

CURRENT NEWS.

It is not yet decided whether the Republicans will nominate the stamp of Grant's cigar for Vice President, or his horse.

A man in New Orleans is under arrest for assault and battery upon an elephant.

Chicago has been fixed on as the place, and the 20 of May next as the time, at which will be held the Republican National Convention for the nomination of a Presidential ticket.

All the nominees on the radical ticket, in Alabama are either Northern men or negroes. In respect to quality, there is no marked difference. Except as to color, it is a very even ticket.

The Neph Times says that there is a band of gypsies encamped near Shawano, and among them a beautiful young girl of eighteen years, the daughter of the chief, who offers her and \$10,000 in cash to any nice young man who will marry her.

ROMANTIC.—We knew a rich man in the West, who called his mansion "Glenmary," out of respect to his wife Mary, who had died. One of his neighbors now to be outdone in conjugal affection, built a new cabin and called it "Glenbetsy."

A Western journalist, whose wife had just presented him with twins, and who for that reason was compelled to neglect his paper for one day, wrote the day after, the following excuse: "We were unable to issue our paper yesterday in consequence of the arrival of two extra males."

The oldest inhabitant of Detroit is a negro whose years are said to number 114. His fifth or sixth wife is a woman of 59.

A cane made from a piece of the Charter Oak, was presented to President Johnson on Tuesday.

Judge Woodward, of the Wilkes barre district, has been retained by General Morgan, of Ohio, to argue the points of law involved in the contest between him and the Hon. Columbus Delano for his seat in the House before the Committee of Elections. His argument will have special reference to the Ohio statute disfranchising deserters. Gen. Morgan will make his own argument, based on the evidence elicited by the committee.—Mr. Delano has secured the services of Walter Smith, Esq., to assist him. It is probable that the case will turn on the decision of the committee on the questions argued by Judge Woodward.—Pittsburg Post.

It is understood that the American Minister, Mr. Adams, will take his departure from England next April.

Mr. B. Wade thinks and says that "everything has gone to hell." But Wade's existence, says the New York World, shows that the remark is premature.

Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, thinks the North has insanely destroyed the cotton monopoly. His firm has lost over a million of dollars on cotton. Hence these tears.

The German element in St. Louis has triumphed in opposition to the law prohibiting the sale of lager beer on Sunday.

Fifteen hundred Mississippi freedmen want to go to Liberia. They find they can't live here without work.

Prentice suggests a new test oath for Congressmen, that they shall swear to support everything outside the Constitution.

The last new feat for a circus acrobat, consists in turning a double somersault over sixteen muskets with fixed bayonets, the guns being fired at the moment of the leap.

A negro man and woman at Orange Court House, Va., refuse to be free, thinking it robbery that their masters should be deprived of their property without pay.

Baecher's church is so much like a theatre, that people go out during the closing prayer from force of habit.

The other day the signboards of two trains were maliciously exchanged in Albany, large numbers of people started for the wrong destinations, and both trains had to return to the stations.

A twelve year old child named Ella Soule is traveling and lecturing on Temperance in Ohio. She asserts with much gravity that she has been totally abstemious all her life.

A mixture of equal parts of treacle and bicarbonate of soda, if applied to the feet, is said to be an infallible cure for chilblains.

Two boys out in Iowa attempted to blow up a stump with gunpowder. The charge not exploding, they endeavored to start it by blowing up the fuse. One of them lost his head and a leg or two, and the other an eye and an arm.

The Democrat.



HARVEY SICKLER, Editor. TUNKHANNOCK, PA.

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1868.

ADVERTISING AGENTS, EXCHANGES, and all others interested, will please note the CHANGE OF TITLE of this paper, from THE NORTH BRANCH DEMOCRAT to WYOMING DEMOCRAT.

Pay of the Members of the Legislature.

The compensation of the members of the Pennsylvania Legislature is so wrapped up in mystery that it may be doubted whether any person can state the precise sum, even after a minute investigation of the subject. The last Legislature, though ravenous after the public money, did not dare to pass any general law increasing the pay of the members, but concealed their attack upon the public treasury under the clauses of the general appropriation bill.—By the acts of May 7, 1855, and April 21, 1858, the Members of the Legislature are entitled to receive a salary of seven hundred dollars, twenty five dollars for stationery, newspapers and lights, and fifteen cts. per mile circular in going to and returning from the session, the Speaker of the respective houses obtaining one dollar per day additional compensation. In case of non-attendance absence four dollars per day is to be deducted, and no greater or other compensation or allowance than that provided by the act can be voted by either house to any members for services.

