

CURRENT NEWS.

A Troy paper states that a pig was buried in a mass of grain in an elevator recently burnt, and after remaining there a month was rescued alive.

The Democratic candidate for Mayor in Augusta, Georgia, was recently elected by about 1,500 majority. This shows where things will be in the South when ballots are counted, not bayonets.

In 1046 Massachusetts did a brisk business in trading Indians for negro slaves.

Slavery is being established in Australia.

A number of hunters Lickin-creek Valley Millin county, were some days ago chased by eight or ten wolves. One of the wolves, which the hunters managed to kill, measured six feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail.

Thurlow Weed's paper says this Congress "can more easily do a foolish thing than any Congress that has ever convened."

A fresh novelty is a negro preacher who accompanies psalm tunes on a banjo.

It is said to be quite the thing for young men in Austria to wear corsets.

In no State in the Union are the county papers so genteel, sparkling and able, as in Pennsylvania.

The Columbia and Port Deposit railroad is completed, and said to be a success.

Old Bull performed in Lancaster, on Monday last, says the *Intelligencer*.

Geo. S. Twitchell and wife were indicted in Philadelphia, last week, for the murder of Mrs. Hill.

At Halifax, potatoes are only 20 cents a bushel, but Halifax is evidently a good way from here.

The Central Pacific Railway has hired 400 men to shovel off its tracks this winter.

A Florida farmer has been able this year to raise two crops of potatoes on his land.

The total earnings of the American people are said to be \$7,500,000,000 annually.

In Kentucky, fashionable ladies indulge in fox-hunting.

Two and a half to three feet of snow on the Alleghanies.

Col. S. W. Alexander, assessor of Berks county, has been convicted of defrauding the revenue in the matter of whiskey.

Westmoreland county thieves have turned their attention to robbing school houses of their books.

Snow crushed in a mill, at Clover Run, burying seven workmen, all of whom were injured. So says the *Altoona Vindicator*.

Hudson, N. Y., has produced a hog 1500 pounds, weight.

In Paris they now send "tickets of admission" to fashionable funerals.

Mary Harris has got judgment of \$2,500 against her brother, in St. Louis court, for defaming her character.

Luke Tully shot his wife at Worcester, Mass., on Saturday, inflicting a severe wound. He then cut his own throat so badly that he is not expected to live. He had been absent from his wife for a couple of years.

SPLENDID CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, FREE TO ALL.—The enterprising Proprietors of the AMERICAN STOCK JOURNAL have put up 300,000 copies in packages of 3 each, with a finely illustrated Show Bill, Premium List, &c., which they offer to send free, and post paid to all who apply for them.—Every Farmer and Stock Breeder should avail themselves of this generous offer (to give away over \$30,000 worth of books), as the numbers contain near 100 pages of choice original articles, and a great number of valuable recipes for the cure of various diseases, such as Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, &c., are liable.—Farmers will find this monthly a very efficient aid in all the departments of Farming and Stock Breeding. It has a Veterinary Department under the charge of one of the ablest Professors in the United States, who answers the JOURNAL FREE OF CHARGE all questions relating to Sick, Injured or Diseased Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, or Poultry. Thus every Subscriber has a Horse and Cattle Doctor FREE. This JOURNAL is furnished at the low price of \$1.00 a year, specimen copies FREE. Address N. P. BOYER & CO., Publishers, Parkersburg, Chester Co., Pa.

DISPRESSING ACCIDENT.—On Monday last, about 11 o'clock a. m., Jennett Jones, a girl between fifteen and sixteen years of age, residing in West Pittston, was crossing L. & B. Railroad at its intersection with Luzerne Avenue. As she stepped upon the track her right foot went down between the two beams that cross the cattle guard. She succeeded in getting the right foot loose, then her left foot got fast. The engine, tender, and passenger car were rapidly approaching from the Railroad bridge. She saw her perilous situation and cried to Mr. Geo. L. Kern, who was driving by, for help. As soon as he could, he drove his horse to a fence and went to her rescue, but it was too late; the train had passed over the girl's left leg and mashed it from the foot to the knee so that amputation was rendered necessary. She had presence of mind enough to throw her body against the fence at the cattle guard, where she was obliged to meet her sad fate, and was there found holding on with desperate perseverance after the train had passed. Doctors Williams and Becker, assisted by Drs. Thayer and McAlarney, amputated the limb, and the sufferer is now understood to be as comfortable as could be expected. The case is one which has excited the deepest sympathy of the community.—Pittston Gazette.

