

Letter from the Junior Editor.

CHAMFORD HOUSE, WILLIAMSPORT, May 19, 1875.

This city, since Monday, presents an unusual lively appearance. For months the merchants were lying on their idle arms waiting for something to turn up. The meeting of the Grand Lodge of I. O. of O. F. has been a long talked of event, and at last the time has arrived for the people of the lumber city to reap a harvest. In fact, the merchant who but a week ago could lie down on his counter to take nap without anything being disturbed, now advances to the front door with a huge smile upon his countenance. Many suppose Williamsport to be a large city, magnificently built, and lots of stamps to back it up. There are some fine residences, yet I confess, they are not numerous. The business portion for stores &c. is confined, principally, to one street, extending over about two squares. The principal business is lumber, which is very extensive, and there are, probably, more saw mills to be seen along the river front than in any other place in the United States. Ware these mills and Peter Herdic to be removed from the place the town would not amount to as much as a good sized farm. Peter is the moving spirit in the place, and by his numerous enterprises has made Williamsport a noted place. Though many are not willing to acknowledge this fact, they, when conversing about improvements, readily refer you to "Peter Herdic."

The hotel accommodations are not ample enough to accommodate all that are visiting the city this week, and many are sent to private houses. My sleeping room is about a half square away from the hotel. The landlord has no doubt in view the danger of sleeping in the fifth story of a hotel in case of fire. As others were served in the same manner, I could not help believing that the landlord picked his friends and put them to safe quarters, and that I must be one of the chosen few who are put beyond the reach of fire and bed bugs.

On Monday I met Mayor Powell, a lively young man, full of enterprise, and the grit to frown down odd fogysm. And although the city debt is perhaps four or five times larger than Sunbury, the improvements are not neglected on his part.

The Grand Lodge of I. O. of O. F., of Pennsylvania, has got to be a large body. There are now 996 lodges, with a membership of nearly 100,000. Every lodge has one representative. My sleeping room is probably 700 of these representatives present, besides a large number of Past Grandes. A synopsis of the history of the lodge was published in the Gazette and Bulletin, of Monday, which will probably prove interesting to many who are little acquainted with its origin and its rapid progress.

ORIGIN OF THE ORDER. Some writers place the origin of Odd Fellowship as far back as the fourteenth century, and say that it was known among the Godas and Huns. Others ascribe its origin to the Roman soldiers at the time of Nero, and its name to the Emperor Titus, who is alleged to have called them odd fellows from their singularity. Another class, anxious to make sure of the greatest possible antiquity, ascribe the origin of the Order to Adam. These fables of late years have been entirely discarded, and its true origin is believed to have been among seafaring mechanics and laborers in London in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

ITS RISE IN THE UNITED STATES. On the 26th of April, 1819—fifty-six years ago—the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was successfully commenced in the United States. Washington Lodge, No. 1, was then founded in the city of Baltimore by Thomas Wildey, a member of the Order in England some twelve years before he came to this country. After the organization of several Lodges in Baltimore an application was made for a dispensation from the authority of England. This was granted and received the following year. The Lodge continued to work under this authority until 1821, when the dispensation was surrendered, and the "Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the United States" was organized. In 1825 the "Grand Lodge of the United States" was organized as a separate and distinct body aside from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and a dispensation granted by the Order in Great Britain, authorizing the said Grand Lodge to conduct the business of Odd Fellowship in America without the interference of any other authority.

Only four men with Wildey were interested in forming this Lodge, the first in America, and by them the germ of what has become one of the great benevolent institutions of the age, was planted. Since that time the Order has grown in power and influence until it overshadows the land, numbers over half a million of members, and its beneficent influences are felt in every part of the republic. Its latest published records show that in 1873 there was paid in this country for the relief of brothers, \$928,120.83; for education of orphans, \$17,954.38; for burying the dead, \$231,467.60; for relief of widowed families, \$133,444.95; for special donations, \$1,849.25; making a grand total of \$1,355,837.33. What an eloquent sermon is contained in these figures!

WHEN ORGANIZED IN THIS STATE. On the 26th day of December, 1821, Pennsylvania Lodge, No. 1, was self-instituted in Philadelphia, but in pursuance of advice from Grand Sir Wildey it afterwards, on the 6th of June, 1823, applied for a charter from the Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the United States, which was granted on the 15th of that month; also a charter to the Past Grandes for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and on the 27th of June, 1823, the Grand Lodge was instituted and the officers installed by Grand Sir Wildey.

