



The Jeffersonian.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1875.

Vice President Wilson's letter to the Editor of the Springfield Republican, and which will be found in this week's Jeff. is richly deserving of an attentive perusal...

Only one week and four days yet until Spring Election—Tuesday, February 16th. Have we thought of our candidates yet? Remember that "the best men, without regard to politics, in the best places," is the best policy with which to govern this Election.

Our distinguished neighbor over the way is not particularly well pleased with the Auditor General's showing for the last fiscal year, and yet why he should not be is not particularly shown by his article...

And isn't this too bad in view of all that the organist has endured for the party. See his labors of the last fall—his marshalling the forces in torch light procession—his stooping to the position of torch-bearing generalissimo—his carrying of the whole burden of a grand jubilation rally on his shoulders...

We sympathize with our distinguished neighbor, and would comfort him with the assurance of our hope that a better and far more successful day may yet dawn upon him. But then, after all, Wallace is elected. We believe it was Martin VanBuren who once said "Republics is ungrateful!"

UNITED STATES SENATOR.

We mistook a day in our announcement last week that the election of United States Senator would take place on Thursday. It occurred on Wednesday. The other portion of our assurance was correct. It did require the action of the Republican members to settle the difficulty growing out of the trouble which Democratic aspirations had placed in the way of a speedy and a harmonious election.

There is no mistaking one thing in this connection, and that is, the position on the Senatorial question of the distinguished performer on the Democratic Organ, over the way. He was not in favor of Wm. A. Wallace for Senator, and did not hesitate to make the "Organ" breathe a tone of caution to Senators and Representatives from hereabouts, that it would not be just the thing for them to sing one tune while it played another.

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Merry Sleigh-ride.

Last Thursday evening about twenty-five couples—let it be understood married people, at least with but three or four exceptions—left Stroudsburg in single, double and four horse "rigs," accompanied by Beethoven Band, with Sim. Bush's for their destination. The distance, five miles, was soon "scudded" over and the hotel surrendered, from the cellar to the garret, to the jovial party, by nine host, ye genial Sim. Scarcely had the party entered the house before up went the carpets and impious feet were whirling through the dizzy maze keeping time with the fascinating and excellent music furnished by the band.

The fourth week of the Tilton-Beecher conglomeration of snut and moral ugliness has been got through with. Mrs. Beecher and "the child Elizabeth" are daily with each other attendants with Henry Ward in Court, and flowers in the greatest profusion lean him in with their perfume. Modesty, we think, should dictate to the "ladies," that their proper place was any where else than in a place where they will be compelled to see a tarish smeared over their good names, no matter what the verdict may be.

Mr. ROBERT HUSTON is getting from his stone quarry, in Paradise tsp., and gathering here some very fine flag stone, with a view, we learn to relaying the whole Maine street side walk, in front of his property with it, as soon as the weather will permit in the spring. This is certainly commendable in Robert, and furnishes an example which many of our townsmen might follow without injury to the appearance of their several properties.

An industrial army. The granger organizations of Illinois have a membership of 150,000.

ADVERTISE.

WHEN?—now! WHERE?—in this paper. WHEREFORE?—That the people may know where to go to find what they want to buy.

OUR selighing is first rate. "WHAT we heard and saw," next week. MORE moderate weather for a week past.

We know a number of boys who play truant. AND now as to the gas company—how is that getting along?

AND then as to the Normal School—What are we thinking about it?

The way the boys pile on to Farmer's sleighs when they come to town, reminds us of the grass-hopper plague.

AND last, but not least—those cisterns which are to hold water in case of fire—what are we doing about them?

WE understand that Judge Throop, having received an eligible offer is about disposing of his burnt district property in Honesdale.

THE concert given by Prof. Perkin's Quartette from New York, last Tuesday night in the Lutheran Church, was well patronized—nothing more.

Who among our many readers young or old can send in the correct answer to the following puzzle:—"If the B m t put: If the B. putting:"

WE hear rumors of improvements to be made in town and county during the spring and summer, but nothing sufficiently settled to warrant an extended notice.

MASON TUCK, has torn away the old shanty in the rear of his dwelling on Monroe St., and erected a neat piazza in its stead. Quite an improvement as well as convenience.

It is a matter for congratulation that we have not had a coasting accident to record all this winter. But we will not brag as the boys have not near got done riding down hill yet.

