The Pittsburgh Gazette
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 12, 1868.

THE PETROLEUM JOB.

Last year a bill was brought into the Legislature to authorize and direct the Governor to appoint an Inspector of Oils. Neither the owners of oil wells, nor the refiners, nor the dealers in oils, here or elsewhere, asked for the creation of such an officer. On the part of consumers of oils, whether in this Commonwealth, in other States of the Union, or in foreign countries, there was no demand for an Inspectorship, and no desire for one. Persons engaged in the trade, and the general public, were satisfied abundantly. No difficulty was experienced at Antwerp or other ports in Europe in negotiating the sale, in advance of delivery, of large invoices, on the reputation of established brands and trade marks, and not the slightest desire was evinced anywhere for additional guarantees as to quality or quantity. Indeed, there were many indications that a new brand, even by an accredited officer, would interfere, for a considerable period at least, with a condition of the trade with which all parties were content.

From whence, then, came this attempt? Evidently, one or more individuals, with no capacity for starting and pushing successfully a business of his or their own, were anxious to make a living, and a good deal besides, by virtually levying a tax, for their especial benefit, and for no other conceivable end, on the business of other people.

The combined remonstrances of all the dealers in oils were so sharp, that members of the Legislative bodies were constrained to give heed thereto, and the plundering enterprise failed.

Soon after the opening of the present session a borer from Philadelphia sought an interview with the President of the Senate, disclosed to him that the experiment was to be repeated, and begged that the bill, when presented, might be referred to the Committee on Corporations. A reference more illegitimate could scarcely be imagined. It was not proposed to create a new corporation or to deal with an old one, but to provide for the appointment of an Inspector. The bill went, as was proper, to the Judiciary Committee General, and was by that Committee reported to the Senate in about twenty-four hours. Who asked for this bill? Nobody but the borer. No voice went up from the consumers of oil for it; and none from the producers and dealers. Is anybody marvelled? The bill as read in place, and as reported by the Committee, proposed to levy taxes to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars annually on the oil trade for the benefit of the borer and his associates. That was the milk in the cocoanut; and the Committee made hot haste to report the bill so that it might be put on its passage before the men from whom this large amount of plunder was to be wrenched, should be apprised of the design.

No sooner was intelligence of the introduction of the bill spread over the State than there was a simultaneous movement on the part of oil dealers to defeat it. Committees of them from this city, Philadelphia and elsewhere, repaired at once to Harrisburg, to make known their objections. The delegations in the two Houses from Allegheny and Philadelphia, in view of facts and considerations within their own knowledge, presented a united front against the bill. They knew it would be injurious to both cities, tending powerfully to drive the whole export trade out of the State, and concentrate it at New York and Baltimore. This would compel the immigration thence of considerable numbers of experienced, able and useful citizens, and the removal with them of their accumulated capital, as well as their business skill and energy. It was natural to suppose, in view of this condition of facts, that the bill would be thrown out; but that did not happen. The best terms the dealers could obtain was a nominal reduction of Inspector's fees to five thousand dollars a year and an exemption of oils in bond from inspection. With this the dealers were constrained to be content, less worse should come upon them.

Who confronted the dealers, demanding the passage of the bill? Nobody. Only the borer stood behind, quietly engineering his game. As the bill originally stood the swindle was too manifest, and flagrant, after a revelation of the facts, to permit any body seriously to defend it. And hence the abatements.

By what precautions the Inspector's emoluments are to be exactly gauged and determined so as not to exceed five thousand dollars a year, we do not clearly see. In all probability, whatever the law may provide, his income would be made to greatly exceed the amount specified. Indeed, we think it safe to infer that the limitation would be altogether inoperative, and that the only saving clause is that which exempts oils in bond from inspection. But if oils sent abroad may be uninspected, why not let the same immunity that stays behind be extempt likewise? or, if it is and must pass through the process of inspection, let it not be till the people ask for it instead of a speculator in legislation.

We do not like the bill, even with the amendments engrafted upon it. There is no popular demand for this Inspectorship. Not one citizen has asked for it; and not a citizen will who understands the case. The creation of fat places, at the expense of business men, simply to have comfortable places to put drones into, who ought to go to work at some useful and productive employment, is a shame and disgrace. The pensioning of such men on industrious and enterprising people, without their consent, and under color of law, is a matter that calls for the interposition of the high prerogative of the Governor, if it shall be persisted in. Governor GEARY will miss the chance of doing an excellent thing, and of adding to his claims upon the confidence of the people of the Commonwealth, if he approves of this bill, either in its original shape or in the form to which it has been reduced.

IN CONNECTION with the anticipated completion of the Connellsville Railroad, affording a direct communication between this city and Baltimore, it is deserving of mention that Messrs. A. Schumacher & Co. announce that the North German Lloyd will put on two screw steamships of twenty-five hundred tons burthen and seven hundred horse power each, which will make regular monthly trips hereafter between Baltimore and Bremen. The first vessel will leave Bremen on the 1st of March next, taking her departure from Baltimore on her return voyage on the 1st of April. These steamers will touch at Southampton going and coming.

