The Pittsburgh Gazette

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1868.

EDITORIAL, CORRESPONDENCE

PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1868. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

Bramlette, ex-Gov. Parker, of New Jersey, ex-President Pierce, ex-President Buchanan, Secretary McCulloch, Gov. Swann, of Maryland, Rear Admiral Read Ford, Col. Chas. G. Green, of Boston, Hon. Geo. W. Jones, of Iowa, Hon. Jno. A. Greene, of New York, Hon. Jno. M. Binckley, United States Assistant Attorney General, Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn, Gov. B. F. Perry, South Carolina, ex-Gov. Seymour, of Connecticut, Hon. F. Blair and others.

Following is the one from Mr. Pendleton: Cincinnati

INTERNAL REVENUE.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

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HARRISBURG.

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FROM

VOLUME LXXXIII.—NO. 2.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 7, 1868.

The readers of the GAZETTE are already informed by telegraph that nine Republican members of the House, including three from Allegheny county, refused to attend the Republican caucus for the selection of officers of that body, and announced their intention to defeat the ticket agreed upon by that assemblage. Having been at Harrisburg throughout this contest, and in such relation to legislative leaders as to give a pretty correct idea of the facts in the case, I propose to set forth the results of my observations.

The nation is ruled by political parties. Hence there is always a struggle going on for mastery. In like manner political parties are always ruled by factions, and each party is ordinarily divided into two or more clans, each jealous of the other, and each seeking the control, and especially the dispensation of the patronage. In Pennsylvania the clans that divide the Republican party are known as the clan CAMERON and the clan CURTIN. It has been my fortune to be fully identified with neither of them.

As soon as the recent State election disclosed the fact that the Republicans had a majority in each branch of the Legislature, combinations were set on foot by each of these clans to control the organization of the Houses. It was early conceded that the Senate would be organized with a mixed ticket—a Cameronian for Speaker, and a Curtinian for Clerk. For the House the Cameronians united on Mr. MCCAMANT for Speaker, and the Curtinians on Mr. DAVIS. The Cameronians sought to make Mr. CONNELL the State Treasurer; the Curtinians, Mr. IRWIN. It is not needful to specify the minor offices. As the caucus progressed, it was manifest the Curtinians had the organization in their hands, and by so large a majority as to involve the election of Mr. IRWIN as Treasurer. This result was deemed of great significance, and especially in view of the nomination of Mr. CURTIN for the Vice-Presidency by the Soldiers' Convention, which was to meet the following Wednesday at Philadelphia. When the Cameronians discovered they were to be beaten in the House caucus, they hauled off, and all but ten of them refused to go into the meeting at all, and announced their intention of running a candidate for Speaker of their own, thus making a triangular contest in the House, in which an election would be impossible, if the respective forces stood firm, and finally compelling Mr. DAVIS to decline, or to go over eventually to to the Democratic nominee, Mr. JONES, with enough others to make him Speaker. What was desired was not this latter result, but to force Mr. DAVIS out of the way.

This arrangement was promptly met by a counter project by the Curtinians to defeat Mr. GRAHAM in the Senate in case Mr. DAVIS was not allowed to go through. It was stated that three Curtinian Senators were ready to vote for the democratic nominee for Speaker, in order to execute reprisals for the Cameronian bolt in the House. This seems not to have been authentic.

While these were influences prominent in the struggle, pretenses of a different nature were set up to justify the strategy that had been resolved upon, and the ends intended to be reached. The Cameronians urged that Mr. DAVIS's legislative career was blemished, and the Curtinians retorted by pointing to Mr. CONNELL's deficiencies in the same particular. If it must be confessed that much these respective accusers said was true; it must, also, be admitted that neither got the start of the other. It was simply absurd for Cameronians to set up as purists for the purpose of defeating Mr. DAVIS, while they were cordially supporting men no better than he.

Then it was alleged that Mr. DAVIS was not reliable to those questions in which Allegheny county and the western portion of the Commonwealth generally feel an especial interest—that he was not sound on the Free Railroad Law and the restoration of the Connellsville charter. It was insisted, with considerable force, that Mr. MCCAMANT voted for the genuine Free Railroad bill last winter, while Mr. DAVIS dodged the question. In reply to this, Mr. DAVIS maintained that he dodged last winter because his mind was undergoing a change; from being against the proposed law he was turning in favor of it, but had not reached the point where he was fully prepared to abandon his old views and associations and openly espouse new ones. He stated that he was now confirmed in his convictions on the side of freedom in railroad building; had definitely proclaimed his purpose in published letters; had prepared his inaugural address in anticipation of his election as Speaker, and had made it as direct and uncompromising as he could; had promised to make Mr. WILSON, of Allegheny county, Chairman of the Railroad Committee, and should do it, believing him to have the full confidence of all the Free Railroad men; and that he should advocate and vote for the restoration of the Connellsville charter. He further stated that the opposition to him was in fact not based on any doubts as to his actual position, for one of the bolters from Allegheny county had offered to vote for him on consideration of having the Chairmanship of the Railroad Committee given to him instead of Mr. WILSON; and that the bolter was Mr. SMITH.

But the Cameronians urged that some of the supporters of Mr. DAVIS were not Free Railroad men; that some of them were certainly in the interest of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. This was simply true. But, then, what I have already said must be borne in mind. These combinations had not primary reference to any questions about railroads. It was not more suspicious that some monopolists should go in for Mr. DAVIS than that some of them should go in for Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. CONNELL. Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. ERRETT are both unquestionably sound on the railroad questions, but they support Mr. CONNELL, who has been bitterly and effectively on the other side for years. Mr. LANDON, who did more against the Free Railroad Law and the Connellsville bill, at the last session, than any other Senator, supports Mr. GRAHAM. This is not because of identity of views on these questions, but because of identity in clanship for general purposes.

And here it is proper to remark that the clans do not pull in perfect harmony on this occasion. They never do. Always, incidental or collateral questions spring up, which divert particular members of either clan from the body thereof temporarily. Hence it happens that some Western Cameronians now favor Mr. IRWIN. The idea that controls them in this special deviation is that the East has monopolized the advantages of the Treasurership, and that Western interests will be promoted by the election of a trans-Alleghenian to the custody of the public moneys. In these comparatively few instances the sentiment of locality overbears the zeal of clanship.

The three bolters from Allegheny county, when pressed, justify their revolt against the usages of the party by a communication in the columns of the GAZETTE on Monday morning, signed "Allegheny." They say that but for that article they should have gone into caucus and abided by its decision. Unfortunately for this view of the case, I heard of their determination to bolt at least six hours before the GAZETTE containing that communication arrived at Harrisburg. If the fact had been otherwise that document would not have afforded the justification they sought. The experienced Mr JOHN HICKMAN hit the nail exactly on the head, in caucus, when he said, "If these men have real grievances, why do they not come here and state them, and demand redress?" It is not easy to see what answer can be made to that interrogatory.

But this example may be erected into a precedent that will be used with vast effect not many months hence. Next year a United States Senator will be chosen in place of Mr. BUCKALEW. A State Senator of the clan CAMERON wants it, and it is wanted for him. He has large mental powers, uncommon attainments in knowledge, and a captivating eloquence. He would adorn the station. But he has been a most sturdy opponent of a genuine Free Railroad Law and of the restoration of the Connellsville charter. True, he says he is in favor of a General Railroad Law, but it is one whose chief feature consists in providing "how not to do it." The limitations and provisos weigh down such an enactment as he would make so as to cause it to sink into the category of a nullity. So long as the Republican party in State Convention did not plant itself on one side or the other of this question, this Senator was at liberty to act in reference to it as he pleased. It was in the same case as the question of Protection to Domestic Industry in the Republican party at large. No National Convention having decided that question, a Republican may be a Free Trader or a Protectionist, as he will. But the last State Convention at Williamsport adopted Freedom in Railroad Building as a plank in the Republican Platform, and, so far, has bound its representatives. Now, we concede that if any moral principle is involved in a question, no man can be concluded by the action of his fellows. He is bound to make his conduct thereon accord with his individual judgment. But this is not such a question. It has no absolute moral character, but is purely a question of political economy. It falls exclusively within the legitimate domain of Policy or Expediency. In party fealty, therefore, this Senator is bound to conform his official conduct to the judgment of the Convention. He probably will not. I judge him by what he has said to me within a few days.

How will his Senatorial aspirations stand next year? Surely, it will be in vain to ask Free Railroad Republicans to go into a caucus where he will be sure to win, or to be bound by a caucus that agrees to elevate him to the United States Senate! Violating the discipline of the party himself, he cannot expect it to be enforced in his own behalf; and if he should indulge the expectation would surely be mistaken in the end.