THE ORDER IN PENNSYLVANIA. The Order has made great progress in the Keystone State, and to-day it occupies an honorable and proud position. According to the last published report there were in this state 800 lodges in working order, with a membership of 105,197; during the year then closing, 12,023 Brothers had been relieved, and 1,341 widowed families, \$285,770.83; for widowed families, \$19,420.18; for the education of orphans, \$1,434.50; and for burying the dead, \$76,556.92 paid in 1873 for benevolent purposes.

On Monday the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania met in annual session in Lodge Room No. 112, corner of Market and Fourth streets. There was a large attendance. The morning session was taken up by reading of the reports of the Grand officers, which show that that branch of the order is in the most prosperous condition. In the afternoon the Grand Encampment officers were installed by Judge M. I. Dur-

Grand Lodge of the United States. Grand Sir Durham stands, 6 feet 4 inches in his stockings, and makes a very commanding officer. This is the first time the Grand Lodge has been honored with the presence of the Grand Sir of the United States outside the city of Philadelphia.

The following are the officers installed for the ensuing year: M. W. Grand Patriarch, Sullivan S. Child, of No. 10, Hartsville; M. E. Grand High Priest, George Bertram, No. 26, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Senior Warden, Edward Jones, of No. 101, Pittsburg; R. W. Grand Scribe, James B. Nicholson, of No. 51, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Treasurer, John S. Heise, of No. 26, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Junior Warden, Allan C. Lukens, of No. 17, Philadelphia; R. W. G. R. to G. L. U. S., M. Richards Muckle, of No. 51, Philadelphia.

On Tuesday morning the Grand Lodge met in the Opera House, at 9 o'clock, A. M., the Grand officers being present. The reports of the officers and different committees were read, when the following officers were installed by Grand Sir M. I. Durham: M. W. Grand Master, John Levergood, of No. 67, Lancaster; R. W. Deputy Grand Master, George F. Borie, of No. 336, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Warden S. B. Boyer, of No. 620, Sunbury; R. W. Grand Secretary, James B. Nicholson, of No. 100, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Treasurer, M. Richards Muckle, of No. 46, Philadelphia; R. W. Grand Representative to G. L. U. S., Wm. Stedman, of No. 113, Philadelphia.

GRAND MASTER'S REPORT. The following is a synopsis of the Grand Master's Report during the last year: RETURNS FROM SUBORDINATE LODGES. During the subordinate fiscal year, embracing the complete returns of the subordinate Lodges for two full terms, commencing April 1st, 1874, and terminating March 31st, 1875, there has been received the sum of \$22,612.70, derived from the per capita tax, cards, books, dues, charters, &c.

Of the above amount there was received prior to the last annual session, and reported as having been paid to the Right Worthy Grand Treasurer, at that time, the sum of \$7,537.62.

As a supplemental statement to the foregoing, showing what has been received since the 1st of April, 1875, up to May 11th, 1875, and paid into the hands of the Right Worthy Grand Treasurer, the sum of \$9,154.37 is presented.

In addition to the above statements the financial summary is presented, showing the receipts for the official year, from the last annual session up to the present session, being the period covered by the report of the finance committee, namely from May 10, 1874, to May 10th, 1875, which foots up a total of \$22,620.54.

REBEKAH LODGES. The Rebekah Lodges are reported to be in a very unsatisfactory condition. There are supposed to be one hundred and one Degree Lodges of the Daughters of Rebekah in operation, of which number only forty-one have made reports. Total number of members, 2,044; brothers relieved, 20; sisters relieved, 47; widowed families relieved, 1; paid for the relief of brothers, \$137.20; sisters, \$400; burying the dead, \$195.25; total amount paid for relief, \$703.25; number of brothers deceased, 4; number of sisters deceased, 10; total amount of receipts, \$2,578.43; total amount of expenses, \$1,335.38; total amount of assets, \$3,490.79.

SUBORDINATE LODGES. In marked contrast to the foregoing the following summary of the semi-annual reports of the subordinate Lodges is respectfully presented: Number of members, as per last annual reports, 95,197; number of initiations during the last year, 8,127; number admitted by card, 1,590; number reinstated, 842; total, 105,696. Number deceased, 870; number withdrawn by card, 1,771; number suspended, 6,037; number expelled, 144; total, 8,822. Present number of members, 96,844; net increase of members since last report, 1,647; decrease of initiations from preceding year, 1,907; increase of suspension over preceding year, 718; number of rejections, 1,012; number of Past Grandes, 15,593; number of Lodges in working condition, 844; increase of Lodges, 43; number of Rebekah Degree Lodges, 101.

