The Pittsburgh Gazette.

PUBLISHED DAILY, BY

PENNIMAN, REED & CO., Proprietors.

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Editors and Proprietors.

OFFICE:
GAZETTE BUILDING, NOS. 84 AND 86 FIFTH ST.

OFFICIAL PAPER
Of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Allegheny County.

Terms—Daily.		Semi-Weekly.		Weekly.	
One year	$8.00	One year	$2.50	Single copy	$1.50
One month	75	Six mos	1.50	5 copies, each	1.25
By the week (from carrier.)	15	Three mos	75	10 " "	1.15
				—and one to Agent.	

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1868.

THE WEEKLY GAZETTE, *issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays, is the best and cheapest family newspaper in Pennsylvania. It presents each week forty-eight columns of solid reading matter. It gives the fullest as well as the most reliable market reports of any paper in the State. Its files are used exclusively by the Civil Courts of Allegheny county for reference in important issues to determine the ruling prices in the markets at the time of the business transaction in dispute. Terms: Single copy, one year, $1.50; in clubs of five, $1,25; in clubs of ten, $1,15, and one free to the getter up of the club. Specimen copies sent free to any address.*

WE PRINT *on the inside pages of this morning's* GAZETTE—*Second page: Letter from Mrs. Swisshelm, No. 6; A Pennsylvania Leather Stocking. Third page: River News; Markets by Telegraph. Sixth page: Finance and Trade; Pittsburgh Markets. Seventh page: The Washita Battle; Disfranchisement: The Facts; Imperial Discourtesy; Clippings.*

GOLD closed yesterday in New York at 135½.

IT seems probable that Mr. CARL SCHURZ will be elected to the United States Senate from Missouri. That State has no citizen who would fill that position with greater ability and usefulness.

INFLUENTIAL sentiment at Washington, is averse to any present interference with two measures to which the majority stand prominently committed—the tenure of office law, and the law providing for the assemblage of each Congress on the day following the dissolution of its predecessor. The movement for the repeal of the first is engineered by what are known as "Conservative Democrats"—a class of politicians whose conservatism means an unimpaired hold upon official emoluments, and means nothing else. This class have not the control of a majority vote, just now, in either wing of the Capitol.

OFFICIAL COMPETENCY.

The country has reason to be gratified in Secretary McCULLOCH'S very handsome and unqualified endorsement, both as to the principle and the details, of the bill of Mr. JENCKES, providing for a higher standard of qualifications for all officers in the Civil Service. This bill stands very near the first to be reached in the order of business, in the House, and its friends are sanguine that it will command a majority vote in both Houses. Modelled upon similar legislation in England, the measure comes recommended to our judgment by the most successful experience in that empire. When our offices shall be filled, without reference to a mere partizanship, by honest and capable men, the public service will be vastly improved in all its departments.

THE TREASURY REPORT.

We have prepared, and print this morning, a careful synopsis of this document, omitting none of the points which could have a general interest for our readers. The Secretary occupies himself mainly with those questions which are of paramount importance—the resumption of specie payments, the proper administration of our public indebtedness, and the ways and means for satisfying the unavoidable annual expenditure. His report affords a vast fund of information to the people, while his official recommendations, with a single exception, will command a very general approval. His hostility to any tariff which shall, in the minutest particular, prefer the protection of Home Industry to the repletion of the Treasury, is not even veiled under a flimsy disguise. In that regard, public sentiment will, happily, be unanimous only in admiring the frankness with which he avows his hostility to the true American system. Some of his suggestions have, nevertheless, great value, as, for example, the need for a revision of the tariff in view of the proximate change of relations under specie-resumption.

Apart from the peculiar opinions here adverted to, the Report reflects high credit upon the fidelity and executive competency of the officer, while it conclusively establishes the ability of the nation to pay its annual way and satisfy its existing obligations with promptitude, certainty and absolute integrity "in both letter and spirit."

DEATH OF THE HON. THOMPSON CAMPBELL.

