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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1868.

THE PETROLEUM JOB.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 8, 1868.

EDS. GAZETTE.—The editorial in to-day's GAZETTE, relative to Mr. Connell, and attributing to him the purpose of providing a snug place for himself by the passage of the oil bill, does that Senator a cruel wrong.

That such a report was put in circulation concerning him, *was natural enough under the circumstances*, since there are always persons to be found in every community ready to impute the basest of motives to any act they disapprove of; but the prevalence of such reports hardly amounts to a justification of making them public.

Mr. Connell introduced this bill merely *to oblige one of his constituents*, just as any other Senator would have done for any respectable person included in his constituency. It was well understood here, and the fact was known to the Pittsburgh oil men who came here to look after the bill, that the place created by it was intended for a Philadelphian, in no way connected with Mr. Connell. That gentleman had not the slightest interest in the matter, one way or the other.

As soon as the bill was reported I urged Mr. Connell to postpone its consideration until I could hear from the oil men of Allegheny county, and he promptly complied with my request, refusing peremptorily to yield to any suggestion from Philadelphia to call it up; and when the Committee of Pittsburgh oil men arrived here, he consented at once to such a modification of it as would completely remove all their objections.

I have felt impelled to make this statement in sheer justice to Mr. Connell, and I feel sure the GAZETTE will not refuse me the privilege of putting him right before its readers. As he did everything that was possible to give our men a full hearing in the matter, and to make the bill finally acceptable to them, it was due from me to him that I should bear this testimony to relieve him from the imputations so unjustly cast upon him. Respectfully,

RUSSELL ERRETT.

REMARKS.—In this city, and wherever else Mr. ERRETT is known, his statement will be received as reliable to the fullest degree, and will exonerate Mr. CONNELL from the charge of seeking to enrich himself by means of the Petroleum Inspectership bill.

While Mr. ERRETT magnanimously becomes the champion of Mr. CONNELL, even he is constrained to admit that the imputation "was natural under the circumstances." Mr. CONNELL says he wanted "to protect the lives of his constituents from accidents arising from the use of adulterated oils." That is his representation of his motives. Mr. ERRETT rests his defence on the ground that he "merely wanted to oblige *one* of his constituents." This is another view. In either case, to impose a yearly tax of $100,000 on the oil dealers was going quite beyond the requirements of personal friendship or public duty.

But, while Mr. CONNELL affirms he was actuated only by a philanthropic desire to prevent his constituents from being killed off by kerosene explosions, Mr. ERRETT tells us that the office contemplated was intended for a Philadelphian. A snug office, worth $100,000 a year, manufactured to order, might or might not operate as a sure protection to people who burn oil, but would surely be an excellent thing for any man who should fall into it. Now, it is possible that so many eggs may be put into a man's basket, even in Harrisburg, upon principles of disinterested benevolence, and with no understanding that those chiefly instrumental in the beneficence shall have the private sucking of any of them. It is possible—nay, probable—for a member of a legislative body to introduce a bill, to oblige either a friend or stranger, having a large sized snake in it, without stopping to scrutinize closely what was contained therein, or how it would operate in practice; and when such a snake came to be disclosed the legislator would be subjected unjustly to injurious imputations, as now in the case of Mr. CONNELL.

But we beg to call Mr. CONNELL's attention to the second section of his bill, commencing at the tenth line and going to the close, wherein it is provided that if the Inspector shall find any oil with a fraudulent brand or mark of inspection, or adulterated after inspection, he shall seize it, and proceed to sell it, pocketing a part of the proceeds, and turning the remainder over to the treasury of the Association for the relief of disabled firemen. Do you call it protecting to the lives of your constituents to put adulterated or fraudulent oils on the market, under color of law, selling them to the highest bidder? What say you, Mr. CONNELL? If such is your motive, would you not have provided that such fraudulent and impure oils should be re distilled? Such a provision would comport with your profession. The existing provision does not.

Now, we will tell Mr. CONNELL wherein he has done us injustice. The accusation against him did not originate in our columns, nor did we endorse it as well-founded. It had been running through the newspapers three or four days before we referred to it at all. Two of the journals of this city had given it both circulation and endorsement. We then spoke of it as a report for which we could not vouch, and suggested that he should make denial, if he had denial to make. Hereupon, he pounced down upon us as his accuser, charging us with impertinence and lying; but he said not a word of or to those journals that published the statement originally and vouched for its accuracy. Will Mr. CONNELL, while his hand is in, explain how this happened?

A few words with Mr. LOWRY. He asserts that the newspapers of this city are "common scolds." It must be admitted that they have at times exhibited much impatience and heat at the course of legislation at Harrisburg. They would have demonstrated the possession of virtues more than human if they had not. A good deal of legislation, touching most important interests of this city and region has been of a character to make even a saint swear.

But, it does not become Mr. LOWRY to put himself forward as a censor of the press in general or of any section thereof. If any ten journals in the Commonwealth have done as much violent and coarse scolding in their columns as he has done from his seat in the Senate, during the seven years he has occupied it, they deserve to be abated as public nuisances.

—Public men, when irritated by strictures of the press, are wont to express a degree of contempt for journalists and journalism, they do not feel. Contempt does not find expression in the furious manner adopted by some of the members of the Senate. Why, gentlemen! lash yourselves into fury, and descend into the depths of blackguardism, if you only mean to signify that you are unmoved and regardless of the censures to which you are subjected? A sane man does not strike like a pugilist to brush a fly from his face. Eels do not wriggle in the pot, to show that boiling water is pleasant to them.

LIGHT!

We feel warranted in announcing that within thirty days the work requisite to complete the Connellsville Railroad will be advertised for letting, and that the whole will be finished probably in the space of a year, or, at farthest, within sixteen months. In a few days we shall be in a position to give the details of the contemplated arrangements.

THE Presidents of Pennsylvania Colleges held an important Convention at Harrisburg, which we shall notice in detail shortly.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.

GEORGE F. MCFARLAND, Esq., Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphan's Schools of Pennsylvania, furnishes us with his annual report for 1867, made to the Governor in pursuance of law. The law provides for the care, maintenance and education, at the expense of the State, of the destitute orphan children of *all* such deceased soldiers and sailors, citizens of Pennsylvania, and soldiers who have served in Pennsylvania regiments as have died in the service of the United States in the late war to suppress the rebellion. Owing to the inadequacy of the first appropriation much difficulty was experienced in disposing of all the applications made for admission into the schools, and, indeed, in providing for those already received into the schools. After mature deliberation the Superintendent resolved to retain all the scholars, to admit only the oldest and neediest applicants, to discharge promptly all the scholars arriving at the age of sixteen, and in no event to allow the expenditures to exceed $450,000 per year, the sum voted by the House. During the last seven months of the year one hundred and eighty-one pupils were added to the Soldiers Schools, although the Superintendent effected a change in the grade of scholarship which fully compensated for this additional number, entailing no additional cost.

In the State there are twelve schools for the more advanced scholars, containing 1,041 male and 728 female pupils; there are three Primary schools containing 180 males and 158 females. There are 26 Homes and other institutions which admit 638 males and 413 females; at the Home for destitute colored children there are 15 males and 7 females. These figures give us 1,874 male and 1,306 female scholars, affording a grand total of 3,180 orphans supported, maintained and educated by the State out of gratitude for the services performed by their fathers on the field of battle. In 1867 the whole number of accepted applications received was 1,095, being 602 less than in 1866, and 753 less than in 1865; the number of orders issued 739, being 1,040 less than in 1866, and 848 less than in 1865; the number of admissions 630, being 945 less than in 1866, and 613 less than in 1865; the number of discharges, &c., 125, being 7 more than in 1866, and 104 more than in 1865; while the number in school at the close of the year was only 499 greater than at the close of the previous year, before which the schools were not fairly in operation.

These figures show conclusively that the maximum number in school at any one time has now been, or is being reached, and that hereafter it will decrease. The decrease from discharges on age alone will be 374 in 1868, 329 in 1869, 348 in 1870, 403 in 1871, 470 in 1872, 460 in 1873, 416 in 1874, 344 in 1875, and 307 in 1876, when the number will have been reduced to the capacity of a single institution of ordinary size.

The entire cost of clothing 1,988 orphans in the advanced schools for the eleven months ending December 1st, 1867, was $45,838 57, or $23,90 for each orphan.

The schools will enter the new year with a fair supply of good clothing, all provided at the average cost of twenty-five dollars for each child per annum.