THE friends of three different gentlemen in Pennsylvania are striving to obtain for them the endorsement of the Republican State Convention for the Vice Presidential nomination by the National Convention. There are CURTIN, GROW and GRAMY. It is understood that the two latter consent to what is thus done in their behalf, while the former remains passive, holding himself at liberty to act ultimately as either his own feelings or the good of the party shall seem to demand at his hands.

THE Senate Finance report is expected within a few days. The delay thus far is attributable to the desire expressed by the members that their action be unanimous. The prevailing opinion in the Committee is in favor of a low rate of interest, say not to exceed four or four and one-half per cent. in every scheme for funding the national debt in long bonds. Ten

VOLUME LXXXIII.—NO. 6. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 1868. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.

A CONVENTION PROPOSED.

Mr. MANN, of Potter county, has introduced into the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, a joint resolution submitting the question of holding a Convention to revise the Constitution to the people at the election to be held next October. Of course, this resolution does not contain a scheme of amendments, desirable or undesirable. Such embodiment would be out of place in a proposition of this sort. Only the naked question is presented of allowing the people, through representatives chosen for that special purpose, to alter or modify the organic law under which they live. This question will not necessarily involve any other; nor is it probable that it could be made to assume a party character. If the Convention should be decided upon, it is now likely some of the changes submitted would become matters of party contention; but even this result could be measurably avoided by appointing a special election for the ratification or rejection of the instrument, either as a whole or in separate sections.

Probably every thoughtful man in the Commonwealth would be glad to have the Constitution changed in one or more particulars. It is reasonable to presume that if a Convention should be held public opinion, as to changes, would be found in a somewhat chaotic condition, but a decided majority would concur in demanding amendments on certain heads.

Whether the present is a suitable time to take up this matter may well be debated in view of results developed elsewhere. We have fallen upon a transitory epoch as to ideas; and hence there is no small amount of incertitude and ferment. It seems to us that the period appropriate to discussion has not yet been exhausted, and that to precipitate a verdict on either of several points would at best be to consume time and means to no avail, and might throw ultimate consummation still farther into the future. We apprehend this is the view the Legislature will adopt, and upon which its action will be based.

We do not make these suggestions because we are anxious to escape responsibility on any of the points likely to arise in a revision of the Constitution; but because we fear a Convention called at this time would furnish another illustration of the maxim, "the more haste, the less speed." When discussion shall have done its work, and public opinion shall have more nearly crystallized, we shall rejoice to have a Constitutional Convention summoned.

THE CIVIL CODE.

Last year Mr. DAVID DERRICKSON, of Meadville, Mr. MCCLAY HALL, of Bedford, and Mr. WAYNE MCVEIGH, of Chester, were appointed Commissioners to revise the Civil Code of Pennsylvania. The duty assigned to them, they have performed in part, and transmitted the result to the Legislature in the form of nine distinct bills, respectively on Corporations, General Pleading, Deeds and Mortgages, Evidence, Interest, Landlord and Tenant, Statute of Limitation, Highways and Bridges, and Poor Laws.

In addition to the general importance of having these bills reported so early in the session as to allow the amplest consideration to be given to them, there exists a special reason in the fact that bills are before one or the other of the Houses relating to some of the matters provided for in the labors of the Commissioners. For instance, a Free Railroad bill is pending in each House, and the Commissioners in their bill on Corporations have covered the same ground, providing for freedom of construction as large an extent as should be deemed desirable, and at the same time imposing restrictions and conditions necessary to guard both private and corporate rights, so far as liable to be improperly trenched upon by new enterprises.

Some topics, as the regulation of banking, the Commissioners have not yet concluded their labors upon.

The bills reported by these gentlemen will necessarily receive a large measure of attention from the members of the legal profession throughout the State; and if this body shall be tolerably well united in opinion as to the merits or demerits of the codification, their judgment will doubtless be accepted by the Legislature as of very high, perhaps as of conclusive authority. If, however, that judgment shall be divided about equally, it may be inferred that the proposed codification will fail.

THE Harrisburg *Telegraph*, with apparent seriousness, expresses astonishment that the Republican journals of this city have not broken out into unmeasured laudation of the Legislature on account of the restoration of the Connellsville charter. We cannot help suspecting the solemnity is simulated, and that beneath the assumed gravity there lurks the leer of jolliest waggery.

The Legislature took away the charter, against law and equity—not through misapprehension, but because it was paid to do the job. Year after year it refused to make restitution, because it was purchased to withhold justice. At last the power of the Supreme Court was invoked, and the Judges unanimously ordered the restoration. When the Legislature could not help itself, it gave back the franchises it wrongfully took from us.

