adoption of the Constitution, exceeded ... shall be permitted to increase the ... its aggregate, to exceed three ... ssed value of the property therein. If ... legislation is necessary, compliance with ... the Constitution and protection to every ... el tax payers, demand we should perm ... tion of its wise and beneficent provisions.

POLL TAX.

The payment of a State and county ... of the qualifications of voters under our ... tion. Formerly the State imposed ... trades, occupations and professions, wh ... pealed, and the right to levy a sim ... county and municipal purposes exists. ... tion to some counties and municipalit ... chanics and workingmen, whose only ... the receipts of their labor, and ten ... their exercising their rights of suffra ... in harmony with our institutions ... should be deprived of exercising t ... their franchise ... by excessive taxation, or that the tax imposed ... therefor be unequal. The qualifica tion tax of vot ... are should be uniform, and I therefore suggest the ... repeal of all law authorizing the levying of taxes ... upon trades, occupations and professions, and that ... a county poll tax be substituted therefor at a rate ... so reasonable as to be within the ability of all to ... pay.

NATIONAL GUARD.

Assurances were given in my last annual message that the National Guard, during the ensuing year, would display unusual interest in the service and be more observant of its discipline, because of the recognition accorded them by the Legislature in making some provision for their support, and the decided improvement in the efficiency of the troops at the fall inspections justified this prediction. The report of the Adjutant General exhibits many interesting details of the efforts made by the guard to increase their efficiency and merit the confidence of our citizens. The rendezvous of the service are rigorously exacted of every command, and the inspections were conducted with great care and with a view to have every company attain to the high standard fixed by the State. The number of divisions have been reduced from twenty-one to ten, the troops of each division occupy contiguous territory, and can be easily and expeditiously mustered. The officers in command are soldiers of experience in field and camp, and the rank and file are well instructed in the duties of the service and familiar with and regardful of its discipline.

The conduct of the several commands, on occasions of public parade, have been in general uniform exceptionally good, and when a sterner duty was required of them, the response was prompt, and warranted the belief that they could be relied upon in any emergency. Officers are held to a strict accountability for arms and munitions of war in the custody of their commands, and it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of the troops of the National Guard, that in no exigency can the arms of the State be used except in the hands of her uniformed and regularly enrolled soldiers, under the command of their proper officers, acting by the direction of competent authority.

LAWLESSNESS.

The people of free governments are always unwilling to contribute largely to the maintenance of armies, and are ever jealous of military power, but experience has likewise demonstrated how impolitic and unsafe it is for a State to have no disciplined or efficient force strong enough to compel obedience to its authority, when the law and its officers are contemned and opposed with violence by large bodies of men. Pennsylvania has, at times, been constrained to the painful necessity of employing troops to enforce compliance with law and the wisdom of providing for like contingencies can no longer be doubted. Men smarting under a sense of wrong, or corporations in pursuit of what they conceive to be their rights sometimes seek their remedy through violence and in disregard of the law and its process. No government can tolerate this mode of redress and exist. The supremacy of the law must be unquestioned and justice obtained through the proper and established channels in the manner prescribed by the people themselves. Bodies of men or corporations have no more constitutional rights than individuals, and they cannot be permitted to use their aggregate strength to procure what is denied to the individual, and what through weakness he could not obtain. All alike must resort to the law and abide by its decrees, and if there are any who refuse and seek to accomplish their ends by force in an illegal way, the Executive power must enforce obedience to authority without fear or favor, and for this purpose the Constitution wisely provides a body of citizen soldiery. But if there are grave emergencies when it becomes necessary to use troops to secure peace and respect for law, it certainly never was intended that the National Guard should constitute a State police force to perform the duties imposed upon the civil authorities, and that upon every breach of order its aid could be invoked to suppress the affray.

In no event and under no circumstances should a military force be used until the power of the civil authorities is exhausted and the outbreak assumes proportions of such magnitude that these officers would be powerless to overcome it. Two sufficient reasons will at once suggest themselves for this policy. Our people are sensitive to, and keenly resentful of interference by any authority that essays to take the place of their local or home rule, especially if the intervention comes in the stern and unreasoning shape of bayonets; and again, the cost of transportation and subsistence of troops involves the State in immense expense. The civil officers in any section of the State who, through indisposition, neglect, fear or any other than an irresistible cause, fail to apprehend or make an effort to apprehend those who transgress the law and break the peace, are liable to the outraged law, and should be tested by their delinquency, and citizens who supinely witness this failure to perform their duty are morally if not criminally responsible for any fatal results that follow. A determination to act with promptitude and vigor, exhibited at the beginning of these disorders, would often intimidate those concerned therein, and cause them to abandon their unlawful enterprise. Therefore, if through any remissness or neglect of duty on the part of the local authorities the State is compelled to adopt the costly measure of moving troops to subdue these engaged in riot, I respectfully submit whether the counties or counties where this disturbance took place should not be made to defray the expense? No apology is necessary for the urgency with which these views are presented to you, for it is of vital importance that the civil authorities and the whole body of our people should have a proper understanding of the use for which the National Guard are intended, so that by no misconception of duty the safety of citizens or the honor of the State may be imperilled.

