The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY ... February 14, 1877.

JUDGE DAVIS, U. S. Senator, elected from Illinois, is said to be worth three million of dollars. He owns fourteen farms in one county alone.

THE Electoral Commission decided on Friday last by a vote of eight to seven, that the four votes of Florida are to be counted for Hayes and Wheeler. This is a victory for law and right, as well as for the Republicans.

SCRATCH the back of the Democratic canvass anywhere you may, and instantly the itch for bribing some one by Tilden is seen. In Oregon, in Louisiana, in Florida, in South Carolina. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* was right when it declared that "Tilden was seeking to buy his way into the Presidency." And it was just when it predicted, that he "would give this country the most corrupt administration it ever had," if elected.

IT is very significant, says the Louisville *Commercial*, that all the rascals who wanted to sell out, all the rascals who thought they could induce somebody to sell out, and all the rascals who thought they could make money by acting as go between—political pimps and panderers—run as naturally to Mr. Tilden and his confidential friends as a duck runs to water. No such rascals ran to Hayes or his friends with their disgraceful propositions.

THE Albany *Journal* has been making a financial calculation, and arrives at the conclusion that Mr. Tilden has been remarkably fortunate of late. It figures thus: "Offered for one vote in Louisiana, $100,000; offered for one vote in South Carolina, $50,000; offered for the Louisiana Returning Board, $200,000; paid for one bogus vote in Oregon, $8,000; total $358,000; cash paid, $8,000; saved by failure to buy, $350,000." A very comfortable salve for disappointed ambition.

THE Democrats do not take kindly to the decision in the Florida case, and they are not nearly so much in tune with the Electoral Commission as they were a week since. In fact, a portion of the press of that party are showing signs of desperation. For instance the Harrisburg *Patriot* vents its disappointment as follows:

"Eight to seven." "A strict party vote." The United States is given to Hayes and Wheeler unanimously, notwithstanding, that it is done by a partisan majority of the electoral commission. Nevertheless a majority of the people, according to the testimony, voted for Tilden and Hendricks. Figures will not lie, but technicalities can be made to cover a lie even by the judges of the supreme court of the United States.

We are sorry for the Democratic Commission; why did they persist in giving "a strict party vote" against the law and the testimony? We were afraid that they would do so, and now our worse fears have been realized. Whom can we trust in these degenerate days? One of the strong grounds of hostility to the Commission was our fear that the Democratic Commissioners could not divest themselves of partisanship, and it turns out that our fears were well grounded. We share with the *Patriot* in its profound disgust and disappointment.

IT does not redound to the credit of the high Democratic dignitaries on the joint Commission that not one of them could rise above the level of partisanship. We were led to believe from the eulogistic articles we read in the Democratic press, that partisanship could not possibly infect the pure atmosphere surrounding the great case entrusted to the decision of the Commission, but we confess no little shame, that we were misled. We thought that, at least one of the Democratic Judges or Commissioners would prove that he was not made out of the common mud, used in the construction of other people, but alas! not one of them could forego partisanship, or rise above mere party feeling. They are so dreadfully biased that they voted solidly against the majority every time. True, the Republicans voted solid, but what reasonable man would expect them to vote wrong, merely to please the minority? They rose above party feeling, as it was but reasonable to expect they would, and stood by State sovereignty, and the law, and the rights of the people, while the Democrats, true to their narrow, bigotted, partisan views, solidly voted for party before country. Again we have had the truth of that great moral axiom forced upon us. Put not your faith in Democratic politicians.

CAN the political history of this, or any other country show any thing so utterly demoralizing as has been the campaign of the "Reform Democracy?" Under the specious cry of superlative honesty, the vilest corruption, the grossest bribery, the most villainous frauds have been perpetrated.

Claiming superior virtues, it resorted to every thing that was immoral, debasing and iniquitous to effect its object. It clothed itself with lying as with a garment, terror was its handmaid, and murder followed in its train. Public and private rights were ignored, the private papers and correspondence of citizens were rifled, bribery was again and again attempted, ballot-boxes were stuffed and otherwise tampered with, perjury was reduced to a science, law was defied, war was threatened and the lowest depths of infamy were sounded in the attempt to steal the Presidency. Public virtue was never so tried, and never before so signally vindicated. Future generations will read the history of this Democratic conspiracy to secure control of the government, with mingled feelings of disgust at the iniquities of that party and of admiration at the integrity and virtue of the people.

HON JERE BLACK gives up the contest, and says he has no doubt that Hayes will be returned as elected by the Commission as it is now organized. So a Washington correspondent says.

