The Somerset Herald

WEDNESDAY.....January 7, 1880.

AT a very full meeting of the Republican State Committee held in Philadelphia last week, it has resolved to hold the State Convention at Harrisburg on Wednesday the 4th day of February.

THE Republican National Convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President, is to be held at Chicago, on Wednesday, the 2d day of June, next.

ALTHOUGH Philadelphia is one of the healthiest cities in the Union, the records of the Health office for the year 1879 show that 16,287 persons within her limits, entered upon that journey from which no traveler ever returns.

Now that the State and National Conventions are called, let us all resolve to give "a strong pull, a long pull, and a pull altogether," for the nominees whoever they may be. This is the only way to assure success.

ALL the indictments in the riot bribery cases at Harrisburg have been quashed by Judge Pearson, and proceedings will have to be commenced *de novo* by the Legislative Committee if the guilty parties are to be punished.

GENERAL PHIL SHERIDAN has been granted a three months leave of absence, with permission to go beyond the limits of the United States. He has gone with General Grant to Cuba and Mexico.

THE statement of the public debt published on January 1st, shows that it was decreased during the month of December $4,251,217, and since the first day of July last, (six months) it has been reduced $15,408,751, and this notwithstanding the large sum of money imprudently squandered by the present Democratic Congress.

THE friends of the widow of ex-Governor Johnson of this State, are endeavoring to have her appointed Post Mistress at Kittanning. The Governor was possessed of but little property at the time of his death, and his widow who is now well stricken in years, is in reduced circumstances. We trust the effort for her appointment will be successful.

GENERAL GRANT appears to be receiving a most hearty reception as he travels through the South towards Florida. The citizens of the various towns through which he has passed have met him with cordiality and apparent heartiness, and express regret that he cannot stop and enjoy their hospitality. It looks as if the respect felt for the man who conquered them in rebellion, will bear greater fruits than all the labored efforts towards conciliation made by anxious politicians.

NOTHING shocks a Democrat so much as a minister of the gospel daring to stand by his country and its laws. All who are old enough to remember how bitterly the copperhead Democrats reviled preachers of the gospel for standing by the Union cause during the rebellion, will be reminded of those glorious days by the furious assaults now being made by the Democratic press on the ministers in Maine for denouncing the attempt to steal political power in that State.

THERE is a strong probability that Pittsburgh is going to get out of her difficulties occasioned by the riot with great ease. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the city authorities agree that the loss of the company was about $2,300,000, and the company have generously offered to take $1,600,000, or about sixty-six per cent. in cash in settlement of the claim. Shippers and consigners claim their losses to have been about $600,000 more, and if they make a proportionately liberal deduction the city can see its way out by issuing bonds for the payment of these claims which money men agree to take at par. A small additional tax which will scarcely be felt, now that business is booming, will meet the bonds as they mature.

NEWS comes from Washington that Gen. Coffroth and "Morg" Wise, representing the Fayette and Westmoreland district, have hitched teams, for the purpose of securing the appointment of Col. Tom Scaright, a most unmitigated and unscrupulous Bourbon—as Supervisor of the Census is this district. Searight lives in Pittsburgh, and is not a resident of the district, and why Coffroth should labor for his appointment instead of for that of some good man in his own district is exciting comment among his supporters at home. We hope, however, to yet see the nice little scheme of this pair of political Dromioes frustrated, and a Republican receive the appointment.

EX-GOVERNOR "ANDY" CURTIN, has become a thorough Democrat. We know it because he is trying to steal a seat in Congress to which Mr. Yocum was elected. Like the pretext set up by Gov. Garcelon for the stealth of Maine, he bases his pretenses on technicalities. In a square contest, where fraud is not even alleged against Yocum, Curtin was beaten by 73 votes in a Democratic district. He is now trying to oust Yocum by such small allegations as that some of the election officers were not sworn in the manner prescribed by law, and other "irregularities." This is modern Democracy pure and undefiled. Whole communities may be disfranchised, and a minority candidate forced into office on mere "irregularities," although he was fairly beaten at the polls. Such is *not* the law in Pennsylvania, but doubtless Curtin's fellow Democrats in Congress—who are a law unto themselves—will steal Yocum's seat from him.

THE Democracy gravitate as naturally towards rascality as a sow does to her wallow. Already the Democratic newspapers of Maine are nominating Garcelon for President. This hitherto unknown "quack" doctor, thrust into the Gubernatorial chair of Maine by the merest accident, has shown such capacity as a rogue, that he has endeared himself to his party throughout the country, and is looked upon as an available Presidential candidate, simply because of his capacity for rascality.

He had an abundance of money he might prove a formidable competitor for Tilden, but the long purse of the latter, combined with his admitted ability for political crime is likely to carry off the nomination.

THE attempt of the Democratic thieves in Maine to cloak their villainy by the pretext that it was legal, has had the stuffing completely knocked out it by the Supreme Court of that State.

