The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY. - - - - January 26, 1876.

THE birthday of the rebel General Lee was celebrated on Wednesday last throughout Virginia with great pomp and parade.

THE Democratic State Central Committee met at Harrisburg on Thursday last, and decided to hold the Convention of that party at Lancaster, on the 22d day of March next.

THE Democrats of the Mississippi Legislature have elected L. Q. C. Lamar U. S. Senator. He is at present in the House at Washington, and is the acknowledged leader of the sixty Brigadiers who rule the Democracy in that body.

THE Democrats of the Kentucky Legislature, after a long and acrimonious struggle, have elected John B. Beck U. S. Senator from the 4th of March, 1877, in place of Hon. John W. Stevenson. Beck was born in Scotland, has served three terms in the lower House of Congress, is an inflationist and a Bourbon Democrat.

A WESTERN paper sums up the amnesty debate as follows: There are 750 persons who have not been amnestied. The Republicans stand willing to vote amnesty to 749, but the Democrats prefer to leave the whole number disfranchised rather than permit a vote on excepting the Andersonville murderer.

HENDERSON, of St. Louis, who was employed by District Attorney Dyer to assist in the prosecution of the whisky cases, and who was dismissed for a breach of professional etiquette, ask the Government to pay him the trifling sum of $30,000 for his valuable services. The Government is taking the matter under advisement.

THE Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee are united in the determination not to give their consent to the repeal of the test oath without first endeavoring to get the Democratic members to agree to report in lieu thereof an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Union.

THE Centennial Committees were at Harrisburg last week, urging upon the Legislature an appropriation of $50,000 to erect a State Centennial building on the grounds at Philadelphia. In view of the appropriation of a million of dollars heretofore voted out of the Treasury, it strikes us that this is just a little steep. There is a bottom to the taxpayers' pockets, gentlemen.

ON Wednesday last Gov. Hartranft nominated Col. M. S. Quay to the Senate as Secretary of the Commonwealth. The rules were immediately suspended and the nomination was unanimously confirmed. Col. Quay has discharged the duties of Secretary for the last three years in a most efficient and acceptable manner, and well deserved a re-nomination and unanimous confirmation.

THE last of the Moody and Sankey meetings was held in Philadelphia on last Thursday night. Twelve thousand people gained access to the building, and as many more were turned away. A collection was taken up (the only one during all the meetings) to aid in the completion of the new building for the Young Mens' Christian Association. It amounted to over one hundred thousand dollars. One lady, whose son was converted, sent as a thank offering a diamond ring, for which a gentleman gave one thousand dollars.

SENATOR MORTON made a powerful speech in the U. S. Senate on Wednesday last, showing how the Democrats carried Mississippi. He said: "If the information I have received from very many sources is substantially true, the late pretended election in Mississippi was an armed revolution, characterized by fraud, murder and violence in almost every form. It was carried on in some respects under forms of law, but the real nature was that of force, the violation of law and trampling under foot of the dearest rights of the great masses of men."

THE inauguration ceremonies at Harrisburg on Tuesday of last week were the most imposing ever witnessed at the Capital. The military display was unusually fine, notwithstanding the inclement weather, and the rejoicing was universal without a taint of partisan sentiment.—No Governor of Pennsylvania was ever more esteemed than is the present Chief Magistrate, the enemies of his first term conceding without stint the purity and ability of his administration, and the entire people now feeling assured that the interests of the Commonwealth could not be confided to safer hands. The frank and terse inaugural address of our Centennial Governor will be found in another column.

AT the assembling of Congress it was announced that the Democracy were at once going to reduce the army. We observe, however, that one day last week the Select House Committee on the Mexican border troubles, called on the Secretary of War to station two regiments along the line of the Rio Grande to prevent the incessant raids of Mexican banditti. The Secretary replied that all the troops he had were engaged in defense of the Indian border, and that it was impossible to comply with their request. The Committee now talk of introducing a bill to authorize the recruiting of two new regiments of cavalry to be stationed on the Mexican border. This is the way the Democracy are going to reduce the army.

THE Governor has not yet sent the name of Attorney General Lear to the Senate for confirmation. Harrisburg rumors say that the Philadelphia Senators are bitterly opposing him, and will unite with Democrats in defeating his confirmation. The reason of their hostility is said to be his refusal to reverse the late Attorney General Dimmick in the matter of a *quo warranto* against a street railway in Philadelphia. If these city representatives expect to lay dow the law to the Attorney General, the sooner the balance of the State knows it the better. True, they have the power to defeat the confirmation of Mr. Lear, but if they imagine that they can first pledge the Governor's nominee to their interests before he is confirmed, we imagine they will discover they have mistaken the heft of the man likely to be selected by Governor Hartranft if Lear's confirmation is defeated.