We chronicle the painful news of the death of the distinguished gentleman whose name heads this notice, who died on Sunday last at San Francisco, California. Mr. CAMPBELL was a native of Western Pennsylvania for many years, a resident of Butler county, and afterwards a practicing lawyer of this city. He settled in Galena, Illinois, where he pursued his profession with marked success. He was at one time Secretary of State, and afterwards elected to Congress in the Galena district. A thorough scholar and gentleman, a genial companion, a frank, generous and sterling friend, he naturally drew around him hosts of warm and ardent admirers. Originally a Democrat, when the war broke out he put on the harness of loyalty, and fought secessionism with a boldness and vigor which gave him a prominent position in the Union party. He was a delegate to the Baltimore Convention in 1864—a warm supporter of President LINCOLN and GRANT, with both of whom he was personally and intimately acquainted. As a representative man of the Golden State, had he lived it is not unlikely that higher political and national honor was in store for him. He leaves an interesting widow, son and daughter to mourn the loss of a most kind and affectionate husband and parent.

THE PROTECTION OF LIFE.

The Vth section of an Act of Congress, passed July 25th, 1866, prohibits the carriage of "cotton, hemp, hay, straw or other easily ignitable commodity," on the decks or guards of any steamers carrying passengers" unless covered so as to prevent ignition from sparks. The section proceeds:

"Nor shall coal oil or crude petroleum be hereafter carried on such steamers, except on the decks or guards thereof, or in open holds where a free circulation of air is secured, and at such a distance from the furnaces or fires as may be prescribed by any supervising inspector, or any board of local inspectors."

This section comprehends all the existing legislation of Congress, for the protection of lives and property from the hazards inherent in the proximity of the most dangerous freight ordinarily known to commerce. That this protection is deficient, events have lamentably proved. The public experience demonstrates clearly the absolute necessity for prohibiting entirely the carriage of petroleum in any quantities, as freight, or under any safeguards, upon conveyances used also for passenger purposes. The exclusion should be imperative and without any reservation whatever. Nor should common carriers be permitted to use this destructive fluid, even for illuminating purposes, upon steamboats or railway cars. Its use in any form, where, under any contingency of accident, it could contribute to enhance the perils of travel, should be made punishable with rigorous penalties. Legislation of this sort, without compromise or proviso, is demanded for the public safety.

RAILWAY CONSOLIDATIONS.

It has been announced in the newspapers that the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company and the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad Company have been merged in the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, by the conjoint action of the officers of these three corporations. Much more remains to be done before an actual consolidation can be accomplished.

An act passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, May 16, 1861, makes it lawful for any railway company, chartered by this Commonwealth, to merge its corporate rights, powers and privileges, into any other railroad company, so chartered, and connected therewith. To this end, the Managers of the respective corporations intended to be merged must first come to agreement, and their agreement must be reduced to writing, under the corporate seal of each of the companies. In this agreement all the conditions must be fully set forth. It is next made necessary to submit this agreement to the stockholders of each of the companies separately, at meetings to be specially called for that purpose, of which meetings notice shall be given for two successive weeks in one newspaper published in each of the counties into or through which the said railways may extend. If stockholders representing a majority of shares in any one of the companies reject the agreement, it falls and has no binding effect. If stockholders representing a majority of shares in two or more companies consent to the agreement, it becomes binding, upon the vote being certified by the secretaries of the respective companies, and the certificate filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Thence forward the several corporations become one; though ample provisions are made for preserving the rights of creditors and liens upon the properties of the corporations merged.

By an act passed March 23, 1865, the right of merging was extended, so that a railroad company organized under the laws of this Commonwealth, and operating a road either entirely within the State, or partly within and partly without the State, under authority of this or any adjoining State, may consolidate its capital stock, franchises and property with any company chartered by this or any other State. This act provides for giving the stockholders written or printed notice of the contemplated merging, to be served personally or through the post-office, in addition to newspaper publication, the latter notice to be confined to some newspaper published in the cities or towns in which the companies have their principal offices.

If a stockholder of the minority shall be dissatisfied with the merging, he may petition the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Company in which he holds stock is kept, to have the damage he has sustained determined, and declared, which damages shall be paid him, or the value of the stock immediately preceding consolidation may be declared, and when the stockholder shall surrender his certificate to the Company his money shall be paid to him.