SUMMARY OF RELIEF REPORT. Number of brothers relieved, 12,027; widowed families relieved, 1,622; education of orphans, 1,341; burying the dead, 796; total, 15,786. Total amount paid for relief, \$231,467.60; increase of disbursements, \$14,909.73; decrease of disbursements, \$3,392.60; total amount of assets reported by subordinate lodges, \$3,392,320.55; increase of assets since last annual report, \$23,118.18.

WORKING EXPENSES. Receipts for the past year are reported as follows: \$814,959.72. The amount expended for relief, &c., \$78,858.15. Amount added to the assets or reserve fund, \$736,101.57. Showing the working expenses to have been \$252,118.18, or 24.78 per cent. of the entire receipts. Whatever losses there may have been, owing to improper loans or investments, or by fire, are made, in the above exhibit, to appear as part of the working expenses. If the losses could be ascertained and deducted, the percentage would be greatly reduced.

NEWS COMES FROM NEW YORK THAT THE Secretary of the Treasury has only broken the crust of the whisky frauds, and that a vast deal more of fraud and villainy remains to be exposed. Parties seem to have sent clandestine offers of evidence, on some terms not understood by us. We hope that all reliable offers will be accepted, and the work of exposure pushed to the full limit. This country needs the purification that will attend the breaking up of silk and whisky frauds. But while this good work is going on, we hope that right measures will be taken to provide against the recurrence of such frauds. The fact is thrown in our faces that England collects three times as much per gallon on whisky as we do, and collects it fully and without scandal. Why? Because she has severe laws and enforces them. The first attraction of the whisky Ring, when exposed, was a threat, that it would break down Bristow, Grant, and the Republican party, if a compromise were not agreed to. This shows the secret of the wonderful audacity in wickedness that was shown. These men had no thought of being punished, and have not now. We must learn them that the law carries a penalty for violation that will be certainly enforced. Then we must reach right men for office. It does not appear that there were so many corrupt as inefficient men in charge of the Internal Revenue. Strong, honest, alert men are needed for the places to be filled.

A Danville lady was led to death by a locomotive.

KENTUCKY speaks on the third-term bugbear as follows: "Resolved, That the attempt of the Democratic leaders to create the impression that our patriotic President desires or seeks a re-election for a third term is an absurd device to disrupt the Republican party and produce a division between it and the President; the charge has no foundation in fact, and cannot mislead the people of the country into a restoration of the party to power which came so near destroying the Union of our fathers." This is the sixth Republican State convention which has declared in this way, a fact which ought to satisfy even the most hysterically nervous Conservatives.

The Postmaster General has put his foot down on gift enterprises, lotteries, &c. He has ordered the postmaster at Cincinnati not to pay to one L. D. Sine, alleged to be conducting a gift enterprise, any postal money order. The money is to be remitted upon proper application.

An intelligent Republican of Bucks Co., recently remarked: "I did not vote for Governor Hartranft in 1872, because I had not then full confidence in him; but I shall support him this year with the greatest pleasure. He has been a good officer in every way, and deserves a re-election at the hands of the people." This many declaration no doubt expresses the position of thousands of voters in Pennsylvania. It is well known that for various reasons many Republicans did not vote for Gen. Hartranft three years ago—either supporting Bucklew or not voting at all for Governor. There were several hundred such men in Bucks county. But we are safe in saying that nearly or quite all of them are now satisfied with his course, and are ready to support him cordially next November. His administration is confessedly one of the best the State has ever known. Economy, prudence and impartiality have been its characteristics, while in his personal relations with the people the Governor has been dignified, but unassuming, courteous in his manners, but just and firm in his decisions. The respect due to an Executive officer has not been diminished during his incumbency. It is therefore not surprising that men who doubted him three years ago—often because of untruthful accusations—now regard the Governor with the fullest confidence and respect, and are more than ready to reverse their former action in regard to him. The good will of this element alone is a long step toward his triumphant re-election; and when we consider that he will receive the regular vote of his party without a break there appears to be scarcely a doubt that he will be chosen to serve another term.