The salaries paid during eleven months amounted to $4,974.98; other general expenses of the Department, such as postage, stationery, blank books, printing, advertising, funeral expenses, &c., amounted to $1,606.62.

While the number of children actually in school on the first of December, 1867, was 3,180, the number of outstanding orders, which entitle the holders to admission whenever presented, 640, and the number of applications on file awaiting orders, 540, making a total of 4,360 children to be provided for, exclusive of the additional applications received after December 1, 1867; yet the discharges will occur so rapidly, and the actual admissions may be made so gradually, that the number actually in school may be kept from exceeding 3,500, on the 1st of June, 1868, and 3,600 during the following year, or by the 1st of June, 1869, before which the maximum will have been reached, and the decrease have commenced.

Thus restricted, the average number in school will not differ materially from 3,400 for the six months ending June 1, 1868, and 3,500 for the year ending June 1, 1869.

Assuming that no provision will be made for no more than the numbers here indicated, the Superintendent estimates the average cost per pupil for the year at $142.93. This contemplates only the admission of the friendless and destitute, and the Superintendent strongly urges the Legislature to make a more liberal appropriation, so as to provide for the reception of fully five hundred more pupils, and as the maximum number will be reached this year, the grant now asked will be the heaviest that will ever be required.

The Superintendent is not particularly pleased with the character, style and accommodations of the advanced and primary schools, and sets them down as approaching failures when compared with model institutions of the character. However, he congratulates himself that most of the schools show steady and encouraging advance towards the required standard.

The report concludes by paying a just tribute to the patriotism of Gov. CURTIN, to whose sympathy, wise and far seeing statesmanship is due the establishment of the Soldiers' Orphans' schools in Pennsylvania.

ONLY one thing do we care to say in reply to the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, and that in short metre. Members of the Legislature, or others, may think it legitimate to introduce bills, with or without examination, striking seriously at large industrial or commercial interests; tending to put those interests under contribution to sharpers, on pretense of promoting the public welfare; throwing those interests into temporary uncertainty; and taking men concerned therein away from their homes and affairs, on expense, to explain or counteract, but business men take a different view of the case. They hold that legislators are bound to know what they are about, and not, with eyes open or shut, strike at whole classes or whole communities. They will resent such blows as promptly as legislators do aspersions upon their integrity. At the opening of the session, some lessons were inculcated, on this head, that ought not soon to be forgotten. Other lessons, of like character, will follow in due season, from this section of the Commonwealth.

THE Beaver County Republican Central Committee met in Beaver on Saturday and elected Messrs. J. S. Rutan and J. C. Boyle as delegates to the State Convention. Messrs. Benjamin Wilde, G. C. Barker, Hon. M. S. Quay, D. L. Imbrie and D. Weyand were appointed conferrees to meet with conferrees from other counties of the District to select delegates to the National Convention.

Resolutions were adopted instructing for Gen. Grant for President, ex-Gov. Andrew G. Curtin for Vice President, Gen. Hartranft for Auditor General and Col. Campbell for Surveyor General.

THE Republicans of Wayne and Pike counties have appointed Mr. John Shouse delegate to the State Convention. Instructed for Grant and Curtin.

Col. Samuel Knorr has been selected as the Senatorial delegate from the Columbia District to the Republican State Convention. The Representative delegate has been conceded to Montour county.

In Clarion the Republicans have made G. W. Lathy and B. J. Reid delegates to the State Convention, and instructed for Grant and Curtin.

EARLY LAST WEEK we quoted the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, pronounced by Chief Justice TANEY, in the Rhode Island case, (DORR's Rebellion,) in which the law was laid down to be that in political matters the bench had no jurisdiction, the Constitution devolving on Congress exclusively the right and duty of adjudging whether the State organizations were republican in form and substance. This was demonstrating that the power now claimed by Congress for itself, of regulating the governments of the Southern States, and denied to the Supreme Court, was not revolutionary or even novel, but strictly in accordance with the organic law as expounded by the highest judicial tribunal. It was, also, showing inferentially that the Democrats, under color of zeal for the authority and dignity of the Supreme bench, were aiming to debauch it into an instrument of partizan contentions.

The *Post* read this decision with profound amazement; cogitated upon it for the remainder of the week; took it for its Sunday meditation; and, finally, on Monday undertook to prove that the Judges were egregiously ignorant of the meaning of the Constitution and of the extent of their powers—and, all this, under color of replying to our reflections upon the decision and its applicability to the existing situation. So, then, our contemporary is equally at variance with Congress and the Supreme Court. Probably it agrees just as little with the Executive as with Legislative and Judicial Departments. If it could only run all three of co-ordinate branches to suit itself, it might be satisfied, but it would produce a government no good citizen would be willing to live under.

To the grief of the *Post*, doubtless, the Supreme Court, on yesterday morning, re-affirmed its old doctrine, dismissing the Georgia and Mississippi Reconstruction cases. The Democrats will now feel a like contempt for the Court as for Congress.

CONGRESS has been accused, alike by Democrats and Conservative Republicans, of usurping authority in its Reconstruction Policy not conferred on it by the Constitution. The Supreme Court has had this question before it, and has decided that Congress has exclusive authority in the premises, only political topics being involved. What is more: this decision conforms to the doctrine held by the Court on this class of matters from the foundation of the government. Congress has been, and is still acting strictly within the limits of its prerogatives; and its assailants wish to make new rules, in conflict with all past precedents to suit their party ends.

This decision is the mere consequential because it has been understood for months that a majority of the Judges, in their private opinions, do not consent to what Congress has done and is doing. If they had the power they would not do as Congress is doing, but they are constrained to adjudge that the discretion is not with them, but with the Senate and House. After this, it will become the Democrats to abate somewhat, at least, of their wild talk about the usurpations of Congress.

THE CANADIANS are taking alarm at the reorganization of the Fenian brotherhood in this country, and, in view of possible contingencies, a force of regulars will be stationed along the Niagara coast as soon as navigation is resumed. This piece of prudence may be very well, but as we take it there need be no alarm felt by our cousins across the border, as the leaders of the Fenians have lost all faith in schemes for the invasion of Canada, and in the future will confine their operations to the soil of Ireland.

BY A RECENT DECISION of the Supreme Court, in session at Philadelphia, Mrs. JANE G. SWISSHELM, of this city, recovers real estate to the value of some $60,000, which had been illegally transferred by her husband from whom she was divorced. Mrs. S. has battled this case for some time past, and her many friends will be pleased to note the final decision in her favor.

GEN. CAMERON has earned the applause of all considerate men in protesting against the employment of secret agents by the State Department. Such agents belong to a system of diplomacy the world is fast outgrowing. One honest, frank and explicit negotiator is worth a whole army of sneaks and spies.

AT A MEETING of the Republican Committee of Crawford county, held on Saturday last, delegates were selected to the State and Senatorial Conventions, and instructed to support Gen. Grant for President and Galusha A. Grow for Vice President.

A New Masonic Temple.

Philadelphia rejoices now in the possession of one of the finest Masonic Temples in America, but the members of that order have in contemplation the erection of a new edifice which will completely overshadow the present one in point of elegance and grandeur. On next St. John's Day the corner stone will be laid on the site selected, Broad and Filbert streets, and the temple will be completed five years from that date, at a cost of $750,000.

The new hall will be of granite, and in the Norman style; the massive character of this order of architecture, however being well relieved by the arrangement of the buttresses, balconies, balustrades and graceful pinnacles which form part of the design. The four sides of the building will be of granite, the only difference in the design being in the front on Broad street, which will present one of the most magnificent features of this thoroughfare. The building will be three stories in height. The front on Broad street will present two towers, one at each corner, the intervening space being composed of a handsome portico, running to the second story, and above which will be two inches for statues (one of Silence,) the whole surmounted at the apex of the roof with a small tower, at the summit of which will be a statue of Charity. On the face of this main front, in addition to the ornamental windows, will be (in relief) emblems of the Order—the square and compass, &c.

"The tower at the southwest corner of the building will be the great feature. It will be three hundred feet from the ground to the top of the spire, or one hundred and four feet higher than Christ Church steeple. The four corners of this tower will be surmounted by pinnacles, while the buttresses extending up a considerable distance, the balconies at the windows, and the balustrades and general ornamentation of this portion of the structure will add greatly to the beauty of the whole design. The remaining three sides of the building will be relieved by buttresses between the windows, and the whole effect of the exterior will be at once massive and graceful. The portico at the front, being twenty feet in advance of the line of the building, will still further add to the beauty of the design.