REPORTS from Cheyenne state that the railroad is completed to Bear river. Evansville, seventy miles this side of Salt Lake, is building up rapidly, and will soon be the terminus. A few weeks will witness the completion of the road to Salt Lake Valley. The Smoky Hill Railroad will be completed one hundred and thirty miles west of Denver by May. Railroad work west of the mouth of the Weber is going on rapidly, under direction of the Union Pacific. At the north end of Salt Lake the grading for a distance of seven miles is expected to cost $800,000.

—A telegram from Saint George, three hundred and fifty miles south of Salt Lake City, reports that the Navajoes have commenced depredations on the Rio Virgen and Colorado, and have already carried off a large number of horses. The citizens, aided by some friendly Indians, pursued and re-captured twenty horses and killed two Navajoes.

—A wood train on the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad was thrown from the track Monday afternoon, near Milbury station, killing John Niland and Michael Cosello. John Maloney was seriously and four or five others slightly injured.

ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT.

We make the annexed synopsis of this document, presenting its salient points:

The Secretary presents again his former views in behalf of the earliest possible resumption of specie payments. He remarks: "It is vain to expect on the part of the people a faithful fulfillment of their duties to the Government as long as the Government is faithless to its own obligations; nor will those who do not hesitate to defraud the public revenues long continue to be scrupulous in their private business." He adds: "There can be no doubt that the legal-tender acts have tended to blunt and deaden the public conscience, nor that they are chargeable, in no small degree, with the demoralization which so generally prevails." Recognizing, explicitly, the imperative need which forced that system of legislation upon us, he proceeds to re-state the economical objections to the continued use of these notes as lawful money. He still adheres to the opinion so frequently expressed by him, that a reduction of the paper circulation of the country until it appreciates to the specie standard is the true solution of our financial problem. But as this policy was emphatically condemned by Congress, and it is now too late to return to it, he recommends the following measures as the next best calculated to effect the desired result: 1st. The legalization of specific contracts to be executed in coin; 2d. That after the first day of January, 1870, United States notes shall cease to be a legal-tender in payment of all private debts subsequently contracted; and that after the first day of January, 1871, they shall cease to be a legal-tender on any contract, or for any purpose whatever, except Government dues, for which they are now receivable. The law should also authorize the conversion of these notes, at the pleasure of the holders, into bonds, bearing such rate of interest as may be authorized by Congress on the debt into which the present outstanding bonds may be funded. He sustains these two recommendations with arguments drawn from a sound financial philosophy and from the current experience of the Treasury. Quoting Daniel Webster's argument against irredeemable paper-money, he significantly adds that the constitutionality of the legal-tender acts "has not yet been sustained by the Supreme Court," and that "it is by no means certain that the Supreme Court will differ from Mr. Webster upon this question, and no one can fail to perceive how important it is that the legislation recommended should precede a decision (from which there can be no appeal) that United States notes are not, under the Federal Constitution, a legal tender."

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

These for the three years each ending in June '66, '67 and '68, were respectively $179,000,000, $176,000,000 and $164,000,000, omitting the fractions. He then adverts to the indications thus afforded in regard to our foreign trade and other financial relations with foreign nations. He estimates the amount of our securities, public and private, now held in Europe, exclusive of stocks, at $850,000,000, of which $600,000,000 are U. S. bonds, sent abroad since 1862 and that the aggregate has yielded to us probably not over $550,000,000 in gold values, but interest, mostly in gold, is paid on almost the entire amount, while we are increasing that amount so held by some $60,000,000 annually in gold-bearing bonds, and this in the face of an actual exportation within the past twenty years, of at least $1,100,000,000 in gold and silver, the product of our mines, and, adds the Secretary "under tariffs in a good degree framed with the view of protecting American against foreign manufacturers." It is to be observed that the Secretary, throughout his report, omits no opportunity to advance similar views in relation to the tariffs of the last eight years, in which views upon theory, or in fact, the friends of American industry take decisive issue with him. He dilates with force upon the injurious tendency of our large importations, paid for as they are in good part, not with our material productions but with evidences of debt, the interest upon which is paid to citizens of other countries not our own. This statement elicits a very compact argument against the inexpediency of such a policy, the Secretary evidently regarding the use to this extent of foreign capital as not a sufficient compensation for the interest-money actually sent abroad therefor. Upon this point, his Report will elicit a diversity of opinion and in quarters entitled to be heard. His statement of the advantages of a purely domestic debt would be logically conclusive, had he been able to add that our own people are rich enough to carry the principal, without detriment to the supply of capital for all other demands. He leaves this branch of the report with a conclusion which ensures a more general approbation. He says: "The country will not be really and reliably prosperous until there is a return to specie payments. The question of a solvent, convertible currency, underlies all other financial and economical questions. It is, in fact, a fundamental question; and until it is settled, and settled in accordance with the teachings of experience, all attempts at other financial and economical reforms will either fail absolutely or be but partially successful. A sound currency is the life-blood of a commercial nation. If this is debased the whole current of its commercial life must be disordered and irregular. The starting point in reformatory legislation must be here. Our debased currency must be retired or raised to the par of specie, or cease to be lawful money, before substantial progress can be made with other reforms."