NO one has forgotten, we presume, the display of roosters over the tremendous Democratic majority obtained for Tilden, at the late election in Mississippi. How that majority was obtained may be judged from the sworn testimony of J. F. SEINSTH, a Democrat, and President of the Hinds County Board of Register. He at first refused to testify, but his resolution broke down, and he finally, out with the truth as follows:

There was a conference of leading Democrats in Hinds County, a short time before the election, at which it was proposed to furnish one of the Democratic Judges of Election at each polling place with a duplicate key to the ballot-box. Witness furnished about fifteen of these duplicate keys to different men, all of whom were white men, and, he thinks Democrats. He slipped a small parcel into the vest-pocket of one of the Judges, remarking as he did so, "Here is something which may be useful to you." Did not tell them what use was to be made of them, but thought that they were smart enough to find out how, and for what purpose to use them.

In answer to a question from Senator Teller, the witness said: "I suppose that my idea was, that if these keys were used Republican votes in the ballot-box, the key was to open the box that the Republican votes might be taken out and the Democratic votes be substituted in their stead."

Witness admitted that the Republican judges of election in Hinds County were generally ignorant persons, and it was an easy matter to get them intoxicated on election day. He admitted further that duplicates of the ballot-box keys were furnished to one of the Democratic leaders in every polling district in the county.

Suppose such testimony as this had been given by a member of a Republican board, how the country would have rung with denunciations of the outrage, but being merely a Democratic fraud, the press of that party receives it with silence, and with simulated indignation continues to hurl bitter denunciations against Republican ballot-box stuffers.

IN determining the Florida case the Commission decided that they would not go behind the returns as certified by the proper State officials, but that they would go into an examination of the eligibility of the electors.

The first proposition was carried by the vote of the eight Republicans against that of the seven Democrats on the board. On the second proposition Justice Bradley voted with the Democrats, thus carrying it.

Under this decision the return signed by Stearnes, the late Republican Governor, was adopted as the true one, and after hearing testimony, it was decided that Humphreys, the Republican elector whose eligibility was disputed, because he had held another Federal office, which he resigned before the election, was duly qualified. This ruling, which gives the vote of Florida to Hayes and Wheeler, virtually decides the case as to Louisiana and Oregon, the only other two States really in dispute. In Louisiana the returns of the Republican electors is duly certified according to the laws of that State, the only remaining dispute being the illegality of two of the electors, who had held other offices, but it is alleged, had resigned them before entering upon the duties of the last office, while in Oregon the Democratic fraud is too transparent to talk about; Cronin (the Democrat) never being possessed of the shadow of right, and Watts (the Republican) having resigned his office of Post Master, as well as his office of elector, before the college met, and being duly elected by his colleagues to fill the vacancy caused by his own resignation, as the law of that State provides for.

This decision as to Florida does not absolutely give the Presidency to Hayes, but it establishes a rule that must eventuate in his being declared President, if the Republicans have as clear cases in Louisiana and Oregon as they think they have. It may be a couple of weeks yet before a final determination is reached.

HERE are a few gems of Democratic honesty elicited by the Senate investigating committee, which we commend to public attention. General Anderson, a member of the Louisiana Canvassing Board, being under examination was asked, "Was there any proposition made, by any one, in relation to the use of money to effect the declaration of the result?" His answer was:

Yes. Dr. W. A. Robson, Democratic State Senator, came to my room at 11 o'clock at night, on the first Tuesday in November, and said he understood there was an opportunity to make a good thing, and that he will get 200,000 if I would insure the Nicholls ticket Democratic. I replied that was a matter I did not wish to entertain. He asked me to think it over. I replied it would be no less for me to do so, and before he left the room he exacted a promise from me to see him at the St. Charles Hotel at the next evening. I promised to meet him. He did not meet him. I called around to see him, inquiring very often, but never met him. I said I had reported to whom he replied it was too important for me to forget, I want to hear it." I don't want you to converse with me in the future in the manner you have, with a view to retain my friendship, you will never again mention it."

Mr. A. B. Levisse, another member of the same board, testified as follows:

A proposition was made to him for a consideration, to use his electoral vote for samuel J. Tilden on the 4th of December witness was at the residence of Mrs. Barlow, on Constantinople St., New Orleans, had dinner, and, after returning home, Mrs. Barlow and her daughter being present, one of them gave the witness a note asking him to meet S. L. Johnson at Caddy's Hotel, on important business; Johnson wrote the note in Mrs. Barlow's; the ladies asked witness what it meant; he replied he had no idea; the ladies thought there was a mystery about the affair.

Mr Johnson, an active Democrat, called next morning and asked the witness to meet S. M. Hernandez, who had known as a banker in Shreveport at Caddy's. Witness did so, first informing Marshal Pitkin of his suspicions. Ashur and witness walked to a retired part of the town. Ashur said he had important business to propose, and wanted make a fair proposition as a broker. He then presented his offer, whether witness would be willing to receive a certain sum of money, forty or forty thousand dollars, and refuse his ticket as elector. Witness gave no direct answer, he had arranged to do with Pitkin, and asked several questions, and finally said the price was too small, that he might well receive $ 60,000 or $80 000; that it was a big chance to make a big thing; that it only happened once in a hundred years that one man had an opportunity to make a President, and finally that Johnson might say to his friends that Levisse was not willing to listen to the proposition, but that they had not got up to his price yet, and left him after appointing another meeting that night.

