Pittsburgh Gazette.

VOLUME LXXXIII. PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1868. NUMBER 153.

FIRST EDITION.

TWELVE O'CLOCK M.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Legislative Appropriation Bill—The Special Tax Bill Passed by the House—Amendment to the Bill Concerning Rights of Naturalized Citizens.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, June 26, 1868.

SENATE.

The CHAIR submitted a communication from the General of the Army, transmitting the papers in relation to the election in Arkansas, which was laid on the table; also, the report of the Commissioners for the revision and consolidation of the statute laws of the United States, enclosing specimens of their labors. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. DRAKE presented petitions against the ratification of the Osage treaty. Referred.

Mr. YATES introduced a bill for the more economical administration of the government in the territories. Referred.

Mr. HARLAN introduced a bill granting the right of way through certain public lands to the Central Pacific Railroad. Referred.

The bill to amend the act for the removal of certain bands of Sioux and Dacotah Indians was passed.

The bill to establish the right of way for Portage Lake and Lake Superior Ship Canal, and to provide for the extension and completion of the same, was amended and passed.

Mr. CONNESS offered an amendment to the bill concerning the rights of American citizens abroad, with which the third section will read: "And be it further enacted, That whenever it shall be duly made known to the President that any citizen of the United States has been arrested and is detained by any foreign government in contravention of the intent and purpose of this act, upon the allegation that naturalization in the United States does not operate to dissolve his allegiance to his native sovereign, or if any citizen shall have been arrested and detained whose release upon demand shall have been unreasonably delayed or refused, it shall be the duty of the President forthwith to report to Congress, if in session, all the circumstances of any such arrest and detention and any proceeding for the release of the citizen so arrested and detained, that Congress may take prompt action to secure to every such citizen of the United States his just rights; but if Congress be not in session, then the President shall be and hereby is empowered to suspend in part or in whole commercial relations with said government, and in case no other remedy is available, to order the arrest and detain in custody any citizen of such government who may be found within the jurisdiction of the United States, and who has not declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, except embassadors and other public ministers and their domestics or domestic servants, and the President shall without delay give information to Congress of any proceedings under this act."

The order of the day, the Legislative Appropriation Bill, was again taken up.

Several minor amendments were agreed to.

One appropriating $15,000 for ten thousand copies of Paschal's annotated Constitution was rejected—21 to 13.

Mr. WILLIAMS offered an amendment abolishing the Bureau of Statistics and transferring its duties to the Special Commissioner of Internal Revenue, providing the Secretary of the Treasury designates a clerk at the same salary as a head of a division, to act as deputy for said business, under the direction of the Special Commissioner. Agreed to.

The bill having passed in Committee of the Whole, the question was on the adoption of the amendments by the Senate.

Mr. STEWART moved to add the Commissioner of the General Land office to the parties whose salaries are increased to $4,500, which was agreed to—26 against 9.

On motion of Mr. HARLAN, the Commissioner of Pensions was included in the increase by a vote of 21 against 19.

An increase to the Commissioner of Indian affairs was rejected—20 against 20.

Amendments increasing the salary of Assistant Secretaries of the Interior and Treasury were ruled out of order.

The amendments as amended were then agreed to—24 against 13.

The bill finally passed.

After a short executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Paine was excused from acting on the Committee to attend the National Shooting Festival, and Mr. Washburne, Wisconsin, appointed in his place.

Mr. PAINE introduced a bill providing for the issue of arms for the use of the militia. Referred.

Mr. SCHOFIELD offered a resolution directing the Clerk of the House to present to the Secretary of State the act admitting North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Adopted.

Mr. HIND, of Arkansas, introduced a joint resolution to extend the provisions of the act of July 4th, 1866, limiting the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims to loyal citizens of Arkansas. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

A bill was passed increasing to fifty dollars a month the pension of the widow of General Hackleman.

Also, a joint resolution directing the publication of statements of National Banks in process of litigation.

