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PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.

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OUR 83RD ANNIVERSARY.

To-day the GAZETTE enters the 83rd year of its existence. There are few among its readers to-day who were born at that date, away down in the past, when the rudely constructed printing press issued the first paper published west of the great Allegheny mountain chain. We imagine, for none are living to tell, what emotions of pride and enthusiasm thrilled the hearts of the pioneers of our city when they heard the first click of the printing press, and saw the white sheet drawn from its iron grasp with the current news of the day indelibly fixed upon its fair face. The rude little village, with a few hundred houses and a handful of inhabitants, must have suddenly swelled into a dignity and importance in advance of its merits, and the first families supplied with the paper must have read in it that which, perchance, was not printed,—of the march of civilization, the dissemination of knowledge and the growth of population in the vast territory separated from the more populous and cultured East by the great mountain barriers thrown up by nature. Deep was the admiration and vague the ideas started by the publication of a newspaper in their hamlet. The men who stood about that wonderful press, with their honest hearts dancing in their eyes, could have indulged in no wilder dreams than reality has warranted. What changes have been made since then! Generations have passed down into the dark valley of death, and multitudes of new beings have appeared on life's stage to govern the affairs of the world and to press onward in the footsteps of those who went before them. The little village of eighty-three years ago has assumed metropolitan proportions, and holds place of recognition amongst the cities of the world. The west has been peopled; millions of acres then trodden only by the Indian, and serviceable only as hunting grounds whereon he could find sustenance, have been subjected to the despotism of agriculture and converted into beautiful fields and farms; cities have sprung up in unsuspected places to attract the trade, admiration and attention of the world, and contribute largely to the greatness into which our country has so rapidly expanded; on our rivers float thousands of boats, while our land is checkered with railways leading to all points of the compass, affording easy outlet for our immense mineral and manufactural wealth to all parts of the globe.

In the noise of the huge, glittering steam presses, throwing out every morning rations of intellectual food and news required by our intellectual masses, in the form of blanket and quarto, daily and weekly journals, the glory of the introduction of the first press this side of the Alleghenies wanes into insignificance; but it is pardonable to feel proud that the GAZETTE, through storm and sunshine, adversity and prosperity, has lived through so long and eventful a period. Its existence to-day, its 83d anniversary, occupying rank amongst the leading journals of the country, enjoying a full share of public patronage, wielding influence and power, is a fitting commentary on the upright, honest and fearless course it has ever pursued towards friend or foe, its strong and unyielding devotion to principle, the advocacy of right and adherence to truth. Its present owners have endeavored, during their comparatively brief management, to pursue the line of policy marked out in no unmistakable way by their predecessors. How far they have succeeded remains with the reader to say. We flatter ourselves, however, that our efforts have been and will continue to be appreciated by a generous community. Our journal passes into its 83d year with brilliant prospects ahead, being financially and otherwise in healthier condition than it has been at any other time during the long train of years through which it has so successfully passed.

THAT the management of the Internal Revenue Department is corrupt to the last degree is attested by the notorious fact that one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars have been plundered on a single commodity. Upon their oaths, the principal officers of that Department has stated the reason; which is, that the President persists in turning the Department into a machine for the support of his Policy instead of letting it be exclusively employed in collecting taxes. This necessarily results from the existing political complications. If either of the political parties had full control of the government, affairs would be managed better. Neither party could afford to tolerate the abuses which now exist; and either of them would be far enough from bestowing favors upon the mercenaries or camp-followers who now hold much the largest number of important places under the government.

In this connection a good suggestion has been made, which is, that the Revenue Department shall be reorganized; that all the present incumbents shall go out; that competitive examinations shall be instituted for testing the qualifications of all applicants for appointments; that none but such as fully establish their competency shall be appointed, and that once a man is put into office, he shall permanently remain unless guilty of misconduct. Such a measure would secure men of the right sort of abilities for this branch of the public service, and would separate it from the contests of political parties; both of which are ends greatly to be desired.

But, in addition, it will be needful to take from all Revenue officers and District Attorneys the power to compromise and discontinue suits. Most scandalous abuses have been practiced in these particulars, and with amazing boldness. The Revenue Department, as now conducted, is a stench in the nostrils of all business men, for dishonesty is much nearer being the rule than the exception. There must be a thorough overhauling in it, and the sooner, the better.

MR. A. T. STEWART and other eminent merchants of New York, conscious of capacities for affairs to which they are accustomed, have undertaken to control the approaching Presidential canvass. Their plan is to elect Gen. Grant without having it understood what ideas or measures he is for or against. This scheme has not even the lame merit of novelty. It is simply the old game of "Going it Blind." An administration cannot be [illegible] that basis; and if it could be [illegible] contributing to that result [illegible] held together for a month [illegible] Even the "cohesive power [illegible]" would not unite [illegible] to make a decent show. [illegible] governments; and the [illegible] are the last in the [illegible] entrust the Administration to any man or set of men without reasonable assurance of how it will be conducted. Personal popularity in a candidate is good, in subordination to a definite and acceptable programme; but, alone, it will not suffice. Unfortunately for these gentlemen, Gen. Grant has said some very plain things, which have given even radicals no offense whatever.

IT IS STATED that the name of Gen. John F. Hartranft will be presented to the next Republican State Convention, with his consent, for re-nomination to the post of Auditor General. He has filled the office with great credit to himself and satisfaction to the people of the Commonwealth, and deserves promotion rather than to be continued in the same rank.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

It is an unpleasant remark to make, and yet it is a fact, that the people of this Commonwealth have come to regard the assembling of the Legislature with a feeling of uncomfortable apprehension. The experience of many years has led them to form the expectation that most that ought to be done by that body, at any one of its annual convocations, will be altogether omitted; that a great deal will be done in opposition to the popular demand and the general welfare; and that the State will be disgraced by a free government dishonored by evidences of prevailing and shameless corruption.

A warm canvass has been progressing for some weeks past, designed mainly to control the election of officers of the House and a State Treasurer. Most of the Republican newspapers have dipped into a discussion of these matters with a view to influencing the action of the members for their respective parties. Without intending to cast any reflections upon our contemporaries, we may remark that we have kept out of this discussion because we conceived we had legitimately nothing to do with it. The Constitution and Laws, following the proprieties of the case, confer on each branch of the Legislature the right to select its own officers. The offices of the Houses are not arranged for the gratification of the public, but simply to facilitate the transaction of business. The members are to be in contact with these officers, and it concerns them specially who these officers shall be, and what qualifications recommended. Outsiders are interested in the selections made, if at all, only incidentally. If we had seats in either of the Houses, we should be guided in matters of this kind by our own conceptions of what was best, and not at all by what we might be urged to do by individuals having no responsibilities in these particulars.

The same views cover the case of State Treasurer. The newspapers are not authorized to name the man for that place. The duty devolves on the members of the Legislature, and they are answerable to their constituents for the manner in which they discharge it. If questions of public policy were necessarily involved in filling a place like this, then a very different aspect would be presented; and newspapers and private citizens would be at liberty to insist on tendering advice and direction. But the State Treasurer is charged with only executive duties, and can have no influence upon policies to be adopted or discarded, beyond what may proceed from his recognized capacities for dealing with financial problems.

The public are, however, deeply concerned as to the way in which the Committees of the two Houses shall be constituted. This touches the pith and marrow of legislation, not on one question, but upon all questions. It may be remarked, however, that few questions of general interest are likely to come before the next Legislature for determination, so as to impart special consequence to the organization of any of the Committees. The Railroad Committees of the two Houses are those about which most solicitude is felt, and this because of agitation respecting a Free Railroad Law. The interest in the solution of this question covers the whole State. In a small number of counties the fate of the charter of the Connellsville Railroad Company is of paramount importance.

It so happens that the Speaker of the Senate is a citizen of Allegheny county. Mr. GRAHAM's personal interests are all here. His political future depends upon the fiat of the people of this region. He has made a public record on both of the topics to which we have referred, and we have no fear he will prove false to it in the next session or at any future time. Hence, we have no disposition to embarrass his official action, but are content to see what he will do and judge afterwards.

It is possible that Mr. LAIRD, who was chairman of the Senate Committee on Railroads last year, may retain his old opposition to a General Railroad Law, notwithstanding the progress of opinion throughout the State in favor of that measure, and the action of the Williamsport Convention besides. But without professing to knowledge on this point, we think it will be found he has shifted his ground. Be this as it may, we have no apprehension but Mr. GRAHAM will constitute the Railroad Committee, on the opening of the approaching session, so as to fairly reflect the present position of the party on this subject. This he ought to do, and we believe he will do. Were we do not see it. With a majority of the Committee hostile in favor of the Law demanded, its action will be sure to be satisfactory and an honest General Railroad Law will be reported to the Senate, and will pass that body.

