The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY . . . . . February 28, 1877.

WE are rapidly nearing the end. On Friday afternoon last, the Electoral Commission decided by the usual vote—eight to seven—that the three electoral votes of Oregon must be counted for Hayes and Wheeler. South Carolina is the only remaining State to go before the Commission, and will be soon disposed of, for the Democratic House Committee, after the fullest investigation, was reluctantly compelled to report, last week, that it had been undoubtedly carried for Hayes and Wheeler.

Beaten at every point, the Democrats of the House, are still determined to prevent if possible, the inauguration of President Hayes, and will resort to every means in their power to prevent the formal declaration of his election, before the 4th of March.

We feel assured however—if he is not assassinated in the mean time—that on Monday next, (the 5th inst.) President Hayes will be duly inaugurated. The Senate will never permit the crazy obstructionists in the House to prevent it by dilatory and revolutionary proceedings, and we expect, if the end is not sooner reached, that on Saturday the Speaker of the Senate will count the few remaining votes, and declare the result.

WHAT an immense satisfaction it is to the average Democratic editor, to speak of Justice Bradley of the Supreme Court, as "Joe Bradley." So soothing to their feelings, you know.

WE never knew the Hay (es) fever to prevail so badly as it is now doing. You can't meet a Democrat who isn't troubled with the sniffles.

ONE by one the Democratic roses fade. First Florida, then Louisiana, and now Oregon. A stolen boquet which "Slippery Sam" vainly imagined he would be permitted to wear.

THE Democratic journals have settled down to the policy of "making mouths" at Governor Hayes, and covering themselves with curses of the Electoral Commission, as with a garment.

NOTWITHSTANDING the eighty thousand converts to temperance, which Murphy lately made in Pittsburg, the Democrats nominated a liquor dealer for Mayor, and what is worse, they elected him on Tuesday last.

THE newspapers and the politicians are intently engaged in the business of Cabinet making, for President Hayes. We do not observe that any of them are attempting the same labor on behalf of Tilden.

Suppose the Electoral Commission had decided that Florida, Louisiana, and Oregon, or either of them, should be counted for TILDEN and the Republicans had refused to abide by the decision. What would the Democrats have said and done?

NOW, that nobody would knock the chip off their shoulder, nor tramp on their coat tails, Democratic editors are no longer for "wah"—and have concluded to accept the inevitable. Prudent people will however, not mention the "Electoral Commission" in their presence.

THE man who deliberately makes a written contract with his neighbor, and afterwards "flies from" and repudiates it, is a scoundrel. Yet this is precisely what the Democrats want to do, in regard to their contract to abide by the decision of the Electoral Commission.

How much better it would have been if Justices CLIFFORD and FIELD could have abandoned their partisanship and voted with the majority, in behalf of law and equity. The reputation of the Supreme Court would not have suffered as it is now doing. But Judges, like men, will be stubborn and hide-bound.

So sorry for the poor Democrats, that their own dog bit them! They would have the Commission, and the Republican who objected to it, was an unpatriotic knave, or a fool, or worse. With them it was the Commission or blood. Now the poor fellows insist that they were cheated into it. Did they ever hear the little story of the fellow who went home sober one night, and was bitten by his dog? He never tried the experiment again.

HON. HENRY W. WILLIAMS one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of this State, died at his residence in Pittsburg on Monday of last week (19th inst). Judge Williams was an able jurist, and a learned and exemplary gentleman, and his death will be much regretted by the legal profession.

He was first appointed to the Supreme Bench by Governor Geary in October 1868, to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Strong, and 1869 was elected for the full term of fifteen years over Cyrus L. Pershing, the Democratic candidate.

EVERY one of the fifteen members of the Electoral Commission, voted that Cronin was not an elector from Oregon. And yet it is in proof that he got three thousand dollars for personating one, and all the world knows that Governor Grover was ass enough to Commission him as such, and the Democratic leaders knaves enough to claim that his vote for Tilden was right and legal. What a lovely pair of "Reformers" are Cronin and Grover!! and how exceedingly sincere was the cry for "Reform" shouted by Tilden and his followers!!

AMONG other important items telegraphed from Washington to the Philadelphia *Times* on Friday last, we find the following:

"Captain McClelland, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, arrived here to-day from Harrisburg in company with General Coffroth of Somerset. They report the universal sentiment of the State Democrats is not to submit to the consummation of the Louisiana fraud * * Coffroth says the Republican local leaders are already puckering their mouths in shape for saying, after Hayes is inaugurated, that the Democrats, by suffering Louisiana to be counted for him, condoned any fraud that might exist, and therefore were estopped from howling on that key any longer."

We'll bet two to one—nickels—that some blustering bull-dozer, has been personating "our Alick." Did any one ever hear of of his being thought a fool? He knows that "the Republican local leaders" are on such a broad grin that they could'nt pucker their mouths to save them. General, dear General come home.

FAILING to cheat, buy, or steal the Presidency for Tilden, some of his friends now advocate the assassination of President Hayes.

The Washington *Capital*, a newspaper edited by a man named Don Piatt, in its issue of Sunday last, undisguisedly suggested and abetted the assassination of the President elect. In an editorial article teeming with the vilest abuse of the Supreme Court, and more particularly of those members of it, who as members of the Electoral Commission decided that the votes of Florida and Louisiana should be counted for Hayes, he says:

"If a man thus returned to power can ride in safety from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol to be inaugurated, we are fitted for the slavery that will follow the inauguration. We do not believe the people of the United States are of this servile sort. We do not believe that they are prepared without a blow to part with their hard earned, blood-stained possessions. Notice is now served on the citizens of Louisiana and South Carolina that they must care for themselves. How soon lamp-posts will bear fruit is for them to say. To the people of the North and West notice is given that all the toll to which they are subjected, that bondholders and monopolists may fatten secure, is repaid by no security of their rights, and that a shrinkage of values is now in order. If there is a law for fraud, there is reason for violence, and to that end we make our last appeal."