The building throughout will be fireproof, iron girders being used at the stories, and other precautions are being adopted to guard against the destruction of the edifice. Ventilation of the most complete kind has been provided, the steam apparatus to be used for heating the building being also designed to drive a fan to keep up a circulation of fresh air in all of the rooms. Provision has also been made for a bountiful supply of water at every story. The entire building will be devoted to Masonic purposes, and, therefore there will be no residence within the hall, as heretofore.

CURIOUS MURDER TRIAL.—A curious murder trial has just been concluded at Ionia, Mich. It appears that John Brown and William Morse had frequently quarreled, and the former had sworn he would kill Morse on the first opportunity. One morning Morse went to his barn, and some time afterward was found there, hanging by the neck with a strap taken from his own harness. The jury visited the premises, and from the position in which the body was found, came to the conclusion that he must have been strangled, and then placed in that position, to make it appear that he done the deed himself, and strong circumstances pointed to Brown as the murderer. He was convicted.

—The American Board of Foreign Missions corrects a false impression of the expense of getting funds to the heathen station. Instead of costing seventy-five cents to get a dollar to the heathen, as has been said, only a little more than six per cent. of its income is spent in raising funds; and including all expenses of administration, the cost is only eight and three-eights per cent. And in the fifty-two years of its existence not one dollar has ever been lost by unfaithfulness, incapacity, or negligence in the Board.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

From the glowing accounts of the papers, the Forty-ninth Anniversary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, just held at Albany, N. Y., must have been a grand affair. Sunday, the day before the anniversary proper took place, was devoted to holding special services in the various churches of the Capital. Varied services took place also in one or two churches Monday morning and afternoon. In the evening the crowning service was held, in Tweddle Hall, His Excellency, Gov. Fenton, presiding. After the opening religious services, the Governor delivered a brief address, in which he stated that he was glad to be relieved a moment from public cares to meet the representatives of Methodism. A missionary spirit, he remarked, had prevailed from the planting of Christianity, and he was therefore glad to hail the assembly there convened to help on this great movement. He then referred in strong terms to the patriotism of the M. E. Church in the hour of our country's need, and of its existence on this continent. Among the distinguished speakers who participated were Bishop Janes, Dr. Harris, one of the Missionary Secretaries, Dr. Sewall, the eloquent Brooklyn preacher, Rev. R. W. Clark, of the Reformed Church, and Judge Wright, of Pennsylvania. By special invitation, Rev. G. Douglass, of Canada, was present and delivered an address of great power. He is represented as perhaps the most eloquent speaker in the Dominion of Canada. Dr. Sewall's closing words had a thrilling effect. He affirmed that he believed Jesus Christ will get the world, and when he does, he said he should like to be permitted to take part in the hallelujah chorus of the great English composer. The doctor then related the following incident: It is said that the privacy of his solitude was interrupted by a visitor, who found him at his desk writing his music to the marvellous words, "He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah! He shall reign forever and ever!" and the streaming tears were rolling down the good man's cheeks as he repeated the language and wrote his music. "He shall reign forever and ever, ever and ever, Hallelujah! He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!"

The *United Presbyterian* of this week contains an editorial entitled "Reform in Church Music," in which it argues that a want of proper knowledge of music, by the cultivation of the voice, calls for a reform in this respect, and that God is entitled to the best offerings we can give, and therefore every means should be employed to cultivate our powers to render acceptable praise. Reform is urged in the practice of having such artistic and elaborate music as to silence the praises of the congregation; and designedly so, that the sweet harmonies of professional singers may not be disturbed by less cultivated voices. Severe strictures, and very justly too, are made against the course of some churches for employing ungodly men and women to sing, taken from the theatre and opera. It is gratifying to note that this evil practice does not obtain in this part of the country that we are aware of, at least not in the offensive form it exists in some eastern cities.

Rev. John Hall, D.D., of New York, lately from Europe, during the late Sunday-School Institute in New York, briefly spoke of the means that should be employed for the conversion of scholars. He said to this end teachers should, 1. Try to deal personally with the children. 2. Teach simply, intelligently, and without effort to display; there should be no high flown clouds of rhetoric or rhapsody in the enumeration of God's truths. 3. The scholars should be truly loved. 4. Teachers should be holy persons before their children, as elsewhere—not severely sanctimonious, but cheerfully religious. 5. Set Jesus forth, distinctly, kindly, and fully, before the children, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Attention to these suggestions would, he thought, secure the conversion of Sabbath schools.

Recent intelligence from Johnstown, Penna., represents the churches all aglow with revival power. Considerable interest prevails in the Presbyterian and United Brethren Churches. A number of baptisms by immersion, administered by the minister of the Disciple's Church, took place last Sunday. Marked success crowns the efforts at the special services in the Methodist Episcopal and Methodist (Protestant) Churches. The Evangelical Lutheran Church, under the pastoral care of our friend, Rev. R. A. Fink, has enjoyed great spiritual prosperity. On a recent Sunday seventy-two persons connected themselves with that Church. Of these eighteen adults were baptized. Meetings still continue.

According to the report of the treasurer of the American Baptist Missionary Union, at a special meeting of the Board of Managers, held in New York city, last week, the expenditures of the Union for the year, including the balance against the Society last year, will likely be $230,000. During the quarter ending March 31st, the receipts ought to reach, from all sources, not less than $163,000, to meet the wants of the Union.

Rev. S. C. Faris has been employed by the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. S. F. Scovel, pastor, of this city, to labor as city missionary. We believe one or two other of our city Churches have already initiated this new movement, in connection with the work of the respective congregations.

The project of planting Congregational churches in the South, under the auspices of the American Home Missionary Society, is so greatly hindered by the obstacles interposed by the unreconstructed condition of society in the late rebel States, that only one new church, the Independent Church at Salem, Mississippi, has been occupied during the year. The general poverty which prevails, produced by the rebellion and the failure of the crops, has compelled most of the churches to fall back upon the Society for support.

Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, of Elmira, New York, has commenced holding Sunday evening meetings at the Opera House, for the reason that a regular church edifice, with rented pews, is too exclusive, and repels the masses, instead of attracting them, while under this plan all may feel *free* to hear the Gospel presented, "without money and without price."

The *Independent* says that two Methodist, the Congregational, and the Second Baptist churches, at Newport, R. I., united on a recent Sunday evening in partaking of the Lord's Supper. The Baptist pastor, Rev. Charles H. Malcolm, presided, aided by the other clergymen. It thinks the course of this pastor of the Baptist Church is much preferable to that of Mr. Earle, who is holding meetings at Boston.

The Christian Disciples' Church of New Castle, Pa., just ready for occupancy, is a very beautiful edifice, of the English Gothic style. It is stated it was built by the liberality of Phillips Brothers, four gentlemen of fortune, residing in that place. Its cost, when fully furnished, will be about ninety thousand dollars. It is most likely the handsomest church edifice belonging to the Campbellite body in the United States.

The *Presbyterian* states that the Church schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania are prospering, and show an increase in numbers and strength. Andalusia College opens with twelve or fifteen more scholars than hitherto, the Allentown Academy has over one hundred, St. Mark's Academy, at Mauch Chunk, has fifty, while new institutions have been organized in the parishes of Mahoney City, White Haven and elsewhere.

The Peabody Memorial (Congregational) Church in Georgetown, Massachusetts, costing nearly one hundred thousand dollars, the entire amount being furnished by Mr. Peabody, was dedicated to the worship of God quite recently. It is built of brick, in the Norman style, is quite an ornament to the village, and will seat six hundred persons.

A new Episcopal Church is about to be established on or near the upper part of Fifth Avenue, New York.

The *Christian Witness*, (United Presbyterian) favors the holding of a Convention in this city, on the third Tuesday of March next, by United and Reformed Presbyterians, with a view to consider questions bearing upon the Union of those bodies. Thus the work of Union goes forward, and with the admirable spirit manifested by the Presbyterians, the day does not appear distant when a closer union will be affected, not only by the two branches named but by other members of the Presbyterian family.

Revival interest prevails in many of the Presbyterian churches in this State. At Susquehanna Depot, the Presbyterian church enjoys quite an interesting work. Thus far over sixty have requested prayers, and, of this number, fifty have expressed a hope in Jesus. The church at Altoona, Pa., is favored with a revival of great power. Thursday night of last week the inquirers numbered fifty.

