The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY March 4, 1874.

THE bill partially restoring the franking privilege to members of Congress, was defeated on Friday last by the close vote of 131 to 129.

THE women of Massachusetts are happy. The Supreme Court of that State has just decided that they have a right to act as members of School boards.

IN various parts of this State women were elected School Directors at the late election. For years women have held this office in Rhode Island and are reported to have discharged their duties well and acceptably.

HENRY SMITH, President of the Police Board in New York City, died a few days since and was buried with great pomp and ceremony. Tis said by the papers that his death was occasioned by exhaustion from a protracted sitting at a game of "draw poker."

IT looks now as if we were going to have an increased volume of currency. A majority of the lower House of Congress has favored it for some time, and a vote in the Senate on Friday last proved that there is a majority of inflationists in that body. The only difficulty appears to be in agreeing on a practical measure.

THE women's war on the liquor saloons continues with increased vigor. Returns from twenty-five different towns in Ohio show that over 1,000 saloons have been closed, and the number is fast increasing. The war has been carried extensively into other States, and numerous towns in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa are preparing for, or have already entered upon the contest.

THE Presidents of the different Colleges of the State have had a meeting at Harrisburg, attempting to devise means to exempt their institutions from taxation. There is no hope of their being able to accomplish this, as the provisions of the Constitution are explicit on the subject. All will grant that this tax upon education is lamentable, and this very difficulty was pointed out by the opponents of the new Constitution, but the people with full knowledge voted for it, and now there can be nothing done but submit.

THE ornamental position of Lieutenant Governor, created by the New Constitution, is attracting the longing eyes of gentlemen of leisure in all parts of the State. Nearly every county has one or more Turveydrop, who is possessed of the necessary deportment to grace the office. Here is a snug sinecure, probably worth five thousand dollars a year, requiring only dignified and gracious deportment as a requisite, ready to fall into the mouth of some self sacrificing patriot. Ah! if we only had a sufficient quantity of such lucious plumbs, to supply the longing ones. But the trouble is, here is a score or two of watering mouths, and but one plumb. Who shall be the happy recipient, is the grave question now agitating the anxious stomach of the many aspirants. Barbarous Convention! to provide but one such tid bit, for so large a number of stomachs.

THE female crusade against whiskey is apparently extending all over the country. Bands of praying women are being organized in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and soon the shrill clamor of the strife, will be heard throughout the old Keystone State. So far, reporters of the press have been excluded from the assemblages of these saints, and the liquor vendors of the threatened cities are said to be trembling in their shoes, because of the secresy and mystery surrounding the movement, not knowing at which of their many vulnerable points they may expect the assault. Tis said that the appearance on the streets of a bevy of the grimy dames of the Smoky City, at once strikes terror to the souls of their freighted adversaries, and that whiskey is now the most unstable commodity in that market.

BUT little more than sixty days since, when the New Constitution was being urged upon the people for adoption, we were promised halcyon days in the future, and a pure political atmosphere about the State Capital. Indeed, from the frequent assurances of letter writers at the seat of government since the assembling of the Legislature, we were led to believe that the nefarious lobby of other days, finding its occupation gone, had stolen away, and that corruption and bribery were traditions of the past, linked by memory with the evils of the old constitutional government we have just discarded with such unanimity. But alas! man is as prone to evil as the sparks are to fly upward, and from our brief dream of purity, of triumphant reform, and of the enduring fame we were carving on the cap sheaf of the temple of honesty, at whose base admiring states would gaze in wonder and envy, we have had a rude awakening. Corruption at Harrisburg! is again screamed in our ears, and our idol lies shivered in the dust. But to the o'er true tale, as we glean it from a contemporary.

One of the gentlemen who advocated the adoption of the New Constitution on account of its purifying tendencies, was the Hon. Wm. H. Dimmick of Honesdale. He was not only a champion of the new instrument, but a real orthodox Democrat, well known in politics, who for the last fourteen years has bewailed Radical extravagance and profligacy in the State Government of Pennsylvania. In order to set an example of spotless political and personal integrity at Harrisburg, and to illustrate the exalting influences of the new Constitution, Mr. Dimmick permitted himself to be elected to the popular branch of the Legislature from the counties of Wayne and Pike. And now comes his history as a Reformer.

There is a bill pending before the Legislature looking to the repeal of the usury laws. The banks of Pennsylvania take much interest in the matter, and are anxious that the bill should pass. This specimen reformer, unmindful of the provisions of the new Constitution, thought that he saw an opportunity to make some money. Mr. Dimmick, assisted by a Harrisburg real estate agent named, J. Monroe Kreiter, drew up a circular recommending the enactment of the proposed law, and calling upon all the banks of Pennsylvania to give their "prompt support." The circular was signed by James W. Wier, William Colder, and other well known bank officers of Harrisburg (the signatures all being forgeries). Enclosed with each circular was a letter, printed on a half sheet of foolscap paper, showing the importance of the bill and the difficulty of having it passed; that lawyers had to be employed to explain its provisions, and other necessary expenses had to be paid, and suggesting the necessity and propriety of the several banks contributing a small fee of one quarter of one per cent. of their capital stock to defray "these legitimate expenses."—The money was to be sent to R. H. Gibbons or E. L. Saunders, (fictitious names supposed to represent Wm. H. Dimmick and J. Monroe Kreiter). Mr. Dimmick and his confederate having prepared this printed letter, a copy was addressed to all the banks and banking houses in Pennsylvania.