There is no mistaking this language. It is clearly an attempt to incite the murderer of Mr. Hayes, and so well satisfied of it was President Grant that, on Monday morning after consulting several members of the Cabinet, the District Attorney was directed to commence proceedings against him. On the succeeding day he was indicted, and on Thursday the Grand Jury found a true bill against him for inciting to riot, rebellion, and insurrection, and he was arrested. This prompt action by the President is commended by all good citizens, and it is to be hoped that due punishment will be inflicted by the Court.

THE striking of William Patterson was never more stoutly denied, than is the rascally attempt to buy or steal the Electoral vote of Oregon, by the Democratic thieves. Tilden vows he had nothing to do with it, and yet the $8,000, sent there is traced directly to his own bank, and shown to have been sent by his own nephew and private Secretary.

Pelton, the nephew, pleads ignorance, but it is in proof that he sent the money, and the secret instructions in cypher, by telegraph. Governor Grover swore that he never communicated his views to any one previous to deciding in favor of Cronin, the bogus elector, and yet a week before the decision was made, he telegraphed Tilden "I shall decide every point in favor of the Democrats, &c." Senator Kelly protests that he knows nothing of the attempted bribery, and yet he endorsed a cypher dispatch sent by one Patrick, asking for money to buy a Republican elector, and he further asserts that he did not understand the cypher, while at the same time he used it in other dispatches when communicating with the New York thieves. And Hewitt, innocent Hewitt, who as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, had charge of the entire campaign, vows that he is as innocent as an unborn babe, of all complicity with the transaction. That there was a monstrous conspiracy, first to bribe Governor Grover to commission as a Democratic elector, the red-nosed Cronin, who was beaten at the polls, and afterwards to bribe one of the Republican electors to act with him in casting the vote of the State for Tilden, is proved beyond the shadow of a doubt, and now the very men whom their own dispatches show to have been in, and concocted the conspiracy, each and all deny all knowledge of it, thus adding perjury to their other crimes. No wonder Tilden thought "reform is necessary." He knows how it was himself.

THE world's history can show no such struggle for power, by open debauchery, as that just about ending in the disgrace and defeat of Samuel J. Tilden. Nominated by the purchase of votes at St. Louis, in the face of the bitterest denunciations of his own party organs, and the protest of the ablest of his party's leaders, an organized system of bribery was at once resorted to, to mass and control his party's press, and its effect was soon seen in the man being lauded as a great reformer, whose rascality, but a brief time previously, they had exposed and denounced. With bluster, and brag, and cool effrontery, Republican States were claimed as sure to go for him, for the purpose of masking the pre-arranged plan, of intimidation and murder, intended to be used for the purpose of capturing them, and money was poured out in a never ceasing stream as an adjunct in the monstrous scheme of villainy. And when the battle was fought, the telegraph was instantly called into operation to proclaim the lie that it had been won, even before the count could be finished in the smallest precincts.

Then came the effort to reverse the verdict at the ballot box, by renewed attempts at bribery, and the purchase of the one electoral vote, he yet lacked, despite his previous frantic struggles. In Florida, in Louisiana, in Oregon and in South Carolina, thousands of dollars were offered for the much coveted vote, and in every instance the bribes were rejected. Again through his purchased press, was the assault on public sentiment renewed. Conventions were called to manufacture a spurious public opinion, threats of armed resistance were publicly made, and wordy treason was as rampant among his supporters as it was previous to the late rebellion. The prompt gathering of a sufficient military force at the National capital, by President Grant, whose sense of duty and loyalty to country, they well knew could not be trifled with, soon checked these treasonable designs, and then came the insolent propositition to submit to a commission a question already determined by the ballot box, and by the laws of the country.

In a moment of weakness, for the purpose of preventing further turmoil and unseemly wrangling, the Republicans assented, and now, when the Commission, forced upon the country by their own action, repudiates their attempted frauds, and decides against them, they refuse to abide by the result, and invoke odium upon the judges who decline to nullify the verdict of the people.

The country is disgusted over the shameful exhibition, and the disclosures made, but there is a measurable compensation in the fact, that public opinion will now compel a provision against false counting, bribery, corruption and intimidation by politicians of the Tilden class. It must necessarily be years however, before public virtue can recover from the effects of the terrible lesson in debauchery taught by this bad man who stole the livery of reform in which to teach the roguery of the devil.

The radical difference between the two parties is shown in the following dispatch from Washington to the Cincinnati *Gazette*:

"When the 100 extra policemen at the Capital to serve during the count were drawn up in the rotunda, to be sworn in, the fifty appointed by Sergeant-at-Arms French, of the Senate, stood by themselves and those of Thompson of the House by themselves. Upon calling upon French's line who could take the ironclad oath to hold up the righthand, all but three did so—two of the three having left their right at Gettysburg in the service of the Union, held up their left—and so the whole took the ironclad oath. When Thompson's line was called on, only three hands went up, and the remaining forty-seven were obliged to ask for the modified oath.

NEMESIS.

[From the New York Tribune.]

