



The Jeffersonian.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1874.

SCRANTON.

The New York Herald, for a couple of weeks back, has been indulging considerably on the crime, poverty, and suffering in and around Scranton and the coal regions generally. Its diatribes were most harrowing and horrifying. Murders were frequent, crime of lesser degree run riot, and suffering even to starvation and consequent death were matters so common that they had come to be looked upon as matters of course. And the stories were so straightly told that it was almost impossible to disbelieve them, more especially as a prominent newspaper of that city of marvellous growth, gigantic enterprises and magnificent palaces rather than only winked at the Herald's stories, but actually pronounced them true.

Having a little business in that locality, we took occasion on Thursday last to visit the "third City of the State," and remained there until Friday afternoon, and during the time gave the city and its adjuncts a pretty thorough going-over. Of the general poverty of the city—the great amount of suffering spoken of—we saw no particular evidence. We visited the place early in the spring and summer, and of course, by comparison, could note any difference between then and now. Then nearly all the great interests were idle, but we failed to find any reason for suffering as a general thing. Indeed our impression, from what we saw, was that there was thrift in Scranton, even with its forced idleness, and that the saving habits of the people had secured the means to enable them to weather over the panic pinch in comfort and comparative plenty. Now we found its rolling mills and other great enterprises in partial, if not in full blast, and everything showing that there was really something doing which would stop the leak in the savings, and find the bread and comforts of each day by means of the labors of each day. But we found too that there is squallid poverty and suffering in Scranton. No one can doubt the fact who observing passes through its streets.

It cannot be otherwise in a city whose principal thoroughfares and avenues are lined with gin-mills, beer shops and pestiferous hell dens. These must be supported to live, and as they do live and receive their support from a class whose earnings are sadly circumscribed by the depraved appetites, which leads them to extend that support, it cannot be otherwise than that those who should be the food ones at home too often suffer the pangs of neglect, disease, starvation and even death itself, that beer and liquor damnation may be guzzled ad libitum. There must be some thirty odd of these liquor selling vanguard nests on Lackawanna Avenue alone, and these are but a tithe of all that exist in the city. Oppher up, in high rents and the living of the keepers, the cost of maintaining these whitened sepulchres, and then think that the money all comes from the one to three dollar laborers and mechanics, and if you can look for anything else than suffering and want among this particular branch of these classes, you must be gifted with a marvelous credulity indeed. The suffering of Scrantonian's poor is not, therefore, for want of work—for work is to be had, and a dollar judiciously spent will go a great way in the purchase of the means to sustain life—but it lies in the sin of the beer and liquor drinkers, and in the greater sin of the almoners of the law—the Courts, the Mayor, the Aldermen, the Police and the better to do citizens, who permit these soul destroying pest shops to exist and thrive with impunity. But these all wink at the evil, because the pest house keepers are the politicians of influence, and to interfere with their nefarious trade would be to incur the loss of hope for advancement in the questionable honors of municipal life.

And are these honors questionable? One cannot think otherwise when one comes to think of Scranton in its government, after looking at the cause of the suffering of its poor. We do not know but that after all its suffering estate is its best estate compared with its municipal estate. It has industry, it has thrift, it has enterprise and it has wealth, but here the list of its virtues end. According to the speech of its city councilmen its policemen are but walking beer barrels and whiskey tubs—mere protectors of saloons and frequenters of bagnios. Its Chief of Police is under \$5,000 bonds on charge of murder; its Mayor walks the streets bonded in \$500 to appear at any time to answer the charge of perjury; its school board is under arrest and bond, or scuffling around to avoid arrest, on charge of conspiring to rob itself and the tax-payers of some eight or nine thousand dollars of school money; its hightoned specimens of honesty and christianity meet to concoct measures to reform the city generally, and its papers charge even these with crimes, in the same direction, fully as black, if not more so, as those which they attempt to reform. Truly save in its magnificent enterprises, and its outside show of thrift, inwardly Scranton must be a very Sodom and Gomorrah among the cities of the earth.

