

ARRIVAL OF THE PERIA.

The new steamship Peria arrived at New York on Saturday, about half past nine o'clock.

The peace prospects are apparently progressing, but some days must yet elapse before the preliminaries can be secured.

The order to discontinue hostilities has been given by the Czar, without waiting for a formal armistice.

France, England and Austria continue to accord, although it is feared that great questions might arise during the negotiations for peace.

The acceptance of the Austrian propositions has been published officially at St. Petersburg.

The economic situation in the northern ports continued, and was reported at intervals by the Allies.

Prince Paskewitch is still alive, but beyond the possibility of recovery.

The admiralty have given notice in the Gazette that Dr. Rao having claimed the reward of \$10,000 offered to the first person who should discover the fate of the crews of the Erebus and Terror.

RUSSIA'S MOTIVES FOR ACCEPTING PEACE.

The following is from the Times' Paris correspondent's letter of the 24th, dated that day.

"I am aware that it would be wrong to attach much importance or implicit credit to telegraphic messages containing the sentences of the newspapers.

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Governor Shannon is now violently denounced by the "Border Ruffians" and all their newspaper organs.

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THE AMERICAN.

SUNBURY. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Proprietor.

To ADVERTISERS:—The circulation of the Sunbury American among the different towns in the Sunbury and Pennsylvania counties is equal to any paper published in North America.

The absence of the editor must be an excuse for the lack of editorial this week.

The poetry of W. P. T., from Shamokin, has been crowded out this week. It will appear in our next.

Thanks to Messrs. Straub and Taggart of the State Senate, and to J. H. Zimmerman, Esq., of the House, for numerous favors.

The Cosmopolitan Art Association announces that the distribution will positively take place on THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 28.

A lecture will be delivered in this place in the Court House, on Tuesday evening, 19th inst., by Prof. Sweet—subject, "Improvements of the age in educational science."

John B. Beck, Esq., of Lycoming county, has been admitted to a seat in the Legislature—having omitted John C. M. Ghee, the Know Nothing occupant, on account of illegality in the election.

Hon. THOMAS CORWIN.—A letter from Cincinnati, from a relative of Mr. Corwin, states that he was progressing favorably under the severe injury recently received by him from a fall, though it would probably result in a permanent lameness.

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EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 12, 1856.

There is less of an outside pressure at Harrisburg this winter than I have ever witnessed before.

Yet there is now before the legislature one of the most important bills that has ever been discussed in that body.

I mean the repeal of the restraining liquor law of the last session, usually called the Jug law.

The bill for an unconditional repeal of the law passed by a large majority, yet from all I can learn, there are not a dozen members in the House who are in favor of the revival of the old law.

They all admit that some stringent license law should be substituted after the law is repealed.

The Senate, on the other hand, by a vote of about 20 to 13 are of the opinion that no repeal shall take place until a stringent license law is passed, and as that body holds the balance of power, and has now before it two bills for that purpose, one by Judge Wilkins of Pittsburg, the other submitted a few days since by Mr. Brown of Philadelphia, the House will have no alternative but to accept one of these bills, or to go home leaving the Jug law un repealed.

The latter alternative they cannot, and of course will not adopt, and the result will be the passage of one of the Senate bills. Mr. Brown's bill, has been offered as a substitute for that of Judge Wilkins, published a few weeks since in the American, and will, no doubt, be the bill which will finally substitute for the present law, as the Senate have, in a kind of caucus, agreed upon its adoption.

I have therefore sent you a copy of the bill for publication. It will be seen that the lowest class is to pay a license of fifty dollars.

An amendment will be offered making a still lower class, and fixing the license at twenty-five or thirty dollars, and will, I think, be accepted by Mr. Brown. Another amendment, requiring, as the lowest limit, two spare rooms, instead of four, will also be offered.

With these, and perhaps a few other important amendments, the bill will finally pass both Houses, and become a law.