Another view remains to be taken. The Republican party last year promised the people of this State a Free Railroad Law in case it was again entrusted with power. This was one of the definite pledges on which it was trusted. It will shortly be demonstrated whether that promise was made in good faith or not. If the law demanded and promised shall be enacted, all will be well. What if it shall fail? More, if its failure shall be owing to the fact that none of the regular and acknowledged appliances of party discipline were used in its behalf? Is the conjecture indulged that the Republican advocates of a Free Railroad Law may be fooled with impunity? If so, that delusion may as well be put aside, and that right speedily.

There are indications that the Democratic party, as such, means to commit itself to the monopoly; that even Mr. WALLACE intends to head a flank movement. I shall be slow to believe this of him until constrained by potentest facts. But such a movement would comport with that party, and give it valuable alliances next year; while it would make the course of the Republicans one of inevitable necessity.

These indications have greatly perplexed Mr. GRAHAM. While earnestly desiring not to violate the comities of the Senate by degrading Mr. LANDON from the Chairmanship of the Railroad Committee, or displacing him altogether from the Committee, he feels that trueness to the interests of his immediate constituents and to the declared policy of the party, requires he should run no risks. If he should count on Mr. WALLACE as a friend to a Free Railroad Law, should constitute the Committee on that presumption, and that Mr. WALLACE should be found on the other side, he would be without sufficient reasons to justify his cause, and would fall under the imputation of actual treachery or culpable confidence. However, he is determined to make sure of that Committee, even if it becomes necessary to remove Mr. LANDON altogether, an even not improbable. In making choice of its members he will use great caution, selecting only such material as can be fully relied upon in any emergency.

Having said so much of the influence of factions in these matters, it is necessary to say more, in order not to be misunderstood. Factions always have a shibboleth under which they rally—an idea, a principle, a measure, or a name. The two factions of which we have spoken each have the name of an individual as its badge or token. Each of these individuals has acted a conspicuous part in the politics of the State or nation. One is now in the United States Senate; the other hoping to be there or into the Vice Presidential chair. Each is a magnetic character, adapted to attract or repel other persons. Unlike in dispositions, taste, aptitudes and capacities, each has salient points and signal merits. As chiefs of factions neither is without faults, though far enough from justifying the harsh criticisms pronounced upon them. It happens with them, as with persons similarly circumstanced, that their respective clans sometimes do things, ostensibly in their interests, which they do not sanction. In popular governments clans use their chiefs often more than the chiefs use them. In the case under consideration no evidence is adduced to show that Mr. CAMERON sanctions the bolt of his clan. He is at Washington, and those who may be supposed to represent his wishes in a special manner have apparently not directed, advised or consented to the schism. It seems rather that the discipline of the clan was invoked, without authority, for the accomplishment of personal ends. The contest is a bitter one.

F. B. P.

THE action of the Soldiers' Convention at Philadelphia in nominating Gen. Grant for the Presidency may be taken as indicative of the enthusiasm with which his selection as the standard-bearer of the Republican party will be hailed throughout the whole length and breadth of the land by the men who sustained the national flag in the field during the dark days of the rebellion.

GEN. HARTRANFT has signified his willingness again to become a candidate for Auditor General. So far no other person has been named in connection with the nomination. It may be presumed, therefore, that he will have no competitor for the place. He made an excellent soldier, and is making an equally good civil officer.

MR. MORTON M'MICHAEL has declined renomination for the office of Mayor of Philadelphia.

NO ORGANIZATION.

The Legislative Lockout continues, and the twenty-fifth ballot was reached in the House yesterday without effecting the expected result, the election of Mr. DAVIS as Speaker. The dissenters scattered their votes after the twentieth ballot, as no gentleman would consent to permit his name to be used as their candidate. The conduct of the fractious members excites condemnation and rebuke from the leading Republican journals of the State, and they certainly cannot blind their eyes to the fact that they are working their own political destruction as rapidly as it is possible for men to accomplish that end.

If it had been left to us to name the man for Speaker of the House, the choice would not have fallen on Mr. ELISHA W. DAVIS. No such authority was vested in us. Nor were we deputed to counsel or advise the Republican members of the Legislature in the matter. We consequently did not counsel or advise them. But a large majority of those Republicans chose Mr. DAVIS, as was their privilege. Nine others, not only exercised the privilege of chosing for themselves, as they were entitled to do, but when they found they were badly beaten refused to go into caucus at all. Some of them roll up the whites of their eyes and sanctimoniously protest they cannot vote for such a man as Mr. DAVIS. Well; HICKMAN, MASON, NICHOLSON, WILSON, and most others who are widely reputed to have high personal characters, have no difficulty on that score. Mr. DAVIS has reason to be proud of the support of such men.

The fact is this unreasonable bolt has damaged the prospects of a General Railroad Law and of the restoration of the Connellsville charter. Republican members from other parts of the State, who have been acting in good faith, and meant to go straight through, are so ured. Others who wanted an excuse to strike the measures particularly demanded by Allegheny and other counties, think they have found it. This illustrates the truth of what we said some days ago, that Allegheny was altogether too provincial for its own welfare, and could not alter its course in that particular a moment too soon.

Mr. DAVIS has been acting honorably, and would undoubtedly have made all his pledges good. He has been badly used, and naturally feels aggrieved. He would be less or more than human if he did not. His particular friends are angered. No reasonable man can blame them. Men from all parts of the State who have the welfare of the Republican cause at heart, and want it to triumph in the fall, in the election of General GRANT, are aggrieved, are out of patience, and with abundant cause. A Free Railroad Bill, or any other measure of importance, cannot be secured in this way, and certainly ought not to be.

THE DEAD LOCK—A CARD.

The following is the card (referred to yesterday) of the Republican members of the State House of Representatives who refused to support Mr. DAVIS for Speaker:

HARRISBURG, January 8.—*Editors of the State Guard*:—Gentlemen: Our attention has been called to an article in the *State Guard* of this day, reflecting severely on the position and motives of those of us who feel it to be our duty to withhold our support from the Hon. Elisha W. Davis, as a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives. Permit us to state that we are not disorganizers, but have at heart the success and welfare of the Republican party. We have voted and acted with that organization ever since it had an existence, and we intend to do so in the future, except when an attempt is made to inflict a great wrong upon that party. This we believe is now being done by some gentlemen who desire to see Mr. Davis elected Speaker, and who are and have been freely applying to us the epithets of disorganizers and malcontents. In the faithful discharge of our duty to an honest and incorruptible constituency, we have taken this stand, assured that when the time arrives for us to lay before the world our reasons at large for our action, it will meet with the approbation of every honest and true Republican in the State.

A. ARMSTRONG, Lancaster.
DAVID L. SMITH, Allegheny.
JOHN T. RICHARDS, Fulton.
GEO. R. RIDDLE, Allegheny.
J. BOYD ESPY, Crawford.
SAMUEL MCCAMANT, Blair.
H. S. WHARTON, Huntingdon.

THE SOLDIERS' CONVENTION will meet next Tuesday at Philadelphia. The representation from Allegheny county is quite small, in comparison to the number to which it is entitled. Still, the delegation from almost all the other counties will be full, so that the aggregate attendance will be large.

As a matter of course, this body will nominate Gen. GRANT for the Presidency. It is most suitable that a military convention, assembled for political purposes, should present the name of the most illustrious soldier in the republic for its highest honors, and especially as he has exhibited in the management of the War Department, as elsewhere, a high capacity for the civil service.

It might likewise be expected that the Convention will express a preference for a candidate for Vice President. So far, Governor GEARY and ex-Governor CURTIN have been most prominently named in this connection. A large majority of the delegates, so far as we are informed, are for Mr. CURTIN. Indeed, we hear of few or no delegates instructed for General GEARY. Even in his own county, Cumberland, the delegates are for Mr. CURTIN. Two considerations, at least, have contributed to this result. General GEARY's term as Governor will not expire until the year after the election of President and Vice President; and a decided inclination exists not to create an interregnum. It is ordinarily suitable that a civil officer should serve out the term of his election before entering upon another place. Then, again, if the first place on the ticket is conceded to a military man, it is wise to concede the second place to a civilian. Soldiers are entitled to just recognition; and all loyalists are ready to go as far as reason dictates in that direction. But if they should claim all the seats of honor a feeling would be apt to spring up that the slave-holding oligarchy had perished only to make room for the pretorian guards. This is an impression that thoughtful soldiers are as anxious to avoid as any other class. But, be this as it may, Governor CURTIN will most likely be the choice of the Convention. Whether he will, upon this backing, go actively into the canvass, or decline, holding back for the next Senatorial vacancy, is a point on which we have no information.

