

DOMESTIC CREDITORS.

CIRCULAR.

TREASURY OFFICE, Harrisburg, Aug. 1, 1842.

To the Domestic Creditors of the State Pennsylvania.

In order that you may be able to understand fully the provision of the Act of Assembly, passed at the extra session, in relation to the payment of the claims of the Domestic Creditors, I have directed the section of said act, relating there to be published herewith, to wit:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met: And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the State Treasurer shall be, and he is hereby authorized, empowered and required to apply and pay out so much of the Interest Funds, as may be necessary to meet demands on the Treasury under the requisition of law, to various purposes designated by the specific acts of Assembly, under which such requisition shall be made, (except the interest guaranteed to Railroad and Navigation Companies;)

and the State Treasurer is also directed to pay out of the said funds, the sum of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, to the Commissioners of the Internal Improvement Fund, to be expended if necessary for ordinary repairs upon the finished lines of Canals and Railroad of this Commonwealth, and the balance which may be in the Treasury on the 1st day of August, November and February, next, (except the money which appertains to the Motive Power Fund, and such sum not exceeding forty thousand dollars, as the Treasurer may deem necessary to retain for purpose of meeting the current demands on the Treasury.) shall be paid by the State Treasury to such creditors of the State as have received, or are entitled credit for the amount of their claims on the books of the Auditor General, bearing interest from the fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, by virtue of a resolution passed the seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, including the retained per centage on all work done prior to the said fourth day of May, and all payments heretofore made to contractors shall be applied to work done prior to the fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and also to payment of such of the creditors as have claim upon the State for labor and repairs, and new work done, and damages, or materials furnished, or fuel for locomotives on the finished lines of canals and railroads, prior to the first day of April last. And when the claims of the foresaid creditors shall have been paid, then to the payment of all those having claims entered on the books of the Auditor General, for work done on the Erie and North Branch Extensions and all other works until otherwise directed by law, and those creditors of the Commonwealth, who signed receipts and vouchers for their claims, in advance or previous to the time of the actual payment of the same, shall be allowed interest up to the time of actual payment, according to the provisions of the act of the seventh of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two: Provided also, that all the creditors entitled to be paid under this act, shall be paid pro rata in proportion to the several sums due each.

The amount of available funds in the Treasury on the 1st of August after making the payment &c. first provided for under the act, being but small, (and the whole amount of claims not having been ascertained,) and inasmuch as the pro rata dividend if made at that time would be small, I have therefore deemed it advisable (although it is my desire that it should be paid as early as possible,) not to make any payment under said act until the 1st November next. This arrangement will give to the creditors the same amount at the November payment, as they would have been entitled to at August and November had the payments been so made and save them considerable time and expense, and will also afford the opportunity of having the proper arrangement made at this office in relation to the claim, &c.

JOB MANN, State Treasurer;

The following is an extract of a letter from Col. Benton, written to a friend in Detroit some two weeks since. He is not a candidate for the Presidency; 'You are in error in classing me among those who are before the people for the Presidency, I have taken care to keep myself out of that category—firstly, by declining a nomination from the citizens of Philadelphia city and county; and, secondly, by public demonstrations, on my part, must have escaped the observations, of such of my friends in your quarter, as have classed me among the list of candidates or expectants, at the ensuing canvass.'

Justice Wiley, convicted of receiving stolen money, viz: the large amount stolen from the Frederick Bank, of Maryland, is in prison waiting for sentence in September next. The Supreme Court has affirmed the judgment of the court below.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Harrisburg Reporter gives the following synopsis of the Appropriation Bill, as it passed both branches of the Legislature upon the Report of a Committee of Conference.

Sec. 1. Authorizes the State Treasurer to apply so much of the interest fund as may be necessary to meet the demands on the Treasury, made under requisition of law, except the interest guaranteed to railroad and navigation companies. It also appropriates \$175,000 to be expended, if necessary, in repairs, and the balance in the Treasury on the first Mondays of August, November and February—except the motive power funds, and a sum not exceeding \$40,000, to be retained to meet the current demands on the Treasury—to be paid to such of the domestic creditors, in a pro rata proportion as have claims on the books of the Auditor General, for work done or materials furnished prior to the 4th of May, 1841—the contractors on the Erie and North Branch Extensions not to be entitled to the benefits of this act unless they forthwith suspend all operations on said works.