There is a broader view to take. The last Republican State Convention took strong ground in favor of a Free Railroad Law. No dissent was expressed from that commitment in any part of the Commonwealth. The canvass that followed was conducted on that basis. If there are those who believe the incorporation of this doctrine into the Republican Platform was accomplished for the purpose of deception, and with no intention of actualizing it, we are not of that number. As we judged at the time, that commitment was the result of a matured public sentiment in favor of the measure. Nothing has occurred since to induce us to recant that judgment, but much to confirm our confidence in its accuracy. Take as a sample of the indications to which we refer, the fact that both the Republican candidates for the Speakership of the House have given to the public unqualified assurances of their purpose to support the project.

It does not matter a particle to us how these gentlemen formerly stood as regarding this measure. One or both of them may have opposed it. They were at perfect liberty to do so without any impeachment of their fidelity to the Republican party. To oppose the measure now, would be to go back of party pledges, and without having given notice while candidates that they did not accept the Platform. We are not inclined to impute this baseness to any gentleman upon hypothesis, or conjecture, or anything short of evidence not to be disputed. Besides, it is fair to take that the general development of opinion which brought the Republican party to adopt and proclaim Freedom to Railroad Building as one of its distinctive doctrines, was not inoperative upon these gentlemen, but that they shared in it as fully as others.

The Republican party, in the most authoritative manner, pledged itself to pass a Free Railroad Law, if the people should give it power to do so. And a bogus law, designed to illustrate how not to do it"—but an honest law, in conformity to the popular demand. The people gave that party the power they asked, and for the purpose specified. It has the Governor and both branches of the Legislature. Only two courses are open before it. Either it can refuse to make good its promise, and stand disgraced, or come squarely up to the work and show that what it agreed to do it can safely be relied upon to perform.

If any man knows that the Republican party mean to play false on this subject, his knowledge surpasses ours. Nothing in its traditions concerning it so doubt its absolute integrity on this point, and nothing in its present attitude gives us uneasiness. Aside from all considerations of probity, that party has bearing upon it the most powerful motives of policy, urging it to adhere to its declarations. It is standing upon the threshold of a presidential canvass. It cannot afford at the outset to incur dishonor; to strip itself of public confidence; and to stand exposed to the scorn and contempt of all right-minded men. It must fulfill its engagements, or it will take a considerable amount of brass for it to ask and expect a continuation of popular trust and favor.

We are aware that a party may be betrayed in low places as well as in high places; by members of a Legislature as well as by Presidents of the United States. It may be there are Judases among the Republican members of the Senate and House, whose palms itch to grasp their thirty pieces of silver. It will be time enough to deal with them when their infamy shall be discovered. Individual dereliction cannot be laid to the account of a whole party. What the Republican members ought to do, if necessary, is to make a Free Railroad Bill a party measure; to decide upon it in caucus, and carry it through. Having adopted the measure as one of the party, the ordinary appliances of party discipline ought to be wielded in its behalf. So much the party owes in vindication of its plighted faith.

FOR MANY YEARS before the rebellion in this country broke out, the Southern leaders made a constant parade of grievances to be redressed, which had no existence. Year after year they renewed their complaints, adopting one phrase or another as would best enable them to arouse or enlist the passions and prejudices of the masses. If a real grievance, great or small, fell in their way, they regarded it as a God-send. What they earnestly desired was not that grievances should be lighted and fewer in number, but that they should become common, and of insupportable severity. Grievances, real or imaginary, constituted their stock in trade, and helped their ultimate purpose, which was not a rectification of wrongs, under the Constitution and Laws, but the achievement of absolute independence.

An English writer, in a treatise of more than ordinary power, claims that this is the policy of the Fenian leaders. They do not wish any money under which the Irish people, or any portion of them, have been resting, be removed; but that other and still worse injuries may fall to their lot; and for the plain reason that they do not want a reconciliation with the British government, but total and permanent separation therefrom.

Whether this is the design of the Fenian leaders or not, the fact cannot be questioned that a large proportion of the Irish people, whether domiciled in Ireland or elsewhere, cherish a most hearty dislike for the British Crown, and are ready to resort to even the most desperate means to give it annoyance.

THE Vicksburg (Miss.) *Times* declares with vehemence that "the price of a farm laborer is put down at five dollars per month, or sixty dollars a year, but it may as well be understood first as last, that no such price will be paid. The day for high wages for agricultural laborers has past, and it will return no more! The negro who secures food, clothes and fuel, hereafter, as a reward for good honest reliable labor, may esteem himself fortunate. * * * * The time has come when Sambo and Dinah will be glad to receive the wages paid to the native producers of cotton, in India, Egypt and China—when they will be glad to labor for the pittance paid to English colliers! The day of philanthropy is drawing to a close, and instead of arming their brats, of both sexes, with a book and a slate for the school room, they will be compelled to arm them with the plow and hoe." This is but an average manifestation of what is called Southern Conservatism. Southern Conservatives can judge from it where a "war of races" will be likely to come in, if at all. The old proslavery idea remains, that black men have no rights that the whites are bound to respect. But since the blacks have become free they will doubtless insist upon having half the say as to what amount of wages they will work for. That rule necessarily results from a condition of freedom; and will not be relinquished by the blacks, even if Conservatives do rave.

SOME TIME AGO charges were made against Mr. N. P. SAWYER of levying black-mail on certain federal office-holders in this county. A special agent of the Treasury Department was sent hither to investigate the matter. He took considerable testimony, which strongly substantiated these charges; which testimony was laid before the Secretary of the Treasury. A resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives calling for this evidence. It was sent to that body and was speedily laid before the public.

On Wednesday last Mr. SAWYER undertook to rebut this evidence, and went at the task in a peculiar manner. He produced certificates from certain office-holders to the effect that he had not black-mailed *them*.

This reminds us of the celebrated defence of an Irishman who was indicted for stealing sheep. The prosecution proved by a number of witnesses that they saw him feloniously seize the sheep, toss it upon his shoulder, and carry it off. This seemed to be conclusive, but Paddy, no wise abashed, offered to prove by twice as many witnesses, that THEY *did not see him do any thing of the kind.*

NOT LONGER AGO than a month two-thirds of the Republican daily newspapers, published in the Northern States, insisted with strange pertinacy and vehemence, that the President had done nothing calling for his impeachment. They generally spoke of proceedings looking to that end as a broad farce. Now, most of these journals are vigorously denouncing the President as they denounced his impeachment. They charge him with intentionally obstructing the operation of the Reconstruction laws, and with doing many other arbitrary and unwarrantable acts. The immediate occasion of this onslaught is the removal of District Commanders. We disapprove of that job as heartily as any of our contemporaries, but we see no use in scolding about it. When Congress, instigated thereto by Republican journals, backed down, it was inevitable the President should feel at liberty to march on in his chosen way. Why not? Congress declared, in substance, that he had done nothing but what he had a right to do. After this concession, it seems to us inconsistent and futile to make a fuss because he uses the opportunities put into his hands. The Republican journals are too late with their denunciations.

"CANNOT Congress devise some means of checkmating the villainous conspiracy of Johnson & Co. to defeat the restoration of the Southern States to the Union?"—*Chicago Tribune.*

The only constitutional remedy consists in impeachment—which you scoffed at and derided. Congress has stretched its authority about as far as it can be made to go without breaking, in its efforts to "checkmate" the President, without removing him, and the result is what we see. What reason is there to expect better success by continuing on a road that leads nowhere?

FINANCES OF THE STATE.

The forth-coming report of Mr. KEMBLE, Treasurer of the Commonwealth, will make a flattering exhibit of the condition of the Finances; that is, that the aggregate of liabilities has been diminished by the sum of $1,794,645. Considering that no taxes have been raised on real estate, this statement is all the more satisfactory, and reflects the highest credit upon Mr. KEMBLE, the Treasurer, and Gen. HARTRANFT, the Auditor General. The full detail of the financial condition is as follows:

Revenue of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Summary of the Receipts at the State Treasury, from the 1st day of December, 1866, to the 30th day of November, 1867, both days inclusive.

