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THE FREE RAILROAD BILL.

Some days ago the House of Representatives at Harrisburg passed a Free Railroad bill. It is a good one—liberal in spirit, yet guarded in terms. The Senate also, has a Free Railroad bill—an excellent one—though we prefer that of the House. When the House bill reached the Senate, a motion was made to substitute the Senate bill for it; and this motion, still pending, will come up again to-morrow night. It is probable the substitution may be made.

This makes it important to understand the main differences between the two. The Senate bill provides that books for subscription to stock shall be kept open till the whole capital shall be subscribed—the stock being equal to at least ten thousand a mile. The effect of this provision is manifest. No charter can be issued until ten thousand dollars a mile on the line contemplated shall be pledged. Another clause restricts the amount that may be borrowed in any case to a sum equal to the capital paid up. The effect of this, also, is apparent. One half the money to build any line of railroad under this bill must be raised by subscription. In all other particulars the Senate bill is as good as the House bill—the earnest friends of Freedom in Railroad Building being judges.

That there are practical difficulties in the way of framing an equitable Free Railroad Law every man knows who has fully considered the matter in detail. It is easy to affirm that all persons who desire to invest money in making railways shall have an equal and free chance; but when the rights of existing corporations, of individual holders of real estate, and of the public generally come to be considered, diversities of opinion are elicited among men who are anxious to attain a common end. Hence, we have not seen proper to denounce the Legislature, or either branch thereof, in advance of ultimate action. It is much safer to wait, see what is done, and for what reasons, than to start prematurely and without valid occasion.

THE Presidential campaign may soon be regarded as open, and the Republican should at once set himself about to do whatever good he can in the cause. We know of no better way to make votes than by educating the people up to the proper standard, so that they may know how to discriminate at the ballot box in favor of the party having the greatest interest in the welfare of the country, and holding principles not at variance with the fullest idea of a Republican form of Government. The best channels through which to reach the masses and to spread before them the live issues of the hour, are well conducted and fearlessly edited newspapers. They are the educators of the people, and when properly directed, one journal silently accomplishes more good and effective service than could a thousand stump orators or zealous canvassers. In view of this fact, all earnest adherents to the great political principles held by the Republican party should bestir themselves to increase the circulation of able journals in their districts, so that no man in his ignorance will be entrapped into the support of men and measures antagonistic to the best interests of the country.

The Pittsburgh Weekly GAZETTE, the largest, cheapest and best weekly journal in the Commonwealth, and the leading Republican paper, of Western Pennsylvania, is placed within the reach of all, and if our friends will co operate, it will be enabled to accomplish much good work in the presidential canvass. Aside from its high political character, it is a live, gossipy, and readable newspaper, which will commend itself to the intelligent farmer, merchant or mechanic. See prospectus in another column.

"THE GAZETTE wants the opinion of the *Post*, upon the recent decisions of the Supreme Court. We have not been addicted to the bad habit of the GAZETTE, in reviewing the decisions of the Supreme Court. We accept them as law, binding upon all."—*Post.*

Then why have you been hammering away for months past—at Congress for conforming its action to the decision of the Supreme Court in the Rhode Island case—and at the Supreme Court for not reversing that decision, and sitting up a new precedent unheard of in the jurisprudence of this country?

THERE seems to be some misapprehension at Harrisburg, and, perhaps, elsewhere, as to our acceptance of Mr. EBNETT's vindication of Mr. GEORGE CONNELL, in the matter of the Petroleum Inspectorship bill. We, therefore, desire to say, that we accept Mr. EBNETT's explanation as fully exculpating Mr. CONNELL, though we do not recant or modify any one of our denunciations of the bill itself, or of the swindle which the concoctors thereof intended to accomplish by means of it.

THE Expansionists are likely to have their way, at least, to some extent, in Congress, Western business will demand more currency, and the politicians hardly dare refuse, pending the Presidential election, whatever their personal conviction may be. Indeed, it is an essential idea in representative governments that the will of the people shall be executed.

THE talk about trying Gen. GRANT for insubordination is all moonshine. He was not made Secretary of War by reason of being a soldier, but because he was a citizen, and eminently fit for the position. The office is purely a civil one, and has very rarely, and only for brief periods, been held by individuals connected with the army.

MR. TRAIN is anxious to engage President JOHNSON to collect his bill of $100,000 against the British Government, which he claims as damages for his arrest. Getting that amount, in that easy way, would be a nice speculation. Many men would like to be arrested once a month regularly for a good deal less money.

IT is natural enough, under the circumstances, that the President should aim a blow at General GRANT, but he miscalculated when he thought it possible to make Lieutenant General SHERMAN an instrument for the accomplishment of his revenge.

THE Legislature will deserve commendation if it actually adjourns by the 24th of March, which is the day now fixed upon by the Senate.

TAXING BANKS.