Slow-footed, tardy, blind, but terribly sure, Justice at last lays its heavy hand on the Democracy of the North. From 1860 to 1877 is a long chase. But memories are yet longer, when sealed with blood. Perhaps the Northern Democrats fancied that the South had forgotten. But graves last longer than monuments; the South can forget everything else sooner than forget its dead. Who sent them down to death, the brave sons of the erring South? The Northern Democrat. His fawning treachery to the convictions of the Northern people, his assurance that Northern men had no principles because he had none, his encouragment to threats of disunion, his pledge that Northern streets should run with blood before an army should go South to defend the flag—these were the causes of the war. Greedy seekers for office at the North were willing enough to endanger the Republic, willing enough to entrap brave men at the South in treasonable schemes, in the belief that commercial timidity would turn the scale, that Southern threats would stupefy Northern consciences, that Democracy would still prevail, and fat offices be given to hungry Democrats. Had the South dreamed in 1860 that every Northern State would be found standing in defence of the Union as firmly as the everlasting hills; had the South comprehended the depth of Northern convictions, or the intensity of Northern attachment to the Union, not a single man would have gone down to death in a war for secession. But the South did not know. It had listened to the lying tongues of Democratic office seekers. It believed that Northern sentiment had no fight in it; that Northern loyalty was not more sincere than that of Democratic politicians; that "Northern shopkeepers" and Northern "mudsills" would protest a little but fight not at all. It had faith in the solemn pledges of men like Pierce and Eaton; faith in the declarations of men like Buchanan and Tilden; and trusted that Democratic resistance at the North would make secession easy, peaceful and safe. The fatal step was taken. Half a million of men were doomed to death by the trickery of Northern Copperheads, who promised to strike but only dared to hiss.

Thus the war came. The South, with high courage and with noble trust, took the lead, risked everything, and expected the Northern Democrat to insure success in the struggle which he had prompted. The fall of Fort Sumter brought a revelation. Northern loyalty and Northern convictions startled the world by their uprising. Copperheads hunted their holes. Pledges of aid to the South were forgotten in schemes for personal advantage or safety. The tricky Democratic leaders had not only slandered the Republicans, the "shopkeepers" and the "mudsills" of the North, but, as it proved, they had lied about the Democratic masses, who sent many thousand brave soldiers to the field. And then it was that the cheated South, disgusted, maddened, by the treachery of pretended friends, set itself with stern resolve to break away forever from a Union with allies so unworthy and so base.

The day of retribution has come. Northern Democracy named as candidates at St. Louis two of the very men whose heresies had caused the war. The South, not yet able to see that its alliance with Northern Democracy was surely fatal, gave an overwhelming support to those candidates. The contest came, and again the Northern Democrat tried to win office and plunder by threatening civil war. Then Southern eyes were opened. Mr. Reagan, Postmaster General of the late Confederacy, suggested that the South would bring up the reserve this time. Mr. Hill contemptuously observed that Mr. Tilden's friends had little conception of the conservative influence of a fifteen-inch shell, with the fuse in process of combustion. Mr. Tilden and his Northern friends stormed, blustered, bullied, but the South only laughed. The Electoral bill was passed, largely by Southern votes. It would have pleased many Northern Democrats to defeat it, but they did not dare. The decision in the Florida case was in favor of the Republicans, and at once Northern Democrats proposed to repudiate a compact they had accepted. Then came the contemptuous reply from Southern leaders in Democratic caucus: "You, possibly, are capable of this knavery; we are not." Three times during this month Democrats have been assembled in caucus at the desire of Mr. Tilden and his friends, and men like Randall and Springer; three times the attempt has been made to commit that party to political scoundrelism by repudiation of its agreement. But every time the scheme has been defeated by the unspeakable contempt of Southern Democrats for the dishonest and revolutionary tricks of their Northern allies. Put into words, the votes of Southern members in caucus would read thus; "You lied to us in 1860, and cheated us in 1861, and our fathers, brothers and sons lie in graves which your broken pledges opened. Begin the next revolution yourselves. Not by our consent shall lasting disgrace be added to defeat." The South remembers. Never again will Southern men be used as catspaws by greedy, office-seeking tricksters of the Northern Democracy.

So 1861 is avenged; 1877 squares the account; and Northern Democracy sits down in the shadow of a most humiliating defeat. The despised negro in the swamps of Florida struck down Democracy because it had denied his rights, and now the defeated Southerner stamps out the new rebellion which Northern Democrats, maddened by greed, are impatient to begin. Will not the South see at last that alliance with Northern Democrats has cost it quite enough? Will it not at last seek the influence in public affairs which it may rightfully exert, no longer through alliance with those who cheated the South into war in 1861, but with the conscience and brain and sturdy manhood of the North? It is for the Southern men to say. Their great service to the cause of peace and good government, rendered within the last month, justifies a hope. But in any case the Northern Democrat has his reward. He sowed dishonor in 1861, and he reaps dishonor in 1877.

EIGHT TO SEVEN!

Grounds for the Decision in the Oregon Case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The two Houses of Congress met in joint convention afternoon, and the decision of the Electoral Commission touching the votes of Oregon was read.

