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PHILADELPHIA NORTH AMERICAN. Advertisements and Subscriptions to the North American and United States Gazette, Philadelphia, received and forwarded from this office.

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☞ ADVERTISERS are earnestly requested to hand in their favors before 5 P. M., and as early in the day as practicable. Advertisements not inserted for a specified time, will invariably be charged until ordered out.

FOR LATER Commercial Intelligence, Domestic, Markets, River, News, Imports, Money Markets, &c. see first page.

See next page for Telegraphic News.

PLANK ROADS.

We are pleased to perceive that our suggestion a few weeks ago, of the feasibility of constructing a Plank Road from Pittsburgh to Erie, is receiving the attention of the people along the line, and that there is a prospect that something more than talking will be done. The *Erie Commercial Advertiser* says, that the towns back of Erie are in a 'perfect blaze of enthusiasm on the subject.' A Mass Convention has been appointed, to meet at Waterford, Erie county, on this day, to take the subject into consideration; and we observe a call for a meeting in the Erie papers, signed by Chas. M. Reed, Thomas H. Sill, T. M. Starrett, and others. The object of the meeting is to promote the object of the Waterford Convention.

The people of Crawford county are moving in good earnest, as will be seen by the following proceedings of a meeting held in Meadville:

PLANK ROAD MEETING.—At a meeting of the citizens of Meadville and its vicinity, held at the Court House on Friday evening, the 5th inst. for the purpose of taking some action in relation to the construction of Plank Roads in the county, on motion of David Dickerson, Esq. the Hon. G. Church was called to the chair, and James E. McFarland appointed secretary.

On motion, the object of the meeting was then stated by J Stewart Riddle, Esq. who offered the following preamble and resolution for consideration:

Whereas, There is nothing that conduces more to the prosperity of a country than safe and speedy means of intercommunication whereby a great saving of time and an increase in the facilities of transacting business is effected; and whereas, amongst the improvements of the day, there is none which appears to be better adapted to the wants and resources of Western Pennsylvania, than Plank Roads—therefore

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Crawford county, in conjunction with those of the neighboring counties who concur with us, will adopt the most speedy and effectual measures for the construction of a Plank Road from this place to Erie and to Pittsburgh.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all those who feel interested in the object above specified to meet in convention at Waterford, Erie Co. on Monday, the 15th inst., to take the subject into consideration, and to devise the means most likely to attain this desired end.

Resolved, That Col. J Stewart Riddle, David Dickerson Esq. Alfred Hulldekoper Esq., Hon. G. Church, M B Lowry Esq., Gen. John Dick, and Wm. Reynolds, be appointed delegates to Harrisburgh, in connection with a similar number to be appointed by Erie co., to aid in obtaining the necessary legislation on the subject; and with instructions to obtain, if possible, the adoption of a general Plank Road law, if these objects meet with the approbation of said Convention.

On motion of M B Lowry Esq.,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to obtain and circulate petitions in furtherance of the object of this meeting among the people of Crawford county, and that John Reynolds, David Dick, and David Dickerson, Esqs., be said committee.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers and published in the county, and that copies thereof be forwarded to the members of the Legislature from this county.—[Signed by the Officers.]

* After due consideration the resolutions were adopted.

THE PENNSYLVANIA AND WESTERN RAIL ROAD.—The Philadelphia Inquirer, of the 8th inst., publishes an address of SOLOMAN W. ROBERTS, Esq., Engineer in Chief of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad, in relation to the Railroads through Pennsylvania, to the great West. We should be glad to copy the whole address, but must content ourselves with the following synopsis, prepared by the Inquirer. Mr. Roberts propounds and explains these propositions: First—that the Pennsylvania Railroad is located on the right route, and that its speedy completion is essential to the prosperity of the State of Pennsylvania, and especially to the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Second, that the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad is the best line for the extension of the Pennsylvania Railroad westward from Pittsburgh, and that it will not only pay in itself, but will double the value of the Pennsylvania Railroad as a thoroughfare. Third, that if these two lines be promptly constructed, they will become the first links in a great chain of railroads, which will ultimately extend across the continent; and that they will make Philadelphia the point of intersection, between the grand trunkline from the west, and the northern and southern line along the Atlantic shore. And fourth, that in the view of these facts, our efforts ought to be devoted to the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and its Western extension beyond Pittsburgh; that lateral or competing lines ought to be postponed until this great work is accomplished; and that immediate measures should be taken to make the entrance of the Western Railroad into the city of Philadelphia worthy of the work; by avoiding the Inclined Plane, and by making the Railroad stations for the accommodation of passengers coming there, as creditable to the city, as they are now the contrary. These the reader will perceive, are important points and propositions, and well calculated to arrest attention.