If a rascal should plunder from our contemporary a valuable purse; should persist, in spite of the most earnest remonstrances and solicitations, in keeping it; and the aid of the police should be sought and obtained to enforce recovery; and thus the reclamation should be accomplished, would he thank the thief or the police?

The press of Allegheny, in common with its whole population, have raised their hats in profound respect to the Supreme Court. They thank the Legislature for nothing, touching this matter.

All along there have been members of the Legislature who were actuated by a nice sense of honor—a supreme regard for justice—in all their actions relative to the Connellsville bill; neither the press, nor the people of this county, have been wanting in respect for these honorable gentlemen. Faithful among the faithless, they have warm places in our gratitude, which will never cool.

THE President has been talking with various individuals as to what he will do about the Alabama claims. If their respective representations may be credited he was not careful to use the same language, or to convey the same impression, to these different persons. One of his callings, as a public man, is that he talks too much, and remembers too little, on each occasion, what he said previously. However furiously he may talk concerning the claims in question, there is no probability that he will do any of the terrible things he has threatened.

THE SPEECH of Mr. G. W. Woodward, on the currency questions, finds considerable Democratic endorsement in Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of demagogues of his party to debauch their followers into demanding a prolonged era of irredeemable paper money.

FROM the tone of the Republican press throughout the State, we conclude that the coming State Convention will renominate Gen. Hartranft for Auditor General, and Mr. Campbell for Surveyor General, almost if not quite by acclamation.

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

The Trustees and Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital of Pennsylvania, located at Harrisburg, have presented their annual report to the Governor of the Commonwealth. On perusing it, we find that the institution has been doing as the other insane public asylums have been, as much good as its dimensions will allow; that the number of patients under treatment has been larger than the buildings were intended to accommodate, and that the expenses of the year have been heavier than the appropriations made by the Legislature.

On the first of January, 1867, there were 327 patients in the hospital, 161 of whom were males, and 146 females; 170 were admitted during the year, of whom 99 were males and 71 females; 93 males and 62 females were discharged during the year. Of this number 51 were restored, 20 improved, 23 were stationary, and 34 died. On the 31st of December, 1867, 185 males and 155 females remained in the hospital. There was a decided increase in the number of patients treated during the year, and the wards of the hospital have been crowded. Early in the summer the pressure was so great that the Board was forced to refuse admission to all save recent cases of insanity, and they have never yet been able to recall that order, nor do they see any prospect of being able to do so during the coming year.

Knowing as we do the extremely crowded state of Dixmont, and finding now that the State hospital is in the same condition, we think that the Legislature should exercise into this thing, and provide amply for all these, the most afflicted of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the wards, however, the health of the whole household at this hospital has been remarkably good, and we find of the 34 deaths during the year, 19 were caused by the extension of chronic maladies, 4 by exhaustion of acute mania, 1 by injuries from another patient; 1 by injuries from a railroad train; 5 by disease of the brain, and 4 by disease of the lungs.

The buildings have been somewhat increased during the year, and a great improvement effected in the arrangement of the interior; further improvements, however, are delayed until other appropriations are under them possible. These facts we gleam from the two reports, but the report of Dr. Curwen, the Superintendent, is too able to admit of much curtailing. The author himself is one of the greatest authorities on this subject now living, and has written a dignified, exhaustive and clear report, not only on the state of the hospital, but also referring to some of the causes and nature of insanity, and to the number of lunatics. Many of his statements are facts which are absolutely startling, but none the less true, and Dr. Curwen deserves the thanks of the people of the State for thus clearly and forcibly bringing them to the notice of their legislators.

THE continuance of the cold weather and general scarcity of labor combine to keep hundreds of persons in this neighborhood in poverty and want. The office of the Guardians of the Poor is daily thronged with applicants for relief of all ages, sizes and conditions, and with the scanty means at their disposal the gentlemen having charge of the distribution find it impossible to materially assist any of the unfortunate paupers. They afford in nearly every case temporary relief, and in cases where the applicants are feeble or old, they are committed to the Poor House, which is at the present time uncomfortably crowded. The private associations for the relief of the poor are heavily taxed, but through admirable management and wise discrimination, have succeeded in performing a vast amount of good towards their suffering fellow men. It is a fact worthy of note that a large percentage of our paupers come from the neighboring country districts seeking employment. They are able-bodied and willing, but our labor market is over-stocked, and they cannot obtain anything to do in the way of work, and in the long times of a great city without friends or acquaintances, and what is worse, without money, they are forced to go from door to door seeking alms. We say to our country friends to remain at home and not flock into the city for employment, as our own mechanics and laborers, who are well known and capable, are idle in hundreds; and can barely sustain themselves. It is better to stay on your farm without work to do than to rush into an overcrowded city, without acquaintance or money, in the vain hope of obtaining remunerative employment.