Yesterday afternoon Judge Wilkins' bill was taken up in the Senate. Mr. Ingram, of Philadelphia, had the floor, and spoke until the hour of adjournment.

Mr. Ingram is a new member, and made a very able speech in opposition to the Jug law, or any law restraining the appetites of the people.

He contended that nearly the whole human family since the creation of the world, were accustomed to stimulants of some kind, and that they would, in all probability, continue to use them until the end of time, in some form or other.

That no laws could be enforced restraining man's appetites. That public opinion and the force of example alone, could work the necessary reformation.

He did not discuss the merits of the respective bills, but spoke upon general principles. Judge Wilkins, I understand, will offer some amendments to his bill this morning.

He seems to be tenacious of his bill. His venerable appearance and the distinguished political position which he formerly occupied, obtain for him, not only reverence, but respect.

He is now upwards of eighty years of age, tall and slender in appearance, with long flowing white locks. He is a brother-in-law of the Hon. G. M. Dallas, and occupied with a seat in the U. S. Senate, at the same time. He was afterwards Secretary of War in the Cabinet of President Tyler.

A meeting was held at Baltimore, a few days since, by the Board of directors of the "Northern Central Railway," at which it was resolved to commence the work on the unfinished portion of that road, between Millersburg and Port Trevorton, a distance of about fifteen miles.

The road is to be completed to that point, by the first of September next. The Trevorton company, I understand, have come to terms with the Railroad Company, and I presume, a very little effort should induce the Railroad Company to complete the road to Sunbury at the same time.

Self interest and every other consideration seems to point to its speedy completion.

On the meeting of the Senate this morning Mr. Ingram resumed his speech on Judge Wilkins' bill. During the morning, Mr. Taggart, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Souther addressed the Senate in opposition to Mr. Wilkins' bill. He spoke in support of Mr. Brown's bill as the best substitute offered in place of the present law.

Mr. Taggart's speech contained a number of good points, interspersed with humorous illustrations, and was listened to with attention.

He stated his determination to act according to his convictions of duty without regard to popular clamor or popular applause.

In the afternoon Judge Wilkins occupied most of the time in support of his bill, but the Senate by a vote of 19 to 13 struck out all after the enacting clause, substituting Mr. Brown's bill in its place.

In the House there was an exciting debate on the bill to incorporate the "Third order of Franciscans" in Cambria county, a Catholic Institution. E. Joy Morris, Esq., of Philadelphia was speaking in opposition to the bill as I entered the Hall.

His speech was a chaste and classical effort. He referred to the aggressions of the church of Rome, and his hostility to free institutions throughout Europe, and eloquently commented upon these subjects.

Mr. Johns, of Fayette, replied, charging the opposition to the bill to religious bigotry. After he had concluded the yeas and nays were called, and the bill passed by a large majority, but one democrat voting against it.

There is not much legislation from our county as usual, but Mr. Zimmerman, our member, has several important bills in charge. Mr. Zimmerman makes an industrious and attentive member, and commands the respect of his fellow members.

I regret that the election of a new board of directors for the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, has resulted in a manager calculated to stir up the strife and bitter feuds that formerly existed.

When will this work get into hands of persons who will have only an eye single to its completion and prosperity?

MR. BROWN'S LICENSE BILL.

Section 1. Be it enacted &c., That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be unlawful for any person to keep any house, room or place where, within, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixtures thereof, are sold or drank, except as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. That no licenses hereafter issued to vendors of vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixtures thereof, either with or without other goods, wares and merchandise, shall authorize sales of said liquors or any admixtures thereof, in less quantities than one gallon; nor shall a license for the sale of said liquors in any quantity be granted to the keeper of any restaurant, eating house, oyster house or cellar, theatre or other place of entertainment, amusement or refreshment.