WE thought it best that our readers should read for themselves the sentiments of the men who now control the lower House of Congress, and we therefore publish on our first page the associated press report of the speech made by Mr. Benjamin Hill, of Georgia, in reply to Mr. Blaine, during the late discussion on amnesty in the House. Mr. Randall introduced a bill granting amnesty for all offenses to those engaged in the late rebellion. Mr. Blaine asked leave to amend, by excluding Jeff. Davis, and in a speech in support of his amendment passionately declared before God that Andersonville was an infamous crime, and that the one man most responsible for it should stand ostracised forever.

This drew out Mr. Hill in defense of Andersonville and Jeff Davis, and he seized the occasion to pour out a torrent of invective against the North and to praise and justify the South. The fact that Hill was heartily applauded by his Democratic colleagues in the House, and that the Democratic press of the North exhibits its sympathy with his sentiments, by vehemently and rancorously denouncing Mr. Blaine, is significant evidence of their lively sympathy with the sentiments uttered by the unrepentant rebel.

WE confess no sympathy with that sickly sentimentality which, because of this Centennial year, would force amnesty on a few score of defiant rebels who will not avail themselves of the lenient law by which they can be speedily panoplied with full citizenship, and restored to rights and privileges which they wantonly abandoned.

We believe that it is right and expedient for the nation to keep Jeff Davis under the political disabilities that now remain on him, and in this we think a large majority of the loyal people of the country agree with us. We are tired of this everlasting parrot-like cry of showing the generosity of the Great Republic. Have we not in all conscience been generous enough? It is bare ten years since the war closed, and men are now in Congress making laws for the Nation they tried to destroy and boldly justifying and defending their treason. With the exceptions of about seven hundred and fifty, all the thousands who joined in the attempt to take the Nation's life have been forgiven and restored to citizenship—not a single traitor has been executed for his crime—and there is general assent that those remaining under disabilities, one man alone excepted, may be amnestied. Where in the world's history can such an instance of clemency be found? What other nation ever treated its rebellious subjects like this? As soon as the rebellion was conquered the work of forgiveness began. Sixty ex-rebels are in the National Legislature making laws for the loyal as well as the disloyal, proposing amendments to the Constitution, making speeches in favor of the doctrines that led to their rebellion, justifying their treason, pouring out their venom on the victorious North, and turning Union soldiers out of office and replacing them with ex-rebels. It looks to-day as if the North had been the guilty party, and not those who tried to destroy the Union. Talk about Republicans denying amnesty! Mr. Blaine uttered a literal truth when he said of his party and its course towars the South, "It is an imperishable record of a liberality and large mindedness and magnanimity and mercy such as have not been shown in the world's history of conquerors to conquered."

A Democratic Official Whom the Party Cannot Afford to Have in Office.

The Democratic party chooses for the Government places in its gift, men whose venom is proof against kindness, who cannot forget to hate, and who, in cold blood, and with forethought and deliberation, glory in the work of murder, and give posthumous honor to an assassin.—Here was one man in all the South—let us hope in the name of humanity there was but one such—who, three years ago, in 1862 or 3, the war having been seven years closed, the men who forsook the Government and took up arms against it having been pardoned and restored to the privileges they had forfeited, and an era of reconciliation been opened—who at such a time and under such circumstances gave to his own helpless child a name for that child to bear through all its future life, and bearing it to show all the world its father's undying hatred for a Government that had pardoned him his hissing malignity to the memory of a great and tender-hearted man, who had never harmed him, and his reverence for an assassin whose name only survives by its infamy.—Think of it for a moment! What kind of a man must he be who dowers his just born child with the name of John Wilkes Booth? Does it in the coldest of cold blood, with deliberation and not upon impulse. Seven years after the commission of the murder which sent a thrill of horror through all the South as well as through the North; a murder so horrible that in the very white heat of the war, when the passions of men were at their angriest pitch, no decent man anywhere did other than denounce it as a most infamous crime—this man calmly fastens on his own poor helpless infant the murderer's name. This was not idiocy; though it seems incredible that it should be done by a person of ordinary intellect and intelligence. It was just dull brutality; beastly cruelty. The man who could approve of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln would be just such a monster as to curse his own flesh and blood with such a christening and make his child the instrument for carrying over to the next generation the badge of his father's shame. Poor child, to be thus fathered and thus handicapped for life.