A MEMBER of the House at Harrisburg has exhibited his zeal for the worthy gentlemen who hold offices in the several counties, by proposing to increase their emoluments twenty per cent. While wages in all other departments are going backwards, this advance movement will not do. When patriots cannot be found to serve the people, on the present scale of pay, it will do to offer higher inducements; but so long as fifty applicants regularly appear for every office to be filled, higher pay is not to be thought of.

IT IS WELL KNOWN that most of the National Banks have considerable amounts invested in government bonds beyond what are deposited with the Treasury Department as security for their notes in circulation. Mr. Henderson, of Missouri, has reported to the Senate a bill authorizing any bank to deposit the bonds it holds and receive eighty per cent. of the full amount in circulating notes, which will enable them to double their gains on that portion of their investment.

AS THE PUBLIC REVENUES during January were not sufficient to meet the current demands on the Treasury by twenty millions of dollars, the prospect is not brilliant for a reduction of taxes.

Business of the Interior Department.

The whole number of claims received during the month of January, original and increase, in the Pension Office, of widows, &c., 1,705; of invalids, 1,006—total, 2,711. Number of claims admitted original and increase, of widows, &c., 2,851; of invalids, 1029—total, 3,871. Number of claims rejected, original and increase, of widows, &c., 356; of invalids, 1,057—total, 1,413. The total number of claims disposed of during the month was 5,284. The number of letters written was 6,461. Circulars sent, 19,570. In the bounty land division, 161 warrants of 160 acres each were issued; 6, of 120 acres; 1, of 80 acres. The total number of warrants issued was 168, covering 20,560 acres. Original applications received, 119. Number of letters written was 256. Circulars sent, 372. Claims suspended, 319. In the division of navy claims, 31 original and increase applications were received. Number of claims admitted, original and increase, of widows, &c., 16; of invalids, 25—total, 41. Number of claims rejected, original and increase, of widows, &c., 71; of invalids, 5—total, 12. The total number of claims disposed of was 54. The number of letters written was 203. Circulars sent, 340.

Central Pacific Railroad Bonds—Change of Price.

The sales of the First Mortgage Bonds of the Central Pacific Railroad Company have recently been so rapid and extensive that the full amount which the Company had proposed to sell at the original price of 95 and interest, has been marketed, and the price has been advanced to par and accrued interest.

The prosperous condition of the road, the prosperous condition of the Company's affairs, their abundant cash resources, and high credits, would seem to fully justify the advance in the price of their First Mortgage Bonds, and to afford a sufficient guarantee of an active demand at the advanced rate.

EPHEMERIS.

—The dog tax in Vermont yields that State a tax of $10,000.

—Honduras is rapidly being depopulated by the terrible ravages of the cholera.

—Last week there were 219 deaths in Philadelphia, and of these 66 were from lung disease.

—A. T. Stewart has sent $1,000 as a donation to the Bethany Mission School of Philadelphia.

—A Chapter of the Society known as the Knights of Pythias is to be established in New York.

—The honorable and liberal Ass. Packer wants to be our next President on a Democratic platform.

—Arkansas gets up just about as many assassinations of Union men now-a-days as she did before or during the war.

—The Southern Relief Association is very active in its work of forwarding provisions to the sufferers in the South.

—Isaac Lesser, Rabbi of the Portuguese Synagogue in Philadelphia, died on Saturday morning, aged sixty two years.

—The petroleum refiners have spoiled, with their emptying and refuse, the drinking water of our neighbors of the Forrest City.

—Margaret Anspach was convicted on Saturday, in Philadelphia, of murder in the second degree in causing the death of her babe.

—Brother Brice, a member of a lodge in the Island of Jersy is said to be the tallest mason in Europe. He is almost eight feet high.

—A young man aged twenty-four has recently married a woman aged forty-two, who was his foster-mother and wet nurse in Dantsig.

—The victims of the famine in Algeria are so numerous that they are thrown promiscuously into trenches as the dead on a battle field are buried.

—The present Legislature of Ohio, knowing that its chances and time are few and short, is going quickly through its laws inserting the word white.

—The most rapid promotion on record in the British army is that of Major General Carey, C. B., who twenty-three years ago received his commission as cornet.

—Napoleon's boy will be twelve years old in March. His chances of succeeding his father for any length of time on the throne of France seem to be very slight.

—A Newark, N. J., firm of brewers is reported to have purchased $8,000,000 worth of malt. The beer of the firm, it is hoped, will be better after this enormous outlay.

—Lord Brougham has at last succumbed. He has been deprived of the use of his limbs, and he can no longer articulate, yet his mind is as clear and robust, apparently, as ever.

—On Tuesday morning last Matthew Flynn was arrested in Kansas City, Mo. He is charged with the murder of two boys, one aged seven and wounding a third at Fort Hays some time last December.