A daughter of Amzi Wilson, Esq., and wife of Mr. Squires, Attorney-at-Law, hung herself on Friday evening of last week, at Carbondale. She had shown symptoms of derangement for some time.

AFTER much talk upon the subject with people from all parts of the county, we feel authorized to say that Judge Stauffer's appointment gives universal satisfaction. Republicans and Democrats, alike, are well pleased with it.

JACOB ENGLER is erecting a very neat dwelling on a lot recently purchased in Labar's addition to the borough, on Academy hill. Jacob appears to understand that the next best thing to a wife is a neat, comfortable home to keep her in, and Jacob is right.

THERE was quite a little war flurry last week growing out of a message of the President recommending the speedy organization of our coast defenses. Wall street was considerably exercised, but it only turned out to be a prudent recommendation "in time of peace to prepare for war."

ENCOURAGED by their success of two weeks ago, when they secured a prize of a sucker and a half a piece, our typographical force started out on another venture in the same direction. The weather was much more favorable, and the result this time was no suckers, all froze up.

THE school laws of Philadelphia forbid study out of school hours. We believe that Philadelphia school laws are more than half bird. We pay teachers to teach our children, but under the present system the parents are the teachers while the teachers themselves are only heaters of the lessons taught.

No man who has real or personal property should think of going to sleep without having it insured. The knowledge that it is insured, in the Monroe Mutual for instance, will prove more conducive to refreshing slumbers and pleasant dreams, than all the haudnism in an "ashoteary pop." Try its sodorific properties.

ST. VALENTINE makes his appearance on Sunday this time, and postmasters will have a day of rest. The juveniles, and the agencies, too, however, will have their "send," and we presume that for a week before, and a week behind the day Simon will have his handsful. Get your pictures ready for a week from Sunday, as that is the day.

THE Y. M. C. A. met on Friday evening to organize a library. Very good. Now let us have the dancing school on religious principles. A venerable, and good old Parson once said, it is better often to wag the heels than the tongue, and we cannot help but believe that he was right. The dancing school, now, our christian friends. We'll promise it to draw amazingly.

Geo. C. CHILDS, Esq., of the Public Ledger, Philadelphia, has presented us with a copy of his Ledger almanac, valuable for the statistical and general information which it contains, and a photo-lithograph copy of one whole side of the Ledger ensnared to four by 2 1/2 inches, with print clear and distinctly readable. The latter is quite a curiosity. Of course our thanks well up for George for his kindness.

OUR town is getting to be quite a chicken fanciers locality, and Leghorns, Brauhuns, Cochins, Hamburgs in variety, and Houdans as names roll as glibly off the tongue as though really part and parcel of the nursery vernacular. Well eggs is eggs, but we do not know that these eggs are better than those eggs, even though the chick-a-biddies which laid them did cost ten to twenty dollars per pair.

During the warm snap on Friday last, some East Stroudsburg ladies, met and passed resolutions, and in a short time had a party of 22 and a four-horse team out slay-riding, leaving their husbands to wonder what was said about them.

OUR cotemporaries elsewhere are so cluttered up with notices of ward and township meetings and vigilance committees, that one uninitiated would suppose that two or three Presidential elections, at least, were on hand instead of a mere municipal election. Here we do things differently. We merely call a meeting of citizens without distinction of party, select the best men of both parties, equally as possible, to fill the several offices, and elect them without useless vexation, strife or trouble. The result is that we have no rings to steal our taxes, and our borough affairs are honestly and properly managed.

WE learn that Mr. S. W. Keen, the gentleman who has just completed a handsome residence in the suburbs of Highland Dell, has completed a hatchery, by which he designs bringing forth poultry in great abundance by artificial heat. The capacity of his apparatus, it is said, runs way up to the thousands in the season, and every thing is arranged so as to make success as near as can be a certainty. By means of mercurial valves of his own conception and get up the nicest adjustment of heat to a fixed standard is always secured, and there seems to be no earthly reason why he should not succeed to his hearts content. County Superintendent Frutcher has experimented in this direction for several years, but has not this far proved himself a good enough setting hen to brag of—probably because of the imperfection of his hatchery. We shall keep our ear open, and make a note of the progress of Mr. Keen's efforts as we hear of them for the benefit of our readers. Poultry men generally, we believe, rather doubt the feasibility of the idea, and think that in chicken hatching, as in some other things, nature's way is by far the best way. One can't tell, though, until one tries.