Several banks responded and sent checks, as requested, to Messrs. Gibbons and Saunders; but other shrewd cashiers thought it best to make their contributions through the Harrisburg banks, and directed their correspondents to first ascertain whether the money thus assessed was to be properly used, and, if so, to pay the amount so demanded. A committee of the Legislature has fully investigated the case, but the testimony has not been made public, and it is not known how much money the swindlers obtained from the banks. The clerks at the Harrisburg postoffice seem to have first discovered the fraud (at least the information upon which a warrant for the arrest of the swindlers was issued was made by Mr. George Bergner, Postmaster), Representative Dimmick, of Wayne county, and real estate agent Kreiter were taken into custody by the United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, on the charge of sending circulars through the mails, with intent to cheat and defraud, and after a hearing, were bound over for trial.

When Dimmick found that "the game was up," he resigned his seat in the House, without waiting for the report of the investigating committee, which, probably, will recommend his expulsion. A question was raised as to whether he had a right to resign while an investigation was pending, but the Speaker decided that the House was bound to accept the proffered resignation, and he forthwith issued a writ for a new election to fill the vacancy existing in the Wayne district. Such of our readers as take any interest in politics, will remember that, just before the State election last October, a self-constituted committee of Democratic politicians appeared at the office of the State Treasurer, and asked that the books and accounts be submitted to them for inspection. The Treasurer was absent, and the clerks refused to show the books until permission was obtained from their superior officer.—Thereupon the committee immediately applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of *mandamus* to compel the Treasurer to deliver up his books and records for inspection. The writ was granted, but it was made returnable a day or two *after* the election. This defeated the whole scheme, and the committee suddenly lost interest in the proceeding, as far as the Supreme Court was concerned. With the assistance of the New York *Sun* and *Tribune*, however, they denounced the State Treasurer as a dishonest officer, who was afraid to let the people see his books, lest his gigantic stealings might be discovered. The active man of that committee, who conducted the correspondence, and did most of the noisy blowing was the above-named J. Monroe Kreiter.

BEN. BUTLER rarely takes the floor in Congress, but he gives the city press a fling, much to the gratification of the conductors of those journals, who are constantly striving for fame, through every and any channel. Therefore, they rather enjoy Butler's fierce assaults. But Gen. Garfield, a few days since, gave these gentry mortal offence, by a complimentary allusion to the "quiet and sensible man," the country editor, who represents real public sentiment. The fierce scorn of the conductors of the city journals, who flatter themselves that they are the lineal successors of Jove, is as impressive as it is fearful. Each one of them, judging from the elevation of his proboscis, scents carrion on the breeze, and Garfield—miserable man! is doomed to perpetual obscurity, unknown, save to country editors. We extend our sympathies to Garfield, that is all we can do for him. He may as well pass in his checks, and at once forego all his longing aspirations. What preposterous folly, what wretched egotism, to imagine that he was aught else than the creation, and the creature of the "Metropolitan press." His utter lack of statesmanship, made so conspicuous by ascribing sense, and the reflection of public sentiment, to the local journals of his district, has forever destroyed him. Hereafter le-

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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2.—

The beautiful snow that fell yesterday almost stopped travel on the streets of Washington. Slop, inevitable slop, always follows a fall of snow in the capital. It is now flooding the gutters and running a strong competition with the water carts of the District upon the hard road bed of the streets. The change from suffocating heat, which troubled us for a few days prior to the snow storm, was so great that colds are quite fashionable in consequence.

Among yesterday's capital gossip are the facts that Gov. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, was on the floor of the U. S. Senate, and it is not improbable that he desires to see how the thing works with a view to following the common practice of graduating into the Senate from the Gubernatorial chair; Rear Admiral B. F. Sands has been retired, although there was an effort to continue him in office and rank until after the transit of Venus; Secretary Delano and Indian Commissioner Smith were before the Appropriation Committee and opposed any sweeping reduction from the estimates submitted. It appears that certain sections of the Adjutant General's office will soon have to stop work if a special appropriation is not very soon made. The White House was visited yesterday despite the storm—the Mayor of Philadelphia and other Philadelphians waited on the President. Mr. F. H. Smith and Judge Jones of Ohio have been appointed to fill the vacancies in the Indian Peace Commission. Secretary Fish was before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday and spoke on the rearrangement of the consular service system, salaries, &c. The District Court has decided to restrain the issue of Land Patents and Certificates to Caleb Cushing, until an account can be stated between him and Mrs. Mira Clark Gains, who is admitted in the answer of that gentleman to her bill to have an interest in the land.