At the next interview Ashur said he would be required to cast his vote for Tilden; witness replied that this was a new thing and put him off, he stuck to his price of one hundred thousand dollars; finally, after more close inquiring, the witness wanted to know who his backers were: then he went off to see his friend or prompter, and back in half an hour; without saying whom he had seen, said he have the name of Walter Pugh; Ashur said $100,000 was the utmost that could be raised by Pugh or himself, and asked witness to go with him next morning to the committee and they would meet two men, Pugh and the moneyed man. The witness and Ashur went to the place appointed and met the two men as described. The latter, said to be a moneyed man, the witness recognized as Hernandez, a prominent New Orleans broker. Hernandez spoke to witness and the witness introduced Ashur to him. Hernandez wished to talk, and witness declined, saying Hernandez could talk to Ashur, as he was a party to talk to. Witness then went home, after an appointment for the next morning at the St. Charles Hotel; met Ashur next day at eleven o'clock, and made an appointment for noon, when they again met, and Ashur said $100,000 was all that could be raised. Witness stuck to his $200,000, and it was not worth while to talk about it any more. Ashur is not a new business man, and a good neighbor it is our regrets to have to expose his name. Witness stopped all here things to Pikin as they took place, and Pikin was well satisfied with what he had done; he has never seen Johnson since.

By our Special Correspondent.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 10, 1877.

Only one topic has been talked of this week—the probable result of the debates before the Electoral Tribunal. Every man and woman in Washington has disappeared. The bipeds that look like them are only Interogation Points—mere ? ? divided into males and females—cunningly disguised in dress—or—overcoats or else carrying hair-pins and the rest of the costumes usually worn by women. The Republican Interogation Points for the most part "guess" that Hayes will win; and the Democratic Interogation Points generally "reckon" that Tilden will be counted in. The present outlook unquestionably is that Hayes will be declared elected. But altho' the prospects favor him, the result is not yet sure. Florida does not decide the dispute beyond a doubt, altho' nine out of every ten Republicans believe that the first decision given practicably ends the case. I have spoken to some of the best lawyers on our side of the Senate, and I find they are hopeful but not confident. The telegraph will tell you the rest.

Congress is "making believe" that it is doing business, but it is only "marking time." Nobody cares about it and its members can hardly be kept in their seats. The supreme Court for the time being is dissolved. The Legislative and Judical "branches" of the Government are withered limbs. Only the Executive Branch is left in a healthy state. It is still run without calling for outside help, "Let the dead bury their dead." Let us wait until its "suspended animation" is restored to vigor before noticing Congress again. I shall speak about the live Department of the Government this week, and leave the graveyards and hospital departments in peace.

I had a long talk with the President last Saturday—that is to say, he did the long talking and I did the long listening.

"The Silent Man," the "Sphynx of the White House," when he does speak, is one of the best talkers I have ever met; and for seven weary years I "sampled" the best talkers in the country every week of my life, and for several hours of every day of every week. As other men deal in hogs or whiskey, I dealt in orators and authors. I was a wholesale merchant of eloquence, so to speak; and sometimes I did a brisk retail business in Talk that could not be called eloquence with any loyalty to truth. There are very few famous orators in the land—outside of the strictly professional orators—who I have not listened to by the hour in their private as well as public talk. If "practice makes perfect" I ought to be a pretty fair judge of tounge-goods, for I served a full apprenticeship to the art of listening critically to conversation, in order to decide whether the talker would succeed on the platform, and to understand, for practicable business purposes, the grasp, scope and complexion of his mind. The habit thus formed has become a second nature. I listened critically to every one. If I were in the dock and doomed to die on the scaffold, the terrors of the hour could not overcome this habit; for I should watch the judge's construction of his periods and pass literary sentence on him while he was passing judical sentence on me.