Loans	$17,800 56
Auction Commissions	21,626 89
Auction Duties	68,926 07
Tax on Bank Dividends	8,313 33
Tax on Corporation Stocks	1,209,024 17
Tax on Real and Personal Estate	300,950 35
Tax on Loans	290,156 56
Tax on net earnings or income	242,124 20
Tax on gross receipts	343,332 27
Tax on enrollment of laws	28,760 00
Tax on tonnage	336,317 06
Tax on coal, per act March 22, 1867	101,936 89
Tax on National Bank stock, per act of April 12, 1867	8,293 43
Commutation of Tonnage, per act of March 7, 1861	360,000 00
Tax on writs, wills, deeds, &c.	91,498 98
Tax on certain offices	23,160 01
Collateral Inheritance Tax	370,887 92
Tavern Licenses	270,345 69
Retailers' Licenses	405,587 99
Sample Licenses	5,825 00
Theatre, Circus and Menagerie Licenses	4,633 24
Billiard Room, Bowling Saloon and Ten Pin Alley Licenses	4,234 01
Eating House, Beer House and Restaurant Licenses	32,979 53
Peddlers' Licenses	4,234 50
Brokers' Licenses	8,161 51
Patent Medicine Licenses	1,690 45
Distillery and Brewing Licenses	8,417 53
Millers' Tax	1,860 55
Foreign Insurance Agencies	190,952 19
Premiums on Charters	86,708 88
Pamphlet Laws	279 70
Premiums on Loans	86,002 83
Interest on Loans	267,255 29
Loans for the redemption of the overdue Bonds	23,000,000 00
Escheats	3,718 85
Dividends on Bridge Stocks	231 48
Pennsylvania Railroad Company Bond No. 10 redeemed	100,000 00
Annuity for right of way	10,000 00
Refunded cash	1,779 12
Fines and Forfeitures	31 50
Fees of the public offices	8,104 41
Cases of Conscience	220 00
Sales of Public Property	33 30
Accrued Interest	16,827 57
	$28,423,330 07

Expenditures of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Summary of the Payments at the State Treasury from the 1st day of December, 1866, to the 30th day of November, 1867, both days inclusive:

Expenses of Government		$802,873 58
Military expenses, ordinary		1,542 83
Military expenses, per act of April 16, 1861		15,317 98
Military expenses, per act of April 22, 1863		74,971 35
Military expenses per act of May 4, 1864		1,500 00
Military expenses per act of March 22, 1863		20 87
Military expenses per act of April 11, 1866		46,645 09
Military expenses per act of March 8, 1867		8,318 49
Military expenses per act of April 10, 1867		3,154 10
Military expenses per act of April 11, 1867		21,535 43
Military expenses per act of April 17, 1867		500 00
Pensions and gratuities		69,061 45
Charitable institutions		600,694 08
Penna. State Agricultural Society		2,000 00
Common Schools		359,678 49
Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, viz: Loans, &c., redeemed	$20,917,567 29	
Other payments	1,262 50	
		20,918,829 79
Interest on loans		2,257,033 87
Domestic creditors		84 53
Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association		3,000 00
Relief of Chambersburg sufferers		2,347 81
Cumberland road		1,677 63
State Library		20,726 75
Public buildings and grounds		29,291 65
Addition to Governor's mansion		8,800 00
Houses of Refuge		49,730 00
Penitentiaries		40,164 00
Escheats		1,005 11
Free banking system		200 00
Counsel fees and commissions		3,603 06
Mercantile Appraisers		1,596 21
Amendments to the Constitution		119 20
Special commissions		1,277 70
Miscellaneous		88,518 08
		26,502,526 68

MR. WALLACE, the efficient Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, has issued the following Circular:

[Circular 1, 1868—Private.]
DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE ROOMS, CLEARFIELD, PA., December 10, 1867.

DEAR SIR: The spring elections are approaching, and it is of vital importance to us, in the great contest now pending, that we should secure in *every locality* our just share of the election officers—judges, inspectors, assessors, and constables. I write to call your especial attention to this subject. I need not attempt to demonstrate its importance; all appreciate it. Let me beg that you and your committees will give this subject prompt and earnest attention. Regard it as a business matter, and act accordingly. AROUSE OUR FRIENDS IN EVERY DISTRICT; show them how powerful this weapon is when effectually used. Use the necessary means *to carry every sure and DOUBTFUL district for us.* Where we are in a minority place a man of high character, well informed, and courageous on the board as our inspector; *in such districts see that our very best men are selected.* It is a great error to fill such places with weak men.

Lists of doubtful men, and those who voted with us in 1867, for the first time, with their townships and post-offices, can be made very useful. Furnish me all of these that you can obtain.

There are a great many aliens ready for naturalization throughout the State; all must be naturalized. *Your* labors and mine must be lessened, if you will obtain their names and residences at an early day, and give me the total number in your county, with the probable cost of naturalizing them.

In arranging for your spring elections you can obtain this information with comparative ease.

If you have not already furnished me with the names and postoffice address of two active Democrats in each election district in your county, I will be obliged if you will do so.

Very respectfully, yours,
WILLIAM A. WALLACE, Chairman.

This looks like work. In the absence of anything of the sort from the Republican State Committee, we commend this document to the consideration of all men who vote with us. It is always well to learn from an opponent when he is capable of teaching that which it is of consequence to know.

MR. HENRY J. RAYMOND gets off the following sentence of doctrine in his recent letter, explaining his connection with the Philadelphia Convention:

"I would not exclude any man from voting simply because he is black; but neither would I admit men to vote merely because they are black."

Mr. FREDERICK DOUGLASS would doubtless say he would not exclude a man from voting simply because he is white; but neither would he admit a man to vote merely because he is white. In this case, we do not see that Mr. Raymond has the start of Mr. Douglas. If one man is allowed to vote because of the prima facie that he is a man, then all men ought to be allowed to vote in virtue of the same fact. If a degree of intelligence is made the test, signified either by capacity to read or to acquire property, then that test should be applied to all men.

GEN. JAMES K. MOORHEAD, one of the Representatives from this county, adheres to the determination he announced last fall, of withdrawing from public life upon the expiration of his present Congressional term. Clear, strong minded, practical, he has made a most serviceable member, and will carry into retirement not only the consciousness of duties well done, but the high appreciation of his constituents and of loyal men everywhere.

A MASS CONVENTION will be held at Philadelphia on January 8th, to be composed of all citizens of Pennsylvania who were in the military service of the nation during the rebellion. The chief object is to nominate General Grant for President. Most of the railroads will sell excursion tickets, good from the 6th to the 10th of the month, to all who desire to go.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE.—In view of the importance of the issues to be decided in the Political Campaign of 1868, the price of *The Weekly Tribune* has been reduced, to Clubs. See advertisement.

IN some parts of Pennsylvania a feeling has grown up favorable to changing the measure of compensation of all county officers from fees to fixed salaries.

GLEANINGS.

—*Heaven's Journal* is the latest Parisian newspaper.

—A new radical paper is to be started in Savannah, Mo.

—A new cemetery is in course of formation in Chicago.

—Hon. Galusha A. Grow spent Monday and Tuesday in our city.

—Prison City, a cheerful place evidently, is situated in Wisconsin.

—The Chinese tea crop this year is estimated at ninety million pounds.

—There are forty-five native professional photographers in Osacka Japan.

—Therese, the famous cantatrice, has lost her voice and turned fortune teller.

—Several prominent business men of Belfast, Me., have been arrested for smuggling.

—It is said that Gen. Washington was as fond of horses and horse talk as is Gen. Grant.

—The late heavy storm washed away part of the breakwater at Plymouth Beach, Mass.

—Five hundred and seventy-seven acres of metropolitan London are taken up by grave yards.

—The ice carried away a span of the new bridge over the Mississippi at Quincy, Ill., on Sunday.

—A project is on foot in Washington to secure the completion of the Washington monument.

—Queen Victoria has given the people of Portsmouth fifty acres of meadow land to be used as a Park forever.

—Cudrifin, a small village in Switzerland, consisting of thirteen houses and a school, has been destroyed by fire.

—A farmer near Stratford, Conn., became angry at one of his oxen recently and let it freeze to death as a revenge.

—Dayton, Ohio, has had more game of all kinds, from the buffalo to the squirrel, this year than during the past twelve.

—Oberlin, Ohio, is wonderfully excited on the subject of Masonry. The preachers exhort on the subject from their pulpits.

—Two hundred and thirty-nine thousand and sixty-five immigrants arrived in New York, from January 1st to December 25th, 1867.

—A. H. Lee, the drawer of the Crosby Opera House, is spending his time in trying to get together the finest private library in the country.

—Two frogs were found in a rock four feet below the surface near Boston the other day. The frogs were glad to get out, and hopped off.

—Ministers of the gospel who have ceased to perform their other duties are forbidden to perform the marriage ceremony in Vermont, by a recent law.

—7,000,000 bushels of wheat have already been sent to market from Minnesota, and fully as much more is supposed still to be in the hands of the farmers.

—Dr. Charles Jewett objects to the raising of hops, and wants farmers to grow no more, because it is not consistent with total abstinence.

—"Light at Last" is the name of a new play by Colonel Fitzgerald, of the Philadelphia *Item*. It is now running at the Arch street theatre.