Having heard Gen. Butler's speech yesterday in the House on the subject of the franking privilege it is not an easy thing to withold the meed of praise due to great intellect and the hard practical good sense with which he treated the subject. He showed the absurdity of an attack recently made by Mr. Dawes on the carrying of dead weight in the mails. With a table of statistics prepared at the New York post office in his hand he showed that from that city alone 57½ tons of mail goes daily to all parts of the country; that only 400 pounds of this was of the character named by Mr. Dawes, viz: packages not containing reading matter; that 8½ tons of it are letters that pay over twenty million dollars a year, while 47½ tons of New York newspapers pay little over one million dollars; that where these papers contain two columns of carefully prepared reading matter, they also contain four whole pages of advertising not all of which is wholesome reading; that a misrepresentation of what is said or done by members of the metropolitan press goes practically free from end to end of the country, and it will cost a member hundreds of dollars to send a reply to his constituents; that postal cars are government offices on wheels and that whether the mail cars go comparatively empty the cost is the same; that from the days of Franklin all our pure forefathers sustained the franking of public business through the mails though for a long time they were carried by men on horseback. He scouted the idea of pretending that the franking of public documents and speeches of members is a burden upon the metropolitan press and denounced the kind of education which that press carried through the land. He defended the country press from the aggressions of their less scrupulous city cotemporaries and sent home telling hits at the sensational newspapers of the times. He showed that the unequal taxation consisted in the present discrimination against Congressmen who could not transact the public business without paying postage on it, nor defend themselves from attacks in the newspapers because, as he well knew, they would not publish retractions when convinced of their error. A modified privilege will no doubt be adopted, though there is strong opposition to it. A test vote will be taken in the House to-day.

Another contested election case will soon come before Congress wherein John M. Burns, of the 10th Kentucky district contests the seat of John D. Young. Mr. Young secured the seat on a formal certificate of election by Democratic officers. His alleged majority is only 188, while a much larger number of votes polled for him and rejected from the count of Mr. Burns by the election officers appears in the published testimony. From the rough treatment received by Mr. Burns at the hands of his opponent, it appears to be no easy or pleasant thing for a Republican to run a campaign for Congress in Kentucky against the dominant party of the State. In the first place it is shown that intimidation was used by the friends of Young, and threats were freely made that the Ku-Klux would kill the Radicals found voting against him. Then the Democratic officers, who acted irregular and failed to properly sign the tally lists according to the requirements of the law of Kentucky, threw out numerous votes in favor of the contestant, while they contend illegal votes for the sitting member to a large extent over and above the majority claimed for him. It is to be hoped that if justice is denied to Republicans in Kentucky, it will not be denied by the proper Committee of Congress, and that the whole matter will be carefully presented for the action of Congress at an early day.

The President's message to Congress urging action on the matter of the Centenial Exposition at Philadelphia, has caused some adverse comment here. Much opposition to the place of holding it is felt by rival cities, and objection is made to the appropriation of money for such a purpose at this time. The country is or is not able to pay for a creditable international display of the world's progress in 1876. If it is able, it would appear that there is not sufficient in the cry of panic to sustain present objections on this score. That the thing has not been very judiciously managed thus far is also no valid reason why it should not be taken in hand by Congress and pushed forward in a manner creditable to the most enterprising nation in the world.

The contest between Senators Schurz and Morton on the subject of reform in finances, and the immediate return to specie payments, was short and sharp, if not decisive. Senator Schurz is always aggressive and given to drawing comparisons unfavorable to this country. He cannot appreciate the effect of some of his allusions on American institutions. Senator Morton can and does, and the least said by the friends of Schurz regarding this side colloquy of these two Senators the better for Mr. Schurz.

The proposition of Schurz and his ilk to return at once to specie payments is to say the least of it absurd. There will come a time, and that it is fondly hoped not very far distant, when the accumulation of the precious metals in this country and the continued determination of the world's trade in favor of the business of this country will render it practicable to pay specie. Whether a small addition to the currency is allowed by Congress or not will affect this possibility very little. To infer as Mr. Schurz did in the Senate that no man of sense can be in favor of a temporary expansion of the currency is to show an amount of egoism and self-conceit that is very hard to be borne by those to whom he imputes ignorance and a want of common sense.

A dozen families were thrown out of their homes a day or two since by a fire which burned the roof and otherwise damaged a row of fourteen dwellings in the Northern section of this city.

The increase of the hours of labor in the Departments appears to be abandoned by the movers in the matter, but the decrease in the number of the clerical force is still the current topic of the day. Some of the Bureaus are working their clerks until late at night to get through the necessary routine business, but cutting them down seems to be considered inevitable under the arbitary action of members of committees.