THE noble and patriotic county of Allegheny, with her thousands of returned soldiers, is represented at the Convention of Boys in Blue, now in session at Philadelphia, by a single delegate. We do not know but this fact conveys a compliment to our soldier citizens, who have not shown much desire to press in political circles the claims they hold on a grateful people for military services prompted and rendered through pure patriotism.

J. J. SHRYOCK, Esq., First Vice President of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, has resigned his position. He served with honor and credit, and contributed largely to the general success of that road, with which he has been identified since its infancy.

ON the first Wednesday of next month the French nation will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the birth of Napoleon Bonaparte.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The second annual report of Mr. DAVID A. WELLS, Special Commissioner of the Revenue of the United States, was laid before Congress yesterday, and is a highly important and interesting document. The duties of that officer requires that he shall investigate the sources of national revenue, the best methods of collecting the same, and administration of the existing laws bearing on the subject. In referring to the National debt and the requirements for National expenditure, he presents the following figures:

The amount of the National Debt on the 31st of August, 1865,—the period of its maximum—less cash in the Treasury, was $2,757,689,571 43, involving an annual obligation for interest of $138,031,-623 24. The debt in general, at this period, might be classified as follows:

Of *long* obligations (5 20, bonds, 6s of 1881, 10-40s, &c.) $1,084,222,600; of *short time* paper (temporary loan, certificates of indebtedness, compound interest notes, Treasury notes, United States notes, fractional currency, bonds of 1847 and 1848), $1,673,466,971 43, of which $373,398,236 88 was currency proper.

By an elaborate table and comparison the Commissioner demonstrates *that the United States is the only one of the leading nations of the world which is, at present, materially diminishing its debt and reducing its taxes; and the only one, moreover, which offers any substantial evidence of its ability to pay its debt within any definite period, or even anticipated the probability of any such occurrence.*

In speaking of the immense revenue which should be derived from distilled spirits, he says, what we have ever held, that the tax has been placed at such a rate as to constitute in itself so great a temptation to fraud, that average human nature, as it exists in the United States, is not able to resist it. And the system under which the officers have been selected to collect the tax and supervise the manufacture has not, thus far, recognized *honesty, intelligence*, and *business capacity* as the *first, only*, and *essential* qualification for appointment.

He proposes that the special taxes referred to, under this head, should be repealed; and that a tax of from two to three per cent. be imposed on the value of all spirits sold at wholesale, to be paid monthly, and a tax of ten cents per gallon on all spirits rectified, to be paid weekly. A tax of two and a half per cent. on sales, and ten cents on spirits rectified, will, in the opinion of the Commissioner, yield a revenue, which cannot be easily evaded, of at least twenty millions of dollars per annum; making a total amount of annual revenue which can probably be derived from the tax on distilled spirits, under the proposed system, of from *fifty to sixty millions of dollars.*

THERE are many and significant indications that Russia is stirring up mischief against Turkey. These signs have become so manifest that the Sultan has dispatched an envoy to solicit the intervention of England. There was a time when all Europe trembled at the tread of the Moslem cohorts, which threatened to subdue the continent and extinguish christianity. There was also a time when all Europe rang with enthusiastic shouts of armed legions on the way to drive the Turks out of Palestine. For long and bloody centuries there was no amity between these two forces, following respectively the cross and the crescent. Now, as for many years past, the Moslems have begged at Christian hands the boon of remaining in Europe. Before the Turks has appeared the dark shadow of destiny, silently motioning them away. As they were driven out of Spain, so will they at last be driven out of Europe into Asia. Strong as religious antipathies are commonly accounted—stronger, indeed, than all other repulsions besides—here is an instance in which political passions and interests altogether outweigh all suggestions of ecclesiastical and theological rivalry. The Turks remain because the Christian nations can agree among themselves what shall be done with the country when vacated by the present dominant race.

If a judgment should be formed touching this grave matter, based upon the relative value of the respective peoples inhabiting European Turkey, it may well be conjectured the balance would incline in favor of the Turks. Unquestionably when the Roman Empire of the East succumbed to the followers of the Prophet, the Christians had sunk below the ordinary polytheistic level. The ancient vitality had gone out of them. No stamina remained, and they yielded because they were the weakest. Since then the Mahometans have decayed; but not faster than the Christians. Both have gone down, but about ratably to each other.

Russia missed its chance when Garibaldi recently rose against Rome. Then combinations were feasible which would have terminated this debate of centuries, and made St. Sophia once again a Christian temple.

THE Philadelphia *North American* of Tuesday discourses at length on "Consolidated Allegheny." After speaking of the benefits which consolidation has brought to Philadelphia, and of those which it would bring to Pittsburgh, it winds up with the following:

"We read and hear so much in these days respecting the importance and progress of Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, that the extent and magnitude of Pittsburgh generally escape notice. Many persons, therefore, learn now with surprise that the whole of Pittsburgh has a population of some two hundred thousand souls. We sincerely regret that at the election lately held there the people did not vote to make one consolidated city of it, as the approach of the period for taking the national census renders it very desirable that Pittsburgh should not again figure in the official reports among the sixth rate cities of the republic, instead of coming to the front rank, where she properly belongs. It is, however, gratifying to know that a step in the right direction, by consolidating with each of the two leading cities all their outlying suburbs, has been taken. If, now, the three divisions were consolidated into one city, it would always be easy to show the statistics of the real Pittsburgh. Hitherto this has been impossible for anybody except a Pittsburgher, and even many of them were unable to do it accurately. A good map of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and suburbs should be printed and widely circulated all over the republic."

THE democrats have taken the initiative, calling their State Convention early in March. Among other encouragements that have fallen in their way is the legislative lock-out at Harrisburg. They take this as a symptom that they are to encounter a host during the coming summer, which will be discordant, dissevered, belligerant; that will be carrying weapons against its own members. We doubt not they are calculating wildly; but it must be confessed the present look favors their inference. Republicans! so close up this difference, and right speedily, that not a trace of it shall be left.

—The London *Times* has, for some time past, been engaged in a libel suit of great importance to newspaper publishers, which was finally decided on December 20th. It was the suit of Wason vs. Walter, Mr. Walter being proprietor of the *Times*. The question at issue most affecting the public was, whether a newspaper might print the debates in Parliament without incurring the risk of an action for libel. The case arose in reference to statements made in the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor and other peers as to Mr. Wason's petition complaining of the appointment of Sir Fitzroy Kelly as a Judge, and which Mr. Wason complained of as libellous. The Lord Chief Justice distinctly declared that in his opinion a correct report of what was said in Parliament was privileged, and being so instructed, the jury found for the defendant.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Work in the Horticultural Department.

It is well that out-of-door work sometimes ceases, or at least becomes so little pressing, that we have time to plan and think. While the general aspect of these notes is such as might lead one to suppose that they were reprinted from year to year, there is really no more painstaking work put into the paper than just here. Certain things, it is true, have to be repeated, and it is not easy to give directions to transplant cabbages in any great variety of language. In making up these notes we are obliged to have several distinct classes of readers in mind: those who cultivate entirely for profit, and those who grow plants for the love of it, and without regard to gain; those who are familiar with the ordinary operations of horticulture and only need to be reminded of the season in which to do them, and those who essay the simplest operation for the first time. Besides the routine directions it will be found that we each month incorporate much that is new under the different divisions, and answer in general terms many letters of inquiry. Horticulturists have always been in advance of farmers in availing themselves of the recorded experience of others, and we now have not only general treatises, but many excellent works upon special subjects, in which the various processes are treated more in detail than they can be by general writers. The past year has brought out works of great value in all departments of horticulture, and no one whose operations are upon any other than a very small scale can afford to be ignorant of the current literature of his favorite branch.—*Agriculturist.*

Orchard and Nursery.

Order Trees Early.—If one lives near a nursery it will sometimes pay him to give even an extra price for the privilege of digging his own trees.

Rabbits are troublesome, especially when the snow is on the ground. Among the various preventives blood has been found the most easy of application and as efficacious as any. One sprinkling will last all winter. If blood cannot be obtained readily, rub the trunks of the trees with liver or bloody meat, but this is more troublesome.

Mice work under cover; keep all rubbish away from the trees, and tramp down light snows. When there are not many trees it will pay to clasp the base of the trunks with a girdle of old tin, or sheet iron.