The unfortunate and prolonged conflict in Westmoreland county, between the Italians and resident miners, wherein four of the Italians lost their lives and a number were wounded, is a sad illustration of the fatal consequence of a want of decision and energy when a spirit of lawlessness or disposition to riot discover themselves. The contest between these miners was protracted over a period of weeks with almost daily skirmishes and threats, during all this time life and property were greatly endangered, the public peace was broken, women and children were driven from their homes, and yet no injury falls to reveal the fact that a single warrant was issued for the arrest of any of the parties implicated. There is nothing to show any efficient interference on the part of the local authorities to check these unlawful proceedings, and there is no evidence that any regular or official investigation in relation to the disturbances was had, until loss of life made it necessary. I feel confident that prompt action on the part of the authorities in the vicinity would have speedily terminated, if not entirely prevented the disturbance.

STATE ARSENAL.

Under authority conferred by the last Legislature, the old arsenal, formerly situated on the Capitol hill, was torn down and removed, and the grounds graded into a more symmetrical form. An eligible site was purchased for a new arsenal, at a short distance from the city, and the erection of a building thereon commenced without delay. This structure, now nearly finished, is handsome and substantial, and admirably suited to the uses for which it is intended. It has ample facilities for the storage of arms and munitions of war in large or small quantities, contains blacksmith and carpenter shops, and the necessary work of an arsenal can all be done within its walls. The site secured consists of a square of ground well located for drainage, and has excellent water and other advantages.

FISH.

A growing interest in the cultivation of fish by artificial means is manifested throughout the country and it is a pleasure to note that our people are devoting themselves to the investigation of this novel and important subject in a manner that will establish the success or failure of the experiment in the various waters of this State. The labors of the Commissioners of Fisheries continue to afford substantial reasons for encouragement. During the past year they have placed in the various streams that empty into the sea 276,000 California and 137,000 Kennebec salmon. These streams were selected because it is the habit of the salmon to migrate to and from the sea. It is found that these valuable fish return to these rivers the State will be amply repaid for the entire expense incurred in all of fish culture. Under the superintendence of the commissioners 85,000 salmon trout were distributed in different bodies of water where the chances for procuring food and the indulgence of their peculiar habits seem most promising. These fish are rapid in their growth, increase very fast, attain a large size, and are a delicate article of food. A general distribution was also made of a large number of black bass, a very prolific, choice and beautiful fish, that grows and multiplies with marvelous rapidity in our streams. The hatching of shad commenced last spring, and 2,000,000 of young fish were turned into the Susquehanna. This Commonwealth appropriated a fund to be expended jointly with the Fish Commissioners of New Jersey in hatching shad to be placed in the Delaware. The Legislature of New Jersey, I regret to say, failed to make a similar appropriation, and in consequence no shad were hatched for that river. There are no obstacles whatever to the ascent of shad in the Delaware, as they come in from the sea, the river is said to be particularly adapted to their wants, and with proper co-operation the supply of shad may be immeasurably increased; and I trust, therefore, that our sister State will combine with our commissioners in replenishing the river.

The success of the fish-way at the Columbia dam does not correspond with the public expectation, and some fears are entertained that the dam may prove an insuperable barrier to the ascent of the shad. Alterations in the fish-way have been made with very little additional cost that will prove an effectual test of the process now on trial; and if it is discovered that the shad will not or cannot make the transit, some other channel will have to be opened to enable the fish to ascend, for now that it is demonstrated that these fish can be propagated artificially to an extent that will make them a constant and unfailing source of cheap and excellent food, every form of experiment should be exhausted before the enterprise is abandoned.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The Bureau of Statistics and Labor, by virtue of the new Constitution to be incorporated during ensuing May in the Department of Internal Affairs has ponderous work in industry and care the important work committed to its charge, and the pages of the forthcoming report of the Commissioner will be found of interest to those seeking information in regard to our resources, facilities for trade, manufacture and education, and the vital problems involved in the relations of labor and capital. The usefulness of this Bureau will depend upon its ability to obtain reliable statistics, and its investigations, therefore, should be conducted with great circumspection and caution, while citizens and corporations should open every avenue of intelligence to those connected with its official inquiries.

THE INSANE.

