Homestead Exemption.

"The custom is gaining ground," says a contemporary, "among the States of the Union, of making an exception of the Homestead of a family against the operation of an execution for debt. In many instances the plan is objected to—and nearly always, on the presumption of this subject to public consideration, it is regarded as an innovation upon a sound principle, upon an established custom. The man will to do in the world, who has no fund of wealth—his inalienable touch of wisest finger imparts everything to gold—the man of mighty possibilities to relations to bound able swelling—the man of grasping energy, who plans to day the acquisition of his neighbor's property to-morrow—the man who adds cent per cent to his gains, and wrings from the withered heart of poverty its last red drop of vitality—the man of vast and elastic naturally array themselves against the measure. But even their opposition will not dispute its just, humane and merciful character.

"Misfortunes—it has been truly said—are common to all. The path of the fleet the unavoidable accident—the security debt—the recklessness of speculation—the pitfalls of dissipation—each and all of these are daily bringing to the humblest level those who were grasping to the topmost round of the ladder of fortune; Some of them are exempt from those calamities—none can assure themselves that they are not be their fate in another twelvemonths.

"And when this calamity comes—when the hand of adversity falls, and the accumulations of a life—not alone of the head of a family, but of the woman whose diligence has added to and husbanded their earnings—shall the homestead, endeared to them by early struggles and early joys—around which first cluttered little children—the soil which gave them sustenance—shall want, and famine, and hardships unknown, drive forth the helpless? Humanity answers, no! And the voice of wisdom answers give the same response. The happiness of the humblest home is the great object of popular government, and all should be cared for as the children of one family. The rich should not be impatient nor the poor oppressed—and, least of all, should the misfortunes or the faults of the man be visited on the heads of feeling wife and offspring! Make the homestead a safe, sacred thing—a place of refuge from the storm of adversity—where the burdened and oppressed may gather his household about him and say to pure himself, when the storm has swept by, for—a new venture, with renewed energies, upon the sea of life."

NEW USE OF CALOMEL.—The French academy of science has just received two communications of much interest upon the subject of chlorofoam, one of them is from M. Ed Robin, and the other from M. Augentire, a French gentleman from Constantinople. Each proteses to have discovered about the same time, and without any communication with the other, another property of chlorofoam, which it appears to be an *anti-septic* of marvellous virtue, preventing animal decomposition after death, and promptly disinfecting if it rapidly commenced. Muscular flesh and all the animal tissues, when subjected to the action, be preserved in a healthy state of time in the precise form and condition in which they may happen to be at the moment of application, and retain their colors even to the most delicate shades, are preserved without the slightest change.

A SINGULAR CASE.

A singular trial for murder recently came off at Bel Air, Md. Some time ago the body of a man named Hammond was found at that place, bearing evidence that he had been cruelly murdered. Suspicion was fixed upon two persons named Stump and Griffith, as the villians who committed the deed, but there was no one appeared to have seen the murder. Stump's trial came on a few days since and he was acquitted, the jury thinking the evidence against him not sufficient for hanging.

Griffith, the accomplice was next entitled, and the most important witness against him was for the past few days. They brought in a verdict of *not guilty*, upon the following singular testimony:

Stump having been acquitted of the murder, his evidence was of course admissible, and he was called upon to testify in behalf of Griffith. Being sworn he was asked. Quest.—Do you know anything about the murder of Hammond? A. Indeed, Yes—Do you know who killed him?—A.—Yes—Quest.—Who? A.—Griffith! *I did it myself*—Quest.—Had Griffith any agency in the act? Ans.—None: and he did not know it, until he told me afterwards! The Jury immediately returned a verdict of Not Guilty, against the prisoner, and he was discharged.

A GOOD ONE.—Epes Sargent, of the Boston Transcript, tells a good many good stories under the head of "Dealings with the Dead." One of these numbers he devotes to fortune-hunting, and amongst other illustrations gives the case of a Mr. Mewins. He was courting a young lady of some attractions, and something of a fortune into the bargain. After a liberal arrangement had been made by the young lady by her father, Mr. Mewins, having taken a particular fancy to a little brown mare, demanded that it should be thrown into the bargain; and, upon a positive refusal, the match was broken off. After a couple of years the parties accidentally met at a country ball—Mr. Mewins was quite willing to renew the engagement—the lady appeared not to have the slightest recollection of him. "Surely you have not forgotten me," said he. "What name sir she inquired. "Mewins," he replied; "I had the honour of paying my addresses to you about two years ago." "Pray excuse, her a person of that name," she rejoined, "who paid his addresses to my father's bay mare."

