The Pittsburgh Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1867.

WE HAVE heretofore adverted to the zeal with which democrats, North and South, whose common sense has not been submerged and drowned out, by passion and prejudice, have set to work "courting the blacks." Among those most conspicuous in this labor are not a few who were efficient in past years in stirring up fiendish malignities against the colored race. They were not sincere then. They possessed too much sense to believe the stupidities they inculcated, and too much stoicism and self-control to be swayed by the turbulent hatreds they endeavored to excite in others. Nor are they a whit more sincere now. Indeed, were they to speak truly they would confess to despising all profound connections on public questions, viewing politics only a game, to be played to the best advantage with the material in hand.

So long as they could keep away from the ballot-box four millions of people, whose votes, if they became voters, they had small expectation of getting, they did not hesitate to repudiate all the inherent and vital principles of democracy; to pour unmeasured contempt thereon; to scoff and jeer at the suggestion of universal suffrage; and to build up and maintain a structure of caste and exclusiveness. "But when those four millions of people, in spite of scorn and vituperation, had acquired the ballot, these democratic leaders, swiftly perceived they had either to turn square about, eat the curses and objurations they had uttered, learn a new speech, and practice the same arts on the blacks they had expended on the lowest classes of the whites, and succeed therein, or else retire permanently from potential political management. It did not take them long to choose. "Necessity *is* the mother of invention," though not unfrequently she has sore need to be ashamed of her offspring, particularly in cases of this sort. The courting process was promptly resolved upon, and sedulously followed. Never were ugly spinsters, with plethoric purses, more extravagantly dunned with compliments by northern roues or bankrupt spendthrifts. It has been noticed often, on the eve of an election, with what ease a crowd of taterdemalion whites are transformed, by the alchemy of heated eloquence, into a band of devoted and erudite patriots; but it has been supposed that no resource of art, and no imminence of occasion, yielded even to democratic enchanters the power to change millions of blacks, offensive through traditional odor, into "respected fellow citizens." This crowning feat of necromancy has been accomplished.

It remains to be seen what the democrats will gain for all their pains. So far the promise is not flattering. The blacks are disclosing more penetration than the demagogues suspected them of having. They know their friends. If the question is raised whether they come by this knowledge through the deductions of reason or the instinct of feeling, all we have to say is, it does not matter in the least. Some men get at results in one way and some in another. In matters of this description the only thing of importance is to arrive at just conclusions. Not unfrequently, in all races, the sentiments are safer guides than the intelligence. The present look is that, the "courting" process, well-nigh, while it may be agreeable as an amusement, will not pay as an investment, for the democracy.

PENNSYLVANIA naturally divides into two sections, the Allegheny mountains forming the dividing line. In the Eastern section the Democrats are in the ascendency; in the Western section, the Republicans. Whatever Republican majority exists in the State, on a General Ticket, the west has to furnish. It would naturally be expected that in the distribution of honors the section that furnished the strength to keep the party in power would not be essentially ignored. The facts do not correspond to this natural expectation. The East has the Governor, the Attorney General, the Auditor General, the Surveyor General, the State Treasurer, the Speaker of the Senate, the Clerks of the two Houses, the Chairmen of all the important Committees and a majority of all the members thereof, four of the five Judges of the Supreme Court, and both the United States Senators. The West has the Secretary of State, the Adjutant General, the Speaker of the House, the Chairmen of a few unimportant Committees, possibly a majority of the members of two or three of such, and one of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

In order to make this comparison strictly correct, it is proper to say that the new Speaker of the Senate is from the West, but this will be balanced by giving the Speaker of the next House to the East; that one other of the Judges of the Supreme Court was elected from the West, but immediately took up his residence in the East; and that the Secretary's title of State was given to a man who made up his mind to remove from the West, and locate at Harrisburg, in order to resume the practice of his profession as a lawyer, at the bar of that county.

The present arrangement on the part of the managers of the party is that the Supreme Judge to be chosen this year shall be taken from the East, and that the United States Senator to succeed Mr. BUCKALEW shall be taken from the same section.

Do the Republicans of the West understand the meaning of this? "Hewers of wood and drawers of water shall ye be unto your brethren." On the eve of elections much rhetorical laudation shall be lavished upon you; but only as serviceable vassals. Are ye content?

NO GENERAL RAILROAD LAW has been passed. The History stands thus. Upon the introduction of Mr. BIGHAM's bill to the Senate, it went to the Committee on Railroads, of which Mr. GEORGE LANDON, of Bradford, was Chairman. This bill, had it been passed, would have fairly met the public expectation, and redeemed the pledge made by the Republican party in the last State Convention. In the Committee, alterations were fastened upon it, by which it was completely emasculated. These changes were so vital that the bill was actually changed from its original intent of fostering the construction of railroads, into prohibiting all railroad building whatever, in as far as authority could be devised from it. In this form it passed the Senate, only four votes being recorded in the negative. Several sincere friends of Freedom in Railroad building voted for the bill under the mistaken idea that something would be gained by it. This bill did not pass the House. Mr. BIGHAM's bill, as originally introduced by him to the SENATE, was brought into the House, and was passed by a handsome majority. It went over to the Senate, and on the last day but one of the session, was rejected by a majority of four.