We must protest against our opinions being formed for us, or words put into our mouth which we never used. We will stand to what we say, but cannot hold ourselves accountable for all the interpretations of our contemporaries. We are willing that the National Government shall give a farm to every landless person, under certain conditions, out of the public lands, but we do not therefore, embrace by any means the ideas and principles of the National Reformers, as they are called. We at so believe, that the welfare of the community would be subserved by a judicious Homestead Exemption Law, but cannot by any means subscribe to the doctrine, that a man has not a right legally and morally, to sell his land if he chooses to do so.—We may also state, in this connexion, that we favor the doctrine of limiting the amount of land which any one person may hold. The accumulation of immense bodies of land in the hands of a single individual, is an evil to the community of so great a magnitude, as to require the interposition of law to abate it. But whatever a man does hold should be in fee simple right.

PORTAGE COUNTY OHIO.

The officers of the portage County Agricultural Society in making their returns to the State Board, present the following interesting particulars:

The amount of CHEESE exported during the year, being the product of the dairies of the county is about 1450 tons, the average price of which is about $100 per ton.

The clip of wool last year was 250,000 pounds. The clip of this year does not exceed that of last, though the number of sheep has increased more than 14,000, showing a large diminution in the yield, per head.

There are in the county of Portage, 15 Flouring mills, many of them doing a very extensive business. There are three Woolen Factories, 2 Oil Mills, and between 60 and 70 Saw mills.

All, or nearly all the trade of this county, will come to Pittsburgh when our Western Railroad is finished.

"THE PREACHER."—This excellent religious periodical is now issued on a much larger sheet than formerly, and in the folio form, and issued weekly instead of semi-monthly. This paper was started about six years ago by the Rev. Dr. Pressley, on a small sheet, and published semi-monthly. That it has grown to its present respectable dimensions, and has become a weekly sheet, is evidence of its value, and of its appreciation by the religious public which supports it. The Rev. DAVID B. KERR is its present editor, and his paper shows that he possesses the capabilities to make a good editor.

Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, for January is an excellent number. Its original articles are of much interest, and its statistical information varied and important. It also contains an interesting memoir of Sam'l Slater, the Father of American Manufactures, with a portrait. We commend the work to the attention of our intelligent merchants.

From the Portage County Whig.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad—Progress of the Work.

At this present time, it may be of some interest to our readers to know how the work on this road is progressing. We also wish to show the falsity of the reports put in circulation by those that are endeavoring to get up a feeling against the road by reporting that the work has been abandoned.

To this end we have taken much pains to procure a correct statement of the progress of the work on the thirty two miles of the road between the Mt. Union ROAD in Stark county, and Hudson, in Summit county. We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. H. Doolittle, and Mr. Wm. Coolman, Contractors for twenty two and three fourth miles of the above work, and to Messrs Robinson and Linton, Engineers on the road, for the facts below stated.

Last spring, Mr. Doolittle contracted with the Company for the grubbing, clearing, grading and masonry, on twenty miles of the route, between the Mt. Union road and Hudson, comprising sections 1, 2 and 3, 7, 8 and 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, 18, 20 and 21, 25 and 26; the work on which he commenced in May last. The most of the masonry is done on the twenty miles, and one section is ready for the superstructure; some of the heaviest of the sections together with the abutments of the bridge across the Cuyahoga river will be completed early next spring; the plan for the abutments is 90 feet on the face in length including the wings, 22 feet high, and 9 feet thick, the walls sufficiently long for a double track which are built of the best quality of stone as Mr. D's. contract about half of the work is done, and the twenty miles will be ready for the superstructure next fall.