Sec. 3. That Breweries and Distilleries in all parts of the State shall be returned, classed, assessed, and licensed agreeably to the provisions of the act of the 10th of April, A. D. 1847, entitled "An Act to create a sinking fund, and to provide for the gradual and certain extinguishment of the debt of the Commonwealth." And the owner, proprietor or lessee of any and each of said breweries and distilleries, shall be assessed and required to pay annually, before obtaining a license, three times the rates or tax assessed agreeably to said act: Provided, The same shall not in any case, be less than fifty dollars; nor shall such licenses be authorized sales by them in quantities less than five gallons.

Sec. 4. That the provisions of this act shall not apply to importers, selling imported wines, brandy, liquors or ardent spirits, in original sale, or to the importers of such liquors, and to the importers of such liquors, in original sale, or to the importers of such liquors, in original sale, or to the importers of such liquors, in original sale.

Sec. 5. The provisions of this act shall not extend to druggists and apothecaries who shall compound or sell any admixtures of alcohol, spirits or brewed liquors, in the preparation of medicines, or upon the written prescription of a physician of good repute.

Sec. 6. That licenses to vendors of vinous, spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, as aforesaid, either with or without other goods, wares and merchandise, in quantities not less than one gallon, and the keepers of hotels, inns and taverns, shall not be granted except to citizens of the United States, of temperate habits and good moral character, nor until the requirements as hereinafter provided shall have been complied with.

Sec. 7. Said licenses shall be granted by the Court of Quarter Sessions of the proper county at or near the county seat, from the first day of April in each year.

The said Court shall fix a time at which applications for said licenses shall be heard, of which three weeks notice shall be given, by publication in the most public papers, or which may be directed, at which time all persons making objections to applications for license shall be heard by remonstrance or counsel, or both.

Sec. 8. Every person intending to apply for a license under the provisions of this Commonwealth, from and after the passage of this act, shall give public notice of the same by at least three publications in two newspapers where the application is made in the most public papers, or which may be directed, at which time all persons making objections to applications for license shall be heard by remonstrance or counsel, or both.

Sec. 9. The said assessors and board of appraisers of licenses shall furnish a certified list of all persons appraised, with the classification as made out by them finally determined upon, to the treasurer or receiver of taxes in each county, and to the clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the county, who shall, within twenty days thereafter, transmit to the Auditor General a copy of such list; and shall receive and collect, with the fees of the assessors and appraisers and their clerks, the amount of all licenses granted in the manner directed by law.

Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of the Auditor General to charge the said county treasurer, or receiver of taxes, as the case may be, with the amount payable by the several persons, in said list, from the payment of any part of which amount said treasurer or receiver shall only be exonerated by producing satisfactory evidence to the Department, that the party or parties so returned failed to obtain a license as aforesaid.

Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the Auditor General to return to the Legislature annually, in the month of January, a statement arranged in a tabular form, of the number and classification and license rates of all importers, brewers and distillers, keepers of hotels, inns or taverns, and vendors of vinous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixtures thereof, wares and merchandise, designating each county separately.

Sec. 12. Where any license may be granted by the Court as aforesaid, under the classification of the 12th and 13th sections of this act, it shall not be transferable, nor shall it confer a right to sell liquors as aforesaid in any other house or building than the one mentioned and described in the license; nor shall the bar, or any other apartment so called or used, be underlet; or if the party so licensed shall die, remove, or cease to keep said hotel, inn, tavern or store, the said Court may grant a license for the remainder of the year, at any term of the court, to this successor, who shall comply with the law in other respects.

Sec. 13. The number of licenses so granted to keepers of hotels, inns or taverns in the aggregate shall not exceed the number of cities due to every one hundred taxable, nor in the several counties in the State more than one every—taxables, the number of said taxables to be taken from the returns of the previous year; and it shall be the duty of the Grand Jury of each county, summoned to attend at the first term of the Court of Quarter Sessions in each year, to make a special return to said Court, appertaining the number of hotels, inns and taverns so to be licensed as aforesaid among the several cities and townships, and among the several counties, which appointments shall be made with reference to the convenience of the public and the accommodation of travellers and sojourners; and shall be conclusive in the said Court, in granting the licenses as aforesaid, unless the number of applications for such licenses in any ward or township should be less than the number apportioned to it as aforesaid; in which case the Court shall, at its discretion, apportion said licenses among the other wards and townships of said county as public convenience may require. If for any reason the said Grand Jury shall fail to discharge said duty, then the Court of Quarter Sessions shall make said apportionment.