Grant's talk is noteworthy for its clearness, its Saxon simplicity, its terseness, its grasp of facts, and its strong massing of statements. He talks rapidly, never pausing for a word, never using a word more than is needed to make his meaning clear, never uttering a word that tells of a doubt in his mind. No man I have ever met obeyed Goethe's advice so faithfully—"tell me what you think; I have doubts enough of my own." He never once said "perhaps," or "possibly," or "it may be," although he spoke of South Carolina politics and of the financial problem, that are thick with chances to use them. His verbal style has one charm very rare now, and daily growing rarer among our public men, because, I fear, the mental soil that it springs from is less prized by the people. He always chose the shortest words. A child would not have been able to grasp his argument, because it dealt with an abstract question; but it would have known the meaning of every word he said. For five minutes once his talk was as rugged as Carlyle's in the form of his thought; but he was as clear and simple as Bunyan in his words. It is only the sham great minds that wallow in long words. The pages that thrill us in English oratory; the persons that have soared highest in the pure air of song; the hymns that have stirred for ages the souls of the pure in heart; the prayers, the blessings, and the curses, that have moulded the life of a hundred generations—each of them and all of them are clothed in the words that the children prattle in their play grounds. Lincoln's Gettysburg speech, Butler's farewell address to the army of the James, Grant's every-day talk are specimens of the purest Saxon that America has given to the literature of the century. There are pages of Grant's War Reports that will be quoted some day as models of official rhetoric. They have all the great qualities that such writing should embody: clearness, brevity, modesty—and, above all, they have the rare merit of stopping when the story is told.

Grant's tone is as decisive as his words. He speaks with an earnestness and power that leave no doubt that he sees his points clearly, and, so seeing, believes that the one duty left is to make them a base of operations against all who assail them. His mode of stating his views is so strong that it sounds aggresive—not offensive, not intolerant either in phrase or thought; only he seemed to be addressing the viewless opposition with an "unconditional surrender, or I shall move on your works at once."

Grant's manner forms a striking contrast to his words and tone. It is a modest or rather bashful manner. It is Hercules with the disaffl—the manner of a man conscious of power but half asbamed to find himself toying with words instead of fighting with armies. As he talks, his eye lights up and shows the hidden power that has made him the greatest single force of our times. No man in America is so truly the represeparative of the reserved power.

Grant's memory is a marvel. He never forgets anything. He can talk by the hour about the political condition of every State, and give the dates and facts that most of us prefer to recall by proxy in the Tribune Almanac or McPherson's Hand-Book. I found that he knew all about the politics of South Carolina, and when he talks of the future of the party he shows by his accurate knowledge of political statistics that he foresees dangers that hardly any of our public men even dream of.

Grant is a good listener. Men who suffer with the verbal complaint think that they are good talkers and they cannot wait long enough to listen to any other voice. A healthy talker can be known always by his power of listening. As soon as Grant answers a question or ends a topic, his lips *hang* together; he reaches out for a match, lights his cigar again, faces you and never interrupts you. If he has nothing to say he cultivates international good will by adding to the income of Cuba. (If any man can invent a more diplomatic synonym for smoking let him draw on me at sight for a cigar.) If I were a French writer and delighted in epigrams I should say that Grant listens like a loaded *mitrailleuse*—collected, cool, silent, but giving one in front of him the impression that he is ready to fire off a volley if he should not chance to like your style. Hewitt knows all about his trait. He never stands in front of Grant now. A "bar'l of money" couldn't tempt him to do it again.

What Grant said about the financial situation was a brief of his message that he had ready for Congress but had not yet signed. The only confusion of ideas in it that I could see was his theory that there is any such thing possible as a "healthy inflation" of the currency. Inflation is the mere fat of the financial system; and when men and systems go into training they must first of all get rid of their fat. They need purely muscular development. A bloated man looks healthy, but he is sick in exact proportion to his extra bulk. It seems to me also that the message, one of the ablest he has sent to Congress, would have been entirely unobjectionable if he had left out his suggestions as to the repeal of the law that limits the amount of the fractional currency and silver coins. They complicate an issue which is simple and wise when presented on its own merits.

Republicans who have been led to believe that Gov. Chamberlain is not worthy of the entire confidence of the Nation, may be interested to know that the President, who has studied the Southern question thoroughly, regards him as a man of integrity, who gave a pure admiaistration to South Carolina, and is to-day "the ablest man in the Union who is the Governor of a State or among those claiming to be Governors."

But I do not intend to report the conversation, as I did not visit him as an interviewer but as a private citizen.

The old question always comes up when one is brought into personal relations with men of great genius or in lofty positions: Do fame and power make men happy? Here is Grant who has risen from the humblest rank in life to the highest position on the planet; from a tan-yard to the White House; from the dull obscurity of a poor man's struggles for bread in a Western village to the dazzling eminence of the grandest historical reputation of his nation. Surely he must be a happy man—or regret only that he must soon lay down his symbols of power and popularity?

"Well," he said, "I have just a month left; and it seems to me that I can hardly wait for the time to leave to come."

So, sixteen years of glory and power, end with an eager longing for quiet and rest! Epectetus was right. Our happiness must come not from what we have but from what we are.

JAMES REDPATH.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, February 9, 1877.

POLITICAL.

