

The sun of prosperity is above the horizon, and the skies grow brighter every day.

EDISON was fifty years old last Wednesday. Not yet an old man, and what a record he has made!

RUNNING the blockade at Charleston was a different thing from what it was some thirty-five years ago.

THE President killed more ducks on Saturday than he ever did in his life. He finds it really better sport than cutting off the heads of unruly office-holders.

THE NUMBER of men who are anxious to serve their country for a consideration appears to be unusually large. It has increased much faster than the places have multiplied.

HOPEFULNESS and confidence take down the bars impeding prosperity's advance. Possession and distrust fasten them up. Good times were never yet hastened by bad predictions.

SECRETARY of Agriculture Morton is out in another lamentation against the free distribution of seeds. Happily for Mr. Morton's peace of mind, he will soon be relieved of all responsibility on that score.

THE annual report of the Civil Service Commission shows that there are now 57,107 Federal places in the classified service, and that of the 91,010 not yet classified 91,725 are fourth-class positions, which the commission thinks should also be embraced in the classification.

THE Governor of Nevada has been personally endorsed by James J. Corbett. "It needs no endorsement, to break the ice in matters of this kind," exclaimed Mr. Corbett, addressing that worthy. But Mr. Corbett's figures of speech went astray. The other States make things too warm for prize-fighters to even suggest the idea of ice.

SECRETARY Herbert is much offended at the jokes being poked at the new navy. He says there is a strong tendency to exaggerate defects and accidents, and to write down the new battleships. The attention given to the navy by all the papers is the best evidence of general interest in the subject.

A vast amount of money is being invested in the navy, and the nearest approach to perfection is demanded by the people. It is in that spirit that most of the criticisms are offered.

SOMEONE who has taken the trouble to ascertain the political complexion of the Legislatures of the forty-five States finds that there is a grand total of 2491 Republicans, 2269 Democrats, 520 Populists, and 214 Fusionists, a clear Republican majority of 550.

In the Legislatures of twelve Southern States there are 1289 Democrats, 367 Republicans, and 294 Populists, which exhibit will be an unpleasant surprise to the Populists who have supposed that they are making much progress in the South.

THE German Government has just completed strike statistics for the year 1896. There were thirty strikes of large proportions, and more than 1,000,000 men were affected. Over one hundred thousand employees were involved, and in each instance operations were resumed under conditions existing at the time the strikes were ordered.

The statistics of Germany do not differ materially from those of other countries, and the sentiment is growing everywhere that for the settlement of labor difficulties, strikes are not eminently successful.

VERY few persons will be surprised at the reports that the Cuban insurgents will refuse to surrender on the promise of the Spaniards just outlined for Spain. These promises have a more impressive sound for Europe than they have for the United States. To the Cubans they are utterly delusive. The proposed changes, if carried out in good faith, would not meet the demands of even the most moderate of the insurgents, and these believe they would not thus be carried out.

The fact that these concessions are offered, however, indicates that Spain is far less hopeful of suppressing the rebellion than she was a year ago.

These reports which come from Rhode Island and other Eastern states of the reopening of mills which have long been idle, and of the increase in the running hours of others which have been in operation, are significant. They show that an industrial awakening is beginning to take place. The bank clearances recently reveal steady gains over the corresponding periods twelve months earlier, and the figures of commercial agencies show a decline in the number of business failures. Thus an improvement is under way in two directions. Trade is increasing, and it is carried on under better conditions than those which prevailed a few months ago.

SPEAKER REED, it is reported, will appoint but three committees at the extra session of Congress—Ways and Means, Rules and Mileage—the object being to prevent untimely agitation of the currency question. If this is his conclusion, it must be obvious that he is consulting the wishes of the President, and that the latter will, in his message to Congress at its extra session, confine himself to the single topic of revenue. This fully agrees with the reported views of Major McKinley, and is in accord with Republican policy. The country is on the verge of prosperity—a prosperity possibly greater than has been heretofore experienced—prosperous as have been some periods of our national existence. Signs are multiplying of a restoration of confidence, and a disposition to embark in enterprises of moment, always provided the people can be sure that their hopes will not be made illusory by ill-timed agitation.

IN MANY respects the inauguration of William McKinley and Garret A. Hobart will be the most important, the most interesting and the most spectacular in the history of the nation. Major McKinley's remark to a newspaper correspondent that it would be sure to be the very worst day of the year, because so many preparations were being made, was a pleasant reminder of the numerous inaugurations days he had witnessed, of most of which the weather was abominable. But it is very probable that the Major is not feeling much in the hope of getting more sunshine for his moiety.

shine for his moiety. Only the evening moments can hope to be saved from being magnificent in every detail.

Aside from the purely physical part of the proceedings, it will be a most auspicious happening in every way. The sentiment of it more nearly approaches the full and felicitous meaning of the union of the best thought and industry of the country than any other occurrence of the century. The fact that ex-Confederates will join as heartily in the observance as any others, and the real wiping away of sectional feeling and sectional lines must fill the thoughtful citizen with the profoundest gratification.

All who can should go to Washington to witness this historical event. It is the last inauguration of the century, and it is not only the inauguration of a new president, but also the inauguration of a new era and of good times.

Congressional Experience.

Recher Post-Express (Rep.)

"Old men for counsel" seems to be the principle upon which Major McKinley has proceeded in constituting his Cabinet.

An effort will be made before the close of the session to pass a bill prohibiting the use of oleomargarine and butterine in hotels and eating houses.

Representative French, of Washington county, has introduced a bill, the object of which is to provide counsel for persons committed to prison to await trial, when the defendant shall make affidavit that he has no money or property to pay counsel. The bill is for \$5 in cases of misdemeanor, \$10 if the charge is felony, forgery or perjury, and \$25 if it is murder.

It is proposed to abolish the December registration of voters. The objection to the semi-annual system is that there is little change of residence outside of the large cities, and no good reason to warrant the expense of a December registration.

Representative Sumner, of Somerset, has introduced a bill, the object of which is to provide for the removal of the duties of burghesses.

Much talk is heard in regard to removing the State Capitol from Harrisburg; at least ten cities have already put in claims for the honor. It will all end in talk, however, unless a majority of the most available sites for the State Capitol and the executive headquarters.

Confessional Secrets.

MONTREAL, Feb. 12.—A very interesting case, involving the secrets of the confessional, was tried before the Hon. Mr. Justice Gauthier in the Courts in the course of a few days.

The facts are these: About three years ago the jewelry establishment of M. Cochenalther, on St. James street, was robbed of several thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the authorities, no light was thrown on the affair until a few days ago. In the meantime, the Dominion Burglary and Guarantee Company, with whom Mr. Cochenalther was insured, paid to the latter claims amounting to \$200.

A few days ago a man named Kieran, who had been employed as night watchman by Mr. Cochenalther and others in the neighborhood, was arrested on suspicion of theft. A search of his house brought to light several articles which Mr. Cochenalther identified as some of the goods that had been stolen from his store.

Kieran subsequently made a confession, in which he acknowledged that he had committed the burglary, telling at length in the manner in which he had performed the deed. But the large quantity of jewelry proved an elephant in the hands, and as his conscience pricked him severely, he went to the parish church and made a full confession to the Rev. Father Sorin.

The latter at first advised him to return the goods to Mr. Cochenalther, but on being informed that that person had been recaptured by the Guarantee Company, he decided, so Kieran says, that the goods must be sold and the proceeds devoted to charity. According to the prisoner's story, he then took the goods to Rev. Father Sorin, who raffled them at various times, devoting the proceeds to several schemes connected with the church.

Now the Guarantee Company wants its money back, and has instructed Messrs. Greenfield & Greenfield to take action, and the latter have written to the Rev. Father, demanding \$200, intimating that otherwise suit will be brought for recovery. The Rev. Father has been given one week in which to decide upon his course.

An Old Settler.

When the rheumatism first pre-empted certain tracts of your anatomy it may be noted easily, but when it becomes an old settler it is pretty hard to budger. Remember this when you experience the first twinges of this obstinate and agonizing disease, and attack it with Foster's Cherry Bitters. I will then "make tracks," and possibly you unimpaired and in peaceable possession of your own comfort in the future.

Perils always attend rheumatism, if it becomes chronic, on account of its tendency to attack the heart. Usually it is complicated with kidney trouble. Certain it is that the kidneys, when aroused by the Bitters, will eliminate impurities which give rise to rheumatism and dropsy. In fact, in these cases, the Bitters are not only a relief, but a cure.

A Bank Robbery Told.

SALEM, Pa., Feb. 12.—This afternoon while Assistant Cashier J. Klingensmith was alone in the Salisbury bank a colored man entered, and, covering him with a revolver, demanded that he hand over the money lying on the counter.

A Chester county paper speaks of the shoeing of a yoke of oxen in West Chester, and says it is an unusual proceeding in that county. This is no doubt true at the present time; but it was a common practice in the West Chester section half a century ago. The writer of this article in shoeing oxen frequently in the summer of 1856, at Townsend's mill, a place between Jermersville and Catham, where the blacksmith business was carried on by Samuel Townsend. He was an expert at the business and did a great deal of it. There was a large limestone quarry in the neighborhood where oxen were used for hauling, and they had to be shod to keep their feet from getting sore.

The account of the shoeing at West Chester says: It requires sixteen shoes to completely shoe a pair of oxen, and the shoes are made and put on in about three hours. The cost of shoeing a pair of oxen is \$8. The price used to be \$10.

A War-Time Mascot.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 14.—When Knoxville was besieged during the war a gander was a pet of one of the regiments in General Schofield's army, and was called the troops' mascot. The gander was taken by William Moore, and ever since the war it had lived on his farm in Cooke county.

The old gander died a few days ago at the age of 42 years, and its body was shipped to this city in a box for burial in the National cemetery. Some of the old soldiers were at the depot to-night to receive the box, and with them was William Moore, a colored servant who had been with the regiment. McKinley played on his violin "Marching Through Georgia" when the box was carried out, and a few minutes later he dropped dead.

Bright Women.

Who are anxious to accomplish the best results, for the least money, should examine the Cinderella Range before they buy; it is a good baker and a perfect roaster, and every new feature of practicality is embodied in its construction. It has pleased thousands of housewives, and will please you. Sold by JAS. B. HOLDREATH.

Down At Harrisburg.

Senator Brown, of Philadelphia, has introduced a bill to amend the Baker balk law. Under this amendment all nominees are to be put in groups, according to the offices and not the party, the party name being put opposite the name of each candidate, instead of at the top of the column as at present.

If the bill introduced by Senator Andrews, of Chester county, should become a law, every qualified voter in the Commonwealth will be required to vote at each and every general election.

Judges of elections are by it required to prepare correct lists after the polls close, of all voters who have failed to vote; all lists to be transmitted to the clerks of the courts. The persons so failing to vote are to show cause before the clerk why a fine should not be imposed on them. Sickened or absence from the district in which the election is held is a valid excuse for not voting. The fine is fixed at \$5 and costs, and the property of the person so offending to be sold for \$100 to be kept for liability for said fine and judgment. The fines collected shall go to the public school fund of the county in which they are imposed.

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McGiffin's Tragic Death.

Hero of the Famous Battle of the Yalu Shoots Himself.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Captain Philo Norton McGiffin, the young American naval officer who won distinction in the late Chinese-Japanese war, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head at the Post Graduate Hospital early this morning.

Captain McGiffin had been at the hospital about a month, under treatment for nervous prostration. He was kept confined to his room most of the time. He retired at 10 o'clock last night, and his attendant, a male nurse named Barnett, remarked nothing unusual in his patient's conduct about a month.

At 2 o'clock this morning Barnett was startled by a pistol shot. He hastened to Captain McGiffin's apartment, and found his patient sitting bolted up in the bed, his right hand on a revolver which lay on the right side of the bed, about two inches above the ear. A large navy revolver lay on the floor beside the bed. Death had been instantaneous.

The nurse, who was exercised as to how his patient could have gained possession of a pistol and cartridges. He and the house physician held a conference upon this question, and their agitation was enhanced by the discovery of the pistol and cartridges in the Captain's room, fully loaded with the exception of one chamber.

The pistols, together with a hastily pencilled note left by the Captain, were taken charge of by the coroner.

The note left by the suicide was neither dated nor addressed, and read as follows: "Memo.—Look alive that the bed is not set in for my first shot. My compliments to Mrs. McGiffin. My only destination must remain to you unknown but you may guess. With apologies to Miss Phelps for the row—it is a way that all guns have. An answer. Please give my good-byes to Mr. Gorham and my compliments to Mrs. McGiffin. As usual, I may note that though I effected my exit, it is not the negira anticipated by the learned staff."

Captain McGiffin was in the service of the Chinese government before the war. He was engaged in the Yalu campaign, and saw the battle of the Yalu. He was hit more than 400 times, but she was still able to fight when the Japanese fled. Every man on board of her had killed wounded and many had been killed by one of his own guns. The ship was on fire on the port side. The Japs kept their guns pointing on the part of the vessel that was burning, so that the men on board would not be able to put the fire out.

Captain McGiffin called for volunteers to face the bullets and shells flying about. One of the seamen would give without an offer, and the Chinese officers were not in that line of business.

McGiffin himself stepped into the breach and led a party of seamen to fight the fire. The ship was at a little while when a shell from one of the Japanese ships struck the crew of one of the Chen Yuen big guns and killed the gun crew, but did not damage the gun. The crew of the Chen Yuen big gun did not know that McGiffin and his men were working at the fire, and he had the gun swung around to port. A moment before it was fired Captain McGiffin saw the shells coming almost at the men at work. He leaped back. The gun went off. Most of the men at work on the fire were killed by the shock, and the fire and smoke that belched out. McGiffin's hair and eyes were burned. The right eye was almost destroyed, and both ears were fractured. The moment he recovered from the shock he was up and fighting again.

Ten minutes later a shell struck a ladder near him, and a splinter of the ladder was driven deep into his hip. He probed for it with a pair of pinners, and got it out and went on fighting. Later he was shot in the back and fell. He was carried to the hospital and died.

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Wedded to His Step-Daughter.

Henry Plieger, of Berwick, was imprisoned Wednesday because he is the husband of his step-daughter. She was the daughter of his wife, who died six months ago, and who when married to Plieger was a widow with two children.

The charge against Plieger was made by John Cox, of Berwick, an uncle of the wife, whose accusation is that Plieger and his niece were married within the prohibited degree of kinship, in order that Plieger might get control of his wife's property.

See that it is there!

This is the trade-mark which is on the wrapper (salmon-colored) of every bottle of the genuine SCOTT'S EMULSION.

Be sure this is on the package, and that nothing else is palmed off on you when you ask for it.

Nothing has been made that equals it to give strength and solid flesh to those who are run down or emaciated.

Your doctor will tell you that it is the one food for all those whose weight is below the standard of health.

Put up in 50c. and \$1.00 sizes, and sold by all druggists.

SCOTT & BOWNE, New York.

Outstanding County, State and Dog Taxes of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on the 3rd day of January, 1897, due and owing by the Collectors of the several boroughs and townships in said county, as follows:

Table listing outstanding taxes for various boroughs and townships in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, including names, amounts, and due dates.

Expenditures, Cr.

Table listing expenditures for various departments and services, including salaries, supplies, and other costs.

SHERIFF'S SALES

By virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas in Somerset County, Pa., the following real estate will be exposed to sale at the Court House, in Somerset, on

FRIDAY, FEB. 19, '97, At 10 o'clock P. M.,

the following described real estate, to-wit:

All the right, title, interest, claim and demand of Geo. Blinn, of, in and to a certain lot or parcel of ground situate in Lincoln township, Somerset county, Pa., containing 4 1/2 acres, more or less, 50 acres clear, balance timber, containing lands of Nancy Smith, Isaac C. Lichty, W. H. Miller, Thacker (Berger), George Strub, Chas. Miller and Geo. W. Miller, having thereon erected a one and one-half story frame dwelling house, with other out-buildings, with the appurtenances.

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All the right, title, interest, claim and demand of Geo. Blinn, of, in and to a certain lot