—The Mexican banker, Jecker, is, so says *L' Independance Belge*, in Paris for the purpose of bringing suit against the French Government for the payment of thirteen millions of francs. We wish he may get it.

—For years no civil service appointment has caused so much dissatisfaction or given rise to so much newspaper discussion in England as has that of Mr. Thornton, the new Minister to the United States.

—Detroit is said to be the largest fur market in the country. The amount of capital of wealth which reaches that city during the year is immense. Leipsig, in Germany, is the greatest fur market in the world.

—The family of Mr. Boyle, residing in Cincinnati, was poisoned with arsenic which was mixed with some food last week. Nobody died from the effect, however, and the perpetrator of the deed is thus far unknown.

One of the ancient Saxon laws concerned leap year, and was a little more arbitrary than might always be pleasant. The lady had the privilege of proposing marriage, but the unfortunate man was not allowed to refuse.

—Mr. Portman *Oregonian* says that thirty-five men from Bozeman captured eleven horse thieves in the Yellowstone valley, returned the horses to the owners and accounted for the thieves by saying that they had "gone to States."

—Miss Arabella Barnard was making a bed in her home in Kansas City last week, when she shook out the floor a pistol which was lying under the bolster. In falling, its lead was discharged and entered into her person. She died next morning.

—They are evidently up to the times in Oregon, and we should say it is a good place for marriageable persons to go to. In Multnomah county, last month one marriage licenses were issued during the first three days of January.

—Edward Edwards, an old citizen of Cincinnati, and purser on the Alabama at the time of its action with the Kearsarge, was murdered last month near Vickaburg by a colored man who robbed him of all his clothing and everything he had about his person.

—Mme. Miramon, the Princess Miramon, as she is now entitled to be called, is attracting much attention and sympathy in Vienna, where she is now residing at the request of the Emperor, who has granted her a very liberal pension.

—New London intends to square New Bedford completely some day in the whale business. Five vessels are fitting out there for the Greenland whale fisheries, and many more will be forthcoming just as soon as the supply of petroleum gives out.

—James Love is to be hung on Friday next, near Mayaville, Ky., for committing a rape upon a young girl. If capital punishment is righteous, if legal murder is politic and proper, then the crime for which the man Love is to die, should, as surely as is murder, be punished with death in every part of the land.

—Some persons express surprise at the slap of the pi which Mr. Sumner has seen fit to offer Mr. Bryant for his three poems. Three thousand dollars does seem pretty extensive, but then Mr. Bonner paid $30,000 for Norwood, which did not have as much in it, that amounted to anything at all, as a single stanza of Mr. Bryant's is sure to have.

—A wealthy gentleman has purchased a very elegant house in New York, which is superbly furnished and furnished. The coal has been nearly $100,000, and he purposes presenting it to his daughter as a surprise on her return from a wedding trip which she is now making. The surprise may not be so pleasant to the young husband, who will have to meet the enormous expenses of living in such a house in New York City.

—A man in Wheeling drove his wife and child out of doors into the cold night of Friday last. The two unfortunates were awakened by his threats of shooting them, and it was but with difficulty that they escaped into the street, and even then with no other protection against the bleak winter winds than flimsy night gowns could afford. A friendly neighbor offered them shelter and clothing, and they thus escaped being frozen to death, although they had traveled several squares before they reached the welcome refuge. We have heard, as yet, of nothing having been done to punish, or as some would say, to reform the brute who was the author of all this suffering.

EPHEMERIS.

—There were held some 5,000 persons married in St. Louis during the year 1867.

—The New York *Sun* says that John T. Hoffman will certainly be the next Democratic candidate for President.

—It is reported that Sir Morton Peto will resign his seat in parliament on the approaching reassembling of that body.

—Between August and January last the population of Toledo, Ohio, is said to have increased nearly one-fifth. It is now upwards of 20,000.

—A prominent New York politician says the Grant stands no chance at Chicago. Just so. There is no chance at Chicago for anybody else.

—The King and Queen of the Society Islands have adopted a couple of girls who are united in a manner similar to that in which the Siamese twins are joined.

—Twenty engines have been taken off of the track of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and one thousand employees discharged from the work shops of the company.

—Prince Umbert evidently cannot afford to be discourteous very long for his dancer, who was burned to death not long ago in Vienna. He is to marry a pretty Princess in Italy.

—A New York *Tribune* correspondent is dreadfully shocked at the torture which death by hanging must cause to criminals, and suggests that death by a heavy shock of electricity would be instantaneous and painless.

—It is stated, on reliable authority, that superior iron ore, yielding thirty-three per cent. of pure metal, has been found on Mr. Tann's land, on Holley Run, three miles above Tionesta village. This is directly up the Allegheny, about 120 miles from Pittsburgh.

—An exchange is so overcome by the announcement that out of eight hundred and eighty persons killed by lightning in France during the last thirty years but two hundred and forty were females that it thous "who wouldn't be a female. We really can't say, unless it be Susan Anthony, Anna Dickinson, Gall Hamilton and a few of that sort.

