The Pittsburgh Gazette

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY. 22, 1868.

It is proposed by the capitalists of Rochester, N. Y., to build, a railroad from that city to the coal and lumber districts of Pennsylvania, making connection with the Erie Railway, thence south to the coal fields.

The vote of the House of Representatives, appropriating fifty thousand dollars to defray expenses in the cases of naturalized citizens imprisoned abroad, is thoroughly right, and cannot fail of receiving general approval.

Abuses in the management of Girard College have become so flagrant that proceedings have been commenced to take the control of the trust out of the City Government and vest it in the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth.

Mexico is fast relapsing into its anarchial habits. Repudiations, pronunciamentos and revolutions are the last notable incidents. The population does not possess the elements out of which a respectable and permanent republic can be educed.

Though the Turks have several times announced the subjugation of the Cretans, that consummation seems further off than it was some months ago. The Greeks have shown much of the fire and tenacity of the ancient stock from which they are descended; and are likely, in the end, to secure a complete triumph over their oppressors.

St. Louis has a noble enterprise in the way of public improvements during the past few years which has enveloped herself in a debt of $. 905,500. Estimating the population at 240,000 heads, and a valuation of $100,000,000, this will give a ratio of $41.26 per capita, and be 9 91 per cent. on valuation — quite a respectable burden under which to rest.

There is promised a needed reform in the distribution of seeds by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Horticulturists will rejoice over this announcement. In days past when they planted what were labeled with high sounding names as favorite rich flowers, they were extremely mortified at seeing stately sunflowers crop up like a Cinderella in gay company.

Lieut. Gen. Sherman, in common with nearly all the other Generals of the army, is evidently dissatisfied with the assault of the President upon General Grant. He has, however, allowed his sensitiveness to carry him to extremes in threatening to resign if he can in no other way avoid taking command of the new district carved out for him. It may be his resignation, under the circumstances, would suit the President better than his acceptance.

A. T. Stewart, the merchant prince of New York, has entered with much spirit into the campaign for Grant. He has already done much good work for the soldier hero. When such men, so largely interested in the finances of the country, lend their time and exertions to the advancement of Grant's claims on the Presidency, weaker capitalists need not hesitate. Mr. Stewart has made a collection of all the journals, and their name is legion, that have expressed a preference for his favorite.

In our advices from Harrisburg it is stated that the Free Railroad Bill has passed the Senate. This means that when the House bill reached the Senate it was amended by substituting for it the bill that originated in that body. It is now apparent, from the strong majority in the Senate in favor of its own bill, that no other can pass at the present session. Either the House must recede, and take what it can get, or get nothing at all. Under the circumstances, we trust it will recede and accept the Senate bill. Though not all that is desired, it is in the main a very good bill. It will shall become a law, and prove so stringent as to prevent enterprises from growing up under it, the popular demand will force a revision.

It seems probable that a connection will be made between the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad and the Allegheny Valley Railroad at Turtle Creek, about twelve miles above this city. This will enable trains of the first named road to run directly into business quarters here and easily to effect a junction with the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad. The depots of the Allegheny road and the Fort Wayne road are close together, so that this arrangement will enable the three connecting lines to use one station, and to make a through schedule, liable to as little delay or inconvenience at this point, as is experienced under the most favorable circumstances elsewhere. Indeed, trains, whether for passengers or freight, can run through from Baltimore to Chicago, or any other point west of this city, without the slightest impediment.

When the Paris Exposition was in progress our country had just commenced to recuperate from the state in which it was left by the long wagoil war against rebellion, and was in no proper condition to enter into a contest with the world at large for honors and prizes in recognition of the handiwork, art and mechanism of her citizens. Notwithstanding that fact, and the various obstacles and drawbacks in other shapes under which she labored in representation, a comparison of the awards demonstrates that we are number one in grand prizes and exceeded every nation excepting France in the general proportion of gold and silver medals and honorable mentions. This is a splendid commentary on the industry and genius of our people, but how great, we ask, would be the triumph over the civilized world had no impediments been offered to full and general representation.

No State in the Union is more sadly in need of mineral and agricultural development than West Virginia. Her broad fields and hill sides have been permitted to remain idle for the want of labor, capital and enterprise. Indeed, up till within a few years back the great majority of the inhabitants of the interior districts of that State had developed no energy or talent, and were but a shade higher in the intellectual order of society than the "poor white trash" of the slave States more distant from free ones. The establishment of the public school system, the influx of men of education and capital who sought new fields of operation, have given higher tone to the people and has aroused them into a full sense of their being part and parcel of an enlightened nation. They are gradually lifting themselves out of the bondage of ignorance and indolence, twin followers of slavery, and a new order of things is about to be established.

West Virginia is rich in mineral wealth. Her hills are teeming with rich deposits of iron, lead, coal and copper, and possibly gold, as that precious metal has been found in quantities sufficient to justify the belief that it exists in abundance. Comparatively little capital has been devoted to the development of the oil fields, but in proportion to the amount expended, her regions have proven formidable rivals in richness of yield and superiority of oil to our own great producing petroleum lands. The day is not far distant when lines of railroad now projected will pass through her interior and afford one of the great arteries of trade of the continent. We see in the future of West Virginia a glory hardly dreamed of now, and but few years will roll away before she is permitted to take her place amongst the most prosperous States of the Union.

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HISTORY OF UNITED NETHERLANDS.

Among the remarkable literary incidents of the current century stands the fact that the best narrators of memorable epochs in the histories of Spain and Holland are citizens of the United States. Mr. Prescott first won renown by his masterly delineation of the period of Ferdinand and Isabella, followed naturally by a graphic and scholarly treatment of the Conquest of Peru. Mr. Motley, starting later, brought out the Rise of the Dutch Republic, following it with the History of the United Netherlands, in four volumes, commencing at the death of William the Silent, and ending with the Twelve Years' Truce in 1609.

It is not exaggerating to affirm that Mr. Motley has entirely surpassed any writer born and educated in Holland in the thoroughness, accuracy and brilliancy of his treatment of these great themes. He was not content to restrict himself to a dry detail of facts in chronological order, but preferred by careful induction to show in what conditions of society, and in what motives of humanuals, particular actions or policies had their origin, and to make the whole glow with a freshness sufficient to restore the impression of a living reality. This is the hardest task of a historian. Any intelligent and dispassionate citizen of our own country who shall attempt to review both sides of the great controversy going on for thirty years between the North and South, and, unfortunately, not yet brought to a close, will feel this difficulty such a task. It is easy to detect the general drift of affairs, but when an attempt is made to go deeper and pry into the secret or occult motives in which special acts originated; to strike through specious reasons and pretenses set up to delude followers and bewilder opponents; and to lay open the actual influences that operated upon, or went forth from, prominent leaders in the contest, then, it is perceived that the task is arderous and delicate, requiring the nicest perceptions and the most exquisite balance of judgment. Time will doubtless remove some of the obstacles that now exist to the prosecution of this study. We are yet too near the scene of action to take in all the details so as to comprehend the relations of the various parts of each other. Passions rise up and bias the understanding. Explanations are still deferred that will come many years hereafter; perhaps not till the present and next generations shall have passed away.

In the History of the United Netherlands Mr. Motley had the advantage of a theme congenial to the natural bent of his capacities, and to all his tastes and habits. Philip II. of Spain was at the head of a most powerful despotism. The whole machinery of government was moved by his single will. Not only allied to the ecclesiastical hierarchy, but imbued with its spirit, he resolved to suppress the rising inclination to doubt, to inquiry, to debate, to reformation; to subordinate all the instincts and aspirations of the people to the despotic rule of monarchs and oligarchs. Against this tremendous attempt the Netherlands stood forth, single handed and alone.

By the edict of 1559 Philip sentenced every inhabitant of the Netherlands to death. The decree included women and children as well as men. By the aid of the Council of Blood, of the municipal officers of which he had the appointment, and the executioners of the Holy Inquisition, his butcheries amounted to as many as eighteen hundred in a week, and ran up to the appalling aggregate of eighteen thousand in the course of six years. While he thus struck at the lives of the people, he enforced a system of Confiscations fell as sweeping as in the madness of passion has been recently proposed in this country, and by which countless families were reduced from comfort or opulence to beggary. Embarrassed by the expenditures his immense enterprizes compelled him to make, he repudiated his debts and contracts, and seized the public properties pledged to the national creditors, which depth of infamy, unhappily, there are Americans who would have our government imitate, without delay or regard.

All this Philip did professedly in the interests of religious orthodoxy and social order, and to make himself the sovereign of one universal and undivided monarchy. The ambition, however censurable, was not ignoble. So great a prize has seldom dazzled a human mind with a possibility of securing it. Equal to the conception of such a scheme, which was favored by the condition of European society, he put forth marvellous efforts to accomplish it. But in France and England his projects were baffled. A new spirit began to stir among the populations. While the old darkness had not disappeared, a fresh light was breaking forth, and destined to increase until it should flood the whole heavens with its radiancy.

But, whatever embarrassments Philip experienced in England and France, the chief impediments that confronted him were in the United Provinces. Liberty there asserted its superior efficiency. Narrow in boundaries, mesgre in natural resources, freedom gave such an impulse to the inhabitants that in spite of the devastations of war they were prosperous and increased in numbers. Various arts of practical industry were developed or domesticated. Individuals and families, persecuted elsewhere, fled thither as into an ark of safety, carrying with them their wealth, and knowledge, and application.

The burghers kept alive the passionate love of liberty. In a recent article we attempted to show that this was a general tendency and a main excellence of popular municipal government. One of these burghers, John of Olden-Barnevald, after the death of William the Silent, and the departure of Lord Leicester, presided with genuine and high statesmanship over the destinies of Holland.

But we cannot follow the thread of the story. Those who have a taste for this department of literature will certainly do that for themselves.

Mr. Motley has not laid aside his pen, but is now engaged in writing a History of the Thirty Years' War, the natural complement of his other works. This will take him over ground much traveled and by eminent authors—among them, latterly, by Mr. Carlyle. His treatment of his new subject will, therefore, afford uncommon opportunities for comparing his performances with that of his predecessors.

The additional bounty bill, passed by Congress and awaiting the signature of the President, provides that if any person or persons entitled to the bounty provided by sections 12 and 13 of the act making appropriations for the civil service, approved July 28, 1866, shall have died, or shall die before receiving said bounty, it shall be paid to the heirs of the soldier, as designated in this act, in the order therein named, and to none other.

The Republicans of Indiana have spoken out in favor of Grant for President and Colfax for Vice President. The resolution was adopted unanimously amidst much enthusiasm. The ranks are daily growing compact and solid for the soldier hero, and we will marvel not should he be made the unanimous choice of the National Convention.

NATIONAL BANK RESERVES.

In October, 1866, it was developed that some fifty of the National Banks in operation throughout the country had an inadequacy of reserve, and were compelling the sound banking institutions to carry more than was required of them in order to keep general confidence in the system. The Comptroller of the Currency urged that the requirements of the law be complied with by the delinquents, which was that twenty-five per cent. be held in reserve by the banks of cities designated for redemption, and fifteen per cent. by all other banks. There was certainly an effort made in the close of 1866 to act on the recommendation or order of the Comptroller, but the profit and advantages to be realized and obtained by an inadequacy of reserve have led many of the banks into their old ways.

From the report of the Comptroller, embracing the statements of the National Banks at the time attention was directed to the insufficiency of reserves held by the defaulting banks, the reserves amounted to $213,941,475, against liabilities amounting to $966,788,929, or 24 per cent. The January, 1868, report of the same officer, while it does not direct attention to the inadequacy of reserves, presents figures from which it is easily educed that the number of defaulting banks has been largely increasing. At the time of that report the liabilities amounted to $833,674,656; the reserves to $189,794,994, or 21 per cent., against 24 in October, 1866. The report is not as concise regarding this subject as its importance to the general community seems to warrant, and he who would know of the increase or decrease of reserves must wade through a sea of figures, and in the end hardly arrive at any definite conclusion. It has been suggested that the Comptroller should, in the future, add to his list of questions sent at stated times to the banks, a query as to the proportion their reserve bears to the liabilities. Answers to this interrogatory could readily be obtained and would develope at a glance the standing and condition of every institution in its relations with the Government.

Presuming that the Comptroller's report discloses the fact that the number of defaulting banks is increasing, and that the system of National Banking is being gradually undermined by divergence from the basis of their strength, it seems highly important that the evil should at once be corrected, and the provision of protection afforded by the law rigidly enforced. Comparatively few examples have been made of banks which permitted their reserves to grow inadequate, but the most potent way to bring delinquents to a sense of duty would be, as we have before suggested, full publicity of their affairs, and especially affording a clear knowledge of their adequacy or inadequacy of reserves. Purdie faith in the different institutions would then be held just in proportion to their own showing of stability, and it would become an object with them to increase rather than decrease their reserves.

AID FOR THE CONNELLSVILLE ROAD.

In the first branch of the City Council of Baltimore an ordinance was introduced, on Tuesday, providing for a loan not exceeding five million dollars to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, with the express understanding that the money shall be applied to no other purpose than the construction of the road from Connellsville to Cumberland. It makes B. F. Newcomer and John W. Garrett trustees to receive and hold as security for the payment of said loan a deed for the entire property of the Company, which is to take precedence of mortgages issued—an arrangement to be effected by the officers of the Company. It provides that the interest now due from the Company, as well as the interest that may accrue and remain unpaid, from this to the first day of January, 1871, on the bonds of the city, be directed to be funded, and that upon the payment of the principal of the bonds, with the interest directed to be added to said principal, together with the interest that may fall due, at the dates stipulated on the said bonds, on both principal and funded interest, from and after the 1st of January, 1871, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations undergone the mortgage of Aug. 4th, 1856. That on the 1st of Jan. 1871, or sooner, if the Company shall sooner declare its readiness to commence the payment of interest on the bonds and funded arrears, the Register of the city be directed to adjust the arrears of interest up to that time, when the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company shall execute and deliver to the Register such an acknowledgment or agreement as the counsellor of the city shall approve, as evidence of the amount on which, in addition to the one million dollars aforesaid, interest is to be regularly paid thereafter by the Connellsville Railroad Company, on account of the interest directed to be funded, are to be dismissed.

The ordinance was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. Its adoption is highly probable.

STATE CONVENTION.

The Republicans of Lancaster county have appointed J. A. Hiestand and R. J. Houston, delegates to the National Convention, and A. M. Dunlap, John E. Wiley, Jacob G. Peters, Wm. M. Wiley, M. H. Shirk and Joseph C. Stubbs, delegates to the State Convention. The National delegates are instructed for Gen. Grant.

The Republicans of Bedford county have instructed their delegates to the State Convention to vote for Grant and Stanton for President and Vice President.

The Republicans of Mercer county, last week elected delegates to the State Convention and instructed in favor of Grant for President, and Curtin for Vice President.

The Republican Central Committee of Venango county met at Franklin on Monday to select a delegate to the State Convention, and also elect conferees to represent the Senatorial and Congressional Districts in Conventions for choosing delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Hon. R. S. McCormick, of Franklin, was chosen to the State Convention. The Congressional Conferees are Hon. M. C. Beebe, of Pleasantville, and F. W. Mitchell, Esq., of Franklin. The Senatorial Conferees are Messrs. E. E. Clapp, of President, and J. R. Campbell, of Oil city. The delegates were not instructed.

The Northumberland county slate quarries are pronounced inexhaustible. Capitalists are investing largely there and the work of developing the lands is being vigorously pushed forward. A railroad connection to bring the product into market is in consideration. The slate obtained is of very superior quality. A bed of very fine yellow ochre has recently been discovered in Lehigh county. The mineral wealth of our State cannot be estimated.

It is a singular fact, and one which does not reflect much credit to the lawmakers of Maryland, that in that State the local insurance companies are taxed from $1,000 to $5,000, while rich London companies are permitted to transact business within her borders, and, indeed, to monopolize a large amount of the business, at $200 per annum.

THE SOUTH.

—The Mercer county (Mo.) *Advance* says there is a great dearth of good mechanics in that district.

—The City Marshall of Bowling Green shot himself through the head on Wednesday last. No cause for the rash deed was known.

—There is a rumor that two gentlemen, Mr. David Ray and Mr. Vancleve, were murdered by illicit distillers in Union county, Kentucky.

—There is in Missouri a city called Louisiana, and it is to have an election in March for Mayor, City Attorney, Treasurer and Marshal.

—In Harrison county (Ky.) the farmers predict very large crops of wheat; while in Franklin and Bourbon, it is thought the frost has ruined the grain.

—The Memphis *Post* asks the question in a manner of hopeless despair, "How many murderers are now aspiring to office in the Conservative party in this State?"

—Cassius M. Clay is once more to appear prominently in the political world. He is going to stump Kentucky for Grant from that State.

—Valuable tracts of improved land have been sold recently in the neighborhood of Holly Springs, Mississippi, for from sixty cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

—The Conservative State Convention met at Nashville Tennessee, and nominated, as their choice Mr. Andrew Johnson for the Presidency. Their choice is about as bad as their taste.

—A petrified butterfly, the head and wings of which were in a perfect state of preservation, was found twenty feet below the surface by some men who were digging a well in Hamilton, Mo.

—Ponds near Montgomery, Alabama, were recently frozen over sufficiently for skating purposes. Search was made, but only one pair of skates could be found in the city, and those in a dilapidated condition.

—The Roman Catholics are erecting a new convent in Brownsville, Texas, near the old one. The new building is to be much more spacious and convenient. The oldone is to be used as an infirmary and hospital.

—A few days ago William Wright Parker was convicted of the murder of William Childress, in Wilmington, North Carolina. The murder was accomplished while Childress was asleep, and Parker will be hanged sometime during the present month.

—A Sedalia (Mo.) paper says that one hundred carpenters and builders, fifty bricklayers, twenty-five stonemasons, three brick yards and a steam planing mill are very much needed in that village, and could find active and continued employment.

—Secession dramatic associations which have been so popular in Wisconsin and Michigan this winter, have had an equal share of popular favor in Missouri. We heard of several villages, among which are Farmington and Sedalia, where these social troupes are making fun and laughter the order of the day.

—While Mr. Larmor and his sister were riding in a sleigh last month something became loose about the harness, Mr. L leaned over to adjust the same, when his pistol fell from his pocket and was discharged, the load passing through his breast killing the driver. Miss Larmor was obliged to drive the sleigh containing her brother's corpse seven miles to Lineville, (Mo.) where they lived.

—They have queer ways of settling bills, and sometimes settling creditor, too, in some parts of the South. Dr. Skinner presented his bill to a Mr. Quick residing in Galveston, Texas. The Dr. had attended Quick during a recent attack of yellow fever and brought him safely through, and for these services the bill was rendered. Quick objected, and that too with a huge knife. Skinner barely escaped whole to the nearest police office where he succeeded in having the pugilistic and warlike Quick arrested and put under bonds to keep the Peace.

Gen. Weitzel, who was appointed to survey the present canal at Louisville, and also for a new one on the Indiana side, in accordance with a bill passed by Congress last spring, has furnished his report. Mr. Eggleston, of the Committee on Commerce, to whom the report will be referred, is said to be in favor of the completion of the project. Weitzel estimates the expense at $933,500, provided the same scale of enlargement already began will be carried out.

The amount of bonds of the Company to be assumed by the Government, provided it took possession, he reports at $1,570,000. From this he deducts $200,000, which the Company have expended, and makes the total to Government $2,303,500. He presents three plans for new canals on the Indiana side, at a mean cost of $3,695,000, and recommends the Government to undertake to complete the present enlargement of the old canal, and also to build a new one on the Indiana side. His principal reason for the new one is, that even if the present enlargement is completed, the Kentucky side is considered, the locks will be too small for the larger sized boats. He estimates that if both are ordered, two million dollars will be needed the first year, if the completion of the old canal alone is agreed upon. There is hardly any doubt but the recommendation for both canals will be favorably acted upon.

The Democrats have not that high degree of admiration for General Grant they professed six months ago. Indeed, few men have been more roundly abused by them than he is at the present time. And this is but the commencement of their rage. When the action of the Chicago Convention shall have made him the Republican candidate for the Presidency, neither his vast services nor his well-earned renown, will avail to shelter him from the gathering storm of obliquy and defamation.

—Mr. Bergh of New York is too absurd; he really ought to be remonstrated with. He is president of a society to prevent cruelty to animals, and in that capacity does the most preposterous things. Last week he had actually the foolish temerity to have a driver of a street car arrested, because he beat his horses with a board. There were two horses and they had only one car to pull. To be sure the car had more than *ninety* people on it, and the grade was heavy and the rails icy, but then they had no business to fall down, and it was not until they did that, that the driver beat them, and Mr. Bergh had him arrested.

—Frederick Gerstecker, the renowned German traveller and author, was in Cincinnati during the prize fight in which Aaron Jones was defeated. He, in writing to the *Kreiner Zeitung*, says he finds it strange that such things should be allowed in a country where a horrible outcry is raised if one drinks a glass of beer on Sunday, particularly as the field where the fight took place was rented for that purpose by a Baptist preacher.

—A strong Russian squadron is being fitted out for the alleged purpose of escorting the Grand Duke Constantine on a visit to his daughter, the Queen of Greeks. Turkey does not like such escorts so near Crete.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

—Senor Jose Jacinto De Frias, an eminent agricultural writer, died early this month at Havana.

—General Salinave's reign in Hayti was very short. Gen. Solomon has been appointed as his successor.

—Bulgaris seems also to be indulging in revolution, and Turkey has to keep troops to watch the border.

—Prince Achille Murat and the Marquis de Gallifet are going to fight another duel and all about Cora Pearl.

—Don Carlos Garcia, a daring and terrible bandit, in Cuba, has applied for pardon to the Governor General.

—The French official journals flatly contradict the rumors of changes in the cabinet, so we may expect them shortly.

—The *Osservatore Romano* denies that the Pope ordered the Italian Bishops to offer *Te Deum* in honor of the recent Papal victory.

—Mr. Tennyson has become a regular contributor to the periodical press, writing three poems a month for as many different magazines.

—The dispossessed Italian princes met recently at the house of the ex-King of Naples in Rome and proceeded to concoct a common policy.

—A Chinaman was executed in Havana on the 7th inst. He had previously been convicted of the murder of a policeman, and this was the result.

—New Russian regulations permit but two war vessels of a foreign power to remain in a Russian port at one time, and to remain but two weeks.

—Lord Stanley is spoken of as the probable successor of his paternal relative Lord Derby in the duties and emoluments of Premier of England.

—Gen. Marquez is about to publish in Havana a pamphlet, the object of which will be to justify his conduct during the imperial sway, and to prove that he was loyal to Maximilian.

—Cholera has again appeared in Cuba. From the 1st to the 4th inst. there were fifteen cases in Havana, all of which proved fatal. In the Cabinas district it is raging with unusual violence.

—On February 5th the Emperor and Empress of Austria were received with loyal enthusiasm by the people of Pesth, who voluntarily illuminated their houses. The policy of Von Beust is telling well.

—Dean Stanley's new book on Westminister Abbey has recently appeared in London. The book is of course good, but is not large enough. Dean Milman is engaged on a book about his cathedral —St. Paul's.

—General Lersundi has been making a tour of the tobacco districts of Cuba and has met with an enthusiastic reception from the people. He will shortly visit the principal cities of the eastern part of the island.

—Japan is having another revolution, on account of the opening of the ports of that country to the world. Japan bids fair to fall into the ranks with Chili and South America where revolution is the natural state of affairs.

—Some one thinks it would be a good idea to keep a huge fire going on Mont Blanc all the time, and by melting the snow to furnish water enough to supply through pipes the cities of Savoy, Southern France and Italy with drink.

—The young Prince Murate, Princes of blood which is not very blue as yet, are said to be the greatest scapegraces in France, and to be bent on inextricably compromising themselves if possible, in spite of the almost fatherly kindness of the Emperor.

—Mr. Erdan, the Italian correspondent of the Paris *Temps*, says that people have a great error when they suppose that Victor Emanuel is lacking in ability; and that they will very soon have an opportunity of finding out how grievously they have misjudged him.

—There is a lady in Paris who during her daily walks in the gardens of the Tuilleries is constantly surrounded by swarms of various kinds of small birds, who perch on her person, eat from her mouth, and nestle in her hand. The cause of the attraction is unknown.

—The sudden coldness of Napoleon to the Pope is accounted for in the fact that thousands of young legitimists and other political enemies of the empire are flocking and learning the art of war in the Pope's guard, which they scandalously call the new army of Condé.

—The old Archdutchess Sophia, who used to be called the most ambitious woman in Europe, has completely broken down since the death of her favorite son, the Emperor Maximilian. It was principally owing to her diplomacy that Ferdinand abdicated the throne of Austria in favor of her son, the present Emperor.

—The recent riots in Prague arose in the following manner: Herr von Herbst, one of the new Cabinet, was to visit that city on a visit; some of the German students serenaded him. The Tzechechs, or Bohemians, were indignant and collected round the hotel of the minister, when the riots, which gave the authorities so much trouble, began.

—The melancholy news of the death, by drowning, of Admiral Bell, while trying to cross the bar at the mouth of Osacka, (Japan) reached us. He will be received with sadness by all who knew or knew of this gallant officer. He was buried near the mouth of Osacka River, and Lieutenant Reed, who lost his life at the same time, shares his grave.

—The Eastern Indies, jealous probably of the sensation caused by the reported engulphing of Portola in the West Indies, have gotten up a horror which surpasses even the worst romance about that new possession. Fortunately those horrible stories are generally, like personal items, denied soon after they make their appearance. We cannot undertake however, to deny that 20,000 lives were destroyed by a recent earthquake in the Island of Formosa, but we hope that it is not true.

—King John, of Saxony, is going to abdicate. The loss of several of his children, the rather dissolute conduct of his oldest son, and the political degradation which his country has suffered, have all worked severely on him. The death, last summer, of his favorite daughter, the lovely Duchess Sophie, in Bavaria, capped the pyramid of his bereavements, and he is now subject to most distressing spells of melancholy. His son, Albert will be a poor successor to him.

RAILWAYS.

—The Winooska bridge, the scene of the late accident on the Vermont Central Railroad, is restored for the passage of trains.

—The Trempeleau (Wis.) *Record* says the La Crosse, Trempeleau and Prescott Railroad is to be completed and in full operation this summer.

—The West Shore Hudson River road is to run through the Wilkill Valley from Hoboken to Kingston, and thence to Albany. The construction of the road as far as Kingston is an assured fact.

—Cars on the Council Bluffs and Sioux City Railroad reached Woodberry, seven miles from Sioux City, on the 5th inst., and the *Journal* states that the locomotive will be in that place by the 25th inst.

—The La Crosse *Democrat* says work has been suspended on the St. Paul and Chicago railroad, between Winona and St. Paul, and men ordered to be retained on pay until railroad matters are straight ened out in that State.

—The Peori (Ill.) *Transcript* says the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell county, on Wednesday, ordered that an election be held in that county on the 17th of March, to vote on the question of subscribing $100,000 in stock of the Pekin, Lincoln and Decatur railroad. We understand the people of Delavan will vote on the proposition for a township subscription of $30,000 to the same road, and that the city of Pekin proposes to vote a subscription of $70,000.

PERSONAL.

—Mrs. Lincoln thinks she is not insane.

—Charles Kean is reported to have left $230,000 behind him.

—Somebody asks if the famous "Black Douglass" of history was Fred.

—Miss Bateman is still playing *Leah* with unabated success in England.

—Gen. Barnside has decided to run once more for Governor of "Little Rhody."

—There are seventeen aspirants for the Congressional nomination in the Third, Iowa, District.

—Bob Lincoln is to be married to a daughter of Senator Harlan, and not to Miss Harris, as was reported.

—Mr. Frederick Douglass says that he has reason to believe that he is the son of a United States Senator.

—Judge N. Holmes, of the Missouri Supreme Court, has been tendered a professorship in the Harvard Law School.

—Gen. Phil. Sheridan is thirty-seven years old. He was born at Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, on the 6th of March, 1831.

—A portrait of Fred. Douglass spoils the sale of Mrs. H. B. Stowe's new book; but she refuses to have it removed.

—It is thought the Hon. N. P. Baldwin will receive the unanimous nomination for Governor from the Republicans of Michigan.

—General Albert Pike, the poet, soldier rebel and rapscallion, is a step son of Paul Pillsbury, the man who invented shoepegs.

—Hon. J. B. Macdonald has refused the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario and has been tendered a seat in the Dominion Cabinet.

—The ladies of Cork presented Mr. George Francis Train with, what they considered a suitable present, a boiled blood puddling.

—The Daveoports who have been fully exposed so often, still travel, and draw large houses. When last heard from they were at Marseilles, France.

—Queen Victoria devotes a great deal of her time to knitting, so that employment has become very fashionable among English ladies of a certain age.

—Col. A. M. Tyler was engaged, with a number of assistants, at Rolla, Mo., on the 10th inst., in removing the bodies of Union soldiers buried there during the war.

—Garibaldi is very ill at Caprera and fears are entertained that he will never recover. Hope deferred has made his heart sick beyond the reach of medicine.

—Judge Billington was executed for murder near Boston, in Plymouth County, early in the seventeenth century. It was the first execution for murder in this country.

—Gen. Sheridan's denial of his engagement to Miss H——n is now understood. He is said to be engaged quietly to be married to Miss Grace Fenton, of Albany.

—Roger A. Pryor, once notorious as a fire eater, in state his own words at a dre eater, was formally relinquished the sword of Mr. Potter's Bowie-knife, is now practicing as a criminal lawyer in New York.

—Tennyson is industrious; he writes seven or eight stanzas every day and rejects a great deal. His annual income now amounts to $30,000, and is steadily on the increase.

—The Marquis de Caux is said to have a fortune of four millions of francs of Jebts.; Therefore, it is said, the Patti has at last been prevailed upon to send him the mitten.

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—The Senator who made his appearance at breakfast at Willard's recently in the costume usually devoted to the hours of slumber, was not Yates as was reported, but Sanisbury.

—Menken (the figure-aunt) sails this month for New York where she will rest for a short time, and then go to San Francisco where she has been engaged to play one hundred nights.

—The first child born of Christian parents in what are now called the United States, was Virginia Dare, in the year 1581. If still alive and unmarried she would be quite an old maid.

—Mrs. Gen. Robert Anderson is likely to get fifteen thousand dollars for injuries done to the plantation of her fathers during the late war. The wreck of Gen. Clinch, in Florida, thirty years ago by the Seminole Indians.

—The ladies of Buda and Pesth have presented the Empress of Austria with a beautiful cradle for the expected addition to the Imperial and Royal family of Hapsburg.

—Fin-ite, who a few years ago so scandalized Germany by her exposure, at the court room, of the proceedings of a prominent member of the Berlin Cabinet, is now doing the can can in London, and is quite disgusted that neither the government nor the police will notice her.

—Mr. Lincoln once said that if there was ever any difference in his cabinet he was always certain to have the member from Connecticut on his side. It is hardly necessary to state that Mr. Welles was that member and that he still exhibits the same readiness to be on the side of the man in power.

—A gorgeous wedding took place in St. Louis on Wednesday. The happy bride wore a $5,000 set of ear-rings and a $750 lace veil. She is worth some $400,000 in her own right, and the groom is about as well supplied with filthy lucre. His present to his bride was worth $10,000. His name is James P. Thomas. He is a barber by profession, and a negro. The wife is a mulatto.

—It may be interesting to some persons to learn a little about the private character of some of prominent men of Mexico. The following was clipped from the private Black Book, a diary kept by one of Maximilian's private secretaries in Mexico, and reveals some serious personal traits of the chief actors in the imperial tragedy in that country. The notorious General Juan N. Almonte, one of the chief promoters of the intervention, is described as "dishonest, avaricious, and revengeful." The savagery of Marbuez is also properly booked, with the remark, "Sent to Jerusalem." Of Miramon, it is told that having once lost at play the money of a company of guilar admission from the Secretary of which he was the captain and treasurer, he drew his sword, and swept all the chips back again into his pocket. Then follows a recount of the way in which he uses his fellow-rascal Zolozaga, took possession of the Government, took the field, levied contributions for the army, and spent the money at the gaming table. O'Horan is set down in black. He was, according to all accounts, a cold and vulgar villain. He sometimes decreed death between cigar-puffs. "General, I am going to shoot you," he remarked to an astonished prisoner, after taking a last swallow of chocolate with him. The General was Marcial Lacunza, and he was shot an hour afterward at Tacubaya.

TRADE AND LABOR.

—A paper mill is to be built at Clermont, Iowa, next summer.

—The Massasoit Mills, at Huntington, Mass., turn out one ton of fine writing paper per day.

—Two cargoes of African peanuts, comprising 15,000 bushels, arrived in Boston last week.

—During the year 1867, 53,490 hides were shipped from New Orleans to New York, and 51,287, from New York to Boston.

—The initatory steps have already been taken toward the erection of one of the largest woolen factories in the west, at Lansing, Iowa.

—Several sales of lumber have been made at Bay City, Mich., during the past week—one of over 1,000,000 feet at $6, $12 and $35.

—Baltimore, the newspapers of that city say, expects to become the first tobacco market in the world when her new European steamship line is in full operation.

—It takes 16,000 bales of cotton, or 6,480,000 pounds, to supply the daily demands of the cotton mills of the world. Of this immense amount one thousandth part is used every day by the Wamsutta Mills, New Bedford.

—Lowell's old title of the "City of Spindles" is no longer its especial due. Fall River exceeds it by 40,000 spindles, and its weekly production, when its mills are in full operation, will surpass that of Lowell by 200,000 yards.

—A pearl machine has recently been invented by Charles Moore, of Springfield, Mass., which can be worked by steam or water power, and can turn out eighty tons of pearl per day. Machines of this pattern will cost from $300 to $500.

—The granite mill of the Granite Mill Company, at Stafford Springs, Connecticut, contains 125 looms, and employs 125 hands, whose joint efforts produce 1,209,000 yards of shirting and sheeting per year, consuming 500,000 pounds of cotton in the work. The machinery is driven by water power.

—At Moline, Illinois, the new works of Minnick & Gould have a capacity of turning out daily 1,500 buckets, 500 wash tubs and 600 wash boards. Deere & Co. are soon to make an extensive addition to their works, and are now turning out over 900 plows per week, besides a large number of sulky plows and cultivators.

The Yosemite Valley—A Monster Juniper Tree—Ruins of Aztec Cities.

From the Alta Californian, Jan. 1.

Mr. J. M. Hutchings, the pioneer, more generally known as the community by name with the great Yosemite Valley, where he now resides, is at present on a visit to San Francisco. He tells us that on his visit to the "Nevada Fall," he, with a companion from this city, succeeded in the ascent of the "Cap of Liberty" peak, to the north of the fall, and there, growing in the fissure of the rock, away up under the very clouds, found a juniper tree, the trunk of which measured ten feet two inches in diameter. When we remember that the juniper, is the most conservative of all tree growth, and at the best a mere bush, we can appreciate the dignity of a tree at least strictly entitled to the dignity of a tree. It was the first execution for murder in this country.

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