At the last session of the Legislature of Pennsylvania a law was passed taxing stock in National Banks in the hands of holders thereof. To this end a corps of special Assessors were created, and authorized to pocket seven per cent. of all the moneys raised in this manner, in compensation for services not extending beyond a few hours or days. While the idea of taxing this capital was just and proper, the manner of carrying it into effect was a job, though not of large proportions. At the present session of the Legislature, it is to be hoped, the whole system of taxing banks will be remodeled to meet the requirements of the case, as developed by the fullest consideration.

There can be no question but capital, whether in the form of bank and railway shares, or in government bonds ought to be liable to assessment for public purposes to as full an extent as other descriptions of property. The exemption of capital, invested in these shares, has gone so far as to compel a discussion which will not cease, but grow more earnest, until a change shall be made remedying the existing evil. Nor can it be doubted that Bank Officers are convinced that the general system under which they are doing business can only be permanently maintained by the adoption of such provisions of law as will subject banking capital to as heavy rates of taxation as are laid upon capital employed in other pursuits.

The forty-first section of the Act of Congress of 1864, regulating National Banks, expressly prohibits taxing, for State and local purposes, either the franchises, capital or earnings of those institutions; and the obvious import and effect of the section has been sustained by decisions in both Federal and State Courts. But the same section authorizes taxing shares of stock in National Banks in the hands of the individual holders thereof, the same as other property, subject to three limitations:

1. The rate must not be greater than on other moneyed capital in the State. This is abundantly liberal in Pennsylvania, for moneys at interest are now taxed, in none of the counties less than three or four per cent., and in some of them seven or eight per cent.

2. That the tax shall be imposed by State authority, at the place where the particular bank is located, and not elsewhere.

3. That the rate shall not exceed that upon shares in State banks.

The first attempt in this State, at taxing National Banks, failed because it aimed at their business. The second attempt, that of 1866, failed for the reasons—1st. The one per cent. levied was held to be in excess of that legally payable on other capital for State objects alone; and, 2d. Because it was laid on the banks directly, and not on the individual holders of the shares.

The act of 1867 is objectionable not simply because the assessing is made a job for the benefit of lucky politicians, but also because it does not make the stock taxable for county and local purposes. It is further faulty, in the fact it does not subject shares in State banks to the same measure of taxation as shares in National Banks. Moneys at interest are taxable for all purposes, and as we recently explained, in some counties the assessments absolutely reach $67 on each $1,000, or $7 more than the whole lawful interest received. Nor is this the worst of it. If a man sells real estate on time, taking any form of security, that security is liable to taxation, as these rates, while the property conveyed is liable the same as any other houses and lands; thus taxing the same property twice. (We may remark in passing that the law taxing money at interest, as it stands, is an infamy that the Legislature ought to make haste and correct.).

The tax on State Banks is on the par value of the shares, regardless of its market value; while the tax on National Banks is on the actual value of the shares, whatever it may be. It is a point to be considered, moreover, how far the distinctions made in taxing stocks in the two sorts of Banks, invalidate any of the evils.

Another point in which question may possibly arise might as well be looked at in this connection. The 41st section of the National law declares

"That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent all the shares in any of said Associations, held by any person or body corporate from being included in the valuation of the personal property of such person or corporation in the assessment of taxes imposed by order of State authority, *at the place where such bank is located, and not elsewhere.*"

The State law of 1867 provides, that taxes on shares of stock in National Banks *shall be assessed at the place of residence of stockholders.*

There is a manifest discepancy in these two provisions, which the courts may find a way to reconcile if a case should arise calling for a solution, though we think that in this great violence would have to be done to one or both the provisions. A bill is now under consideration in Congress which provides that stock in National Banks may be taxed at the place of residence of the respective stockholders, provided they reside in the State in which the bank is located, and with which they are connected. If this bill should become a law, we presume it will, if it will measurably remedy the discrepancy referred to.

As the laws now are lands and tenements are exempted from assessments for State purposes, but carry, by far the larger part of the local burdens, while capital invested in banks, railways, insurance and manufacturing companies contributes most of the proceeds required for State uses under this arrangement. More than half of the income of the State is collected in Philadelphia. There is no vital objection to the continuance of this rule provided the actual burdens of each of these forms of property are substantially equalized. It would, indeed, be more satisfactory to many minds if all kinds of property should be made liable to the same levies and in the same proportions; but there are practical difficulties in the way.

Hitherto it has been found difficult, if not impossible, to make capital in the form of money pay its proportion of taxes, while real estate is palpable and cannot be concealed. The result is that capitalists who are best able to contribute to the support of government pay ratably to their means less than men in more moderate circumstances. A laborer, mechanic, or tradesman, who has a house, shop or store cannot escape the tax-gatherer, while his rich neighbor may have tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars invested that the existence of them cannot be readily ascertained. Exact equity is scarcely attainable, nor is it desired by persons who take comprehensive views of taxation. What is essential is that substantial justice be done.