THE REVENUES.

He acknowledges the vast importance of adapting taxation to the actual circumstances of the people, commends the creation of the Revenue Commission and, of its present chief, Mr. Wells, says, with justice, "with what energy and ability he has undertaken the very difficult duties devolved upon him, has been manifested by the reports which he has already submitted to Congress. That which accompanies, or will soon follow this communication, will prove more fully than those which have preceded it have done, the importance of the investigations in which he is engaged, and the judicious labor which he is bestowing upon them. The facts which he presents, and the recommendations based upon them, are entitled to the most careful consideration of Congress."

The following is a statement of the receipts from internal revenues for the last fiscal years:

For the year ending June 30, 1866	$309,226,813 42
For the year ending June 30, 1867	266,027,537 93
For the year ending June 30, 1868	191,087,389 41

The present year, thus far, indicates the receipts at $146,209,044. The falling off is attributed to inefficient collections and the reduction of taxes. He demands economy in expenditures; so that the average expenses of the civil service for the next ten years shall not exceed $40,000,000 per annum, with $35,000,000, exclusive of bounties for the War, and $20,000,000 for the Navy Departments, $30,000,000 for the Indians and Pensions, and an average rate of five per cent. upon the entire funded debt, or $125,000,000 per year, upon an annually dwindling principal.

He thinks $300,000,000 of receipts may be annually realized by judicious legislation and effective collections. To that end he demands a reduction of the tariff and an increase of the excise duties. Thus he hopes for an annual surplus of $50,000,000 to be applied to the principal of our debt, providing for unavoidably additional expenditures by additional taxes. He therefore asks—1st, an increase in the excise upon distilled spirits; 2nd, a restoration of the tax on manufactures abolished in March last; 3rd, an increased and uniform tax on sales.

TARIFFS.

While the present tariff has yielded large revenues, he says, "it is in no just sense a revenue tariff. It has not checked importations, while it has failed to give the anticipated protection to our manufactures by reason of the adverse influence of our own inflated currency. He recommends the extension of specific duties and a thorough revision of the tariff as a whole," to harmonize it with our excise taxes and to adapt it to the changes to follow a restoration to the specie standard," in which latter event, the present system "would be severely protective if not entirely prohibitory."

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

He shows that the debt has increased, from November 1st, 1867, to November 1st, 1868, $35,625,102.22. But the Pacific Railroads and Alaska received $31,352,000, with $41,060,515 for bounties and $4,000,000 for over due interest items. But the latter accounts will be closed in three months more. He regards the situation as satisfactory and says: "Should there be henceforth no extraordinary expenditures, and no further donations of public moneys in the form of bounties or of additional subsidies to railroad companies—with proper economy in the administration of the General Government, and with judicious amendments of the revenue laws, and proper enforcement thereof, the public debt, without oppressive taxation, can be rapidly diminished and easily extinguished within the period heretofore named by the Secretary." He adds: "The debt must be paid. Direct repudiation is an impossibility; indirect repudiation, by farther issues of legal-tender notes, would be madness. To insure its payment without a change in the essential character of the Government, every year should witness a reduction of its amount and a diminution of its burdens." He proceeds: "The war was virtually closed in April, 1865. On the first day of that month the public debt amounted, according to the books and accounts of the Department, to $2,366,955,077.34. On the first day of September following, it amounted to $2,757,689,571.43, having increased in four months $390,734,494.09. From that period it continued to decline until November 1, 1867, when it had fallen to $2,491,504,450. On the first day of November last, it had risen to $2,527,129,552.82. By this statement it appears, that, between the first day of April, 1865, and the first day of September of the same year, the debt increased $390,734,494.09, and that between the first day of September, 1865, and the first day of November, '68, it decreased $230,560,018.61; and that on the last day mentioned it was $160,174,475.48 larger than it was on the first day of April, 1865. Since then the Treasurer's receipts from all sources of revenue have been as follows:

For April, May and June, 1865	$ 83,519,164 13
For the year ending June 30, 1866	558,032,620 06
For the year ending June 30, 1867	490,634,010 27
For the year ending June 30, 1868	405,038,083 32
June 30 to November 1, 1868	124,452,184 42
Total of receipts	$1,662,476,062 20
To which should be added the increase of the debt between the first day of April, 1865, and the first day of November, 1868	160,174,475 48
	$1,822,650,537 68

This exhibit shows that the large sum of $1,822,650,537 68 was expended in the payment of the interest and of other demands upon the Treasury in three years and seven months, being an average annual expenditure of $508,646,661 68.

If the statement of the public debt on the first day of April, 1865, had included all debts due at that time, and $1,822,650,537 68 had really been expended in payment of the interest on the public debt, and the current expenses of the Government between that day and the first day of November last, there would have been a profligacy and a recklessness in the expenditures of the public moneys discreditable to the Government and disheartening to tax-payers. Fortunately this is not the fact. That statement, (as is true of all other monthly statements of the Treasury,) exhibited only the adjusted debt, according to the books of the Treasury, and did not, and could not, include the large sums due to the soldiers of the great Union army, (numbering at that time little less than a million of men) for "pay" and for "bounties," or on claims of various kinds which must of necessity have been unsettled. For the purpose of putting this matter right, the Secretary has endeavored to ascertain from the War and Navy Departments how much of their respective disbursements, since the close of the war, has been in payment of debts properly chargeable to the expenses of the war. The following is the result of his inquiries:

By the War Department	$595,431,125 90
By the Navy Department	35,000,000 00
War, amounted to	$ 630,431,125 90
To which should be added the amount advanced to the Pacific roads	42,194,000 00
Amount paid for Alaska	7,200,000 00
	$ 679,825,125 90

Deducting this sum from the amount of the revenues, $1,662,476,062 20, and $160,174,475 48, the increase of the public debt—the remainder, $1,142,825,411 78, or an average of $318,928,021 89 per annum, is the amount actually expended in the payment of current expenses and interest.

It is thus shown that within a period of three years and seven months, the revenues or the receipts from all sources of revenue reached the enormous sum of $1,662,496,062 20, and that $630,431,125 90 were paid on debts which were actually due at the close of the war, and for bounties which, like the pay of the army, were a part of the expenses of the war. Adding the amount thus paid to the debt as exhibited by the books of the Treasury on the first day of April, 1865, it appears that the debt of the United States at the time was $2,997,386,203 24, and that the actual reduction has been $470,256,650 42; and but for the advances to the Pacific roads, and the amount paid for Alaska, would have been $519,650,650 42.

Nothing can better exhibit the greatness of the resources of this young nation than this statement, or show more clearly its ability to make a "short work" of the extinguishment of the public debt. It will be borne in mind that these immense revenues have been collected, while one-third of the country was in great destitution, resulting from its terrible struggle to separate itself from the Union, with its political condition unsettled, and its industry in a great degree paralyzed; and while also the other two-thirds were slowly recovering from the drain upon their productive labor and resources—a necessary accompaniment of a gigantic and protracted war.

Urging fidelity to the duty of proceeding with the reduction of the debt, he renews the recommendations made in his first report, that a certain definite sum be annually applied to the payment of the interest and the principal of the debt. The amount suggested was two hundred millions of dollars. As the debt is considerably smaller than its maximum was estimated at, the amount to be so applied annually might now safely be fixed at one hundred and seventy-five millions of dollars, according to the estimate already made in this report.