Mr. Wm. Coolman contracted with the company last May, for the grading and mason work on sections No. 16 and 17, which pass through Ravenna, (2¾ miles in length.) Mr. C. commenced the work about the 1st of September last, and has done something more than one fifth of the whole amount, and is progressing with a small but efficient force with reasonable success considering the inclemency of the season. These two sections will be ready for the superstructure next fall.

The 4th section, let to Mr. Laffer, a heavy earthwork section, was finished ready for superstructure in November.

The work upon the 5th and 6th sections, Day & Morse Contractors, has been progressing steadily, the masonry being nearly completed.

The 11th, let to Mr. Leonard, which was a very heavy timbered section, has been entirely cleared, and a considerable part of the masonry and earth work completed.

The 24th section, let to Hays, & Co., has'also been worked to some extent.

The 19th, 22d and 23d, have not yet been worked on.

The work on the eighteen miles let west of Wellsville, is something more than half finished.

The work as far as it had progressed is pronounced by competent judges, to be equal to the best work in the United States.

COMMON SCHOOLS OF CINCINNATI.—The city of Cincinnati seems scarcely to be at all behind Boston in efficient efforts to promote common school education, though of course not expending so much money therein as Boston, her population being probably not near as large as that of the "modern Athens." The Cincinnati Gazette gives, from the nineteenth Annual School Report of that city, for the year ending June 30, 1848, the following interesting and satisfactory statistics:

There are in the city twelve districts, a central school, an orphans asylum school, and five evening schools. The whole number of teachers, in all departments of the common schools, is 127—91 female and 36 male teachers, and the total amount paid for tuition $35,378 35.

The wages of the principal male teacher in each school, $50 per month—to the assistants, from 30 to $35 per month.

The wages of each principal female teacher, $28 per month, and to the assistants from 16 to 18 and $20 per month.

The principal of the central school receives $83 33 per month—the assistants $50. The principal female teacher in this school receives $55 per month, and the assistants $35.

This central school seems indispensible for the perfect working of the great system of general education. It is a school in which are taught the higher branches to those who have completed the course prescribed for the common schools, and whose moral deportment and superior proficiency entitle them, on examination, to be removed from the common to the central school.

The whole number of scholars enrolled in the city is 12,000, and the average number attending during the year was 5,963.

Amount of money received during the year, by Board, for tuition fund, $17,075,99.

Expenditures during the same period $33,633 80, leaving a balance on hand of $8,394 19.

Receipts into the building fund during the year, $18,569 57; expenditures, $19,953 77—excess of expenditures, $1,384 20.

Tuition Fund—Balance in the treasury July 1st, 1847, $29,917 53; receipts in 1848, $47,075, 99—total; $76,994 52.

Expenditures in 1848, for tuition, fuel, books, &c. $33,682 50—leaving a balance in the treasury, June 1st, 1848, of $38,311 72.

Building Fund—Balance on hand July 1st, 1847, $8,532 40; receipts in 1848, $18,569 57—total, $23,451 87. Expenditures in 1848, $19,953 77—leaving a balance on hand June 30, 1848, of $3,498 20.

In 1847 there were 21,931 youth in the school districts of the city, between the ages of four and twenty-one. In 1848, there were 27,316—increase 5,743.

Hon. James Cooper.—The election of this gentleman to the high position of United States Senator, is received with universal approbation by the Whig press. The Philadelphia News remarks:

The result of the Senatorial election has given universal satisfaction in this community. Mr. Cooper's election has secured to the Commonwealth a representative worthy her best days. In relation to every every question in which our State is interested, Mr. Cooper is pledged as her champion. He is a bold and able debater, a sound statesman, a thorough going Whig, and a man every way worthy the confidence of the Whigs of Pennsylvania. There were doubts and difficulties in this vicinity as to the election of the Senator, and it it was feared that skillful arrangements might defeat the will of the people. The result was received with an enthusiasm that has seldom greeted any party triumph. No effort on our part could stay the shout of exultation that rose from the crowd around our office when it was announced.