Sec. 2. Authorizes the Governor to borrow the sum of \$870,000, at an interest not exceeding six per cent, which sum is to be specifically appropriated to the payment of the interest due on the first of August 1843; provided that no certificate shall be issued for a less sum than \$15; all claims less than that amount to be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury.

Sec. 3. In case the Governor is unable to negotiate the above loan, certificates of State stock to be issued to persons to whom interest is due, bearing an interest of 6 per cent, and redeemable on the first of August 1843; provided that no certificate shall be issued for a less sum than \$15; all claims less than that amount to be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury.

Sec. 4. Authorizes the Governor to sell at public sale all the stocks belonging to the Commonwealth provided they shall bring an amount which at the rate of 5 per cent interest, would produce an interest equal to the dividend received by the State on said stocks for the year 1841.

Sec. 5. Authorizes the State Treasurer to receive in payment of the above stocks, certificates of State stock or credits on the books of the Auditor General; and if such stocks shall not be sold, then persons holding certificates of stock or credits shall be permitted to exchange the same at par for any of the stock authorized to be sold by the 4th section.

Sec. 6. Provides that no private act of assembly shall be enrolled in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or have the force and effect of law, until the parties interested shall pay into the treasury the following sums:

For every act incorporating or re-chartering any bank, with a capital not exceeding the sum of \$200,000, the sum of \$200; over \$200,000, and not exceeding \$400,000, the sum of \$400; over \$400,000, and not exceeding \$600,000, the sum of \$600; over \$600,000 and not exceeding \$1,000,000, the sum of \$800; over \$1,000,000, the sum of \$1,000; on every law incorporating a canal or railroad company, \$100; on every law incorporating a coal or iron mine, or a quarry, on a dollar of the actual value of all real and personal property now taxable for state purposes.

Sec. 7. Provides that where any county shall assess and collect for state purposes a less sum than the appropriation made to said county for academies, female seminaries and common school purposes, said county shall make up the deficiency out of the county treasury.

The Committee of conference struck out that part of the bill relative to the Pennsylvania canal and railroad company, being from the 8th to the 31st section.

Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37, provide for the equalization of the taxes in the Commonwealth.

Sections 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44, authorizing the Governor to give notice of and receive proposals for the sale of the improvements of the Commonwealth, and to communicate the result to the next Legislature.

The Century Plant—A Great Curiosity.—We learn with great pleasure that our enterprising friend, Bernard Duke, has in his possession the largest specimen of the Century Plant, or One hundred years flowering Aloe, (Agave americana), in America. The report of the rarity of this plant now shooting up its flower stems at the Patroon's green house in Albany has been exciting the astonishment of all America. Mr. Duke has quietly suffered his doubly splendid specimen to pass on to Florence without a comment, completely stealing a march on our good citizens, who would have overrun his extensive grounds to witness this wonderful production of nature. The plant, which is over thirty five feet in circumference, is now in full perfection; the flower-stem being upwards of twenty feet in height, and covered on every branch with thousands of rich deep yellow blossoms. Its appearance is singular, grand, and curious, and will, no doubt excite the astonishment of the whole of the fashion and beauty of our city; But three specimens of the Agave, as yet have flowered in America; the first of which a small plant, blossomed on the grounds of Wm. Hamilton, Esq. at the Woodlands, where it was visited by upwards of twenty thousand persons; and the second, which bloomed at Lemon Hill, was exhibited in Philadelphia for the benefit of the Philadelphia Orphan's Asylum, to about thirty five thousand visitors. The present plant, which will be exhibited at the Masonic Hall, is now ninety five years of age, and was originally grown by the same gentleman at his conservatories. It has been, since his death, the property of the McMahon family and is now in the hands of Mr. Duke.

The editor of the Savannah Republican was recently presented with a watermelon, which weighed forty-nine and a half pounds.