THE clever "locals," of the Scranton daily Times discourses thus eloquently one day of Wilkes Barre distinguished lions:

The "Riverside Hotel," at Wilkes-Barre, is very popular just now. Within its hospitable walls are sixty old guests, all of whom are cared for with the most punctilious regard for their comfort and safety, especially the latter. Each of these is furnished with a separate room, and they are not required to mingle with the vulgar horde, but have their meals taken in their private apartments. They are never dunned for their board bills, and their leisure moments are never broken in upon by loafers and look agents. The man with grease extracting soap, and the woman with new fangled paper cutters and crasers do not intrude their presence upon the inmates of this establishment. Nobody wants to sell them a dog, and from life insurance agents they enjoy a blissful immunity. The tax man don't bother them, and they are not expected to waste their boots upon a worn-out cat or moon-struck dog. None of them has "musical neighbors," and the notes of the solitary cornet are not heard. By an ingenious device of the architect the screech of the locomotive whistle is rendered as soothingly sweet as the trickle of molasses upon the roof of a pan-cake; in fine, "century reigns supreme and meditation is epoured in all its sublimity."

One would think that "ye locals" was setting forth a perfect dylismy were it not for a strong suspicion that, "River-side Hotel" at Wilkes-Barre is, after all, only the county jail.

Pigeon Shooting.

On Saturday afternoon last, a large crowd assembled on Robeson's flats to witness the grand pigeon shooting which was arranged by Mr. John Selwood, a week or ten days ago. The contestants were, Mr. John Selwood, Mr. Geo. W. Drake, Mr. John Baldwin, Mr. H. Shiffer, Mr. Joe Shiffer, Mr. A. H. Azer, Dr. J. H. Lesh, Mr. U. Yonkin, Mr. Granville Bennett, and Mr. Sam. Buckley. The distance was twenty-one yards rise; eighty yds bonds; five birds each; miss fire to be considered lost. Once upon the ground no time was lost in selecting a referee. In case of necessity, they wanted a man that could take a yard at every step and no one seemed to fill all the requirements better than JOHN SMITH, John the original. All agreed that he should be the referee and placing the trap at the proper distance—twenty yards—they proceeded to business. So far as the shooting of those entered for the match were concerned, very few of the birds had much to fear, but when they once struck out in the direction of Harry Burnett, or Sim Troch, they were certain to fall; or if they were so fortunate as to escape from them, the shower of shot that awaited them at the barn was sure to put a quietus to their further flight. In a fence corner along the lane, could be seen an old "shootin'" who occasionally embraced a pint flask very affectionately and in consequence of which he missed every bird that flew in his direction. The following score gives the result:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Score. Includes names like Geo. W. Drake, J. Selwood, J. Baldwin, H. Shiffer, J. Shiffer, A. H. Azer, J. H. Lesh, U. Yonkin, Granville Bennett, Sam. Buckley.

Tidoute, Pa., evades the local option law in a peculiar manner. There is but one place in the town where the cup that inebriates can be procured, and that is so arranged that the drinker never knows of who he is procuring his indispensable. The searcher after his morning bitters enters a room one side of which is boarded up. On this partition a horizontal wheel revolves. Over the wheel is the legend: "Drop your money on this wheel, call for what you want, and wait until the wheel revolves." The first order obeyed the wheel turns around, brings out the desired liquid. The man is unable to swear who sold him the liquor, as no person is visible. Whisky is the father of vain tricks.

The greatest coal mine of the age has been found in Skagit Valley, Wyoming. It is a vast field, where coal can be obtained to an unlimited extent on the surface without going to the expense of underground tunneling.

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Attorney General DIMMICK submitted his annual report to the Legislature on Wednesday of last week. It is as follows: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, HARRISBURG, January 12, 1875.—To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—Gentlemen:—In compliance with the provisions of the act of 21st April, 1857, entitled "An act relating to the office and duties of the Attorney General," I herewith transmit a statement of the business transacted in this department, during the year ending December 31, 1874:

Number of claims certified for collection, 205. Number withdrawn, 1. Number collected, 59. The amount of money represented by these claims was, \$74,336.64. Amount collected, 17,059.60.