The Tent Caterpillar is one of the most destructive insects in the orchard, and one of the most readily controlled. The eggs may now be seen glued on as a band around the twigs near their ends. Get them off at any expense of time and labor.

Cions.—The sooner these are cut, the better, as experience has shown that a much larger proportion of early cut grafts will live than of those taken after they they have been exposed to the severity of the winter: this is especially the case when the autumn has been unfavorable to the ripening of the wood. Label correctly, and pack in boxes of fresh sawdust.

Root Grafting may be done; graft at the "collar" and never on the tips of roots. Waxed cotton twine is the most convenient tying material.

Map the Orchard.—We often advise this, and cannot do so too frequently; the best label will get lost or obliterated in time, and memory is not to be trusted. If a place is to be sold, a *named* orchard will add much to its value.

Nursery Stock may be headed back and shaped any time during winter when the weather is mild.

Why Not a Rhododendron?

Those who live in cities and towns have usually but a small lot to embellish, hence the necessity of getting the most out of it. The fitting out of such places is too often left to the care of a jobbing gardener who has more conceit than knowledge, and a small front yard is so cut up and filled with a confusion of things that it looks still smaller. We recently passed a place that struck us as particularly neat. A bit of nicely kept turf had in the centre a magnificent Rhododendron, six feet high, and nearly as wide. With its beautiful, broad, evergreen leaves, and an abundance of buds of full promise for next spring's flowers, it stood in marked contrast to the naked stems of the deciduous shrubs of the neighborhood. A single good plant like this will give more satisfaction than a crowd of shrubs, neither of which has a chance to develop itself. Good nursery grown Rhododendrons (and none others are likely to live) may now be had at from one to three dollars. They may be transplanted in spring or autumn.

Fruit Garden.

Whoever contents himself with a single variety of strawberry, currant, or other fruit, gets only half the satisfaction his garden is capable of affording, or, if he cultivates for market, only a portion of the profit he might otherwise receive.

With proper forethought in selecting early and late varieties to supplement the main crops at both ends, the season of most fruits may be much extended. Now is the time to think of such matters, and to arrange for a succession of fresh fruit, from the time the earliest strawberry ripens, until the last winter pear and long-keeping grape is gone.

At the South, preparing the soil and even planting may go on, but in our colder climate but little can be done save preventing injury to trees by animals and horsemen, and in mild spells to prune such grape vines and currant bushes as have been neglected until now.

General Work, such as protecting trees, removing the eggs of insects, is hinted at under Orchard and Nursery.

Green and Hot-Houses.

An average tempature of 50° in the green-house, with a rise and fall of some 15° for the extremes of mid-day and night, will do for general collections.

Camellias and Azaleas now in bloom need liberal watering; those done flowering prune into shape.

Hyacinths and other bulbs may be brought into a warm place to keep up a bloom, and as soon as the flower fades, cut away the stalk.

Propagation of Verbeans, Heliotropes and other summer bedding stuff, may be carried on.

Seeds of Pansies, Stocks, Petunias, etc., are to be sown to furnish plants for spring flowering.

Oranges and Lemons are to be kept in a cool part of the house and only sparingly watered.

Frozen Plants in dwellings are often killed by kindness. Thaw them always in a cool room.

Insects need to be kept under from the start. Tobacco smoke, and the use of the thumb and finger, are generally sufficient remedies in small collections.

A MOTHER wishes to know what she shall do to secure agreeable manners in her children at the table. There are probably a good many mothers among our readers pressed with the same solicitude. Good breeding shows itself at the table more than elsewhere, for here we come to gratify an animal appetite, and without some painstaking to redeem its coarseness the repast is likely to be purely an animal exercise. Children learn more readily from example than from precept, and unless the parents are agreed in having a little formality at the table, it will be impossible to form decorous habits in the children. If the parents will observe the rules of good breeding themselves, there is very little difficulty in training the children. It helps the matter very much to have the table set in an orderly manner. Every article to be used upon the table should have its place and be in it at the beginning of the meal. It is a terrible annoyance to any well-bred person to have a perpetual running to the pantry or kitchen for some forgotten article. Then neatness in the appearance of the table helps neatness and order in the children. Clean table-cloths and napkins are contagious somewhat. The meals should be at fixed hours, and punctuality at the table should be insisted upon. Nothing should be allowed to intrude upon the time allotted to meals. It should be made a time of leisure and social enjoyment. Mental care and haste disturb digestion and make dyspeptics. There should be a few rules observed in good society laid down and enforced so early that the child will have no rememberance of a wrong way of using his knife and fork or handling his cup or goblet. Politeness is always to be insisted upon, and brothers and sisters should be made to study each other's happiness. This will make them agreeable in larger circles. Politeness often contributes more to one's success in life than brains or capital.—*American Agriculturist.*

SOME TIME ago the *Journal of Botany*, (English,) published the statement that four assistants in the Kew Herbarium resigned on account of ill-health, three of whom died, etc. This was copied in various papers, with such additions and improvements that made it apply to the Kew Gardens, and to plant culture generally. The article in its latest form is quite a bugbear, and has been sent us by a correspondent, who is evidently concerned at the statement that "In all gardens the health of the practical cultivators is exposed to certain degree of risk." So is the health of everybody everywhere. It may satisfy our friend "J" to know that the story has just this foundation. Of the assistants in the *Kew Herbarium*, not gardens, "Two, unfortunately, succumbed to constitutional ailments, of these one, at least, was seriously ill before he entered upon his duties; the other died in India; while a third was 'tomahawked' in Australia."

A SINGLE HANDFUL OF MANURE put into a hill of corn will often make the difference between four or five little "nubbins," and six or eight great plump ears that will shall their bulk of sound corn. A thousand handfuls count up heavily in the autumn corn crib. How many handfuls of manure are daily lost in your stock yard that might be saved in nice order by a little care in heaping up, and covering from washing rain? These handfuls of manure are more valuable to the cultivator than the separate grains of gold that the miner, with careful toil, gathers and washes, from the earth and sand bank. He hunts, gathers and saves them all, and thus accumulates his "pile." Philosophical, successful cultivators can see the glitter of gold even in the manure heap; they only wait a little longer than the miner for the pure gold to be washed out by the growing process, instead of in the wash pan. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

How to Keep Up Your Hay Crop.—A farmer who had been in the hebit of selling his hay for many years in succession, being asked how he kept up his hay crop without manuring or cultivating his land, replied, "I never allowed the after swath to be cut." If this rule was generally followed there would be less said about running out of grass fields or short crops of hay. Some farmers feed off every green thing and compel their cattle to pull up and gnaw off the roots of the grass. Cutting rowen is certain death to hay crops. A farmer had better buy hay at forty dollars per ton than ruin his hay field by close grazing. The general treatment of grass land in this respect is wrong and expensive, and should be abandoned as a matter of profit and economy.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

A central New York lady vouches for the following receipts:

Bottled Yeast.—Boil down one quart of hops in two quarts of water, one-half; boil and mash twelve potatoes to add to this liquid; add one cup of sugar, a tablespoonful of flour, one-half cup of salt.

Rye and Indian Bread.—Two quarts of Indian meal to one of rye; put the corn meal into your bread pan, with a little salt and molasses, wet it with scalding water, and be sure that it is scalded, working it at the same time with a spoon. When lukewarm add the rye, a cup full of good yeast, and mix it up with water not very stiff, knead it into loaves, let it stand to rise, and bake it in a moderate oven.

Bunns or Rolls.—Thicken one quart of warm water or milk, add a little salt, one half cup of melted butter, and one cup of good yeast; make into biscuits for morning, or into an oval roll, and draw a deep cut. If not very light, add a little soda.

* * *

AN OLD WIFE'S SONG.

BY JEAN INGELOW.

And what will ye hear, my daughters dear!—
O, what will ye hear this night?
Shall I sing you a song of the yuletide cheer,
Or of lovers and ladies bright?

"Thou shalt sing," they say, (for we dwell far a-way
From the land where fain would we be),
"Thou shalt sing us again some old world strain
That is sung in our own countrie.

Thou shalt mind us so of the times long ago,
When we walked on an upland lea,
While the old harbor light waxed faint in the white
Long rays shooting out from the sea.

While lambs were yet asleep, and the dew lay deep
On the grass, and their fleeces clean and fair,
Never grass was seen so thick nor so green,
As the grass that grew up there!

In the town was no smoke, for none there awoke—
At our feet it lay still as still could be;
And we saw far below the long river flow,
And the schooners a-warping out to sea.