The brief ground of the decision, which is in favor of all the Hayes electors, is, that the said electors appear to have been lawfully appointed, and they voted as such at the time and in the manner provided for by the Constitution of the United States and law, and the Commissioners are further of the opinion that by the laws of Oregon, the duty of canvassing the returns of all the votes given at an election of President and Vice President, was imposed upon the Secretary of State, and upon no one else; that the Secretary of State did canvass these returns, and ascertained that J. C. Cartwright, W. H. Odell and J. W. Watts had a majority of all the votes given for electors, and had the highest number of votes for that office, and by the express language of the statutes those persons are deemed elected; that in obedience to his duty the Secretary of State made the canvass and tabulated the statement of votes showing this result, which, according to the law, he placed on file in his office the 4th of December, 1876.

All this appears by the official certificates under the seal of the Secretary of State, and signed by him and delivered by him to the electors, and forwarded by them to the President of the Senate with their votes; that the refusal or failure of the Governor of Oregon to sign the certificate of election of persons so elected does not have the effect of defeating their appointment for such election; that the act of the Governor of Oregon in giving E. A. Cronin a certificate of his election, though he received a thousand votes less than Watts, on the ground that the latter was ineligible, was without authority of law, and is, therefore, void; that, although the evidence shows Watts was postmaster at the time of his election, that fact is rendered immaterial by his resignation, both as postmaster and elector, and his subsequent appointment to fill a vacancy in the Electoral College; that, as a consequence of the foregoing, and upon the grounds before stated, the paper purporting to be the certificate of the electoral vote of Oregon, signed by E. A. Cronin, J. N. T. Miller and John Parker, is not the certificate of votes provided for by the Constitution of the United States, and ought not to be counted as such.

Members of the Commission agreeing and approving of this decision are; Samuel F. Miller, W. Strong, Joseph P. Bradley, George F. Edmunds, O. P. Morton, Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, James A. Garfield and George F. Hoar.

Let the Count go on.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—A petition was signed by nearly all the prominent business men of this city to day, and sent to Congressman Banning and Sayler, asking them not to longer hinder the work of counting the vote for President, or delay the work of the commission in any manner. The petition urges quiet submission to the decision, and is the almost unanimous expression of the business public.

By our Special Correspondent.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb 24, 1877.

OUT OF THE WOODS.

As I write, the decision of the Tri-High-Joint Electoral Tribunal is announced in the famous case of the American People *versus* Cronin's Caucus. All the Democrats,—judges, Senators and Representatives—voted that Cronin should elect the next President; and all the Republicans—Judges, Senators and Representatives—voted to sustain the rights of the American People to choose their Chief Magistrate.

The votes in this tribunal have shown the folly of ever expecting any decision, excepting a partisan decision, from any intelligent group of American citizens in an issue involving political ideas of supremacy. It is not facts that influence men so much as theories. Senator Bayard is an honorable man and so is Senator Morton; but both are, and both equally are earnest partisans and in every dispute into which parties questions enter they vote every time with their political allies. There is nothing either wrong or dishonest in their action, because it is founded on different views of life. Conservatives resist progress; radicals insist on progress; conservatives regard motion as disaster; radicals see in motion, life. Hence, they must always regard the same facts as having a totally or at least a widely different significance. The American who is not a partisans is derelict to his duty to the public. Every American ought to be a politician. Instead of priding himself on abstaining from politics the American who does so, proclaims his own shame. All intelligent men take either the progressive or the conservative view of life, and as it colors every act and thought their decisions are necessarily partisan—whether they are called Senators or Judges or Congressmen. Hence comes the fact that one man decided the late contest. The Democrats desired Cronin to decide it; the radical Republicans desired Ferry to decide it; and the conservative Republicans elected Bradley who decided it. One man did it. It was a narrow escape.

HAYES AND HIS TASK.

Hayes stands at the beginning of a great career. To no man has the New World ever entrusted a more sacred or a greater task. As he shall deal with the Southern problem, his memory shall be cursed or crowned in the annals of the coming ages—flung among the cobwebs, the Pierces and the Buchanans, or exalted among the stars, the Washingtons and Lincolns.

Let us give him a strong support, but not a blind support. It is only by frank and friendly criticism that errors can be avoided in a party, and reform within it made possible.

CABINET MAKING.

Everybody now is engaged in making cabinets for President Hayes. As it is barely possible the new President may take a hand in this game himself, and win, it is hardly worth the trouble to chronicle the guesses or the probable programme. There is one new feature in these schemings. Two Sections claim, and justly claim, a Cabinet representation—the Pacific coast and the South. The Pacific coast is hungering for the Interior Department. I trust it will not get that portfolio, although it is entitled to a seat in the Cabinet. The Indian Bureau is a division of the Interior Department, and the public sentiment of the Pacific Coast is hostile to the red man. Its average opinion is that all the bad Indians should be killed and that all the good Indians ere dead already. We have been cruel enough, long enough, to the aboriginal American. No man should be permitted to enter the Interior who is not a friend of the Indian and ready always to throw the whole power of the Government between him and his enemies.

THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS.

The Southern Republicans—each of the three classes of them—are working for a representation in the Cabinet. Alcorn of Mississippi, and Settle of North Carolina, are presented as the candidates of the Southern native white Republicans. Both are able men, brave, and of stainless integrity. They would do honor to the party. Both were in the rebel army; both are of old Southern families; both are men of property and standing in their respective States; both were wealthy slaveholders in the days of the "peculiar institution;" both, as soon as the war closed, publicly indentified themselves with the Republican party, and have fought its battles ever since. Settle has recently accepted the position of U. S. District Judge in Florida, and this fact, although he has not yet assumed its duties, rather favors the union of the Southern Republicans on Alcorn. We ought to give him the position. As a party, we have used the Southern Republicans shamefully; and, as they saved us at the last election, it is time to acknowledge our offences against them by honoring one of their representative men.