It has been reported that John Sney, the leader of the strikers in the coal region, has been arrested on the charge of conspiracy on oath of Capt. Clark. The Philadelphia Inquirer says: "It would seem that a word of wisdom to arrest the course of Mr. John Sney forthwith. If correctly reported, he has said enough to bring him within reach of the statute against inciting riot, and he should not be allowed to say any more. To him and others like him, who make money out of the troubles between employers and workmen, the violence and outbreaks of the present strike are manifestly due. To lead a mob in an actual attack not only tests Sney's earnestness, which the shrewd miners suspect, but magnifies his importance, increases subscriptions, and adds to his percentage of the same. He profits by turbulence, and it is his business to stir up dissensions by the most reckless appeals to the passions and prejudices of the ignorant and unthinking. If the miners should go to work again to-morrow, on any terms whatever, Sney and his mates would be out of a job. His wages cease when legitimate industry begins. Idleness is his opportunity and broken peace his gain. He is a dangerous person, and should be put where he will do the least harm."

The Postmaster General has just issued a circular prescribing the rates of postage under the general postal union concluded at Bern, Switzerland, October 9, 1874, between the United States and all of the western of Europe excepting France. The uniform union rates of postage to be levied and collected in the United States on correspondence to and from the whole extent of the postal union, without distinction, shall be as follows: For prepaid letters, five cents per fifteen grammes; for unpaid letters, ten cents per fifteen grammes; for newspapers, if not over four ounces in weight, two cents each; for other printed matter, samples of merchandise and all articles other than newspapers, ten cents per article of four of two ounces or fraction thereof. These rates will be levied and collected on and after July 1, 1875, on the correspondence to and from all the contracting States except France; and on and after January 1, 1876, on the correspondence to and from France.

James Black, one of the most rampant Democrats in the State, is the leading spirit in the movement to put State tickets in the field. Knowing as he does that his support will be drawn almost entirely from the Hoppelshues. There is every reason to believe that the temperance party is a Democratic dodge to carry the State for their candidates. After the experience of last fall, and the action of the Democracy in our State Legislature it would seem that temperance Republicans should be able to see into the gridstone, but if they choose to experiment with Democratic victories again, why perhaps the rest can stand it as they can.

One of the most extensive and disastrous complications in the history of labor agitation is the lock-out of colliers and iron-workers in South Wales, which commenced February 1st, and became general. One hundred and twenty thousand workmen were thrown out of work by this movement, representing with their families a population of about half a million. The coal miners in which production is now wholly stopped have yielded an average of 400,000 tons a week. Ten engine pumps have been kept going, the men being as willing as the owners to have this done.

The Austrian ship Jennie, at New York, from Matanzas, under Captain Gray, narrowly escaped being swamped by several immense waterpuffs while off Cape Hatteras. The officers of the vessel say they were a mile or more, and were at least one hundred feet in height, reaching far up into the air, said an old salt, and was there met by an inverted cone, just like the other, which seemed to have come down from the heavens to meet it. They were described as tall columns, apparently of mist or spray, but in reality dense bodies of water, reaching from the sea to the clouds and moving along with great rapidity. The crew broke several by firing guns into them, the concussion of the guns causing them to burst. When they tumbled back into the sea with a fearful splash, the water was fairly white with foam.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS ELECTED.—Below we publish a list of the County Superintendents elected as far as received at the School department:

- Adams, Aaron Sheely, \$1,000
Allegheny, James Dickson, 2,000
Armstrong, A. D. Glenn, 1,200
Beaver, Martin J. Knight, 1,200
Bedford, Henry W. Fisher, 1,800
Berks, Samuel Benr, 1,800
Blair, John H. Stephens, 1,000
Bradford, Austin A. Keeney, 1,000
Bucks, Hugh B. Eastburn, 1,500
Butler, R. H. Young, 1,000
Cambria, Hartman Berg, 1,000
Cameron, N. H. Schenk, 800
Carbon, R. F. Hofford, 1,200
Centre, Henry Meyer, 1,000
Chester, Hiram F. Price, 1,500
Clarion, A. J. Davis, 1,000
Clearfield, J. A. Gregory, 1,000
Clinton, Martin W. Herr, 1,000
Columbia, William H. Snyder, 1,200
Cumberland, D. E. East, 1,000
Dauphin, D. H. E. Laloss, 800
Delaware, James W. Baker, 1,000
Dickson, George Dixon, 1,000
Erie, C. C. Taylor, 1,000
Fayette, William H. Cooke, 1,000
Franklin, Samuel H. Eby, 1,000
Fulton, H. H. Woodal, 1,000
Huntingdon, R. M. Neal, 1,000
Indiana, Samuel Wolf, 1,000
Juniata, John M. Garman, 1,000
Lancaster, B. F. Shaub, 1,700
Lawrence, Wm. N. Aiken, 1,200
Lebanon, B. Bodenhorst, 1,000
Lehigh, James O. Knauas, 1,000
Lycoming, Thomas F. Gahau, 1,800
McKean, W. H. Curtis, 2,000
Mifflin, William C. Gardner, 800
Montgomery, Able Rambo, 1,200
Montour, William Henry, 700
Northampton, Benj. F. Reasly, 1,200
Northumberland, H. H. Bartholomew, 1,200
Perry, Silas Wright, 700
Pike, John Layton, 800
Schuylkill, Jesse Newlin, 2,250
Snyder, William Neelding, 500
Somerset, J. B. Willy, 1,000
Susquehanna, William C. Thilod, 1,200
Union, A. S. Brubaker, 900
Venango, S. H. Pratter, 1,200
Washington, A. J. Bullington, 1,000
Wayne, D. J. Allen, 1,200
Westmoreland, James Silliman, 1,500
Wyoming, Chas. M. Lea, 800
York, William H. Kain, 1,200