Mr. CLARK, of Kansas, presented resolutions of a mass meeting of settlers on Cherokee neutral lands, calling on Congress to protect them in their rights.

The Senate joint resolution donating captured ordinance for a monument to Gen. Sedgwick, was passed.

Mr. BOLES, of Arkansas, introduced a bill for the relief of honorably discharged soldiers. Referred.

The House went into Committee on the Tax bill.

Mr. PIKE'S amendment of last night was ruled out of order.

Some amendments to the tobacco section having been reserved last night, several others were offered thereto, but the only one adopted was one by Mr. WASHBURNE, of Massachusetts, to increase the duty on imported cigars from $2 to $2,50 per pound.

Mr. HOLMAN offered an amendment to the bank sections, to tax interest on United States bonds at 1½ per cent., which was ruled out of order.

Section 108 as to the taxation of banks and bankers, having been read, Mr. POMEROY moved to strike it out.

During the discussion

Mr. SCHENCK said the section was the same as had been acted on by the Committee of the Whole on the last general tax bill, and that it was reported in this bill simply under the order of the House. He, however, deemed it right to say that the pending bill, as compared with the general bill, would cause a deficiency of seventeen million of dollars.

Mr. HOLMAN moved his amendment and it was rejected.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Massachusetts, moved to strike out the clause taxing Government deposits three per cent. per annum. Rejected. The tax on bank circulation was reduced to one per cent.

Finally, however, the whole section was struck out—66 to 53, leaving the tax on bonds under the operation of the present law.

Mr. BUTLER moved an amendment as a new section for taxation on deposits, circulation and interest on U. S. bonds, which was ruled out of order.

The Committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

Mr. SCHENCK moved the previous question, which was seconded.

All the amendments were agreed to without division down to section 108, and the yeas and nays being ordered thereon, the amendment striking it out was rejected—57 to 71.

So the section remains as in the printed bill, unaffected by the subsequent amendments.

Section 109 was restored to the bill.

The bill passed without a division.

During the day Mr. Butler, of Tennessee, had the oath administered to him by the Speaker.

Adjourned.

THE CAPITAL.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, June 26, 1868.

MILITARY GAZETTE.

Maj. Whittlesly, U. S. A., has been detailed as Professor of Military Science at Cornell University, Ithica, New York.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Three months leave of absence has been granted Second Lieut. Loyall Farragut, U. S. A., who joins the squadron of his father in Europe.

CUSTOMS.

The receipts of customs for the week ending the 20th were $2,431,304.

MINISTER TO PARAGUAY.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has agreed to report favorably on the nomination of Gen. McMahon as Minister to Paraguay.

VIRGINIA AFFAIRS.

Gens. Grant and Stoneman had an interview with Secretary Schofield to-day relative to affairs in Virginia.

LEAVE ON A TOUR.

Generals Grant and Dent leave on Monday on a Western tour.

ELECTED DELEGATES.

The Conservative soldiers and sailors last night elected delegates to the New York Convention and passed resolutions in favor of the nomination of Hancock.

SENATE AND THE TAX BILL.

The Senate Finance Committee are already at work on the tax bill and will probably make many amendments, though they will not, unlikely, alter the tax on whisky as fixed by the House.

TARIFF BILL.

It seems probable the Ways and Means Committee will yet report a tariff bill covering some articles in the schedule.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Yates provides that the Territorial Legislatures shall meet but once in every two years, and the next sesion of said Legislatures shall begin two years from the date of the last session. The bill also fixes the salaries of Territorial Governors at $2,500 per annum.

A MUNICIPAL ROW.

At the trial of Major Richards before the Police Commissioner, this evening, on charges preferred by the Conservative Councilmen, a dispute arose between Mayor Bowen and Ex-Mayor Wallach. The former accused the latter of falsehood, whereupon Wallach struck Bowen a heavy blow in the mouth. He was immediately arrested and held to bail to answer a charge of assault and battery.

TOPICS AND GOSSIP AT THE CAPITAL.