And now, there being such a man, such a patriot, such a citizen, and such a father, where do we find him? Ask Mr. Morrtson, Chairman of the Ways and Means, leader of the Democratic party of Congress. He found him and appointed him clerk of his committee, where he draws pay from the Government he so loyally supports. Ask Mr. Michael C. Kerr, the Democratic Speaker of the House, who made Mr. Morrison the leader of the House and gave him the opportunity to appoint this man. Ask the Democratic party, which elected Mr. Kerr and Mr. Morrison, and which is responsible for their acts and for the appointment of this Representative Democrat. Who is the man, who within three years has recorded at the baptismal font over the head of his infant son his reverent regard for President Lincoln's assassin? Is he of the sort that the Democratic party chooses out for its honors and emoluments? Is this what we are voting to bring in when we aid in securing a Democratic victory? If so, let us know it and have a fair understanding. We have held the Republican party responsible for its appointments; we do the same with the Democrats. This man is not Mr. Morrison's or Mr. Kerr's exclusively. He is the prrty's. It must carry him.—He is not conspicuous, to be sure. He is only clerk of a committee. But there is not any place obscure enough to shelter such a man where he can drawn Government pay. He affronts justice; he shocks common decency. The man who applauds assassination would be an assassin himself if he dared. There is no fitness, no propriety, no sense in his being anywhere where the eye of a self-respecting citizen may light on him, much less in any public place where the Nation's gorge rises at sight or sound of him.

Mr. Morrison, neither you nor your Speaker nor your party can afford to appoint to office a man who, seven years after Mr. Lincoln's murder, christen his own son with the murderer's name.—*New York Tribune.*

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, January 21, 1876.

WORRYING THE LOTTERY-DEALERS.

The authorities are making a raid on the lottery-dealers, and are worrying that honorable faternity fearfully. The Kentucky and Missouri shops have been shut up, and the managers arrested; five of the Havana dealers have been placed in quod, and the others are being pulled as fast as possible. The method is, for an officer in plain clothes to go in and purchase a ticket, and then go and make his complaint. But very few have an idea as to the extent of the business, or the amount of money expended in this kind of chance. The famous Kentucky Library scheme was sold five times in this city alone, to the extent of over $275,000 each time, and that was only one of a score of schemes that were before the public, and by no means the most rapid selling. It is curious how the people part with their money. For instance, there is the Havana Lottery Ring, who take thousands of dollars in a day, from people who have no knowledge as to the responsibility of the managers, or, for that matter, whether there is any lottery at all. They pay their money on the simple say-so of men of whom they have no knowledge, and who are following an illegal business, at best. One old reprodate who lives in Cincinnati, but who had an "office" here, advertised drawings ten years—one each month—of watches, horses, houses and money, taking thousands of dollars a month from his victims; but he never had drawings at all. Each month he would go over his letters, and select points where business was dull, and send to some well-known man who had bought tickets a prize. These men would talk about it, and become walking advertisements for the old swindler. The law finally stopped him, and is trying to stop the regular business, but it all amounts to nothing. There is no way of making a fool keep his money. The lottery man will get out of jail, lay low a few weeks, and go at it again as bold as ever.

TILTON

was at home New Year, looking fresher and better than I have known him for three years. He has made a great success in the lecture field this season, aed has materially strengthened his position. His daughters side with him in the difference between him and their mother, which is one of Theodore's griefs. He insisted that they should call upon their mother New Year's, and take gifts to her; but suspecting that they came at his instance, she refused to see them. Mrs. Tilton is very bitter, and I can't blame her. She is the chief sufferer in this miserable affair. The Church that holds Beecher to be innocent treats her as though she were guilty, and while it has oceans of sympathy with Beecher it has none whatever for her. She is wretchedly poor, and has had a hard time to live.

FAILURES.

During the week there were forty-one failures, many of them very large. One firm that had eighteen tea stores, in various parts of the city went under, owing $600,000 more than it could pay, the cause being shrinkage in the value of goods and the terrible falling off in trade. It was shown that some of the stores, which formerly did a profitable business, had not for a year sold enough goods to pay running expenses, and that none of them had made a cent. This failure took down three other houses, and each of them will carry down some smaller ones. The owners of business buildings are shaking in their shoes, for they don't know from one day to another but that their tenants may fail, and they know very well that when a store gets empty it is going to stay empty for a time. Half the business houses in the city are either empty or being occupied at half the old rates. The effect of this is visible in everything. There has been but very few big balls this winter, and the few have been very thinly attended. Then those who do attend are content to go very modestly attired, and without any very special display. At the big Charity Ball the other night, the absence of diamonds was the most conspicuous feature. The fact is the jewels of a great many fashionable dames are lying very safe in bankers' safes, as security for money that was absolutely necessary for the head of the house to save himself from going under, and the iron that enters Madam's soul is the horrible uncertainty as to whether the sacrifice will save him after all. If it does not, she has lost her diamonds without saving her husband. How she would like to have those diamonds, if they do fail, and how fervently will she mourn them! Pity the rich—they are the ones who need it. The poor are used to thin living—like the eels that were skinned alive—they are used to it.

NIGHT WORK IN THE CITY.