—Two or three of the Royal palaces in and around Copenhagen are to be sold to private citizens. Cause, impecuniosity of their present owner.

—There is an establishment in New York whose business it is to rent out silver ware for weddings, so that a bride can make a becoming display of "Presents."

—Gen. Sherman says the late Indian war was a small affair, and appeared large only in newspapers. The cost was by no means so great as is supposed by most persons.

—A swindler in Philadelphia succeeded in getting five hundred dollars' worth of gold leaf, last Monday, by paying for it with a forged check. He endeavored to repeat the game at another store but failed. He is still at large.

—The traditional posture of tailors when sitting is a relic of the Roman Empire. Tiberius crucified his tailors when they made misfits, and ever since they have sat crossed legged.

—St. Louis has been completely beaten out of the sensation field by Chicago. The sudden death of a negro was the only thing approaching a sensation that our last St. Louis exchanges contained.

—The son of the Portuguese ambassador in Paris, having lost several millions of francs in play, took refuge in the embassy and refused to pay. A sensation was the immediate consequence.

—The New York *Commercial Advertiser* deplores, among other lost arts, the pantomime. The days of the Grimaldis and Gabriel Ravels are gone by, and the pantomime has taken passage with them.

—A little boy named Guernsey shot his sister in the abdomen recently, by accident. As usual in such cases, he was playing with a pistol which he did not suppose was loaded. The little girl cannot recover.

—A butcher in Halberstadt, Germany, has just been sentenced to five years solitary confinement, for having caused the death of forty-five persons by selling them uninspected pork, which happened to be filled with trichinæ.

PEOPLE sometimes write or talk as if dishonesty in the management of public affairs was monopolized by this country. In the French Corps Legislatif, within a month, it was distinctly charged that the Prussian government, during the last summer, expended several millions of money in bribing Paris journals. Almost simultaneously the London *Spectator* wrote:

"What is the dry rot which is destroying English administration, its directness, its simplicity, and its force, but the certainty of the nation that every official if left to himself and unwatched, will steal? Our departments are hampered and shackled with checks till they can hardly work, till individual power, and, therefore, individual genius are suppressed; and the object of all the checks is not to prevent inefficiency—that in England is not a crime, though elsewhere it is among the greatest—or to obviate the chance of oppression, but to prevent direct fraud, assaults of the vulgarest kind upon the national till. We cannot get a navy, because it is understood that in great establishments like dockyards everybody not specially selected for honesty will thieve. Our army arrangements break down incessantly, because contractors, sub-contractors, and surveyors generally, are supposed to be steeped to the lips in fraud. There is not a contract given in a government office in which some one has not secured a 'perquisite,' or an 'advantage,' or a 'profit,' of which he would not, for the world, have his employers formally conscious; which has not, in fact, given some one, usually a gentleman, the opportunity for thieving. Our whole system of providing for stated needs by 'open tender,' the stupidest of all conceivable systems—for its theory is that Jones is Robinson's equal as a manufacturer, which Jones is not—is openly based on the assumption, an assumption perfectly true, that without open tender the department will sell the contract, will, in fact, steal a large sum out of the national treasury. Our municipal difficulty is jobbery, that is, theft—the practice every municipality is certain, unless watched, to indulge in, of robbing the citizens to enrich its own members or other favored individuals. Even Parliament, even the Cabinet, the flower, or supposed flower, of Parliamentary life, is not beyond the same suspicion."

ALL THE PROPERTY of Col. A. K. McClure, near Chambersburg, is to be sold at public auction, by his agent, on the 17th. Col. McClure is in Montana territory. His wife and son reached home on Saturday last, and the Colonel expects to start homewards by the middle of February.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.

Philadelphia—W. McCandless,* J. E. Ridgway, D. S. Nagle,* George Connell.
Chester, Delaware and Montgomery—W. Worthington, C. H. Stinson.
Bucks—H. L. Linderman*.
Lehigh and Southampton—R. H. Brown.
Berks—I. D. Davis*
Schuylkill—W. M. Randall.*
Carbon, Monroe, Wayne and Pike—Charleton Burnett.*
Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming—George Landon.
Luzerne—L. D. Shoemaker.
Potter, Tioga, McKean and Clinton—Warren Cowles.
Lycoming, Union and Snyder—John B. Beck.*
Northumberland, Montour, Columbus and Sullivan—George D. Jackson.*
Dauphin and Lebanon—G. Dawson Coleman.
Lancaster—E. Billingfelt, J. W. Fisher.
York and Cumberland—A. Hiestand Glatz.*
Adams and Franklin—David M'Conaughy.
Somerset, Bedford and Fulton—Alex. Stutzman.
Blair, Hunt, Centre, Mifflin, Juniata and Perry—J. T. Shugart,* C. J. T. M'Intyre.*
Cambria, Indiana and Jefferson—Harry White.
Clearfield, Cameron, Clarion, Forrest and Elk—W. A. Wallace.*
Westmoreland, Fayette and Greene—Thomas B. Searight.*
Allegheny—James L. Graham, Russell Errett.
Washington and Beaver—A. W. Taylor.
Lawrence, Butler and Armstrong—R. Audley Browne,
Mercer, Venango and Warren—J. C. Brown.
Crawford and Erie—M. B. Lowry.
Republicans....19
Democrats....14

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Philadelphia—David Foy, John Mcginnis,* Samuel Josephs,* W. W. Watt, Thomas Mullen,* Charles Kleckner, Jas. Subers, J. V. Stokes, Samuel Dailey,* E. W. Davis, Daniel Witham,* Alexander Adaire, M. Mullen,* George T. Thorn, James Holgate, M. C. Hong, Jno. Clark, George Bull.
Adams—Nicholas Heltzell.*
Allegheny—George Wilson, William R. Ford, Alexander Millar, Augustus Beckert, George R. Riddle, David L. Smith.
Armstrong—S. M. Jackson.
Berks—Richmond L. Jones,* H. S. Hottenstein,* Henry Brobst.*
Bucks—Joshua Beans,* E. C. McKinstry.*
Bradford and Sullivan—J. H. Webb, J. F. Chamberlain.
Blair—S. M'Camant.
Cambria—John P. Linton.*
Carbon and Monroe—Allen Craig.*
Centre—P. G. Meek.*
Clarion and Jefferson—William P. Jenks.*
Clearfield, Forest and Elk—J. J. McCullough.*
Clinton, Cameron and McKean—G. O. Deise.*
Chester—S. M. Meredith, J. M. Phillips, John Hickman.
Crawford—J. Boyd Epsey, William Beatty.
Columbia and Montour—Thos. Chalfant.*
Cumberland—Theodore Cornman.*
Dauphin—A. J. Herr, P. S. Bergstresser.
Delaware—A. B. Leedom.
Erie—George P. Pea, John D. Stranahan.
Fayette—W. B. Playford.*
Greene—John Phelan.*
Huntingdon, Mifflin and Juniata—H. S. Warton, J. S. Miller.*
Indiana and Westmoreland—W. C. Gordon, T. F. Gallagher, R. H. McCormick.*
Lancaster—A. Armstrong, D. G. Steacy, A. Godshalk, A. C. Reinoehl.
Lebanon—J. G. Heilman.
Lehigh—Jno. H. Fogel,* D. H. Creitz.*
Lycoming, Union and Snyder—R. F. Lowshe,* C. D. Roush,* Geo. G. Glass.*
Luzerne—Wm. Brennan,* Jas. M'Henry,* S. F. Hossard.*
Mercer, Lawrence and Butler—Geo. S. Westlake, Davidson Robinson, Jas. T. M'Junkin, John Edwards.
Montgomery—Jas. Eschbach,* Henry M'Miller.*
Northampton—Lewis H. Stout,* Geo. H. Groundle.*
Northumberland—Wm. H. Kase.*
Perry and Franklin—John Shively,* B. F. Winger.*
Schuylkill—Edward Kerns,* Michael Beard,* D. E. Rice.*
Somerset, Fulton and Bedford—Jno. Weller, Jno. T. Richards.
Susquehanna and Wyoming—Loren Burrett, Ziba Lott.
Tioga and Potter—Jno. S. Mann, B. B. Strang.
Venango and Warren—A. P. Duncan, J. H. Clark.
Washington and Beaver—Jno. Ewing, J. R. Day, Thos. Nicholson.
Wayne and Pike—L. Westbrook.*
York—L. Maish,* S. G. Boyd.*
Republicans....54
Democrats....46
....8

RECAPITULATION.

SENATE.—Republicans....19
Democrats....14
....5
HOUSE.—Republicans....54
Democrats....46
....8

Republican majority on joint ballot 13
Democrats are marked with a star.

Extraordinary Eruption of Coal.