Messrs. Johnston and James, Commissioners for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of the United States, have completed a report, which was submitted to the Senate yesterday. They submit as a specimen of their work their revision of the laws relating to patents and copyrights, the army and public printing. The Commissioners say their labors were first directed to the investigation of the plans adopted by other nations for the codification of their laws. They then arrauged, so far practicable, the scattered statutes under their appropriate titles. In the progress of their work, they report that they have found it necessary to write new statutes on all subjects, which they have undertaken and in progress. The work is necessary to show that it will not be possible to complete it within the limits prescribed by the act authorizing the commission.

The Senate adopted as an amendment to the legislative appropriation bill a clause prohibiting the exhibition of statues and pictures in the rotunda of the Capitol.

A movement is on foot among the Democratic politicians opposed to the nomination of a man of the Pendleton or Hendricks stripe to urge Gen. Schofield as a suitable candidate to be brought before the New York Convention.

There is a very strong movement on foot here to secure the confirmation of Perry Fuller as Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The Senate wing of the Capitol is crowded with the trained lobyists, beseeching Senators to vote for his confirmation, and the indications are that some headway has been made, not sufficient, however, to lead to the belief that he can be confirmed.

Petitions continue to flow in from Pennsylvania, asking Congress to take some action on the tariff question at this session. It will be impossible to do so, though it is thought there is an earnest endeavor to finish the tax bill by next Monday in the House, so as to let the Senate pass it by the Fourth of July.

General Grant has received dispatches from General McDowell which indicate that Mississippi has been carried by the Republicans, and that the Constitution is ratified. This news is very gratifying to the Radicals, who did not expect to win the day in Jeff. Davis' State.

Mr. Smythe will be rejected for the Austrian Mission by a very heavy vote.

It is reported that the President has nominated General Rosecrans for Minister to Mexico. He will be confirmed.

Senator Norton is shortly to wed a wealthy, accomplished and beautiful Baltimore belle.

—Rev Dr. Duffield died yesterday afternoon, at Detroit, aged 74. The funeral will take place to-morrow.

SECOND EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK A. M.

FROM EUROPE.

Continued Debate on the Irish Church Question in the English House of Lords—General Amnesty in Spain—The Assassination in Servia.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, June 26.—Prince Alfred has arrived in England, and is now at Windsor.

LONDON, June 27.—*2 o'clock a. m.*—In the House of Lords the debate on the Suspensory Bill was continued. An immense crowd was present on the floor and in the galleries, and great excitement was manifested.

Lord Clarendon regretted that this question was made a party measure. Ireland never had gained anything in the battle field of party politics. He criticised the Irish policy of the late Derby Ministry, and said he distrusted the policy of the present Cabinet. He thought it was safer for the Church to make terms with its avowed opponents than trust no professed friend. If the Church of England fell into a minority, his affection for it would remain; but his conscience would not support it as an established Church. He was in favor of disestablishing the Irish Church, but he would not disendow it. He concluded with the declaration that he should vote for the Suspensory bill. [Great cheering from the Whig benches.]

Lord Redesdale said this bill was a sacrilege, and the Queen's sanction of it ought to be barred by the coronation oath.

Lord Marlborough said the bill was only an effort of the Liberals to gain office at any cost.

Lords Dufferan and Romilly spoke in support of the bill, and the Archbishops of York and Armogy in opposition.

The Marquis of Salisbury said the bill should have been made to exclude future holders of benifices from compensation. As this was not done, he thought the object of its framers was to commit the Lords to some ulterior design. This was no plan of disendowment; but the framers threatened that if it were not passed, worse would follow. If a worse one could be framed they would have done it. He conceived of nothing worse than abolition. The inquiry should be made as to the right of spoliation. If envy and dislike were the reason for it, it would not stop at corporate property. He thought the Fenians would regard it as a sop to the slave. The land and not the Church was their object, and the real badge of conquest of the Lords became an echo of the Commons. They had better not be Lords at all. He wished to yield to the opinion of the people; but if they acted prudently, firmly and independently, they would probably interpret the wish of the people better than the Commone have done.