Such was the state of the law at the end of 1866, but the Legislature of 1867, thinking that their invaluable services could not be too highly compensated, provided, in the appropriation bill, that each member should receive three hundred dollars in addition to their present salary. The pay of each legislator, therefore, amounted to one thousand dollars. By another section inserted between the appropriation for paying St. Paul's Methodist Church for the use of tents and the appropriation for renewing the meridian line of Dauphin Co., the State Treasurer is authorized to pay the necessary expenses, including clerk hire of the select committees; but the payment of any sum of money to any member of any select committee for his services, or the payment of any expense accruing after the adjournment of the Legislature, is prohibited. Keeping under consideration the above condensed statement of the law, made after a minute and thorough examination, and believed to be strictly accurate, the necessity of the resolution offered by Mr. John S. Mann, of Potter County, and adopted by the House, is sufficiently apparent. The resolution requests the Auditor-General "To make up this next annual report so as to show the gross sum paid for extra copies of every report or document ordered by resolution of either House, and so as to show the whole sum paid to every special committee of each House, and the amount paid to each person connected with said committee."

This is not sufficient, however; a mere request from one branch of the Legislature has no binding effect upon the Auditor-General. A law should be passed by both Houses requiring the report to be made out so as to show the whole sum paid for every document and to every committee.—A request for the re-arrangement of the items of the Auditor-General's Report for 1867 would be advisable, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Mann will procure the information, particularly as to the expense of the printed documents. Some information however, as to the special committees and other matters, can be obtained from the published report for 1867; the payments made in certain cases are, undoubtedly, contrary to law, unless the wise provisions cited above have been repealed.

The act of 1855, unreppealed except as to the section fixing the pay at five hundred dollars, which was increased to seven hundred dollars in 1858, evidently was intended to forbid the members from being paid any additional sum while serving on committees, and the sixty-first section of the act of April 11, 1857, provided that "This section shall not be construed to authorize the payment of any sum of money to any member of the special committees for his services, or of any expense accruing after the adjournment of the Legislature." A comma is inserted after the word "services," and the words "accruing after the adjournment" refer clearly to expense and not to services. But the committees have read the law so as to permit them to receive pay for services before the adjournment. Nine thousand six hundred and ninety-four dollars double compensation has been paid to the members of seven special committees of the House. The accounts of the Senate do not contain any such scandalous items. The above sum is for pay alone, there being in addition, expenses, clerk hire, witness fees, service of subpoenas amounting to \$5,655. And what makes the matter worse is the concealment of the expense, accidental or otherwise, caused by charging the same committee under a different names. Thus we have a committee "to investigate certain charges in reference to the Allegheny County License law," both being the same body of men. Again, we have a "Committee to investigate the alleged interest which officers and directors of railroads have in transportation companies," to which the same remarks apply.

There is also a payment to Jacob Kennedy, member of the House, for extra services, three hundred dollars. Whether this is the increase of compensation voted in the appropriation bill or not, there are no means of telling. But as the phrase "extra services" is not used in the bill passed by the Legislature, it would seem to be a further increase of salary. When a hasty glance at the Auditor-General's Report reveals such irregularities as have been mentioned, it would seem a proper step for Legislature to examine further into the matter. If the law has been strictly observed, then the reputation of the Legislature of 1867 will be rescued from the odium in which it is at present held; but if illegal acts have been perpetrated, then the proper remedy should be applied.—Phila. Ledger.

Political and Statistical Almanacs. The Washington National Intelligencer, February 7, thus estimates the value of the political and statistical almanacs for the coming year: Mr. Greeley, quite a number of years ago, compiled the Tribune Almanac, and has kept it up every succeeding year. The one for the current year is tolerably well made up, but we are sorry to see advertisements interspersed all through the reading matter. This is a great nuisance, and lessens the value of the book. Credit ought to be above mere money-making in such a business. The example of Greeley has set others to work. Van Evrie, Horton & Co. have for some years published the Democratic Almanac, which is, in some respects, even a better and more useful work this year than the Tribune Almanac. Better still, in the fullness and completeness of its statistics, is the Evening Journal Almanac, of Albany. But the New York World seems to have waited for all these to make their cast, in order to show how far it could excel them all. Its Almanac for this year is a wonderful exhibition of skill and industry in compilation, and far exceeds anything of the kind we have seen. In lieu of the Tribune's advertisements, it gives us most important and useful information. Its election returns are fuller than those of its rivals. We have, moreover, all the acts of Congress bearing on reconstruction, and a very full and careful narrative of the political events under this head since the close of the war. In short, this little book should be in the hands of every politician, editor, or any one, indeed, who wants to be well posted. It would do much good, we think, to some of our Radical Senators who have been dabbling in figures of late, unadvisedly, and somewhat at random. It might save them from "many a blunder and foolish notion." They cannot buy a copy to soon.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BONDS.