In view of recent developments we cannot say that the Herald was out of the way when it spoke of Scranton's crimes and suffering. It has really proved to be a real picture drawn from life. Our zeal therefore as a defender is quenched by the startling evidences of truth which meet us on all sides, and it is but left us to cease wondering that earth quake shocks are felt there, that mines settle and houses are wrecked, that epidemics prevail and murders run riot, for the sins of the city are enough to damn it a hundred fold more grievously.

It is with more than a common feeling of joy that we aspire our thankfulness that our lines are not placed there.

READ the article inserted in to-days Jeff. in another column, headed "Scranton City Government."

Our distinguished neighbor over the way, did himself infinite credit last week, by his terrible onslaught on vice and crime, in the shape of the rowdyism of the week before. It is his first essay in that direction, seriously, and hence we feel that he deserves heartfelt congratulations over the able manner in which he acquitted himself; and, all the more so, because the conduct which he condemned was but the actual, natural, effervescent finale of the great Democratic pole raising at Brodheadsville. In this latter view of the matter one cannot well do otherwise than believe that the millennium is close at hand. When a Democratic editor, even so distinguished a character as our neighbor, determines to speak "right out in meeting," in condemnation of the men and usages of his party, the millennium theory is the only theory on which his conduct can be accounted for.

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.

The Presidents Message which was sent to Congress on Monday, is a state paper with which, we think, no man, no matter what his politics, should find fault. If there is partisan fault to be found with it we think the Republicans have, by long odds, the best right in that direction. It is true, that when speaking of the inclination of the southern negro to republicanism, there is an apparent leaning towards the party which elected him, but the end of his suggestions, which seem to be the animus of the whole, he puts with the plain truth in the insinuation that a plain square treatment of the situation must lead to the abolition of color, and even, to the decision of our political contest on principle alone. We do not know, at this time of writing, what view our distinguished neighbor over the way will take of the message; but this we do know that if he treats it squarely and fairly, he will speak of it as being more in accord with the results of the recent election, than with the resolves and labors of Republican Convention for a year or two back.

Unlike the messages of former Presidents, and unlike President Grant himself, this message leaves thankfulness, and all that sort of thing, to occupy a secondary place. The present, and the financial difficulties under which we suffer are the first consideration. And here the Presidents ideas are wholesome and to the point. Much speculation, aided by a fluctuating currency has left us in debt, and the sooner we get out of this, by a resumption of the gold and silver basis in our business transactions, the sooner we will be on the right road to prosperity and happiness. There is no fighting around the bush in this respect, and the financial and business precepts, in the good Jackson and Benton times were not more forcibly expressed than are the views of General Grant, in the same line to-day. No day is named in which the resumption of specie payments shall take place, but the idea, and at an early day, is enforced; and we think, even Democracy thinks, that the sooner the Presidents idea can be enforced the better it will be all around. The President doubtless sees that with an exclusive paper monetary basis we are always liable to a sudden and unexpected change in values, and where this is the case the one grand corner stone of prosperity, solidity, is absent.

In our relation with foreign powers, the President points for our view the situation just as it is. Some nations, as Venezuela owes us, and Congress should see to it that we are paid. Spain too, is our debtor and according to Grant she too should pay. It is well he thinks to consider the situation of these countries, but it is not well to wait always because of the slowness of their motions. The Cuban question is one, too, which is deserving of more than ordinary attention, and to this question the President turns his eye. A seven years struggle, in his estimation, without success in the suppression of a love for liberty and a determination to win it is enough to call the attention of other nations to the true situation of affairs. Eyes cannot be shut to the fact that the commerce of all nations, and especially that of the United States, which is the largest consumer of Cuban products, suffers from the futile efforts of the mother country, and it may be necessary for other nations to interfere for the suppression of the unnatural and unjust contest. Besides, in the duties which she says the United States contributes to the support of the efforts of Spain against the liberty of her oppressed colony, and that is neither in accordance with our custom nor our traditions. If Congress fails to take the hint certainly the President will not be to blame if the liberty loving and desiring Cubans are not recognized with all the rights of belligerents, and that, too, right speedily.