It will doubtless be found impossible to dispense with the State tax on real property unless the tax on bank shares shall be rendered available. If it should become necessary to restore the State tax on lands a thorough scrutiny of all parts of the existing system will be demanded and enforced; and the result of this will be that money capital will not escape as easily as under the proposition to make it pay one per cent.

—The Commission appointed to revise the tax laws, were expected to report a bill covering this matter; but their report, as far as published, does not contain it, though the table of contents does. It is probably a supplemental report will embody it.

SEVERAL of the Philadelphia newspapers denounce the Petroleum Inspectorship bill in most vigorous terms, as tending to drive trade from that city to New York. The marvel is not that they condemn it, but that they did not commence sooner.

PRESIDENTIAL.

The Missouri *Democrat*, which has hitherto opposed the nomination of General GRANT to the Presidency by the Republican National Convention, has changed its tone, and now, notwithstanding consents, but warmly expresses its claims to the candidacy. It says:

"When General GRANT's nomination for Presidency now is, we earnestly expect to see a victory by a majority of the people. When his nomination was urged because it would place the unsullied name of the hero of a million of men in the van of any kind of a contest, it was not the Democratic party alone that opposed it. No party can afford to buy necessary votes at the cost of disciplined or disabled friends.

"But circumstances have changed. Clouds have obscured Grant's fidelity have rolled away. We find that the son, though hidden, was steadily shining. His nomination is no longer urged for the sake of expediency only. We no longer are told that his name will bring to our standard those whose accession were weakness. General Grant is being placed in events outside, in such a position as to command the hearty support of those who fight for principles alone. His nomination is now urged on the ground that he represents, more truly than any other possible candidate, the radical element of the Republican party."

So the Republican ranks close up. There is no longer any question or hesitancy as to who shall hold the place on the Republican ticket. The debate is confined exclusively to the selection of the best man, all things considered, for the second place.

The Republicans of New York, in their State Convention, expressed a decided preference for GOV. FENTON. He has proved himself a true man and an able administrator, and if this preference should be ratified at Chicago there would be no holding back from accepting the choice, by Republicans anywhere.

In Pennsylvania three names have been presented for the vice-presidential honors—those of GEARY, CURTIN and GROW. Alike estimable in private life, and richly endowed by nature and experience for official usefulness, they have each special and distinct claims upon the public confidence and upon the support of the Republican party. Hence it is difficult to institute a comparison between them. Each has filled the peculiar situations to which destiny and the voice of the people assigned him, and filled them well.

GOV. GEARY is the only one of the three with a military record behind him. This is most brilliant—honorable to himself as his services were eminently useful to the nation. It was this record that drew towards him two years ago the sympathies of the people of his native State, and secured his elevation to the gubernatorial chair. In the canvass he developed unexpected oratorical powers, and dealt with intricate questions of national concernment with the cogency and power of an experienced statesman—showing that in his meditations, whether of the study or the field, he had mastered problems of deepest significance. In his administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth, he has so enlarged his reputation as to create a demand for his promotion to the broader field of national service.

MR. A. G. CURTIN has entirely different antecedents. A lawyer by profession, he has been many years in the civil service of the Commonwealth. It was his lot, and the happiness of the people, to be in the gubernatorial chair when the Rebellion broke out. The eloquent popular orator soon disclosed superior capacities for administration, for grouping the people, for enlisting popular confidence; and for concentrating all the resources at command upon a single object. Not only in Pennsylvania, but throughout the Union, was his molding power, like that of NAVARRE, recognized. I in the van of the contest. Upon it rose and fell the hopes and expectations of our people. No loyal heart will ever forget the magic of that plume, or fail to recognize the tones of that superb voice that in many a great emergency was worth ten thousand men.

Mr. GROW has never been identified with State politics or administration. Chosen speaker of the House of Representatives, Congress at Washington, he rose to the Speakership of the House of Representatives. Solid and luminous rather than dashing and brilliant, his career makes its appeal to the judgments and esteem of the unbiased minds of his fellow citizens. Clear-sighted, substantial, true to his convictions, and the man to stand at the pole, there never has a shadow of doubt or uncertainty rested upon his character or conduct.

Upon which of these three the choice of the State Convention will fall, it is not easy to foresee. Nor is this necessary at the purpose before us. The contest between the respective supporters of these distinguished men is not acrimonious, but evinces a spirit of obstinacy rivalry which augurs well for the harmony of the party. Upon whichever of them the chance may fall, it will be worthily bestowed, and if that choice shall be ratified at Chicago there will be no hesitancy among the Republicans of Pennsylvania in accepting it as a decision inevitable from conflicting claims where the balance was so nice as to leave the result to Fortune.