Sec. 14. That any sale made of vinous spirituous, malt or brewed liquors, or any admixtures thereof, contrary to the provisions of this law, shall be taken as a misdemeanor, and upon conviction of the offence, in the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, of each county, the person so offending shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and to be imprisoned until the sentence of the Court be complied with, not exceeding sixty days; and upon a second conviction, the person so offending shall be sentenced to pay a fine, as aforesaid, and to be imprisoned in the county jail, or not less than one month, nor more than three months; and if licensed, shall forfeit said license, and be incapacitated from receiving any license, said license as aforesaid, for the period of five years thereafter.—And any keeper of any Drug or Apothecary store, Confectionary or Mineral or other fountain, who shall sell any spirituous, vinous, malt or brewed liquors, mixed or pure, to be used as a beverage, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to conviction and punishment, as aforesaid.

Sec. 15. That any person who shall sell spirituous and other intoxicating liquors, as aforesaid, to any person who shall drink the same on the premises where sold, and become thereby intoxicated, shall, besides his liability to answer in damages under any existing law, be fined five dollars for every such offence, or to be recovered in debt before any alderman or justice of the peace, by wife, husband parent or guardian of the person so injured, as aforesaid, shall be paid to the directors of the defendant, without exemption.

Sec. 16. That any person who shall be found intoxicated in any street, highway, public house or place, shall be fined upon the view, or upon proof made by any mayor, alderman, or justice of the peace, not exceeding five dollars, to be levied with the proper costs, upon the goods and chattels of the defendant, without exemption.

Sec. 17. That it shall be the duty of the Court, Mayor, Alderman or Justice of the Peace before whom any fine or penalty shall be recovered, to award to the informer or prosecutor, or both, a reasonable share thereof for time and trouble, but not in any case, exceeding one-third thereof, and the residue, as well as the proceeds of all forfeited bonds as aforesaid, shall be paid to the directors of the public schools of the respective district, to be applied for school purposes; and nothing herein contained shall prevent any such informer or prosecutor from becoming a witness in any such case.

Sec. 18. That no person pursuing exclusively the business of bottler of cider, perry, ale, porter or beer, and not at the same time following or engaging in any way in the business of keeping any hotel, inn or tavern, beer or oyster house or cellar, or place of entertainment, amusement or refreshment, shall be required to take out a license under the provisions of this law: Provided, such person shall not sell or deliver such cider, perry, ale, porter or beer in less quantity than a dozen bottles, at one time; nor permit any such liquors to be drunk upon the premises occupied in said business. Any violation of this section shall be punishable and in the manner provided in the Twenty-first section of this act.

Sec. 19. The Constables of the respective wards and townships, shall make return of retailers of liquors as now provided by law; and in addition thereto it shall be the duty of every such Constable, on the first day of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the respective counties, to make return on oath or affirmation, whether, within his knowledge, there is any place within his bailiwick kept, maintained in violation of law, or in which shall be the special duty of the Judges of all said Courts to see that this return is faithfully made; and if any person shall make known or writing to such Constable the name or names of any one who shall have violated this act, with the names of witnesses who can prove the fact, it shall be his duty to make return thereof, on oath or affirmation to the Court, and upon his faithful return to do so, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon indictment and conviction, shall pay a fine of fifty dollars, and be subject to imprisonment not less than ten nor more than thirty days.

Sec. 20. If any person engaged in the sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors, as aforesaid, shall employ or permit any minor, or imbecile person, in any way to assist in such manufacture or sale, it shall be deemed a misdemeanor; and any person so offending shall be liable to conviction and punishment, as provided in the Twenty-first section of this act.