LIFE.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK March 2, 1874.

ADULTERATIONS.

There is trouble in the minds of people, for adulteration in its worst form has been discovered. The father of the family, as he poured the rich syrup over his buckwheats at breakfast, and gave of the same to the wife of his bosom and the child of his heart, little dreamed that he was giving them poison and a most disgusting poison at that. For behold you, it has been discovered that the elegant, beautiful, delicious-looking syrup, known as the "Golden Drip," is made of what? Why, rags, and muriatic acid! The rags of commerce, the common rags from the paper mills, are taken by the skillful chemist and treated with muriatic acid, and from the result this golden drip syrup is made. Imagine the horror which attended this discovery! Rags from Turkey, from the backs of the leprosy-stricken people of the Bosphorous—rags from the backs of the filthy lazzaroni of Italy, and rags even from the mummies of Egypt, sweltered through a chemical process, and coming on our tables as Golden Drip! Half the stomachs in New York turned as they saw the syrup cup on their tables, and in the restaurant's the orders, buckwheats and syrup were lessened a half.

The fact is adulterations and frauds enters more or less into everything that is used in the great cities, particularly in this. Our butter is larded, our genuine Havana cigars are made of the vilest Connecticut tobacco, our bread is alumed, our coffee is chicoried, our milk is watered and chalked, and when we die the plate on our coffin is plated. This world is given to shams—let us hope the next world will be genuine. It is that thought that sustains me.

THE WHISKEY BUSINESS.

With the revival of the religious interest in the city, comes naturally, a revival of the feeling in favor of temperance. The drinking saloons continue to multiply, and they are now reported by the Excise Commissioners at 7,322, being nearly one for 136 of the population. There is no street, no square, without them. In the upper part of the city they are fitted up in the most costly style, to attract the attention of the wealthy guzzlers, whose patronage they desire, while in the lower part of the city the saloons are stripped of everything except what is absolutely necessary to handle the liquid damnation. Down in Water street, and in fact all the streets on the lower end of the Island, there will be a dozen bucket-shops in every square. Bucket-shops are stores where the bulk of the trade is by the pint, quart, or half gallon. You will see in any one of them long processions of little boys and girls, half-clad, barefooted, and with scarcely clothing enough on them to hide their nakedness, and half starved, going up to the counters with buckets for liquor, for their drunken fathers and mothers. The temperance movement now being inaugurated proposes to deal with the poor.

The temperance organization will appoint Committees, who will labor with poor men who are addicted to the use of liquor. They intend to take these men by the hand, to furnish warm and well lighted rooms to which they may resort, and where they will be furnished coffee, tea, and plenty of good reading matter. It is expected that each man once weaned from the use of liquors will see such a difference in the way of living, that he will become an apostle of temperance among his fellows. They expect in this way to organize a working temperance army, taken from the liquor shops, and compel the closing of the bars by withdrawing their trade. The movement has been inaugurated, and success has attended it. The workers have discovered that the laboring man, living in a close, cheerless, cold room, goes to the barroom because it is light and warm, and of course once there he drinks. The reformers give him a lighter, better, warmer cosier place of resort, and he is glad to avail himself of it. And he brings his wife and children, and they have a good time. Music is furnished, pipes, tobacco, coffee and tea, free to all, with a sandwich or such a matter to eat. The movement is telling, and has made a positive impression. Let it go on.

THE GRAIN TRADE

continues to excite attention. The fact is the facilities for handling grain at this point, are ludicrously deficient, and the cost is absurdly great, which cost is borne of course by the producer in the interior. But additional terminal facilities, will not relieve the overburdened farmer. The country wants cheaper freights, and cheaper freights can only be had by increasing the efficiency of the canal system. Let me impress it upon every farmer who reads these lines that to him the canal is his only protection against the rapacity of the railroad. So long as canals are operated the railroads cannot combine to extort. But to make them effective, they must every one of them be enlarged. The Erie Canal ought to be enlarged so as to pass a lake vessel, and all tolls should be taken off. The great Wabash Canal should be enlarged and extended to St. Louis, and the entire canal system received and strengthened. Oh, ye Grangers! take hold of this matter. You have power to do it, and not only for your own sake but for the sake of the feeding millions of the east who want cheap bread, give us the relief.

NEW YORK AS A LITERARY EMPORIUM.

Several years since the prediction was made that New York was destined eventually to become the literary emporium of America, instead of Boston, as Edinburg instead of London is that of Great Britain. And already the partial fulfillment of this prediction is claimed, a large amount of the literary capital of Boston having been shifted to New York, and more being expected speedily to follow its course according to the gossip of literary circles. The absorption of *Our Young Folks* by a New York magazine, and the recent transfer of the *Atlantic*, give evidence to these beliefs and predictions. The truth of the matter is, New York has always shown greater liberality to literary talent than Boston, and hence it naturally seeks a market there. New York magazines employ the pens of almost all the leading authors of the present era. Her dailies, weeklies, and monthlies have the largest circulation of any in America, and probably in the world. Writers with established reputations send their contributions thither, knowing that they will there bring the highest price, and they who have reputations to establish follow their example to the gratifying belief that a too rigid criticism will not annihilate their crude efforts, but view them with cheering encouragement. Literary capital, too, will eventually gaviate towards that centre, where its advantages are greatest for investment and increase, and hence all meditations point toward the future New York as the leading cosmopolitan emporium of literature of the enlightened world.

A NEW VILLAINY.

Is there any limit to human credulity? The mock auctions in this city have been so effectually exposed that the rogues were compelled to resort to new dodges. The dodge was forthcoming as soon as it was needed. Here is the way they work it:

Scene—A small room in Nassau or Ann street. Auctioneer with case of jewelry—crowd of persons, consisting of honest innocents and confederates. Enter, old man, in a dirty suit of clothes, with a woeful face, that looks as though no food had entered it for a week.

"What do you want?" queries the auctioneer of old poverty.

Slowly the wretched old man pulls from his pocket a watch and says he wants it sold.

"How did you get this watch?" demands the auctioneer.

"I am from Wisconsin," answers the old man humbly. "I am here in New York prosecuting a suit for the recovery of some property, and am out of funds and want to raise enough to get home. I have seen better days."

Auctioneer—Are you aware of the fact that this a first-class, double-cased, English lever, chronometer-balance, jeweled in top and bottom, gold watch, worth at least $150?

Old man.—I paid $175 for it in Montreal, four years ago, when I could afford such a watch.

Auctioneer.—Don't let me sell your watch old man. Don't do it. Take it some pawn-broker, and pawn it; any of them will advance you $200 upon it, and you can send for it when you get home. It will be sacrificed here—it will indeed.

Old man—It don't matter. All I want is to get home—and—die. It doesn't matter to me whether I get what it is worth or not.

"Very good, I will sell it, but it is a shame. How much do I hear for this watch?"

A capper starts it at $25, and up it goes to $30, $40, $50 or $60, when it is struck off. The money is paid to the auctioneer, who gives it, less his commission, 10 per cent., to the old man, who thanks him tearfully, and goes slowly and sadly out. Then the auctioneer closses the sale for the day, that he may get rid of the people, so as to open in an hour with a new lot of victims in whose presence the aged Wisconsin man and the auctineer go through the old farce again. It is needless to say that the purchaser of the gold English lever jeweled watch finds himself stuck with an ornate bogus ticker that would be dear at three dollars a bushel. In one den in Ann street the thing is plaid twenty times a day.

There are other things in the way of cute villainy which I will show up in my next.

PIETRO.

HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 21

Mr. Brockway submitted the following resolution, which was Agreed to.

Resolved, That the special committee appointed on Thursday last to investigate the alleged attempt to swindle the banks of this State be instructed to inquire, so far as practicable the names and locatitions of the banks which contributed to the fund asked for in a circular signed by Gibbons and Saunders, and the amounts contributed, and to report the same to this House.

Mr. Webb offered a resolution that until otherwise ordered, the House will hold sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week, to commence at 3 o'clock P. M. and adjourn at 6 o'clock P. M.

On motion of Mr. Newmyer, the resolution was amended by striking out Friday and 6 P. M. and then passed.

Mr. Vogdes from the committee on appropriations, reported an appropriation for the Western State Penitentiary.

Mr. Gerwig, from the same committee—An appropriation for the House of Reform, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Mitchel, from the same committee —An appropriation for the Pennsylvania Reform School.

Mr. Wainwright from the same committee—An appropriation for the Eastern State Penitentiary.

Mr. Bates from the same committee —An appropriation for the Society for the Alleviation of the Miseries of Public Prisons.

Mr. Egan, from the same committee—An appropriation for the expenses of the State Board of Public Charities.

Mr. Mylin from the same committee—An appropriation for the Ortheopoedic Hospital Philadelphia.

Mr. Oliver, from the committee on education, reported an act to provide for the due training of teachers in the common schools of the commonwealth.

The following bills were read in place.

Mr. Reynolds—To define the liability of sureties upon writen instruments for the payment of money.

Mr. Newmyer—For the better protection of persons and property from damage by petroleum and for the appointment of inspectors.

Mr. Allen of Dauphin county—To provide for the publication of the ninth volume of the transactions of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society.

Mr. Allison—To regulate the sale of goods, wares and merchandise in the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Bates—A supplement to the militia act of April, 1864.

Mr. Gerwig—Making the office of Mayor a salaried office.

Mr. Carey—To make valid the title to real estate when the deeds have not been properly acknowledged; also to make valid the title to real estate in cases where executors, administrators or others acting in a fiduciary capacity have conveyed the same.

Mr. Brockway—For the better regulation of appeals from assessment of damages by viewers of property taken for public use.