In the Presidents view of the Southern troubles, he is open, above board and manly. He deprecates the necessities of his action towards the Southern States, but he finds the law of Congress on the statute books, and he has no choice, in view of his oath, but to enforce them. He has his opinion of the merits of the case and does not hesitate to express them, and his conclusion fairly and legitimately arrived at is, that there is lying on all sides when the truth would more certainly and speedily settle all difficulties.

On the Indian policy the President has but a single view to advance, and that is that the peace policy is the correct policy. It has not had all of fairness of trial that it deserves but he is satisfied that the end will vindicate it from the aspersions heaped upon it. The President briefly reviews the reports of the several departments of the Government, and commends them to the consideration of Congress. He again recommends the establishment of court for the adjudication of the claims of aliens, and suggests the passage of a law defining the American doctrine of expatriation. He also points out the difficulties experienced by our ministers abroad growing

out of frauds upon the naturalization policy, and asks for such provision of law as will secure the honest seeker after naturalization in all the rights desirable, while, at the same time it will work against the machinations of those, who having no love for us or our principles of liberty, yet, through fraud foist themselves upon us in order to avoid a duty which they owe, and, under the circumstances should be compelled to pay to the land of their birth and real choice.

In conclusion, we would say that the message is one of the best State papers we have read for years, and reflects credit not only upon its author, but also on the whole country and people.

A TARDY FARMER was recently heard to remark that he hoped the fair weather would continue until he got his corn husked.

LAST week an unchristianized mule succeeded in kicking some of the profanity out of one of the pillars of a country church, near by.

THE proprietor of the Stroudsburg house contemplates having a grand ball New Year's night. This is a piece of news that will be joyfully hailed by the young folks.

THE richest, largest and best stock of fine watches, jewelry, clocks, toys and silverware, ever brought to Stroudsburg can be found at D. R. Brown's Jewelry store, on Main street. Prices greatly reduced. Call and examine them.

BROWN the Jeweler has on hand for the coming holidays, the largest and most elegant stock of goods in his line ever brought to Stroudsburg. Dont fail to give him a call. You are sure to find something that is useful. [dec-10-2t.]

ON Monday last, a stuck hog escaped from East Stroudsburg, but was subsequently captured in Burson's swamp after a fatiguing march, by the two six footers out of whose hands it originally escaped, who vigorously pursued it, with gun and other weapons. A remarkable hog, that.

HOUSE MOVING.—C. E. Durfee has just satisfactorily succeeded in removing a heavy farm house, enclosed in heavy two inch plank, without disturbing the chimney. The house was moved about 200 yards over a small hill. The job was done in Jackson township for Wm. S. Rees, Esq.

This, we are informed, makes the eleventh building Mr. Durfee has removed since he obtained his house moving accoutrements and advertised the fact in our columns.

GRANGERS.—Below we give the name and location of the several Granges in this County, viz:

- Union Grange, No. 24, Jackson Corners, Jackson township.
Hamilton Grange, No 82, Hamilton township.
Effort Grange, No. 92, Chestnut Hill township.
Poponoming Grange, No. 162, Ross township.
Analomink Grange, No. 163, Stroud township.
Cherry Valley Grange, No. 203, Stroud township.
Pocono Grange, No. 214, Pocono township.
Marshall Grange, No. 230, Smithfield township.