The editor of the Washingtonian, a Temperance paper published at Canton, Ohio, gives the following glowing description of Mr. Pike, a former partner of his, but now editor of the Circleville Watchman: Mr. Pike and I published a newspaper in 1837, among the Miami Indians, in the state of Indiana. It was a great partnership that. We had two advance paying subscribers, one of whom liquidated his subscription with white beans, the other with saw logs. Godfrey, the chief, took five copies, and couldn't read a word. Our paper was called the Peru Forester, which being printed in the woods, that title was appropriate.

The town of Peru had many magnificent names for its streets, such as Pearl, Broadway, &c. which streets exhibited the animated and bustling spectacle of stumps, trees, and weeds, as high as a man's head. The stirring events which transpired in this interesting city imperiously demanded a couple of chroniclers, and Pike and I were at hand to discharge that important function.

Pike wrote poetry, and I dipped considerably into state politics, and discussed in a learned manner every question of interest to the few settlers and Indians. Pike was a queer fish. He had more irons in the fire than any man I ever knew. Besides being an editor and printer, he kept the Broadway Hotel, was postmaster, justice of the peace and land agent, pettifogger, canal contractor, overseer of the poor, painter, had been a school master, and a day laborer, was brought up a Quaker, was twice a widower and the last time I saw him he was a Baptist, had his third wife, and was an auctioneer!

A Snake Story.—It is said, of course that it can be well authenticated. It occurred on the farm of Mr. Hayes, a few miles from Lewisburg, Penn., and is related by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger: A son of Mr. Hayes, quite a small boy was frequently in the practice of craving incessantly for bread, at certain hours of the day, and from thence proceeded to a small woods about a quarter of a mile distant from the house—he repeated if so frequently that aroused the suspicions of the family; the brother, therefore, resolved to watch him, and the following day after the boy had taken his usual tour, he repaired to the woods, and secreted himself within the enclosure of a large tree, and in a few moments perceived two large rattlesnakes usher forth from the root of the tree the boy was seated at; the boy, who from all appearance was anxiously awaiting their arrival, fed them with his little mite, frequently chastising them with a small weapon he had with him, and at other times gazing on them with exquisite admiration described. When he was going to make a descent on them, they retreated in good order from their companion. The family, anxious for the future safety of the boy, resolved to despatch them as soon as possible. On the following morning they repaired to the ground, and with the assistance of some of their neighbors, destroyed the reptiles.—They measured over three feet long.

Great Mortality.—During the first six months of the present year, the mortality has been great in several towns bordering upon both sides of Connecticut river in New Hampshire and Vermont. Up to the month of May, there had been, within a few miles of Haverhill Corner, about one hundred deaths, principally children. The disorder most fatal has been a malignant putrid sore throat: Gradually has it extended to adults, and the disorder is in almost all cases fatal when it falls from the throat to the chest and lungs. The towns of Bath and Lyman, situated on the New Hampshire side of the river, directly above Haverhill, have encountered a mortality to an extent equal almost to the destruction by the cholera in 1832 in some of our cities. Lyman has a population of 1,500, and Bath 1,600 souls. The number of deaths from the 1st of February to this time, (short of six months) has been sixty in Bath, making at the rate of one death per year in every fourteen inhabitants. Six persons are said to have laid uninterred corpses in the same day in Bath. An unusual mortality has occurred among women in child bed—no less than thirteen persons in the same town since the fatal fever first made its appearance. There were said to be more cases of fever in Bath last week than there had been at any previous time.—Concord Visitor.

German Prudence.—We learn from the Georgetown (D. C.) Advocate, that last week there arrived at that port from Philadelphia, the first instalment of a band of fifty German families, who, under the auspices of the German Agricultural Society, are proceeding to take possession of a purchase of 30,000 acres of land, recently made in Hary and Hampshire counties, Virginia. The Advocate says, 'these fifty families are to be succeeded next year by fifty more, and so continue at the same annual rate, until two hundred families shall have been settled on the land.'

The Wayne county, (Indiana,) Chronicle learns, from Indianapolis, that the amount liquidated in the bankrupt court at Indianapolis, so far, amounts to about two millions and a half of dollars.