Sing us now a strain shall make us feel again
As we felt in that sacred peace of morn,
When we had the first view of the wet sparkling dew,
In the shyness of a day just born."

So I sang an old song—it was plain and not long—
I had sung it very oft when they were small;
And long ere it was done they wept every one;
Yet this was all the song—this was all:

The snow lies white, and the moon gives light,
I'll out to the freezing mere,
And ease my heart with one little song,
For none will be nigh to hear.
And it's O my love, my love!
And it's O my dear, my dear!
It's of her that I'll sing till the wild woods ring;
When nobody's nigh to hear.

My love is young, she is young, is young;
When she laughs the dimple dips.
We walked in the wind, and her long locks blew
Till sweetly they touched my lips.
And I'll out to the freezing mere,
Where the stiff reeds whistle so low,
And I'll tell my mind to the friendly wind,
Because I have loved her so.

Ay, and she's true, my lady is true!
And that's the best of it all:
And when she blushes my heart so yearns
That tears are ready to fall
And it's O my love, my love!
And it's O my dear, my dear!
It's of her that I'll sing till the wild woods ring,
When nobody's nigh to hear.

(*Good Cheer.*

* * *

The Schools of the State.

We are in receipt of a copy of the "Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the year ending June 3d, 1867," and make a brief abstract:

The number of districts in the State (exclusive of Philadelphia) at the close of the year was 1,889, an increase of 26 over 1866; number of schools, 13,061, an increase of 288; pupils in attendance, 660,163; increase, 10,644; average attendance, 414,537; increase, 1,488; average cost of tuition, eighty-five cents, an increase of thirteen cents; whole number of teachers, 9,209, of which 6,619 were males, and 8,590 were females, an increase of 465 males, and a decrease of one hundred and seventeen females. Average salaries of teachers per month, twenty-seven dollars and fifty-one cents. Total cost of tuition $2,482,512.93—an increase of $270,901.23—for fuel and contingencies, $601,087, and for purchasing building, renting and repairing, $458,316, an aggregate increase in these particulars of $432,252. The State appropriation was $355,000; paid to county superintendents, $50,221—an increase of $6,419. Whole amount of tax levied and State appropriation, $9,971,285, an increase of $602,325. Tax levied in eighteen hundred and eighty-nine districts, $3,616,285, an increase of $602,327.

In Philadelphia (not included in the above abstract) there are three hundred and seventy-four schools under State superintendence—four high schools, sixty grammar, sixty-nine secondary, one hundred and eighty-nine primary and fifty-six unclassified schools; seventy-nine male, and twelve hundred and thirty-five female teachers; number of pupils belonging to the school at the close of the year, 77,164; average attendance, 66,333; amount paid for salaries of teachers, $645,552.77; lots, houses, additions, &c., $227,646; books, &c., $189,588—total for school purposes, $1,102,787.

School accommodations and teachers were provided for 245,626 more pupils than attended regularly—the average attendance on the whole number being only a little more than sixty per cent. This irregularity (says the Superintendent,) in attending schools necessitates the unproductive expenditure of an immense sum of money, and this is scarcely the worst of its effects, for it everywhere deranges the school and cripples the teaching. From facts that have come to the knowledge of the School Department, it is believed that quite a large number of children, of proper age, in all parts of the State, never attend school. Some such are to be found in almost every rural district, and every village, and thousands, it is feared, could be hunted up in our large towns and cities. Something should be done to bring these neglected classes into the schools, and, as a preliminary step, it is suggested that provision be made by law to take the census once every three or five years of all the children in the State, between the ages of six and twenty-one.

Only eleven high schools made reports to the Department. This is but a small proportion of the whole number in the State, as there are now 2,147 graded schools, and every system of graded schools must, in some sense, have high schools. The number of public high schools is increasing rapidly, and wherever well managed they are meeting with favor from the people.

The past has been a prosperous year for the State Normal schools, and the State is reaping a large return of fruit for her liberality towards them. The number of students attending them increased from 2,010 to 2,185, the number of their graduates from forty-three to forty-six, the volumes in their libraries from 5,680 to 6,986, the total value of their property from $161,376 00, to $246,830 00, and their whole financial condition has been somewhat improved.

In addition to the State Normal Schools, some twenty private Normal schools or Normal institutes were in operation in different parts of the State. Probably two thousand students attended these institutions for a longer or shorter period of time. Better than anything else, they indicate the want of more State schools and their proper location. The prospect is that several more State schools will ask for recognition within a year or two. The State will of course encourage them in the same way it has aided those already established.

Here are the great facts of the Pennsylvania Common School system:

The whole number of schools,	13,435
" " teachers,	16,523
" " pupils,	789,389
The average attendance of pupils..........................	480,670
Total cost of tuition..........	$3,028,065 70
Total cost of building.......	1,262,798 68
Total cost of contingencies..	790,675 83
For tuition, building, &c....	5,081,539 71
For all school purposes.....	5,160,750 17

* * *

—An unfilial and naughty daughter in Vienna recently murdered her mother, an old woman of seventy, after a struggle lasting fifteen minutes. She pierced both her mother's eyes with a knife, inflicting thirteen mortal wounds and lacerated her cheek with her teeth.

HARRISBURG.

Meeting of the Legislature.

Organization of the Senate.

Speech of Mr. Graham, Speaker Elect.

(Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Gazette.)

HARRISBURG, Jan. 7, 1868.

The Senate convened at three o'clock this afternoon, Speaker Graham presiding. The new Senators answered and were sworn.

Mr. McCandless, Democrat, of Philadelphia, protested against the old Speaker swearing in the new Senators. Ruled out of order.

For Speaker, Mr. Graham, Republican, received nineteen votes, and Mr. Wallace, Democrat, fourteen.

Mr. Wallace administered the oath of office to Mr. Graham, who spoke as follows:

Senators: In assuming the responsible duties of the Chair, to which your partiality has called me, I can only promise you to devote to their discharge whatever ability I may possess, and to give an earnest attention to the business of the Senate. The rules which govern this chamber, if observed with ordinary strictness, are sufficient to enable us to transact the business of our constituents, and to frame such laws as may be needed by the people of the State with due deliberation, without protracting the session to an unusual period. I shall in all kindness endeavor to have those rules observed, and by every means in my power to preserve the dignity of this body, and to expedite, as far as may be consistent with a proper regard for the deliberative character of the Senate, the consideration of the various legislative measures to which your attention may be invited.

The important interests of a great State are entrusted to our care. The enterprising people of a mighty Commonwealth, stretching from Lake Erie to the Delaware, with resources as diversified as they are boundless, look to us to legislate for their advancement in material prosperity, and moral greatness.

Let us then see to it, that whatever measures will develope the buried wealth of the State, will make available the new inaccessible forests and minerals of our mountains and the products of our soil, or whatever will encourage the labor and industry of our citizens, and diffuse intelligence among our children, shall receive our prompt and cordial support.

Prominent amongst these, I take it for granted, a liberal "Free Railroad Law," which will extend the benefits of our railroad system to every corner of the Commonwealth, and to every recess in our vallies, however obscure or remote, will receive your early and careful attention. The day for grants of special and exclusive privileges in the carrying trade has passed. They might possibly have been justified, or at least excused in the infancy of our Commonwealth, when money was scarce and capitalists few and timid; but now, when wealth is abundant, when capital seeks everywhere for remunerative investment, and while the larger part of the vast resources and productions of the State lie hidden from public view, and are shut out from the markets of the world for want of transportation, a broader and more liberal policy is demanded by the requirements of the times.

Not "the greatest good for the greatest number," but the general good of all, should be our motto and our aim. The voice of the great political party, which for seven years has controlled the Legislation, and wielded the destiny of Pennsylvania, now represented by a majority in each branch of the Legislature, was heard in unmistakable language on this subject, by its appointed representatives in convention at Williamsport last summer; and the emphatic declarations of the candidate of the minority for Gubernatorial honors, both on the floor of this Senate, and elsewhere, during the canvass of 1866, were endorsed by the other three hundred thousand voters of this Commonwealth. In good faith and in all sincerity then, let us carry out the clearly expressed will of the people of the State on this all important subject.