Mr Jones of Philadelphia—requiring a census of the population and industries of the State to be taken on the 1st of June, 1875; also to repeal an act to allow the voters of the Twenty-second ward Philladelphia to vote on the question of granting license to sell intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Talley —To provide for an equitable mode of assessing and taxing machinery in use by manufacturers.

Mr. Cross—For an appropriation to the State Normal School; also to provide for the expenses required by an act entitled an act to provide for the continuence of the education and maintenance of the destitute orphans of deceased soldiers and sailors, etc.

Mr. Baired—To prevent the destruction of forests, farm fences and buildings by locomotives on railroads.

Mr. Cressler—To provide for the decrease of the social evil, and to provide for the better government of houses of ill fame.

Mr. McCullough—security of the weekly payment of the wages of laborers, employers and others.

House bill No. 19, entitled an act to provide for better security in cases when bail is entered for stay of execution was considered and negatived in committee, when the House adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 23.

Mr. White read in place an act for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit.

Mr. Graham—An act to permit cemetery companies organized for the purpose of corporate profit to hold grants of lands, &c., for the purpose of embellishment of grounds; also making the office of Mayor a salaried one.

Mr. Wallace—An act dividing cities into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances therein and providing for the incorporation and regulation of the third class.

The Judicial Apportionment bill passed the Senate finally—yeas 20, nays 4.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Immediately upon reading the Journal, twenty members sprang to their feet and loudly called for the floor.

The clerk read the resignation of Mr. Dimmick, as follows:

To the Hon. Henry H. McCormick, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Sir—I hereby resign my office as Representative for the district composed of Pike and Wayne counties. I have been induced to take this step by the fact that I have been made defendant in the United States District Court on a charge of violation of the Postol laws of the United States. Fully comprehending that usefulness to my constituency has been greatly impaired by the mere fact that this charge has been preferred, I have decided to vacate my seat in the House. Conscious of the rectitude of my intention, and denying absolutely the truth of the charge which I am here to answer in the courts of the United States, I shall patiently wait for a judicial investigation. I have chosen to make no defense before the committee of the House appointed to inquire into this case not because I am wanting in respect for the committee, but simply for the reason that it would be unjust to be tried twice and by different tribunals for the same alleged offense. I rely upon a just and impartial trial, under the laws of my country, for a complete vindication from the charge preferred against me, and until such trial shall have been had I ask a suspension of opinion on the part of the public and of those with whom I have been officially associated in this body.

Respectfully, W. H. DIMMICK.

Speaker McCormick announced that he would issue his writ for the election of a new member.

Mr. Newmyer objected to the reception of the resignation until the committee had reported. He said the committee were now ready to report on Dimmick's case, and that it was due to the public and the members that the facts should be first known, and then let justice take its course, whatever the result might be even if it should be expulsion. He therefore moved to postpone the considnration of the resigeation.

Mr. Webb said that it was not in the power of the House to refuse.

Mr. McCormick read a precedent in the case of Senator Harry White when in Richmond prison and others.

This view was substantiated by Mr. Little of Wyoming, Mr. Meyer of Bradford, Mr. Brockway and Mr. Orvis.

The Speaker ruled that the motion could not be entertained, as the Legislature had not power over the resignation of a member.

The House then immediately adjourned to allow the committee to take further testimony.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, February 24,—Mr. McClure offered a supplement to the Election law.

Mr. Graham, sked and obtained the use of the chamber to-morrow evening for the committee appointed by the colleges of the State to address the Assembly in reference to relieving them from taxation.

The bill fixing the compensation of members was discussed the rest of the morning hour.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer presented a lengthy petition in favor of appointing Coal Commissioners in Western Pennsylvania, and then called up and passed the act.

Mr. McCormick called up the law of entails, and had the first section stricken out, and the bill passed.

Mr. Ramsey called up the Judicial salary bill.

Mr. McCormick gave notice that he would oppose the new Judicial Apportionment bill, which gives Indiana, Washington and other counties separate Judges, as long as the members from those counties opposed a decent salary for the city Judges the bill went over on third reading.

Mr. Hays moved to postpone the bill taxing private corporations. Ageed to.

Mr. Gerwig presented the petition of 4,000 citizens for the repeal of Local Option.

Mr. Laidley presented a similar one.

Mr. Williams of Clarion, a similar one.

Mr. Mitchel called up the Constitutional Advertising bill, and offered a lengthy amendment.

Mr. Webb omended by allowing $200 for weekly and $100 for all daily papers. Not agreed to and the bill was laid over.

Mr. Brockway offered a joint resolution requesting President Grant to give a new trial to Fitz John Porter

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, February 25,—Bills in place were read as follows:

Mr. Albright, An act providing that when a legal holiday falls on Sunday that notes may be protested on the Saturday preceeding or the Monday following.

Mr. Alexander, Relating to cohabitation and repute.