Important Decision in Bankruptcy.—Judge Conklin, of the Northern District of New York, has given an important opinion in a recent case of bankruptcy. An assignment was made by a firm in Oneida county on the 20th of April last. They directed, in that instrument, that all their property and the proceeds thereof should be divided and distributed among their creditors by their assignees, in the same manner as if the same were in the hands of an assignee under the bankrupt act of the United States, by virtue of proceedings duly had in bankruptcy. Their assignment was accepted to by some of their creditors, as in itself an act of bankruptcy, or at least as contravening the purpose of the bankrupt act, and they were petitioned against in bankruptcy. The decision of his honor, Judge Conklin, declares their assignment void, and at the same time notifies the world that voluntary assignments, whether they give preferences or do not give them, must henceforth cease under the bankrupt law of the United States. Probably a consent in writing, for consideration, signed by all the creditors, might uphold a voluntary assignment. By acquiescence, too, on the part of all the creditors in a particular instance, the trust created by such an instrument might be executed, and not be disturbed afterwards. But in either of these cases, the debtor should not himself become a petitioner in bankruptcy, until the completion of the trust.

A TERRIFIC SCENE.

A correspondent states that he was present at a Camp Meeting in the lower end of York county, on Sunday, the 24th ult. and that between 11 and 12 o'clock in the evening there was a thunder storm, which, for rain and lightning, and loud thunder he says he never heard equalled. The lightning struck into the camp, and killed three horses dead on the spot, besides stunning a number of the persons present on the occasion. The scene he describes as one of the most terrific and awful; the shrieks of the women, the neighing of the horses, and the successive peals of thunder, preceded by the most vivid sheets of lightning, made the whole spectacle one of great and awful sublimity. No person was hurt.—Lan. Int.

An Old One.—The oldest man in France, M. Noel de Quersonieres, is now one hundred and fourteen years of age, having been born, at Valenciennes, in 1728. He resides in Paris, and a journal of that city—the Presse—says he is not subject to any infirmity—takes four meals a day—shaves himself—reads and writes without spectacles—sings very agreeably—sleeps soundly—writes excellent poetry—and his conversation is full of wit and sense, abounding with anecdotes. It appears that at the juvenile age of ninety, Monsieur married a venerable age of sixteen, and that she died in giving birth to a son. Mons Q. stated that his grandmother died at the age of one hundred and twenty five would have lived longer but for a severe fall! When conversing gaily, he will frequently invite his friends to attend his funeral in the next century.

A NOVEL CASE.

A physician in Kentucky thus describes a most extraordinary case which has been for a long time under his care; in connexion with other members of the faculty;—Our patient is a young lady, 24 or 25 years of age, who has been subjected to a dislocation of almost all the joints belonging to the human system, ever since 1822; also to violent spasms, sometime last fall there commenced forming in her mouth ossifick matter, and during the months of November and December, there were taken from her mouth some 25 or 30 bones, of various sizes and shapes, after which she appeared partially to regain her health, but within the last 40 days Drs. G. F. W. and myself, have taken from the mouth, ears, nose throat, left arm, side, and all the way down to the foot, bone amounting in all, during her last illness, to 192. One thing is very remarkable, that no matter where these bones present themselves, not a drop of blood follows their dislodgment from any part of the body. The young lady possesses cheerfulness and vivacity amidst all her sufferings, and appeared to entertain no doubt of her recovery.

Serious if not Fatal Accident.—Yesterday, between 12 and 1 o'clock, as a man named Hugh Patton, who resided with his wife and three young children, in Cross street, was engaged as a laborer on the top scaffold of the new four story building, ready for the roofing, at the corner of Duane and Centre streets, he accidentally fell a distance of fifty seven feet, and striking, when near the ground, on a long scantling, some four inches thick by six wide, was taken up insensible. He was carried into the grocery of Mr. Firnie, near the place, where he revived, and said he was very badly hurt, complaining of his back, and was conveyed to the City Hospital, where he is in a very critical state. It was not ascertained that any bones were broken, and his injuries appeared internal. How he escaped immediate death is a marvel.—N. Y. Courier.

The Wheeling, Va, Times says, that owing to the large crops of wheat in the West, flour will no doubt soon sell at that place for two dollars per barrel, or less.