The Democrat.



HARVEY SICKLER, Editor.

TUNKHANNOCK, PA.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1868.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK.—Cause—Printer Boy's Holiday—Office open and prepared to attend to all Job work.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON On Radicalism and the Finances.

The important points discussed by the President in his late Message to Congress, are the measures of the radicals in reference to the South and the condition of the Finances of the country. On these points we give the following liberal extracts. The other matters contained in the Message would hardly be found interesting to the general reader.

ON RADICALISM AND RECONSTRUCTION.

He says: Upon the resumption of Congress, it again becomes my duty to call your attention to the state of the Union, and to its disorganized condition under the various laws which have been passed upon the subject of Reconstruction. It may be safely assumed as an axiom in the government of States, that the greater wrongs inflicted upon a people are caused by unjust and arbitrary legislation, or by the unrelenting decrees of despotic rulers, and that the timely revocation of injurious and oppressive measures is the greatest good that can be conferred on a nation. The legislator or ruler who has the wisdom and magnanimity to retract his steps when convinced of error, will sooner or later be rewarded with the respect and gratitude of an intelligent and patriotic people. Our own history, although embracing a period less than a century, affords abundant proof that most if not all of our domestic troubles, are directly traceable to violations of the organic law and excessive legislation. The most striking illustrations of this fact are furnished by the enactments of the past three years upon the question of reconstruction. After a fair trial they have substantially failed and proved pernicious in their results, and there seems to be no good reason why they should longer remain on the statute book. States to which the Constitution guarantees a Republican form of government have been reduced to Military Dependence, in each of which the people have been made subject to the arbitrary will of the Commanding General. Although the Constitution requires that each State shall be represented in Congress, Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas are yet excluded from the two Houses, and contrary to the express provisions of that instrument were denied participation in the recent election for a President and Vice-President of the United States. The attempt to place the white population under the domination of persons of color in the South, has impaired if not destroyed the kindly relations that had previously existed between them, and mutual distrust has engendered a feeling of animosity which, leading in some instances to collision and bloodshed, has prevented that co-operation between the two races so essential to the success of industrial enterprise in the Southern States. Nor has the inhabitants of those States alone suffered from the disturbed condition of affairs growing out of these Congressional enactments. The entire Union has been agitated by grave apprehensions of troubles which might again involve the peace of the Nation. Its interests have been injuriously affected by the derangement of business and labor, and the consequent want of prosperity throughout that portion of the country. The Federal Constitution, the Magna Charta of American rights, under whose wise and salutary provisions we have successfully conducted all our domestic and foreign affairs, sustained ourselves in peace and in war, and become a great nation among the Powers of the Earth, must assuredly be now adequate to the settlement of questions growing out of the civil war waged for its vindication. This great fact is made manifest by the condition of the country when Congress assembled in the month of December 1865. Civil strife had ceased. The spirit of rebellion had spent its entire force. In the Southern States the people had warmed into national life, and throughout the whole country a healthy reaction in public sentiment had taken place.

ON THE FINANCES.

He says: "It is one of the most successful devices in times of peace or war, of expansions or revolutions, to accomplish the transfer of all the precious metals from the great mass of the people into the hands of the few, where they are hoarded in secret places, or deposited under bolts and bars, while the people are left to endure all the inconvenience, sacrifice, and demoralization resulting from the use of depreciated and worthless paper."

ON THE FINANCES.