He adds an earnest recommendation "that it be declared without delay, by joint resolution, that the principal of all bonds of the United States is to be paid in coin." Also, that "the Secretary be authorized to issue $500,000,000 of bonds, $50,000,000 of which shall mature annually; the first $50,000,000 to be payable, principal and interest, in lawful money—the principal and interest of the rest in coin; and also such further amount of bonds as may be necessary to take up the outstanding six per cents. and the non-interest bearing debt, payable in coin thirty years after date, and redeemable at any time after ten years at the pleasure of the Government—the interest to be paid semi-annually in coin, and in no case to exceed the rate of five per cent.; provided that the Secretary may, in his discretion, make the principal and interest of $500,000,000 of these bonds payable at such city or cities in Europe as he may deem best.

The fact that, according to this recommendation, $50,000,000 of the bonds to be issued are to become due each year for ten consecutive years (at the expiration of which time all of the bonds would be under the control of the Government) would ensure an annual reduction of $50,000,000 of the public debt, and impart a credit to the other bonds which would ensure the negotiation of them on favorable terms."

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Year ends June 30, 1863	Receipts	$405,638,083 32
" " "	Expenditures	377,340,284 86
June 30, 1869	Receipts	441,000,000 00
" " "	Expenditures	336,000,000 00
June 30, 1870	Receipts	327,000,000 00
" " "	Expenditures	303,000,000 00

In regard to the character of the revenue officers he has only to say, that there must be a decided change for the better in this respect if the system is to be rescued from its demoralized condition. After careful reflection, the Secretary has come to the conclusion that this change would follow the passage of the bill reported by Mr. Jenckes, from the Joint Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, on the 14th of May last, entitled "A bill to regulate the civil service and promote the efficiency thereof." The Secretary gives to this bill his hearty approval, and refers to the speech which was made, upon its introduction, by the gentleman who reported it, for an able and lucid exposition of its provisions, and for a truthful and graphic description of the evils of the present system of appointments to office.

NATIONAL BANKS.

On the fifth day of December last, the day for their regular quarterly reports, the number of National Banks was sixteen hundred and forty-four, seventeen of which were in voluntary liquidation.

Their capital was	$420,634,511 00
Their discounts	653,874,377 35
Their circulation	298,684,244 00
Their deposits	601,830,278 40

The Secretary commends the general policy of the system but notes prominent defects, specially the practice of Metropolitan Banks in loaning their capital "on call," of certifying large checks in advance of the actual deposit of funds to cover them, and of paying interest on deposits—all of which practices should be prohibited by law. The Comptroller should also be authorized to make his examination on days to be arbitrarily fixed by himself. Their circulation ought also to be more evenly distributed.

The Secretary asks attention to the necessity of more exact and stringent laws respecting the carriage of passengers, and also of such legislation as shall settle, so far as they can be settled in this manner, some of the vexed questions arising under steamboat laws.

The residue of the Report is devoted to the Alaska purchase, the marine hospitals, the revenue cutters and the condition of the ship-building interests. He objects to the present adoption of any treaty for reciprocity with the Canadian Dominion, and until that Dominion shall be entirely consolidated, but when that period arrives, he thinks the German Zoll-Verein may profitably be imitated on this Continent.

The Coast-Survey, the Mints, the Department of Statistics and the reports of other subordinate bureaus are briefly adverted to.

The Secretary depicts the extraordinary difficulties to be surmounted by the Treasury in meeting the situation after the close of the war, and defends the policy under which the public necessities have been met, preventing at the same time a commercial crisis and keeping the business of the country as steady as possible on its unsound basis. He insists that the Treasury has thus been able, in repeated instances, to save the country from panic and disaster, by the strength it derived from its large balances and its control over a considerable share of the available coin in the country. This power, he maintains, has been exercised with wisdom and integrity by all the agents of the Treasury.

As a whole, this Report is an able one, exhaustive in its statements and for the most part practically sound in its multifarious suggestions. Thus it affords a most valuable basis for the extended consideration which Congress is about to give to all the questions involved.