REPORT avouches that General WE CLEMAN is to succeed MR. ADAMS as Minister to London, provided the Senate will concur. The retiring Minister is regarded in Europe, as perhaps the ablest representative this country has ever had. His career has been proportionately successful. Illustrious by birth, attainments and services, he will carry into retirement not only the respect of his country, but the regards of all abroad with whom he has come into social or official contact. His prospective successor is conspicuous for failure. In the chaos of affairs, by accidental or fortuitous circumstances, elevated to a high and responsible rank for which neither experience or genius fitted him, he proved an architect of disaster, beyond parallel in history. Found wanting in the common profession, for which he has capacities, for anything, it is now seriously proposed to confer him on a fresh career, requiring peculiar natural attitudes as well as special training, the possession of which he has never indicated. This may be taken as a sad example of party infatuation.

WITH such uniformity has the result followed, that as soon as a man has been convicted of counterfeiting the national currency the public has confidently looked for his speedy pardon by President Johnson. And this expectation has not been disappointed. Almost every offender of this class has been set at liberty, to renew his crimes. The whole number thus treated approaches one hundred. Is it sympathy that moves the President to this reckless clemency? Or do considerations, not of weakness, but of a still more flagrant character, control him?

—Thaddeus Stevens, in an interview with a correspondent, stated that he considered the President liable to impeachment, and that he (Stevens) was not disappointed in the vote in Committee, by which his resolutions were tabled, as his long experience enabled him to know every *counsel* in Congress. When the vote had been declared on the question in Committee, Mr. Stevens said: "The Republican party has been killed by the action of this Committee, at the instance of General Grant and his friends. I have found that for the last two or three days the men who shout the loudest and throw their hats the highest for U. S. Grant have been using every exertion to demoralize Mr. Bingham and the other members of the Committee, who were supposed to favor impeachment. Grant has been using his influence everywhere to defeat the scheme, and that Andrew Johnson has to thank him that he remains undisturbed in the White House. I have been in public life for forty years, and though I do not pretend to any gift of prophecy, I have seldom been mistaken in my predictions. I tell you that to-day's cowardly action will cost us New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and probably three or four more of the Northern States."

—Advices from Hayti state that Soliave's headquarters are now at Grand Riviere. His chief army was defeated by the Cacos rebels on the frontier. Gen. Alexis committed suicide, and Gen. Nord has incurred the mistrust of President Solnave, who deprived him of his rank and honors.

LEGISLATURE.

Review [illegible] bills in short outline part of [illegible] well as reflects [illegible] contain items of this character, in view of the public interest in such intelligence. In the immediate bounds of our circulation, covering a large district of country, the work of revival obtained in most of the churches. Doubtless the largely increased spirit of union among Christians generally, and branches of denominations with the same cardinal doctrines and mode of government in particular, has given an impetus to the work. Among the chief features of these union meetings and conventions is, the united cry to God for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the people. And it is note-worthy, too, that the subjects of these revivals are mainly adult males and frequently the heads of families. We find that many of our churches in the Western part of this State, as well as in Ohio, and West Virginia, lying contiguous thereto, have been usually favored with a work of grace. In the Presbyterian churches at Rimersburgh, Murraysville, New Castle and Mercer, in this State, it has prospered, also at Alliance, Ohio. The same happy condition exists in the Baptist church at Fayetteville, in one of the eastern counties of this State. During the course of an eleven weeks' meeting in that church nearly one hundred persons professed Christ. Reference was made some days since to the extensive revival in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Johnstown, and also to the highly spiritual condition of other churches in that place. Since then we learn by the *Christian Advocate* that over one hundred and thirty have united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. A. H. Thomas, pastor, at Johnstown. The Greensburg *Herald* says fifty-two conversions have occurred in the M. E. Church at Ligonier, Pa., during the past three weeks. Good news also comes from Clarion of a meeting in the church of that body. Our own city is also being favored with the saving displays of God's power. Meetings for prayer and conference are being held nightly in many of the churches, and not without good results. The noon-day prayer meeting and special services at the Academy of Music on Sunday afternoon, and at night in the Theatre, in connection with services in public halls, are all contributing their part to encourage the work of revival.

It is gratifying to note that the *Herald of Peace*, recently started in Chicago, by the Pennsylvania, which has just been [illegible] Pittsburgh Conference, East [illegible] interesting and [illegible] Churches, with their pastors, each Church being entitled to send three delegates to the stated meetings, which the Association has no control over the different churches represented, yet the influence exerted upon each is very marked and happy. Questions regarding the Congregational polity, and what are the obstacles in the way of revivals or religion, &c., were earnestly and ably discussed. The devotional exercises of the meeting were very interesting and tender, manifesting the presence of the Holy Spirit moving upon all hearts.

WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE.