Republication—A "trostly loil" gentile gentleman (?) takes a lesson in decency.

The following spicy correspondence explains itself: [Copy.] New York, 28th Jan., 1868.

To the Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania: We have received from Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons, of London, \$190,886.10 Pennsylvania State 7 per cent. stock, which we sent to Philadelphia for redemption, to be followed in a few days by a further lot of \$100,000.

Besides these, Messrs. Rothschild hold about \$200,000 more of stock already overdue and becoming due this year.—These gentlemen again complain of the injustice of the action of the State of Pennsylvania, in forcing its creditors to accept payment in a depreciated currency, and have instructed us to receive payment only under protest, as heretofore.

They would, however, prefer to hold the stock, if an arrangement could be made with your State for a continuation of the loan, and will only accept payment now if compelled to do so by a discontinuance of the interest. We have written to the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Philadelphia to confer with you on this subject before accepting payment, and we beg you will give this matter your serious consideration and let us know whether an extension as desired by Messrs. Rothschild is possible.

Hoping soon to hear from you, we remain yours respectfully, AUG. BELMONT & Co.

Harrisburg, Jan. 30, 1868.

Messrs. Aug Belmont & Co., New York: Gentlemen: In reply to your note of the 28th, I beg to say that no arrangement can be made by which the Messrs. Rothschild can retain the old loan (now overdue) and continue to draw interest on it.

You state that should no arrangement be made you will be compelled to accept payment under protest. To this we have not the slightest objection. Your complaints about the injustice of our not paying you in gold may seem just to you, but to us they seem ridiculous.

I have no doubt Messrs. Aug. Belmont & Co. had many facilities out, when the legal-tender act was passed, which became after gold had risen to a premium of 80. I have not yet heard of their conscience compelling them to pay in gold instead of the legal tender.

We are willing to give you the pound of flesh, but not one drop of Christian blood. Respectfully, (Signed) W. H. KEMBLE, State Treas.

[Copy.] New York, Feb. 4, 1868.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., addressed to my house, in reply to our application on behalf of Messrs. Rothschild & Sons, of London, who had instructed us to receive payment of the Pennsylvania State stock now due, under protest in case the State should not pay the principal in coin, and in case no arrangement could be effected having in view a continuation of the interest and an extension of the time of redemption of the capital.

Messrs. Rothschild in this matter as trustees of the holders of the debentures of the late United States Bank, of Pennsylvania, residing in England and on the continent of Europe. You seem so well acquainted with the financial transactions of States and individuals, that you must know that by these debentures hundreds of widows and orphans have been reduced to beggary.

Messrs. Rothschild in trying to save for their constituents all they can out of the wreck, have made through my house an application, which they as well as I deem just and equitable, and this application was made in a courteous and respectful manner. In so doing Messrs. Rothschild have evinced a new proof, if any was wanted, of their strict and honorable appreciation of the obligations assumed as trustees for the faith of the State of Pennsylvania and its great banking institutions.

Your reference to the liabilities of my house, contracted in coin and assumed by you to have been paid in currency, is as impertinent as it is untrue in point of fact. August Belmont & Co. have never declined to meet any demand for the payment in coin of any liability contracted by them in coin, before or since the Legal-tender act.

If they had adopted a course towards their creditors which you propose to take on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania towards her unfortunate creditors represented by the Messrs. Rothschild, there might have been some excuse for the lack of courtesy which you have exhibited in your letter to them.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to express my regret that the State of Pennsylvania should have for its Treasurer a person who could so far disgrace the State he assumes to represent and forget the dignity of the office he holds, and to reply to a civil business communication in a manner which must raise the blush of shame on the cheek of every citizen of that great and honored State. I am your obedient serv't, AUGUST BELMONT.

[Signed] William H. Kemble, Esq. State Treasurer of the State of Penn'a, Harrisburg.

IMPEACHMENT.—The question of impeachment has been again raised by the mongrel Congress. The impression seems to gain strength that the impeachment of the President will be the surest and speediest way to effect reprobation.

New Advertisements.