From the Sangamo (Illinois) Journal of July 29 MORE OF THE MORMONS.

We learn from the Warsaw Signal that Orson Pratt has gone from Nauvoo. He left a communication with his friends, which stated that he had been induced to take this course on account of the treatment of his wife by Smith, and of the general management of the affairs of the church by him.

We learn from other sources that Smith finding his attempts on Mrs. Pratt were matters of notoriety, went to her husband with a manufactured story, that his wife was a base woman, and that the fact was well known to him. This communication had such an effect upon Mr. Pratt—at once blasting his happiness and the reputation of a virtuous woman—that the wretched husband left the city.

It will be recollected that Mrs. Schindle, in her affidavit, detailing the attempt of Smith upon her, said 'he told her she must never tell of his propositions to her, for he had all influence in that place, and if she told, he would ruin her character, and she would be under the necessity of leaving.'

This same scheme has been carried out in reference to Mrs. Pratt. She 'told' on the imposter, and was marked by him for destruction. In a public speech in Nauvoo on the 14th, Joe spoke of this lady—a woman whose reputation has been as fair as virtue could make it until she came in contact with him—in a manner only befitting the lowest and most degraded vagabond in existence.

There have been various decisions of late in different parts of the United States, as to what articles of furniture are 'necessaries.' These decisions have arisen upon the Bankrupt Law, but in the Court of Common Pleas last week, as we learn from the Boston Atlas, in a case depending upon the attachment law of Massachusetts, Chief Justice Williams ruled that a tooth brush is neither a 'tool of trade'—nor 'household furniture'—nor 'wearing apparel,' and was not exempt from attachment; but his honor was clearly of opinion, that a 'thimble, in actual use, could not be taken for debt in Massachusetts.

Muskets.—The United States musket is far too heavy for the use of the militia and volunteer corps. This remark has often been made during the last war, but has not, it seems, ever been deemed worthy of attention by those whose duty it was to have a proper representation made on the subject. The United States go on from year to year making the heavy muskets, with ordinary old fashioned locks. I prophesy that, in less than five years, the Government, at an enormous loss, will "condemn" half the present armament, and direct the manufacture of lighter muskets, with percussion locks. Any one who lives in a free country will realize the truth of this prophecy of an Old Soldier.—N. Y. Standard.

DISGRACEFUL.

Mr. Oldridge an old gentleman, aged about seventy years a citizen of Providence deacon of one of the Baptist churches there was notified on Thursday last to quit that place under penalty of confinement in the Algerine Bastile. His offence consisted simply in affixing on the pump in front of his house a placard, upon which was written the words 'Free Suffrage Water.' The fellow who notified him to quit is an office holder under Providence authorities who calls himself Mumford, but whose real name is said to be Murphy. The old man has left the place. Is the republican government guaranteed to the people of each State by the Constitution?—Baltimore Republican.

It is stated that during a recent debate in the United States Senate, on certain bills for the relief of the widow of the soldiers of the revolution, one was presented in behalf of a widow who had been the wife of three men, either of whom would have been entitled to a pension. The Senate acted favorably to claim, and allowed her the three several pensions required. She is a widow worth having.

Seventeen private soldiers of the French army, during Napoleon's career, by their bravery and talents, raised themselves to the following distinguished stations: Two became Generals, two Field Marshals, nine Dukes, two Princes, and two Kings.

Bituminous Coal has recently been found in Augusta, Oneida county, New York.—The discovery was accidental, A Mr. Porter, on whose land the coal was found, was digging a well, and at the depth of of seventy feet, he struck the vein. Mr. P. has been offered \$20,000 for his farm by an eastern capitalist.

The Brooklyn Eagle says that the small pox is prevailing extensively in that city, and that measures have been taken by the Board of Health to shield the public from contagion.

A Choral Hymn.—Several hundred German emigrants arrived at Buffalo, New York, about sunrise, a few days since, and when landing, the whole of them struck up one of their national anthems. The effect, says the Buffalo Commercial, in the calm stillness of a dewy morning, the spires the domes of a silent city just touched with the golden beams of a July sun, was almost sublime.