MUSICAL.—Our East Stroudsburg friends are running over with music. After having attended the musical convention held in this place recently, conducted by Prof. Perkins, and also the school under his charge now in progress, they have concluded to get up an entertainment on their own hook, and to this end have secured the efficient services of Prof. A. N. Johnson, of Ohio, who will conduct a musical convention at their place commencing on the 15th instant, continuing four days. This will afford a good opportunity for our musical folks to air their talent in that direction, which we trust they will embrace with alacrity. We believe this will be the third time Prof. Johnson will have conducted a musical convention at East Stroudsburg. The Prof. is said to be a gentleman in the best sense of the word, is president of several musical colleges and a graduate of music both in Germany and this country, and has an original system of imparting a knowledge of music, rendering it exceedingly entertaining and successful. He is also an author of several musical works, which are more or less known to the musical world. Let all interested in this matter be sure to put in an appearance.

What We heard and saw within the Week.

By request we will let "Dead and Beautiful" rest.—"Tippy" says "shoot the gallery." We say no, "Tippy," let the doves bill and coo as much as they please on their lofty perch, only so they don't tumble out of their nest.—It is something unusual for a young man to bathe the doorsteps with a copious flow of tears when parting with his dear dulcinea at night, but why she should get angry at his sudden overflow of grief, for the life of us we cannot see.—Our highly esteemed friend "S.—" thinks "Oofy" might think of some occurrences quite as amusing as the "pig sty." She thinks the "damp nurse," "buck wheat cakes" or riding in a railroad car, seated beside a lay of high scent might interest him. "Oofy" can you explain.—Our friend Ella had an apple seed on one eye and a quince seed on the other to see which would accept for "better or bad." Old quince won the prize. Viva la quince.—Of course our friend in Hoboken was happy. Who would't be.—There is a little "brunette" down town that can scrub like a Molly McGuire. That is not all, she can play on the piano with the grace and skill of a professional. Our "devil" says she is a jewel and sparks without a handsome setting.—Yes, our dear friend in Binghamton, with the golden tresses, we will take two "sugar plums" if you can make it convenient to send them.—"Harry" wanders of late to the suburbs. Go alone Harry, and you can have more fun.

Scranton City Government.

Mr. Chapin spoke on the matter as follows: Gentlemen: The police question deserves at this time more than a passing glance. To say that it is rotten is but speaking of it in a phrase of respectability.

The law and ordinances are all that one could wish, but are trampled upon with utter impunity. In this respect the councils are not free from neglect. Indifference in management and gross carelessness in the discharge of duty seems to be the most prominent feature of the city government. In fact, it has been pronounced a farce. We might almost accept the term—it would be just, though, to say that the "thing" runs itself. It is a shame, Mr. President, to be compelled to say that whisky and beer propels the police department. This city actually pays salaries ranging from \$75 to \$150 per month to enhance the wealth of keepers of whisky, ale and beer. It is a fact known to all that a large number of our police, including the chief, make their leading places in saloons and hanging around bars, while in section 14, ordinance No. 2. it reads, it shall be their duty to caution strangers and others from going into places where idlers and tipplers congregate. In stead of being on duty, as the law requires, they are robbing the city of its revenue, enhancing its crimes by their idleness, and bringing disgrace upon it by a laziness that is simply too contemptible to speak of. My opinion, gentlemen, is, that the time has come when "beer" no longer should be our chief of Police. If we cannot make a change, nothing but crime will be the record of the city of Scranton. How long has it been since the knocking down and almost murdering of two citizens at the foot of Penn avenue. Two policemen arrived before any of the party dispersed. They made no arrests; told the ruffians to go home. These two policemen should be discharged at once. It is certainly required that a policeman should be a temperate man. Section 34, says policemen shall be immediately discharged from office for intoxication while on duty or for violent, coarse or insolent language; yet in the face of this, the testimony in the Kearney trial is that chief Ferber was either drunk or intoxicated; also that the most profane language was used by him; beside that of treating the colored man on Sunday morning. We shall endeavor to find who the parties were that sold them these drinks on Sunday. Yet, gentlemen, if this police force had been sober, and attentive to duty, we verily believe this murder would never have occurred. When the testimony of the witnesses in this case is that this party were at Noll's, on Lackawanna avenue; at John Zeidler's; at Lorenz Zeidler's; through center street, and the whole length of Penn avenue to Dickson's works, and that police officers, including the chief, was in a number of these places, and the damning testimony of his conduct, what else could we expect. It seems that the fumes of incarcerated poisons, secreted in the brain by the deposit of draughts taken from the fountains of hell, found no other outlet but in the life's blood of Kearney. This poor man was a quiet, inoffensive citizen. He, in common with our great human family, had his weakness, probably in drink, but he in common with us, expected and demanded protection from our authorities. But in the hour of his greatest need our keepers of peace were under the control of an element that was an instigator of the crime. Those of us who have not yet felt by the hand of the assassin, or been waylaid in our public thoroughfares, cannot contemplate the thought of the dying Kearney, pummeled and kicked by brutes of the worst passions, gathered up like a loathsome animal, taken through the heart of the city in the hour of midnight, thrown down an embankment an hundred feet high and left for dead, probably returned to consciousness before death, but not to strength; laying alone through the dark hours of night with no one to commune with but his God, and no watchman but the stars above him, no doubt he thought of the rottenness of our police force. We say gentlemen if our police were not directly implicated in this murder they were indirectly.