A dispatch from Pottsville, says that on Sunday, near Hamburg, St. Michael's Lutheran and Reformed church was dedicated. A large concourse of people came from the surrounding country to witness the dedication. During the services a fire broke out in a grove where a large number of horses and carriages were tied to trees. The ground being thickly covered with leaves and brush, the fire spread with great rapidity, and before the teams could be reached nine horses perished in the flames, and five more were burned so severely that it was necessary to kill them to put out of agony and pain. Seventeen vehicles were entirely destroyed. The teams were principally owned by farmers.

Mahanoy City is surrounded by fires on the mountain, and a coal breaker was discovered in fire and saved.

Some years ago there was rolled in this city a piece of sheet iron 1-1000th of an inch in thickness. This at the time was thought to be something wonderful, and it was sent to England; where, some time afterward, a still thinner sheet was rolled. Both these specimens of thin iron, however, are thick in comparison with a sheet that was recently rolled at a mill in this city, and which we have seen. It would require 10,000 such sheets as we alluded to, to make an inch in thickness. There may be seen at this office still another sheet, recently rolled the same mill, that is 1-700th of an inch in thickness. It is apparently as thin as tissue paper, is perfectly even in texture, and has a beautiful, rich, dark, iridescent, resembling the smooth surface of graphite. What would perhaps be the most surprising part of the history of these thin sheets we cannot give without violating confidence.

The eighty-third birthday of Pope Pius IX. was celebrated with great rejoicings at Rome on Thursday. The line of Pontiffs of the Roman Church has been marked for longevity, twelve of Pius Nono's predecessors having attained the age of eighty-four years, which seems to be the allotted time. There are many predictions, of course, that his Holiness will not see another birthday, though he seems to be in better health at the present than at any time for two years past. Pius Nono's reign has been one memorable in length of time, as well as in events, and the Church has undergone many of its important changes in his reign. In his twenty-nine years' reign the Pope has created ninety-nine cardinals, of whom fifty-seven still survive.

THE VINELAND SHOOTING.—Mr. Caruth, the Vineland editor who was shot through the head by Mr. Landis, still lives, and his case is remarkable in the annals of surgery. His homoeopathic doctors, who were called in the case to the exclusion of one of the most celebrated surgeons of Philadelphia, have given him but one medicine from the beginning. They have administered arsenic internally, with the view to prevent inflammation, and have not yet attempted any surgical operation. The orifice of the wound is in fact contracted, and the use of the probe is considered injurious. The ball is supposed to have lodged near the eye, upon the skull, and should it become encysted, there is hope that the patient may recover. That he still lives and is conscious is either a marvel of nature or a triumph of medical skill.

A FATAL PRACTICAL JOKE.—A practical joker named Edward Cole, near Penn Yan, was killed by his brother-in-law, George Pierce, Thursday night, 18th inst. Cole came home and knocked at the door for a job. When asked "Who's there?" he answered, "Your money, or your life?" Not being admitted, he went to the rear of the house, and pulling off his boots he climbed upon the shed, and effected his entrance through a window. Mr. Pierce, who sleeps down stairs, hearing him, cried out, "Don't come into this house or I will kill you!" Seizing a butcher knife, he started up stairs. Mr. Cole all the time silent, stood at the head of the stairs in the dark to receive him. Mr. Pierce immediately grappled with the assassin, and during the re-encounter cut his throat with a butcher knife, severing the jugular vein. The young man exclaimed, "You have killed Edward Cole! My poor wife and children are dead." Mr. Pierce is about thirty-eight years of age, and one of the best men in the county. Mr. Cole's brother-in-law was younger, also from an excellent family, and of the highest integrity. He and his brother-in-law have always been intimate friends, and their friends, and their families greatly attached to each other.