The officers of the House of Refuge have made their fourteenth annual report, and it is one of unusual interest. We find, in referring to the report of the Treasurer, that the expenditures last year were $41,023 less than the income, which was $81,990.74. Of this money nearly fourteen thousand dollars went for salaries; between eleven and twelve thousand for repairs, which were necessary; twenty-nine thousand for supplies; sixteen thousand for loans, and the remainder for various smaller expenses. At the opening of the year 1867 there were 255 inmates, 88 of whom were colored; 139 were discharged during the year; 125 were received; and there are now 241 in the asylum; 22 of whom are colored; 188 boys and 33 girls. Of those received during the year, 80 are from Allegheny county; 5 returned voluntarily; 4 are from Beaver county, and the rest are from the various counties of this district.

Since the opening of the institution there have been 1,601 inmates; 1,374 boys and 550 girls. Of these 1,376 were from Allegheny county. The off-race for which most of these were committed was incorrigibility; but there were also 400 for larceny, 243 for vagrancy, 126 for vicious conduct, 67 for prostitution, 15 for intemperance, 5 for burglary, 5 for assault and battery, 3 for horse stealing; 2 each for arson, embezzling, forgery, rape, attempt to commit rape; and one each for attempted suicide, attempted burglary, false pretense, and passing counterfeit money, thus showing an incongruous and sickening array of crime, from which it is wonderful the superintendent has been able to bring such order, precision and virtue, although the inmates are under physical subjection. The final disposition of such offenders is rather of interest; 623 of them have been released on parole; 476 were indentured, 289 returned to their friends, 56 escaped, 2 of the boys became insane, and one of the girls married, 34 died, 27 collisted, 18 more sent to the almshouse, 10 became of age and were therefore discharged, 5 were taken out on writs of habeas corpus, and 110 were discharged as unfit subjects, 50 of them were foreigners, and 1,571 were Americans, the greater number of whom were born in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia.

The greatest number was committed at the age of fourteen; more above that age than below it.

$2,786.39 was received for the work of the year during the year 1867. Deducting cost of material and overseer's salary. The net proceeds of this labor was $702.13.

The girls were just as industrious as the boys, though their work is not valued in the report; but 2,090 stockings were darned, 3,960 shirts repaired, 450 shirts and vests made, 200 jackets and 300 pants were made, and a large number of other garments sheets, pillow cases, etc., were made and repaired, besides washing, ironing, and general house work.

The health of the institution has been remarkably good. There has never been an epidemic in the house. Five deaths occurred during last year, all of diseases contracted by going into the asylum. The schools have been in a flourishing successful, and benefitted soldily most of the pupils.

There is a library in the institution, consisting of 1,100 volume, 177 of which were received during 1867. Besides this there is a separate library of 290 volumes for the use of the girls. The reports of all the offices are highly satisfactory, and the prosperous management of such an institution as this is always a subject of congratulation, as the number of outlaws is reduced and good citizens are multiplied thereby.

LINCOLN MONUMENT.

The Washington *Chronicle*, in speaking of the proposed national monument to be erected at the Capitol, in memory of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, at a cost approximating three hundred thousand dollars, says:

"The monument is designed to commemorate the Signing of the Proclamation of Emancipation. It is proposed that there shall be of granite, and figures bronze. The whole structure is to be sixty feet high, surmounted by thirty-five colossal figures. Its construction will be peculiar, the base of which admits three groups, presenting, in the centre, first (to the right) presents slavery in its most perfect state, as when brought to our shores. Here we behold the nude slave, deprived of all which tends to gladden the heart with any spirit of pride or independence, and led by the cords of slavery. The second represents a less abject stage. The slave here is partly clad, more ordained, and hence, relaxing his bondage, stands with a look of freedom. The third (behind) is the freed slave, redeemed from bondage by the blood of Liberty, who, having struck off his shackles, holds them aloft triumphantly aloft. The slave is picturesquely gratefully bowing at her feet. Between these groups are statues in relief. First represents the firing on Fort Sumter. The other two present the Senate and House amending the Constitution. The second story, first group, represents the members of the Cabinet in council, as the result of the firing on Sumter. Below is pictured despending; points towards Europe, as though explaining the importance of the act. The second group, the principal leaders of the emancipation cause. The third, the fall of Richmond and surrender of Lee. The crowning figure is the President in the act of signing the proclamation. In his feet are Liberty and Justice; while behind stands Fame, watching the hour glass, disclosed, as it were, from Heaven. At the base or the steps leading to the centre structure are represented the leading commanders of the army and navy.

LITERARY NEWS.

—Frank Leslie, it is stated, has offered Mayne Reid a very large price for a romance for his *Illustrated News*.

—A new dramatic paper has been started in New York by Paul Nicholson, the dramatic critic of the *World*. The new paper is called *Town and Country*.

—Mr. Payne Collier has reprinted, for private circulation, a volume containing some twenty-five of the broadside balck letter ballads, with fac similies of the original wood cuts.