Section 15 says, each police must be in his conduct quiet, civil and orderly. Thank God some are so; but if others are nothing but walking barrels of beer, how can they keep order.

Again, Section 27 says, any policeman who shall willfully maltreat or use violence toward a prisoner, shall, on complaint being made, be immediately discharged. I would recommend that the Common Council, acting in concurrence with the Select, proceed to the trial of every policeman salaried, who has been remiss in duty and intemperate in habits, and, if found guilty, to immediately discharge them. Further, I would move an investigation be held by this council for one of its members being intoxicated and incarcerated in our city prison.

Gentlemen, this monster must be robbed of his power as far as the city government is concerned. The councils have not searched and sifted the characters and habits of these candidates for police as they should. Men of intemperate habits, for these posts of life's protection should never be called into service. I ask why not probe the malady at its core, and let the putrifaction escape? We will then see life restored and vigilance upon every side. Gentlemen, I shall hereafter endeavor to ferret out the lurking places of these sentinels of peace, and shall not give my support in confirming a man for these important posts of trust who in any way loves his whisky and beer better than the honor of the city.

Judge Durell, of Louisiana, whose name has become famous for his political decisions, has resigned his position as Justice of the United States District Court. It is alleged that he has taken this course to avoid impeachment. There are now three vacant Judgeships in the South to be filled by the President.

Hunters are having fine sport in Forest county. Robert Guyton has killed eleven bears thus far this season; Daniel Elvek has slain eleven deer; William Felton killed seven deer in two days, while others have had almost equal success.

Look Out for Worthless Registered Bonds.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Com. New York, December 1, 1874.

Some time ago the United States Secret Service were informed that there were some United States Fifty-two bonds afloat, were either counterfeit or else genuine stolen bonds altered to prevent detection. Benson's force of the Secret Service here, were immediately on the track, and finally arrested at Philadelphia, one George F. Hilt alias Batchelder, late secretary of the defunct Safeguard Insurance Company, and found in his possession a plate for the manufacture of fifty cent United States fractional currency, and some \$12,000 of Fifty-two bonds.

These bonds, instead of being counterfeit, are genuine registered bonds of the issue of March 3, 1863, and altered by erasing the names of the registered payees, as well as the numbers, and renumbered and other payees substituted, and these bonds were used as deposits for collaterals in the insurance company of which Hilt was secretary. They were stolen at Braintree, Mass., on the 7th of July, 1871, and were entered in the Register's office of the United States Treasury at the time. The singularity in this case is that the bonds could have been used as collaterals without the Insurance Commissioner knowing their worthlessness, and it might be well for all holding Government bonds to make a rigid examination into the matter, since, even if registered, they may prove utterly worthless to the holder.

It is well to know that your bonds are not only registered, but you should also know that they have not been tampered with.

Contested Elections.

