

Law of Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscription.

Railroad Meeting.

A call for a general county meeting, signed by several hundred citizens, appears in our columns to-day.

New County Movement.

A town meeting was held in the Lyceum Hall, in Tamaqua, Schuylkill Co., on Saturday evening last, for the purpose of adopting measures to procure, at an early period, the passage of a Bill, by our State Legislature, creating a new county out of parts of Schuylkill, Luzerne and Lehigh, to be called Jackson.

Decision in the Supreme Court.

The following opinion given by Chief Justice Black, in the case of Frantz against Knauus, in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, we glean from the Philadelphia Sun, of Friday last and may be of interest to many of our readers.

A Whig Governor of Maine.

The Hon. William G. Crosby, the Whig candidate at the late election in the State of Maine, was, on Friday, last, elected Governor of the State by the Legislature, now in session at Augusta.

Schools in Lehigh.

We are indebted to Messrs. Laury and Barr, of the House, at Harrisburg, for copies of the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools. An abstract of the general operations of the system we gave in our last week's paper.

To give our readers an idea of how they dispose of human flesh as personal property, we glean the following notice of a sale of negroes, from the Fincastle (Va.) Whig, being the property of a deceased citizen of that place:

"The largest sale of negroes that perhaps ever occurred in this county, came off at the Newall Place, about 7 miles below Buchanan, on the 27th ultimo.—There were 89 negroes sold. The sale amounted to \$46,523, or about \$534 each. The negroes were made up of all ages and sexes, from the old man and woman of more than four-score down to the suckling infant less than a month old.

Pennsylvania and the Cabinet.

What a pity it is, thinks the Village Record, there are not as many Cabinet places as there are States in the Union—one for each State; especially one apiece for the States that voted for Pierce and King; for each of those States seem to think they are entitled to a Cabinet appointment.

The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Sinking Springs.

The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Sinking Springs, publishes its customary annual statement; from which it appears that 300 new members were added during the past year.—The receipts into the Treasury amounted to \$1,229 17, out of which was paid for incidental expenses \$627 37—leaving a balance for the year of \$601 80, which added to the balance of \$1,438 30, as per last year's report, makes a total balance of \$2,040 10, bearing interest, besides \$660 outstanding debts.

Important Legislative Report.

The undersigned, Commissioners appointed under the resolution, passed 4th of May, 1852, authorizing the Governor "to appoint Commissioners to revise the code of Pennsylvania," in proceeding to the discharge of their duties, found their duties limited and prescribed by the resolution authorizing their appointment, as follows:

- 1. To digest and simplify the general tax laws of the State, and to report them to the next Legislature.
2. To prepare drafts of general laws, to be submitted to the consideration of the next Legislature on the subjects.
3. Of selling real estate by guardians, executors, administrators and others, in a representative capacity.
4. Of the creation of corporations.
5. Of the payment of claims against the State.

"In order to lessen as much as possible the necessity of special legislation." It will thus be seen that the powers of the resolution itself are not so extensive as the title would indicate.

Our Commission organized in the city of Philadelphia on the 13th of July last. The labor of attending to particular portions of the subjects was primarily distributed among the individual members of the Commission, so as to embrace them all. Each branch having been so examined in detail, the whole was then examined and revised by all the members, and the final disposition of them thus made.

The object of taxation is revenue, and hence by increasing the amount and variety of taxable property you increase the revenue, and may as the revenue thus increases, reduce the rates of taxation.

The proper imposition of taxes upon the people is one of the highest duties devolving upon the Government. But in the adjustment of our revenue system we are met at the threshold by an almost insurmountable difficulty.

In Maryland the assessors are named in the act of Assembly, and each small county forms an assessment district, while the large counties are divided into two or more districts.

Prior to 1840, it was the practice in many, if not all the counties, to assess the real estate one-fourth or one-half less than its real value. This system while it increased the rate of taxation, did not add to the amount collected from the people.

By the bill submitted, the assessor is authorized to subpoena witnesses and examine them under oath in relation to the value of real estate, and to require the production of title papers, which will materially aid him in the performance of his duties.

For the assessment of personal property we have, it is believed, introduced the only efficient system which can be devised. The assessors are furnished with a printed circular by the Commissioners of the county, which they are required to serve upon every taxable inhabitant.

turn it to the assessor under oath, the form of which is appended thereto. This feature is not entirely new, for in many respects it resembles the provisions of existing enactments. Under the present system a very large proportion of personal property escapes taxation altogether.

The best evidence should always be taken, and as the party making investments knows the exact amount he owns or controls, he should be required to disclose it. Conscientious men now pay more than their share of taxes, while those less scrupulous evade the payment of the amount justly due by them.

We have provided for a County Board of Revision with enlarged powers and duties, and it will be seen by reference to the bill, that if any person who has neglected to return to the assessor his personal property, may make it to the Board of Revision.

We have continued the State Board of Revenue Commissioners, with extended powers, but confined to their duties to the equalization of assessments of real estate. It is believed that by the provisions of the bill, all personal property or nearly so, will be assessed, and consequently taxed at its full value.

By the provisions of the act of 1844, the Revenue Commissioners can only act upon the aggregate valuation of property in each county; and as the returns made by the County Commissioners are in the aggregate by wards and townships, but little information could be obtained from them.