The choice of Senator is every way right. He is worthy the honor from his own merits. He is the choice of the people. His career as a Senator, will reflect lustre upon the party that has elected him. In the days that are coming—and there are dark days coming—he is one that can be relied upon, as a high minded and pure American Statesman. The Keystone has needed such a champion, and we rejoice that she has secured one, of the most elevated, intellectual, and moral character—a man of whom she may well be proud.

THE BUSINESS OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The report of the business of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, for the last month, says the Baltimore Patriot, shows, a gratifying and astoning increase over the corresponding month of 1847.

Flour	36,238 bbls
Coal	4,023 tons
Tobacco	76 hhds
Grain, Meal &c.	216 tons
Pork and Bacon	503 do.
Iron	598 do.
Lard and Butter	286 do.
Hogs, in number	94,064

The number of hogs was 90,990, or 250 per cent. greater than in December, 1847. Their transportation continues very active, and will probably so continue through the rest of the winter. The average number brought to Baltimore in the first 23 days of December, from which time till the end of the month the operations of the road were interrupted by snow, was 2,500 daily, from which the revenue was about $1,675 per day, or upwards of $40,000 for the month.

The tonnage westward from Baltimore to all points of the road has been 4,632 tons, and the revenue therefrom $15,962.

The revenue of the month from passengers has been $54,843 69, and from tonnage $90,767 71—total, $145,611 60.

FROM THE PACIFIC—*Gold Commerce.*—We find the following in the New York Journal of Commerce, of Tuesday evening:—We have accounts from Mazatlan, west coast of Mexico, to Dec. 1st. Vessels had arrived there from California with gold some of which had been assayed at Guadalaxara, and found to average twenty-one carats.

The British surveying steamer Pandora had taken it, $280,000 worth in all, and was to land it at Panama, to be sent across the Isthmus to Chagres, and by the mail steamer to Southampton, England.

The British surveying schooner Herald arrived at Mazatlan, Nov 28th, from Behring's Straits, having been unable to gain any intelligence of Sir John Franklin.

A Valparaiso (Chili) paper of Oct 28th says $320,0000 in silver, arrived per steamer of the 24th, mostly in bars from Copiapo, where another discovery of immense value has just been made. We have also had $100,000 of gold dust from California, and prices have somewhat receded for the former article, viz; bars $19 22 a $19 33½, dollars 10½ a 11 per cent, premium.

This is a decline of about two per cent, in the value of silver, the previous quotation for dollars having been 11½.

We learn from the National Intelligencer, that the President of the United States has issued the usual circular to the Senators of the United States, requesting them to meet in the Senate Chamber on the 5th day of March next. It is then customary to receive and act upon the nominations which the President may make for members of the Cabinet, &c. The following is a copy of the circular so here referred to:—

To the Senators of the United States, respectively:

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1849.

SIR: Objects interesting to the United States requiring that the Senate should be in session on Monday, the 5th day of March next, to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it on the part of the Executive, your attendance in the Senate Chamber, in this city, on that day, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, is accordingly requested.

JAMES K. POLK.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Tuesday, Jan. 9.

SENATE.—On the motion of Mr. King, it was resolved, That Tuesday, the 16th inst., at 12 o'clock M., be fixed for the inauguration of the Governor in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and that a committee of three be appointed on the part of the Senate to wait upon the Governor at his lodgings and accompany him to the hall of the House, for the purpose of taking the oath of the office. The Committee consists of Messrs. King, Small, and Boas.

The following bills were read in place:—

Mr. King, an act to incorporate the American Telegraph Company.