Few persons ever think of the labor it takes to meet the convenience of a large city. With dusk the laborers of the day wend their way home, but another army is ready to take its place. A host of sweepers and cleaners take posession of the streets at dark, companies with broom and shovel work on the crossings, while the street sweeping machines hurry and clatter past like light artillery, the great cylinder brushes sweeping a swath half the width of a street, just as a mowing machine rakes up grass. Then the scavengers with their sealed wagon-tanks ply their unsavory tasks without, as of old, making the night hidious with their passage. The hundreds of private watchmen take up their patrol, and the battalions of night police file to their posts, dropping a man at each station as they pass. Scores of night reporters are on the move, silent, unnoticed and alert, till two in the morning getting up the latest news of fire and arrest for readers at breakfast. The work of loading and and unloading vessels goes on by night and day the same. The printing offices of the morning papers begin their work about nine in the evening, not to close till the last customer is served across the counter with his batch of dailies to be left at up-town doors. My newsman was shutting up his stand the other night as I went by at early winter's dusk, and as he obligingly unlocked his door to give me the last *Harper*, said, "I have to be up and down town by three in the morning to get my papers, and I must shut up early to get some rest." It gave me a new idea of the care and hardship it takes to provide a matter, so much of course, as our daily paper at breakfast. Beside these occupations, there is a large class engaged in supplying the wants of these workers, such as the all-night refreshment houses, the drinking places, to say nothing of the cars and stages, ferryboats and craft of all sorts, lawful and unlawful, that ply from dewy eve till dawn, and round again.

FASHION AND CHARITY.

The first annual balls given after the first of January came off this week, but was not the success which these charitable festivals usually are, though patronized by the gayest and most fashionable people. The fact is, that people have not money to spend for anything not strictly essential, even in the name of charity. No pains were spared to make this ball as attractive as in former years, and the decorations are spoken of as delightful, in the profusion of flowers employed. The stage of the Academy was encircled with roses, till the eye could not rest, and the private boxes were embowered in bouquets. Gov. Tilden came down from Albany to open the ball, but was delayed till nearly 11 o'clock, when a superb procession swept after him to the floor, the dancing beginning with over seventy couples. The display of dress was behind that of former years, though there were some gorgeous costumes. Cream-colored brocades and failles contrasted vividly with dark velvets, trimmed with gold and silver braids and rich lace. One of the most noticeable dresses was of white, embroidered with gold, over crimson silk, trimmed with masses of great cherries and their leaves A close-fitting robe of black velvet was embroidered with gold braid, forming a vest in front, and nearly covering the skirt, worn with old point lace. All dresses fit closely to the form, the only drapery being in the trimming, and the hair is dressed with the same severe simplicity. The novice style is preferred for its conventual plainness. The choice in costumes lies between cream-white and ivory silks and the dark velvets with contrasting trimming. Thus the light dresses are draped with cordons of rich deep autumn leaves, while the velvets are covered with over-dresses of white guaze or lace. Superb flowers are part of every toilet unless the lace is too rich to need any addition, and the fancy ornaments of silver in the shape of chatelaines, belts and necklets, find their appropriate place in evening costume Those ladies who have Genoese silver ornaments will be glad to know that these are in style again, after being laid aside for years.

THE BECKWITH DEFALCATION.

The exposure of B. T. Babbitt's managing clerk is a fit climax to the cases of default during the year. Month after month some new fraud shocks the public, which business men take with as much coolness as the failure of a country customer.

In the case of Babbitt's as everybody calls it—as if the criminal had no concern in it, the matter is not to pass off with a little hard swearing in the private office. The defaulter had been living for two months past in lodgings on Tenth street, going out only in the evenings for air.

How did the detective find out Mr. Beckwith's whereabouts? Easily enough. It is a simply a knowledge of feminine human nature that is the stock in trade of all detectives. They don't ask "where is the man?" they simply find out where the woman is who is a part of the man, and they are morally certain to find the man as soon as they want him. The detective who had this matter in charge, got an accurate description of Mrs. Beckwith, knowing that while Beckwith himself would keep very close, Mrs. Beckwith would be out, not only to take the air, but to be his means of communication with the outside world, without which no man can live. How did he find Mrs. Beckwith? Quite as easy. An old thief would know better than to let his wife show herself, any more than he would show himself. But your defaulter is only an amatuer. He may be exceedingly ingenious in stealing, but he has never learned that more important art of hiding. As his wife has never been charged with any crime, he fancies that it is perfectly safe for her to go as she chooses, forgetting that the ministers of the law watch the flight of the sparrows as carefully as they do that of the vultures.

Our detective got a very accurate description of Mrs. Beckwith, (he asked no questions about Mr. B.) and then went to a friend he had in Stewart's. Had he stolen only $10,000 she would have gone to the cheap dry-goods stores on Sixth avenue, but, a $500,000 defaulter's wife would be satisfied with nothing short of Stewart's. He had a friend there, a salesman, (the detectives have them everywhere,) and giving him a description of the woman, asked him if she came there?

