The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY. - - - - January 14, 1876.

It is hardly ten years since the war closed. Already the time has come when service in the Union army disqualifies a man to hold office in the lower branch of Congress.—Treason is rewarded, and loyalty punished.

We find the following telling squib in the Washington *Republican*:

"Those faces seem very familiar," said an old Union soldier, as he sat in the gallery of the House gazing upon the Democratic side. "I think I have seen many of those countenances before, and if I am not mistaken, at that time they were facing the little end of the gun."

The Democratic policy of turning Union soldiers out of place and filling the vacancies with the late Confederates, is still vigorously pursued by the House at Washington. The Pennsylvania Democracy shake hands with the eighty-three ex Confederates of that body in declaring that service in the Union army is a bar to office under Democratic administration.—This fact should not be forgotten.

The boast is never out of the mouths of the party now controlling the lower House of Congress, that they are the Jeffersonian Democracy, and that the principles and precepts of their party are immutable. Well, Jefferson's test for making appointments was: "Is he honest? is he capable? is he faithful *to the Constitution?*" How do the Democratic Confederate soldiers now being appointed to offices under the House meet the last requirement of the Jeffersonian standard?

A correspondent of the N. Y. *Tribune*, who has been feeling the pulse of the Democratic members at Harrisburg, writes that journal that the current is strongly in favor of Hendricks, of Indiana, for President, and that he finds no sentiment in favor of Tilden. There is nothing strange in this. Tilden is a hard money man and the Democracy of Ohio and of this State, hold him responsible for the ignominious death of their rag baby, and of course they will pay him back when they get a crack at him in the National Convention.

The State Legislature met and organized on Tuesday of last week.—The Senate took the position that all business must commence *de novo* and re-elected its Speaker and all other officers. The House on the other hand determined that this session was only a continuation of that of last year, that all bills pending when the adjournment took place retained their position on the calendar, and came up as unfinished business, and refused to reorganize. This, of course, created a dead lock, but on further consideration the mules of the House concluded to back down, and so it is concluded that no business pending at the close of the last session shall be considered unless again introduced anew. Now "the ball goes on."

The Governor's message, which will be found in this issue, is a document of unusual length, but it is a remarkably vigorous, able and satisfactory State paper. It is long from necessity, embracing as it does so many matters of interest to the citizens of this great State, but throughout it is vigorous, broad in its views, clear and concise in its statements and wise in its suggestions. All of our readers should give it a thoughtful perusal, and none will lay it down at the close without a feeling of conscious satisfaction that Pennsylvania have just cause to be proud of their State, their Governor, and the wise and vigorous administration of public affairs.

The New York *Times* editorially argues for the holding of the Republican National Convention at an early date in the spring. Concurring with the Albany *Journal*, it says: An early date should be chosen, for we have nothing to fear from a long canvass. As our contemporary truly says, 'the weight of argument and the earnestness of conviction are on our side,' and it goes on to add that 'it would be well to hold the Convention as early as May, and not later than June.' In 1872, the Republican Convention was held on the 5th and 6th of June; this year there is no good reason why it should not assemble in May. The sooner some of the rubbish which now stands in the way of any intelligent discussion of the Presidential question is swept aside the better, and the sounder some persons will sleep who are now appalled by the nightmare of the 'third term.' Nothing is to be gained by a long delay in deciding who are to be the candidates of the party. We hope, therefore, that the committee will decide in favor of the month of May."

The Democratic press of the country are terribly exercized because Secretary Chandler has made known his intention to dismiss from the public service under him all Democrats now snugly ensconced under an administration they miss no opportunity to revile, with a view of putting in Republicans. To mitigate—or aggravate—the Democratic grief, we may remark, that the pressure on Mr. Chandler to do this thing is made by wounded Union soldiers who have been turned out of their former situations by the Democratic House of Representatives to make places for rebel soldiers. If the House will insist on providing employment for the men who followed Lee, Chandler can hardly be blamed, with justice, for taking care of those who followed Grant. This howl is one which exalts the Secretary of the Interior in the estimation of all Union men, and correspondingly degrades the complaining Democracy, who rail at him for following the example they have set him to imitate.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

It is an apparent fact that the whisky thieves have present control of a large portion of the Democratic and "Independent" press. Day after day, as fast as one lie is exploded another is published by these journals, implicating Secretary Bristow, the President, his relatives and friends with these frauds. No difference how silly the story, it is published to the world, only to be contradicted the next day or supplanted by a new invention, if possible more silly and monstrous than the old one. The thieves are evidently laboring to revenge themselves on the officials, and impair public confidence in them by these extravagant and oft-iterated inventions. Meanwhile the traduced officers of the government are pursuing the malefactors with the certainty of death, and are daily bringing them to punishment. It is a sad and shocking commentary on the boasted freedom of the press, that the greatest scoundrels of the country and of the age should thus be able through their ill-gotten gains, to purchase this wide-spread villification of the highest officials of the government, engaged in bringing to punishment violators of the law.