INDIAN'S REVIVE.—A curious trial has just taken place in England. A man accustomed to live a married woman, against her will, and his house burnt off. He brought suit for damages. The jury, without contribution, acquitted her; and the chairman said, that if any man attempted to take a woman against her will, she had a more to do *off the house, if she had a fancy for so doing.*

FINE ENGRAVING.—Mr. Wm. Hughes, the unfortunate who as agent of Robert Collins, attempted to arrest the fugitive slave Oneida, in Boston, was killed at Wilcox on Friday night by a re-captured negro. Mr. Knight, brother of Hughes' antagonist in the Boston expedition—Knight took some offensive remark to Hughes relative to his defeat as a candidate for Sheriff, which was the origin of the affair.

DISCOVERIES OF THE LAST HALF CENTURY.

There has been no period since the commencement of the world in which so many important discoveries, contributing to the benefit of mankind, were made as in the last half century. Some of the most wonderful results of human intellect have been witnessed in the last fifty years. Some of the greatest conceptions of genius have been perfected. Things, which in another age, would have been considered as the offspring of mind, have run into scientific investigation, and what achievements it has effected in the short period.

Before the year 1800 there was not a single steamboat in existence, and the application of steam to machinery was unknown. Fulton launched the first steamboat in 1807. Now there are three thousand steamboats traversing the waters of America, and the time saved in travel is equal to seventy per cent. The rivers of every country in the world, nearly, are traversed by steamboats. In 1800 there was not a single railroad in the world.—In the United States alone there are now 8,707 miles of railroad, costing $285,000,000 to build, and about 23,000 miles of railroad in England and America. The locomotive will now travel in so many hours, a distance which in 1800 required as many days to accomplish. In 1800 it took weeks to convey intelligence between Philadelphia and New Orleans; now it can be accomplished in minutes through the electric telegraph which only had its beginning in 1842. Volcanos were discovered in March, 1800. The electric magnetic in 1821. Electroplating was discovered only a few years ago. How prodigious, capable of printing 10,000 copies an hour, is a very recent discovery, but of a most important character. Gas light was unknown in 1800; now every city and town of any presence are lighted with it, and we have the announcement of a great discovery by which light, heat, and the motive power, may be produced from water, with scarcely any cost. Daguerre communicated to the world his beautiful discovery in 1839. Gun cotton and chloroform are discoveries of but a few years old. Astronomy has added a number of new planets to our solar system. Agricultural chemistry has enlarged the domain of knowledge in that important field of industry. Steamboats and mechanics have increased the facilities for production, and the means of accomplishing an amount of labor which far transcends the ability of united manual efforts accomplish. The triumphs achieved in the last branch of discovery and invention are enough to mark the last half century as that which has most contributed to the comfort and rational enjoyment, and add to the blessings of man. What will the next half century accomplish? We may look for still greater discoveries; for the intellect of man is awake, exploring every mine of knowledge, and searching for new information in every department of art and industry.—*Phil. Ledger.*

JOHN RANDOLPH, although he did not accompany a very exalted opinion of the "Yankees," was a firm and uncompromising friend of the Union of the States. In one of his speeches in Congress he once made use of the following language, which should be engraven upon the portals of the Capitol:

"The very mention of a disunion of the States is a great public injury. It goes to unhinge the tone of the public mind. It makes men acquainted with the *possibility* of the thing, and, at once admitted into their minds, they will not contemplate it with that *abhorrence in which it ought to be held by every true patriot.*"

A STOUT MISTAKE.—When Sir I saac Newton charged his residence, and went to his chamber, he found a poor neighbor was a widow lady, who was much puzzled by the little she observed of the habits of the philosopher.

One of the Fellows of the Royal Society of London called upon her one day, when, among other things, she said, he was astonished that such one had come to reside in the adjoining house, who she felt certain was a person of great goodness, for, she continued, "she diverts himself in the oddest ways imaginable. Every morning, when he has shaven himself, he thinks he are obliged to draw the window blinds, he takes his seat in front of a tub of soap suds, and continues there for hours blowing soap bubbles through a common clay pipe, which he intently watches floating about until they burst. Sir Isaac, the Fellow added, "now at his favorite amusement; do come and look at him." The gentleman smiled, and then went up stairs, where, after looking through the staircase door, he found the philosopher, in the identical manner described by his neighbor. Sir Isaac, on his return, and said, "My dear madam, the person whom you suppose to be a most important observer of the laws of nature, is a very harmless, inoffensive, but a most impertinent observer of the laws of your house."

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THE STAR AND BANNER

GETTYSBURG.

Friday Evening, Jan. 17, 1851.

TO THOSE INTERESTED.

All those indebted to this office for subscription, advertising, or printing, are requested to make payment without delay.—We are anxious to square up every account on our books, of one or more year's standing. Persons in town may call at the office, Those in the country will have an opportunity during the ensuing Court, of sending, or themselves bringing, the amount of their indebtedness. All who receive their paper by mail, can enclose the amount of their bills in a letter and forward by the same channel of communication. Those who have already settled their accounts are entitled to our warmest thanks.

Rail-Road Meeting.