Balance for collection, \$57,336.44. Payment has been enforced upon the outstanding claims of earlier years and the total collections amount to \$97,703.97.

Of the claims certified for collection one hundred and eighty-four for the second installment of loans upon the character of various corporations, and to obtain their payment one hundred and fourteen suits were brought. In comparatively few instances were legal proceedings unsuccessful. Many of the companies whose charters were thus taxed have no officers, agents, or members upon whom a legal service could be made, and most of them have no property to satisfy the judgment obtained against them after suit has been brought. Care was taken to protect the interests of the Commonwealth and avoid making costs in cases where collections were impossible.

Thirteen were satisfied by payment made directly to the State Treasury by the companies, under the provisions of section 11, of the act of the 24th of April, 1874, (P. L. f. 72), which allowed an abatement upon certain claims if paid within thirty days after its passage.

Six of the appeals involve the constitutionality of the law passed at your last session, imposing a tax on coal companies. They have been placed at issue and will be tried, it is expected, at the February adjourned court, together with the other appeals, which raise questions under earlier laws.

The Erie railway company appealed from the account settled against it for gross receipts. The case was tried on 24th March, 1874, and resulted in a verdict in favor of the Commonwealth for the sum of \$76,788.29. Upon writ of error taken by the company the decision of the court of common pleas of Dauphin county was affirmed by the Supreme Court, and from their decree the company appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

To avoid delay incident to a trial in that court, the Commonwealth obtained an advancement of the cause, and it will be argued on the 19th of January, 1875. The case involves not only a large amount of money but a most important principle. It will decide whether the Commonwealth has restricted its powers to tax this company by the provisions of the act of March 26, 1836.

The decision of the Supreme Court reviewing on writ of error taken by the Commonwealth the ruling of the court below in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Geo. O. Evans was duly announced in the report made by myself for the year 1873. In accordance with the principle established by the opinion of a re-trial of the case was had on the 31st of January, 1874, and resulted in an increased verdict for the Commonwealth, for the sum of \$186,663.57. On the fourth of February, 1874, Mr. Evans, having been surrendered to the keeper of the Dauphin county prison on a bail piece issued by his sureties, his sureties for the appearance were released from further liability by order of the court.

The action against Mr. Evans was commenced by capias, and at the time of the trial a question of law was reserved by the court, as to the power of the Commonwealth to institute proceedings against defaulting public officers in this manner. After an argument of considerable length, the court held that the Commonwealth possessed this right; that the action had been properly brought and entered judgment in favor of the State upon the verdict. The Commonwealth then issued a capias ad satisfaciendum, to which the sheriff made return "cepi corpus et committit."

On 16th March, 1874, Mr. Evans, who was still in prison, gave bonds with security to apply for the benefit of the insolvent laws, and the court thereupon ordered him to be released from custody.

On 27th April, 1874, Mr. Evans filed his petition to obtain his discharge as an insolvent debtor.

The application thus made was resisted by the insolvent laws do not apply to her debtors, and that Mr. Evans, therefore, could not be released under its provisions, and this position the court sustained in an oral argument, delivered on the 3d of September, 1874.

On the following day, the court being satisfied by the affidavits of physicians that imprisonment would result in the death of Mr. Evans, directed a continuance of the proceedings until 2d December, 1874.

At the close of the month of November Mr. Evans sent to this department a package purporting to contain certain statements of his receipts and expenditures of the public money, supported to some extent at least by bills, checks and vouchers. Of its contents I have as yet no knowledge. It was immediately sent to the Auditor General and State Treasurer, who were the proper officers to examine it, and who will notify me on the result of their investigation when it is fully completed.

To allow these officers time to discharge this duty, the Commonwealth did not oppose a motion made by the counsel of Mr. Evans for another continuance, which the court granted and fixed the 2d of February 1875, for the final disposition of the matter.

On the 27th of March, 1867, Mr. George O. Evans gave bond to the Commonwealth in the sum of ten thousand dol-

lars, with Thomas Woods and John F. Graff as sureties, for the faithful performance of his official duties. On 7th August, 1874, suits were instituted against the sureties to recover the amount due upon this bond. In neither case could service be obtained, and to both of the writs of summons returns to that effect were made by the sheriffs of the counties to which the writs were directed.