The Democrats boast hugely of the economy they are going to introduce in the administration of national offices, and straightway make a tilt at the navy and army. A number of navy yards and the marine corps are to be abolished, and the appropriations for this branch of the service is to be largely reduced; the army is to be cut down to ten thousand men, and a large number of the officers, particularly the higher grades, are to be mustered out of service. Although this proposed sweeping curtailment of the efficiency of the military and naval powers of the government is disguised under the plea of economy, there are those who see in it but another step in the policy that punishes Union soldiers by removal from position. As now officered, the army and navy is controlled by Union soldiers alone, and if these can be forced out of the service, when an increase and reorganization comes, as it must come soon, the ex-Confederates will come in—if the Democracy carry the next Presidential election—for the bear's share once more, which they enjoyed when the rebellion broke out, and thus again they will control the destinies of the country. Is there not much food for reflection in this suggestion?

A Double Execution.

Pittsburg, Jan. 6.—The execution of William Murray and Frederick Myers for the murder of Gotthardt Wahl took place in the jail yard at noon to-day. The murder was committed on the evening of Nov. 11, 1874, as the farmer, Wahl, was driving from the city to his home near Perrysville. He was waylaid by those two men, and while Myers held the horses Murray sprang to the wagon and demanded his money or his life. Wahl attempted to grapple with the robber when the latter drew a revolver, firing three shots, two of which took effect in Wahl's abdomen. On the evening of the following day Murray and Myers were both arrested at their boarding-house in this city, and shortly afterward Myers made a full confession. They were convicted and sentenced to be hanged. Murray says he was born in New-Haven in 1840. He is a carpenter by trade, and has no relatives living. He has steadily refused to have any spiritual adviser. He professes to believe there is no hereafter, and would have nothing to do with priests or preachers. Yesterday he dismissed a priest, telling him that he would let him know when he wanted him. He spent last evening in conversation with his guards on various topics, but not on the subject of the murder. He retired about 1 o'clock this morning and slept soundly until 7, when he arose and ate a hearty breakfast. Myers stated that he was born in Germany, and is thirty-five years old, this, the day of his execution, being his birthday. He came to this country when eleven years of age, and is a harness-maker by trade. Since his conviction he has devoted most of his time to religious reading, prayer, and meditation, and expressed a strong hope in his future happiness.

During last night he employed his time in reading his testament and praying, retiring at about 11 o'clock, and sleeping well until 6 o'clock this morning. At 8 o'clock Father Beck, his spiritual adviser, visited him and administered the sacrament of the Catholic Church, after which he partook of a hearty breakfast. A strong effort has been made by his counsel to have his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. A final hearing was had before the Board of Pardons on Tuesday last, when it refused to commute the sentence. He received this intelligence with great composure, saying that he was prepared to die.

About 10:30 o'clock Father Beck returned to Myers' cell, and spent the last hour and a half with him in devotional exercises. Murray spent his time with his guard and cell mate. Myers is said to have made a confession this morning to Father Beck, which is about the same as that made to his counsel, with the addition of his real name of Myers. Murray has made no confession, so far as is known, but persisted in declaring his innocence.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock the men were taken to the jail yard by Sheriff Bife. They mounted the gallows with a firm step. Myers was accompanied by his spiritual adviser, and showed by his pallor that he realized the dreadful situation.—Murray's demeanor was unchanged. When asked if he had anything to say, Murray replied "No." Myers expressed a hope in a future life. The Sheriff then touched the trigger, and the men fell. Murray's struggles were soon at an end, but Myers' were prolonged for some moments. The bodies, after hanging for eighteen minutes, were taken down and placed in coffins for interment.

We have no space this week for legislative proceedings.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Concluded.

LAWLESSNESS.

