

The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY.

March 11, 1874

A bill for the repeal of the "local option law" has been reported favorably to the House.

The committee appointed to investigate the attempt to levy black mail on the banks of the State, has reported that William H. Dinnicks, late a member of the House, Lewis B. Richmyer and J. M. Kreiter are clearly proven guilty of attempting to extort money from the banks.

We observe in the published report of the legislative proceedings, that a bill appropriating one million of dollars towards the Centennial project has passed the Senate by a vote of 24 to 7. We have not yet seen the argument adduced in favor of this bill, but we fail to comprehend how, under the new Constitution, an appropriation of this kind can be made.

The apportionment bill dividing the State into fifty Senatorial districts as required by the new Constitution has been reported to the Senate. By this bill the old Senatorial district of Somerset, Bedford and Blair is restored, and numbered the Thirty-sixth. If it passes in this shape, we will have a Senator to elect in November next.

The Judicial salary bill, as passed by the House, fixes the salaries of the Supreme Court Judges at \$7,000; District Judges, and the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg at \$5,000; County Judges at \$4,000; Judges of separate Orphans' Courts at \$3,500, and Associate Judges at \$5,000 per day, but not less than \$300 per annum.

JUDGE SAFFORD, of Hillsboro, O., has decided that the praying women are a nuisance. The Judge in granting the application for an injunction to prevent a band of singing and praying women from interfering with the business of a druggist, after stating that there was no objection to singing and praying when they were conducted so as not to disturb private rights or public tranquility, added: "When such worship is made the pretext of breaking up a man's lawful trade, or interfering with the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of his own property; of bringing him into public ridicule and disgrace; of defacing his calling and character, and this without intermission for six consecutive weeks in the storms and colds of winter, creating heart burnings among neighbors, defamation of private character, and an unsettled state of society—that, sir, is a nuisance."

After all the shameless charges of fraud made by the McClure-Forenay clique, against the Republicans of Philadelphia, that worshipful brace of imbeciles, after gathering through their subordinates a considerable sum of money, for the ostensible purpose of contesting Mayor Stokely's election, now announce that they will not make a contest for the reasons that it would require three years to try the case and an expenditure of \$25,000. Prudent, thoughtful, economical gentlemen! And how remarkable the fact, that McClure is never a candidate but a gang of graceless scoundrels take advantage of his unsuspecting nature, to cheat him out of his election. The innocent McClure will be known in history as the "great defrauded."

A BILL has passed the House at Harrisburg and been sent to the Senate for concurrence, requiring the publication of an annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of street commissioners, supervisors, overseers of the poor, and school directors of the several townships and boroughs of this Commonwealth, and to designate a day to settle, adjust, and audit township and borough accounts. This is a much needed law, as under our present system the taxpayers of the township have little or no knowledge of how the monies collected for township purposes are expended. By compelling all local officers to publish an account of their receipts and expenditures, a much more rigid system of accountability will be introduced.

A BILL providing for the collection of State and county taxes—in a manner similar to a special law now in operation in several counties of the State—has passed second reading in the House, and we trust will become a law.

The bill requires the Commissioners of each county to prepare a duplicate of all real and personal property assessed for State and County purposes, not later than the first Monday of April annually, which duplicate shall be delivered to the county Treasurer, who shall give at least thirty days notice by publication in two newspapers and by hand bills, of the times and places when and where he will receive the said taxes. All parties paying their taxes before the 1st day of September will be entitled to a deduction of five per cent, and all taxes remaining unpaid sixty days after September 1st, shall be placed in the hands of a collector or constable, whose compensation shall be ten per cent, on the amount collected.—

The bill further provides for settlements to be made by the collectors and constables, fixes the compensation of Treasurers at two per cent, upon all taxes collected, and fixes the time of the act going into effect at January 1st, 1875.

Now, let a good law for the proper and uniform assessment of these taxes be passed, compelling each owner of taxable property to make a return under oath, and the volume of our receipts will be largely increased, while the taxes of the small property holders will be greatly reduced.