In Northampton county they are to have a contested election for Sheriff under the new law.

The Democratic candidate for Sheriff in Northampton county, Mr. Pearson, received fifty-two majority over Mr. Young, and the usual specification of frauds and irregularities are made in behalf of Mr. Young and signed by twenty electors and sworn to by five of the number.

The following are some of the most important irregularities alleged to have been committed:

A Justice of the Peace swearing the Judge of Election instead of the minority inspector as required by law; neglecting to examine the registry to see whether the name of each voter was on it; not requiring naturalized citizens to produce their papers, who have been voters for less than five years; keeping improperly the tally of voters in counting them; not making triplicate returns; not publicly declaring the vote of each candidate after the vote was counted; not returning a list of voters to the Prothonotary's office; neglecting to sign the tally list, and others of the same character.

For District Attorney, Mr. Hillburn, the Democratic candidate, was defeated by fifty-two majority for Mr. Merrill, and also proposes to contest. Besides the usual specifications the contestant alleges that many ballots with simply "John," "J," "Calvin," and "C." Merrill, were all counted for "John C. Merrill," and therefore illegally gave him a majority.

Meeting of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

Without excitement or confusion, Congress met and went quietly to work to-day. There was a full attendance in both houses, and the galleries were crowded with visitors. There was considerable interest manifested in the President's Message, although its contents were generally known. There were some who last week thought that the President would take counsel of the recent elections, and make some concessions to the demand for some increase of currency, and favor some of the internal improvement schemes, either by direct or indirect aid from the government. These were all doomed to disappointment, and although the fact that he is for specie resumption at once is gratifying to the hard money men in both houses, who are mainly Democrats, very few agree with him as to the means of bringing it about.

So far as his message was expected by any one to aid in rallying the broken column of the Republican party it was a complete failure. His specie policy will be ignored in both houses, and the probability is that nothing will be done with the Currency question this session, and time will be wasted, as it was last winter, in fruitless endeavors to harmonize conflicting views in both parties. There will, however, be a bill introduced, and pressed at once, to repeal the provision of the last Bank bill requiring national banks to redeem their notes at the Treasury here. All the small country banks are opposed to it, and are demanding its repeal. It proves to be a serious contraction and expense without benefit to any one.

CONSCIENCE MONEY.

The Treasurer received a letter from Newark, N. J., containing \$110 conscience money. No further explanation was contained in the letter.

The official list of members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania chosen at the November election shows that the Democratic majority on joint ballot will be very slim. The Senate will contain 30 Republicans, 19 Democrats and one independent Democrat (Mr. Shimer of Northampton)—giving the Republicans a clear majority of 10. The House of Representatives will consist of 90 Republicans, 108 Democrats, 2 "Independents," and 1 Prohibition Republican—which gives the Democrats a majority of 15 in the House over all opposition. The Democratic majority on joint ballot of both branches is but 5, a margin that is altogether too small to be comfortable in a body of 251 members.

The public debt statement, issued on the 1st instant, shows a decrease during the month of November of \$123,427.68. The total decrease since June 30, 1874—six months—is \$4,149,907.02. The total debt, less cash in the Treasury, on the 1st instant, was \$2,138,938,334.14.

Allentown's taxable property is assessed at \$11,000,000.

The Citizens' bank in Philadelphia will be wound up by the directors.

The militia service of the State of New Jersey cost \$80,000 for the past year.

Over 200 new buildings have been erected in Pottsville during the present year.

An ungodly man named Scripture is keeping a liquor saloon in Nebraska City.

All our Western exchanges speak hopefully of the winter wheat crop prospects.

A man named Laggan has been sent to the Luzerne jail for collecting a bill with a revolver.

There is one whisky-shop for every seven adult citizens at the Summit, Cambria county.

A colored man in Ebensburg has enjoyed an uninterrupted "snooze" for a week, and was still snoring at last accounts.