SELLING OUT THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICANS.

And yet there are Republican politicians here so utterly depraved in heart and seared in conscience that they coolly recommend that Hayes shall give a Cabinet position to some Southern Democrat—Ben Hill, of Georgia, for example, Lamar, of Mississippi, Brown, of Tennessee, or Hancock, of Texas; Hill the defender of the fiendish conduct of the Confederate officers at Andersonville; Lamar, who talks of peace here in Washington but never raised a word of protest against the atrocities of the Mississippi campaign in which assassination was organized into a system and culminated in his election to the Senate; Hancock, a bitter Democrat whose only claim to our consideration is that he was a Union man before and during the war; Brown, who has now his headquarters in this city, as the tool of Tom Scott, in the infamous scheme of plunder known as the Texas Pacific Railroad.

If we desert such men as Chamberlain and Packard now, whose courage enabled us to retrieve the defeat organized by Zach Chandler and his personal faction in the National Committee, the Southern Republicans, black and white, will desert us in a body, and in 1880, the Democracy will take permanent possession of the National Administration. And, ardent Republican as I am, I should rather that my hand should wither up than that it should ever again advocate the claims of a party capable of such treachery. Ohio Republicans are advocating this villainy. But as Bob Ingersoll said the other day, "I don't believe that Hayes is prepared to write himself down a scoundrel by such a surrender."

SOUTH CAROLINA AND LOUISIANA.

Grant seems to be forgetting the old truth that "He that endureth to the end shall be saved." Instead of recognizing Chamberlain and Packard, the rightful Governors of South Carolina and Louisiana,—both men of noble character and distinguished service—he asserts that he will only maintain the existing condition of affairs in those States. I told Grant at my interview with him, of which I spoke in my last letter, that he seemed to be like his favorite quadruped—making his best time on the home-stretch. It looks, now, as if he were tired out, and sought to shrink responsibility, and let his administration fizzle out. I like Grant but I love the truth; and therefore I feel sorry for his recent weakness. It is not like him to dodge a duty; but the President is doing it to-day. South Carolina is Republican by at least 20,000 majority; Louisiana is Republican by never less than 23,000 majority. Organized assassination—I disdain to euphemize preconcerted murder by calling it "bull-dozing"—was the cause and the sole cause of the reduction of their votes at the last election. It is disgrace to hesitate to stamp into the earth, Nichols and Hampton, the chiefs of these conspiracies. Oh, Grant conqueror of rebellion, do not kneel in submission before these rebels now!

INSURANCE FRAUDS.

Poor people, all over the country, are losing their scant hoardings by the failure of savings banks and insurance companies. When the people will give as much attention to politics as it deserves, they will discover—to their surprise—that there was no need of losing a single dollar by these corporate agencies; that *the State should be the sole insurance agency, and the municipality, or "town," the sole savings bank.* When the State becomes responsible for all the insurance within its limits no fire, however destructive, no epidemic, however fatal, will break it and ruin the investors or their heirs; and the vast earnings now monopolized by corporations will practically abolish taxation, or at least so increase the revenues of the State that public improvements now impracticable will be cheerfully undertaken. We throw away, or farm out, to corporations revenues enough,—legitimately belonging to all the people,—to erect and maintain public schools, libraries, baths and gymnasiums in every town in the State. But until we get rid of the cant that talks of the "dirty pool of politics," and recognize the holiness of duty to our country, the function of which is politics, we shall continue to be swindled by corporations without responsibility, without character, without rightful authority to levy taxes on the people.

JAMES REDPATH.

The President's Plans.

WASHINGTON, February 19.—The President will leave the Executive Mansion on Saturday, March 3, and, with Mrs. Grant, will be the guest of Secretary Fish, until their departure from the capital, which will be early in April. Mr. and Mrs. Sartoris will take up their residence this week with Mrs. Louis Dent in this city and will remain until May, when they will sail for Europe. Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., the President's secretary, will leave for New York on March 5 to begin the practice of law with the firm of which he now is a member. Col. Fred. Grant, who has been in Washington for two winters, engaged in making copies of the records of Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, which were destroyed in the Chicago fire, will return to the headquarters of the Lieutenant General at Chicago at once. The data which he has been acumulating while here embraces not only official records of the headquarters, but also the official material for a full history of General Sheridan's connection with the war. The President will give no more levees nor dinners. The report that he will give a farewell dinner to his Cabinet was entirely unauthorized. The omission of the usual Presidential levees this winter has been the subject of comment. It may be said that they were abandoned on account of the excited state of feeling incident to the political contest, and that under the circumstances it would be best not to hold these levees. The President has no intention at present of residing permanently in this city. The house which he owns here was taken by him only to relieve the persons who had purchased from him the ground which his house partly occupied. Before departing for Europe the President will visit the West. When the President leaves the Executive Mansion the public property will, as usual, be placed in the custody of the steward of the household. It is presumed that Gov. Hayes will arrive here shortly after the formal declaration of his election, and after his inauguration will be formally welcomed to the possession of the Executive Mansion by the President and his outgoing Cabinet.

Combination of Distillers.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—A combination of the distillers of the entire country, embracing nearly every important establishment in the United States, has been formed for the purpose of self-protection, and for pooling their earnings. Their plan is to deposit the sum of ten cents for every gallon of taxable spirits that is manufactured, and to divide the sum thus accruing semi-monthly among all distillers in proportion to the capacity of their several distilleries. It is immaterial whether any still is in operation or not, the proprietor receives his proportion of this deposit the same as though he was running. It is expected that in this way the market price of whiskey will be raised to a figure at which money can be made. The smaller distillers will be glad to form such an alliance, as at the present rate they are actually losing money, and the larger distillers keep prices down below their lowest rates.