The property exempted from taxation by our bill, is nearly the same as under existing laws.—The policy of relieving from taxation the property of institutions of learning, in actual use, is well established; also churches, hospitals, and generally all establishments for public charity or benevolence.

We have extended the provisions of the 42d section of the Revenue Act passed in 1844, for the collection of taxes on the interest paid by any county or city, or any evidence of indebtedness issued, so as to include all companies incorporated by law.

Nothing has been invested which is not deemed essential to the efficacy and success of the bill. The bill must be considered as a whole, and it will require some examination fully to understand its various parts.

In accordance with this opinion we have inserted a section in the bill, that in the event of the revenue from real and personal property reaching the sum of \$1,800,000 at the close of the fiscal year 1855, then the tax shall be reduced to two mills.

How comes it that this little volume, composed by humble men in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the human mind and on the social system than all the other books put together?

In closing our report upon this branch of our subject, we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the Legislature will adopt the bill as reported. The stringent provisions which have been inserted are its vitality; strike them out, and the bill is not worth the paper upon which it is written.

Wealth of a Southern Planter.

The New York Tribune translates the following from a German paper:

"A rich planter, a Mr. Delabitzcher, descended from an ancient French family, died recently in New Orleans. He was a young man at the time of the first French Revolution, and fled from the guillotine to become a merchant's clerk in the Crescent city.

He has already served two full terms in the Senate, and will have no superior in that body in comprehensiveness and clearness of intellect.

Under the will of Hart Grandon Institution.—Under the will of Hart Grandon, late of Philadelphia, the sum of \$30,000 was set apart, the interest whereof is to be loaned to young men, to enable them to commence business.

The Baltimore Platform.—It will astonish the Pierce men at Washington, says the Ohio State Journal, to learn that the Ohio Democracy repudiate and spit upon the Baltimore platform of Locofocism.

Chinese Jugglers.—A company of genuine Chinese Jugglers have lately found their way to this country, and are performing at Cincinnati, we see, just now, with great success.

Profitable Hen.—There is a chicken hen not far from West Chester, Pa., which hatched and raised last summer, three broods of chickens, two of fifteen each, and one of twelve—making in all 42 chickens.

The Ten Millions.—The following is the resolution to the ten millions, which the Democratic members of Congress propose to place at the disposal of Gen. Pierce:

Resolved that the sum of ten millions of dollars be set apart out of any funds in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and be placed at the disposal of the President, for the purpose of enabling him, during the recess of Congress, to meet such exigencies as may arise out of those momentous subjects connected with the present state of the relations of this country with the other powers of the earth, so liable, on account of their character and complexity, to present themselves from hour to hour for practical and immediate consideration.

The Bible. How comes it that this little volume, composed by humble men in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the human mind and on the social system than all the other books put together?

GLEANNINGS.

Hon. James Cooper, who has been detained at home by indisposition, we are glad to notice, has returned to Washington, and resumed his seat in the Senate, in an improved state of health.

Hon. William B. Campbell, declines a re-nomination for Governor of Tennessee.

The tobacco crop of the United States, for the year 1850, amounted to about 200,000,000 pounds. Of this, 81,000,000 were consumed at home.

The Whigs of Rhode Island, in officers, nominated Hon. Samuel B. Arnold, for U. S. Senator, who will undoubtedly be chosen as the Whigs have a majority in both branches of the Legislature.

Stephen Spaulding, one of the veterans who composed Washington's life guard, died on the 30th ult., at Monroe, Me., aged ninety-seven years.

It is said the late Amos Lawrence gave away in charity upwards of five hundred thousand dollars.

The printers of Chicago celebrated Franklin's birthday in great style, and through the medium of the telegraph, invited the Presidents of the different Printers' Unions throughout the country.

Hon. Rufus Choate, has been appointed Attorney General of Massachusetts.

The expenditures of the city of New York for the next fiscal year is estimated at four millions of dollars. That is exclusive of the tax for the support of the State and Federal Governments.

Killed by a Cow.—An elderly lady, named Keever, residing on Light Street, Baltimore, was so severely gored by a cow, on Saturday week, that she died from the effects of the injuries received.

Miraculous Escape.—On Wednesday morning of last week, as a stone team was coming down Lehigh Hill, in consequence of the road being so very slippery, the horses could not hold the wagon, but were forced down the hill at so rapid a rate that they were unable to make the angle of the road, in consequence thereof they were precipitated over a steep bank, against a row of houses, turning the wagon and horses completely upside down.

Worthy of Imitation.—The borough of West Chester, in Chester county, is possessed of a Public Square, containing 6 acres, handsomely laid out and planted with trees. There are 238 trees in the square, comprising about 160 distinct species, all of which are flourishing finely, and some of them have attained considerable size.

High Grades.—In his speech delivered at the Railroad celebration at Wheeling, the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Road said:

"As to the power of overcoming high grades, Mr. Mayor, we claim to have taught a lesson to the world. During the whole of the past summer, this company carried the United States Mail over a grade of 630 feet to the mile, without the aid of assistant power, and every bar of iron which was laid upon the track, between the Kingwood tunnel and Fairmount, was passed over the same summit."

Re-annexed.—Senator Buckalew, immediately after the meeting of the Legislature, carried a bill through the Senate to re-annex Rowing Creek township and parts of Franklin and Madison townships to Columbia county, and on Saturday Mr. Scott called up this bill in the House and had it passed by a vote of more than two-thirds.