It again becomes my painful duty to direct your attention to the lawless disposition that exists in portions of the Commonwealth, where tumult and riot at times have been so formidable, that the executive power of the State had to be invoked to quell the disturbances. These turbulent manifestations are becoming alarmingly frequent, and to repress them some remedy must be devised. That the attitude of the Executive towards the participants therein, may not be mistaken, the following plain and easily comprehended principles are grouped together to show what will be the rule of his conduct on the occasion of every outbreak of a kindred nature. No disobedience of regularly constituted authority will be permitted, whether on the part of individuals, corporations or combinations of men. No sense of wrong, however grevious, will or shall justify violence in seeking indemnity therefor. The rights of property must be respected, and no interference with its legitimate use will be tolerated. Every man must be allowed to sell his own labor at his own price, and his working must not be interrupted either by force or intimidation. For grievances, fancied or real, redress must be sought in the manner the law provides, and no one must attempt to override its process. If citizens will recognize these principles as binding upon their consciences and actions, there can be no necessity for Executive interference to preserve the peace, and it must be understood, once for all, that any violation of private rights or resistance to public officers when in the discharge of their duty, will be summarily dealt with, and if the civil authorities and the power of the county cannot maintain the supremacy of the law, then the whole power of the Commonwealth shall be employed, if necessary, to compel respect for authority. Again, it is evident a recurrence of these disorders cannot be prevented by the use of a military force, for upon the withdrawal of troops, the turbulent feeling still exists, and there is no security against similar and repeated outbreaks. One of the main sources of the evil has its origin in the timidity or unwillingness of the local authorities to enforce the law, and their duties should be defined anew, and the penalties imposed that would compel their performance. These tumults are not resistless, and officers of spirit who know they have the whole power of the Commonwealth, if needs be, to support them, can have no reasonable doubt of their ability, to repress every form of violence; and if in the face of a local disturbance, they fail to discharge their duty, they should be made to feel the full responsibility of their neglect and cowardice. Mobs, too, are sentient bodies. They know they cannot successfully contend with the combined power of the State, and if the energy of an officer evinces a determination to act promptly and resolutely for the preservation of order, rioters will quickly abandon their unlawful designs. Moreover, men who engage in these riots are voters, and the tenure of the offices of those in authority depend in a large measure upon the good will of these turbulent electors, and it is difficult to find an officer who will fearlessly and fully perform what he is legally required to do. He palters with his duty until the tumult assumes proportions that threaten the peace and security of the whole community, and then, unable to quell the disturbance, petitions for the aid of the military, and the State is subjected to enormous expense to subdue an insurrection that the ordinary police force of the county could readily have suppressed at its inception.

The local officers likewise allege their inability to repress this turbulent spirit, because citizens when summoned refuse to assist them. Citizens fear to incur the enmity of the rioters, and unless the penalties that attach to their failure to assist the officers are inflicted, it is idle to expect them to perform this ungracious and it may be perilous duty. Thus we have in these communities where this mob rule prevails an unhealthy moral public sentiment, that in the event of a disturbance permits the officer to neglect his duty, refuses itself to uphold the law, and when an offender is arrested, connives at the fraud that packs the jury-box with his sympathizers and friends, making a mockery of justice, and bringing the State and its authority into merited reproach. Through what agency can we prevent a return of these disorders, make the local officers and citizens more vigilant and active, and dissuade them from looking and applying to the Executive upon every occasion of an alarm or tumult are questions to which I have given patient and anxious thought, and the following plan will, I believe, afford a practical test of the disposition and ability of a county to enforce the law and maintain order within its limits. I recommend the enactment of a law empowering the sheriff, whenever a riot or disorder is imminent, to apply to the court of his county, and upon the sworn certificate of said sheriff that said riot or disorder is threatening, then the said court to authorize the sheriff to organize a constabulary force sufficient to quell the disturbance, and to maintain them under his direction and control until there is no longer need for their services. The force so mustered should be paid and subsisted by the county, while on duty, and armed by the State. A tumult arising, the sheriff would then have an armed, paid and subsisted force to aid him in preserving order and enforcing the process of the courts, without taking citizens suddenly from their daily avocations and perhaps involving them in injury and loss. This armed body of men would also form a nucleus around which the law-abiding citizens could rally when the disturbance assumed more dangerous proportions, and they would learn to depend upon themselves and their officers in every emergency. It is proper that the expense shoul be borne by that portion of the community especially benefited, and the county should be made to bear these burdens, and if their officers are held to a strict accountability they will not be likely to incur the great responsibility of asking this assistance from the courts, unless the gravity of the situation justifies the demand.

This special home constabulary force might also be applied for and obtained from the courts on occasions when in certain regions of the State murder and arson are rife and a part of lawlessness prevails that does not take the shape of organized resistance to law.

The Attorney General should also be authorized, upon his own information, to indict any officer or citizen who failed to perform his duty, or party or parties who were engaged in riot or turbulence, and to change the venue and summon witnesses to any other county in the Commonwealth where a fair and impartial trial can be had. The large expenditures of public money almost annually incurred in the suppression of these riots, and the peace and good name of the State, alike demand of the Legislature a thorough investigation of the causes of these disturbances, and their cure, if possible, by the application of some certain and, if necessary, severe remedies.

It has not escaped the observation of those whose duty it is to investigate the causes of these riots that those who become embroiled therein are often grievously wronged, and goaded to madness by what they conceive to be the justice of the law, which seems to protect their employer and leaves them exposed to his caprice or avarice, resort to violence for redress. As the State can tolerate within its limits no authority superior to its own, and therefore can show no consideration for a combination that assumes a right to prevent men making any contract to work they please, so it cannot permit any corporation or corporations to unlawfully or oppressively use the power conferred upon them by the State, to control production and the channels of trade, so as to raise or depress the price of labor or the cost of living. If any citizen, therefore, feels that he is wronged by the improper and unlawful exercise of the powers of these corporations, and lays his grievance before the Executive, if, upon investigation, it is found to be just, and a legal remedy exists therefor, he will instruct the Attorney General to see that this remedy is speedily and surely enforced.