The war for the suppression of the rebellion has left the nation burthened with a debt, the magnitude of which seems to stagger the minds of many, and crude schemes for its indefinite postponement or virtual repudiation are openly agitated. Though that debt, contracted to preserve the NATIONAL UNITY, had been ten times greater than it now is, the successful defense of our common country against treason and disruption would have been cheap even at that cost. The breaking of this once united land into fragments and the overthrow of the work of our fathers, would have been a calamity far above all computation in mere dollars and cents. I think I but utter the voice of Pennsylvania, a State which has been prodigal of the precious blood of her sons, a sacrifice, costlier far than all money or property, when I say, let that debt, contracted for a sacred object, dear to the heart of every patriot, be sacredly and honestly paid. I mean not that its whole weight should be imposed upon this generation. Let there be no imprudent or unnecessary haste; but let the WORLD KNOW, that as our resources are ample and are constantly increasing, OUR NATIONAL FAITH SHALL BE PRESERVED INVIOLATE, and every obligation of our Government shall be honorably redeemed.

Not at all inconsistent with these views would be a large reduction or repeal of the Internal Revenue taxes on the principal manufactures of the country. All the leading industrial interests of the nation, and especially of our own State, are now depressed and suffering in consequence of the heavy and unnecessary burthen of taxation laid by Congress on our manufactures.

Vain are all our tariff laws for protection against foreign competition, if our manufactures are weighed down by an enormous and grinding system of taxation at home. I trust that Pennsylvania will demand of the National Congress immediate relief from the heavy burthens which oppress her labor and which experience has shewn to be no longer necessary.

Grateful for the confidence reposed in me, thanking you for the honor conferred by this election, and soliciting your kind indulgence for my errors, I have now only to ask you to designate a Senator to administer the official obligation I am required to take on this occasion.

George W. Hammeraly, of Philadelphia, was elected Clerk. F. M. Hutchinson, of Pittsburgh, was the Democratic candidate.

All the candidates of yesterday's Republican caucus were elected. The defeated candidates of the Democratic caucus were: For Assistant Clerk, Frank McGee, Timothy Sloan; Sergeant-at-Arms, Edward Connelly; Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, W. W. Williams, James Cady; Transcribing Clerks, Richard Kuhn, A. W. Watters, Thomas W. Watkins, John Pratt; Doorkeeper, Samuel Carson.

Mr. Worthington, Representative of Chester county, offered a resolution appointing a Joint Committee to inform the Governor that the Legislature was ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Lowry, of Erie, moved to amend by appointing a Senate Committee. The House might not organize for several days, and the Governor had already sent his Message to the newspapers. The Message should be read in the Senate.

Messrs. Davis, of Berks, Searight, of Fayette, Dem., and Billingfelt, Rep., of Lancaster, thought the Governor was premature in delivering his message to the newspapers. Mr. Searight contended that the message could not be received till the House was organized.

Messrs. White, of Indiana, Worthington and Lowry cited the proceedings of 1864, when the Senate was unorganized.

Mr. Lowry's amendment was accepted.

The Governor notified the Senate that he would send in his message at twelve o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. Davis, of Berks, submitted a resolution for the purchase of Purdon's Digest, for Senators, clerks and committees room, which Mr. Lowry charac- as an outrage in affording costly food for theft. Agreed to.

Mr. White, of Indiana, moved that the rules of 1866, instead of 1867, be adopted, because by the latter rule bills had been read and passed by titles, and some, he was informed, had passed without an intelligent insight into their character or bearing on the part of the Senate. Agreed to.

Some two hours were taken up in the discussion of the validity of Mr. George Bergner's contract for printing the *Legislative Record* for three years to come.

Mr. White moved a new Committee to frame a contract, and announced that the newspapers here would make a reasonable bid. He did not believe that in law a proceding Legislature could bind a subsequent one to a contract for printing.

Mr. Lowry moved a reference of the subject to the Judiciary Committee. He believed the contract with Bergner was binding, and his claim on the treasury insurmountable.

Mr. Landon, of Bradford, supported Mr. Lowry. All asserted that they had not been satisfied with the manner in which the *Record* was published and furnished.

Mr. White accepted the amendment, providing that if no valid contract already exists, the new company may make a different contract, and report on law points within six days from the organization of the Legislature.

Pending discussion, adjourned till to-morrow.

HARRISBURG, January 8, 1868.

SENATE.

The SENATE met at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Errett, of Allegheny, presented a petition from A. W. Foster, of Pittsburgh, for a system of cumulative voting for Senators and Representatives.

Mr. Lowry, of Erie, presented thirty-nine petitions from Crawford, Venango and Warren, for a new county, to be created out of parts of Crawford, Forest, Venango and Warren.

Mr. Errett also presented a bill incorporating the Pittsburgh, Brownsville and Geneva Packet Company.

Mr. Searight, Democrat, of Fayette, a bill to repeal the liquor license law of last year.

Also, restoring the charter of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad.

Mr. Lowry, of Erie, a bill changing the name of the Cleveland, Paynesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company to Lake Shore Company.

Mr. Wallace, Democrat, of Clearfield, a bill repealing the act of last year compelling the admission of negroes into railway cars.

Mr. Beck, Democrat, of Lycoming, joint resolutions relative to currency, favoring an early return to specie payments, opposing national banks, and favoring an increased tariff and decrease of internal revenue. Laid on the table.

At twelve o'clock the Governor's Message was read. Five thousand copies in English and two thousand in German were ordered printed.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The HOUSE met at twelve o'clock. The chamber was crowded and the excitement great.

Nine more ballots, making fifteen in all, were taken without effecting an organization.

On the eighth ballot Mr. Wharton, of Huntingdon, withdrew the name of Mr. McCamant, and Messrs. Armstrong, Beckert, Espy, McCamant, Smith, Riddle, Rigdon, Richards and Wharton voted solid for Ewing.

On the fourteenth ballot Mr. Robinson, of Mercer, changed his vote from Ewing to Davis. Davis then had forty-six, Jones forty-six, and Ewing eight.

Several ineffectual motions were made by Republicans to adjourn.

On the fifteenth ballot Mr. Ewing, who had voted for Davis, changed his vote to Mann, of Potter, leaving Davis forty-five.

Mr. Hickman, Republican, of Chester, raised the point that nothing was in order but balloting or adjournment, and moved to adjourn, because the Republicans could not proceed farther without a conference.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 8—10 P. M.

As things now look it is almost certain that the Legislative lockout will be brought to a close on Thursday or Friday. The caucus nominees will be elected, as the dissenters are giving signs of compromise. They will receive all the pledges required on the Free Railroad Law, as Mr. Davis is certainly in favor of that measure, and was earnest in the pledges already given. They will likewise receive places on important committees.

Mr. Graham is determined to make a sure thing in the Senate Railroad Committee. Mr. Landon will be displaced as Chairman of that Committee, if necessary, and it is probable that he will not even be appointed a member of it. Free Railroad prospects are growing more brilliant.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 9, 1868.

SENATE.

The Committee on the contested seat of Senator Shugart was drawn. The Governor sent in the vetoes of a number of bills passed at the last session, among which were acts authorizing the Sheriff of Allegheny county to tax costs in certain cases relative to vehicle license, and the construction of board walks in Mount Washington, and regulating the fees of Notaries Public of Allegheny county.

HOUSE.

The afternoon session adjourned at six o'clock.

The twenty-fifth ballot was taken without electing a Speaker.

On the twentieth ballot Mr. Ewing withdrew, requesting the dissenters to vote for Mr. Davis, but they voted for other gentlemen, who each in turn withdrew.

On the twenty-third ballot Mr. Webb, of Bradford, offered a preamble declaring Mr. Davis pledged for a Free Railroad Law, and a resolution for his election.

The preamble was ruled out by the Clerk.

Mr. Herr, of Dauphin, offered an amendment embodying the substance of the preamble in the resolution. Ruled out by a majority of the House.

Various ingenious motions were made by the Davis men, but were defeated.

The Clerk refused to receive vetoes from the Governor.

The House meets to-morrow at eleven o'clock. It cannot adjourn over till organized.

* * *

The Working People.