The debate was then adjourned.

The Reform bill for Ireland was read for the first time in the Lords, and adjournment took place.

SERVIA.

BELGRADE, June 26.—The late Prince Michael left a will appointing his sister and two nephews his heirs. The evidence elicited at the preliminary examination of the assassins of Prince Michael implicates Prince Kara Georgwich in the conspiracy.

PORTUGAL.

LISBON, June 26.—A general amnesty has been declared in favor of those persons who participated in the political riots and disturbances last winter.

MARINE NEWS.

LONDON, June 26.—The steamer William Penn, from New York, arrived to-day.

QUEENSTOWN, June 26.—The steamer Virginia, from New York, has arrived.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, June 26.—Consols, money, 94⅛ @94⅜; account, 94⅜@94⅝; bonds, 73¼; Illinois, 101⅜; Erie, 45¼.

FRANKFORT, June 26.—Bonds, 77⅛@ 77¾.

LIVERPOOL, June 26.—Cotton firm and more active; sales 15,000 bales uplands at 11¼@11⅝, Orleans 11⅛@11¼. Market at Manchester firm. Refined Petroleum heavy; spirits 1s. Sugar 25s. 9d. Others unchanged.

ANTWERP, June 26.—Petroleum 47.

CHICAGO.

Meeting of Ticket and Passenger Agents — Whisky Manufactured in Cook County.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

CHICAGO, June 26.—A meeting of general ticket and passenger agents, representing twenty-two Western railways, was held in this city to-day, to take action on the recent demand of the Eastern Trunk lines for a *pro rata* division of through passenger receipts regardless of local rates. A committee of eight was appointed to prepare a reply, and the meeting adjourned to wait the action of the committee.

Twenty-three distilleries in this county during the five months ending June 1st manufactured over eight thousand barrels of highwines, on which they paid a tax of over six hundred thousand dollars.

Margaret Tucker, of Newport, Lake county, Illinois, died yesterday from the effect of burns received the day before by the upsetting of a kerosene lamp.

J. M. McKinney and J. S. Barr were run over by a freight train near Bonaparte, Iowa, on the Valley Road, last night. The former was killed and the latter will probably die.

The Southern Illinois Educational Convention, in session at Carbondale, ceased its labors to-day. About three hundred teachers and school officers have been in attendance, representing at least thirty counties.

The Mississippi Election.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

JACKSON, June 27.—A colored Democratic club from Brandon, numbering three hundred, is here to encourage colored Democrats to-morrow. A torch light procession two miles in length paraded to-night. The Democrats claim 2,500 majority in the State. Ten counties give Democratic majorities of 500 to 2,000 each. The Republicans have gained four of the river counties. The Democrats allow them all the river counties, ten in number, but none of the inland counties.

Arrest of Postoffice Clerks.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

CLEVELAND, June 26.—A number of clerks in the Postoffice at Cleveland were arrested yesterday, charged with stealing letters. An examination will be had on Wednesday.

ST. LOUIS.

Gen. Sherman's Views as to the Indians—A Son of Kit Carson Adopted.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

ST. LOUIS, June 26.—Gen. Sherman is reported to have said in a conversation yesterday that there is nothing to be apprehended from the Indians on the plains; that they are quiet and peaceable, and that more murders are committed in any large city than by the Indians. The General has adopted a son of late Kit Carson, and will send him to the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, to be educated.

Gen. E. B. Brown, member for Missouri of the National Committee of Soldiers and Sailors Constitutional Union, Col. Broadhead, and other prominent members of the Missouri delegation to the Democratic National Convention, left for New York to-day.

International Convention Young Men's Christian Association.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

DETROIT, June 26.—At the morning session of the International Convention a great number of resolutions on a great number of subjects were introduced and referred to appropriate Committees.