The Hartlepool correspondent of a Leeds journal states that an extraordinary eruption of coal has taken place on the beach between West Hartlepool and Seaton Carew. These sands, which are the resort of visitors during the bathing season, were on Wednesday week metamorphosed to a great extent into a coal field. It will be remembered that last winter, immediately following a North Sea gale, the poor of the Hartlepools assembled on these sands on the occasion of treasure trove. At that time the "scene" was something extraordinary, and many a hungry family were nourished during the severe winter by the lucky discovery of hundreds of Spanish dollars. The scene on Wednesday week was far more interesting, and the upheaving of such an amount of one of the most important necessities of life, by the angry ocean, will be productive of much more benefit and comfort to the poor of the neighborhood. It is computed that not less than one thousand tons of coal have been cast upon these sands. From an early hour in the morning the beach presented an animated appearance. Nearly every cart in the town was called into requisition to carry away the treasure, and on the banks adjoining the railway heaps were raised, some of them having from ten to fifteen tons of coal. The poorer inhabitants of the town turned out with barrows, baskets, sacks, &c., and every description of receptacle which could be rendered available to gather the cast-up treasure.

Massachusetts History.

According to a paper read before the Essex Institute, and noticed in the *Advertiser*, the codfish was a favorite emblem with our fathers, for their coin and their seals, &c. The seal of the Plymouth Land Company, of 1661, has for its central effigy, a codfish. The twopenny internal revenue stamp of 1775, was a codfish surrounded by the legend, "*Staple of the Massachusetts.*" The Salem *Gazette* of 1768, has in its heading a shield supported by two Indians, and surmounted by a crest, which is nothing more or less than a codfish. The paper currency issued by the colony in the early period of the Revolutionary war, had this ancient superscription and image. Mr. Rantoul informs us that a collector in Salem has original specimens of fourteen different denominations of Massachusetts currency issued in the year 1776, which are thus described:

"All this was in recognition of the indebtedness of the Old Bay State to that staple article of food and commerce, the codfish. And it is in recognition of this indebtedness that the semblance of the codfish has hung in the Hall of Representatives, in our State House or Town House, since 1657."

Valuable Coin Collections.

A Paris paper says: "The city of Paris is at present in treaty for the purchase of two collections of coins relating to the history of the French capital. The first, belonging to MM. Rollin and Feuardent, comprises eight hundred and sixty-six gold, silver or bronze pieces of money, struck in Paris, from the time of the Gauls down to the present day. The second collection, belonging to Madame Fallman, consists chiefly of coins and medals subsequent to the year 1789, and perpetuates the recollection of political events since that period. None of the two thousand two hundred and five of which it is composed are included in the other collection. The price asked for the second is two thousand two hundred francs, which is very moderate, considering the number of the pieces and the many years' researches which they must have cost their author, M. Fellman, formerly Sub-Director at the Ministry of War, but now deceased."

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—A woman who has for some time past kept a saloon in Cleveland was suddenly attacked with a severe pain in the head on Friday night last, and in about half an hour, to all appearances, died. Her funeral was appointed for Sunday and preparations were made for her interment. Late on Saturday night, however, some signs of life were discovered in the body. A slight warmth was discernable in the region of the heart, and there was a faint beating of the pulse. She was still in this condition on Sunday afternoon. Several physicians are in attendance upon her, watching the remarkable case with no little interest.

STATE NEWS.

—Hon. Samuel Oaks, an old and well known citizen of Montour county, and at one time a member of the Legislature, died at his residence in that county, of pneumonia, on Friday last.

—A Railroad from Towanda, Bradford County, to Waverly, on the New York and Erie Railroad, is now completed, and trains have been running for two weeks, which puts that part of Pennsylvania in direct railroad communication with New York city.

—The great Welsh Literary Convention (Eisteddfodd,) in session in this city this week, passed resolutions declaring their choice for President in 1868 to be General U. S. Grant, and for Vice President Hon. G. A. Grow. The assembly was composed of representatives from Luzerne and Schuylkill counties, and their action is expressive of the united sentiments of their people in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Grant and Grow! keep the ball in motion.—*Scranton Republican.*

—On Saturday afternoon two families of Germans, consisting of thirteen persons, arrived in this city and applied to the Mayor for lodging. They arrived in New York from Germany on last Tuesday, and were victimized by sharpers in that city who obtained all their funds, and charged them forty-seven dollars for tickets from that city to Reading. On their arrival in that place some benevolent gentlemen sent them here, and the Mayor committed them to prison as provided by the new law. Rev. Mr. Liesman raised a handsome sum of money in his church, and several other gentlemen collected money for them to send them to their destination.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

—The *Sunday Republic* of yesterday speaks in high but undeserved praise of Hon. G. Dawson Coleman, of Lebanon, for donating the old Dawson family mansion, at the corner of Front and Pine streets, to the Pennsylvania Seaman's Friend Society, with the stipulation that it shall be applied to no uses that will not directly contribute to the moral and mental well-being of the sailors. The society intend to alter the building at once, and to organize it according to those humane conditions. Mr. Coleman is an old Philadelphian, and the opulent owner of the great iron works, near Lebanon, where he resides. He is the present Republican Senator from the XVIth Senatorial district, composed of the counties of Lebanon and Dauphin.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—We learn with regret of the death, on Saturday evening, after a long and exhaustive illness, of Rev. Henry Harbaugh, D. D., at Mercersburg, Franklin county. Dr. Harbaugh at the time of his decease was professor in the German Reformed Theological Seminary at that place, and editor of the Mercersburg *Review*, a theological quarterly. To the religious world he was widely and favorably known as a somewhat voluminous author. His series of works on "Heaven," embracing several volumes, his "Birds of the Bible," "True Glory of Woman," "Life of Schlatter," and others, enjoyed a popular circulation, running through many editions. Among literary men he will be best remembered by his happy transcription of the Pennsylvania German. "Das schal haus der crik," and some similar little poems, written with severe and homely simplicity in the most faithful of the traditional vernacular of our State, will probably find an established place in the literature of the country. Dr. Harbaugh was of Swiss descent. He was born near Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, in 1817, and died consequently aged fifty years.

Foreign Theatricals.

Mr. Burnand is writing a Christmas pantomime for the Holborn Theatre. It will be the clown. A new theatre has been fitted up in Glasgow, Scotland, being the third in that city. The new house will accommodate upwards of four thousand persons. A new device is said to have been resorted to by the manager of the theatre at the Luxembourg. Announcing "La Boite aux Idees," as the title of his Christmas piece, he announces also the opening of the letter boxes in the Quartier Latin, where any hints, jokes, or other convertible material will be "thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged." Vestvali has appeared at the London Lyceum, as *Romeo*. The giraffe at Barnum's Museum could play the part as well. A little comedy in two acts, by Mr. William Brough, entitled "Kind to a Fault," was produced at the Strand on the 11th of November, with Mr. Belford in the principal character. A London critic says: "The notion of a good natured man who gets himself into trouble by obliging everybody is not, by any means, new to the stage, dramatic authors—from Goldsmith or Miss Inchbald to Mr. Sterling Coyne—having freely availed themselves of it, but Mr. Brough has worked out the idea very pleasantly; and, except that he has overloaded his comedy with characters, very skilfully." The first Vaudeville Theatre, in Paris, was constructed in the Rue de Chartres, and was inaugurated on the 12th of January, 1792, the opening piece being "Les Deux Panthéons." It was burnt to the ground in July 1838, and the company, after performing a long time in the cellars of the bazaar Borme Nouvelle, took possession of the present building, situated in the Place de la Bourse, directly opposite the Exchange, and which is shortly to come down to make way to a new street. The new Vaudeville, now in course of construction at the corner of the Rue de la Chaussee d'Antin and the Boulevard des Italiens, will be inaugurated about the end of February, 1868. Peters, the proprietor of the famed American restaurant in the Passage des Princes, has, we read, taken the whole of the ground floor of the new building, where he intends establishing a splendid restaurant, which will be decorated and furnished in an unusually elegant and costly manner; it will be called the Restaurant du Vaudeville.

Two Dromeos.—The Inquest on the Body of Charles Ross.

It will be remembered that a week or ten days ago a man who gave his name as Charles Rannals, a steamboatman, received a blow upon the head with an iron poker, at a house of ill-fame on Seventh street, between Green and Morgan, from the effects of which he subsequently died at the City Hospital. Lizzie Berge, the keeper of the house, was arrested, and in answer to a question of the Coroner, admitted that she did strike a man with a poker, who was creating a disturbance at her ball, and her description of the person stricken tallied exactly with that of the man Rannals, whose name has since been ascertained to be Charles Ross.