Earthquake In Maine.

The Portland (Me.) *Argus* of the 19th inst. says: "A distinct shock of earthquake was felt in the city at 2:30 yesterday afternoon. The rumbling sound was distinctly audible, followed by the shaking of buildings. In the vicinity of the kerosene works the effects experienced were even more noticeable than in the city. The family of Mr. Garden Gordon were very much startled, thinking the works had exploded, so loud was the noise. Then followed a rumbling sound like the reverberations of thunder, growing less and less distinct as they receded. The sounds lasted several seconds. Houses were rocked, windows and doors rattled, and in some instances dishes fell from the shelves.

Railroad Bridge Burned.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 18. — Eight spans of the Lewistown and Sunbury Railroad bridge at Selinsgrove were destroyed by fire last night, involving a loss of $30,000. The loss of the bridge destroys the connection of the Lewistown road with Sunbury.

By our Special Correspondent.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, February 24, 1877.

The House is making desperate efforts to clear its calendar of the large number of bills that are now upon it. A special session was held on Wednesday night to consider bills on first reading, and one hundred and seventy were passed in about two hours. Doing business at this rate of course it was impossible to read each bill in full, so only the titles and a few lines of each were read by the clerk. It is customary to pass all bills on first reading without opposition. If there is any objection to a bill it is brought on second or third reading, so that the passage of a bill on first reading becomes a mere form and is no indication whatever of what may be its final fate. There seems to be no disposition on the part of the House to extend the time fixed for final adjournment, (March 15th) and quick work and no unnecessary delay is the order of the day. The Senate, however, has not yet agreed to the House resolution in regard to adjournment and may possibly amend it, fixing a later day.

Some recent decisions of the Attorney General of the State have alarmed many of the members on the question of compensation for services rendered during an adjourned annual session. There are many who hold that if the adjourned session to be held next winter is to be regarded as a continuation of the present session, members can draw no pay beyond the $1,000 fixed by law for one session, be it short or long. As they draw that amount in full for this winter's work they do not like the idea of coming here next winter to work for the dear people for nothing. To prevent any such dire catastrophe the resolution fixing the time of adjournment has been recalled from the Senate, (to which body it has been sent for concurrence) for the purpose of striking from it the portion which provides that when the Legislature meets in adjourned annual session next winter it shall take up the work just where it was left at the close of the present session. By striking this out and taking a fresh start next winter it is confidently predicted that all quibbles and doubts in regard to the matter of salary will be disposed of and members will receive the full compensation that the framers of the new Constitution contemplated when adjourned annual sessions were provided for.

An act to revise, amend and consolidate existing laws for the assessment and collection of municipal taxes and county and township rates and levies—a very important bill, which was defeated on Wednesday last by a close vote, was to day reconsidered and again placed upon the calendar of the House and its final passage is probable. One of its most important features is a provision making each property owner the appraiser of his own property, thus preventing unjust appraisments and unequal taxation. It is stated that this law is in force in several states and that it has been found to work admirably.

A bill to prevent stock gambling has been introduced in both the Senate and House. It is supposed that it will prove quite a check upon the operations of the third street brokers of Philadelphia, but no doubt these gentlemen would find a way to evade its provisions should it pass.

There was a lively time in the House yesterday over the general appropriation bill. Mr. Long of Allegheny and Mr. Spang of Bedford engaged in a war of words that was very exciting for a while. Mr. Long is chairman of the appropriation committee and takes some pride in the work of his committee and don't like its reports to be found fault with too much. Mr. Spang is one of the Retrenchment and Reform fellows. He found fault with the amount appropriated in the bill to the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds. This roused Mr. Long and he "went for" Spang. He charged that the gentleman knew very little of the merits of the question, that though he (Spang) was a member of the appropriation committee he was never present at any of its meetings but one, that he had taken no part or interest in its work and that it came with a bad grace from him to attack its well considered measures in the House. This was a hard hit at Spang, for though one of the ablest members of the House he is never in his seat except when he has no business to attend to in Bedford county. Next week will be a very busy one and I will try to keep your readers posted. B.

A Shocking Shipwreck.

BOSTON, Feb. 21.—A letter was received in this city yesterday from Captain Kane, of the American schooner F. E. M'Donald, dated at Garel, on the west coast of Africa, January 24, in which he says that on his outward passage from Boston, whence he sailed December 17, he fell in with the wreck of the British bark Maria, Captain Grayson, having on board two survivors of a crew of 14 men, the others having perished from exposure and famine. The wreck was discovered in latitude 37° 22; longitude 32° 30, with the masts gone and full of water. The two men were taken on board the schooner, but one of them died in a few hours from the time of the rescue. From the sole survivor it was ascertained that the bark was bound from Doboy, Georgia, to Belfast, Ireland; that she sprang a leak in gale and filled with water, so that it was impossible to save any provisions or fresh water. The lumber with which the vessel was loaded prevented her from sinking, but the weight of the masts turned the vessel on her beam ends, until the masts broke away, when she righted and the men regained the deck. Having no food or water, however, they soon began to die of starvation, and as soon as one died the rest subsisted on the body, and so on until only two were left. The survivor, whose name is James M'Laughlin, and who belongs to Belfast, Ireland, says that only small portions of the dead bodies could be eaten. No one was killed, but the moment one died the eight survivors cut the throat of the deceased and drank the blood, and then divided the heart and brain. It was thirty-two days from the time the disaster occurred until the wreck was sighted by the schooner, and during all that time the crew had not a drop of water or any other food than the bodies of their shipmates.