It is announced from Washington that several employers have notified their mechanics that they must reduce their wages, and as the Government is reducing its force at the arsenals and at the navy yard in that city, there are many persons out of employment. The woodchoppers in the employment of the Salisbury (Conn.) iron manufacturers are now paid from fifty to sixty cents a cord. Last winter the pay was from $1 to $1,50 a cord. The *Fall River Times* states that the factory operatives of that city held a meeting on Tuesday evening last, to consider the question of the reduction of wages in the Fall River Mills, and what should be the proper action of the body in view of that circumstance. Several gentlemen spoke, mostly in a pacific strain, the general sentiment being opposed to striking, and advising that no more of the operatives should turn out until all reasonable measures had been tried to effect a compromise with the mill-owners. Upon a statement from the spinners that a petition or memorial had been drawn up, and was to be sent to the corporations of the several cotton mills, asking a diminution of one-half in the reduction made in wages in the different rooms of the factories, a resolution was adopted that the spinners draw up a similar paper and present it at the same time to the corporations, asking that the reduction be diminished one-half, or that the mills run four days a week at the old rates of payment. The *Fall River Times* hopes that some amicable arrangement will be made, for if it should fail a great deal of misery must ensue. The wages dispute in the iron trade of the North of England is assuming a somewhat serious aspect. It was generally anticipated that the men would accept the reduction of ten per cent., but a strike has taken place at several places, indicating an intention to contest the reduction. The proprietors of the leading iron works in South Wales have given notice of a reduction of wages—probably ten per cent.—at the end of 1867.

* * *

—We, prosaic Yankees, have got an enchanted land in Alaska. Here is what a Russian guide told a Californian who asked about a range of mountains near Sitka—"They are mighty in size and cause much cold. Wonderful things are told of them. It is said that in some places there are deep pools and lakes in which dwell monsters—serpents as long as a fir tree, which, were they in the open sea, would commit mighty damage. One thing the Indians tell us for certain, that yonder, far away to the north, in the heart of these hills, there is a wonderful valley, so narrow that only at midday is the face of the sun to be seen. That valley lay undiscovered and unknown for thousands of years; no person dreamed of its existence; but at last, a long time ago, two Indian hunters entered it by chance, and then what do you think they found? They found a small tribe of unknown people, speaking an unknown tongue, who had lived there since the creation of the world, and without knowing that other beings existed."

HED IN 1786.

FROM WASHINGTON.

American Ship Fired Into in Russian Waters.

Public Debt Statement.

Supreme Court and Reconstruction.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 1868.

FIRING INTO AN AMERICAN SHIP IN RUSSIAN WATERS.

The President sent a message to the House to-day in answer to a resolution concerning the alleged interference by a Russian man-of-war with vessels of the United States in Ochotsk Sea. The Russian having warned out of the bay near Shorter Islands certain American whale ships which were found there, one of them, not replying with sufficient promptness, was fired at with solid shot, whereupon she took her departure. These facts were communicated to the State Department by Mr. Chase, Vice-Commercial Agent in the Amoor country. Mr. Wicks, of Massachusetts, also communicated to Mr. Seward, from Captain Thomas, Master of the ship Europa, that that and other vessels while cruising for whales had been disturbed by a Russian vessel, and invoking the protection of this Government. Mr. Seward, on the 23d of December, addressed a letter to Mr. Stoeckel, asking whether the latter had received any information on the subject. Mr. Stoeckel replied, on the 28th of December, that he had reason to believe the incident in question was the result of exaggeration, and he would address his Government without delay on the subject, in order to ascertain the facts.

TAXING NATIONAL BANKS.

In response to the Senate resolution calling for information in regard to the taxation of National banks, the Secretary of the Treasury to-day transmitted a statement of the United States Treasurer, showing the amount of the semi-annual duty collected from National banks, up to June 30th, 1867, to be $13,038,330; amount of bonds held December 28th, 1867, as security for bank circulation, bearing interest at six per cent. in coin, $247,763,800; amount bearing interest at five per cent. in coin, $89,656,950; bearing interest at six per cent. lawful money, $3,577,000. Total $340,977,750. The aggregate amount of interest paid on bonds held as security, to same date, was, in coin, $31,883,364; in lawful money, $341,000. Or a total interest, reduced to lawful money, of $76,508,224.

An accompanying communication from the Commissioner on Internal Revenue states that the manner in which collections are reported does not enable him to discriminate the taxes paid by National Banks from those paid by State Banks and private bankers, but he gives the total amount of license tax collected from all banks during 1865 and 1867 as $3,543,051, and the total tax on devidends and profits for the same time as $12,032,361.

PUBLIC DEBT STATEMENT.

Statement of the Public Debt on the first of January, 1868:

Debt Bearing Coin Interest.

Five per cent. Bonds	$ 206,022,800 00
Six per cent. Bonds of 1867 and 1868	16 691,941 80
Six per cent. Bonds, 1881	[illegible]
Six per cent 5-20 bonds	1,373 894,750 00
Navy Pension fund	13,000,000 00
Total	$1,890,102,491 80

Debt Bearing Currency Interest.

Six per cent. Bonds	$ 27,712,000 00
Three year comp'd interest Notes	46 214,750 00
Three year 7-30 Notes	228,268,450 00
Three per cent. Certificates	22 285 000 00
Total	324 481 220 00

Matured Debt Not Presented for Payment.

3 year 7-30 Notes, due August 15, 1867	2,022,980 00
Compound Interest Notes, matured June 10, July 15, August 15, and October 15 1867	9,952 810 10
Bonds, Texas Indemnity	257 000 00
Treasury Notes Acts July 17, 1861, and prior thereto	182,311 64
Bonds of April 15, 1842	54 161 64
Treasury Notes, March 3d, 1863	716 122 00
Temporary Loan	2,674 315 55
Certificates of Indebtedness	71,000 00
	$18 871,640 32

Debt Bearing no Interest.

U. S. Notes	$ 356,158 127 00
Fractional Currency	31,597,362 53
Gold Certificates of Deposit	20,104 560 00
Total	$ 407 861,290 83
TOTAL DEBT	$2,643,325,232 43

Amount in the Treasury.

Coin	$ 108,420 255 67
Currency	25 770,341 11
Total	$ 134 200,603
Amount of debt, less cash in the Treasury	$2,508,128,630 16

THE RECONSTRUCTION LAWS AND THE SUPREME COURT.

It is learned that the question of the constitutionality of the Reconstruction Laws will soon be brought before the United States Supreme Court in such a shape as to secure a direct decision on the subject. In the Georgia and Mississippi cases, brought up last spring, the matter assumed such a purely political aspect that the Court decided it had no jurisdiction. It is understood now that a test case, arising under the regular administration of the reconstruction laws in the South, and coming through the Courts in the regular way, will soon reach the Supreme Court of the United States. Those who pretend to know, say that the Court will decide all the reconstruction laws of Congress unconstitutional. The Court will stand five to three.

A special to the New York *Telegram* says: "I have the best authority for stating that in the cases brought before the United States Supreme Court last spring by the States of Mississippi and Georgia, for testing the constitutionality of the reconstruction acts, the decision of the majority of the Court will be adverse thereto. It is likely the minority of the Court will be smaller than was at first supposed, and there are even hints that Chief Justice Chase may not care to place upon record a dissenting opinion. Such a decision will strike down at a blow all the reconstruction work thus far done, and leave the decision of the next Presidential contest in the hands of the North."

REPORT CONCERNING FREEDMEN.

General Howard, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, has received a report from Brevet Brig. Gen. T. T. Sewell, acting Assistant Inspector General, dated Holly Springs, Miss., Dec. 28th, and giving a statement of a late tour of inspection through South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi. With regard to Georgia, Gen. Sewell states matters were generally in a satisfactory condition. In the upper counties, the freedmen are doing well. But reports from the lower counties, in the southern part of the State, indicate there is some lawlessness among them, resulting from the unsettled condition of affairs, the planters being unable to pay their hands. This produces discontent, and no doubt in many instances freedmen have sought a remedy for the supposed wrongs in acts of violence; but this has prevailed to no great extent, and General Sewell had learned of no serious outbreak. The complaints are that negroes plunder, and in some instances seize crops for their wages. General Lewis was to leave Atlanta for that part of the State on the 30th ult., to personally investigate complaints and inaugurate measures to prevent a recurrence.

Gen. Sewell has had an interview with Gen. Ord in relation to matters in Mississippi, as also with citizens and persons from different parts of the State. He expresses some difference of opinion with Gen. Ord as to there being much cause for apprehension of serious trouble there, and states that there are many letters and papers from different parts of the State in his office purporting to give the condition of affairs as they exist, but these are merely statements of what they fear may take place, and personal appeals for aid from indigent white people; also petitions from planters and factory men for his interference to protect them against the frauds of each other.

Considerable apprehension is manifested of negro insurrection. It is said there are organizations for that purpose, but Gen. Sewell had discovered no evidences of such. He thinks that during the winter there will be considerable destitution along the river counties, and aid from the government may be required to prevent suffering.

General Sewell also writes that at present there is little or no destitution in that State, and no aid was needed, except to hospitals and asylums.