—Southerners will cherish the idea that if thous "who wouldn't be a female. We really can't say, unless it be Susan Anthony, Anna Dickinson, Gall Hamilton and a few of that sort.

—Southerners will cherish the idea that their poor worthless money will be at par, at least some southerners do, as is shown in the following from the Memphis *Bulletin*: "A prominent Judge yesterday paid $1700 in Confederate money for two pounds of head cheese. The day may come when he will find out that he has lost $1500 by the transaction."

—A tremendous revival is going on in the Methodist denominations in Philadelphia. In one chapel there in one evening twenty-young people had their nerves so worked upon that they arose and shrieked aloud "what shall I do to be saved?" In some of the other houses of worship a still more thorough and quiet, and probably more lasting in its effects, is going on.

—Dubuque has a startling ghost, who has ice cold fingers with which he amuses himself by clutching sleeping sitters by the throat. As this treatment generally awakens the sleeper, and as the ghost is an orthodox one, who wears a long white robe, though, where he gets turn now a days, when shrouds are no longer fashionable, we can't think,) the effect is anything but pleasant.

—The leaning tower of Pisa is said to be in very ranged condition and likely to fall down. It is not generally known that there are many other leaning towers in Italy, one of the few cities of Germany, the Italian cities excepted, which is not more or less inclined from the perpendicular, and nearly every church in the town has two of these crooked fingers pointing to the sky.

NEW YORK LETTER.

The Newark (Naked) Spiritualists—Tom Paine Supper—The Opera.

(Special Correspondence Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 3, 1867.

Among current subjects of discussion is the trial of the Newark (no-clothed) spiritualists, who were arrested in New York Sunday for exhibiting themselves at a public window in a state of nudity. The case is before the Quarter Sessions, and is exciting no little attention. The parties are a woman by the name of Francis Francis, and a man by the name of McEwen. The testimony is quite remarkable and would seem to prove that these people were animated by a species of religious infatuation, and that they believed they were doing nothing wrong in thus exhibiting themselves to the public view. The woman, it appears, was simply a medium for conveying the soul and expelling from it all impurer and impure ideas. It is clear, in a case of religious insanity, Mesmerism, the daughter, is described as very modest and of prepossessing appearance.

How many readers are aware that the birthday of the famous revolutionist, Tom Paine, is annually celebrated in this city? On the 29th inst. about fifty men and women sat down at a banquet, to commemorate the event, and indulged in the toasts and speech-making common on such occasions. It was an assembly, composed pretty much of the gross, brainless philosophy of the day, with some, however, of spiritualists, the free dreaming, free thinkers, and such other cold souls that in a city like ours can so readily be gathered together. A large proportion were Germans, and of this nationality were more than half the diners. It is to be hoped the company approved of the *sclaverne French*, the *foilebrutes*, the *fricandeau à la Financière*, the *pipple compote* and other dishes, the mysteries of which are best known to our German friends. The toasts, and the speeches in response, glorified Tom Paine, civil and religious freedom, the French revolution, the "Age of Reason," and other subjects.

PERU.

Civilization in Remote Districts—Gold Interests.

(Special Correspondence Pittsburgh Gazette.)

LIMA, January 19, 1868.

In the midst of the revolution which seems ever country is at present effected, may be interesting to your readers to know what steps have been made for the introduction of civilization, even in the most remote districts of the Republic. The report made to the Secretary of the Navy by Captain Mariano Adrian Vargas, commander of the corvette "Napo," of the banks of the Upper Maranon and Morona has lately been published in full, and shows that the country which he has visited with his command abounds in immense wealth. After having explored the Morona, the expedition proceeded up the Maranon for four days much to Nacedmjara, where they had to stop for want of provisions and because they met with creeks which the previous heavy rains had made impassable. In regard to the gold washing in the Marañon, the chief of the expedition assures that the rivals no illusion about it. He says that he has seen and examined the gold, and has convinced himself of its abundance. According to his statement the hero Indians of those regions go to the shore with a simple wooden tray, and wash the gold, which they deliver to a few tradesmen, who give them axes, hatchets and knives in exchange. This they work for an hour and a half or two at the utmost, until the sun rises, and then lie down in the shade of some tree all day long and only stir again when an opportunity presents itself for making another exchange. During these two hours of work every Indian can gather two or three ounces of gold, which shows sufficiently the abundance of the precious metal. The Captain winds up his report by recommending a colonizing expedition to start for those regions and is sanguine of a favorable result. He represents the soil to be very productive and adapted to the cultivation of coffee and all sorts of fruit. Capt. Vargas has arrived at Lima, in order to give to the Government a personal account of his expedition, and brought with him some gold, which has influenced a number of capitalists to form a company for the purpose of exploring and colonizing the region. The results, and the speeches in response, glorified Tom Paine, civil and religious freedom, the French revolution, the "Age of Reason," and other subjects.