The official reports of the several State hospitals for the insane contain abundant proofs of the usefulness of these institutions and the wisdom of the benefaction that erects and manages them in the interests of suffering humanity. Posterity will acknowledge that the age in which we live has been the author of many estimable improvements, and that during this epoch various species of cruelty that were wont to disgrace and afflict mankind have disappeared from our customs and laws. Prisons and institutions of reformation and charity have undergone changes dictated by more enlightenment and a kindlier and more thoughtful consideration of what is due from society to the criminal and unfortunate, but in no manner has this benevolence been more judiciously and constantly bestowed than in the provisions made in modern times for the treatment and care of the insane. This wise and humane spirit is strikingly exemplified in the splendid hospitals Pennsylvania has provided for those of her people who are insane, and it is a gratification to observe that the construction of the new hospital at Warren, is proceeding with the least possible delay. At the close of the season all the foundations of the main structure, laundry and boiler house were laid; the air shafts for the ventilation of the building were in place; a large quantity of lumber has been secured for future operations; preparations have been made to carry on portions of the work during the winter, and it is confidently expected that the hospital will be under roof at the end of the current year. True economy has been practiced by the commission in the construction of the building which will be fire-proof, supplied with all the modern conveniences, and in its arrangements is fully abreast with the plans that science and experience have approved for the successful conduct of insane hospitals. The wards of other State hospitals are crowded, and the speedy erection of the one at Warren, will afford relief to a large number of insane who need attention. The numerous cases of insanity in the poorhouses of the eastern part of the State, and the one thousand two hundred helpless and demented creatures huddled together in the Philadelphia almshouse, where the meagre accommodations and enforced associations aggravate rather than mitigate their misery and disease, should be included in the beneficence and care the Commonwealth is extending to this afflicted class of her citizens. As soon as the finances permit a State hospital should be erected at some convenient point where the insane of the city and adjoining populous counties could be sent for treatment.

CRIMINAL INSANE.

The Commissioners designated by the Legislature of 18.4, to inquire into the condition of the criminal insane of the Commonwealth, have prepared a report to which your particular attention is invited.

The subject whereof it treats is of vital importance, and as the gentlemen who make the report are recognized for their enlightened and philanthropic views, and scientific knowledge upon this and kindred questions, their opinions are entitled to especial consideration.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

One of the most helpful agencies employed during the last few years to promote the welfare of those whose poverty or mental or physical infirmities make them the beneficiaries of the State, was the intelligent supervision of a Board of Public Charities who were empowered by law to examine all public reformatory institutions, to ascertain what care and treatment their inmates received. The disinterested labors of this Board to alleviate the sufferings of the insane and other poor have been productive of most valuable results, and to its efforts we are under obligations for the marked improvement in the condition of our jails and almshouses, and are a more enlightened sentiment upon the whole important subject of public charity. A detailed report of the beneficial work performed by the board during the past year will be submitted for your information, and I cordially invite earnest attention to the several practical suggestions it embodies under the conviction that they deserve your careful consideration.

FORESTS.

The attention of the Legislature is again directed to the necessity of adopting some measures to arrest the wanton and indiscriminate destruction of the forests of the State. The extent and variety of the evils involved in this waste, it is to be feared, will fail to be appreciated until we are made to sensibly feel their disastrous effects. Lumbermen of experience declare that in thirty years, with the present alarming destruction of trees, Pennsylvania will not have any salable timber within her borders. The region where this timber is found are the natural reservoirs from which our streams and rivers are fed, and observation shows that the rain-fall and supply of water therein have been materially diminished since stripped of their forests. It is alleged, likewise, that decided atmospheric changes are perceptible, and that the seasons have grown more irregular and heat of the summer more intense in these same regions, and that their dwarfed fruits and stinted crops are plainly traceable to the absence of the shade and moisture occasioned by denuding them of their trees.

To test the correctness of these observations and determine whether it is desirable or practicable to regulate the destruction of timber, I respectfully propose that the commissioners of the geographical survey be empowered to employ a person to make the necessary scientific and practical inquiries.

COLONIAL RECORDS.

The General Assembly authorized, last session, the publication of the archives of the Board of War and Navy Board of Pennsylvania, and the papers in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, heretofore unpublished. These records and papers have been carefully collated under the supervision of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the first volume of the second series of the Pennsylvania Archives will appear during the present month. The second volume to comprise a full record of the rolls and services of the Pennsylvania line and militia is also well advanced toward completion.

EXEMPTION LAW.

Rats to be regretted that the act to modify the exemption law of 1849, so as to forbid a waiver of the exemption by the creditor, was not passed finally at the last session of the Assembly. It encountered no serious opposition, but failed to become a law from inattention. The ability of creditors to waive this exemption is frequently the parent of great injustice and misery, and the consideration of humanity that prompted the passage of the law in the interest of their innocent and helpless families, should secure its modification.

NAVIGATION OF THE OHIO RIVER.