Hester Vaughn's Case.

HARRISBURG, December 6.—No further action has been taken in the case of Hester Vaughn. No death warrant has been issued, so no reprieve is necessary. The case remains precisely in the condition in which it was when the sentence of death was passed upon her over four months ago. Of course, without a death-warrant from the Governor, fixing the date, no execution can take place. Governor Geary, after a searching examination, has come to the firm conclusion that her case is one which, while it does not exactly merit death, deserves some punishment. The unfortunate woman having freely confessed her crime, it is not deemed fitting that a halo of glory should be thrown around the crime of the infanticide, and a premium be thus offered for its commission.

But, to ease the mind of Hester Vaughn, Governor Geary has explicitly informed her that the death penalty will not be enforced. The matter of pardon is, of course, still under advisement, though the case may eventually take a different shape.

There are now several individuals confined in Philadelphia, under sentence of death, one who has been in prison for eighteen years, no death-warrant having been issued. For several years past the Legislature has been asked annually to make some disposition of their cases; to authorize the Governor to commute the sentences to imprisonment for a term of years. The Legislature, at its coming session will be asked to make some special provision for these cases, including that of Hester Vaughn, and, if action is taken, the probabilities are that Hester's sentence will be commuted.

—An Omaha dispatch says the snow storm which had been raging for the past thirty hours, is the heaviest experienced in Nebraska for many years. There was about eighteen inches of snow on the level, and the storm still continued. So far trains have managed to move, but it is feared a slight wind will cause a serious blockade, both east and west. A Helena, Montana, dispatch says snow to the depth of six inches fell on Friday night,

THE DISASTER ON THE OHIO.

Our Cincinnati exchanges continue to furnish particulars of the recent terrible river disaster, and, as usual in such cases, any number of cases of presentiment and premonition are being brought to light by travellers who attribute their escape to supernatural agencies. Here are a few of the presentments noted in the *Commercial:*

Captain A. Q. Ross, of the steamer Nick Longworth, states that while in Cincinnati, on Tuesday, he made every arrangement for his wife and two children to come to this city on the United States yesterday for the purpose of accompanying him South; but, on his arrival here on Wednesday, with no motive or reason for which he can give an explanation, he telegraphed his wife to take passage on the Kate Robinson, a stern-wheeler, with accommodations greatly inferior to those of the United States, and with officers entirely unknown to him, while those of the ill-fated steamer were his intimate friends. By this singular freak of mind on the Captain's part his dear wife and little ones were saved from the awful doom that swept asunder so many life-ties and sent the dark angel of mourning into so many family circles. Surely the hand of Providence was in the miracle.

An equally narrow escape from the dreadful fate of the human cargo on the States was made by Mr. Underwood and bride, of Bowling Green, who went eastward, only a few days ago, and arrived in Cincinnati, returning from the bridal trip on Friday, with the full intention of coming down on the lost steamer. They even drove down to the boat to engage a state-room, when Mrs. Underwood was suddenly overcome by a fear that all would not be well on the river. Her entreaties were deferred to, and she and her husband took the cars instead, and arrived here safely, yesterday, and proceeded to their home in Bowling Green.

Mr. Goldsborough, formerly of the drug store of R. A. Robinson & Co., in this city, but now traveling agent for B. A. Fahnestock & Son, Pittsburgh, relates a very singular coincidence. He left Pittsburgh at 3:13 A. M. Friday, to join his family, who are living in this city. Before starting he felt a strange uneasiness about the trip before him, and on applying for a railway ticket he told the agent that he was afraid to risk the route by way of Cincinnati. The agent rallied him about his misgiving, and told him he would warrant his safe arrival at his destination by the all-rail PanHandle line. He accordingly secured a ticket on that road. Still entertaining an unaccountable fear, he purchased two life insurance policies of $5,000 each, for the first time in a traveling experience of thirteen years. In taking the through rail route he avoided Cincinnati and the ill-fated steamboat United States, arriving here just in time to hear of the awful disaster, and receive the affectionate congratulations of his wife and children at his hair-breadth escape from a horrid death.