The passage of the compromise electoral bill, has soothed the timid souls of the business men who had been bull-dozed by Tilden and his gang, by fear of war. The straight Republicans don't believe in it, and never did, for they knew it was a trick of the Democratic spoilsmen, and was contrived to make the great demagouge President. It was artfully contrived, and carried out with diabolic skill. Tilden and his local copperhead press breathed war and gore till he got the business interest shaking in its shoes; and then he appeared with this proposition to arbitrate for a place he never had the shadow of a claim to. It was eagerly accepted and the little game was about to win, when, presto, one of those sudden changes which even a Tilden cannot foresee, took place, and his kettle of fish is upset. Tilden expected to have a majority of the Supreme Court with him, but the election of Davis to the Illinois Senate made that impossible, and Bradley, a good Republican and an honest man, takes the place, giving the Republicans the majority of the Commission. Now the democracy are not so much in favor of it as they were. When it was supposed that Davis, a bitter partisan, was to be the fifth judge, thus giving the Tildenites a majority in the Commission, it was all pleasant. But now that the majority of the Commission are Republicans, it is quite another thing, and the *Sun* and rabid democratic sheets are as extravagant in their denunciation of it as they were in its praise a week ago. Tilden is as mad as a March hare about Davis, and he has asked him not to accept the senatorial position to which he has been elected, but remain on the bench. But Mr. Davis is not stupid enough to forego his ambition to serve Mr. Tilden, and so be politely declined, and Bradley was selected. This ensures Hayes fair, legal treatment, and that is all any Republican wants. If he is legally elected, he must be inaugurated—if not, not. The Republicans of the city are jubilant over this result."

The position of Senator Conkling, of this State is unfavorably commented on. It is not denied that he felt very much aggrieved at the nomination of Hayes. He retired from public gaze after the convention, and did not emerge from his retirement till after the struggle was over. He supported the compromise in a way that was singular, to say the least, for a Republican, and his enemies in the city assert that he is preparing for a change of base. It is not supposed that he will go over to the democracy, but it is expected that he, Davis, and a dozen others who have had a half-and-half affiliation with the republican party, will organize an independent body, and be the Spanish flies of the body Conkling is sore-headed, and is in the precise frame of mind to make a fool of himself, as greater men than he has done. It is a pity that with the talents he possesses could not be better balanced. He has too good an opinion of himself.

CHARITY.

There is a great deal of actual charity in New York.—Probably no city in the world does more in proportion to its population and wealth but mixed up with it is an amount of snobbery and gush, that is as dog as true charity is delightful. The charity ball, in aid of the Foundling Asylum is regularly the event of the season, and while it nets a very considerable amount of money for a very deserving object, the manner of it is enough to turn a Christian's stomach. It is as snobbish as anything can well be. To begin with, it is made exclusive, and all the snobs and all the would be fashionables have to have their names in all the papers. The list of "Lady Patronesses" has to appear in long columns, and the cost of advertising them runs up into the thousands. Now all this is of no account whatever, from a business point of view, except that as it is recognized as the big thing of the year. Mrs. Snooks Thompson would not thrill for charity at all unless she saw her name in the list. It pleases the wife of a stock speculator, who has made a fortune in a year or two, and who has lately moved into a gorgeous house on one of the aveneues, to have her name published as a prominent lady for it establishes her consequence, and only costs her the price of a half dozen tickets at five dollars each. Fully one half of what ought to be profit of the ball goes to feed the vanity of those who attend it; that is they contribute fifty cents to their own vanity and fifty cents to the poor. Perhaps it is well enough to get fifty cents on the dollar out of them. But the ball itself is a georgeous affair. When people dance for charity they go prepared to do it. No woman of fashion appeared last night with less than $20,000 worth of diamonds on her person, and the cost of some of the toilets ran up a long way into the thousands. The ball cost the people who attended it probably $250,000, and the net result to the charity was something like $10 000 $232.000 for the world, and $10 000 for the poor.

THE LIFE INSURANCE PROBLEM.

The failure of three or four Life Insurance Companies, which will be followed in rapid succession by three or four more, makes a decided ripple in financial circles. These events are of more importance than appears upon the surface. The companies gather money from all parts of the country, and hold it here in New York for investment. It is loaned on real estate, and is presumed to be so safely invested that nothing can effect it. The Life Insurance Companies with their millions upon millions withdrawn from the circulation of the country, represent an important factor in the financial interests of the country. They are the depositors of the people's money, to a greater extent than are the savings' banks, and their relation to the people is one of confidence purely. For the man of the country knows very little of the people in whose hands he entrusts his earnings, and he has to take it on faith. Now, when one of these companies breaks, and it is shown that for years there has been systematic stealing; that the statements have been cooked; that assets that never existed have been put in; that liabilities that did exist have been left out, and that the whole fraud has been sworn to, and that the officers created by the state are not shrewd enough to detect the swindle, it is calculated to uproot things in a rather uncomfortable manner. The continental was a mass of corruption all through, and the Security—Heaven save the mark—was still worse. The good companies feel it sorely. For out in Minnesota, the difference between the solvent and the insolvent does not appear. And the result is all Life Insurance is discredited. There has been three failures of this class within a few weeks, and the effect is almost entire stoppage of receipts from this source. The persuasive agent finds himself blocked in the middle of his discourse upon the benefits of Life Insureance, by the terrible word "Security," and if he survives that, some one throws "continental" into his face, which finishes him. All this is wrong. There are perfectly sound companies, and, life insurance is a necessity. There is no more reason for denouncing life insureance because of three scoundrelly companies than there is denouncing christianity because an occasional clergyman makes a slip.