The lecture room of the Lawrenceville church, Rev. J. A. Miller, pastor, will be formally opened for public worship on next Sabbath, the 9th. At the morning hour, Dr. H. Miller will preach. In the afternoon Rev. S. P. Wolff will occupy the pulpit. Services will be held at three o'clock. Bishop Simpson will be present in the evening, at 7½ o'clock, and will participate in the services. No subscriptions taken; simply a basket collection. A cordial invitation is extended to all who can make it convenient to attend.

EPHEMERIS.

—The robbins of the North have been driven South by the severity of the weather, and the people of Pensacola are shooting and eating them.

—A monument to the memory of the late venerable Right Reverend Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, is to be raised in Trinity church, New York.

—The Boston *Advertiser* says: "Some people think that Pittsburgh, done up in January, is an answer to 'Does it pay to smoke?' propounded in February."

—A petroleum well has been discovered in England, and, the Fenians permitting, we may look for a repetition of the petroleum excitement in that island of frogs and spleen.

—Count Tasfe, a member of the new Austrian Cabinet, is an Irish Viscount. Nothing can equal the men of that nation in turning up in queer places, and often just when wanted.

—Nova Scotia not having seceded as yet, is going to do so in driblets, and also to colonize New Zealand. A shipload of blue noses is going in a co-operative way from Halifax shortly.

—It is stated that during the past two years about two thousand persons have been murdered in Texas, with bowie-knife or revolver, and that none of the murderers have been judicially punished.

—Louisville had a grand rat killing excitement the other day. A "celebrated dog Jack" killed one hundred rats in five and a half minutes. Coon drawing was also one of the amusements of the evening.

—Evidently the country is going down hill after Spain as fast as it can. Louisville is to have the honor, however, of inaugurating the latest symptom of the fall. There is to be a bull fight in that lively town.

—Bright, Carlyle and Bismarck all smoke, and their intellect seem, to common observers to be as brilliant as is that of Mr. Parton, who holds himself up as a shining example of great men who do not indulge in the "pleasant weed."

—Brigham Young, the Pope of Polygamists, has remonstrated with his saints on the subject of physicians. He objects at present to their employment, and believes that people will get well, if they are going to at all, without any interference by the faculty.

—A party of English tourists profess to have found the identical pillar of salt where Lot's wife so thoughtlessly turned in, leaving her husband and family to hunt up other lodgings. These English discoverers were utilitarians and ate part of the Lot with their hard boiled eggs.

—We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Grant is affected. Nothing is more disagreeable to the general public than affectation in persons occupying high social positions. The Boston *Post* is our authority for this statement; it says "Mrs. Gen. Grant affects—pink silk."

—When G. F. Train was asked for his autograph in Cork, during his arrest, he wrote for one man,

"Whether on the gallows high,
Or in the battle's van,
The fittest place for man to die,
Is where he dies for man."

For another he wrote, "Pay Alabama claims or fight. Release American citizens in English jails, or war is certain."

—A fair has been opened in London to raise money for the relief of the starving dogs of that city. A more worthy charity could not be found if there were no starving men in London, or the world; but it were perhaps better to let all the dogs, though they are noble and true, starve outright, if by so doing one *man's* life could be kept in him.

—A van of an Irish menagerie, containing a pair of lionesses and a lion, was overturned recently on the road. The lion and the lionesses were confined in separate compartments, but the fall broke down the partition between them, which altogether enraged the forest's monarch so much that he sat upon and slew the two females.

—The Boston *Post* is so encouraged at the terrible lashing General Grant has given to Mr. Johnston that it says in its wrath that Washburne and Stanton wrote his letters for him. For our part we can't see how that betters the thing. Stanton has been, if possible, treated in a more disgustingly, rude manner than has Grant, and, therefore, has a better right to thresh the President, whose tongue is often too thick to thresh with.

—The proclamation which was posted on the facade of the Mansion House in London, a couple of weeks ago, and which caused much indignant excitement in the Aldermanic circles of London, read as follows: "The Irishmen of America are united! Irishmen of England, follow their example! Unite; forward, ye fearless sons of Ireland. Stand for the old country!" At the head of this was a harp, the motto, "God save Ireland," and the letters I. R.

—The young men in New Haven "deserve a great deal of credit" for their inventive faculties. They have improved on the fashions of England twenty years ago amazingly. Then the fashionable swell would go miles to be able to find, wrench off and steal a unique knocker from the door of a private house. Now the gay young men of New Haven, who are most fashionably inclined, steal and carry off the gates themselves, thus emulating Samson in their sportive moods.

—The ancients were not intimately acquainted with zoology. We remember that in one of their fables a fox jeers the lioness for bringing forth but one cub, whereas she, the fox, had a whole litter of pups, and the royal beast remarked that that *one* however was a lion. The moral of this was very pointed, but the statements were not facts. The lioness in the zoological gardens at Dublin has just given birth to six cubs, and four or five is by no means an uncommon number.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

How to Winter Lambs.

Winter has long been upon us in good earnest, and all kinds of stock, and particularly lambs, calves and colts need good shelter, good care, and plenty of good food. They cannot withstand the piercing winter weather like older animals. They do not like the dry hay, and unless they have especial care will fall away, and perhaps not survive the spring.

But it was upon the care of lambs that we began this article. They should be separated from the older sheep without fail. Sheep never do well in large flocks at best, and the weakest and puniest suffer the most. Lambs, if left with the older sheep, will be pushed about by their superior strength—driven and kept away from the feed, and dwindle and die. They need better feed and better care than old sheep. Sheaf oats are excellent for lambs; but begin by feeding light, and increase the amount gradually to what they ought to have. Corn should be fed, if oats are not to be had. Corn meal is better than unground corn, and shelled corn better than corn in the ear—but if you have not the one, use the other.

Good, bright, sweet hay should also be provided in sufficient quantity and variety. Clover hay, saved with proper care, is greatly relished by lambs, and, indeed, by all kinds of stock. It is strange that farmers don't raise more clover hay and less timothy. Clover is more fattening and better relished by all kinds of stock. Indeed, stock will keep fat on clover and grow poor on timothy alone. If fed on timothy, they must have corn also. But a variety of hay should be produced—timothy for working animals—clover, orchard grass, herd's grass, &c., and these given for a change and particularly to lambs and other young stock.

No man should pretend to keep sheep without having racks from which they are to feed. It is more essential in this climate than further north, because we have so much rain and mud here. If thrown upon the ground, the feed gets trampled into the mud and wasted—wretched economy, when a few dollars would have prevented any such waste.

If the flock of lambs is large, they should be sub-divided and the puny ones separated and given still better care. An experience of twenty-five years with lambs has taught us the correctness of these directions.

Load Binders.

A very simple, effective and quick way of fastening four-foot wood upon a sled, not in general use, is a roller or windlass at the back end of the sled. An inch and a half or two-inch hole is bored horizontally into the rack or ladders behind the back stake holes, then take a round hard wood stick, four or five inches in diameter, make a gudgeon on each end of it to fit the holes bored in the rack or ladders; or instead of boring holes iron staples can be used on the under side of the rack or sled body, which will hold the roller. Bore two or three inch-and-a-half lever holes in this roller, and you have a windlass similar to those used by blacksmiths in shoeing cattle. When the wood is placed upon the sled, fasten the binding chain firmly to the front end of the sled, and passed over the middle of the load, fastening the other end to the windlass, which being turned, draws the chain with great force upon the wood, so that not a stick can move until the sled is upset, or the windlass loosened. If the binding chain becomes loose by jolting of the load on the road, you have only to turn the windlass a little, and the chain is tight as before. This is the quickest and most thorough way of fastening loads of any kind upon wagon or sled, and often saves the load from turning over, by keeping it in place when on slanting places.—*N. E. Homestead.*

The Service Berry—Pyrus Arbutifolia.

The mountains and valleys of British Columbia over which fire has swept, consuming all the timber, and leaving nothing standing after its departure, are covered with a growth of young poplars and the service berry shrub, which does not attain any great size, although I have seen them ten and twelve feet in height, but rarely exceeding three and four feet. The berries are ripe in August and hang on until frost. The bears revel among them at this time of the year. Millions of bushels ripen and fall to decay.

London says the grafting of the aronia or service berry, strictly *Pyrus arbutifolia*, on the common thorn, renders it one of the truly ornamental shrubs. Some years since I received from R. P. Fulkerson, Esq., some plants of a dwarf variety of the service berry, which gave a pleasant little fruit; but its want of character on its own roots led me to neglect it, and I have lost it. As a novelty and an ornamental shrub, I notice this now, that our growers may take hold of and introduce it. E. R. E.

—*Horticulturist for January.*

Barking Apple Trees.