"Every day," was the answer.

"Let me stand here, by you, and when she comes in, nod."

"All right"

And there that detective stood all the day, as patient as a statue. Finally, about four o'clock one day, a woman came in, and the salesman nodded. She made some purchases, and went out, not knowing that the gentlemanly person just behind her was following her, and would follow her should she go to Chicago. She did not go to Chicago, but she did go home to her husband; and the detective took a room in the house opposite, and he waited and waited, till one night, at nine, Mr. Beckwith went out for his airing, and the detective had no more trouble in taking him in than he would in picking up a pin.

You see, the catching of a criminal is a purely philosophical matter. The detective knows that every man has a woman about him, and that the woman is certain to go to the man. He catches the woman first.

An experienced thief, however, is harder to catch, for he knows all about it as well as the detective does. His woman would no more go straight to her man than she would deliver him to the police, for she knows that she is being watched. She never goes out except when she must, and she doubles, and turns like a fox that her trail may not be discovered. It is a sharp detective that can follow the track of an experienced thief's wife or mistress. She knows that she is considered as a very important party, and she watches herself, just as closely as the thief does himself. But Beckwith was not an experienced thief, and so he was caught without trouble.

BUSINESS

continues worse than ever, if possible. Why don't the people come and buy? Don't they wear any more clothes? Don't they eat or drink? Why is it? There are a few merchants in the hotels, and a few buyers seen about the wholesale houses, but the few that come only buy just what they have to have, to say they have a stock, and they want that little on such terms as no merchant can live at. The change in the rates of freight west will make some difference, but I fancy the trouble lies deeper than freights. It costs to much to do business here, and New York will never get her business back till everything comes down so hard-pan. The hotels must drop their rates, the theaters must come down to ante-war prices, and all the expenses of coming to the city, staying here, and getting out again must be lowered to something like the old times. Then people will come here again, and business will revive. New York has been too greedy, and has killed the goose that laid its golden egg. There is such a thing as presuming too much on natural advantages. It is to be hoped that the spring will bring a revival, but it is a dreary wait.

PIETRO.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, January 17, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at half-past seven this evening. Prayer by the Chaplain.

Bills were read in place as follows:

Mr. Newmyer—Relative to appeals from summary convictions before mayors, justices of the peace, and magistrates in the entire State.

Bills on first reading.

Act to confer additional power on law judges: Act to exempt pianos and organs from levy and sale on execution from distress for rent; Act to provide for transferring awards of arbitrators; Act to validate sales and conveyances under decrees of the courts of the Commonwealth by persons irregularly or improperly appointed or defectively qualified; Act relating to investments held by executors, trustees and other fiduciaries; Act conferring additional jurisdiction on Orphans' Courts; Further supplement to an act to provide for the admission of certain classes of insane into hospitals for the insane in the Commonwealth, and their discharge therefrom, approved April 20, 1869; An act to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases; An act to suppress vagrancy; Supplement to an act to authorize the Governor to appoint additional notaries public; Act to protect the children of the Commonwealth in their right to acquire useful trades; Supplement to an act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecution in indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth, approved June 14, 1872; Act relating to bail for stay of execution in cases where such bail is likely to prove insolvent.

The House adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7:30 P. M

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Clarke.

Letters, petitions, memorials, &c., were presented and referred, as follows:

Petition of citizens of Southwestern Pennsylvania praying for the enforcement of the law to prevent banks from receiving more than six per cent interest.

Petition of citizens of Indiana asking the passage of a stay law for the period of two years.

Act to regulate the rate of legal advertising.

Mr. Harman—Act to pay into the school fund the unexpended balances of counties of the State; also act to revise the penal laws.

Mr. Hays, of Allegheny—Authorizing bridge companies to enforce their franchises within 3,000 feet of other bridges; also act in regard to running county lines; also for the settlement of disputes between miners and employers.

The House adjourned till to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Harrisburg, Jany. 18, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 o'clock, but immediately adjourned without doing any business. A few minutes before one o'clock Mr. Davis, Speaker *pro tem.*, called the body to order, and the Senators were escorted to the inaugural platform to witness the ceremony.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 o'clock.

Messrs Gross and Mitchell were appointed a committee to wait on the Senate and conduct that body to the west portico of the Capital to witness the inauguration of the Governor.

The following bills were read the first time:

Fixing the compensation of arbitrators chosen under compulsory laws.

To repeal the act for the better and more impartial selection of jurors.

To enable assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sales of real estate incumbered by liens.

To fix the compensation of judges of the Supreme Court.

Conferring jurisdiction on courts of Common Pleas in cases of mandamus.

Giving bounties on scalps of foxes, wild cats, etc.

Providing for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle.

Supplement to the Sinking Fund act, assigning two-thirds of the tax on corporation stock to the general revenue fund.