Raid Upon Illicit Distilleries.

Collector Carpenter, of the Columbia, South Carolina District, has telegraphed to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that a party which had just returned from the mountains of that State had captured ten distilleries, one hundred stands of beer and nine prisoners. They had no trouble.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Bribery in Oregon, assassination in Louisiana, perjury in Washington, corruption in Gramercy Park—so wags on the Democratic campaign.

Pettingill says that the first "returning board" of which he has any recollection was a shingle in the hands of his father. The three—father, son, and shingle—used to hold frequent committee meetings in the back shed, but the returns came in so swiftly that a fair count was impracticable.—*Boston Advertiser.*

If in the coming ages of the future, some ambitious Dr. Schliemann will dig down into Mr. Tilden's tomb, he will not report progress to a scientific association. He will simply build a foundry and advertise for a foreman, under the impression that he has struck a brass mine.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

Duplicate keys for ballot-boxes are regarded in Mississippi as more effective in reducing the Republican vote than rifle clubs in Louisiana. They destroy a Republican majority without racket and waste of powder, and every well regulated Democratic election judge in the State carries one.

George Francis Train has no admiration left to waste on the Democratic party. Here is his latest: Rogues seem to take to the Democratic party as certainly as ducks to water. Whenever a man calling himself a Republican commits a meanness and begins to hate himself, he turns to the Democrats for consolation.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* limps out of the Presidential fight with its tail between its legs, snarling like a whipped dog. It abuses the members of the tribunal, but says: "Though the Democrats have been deceived and tricked, they will not violate the honor they pledged to the country when they agreed to arbitration." Honor?

Tilden's idea that he could buy a Republican elector for $5,000 is almost as bad as that of the San Francisco fireman who is on the road to the penitentiary for trying to buy Zach. Chandler for $500. The trouble with these Democrats is that they estimate Republican prices from the market value of Democrats. Cronin's price was $3,000, so they thought certainly a Republican could be had for $5,000. They were mistaken.

There are not a few Democrats who feel as Nasby did when he said: "I wuz wunst in favor uv the Joint Commishin, and wuz eager to hev it. When it wuz ez good ez shoor that a majority uv the judges wood be Dimecrat, givin us a majority uv one in the lot, I believed it to be constooshnel. When it lookt ez tho we cood get Tilden and reform in that way, and make me shoor of my postoffis, I preferred it to blood. With Bradley on the Commishin the corners is clearly uv the oppinyun that it is unconstooshnel. Sich a thing wuz never contemplated by the fathers, it wuz never done afore, and ther ain't no precedent for it."

Representative Hewitt, it is reported, met Judge Swayne, of the United States Supreme Court, a day or two ago, and said: "Judge, isn't it painful to note the fact that the Judges on the Electoral Commission do not rise above partisanship, and uniformly vote on the party lines?" The Judge, with a distressed expression of countenance, but with a twinkle in his eye, replied: "Why, yes, my dear sir, it was a subject of mortification to me, and I have seriously thought of remonstrating with Brothers Clifford and Field on that subject; but you know it would be rather a delicate matter for me to do, and perhaps you had better to speak them yourself."

The Approaches of the St. Louis Bridge Burned.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—A fire broke out about midnight in a row of frame houses, just north of the bridge approach in East St. Louis, and at this hour, (1 o'clock a. m.) about a dozen houses are nearly consumed. A strong northwest wind carried the flames to the wood work of the bridge approach, and about 1,000 feet of the structure became enveloped in the conflagration. Several fire engines from St. Louis attempted to cross the bridge to assist in subduing the fire, but were cut off by the flames and forced to return. Subsequently two or three fire engines were taken over on the ferry boat and are now doing good service. But little definite information can be obtained to-night, but it is now thought that the eastern approach end of the bridge is so badly damaged that trains cannot cross, and that the buildings where the fire originated will be entirely destroyed. No estimate of the loss can be given to-night.

ST. LOUIS, Feb 20.—An examination of the bridge this morning shows that the damage to the structure was not nearly so great as was apprehended last night. Some 600 or 800 feet of carriage approach, which is constructed largely of wood work, were destroyed and some lighter iron work supporting the carriage way is more or less warped and twisted and will have to be replaced. The railway floor of the approach is much less injured, and the persons in charge of the bridge believe the track will be so far restored that trains will be able to cross in four days. The bridge company have a large amount of duplicate bracing, chords, etc., and will place them in position at once and the most vigorous measures will be taken to repair the damages as soon as possible. The reported loss of the bridge company, as published here this morning, is greatly exaggerated and totally unreliable. The actual loss cannot now be given but it will probably be not more than $50,000.

There will be no delay of trains while the repairs are progressing, as the passengers and freight will be transferred by the ferry.