There is a certain period in the season, when the bark may be stripped wholly from the trunks of apple trees, without destroying them. It must be at a time when some new bark has been just formed beneath the old, thus forming a sufficient coating for a new growth. It is necessary that the old bark be taken off, without rubbing or chafing the new surface. We lately examined an old orchard in the town of Brighton, near Rochester, a part of the trees of which had been divested of their bark about a year ago. They were found in a thrifty, healthy condition, the trunks being covered with a smooth new bark of a uniform thickness of about one sixteenth of an inch. We are unable to say how long the season continues, when this operation may be performed with safety, nor what degree of benefit or injury is likely to result. In the present case, the trees were certainly much improved in smoothness of appearance. Have any of our readers had any decided or satisfactory experience in this respect?—*Country Gentleman.*

Killing and Dressing Poultry.

Almost every locality has its own system, but I may advert to a few facts on this subject: Poultry, when bled to death, is much whiter in the flesh. I should advise the following plan, as the very best, causing instant death without pain or disfigurement:

Open the beak of the fowl, then with a pointed and narrow knife, make an incision at the back of the roof, which will divide the vertebræ and cause immediate death; after which hang the fowl up by the legs till the bleeding ceases; then rinse the beak out with vinegar and water. Fowls killed in this manner keep longer and do not present the unsightly external marks as those killed by the ordinary system of wringing the neck. When the entrails are drawn immediately after death, and the fowl stuffed, as they do in France with paper shavings or short cocoa-nut fibers to preserve their shape, they will keep much longer fresh. Some breeders cram their poultry before killing to make them appear heavy; this is a most injudicious plan, as the undigested food soon enters into fermentation, and putrefaction takes place, as is evinced by the quality of greenish, putrid-looking fowls that are seen in the markets.—*Geylin's Poultry Breeding. Published by A. Williams & Co., Boston, Mass.*

Black Knot in Plum Trees.

D. D. Walsh, of Rock Island, Ill., well known as an entomologist, says that all his examinations have resulted in the conviction that the black knot on the plum tree is the effect of a fungus, and is not a disease nor a gall. He thinks the spores or seeds are formed about the end of July, in latitude 40 deg. 30 min., and therefore if the excrescences be all cut off and destroyed by the early part of July, an effectual stop will be put to their farther spread.

Comparative Yield of Potatoes.

C. R. Wilson, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, writes the *Prairie Farmer*, Philadelphia, on the comparative productiveness of three varieties of potatoes which he tested the past season. There were sent to him, from Ohio, two Harrison, three Early Sebec, and eight Early Goodrich potatoes. These were cut to single eyes and planted in drills eighteen inches apart in garden soil. They were dug in September. The Sebec yielded a bushel; the Goodrich gave five bushels; and the Harrison about two and a half bushels. About half the Sebec died out after having made a considerable growth. Two bushels of the Gleason were planted as an experiment, cut like the others, and produced about forty-nine bushels, or nearly twenty-five to one.

How to Keep up Your Hay Crop.

A farmer who had been in the habit 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 lands in this respect is wrong and expensive, and should be abandoned as a matter of profit and economy.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

The Beech as a Hedge Plant.

I noticed your article in the *Farmer* of November 9th, upon the use of the beech as a hedge plant. I think it may be used with much success, making a beautiful hedge, if care is used in shortening in. I saw many hedges of this kind in Switzerland, Eastern France and Prussia, and was struck with the adaptation of the beech for a thin but effective hedge. It branches little, is stiff and keeps its place. I saw but little that was killed or injured by dry seasons.—*T. L. S., in Maine Farmer.*

WHISKY FOR RATS.—A correspondent of the *Arkansas Conservative*, whose house was over-run with rats, says a servant girl, who had seen the effect of whisky on bipeds, thought she would try an experiment upon rats. Accordingly she took a small quantity, made it very sweet with sugar, crumbled in bread enough for the crowd, and set the dish in the cellar. A few hours after she went down and found several rats gloriously "fuddled," engaged in throwing potato parings, and hauling one another up to drink. These were easily disposed of, and those not killed left the premises immediately, suffering from a severe headache.

MUCK FOR POTATOES.—The editor of the *Maine Farmer* finds from an experience of many years that muck does well for potatoes on dry land. He advises hauling out muck in the winter on sandy or gravelly pasture, and there allowed to freeze; then in the spring apply a shovelful of muck in a hill with a tablespoonful of plaster. "This course, he says, will bring sound, mealy potatoes, and at least a fair crop. Potatoes in Maine the past season were a small crop and poor in quality.

STATE NEWS.

—The Republicans of Mifflin county have adopted the Crawford county system of nominations.

—It is given out that John M. Cooper, Esq., of Chambersburg, is to be the Copperhead candidate for Surveyor General.

—Monroe county has elected a delegate to the State Convention at Philadelphia, and instructed for Grant and Grow.

—At Waterford, Erie county, on Monday night, the thermometer indicated thirty degrees below zero, the coldest weather in that locality this season.

—All the streams in the northern part of the State are now so strongly hedged with ice as to allow the passage of the largest teams and most heavily loaded wagons.

—Six hundred copies of such illustrated papers as the Police Gazette are sold in Meadville every week. A plentiful crop of crime and immorality will be the result.

—Dr. Dunn, of Conneautville, recently indicted a man named Klump for slander, and succeeded in obtaining $700 damages. The slanderous expressions related to the time when Dr. Dunn was in the army.

—The Bee well on the Atkinson Farm, Upper Cherry Run, which has produced two hundred barrels per day for some time past, commenced to flow on Tuesday last, and the production is three hundred barrels per day.

—A man who had been at work at the mines of the New Jersey Company, in Hanover, was found frozen to death on Saturday morning, with his bottle by his side. He had wandered from the path on his way to his boarding house.—*Wilkesbarre Record of the Times.*

—On Friday night, the 17th inst., Robt. Young and wife, now living in Harmony, while on their return home from a visit to Reuben McElvaine's, missed the road and in their effort to return to the same, the sleigh was upset and threw them out, breaking Mrs. Young's collar bone.—*Butler Citizen.*

—The contract for building the Marine Hospital to be erected on the northwestern outskirts of this city, has been let to Wilson King, Esq., and other parties. Mr. King is now inspecting various public hospitals so as to be the better enabled to determine upon the plan.—*Erie Dispatch.*

—In the Dauphin county court, the suit of the Commonwealth against the Pennsylvania Railroad and Canal Company, for not opening ways for fish to ascend the dams was decided against the Company. The case will go to the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the act.

—The County Commissioners of Mercer have purchased the lot and residence of the late General Forker, located on the diamond south of the Court House, and contemplate erecting thereon a new jail the coming summer. This is a needed improvement, one recommended time and again by the Grand Jury.

—A fire broke out in George P. Richard's new three story brick building, in Plymouth, on Monday last, entirely destroying it. It was yet unfinished, and the fire originated by a pile of shavings lying near the stove igniting when no one was near. Loss, $5,000. No insurance.—*Record of the Times.*

—A superior article of granite, admirably adapted for building purposes, has recently been discovered near Stony Point, in Rockland township, Berks county. The supply is apparently inexhaustible, and the stone is pronounced superior both for beauty and durability. Blocks may be obtained from twenty to thirty feet in length.

—A few days ago, during the progress of an auction sale at the store of H. H. Grimm, in Freeburg, Snyder county, the floor gave way, and a large number of men and women was precipitated into the cellar. A large stove filled with burning coal also went down with the crowd. Fifty or sixty persons were very badly burned, bruised and otherwise injured, and it is feared that some of them will not survive.

—The Oil City correspondent of the Pithole *Record* says the property of the Reno Oil and Land Company has passed into the hands of Hon. C. V. Culver, who proposes to operate it in the interest of Culver, Penn & Co. Several applications for leases for boring purposes have already been made, and the design is to develop the territory as soon as possible. There is no doubt of this being valuable oil land, from its proximity to the flowing well of Hasson & Co. on Shaffer Run.

—On Tuesday, the 4th inst., at about 3 p. m., the dwelling of H. M. Bole, in Venango county, was consumed by fire. The fire broke out in the upper story and was breaking through the roof when discovered. Mrs. Bole was sick and entirely helpless. Her husband succeeded in removing her and the bed she lay on. She was taken to the residence of his father, D. M. Bole, Esq., without injury. Nearly everything in the house was destroyed.