Relating to the powers and duties of burgesses of boroughs.

Providing for the appointment of a special detective officer in any of the several counties.

Supplementary to the act prescribing the manner by which courts may divide boroughs into wards.

Empowering camp meeting associations to employ police force.

Providing for the payment in advance of justices' costs for transcripts of any kind.

Relative to the entry of satisfaction of judgments.

Regulating the publication of the accounts and financial statements of school boards.

Authorizing appeals in cases of summary conviction or judgment.

Authorizing the appointment of Chaplains for the House and Senate, and providing a salary of $300.

Fixing the compensation of witnesses for the probate of wills.

On motion the House then took a recess to witness the inauguration ceremony, the members proceeding in a body to the South portico of the Capitol for that purpose. After the ceremonies of the inauguration were concluded, the members of the House returned to their chamber and then adjourned.

Harrisburg, Jany. 19, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock, Lieutenant Governor Latta in the chair.

After prayer by the Chaplain, the report of the Board of Public Charities was laid before the Senate.

The following bills were reported from committees:

Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution relative to judicial districts.

Mr. Newmyer—Act relative to appeals in cases of summary convictions.

An act relating to bail in criminal cases taken by mayors, deputy mayors, aldermen and justices of the peace, requiring them to record on the information the residence of the person or persons taken as bail, and the location and extent of the property.

The following bills were introduced.

An act to prevent horses, cattle, sheep and swine from running at large in various townships of the Commonwealth, when a majority of votes shall so decide. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures.

The following bills were read the second time:

An act relating to investments held by executors, trustees and other fiduciaries. Agreed to.

A further supplement to the act to provide for the admission of certain classes of insane into hospitals for the insane in the Commonwealth and their discharge therefrom. Agreed to.

An act authorizing appeals from assessments to the Court of Common Pleas. This bill allows appeals from assessments of county commissioners. Further consideration postponed.

An act to protect the children of the Commonwealth in their right to acquire useful trades.

The following appointment by the Governor was confirmed: Secretary of the Commonwealth, M. S. Quay, was agreed to unanimously.

HOUSE.

The House met at eleven o'clock after prayer by the Chaplain proceeded to the consideration of bills on the calendar, when the following passed second reading, except when otherwise stated:

An act fixing the compensation of arbitrators chosen under compulsory arbitrary laws of the Commonwealth. The bill fixes the per diem allowance at two dollars for each arbitrator.

An act to repeal an act for the better and more impartial selection of persons to serve as jurors in each of the counties of the Commonwealth. Negatived. The bill repeals the jury commissioner law, and restores the old law.

The House then adjourned.

Harrisburg, Jany. 20, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven A. M., the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

Mr. Boyer presented two petitions of citizens of Clearfield county praying for the passage of a stay law. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary General.

The following reports were made from Committees:

Act relative to judgments and executions; with a negative recommendation.

Mr. Lawrence—Supplementary act to authorize the appointment of stenographers in the several courts of the Commonwealth, prescribing their duties and fixing their compensation; with a negative recommendation.

Act relating to the service of notice of time and place of meeting of arbitrators.

Act to empower courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace to exclude farm lands from boroughs.

Act to authorize the acquisition by the several counties of the Commonwealth for the use of the county, of bridges erected over rivers, creeks and rivulets, and for the abolition of toll thereon.

Act relating to the registration of births and marriages in cities.

Act relating to the appointment of auditors by courts.

Act authorizing the issuance of veniries for the attendance of jurors in the several courts.

Act regulating passenger fare and freight rates on railroades not exceed-fifteen miles in length.

Joint resolution providing for a special committee to investigate the causes of disputes and difficulties between employees and employed in the coal business.

Act relating to landlords and tenants of dwelling houses belonging to owners or operators of coal mines.

Act prescribing how employees of persons, partnerships, associations and corporations engaged in mining coal or the manufacture or production of iron and steel, shall be paid for their labor and services.

The following bills were read in place:

Act to provide for the regulation of mutual insurance companies.

Act to abolish attorney fees on all judgments under one hundred dollars, entered by warrant of attorney.

Act relating to costs in criminal cases.

Act relating to mechanics' liens, authorizing amendments to the same.

Supplementary to the act to repeal the act to permit voters of the State to vote every three years on the question of granting license to sell intoxicating liquors and to restrain and regulate the sale of the same; declaring the true intent and meaning thereof with respect to fees paid for license under the provision of said act.

The following bills were read a third time and agreed to:

Authorizing the Governor to appoint additional notaries public.

Act to protect the children of this Commonwealth in their right to acquire useful trades.

The following bills were read a second time and agreed to:

Act authorizing the State Treasurer to pay the necessary expenses of calling out the National Guard of Pennsylvania to assist the civil authorities in the suppression of riots in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties.