Mr. Humphries, Preventing of stay of execution on judgments for wages when under one hundred and fifty dollars.

The act limiting the time within which inquisitions of lunacy or habitual drunkenness may be traversed, passed finally; also the act dividing the Eighth normal school district.

The bill regulating the compensation of members came up and was under discussion when the order of the day was called and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Newmyer called up the bill providing for contracting for supplies.

Mr. Hays, For the collection of taxes.

Mr. Christy, For the election of Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Gerwig, For election expenses.

Mr. Christy's bill providing the manner of increasing incorporated indebtedness, passed first reading.

Mr. Myer, offered a resolution to hear the college presidents on the tax question.

A number of appropriation bills already reported passed first reading.

Mr. Newmyer, when the resolution requesting our Congressional delegation to vote for the military bill came up, thought they knew enough over in Washington to take care of themselves. The resolution was voted down.

Mr. Allison called up the bill regulating railroad crossings.

Mr. Wolfe giving a bounty on fox scalps.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, February 26.—The following bills were read in place:

By Mr. Rutan, for creating new counties.

By Mr. McClure, for regulating the enactment of ordinances in cities.

By Mr. Heilman, for the establishment of a State Homeapathic Insane Asylum. Also an appropriation for the same.

The act to provide for the manner of increasing the capital stock and indebtedness of corporations passed.

The Senate act dispensing with jury trial after amendment, by unanimous consent was lost.

The compensation bill came up and occupied the rest of the hour.

HOUSE.

The usury law was indefinately postponed.

The bill for change of venue in civil and criminal cases passed to third reading.

The Constitutional advertising bill was made the special order for this day week.

Mr. Newmyer's Coal Commissioner bill was passed finally.

HARRISBURG, February 27, 1874

SENATE.

The only bill read in place was one bill authorizing the Governor to appoint Aldermen to fill vacancies.

The Compensation bill came up and passed to third reading

The bill dividing the Eighth Normal School district was recalled from the House and reconsidered.

The bill authorizing City Superintendents to hold teachers' institutes was postponed.

The afternoon was spent on the Corporation bill, and only half of it was got through with.

Adjourned till Monday at 7½ P. M.

HOUSE.

The House occupied all the morning on the act providing for the collection of taxes.

The act requiring Judges of the Supreme Court to file written opinions was amended to apply to Common Pleas Judge, giving the latter six months in which to do so.

Mr. Young, of the Dimmick Committee, will report in full on Tuesday.

Jail Delivery at New Castle.

WILLMINGTON, Del., Feb. 25.—This morning between one and two o'clock, the four bank burglars who were convicted at the last term of our county court, of an attempted robbery of the National Bank of Delaware, in this city, whipped, and undergoing confinement in the county jail, escaped by the aid of confederates, who scaled the prison walls. These confederates, about a dozen in number, were masked, and in their plan of rescue followed closely the scheme by which the attempt was made upon the bank.

The first knowledge of the presence of the confederates of the bank burglars in town was their entry within the prison door by stealth. Whence or how they came is not known, but it is supposed they hailed from Philadelphia, and effected a landing at New Castle from the river, as two tugs came into port about midnight and one left about 3 o'clock. They picked up a couple of ladders about town and fastening them together, scaled the walls of the prison and descended into the back yard on the west side, not the one in which the confederates were whipped. After access had been gained into the yard, the allies of the burglars first released Lawler and Hurlburt from their cell by forcing out the iron grating from the window by means of jimmies. These two on being released, probably became the leaders of the rescuing party.

All this had been done so quickly that the noise had not attracted the attention of the Night Warden Israel Ridings, who was on duty within the prison at the time, but a slight disturbance was afterwards heard in the yard and the warden repaired to the door, his only means of ascertaining from whence the noise proceeded, to learn its cause. He had no sooner pushed back the bolt and lifted the hasp than he was immediately seized by several men, handcuffed and gagged. One of the masked ruffians rushed at him with uplifted knife, exclaiming, "Knife him! Knife him!" But he was prevented from the commission of his murderous deed by Lawler, who threw himself between the assailant and his victim, commanding him to desist, as there was no need of blood work. The door was then closed behind them, and the whole prison was thus within their controll, to do whatsoever they might wish. Mr. Ridings was picked up by Hurlburt, who conveyed him to the cellar below in his arms, and here his feet were bound with chains, his body securely tied around a chair, with his head thrown back until the position was one of the most exruciating torture, and in this condition he was left until some one should discover him in the morning. The whole party next returned to the corridor of the prison, into which they let out Big Frank and Hope, and a convicted murderer named Frazier, who was undergoing a life sentence for the killing of a Mr. Elfason, at Middleton, about ten years ago.