So far it seemed that the author of the murder was in the hands of justice. But right here began a mystification that puzzled coroner, jury and policemen exceedingly. A young man, who gave his name as Thompsen, appeared upon the scene, whose resemblance to the slain man is so perfect that no one but the most intimate acquaintance could have distinguished one from the other. Thompson claimed that he was the party whom the woman struck with the poker, and supported his statement by the exhibition of a wound upon the head, as well as a bruise upon one of his arms, which, he said, were the results of her blows.

The policeman who had sworn that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the deceased was the party he had ejected from the ball on the night he had received his death blow, acknowledged his inability, when he was confronted with Thompson, to swear which of the two was the man. This was a new and unexpected turn of affairs, and, as the deceased "died and made no sign" that would lead to the identity of the woman who dealt him the blow, declining to give her name, and taking all the blame of the affair upon himself, it will be an almost impossible matter to arrive at the true facts of the case. The inquest, which has been slowly progressing from day to day, will be completed this morning.—*St. Louis Times.*

Singular Discovery.

A singular discovery has just been made at Gagny, France, by some workmen engaged in digging the foundations of a railway shed. At the depth of about nine metres, in a stratum of clay and ferruginous oxides, remains of proboscidians (elephants, rhinoceroses, &c.) were brought to light, comprising several black teeth and a formidable tusk in large fragments, which, on being put together, constituted a length of seven feet. The depth at which this was found was still six metres higher than the level of the most considerable inundations of the Dhuis, and in an undisturbed stratum. *Galignani* says: "So far there is nothing absolutely extraordinary in this; but who would have thought of finding, underneath the bed containing these fossils of the tertiary period, an aqueduct of the most primitive kind and of human workmanship? Yet such was the case, and the only instance of the kind on record. It is explained by M. Termaux, who relates the circumstance, in supposing, what seems indeed to have been the fact, that the tertiary fragments above alluded to had been washed into the trench by a violent inundation, and thus filled up the aqueduct. The latter is about eighty centimetres in depth, sixty centimetres in breadth at the upper and only forty in breadth at the bottom. It is not easy to account for this principle of making the conduit narrower at the top than at the bottom; at all events, the small dimensions of the cavity were evidently caused by the want of proper tools, as to this day the negroes of Africa, in their miserable attempts at [illegible] public works, remove as little earth as possible. However that may be, the discovery of this aqueduct does not by any means authorize us to carry the tertiary period man as far back as the tertiary period, for, although the aqueduct lies under a stratum of tertiary materials, this stratum does not belong to the place, but was transported thither later."

GENERAL NEWS.

—The fact has leaked out that Jerry Black wrote Johnson's Hancock message.

—Since the passage of a law in California protecting quails, they have become so numerous that cornfields are unsafe.

—The First Revenue District of Ohio yielded $321,068 in November. Whisky paid $120,073, and tobacco $19,072. This district includes Cincinnati.

—It is rather comical in Mr. Dickens to visit our station-houses for the purpose of taking American notes, when they are only filled with Europeans.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

—Last year Cleveland, Ohio, imported from Canada 11,450,000 laths, 1,458,000 shingles, 29,000 bushels of wheat, 99,000 do. barley, 5000 cords of wood, 16,000 pounds butter.

—In Boston, thirty persons are to be appointed, in different sections of the city, to act as agents for the sale of postage stamps at retail within a convenient distance of the street boxes in all parts of the city.

—In Berks county, in this State, it is reported that the mill owners complain of the scarcity of water. Some of the wells are entirely dried up, and it is feared that the mills will be unable to run much longer.

—The cordial hand-shaking between General Sherman and Senator Sumner at the close of the latter's lecture ("Are We a Nation?") in St. Louis, some days ago, is commented on with marked terms of despair in the Southern Democratic press.

—In Louisiana several serious crevasses have occurred, and a general overflow of the lower parishes on the eastern side of the Mississippi is feared. General Hancock has requested permission to set the starving negroes to work upon the levees, and to issue rations to them.

—It is reported by a Western paper that an agent of a farmers' club in England is negotiating for ten thousand acres of land in Illinois on which three hundred European families will immediately settle, including many celebrated grape growers of the Rhine.

—The New York *Tribune* says its St. Thomas correspondent writes that to the 2d of December, five hundred shocks of earthquakes had been felt at that island, and adds: "The man who says that Secretary Seward's last purchase is no great shakes is clearly mistaken."

—A proposition is reported to be before the House Committee on Military Affairs to reduce the regular army, the first heavy reduction to take place when the first Southern State is returned to representation, and the reduction to continue as the military districts are done away with.

—A couple in Oregon got tired of living together, and mutually signed a paper which they drew up for themselves—the wife giving her "beloved husband a full divorce, and wishing him all the happiness he could get," and the husband giving his wife "a little rat colored mule."

—A vender of hoop-skirts was recently extolling his wares in presence of a customer's husband. "No lady should be without one of these skirts," said the shopman. "Well, of course not," dryly responded the husband, who was something of a wag; "she should be within it."

—The New York *Herald* publishes an estimate, compiled from statistics collected by the Governors of the Southern States, which places the number of whites and blacks in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas, who are in a starving condition, at three millions of persons.

—The yellow fever still lingers in New Orleans, causing eighteen deaths in the two weeks ending December 15. There were also several deaths from other malarial fevers. Cholera also continues, there with little abatement. There were sixty-two deaths from cholera in each of the two weeks ending December 15.

—The Pine Plain *Herald* say it is stated that the surveyors of the railroad from Springfield, Mass., to the Hudson River report that it will cost only $20,000 a mile to construct the railroad to the New York State line, while it will cost $55,000 a mile to build it by way of Danbury, and $32,000 by the way of Litchfield.

—A cider case of a peculiar character is reported from Connecticut. The Boston *Journal* reports that it is a "hard cider" case. A few days ago a railroad car loaded with barrels of cider was thrown from the track at West Cornwall. The weather was so cold that the cider became frozen and was taken away in paper bags by the people.

—Official returns show that in Liverpool, out of 22,740 persons who were apprehended in 1866, only 253 could read and write well; while of 720 children, dealt with under the Juvenile Offenders' Act, not one could do so. In 148,000 marriages that were made in England in 1864, 32,000 of the men, and 58,300 of the women (using round numbers) signed with a mark.

—The Dublin *Freeman* publishes the following extract from a letter written by "A Catholic Irishman, long resident in Liverpool:" "The Fenians have done a terrible harm to the poor workingmen about all the works in town, and at the dock and timber works in this neighborhood. It is next to impossible to get work, and if he does he is tortured and bullied out of it."

—On the horse meat question the London *Telegraph* expresses the opinion that horse flesh will never become an article of Anglo-Saxon diet, for the reason that prevents our dining on pet dogs and birds and intimate friends. It says that when we begin to devour our blood relations it will be time enough to think about eating horse steaks and drinking "horse oil."

—At Saccarappa, a place in Maine, near Portland, some French residents have a novel way of conducting their hog-killing operations. They "stick" the animal in the ordinary way, but instead of scalding the bristles off, they place the carcass on skids, and build a blazing fire underneath. By careful turning and watching they scorch the bristles off very neatly and effectually.

—The ecclesiastical trial of Rev. L. C. Pitner, in Decatur, Ill., on the charge of improper conduct towards a lady, has resulted in his entire and emphatic acquittal. Dr. Crary, of the *Central Christian Advocate*, informs us that "there was not elicited a particle of evidence that Mr. Pitner had been guilty of the slightest indiscretion," and that "his whole church and the community agree in pronouncing the charges unfounded."

—Munchausen is outdone by a fireman, who describes how he rescued a child from a burning house. He was on the fourth floor and the fire had cut off all the means of escape inside. The fireman called to the man who held the hose to turn on his largest stream. When the fire reached the window the fireman took the child in one arm, and clasping his legs and his free arm round the stream, slid safely down to the pavement.

—A New York letter says: "Golden weddings, I believe, are a Norse institution. Our Saxon fathers had them not. But if I remember rightly, that quaint, home-like woman, Fredericka Bremer, introduced them. In her work, "The Neighbors," the Dahls celebrated theirs; and Mme. Franceska told the simple story. So from that, golden weddings came to America—am I not right? Miss Bremer, I think, gave us also the Christmas tree."

—A mulatto family at Perdido Station, Alabama, was murdered recently by a party of four drunken men armed with shot guns, who charged the family with stealing. The assassins first butchered the mulatto, Morris, then his wife, then his mother, aged 80, and lastly, a sleeping babe. They finished by firing the house, but after their departure the flames were extinguished by a young girl who had concealed herself. Four men have been arrested on suspicion.