Governor Garcelon, aided by a wonderfully astute Democratic lawyer, framed a set of questions (which he submitted to the Court) in such a manner that it was supposed the Judges in answering, would have to sustain his position; but when the Judges laid down the position that the government of Maine was, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and then applied the law, they knocked Garcelon and the position of his little pettifogging lawyer "higher than a kite," leaving them not a pin to stand upon.

The opinion of the Court was given on Saturday, and has left the thieves in such a funk that they have not yet decided whether to still try and get away with the stolen goods, or to surrender at discretion. If the thieves and conspirators in the face of the law, as laid down by the Court, further persist in their rascality, we hope the suggestion of the Louisville *Courier Journal* will be adopted, and that they will be hung to the limbs of one of the trees adorning the streets of the capital.

EX-SENATOR MORRILL, of Maine, proposed to Garcelon to submit to the Supreme Court of that State for decision the points in controversy as to the legality of the proceedings of the Board of Canvassers. Garcelon affected to agree to the proposition, and suggested that Morrill should furnish a memorandum of such questions as would cover the points in dispute. This was done, and Mr. Morrill's proposition has been met by a trick. His suggestive questions were all rejected, and an entirely different set, carefully prepared for extracting such replies from the court as suited his purpose only, were laid before the court without showing them to Mr. Morrill. Of this transparent trick—intended solely to enable his partisans to assert that the court had sustained their conspiracy, the N. Y. *Tribune* says:

Mr. Morrill's first question went right to the heart of the difficulty. He proposed to ask the Court whether it is the duty of the "Governor and "Council, in canvassing the returns "for Senator and Representatives to "the Legislature, to allow corrections "therein by the record under the "Constitution and laws of the State," and "to what cases" such corrections can extend; or, "if not their duty, "have they then the right, or power "to allow such corrections at their option?" Here is the basis of the whole dispute. But this question the Governor declines to put. He declines to put any question substantially like it. He studiously avoids asking, in any shape, about the right to *correct* returns, and confines himself, all through his twelve questions, to inquiries as to the strict legal authority of the canvassers to *reject* returns on account of various informalities—an authority which in most of the instances cited nobody has attempted to dispute. The difference between the two schedules can be expressed in a few words: Mr. Morrill proposed to inquire whether it was the privilege and duty of the Governor and Council to permit the correction of technical defects in the returns so as to give effect to the conceded result of the voting; Governor Garcelon, on the contrary, inquires whether by a strict construction of the law he has the power—omitting all consideration of the moral right—to do just the reverse of this, and avail himself of technical irregularities to nullify the result of the voting. Nobody asked him to put questions of this preposterous character.

It is just as well for the Republicans to look at the situation courageously and calmly. They have been made the victims of a stupendous political swindle, and the men who planned it are resolved to carry it out to the very end. Protests are of no use. Exposure will not shame the wrong doers; they made up their minds to that before they began, and they are not to be turned from their purpose by fear of public opinion, or by care for the ultimate consequences of such a piece of rascality. They have placed themselves by a series of elaborate tricks, in position to steal a State, and, happen what may, they mean to steal it. They know very well that the Republican party is too sensible and too patriotic to follow the precedent which so many Democratic communities have established at the South, and resist by force of arms the action of the civil authorities. Our remedy must be sought by other means, and for the present, we fear, in other States. We can have no better argument for the Republican party in future elections than this exhibition of Democratic contempt for popular sovereignty and a free ballot. There is likely to be no doubtful State at the North after this.

AUGUSTA dispatches this morning discloses that Governor Garcelon is proceeding to submit to the Supreme Court for decision sundry unimportant points of law relative to matters of no consequence connected with the conspiracy to disfranchise the people of Maine. This solemn farce of submitting the case for decision by the court, while all material matters are withheld for decision by the conspirators themselves, is doubtless a part of the plot by which it is proposed to usurp control of the State. The whole proceeding is too transparent a trick to deceive anybody of the least discernment. The assumption by the Governor of the right to determine what the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to decide, and the submission for decision of only what he chooses to let the court decide, makes the cheat too self-evident to be disguised.—*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

NEARLY four thousand miles of railroad were opened in the United States during the past twelve months, the exact figures being 3,738. This is a record which has not been equaled since 1873, the year in which the flush times which followed the war came to an end and our troubles began.

WE confess it is a surprise, but the Democratic *Nation* of New York, has at last had a spasm of sense, and proceeds to denounce the Maine iniquity thus:

To characterize adequately the performances of the Democratic Government and Council in Maine in exercising the functions of a returning board would require very strong language. The whole defense they make—that the law obliges them to exact rigid conformity to certain rules in examining the election returns—*is demolished by two facts.* One is that the errors and omissions which they have discovered and used occur only in towns and districts in which the Republicans have a majority, and it passes belief that none should have been discovered or discoverable in towns and districts in which the Democrats had a majority. The other is that the law of 1877 *permits* the Governor and Council, when canvassing the returns, *to correct such errors and omissions by comparison with the record,* and they *refuse to avail themselves of the permission,* on the ground that the law is unconstitutional. But it is a well-settled and necessary principle of American jurisprudence that every law is to be deemed constitutional until a competent tribunal decides otherwise, and on this point the Governor and Council refuse to take the opinion of the court, thus raising a presumption of bad faith of the strongest kind. They have no more right *to declare a law* unconstitutional than *any other man in the State;* and, if they can refuse to avail themselves of a permissive act on this ground, they can refuse to obey a mandatory one. In short, there is a high degree of probability that they have been guilty of fraud in examining and correcting the returns, and there is absolute certainty that they have been guilty of a gross abuse of discretion in their manner of correcting them.

Republican National Convention.

WASHINGTON, Dec 31.—Chairman Cameron, of the National Republican Committee, issued to-day the following call:

"A National Convention of the Republican party will meet at Chicago on Wednesday, the 2nd day of June next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the nomination of candidates to be supported for President and Vice President at the next election. Republicans and all who will co-operate with them in supporting the nominees of the party are invited to choose two delegates from each Congressional district, four at large from each State, two from each territory, and two from the district of Columbia, to represent them in the Convention.

J. D. CAMERON,
Chairman.

"THOMAS B. KEOGH
Secretary."

Rail Road Accident.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 31.—The through express train on the Iowa and Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, this afternoon, was two hours late reaching Mendotta Junction, near this city, and while running at rather high speed on the high embankment along the Mississippi river a rail broke, and three coaches, including the sleeping car, left the track.

The sleeper broke the couplings and rolled down the embankment to the river, a distance of 60 feet, but the fall was somewhat broken by the Sioux City track, half way down the descent. The car was mashed to pieces and six passengers it contained taken up insensible. At first it was thought one or more were killed, but all are still alive, though seriously injured. No one forward of the sleeping car was hurt.

Value of Foreign Coins.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—In the Treasury circular of January 1, 1880, proclaiming estimates of the value of foreign coins in United States money of account, the value of silver coins is computed at their bullion value compared with the gold dollar as a unit of value, and the following changes from values as stated in the circular of 1879 appear:

The Austrian florin is estimated at 40 3-10 cents, the dollar of Central America, United States of Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, is reduced from 93 5-10 to 83 6-10 cents, the dollar of Mexico from 101 5-10 to 99 2-10 cents, the rupee of India from 44 8-10 to 39 7-10 cents, the rouble of Russia from from 74 8-10 to 66 8-10 cents, the mahbub of Tripoli from 84 4-10 to 74 8-10 cents, the gold florin of the Netherlands is taken as a monetary unit at 40 2-10.

Torture and Death.

CINCINNATI, December 25.—A Delphos, Ohio, special to the *Commercial* says: Bernard Pickers, an old German resident, was called to his door by loud knocking, at 2 o'clock this morning. Upon opening it he was confronted by three men armed with revolvers, who demanded a large sum of money he was known to possess. He refused, and in the scuffle which ensued he was shot and instantly killed, the ball entering just above the left eye. His wife hearing the disturbance came to Pickers' assistance, when she was seized and threatened with death if she did not disclose where the money was. She immediately began to scream, when the men gagged and bound her with a rope and placed the soles of her feet to the fire, until unable to endure the torture any longer, she told where the money was. This, to the amount of $1,500, was taken, and the criminals left without leaving any clue as to their personality.

The *Gazette's* Batavia, Ohio, special says a quarrel occurred last night at a ball here there, between Albert Fitzwater and Jake Geiger. The former challenged the latter to fight, whereupon Geiger seized a stonemason's hammer and beat Fitzwater over the head and shoulders with it, so that he died this afternoon.

General Grant.

AUGUSTA, GA., December 31.—General Grant and party arrived here to-night and were received by crowds of people at the depot, when they were escorted to the hotel, where an informal reception commenced at a late hour. To-morrow a reception will be tendered the party and they will be shown over the city. The reception here is cordial and hearty to the distinguished guest and every consideration will be shown him. All along the route black and white people thronged to the train and cheered lustily. At Charlotte a deputation of citizens waited on General Grant and tried to prevail on him to stay over at Columbia. The mayor and Chief Justice Wilbur, of South Carolina, tendered a banquet but the party could not wait. At 11 o'clock to-morrow the party will leave for Beaufort, South Carolina, to attend an emancipation celebration. From there they will proceed to Savannah. Augusta presents a very lively appearance to-night, and to-morrow General Grant's reception will be attended by thousands.

HIS DEPARTURE FROM GEORGIA AND WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA.

AUGUSTA, GA., January 1.—General Grant and party left this morning for Beaufort and Savannah. The day was beautiful and the visitors were waited upon by the Mayor and Councilmen, after which they were escorted to the Union Depot in carriages by a band of music and colored military in procession celebrating the emancipation proclamation.

CHARLESTON, S. C., January 1.—Upon the announcement that General Grant would visit Beaufort an impromptu reception was arranged by the leading citizens irrespective of party. An immense concourse of all classes proceeded to the depot with bands of music and a copious display of bunting. Two colored companies—the Beaufort light infantry and the Summer Guards—were out. The Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, the crack white company, was on the road leading to the town with one field piece, firing a salute of thirty guns. Every available vehicle was in requisition to add to the demonstrations of welcome.

At half-past 3 o'clock the special train arrived with General Grant and his party, and was greeted by the crowd of about 3,000 persons with hearty applause. The party were then seated in handsome conveyances. General and Mrs. Grant, the Intendant and Colonel Wilson occupied the first carriage, which was followed by a procession of citizens. The cavalcade proceeded through streets decorated with flags to the hotel. At the entrance to the town was an arch bearing the word "Welcome" in evergreens.

On the arrival of the party at the hotel, Intendant Williams, on behalf of the committee, extended the hospitalities of the town in a short speech. General Grant responded as follows:

"It affords me great pleasure to be allowed the opportunity to visit Beaufort, though only for an hour. This locality occupies a conspicuous place in history. For the last twenty years it certainly has. The best qualities of the newly emancipated race are developed there. I thank you for your hospitable and warm welcome."

Commodore Pattison and the officers of the fleet stationed here, paid their respects in full uniform. The ladies of the party were called upon by the ladies of the community. General Grant had expressed a desire for some of the far-famed phosphate fossils, and a number of citizens contributed specimens. One gentleman gave him a huge backbone and lower jaw of a megalonyx, adding that it was fare specimen of Carolina cheek and backbone.

PREPARING FOR GENERAL IN CUBA.

HAVANNA, January 2.—The Cuban authorities are making arrangements to give General Grant a fitting reception. Captain General Blanco being absent from the city, he has ordered his confidential adjutant to receive General Grant and tender him the hospitalities of the Palace, where apartments are being prepared for his reception.

A Practical Joke.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—John M. Waite and M. B. Gould, both prominent and respected business men, thinking to play a practical joke on the colored janitor, this afternoon, disarranged the contents of Mr. Waite's room, and then concealing themselves in a closet waited until the janitor appeared. The latter becoming excited at the condition of the room, procured a revolver, and hearing some noise in the closet, tried to pull the door open. Failing in that, he fired through the door. The shot passed through Mr. Gould's head, and he died shortly after. A coroner's jury to-night rendered a verdict justifying the janitor, and he was discharged from custody.

A New Railroad.

CUMBERLAND, MD., December 31.—It is authoritatively stated that the project for building a feeder to the Baltimore and Ohio railroad from Moorfield, W. Va., to Green Spring run, has not fallen through as rumored, but is under consideration. The Cambria iron company of Johnstown, Pa., and Edgar Thompson steel works, of Pittsburgh, Pa., who, it is said have the option on the most important tracts of Hardy county ore lands, take deep interest in the scheme, and will aid the Baltimore and Ohio company in making the road, the building of which is, however, contingent on the development of iron ore resources of the Moorefield region. Experts representing the iron companies named will visit Moorfield next Thursday to make an examination. Their report will be had before further action is taken.

Silver Mine Discovered in Maryland.

CUMBERLAND, Md, December 30.—The excitement over the newly discovered silver mine in Garrett county, between Schaidt's mills and Oakland continues. It is said that specimens of the ore have been sent to a Philadelphia assay office and reported to yield a value of about $113 to the ton. A number of persons resident in the neighborhood of the silver deposit have clubbed together to defray the expenses of the exploration and examination of the mine by experts.

Dastardly Outrage in Dakota.

DEADWOOD, Dec. 30.—A report reached this city late last night that the outgoing Bismarck coach which left here on Thursday last was stopped by road agents near Antelope station. They fired into the coach, killing the only passenger, Mr. Oates, and then took the treasure box and made their escape.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1879.

Christmas day dawned drearily and cheerlessly. If St. Nicholas made his appearance at all he had to leave his sleigh at Baltimore where the snow line ends further north, and take another mode of conveyance for the hard, wet roofs and streets, which have not been whitened with snow once this season, offered very poor inducements to a sleighing party. Still Santa Claus must have come either by railroad, stage-coach or a "night liner" hack, for traces of his midnight visit were left in a thousand homes, and many a little one prattled in praise of his goddess. As the weather outside was disagreeable and threatening, most everyone spent the day at home.

Christmas day was devoted principally to family reunions, and in many homes the representatives of three or four generations, from the white-haired, great grand-sire, to the mite of humanity who never saw a Christmas before were gathered around the family board to do honor to Christmas and discuss Christmas turkey and conventional plum pudding. The services at the churches in the morning were well attended and in the afternoon large audiences assembled to witness the matinee performances at the theatres.

In the Methodist churches early services of devotion and song were held at 6 o'clock and the attendance was very large. The early masses at the Catholic churches were so largely attended that the crowds could not find standing room, let alone a seat.

During Christmas day the police made sixty-two arrests. Of this number the charge of drunkenness only only was preferred against 30 of the persons. These thirty were left out of the station house as soon as they became sober enough to justify it but it is safe to say they did not spend a merry Christmas. Of all the arrests made, thirty three, or more than one half, were made by the police of the Central precinct. This showed a disposition on the part of those who started out Christmas eve for the purpose of "making a night of it," to congregate in the centre of the city. Most of the restaurants known as "all night" houses are in the central precinct, and after midnight the fellow who wants to take a "night cap" has no other place to go. The next day the cells of the station houses were filled with prisoners in the various stages of the disagreeable process known as "sobering up." Though there was considerable drunkenness, there was much less disorder than is usual on such holidays.

General Grant arrived in this city from Philadelphia on Saturday by the limited express. Nobody seemed to know of his coming here except a few of his personal friends as he requested no demonstration to be made as he wanted to spend two or three days in Washington quietly, on matters of private interest with General Beale, who has the care of considerable of General Grant's property, including the Arabian stallions. A few minutes before the train arrived the doors to the depot were closed and no one was permitted to enter except a few persons. Newspaper Row was out in full force and such chin music, while crowded outside on the platform, was indulged in as became the occasion. When the train hove in sight the fact was quickly made known to the crowd, and there was a rush for good places on the platform. In a few moments the train came to a stop in the depot. A rush was made for the first car, but the conductor cried out, "the last car, the last car!" and the tide was turned in that direction.

The police quickly formed a guard over the entrances to the car, and only those who were intimate friends were admitted to the car. The first to enter was General Beale and Senator Don Cameron, followed by assistant postmaster Gen. Tyner and Doctor Norris, and quite a number of persons who impressed the police with the belief that they were members of Congress and Senators.

There was a desperate crowd of reporters who were willing to cut the throat of any man who barred their advance to the car, but a rash police officer refused to let them in. Two reporters climbed up on the side of the car and reported to their anxious associates below that the "old man" was taking lunch. In order to save the windows the police finally admitted them through the door, and for about five minutes there was some lively scribbling inside the car. Gen. Grant's derby hat, the color of his cravat, the number of valises belonging to the party—everything was noted.

The party soon formed in procession and passed to their carriages on the sidewalk, and were quickly driven to the residence of General Beale, on Lafayette square. The crowds yelled everywhere, and any man with half an eye could see that Grant is in the hearts of his countrymen.

General Grant is looking very well, and is not altered in appearance. He showed much emotion at the enthusiastic greeting he had received, and no doubt experienced genuine pleasure in being again with his friends amid the scenes of his Presidential administration after an absence of over two years, during which time he has traversed the globe, and been the recipient of more honors than any other living man. Mrs. Grant, the companion of his travels, was heavily veiled and evidently tired and worn out by her travels and social duties. On Sunday the ex-President and his family attended service at the Metrophitan Methodist Episcopal church and accepted the well-known "Grant pew." The church was tastefully decorated with evergreens and the service was that of Christmas, no service having been held there on Christmas day. At the conclusion of the sermon, General Grant received the congratulations of his many friends who were present, and left the church by a rear door to escape the crowd.

"Christ, all in all," was the text, by Dr. H. R. Naylor, and he laid down the lesson drawn from it in true Methodist style. The music was perfectly sublime. In the afternoon he took a drive to the suburbs of the city and dined at Senator Don Cameron's, who now resides in the Shephard mansion, corner of Connecticut avenue and "K" street. On Monday morning, before the General had his breakfast, there was at least twenty callers to pay their respects to him. He received them, then got his morning meal. When he came back to General Beale's sitting room there was quite a number of other callers on hand. The Justices of the Supreme Court called to pay their respects, Marshall Fred Douglass also called. Gen. Grant had the inevitable cigar in his hand. In conversation he said he was very glad to return to Washington quietly. In answer to an inquiry, he said that he had greatly enjoyed his journeying around the world; they had been a rest which he needed. He would leave Tuesday morning on his southern trip, and expected to derive much pleasure from it. He soon excused himself from the throng, and with his son, Ulysus Grant Jr., went out for a walk and to make some calls. They first struck the State Department where they had a little chat with Secretary Evarts. Leaving there they went to the War Department. Going into General Sherman's room, General Grant talked some time to him and afterwards received calls from Adjutant General Townsend, the officers on duty in the Department and several others. A visit was next paid to Secretary Ramsey's room, who received him in true old Pennsylvania style.

The clerks had learned of General Grant's presence in the building and took occasion to be very busy passing from one room to the other in order to get a look at him. Secretary Thompson received the next visit. General Grant spent quite a time with the Secretary of the Navy. Leaving the department, General Grant and son walked back to Gen. Beale's, being stopped quite frequently on the sidewalks and in the halls of the building to shake hands with some one. As the two proceeded leisurely up the street they were stopped by a small colored boy who wanted a "penny to buy some b-r-e-a-d." General Grant felt in his pocket but found no small change. He drew on his son for a handful of pennies and handed them over to the beggar, who opened his eyes in wonder at the windfall. At noon the Grant family paid a visit to Mrs. Hayes at the White House. The President was out of town. After leaving the White House (where Mrs. Hayes knows how to make you feel happy by her graceful and happy manners and highly cultivated conversational powers) the party returned to General Beale's, where a crowd were anxiously waiting to see the old man once more. All during the day there was a stream of callers. The party took dinner with Hon. Levi P. Morton, of New York, where they were sumptuously entertained by the great New York banker. The ex-President and party will leave today unless the programme is changed, on their trip to Cuba and Mexico, passing through Richmond, Columbia, and Savannah. From Savannah they will go to Key West and from there to Cuba. On his return to the United States, which will be perhaps the early part of April, the General proposes to make a trip through portions of Colorado, and will reach Galena about the last of May. He will remain in Galena a short time and will go from there to Long Branch, where he will spend the summer. Quite a party will accompany General Grant on his trip South, including Lieut. Gen. Phil Sheridan and Mrs. Sheridan, Lieut. Col. Fred Grant and Mrs. Grant and several other ladies and gentlemen.

About diphtheria we have not been seriously alarmed in this community, and I don't find much mention of it in the health officer's report, but that disease has been fearfully prevalent in other regions of the country, which has caused a great deal of discussion as to its treatment, and numerous prescriptions have been given to the press thereof. The following is one, emanating from a physician in New York for the treatment of "diphtheretic sore-throat," which has been "used with happy effect in most obstinate cases:"

RECEIPT:—Sulphate of quinine, 10 grains; dilute muriatic acid, 90 minims; chlorate of potassium, 1 drachm—mix with gum sirup sufficient to make in all two ounces. Dose, a teaspoonful every hour. If the patient need stimulant, give good rye whiskey.

A considerable number of cases of small pox are now reported here and the health officers are doing every thing in the way of precaution for stamping out the loathsome disease before it becomes epidemic. It first broke out in the district jail and spread through the court-room to the dirty loafers who are always hanging around the prisoners when on trial.

For the benefit of my old comrades in Company "B," 54th, who like myself have thought and believed that money was due us for commutation of rations while prisoners of war during the rebellion, I would state the official record filed in the Treasury Department of the Government, has been inspected by myself in company with our member of Congress, and I have no hesitancy in saying that every man in the company signed a paper for $10.26, each. The signatures are genuine beyond question. The papers would seem to indicate that Captain Hosack, C. S. Y. paid each man $10.26. Date of payment November 12, 1863, and place from which the account is rendered was Clarksburg, West Virginia. Lieutenant Cole was at that time in command of the company (Captain Hite being in hospital, and we were stationed at Springfield, West Va. This is the record and in the face of the papers on file here it is useless in spending any more money in prosecuting claims for this allowance, as you all will get in return what I got a few days ago from General Macfeely, a polite note, stating that I have been paid. I have communicated with several of the boys and they all, except Senator Grof, say, that they never got a cent of the money. Grof should know, as he fixed up all the papers for your company and was closely related with our officers as company clerk. For myself I do not have the least remembrance of getting a cent from Captain Hosack, Captain Hite, Lieutenant Cole, Lieutenant Baer or any one else, but still I may have received it. I am sure I signed the paper on file at Washington and that is *prima facia* evidence of receiving the money in the eyes of the Government. Think over the matter boys again. It has been many years ago since the payment was made by Captain Hosack. Those were times that tried men's souls. Money at that time came and flew like the wind. No value was put on greenbacks as we all thought and looked upon the "shin plasters" as so much old continental scrip to be repudiated after the war. It is for you individually to say whether the ration money ever reached your pockets or was gobbled on the road to you after you signed the papers. For my part I try to make myself believe that I got the money and spent it for cheese sooner than to harbor a thought or suspicion that somebody stole it and applied it to a different use to what it was intended by the Government.

The near advent of the leap year season is stirring the young ladies about Washington and some old ones to, and they are going to make hay while the sunshines and have the privilige of doing in 1880 just about what they please with the sterner sex. The privilege of young ladies choosing their husbands during bissextile year is now a part of the common law. From time immemorial there has existed a legend to the effect that in leap year the customary regulations of courtship may properly be reversed and offers of marriage proceed from the fair sex to the male objects of their affection. I do not know that this privilege has ever been taken advantage of to any great extent by the ladies, but the tradition is as strong as ever in the minds of the young girls and bids fair to be transmitted in unimpaired freshness and force to the latest generation. This being the case, it logically follows that there is a peculiar idea of the inherant fitness of the right, otherwise it would have died out ages ago, if there were not deep down in the hears a conviction that the ladies have some national rights in regard to the choosing and wooing of a partner for life. Whether they think best to exercise the privilege is altogether foreign to the question of right. Were it not for this feeling this leap year tradition would have long since been forgotten. What a joyful time the girls will have in setting their caps for the boys. Who among us cannot recall the scenes of youth when gathered around the blazing hearth we have listened to some weird story, or watched with bated breath the result of some "Hallow Eve" charm. These were the days of happiness, and, of course, every rural maiden had a sure, infallible charm for telling the future husband. On the eve of New Year some of the anxious damsels over in the south of the county used to prepare for sleep by placing leaves to their pillow as a charm. If they dreamed of their sweetheart they were sure to marry before the end of the year, but to make it dead sure thing the candidate must boil an egg hard, take out the yolk and fill its place with salt. Just before going to bed she must eat egg, salt shell and all, and neither speak nor drink after that. If that would not insure her a vivid dream there can surely be no virtue in charms. And in this connection it may be proper to remark, the more I investigate the subject and ponder over the thousand and one charms by which girls may peep into the future and solve (to them) the most interesting questions of their lives, the more deeply am I impressed with the conviction that great injustice is done to woman by denying her the privilege which tradition gives her during leap year. For of all woman, she is most to be pitied who has a hesitating lover, who boggles about "popping the question." He is worse than a bold one. How perfectly satisfactory was the conduct of that brave Partisan who rode up to the door of the girl of his choice, and having desired her to be called out to him, said:

"Rachel, the Lord has sent me to marry thee!" when the girl answered with equal frankness, "The Lord's will be done."

As women have not to any great extent availed themselves of their privilege in "popping the question," I am unable to say how they would do it, but it is safe to say they could scarcely do worse than many men have done as the following will prove: An Irish girl who was very anxious that her scatter brained brother should not be refused by a young English lady with whom he was desperately in love, implored him to propose with the seriousness becoming the occasion. He vowed he would behave as acting as chief mourner at his fathers funeral. And actually took his lady love after church to see the family vault, and there in a sepulchral voice asked her "If she would like to lay her bones besides his bones." It is enough to say that she agreed.

A very neat way is for the gentleman, after dancing a number of times with a young lady, to say, "If ever he became a benedict he would like his wife to look exactly like, and dress precisely as she does." This may be a proposal or not. When, however, a shy man having got his mother to plead his cause, says to the beloved one, with a tremulous gasp, "won't you do the thing my mother asked you?" there is no doubt about his wanting her for a wife.

It may be interesting to young ladies who are already aware of the important fact that leap year empowers them to do something more than "pop the question." If a young lady should so far forget herself as to suggest a union between herself and a batchelor acquaintance, who should be uncivil enough to decline her proposal, she could thereupon demand from him a gift of a new dress.

But to claim this dress with propriety, she must at the same time be the wearer of a scarlet petticoat, which, or the lower part of which, she must exhibit to the gentleman, who, by the law of leap year, is bound to present to the lady a dress to cover the scarlet petticoat, and assuage her displeasure at the rejection of her proposal.

This item may prove exceedingly useful to the male readers of the HERALD in putting them on their guard. For it is not probably without a determined significance that the wearing of red petticoats is made one of the chief novelties of ladies' dress during the winter season. In fact it may reasonably be inferred that the ladies' law of leap year is about to be inflicted upon the gentlemen in the most expensive silk dress form.

Those vacillating bachelors who have managed for years to steer clear of hymen's toils will be made to pay or pay, and if you think my advice is worthy of imitation, I would say that when you see a young lady "in full fig" with a scarlet petticoat coming down the street, show your best discretion by turning, and run away.

PICKET.

Two Desperadoes Arrested.

NEW YORK, December 31.—August Lehr, alias Younger Neusauer, and Fred Burnetts, better known as "Crib Cracking Fred," two of the desperadoes for a long time raided through Blair, Lancaster and Berks counties, Pennsylvania, were arrested here last night and turned over on a half dozen charges, to John Denham, of Reading. It is said that five members of the gang came to New York after it was broken up and that still another one, Joseph Behman, alis Kratzbartch, is now in the penitentiary here

A Midnight Shake Up.

YANKTON, D. T., Dec 29.—This place was shaken by an earthquake at half-past twelve last night. The shock lasted about one minute, and was accompanied by internal rumblings. Hundreds of sleeping people were awakened by it. Fort Sully reports a similar visitation.

Grant's Strength.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—Ex-Senator Henderson, of Missouri, in conversation to-day, said that he was convinced the nomination of Grant was inevitable. He (Henderson) had traveled through the States of the Mississippi valley and was surprised to find, not only in Missouri but in Illinois, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa and Wisconsin, gentlemen of his acquaintance who heretofore have been opposed to Gen. Grant, but who are now strongly urging his nomination. Henderson who has been an earnest supporter of Secretary Sherman, has greatly astonished the friends of Sherman here and does not tend to encourage the supporters of Mr. Blaine. A leaning member of congress from Pennsylvania says Henderson informed him that he believed if Grant was nominated he would carry Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and possibly other Southern State, and if the Democratic party expects to beat him they would have to carry the Nothern States. These facts he said were not agreeable to him, but as the result of close observation he was forced to this conclusion.

Fire in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec 30.—The most expensive private residence in Washington was almost entirly destroyed by fire to-night. It was the property of ex-Senator Stewart, of Nevada, and was known as Stewart Castle. The house stood in a large lot on the edge of the city, near the English Legation, and was erected in 1873 in imitation of some castle Senator Stewart had seen in Europe. It contained seventy rooms, including a dancing hall and state dinning-room and each room was furished in the most elaborate style, all the carpets, furniture, and upholstering being made to order. Most of the fabrics used in upholstering were purchased at the Vienna Exposition of 1873, and much of the furniture was made in Paris. The cost of the building and furniture was not less than $250,000. The house was opened in grand style at the marriage of Senator Stewart's daughter, in 1874, but that was the only entertainment ever given in it, as Stewart failed in business shortly after, and was succeeded in the Senate by Sharon. Since then the house has been for rent, but was so large that no one has ever been found willing to take it, even at a nominal rent. It was originally offered at a rental of $25,000 a year, but Stewart reduced the price to $5,000 without applicants. The insurance, which was originally $250,000, was reduced to less than half that amount two years ago. Stewart has partially recovered his fortune, and his wife came to Washington a month ago and occupied the Castle, for the first time in five years, expecting to live there permanently. She had announced a reception on New Year's Day, and society people expected to see the spacious parlors utilized. The fire caught in the heating apparatus about 8 o'clock, and, although the entire fire department was out, the Castle was totally destroyed. Mrs. Stewart is stopping at the British Legation, with Lady Thornton.

Death of U. S. Senator Houston.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 31.—Hon. George S. Houston, United States Senator from this state, died at his home at Athens this morning.

The news of Senator Houston's death causes much sorrow. The capital offices are all closed in respect to his memory. Gov. Cobb and many prominent citizens will go to Athens to attend the funeral services on Friday.

Senator Houston was a native of Tennessee and was in his seventieth year. He removed to Alabama when a boy and after received a common school education, studied law and practiced in Limestone county. After serving in the legislature and as district solicitor, he was elected to Congress, serving as a representative from May, 1841, to March, 1849. He declined a re-election to the next Congress, but was elected five times in succession without opposition and served till January, 1861, when he resigned on the secession of his state. He was elected to the senate in 1865, but was not permitted to take his seat, and he was a delegate to the National Union convention in 1866; was elected governor of Alabama in 1867, and again elected to the senate to succeed Senator Spencer, and took his seat in March last—for the term expiring in 1885.

The legislature of Maine assembles to-day. We will inform our readers next week whether the rascality of the Democrats will succeed or not.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

THE LAST DAYS ARE AT HAND

—AND THE—

OPPORTUNITY IS PASSING AWAY

WHEREIN THE

GREATEST BARGAINS IN FINE CLOTHING

MAY BE OBTAINED.

The last four months has shown a great increase in the value of clothing, but we have determined to give the people the benefit of our

LOWEST REDUCTION,

And leave with them these mementoes of the FINEST CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT out of Pittsburgh. This advertisement

WILL CLOSE

JANUARY 31, 1880.

And we will then prepare to return all the stock that remains on hand.

We urge an EARLY CALL because we believe it will pay those goods, even if you are not in WILL PAY YOU to wait of them.

FINE BUSINESS SUITS,
FINE DRESS SUITS,
FINE OVERCOATS,
YOUTHS' SUITS. BOYS' SUITS.
Youths' Overcoats. Boys' Overcoats.
CHILDRENS' SUITS,
CHILDRENS' - - - - - - - - - - OVERCOATS.

With our best thanks for patronage already bestowed,

JNO. WANAMAKER & CO.,

29 FIFTH AVENUE,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

COURT PROCLAMATION.—WHEREAS, the Honorable WILLIAM H. HALE, President of the several Courts of Common Pleas of the Counties comprising the thirteenth Judicial District, and Justice of the Courts of Over and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, for General Jail Delivery, and other offenders in the said District, and DANIEL STOTZ and C. C. BOWMAN Esquires, Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and Justices of the Courts of Over and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, for the trial of all capital and other offenders in the County of Somerset, have issued their precepts and to me directed, for holding a Court of Common Pleas, and General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and General Jail Delivery and Courts of Oyer and Terminer, at Somerset

On Monday, January