—Earl Russell has written, and will soon publish, "A letter to the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, M P., on the State of Ireland," a document which will be read with great interest.

—Edmund Kirke, it is said, has abandoned literature and settled down to commercial business in New York; literature would not suffer any if this news were true.

—George Augustus Sala has been devoting some of his time to the "Sensational in Art and Literature," a thing which he knows nothing about, at least one receives no sensation whatever from the perusal of his books.

—Mr. W. J. O'Neil Daunt, is the author of a volume entitled "Ireland and her Agitators," which gives biographical notices of some of the most turbulent men the world ever saw, from King Bagenal who fought a duel in his stocking, down to the present time, including of course Bully Egan, who fought fourteen duels during one election at Cork.

INDUSTRIAL.

—Shipping [illegible] more is org inizing vigorously and bids fair to become a power in the monumental city.

—All the workmen of one of the Woonsocket Mills have joined the strike, but the reason has not yet been announced.

—There was a slight decrease in the production of petroleum last month, the average daily production being between thousand six hundred barrels.

—The strikes of last summer resulted in a loss of over one million of dollars to the working men of Chicago, of whom 23,000 are now out of employment.

—Two hundred operatives, principally skilled work people, have been thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the Belkman mills, in Lake Village, New Hampshire.

—23,009,401 passengers were carried over the railroads of Massachusetts during the year 1867. During the five years ending December, 1867, there were 98,914,914 passengers.

—A New York gentleman has offered to be one of twenty men to take $20,000,000 of the stock of the Erie Road, provided Vanderbilt will consent to control the administration.

—The Commercial Convention in Boston adopted a resolution in favor of inviting the "importation of laborers" to this country instead of importing the produce of their labor.

—During the five years of the existence of the underground railway in London it has carried some eighty millions of passengers, at an average speed of sixteen miles an hour, without losing a single life or injuring a passenger.

—The different railways which have placed postoffice cars on their lines, have through a Delegation, applied to the Congressional Committee on Postoffices for more compensation, as at the present rates they find it impossible to run these cars without loss.

—The Journeymen shoemakers had a mass meeting last week in New York. Speeches were made in English, German and French, and resolutions were passed protesting against the proposed twenty per cent. reduction of the present wages, and preparations made for a strike if necessary.

—On Tuesday of last week an iron firm in Cincinnati advertised for four workmen in their line of business. More than five hundred men applied for the position before ten o'clock that morning, and the number had risen to one thousand before the close of the day, a fact which shows what an unusual number of men are now unemployed in large cities.

—"Excepting in the memorable winter of 1854 '55 destitution was never so general in this city as at present," says the New York *Evening Post*, and reports from various benevolent individuals and societies, speak of the unextraordinary privations endured, and of the unprecedented numbers of Americans found needy. Mechanics nightly seek shelter at the station houses, a thing unknown before in the annals of the police.

STATE NEWS.

—Hon. Samuel Hutchins, of Waterford, Erie county, died last Saturday, aged 81 years.

—The Columbia county *Democrat* is no friend of the clergy, whom it calls "the Bloodhounds of Zion."

—The citizens of California, on the Monongahela river, have formed a literary society, which is flourishing.

—The Black Swan is giving concerts in the eastern part of this city. When last heard from she was at Norristown.

—On Wednesday evening next, Wistan is to walk at Titusville, an honor which he properly thinks Pittsburgh is too unappreciative to receive.

—Mr. Adam Hoch, of Kittanning, an aged and respected citizen of that place, died very suddenly on Sunday morning while in the act of stirring the fire.

—It is said that the losers by the burning of Wayne Hall, in Erie, are going to sue the city for damages, because there was no water in the reservoirs.

—Mr. J. Walker, a farmer residing near Benford's store, Somerset county, has just received five shares of the Infantado breed, for which he paid $1,000.

—Mercury was down to twenty two degree a below zero, on the 5th inst., in Clearfield, but he found it so cold that he came up again. Why shouldn't Alaska be admitted after that?

—A small boy, son of Mr. Jacob Qualp, of Greenville, fell through a hole in the ice on the Monongahela river, a few days ago, and was drowned. The body was found a few hours afterwards.

—A strange and fatal disease is raging among the cattle in some parts of the State. The Hanover *Spectator* says that in that neighborhood it is particularly virulent, mentioning one township where twelve head of cattle have died, and that all the rest of the herd, twenty in number, are suffering from it.

—The bureess of New Castle has prohibited the sale of what he calls vicious newspapers, meaning the disgusting issues of the animalculae existing in the rotten fictions of some godless and lascivious wretches in some of the eastern cities. This action on the part of the worthy Chief Magistrate of New Castle is timely and commendable.