The subject of lay preaching was taken up. The discussion was opened by Major Lloyd, of Cincinnati, and continued at considerable length by Mr. Reynolds, of Peoria, Illinois, Judge Culver, of Illinois, Mr. Dougall, of Montreal, Mr. Patterson, of Chicago, Mr. Gallagher, of Brooklyn, Gen. Howard, Mr. Walker, of Vermont, and many others.

Between sessions the friends of Sunday Schools met and decided, after a lengthy debate, that the International Convention delegates consider Sunday School interests and that it ought to become a continental institution. A committee was appointed to report a plan for such to-morrow.

On re-assembling the President announced the death of Dr. Duffield. Hymn, prayer, appropriate remarks, and a committee of three appointed to convey to the family assurance of the sympathy of the Convention.

Resolutions were adopted continuing the present Executive Committee another year, appointing the second Sabbath in November for special prayer by Associations, and appointing W. E. Dodge, Jr., New York, delegate to European Associations and Dublin Conference Y. M. C. A.

The Convention discussed "What service in a direct line of Christian action has most tended to develope and foster associations in small towns, villages and country districts?" Without coming to a decision thereon the Convention adopted a resolution heartily endorsing lay preaching, not because it considers laymen better preachers than clergymen, but because preaching to the whole world is too large a work for ministers alone and too important to be left undone, and recommending that Associations appoint for the work as many of their members as is thought necessary and competent.

At the evening session resolutions were adopted expressive of the feelings of the Convention at the death of Dr. Duffield.

The question, "What is the relative position of prayer, holy living and systematic personal effort as elements of success in association work?" was debated the entire evening.

The proceedings were very interesting throughout and the attendance large.

New York City Matters.

NEW YORK, June 26.—Sulzerberger, another of the whisky conspirators, was sentenced to pay $5,000 fine and to ten days imprisonment.

James W. Winter was sentenced to thirteen months in the Penitentiary and $3,000 fine for forging checks on the Sub-Treasury. Several other parties were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment for defrauding the United States by false certificates.

It is reported that Gov. Seymour is to be President of the National Democratic Convention.

General O'Neill caused the arrest to-day of the Editors of the *Irish Republic*, for publishing a statement from Washington that General O'Neill had been suspended from holding communication with the War and Treasury Departments, for presenting fraudulent claims. The hearing of the case is set for July 12th.

THE grasshopper plague is devastating Western Iowa, in a fearful manner. A friend who has just come in from Sioux City informs us that for a space of about one hundred and fifty miles wide, extending from southwestern Dakota—chiefly between the Des Moines and Missouri rivers—to the southern boundary of Iowa, there will be scarcely a wheat field left exempt from total destruction by these vermin. They fill the air and cover the ground, making a constant sound like that of a heavy shower. They sometimes gather over night in such myriads upon the track of the railroad, as to *stop the train* by lubricating the track when crushed by the wheels. They devour wheat first, and afterwards take to oats and weeds, leaving grass and other crops comparatively unharmed.—*Chicago Post.*

A SOUTHERN Impartial Suffrage Club has just been formed in New York for the professed purpose of upholding, in the impending Presidential election, the justice, wisdom and necessity of the policy of impartial suffrage and equality before the law, applied by Congress as the fundamental condition of Southern reconstruction. The members of the organization are Southern men, born in the South, formerly slave owners, many of whom served in the Confederate armies.

—The first locomotive on the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad was dedicated on Thursday at St. Paul, Minnesota, with imposing ceremonies, and amid a large concourse of people. The tracks are laid for four miles, and the work is being pushed on with vigor. The road is expected to be finished to the head of Lake Superior in two years.

—Mr. William Faxton, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, has written a letter to a Hartford paper, in relation to the alleged fraudulent sale of the iron-clads Catawba and Oneota, that after a vain endeavor to get bona fide bids on the vessels, they were finally purchased at their appraised value.

—Several meetings of workingmen were held in New York on Thursday. The clothing cutters are preparing to demand twenty-four dollars per week instead of twenty dollars which they now receive, and the piano munufacturers propose to assist the bricklayers in their strike.