In 1789, when the Government commenced operations under the Federal Constitution, it was burdened with an indebtedness of seventy millions of dollars, created during the war of the Revolution. This amount had been reduced to forty-five millions of dollars when in 1812 war was declared against Great Britain. The three years struggle that followed largely increased the national obligations, and in 1816 they had obtained the sum of one hundred and twenty-seven millions. Wise and economical legislation, however, enabled the Government to pay the entire amount within a period of twenty years, and the extinguishment of the national debt filled the land with rejoicing, and was one of the great events of President Jackson's administration. After its redemption a large fund remained in the Treasury, which was deposited for safe-keeping with the several States, on condition that it should be returned when required by the public wants. In 1819—the year after the termination of an expensive war with Mexico—we found ourselves involved in a debt of sixty-four millions; and this was the amount owed by the Government in 1860, just prior to the outbreak of the rebellion. In the spring of 1861 our civil war commenced. Each year of its continuance made an enormous addition to the debt; and when in the spring of 1865, the nation successful emerged from the conflict, the obligations of the Government had reached the immense sum of \$2,873,992,903. The Secretary of the Treasury shows that on the first day of November, 1867, this amount had been reduced to \$2,491,504,450; but at the same time his report exhibits an increase during the past year of \$35,625,102; for the debt on the first day of November last is stated to have been \$2,527,129,552. It is estimated by the Secretary that the returns for the past month will add to our liabilities the further sum of eleven millions—making a total increase during thirteen months of forty-six and a half millions.

ON THE FINANCES.

In my message to Congress of December 4th 1865, it was suggested that a policy should be devised which, without being oppressive to the people, would at once begin to effect a reduction of the debt, and if persisted in, discharge it fully within a definite number of years. The Secretary of the Treasury forcibly recommends legislation of this character, and justly urges that the longer it is deferred the more difficult must become its accomplishments. We should follow the wise precedents established in 1789 and 1816, and without further delay make provisions for the payment of our obligations at as early a period as may be practicable. The fruits of their labors should be enjoyed by our citizens, rather than to be used to build up and sustain moneyed monopolies in our own and other lands. Our foreign debt is computed by the Secretary of the Treasury at eight hundred and fifty millions; citizens of foreign countries receive interest upon a large portion of our securities, and American tax-payers are made to contribute large sums for their support. The idea that such a debt is to become permanent should at all times be discarded, as involving taxation to heavy to be borne, and payment once in every sixteen years, at the present rate of interest, of an amount equal to the original sum. The vast debt, if permitted to become permanent and increasing, must eventually be gathered into the hands of a few, and enable them to exert a dangerous and controlling power in the affairs of the Government. The borrowers would become servants to the lenders—the lenders the masters of the people. We now render ourselves upon giving freedom to four millions of the colored race; it will then be our shame that forty millions of people, by their own toleration of usurpation profligacy, have suffered themselves to become enslaved, and merely exchanged slave-owners for new task-masters in the shape of bond-holders and tax-gatherers. Besides, permanent debts pertain to monarchical governments, and tending to monopolies perpetuities, and class legislation, are totally irreconcilable with free institutions. Introduced into our republican system, they would gradually but surely sap its foundations, eventually subvert our governmental fabric, and erect upon its ruins a moneyed aristocracy. It is our sacred duty to transmit unimpaired to our posterity the blessings of liberty which were bequeathed to us by the founders of the Republic, and by our example

Under the influence of party passion and sectional prejudice, other acts have been passed not warranted by the Constitution. Congress has already been made familiar with my views respecting the "Tenure of Office bill." Experience has proved that its repeal is demanded by the best interests of the country, and that while it remains in force the President cannot enjoin that rigid accountability of public officers so essential to an honest and efficient execution of the laws. Its revocation would enable the Executive Department to exercise the power of appointment and removal in accordance with the original design of the Federal Constitution. The act of March 2, 1867, making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes contains provisions which interfere with the President's Constitutional functions as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and deny to the States of the Union the right to protect themselves by means of their own militia.

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