—The ladies of the Oil City Episcopal congregation are to have a promenade festival. Pictures are to be awarded severally to the prettiest, the wittiest, the pleasantest, and the most amiable ladies present. An art class chance is afforded for some of our young ladies to take a trip to the oil regions and furnish their picture galleries at the same time.

—Messrs. Johnson and Harold, public spirited citizens of Cambria, presented the books as prizes to the pupils of the high school in that borough. A very pleasant meeting of the pupils and the friends of the school was held, and speeches and songs were in order, when the fall of a stove pipe gave rise to such a panic that fearful results were anticipated. Providentially, however, the house was emptied without accident.

—A fire occurred on Monday last in Uniontown, resulting in the destruction of a considerable amount of valuable property, including the McClelland House, the office of L. D. Beall, Esq., a dwelling house, a barber shop, and a store. A large amount of whisky was distributed among the firemen after their efforts had been successful, and a free fight resulted. The *Genius of Liberty* thus reports it:

They fit and fit;
And scuffed and bit,
And struggled in the mud,
Cut the ground,
For miles around,
Was kivered with their blood.

OIL NEWS.

—The production of the Tidioute district is falling off rapidly, and few new wells are going down. The property in the vicinity of Petroleum Centre, however, is being very steadily developed and in paying quantities.

—The stock of oil in the entire Pennsylvania Oil Regions was stated to be five hundred and forty thousand barrels, on the 7th inst. This includes all in tanks or in the hands of producers, operators or brokers.

—During the month of January, 1868, there were 3,770, 607 gallons of oil shipped from the various ports of the United States, being an increase of 2,239,717 gallons on the same month in 1867.

—Iron tanks now in the capacity of some two hundred and seventy five thousand barrels, is now being erected at various points along the Allegheny river and Oil Creek.

—From January 1st to the 5th of February, 83,642 barrels of oil were shipped over the Oil Creek Railroad.

PERSONAL.

—[illegible] Rev. [illegible] Sunday in Boston, when the [illegible] able to [illegible] Sunday.

—General Banks is still very ill, but hopes are expressed of his speedy recovery.

—Thomas Hitchcock, and not Dana, is the principal leader writer of the New York *Sun*.

—Donn Piatt the politician is the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*.

—Generals Sickles and Cochrane are engaged in stumping New Hampshire for the Republicans.

—Hon. Reuben A. Chapman has been confirmed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.

—Queen Victoria has great faith in the soporific effects of her new book; she has sent a copy of it to every hospital in Scotland.

—The reception of Secretary Welles on last Tuesday evening was very numerously attended, and in point of numbers, at least, a grand success.

—The President has still chances enough for a re nomination to render it politic for a large number of touts and place-hunters to frequent his receptions.

—Doctor Alexis Caswell, who for thirty-six years filled the chairs of Philosophy and Astronomy in Brown University, has been elected President of that institution.

—Mosby, the infamous guerilla captain, is busily engaged, as agent of the United States Emigration Company, in importing a foreign population for the State of Virginia.

—Miss Harris succeeded so well as a substitute in the part of Lucia, in Paris recently, when Patti was taken suddenly ill, that a repetition was demanded, and Patti is horribly jealous.

—General Lee has had presented to him by an admiring Virginiana, "the most magnificent hat ever seen in Alexandria, broad brimmed, high-crowned felt, elegantly trimmed."

—On Saturday evening last the dinner party of Secretary Seward was especially brilliant. Minister Thornton and several other members of the Corps Diplomatique were among the guests.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson has a high opinion of Charles Sumner, he says of him he "has the whitest soul of any man I ever knew" and praise from such a Father Stanley is praise indeed.

—General McClellan and Geo Tucker Curtis are each spoken of as the probable immediate successor to Charles Francis Adams, geese is by all odds the ablest diplomat in the service of the government.

—Super delicate, the eminent French author has been very seriously ill, but is now in the delight of his friends and the general public, fast recovering, a fact which he credits to the use of homeopathy.

—Sir Colin Campbell Kilpatrick, familiarly known as "old Killievalry," is spoken of as the next Republican candidate for Governor of New Jersey. He will return from South America in May, and will stump the State next fall.

—Susan Denin the fair firefly actress who used to be known as the of the Denin Sisters, now stars it alone, has had more husbands than any other woman on the American stage, excepting of course the versatile Mewken.

—When Postmaster General Randall gives a "blow out" all of the Wisconsin delegates attend. It is a good thing for poor Congressmen to have a pat Cabinet Minister from their State.

—A grand banquet is to be given to Admiral Farragut by the Italian officials at Florence. We hope the Admiral finds banquets to be tasty for they seem to be as urgent away from home as for home, in his case.

—Madame Ristori expects herself as before intimated to take her farewell in this country, making New York her permanent home. She is now at Matamoras, but whether she will accept the invitation of the Emperor of Brazil is not known.