—The Waynesburg *Messenger* says: We regret to learn that Mr. Ephraim Everly, of Dunkard township, this county, was killed, we believe, on Monday, the 20th January. He was engaged in repairing the roof of his house, and while going up a ladder it broke and threw him to the ground, where, alighting on his head, he was so seriously injured that he only survived a few hours. The deceased was a very worthy citizen, and leaves many relatives and friends to mourn his sudden death. Mr. Everly was aged about 60 years.

—The Oil City *Republican* says: Many of the former residents of our city who located in other places during the last four years, are coming back again. Among these are many who are largely interested in the oil region, from whence their wealth has been derived. All speak of the business advantages presented by Oil City and the various other points of this locality as possessing inducements for the profitable investment of capital that are surpassed by no other section of this country. They intend to locate here permanently, and are purchasing homes for that purpose. We welcome them back again.

—A highly successful effort has been made at Huntingdon, Pa., to raise funds by subscription for the establishment of a normal school for the Seventh district, composed of the counties of Cumberland, Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Huntingdon and Blair, under the act of 20th May, 1857. The sum of nearly thirty thousand dollars has been subscribed. If the State shows the same liberality to this institution that it has to others of the same kind, the school will not only be a grand success but an ornament to Huntingdon and the other counties of this normal district.

—Culver, Penn & Co. have issued a circular under date of February 1st to their creditors, advising them that the Reno Company on that day entered into the possession and management of the lands formerly owned by "The Reno Oil and Land Company." They state that "the Directors of the Reno Company having possession, are taking active measures for its development." They propose at once to let twenty leases upon the territory immediately adjoining the Lackawana and Hasson wells, which have been so largely productive during the past year, and will, as the means at their hands will permit, overhaul the wells of the Company now in operation and complete those heretofore commenced.

—Williamsport is urging the location at that place of the proposed new insane asylum for Northern Pennsylvania. At a meeting of the Lycoming County Medical Society, held at Williamsport recently, they recommended that one additional asylum located in a convenient and central locality within a district formed of the counties of Wayne, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Sullivan, Bradford, Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Clearfield, Elk, Cameron, McKean, Potter and Forest. The physicians present were unanimous in the opinion that Williamsport presented advantages possessed by no other locality for such an institution. In their opinion they were sustained by a number of the most prominent citizens of the county, who were present, for consultation, on the occasion.

The Supreme Court and Reconstruction.

The Georgia Bill Dismissed.

The Question a Political One.

Court Has no Jurisdiction.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1868.

In the Supreme Court of the United States to-day Associate Justice Nelson announced the opinion in the case of the State of Gergia against Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, General Grant and Major General Pope.

The last named at the time the bill was filed was commanding the Third Military District, composed of Georgia, Florida and Alabama, designated by the act of Congress, approved March 2d, 1867, entitled "An act to provide for the more efficient government of the Rebel States," and the act supplemental thereto, passed the 23d of the same month. The bill filed by the State of Georgia prayed for an injunction for the purpose of restraining the defendants from carrying into effect the several provisions of these acts and set forth the existence of Georgia as one of the States of the Union, and further that on the surrender of the Confederate army in 1865, at the close of the civil war, that State was in the possession and enjoyment of all the rights belonging to a State in the Union under the Constitution and laws of the United States, and as such was entitled to representation in both Houses of Congress. The bill further sets forth that the intention and designs of those acts of Congress were apparent on their face and by their terms, viz: the overthrow of the existing State Government and the erection in its place of another not authorized by the Constitution, and that in furtherance of this intent the Secretary of War, Gen. Grant and Major-General Pope, acting under orders from the President, were about setting in motion a portion of these statutes to take military possession and subvert the Government of Georgia, thereby subjecting the people thereof to military rule; that the State was wholly inadequate to resist the power of the several departments, and therefore insisted protection ought to be afforded by a decree of the Supreme Court in the premises.

The bill next prayed: *First*—That defendants might be restrained from issuing any order or doing any act or thing within the State of Georgia injurious to said State which might be required of them by act of Congress. *Second*—To cause the defendants to delay registration in Georgia as prescribed in the last named act. *Third*—To restrain them from administering or causing to be administered the oath provided for in that act. *Fourth*—To prevent an election or returns of such election from being received according to the acts in question. *Fifth*—From holding or causing to be held any convention as prescribed therein.

Associate Justice Nelson, having set forth the premises, but at greater length than above given, said in substance, that a motion had been made by counsel for defendants to dismiss the case for want of jurisdiction, and as one without precedent. It was claimed the Court had no jurisdiction in the case, either of the subject in the bill or over the parties presented. The first ground was supported by the argument that it was a political and not a judicial question, therefore it was not a subject of cognizance by this Court. The distinction between judicial and political questions resulted from the organization of the government, executive, legislative and judicial, and from the limitation of the powers of each under the Constitution. The judicial power was vested in the judicial department, and the political power in the two other departments. The distinction between judicial and political power was so generally admitted that the Court deemed it necessary to do nothing more than to refer to some of the authorities on the subject. They were alone their direction. Among them the case of Rhode Island against the State of Massachusetts. It had been supposed this case afforded authority for hearing and deciding as on a question connected with a bill in equity, but on close examination this would be found a mistake. There was a question of boundary between those two States, and not one of a political character. In the case of Florida against Georgia the United States were allowed to intervene, being the proprietors of a large portion of lands situated within the disputed boundary ceded to the United States by Spain, the State of Florida also being interested as a proprietor. The case bearing most directly on this one is that of the Cherokee Nation against the State of Georgia. A bill was filed in this case and an injunction prayed for to prevent the execution of certain acts of Georgia against the Cherokee Nation. The latter claimed the right to appear in Court as a foreign nation. The acts of the Legislature, if carried into execution, would have destroyed the tribal condition of the Cherokees and subjected them to the authority of the State. It was, therefore, decided that the Cherokees were not a foreign nation in the sense referred to in the Constitution of the United States. Justice Marshall said the bill was untenable on another ground, namely: it involved a political question.

Justice Nelson referred to several high authorities in support of the above views, and showed that the political power did not belong to the Judiciary, and that the Court could have no right to pronounce merely an abstract opinion of the Constitution or of State laws. It might, however, decide on all statutes properly falling under judicial authority. By the second section of the third article of the Constitution of the United States, it is provided the judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equity arising under this Constitution, the law of the United States and treaties made or which shall be made under their authority, to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, to controversies to which the United States shall be a party, to controversies between two or more States, between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a State or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens or subjects.

The bill filed by the State of Georgia prays for an injunction to restrain defendants from executing certain parts of the acts of Congress, being apprehensive that injury to the State would thereby result, but according to law and precedent, in order to entitle the parties to relief, a case must be properly presented for the exercise of judicial power, and the case must refer to the rights of persons and property, and not to political questions merely, which do not belong to the judiciary either in law or equity. In view of the principles under the Constitution and statutes, which the Court had endeavored to explain, the question was whether the Court could take cognizance of the question now before it. The Court was called on to restrain defendants, who represented the Executive Department from putting into execution certain acts of Congress, which it was claimed would overthrow the existing State government of Georgia, and establish a different one in its stead. In other words, destroy the corporate existence of the State. Such is the substance of the bill. It called for the judgment of the Court on a political question, and not one involving persons and property. No question of person or property, or threatened danger to them, was presented in the bill in a form justifying judicial action by the Court. It was true the bill set forth political rights as in danger, and among other things that Georgia owned certain property, the State Capitol, Executive Mansion, and other real and personal property, and that by putting these acts of Congress into execution the State would be deprived of the possession of such property; but it was apparent this reference was only incidental and not specific matter of remedy. The relief asked would call for a bill different from the one now before the Court.

Having for the reasons stated arrived at a conclusion, it was important to examine the question of jurisdiction in connection with the defendants. The Court dismissed the bill for want of jurisdiction. This decision, the Judge remarked, also disposed of the case of the State of Mississippi against Secretary Stanton, General Grant and Major General Ord, involving a similar question.

Chief Justice Chase said he did not concur in all the reasons, but assented to the conclusion, believing the Court had no jurisdiction in the case.

SUPREME COURT OPINIONS.

In the Supreme Court to-day the following opinions were delivered:

No. 77. Lowry, appellant, versus Sypher, administratrix of Keene; appeal from Circuit Court of the United States, district of Iowa. Justice Davis delivered the opinion of the Court affirming the decree of the Circuit Court with costs.

No. 301. Haight, plaintiff in error, vs. Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Co.; in error to Circuit Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Justice Grier delivered the opinion of the Court, affirming the judgment of the Circuit Court, with costs and interest.