A CASE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE.

A very curious incident occured, which culminated last week. A young swell belonging to one of the rich families was engaged to be married to a young lady who possesses more beauty and brains than money. The young fellow is a fool, as is the case with the most of the young fellows who have money in the city, but the girl accepted him, all the same, because he was reputed to have an income of $35 000 per annum. It was rather a comfortable thing to have a rich fool for a husband, for while he could pay the bills, and keep her in diamonds and all sorts of things pleasant to the feminine mind, he would not be in the way of her enjoying herself as she choose. The wedding was to have taken place last week, but it was unaccountably postponed. Finally the cause transpired, the young man's income came entirely from real estate, mostly on Broadway, and the young lady had very prudently been making inquiries. One store which had rented for $12,000, was empty, and there was no prospect of it being occupied for some time; another was occupied at a reduction of seventy fire per cent., and to sum it all up, the income of $35,000 had shrunk to less than $10,000. She promptly declined to enter into the marriage state on any such money, and notified the groom in expectation, that the nuptials would be postponed till the odd $25,000 could de made up. The young man was in despair. There was no use of trying to do anything with real estate, for that is a drug, and so, between desperation and brandy, he raised money by mortgage, and went into Wall street. Need I detail the result? He came out of that place plucked clean as a pigeon, for he bought on a falling market and sold on a rising one, as all such fellows do, and from an income of $10 000 he was a young man ab ut town with no income whatever to speak of. He threw himself upon her mercy but he fared worse with the adamantine young woman of the world than he did in Wall street. She declined to see him, and for him engaged herself to another fool whose father was smart enough to put his money into gas stocks, which never can depreciate, having a city to swindle. And the discarded lover is wandering about the city accepting invitations to drink from those who knew him in his better days. Moral—for the benefit of your sons invest in gas stocks.

BUSINESS

is, as usual, as dull as possible there was a faint show of revival when the passage of the Electoral Bill was announced, but it died out to day. The political complication did not make the hard times, nor can the settlement thereof unmake them. There will be nothing done for two months.

PIETRO.

By our Special Correspondent.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, February 10, 1877.

For some reason or other the Senate appears to have gotten far ahead of the House in the work of the session, perhaps because the former is a smaller and more compact body, easier to handle and quicker to arrive at a decision than the unwieldy and generally less experienced House. However the latter is making an effort to catch up and succeeded in passing the first bill of the present session on Tuesday last. It was a comparatively unimportant bill,—authorizing clerks of courts of quarter sessions and over and terminer to take recognizance and bail in certain cases—but it shows that they have got down to work in earnest. On and after Thursday of next week there will be two daily sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—the morning session from 10 to 1 o'clock and the afternoon session from 3 to 5 o'clock. A resolution has been adopted by the House and sent to the Senate for concurrence, providing for a final adjournment on March 15th, to meet in adjourned annual session on the first Tuesday of January, 1877. There seems to be a determination on all sides to have the work of the session finished by the time fixed for adjournment.

A bill of great interest and importance to business men throughout the State and at the commercial centres of the country passed second reading in the House on Wednesday last. It provides that upon all judgments now remaining unsatisfied, or which may be obtained within six months of the passage of the act, or upon which a sale of real estate has not yet been confirmed there shall be a stay of execution for two years from the passage of the act as regards judgments now existing, and from their date as regards judgments obtained six months after the date of the act,—provided that the defendant is possessed of real estate in the county where the judgment is obtained or in any county of the State to which the judgment is transferred, worth at a fair valuation a sum sufficient to pay the same; or the defendant may give security for the payment of the same which must be approved by the court or justice before whom it was obtained within sixty days from the date of the judgment or the passage of the act. The provisions of the bill are very sweeping and extend to judgments entered or to be entered as well upon bond or warrant of attorney as upon mortgage to secure the same, and to any subsequent owner of the premises as well as to the original mortgage.