—An old woman has just died in the Asylum of La Salpetriere at the age of one hundred and four years. She was a Vivandiere in her youth, and accompanied the campaigns of Napoleon. She went through the Russian campaign and figured at Waterloo.

—Three brothers named Hatch are said to rank among the first greatest sufferers of the world. One is the Secretary of the Wilcox & Gibbs' Sewing Machine Company; another, the manager of the Fairbanks' Scale Company; and the third is the Junior partner in the banking house of Fisk & Hatch, New York.

—Professor Wheatstone is about to be raised to the peerage in England, he already possesses the degrees of D. C. L. and LL. D. conferred by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and is corresponding member of all the principle scientific societies in the world. He is the inventor of the Concertina, the Stereoscope and the Solar Clock, and was the originator of the submarine telegraph.

EPHEMERIS.

—Wisconsin has abolished Kerosene from railway cars.

—The best way to get down from a church steeple is given by a cotemporary in one word—*Perspire.*

—Connecticut used to have blue laws, as every one knows; now it has blue birds as the Hartford *Post* tells us.

—Women are allowed to practice law in Kansas, but this far they haven't done so, though they do fly their pinch it.

—Hogs and donkeys are said to be very scarce in the South. We believe probably that hominy is, but have our doubts about the hogs.

—Eugenie has had so many American friends that she has become passionately fond of shopping, a vice which generally exists in perfection only in American cities.

—California has an eight hour bill. A man once won an elephant in a lottery. California and the man resemble each other in not knowing what to do with their prize.

—The Boston *Journal* says that Mr. Wells's Grant Johnson letter reminds it of the Dutchman's answer when asked his opinion, "I thinks yat you' dinks yat you dinks yat I'm."

—A Toronto paper perpetrated a quiet joke recently when it said that small-pox was raging fearfully in all classes in that city, and that but very few people were aware of the fact.

—The Passamaquoddy Indians are not so liberal as they might be with their officials; they pay their Governor $50 a year, a sum on which he is not likely to live riotously or to save much for the future.

—If General Grant drinks, and we shan't commit ourselves on the question, even the most coppery sheets admit that it is done in a genteel and expensive manner. The *Boston Post* says that he does it only when champagne cocktails are abundant.

—General Sheridan denies that he is to be married, and we really do not believe that any one knows more about it, or can be more interested in it personally than he is. But the New York papers assert that he is to be married, and so we have another fine question of veracity.

—The Cunard steamer on which Mr. Train went to Queenstown made so quick a passage that his agent rent over on a steamer of a rival line, several days before, had barely time to make the proper arrangements for his arrest and G. F. nearly lost the *eclat* he went over for.

—Mr. Eugene Haywood is only twenty-two years old, yet he owns fifty thousand acres of land in Illinois and twelve thousand in Nebraska. His estates equal in size some principalities, and surpass in size that one which was offered by the Emperor of Austria to Napoleon, when but a general, as a bribe or a sop to his ambition.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

European Farms and Farming.

Since there has been a decrease in both the rural population and the number of proprietors in Great Britain. The number of voters, who register on account of property is very strictly diminished during the last thirty years, the total number of voters of that class being something less than four hundred thousand in 1861. This state of affairs contrasts favorably with that of France where there are 4,500,000 proprietors, in England there are not 40,000,) in a population of 27,000,000. The various revolutions have so divided the ownership of France that there are very few large landholders such as are common in England, the average farm is but twenty-seven acres. The whole area of France is about 123,000,000 of acres, but 19,000,000 acres of which are waste and mountainous; more than one-half of the whole area is arable land, and the rest is meadow land, vineyards, orchards and forest. Since 1789 the crop of wheat in France has been increased from 9 to 13 bushels per acre and is still progressive. By reclamation of ground and educated culture the produce of wheat and oats has been doubled, and the annual wheat crop runs about 100,000 bushels more than that of the United States.

The cattle of France within the last fifty years have increased from six and a half millions to more than ten millions. The sheep have increased some three millions in the same time, and now number 32,281,000. The swine are estimated at about 5,000,000. Besides all this France ships annually to England large amounts of eggs, fruit, butter and wine. This great prosperity of agriculture France in spite of the disastrous political revolutions is, says *Prof. Fisher*, mainly owing to the existence of the peasant population. Mr. Fisher ascribes the progress, health and vigor of the French peasants, who consume remarkably little animal food, to "the life-giving properties of their cheap ordinary wine." Such wine is procured for five cents a bottle, consists of pure juice, and adding can improve it in cheapness or flavor.

In Holland farms rarely exceed fifty acres; but Holland sustains comfortably a population of three and a half million, within an area of eight million acres; and in 1862 had some fifteen hundred thousand horses and cattle, nearly a million sheep, and twenty-seven hundred thousand swine. She exports annually from Rotterdam to England more than 365,000 head of cattle, which is about half