THURSDAY last was a field day in the House for crabapple economists and shyster politicians, each of whom in turn took a sky at the newspaper publishers of the State, without whose aid but few of them would have ever seen Harrisburg. The subject matter of discussion, if the blatherskite of these embryo statesmen can be dignified by that term, was the Constitutional advertising bill, with which those honorable gentlemen have been impetuously wrestling for some weeks. Vehement in their protestations of honesty and economy, they seized upon and used a few extortionate bills, among the numbers presented, as a scapegoat for the gass of their consuming integrity. Hence they reviled the newspapers indiscriminately, instead of making provisions to pay the just bills of the mass, and providing for the auditing and pruning down of the few unjust ones. However, we didn't expect the new Constitution to act as a general foul eradicator, and therefore are not disappointed.

THEY are laughing comically in Philadelphia over the mishap of a certain Mr. Dunlap, who was nominated for Common Council in the Thirteenth ward of that city prior to the late election, at the same time Mrs. Woelppel and Mrs. Paist were nominated for School Directors. The ward was Republican, and there was no question raised as to the fairness with which these nominations were made. But, as the election progressed, Mr. Dunlap got it into his head that the nomination of the women was unpopular, and that their remaining upon the Republican ticket would injure him, and probably defeat him. He therefore got the Ward Committee to throw the women off the ticket and nominate two men in their place. The women made fight, insisted on retaining their places on the ticket, and gathered friends around them for active work, and the result was the women were elected, and Mr. Dunlap was defeated. The very thing he thought necessary to save him killed him.

NOTWITHSTANDING the course of Hon. John Scott in the Senate of the United States has been so creditable to the State, and in such perfect accordance with the views and interests of the large mass of his constituents, while his marked ability as a thinker and debater have won him a national reputation, certain journals, and notably Forney's *Press*, have been misrepresenting his views and attempting to destroy his reputation—especially with a view of preventing his re-election—by systematic, downright misstatements and falsehood. Doubtless, despising his culminating, and disliking to make his personal affairs the subject of remark in the Senate, Mr. Scott has hitherto quietly and contemptuously ignored the calumnies published about his personal views and public declarations. But this old formula is manifestly intended to make a natural tendency of the English Courts from which it was taken as well as our own to favor the rich and the aristocratic; and it is a sad reflection upon that purity with which we have been accustomed to associate the past.

Among the most absurd things connected with the investigation of Congress, and it is not the only manifest absurdity developed by the present session, is the listening of the Ways and Means Committee to the stamp orations of B. G. Jayne on the customs moiety business, under pretense of giving testimony. The country will not value Mr. Jayne's opinion of the men with whom he has had acrimonious controversies at a very high rate, when they know that he is charged by them with colluding with their clerks to first perpetrate frauds in their name, and then divide the proceeds of immense sums thus fraudulently obtained as informants' shares from wealthy importers. The chief point of this witness's testimony appears to be to attack the men who have suffered at his hands, and pronounce over and over again upon his own innocence.

Certain Democratic newspaper correspondents here have telegraphed in advance that Gen. Garfield has prepared a speech for delivery in the House, taking strong ground against the extravagance of the Treasury Department, and the employment of a larger clerical force than at any time since the rebellion. They allege that Mr. Garfield will insist upon a reduction of the force twenty-five per cent, finding the necessity of a reduction upon his own authority regarding the relative number of clerks employed in 1865 and 1873, which is greater than stated by these correspondents. It is rather singular that the figures of Mr. Garfield should be known in advance by the N. Y. *World*'s and other opposition correspondents, especially when, it truly stated, there is no record of his speech.

One morning the old gentleman's barber did not come around to shave him, and Ella, the eldest girl, said she could do it. She took her father's implements and shaved him as nicely and neatly as any tonsorial artist could do it, and dressed his hair and trimmed his whiskers, and propped him up in bed as comfortably as you please. An idea struck Mary the younger.