What is the Talmud?

With this question begins a long and elaborate article in the *Quarterly Review*, to which greater currency has been given by its insertion in Littell's Living Age. The subject, attractive even in the obscurity in which it has been so long secluded, is presented by the reviewer in such a shape as to enlist the attention of all thoughtful readers. Paradoxical as it may seem, there never was, he tells us, a book at once more universally neglected and more universally talked of than the Talmud. He expresses his firm belief that numbers still hold with that erudite Capuchin friar, Henricus Seynensis, that the Talmud is not a book, *buta man*. The work is, in fact, the body of law (*Corpus Juris*) of Judaism—"an encyclopædia of law, civil and penal, ecclesiastical and international, human and Divine." Its origin dates from the return from the Babylonish captivity—"one of the most significant, and momentous periods in the history of humanity is that brief space of the exile," from which a previously reckless, lawless populace returned as a band of Puritans. The Jewish people began now to press around the scanty records of their faith and history with a fierce and passionate love. These same documents were gradually formed into a canon, which became the immediate centre of their lives and actions. The activity in expounding and investigating gradually became a passion, and the judgment of all present, it will be necessary that the ominous power should be moderated and deprived of its too "darling" effects by being passed through ground or colored glass, should the methods remain unknown use. Now there is nothing very novel in the fact of a very brilliant light being produced by a supply of oxygen. But then to do so, has been found a very expensive process, entirely unfitting general application. The boast of Messrs. Mathay & Marechal is that they have discovered the means of effecting this at a very cheap rate. They procure their oxygen from the common atmosphere. How or by what means they do this is their secret. But they have succeeded in procuring it at such a rate that their oxygen costs them only 72 centimes the cubic meter, or about a fifth of the usual cost. Their calculation, therefore, is that three cubic meters of ordinary gas plus four cubic meters of oxygen, costing together only a sou nine francs, will give as much light as 180 cubic meters of ordinary gas, of the value of 81 francs. The inference is that, with experience of the new light, the cost of streets three or four times as, or equally at half the expense.

Gift Enterprises.

Americans have dearly earned their reputation of being the most gullable men of people on the face of the globe. While they like to humbug their neighbors they can good humoredly stand a large quantity of shrewd humbugging. This peculiarity of the people has created a class of sharpers who are keen on every occasion to take undue advantage of the simplicity or, perhaps, the cupidity of their neighbors. The grand swindles of the Jewish Commonwealth, in spite of the fact that a large proportion of the people have been again and again victimized by them, are still flourishing and prove attractive to the weak minded who have dollars to risk on a chance. In New York there are a score of firms engaged in this species of lottery and it is singular to see how all make it pay handsomely. On Saturday, the "Merchants' and Bankers' Grand Presents Distribution" of the firm of Schermerhorn, Clark, Webster & Co., was again before Justice Dowling. Mr. De Forest, of Brooklyn, had purchased tickets. He received a note from the swindlers, informing him of the fact that he had won the F. watch—see the watch. It was handed to him. He pocketed it and walked away, but was arrested for fraud and taken before Justice Dowling, who advised him to enter a formal complaint against the firm. Mr. Dowling, Co. Co. will hang. This he did, and the Justice issued a warrant for the arrest of the firm. Officers served the warrant Henry Elias, the head of the concern, and several clerks were brought into custody and held for examination.

Another called "The Cooperative Gold and Silver Leaf Mining Association," located at 224 Broadway, promises for $100 to give transportation to which and return, and to furnish a miner for life in wages, 10 acres of land (location not stated) and four shares of the stock of the association. Let our readers, if there be any silly enough to listen to these magnificent thieves, beware of swindles.

Telegraphic Triumph.

We have before us a copy of the Paris Journal Officiel, in which it is set forth that the last type that there had been intelligence received from Europe inside of a double fortnight. That paper was printed on one fifty years ago. In strange contrast with this publication is the following which appeared in the Telegraph *Journal of Philosophy* in 1867. In early hour this morning the wires of the Western Union Telegraph Company, from San Francisco to Platte River, Cole Breton, and the wires of the Pacific Telegraph Company, from Platte River to Heath Station, were connected, and a brief conversation commenced between those two continental extremes. Compliments were then passed between San Francisco and Valentia, Ireland, when the latter announced that a message had been being received from London direct. This was said at 7:20 A. M., Valentia time, Feb. 21. At 7:25 A. M. the clerk in London, the message was started from Valentia for San Francisco passed through New York City. At 7:30 A. M., New York time, was received in San Francisco at 1:21 P. M., San Francisco time, 7:31, and was at once acknowledged—the whole process occupying two minutes actual time, and the distance traversed about 11,000 miles.