In May, 1872, a Commission was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, to act in conjunction with Commissions from the States of West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois, to determine what measures should be taken to secure the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river. Several conferences were held and the event of their deliberations was the adoption of a plan to be submitted to Congress at the present session. This plan, to consist of continued inquiry and experiments, was prepared by engineers of the United States army, is approved by the Commissions for the improvement of the Ohio, and is in its main features in practical operation in France, where it serves the ends proposed. The Commissioners of Pennsylvania have made a report to the Executive embodying a brief review of their labors and the suggestions they have to offer in regard to this enterprise. They recommend that the Legislature of Pennsylvania pass a joint resolution asking Congress to appropriate sufficient money to commence this improvement, and I heartily concur in this recommendation.

One of the subjects of engrossing interest to the people of the west and southwest, and in which the east is as immediately concerned, is to obtain some means of conveyance, whereby their commodities can reach the markets, and they can receive in return what they need at cheaper than existing rates, and in addressing themselves to the consideration of this great transportation problem, the improvement of the Ohio river is believed to least promise which it can be solved with the for the commerce of this vast region, and in seeking an outlet to the east or at the sea, their trade must flow with its mighty and steady current through Pennsylvania to the manifest benefit of her citizens, who should lend to all measures for the improvement of the river their influence and support.

IN MEMORIAM.

In the year that has just closed, the bar and people of Pennsylvania have had occasion to lament the death of two of her most distinguished citizens and learned jurists. Chief Justice James Thompson, while engaged in the argument of a cause before the court, where his voice had often been heard interpreting the law, was suddenly stricken down with disease, and in a few minutes ceased to breathe. The life of Judge Thompson was one of constant service to the State. In the Legislature and Congress, as President Judge of a judicial district, and upon the Supreme bench, he displayed strong characteristics and remarkable abilities that would have given him prominence in any community. Conspicuously known for his common sense, sterling integrity, knowledge of human nature, and general and intimate acquaintance with the principles and practice of the law, he was of a type of men rarely found in public employment, and for whom a whole people mourn when the State is deprived of their integrity and talents.

The recent demise of John M. Read, who likewise occupied the highest judicial office in the State, is fresh in our memory, as is the recollection of his long and useful career, extending over a half century of an active, eventful, and honored professional and public experience, and filled with the evidences of his learning, probity, and earnest advocacy of the people's rights. Like his brother Chief Justice, whom he so soon followed to the grave, Judge Read served in the State and national councils in various capacities, carrying into the performance of their duties the same energy and desire to do right that ever characterized his conduct, and embellishing his official acts with constant proofs of scholarly research and culture. James Thompson and John M. Read are names that will always be intimately associated with the history of jurisprudence in Pennsylvania—names to which property and life within her borders owe some of their best guarantees, and the law is indebted for some of its strongest safeguards. It is a common observation, that nothing so soon reveals the character of a man as to invest him with power, and yet these two jurists, Thompson and Read, occupied positions of power and authority from early youth to a ripe old age, and died without a stain upon their character. What nobler epitaph could embalm their memory?

CONCLUSION.

Being the first Representatives elected under the new Constitution, a grave responsibility rests upon the present Legislature, and the future prosperity of the Commonwealth will depend in a large measure upon the wisdom of the counsels that may prevail at the pending session. Additional legislation is needed to give full force and effect to the Constitution, and the importance of framing laws that will be uniform and general in their operation, cannot be urged upon the attention of your honorable bodies with too much earnestness. I feel convinced that you will approach the discharge of this duty with a becoming sense of the magnitude of the trust and an ardent desire to promote the public welfare, and with all efforts in this behalf, I pledge you my heartiest co-operation. My most cordial wishes attend you for an auspicious beginning and a happy close to your labors. Whatever your endeavors may be, let us hope that they will tend to the honor and advantage of the State, and to this end we should invoke the maturest judgment and Divine assistance.

J. F. HARTRANFT.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, January 6, 1875.

The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY. January 13, 1875.

THE President has received a number of anonymous communications from Baltimore threatening him with assassination for his course in regard to Louisiana, and telling him to remember old Abe Lincoln.

THE message of Governor Hartranft is attracting commendations not only at home, but in a number of our neighboring States. The document is well written, and its statements and arguments lucidly and forcibly put. It is necessarily lengthy, but this should not prevent its being read by all who desire correct information regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth. We have not space for a review of its principal feautures, nor do we deem it necessary when the full text is before the reader, to judge for himself. We commend it heartily, and content ourselves with calling special attention to the happy condition of our financial affairs, produced by excellent management for the last twenty years, and to the wise suggestions concerning schools for training boys in the industrial arts.

IT now appears from the "Memorial to Congress" gotten up by the Democratic members of the Louisiana Legislature, that it was at the request of Mr. Speaker Wiltz, that General De Trobriand was first called upon to quell disturbances in the House, by clearing the lobby and thus preventing bloodshed. What now becomes of the howl about the legislative halls being invaded by Grant's myrmidons, against the peace and dignity of a sovereign State &c., &c., which has caused the N. Y. *Tribune* and Democratic sheets such sore travail?