Two hunters of Lancaster shot one hundred and fifty-seven partridges in Dauphin county from Thursday to Saturday last week.

Titusville thieves not only carry off all the week's "wash," but steal the clothes lines. Now who will argue against total depravity?

Those who are fortunate enough to handle \$10 bills, should beware of counterfeit tens on the First National bank of Philadelphia.

Many of the log jobbers, says the Clearfield Journal, have all their logs cut and are ready for the teams to go to work. They are only waiting on snow.

Fred. Lauer sold during the week ending October 1, 1874, fifteen thousand bushels of beer, or twice as much as he sold the previous year when there was no pauper.

A large number of Welsh people are leaving Slatings, Lehigh county, for the old county, where advices state that work is plenty. Around Slatings work is scarce and wages have been cut down heavily.

A building containing 15,000 bushels of oats and 15 tons of ground feed, at Glensdale, N. Y., belonging to J. H. Putnam, was burned Saturday morning. Edward McGuire's foundry was also burned. Total loss, \$39,000.

The Warren Ledger says that half the working population of that county are out of work. And the Ledger is a Democratic paper, and it is only a month since the great Democratic victory which was to usher in "good times."

There was coined at the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia during the month of November \$456,440 in gold pieces, nearly all double eagles; \$98,400 in silver halves and quarters; and \$40,000 in five, three and one-cent pieces—making a total coinage for the month of \$594,840.

The store of R. Potter & Son, West Springfield, Pa., was entered by burglars on Saturday night, and after blowing open the safe they took from it between \$500 and \$10,000 in money and bonds, and then fired the building. The loss on building and stock is \$12,000.

Jacob Hammerly, of Kettle creek, Luzerne county, is a "mighty hunter." He has killed eight bears thus far this season. He is sixty years old, and commenced his career as a trapper when thirteen years of age, since which time he has killed upwards of three hundred deer, five elk, one hundred and ten bears, forty-eight foxes, and over forty catamounts. He is still an accurate marksman, having within the past few weeks shot out the eye of a pheasant at a distance of forty yards.

The Washington, Pa., Reporter says: While the cry of hard times and money stringency comes up from nearly every quarter, it is a matter of congratulation that the pressure has not yet been felt in Washington county—or if at all only to a slight extent. Our wood and other productions have gone off at fair figures and brought the ready money. Trade where there is dull, while here it is unusually brisk. More houses have been built and tened in our last, than for many previous years.

According to the requirements of a new Constitution, when two Judges are elected for equal terms of service they may draw lots for priority of commission, the deciding which shall be the senior and which the junior Judge. This duty was recently performed by Judges Paxson and Woodward, who have been elected Justices of the Supreme Court for a period of twenty-one years. The right to the first commission fell to Judge Paxson, who by virtue of it will, if he lives to the end of his term, be Chief-Justice of Pennsylvania for seven years, succeeding Judge Gordon. This result is gratifying to the numerous personal friends of Judge Paxson.

The annual meeting of the State Grange, P. of H., takes place at 3 p. m., January 5, 1875, in Williamsport. Four hundred granges of the State of Pennsylvania will be represented at that time. The biennial election of officers takes place at that meeting, and other business of importance will be transacted during the session. Arrangements have been made with nearly all the railroad companies for large reductions in fares. This will also furnish an excellent opportunity for Pennsylvania farmers to contribute effectively to help their distressed brethren in Kansas and Nebraska who have been smitten by the grasshopper plague.

The labor market in the Luzerne coal districts is reported glutted. Scranton, with a population of 35,000, cannot now give steady employment to 3,000 men. Carbonate, sixteen miles distant, with a population of 12,000 men, cannot employ 1,000, and so it is all along the Lackawanna Valley. In Wyoming Valley the situation is little better, if we may except Pittston, where the works of the Pennsylvania Coal Company are kept running in full blast. Below Pittston, where the coal works are operated for different companies, the state of affairs is not any more encouraging. In the Wilkesbarre region thousands of men are out of employment.