The lost ministers are Rev. Robert J. Parvin, of Philadelphia, General Secretary of the Evangelical Education Society, and Rev. F. S. Rising, of New York, Secretary of the American Church Missionary Society. They were positively known to have been on board the steamer United States. A letter and telegram to this effect were received by Rev. Dr. Perkins, rector of St. Paul's Church. Every effort possible has been made to learn something of them, but without success. Mr. Price, one of the survivors, reports that he saw three or four clergymen on the burnt steamer. One of them said he was *en route* to Louisville for the purpose of collecting money from the churches. He was saved, and told Mr. Price that, as his journey to this city had been providentially interrupted, he thought it best to retrace his steps.

—The Indians in Humboldt county, California, have been committing depredations upon the settlers for some time past. An expedition was organized to punish them, and a camp of savages surprised, six Indians killed and a quantity of arms captured. One white man was killed during the fight. The settlers intend using vigorous measures until it is beyond the power of the Indians to further molest them.

COUGHS, COUGHS, COLDS, COLDS,

When a person takes cold the lungs become charged with phlegm, which oppressing the constitution a natural effort is made for a relief. This effort is a cough. The only safe and prudent remedies to be adopted are those which assist nature in its work, by loosening the phlegm and exciting a freedom of expectoration until the evil is removed. DR. SARGENT'S COUGH SYRUP is admirably adapted to promote expectoration, ease the breathing, loosen the phlegm, abate the fever, and allay the tickling which occasions the cough, without tightening the chest, or in any way injuring the system, and for all temporary and local affections, such as irritation of the throat, hoarseness of the voice, influenza, &c., it is of incalculable value. Especially at this inclement season of the year it would be well for every family to have this valuable remedy at hand. Prepared by GEO. A. KELLY, Wholesale Druggist, corner Wood street and Second avenue, Pittsburgh, and for sale by all druggists and dealers in medicine. 50 cents per bottle.

PREVENT OR REPENT!

When health has been sacrificed for want of the care necessary to protect it, regrets are unavailing. It is better to *prevent* than to *repent*. The most inclement season of the year is at hand, and its cold and damp are the source of innumerable distressing ailments. The best means of escaping them is to keep the outward surface of the body comfortably warm with suitable clothing, and the internal organs in a vigorous condition by the occasional use of a healthful tonic and corrective. Winter makes tremendous drafts upon the vital forces, and therefore it is a season when a pure vegetable stimulant and invigorant like HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS is of infinite use, especially to the weak and feeble. It gives *stamina* to the system, and thereby enables it to withstand the shocks of cold, which produce cough, bronchitis, catarrh, and other diseases of the organs of respiration. Dyspepsia and every species of indigestion are also greatly aggravated by cold, damp weather, and for these complaints the BITTERS are an acknowledged specific. There is no fact better known in this country, and, indeed, throughout the civilized portions of the Western Hemisphere, than that this genial preparation is a swift and certain remedy for all ordinary diseases of the stomach and the liver.

A FACT OF GREAT VALUE.

No one can be too often impressed with the truth of all disorders which mankind are prone to, none are of more prevalence at this season of the year than those which manifest themselves in the lungs and pulmonary organs. Dr. KEYSER'S PECTORAL SYRUP is a speedy and infallible cure in all recent cases of coughs and lung diseases, and DR. KEYSER'S LUNG CURE in cases of long standing and great obstinacy, will be found of inestimable value. There is scarcely a house or family in Pittsburgh that cannot testify to its merits, and instead of a person wasting time on other inert and inappropriate remedies, let them walk themselves to Dr. Keyser's, 140 Wood street, where they will find the right medicine adapted to their cure. The Doctor has a long experience in medicine, and in these lung cases, he has given signal proof of his great ability and thorough knowledge of all those diseases in which the lungs take a prominent part. His residence in Pittsburgh is over twenty years, and the value of his remedies is extended wherever coughs are prevalent and lung diseases to be cured.

DR. KEYSER'S RESIDENT OFFICE for LUNG EXAMINATIONS AND THE TREATMENT OF OBSTINATE CHRONIC DISEASES, 140 PENN STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA. Office hours from 9 A. M. UNTIL 4 P. M.
November 26, 1868.