THE Legislature organized on Tuesday of last week. The Senate by the election of Mr. Cutler [Rep.] of Erie, as Speaker, and Errett of Allegheny, chief clerk, and the House by the choice of Patterson, [Dem.] of Allegheny, Speaker, and Woolever of Lehigh, clerk. The fight among the Democrats for places in the House was hot and acrimonious, and resulted in several knock-downs, among those patriots, and it was several days before the caucus could finally whip in the hungry and rebellious contestants. This was arranged at last, the slate went through, and on Friday both Houses adjourned over until the 12th, to give the Speakers time to arrange the committees.

WITH all the desperation of drowning men grasping at straws, the Democratic leaders and journals are trying to work the country in a ferment over affairs at New Orleans. Democratic Governors and Legislators fulminate pronunciamentoes, the press agonizes, and Senators declaim. Public meetings to denounce the "outrages" are called, Sheridan is stigmatized as crazy and brutal, all of which means that the Democracy and their allies are laboring in their vocation to make capital for the coming Presidential campaign. The public was treated to precisely this kind of stuff at the time Lincoln was a candidate the second time, and when the Democracy in National convention pronounced the war a failure, and wanted it stopped. Then it was Lincoln's hirelings that were playing the devil with the country, now it is Grant's minions. In a few days this windbag will be punctured by the reports from the military commanders, and the Congressional Committees in the South. With a firm faith that "little Phil." will prevent further murders in New Orleans, let us possess our souls in patience, awaiting the development of the truth, and preparing our ears for mingled pathos and piercing shrieks from the *Tribune* over the reopening of the "Southern outrage mill."

DURING the last week in December it could be easily gathered from the Southern dispatches—in fact it was a matter of boast—that the Democrats were determined by "fair means or foul" to control the organization of the Legislature in Louisiana, although the Returning Board had declared that fifty-four Republicans, and fifty-two Democrats had been elected, leaving the doubtful cases to the decision of the Legislature itself. On Monday, the 4th, the day for the meeting of the Legislature, it was learned that two of the Republican members had been kidnapped—they have since been allowed to return—and it was then apparent just how the Democrats intended to have a majority in the House. On the assembling of that body, and before the call of the roll had been finished, a Democratic member—evidently by pre-arrangement—jumped to his feet and moved that Mr. Wiltz be elected Speaker. This was responded to by a yell of ayes, and was declared carried by the same member. Wiltz rushed upon the platform, seized the gavel from the hand of the old clerk, who in accordance with duty was calling the House together, and ejected him from the stand. The Democratic members who had been rejected by the Returning Board were then sworn in, against the protest of the Republicans, and thus the organization, by fraud and force, was seized upon by the Democrats

A petition being presented to the Governor setting forth these facts, he called upon the military to eject this fraudulent and illegally organized body claiming to be the Legislature, and accordingly General De Trobriand, under orders from General Emory, in command of the U. S. troops, expelled the four ursurping Democratic members. The remaining Democratic members then withdrew in a body, and the House was duly organized by the Republicans, who at once proceeded to business.

Having thus been frustrated in their illegal designs, and fearing the promptness and determination of General Phil. Sheridan, who at that juncture assumed command of the department, the baffled Democracy have resorted to the telegraph and press to create public sentiment in their favor. Accordingly a howl has gone up all over the land against the bayonet rule in Louisiana, and a mournful wail is echoed from the entire Democratic press, convulsed with grief, over the wrongs of the lamb-like White Leaguers of the "hand-cuffed" State.

We are not in love with Kellogg, and even have but little faith in the partisan telegrams flying over the country. We propose, therefore, to await the report of the Congressional committee there and now on the spot, and the fuller dispatches of the military commanders, before we form positive conclusions on this unhappy matter, and we caution all good citizens against the inflammatory editorials and invectives and, sweeping assertions of the anti-Administration journals, intentionally put forth to prejudice the public mind. The patriotism of Grant and Sheridan are as much to be relied on now as in the somewhat similar days of the rebellion, and they are entitled to the same confidence that was bestowed upon Lincoln under similar circumstances. We thank God that a man of nerve and assured loyalty, who will not blench in the hour of trial, holds the supreme power, and although not infallible, we can surely rely upon him, and abide the truth, which must eventually be developed.

THE denunciations fulminated by the rebel press and their copperhead sympathizers in the North, immediately after the hanging of the traitor who tore down the flag in New Orleans, and the issuing of Ben Butler's famous order, are forcibly called to mind by the frantic manner in which the anti-Administration press has slopped over about the first dispatch of "little Phil," in which he suggests that the "arrest and trial of the ringleaders of the armed White League" would restore confidence, and that if the President would issue a proclamation declaring banditti the parties who murdered men on the 14th of September last, and more recently at Vicksburg, he would summarily deal with them.