There is no problem of State policy, the solution of which would be fraught with more advantage to our people, than to discover some means by which the differences between labor and capital can be adjusted. This solution can only be reached by slow approaches, for the sanctities of property, corporate or otherwise, cannot be rudely invaded by any ill-advised assault upon it, any more than should an undue support be given to bodies of laboring men who may be moved by an inconsiderate impulse, or under the direction of unprincipled leaders. This question of labor and capital has agitated the public mind for centuries, but it is none the less our duty for that reason to solve it, if we can, and especially to make some accommodation that will meet our necessities in this State. Does it not seem practicable to appoint a court of arbitration, composed of three or more of the judges of our courts, as many operators, and a like number of the representatives of the working men, to whom could be referred the disputes arising between employers and employees, so that at least a full, fair and impartial discussion could be had, and the public enlightened upon the merits of the controversy; and if there was no legal remedy, the force of public opinion would constrain the parties whose claims were arbitrated, to do justice to those who were wronged. May I not ask, in view of the immense interests involved, that you will consider the propriety of authorizing the appointment of such a court.

NATIONAL GUARD.

The pecuniary assistance extended by the State in the last two years to the National Guard, and the rigid inspections made of every company in the service, has wrought a wonderful improvement in the condition of the force, and justifies the belief that no body of citizen soldiery composed of men of finer physique and more conversant with their duties and discipline, will be present at the Centennial than the troops which Pennsylvania will muster there during the coming summer. Some commands are exceptionally good and have no superiors in the volunteer service of the country. At Boston, on the occasion of the celebration of the Centennial anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, the portion of the Pennsylvania Guard in the line of the parade elicited the warmest praise, not only from the vast concourse of people there assembled, but from the trained and experienced soldiers who reviewed the troops. It is proper, too, that honorable mention should be made of the soldierly bearing of the troops sent to suppress the riots in the coal regions. No more unwelcome and distasteful or responsible duty could be assigned to soldiers than was this particular service. In cold and inclement weather, suddenly transferred from their comfortable homes to a wild and bleak region, where the opportunities for even shelter were meagre and the passions of the people were excited and inflamed, and life and property in peril, they performed their daily round of duty for several weeks, with a strict observance of the rights of property, and a delicate regard for the feelings of the citizens whose turbulence they were sent to suppress, and by their exemplary conduct quiet was restored without a resort to bloodshed. There is a disposition to under-estimate the sevices of the military, and decry all expenditure upon them as a useless outlay upon vain pomp and parade, but the maintenance of public order and the preservation of life, which were the results of the prompt, courteous and manly deportment of the soldiers sent to the coal regions, merit the thanks of the Commonwealth, and the Executive, whose arm they strengthened in his attempt to uphold the law, would be ungrateful if he did not make public recognition of their valuable services.

In my annual message of 1874, I recommended the removal of the old arsenal situated on the Capitol grounds and the purchase of a new site and the erection of a new arsenal thereon. The Legislature accorded with the views of this recommendation and the necessary authority was given. The new arsenal, which is in a beautiful and available location, has been completed, and is a handsome structure, admirably adapted to the uses for which it is intended, and with a capacity equal to any military necessity for which the State may require it.

INSURANCE.

The operations of the Insurance Department have entirely justified the wisdom of its establishment. It has been in existence less than three years, and during that time has rendered valuable services to the community by exposing and destroying fraudulent companies, strengthening those that were weak and systematizing the entire insurance business of the State. The annual reports of this department, showing the condition, at the close of each year, of the several companies authorized to do business in the State, enable the insured to form an intelligent estimate of their character and are valuable contributions to our statistics. The laws of this State providing for the creation and regulation of insurance companies are defective and inadequate, and the attention of the Legislature has, on several occasions, been directed to the importance of their thorough revision, but the subject has not received that consideration which its importance demands. Beside providing a system to promote the formation of honest and substantial companies, and prevent speculative and fraudulent organizations, the powers and duties of receivers of companies dissolved by the courts and equitable distribution of their assets should be prescribed by law. Until our insurance laws are improved and systematized, the beneficial operations of the department must be necessarily limited and circumscribed.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

A report of the Commission entrusted with the Geological Survey of the State will be submitted to the Legislature, and I respectfully ask your thoughtful attention to the detailed statements of the progress of this important work, and the practical suggestions to insure the successful prosecution of the labors of the Survey. Investigation will discover that rigid economy has been practiced in its every department and no attention given to any work but that which was practical and legitimate, and to the immediate publication of its results in a useful and reliable shape. Our quota of the amount appropriated by Congress to make a trigonometrical survey of the several States, under the auspices of the United States Coast Survey, is insufficient to make that of this State complete, and the recommendation of the report of the State Commission, that four thousand dollars be appropriated to supplement the work of the United States Coast Survey is worthy of your serious attention. This course has been adopted by other States with satisfactory results.