The result is that no General Railroad Law whatever was passed. The pledge given by the last Republican State Convention was repudiated by its representatives in the Legislature; and it is better thus than that the deceptive and hypocritical bill that went through the Senate should have become a law. In that event some Republicans would have been shameless enough to pretend that the promise was kept. Now, even Mr. LANDON, who has talents of the first class, and brass enough to match, will hardly pretend that the party does not stand dishonored. Thoughtful men throughout the Commonwealth hold him to be more deeply culpable for the disgrace than any other man in the Legislature.

THE SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE just closed will be as memorable for the amount of law-making accomplished, as for the quality of much of it. No less than sixteen hundred bills were passed into laws, a daily average of twenty-six. When the House adjourned some eight hundred bills remained on the calendars, in different degrees of forwardness. Most of the laws passed—let us be thankful for that—were not of a general character; but relate either to corporations or, are of local application. So far as legislation concerns chartered companies, a decided improvement would be to have it accomplished by general laws, and without the intervention of the Assembly. This, however, will not be done until the Constitution shall be revised. Such a chance would spoil the craft by which many men thrive; and they will resist it as long as they can. As for the other sort of local laws there is no reason or excuse whatever. What is law in one county or township in respect of schools, roads, and the like, ought to be the law in every other. The endless diversity which exists leads only to perplexity, without any compensating advantages. A Constitutional Constitution, which should make a proper disposition of these two matters, would abridge four-fold the amount of legislation required, and would extirpate most of the corruption which now makes legislation a stench in the nostrils of the people.

BUSINESS in this section is fearfully depressed, owing to the prolongation of the "lockout." Fully eight thousand men continue in want of employment, and millions of dollars have been thrown out of circulation. As yet we see no "beginning of the end." The iron masters declare their inability to pay the labor price demanded, and will make no concessions, while upon the other hand, the workingmen are resolved to stand out so long as actual starvation keeps from their doors. The ultimate result may be the driving away from Pittsburgh of the vast trade in iron and glass which she has, in a great measure, heretofore monopolized. In that event how much good will the present strike have done for the working classes?

THE DEMOCRATS are greatly exercised lest Senator WILSON and the other Apostles of Radicalism who are announced to stump the Southern States, succeed in teaching the negroes the difference twixt right and wrong. It remains to be seen whether lessons in democracy by the late slaveholders, or those of radicals by friends and advocates of universal liberty, will prove most popular with ebony voters.

Our Russian Territory.

Professor Baird of the Smithsonian Institute has collected the following information regarding our recently acquired possession on the extreme Northern Pacific Coast:

"*The Climate and Temperature* of the coast from Prince of Wales Island to the entrance of Behring's Straits, during the winter months, is about the same as at the City of Washington. There is little snow and much rain. During the summer months heavy fogs prevail.

"*Timber*—The whole country, well up to the northern coast, is heavily timbered—chiefly hard pine forests—the small trees extending down to the very shores. Some of the islands, also, are heavily timbered with pine forests and dense undergrowth. Others of them are destitute of timber, but covered with grass of luxuriant growth.

"*The Soil.*—On the west coast the soil produces excellent barley, and roots such as turnips and turnips, and esculents such as lettuce, cabbage, &c.

"*Animals.*—Furred animals, such as sea otter, river otter, sable, furred seal, mink, black, silver and red foxes, are found in great numbers; red deer on the south, and reindeer on the north.

"*Fish.*—Herring, salmon, halibut and codfish abound in exhaustive numbers. In Behring's Straits and to the northward great whales are very numerous."

Mr. Collins, who sought the highest sources of knowledge in regard to the physical and topographical condition of the northwestern limit of our continent, in the course of his investigations to determine the route of the Russian-American Telegraph, says:

"The fisheries along the coast and islands will build up a population and commerce there which it no distant day will rival Newfoundland and the coast of the Atlantic east of Cape Cod. The shoals and banks along the islands of Russian America are the resort of myriads of codfish unsurpassed for size and delicacy. Once give us a lodgment, these fishing towns will soon spring into existence, giving for our Pacific coast a nursery for first class seamen, which, in the growing commerce of the Pacific, will be just what we want them in the future in order to give us the supremacy of that ocean. The fisheries alone are worth more than the whole cost of the country, and will repay us in the future simply for the investment. The immense population of Asia and the islands of the Pacific will be good customers for our surplus fish, and will readily take all we have to spare. Timber for building purposes is abundant and conveniently situated for transportation. Spars are made a source of great profit, not only for domestic use, but for export to Asia and the more southern islands. Boat and ship building can be carried on profitably where good timber is so abundant and easily procured.

"The acquisition is also valuable on account of several deposits of coal along the coast and islands. At Coeliac the Russian-American Company have worked a coal vein for some years past, and have used it in their forges and workshops, as well as in their steamers employed in carrying on their commerce with California and Asia.

"Nor is the country to be counted as nothing in an agricultural point of view. Wheat, barley and oats can be produced as far north as sixty degrees; gardens flourish along the coast in the Russian settlements, producing all the vegetables requisite for domestic use.

"It must always be remembered that the Pacific coast is much warmer than the Atlantic coast of equal degrees. The isotherm of Sitka (New Archangel) is equal in line of Sitka (New Archangel) is equal in line of Sitka (New Archangel) is equal in line