—Charles Wilson, first mate of the bark Roanoake, fell from the pier at New Castle on to the floating ice in the Delaware, on Sunday last, and was so stunned that he slipped from the ice into the water in an unconscious condition. After being given up for lost by his companions, he was found floating in the water by the schooner Elizabeth, picked up and brought to Chester. After one day of recuperation he started away on Monday to rejoin his vessel at the Breakwater, nothing daunted by his serious accident and his almost miraculous escape from drowning.

—On the 14th of December, Mr. E. Patchens, Treasurer of Geauga county, was knocked down while leaving his office at Charon, by some unknown man. He was found lying on the floor insensible. By his side was a small drawer of the safe, $173 in Government notes and $30 in fractional currency. At the time he was carrying the contents of the safe to a stronger safe in another part of the building. About $1,200 had been received during the day, the greater part of which was carried off by the robber, who doubtless overlooked the smaller package left by his victim's side.

—The Buffalo *Commercial*, printed near the camping and hunting grounds of Colonel Parker's tribe, gives currency to the report that the gallant aboriginal has a full-blooded squaw and a family of "one little, two little, three little—nobody knows how many little—Indians" of his own already. It further reports Colonel Parker's habits when spending brief seasons with his tribe. At such times he puts off all traces of civilized life, divests himself of the white man's dress, and puts on the trapping of a great Indian chief, with feathers, war paint, and all other accessories. At such times his civilized friends would find it difficult to recognize the chief of the staff, for the whole man appears to be metamorphosed. His demeanor partakes of the solemn stolidity of the Indian, and he is, to all appearance, a nonchalant, lazy, haughty red-skin chief of the true aboriginal type.

GENERAL NEWS.

—Shoddy, a much belied article, being really a very important material, is, as is well known, formed from woolen rags reduced to fine shreds, and worked up again in combination in greater or less proportion, with fresh wool. The inferiority of the unmanipulated staple results from the methods heretofore employed for disintegrating the rags, which are reduced in large part to mere powder. A process has, however, recently been patented, by which the old fabric is first separated into threads, which are then torn apart by means of a peculiar system of hooks, so that the fibre is not broken or damaged, and may be worked over almost as well as new.

—With regard to the exportation of goods from Great Britain, it is reported by the Statistical Bureau at Washington, that the United States take from Great Britain twice as much as Hanover and the Hanse Towns, and about two and a half times as much as France, three times as much as Holland, five times as much as China, seven times as much as Canada, and more than ten times as much as Belgium, Russia, Portugal, or Spain. During the last four years Great Britain has sold to the United States of steel and iron never less than $7,500,000 per annum, and for 1866 she exported to the United States $3,409,960, of which more than one-third was sent from Sheffield.

—The Cincinnati *Gazette* publishes an opinion by Attorney General West, of Ohio, on the subject of railway fares, which is important to railway managers and the traveling public. In the opinion of the Attorney General railroad managers are restricted in their charges for carrying freight and passengers; that the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Company have exceeded the limits fixed by Law, charging 3½c per mile for passengers, when they should have charged only three cents; and that it is a violation of law to make an extra charge because of the failure of passengers to pre-purchase tickets.

—Upon the subject of disorder in the South, the Mobile *Times* says it is natural for Southerners to hold the negroes responsible for lawlessness and crime in the South, and for Northerners to hold the "unreconstructed" whites responsible for the same. It observes, however, that there is a class of bad white men in the South, some of whom were born there, while others are from Northern and Western States. It says these men were measurably repressed in a settled society, but that they now find vent for their vices and passions "in the chaos of the present time."

—During the recent cold snap it became necessary to send a boat from Fort Delaware to Delaware City for mails and provisions. The boat was placed on wooden runners and pushed over the ice by eight men from Delaware City, and back to fort without touching the water. A gentleman who has resided over twenty years in Delaware, says that he has no recollection of the river ever having been so jammed with ice at that point that a boat could be pushed over it. The Delaware is about eight miles wide at Delaware City, and the Delaware from Fort Delaware to Delaware City is nearly three miles.

—A Scottish judge at a cheese show in Ayrshire announced the other day his solution of what he called "the problem of the day." He advised that the young ladies who are in want of work, and likely to drift into the overstocked governess market, should instantly apply themselves to the pursuit of cheese-making—or, in other words, turn dairy-maids. Then they would be able to earn from £20 to £30 a year, which is the present rate of payment; they would find the occupation "healthy, pleasant and picturesque;" and, moreover, "there would be plenty of young men after them."

—A young man who six years ago joined the Oneida Community, but who has withdrawn, taking with him $900, which he deposited in the Community when he joined it, now threatens a suit to recover $9150—the amount due, as he claims, for six years' services at $1500 a year and the interest on his $900. There have been several suits of this sort against other Communities—the Separatists, Shakers and similar societies, but they have been generally decided against the claimants.

—The Siberian pestilence, the worst form of the cattle plague, which a few years ago spread as far as St. Petersburg, whence it was propagated to western countries, has broken out again at Tobolsk. Up to the 10th of November 4,270 horses, 356 head of cattle and nine men had succumbed to the disease in that province. In the Prussian province of Silesia the cattle plague is fast dying out.

—The *Italia* of Naples reports that a few days since a M. Luigi del Prete, a rich landowner, while driving out in his carriage near Venafro, was stopped by brigands and carried off. The coachman and a child who had been riding with his father were sent back, with a demand for one hundred thousand francs, under penalty of the death of M. del Prete. The public forces have gone in pursuit of the brigands.

—The French navy now consists of 123 sailing ships and 344 steamers. Of the latter, 49 are ironclads, 187 screws and 118 paddles. These 467 ships are of 92,571 horse power, and carry 6,784 guns. Besides these, 32 ships, namely 16 ironclads, 14 screws and two sailing vessels are now building for the Government.

—Advices from Indian territory state that the American flag was raised on old Fort Cobb, on the 20th instant, by Major Shanklin, for the first time since it was torn down by the rebels under General Price, in 1861. Fort Cobb is the new Headquarters of the Wachitaw agency.

LITERARY ITEMS.

—A Frenchman has written a book to prove Moliere a plagiarist.

—Isham J. Harris is going to try a new newspaper in Memphis.

—Mr. Dickens is to read in Brooklyn, and probably in Plymouth Church.

—M. Mischlet's new book, La Montagne, will appear in Paris next month.

—Dr. Trall commences, this month, the re-publication of his "Gospel of health."

—"George Eliot" has about finished a novel, which is expected to surpass "Adam Bede."

—Andrew Jackson Davis has written a new book, which bears the attractive title of "A Stellar Key to the Summer Land."

—Among the contributors to the Christmas number of Good Words are Mr. Gladstone, Tennyson, the Duke of Argyle and Dean Stanley.

—An unusually stupid literary forgery is making some talk in Paris. M. Chasles is giving out, in small instalments, papers in French attributed to Shakspeare.

—Prussia teaches seven languages in her primary schools. They are, in order of the numbers of children studying them: German, Lithuanian, Wend, Moravian, Walloon, Tcheque and Dutch.

—Texas is agitated over its first poetess, who is, if we may believe the local papers, superior to Longfellow and Jean Ingelow, and equalled only by Tennyson. The name of this prodigy is Mollie E. Moore.

—Only fifty-four of the whole number of families visited by an agent of the Iowa Bible Society were found to be without a copy of the Scriptures. But perhaps he only visited fifty-four families altogether.

—A Georgia novelist graphically says of one of his characters: "As this idea gained upon the soul of Cain Smallin, he opened his mouth, which was like a pass in the mountain, and a torrent of laughter brawled all through it."

—Mr. Charles Dickens, it is stated, is overwhelmed with requests for his autograph. He deals with them summarily, however. Applicants receive a printed answer saying, "To comply with your modest request would not be reasonably possible." The envelope, direct and mail these replies, the services of three Secretaries are constantly required.

SHAKSPEARE MANUSCRIPTS.—M. Philarete Chasles, who, if not the dupe of literary forgers, is the greatest literary forger of the time, announces, or his friends do for him, that in the immense and absurd farrago of manuscripts, of which he from time to time favors the French Academy of Sciences with extracts, there are papers of Shakspeare! "Saint-Evremond," he says, "sends papers of Shakspeare to Moliere, who had requested him to ascertain if there was nothing remaining of that great genius, which gave rise to a series of letters on that poet—'the poet of the honey-tongue,' says Saint-Evremond, 'known to every one, but whose private life is yet unknown.'" What these papers are, we are not told, but it is to be presumed that Shakspeare wrote them in French, setting the fashion in this particular for Cromwell, Newton, James the Second, and the rest of M. Chasles's subjects.