The clergy and rebel sympathising citizens of New Orleans, with the anti-Administration press of the North, rush frantically to the rescue of the good name of the Southern "martyrs," and vie, each with the other, in denouncing the General, and branding his charge as false. And yet, does any one deny the slaughter by the armed White Leaguers in the streets of New Orleans on September 14th, or the massacres in Louiiana and at Vicksburg? But, forsooth, because Sheridan suggests that the leaders of the murderous bands be treated as banditti—*i. e.*, arrested, tried, and if found guilty, executed, a howl goes up that the whole South is to be exterminated. "Blanche Tray, Sweetheart, little dogs all," are yelping in full chorus at his heels. If these "high-toned" Southern gentlemen please to identify themselves with the cut-throat leaders of the White League, and assume that they are aimed at in Sheridan's dispatch, so be it. It is a matter of their own choice. Nevertheless, despite the protest of this lordly clergy, and these princely merchants, all law abiding citizens, with one acclaim, will answer, arrest, try and punish the murderous banditti.

ON Thursday last, the Senate currency bill—without alteration, as published in this journal of December 30th—passed the House by nearly a strict party vote—136 to 99.—Not a single Democrat voted for the bill, while twenty Republicans also voted against it. The vote of the Pennsylvania delegation was as follows: Yeas—Messrs O'Neil, Meyers, Harmer, Biery, Smith, Killinger, Shoemaker, Strawbridge, Packer, Cessna, Curtis, Richmond, Taylor, Negley, Thompson, Moore, Todd [illegible] Messrs. Barndall, Kelley, Townsend, Clymer, Storm, and Magee. Messrs. Speer, Albright and Ross were absent. The bill will unquestionably receive the President's signature and became a law. We congratulate the country on the settlement of this vexed question. It takes the finances out of the political arena for the present, for although the next House will be Democratic it cannot undo this legislation while the Senate is Republican. We hail this as the beginning of better days, and confidently look for a steady and gradual improvement in business of all kinds, with a hopeful outlook for the coming spring.

SHERIDAN'S DISPATCHES.

WE give below the several dispatches from General Sheridan to the Secretary of War since he has assumed command at New Orleans. Despite the calumnious proclamations and dispatches of the White Leaguers and their sympathizers, the general public, with the dispatches in hand, will await the report of the General, before they credit the accusations so vehemently urged against him. We miss our guess mightily, if his report does not fully turn the tables against the assassins and their defenders and apologists.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF MISSOURI, New Orleans, Jan. 5.

Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

I think the terrorism now existing in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas could be entirely removed, and confidence and fair dealing established, by the arrest and trial of the ring leaders of the White Leagues. If Congress would pass a bill declaring them banditti, they could be tried by a Military Commission. The leaders of this banditti who murdered the men here on the fourteenth of last September, and more recently at Vicksburg, Mississippi, should, in justice to law and order, and the peace and prosperity of this southern part of the country, be punished. It is possible that if the President would issue a proclamation declaring them banditti, no further action need be taken except that which would devolve upon me.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General U. S. A.

NEW ORLEANS, January 6.

Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

The city is very quiet to-day. Some of the banditti made idle threats that they would assassinate me because I dared to tell the truth. I am not afraid, and will not be stopped from informing the Government that there are localities in this department where the very air has been impregnated with assassination for some years.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General Commanding.

NEW ORLEANS, January 7.

Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

Several prominent people here have for the past few days been passing resolutions and manufacturing sensational protests for Northern political consumption. They seem to be trying to make martyrs of themselves. It cannot be done at this late day. There have been too many bleeding negroes and ostracized white citizens for these statements to be believed by fair-minded people. Bishop Wilmer protests against my telegram of the 4th instant, forgetting that on Saturday last he testified under oath before the Congressional Committee that the condition of affairs here was substantially as bad as reported by me. I will soon send you a statement of the number of murders committed in this State during the last three or four years, the perpetrators of which are still unpunished. I think the number will startle you. It will be up in the thousands. The city is perfectly quiet. No trouble is apprehended.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General.

NEW ORLEANS, January 8.

Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

I shall send you this evening a report of affairs as they actually occurred here on the 4th instant. My telegram to you of the 4th instant, and those of the 5th and 6th instant, are so truthful of the condition of affairs in this section, and strike so near the water-line, that ministers of the gospel and others are appealed to to keep the ship from sinking. Human life has been held too cheaply in this State for many years.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant General.

CONFIDENCE IN SHERIDAN.

The following telegram has been sent to General Sheridan:

WASHINGTON, January 6.

Gen. P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans, La.:

I telegraphed you hastily to-day, answering your despatch. You seem to fear that we shall be misled by biased or partial statements of your acts. Be assured that the President and Cabinet confide in your wisdom and rest in the belief that all acts of yours have been and will be judicious. This I intended to say in my brief telegram.

