it to David Levan. The defence was that the prosecution was mistaken in the identity of the defendant, and that the defendant was in Reading when the horse was stolen. He was sentenced to a fine of $5 and imprisonment for two years and 55 days in the Eastern Penitentiary.

Charles Seasrien, indicted for receiving old copper, brass and iron, from boys who had stolen the same, was acquitted.

Daniel Richards was found guilty of incestuous adultery with his daughter, a child 13 years of age. The evidence in this case was of the most revolting character. His Attorney has filed reasons for a new trial.

Lawrence Snow was found guilty of the late burglary at George Heller's Jewelry store. He was arrested on the Saturday after, in the act of selling jewelry, which was identified by Mr. Heller as belonging to him. The defence produced by witnesses, who swore that he was at home at the time the burglary happened and also that he owned several pieces of jewelry. Sentenced to imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary for 3 years and 6 months.

Peter Brown was indicted, together with *Jeremiah Hinnershitz*, for a forcible entry and detainer. It seems that Mr. Brown bought a certain house in this city at Sheriff's sale as the property of Mr. Jacob Graeff. This house, however, was claimed by Mrs. Graeff as her own separate property, and she had possession of it by her tenant up to the 1st of April last, when the defendants obtained possession of it by forcible means. They were found guilty, and sentenced to pay the costs, and restore possession to Mrs. Graeff.

Rosanna Rohrbach was tried for concealing the death of her bastard child, and acquitted. The post mortem examination of the child's body had been performed in such a careless and superficial manner, that the Commonwealth in examining the physician who conducted the examination, failed to prove that the child had been born alive.

Presentment of the Grand Jury.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of Berks County:

The Grand Inquest for the county aforesaid respectfully present, That at the suggestion of this Honorable Court they have made a thorough examination of the County Alms House. With the exception of the male department, they found the Institution in excellent order, cleanly and well regulated, and the physical wants of the inmates properly attended to. The Inquest are satisfied that the Steward, Jacob B. Conrad, is a faithful and attentive officer, and that he carefully discharges the duties entrusted to him.

A portion of the male insane department, not owing to any fault of the Steward, is in a condition discreditable to the county and revolting to humanity; owing to the want of sufficient accommodations, a large number of male insane paupers are confined in the basement story of the hospital building, the back part of which is below the level of the ground.

Their cells are dark, without ventilation and from the impossibility of preserving the inmates in a cleanly condition are most intolerably offensive. Many of the lunatics are violent and dangerous, and these it is necessary to chain. The condition of these unfortunate beings, manacled in unavoidable darkness and filth, excluded from ventilation, from society, from any cheerful sights or sounds, is utterly deplorable. It cannot be known to the people of this county, or we are satisfied that it would have been long since corrected. It cannot be the wish of the citizens of Berks, comfortable as the majority of them are in their own homes and sympathizing as they do with what is liberal, humane and right, that these unhappy persons should thus languish out their miserable lives in physical suffering and excluded from any of the conditions encouraging even a glimmering hope of returning reason.

The Inquest are unanimous in recommending to the proper authorities the erection of a new building, suitably located and planned with a special reference to the judicious treatment of the insane. This should be done after a careful consultation with those who have the most intelligent and practical knowledge of the subject, so that no unnecessary expense may be incurred, and at the same time the present wants of the county and our probable necessities for some time to come may be sufficiently provided for.

The Inquest, before concluding, would suggest, that some regular arrangement should be made for religious instruction in the Alms House. The inmates are numerous, they are old and young, male and female. Children are growing up, who have a right to the teachings of Christianity; the aged are passing away, who have a right to its hopes and consolations. Many of these have seen better days, they have had respectable positions in life, have been members of our various churches, have enjoyed the comforts of home, and have had their children growing up around them. The supply of their physical wants is not our only duty. In the main building there is a hall fitted up for religious service and large enough to accommodate the inmates of the Institution. We believe that the clergymen of the city of Reading and neighborhood would, if a systematic arrangement were made, officiate by turns, so that religious worship in English and German could be secured every Sunday afternoon. The Inquest return their acknowledgments to the officers connected with the Court and the Institution for the aid and facilities afforded them in the discharge of their duties. All of which is respectfully presented.

MAHLON F. WOLFF, Foreman.

ORGAN DEDICATION.

The great event of last Sunday, was the dedication of the new Organ at St. John's, (Rev. Mr. Koendig's) Lutheran Church.

It is really a noble instrument, possessing great power, extent and variety; perfect in equality of tone, and richness of combination. A large congregation was rapt in admiration as its dulcet notes rolled through the sacred edifice in solemn grandeur.

The congregation may be proud of the instrument, as it is by far the best in Reading or the county, reflecting great honor on the congregation, who, with the aid of a liberal public, furnished