No. 61. West et. al, plaintiffs in error, vs. City of Aurora, Ind; error to Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Indiana. Chief Justice Chase delivered the opinion of the Court affirming the judgment of the Circuit Court, with costs.

The Chief Justice announced the Court will adjourn for the term on the first Monday in April.

TIMBER LAND FOR NAVAL PURPOSES.

The President sent a message to the House to-day, enclosing a communication from the Secretary of the Navy relative to the depredations upon and future care of reservations of lands for the purpose of supplying timber for the navy. The lands thus reserved were placed under the control of the Navy Department, and are scattered through Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana, embracing 251,000 acres. Secretary Welles says if these lands are to be retained for the purpose for which they have been protected for half a century an appropriation of $20,000 for salaries and other necessary expenses will be required.

NOMINATIONS MADE AND ACTED UPON.

The President to-day sent the following nominations to the Senate: Charles F. Tuckerman, New York, Minister resident to Greece; Captain Groeve, Commodore in the Navy on active list, vice Commodore Cicero Price, retired; Commodore John Cooper, Captain on active list, vice Captain Green, nominated for promotion.

The Senate confirmed the following: T. Scott Stewart, Pa., Consul of Osala and Hiago; James W. Henderson, Register of Land Office at Humboldt, California; L. E. Webb, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, New Mexico; William J. Britan, Assessor Internal Revenue First District, Mississippi; Felix G. Clark, Register Land Office at Des Moines, Iowa; George M. Hallett, Receiver of Public Money in Colorado; Irwin G. Stanton, Register of Land Office at Central City; Col. Ambrose Campbell, Register of Land Office at Marquette, Michigan; W. H. Trower, Postmaster, Shelbyville, Illinois; William G. Dowers, Postmaster, Mount Vernon, Iowa.

PROTECTION OF CITIZENS ABROAD.

The Secretary of State, in reply to a resolution, sent to the House to-day an immense mass of documents relative to the protection of American citizens abroad. Some of the papers are dated two years back. The Secretary promises another portion, on the subject, so as to fully give all information on the files in his department up to this date. The documents are composed for the greater part of reports and proceedings of meetings in this country, and addresses to the government on that subject, asking relief for naturalized citizens abroad.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Board of Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, at a meeting on Friday, voted to place the machine shops, depots, &c., for the road east of the mountains and for the mountain division at Cheyenne, and to make that point a grand turning point at the east base of the mountains. The decision will cause an expenditure of a large amount of money, as the shops are to be on as large a scale as any in the United States, and will be a credit to the road.

THE STANTON-GRANT AFFAIR.

The sub-Committee on Reconstruction this morning resumed the examination of Mr. Stillson, correspondent of the New York *World*, with reference to his conversations with the President on the subject of the Stanton and Grant matter, and in connection with the President and Grant correspondence, which was referred by the House to the Committee.

CONSUL FROM JAPAN.

The President recognizes Charles Walcott Brooks Consul of Japan, at San Francisco.

PATENTS TO BE ISSUED.

The Patent Office will issue two hundred and seventy six patents for the week ending the 18th instant.

—A Paris lady with an Italian title, who moves in the first society, owes all her good fortune to an accidental tumble into a pit. The story is romantic, if not creditable. Some years ago a French nobleman, hunting in the forests of Brittany, fell into one of the pits used for storing winter vegetables. Unable to get out, he remained there until a band of peasants approached; to whom he appealed for assistance. They required that he should first hand out his valuables, and while he was complying with this outrageous demand, a young girl, leaning forward to take something from his hand, fell into his arms. He held her as a hostage, but the peasants fled, finding themselves outwitted. The Marquis and his companion spent three days in the pit before assistance reached them, in which time he discovered that the girl was pretty, intelligent and agreeable, and when released he took her to Paris, educated her and at his death left her a millionaire.

—An English mechanic, named Sarboy, is said to have solved a problem which has so long foiled the efforts of engineers and scientific men, in discovering a certain means of detecting the alteration in the texture of iron, or cracks, or minute defects invisible to the eye, which have been a fruitful cause of the breaking of railway axles and other machinery. Mr. Sarboy, it is said, has found that when an iron bar is homogeneous, the magnetic needle will not be suddenly displaced from its position on being slowly moved to and fro in a direction perpendicular to the magnetic meridian, of the locality, but if there be in the bar any unsound place, a fault or flaw, the oscillations of the needle will become very intense as it passes over these defective points. In view of the loss of life and property resulting from flaws in the iron work of machinery, the discovery of such a test of iron must prove of great value.

A BOSTON JOKE.—Some silly and impudent persons in Boston attempted to make Mrs. Harrison Gray Otis the butt of a practical joke last week. They forged cards of invitation for a reception at her house, sent fictitious orders to tradesmen and dealers of all sorts for goods to be delivered at the same house, and finally advertised in the Boston *Herald* for a number of cats, also for Mrs. Otis. Mrs. Otis was not at all disturbed by the matter, but quietly received the unexpected guests, and, with the aid of two policemen, detailed for the purpose, turned away the various victimized tradespeople as fast as they arrived, thereby turning the tables on the jokers. Moreover, the affair has been put in the hands of detectives, so that there is a great probability of the joke turning out no joke at all to the idiots whose shallow brains conceived it.

—Mr Kelsey, of New York, has revived the air-line railroad project between New York and Washington. He has introduced the same bill passed by the House of Representatives during the first session of the thirty-ninth Congress, with new corporators, viz: Simon Cameron, Thomas A. Scott, John McManus, David K. Jackman, W. McEvoy, James Duffy, James Andrews, William B. Willey, James D. ("Don,") Cameron, and John Edgar Thompson, of this State, William T. Walters, of Maryland, E. H. Nichols, E. M. Wadden, Richard Franchot, and Erastus Corning, of New York, G. M. Dodge, of Iowa, and J. C. Kennedy and Charles A. Sherman, of Washington, D. C. The bill was referred to the Committee on Railroads and Canals, which is understood to be favorable to it.

—A Paris journal catalogues the beauties of the Princess de Metternich:—"eyes which have the sweetness of a German reverie; teeth of brightest enamel; a forehead smooth and clear as an infant's; high and wide as that of a thinker; and abundant silky brown hair; the form of head as Greek as that of the Venus of Milo; her ear like a pink shell; the beautiful fall of her shoulders, the exquisite form of her arm, the long, aristocratic hands, and the narrow, dainty foot. Be she dressed in blue, red or yellow; be she coiffed with her toque over her eyes, or with a sergent-deville's cap as she appeared one day at the Tuileries—she is and remains a princess."

—A rich and fascinating Kentucky widow was wooed by two colonels, one formerly belonging to the national and the other the rebel army. She finally concluded to take the rebel, and arranged that the marriage should take place at the Louisville Hotel. This was very disagreeable to the Union colonel, who picked a fight with his successful rival, and challenged him to a duel. The Confederate colonel had two daughters by a former wife, who did not want their father to marry again, and finally persuaded the widow to give him up and take the loyal man. She did so, and the duel did not come off.

—The Republicans at Columbus had a glorious meeting Wednesday night to interchange congratulations over the cheering success in the Eighth District. Judge Thrall presided, and speeches were made by Lieut. Gov. Lee, General Potts, General Kiefler, Hon. G. W. Robinson, General Schneider, Hon. Samuel Galloway and Hon. E. E. White. A resolution of sympathy with Hon. Samuel Shellabarger, and requesting him not to return to public duties until fully restored to health, was passed, and another renewing the nomination by the Columbus Union Club of Gen. Grant for the Presidency.

—R. B. Van Valkenburg, Minister at Japan, informs the citizens of the United States, that he and his colleagues have made arrangements with the Japanese Government by which the city of Yeddo, the town of Negato, on the west coast, and the Harbor at Ebisumenato, on the island of Sado, will be open to them to trade and residence, pursuant to treaty stipulation, on the first day of April next.

—A riot occurred at Fayetteville, Lincoln county, Tennessee, last Monday afternoon, lasting from four o'clock until dark, and causing great excitement. A young man named Pamphlin was killed by a pistol shot, and a number of others wounded, some with knives and others with stones. The riot was caused by a drunken fellow riding into a crowd and saying he could whip any person in it.

—Late Arizona advices state that General Palmer's Pacific Railroad surveying party was at Hardysville on January 15th. The line of survey crosses the Colorado river, twenty-five miles below Fort Lajave. The route is unexpectedly favorable. The engineers on the thirty second parallel were recalled and work stopped in that direction.