Immediately after the transmission of the message referred to, the operator at San Francisco sent a complimentary word message to Heart's Content in three minutes, which the operator at Heart's Content received in two minutes and fifty seconds. Distance about 5,000 miles.

A FUNNY DOG.

While, Mr. Dickens was reading in Washington, a full grown dog in attendance barked violently, alarming and disturbing the audience. The author paused a moment in referring to the sensation created by "Bowser", tells the following incident which occurred in Vermont some years ago:

Rev. Mr. Burton, a venerable and forcible expounder of the Gospel, was in the habit of frequently rousing and arresting the attention of his hearers to what he was saying, and among the regular attendants of the church was a large Newfoundland dog, who frequently planted himself upon his hind quarters in front of the pulpit, and looking the minister squarely in the face. Under these circumstances, one Sabbath the venerable gentleman spoke out so loudly and energetically as to wake all the slumberers. "Here's an idea for you! you can't make to hold it! Seize it!" Instantly the dog, geroused a personal application, and broke out with a ringing bow-wow! The whole congregation, even the deacon, found it a ludicrous scene, and it took them a long time to get back to sober business as did Mr. Dickens when he seemed to be so well appreciated by at least one *funny dog*.

No Hard Times this Spring.

Philadelphia capitalists are slow to embark in any building enterprises on account of the present general stagnation in business. During the past year a large number of houses were put up in that city, and it is thought there will be no demand for such or more rooms or dwellings this spring, which cannot easily be supplied. Should the determination not to invest any more capital in building a large number of artisans, stone masons, carpenters and laborers will be thrown out of employment, and forced to seek new homes.

—A Brussels letter to a Paris paper contains intelligence which will create a profound emotion on account of the painful circumstances connected with it. The Empress Carlotta was a few days back informed by their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians of the shocking catastrophe of Queretaro. The first movement of the Empress was to utter a cry of anguish, which was immediately followed by a flood of tears. Thus, resuming all the firmness of her character, her Majesty became calm; she observed that for some time past she had suspected that a great calamity must have taken place. She at once requested to have mourning provided for her. The queen of the Belgians has since remained constantly with her sister-in-law, who supports this cruel trial thus far without injury to her health.

—The Muscatine (Iowa) *Courier* says that a little boy, son of Mr. Webb, of Marengo, fell backwards into a boiler of hot water and severely scalded his shoulders; and that some kind of oil was applied and the little sufferer placed in bed. Shortly afterwards another oil was rubbed on his shoulders over the first. The little fellow soon screamed piteously, and smoke was observed rising from the bed. An examination resulted in the discovery that the sheets were on fire, and that the boy's back was literally roasted. Indeed, so severe were his injuries that he died in a few hours. Physicians who were called gave the opinion that the mixed oils applied to the injuries had produced spontaneous combustion, which had ignited the sheets.

—Marshal Forey is hopelessly paralyzed, and so helpless that he cannot move, but must be carried by his servants. His mind, however, is as clear and active as ever. He has recently dictated to his adjutant a pamphlet which will be issued under the title, "Europe in 1868."

—The Bradford County (Pa.) Republican Convention has passed resolutions recommending Grant for President and Galusha A. Grow for Vice President.

Gas in Public Streets and Public Places.

Paris is leading the way to a general reform in the matter of lighting streets, and public places by gight. A correspondent of the St Louis *Republican* grows quite enthusiastic over a recent public experiment made in front of the Hotel de Ville, a few nights ago, on the new method invented by Messrs. Tessie du Mothay and Marechals. To judge by the effect produced by the scientific judges who were present, and the appearance of the surrounding crowd, the experiment proved a great success. When placed in competition and juxtaposition with new lights, the old fashioned gas burners looked just what the *lanterns* of former days would do beside the former. The new method consists simply in procuring the complete combustion of the ordinary gas by the application of oxygen. The supply is communicated by a small tube in the centre of the ordinary gas light, and the effect, as estimated by the judges above, is to produce a light sixty times the intensity of the ordinary process of illuminating. In a word, by the judgment of all present, it will be necessary that the luminous power should be moderated and deprived of its too "dazzling" effects by being passed through ground or colored glass, should the method come into common use. Now there is nothing very novel in the fact of a very brilliant light being produced by a supply of oxygen. But then to do so, has been found a very expensive process, entirely unfitting general application. The boast of Messrs. Mothay & Marechal is that they have discovered the means of effecting this at a very cheap rate. They procure their oxygen from the common atmosphere. How or by what means they do this is their secret. But they have succeeded in procuring it at such a rate that their oxygen costs them only 72 centimes the cubic meter, or about a fifth of the usual cost. Their calculation, therefore, is that three cubic meters of ordinary gas plus four cubic meters of oxygen, costing together only a sou nine francs, will give as much light as 180 cubic meters of ordinary gas, of the value of 81 francs. The inference is that, with experience the new light will be cheaper than the old, at three times as, or equally at half the expense.

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