ADULTERATED LARD.—A correspondent of the London Pharmaceutical Journal states that, having had reason to suspect the purity of most of the commercial lard offered for sale, he instituted a series of experiments, which led to the detection of large quantities of some farinaceous substance in it. In a quantity weighing 105½ pounds he found as much as 22½ pounds of this foreign matter, and in another lot, weighing 42½ pounds, he found 12½ pounds of a similar substance. Another case, the analysis of some American lard, showed that it contained from ten to twelve per cent. of water, two or three per cent. of alum, and about one per cent. of quicklime—the alum, it is presumed, being for the purpose of communicating to the lard the property of facilitating the rising and increasing the whiteness of the pastry, in which it is so largely employed.

Judge Hall, of the Bedford district, sailed for Europe on the 12th inst. Centennial Coffee Party is the latest, and it originated in Allentown. The Grand Lodge of Good Temples will meet in Towanda on June 15th. There are in Allentown but three surviving soldiers of the war of 1812. The Switchback Railroad, in Carbu county, is again open for travel. W. S. Wilmarth, a promising young lawyer of Scranton, died on the 8th inst. Mr. A. P. Bange, editor of a German paper at Hanover, York county, died on the 4th inst. Bessie Turner is going to run a race at Rittersville, Pa., on the 20th inst. She's a mare, and said to be fast. Norristown puts on city ears by appointing a chief of police to manipulate her half dozen watchmen. Earnest Fairies is in jail at Williamsport, for beating his wife. He does not belong to the family of good fairies, surely. Handsome, refined looking young women, according to the Reading Times, get so drunk that they tumble over on the streets in that city, are hauled to the station house in a wagon.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS. Judge Hall, of the Bedford district, sailed for Europe on the 12th inst. Centennial Coffee Party is the latest, and it originated in Allentown. The Grand Lodge of Good Temples will meet in Towanda on June 15th. There are in Allentown but three surviving soldiers of the war of 1812. The Switchback Railroad, in Carbu county, is again open for travel. W. S. Wilmarth, a promising young lawyer of Scranton, died on the 8th inst. Mr. A. P. Bange, editor of a German paper at Hanover, York county, died on the 4th inst. Bessie Turner is going to run a race at Rittersville, Pa., on the 20th inst. She's a mare, and said to be fast. Norristown puts on city ears by appointing a chief of police to manipulate her half dozen watchmen. Earnest Fairies is in jail at Williamsport, for beating his wife. He does not belong to the family of good fairies, surely. Handsome, refined looking young women, according to the Reading Times, get so drunk that they tumble over on the streets in that city, are hauled to the station house in a wagon.

The gold and silver coin and bullion on hand in the United States treasury, amounts to \$94,625,000. \$22,403,300 belongs to depositors, leaving the net amount of \$72,221,700, in hard cash, belonging to Uncle Sam. This is about \$16,000,000 more than was on hand a year ago. This will do for an administration which has been charged with bankruptcy. This is the way it is done down in Mississippi: A candidate informs his fellow citizens that, "at the earnest solicitation of my wife and daughters, I have consented to become a candidate for county treasurer."

A Lehigh county farmer of a superstitious turn of mind, disgusted with the backward spring, conceived the idea that a petition with two hundred signatures, addressed to the Almighty, would bring better weather. Singularly enough, he was successful in securing the signatures. A telegram received at Philadelphia from the United States Consul at Panama, announces the death of Hon. Thomas Bidell, United States Minister at Ecuador.

The city treasurer of Philadelphia received into his department during the month of April, from various sources, the sum of \$2,008,729.48. The payments during the same period amounted to \$1,365,688.33. A woman named Margaret Donaldson has been committed for trial, in Philadelphia, on a charge of having poisoned her child, a little girl, while intoxicated. A child was born in Michigan, about three weeks ago, with two complete faces—the nature, position and the other at the back of the head. The faces are complete in all particulars—two eyes, a mouth and a nose on each face. If that child ever grows to manhood he can at once take the leadership of the Liberal or of the Independent party. Either would be glad to have him.