Our citizens will not forget the Rail-road meeting on Tuesday next, the call for which will be found in to-day's paper. He's a dull or selfish man at this time of spring, who does not feel an interest which is going on all around us, little fair to throw us in the back-ground, unless something be done to place us in more ready and convenient communication with some of the lines of improvements which are already diverting travel and trade to other points of the country. It is very evident that something *should* be done, and that speedily. Something can be done. And it will debate upon those who desire the welfare of the county to attend the meeting on Tuesday next, and consult as to how it is to be done. Every farmer—every mechanic—every citizen is interested in the matter. Let all, then, throw aside trifling and give such an impetus to the movement as shall prevent its taking rank with the thousand-and-one other projects heretofore agitated for the benefit of our community, which for want of interest and sympathy on the part of those most interested in them, have failed of accomplishing their end.

☞ The attention of dealers in Groceries and Liquors is directed to the Card of Wm. H. Stevenson, recently of this place, who has opened a Wholesale Grocery Establishment at Harrisburg, and announces his intention to supply Goods at City Prices.

☞ Messrs. CASSON and McESKEY will accept our thanks for Legislative documents.

Adams county as the State Treasurer.

We glean from the Journal Report of the Auditor General the annexed items of monies paid into the Treasury of this Commonwealth, from this county, as also the amounts drawn therefrom for persons and objects in the county:

PAYMENTS INTO THE STATE TREASURY. By Bank of Gettysburg, tax on dividends, $1,139 15
" tax on corporation stocks, 743 32
Gettysburg and Petersburg Turnpike Company, " 59 68
York and Gettysburg, " 49 01
John Fahnestock, late Treasurer, tax on Real and Personal Estate, 15,451 00
R. D Harper, late Treasurer, Tavern licenses, " 243 14
" " Retailers' Licenses, 1,329 15
" " Peddlers' " 109 40
" " Millers Fees, 15 30
John Fahnestock, late Treasurer, Pedlers' licenses, 157 24
Wm. W. Hamersly, Register and Recorder, wills, deeds, &c., 57 04
" " Collateral Inheritance Tax, 687 17
$17,214 05

RECEIPTS FROM STATE TREASURY.

By John Jost, Brig. Insp. 2d Brig. 5th Div., disbursements, $192 90
Capt. D. Reed, pay as member of Militia Court of Inquiry, 50 00
Pensions and gratuities, 190 00
Bounties, 4,066 18
J. B. M'Pherson, damages on Gettysburg Railroad, 56 00
Robert Smith, do. do. 75 00
Jas. Fahnestock, late Treasurer, abatement of State Tax, 672 85
$5,156 93

Cheap Postage.

The object of cheap postage, the Village Record, and the only object, at present, should be, to give the people the fullest opportunity to write whatever is interesting in their several counties—This is best done, and only done, through the cheapest postage—the cheapest, and the most—attempt to do more, and all may be, and be lost. All the local affairs, the local politics, the conditions to fill the county office—the local tax—the local improvements—all should be left to them only. The proceedings of County, Commissioner, County meetings, are found in country papers, and are not found in the city papers.—These are the great points of interest to the farmer and tax-payer of the country, and he can obtain a correct view of them only in the country papers. It is a benefit to himself, to the State and to the country, to enlighten him. For all these things he is dependent on the local papers—the local paper is, therefore, an article of necessity to him—and the question is whether Congress will allow him to obtain it without a tax, or whether the whole system must be broken down, by imposing *foreign taxation* with it. A man's county is a minister of his country. Every man has a right to be informed upon the affairs of his county. To regulate and govern it well, it must be understood. Let every city, county and district, attend well to its own affairs, and our country will be prosperous and happy! But domestic affairs, and not *foreign or distant* papers throw light about the people's homesteads.

Tariff Movement.

It is now understood, says the Lancaster Union, that a powerful effort will be made about the first of February, to carry through the tariff bill. Gen. Duffy, of the House, has consented to make a report upon it, and it will be made, and the bill offered an opportunity to make a counter report to the extent the friends of home protection desire—Subscriptions have been had by the Whig delegations in the House—among the Pennsylvania delegation especially—and they have received that the session shall not pass away, without some effort of the kind being attempted. We always by trust that they may be successful in their efforts.

☞ The POPULATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.—The population of Pennsylvania, by the census returns just published, contains 1,098,011 inhabitants. The Eastern district contains about 1,165,860, three counties estimated. The total is therefore 2,264,000. The increase in the last ten years is about a half million.

U. S. Senator.

The nominations for U. S. Senator, to succeed Dr. Dunlap, we note that the two branches of the Legislature preparatory to going into an election, have quite unanimous. Among the names proposed in the House are Judge Kane, Governor Johnston, Gen. Foster, Hon. Thos. Ross, Hon. Thos. Cooper, Hon. Thos. Cooper, Hon. Thos. Cooper