C. P. MILLER'S OLD STAND, OPPOSITE OSTERHOFF'S LAW OFFICE.

Ready made Clothing

Reduced PRICES!

J. REDLICH, (Successor of Straus & Rellich.)

Having purchased the interest of Straus, is now enabled to sell

READY-MADE CLOTHING, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, SHIRTS, DRAWERS, HATS, &c., &c.

AT MUCH LESS PRICES Than can be found elsewhere for the same kind and quality.

My stock is new and complete. He respectfully invites the people of Tunkhannock and vicinity to give their attention before making purchases elsewhere.

Remember the place C. P. MILLER'S OLD STAND opposite OSTERHOFF'S LAW OFFICE. Tunkhannock, Jan. 1, 1868.

COURTS OF APPEAL.

THE Commissioners of Wyoming County have for hearing appeals from the Assessors' (Criminals) assessment of 1868, to wit: Exeter and Feb. 24, at the house of Levi Northrup, 5 Winters in Northampton; Moore, Feb. 25, at the house of John Wall, Monroe; Eaton, Feb. 26, at the house of Peter Strub, Eaton; Fortson and Feb. 27, at the house of H. Hitchcock, North Branch York; Fortson, Feb. 28, at the house of H. Graves in Wintham; Wintham, Feb. 29, at the house of C. L. Vaughn in Mohopony; Brantley, March 2, at the house of H. W. Dowlney, Laceyville; Moschopp, March 3, at the house of Wm. H. Wright in Mohopony; Washington, March 4, at the house of Jacob Kintner, Russell Hill; Lemon, March 5, at the house of Benj. P. Carver, in Lemon; Nicholson, March 6, at the house of E. N. Bacon's old stand, Nicholson; Clinton, March 7, at the house of S. C. Mathewson, Factoryville; Cretzfeld, March 9, at the School House near Agers; Falls, March 10, at the house of Jacob Townsend, Tunkhannock Twp.; March 11th, at the Court House, Tunkhannock; March 12th, at the Court House in Tunkhannock Borough.

The Commissioners wish it distinctly understood, that they will close their appeals in each township, at 7 o'clock P. M., in order to give them sufficient time to reach their next appointment the same eve. All persons having business with the Commissioners will govern themselves accordingly. (By order of Commissioners) WM. F. TERRY, Clerk, Commissioners' Office Tunk., Feb. 11, '68.

THE CLOUD IN THE WEST.—The foolish bondholders, on the Atlantic coast, have not the faintest idea of how terribly in earnest the great North West is about paying off the public indebtedness in the same currency in which it was contracted.—It will be the part of wisdom, in the bondholders, to compromise, and take their pay in greenbacks—not more depreciated than these were in 1864—when so much of the debt was contracted. We are in favor of paying off the debt honestly, in greenbacks, at not less than an average worth of fifty cents on the gold dollar.—This will be a handsome profit for old money-bags, who bought these obligations at thirty five cents on the dollar, and has been drawing gold interest at par, ever since.

The Marion County Black Republican Convention, in Indiana, (Indianapolis, the capital, is in Marion county,) has passed very strong resolutions that the Five-twenty and other such bonds, ought to be paid off in greenbacks. The Fort Wayne (Ind) Democrat—next to the Indianapolis Herald, the most influential Democratic paper in the State, predicts that the Black Republican Convention of Indiana will endorse the proposition that the bonds shall have no other payment than that kind of currency promised for them.

We recommend the shoddy-bondholders to look out for the locomotive when the bell rings.—Freeman's Journal.

THE SOLDIER AND BOND-HOLDER.—There are two efficient ways of "sustaining the Government," viz: To fight its battles; in time of war, and pay its taxes in time of peace. The bond-holder does neither, and yet he is the petted and privileged favorite of the Government. The soldier does both, and yet he is consigned to poverty and neglect.

Married.

JACKSON—CLARK—On the 24th of Dec., 1867, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. Geo. Greenfield, Wm. Jackson to Miss Sarah A. Clark, both of Monroe.

MOSS—CAREY—On the 31st inst., at the Parsonage of the M. E. Church, Centreport, by Rev. Geo. Greenfield, Mr. Aaron Moss, of Baltax, to Miss Maria Alice Carey, of Northampton.

Died.

SICKLER—In Monroe, of consumption, on Saturday January 25th, Eliza J. Sickler, aged 27 yrs. 2 mths and 29 days. She leaves a small child and many relatives and friends, who deeply mourn her loss.

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No. 116 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Penn'a.

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