The railroad strikers in the vicinity of Pottsville are asking for work in large numbers. One entire section of the order has made such application to the company, and the indications are all in the direction of an early abandonment of the movement. With the dissatisfaction and differences already existing among the miners in regard to the strike, the action of the railroad men may be reasonably expected to have its influence in bringing about the much to be desired termination of the labor troubles in the coal region that have yielded nothing so far, and promise nothing in the future but disaster to all concerned.

War upon defrauding distillers continues with unabated vigor and success. The machinery, stock and product now in the hands of government officers will cover a handsome sum into the Treasury, if the same is duly confiscated and anything like market values realized. Seizures heretofore have not profited much to the government, directly, the proceeds usually going quite as much as they have come to in money, but it is to be hoped that the energy, discretion and tact characterizing the present movement against the "Whisky Ring" will secure better returns this time.

When you know anything of interest keep it to your self, and then complain that they were nothing in your paper about it. It is such a relief to have something to find fault upon, you know. When a person feels disposed to overstate his own importance, let him remember that mankind go along very well before his birth, and that in all probability they will get along very well after his death. It is strange what interest some people take in the domestic affairs of their neighbors. It sometimes leads them to peep over the fence and through knot holes to see what is transpiring. Such people should keep a sharp lookout lest they get more than they are looking for. Sent it up.

A verdant youth of rare passions thinks he would be perfectly happy if he was only a coffee sack, for then he would find some chance of coming into the possession of some fair damsel and be allowed to rest in her lap for hours. The Wilkes-Barre Record tells of a constable who went down a trap door into a man's cellar for the purpose of putting an attachment upon some potatoes. The man's wife sat the door down, sat upon the potatoes and would not let the official out till he had made her "the most solemn vow he ever promised to a woman" not to put an attachment on the vegetable. As he was coming up she interviewed him with a fire shovel, and he left the house thinking that "a slice of the judgment" was after him.

An intelligent Ohio jurist recently returned a verdict in this style: "We, the jury in this case give our verdict of not guilty, but would advise the parents of the culprit to keep him at home hereafter, in order that he may not be guilty of the same offense again."

OSCEOLA, Pa., May 19.—Everything is quiet in the Clearfield mining region to-day, and the strike is now virtually over. During and interview with Mr. Parks, the state organizer appointed by the miners' association, he said the men could not hold out much longer, for the reason that there were men working who were not regular miners; that he tried to persuade them to come out of the mines, but without success. All the miners who were arrested on Monday are still in Clearfield jail, and will be tried at the June term of the court of quarter sessions of Clearfield county. As Mr. Parks was getting on a passenger train for Tyrone this morning, he was arrested by Sheriff McPherson and taken to Clearfield jail, on the ten o'clock train. About sixty new men for Fisher, Brothers & Miller, were sent to their mines this morning, armed with carbines to protect themselves in case of riot.

A great many of the old miners will not be taken back to work when they desire it. Quite a number of them commenced to work to-day for the old rate of fifty cents, and it is said that by Friday or Saturday all the mines will be working a full force.

THE WELSH MINERS DISCONTENTED. HAVERTON, May 14.—The newest features in the new strike is the distinction that is showing as regards the nationality of the strikers. In this region the Welsh as a class are more intelligent than the Irish, and after enduring the hardships occasioned by the strike for over four months are beginning to tire of it. Their earnings are almost exhausted, and they are becoming convinced that the operators will not yield, and they see that it is useless to depend their families any longer of the comforts of life. Many are now willing to work, and will do so if protected. The Irish are very bitter against them for their course, and threaten dire vengeance if they yield. There is no doubt the Welsh power has not had a fair representation in the union, the Irish holding offices of distinction and remuneration and their will has controlled the whole

Philadelphia and Baltimore will have a pigeon race on the 5th of June, the birds to start from the former city. A Huntington man recently resorted to strychnine to cure the toothache. He is satisfied with the success of the experiment. Tioga county has elected Miss Sarah J. Lewis, a graduate of the State Normal School, County Superintendent of common schools. Late reports from the West indicate the return of the grasshopper plague. Special dispatches to the Chicago Tribune from Missouri and Kansas say these troublesome pests have appeared in multitudinous numbers in some portions of those States. There is no fear that a flea to that of house-fly. What they may do in their further career is a matter of apprehension and conjecture. Their course is said to be southerly, and their progress to extend not beyond the prairie regions. Wet weather is wished for, in the hope that it may check their destructive career. The importation of foreign fruits and nuts for March was nearly double what it was for the same month last year, and, for the nine fiscal months ending April 1, amounted to \$9,392,000, against \$6,678,000 last year. Six or eight million young shad will be hatched out by the 15th of June at the Government shad nursery, on the Potomac river, and transported West as fast as possible for the purpose of stocking the rivers of that section. The designs for the new foreign postage stamps have been changed. It will be the same size as those already in use, and the words "foreign postage" will be omitted from the stamp. They will be ready on the 1st of July.