The work which brought hither the rescuing party being established, it only remained for the entire party to clear the prison, which they did in a very short time, retiring in the same manner by which they had entered—by the ladders over the wall. In their flight the party left behind them two very powerful jimmies, one of which was entirely new, while the other showed some signs of use. They started away with the prison keys, but threw them into the yard, scattering them in all directions. These were found this morning where they had been thrown; but no difficulty had been experienced in opening the prison doors, as another warden held a set of duplicate keys. None of the other prisoners within the jail were molested, and there was no interfearance with the prison in any of its deparments. The bank burglars took all their property with them. Frazier had sent away the most of his goods several days previously, as if in anticipation of the escape.

The flight of the bank burglars was not discovered until between 6 and 7 o'clock this morning, although the prison is usually opened before that hour. Mr. Ridings' custom is to call one of the prisoners, who does the cooking, but as he had not been awakened, he slept long after his usual rising hour, and silence reigned within the prison until the baker knocked at the gate to deliver the bread for the morning meal. This brought the day warden, Mr Griffin, from his room, who discovered at once that the burglars on the lower floor had escaped and Mr. Ridings was missing. He at once began a search for the missing warden, and finally found him in the cellar, where he had been left some five or six hours previously, and in the same position, he being unable even to move, let alone extricate himself.

Unable to speak and almost dead was the condition of Mr. Ridings. Every limb and muscle of the body was stiff and swolen, and when released he could not stand. The gag which had been applied was about two inches in diameter, and when it was removed Mr. Ridings jaw refused to close, having been distended for so long a time and to such an extent that the muscles were in a strained condition. But under the influence of a free application of camphor and by rubbing with the hand, the obstinate tendons yielded, and in about an hour the jaws became movable, so that the full particulars could be told by the only witness to what had gone on during the night.

A Remarkable Escape.

PHILADELPHIA, February 24.—Last night Thomas Mira and Jonathan Rushon, two convicts confined in the Montgomery county jail at Norristown, effected their escape in a remarkable manner. The cell in which they were confined is situated in the left corridor of the prison. In one place the floor boards did not reach all the way across the apartment, but were spliced out with shorter pieces as is often the case. The boards, however, were securely nailed, and secured as strong at this place as any other. The short pieces were taken up in such a manner that they could be replaced again, and thus they could be able to work every night without causing any suspicion or their plot being discovered. The hole through the boards was not more than ten inches by fourteen. By cutting through a stone arch the fugitives reached a blind cellar immediately under their apartment. From here they dug a tunnel under the main foundation wall of the building. Being still about fourteen feet from the surface of the earth, they were compelled to dig a passage upwards. In doing this they kept close to the wall so as not to lose their course. After this long and tiresome passage had been completed they gained the prison yard, and the wall had to be scaled. This was done by placing a box and large plank in one of the right angles of the enclosure, and by this means they reached the top. They then jumped off on the other side. The prisoners were not missed until the overseer came to their cell with their breakfasts. As yet no tidings of the fugitives have been heard. Both prisoners were serving out sentences for larceny. Rushon though a young man, is an old offender, and is well known to the criminal court. Mira was serving out a sentence of six years.

Mexican Barbarities.

CITY OF MEXICO, February 15.—A terrible affair reported in the state of Vera Cruz. A quarrel between the townsmen of Quimixtlan and Huasecalecan resulted in a fight in which seventeen persons were killed. It is reported that the infuriated Huasecalecans afterwards went to Quimixtlan and began an indiseriminate massacre, killing children and cutting off the breasts of women. The neighboring town of Chalchicomulo has sent a detachment to the scene to put a stop to the atrocities.

The police have arrested forty-seven bandits, who were implicated in the kidnapping of Senor Salvatierra. A large ransom, demanded for the prisoner, was not forthcoming and the unfortunate man was murdered.

Wife-Murder at Dayton.

DAYTON, O., February 24, 1874.

Christian Mourezo blew his wife's brains out this noon, at their residence. The family cosisting of the man, wife and two small children, were seatted at the dinner table, when words arose between Nourezo and wife about a trifling matter. The woman got up from the table and went into an outhouse. She was followed by her husband, who shot her dead. He was arrested shortly afterward and is now in jail

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Horrible Treatment of a Poor Boy by an Ohio Farmer

A case of extreme cruelty and brutality has just been tried at the Mahoning, Ohio, county Court of Common Pleas. The indictment charged Jefferson D. Bowman with an assault with intent to maim or kill, upon the person of a boy named Frank Phillips, about fourteen or fifteen years of age, taken from the county infirmary by Bowman to raise; but was taken back to the infirmary in December last. On his return the boy was found to be covered with scars and bruises from the punishment he had received, but the most appauling feature in the case was that Bowman attempted to put a bull ring in his nose, and failing in that, put it in his mouth in some way, and then led the boy around with a rope attached. His mouth was found to be badly lacerated. H. P. Stahlsmith swore that he saw Bowman leading the boy with the rope, and every once and a while gave it a jerk. Bowman also used a blacksnake whip to flog the boy. Dr. Cal