It gives any mortgager or lien creditor, whose interest would be affected by the sale, a like right, with the defendant to claim stay and makes invalid any waiver of stay made after the passage of the act. It applies to all judgments entered or to be entered upon conditional verdicts, stipulations or warrants of attorney in actions of ejectment. It makes any person, firm, banker or broker, who holds collaterals for debts, due or to become due, responsible for double the amount for which they were pledged if they sell the same at public or private sale within two years of the passage of the act. It does not apply to any execution for collection of six months entered on any judgment not less than $500, or for interest on judgments entered for security for the payment of money to widows or orphans or minors, or judgments for the wages of labor. Though this bill has not passed finally, as erroneously stated by some papers, the large vote, 108 to 67, by which it passed second reading, indicates that it will pass finally unless there should be a sudden and great change of opinion as to the merits of the bill. The debate upon it was spirited and probably all that could be said for or against the measure was brought out and thoroughly discussed.

Yesterday in the house, after a long debate, a bill ceding certain lands on the Ohio river to the United States for the purpose of erecting dams, locks &c., to establish slack water navigation was defeated. Petitions for the re-enactment of the Local Option law continue to pour in rapidly. Some of them are of immense length. Members of the Legislature are beginning to feel uneasy upon the local option question and express much anxiety as to its effect upon politics.

B.

STATE CAPITAL.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

HARRISBURG, February 5, 1877.

HOUSE.

The House met at eight o'clock P. M.

Messrs Miller and Hill presented petitions of citizens and ladies of Mansfield and Chartiers boroughs, praying for the re-enactment of the Local Option law.

Mr. Graham, petition of Judge Ewing, Rev. Mr. Gill, and citizens of Allegheny county, praying for the re-enactment of the Local Option law. Numerous other petitions from many counties asking for a Local Option law, were also presented.

The following bills were reported favorably:

Mr. Frazer, act relating to grading and paving several boroughs.

The following bills were introduced:

Act fixing the time for holding elections for officers of cities, wards, &c., which shall be held on the third Tuesday in February each year.

By Mr. Chapin, an act to compel the appointment of deputy sheriff, and restricting their traveling fees.

An act providing for the payment of school teachers while attending their respective annual county institutes.

An act to prohibit sales of liquors by sample without license, and requiring persons to obtain license from the Court of Quarter Sessions in each county in which such sales are proposed to be made.

By Mr. Stewart, of Lawrence, an act to provide for the purchase of school books out of district funds and to prevent frequent changes thereof. The resolution that the House hold afternoon sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on and after the 13th of February was agreed to.

Communications were read from the heads of the several State departments, stating that it would be impossible to reduce the number of clerks employed or salaries paid.

The following bills passed first reading:

An act relating to judgments and stay of executions, and providing for a stay of executions for three years. On passage, yeas 108, nays 67.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 6, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock A. M.

The House resolution referring to final adjournment March 15 was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A large number of petitions favoring the passage of a Local Option law were presented.

A communication was received from the Governor appointing Robert H Davis and Geo. A Kelly Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock.

Bills were reported favorably as follows:

Increasing the pensions of soldiers of 1812.

Fixing the time of holding elections for officers of cities, wards, boroughs, towns-hips, independent school districts or other municipalities.

Providing for the payment of school teachers while attending their respective annual county meetings.

Several bills on third reading or final passage were considered, when one, an act to authorize the clerks of the orphan's courts, and the courts of quarter session and oyer and terminer to take bail, and approve of bonds in certain cases, was passed; two lost and two laid over.

Communications were received from the State Librarian and Superintendent of Public Printing, saying that the clerical force in their departments could not be reduced.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February, 7, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten o'clock.

Among the bills which passed finally in the Senate to-day, were the following:

An act to create a State Board of Health.

A new bill was introduced repealing the prohibitory act against horse racing at agricultural fairs, and allowing the same.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock.

A number of petitions, remonstrances &c., were presented, among them several praying for the re-enactment of the Local Option law. One of the latter presented by Mr. Fulton, of Indiana, measured about fifty feet in length. An avalanche of petitions is pouring in here.

The following bills were reported favorably:

An act to provide for the erection of a penitentiary for the Eastern district.

Fixing the salaries of judges of the Supreme Court.

Fixing the salaries of judges of the courts of common pleas.

For the relief of persons committed to prison for alleged cruelty to their families.

Mr. Long, Chairman, reported the General Appropriation bill.

An act fixing seventy-six pounds as the standard weight for a bushel of bituminous coal.

The following bills were read in place:

By Mr. Mitchell, of Allegheny, an act to prevent frequent changes of school books in the public schools in cities of the second class, and providing that all school books in use on the third Monday of April, 1877, shall be continued without change for a period of six years.

Act defining the powers and expending the duties of the Board of Revenue Commissioners.

Act authorizing camp meetings to employ a special police force.

An act further regulating the duties and fees of district attorneys.

An act requiring the judges of the several courts of common pleas to file in the office of prothonotary, written in a legible hand, the bills of exceptions, notes of evidence, charges of the court, and answers to points when so required for the purposes of error.

An act requiring county treasurers to enter payment of taxes upon unseated lands in the proper book and prescribing a form of receipt to be given for such payment, and making the receipt evidence.