There are more idle Democrats waiting for the grand prize distribution of March 4, 1877 than would be required to fill the four great powers. Some have gone so far as to select their offices. They may gaze upon the promised land, but they will never occupy it. The most successful plan yet adopted to fight the grasshoppers and pest they do before they get their wings, is to dig ditches, drive the pests in, and burn them. A long Island veterinary surgeon recently fed the broken hind leg of a horse so successfully that the animal is as sound as ever. It took about six weeks to effect the cure. Should the worst apprehensions be realized in regard to the fruit crop in the northern section of the country, the prospects still further south are said to be remarkably good. Among the presents at a wooden wedding in Allentown, Pa., recently, was an immense cake. This was reserved for the last; and when they came to cut it, they found it was only a cheese box covered with icing. Application has been made at Washington for a patent on a new motive power, which is described as being a sort of cold steam generator from water and air. The inventor claims that it will supersede coal and wood for all purposes except for warmth and cooking, and that it will revolutionize the present system of motive power. The scientific experts who have examined it are reported as stating that the invention is entirely practicable. From the description it would seem to be a mechanical utilization of the forces liberated by carbonic acid gas.

Sunday night 16th inst. Mr. McPherson, living eight miles east of Columbus, Neb., was away from home visiting friends, accompanied by his wife. They left four children at home, aged four, six, twelve and fourteen years. During the absence of the parents the house was fired by incendiaries and three of the children were burned to death. The city treasurer of Philadelphia received into his department during the month of April, from various sources, the sum of \$2,008,729.48. The payments during the same period amounted to \$1,365,688.33. A woman named Margaret Donaldson has been committed for trial, in Philadelphia, on a charge of having poisoned her child, a little girl, while intoxicated. A child was born in Michigan, about three weeks ago, with two complete faces—the nature, position and the other at the back of the head. The faces are complete in all particulars—two eyes, a mouth and a nose on each face. If that child ever grows to manhood he can at once take the leadership of the Liberal or of the Independent party. Either would be glad to have him.

THE GRAND ARMY. GENERAL HARTRANFT ELECTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—THE NEXT SESSION TO BE HELD IN PHILADELPHIA. CHICAGO, May 12.—The second day's proceedings of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic have consisted of the transaction of considerable business relating to the constitution of the order and internal policy. The utmost harmony prevailed. The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:—Commander-in-Chief, General John F. Hartman; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, J. S. Reynolds, of Illinois; Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Charles J. Buckbee, of Connecticut; Surgeon-General, John W. Fay, of Massachusetts; Chaplain-in-Chief, Major W. Reed, of Wisconsin. Governor Hartranft was present, and made an address accepting the office. The encampment have adjourned to meet next year at Philadelphia.

LESLINGTON, Ky., May 17.—General John C. Breckinridge died this afternoon. (John Cabell Breckinridge was born near Lexington, Kentucky, January 21, 1821. He was of an old and distinguished Kentucky family, and the best blood of that State, so prominently proud in regard to lineage, flowed in his veins. His grandfather, John B. Breckinridge, served with distinction in the United States Senate, and others of his family held positions of more or less importance. He was educated at Centre College, in his native State, and immediately after his graduation commenced the study of law at Transylvania Institute, after a due preparation, in which he was admitted to the bar at Lexington, and entered upon a career which held apparently as bright promise as often attends the launching of a young adventurer upon the sea of life. Following seemed too extravagant to the hopes of ordinary friends as he developed year by year the qualities which all believed him possessed of, and as he arose step by step in his upward progress, almost until the closing and darkest years of his life, in fact, those hopes were ever rekindled by fresh realizations. After residing at Burlington, Iowa, for a short time, he returned to Lexington, and almost at once gained an extensive and lucrative practice, and for so young a man a remarkable reputation, which increased year by year until he shortly ranked as one of the foremost in the profession in his native State. The call to arms at the breaking out of the Mexican war fired his latent military ardor, and he entered the service with enthusiasm, received a commission as major and served with distinction. During the famous court-martial of General Pillow he particularly distinguished himself as the counsel of that officer. On his return to Kentucky he was elected to the State Legislature. In 1851 he was elected to represent his district in Congress, and served in that capacity until 18