The Superintendent of Schools is prosecuting his work vigorously and with the most practical results.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President to-day sent to the Senate the following nominations: Benjamin C. Nixon, Postmaster, Jeffersonville, Indiana; John Robertson, Postmaster, New Lisbon, Ohio; Joseph L. Collins, Postmaster, Fort Randall, Dakota; Wm. G. Powers, Postmaster, Mount Vernon, Iowa; Philip B. Foulke, Naval Officer, New Orleans; Elisha B. Hamilton, Surveyor of Customs, Quincy, Illinois; Thomas Stillwell, Indiana, Minister Resident at Venezuela, he having been appointed during the recess; John B. Jones, Pension Agent, Fort Gibson, Cherokee Country; Sam. L. P. Daniels, Indiana, Receiver of Public Moneys at Indianapolis.

EIGHTH OF JANUARY BANQUET.

The Democratic banquet was held today.

Jonathan D. Hoover, Chairman of the Committee, announced that letters had been received from the following gentlemen: Hon. Geo. H. Pendleton, Hon. John Quincy Adams, Hon. August Belmont, Gov. Oden Bower, Hon. Thos. E. y, South Carolina, Gov. Seymour, of Connecticut, Hon. F. Blair and others.

Following is the one from Mr. Pendleton: *Cincinnati, January 4, 1868.—J. D. Hoover, Esq., Washington, D. C.—My Dear Sir:* I regret that I cannot participate in your celebration of the 8th inst. It will be an occasion of unusual interest. The attempted Africanization of the ten southern States under the false pretence of reconstruction of the Union, the utter subversion of the Constitution to accomplish this end, the profligacy and corruption pervading many branches of the public service, have brought their proper results. The reaction against the revolutionary violence and license of the past few years has at last commenced its progress, and will be aided by a worthy contemplation of the life and character of Jackson, of his fervent patriotism, of his persistent energy, his unyielding courage, of the fidelity with which he maintained the rights and dignity and equality of the States, at the same time that he enforced obedience to the Constitution. It will be well to remember by whom, where and for what purpose the last battle of the war of 1812 was fought, and side by side with that recollection to place the fact that the State then saved from a foreign foe is now governed by a military power, in order to compel its people to adopt a Constitution which they do not approve, and establish institutions which they abhor. The retrospect will evoke sympathies and awaken sensibilities, in the midst of which we may hope that hatred and bitterness and vengeance will melt away, and that kindness, good will and charity will cement the Union by the ties of interest, affection and contentment, which alone can effectually constitute us one people.

Very Respectfully,

[Signed] GEO. H. PENDLETON.

Ex-President Pierce's letter contrasts the present condition of the country with that when Jackson was President, and particularly Tennessee, which is humiliated under the reign of absolutism. He hopes the day is not remote when the Union shall be in fact restored, each State standing forth as the co-equal of every other State, with dignity, equality and rights unimpaired, and thinks he observes marked and cheering indications that the people are rising in their majesty to deliver their country from misrule.

COINAGE BILL.

The bill introduced in the Senate today by Mr. Sherman provides for the conforming in weight and value of coinage of the United States to the French standard adopted by the Monetary Congress recently held at Paris. The coinage of silver dollars and five and three cent pieces is to be discontinued. The value of the gold coins is to be stated on them, both in dollars and francs, and in case Great Britain conforms the pound sterling to the value of the five dollar piece, the value in British terms is also to be stated. The act is to take effect January 1st, 1869, but coin may be received at the Mint for re-coinage on and after the 1st of October next.

TERRIBLE AFFAIRS IN TENNESSEE.

A Prisoner Shoots at a Sheriff—Wounds Him—The Sheriff's Son Kills the Prisoner—The Prisoner's Son Kills the Sheriff's Son—The Sheriff then Kills the Prisoner's Son.

MEMPHIS, January 9.—Last night a notorious thief, Jim Burns, was arrested while effecting an entrance into H. Dunts & Co's dry goods store and conveyed to jail. On entering the cell he discovered another prisoner, named McCarthy, lying asleep, and assaulted him, nearly strangling him. McCarthy, frenzied with pain, assaulted him in turn and before the guards could interfere, gouged Burns' eyes out of their sockets.

A terrible affair occurred at Syersbury, in West Tennessee, on Tuesday. Sheriff Parkinton attempted to arrest an old man named Duncan on the street. Duncan drew a pistol and fired, shooting off the sheriff's thumb. Parkinton's son, standing near, fired a pistol, killing Duncan, whose son coming up at this moment, fired, killing young Parkinton instantly. Seeing his son slain, the sheriff drew a pistol and shot young Duncan through the heart. The most intense excitement followed, but at last accounts nothing further had been done, though owing to the extensive relations of both parties trouble is apprehended.

THE PARKERSBURG MURDERS.

Arrest of the Murderer.

He Makes a Full Confession.

WHEELING, West Virginia, Jan. 9.—Within the last year two most horrible murders were committed in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and a few months ago, the remains of a murdered man was found in a culbert near the city, whose murderer, it was ascertained, came here from Parkersburg. On Monday night last, a German named John Schafer, made a bold attempt to take the life of a respectable citizen of Parkersburg, but was frustrated in his designs, and placed under arrest. A remarkable similarity which existed in the circumstances attending these horrible murders caused the citizens to suspect Schafer of being guilty of the commission of them and a large crowd surrounded the jail and threatened to lynch him this afternoon.

Schafer made a full confession to a Catholic priest, in the presence of several witnesses, acknowledging his guilt of all the murders mentioned above.

—A singular case is before the Supreme Court of Chili, at Valparaiso. About the year 1840 a woman named Teran, living in Mullao, possessed an image of Santa Rosa, by which it was believed she wrought wonderful miracles. Taking advantage of the superstition of the people, she in a short time, by means of the image, gained a large fortune. The Archbishop of Santiago, hearing of the circumstance, became jealous of the opposition set up to what, no doubt, he considered the exclusive right of the Church, and ordered the image, together with all the property accumulated by the woman, to be seized and handed over to the Church, which was done. A daughter of the woman Teran has recently claimed the property confiscated from her mother. The demand having been refused by the ecclesiastical court, has been brought before the Supreme Court.

—John Wellsteed writes to the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*, suggesting a plan by which he thinks all passengers can extricate themselves whenever a railroad car upsets. His plan is this: "Let the roof be loose and unattached to the sides of the car by any fastenings whatever, but secured in its place on the top of the car by means of a groove along the top and end of the sides of the car, say two or three inches deep; let the roof be made in divisions, say five or six feet wide; at each of these divisions let there be an iron flang or tenon to fit easily into the groove. The roof would not be in the least affected by the jolting or oscillation of the cars, but the moment that it fell on its sides the roof would fall flat on the ground and leave the passengers to walk or crawl out as best they could.

—It is the opinion of well-informed St. Domingians that the revolutions in St. Domingo will end in an application to the U. S. Government to be admitted as a State of the Union. Through the same channel we learn that the news from the different West India islands is nothing but bad; earthquakes, hurricanes and revolutions being the order of the day. Under these circumstances, the inducements for admitting new States to the Union from that quarter do not seem very apparent. In regard to the special case mentioned by our correspondent, the prospect of having a St. Domingo within our own limits is sufficiently flattering to preclude the necessity of annexing one from abroad.

—The English papers are making complaints about one of their Admirals, who ordered two naval steamers to go from Lisbon to Gibraltar to get a stock of coal, and then return to Lisbon. One of them expended 550 tuns of coal, and the other 485 tuns, in going to Gibraltar, where they each took on board 300 tuns. When they got back to Lisbon one of them had 250 tuns less, and the other 185 tuns less of coal on board than when they started, while the voyage cost them $3,800 in gold, which the British Exchequer has to pay.

—A Poughkeepsie paper says that five years ago a gentleman who is in that place was a resident of a southern city, with an income of $80 per day and the possessor of a large amount of property. He joined his fortunes with the Southern Confederacy, and resolved to die in the last ditch. One day last week he was sweeping out offices and cleaning sidewalks for whatever he could get.

—The health of the Empress Carlotta continues to improve. She goes out every day for a long drive or walk, visits their Majesties twice a week at Brussels, and the rest of her time is devoted to music and painting, for which she displays a great aptitude.

—A western ex-soldier has made a wager to walk seventy-five miles in twenty-four hours, carrying a musket, knapsack and other accoutrements. The feat is to be performed at the Dexter Park, Chicago, and the wager to be $1000.

—Reports from Algeria describe the most frightful suffering among the Arabs. The cholera has already carried off 52,000 of them, and now they are threatened with a terrible famine. An appeal has been made to France for help.