WM. W BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

ORGANIZATION OF BOTH HOUSES.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 5, 1875.

The Senate was called to order at noon by Speaker Cutler. The returns of the election of Senators, presented by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, were opened and read. When the returns from the Thirtieth district, Schuylkill, were read, the Speaker presented a protest against the swearing in of Colihan, accompanied with affidavits charging him with bribery.

Mr. Strang moved to refer the papers and credentials to a special committee to report to-morrow on the power of the Senate to deal with such cases, and in the meantime Colihan not to be sworn.

Mr. Wallace made the point of order that the returns having been received and read, the only thing in order was to swear the Senators in.

The speaker overruled the point of order.

Mr. Chalfant appealed from the decision.

The speaker ruled the appeal not in order.

Pending the organization of the Senate, Mr. Strang's motion was agreed to—yeas 30, nays 19.

Twenty-seven new Senators were then sworn by Judge Pearson, Colihan, being ruled out for the present.

Cutler was elected President *pro tem.*, by a vote of 30 to 19 for Chalfant. Errett was elected Clerk —30 to 18 for Timothy A. Sloan.

Mr. Rutan offered a resolution for the election of the other officers agreed on by the Republican caucus, and they were elected—30 to 18—and sworn in.

Committees were appointed to notify the House and the Governor of the organization, and, after authorizing Speaker Cutler to appoint the standing committees, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at noon. The returns of the election were presented by Secretary Quay. After they had been opened and read, the House proceeded to the election of Speaker. Patterson received 108 votes, and Vogdes, 88.

Before qualifying the members, the question was raised as to the eligibility of Mr. Rosenmiller, Republican member from Lancaster City, on the ground that he was District Attorney when elected. The House, by a vote of 97 to 95, laid the whole matter on the table, and Mr. Rosenmiller was sworn with the rest.

The oath of office was then administered to the Speaker and members by Judge Mayer, of Clinton county. The proceeding occupied about four hours, after which the House adjourned until eleven o-morrow.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, January 6.—In the Senate, Mr Strang, of the Select Committee on the Colihan case, reported that an attempt to postpone the admission of a Senator for the purpose of determining specific charges of violation of law, would be a dangerous precedent and subversive of the rights of the Senator and his constituents. The truth or falsity of a specific criminal charge should be determined by a jury only, under the forms and sanction of law. The iron-clad oath prescribed by the Constitution was meant to guard against the admission of unworthy members, and may with some force be held to preclude any other form of inquiry concerning matters embraced therein. The report was adopted—yeas 48, nays none. Mr. Colihan was then sworn in.

Mr. Lamon presented a bill to amend the Police Magistrates bill of Philadelphia. Referred to the Philadelphia Senators and reported back by the committee.

The following bills in place were offered:

By Mr. Alexander—Relating to official acts of foreign notaries.

Mr. McKinley—A supplement to the act relating to writs of *quo warranto*. This is the same as last year's bill, which failed to reach the Governor.

Mr. Jones—An act relating to investments held by executors and other fiduciaries.

Mr. Newmyer—Relating to the return of writs and other processes of courts abolished or changed by the Constitution. It provides for the completion of all pending proceedings in such courts the same as if they had not been abolished or changed. All these bills were laid on the table till the committees shall be appointed.

HOUSE.

The House proceeded to the election of Chief Clerk. Woolever received 106 votes and Shurlock 87.

Mr. Parker offered the Democratic slate in the shape of a resolution for filling the remaining offices.

A motion to strike out McConkey's name (resident Clerk) and Herbert's (reading Clerk) and insert Smull and Morrison, was lost—yeas 89 nays 105.

A motion to strike out Beamish, for Sergeant-at-Arms, and insert Knipe, a Democratic soldier, caused an exciting debate, during which Beamish was denounced as a ballot-box stuffer, embezzler, perjurer and generally bad. Before reaching a vote the Governor's Message was received and read.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, January 7.—In the Senate, the following bills in place were presented:

By Mr. Watson—Prohibiting the sale of liquors within three miles of military encampments.

Mr. Warfel—To regulate the election of trustees of normal schools, to regulate their powers and the distribution of the State fund to such schools.

Mr. Yerkes—An act to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases; also, an act authorizing the formation of wharf companies.

Mr. Jones—An act to further secure the rights of married women, authorizing them to transfer personal property and execute powers of attorney; also, an act amending the act relative to the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—An act repealing section second of the act securing married women's separate earnings.

Mr. Rutan—An act relating to salaries of county officers in counties of over one hundred thousand inhabitants. It is the same as last year's bill, except that two sections are struck out and salaries are fixed at lower rates.

Mr. Jones offered a resolution to print five hundred copies of the Governor's message in Welsh. A motion to postpone was voted down—22 to 23—and the resolution was lost by same vote.