The following bill passed second reading:

An act relating to judgments and stay of executions, and providing for a stay of executions for three years. On passage, yeas 108, nays 67.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 8, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten o'clock.

The following bills were passed finally on third reading:

Act providing that judgments by default against one or more of several defendants shall not be a bar to recovery against other defendants.

The following bills passed second reading.

An act to authorize courts to correct defective certificates of acknowledgment in certain cases.

Quite a number of bills passed first reading.

Adjourned.

HOUSE

The House met at ten o'clock.

Numerous petitions were presented praying for the repeal of the fish laws, and also a petition signed by 3,268 citizens of Washington county asking for the re-enactment of the Local Option law.

The following bills were reported affirmatively from committees:

An act fixing salaries of certain county officers.

An act for the better protection of life and property from danger of coal and petroleum oils.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. Long called up, on second reading, the Ohio River Improvement bill, ceding the right of the State to the United States Government for the purpose of erecting dams and locks on the Ohio river. The bill gave rise to the most animated and extended debate.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 9, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten A. M.

The following bills passed second reading:

An act authorizing common pleas courts to direct the holding of inquest in cases of lunacies and habitual drunkards, to be heard before a prothonotary and jury drawn from the panel of jurors in attendance.

An act authorizing the appointment of women as prison inspectors.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 6, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock A. M.

The House resolution referring to final adjournment March 15 was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A large number of petitions favoring the passage of a Local Option law were presented.

A communication was received from the Governor appointing Robert H Davis and Geo. A Kelly Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock.

Bills were reported favorably as follows:

Increasing the pensions of soldiers of 1812.

Fixing the time of holding elections for officers of cities, wards, boroughs, towns-hips, independent school districts or other municipalities.

Providing for the payment of school teachers while attending their respective annual county meetings.

Several bills on third reading or final passage were considered, when one, an act to authorize the clerks of the orphan's courts, and the courts of quarter session and oyer and terminer to take bail, and approve of bonds in certain cases, was passed; two lost and two laid over.

Communications were received from the State Librarian and Superintendent of Public Printing, saying that the clerical force in their departments could not be reduced.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February, 7, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten o'clock.

Among the bills which passed finally in the Senate to-day, were the following:

An act to create a State Board of Health.

A new bill was introduced repealing the prohibitory act against horse racing at agricultural fairs, and allowing the same.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at ten o'clock.

A number of petitions, remonstrances &c., were presented, among them several praying for the re-enactment of the Local Option law. One of the latter presented by Mr. Fulton, of Indiana, measured about fifty feet in length. An avalanche of petitions is pouring in here.

The following bills were reported favorably:

An act to provide for the erection of a penitentiary for the Eastern district.

Fixing the salaries of judges of the Supreme Court.

Fixing the salaries of judges of the courts of common pleas.

For the relief of persons committed to prison for alleged cruelty to their families.

Mr. Long, Chairman, reported the General Appropriation bill.

An act fixing seventy-six pounds as the standard weight for a bushel of bituminous coal.

The following bills were read in place:

By Mr. Mitchell, of Allegheny, an act to prevent frequent changes of school books in the public schools in cities of the second class, and providing that all school books in use on the third Monday of April, 1877, shall be continued without change for a period of six years.

Act defining the powers and expending the duties of the Board of Revenue Commissioners.

Act authorizing camp meetings to employ a special police force.

An act further regulating the duties and fees of district attorneys.

An act requiring the judges of the several courts of common pleas to file in the office of prothonotary, written in a legible hand, the bills of exceptions, notes of evidence, charges of the court, and answers to points when so required for the purposes of error.

An act requiring county treasurers to enter payment of taxes upon unseated lands in the proper book and prescribing a form of receipt to be given for such payment, and making the receipt evidence.

The following bill passed second reading:

An act relating to judgments and stay of executions, and providing for a stay of executions for three years. On passage, yeas 108, nays 67.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 8, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten o'clock.

The following bills were passed finally on third reading.

Act providing that judgments by default against one or more of several defendants shall not be a bar to recovery against other defendants.

The following bills passed second reading.

An act to authorize courts to correct defective certificates of acknowledgment in certain cases.

Quite a number of bills passed first reading.

Adjourned.

HOUSE

The House met at ten o'clock.

Numerous petitions were presented praying for the repeal of the fish laws, and also a petition signed by 3,268 citizens of Washington county asking for the re-enactment of the Local Option law.

The following bills were reported affirmatively from committees:

An act fixing salaries of certain county officers.

An act for the better protection of life and property from danger of coal and petroleum oils.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. Long called up, on second reading, the Ohio River Improvement bill, ceding the right of the State to the United States Government for the purpose of erecting dams and locks on the Ohio river. The bill gave rise to the most animated and extended debate.

Adjourned.

HARRISBURG, February 9, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at ten A. M.

The following bills passed second reading: