

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The following are among the principal topics referred to by the President in his recent Message delivered to Congress:

One of the chief objects of interest at this time is our relations with Spain, and in reference to the matter of the Virginians, the President says that the Spanish Government has recognized the justice of our demand, and has arranged for the immediate delivery of the vessel, for the surrender of the survivors, for a salute to the flag, and for proceedings looking to the punishment of the perpetrators of the guilty acts, and looking also towards indemnity for those who may be entitled to it. This affair, which for a time threatened the most serious consequences, is now in the course of satisfactory adjustment honorable to both nations.

The subject next in importance relates to the finances and to the recent monetary disturbances throughout the country, and the President fears that the financial balance for the present year will not be so favorable as that of last. He recommends that economy be used in making appropriations, and also in administering the various departments of the Government. As to the severe monetary disturbances, the President intimates that, however much individuals may have suffered, the result may prove to be a long step toward specie payments, that we can have no permanent prosperity until a specie basis is reached. To increase our exports, sufficient currency is required to keep all of the industries of the country employed. To this end he submits to the consideration of Congress a specific plan by which the National Banks may, when more currency is required, procure an additional amount of circulating notes by the deposit of bonds, and when the currency is no longer required, having leave to withdraw the bonds upon the surrender and cancellation of the additional notes issued to them. He also recommends that the National Banks be prohibited from paying interest on deposits; that they shall be required to hold their reserve in their own vaults; that "clearing houses" shall be established for the redemption of their circulating notes; and that they be authorized to diminish their standing issues of notes at pleasure by the return and cancellation of their own bills.

The postal savings depositories and the postal telegraph system are urged upon the favorable consideration of Congress. A revision of the tariff laws is also recommended, and the opening of more mints for the coinage of money.

The President calls the attention of Congress to the decline in American ship building, and legislation is asked to secure our proportion of the carrying trade.

The President earnestly calls the attention of Congress to the petition of the 50,000 Russian Mennonites to locate in a body on our public lands. The suggestion was made by the Mennonites of Lancaster county, and therefore possesses a local interest.

Nearly all the other topics are of a routine character, except perhaps the anomalous condition of our citizenship and expatriation laws, to which attention is directed. The "Mixed Claims" Commission, to hear and determine claims of citizens of the United States and subjects of Great Britain, have awarded British claims to the amount of \$1,929,819; have rejected \$93,000,000 of the British claims, and all of the American. Congress is requested to appropriate the \$1,929,819 for the discharge of the British awards; and the recommendation is renewed for a commission to audit and determine the direct losses of individuals, &c., to be paid out of the \$15,500,000 recovered from England for the Alabama depredations.

The Message is a plain, concise document, and deserves a careful perusal from every one interested in the welfare of the nation.

We regret our limited space prevents us publishing the document in full.

A meeting of clergymen and others, summoned by Bishop Cummins, late of the Protestant Episcopal Church, met in New York Tuesday, and formed a new ecclesiastical organization, known as the Reformed Episcopal Church. Dr. Cummins was called to the chair, and appointed a committee, who promptly reported a declaration of principle, preceded by a resolution designating the new organization as the "Reformed Episcopal Church," and recognizing Dr. Cummins as its presiding bishop. The articles of the declaration are but four in number, and brief. The chief points in which they take issue with the Protestant Episcopal Church are in recognizing the Episcopacy as "not of Divine right, but as a very ancient and desirable form of church policy," in adopting for use the Prayer Book revised and recommended by the Convention of 1870, and in further condemning and rejecting what is styled certain erroneous and strange doctrines, in regard to which there always has been and still is much difference of opinion among the laity and clergy of the Church. The declaration was adopted, and the meeting was then regularly organized as the First Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

There are nearly fifty Farmers' Granges in this State.

Indications—says the American—

are once more favorable for a peaceful settlement of the questions at issue between the United States, Spain and Cuba. If the despatches from Havana and Washington are confirmed by events, we shall not be forced to the necessity of sending our fleet into the harbor of Havana to take the Virginians from under Spanish guns, nor of bombarding Santiago to obtain the remainder of her captives. From Havana it is announced that Captain General Jovellar has recalled his intention of resigning, that he intends to endeavor to execute the mandates of the Madrid Government, and that—most important of all—the truculent spirit of the people has been calmed down to that point at which they can contemplate the surrender of the Virginians to an American squadron without going off into spasms of patriotic and sanguinary fury. It seems that they are nearly prepared to scumb to the inevitable, and if the execution or the compact between Secretary Fish and Admiral Polo is delayed a little longer they will look with good grace upon the departure of the captured steamer in the wake of Admiral Scott's flagship. Of the delay in the carrying out of the protocol nothing is said; probably Secretary Fish is purposely allowing the postponement for the purpose indicated. But there is no cessation of naval preparations; the Kansas has joined the Junia at Santiago, and many vessels of the fleet which had rendezvoused at Key West have left that point to take up stations closer to the Cuban coast. The safe arrival out of the Kansas is a matter of congratulation and her long passage was only occasioned by a gale which drove her over to the Bermudas. The latest information was that Commodore Brain was to receive the remainder of the prisoners on board the Junia at Santiago, and Admiral Scott to receive the Virginians. The movement of the fleet from Key West indicates that the days of grace are nearly exhausted, and there will not be a much longer period of waiting upon the passions of the Spanish party in Cuba.

A London despatch says the Loch Earn, the ship that collided with the steamer Ville du Havre, also sank to the bottom of the ocean. The "British Queen" fell in with the disabled ship on the 29th ult., which was then in a sinking condition, the officers and crew abandoned her and were taken to Plymouth.

The account of the Ville du Havre disaster given by the rescued crew, represents that the Captain and second-mate of the steamer came on board the Loch Earn shortly after the collision, and did not assist in saving any of the passengers, and that the majority of the French crew exhibited lamentable cowardice.

The Captain of the Loch Earn makes the following statement: After first sighting the steamer, and seeing that she was coming dangerously near, the Captain of the Loch Earn rang the ship's bell and ported his starboard the steamer came right across the Loch Earn's bows. The people in the first boat from the French steamer did not say she was sinking, but the Captain of the Loch Earn, observing that the steamer was settling down, sent out his boats. Neither the first French boat nor the second, which arrived shortly afterwards, bringing the First and Second Captains of the Ville du Havre, attempted to return, but despite the expostulations of all the crew who were left on board the Loch Earn, and the threats of her mates to fire upon them, remain alongside the ship. The clothing of the French officers who reached the deck of the Loch Earn was dry, showing no signs of their having been in the water. Finally some Englishmen seized a manned one of the French boats, and went to the rescue of those struggling in the sea. Only one French boat's crew assisted in the rescue. The Captain of the Loch Earn considers that the great loss of life resulted from the fact that his vessel drifted such a long distance from the steamer after the collision it was impossible to shorten sail; from the tardiness of the steamer in showing signals of distress, and from the misconduct of her crew.

BETTER TIMES.—The New York Tribune speaks cheerfully of business affairs, saying, "the financial outlook is better," and that "risible and palpably things are on the mend." It adds: "The result may be seen in the evidences of rapid recuperation on all hands—in the advance in breadstuffs and cotton—in the steady export demand—in the absence of further reports of the stoppage of manufactories—in the reopening of some that have already made arrangements for the profitable renewal of work—in the solid position of the banks—the appreciation even of railroad and telegraph securities—and especially in the general conviction, that after all, there is no danger of "the bottom dropping out."

The Americans says there is no longer any doubt but that a determined effort is to be made to restore the Franking Privilege, and the present indications are decidedly favorable to a successful result. Many prominent Republicans say that they are not willing to vote to repeal the salary law passed last session, without having a Franking Privilege accorded to them again, and a reduction of salaries will, in all probability, be followed by a re-enactment of the Franking Privilege. Speaker Blaine is quoted as being favorable to such action.

President Grant has appointed Attorney General Williams Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Local Items.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.—As our accounts for subscription, advertising, etc. are numerous and widely scattered, and are difficult of collection under present circumstances, we make the following proposition to delinquents, viz: Upon all accounts settled in full, or in part, before the first day of January next, a reduction of TEN PER CENT. will be made. After that date the costs of collection will be added. Those at a distance making remittances will have the per centage placed to their credit.

APPLES.—A few bushels of choice apples will be taken on account at this office.

The daily stage line between Mercersburg and Greencastle has been discontinued.

IN THE CITY.—Joseph Price, of the firm of Price & Hoeflich, is now in the city purchasing their second supply of winter goods. New goods next week.

Mr. Martin Speck received a fall at the Artesian Mills, Hagerstown, on Monday of last week, breaking two of his ribs.

The foundry, tannery and dwelling belonging to Jeremiah Herman, of Fayetteville, was sold on Thursday last for \$4,300. Purchaser, Jacob Lightfoot.

A German "tramp" predicts that the weather of November will prove coldest of the winter months. Of all the weather prognosticators this last is the most encouraging.

Let us all remember that these are the times to "help one another." Give your neighbor all the patronage you can. Protection to home industry is a principle we can all practice with profit to one and all.

R. R. OPENING.—The grand opening of the W. M. R. R. from Baltimore to its terminus at Williamsport, is announced to take place on the 17th inst. A large delegation from Baltimore and other parties along the line will form the Excursion party.

The Post Master informs us that the Record addressed to Josiah Benedict, at Highland, Ills. is not taken out of the office, and requests us to discontinue it.—Until all arrears are paid we will have to class Mr. B. among our list of "dead beats."

HOUSE CONSUMED.—Last Saturday afternoon a week, the dwelling house of John Sollenberger, near New Guilford, occupied by Wm. Spangler, was entirely destroyed by fire. The fire originated in the garret from some unknown cause. All the clothing and bedding, and nearly all the furniture of the family was lost.—Rep.

REOPENED.—Mr. S. P. Stoner has handsomely and conveniently re-fitted the Bowden House Oyster Saloon, and is now prepared to supply all who may be pleased to favor him with their patronage.

Mr. John W. Harbaugh, a courteous and obliging young man, is to manage the business of the Saloon. He will leave nothing undone to entertain visitors in the best possible manner. See advt.

IN BALTIMORE.—We notice our friend, Mr. Henry Funk, formerly with Mr. H. Yingling, at Monterey, is now an assistant manager in the "American House," N. W. Cor. Calvert and Franklin Sts., Baltimore, Md. Mr. F. is a polite and obliging gentleman, and his long experience in the hotel business eminently qualifies him for the position he now holds. In this section of Franklin county he has a host of friends.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.—Monday Evening.—Present Messrs. Rider, (President) Dock, Bell and Reid. The following bills were presented, viz: Emanuel Diffenderfer \$12.95 for use of carts, labor of 3 hands on the 13th and 14th of November in making culvert on South Street. Alex. Hamilton for 17 perches and 19 feet building stone at 90 cents, \$15.97, and 33 perches of turnpike stone at 45 cents, \$14.85. Absolon French for material, labor, paint, &c., \$10.93.—Drafts granted for the same.

THE MEETING.—Messrs. Sharpe and Stuart, members of the Convention which framed the new Constitution, according to previous announcement addressed a meeting of our citizens in the room over J. W. Miller & Co's store on Tuesday evening. The meeting was well attended, and the new or amended instrument ably defended by both gentlemen, but a division of sentiment about it exists notwithstanding. While it is admitted there is much in the new Constitution to commend, other features are claimed to be equally objectionable. As in ordinary election times it is hard to tell which are in the majority, those in favor of adoption or rejection.—The result of the issue in the State on Tuesday next will therefore be looked to with feelings of more than ordinary interest.

H. H. Keedy, Esq., has been appointed State's Attorney in place of Jao. C. Zeller, deceased. The acknowledged capacity and experience of Mr. Keedy will render this appointment most acceptable to the public.—Mail.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.—The annual meeting of this body took place last week.

There were present at the several sessions nearly all the teachers of the county. The citizens also took a greater interest in the proceedings than they ever did on previous occasions. It is pleasant to contrast the interesting meetings of the present with those of former years, when the Institute made so little noise that its sessions began and ended without any of the citizens knowing it. The County Superintendent presided, and J. W. Kuhn was Secretary.

Among the notables present we may mention Prof. Adams, Elocutionist; Prof. Boyd, who discussed the Philosophy of History, English Grammar, &c.; Miss Parson, of the C. V. Normal School, who gave instructions upon the "Object Lesson" system; and Prof. Beard, Principal of the C. V. Normal School.

Prof. Harry, of Chambersburg, did much to make the meetings interesting by furnishing the music. The exercises were the usual ones on such occasions, such as the discussion of the best methods of teaching, governing, and organizing schools.

The Hon. J. McD. Sharp delivered an address on Tuesday evening, upon the "character of the true teacher." This was a fine effort and showed that the speaker had considered the subject as fully and carefully as though he had been a professional teacher.

Prof. Adams gave a highly interesting series of readings and recitations on Thursday evening. His rendering of Darius Green and his Flying Machine, was superior to that of any other reader we have had the pleasure of hearing.

Miss Parson's illustration of object teaching were very well calculated to arouse a new interest in primary teaching.

We do not say it to flatter the teachers, but we could not help noticing that the teachers present at this time made a better appearance, both as to their physical and mental development, than on former occasions.

The school terms are gradually becoming longer, the wages if not rising are not decreasing, the importance of the teacher and his work meets with a better recognition than heretofore;—all tending to retain the better teachers in the work. The teachers desiring to show their appreciation of the services of J. S. Smith, the County superintendent, presented him with Irving's works, 12 vols.; Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, and two volumes of the Popular Science Monthly. The presentation speech was made by Prof. P. H. Bentz. The recipient was so much affected that he could command but few words in reply; but his evident emotion, and his silence spoke more eloquently than any words could have done. If we mistake not, this is the first time the teachers have manifested their appreciation of a county superintendent in this manner. The instruction given, the discussions, and the exercises generally, were of a useful and professional character.—Public Opinion.

RECEIPTS.—The following is a list of our subscription receipts—cash and trade for November:

- Joseph Schockey, \$8.00
- Mrs. E. Funk, 4.00
- Francis Cover, 2.00
- D. E. Price, 2.00
- J. H. Hoover, 2.00
- Mrs. Geo. Summers, 3.75
- Simon Mickle, 9.50
- Samuel Johnston, 3.75
- W. H. Funk, 9.00
- John Kriner, 2.00
- S. S. Dowlin, 5.00
- Lewis E. Stull, 2.00
- J. S. Harper, 2.00
- Wm. Terman, 1.00
- John Louderbaugh, 4.00
- C. K. Myers, 2.00
- Josiah Fahrney, 2.00
- John Welty, 2.00
- Benj. Frick, 2.25
- Miss Nannie C. Shockey, 2.00
- Miss C. A. Hoover, 1.50
- A. D. Crilly, 2.00
- C. W. Logan, 2.00
- P. Wiesner, 4.00
- Miss M. B. Jacobs, 2.00
- Wm. H. Miller, (Wash. twp), 2.25

SUICIDE.—Mr. Israel Williard a farmer, aged about 65 years, residing near Sabillasville, Md., committed suicide on Tuesday a week by hanging himself to the bed post in his room, where his dead body was found at about 1 o'clock on that day. His mind had been in a deranged condition for some time past, and last summer he made three attempts at suicide, once by cutting his throat with a razor, again by smothering himself under some rye straw in his barn, and again by throwing himself on the track of the Western Maryland Railroad for the purpose of letting the cars run over him, but each time he was rescued. He has a wife and a family of grown children.—Valley Register.

No year in the present century has witnessed so many appalling disasters as that which is now drawing to its close.—First the Northfleet went down in the English Channel with 450 souls on board; next came the Atlantic with nearly the same number of victims; then the City of Washington, and the last loss in mid-ocean of the Ville du Havre with 226 lives.

A German woman living near Tonica, Illinois, locked two children aged 3 and 5 in her house, and went out to husk corn. While she was gone the house burnt up, and the children with it.

EDITOR VILLAGE RECORD.—Next

Tuesday the good people of this Commonwealth are to vote upon the new Constitution. This document effects an entire revolution in the whole frame-work of our State Government; and the people in order to vote intelligently upon it, should have had at least a year in which to give it that earnest deliberation it required before making it the organic law of the Commonwealth. Instead of a year they have been given scarcely four weeks to read and reflect upon it.

The Convention which framed this medley of incongruous laws contained, we believe, one hundred and thirty-three delegates. Of this number over one hundred were lawyers, and every one of them either aspirants for public office or resuscitated political fossils. They were chosen, not by the people upon a fair contest, but were simple nominated by party conventions and rings. The great farming and labor interests of the Commonwealth were unrepresented. The seats in the Convention which should have been filled by the representatives of the hard-fisted yeomanry of the Commonwealth were occupied by attorneys; and, therefore, the great labor interest received no attention or encouragement. New judgeships and new offices by the scores and hundreds were created, to be scrambled after and filled hereafter by the greedy members and their friends, that they might thrive and grow fat at the people's expense. The State tax exempting real estate was not only repealed, but the Legislature forever prohibited from passing any law exempting it from taxation. A mortal blow was struck at educational interests, and colleges forbidden to receive any recognition at the hands of the Legislature. Charitable institutions received a mortal blow, and the State is forbidden to do any merciful deed. Discriminations among religious denominations and beliefs were made. A thousand things were done, which, if adopted, would cause the blush of shame to mantle the cheek of every true and progressive son of the Commonwealth. Men of Pennsylvania, before you give your sanction to this document, read it, ponder it well; and you will then, we feel very certain, remand it to its authors, and compel them to give us a constitution to be voted upon by sections. Tell the Buckleaws, the Blacks, the Woodwards, the Biglers, &c., that we have no more faith in them or their work now than we had during the war, when they were the advocates of the heresy that we had no right to coerce the South and were the apologists of the crime of Slavery. We want men imbued with the true spirit of reform and progress to frame our fundamental laws, and these old "perfunctory" gentlemen must be kept in their involuntary retirement. Farmers, mechanics, laboring men of all classes and conditions, we appeal to you to vote an emphatic "no" to the new constitution.—Do not be cajoled or coaxed into voting "yes" by a wily attorney like Sharpe, or Stewart, or even great reformers like the detestable McClure or redoubtable Foreney. Read the Constitution for yourselves and then follow the lead of your consciences and act from a sense of duty to yourselves and your posterity.

J. RALPH HALDEMAN.  
Phila., Dec. 9, 1873.

THE DAVIS LYNN CASE.—Mr. Maulsby, the indefatigable counsel for Davis who is awaiting the assignment by his Excellency Governor Whyte of the day for his execution on Friday last returned from Indiana, bringing Shue, the witness, whose testimony, it is supposed, may possible secure a commutation of the death penalty. Judge Maulsby was only four days going to Indiana, finding Shue, and getting back with him.

Shue was examined by the Governor on Saturday. At the conclusion of the examination to Gov. notified Judge Maulsby that he would hold the case under advisement until Friday, Dec. 11th.

Nothing new or important is contained in Shue's statement from which the counsel or friends of the doomed man can hope for commutation of the death penalty.

A NEW RAILROAD.—Chief Engineer Dougherty started on Monday last with a corps of engineers to locate a railroad from the ore banks of Messrs. Douglas and Middour, near Quincy, to connect with the Mont Alto Railroad. These ore banks are about four miles from Waynesboro, and if the citizens of that place offer sufficient inducements the road will be continued to that point. This would give Waynesboro a shorter and more direct route to the eastern markets than by way of Greencastle. The country through which the proposed road would run is very favorable for the construction of a railroad, and it is hoped that the parties interested will take advantage of this opportunity to secure communication by rail with the outside world.—Spirit

Samuel Bowles, editor of the Springfield Republican, has been sued for libel by Willis Phelps, an old citizen of that city. The damages are held at two hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Bowles charged Mr. Phelps with being a public robber, and the Boss Tweed of Springfield. Mr. Phelps is a well known railroad contractor, and is regarded as a strictly honorable man.

If the panic is on its last legs the legs are fearfully long.

PHILADELPHIA December 5.—In the

Superior Court Judge Agnew delivered an opinion, in which all the Judges joined, restraining the Election Commissioners appointed by the Constitution Convention from acting. The decision was to the effect that the Convention had not the extensive powers it had attempted to assert, and that it was guilty of an act of attempted usurpation of authority in setting aside the election system prescribed for this city and inaugurating a new one, under which the election for the adoption or rejection of the Constitution should be all conducted. The opinion further declared that the true interpretation of the phrase and manner in which this election shall be held did not grant the Convention the high authority it had attempted to assume, and that the conduct of this election in a way different from that of general election was an exercise of authority which had not been given the members of that Convention when they were delegated as agents of the people to amend and revise the Constitution of the State.