The propriety of having a full representation of our mineral resources at the Centennial, need only be suggested to impress you with its importance, and the plan proposed by the Commission to make a proper and creditable display, will, I feel assured, meet with your favor and support.

FISH.

It is to be regretted that the labors of the Fish Commissioners have been, in some respects, almost fruitless, because the Legislature has left them to their unaided exertions to procure protection to the fish, while the various processes for supplying our rivers are on trial. If authority is not given to the commissioners to control the streams while their experiments are in progress, it is manifestly unwise to continue the work, however important or promising of great results it might be. Is it too late to discuss the practicability of restocking rivers with fish, for that question has been absolved from doubt and its feasibility demonstrated in other States where streams have been refilled with abundant supplies of choice fish of various kinds. Are we not then indifferent to an unfailing source of cheap food when we neglect the manifold opportunities for fish culture in this State, and is it not proper that we should make some efficient and systematic effort in this direction, or else forego all spasmodic endeavors that are practically useless and afford us no enlightenment upon this important subject. I trust, however, that past legislation in this behalf will be supplemented with whatever is necessary to make a sufficient test of fish culture in Pennsylvania.

I transmit herewith a communication, received through the State Department at Washington, from the British Minister, wherein he states "that regulations have been adopted in Canada to protect and promote the increase of fish frequenting in common the frontier waters of this country and the Dominion, and suggests the importance of kindred legislation on the subject on the part of the State of Pennsylvania," to which I ask your attention.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

The public service has sustained a severe loss in the resignation of Hon. George L. Harrison, the able and efficient president of the Board of Public Charities. The broad and humane views of Mr. Harrison and the unremitted zeal and energy with which he devoted himself to the labors of the Board and the faithful administration of its responsible trusts, have won for him the esteem of our citizens, and were alike honorable to himself and useful to the public. The vacancy in the Board was filled by the election of the Hon. G Dawson Coleman, whose experience and charitable disposition eminently fit him for its duties, and give assurance that neither the interests of humanity or the public will be overlooked in the supervision that the Board will continue to make of the various institutions of the State. Observation shows that the investigations of the Board have been productive of great good in securing for many unfortunates more considerate treatment and the correction of some flagrant abuses that existed in our jails and alms-houses. The public spirit and humanity of the gentlemen of the Board, and their benevolent and disinterested labors, entitle them to the gratitude of our people, and should command for their suggestions your respectful consideration.

VAGRANCY.

The public mind is becoming seriously alarmed about the prevalence of vagrancy, and some measures should be taken to regulate and restrain this propensity to live by begging and in idleness. There are thousands of vagrants soliciting alms from day to day, who are unwilling to labor and are undeserving of sympathy, and whom it is a mistaken and misplaced charity to aid. The man whose suffering is real and is driven to common beggary to supply his wants, will not recoil from any proposition to work and earn his bread, however humble and arduous the labor to be performed. Would it not be well, therefore, to establish a registry to which all these vagrants or tramps should be made to resort, and where a record of their names, places of residence and appearance could be made, and where upon application, if they were in absolute want, they could be assigned to some work upon the streets or roads, or some other necessary employment, in compensation for the assistance they might receive. A failure to report to this registry and an application to a residence for alms, should subject the applicant to an imprisonment. Some restriction of this kind must be imposed upon this beggar class, not only to abate what is fast becoming an intolerable nuisance, but to distinguish between the deserving and undeserving poor, and as recent events have shown for the protection of life and property.

PRISONS.

The inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary will address a communication to the Legislature in regard to the overcrowded condition of the institution in their charge, and the character of these gentlemen and their familiarity with the various methods of prison discipline, together with the necessity of making some provision for this excess of prisoners in the Eastern Penitentiary, will, I am confident, obtain consideration for their opinions and suggestions.

COLONIAL RECORDS.

The publication of the Second Series of Pennsylvania Archives, authorized by act of May 13th, 1874, has been carried forward to the completion of two volumes—the first and third of the series. The second, which will embrace such of the rolls as are extant, and memoranda of the officers and soldiers from Pennsylvania, who served in the Revolutionary war, has been delayed that it may be rendered more authentic by compilation of such records as may be found in the Department of State and Pension Office at Washington, and in the archives of historical societies. The building containing the War Office at Washington was burned with all its records, by an accidental fire which occurred November 8th, 1800. Consequently the records which remained in the office of the Secretary are the only authentic memorial of the Pennsylvania soldiers who participated in every battle of the Revolution from the time they entered the trenches in front of Boston, in July, 1777, including the night attack at Sharon, Georgia, May 24, 1782, until July, 1783, when the last Pennsylvania troops embarked on transport at James Island, South Carolina for Philadelphia. The materials for one volume embracing the documents relating to the "Whiskey Insurrection," are ready for the printer, and considerable progress made in preparing remaining papers, of which the act authorizes the publication. The series can probably be restricted to six volumes.