The Philadelphia magistrates' bill was read the first time.

The Senate adjourned till Tuesday morning at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE.

In the House, a resolution appointing a Chaplain was ruled not in order. Eight thousand English and two thousand German messages were ordered to be printed. The deaths of Messrs. Farrer, of Washington; Hunter, of Armstrong; Wolf, of Centre, and Batdorf, of Berks, were announced. A committee of five on condolence resolutions was appointed. The speaker will issue writs for elections to fill the vacancies.

The refractory Democrats having been wheedled or whipped in last night, Parker's slate resolution, appointing the remaining officers, was adopted after an exciting debate.

The house adjourned till Monday evening at seven o'clock.

NEW ORLEANS.

ASSEMBLING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Gen. De Trobriand called on to Eject Illegal Legislators.

Conservatives Withdraw and Republicans Organize.

NEW ORLEANS, January 4.—At eight A. M. the United States troops took their position covering the State House. A regiment of infantry in two columns, at parade rest, extended from Chartres street, on St. Louis, to the levee. The Metropolitans were placed in position to prevent near approach to the State House.

In the House, the members of the four contested parishes were admitted to seats, and an organization was effected by the election of ex-Mayor Wiltz as Speaker, and P. J. Trevazant as Clerk. The Speaker addressed the House in a few words. During the swearing in of the members, the Republicans endeavored to move out of the hall, but were prevented by the Sergeant-at-Arms. The excitement was so great that General De Trobriand was sent for, and cleared the lobby of police and spectators.

The General then stepped up to the Speaker, and asked that Mr. Vigers, the former Clerk of the House, should read the letters from Gov. Kellogg, which he held in his hand. The newly-elected Clerk objected, when the General asked that his own Adjutant should read them. This request was granted. One of the letters stated to the General that an illegal body was sitting in the House of Representatives, and that Mr. Vigers would furnish him with a list of those members who had been duly elected and, as such, returned by the Returning Board. The other letter contained a request to General De Trobriand to eject those members who have not been returned as elected by the Board.

Speeaker Wiltz protested, and told the General that this was a legally organized body, to which General T. replied that he, as a soldier, and only second in command, had to obey the order of his superior, General Emory, who had ordered him to obey the instructions of Governor Kellogg.

Speaker Wiltz, said: "I desire to state to you again, that this House, duly elected, has organized itself by electing me as its Speaker, Captain Floyd as Sergeant-at-Arms and Mr. Trevazant as Clerk. After organization, we have seated five gentlemen whose cases have been referred to us by the Returning Board. Will you reject these men?"

General De Trobriand said: "Mr. Speaker, I am an officer and must obey orders. I came here alone. I thought that my presence would be sufficient to have these orders obeyed."

Speaker Wiltz replied: "I am thankful to you, General, for that. While I recognize in you a gentleman and a soldier, while we submit to the United States Government, it is my duty, as speaker of the House of Representives of the State of Louisiana, to ask you to use force. Until then the five men refuse to leave the room.

General De Trobriand—I do not like to make a show, I do not know the members, I should prefer for you to point them out. I will ask them to leave; or will you have me fill the room with soldiers?

Speaker Wiltz—I cannot permit those members whom we have just recognized as being elected, to be put out. My duty is to keep up the dignity of the State of Louisiana, as well as yours is to keep up that of the United States army.

Mr. Dupre at this time offered the report of the Committee on Elections, which declared Jeffries, Luckett, and Stafford, of Rapides; Vaughn, Horan and Lamb, of Caddo; Schwing, of Iberia, and O'Quinn, of Avoyelles, to be elected.

General De Trobriand, who had retired, again advanced toward the Speaker, who said: "Gentlemen, be quiet, and be men." The General then, pointing to Vigers, ex-Clerk of the House, said that he had been represented to him by Governor Kellogg as Clerk of the House, and that a list of names of the Representatives returned as elected by the Returning Board——

Speaker Wiltz—I protest against Mr. Vigers having anything to do with this body. He is no longer Clerk of this House, his successor having been legally elected.

General De Trobriand—This protest will be of no avail.

Speaker Wiltz protested against the interference of the military, and requested the members to join in a protest with him. In response to this call all the Conservative members stood up and solemnly protested.

After another protest of Vigers' successor, General De Trobriand ordered Vigers to call the roll.

Speaker Wiltz—The Conservative members will not answer when their names are called. [None answered.]

Vigers having finished calling the roll, Mr. Dewees said that fifty-four had answered, two Democrats answering by mistake. He moved that the house proceed to business.

Mr. Vigers wanted to get his seat, and Mr. Wiltz told him that he could not, and that there were not men enough to put him in it.

About this time there entered the room a file of fifteen soldiers, fully equipped, who formed in line outside the bar. Gen. De Trobriand then introduced Mr. H. J. Campbell who was