Act to provide for transferring awards of arbitrators.

Act to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases.

Act relating to bail for stay of execution in cases where such bail is like to prove insolvent.

The following bills passed first reading:

Act to provide for the erection of poor houses and for the support of the poor of the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M

The report of the Auditor General was read

The following bills passed second reading:

Act to enable assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sale of real estate encumbered by liens; amended so as to allow the publication of the notices of such sales in two papers in each county—one German.

Act conferring jurisdiction on courts of Common Pleas in cases of mandamus against State officers.

The act to fix the compensation of the Supreme Judges of the Commonwealth, came up on second reading.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, moved to amend by making the salary of the Chief Justice $7,500, instead of $8,500; and of the associate justices $7,000.

Mr. Hays favored the amendment, and thought it was no time to raise salaries.

Mr. Kuhn spoke at length in favor of increasing the salaries, and held that no constituency would reflect upon a Representative for voting additional salary to the Supreme Judges.

Mr. Zern favored the amendment.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, spoke in favor of his amendment, and called on the House to pass it or vote down the bill.

Mr. Plummer, of Crawford, spoke eloquently in opposition to any increase of salary for judges. He thought the people were degenerated from the early days of the Republic; that it was no time now for any such action, but rather a time for the reduction of taxation.

Mr. Spang made a clear and able argument against the increase of salary.

The yeas and nays were demanded on Mr. Morgan's amendment, and it was carried—yeas 129, nays 42

Adjourned.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 A M, the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

The following bills were introduced.

Act for the relief of surviving volunteer soldiers of the Mexican war, providing for a bounty of two hundred dollars to every Pennsylvania in the Mexican war.

Act providing for recording the sale of mortgages and leases.

Act providing that the costs of contested election cases, when the courts decide complaint not without probable cause, shall be paid by the districts in which the contest arise, collectable like other debts against the districts.

The following bills passed third reading and were presented to the House for concurrence:

Act authorizing the payment of the expenses of calling out the National Guard to suppress the riots in Luzerne and Schuylkill counties.

Act providing for the transfer of awards of arbitrators by filling a certified copy of the record in the case in another county.

Act providing that in cases where the bail for stay of execution is likely to prove insolvent the court may call the bail into court and demand further security.

Bills on first reading—Act to regulate the amount of toll and other charges to be laid and collected by boom companies in the State.

Act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages.

Act to provide for the refunding and redemption of existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts and other municipalities or incorporated districts.

Act conferring additional powers upon the several boroughs.

Supplementary act fixing and regulating the terms of all members of Councils and city, ward, borough and township officers, excepting school directors elected by the people, and fixing the time for the inauguration of mayors of cities.

Act providing for the erection of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on public roads.

Act relating to the prevention of cruel and unnecessary experiments upon dumb animals.

Act relating to the service of notice of time and place of meetings of arbitrators.

Act to empower courts of Quarter Sessions to exclude farm lands from boroughs.

Adjourned till Tuesday, at 11 A. M.

HOUSE.

The House met at 10 A. M.

On motion of Mr. Tally, the rules were suspended and the consideration of the Finance bill was taken up. The bill was read, as follows:

Be it enacted etc., That the sinking fund shall consist of the proceeds of the sale of public works, or any part thereof; the income from or the proceeds of the sale of any stocks owned by the commonwealth, and two-thirds of all taxes on the capitol stock of all corporations. The general revenue fund shall consist of one-third of all the taxes on capital stock of corporations and all other revenues of the Commonwealth; *provided*, that for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1876, two thirds of the amount derived from the tax on the capital stock of corporations shall be paid into the general revenue fund, and the remaining one-third shall go to the sinking fund.

On motion of Mr. Gunster, the following additional proviso was added to the first section: "Provided, that this act shall not be construed as to authorize the use or application of any moneys which, under existing laws, have been already paid into the sinking fund, otherwise than in the extinguishment of the public debt, unless in the case of war, invasion or insurreetion; also that the State Treasurer, on the first business day of each month, shall render to the Auditor General a detailed statement of the total amount in the State Treasury and the number of banks, corporations, firms and individuals with whom deposited."

On motion of Mr. Stotzer the following was added as a third section to the bill: "Section III.—Whenever it shall appear by the monthly statement of the State Treasurer, as required by the twelfth section of the act of May 9, 1874, relating to the State Treasurer and the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, that there is a balance remaining in the sinking fund which, for the time being, may not be required for the payment of any part of the public debt or the interest thereon, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund are hereby authorized and directed to invest such unexpended balance in bonds of the United States, or of this Commonwealth, at a rate not exceeding the then market value of such bonds, the interest and other proceeds thereof to be applied in like manner as other moneys in the sinking fund are by law required to be applied."

The bill, as amended, then passed second reading.