SALARIES FOR COUNTY OFFICERS.

By the provisions of section 5 of the 14th article of the new Constitution, "in counties containing over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, all county officers shall be paid by salary, and the salary of any such officer and his clerks heretofore paid by fees shall not exceed the aggregate amount of fees earned during his term and collected by or for him."

The Legislature passed a bill at the session of 1874 to make the law conform to this requirement, but as some of its provisions were at variance with the Constitution, it did not receive Executive approval. It is to be hoped that at this session of the Legislature an act to meet the objections will be framed and become a law. There is grave and reasonable complaint made about the enormous amounts received in fees by the occupants of some of the offices in our larger cities, and it is time these revenues should be diverted into the coffers of the people, and not be made to enrich the few whose fortune it may be to possess them. The contests for these offices, on account of their emoluments, are, moreover, a fruitful source of the evils that attend upon nominations and elections, and have a tendency to degrade and demoralize our politics. It is the part of wisdom and economy, therefore, and in the interest of good government that a change in this regard should be speedily made. In any measure you may adopt, however, it should be remembered that these offices are trusts of great responsibility, and that the salaries paid should be commensurate with the duties and accountability of the incumbents.

POLL TAX.

Under existing laws, many of the counties, cities and towns of the State impose a tax upon trades, occupations and professions, the payment of which is necessary before a voter can exercise his elective franchise. In other portions of the State this tax is so light that it is only a nominal qualification of the rights of the elector. This inequality is palpably unjust, and the tax is often burdensome, and small as it may be, frequently prevents a laboring man from going to the polls. There is no good reason why the right of suffrage in one county should be attended with greater burdens than in another, and on the contrary, there seems great injustice in such a regulation. I renew therefore my suggestion of last year, that all the laws imposing taxes on trades, occupations and professions be repealed, and that a uniform poll-tax be imposed, and that this tax be made so reasonable, that its payment will be within the ability of every man in the State.

BOUNDARY LINES.

The New York Legislature, by an act passed May 26, 1875, authorized the Regents of the University of New York, to resume the work of examination as to the true location of the monuments which mark the several boundaries of the State, and in connection with the authorities of Pennsylvania, to replace any monuments which have become dilapidated or been removed on the boundary line of the two States, and I respectfully recommend that authority be given to appoint commissioners to act in conjunction with those of New York, and that a suitable appropriation be made, so that the necessary steps can be taken to accomplish the very proper object indicated in the above act.

BANKS.

My opinions in regard to the organization and management of banks, savings funds and trust companies, and the restrictions and safeguards that should be around these institutions, were elaborately presented in my annual messages of 1874 and 1875, and have undergone no change, but have rather been confirmed by investigation and further consideration of the subject, which I am persuaded is one of the most important to which you can devote your attention.

I beg leave to renew, also, the several recommendations in my previous messages, in relation to the prevention of the willful and wanton destruction of our forests; the importance of a modification of the exemption law, so as to forbid a waiver of the exemption by the creditor; the manifest benefit of adopting some measures that will aid in the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river; and the necessity of giving adequate power of investigation to the Bureau of Statistics, and opening every avenue of intelligence to its officers, so that the information which the Bureau is expected to supply to the public may be reliable and of value.

GEORGE W. WOODWARD.

George W. Woodward, Ex Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania died while in Europe, in May last. The public services of Judge Woodward were singularly honorable, and few pages of the history of the State will contain a more interesting recital than those which chronicle the life of this eminent jurist, whom the Commonwealth honored by repeated renewals of her confidence.

Judge Woodward had one of those strong, active, robust minds that wedded to its convictions is never subject to caprice, nor bends to opinion, however fiercely it storms, and his conduct as a legislator, judge and man shows his inflexible devotion to principle widely differing at times from his friends and constituents, but with an honest difference that had no selfish taint. He has constructed his own most enduring monument in the able and learned decisions he left to the bar, and the current of judicial opinions in Pennsylvania will have a steadier flow because of the direction given it by his master mind.

HORACE BINNEY.

The length of life accorded to the venerable Horace Binney is seldom allotted to man, and still more rarely is it accompanied to a ripe old age with the vigor and graces of intellect that attended upon this great lawyer to the very close of his long and useful career. Avoiding public affairs except when duty or patriotism specially evoked his interference, the experience of Mr. Binney illustrated the power and beauty of an unblemished private life, and the independence, and it may almost be said grandeur, of an unbroken, distinguished and honorable career at the bar. To this venerated jurist, who dedicated all his time and energy with singleness of purpose to the duties of his profession, the bar of Philadelphia is indebted for an example that helped to give it the character and reputation it maintains, and it was fitting that its most respected leaders should bow with sorrow when in August last they followed to his grave this aged lawyer, whose mind has left its impress for almost a century in every step of the progress of jurisprudence in Pennsylvania.

SAMUEL E. DIMMICK.