"Ella, if you can shave papa, you can shave any other man."

"True," said Ella.

"If you can shave a man I can shave a man."

"True once. But what has that to do with us?"

"Ella, do you want to starve?"

"No my child."

"Papa can't get out, Mamma is selling off the plate to get what we eat each day. Let me stop all this by starting a barber-shop."

Ella saw the point. The two girls rigged up an extemporary chair—they took their coachman, whom they had not yet dismissed, because he wouldn't go, and they shaved him for practice, and dressed his hair, and trimmed his whiskers, and propped him up in bed as comfortably as you please.

Then they sold the horses and carriages, and taking the proceeds fitted up a modest, but very neat shop in Union Square and went at it. The first customers they had were young girls who had known them "so society," and great was their astonishment.

"Miss Mawy," said one of them, "Joye, what led you to this?"

"Papa failed you know Charles, and we had to do this—or worse."

"Worse? Worse? Why, what could you do that would be worse?"

"Marry a man like you," replied Mary, dabbing her shaving brush in his mouth.

It is an encouraging fact, that the girls have got all they can, at good prices, and are not only supporting their parents in comfort, but are laying up a handsome sum besides.

Why should not women be barbers? Imagine the deft, soft, young fingers of a pretty girl on your face! A man would submit willingly to have a his nose sliced off by one of them. I can say that it is in any way out of the way. If men are not to be in a lady's shoe stores, when they are to put on and take off lady's boots, why is it not just as proper for women to be employed as barbers and to shave men? They do it better and more pleasantly than the men barbers, and customers would never be afraid that a drunken woman-barber would cut their throats.

WHY THE BOYS DON'T GET ON.

A great many young men who come from the country to New York, and get tolerable good salaries, find themselves at the end of the year in debt, and they wonder why it is. The young gentlemen, we will say, a book-keeper on a salary of \$2,000. He pays \$12 per week board, which leaves him about \$1,400, and he calculates to lay by something of that. But he don't, and this is why.

The Bureau of Education has information that the majority of the Committee on Education in the Constitutional Convention of Ohio, have reported a proposition, the effect of

which would be, if adopted, to destroy the high school grade of the common schools of Ohio.

With this order for retreat in Ohio, the Bureau has information of the passage by the Legislature of Kentucky of a bill providing for the education of colored children in that State.

That old Kentucky should wake up to the necessity of educating her colored children may in part arise from the fear of the passage of Senator Sumner's mixed school provision of Civil Rights, and a desire to meet it squarely; but that any number of sane educationalists in Ohio should propose to emasculate their system of public school education by taking away its head, and with it necessarily the chief brain power, is an anomaly in American experience. The great defect of the system here in our District is this very deficiency which is about to be in part supplied by a normal school. The permanent stimulus of a High School into which the lower grades are sifted is potent in its beneficial effect all the way upward from the primary school, and should never be dispensed with in a State.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

In its western form has not struck us here yet, but nevertheless, there is great activity among the temperance and religious people. Organizations are being perfected in every ward to make head against the monster, and the work that has been done has not been fruitless. The reformers here have not remonstrated against the rum-seller, but they have confined their work to the rum drinker. They are establishing reading rooms, and pleasant resorts as substitutes for the saloon, and tea and coffee as substitutes for rum. And although they have won thousands from their rum, and in one neighborhood have compelled several rum-saloons to close for want of custom. Is not this a pretty good way?

PETRO.

HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, February 28, 1874.

The House met at ten o'clock.

Mr. Worrell, of Philadelphia, offered a resolution ordering 5,000 copies of the report of the Special Committee on the Dinnick affair, which was agreed to.

Mr. Christy presented a petition of 1,300 ladies of Allegheny county, asking for the passage of a Prohibition Liquor law.

Mr. Young, a petition of 1,700 voters of Allegheny of the same import.

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