—Following the confession of Mrs. Victore, in Cleveland, for the murder of Wm. Parquet, the Connecticut Life Insurance Company has commenced suit for the recovery of money paid as insurance on Parquet's life, and attached all the property known to be his.

EDUCATIONAL.

Commencement Exercises of the Second Ward Public School—An Interesting Occasion—Leave Taking With the Principal and Presentations.

The Public School of the Second ward has long enjoyed enviable reputation, and has been justly regarded equal to many of the best private Colleges and Academies in the Commonwealth. The ward is not a populous one, being largely taken up with business houses and manufactories, so that the class rooms are not overcrowded with pupils, there being an average attendance quite inside the capacities of the school. The annual commencement exercises are marked with a degree of proficiency and learning which renders them highly attractive and inviting to the friends of education in the city as well as to the parents and immediate patrons of the school. It was not singular therefore that on the occasion of the commencement yesterday a large and highly intelligent and appreciative audience assembled in the main school room to participate in the exercises. The boys and girls of the various departments were handsomely attired for the occasion, presenting as bright and charming an array of happy, youthful, pretty faces as we have ever seen together. The exercises commenced with a few pertinent introductory remarks by Prof. McCrum, the Principal, after which the pretty and inspiriting vocalization of "Hail this happy day" was rendered in pleasing and faultless style by the scholars, who under the direction of Prof M'Cabe, have made admirable progress in that popular branch of common school education. Miss Meggie Wilson read a poetical selection in clear and pretty style, and was followed by Master J. S. Arnold in a spicy and humorous declamation, in which he acquitted himself with much credit. Miss Mary Cunningham, a sprightly, intelligent pupil, read a fragment of poetry in very good manner. Miss Julia De Lange next read a difficult and intricate poetical gem and displayed unusual powers of elocution, giving full and fine effect to every line and sentence. Master George Cunningham read a prose selection with animation and acquitted himself nobly. We believe we have mentioned all of the scholars who participated in the programme, which was here and there interspersed with choice musical offerings by the entire school. At the conclusion of the exercises Prof. Macrum delivered his farewell address to the pupils, announcing that his termination with the school followed the day, his resignation, that he might enter into a new sphere of life, having been accepted by the Board of Directors. He expressed himself as deeply pained to part with the lady associates of the school who had contributed so much towards its success and the careful and thorough training of the scholars. It was a sad task to bid a final adieu to the many radiant faces about him, and the good hearted Principal well nigh broke down in his farewell address to those for and among whom he has so faithfully and zealously labored during the past few years. Many there were more than the scholars and lady teachers who felt the tears forcing themselves adown their cheeks at the parting of a dearly loved Principal with his pupils.

When he had taken his seat, Master Theodore Black, in a well-chosen little speech on behalf of the scholars of the boys' pri[illegible] Jennie Allen and Miss Hattie Lewis, presented him with a beautiful full set of elegant French china. Then little Miss Lizzie Carnahan, in the prettiest and neatest manner imaginable, presented him, on behalf of the girls' room in charge of Miss Anna Curry, with magnificently framed twin portraits, by Marshall, of George and Martha Washington. Next came a beautiful rosewood writing desk from the girls' primary department of Misses McNeal and Marshall. Then Miss Katie Samson rose and in a pretty way addressed Mr. McCrum and on behalf of the scholars of Miss Thompson's intermediate department, presented him with an elaborate landscape oil painting. On behalf of the first class, Miss Kate Porter, in a voice moved with feeling and emotion, and in a few well selected words, presented an elegantly framed cabinet sized photographic group of the portraits of the members of that class. Then followed in this unexpected shower of beautiful presents several costly volumes from the lady teachers, and the recipient was overwhelmed in his endeavors to respond to all the kindly addresses directed to him. He succeeded, however, admirably, under the circumstances, in expressing his deep gratitude to the generous donors. By invitation, the following gentlemen briefly addressed the scholars: Professor Gourley, Professor Douthett, Professor Patterson, of Lawrenceville, Professor Crane of the Western University, Prof. Still, of the Second ward, Allegheny, Prof. Curry, Normal Institute, Prof. Andrews, of Robinson township, Dr. Biddle Arthurs, John Wilson, Esq., and James Black, Esq. These gentlemen all took occasion to pay tribute to the worth of the retiring Principal and the high character of the Second Ward School as a place of popular education.