In October last the mortal remains of the late Attorney General, Samuel E. Dimmick, were reverently laid in the little cemetery at Honesdale.

Three years ago the character, integrity and recognized legal abilities of this lamented man designated him for the important position which he filled with so much dignity and honor, and the full measure of popularity he enjoyed at the time of his death showed how satisfactorily he discharged its responsible duties.

Generous, manly and upright in all the relations of life, and administering his high office with a stern and uncompromising fidelity to the interests of the State, the deceased Attorney General tempered his decisions with so much benevolence and courtesy that it is difficult to say whether as man or official he was most beloved.

Of delicate health, and suffering from the affliction that resulted in his death, in response to what he believed a call to duty, Mr. Dimmick died while in attendance upon the Board of Pardons, where his merciful disposition and mature and correct judgment were invaluable helps in dispensing justice.

With the public grief that deplores his loss, I may be permitted to mingle my private sorrow, for while the State mourns for a just and incorruptible officer, the administration has been deprived of a wise and careful counselor, and the Executive of a disinterested and devoted friend.

CONCLUSION.

With the year upon which we have just entered the Republic has had a century of existence, a century wherein her foundations have been more solidly and securely laid, and which has been crowded with the evidences of her progress in science and the useful arts, filled with the proofs of her increased enlightenment, benevolence and humanity, and marked by many and durable proofs of her statesmanship and genius.

It is fitting, then, that our people should celebrate the centennial of the nation's birth, and testify their gratitude for the benefits we have received. With our growth in wealth and population, however, we should remember increased responsibilities have come, and that we can best show our appreciation of our institutions and their privileges by consecrating ourselves to the work of redeeming them the ills that beset them and keeping them intact and pure for those who are to follow us.

The destiny of our great State may depend upon the direction we may give legislation at this session of the Assembly. Let us strive then to so shape our counsels that the verdict of posterity will be that we acted with a view to the prosperity of the people, and the honor and fair fame of the Commonwealth.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, *Jan.* 4, 1876.

Panic in a Church.

BOSTON, January 3.—While about 1,000 children were attending Sunday school in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church, yesterday, the draperies of the statue of the Virgin Mary took fire, and a panic seizing them, they rushed to the door to escape. The teachers promptly closed the doors, and the burning drapery being torn from the statue the fire was extinguished and the children returned to their exercises. Meanwhile the alarm of fire in the basement reached the congregation worshiping above, and with one accord the people rushed to two narrow doors which open into the porch. These were checked up in an instant, as were also the narrow stairways leading from the galleries. Many persons in the galleries leaped from the windows to the ground. Many women fainted, and it was not until the greater portion of the congregation had escaped into the street that the cause of the panic was ascertained and quiet restored. There was no loss of life, but there were several casualties.

Boiler Explosion.

STEUBENVILLE, O., January 3.—A boiler at the Ashland Woolen Mills, owned by Wallace Bros., exploded about four o'clock this evening with terrific force, completely destroying the engine house and partially destroying the main factory building.—Wm. Sutherland, who has been employed as engineer at the establishment for thirty years, was instantly killed. The loss on the buildings will reach eight thousand dollars.—Had the explosion occurred a few minutes later, the loss of life would have been very great.

A Rough-and-Tumble Fight in Court.

MEMPHIS, January 4.—This morning, in the Criminal Court, two attorneys became engaged in a fight, and, while the sheriff was separating them, a prisoner named Bill Smith walked off with his handcuffs on and escaped. The Judge sent both the attorneys to jail, but they were released this afternoon on payment of a fine.

A Penitentiary Sensation.

COLUMBUS, Jan. 2.—For some time counterfeit five cent pieces or nickels have become very common here, and until to-day the public knew nothing as to where they came from. To-day a *Sunday News* reporter after patient investigation has learned the particulars of what has developed into a first class sensation. These bogus coins have been traced to a young son of Col. G. S. Innis, warden of the penitentiary. Upon being interrogated the child told that he had been furnished the coin by certain prisoners to purchase tobacco for them. This led to an investigation, and it now turns out that the making of these nickels has been going on in the penitentiary without discovery. The mold for the coin were made by prisoners, and the metal used was an amalgam used in plating harness in the harness shop.

The Precious Metals.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., December 31.—J. J. Valentine, General Superintendent of Wells, Fargo & Co., publishes the annual statement of the production of the precious metals in the States and Territories west of the Missouri river, including British Columbia and the western coast of Mexico, during 1875, which shows an aggregate yield of $80 889,037, being an excess of $6,487,982 over 1874, which was the greatest previous annual yield in the history of this coast. The yield in Nevada, Colorado, Mexico, Oregon, British Columbia, Montana and Arizona increased, while in California, Idaho, Utah and Washington Territories it decreased. The increase is actual except for Mexico, Oregon and Arizona.

New Advertisements.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Adam Shiree, deceased.