Mr. Mitchell called up his resolution providing for the final adjournment of the Legislature on the 30th of March, and that no bill be introduced after the 13th of March. The resolution was defeated—yeas 47, nays 120.

By Our Special Correspondent.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE CENTENNIAL BILL. THE FUNNY MAN OF THE HOUSE. DEGRADING THE CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. MORTON'S ASPIRATIONS AND HOPES. THE FIGHT IN THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP. HENDRICKS AND TILDEN. CURTIN AS A TAIL TO THE HENDRICKS KITE. BAYARD AND KERR. DOCTORED SPEECHES. REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 22, 1876.

The fierce debate upon the Amnesty Bill of which I wrote you last week has been succeeded by a long discussion upon the Centennial Appropriation Bill. Many able speeches have been made for and against the bill, its opponents taking the ground that it is unconstitutional. As yet no one has advanced any other argument against the proposed appropriation. The indications are that the vote upon it will be closed, but as it will probably be settled one way or the other by the time this letter reaches you, speculations as to result are useless.

A portly, gray haired and sedate looking old gentleman from the 17th district of New York, named Townsend astonished the House last week by appearing in the *role* of a humorist. Judging from appearances he was about the last man in the House that would be suspected of having any fun in him, and the calm owl like dignity with which he was daily wont to survey the younger and more active members around him was even suggestive of stupidity, but when roused to action he was a striking example of the truth of the old saying that appearances are often deceitful. He made a speech which kept the floor and the galleries in an almost continual roar of laughter. He went for the "strict constructionists" as he termed those gentlemen who were disposed to use the Constitution as a cover for their opposition to any bill that did not suit them, in a very lively manner and made some most excellent hits. Every thing was said in such a good-humored sort of a way that even the victims whom he was scalping could not help joining in the loud and uproarious laughter that greeted his numerous sallies of wit. Some of the younger humorists had better look to their laurels or the old gentleman will carry off the palm as the funny man of the House. When he finished his speech the members crowded around his desk and almost overwhelmed him with their congratulations.

The penny-wise-pound-foolish policy seems to have taken complete possession of the House Committee on appropriations, and if all their recommendations are adopted by Congress there is great danger that the efficiency of some of the departments of the Government will be seriously crippled. The latest freak is the cutting down of the estimates of the Consular and Diplomatic Bill, decreasing the salaries of foreign Ministers, consolidating some Foreign Missions, abolishing others and degrading the diplomatic service generally. They also threaten to reduce the salaries in the military establishment of Government to a large extent. The power to act upon and report bills of this kind was confered on this committee by an amendment to one of the rules of the House adopted last week. Rule 120 gave the committee on appropriations power to report bill to increase, but not to decrease salaries, and upon motion of Mr. Cox of New York it was amended so as to give it also the power to report bills decreasing salaries. This action of the House gives vast additional powers to the committee and enables it to act upon almost as wide a range of subjects as the committee of ways and means and indeed much of its increased importance is gained at the expense of the latter committee. By reason of its newly acquired powers it can reach and to a certain degree regulate almost every branch of the government. That this power will be exercised in the most relentless manner there is little doubt, as the object sought to be attained was fully exposed in the debate which preceded the adoption of the above amendment.

Senator Morton is squarely in the field as a Presidential candidate. He expects to gain much strength by his resolution calling for an investigation into the alleged frauds perpetrated in the late Mississippi election which is now before the Senate. Contrary to his usual custom Mr. Morton stood up when addressing the Senate on this subject, supporting himself on a crutch like arrangement which is attached to his desk. He became very much fatigued and exhausted by the effort and only spoke a short time each day. Some ill-natured persons have been unkind enough to say that he only stands up to make the public think he has a pair of legs good enough to run for the Presidency. Morton relies much upon Conklin's determined hostility to Blaine, Conklin and Blaine are bitter personal enemies and if Conklin can kill off Blaine, which he will try to do, Morton thinks the field is clear for his own nomination. One strange circumstance connected with the struggle for the presidential succession is that Grant appears to be the second choice of all the aspirants, each one is for himself first, of course, but after that for Grant. Is this an honest preference? or is it a bid for the influence and support of the administration? or is it on the principle of one of the rules of seven up, to throw the game to the player having the lowest number of points?

The fight in the Democratic camp for the Presidential nomination seems to be between Hendricks and Tilden. Indiana will push Hendricks very strongly and recent developments point to the probability of Pennsylvania striking hands with Indiana to secure Hendricks nomination, Tilden is not liked by the Democrats of Pennsylvania and Ohio and could not carry the party vote in these States should he secure the nomination. They blame their defeat last fall in these States to the want of sympathy and in some instances open opposition to the Tilden faction toward them, believing this opposition to have been merely for the purpose of killing off rival Presidential aspirants and clearing the track for Tilden, a large portion of the party will not