Frightful Explosion.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 21.—A special to the *Gazette* from Middletown, Ohio, says the boiler explosion which occurred there today was of a more serious nature than at first supposed. Four persons were instantly killed, and several of the others are so seriously hurt that their recovery is despaired of. The explosion occurred in the Clifton nail keg factory, which employs some thirty or forty men and boys, nearly all of whom were at work at the time. The names of the killed are George Riley, Adam Siel, Crist Mason, and John Brown. The wounded are: A. A. Holland, one of the proprietors, probably fatally injured; Andrew Freeman, badly scalded and will die, and several others seriously if not fatally injured. Morgan Backer, a boy employed in the factory, was blown nearly a hundred feet into the air, but, strange to say, escaped serious injury. The building and machinery of the factory are a total wreck.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Sam. P. Meyer's use vs. M. D. Miller, W. J. Meyers and J. O. Meyers. No. 175, January Term, 1877. E. D.

Notice is hereby given that having been appointed Auditor by the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, to distribute the fund in Court, realized from the Sheriff's sale of the real estate of W. J. Meyers, to and among those legally entitled thereto, that I will sit at my office in the borough of Somerset, in discharge of the duties of said commission on Tuesday the 6th day of March, 1877, at 1 o'clock, p. m., when and where all parties interested may attend.

Feb. 14. J. G. OGLE, Auditor.

ASSIGNEES NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that Jacob Brilligum and wife of Milford Tp., Somerset Co., Pa., by deed of Voluntary Assignment, have assigned all their real and personal estate to me in trust for the benefit of creditors. All persons indebted to the said Jacob Brilligum, will make prompt payment to me, and those having claims or demands will present them duly authenticated without delay.

Jan. 24. JONATHAN RHOADS, Assignee.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.

A Brilliant Array of Story Writers,

Saxe Holm, Tourgueneff, Boyesen, Bayard Taylor, Holland, Mrs. Hodgson Burnett, McKay, and others.

[illegible]

Dr. Holland's New Novel, "Nicholas Minturn,"

[illegible]

General McClellan's Papers of Travel

[illegible]

"Trout-Fishing in Rangeley Lakes"

[illegible]

"The Microscope among the Flowers,"

[illegible]

NEW SUBSCRIBERS to SCRIBNER for 1877, or purchasers of the January & February Numbers, will receive PART I. of NICHOLAS MINTURN, in pamphlet form, FREE.

Scribner's Monthly, 15 Months for $4.00.

[illegible]

SCRIBNER & Co., 743 Broadway, N. Y.

ST. NICHOLAS

"THE KING OF ALL PUBLICATIONS ISSUED FOR THE YOUNG ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC."—*Southampton (England) Observer.*

[illegible]

ST. NICHOLAS for 1877,

Which opens with November, 1876, begins A SHORT AND VERY ENTERTAINING SERIAL FROM THE FRENCH, "THE KINGDOM OF THE GREEDY," A STORY ADAPTED TO THE THANKSGIVING SEASON. Another serial, of absorbing interest to boys,

"HIS OWN MASTER,"

By J. T. TROWBRIDGE,

[illegible]

"TWELVE SKY PICTURES,"

[illegible]

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION, with FUN AND FROLIC, and WIT AND WISDOM, will be mingled as heretofore, and St. Nicholas will continue to delight the young and give pleasure the to old.

THE LONDON LITERARY WORLD says:

[illegible]

GOOD NEWS for BOYS and GIRLS.

[illegible]

SCRIBNER & CO. 743 Broadway, New York.

PUBLIC SALE.

By virtue of an order issued by the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset Co., Pa., the undersigned, Assignee of Wm. Morgan will sell at public sale, on

Saturday, March 3, 1877,

at 10 o'clock a. m., on the premises in Meyersdale, Pa., the following valuable real estate, viz:

No. 1. One lot of ground situate in Meyersdale, Pa., known on the general plan of said borough as lot [illegible], and fronting about 58 feet on Center street, adjoining lot formerly owned by M. A. Hunter, having a good two-story frame building with a two-story extension thereon erected.

No. 2. One lot of ground situate in the new addition to said borough of Meyersdale, on the south side of Flaugherty creek, known as No. 7, on the plan of said addition; having a two-story frame dwelling, stable, and other outbuildings thereon erected.

No. 3. Two lots of ground known as Nos. 8 and 9, in said addition to Meyersdale Borough, adjoining lot No. 7, above described.

No. 4. One lot of ground known as lot No. 10, in said addition to the Borough at Meyersdale, adjoining lot No. 9, above described, on which there are erected a large double two-story frame dwelling house.

The property will be sold discharged of all liens.

TERMS:—One third of purchase money on confirmation of sale at April Court, one third in six months, and balance in one year, with interest on deferred payments. Payments to be secured by judgment notes. Ten per cent of purchase money to be paid on day of sale.

Feb. 14. W. H. RUPPEL, Assignee of Wm. Morgan.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Daniel J. Berkey & Co. vs. Jesse Slick. No. 382, August Term 1876. Voluntary Assignment.

Having been appointed Auditor by the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset Co., Pa., to distribute the funds in the hands of the Assignee, Jesse Slick, Esq., to and among those legally entitled thereto, notice is hereby given that I will meet all parties interested in said distribution at my office in the borough of Somerset, on Friday the 21 day of March, 1877, at 1 o'clock, p. m., when and where the duties of said appointment will be discharged.

Feb. 14. J. G. OGLE, Auditor.

Photography Perpetuates National Greatness.

[illegible]

Pleasing and Profitable Presents.

Cartes de Visite, 15 cents; 5 x 8, 30 cents; 8 x 10, $1.00 each. Catalogues sent for three cent stamp.

For sale by all dealers and booksellers. Address, CENTENNIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC CO. (Wilson & Adams) Philadelphia, Pa.

STUDIO ON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION GROUNDS. Nov. 24.