Letters of administration on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned by the proper authority, notice is hereby given to those indebted to it to make immediate payment, and those having claims against it will present them duly authenticated for settlement at the office of John H. Ubl, in Somerset bor., on Saturday, January 15, 1876.

WM. SHIREE,
GEORGE SHIREE,
dec8 Administrator.

Pressed Brick,

Made on the Philadelphia principle, equal to the city article. Hand made bricks, superior to any made in the county. Have now on hand 100,000 of uniform color, which I will sell at low rates. Correspondence solicited from parties intending to build. I will take pleasure in furnishing sampler. Address

THOS. MAXWELL,
dec8 Ursina, Somerset County, Pa.

ONE CENT

Pays for a postal card, and, on receipt of your address written thereon, we will send you a sample copy of the

CRICKET on the HEARTH

The Largest, Handsomest, Best, and Cheapest Paper of its class in the World.

The Cricket on the Hearth is a mammoth 16 page, 64 colum paper (size of Harper's Weekly,) handsomely printed, profusely illustrated, and filled with the choicest reading for old and young. It contains splendid continued and short stories, sketches, poems, wit and humor, useful knowledge, valuable receipts, "Farm and Household," "Hygienic," "Popular Songs," Games, Puzzles, etc. It is emphatically

A Paper for Everbody

and gives more for the money than any other. The price is

Only One Dollar a Year,

and to every subscriber is presented our new and elegant premium,

"Gems of American Art,"

a mammoth portfolio containing six large and exquisite engravings. It is enough to say of this premium that it was executed for us by the "Aldine Company," and that the illustrations are perfect transcripts of the largest and finest that ever appeared in The Aldine. This portfolio is certainly worth not less than two dollars. Price of paper without premium, seventy-five cents a year.

We will also send the paper three months on trial for only 15 cents.

Specimens free. Address

F. M. LUPTON & CO., Publishers,
37 Park Row, New York.

"The Cricket" one year free.—Parties who subscribe through us for the higher priced papers and magazines receive The Cricket one year free. For particulars see samples. Agents wanted everywhere.

New Advertisement.

JOHNSTOWN SAVINGS BANK,

120 CLINTON STREET,

JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Chartered September 22 1870. Deposits received of all sums not less than one dollar. Present rate of interest six per cent. Interest is due in the months of June and December, and if not withdrawn is added to the deposit thus compounding twice a year without troubling the depositor to call or even to present the deposit book.

Money loaned on real estate. Preference, with liberal rates and long time, given to borrowers offering first mortgages on farms worth four or more times the amount of loan desired. Good reference, perfect titles, &c., required.

This corporation is exclusively a Savings Bank. No commercial deposits received nor discounts made. No loans on personal security.

Blank applications for borrowers copies of the rules, by-laws and special law relating to the bank sent to any address requested.

TRUSTEES.—James Cooper, David Dibert, C. R. Ellis, A. J. Hawes, F. W. Hay, John Lowman, I. H. Lengely, Daniel McLaughlin, D. J. Morrell, Lewis Pitt, H. A. Boggs, Conrad Supper, Geo. T. Swank, James McMillen, James Morley and W. W. Wilcox.

Daniel J. Morrell, President; Frank Dibert, Treasurer; Cyrus Elder, Solicitor. nov24.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that application will be made to the next Legislature by the undersigned Commissioners of Somerset county for the repeal of the following laws, so far as Somerset county is concerned, viz: The act approved the 17th day of March, 1868, declaring that "all fines and penalties imposed by the Courts of Franklin, Adams, Somerset and Fulton counties, which by existing laws are not payable to the Commonwealth for its use, are hereby directed to be paid into the treasury of said counties for the use of a law library to be kept in the Court House of said counties for the use of the Courts and bars thereof.

And the act approved April 5th 1866, declaring that "the true intent and meaning of the act of 17th March, 1865, is and is hereby declared to embrace under the terms, pains and penalties, all forfeited recognizances in the said Courts."

G. W. BOYER,
V. J. MILLER,
E. J. COUNTRYMAN,
Commissioners.

Attest: JACOB NEFF,
dec31

FARM FOR SALE.

Elias Snoberger offers his fine farm, situate two miles Northeast of Schellsburg, Bedford county, Pa., at private sale. The farm contains 194 acres, all under fence and well watered, part of it being in a good state of cultivation and the remainder well timbered. There are three apple orchards and a number of peach and cherry trees on the premises. Public road passes by house and barn. Churches, stores, school house and mill are convenient. This farm is located but three miles from the Railroad. For further information call on

ROBERT E. SMITH,
oct13 Shanksville, Pa.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell at private sale, a tract of land situate near Mineral Point, Milford township, Somerset county, Pa., containing 68 acres, cleared, having thereon erected grist mill, new dwelling house, stable and tenement house. A vein of good coal opened. A very desirable property in a good settlement. Persons wishing to buy will do well to address or call upon the undersigned at Shaff's Bridge.

dec