In retiring from his position Prof. McCrum carries with him the best wishes of the entire educational community as well as the earnest prayers for his welfare by the scholars he is leaving.

Closing of the Fourth Ward Public Schools —Interesting Occasion.

The closing of the Fourth Ward Public Schools, Allegheny, yesterday, was a very interesting and pleasant affair. The time had been looked forward to with great delight by all, and when it arrived it was made the occasion of a general jollification. In the first precinct the scholars gathered in full force about ten o'clock in the morning, and feeling for once freed from the restraint of school discipline, rejoicing in the prospect of a happy vacation and aided by a plentiful supply of everything in the way of refreshments they passed an hour or so in the enjoyment of the pleasures of social intercourse.

In the second precinct a number of the pupils, wishing to express their gratitude to one who had long and faithfully led them up the rugged hill of science, gathered in the school room shortly before noon and made their principal, Mr. W. A. Johnson (who, we understand, is soon to join the ranks of the Benedicts) the recipient of a handsome set of china ware.

Mr. Johnson was taken completely by surprise by this proof of the esteem in which he was held by the scholars, but replied, thanking them for the beautiful testimonial of their regard, which he would hereafter highly prize as a remembrance of the donors and the occasion.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the teachers, pupils and directors of the school, by invitation of the Principal, sat down to a bountiful repast, spread out in an adjoining room. After doing ample justice to this part of the entertainment, hand shakings and good byes were exchanged, and the company dispersed with pleasant memories of the day's experience.

Western University.

The commencement exercises of Western University of Pennsylvania was held last evening in University Hall, corner of Ross and Diamond streets.

The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. W. B. Howard.

Joel L. Bigham delivered the Latin Salutatory, and also an English oration—subject "Necessity of a Protective Tariff."

The Master's orations were delivered by William James Sawyer—subject, "Then and Now," and John Russell Wightman—subject, "Jacta Est Alea."

Rev. Dr. Woods, in addition to conferring the degree of A. B. on the graduating class, conferred the following degrees:

D.D., Rev. Joseph Stockbridge, Chaplain U. S. A., and Rev. George Tracey, Missionary to India.

A. M., James W. Murray, George J. Sawyer and John Russell Wightman.

The exercises closed with prayer by Rev. S. F. Scovell, of the First Presbyterian Church.

Birmingham Public Schools.

The Birmingham Public Schools, Mr. Jones, principal, closed yesterday after a very prosperous term, with interesting exercises. Music and speeches formed a prominent part of the closing scenes, and teacher and pupil took leave of each other with mingled gladness and sorrow, gladness in being for a time liberated from the routine of school life, and sorrow at severing the ties of friendship which had hitherto bound them closely together.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Some years ago the property owners on Stockton avenue took hold of the South Commons with the intention of improving them. Grass has been sown, trees have been planted and have grown, and a cheap temporary fence has been put up, as we all know. These Common grounds are beginning to look green and pleasant, and now, because alterations are to be made in a church facing on Stockton avenue, the fence is displaced, the trees exposed, the grass ruined and a portion of the little would-be park converted into a rubbish ground. I should like to know by what authority anybody thus destroys the work of years and makes an eye sore of public property? If such things are to be allowed here, of course they must be on all parts of the Commons, and the proposed expenditure for the improvement of these grounds should be stopped, as it would certainly be useless if any vandal that chooses can destroy when he pleases. It may be that in the proposed general improvement of the Commons, Stockton avenue is to be widened as to include this rubbish ground, and if so, of course no harm is done, but I should like to know if it not why the liberty has been taken.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

—Reports from Georgia crops are favorable. The late rains have been general.

—The funeral of Dr. Raphall, at New York, was largely attended by the Israelites.

—The Republicans of the Eleventh district, Illinois, have nominated Gen. Jas. H. Martin for Congress.

—Gov. Wadmouth, of Louisiana, issues a proclamation to-day convening the Legislature on the 20th inst.

—The graduation of the tenth class of the Elmira (N. Y.) Female College, nuumbering ten members, occurred yesterday.

—Henry W. Longfellow, the American poet, now on a visit to England, has been elected a member of the [illegible]

—The negro brickmakers of Philadelphia have adopted the same scale of prices fixed by the white craftsmen a few days ago.

—The new Tammany Hall, New York, for the National Democratic Convention, will be finished on Monday and dedicated on Wednesday.

—Hon. J. J. Clark Hare has been elected Professor of Law Institutes in the University of Pennsylvania, vice Hon. George Sharswood, resigned.

—Col. Philip White, a prominent Whig politician of Philadelphia, and well known as a great stump speaker in his time, died on Thursday evening.

—The commander of the State Guard of Virginia has been removed by Gov. Wells and Col. Egbert, formerly of the U. S. army, appointed instead.

—The Wisconsin and Minnesota editorial fraternity, after being feted and lionized at St. Louis, returned to Chicago, where they were banqueted last night.

—The Republicans of the Second District, Maine, have nominated S. O. Morrill for Congress. Hon. John Lynch has been nominated in the First District.

—Three hundred and sixty barrels of whisky, brought from New Orleans by the steamer Great Republic, have been seized at St. Louis for non-payment of tax.

—The American Free Trade League held a meeting in New York, Thursday evening, at which speeches were made by George Opedyke and David Dudley Field.

—The Tivola R. R. flour mills, owned by Henry Lansing & Co., at Albany, N. Y., were destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. Loss heavy; nothing saved.

—Ludlow Alexander, son of J. E. Alexander, banker in New York, was drowned in the Ohio river on Thursday, near Owensburg, Ky. The body has not yet been recovered.

—The schooner W. Allen, from Soqua, is detained at the Lazaretto at Philadelphia, for fumigation, having escaped from quarantine, where she is said to have had yellow fever aboard.

—The case of Capt. Donaldson, of the steamer Great Republic, arrested at St. Louis for killing a negro on board his boat, will be heard before the Police Court of that city to-day.

—An affray occurred in Victor's restaurant, New Orleans, Thursday night, in which Maj. Frank Manney, of Nashville, was stabbed by an unknown man, who escaped. The Major died instantly.

—Tennessee State bonds to the amount of $300,000 will be issued to-day at Nashville to the Southwestern Railroad Company, which proposes constructing a railroad from McMinnville, Tennessee, to Danville, Kentucky.

—Elder Heber C. Kimball, one of the high dignitaries of the Mormons at Salt Lake, died recently. His funeral was attended by several thousand persons, and the Tabernacle and public buildings were draped in mourning.

—During the stay of Prince Napoleon at Bucharest a deputation of Jews presented respectful addresses for the Emperor Napoleon, asking the amelioration of their condition and thanking the Emperor for his liberality to all races of people.

New Orleans Market.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW ORLEANS, June 26.—Cotton firm; middling 29c; sales 150 bales; receipts 116 bales; exports 3,874 bales to Liverpool; to the Continent 504 bales; sales for the week 1,199 bales; stock 9,000 bales. Sterling 158 a155. New York sight exchange ¼ premium. Gold 140. Sugar and molasses nominal. Flour dull; superfine $7.50a7.75. Corn dull at 95a97. Oats steady at 75c. Hay steady at $24a28. Pork dull at $30.75. Bacon dull; shoulders 13½c; clear sides 17½c. Lard dull, tierce 18½c; keg 20c.