PORTRAITS.—Two portraits of English authors have lately been added to the National Portrait Gallery; the one being a small head of Samuel Butler, the author of "Hudibras," done in crayon upon oak panel, the work of E. Lutterell, an early engraver on mezzotint; and the other a portrait, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of Charles Sackville, the sixth Earl of Dorset, the author of the noble sea-lyric "To all ye Ladies now Land." The last is said to be peculiarly fine. A third addition is that of Dr. Dodd, the preacher and forger, whom the readers of Boswell's Johnson remember. It is the work of J. Russell, a pupil of Cotes. A head of Sir Walter Scott also figures in the new exhibition. It was painted at Glasgow by Gilbert & Graham, represents the poet in his ordinary costume, wearing a white cravat and black coat. This picture belongs to the British government, being the gift of the artist's widow.

FACETIÆ.

[From the English Magazine.]

"STILL WATERS."—Whiskies.

FROM THE HIGHLANDS.—The Flower of the Forest.—Its *stalk.*

DOING AS ROME DOES.—Occupying oneself.

TO THE BENEVOLENT.—Judy knows a man so hard up that he even sleeps on tick.

WHAT books would most appropriately be read while you're eating boiled mackerel? Fenel-on.

A REASON WHY YOUNG LADIES SHOULD AVOID RITUALISM.—It makes them *fast*, and *cross* withal.

HOW TO COOK A GOOSE.—Suspend yourself in front of a brisk fire, and revolve carefully and regularly until you are done brown.

A ROMAN QUESTION.—"If uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," what must the Pope's head suffer from wearing three crowns?

WHAT NEXT?—A man, otherwise an excellent fellow, was cruel enough the other day, in our presence, to take a lady's face to pieces.

MATCH THIS.—Why should congreve manufacturers be considered adepts at the art of self-defense? Because they are used to boxing matches.

IN Dr. Mavor's spelling book the juveniles are informed that the flesh of the pig "produces" pork. Ought not the youngsters to be informed at the same time that it "produces" night-mare?

THE ANTIQUITY OF FENIANISM.—Fenianism dates very much farther back than most people suppose. We would remind our readers that when Herodias' daughter was living there was a head-sent-her.

PRUDENT PRECAUTIONS.—We have no wish to pry into the domestic relations of the authorities of the War Office. We believe they have issued instructions that in making experiments with the new ordnance, the charges of powder shall not be too high for fear of "wearing the Breeches." This looks ominous.

A LOWERING SKEY.—We are assured that the gloomy views held by Dr. Skey as to the effects of a course of training on the constitution are anything but popular in Cambridge. The day is far distant when the Cantabs will make the Doctor's arguments an excuse for Skey-daddling out of future contests.

SHARP.—A gentleman, on meeting a friend a day or two ago, asked him his opinion about the "Roman Question." "Oh! hang the 'Roman Question,'" replied the person addressed. "I am tired of it; I wish it was at the bottom of the sea!" "Not a bad idea," quickly observed the first speaker; "for in that case we might possibly get the long desired *solution* of it."

SINGLE BLESSEDNESS.—The *Standard* of Wednesday mentions the curious fact that on a certain date "there was not a single prisoner in the Tynemouth House of Correction." It does not mention the number of married persons, but the fact that there were no single ones goes far to shew that the bonds of wedlock lead to other and more rigorous bonds, and that the effect of marriage generally is rather demoralizing than otherwise.

A GRIEVANCE.—A. B. A. and First Class man encloses us the accompanying paragraph, and complains bitterly of its wording:

"Wanted, several gentlemanly men to travel and to take orders. Apply personally, or by letter, to ——."

He states that, supposing a traveling chaplaincy was the office for which a gentlemanly man was required to take orders, he applied, and was astonished to find that it was a bagman's place that was offered.

TAKE NOTICE.—On picking up, recently, a visitors' guide to the great metropolis, we happened to read: "Among the many places of interest which the country visitor should not neglect to see is Billingsgate, the celebrated fish market. The best time to see the market to perfection is about five o'clock in the morning." We would suggest that in the next edition of the work referred to there be added that if any one be desirous of studying the language of Billingsgate, he can readily do so by taking in some of the penny daily papers.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—The French Government declines to nominate two officers to accompany the English Abyssinian expedition, as the cost would be 25,000 francs each year. There is an outcry against this penurious proceeding, *vis a vis* with other lavish expenditure.

—The official "Blue Book" gives the following statement of the land forces of France: "The active army of France on October 1st, 1867, consisted of 358,789 men, in the interior, and 65,263 in Algeria, making a total of 424,052. Of these about 40,000 were on leave. At the same date the figures for the reserve were 226,466. The general total of the active army is, therefore, 650,498."

—The Manchester *Examiner* states that on the day of the Fenian executions it printed 192,645 copies, which it believes to be the greatest weight of newspaper ever printed and issued in one day by any office in the world. The quantity of paper consumed was about 83 thousands, or fourteen and a half tons. The total number of pages printed was upwards of one million and a half. The copies were supplied at the rate of 45,000 per hour, or nearly 800 per minute.

—Masked balls at the opera are once again advertised. These balls are certainly one of the scandals of Paris, and it is really shameful that they should be tolerated, especially in the first theatre of the capital. They are a huge gathering of the loosest women and the most dissolute men of Paris; they take place in the dead hour of night, and many of the "assistants" of both sexes at them make a point of becoming thoroughly drunk, in order to give vivacity to their conversation.

—The French infantry are being trained to a new sharpshooter's drill. They form a loose square; each man sets up his knapsack before and secures it with his tent pegs, places the two sticks used for the *tente a'abri* on each side of the knapsack, and spreads his blanket over it as a curtain, behind which he crouches and fires. At six hundred yards the men are thoroughly concealed, and this protection, though not very effectual, might make the men think themselves more secure.

—In Austria, after New Year's Day "Military tribunals of honor" are to come into existence among the military. These Courts will judge of all acts which the laws do not consider as culpable, but which, nevertheless, affect the sentiment of honor of the officers, and are contrary to that propriety which it becomes them to protect. These acts are—intoxication, gambling, aggravated debts, improper conduct in public places, insult provoked by personal behavior, habitual breaking of the word, want of energy, insults between officers, and inciting officers to fight duels.

—*Le Petit Journal de Paris* states that the Jardin des Plantes is haunted with thousands of sparrows. Whether it is that, moved by pity for the bird-friends in captivity, they come to visit them, is not stated. But they pick up crumbs even in the cages of the most ferocious animals, and make a very good thing of the bears. But on Saturday, November 24, the attendants remarked with surprise that not a solitary sparrow was to be seen. A great buzzard had escaped from his cage, and was calmly soaring over the gardens. The little French sparrows, alarmed at the terrible American specter, had retreated in terror. After much management the "turkey buz" was recaptured, and the sparrows resumed their sports in the garden.

A FEW STATISTICS.

—Boston exported goods in the week ending December 20th to the value of $431,511.

—In a single ship, now on the way to Liverpool from San Francisco, is wheat of the value of $107,638. Its weight is 2,250 tons.

—The Illinois Central Railroad paid into the State Treasury, on the 23d inst., the sum of $229,638 04, being the amount due for the last six months on the 7 per cent reserve fund.

—The La Crosse (Wis.) *Republican* says, at the land office in that city, last month, there were entered 15,487 acres, of which 10,389 acres were for actual settlement and cultivation under the Homestead law.

—The birth registers of Vienna, Austria, do little credit to its people. There were 26,745 children born in that city in the year of 1867, and 13,501 of them—a majority in number—were illegitimate. The population of the city was 500,000 in 1863.

—Eighty millions of people, it is announced in the New York police report, crossed the various ferries leading to that city during the year ending November 1st, 1867. This indicates an enormous traffic, and the number of persons who crossed is double the population of the United States.

—Some interesting statistics concerning the growth of Paris are contained in the last annual report of the Prefect of the Seine. During the year ending September 30th, there were 2325 houses pulled down, and 3809 erected in the city, an increase of 1484 houses, affording accommodation for 9446 families. During the last fifteen years there have been 21,641 houses demolished, and 36,944 built in Paris. The revenues of Paris, during the past year, collected for municipal purposes, were $7,847,751. In Paris, there were, in January last, 1182 primary schools, of which 301 were public and 1121 private; the number of pupils was 82,385 or 8000 more than at the date of the previous return.

—To claimants of extra bounty, it may be interesting to know that a report of a special committee to Congress states that the total number of bounty claims filed up to December 1, 1867, was 412,030; the total number paid, 126,888; disallowed, 11,750, leaving the number yet to be settled, 273,473. The Department is able to pay 15,000 claims a month in regular order, so that it will take about eighteen months to pay off all those at present on file. Of course those filed subsequently to December 1st will have to wait longer, so that the bounty claimants will have to be patient. The committee recommends that the number of clerks be increased by Congress, so as to expedite the payment of the bounties.