—The Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad Company have been losing fifty tons of coal per month, and wishing to know what became of it, set a watch, which resulted in the arrest of [illegible] persons, the guilty parties, at Cl[illegible]ville Hampton Junction, N. J.

—Mr Dickens's description of the shipwreck, in his reading from David Copperfield, in New York, was so naturally impressive that his auditors put their over-shoes on to prevent wetting their feet.

THE SHAPE ALONE.

BY MARK AKENSIDE.

The shape alone let others prize,
The features of the fair;
I look for spirit in her eyes,
And meaning in her air.

A damask cheek, an ivory arm,
Shall ne'er my wishes win;
Give me an animated form,
That speaks a mind within;

A face where awful honor shines,
Where sense and sweetness move,
And angel innocence refines
The tenderness of love.

These are the soul of beauty's frame,
Without whose vital aid
Unfinished all her features seem,
And all her roses dead.

But, ah! where both their charms unite,
How perfect is the view!
With every image of delight,
With graces ever new!

Of power to charm the deepest woe,
The wildest rage control—
Diffusing mildness o'er the brow
And rapture through the soul.

Their power but faintly to express
All language must despair:
But go, behold Aspasia's face,
And read it perfect there.

THE MOON BEHIND THE HILL.

BY WILLIAM KENEALY.

I watched last night the rising moon
Upon a foreign strand,
Till memories came, like flowers of June,
Of home and fatherland;
I dreamt I was a child once more,
Beside the rippling rill;
Where first I saw, in days of yore,
The moon behind the hill.

It brought me back the visions grand
That purpled boyhood's dreams;
Its youthful loves, its happy land,
As bright as morning's beams.
It brought me back my own sweet Nora,
The Castle and the Mill,
Until my eyes could see no m[illegible]
The moon behind the hill.

It brought me back a mother's love,
Until in accents wild,
I prayed her, from her home above,
To guard her lonely child;
It brought me *one* across the wave
To live in memory still—
It brought me back my Kathleen's grave,
The moon behind the hill.

A SKATER'S SONG

I.

O in the golden Summer
To climb the hills is rare,
When the cuckoo, blithe new-comer,
Calls through the sultry air.
And pleasant 'tis in Autumn,
All dressed in gray apparel
In search of the grouse to use your nous
With a killing double-barrel.
But there are who deem the Winter tide the
rarest of the year.
When the snowdrifts lie and the skaters fly
in their marvellous career.

II.

The racer's joy on the turf is
No greater than we feel
As we cut the icy surface
With the sharp swift keel of steel:
And after breathless skating
Who heeds the elm-log's splinters,
When your spirit high may well defy
The ice of a thousand Winters!
And if the lady of your love *is* out upon
that hour,
O follow her swift over ice and drift, and
speak the words of power!

[*Echoes from the Clubs.*

OHIO NEWS.

—The Young Men's Christian Association of Mansfield has just dedicated a new room.

—Kelley's Islanders now cross on the ice to the main land with double teams and heavy loads.

—A meeting of parties interested in a railroad from Sandusky to Akron and Massillon or Canton, is to be held at Elyria on the 18th.

—The Mount Vernon *Republican* says: Knox county has 2,440 dogs and last year they killed 418 sheep, worth $1,765, and injured 570 more.

—A survey of two routes from Toledo to Massillon is going forward. On Monday a committee meets at Norwalk and decides upon which route the road is to be built.

—The Warren (Trumbull county, Ohio,) *Chronicle* says a new vein of coal, six and one-half feet thick, has been struck in that neighborhood. It is the thickest ever discovered in that section.

—The Hamilton (Ohio) authorities have been fining railroad men for running through their village faster than four miles an hour, and the officers of the road talk of moving the track outside the corporation limits.

—The Union Republican members of the Ohio Legislature have issued an address to the Republicans of the State, inviting them to be present in large numbers at the State Convention, to be held on the 4th of March, next.

—A fatal disease among the swine is reported in several parts of Ohio. In Hocking county some farmers are losing from fifteen to twenty hogs a day. The disease is said to be an affection of the throat. It has also prevailed to some extent among the turkeys. The Fayette county *Herald* reports the disease among the hogs in that county.

—The few Ohio statistics given below are culled from an able and lengthy article on Ohio, in 1867, in the *Cincinnati Gazette*:

Of coal there were produced 42,130,021 bushels, and of pig iron, $1,790 tuns—a slight increase over 1866.

There are, in the State, 100 private banks, with an aggregate capital of $2,523,051. National Banks, 137, with capital of $22,547,805. State Banks, 7, with $1,209,072 capital. Aggregate, 244 banks, with $26,479,926 capital.

The number of marriages in 1867 was 29,250, a decrease from the number in 1866, which was 30,479. Number of divorces in 1865,937; in 1866, 1,150; in 1867, 974.

Tonsorial.

There are some things almost barbarous in the treatment of people in some of the shaving and hair-dressing shops. There is no need that a barber should plaster you all over the lips or on the hair, or nearly dislocate your neck, take hold of you by the nose, or pull your lips out of shape when he is shaving you. There is no need that he should make your face burn and tingle with some unpleasant fluid, or spat your cheek with his wet and dirty hands. There is no need that he should deluge your hair with some tonic so that a stream of it runs down your neck, or besmear it with grease, so that it feels soggy, heavy offensive, and so that you dare not touch it with your hands without washing them afterwards. There is no need that he should twitch little tufts of your hair nearly out in frizzing it; nor spend so long a time in placing a few hairs on your temples when he must know they will certainly be disarranged by your hat. There is no need that he should torture you mentally by solicitations to buy oils and invigorators, and by assurances that you have tendencies to dandruff and baldness which can only be checked by them.

Undoubtedly in this country the tonsorial art has been brought to the highest perfection, and there are many who really enjoy a barber's manipulations, when his towel is clean, his lather perfumed and creamy, his touch like the touch of a summer breeze, leaving your cheek soft and fragrant, the rubbing and brushing of your hair either by his hand or by machinery real pleasure, and then you depart feeling clean.

The King of the Cannibal Islands.

A number of years ago the Feejee Islanders ate up three American sailors. The United States government, it seems, made a demand for indemnity; and one of the two kings of Feejee now sends to the "great father" at Washington an enormous tooth. Is this to be taken as a hint that his Majesty of Feejee would like to "cut and come again?" or is it a testimony that American sailor agrees with the Feejee digestion? The tooth must be regarded as a metaphorical tooth, a dental figure of speech, for it is not a Feejee's tooth, but a sperm whale's tooth. Our government's demand for indemnity might have been met by a gift of teeth, but they should have been the teeth of the luxurious fellows who dined off our seamen. That would have been not only indemnity for the past, but security for the future.

—The Japanese government once horrified an American Commodore with the present of a man's head, by way of indemnity. When Commodore Biddle lay in Jeddo Bay, in the Columbus, in 1846, he attempted to visit one day a Japanese war Junk, but as he clambered over her bulwarks a sentry pushed him back into his gig. The Commodore returned in a rage to his ship, and sent a peremptory demand for an apology and indemnity for the insult. Within a quarter of an hour came back an answer that the sentry had acted without orders, and that his head had been promptly cut off, and was now at the service of the Commodore.

—London *Punch* thus makes merry over an advertisement:

EMPLOYMENT FOR SOMEBODY.—Here it is, and a very good idea, too:

"The 13-stop Harmonium, with Swell, Thirty Guineas. Full Lists sent on application."

Why shouldn't a Swell do something for himself in this way? Of course, in applying for the 13-stopper you'd ask the following questions:

1. Does the Swell play the harmonium?
2. Does he require much pressing?
3. If he won't play (being sulky, or not well, for instance) what may you do to him to make him go? Of course, "if I had a donkey what wouldn't," every one knows all about *that*, but in the case of a Swell the mode of treatment is scarcely so clear.
4. If a family hires a harmonium, will the Swell take his meals with them, or by himself in his own harmonium?
5. Can the Swell be let out? Let out with safety—and, if so, may he be depended upon to come back?

Many more interrogatories might be put to the enterprising advertisers, but in any case we have done our duty in making the above suggestions, and *Great employ*[illegible]

—An urchin unconsciously perpetrated a great joke at the expense of his teacher the other day. The lady was announcing to her pupils the holiday on the 22d day of February, and asking them some questions concerning its observance—among others why the birthday of Washington should be celebrated more than that of any one else. "Why," she added, "more than mine? You may tell me," she added to a little fellow eager to explain. "Because," he exclaimed, with great vivacity, "because he never told a lie."