An alias writ was issued against John F. Graff with like result. Of the place of residence of Mr. Woods no definite information could be obtained. Until there is satisfactory evidence that these gentlemen can be reached by legal process further proceedings are deemed useless.

Upon information communicated to me by Hon. J. M. Forster, insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania, suits were commenced against ten insurance companies to vacate their charters and distribute their assets, in accordance with the act of 4th April, 1873, and of the suits thus brought all have already been tried. One company was allowed by the court to substitute proper securities for those which the insurance commissioner had rejected, and to resume business; eight companies were dissolved and their assets placed in the hands of receivers. Respectfully submitted, SAM'L E. DIMMICK, Attorney General.

EXTRAORDINARY FANATICISM.

A Young Lady Burns Herself to Death to Obtain Forgiveness for Having Committed 'The Unpardonable Sin.'

HONESDALE, Pa., January 8.—Grissy Hacker, an intelligent and beautiful young lady, living at White's Valley, sixteen miles west of this place, deliberately burned herself to death yesterday while under the influence of extraordinary religious fanaticism. She was the daughter of William Hacker, a wealthy and prominent farmer of this county. For five or six years past she has at times been subject to temporary insanity during which lapse she imagined that she had committed sins against her heavenly father which could only be absolved by the making of burnt offerings. While laboring under this delusion she would creep away in the fields of her father's farm and burn up articles of different kinds. Her father, her mother being dead, feared that she might during one of these intervals dash herself bodily from a steeple or other high place.

Yesterday Mr. Hacker had occasion to go to a neighboring village, and as his daughter manifested signs of the recurrence of one of her insane intervals, he charged his hired man to watch her during his absence. At noon the man went to his dinner, leaving the young lady in the kitchen reading the Bible. For some reason he did not return to the house until Mr. Hacker came back, which was about 2 o'clock. When the latter entered the kitchen he was paralyzed with horror at the sight that confronted him. The ashes and coal of what had evidently been one of Miss Hacker's slanders by the body of his daughter literally burned to crisp. Both legs and the left arm were entirely consumed, and the abdomen was reduced to ashes. The hair was all burned off her head, but her face was not touched. Notwithstanding the intense agony she must have endured her face was not distorted in the least, but wore an expression of calmness and peace, her lips being pressed in a smile, as if she died believing that through that fiery ordeal she was to pass into a joyful eternity.

While the hired man was alone Miss Hacker had formed out of a set of quilting frames a pyre, or altar. On this she had spread some carpet and made herself a pillow. At one side of the altar she had piled up a quantity of combustible wood, and when all was in readiness, had kindled it, from which the flames soon spread and enveloped the altar.

In the family Bible, which was found open at the Book of Job, the following note was found, in the handwriting of the deceased:

DEAR FATHER: My husband appealed to me to-day. He reveals to me the fact that I have committed the Unpardonable Sin; which I can only obtain forgiveness for by passing through the cleansing of fire. I will undertake for my dear Father, you will find my body in the northeast corner of the field. I wish to have my ashes buried in Mr. Lummard's ground at the northeast corner of the house. Good bye. May we both meet in Eternal Glory.

Mr. Hacker went to the corner of the house indicated in the note as the spot where the remains were to be buried, and found that his daughter had stalked out there a place for her grave.

Martin Prentiss summoned a jury and held an inquest on the remains. A verdict in accordance with the above facts was rendered.

Lehigh and Eastern R. R.

A committee from the Boston Board of Trade, with citizens and capitalists from that city, New England, Connecticut and New York, were met at the State House delegation from Poughkeepsie on Tuesday and escorted to the latter city, where examinations of the river are being made with a view to crossing at that point by a new link of railroad, and thus form a new connection with the Pennsylvania coal fields and the West.

President Wortendyke, of the New Jersey Midland railroad, yesterday placed a special train of three passenger cars at the disposal of the committee appointed by the Boston Board of Trade, for a tour of inspection of the road, with a view to securing direct communication from New England via Poughkeepsie to the coal fields of Pennsylvania. The trip proved the feasibility of the project beyond a doubt. The Boston Committee will return to the city to-morrow, and recommend the speedy completion of the route.

Death of the President of the Late Constitutional Convention.

EMIE, Jan. 25.—Hon. John H. Walker, president of the late Constitutional Convention of this State, died at his residence in this city this morning. He had been in feeble health for some time.