Philadelphia has organized a system of relief for the poor, in anticipation of a severe winter. The plan is as follows: Each ward forms a branch Relief Association under the control of an official board; the precincts of the ward are divided into "blocks," for which is appointed by the board a committee of two gentlemen of established character to solicit donations of money, goods, cast-off clothing, bedding, etc., and two ladies, whose business it is to visit every house and examine strictly into cases requiring relief. All donations are sent to a central room or hall, and receipts given to the contributors. This may form a basis for organization in other cities, and systematic relief is the help that is required for the good of all concerned.

The northern part of Greenland is covered with snow, supposed to be many thousand feet deep, and increasing in depth every year.

Somebody has found time to count up the number of churches in New York city. There are 350 in all, valued at something over \$46,000,000.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Flour, Buckwheat and Corn Meal can be had at M. Geiser's Grocery. Dec 11-1f

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—Just arrived Candy, plain and fancy; Oranges, Lemons, Figs, French Currants, Layer and Seedless Raisins, Prunes, Citron, Cocoanuts and Cranberries. Also choice Syrups and New Orleans Molasses, Brown and White Sugar, all the above can be bought at Panic Prices, for the cash. M. GEISER, Dec 11-1f

FRESH OYSTERS.—At Reid's Grocery on Friday evening.

Fresh Seedless Raisins, Currants, Citron, and choice N. Orleans Molasses at Reid's.

FRESH STOCK.—The subscriber announces to his customers that he has just returned from the East with a full stock of Christmas goods, Fancy articles, etc. Dec 4-3f F. FORTIMAN.

CHAPPED HANDS, face, rough skin, pimples, ringworm, salt-rheum and other cutaneous affections cured, and the skin made soft and smooth, by using the JUNIPER TAR SYRUP, made by CASWELL, HAZARD & Co., New York. Be certain to get the Juniper Tar Soap, as there are many imitations made with common tar which are worthless. Dec 4-4w

WANTED.—Everybody to know that Amberson & Brackbill are selling Kerosene at 25 cents per gallon cash, 30 cents on credit. This Kerosene is guaranteed to stand a fire test of 110 degrees before it will explode and is not half Benzine as some would like you to believe. In this State there is a very rigid law against the sale of any oil under 110 degrees, for illumination. Nov 27-3f

FOR RENT.—The subscriber offers for rent his two-story Brick House, situated on the West extension of Main Street. Good stabling, wash house and other conveniences. DAVID MINOR. Nov 20-3f

CALL AND SETTLE.—Persons indebted the undersigned by either note or book account are requested to call and make payment to H. M. Sibbet, Esq., in whose hands said notes and accounts have been placed for collection. C. L. HOLLINGER. Nov 20-1f

HATS.—Mrs. K. G. STOVER has received a supply of the latest styles of hats.—Thankful to the ladies for past patronage, she solicits a continuance of the same. Oct 30-1f

Call at STOVER & WOLFF'S, N. E. Corner of the Diamond, if you want to buy cheap goods. They are making special inducements to purchasers, and discounting all cash bills, in order to reduce the stock on hand. Give them a call before buying elsewhere. July 24-1f

Make Money fast and honorably \$12.50 per day, or \$75 per week by at once applying for a territorial right, which are given free to agents, to sell the best, strongest, most useful, and rapid selling Sewing Machine, and Patent Button Hole Worker ever used or recommended by families, or buy one for your own use, it is only \$5. Sent free by express. Address for particulars Jerome B. Hudson & Co., Corner Greenwich & Cortlandt Sts., New York.

MARRIAGES.

By Rev. J. Smith Gordon, on the 4th inst., GEORGE W. PARK, Esq., editor of Park's Floral Gazette, to Miss JENNIE M., eldest daughter of Jno. F. M. Allen, Esq., all of Faunettsburg, Pa.

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