Mr. Lawrence, an act repealing all laws authorizing the Treasurer of Washington County to grant licences for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

A message in writing was received from the Governor, at the hands of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, nominating Robert P. M'Clay, an associate Judge of Clarion county.

The hour of twelve having arrived, the Senators withdrew to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of electing a U. S. Senator.

HOUSE.—The House, after prayer, proceeded to the election of Clerk.

On the first Ballot, Wm. Jack of Westmoreland county, Dem., was re-elected.

The vote stood as follows:—

William Jack had	50 votes.
David Fleming,	45
D. Clymer,	4

The Democrats voted for Jack, the Natives for Clymer, and the Whigs for Fleming, with the exception of Thomas Duncan, one of the Whig members from Dauphin county, who was not in his seat and did not vote.

Mr. Jack announced that he had appointed as his assistant, Wm. S. Picking, of York county.

The Clerks were then sworn in.

On motion, the House proceeded to ballot for Sergeant-at-arms, and after two unsuccessful ballotings the subject was postponed.

THE ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR.—The hour of noon having arrived, the Speaker and members of the Senate were introduced, and a Convention formed in pursuance of law, for the election of a United States Senator.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Baker acted as tellers. The result of the first ballot was as follows:—

Richard Brodhead,	62 votes.
James Cooper,	57
Thaddeus Stevens,	7
Wm. M. Meredith,	3
George Ford,	2

There being no choice, the Convention proceeded to a second ballot, when the result was as follows:—

Richard Brodhead,	62
James Cooper,	60
Thaddeus Stevens,	6
George Ford,	2
W. M. Meredith,	1

There being no choice, a third ballot was held, which resulted as follows:—

James Cooper,	66
Richard Brodhead,	62
Thaddeus Stevens,	3

James Cooper, having a majority of the whole votes, was declared duly elected an United States Senator for six years, from the fourth of March next.

The Convention then adjourned until 3 o'clock, to make out the requisite certificates.

The members from Allegheny county voted for Mr. Cooper on every ballot.

Standing Committee of the House of Representatives.

Ways and Means—Messrs. Cooper, Roberts, Robb Luckenbach, Biddle, M'Calmont, Stubbs, Nickleson and Gillespie.

Judiciary—Messrs. Little, Smith, Laird, Eshleman, M'Calmont, Schoonover, Cornyn, Frick and Fuller.

Retrenchment and Reform—Messrs. Long, Pratt, Miller, M'Laughlin, Ryman, Shaffner and Rosebery.

Claims—Messrs. Souder, Watties, Large, Higgins, Cort, Grittinger and Bole.

Agriculture—Messrs. Fausold, Long, Snively, Hortz, Miller, Bent, and George.

Pensions and Gratuities—Messrs. Fegely, Werrick, Gordon; M'Cartney, Rupley, Taggart and Henzey.

Domestic Manufactures—Messrs, Cort, Noble, Bent, Courtney, N. Thorn, Otto and Higgins.

Public Buildings—Messrs. Walters, Carl, and Rutherford.

Accounts—Messrs Laubach, Stutsman, Stockwell Morrison, Emery, Lewis and Steel.

Education—Messrs. H. B. Evans, Meek, Biddle, Hastings, Eshleman, Stockwell and Zerby.

Vice and Immorality—Messrs. Meek, Redick, Rupley, Grove, Seibert, T. Thorn and Lewis.

Militia—Messrs. Redick, Klotz, Elliott, Shaffner Henry, Smyth and Cornyn.

Election Districts—Messrs. Elliott, Bull, Kirk, Hower, Grove, Rutherford and Morrison.

Banks.—Messrs. Laird, Swartzwelder, Roberts, N. Thorn, Luckenbach, Pearce, Herring, Cooper, and Myers.

Estates and Escheats.—Messrs. R. R. Smith, Weirick, Roseberry, John M'Kee, Fenlon, Baker and Little.

Compare Bills.—Messrs. Snively, Hastings, Stutsman, Henzey and Zerby.

Roads and Bridges.—Messrs. Wilcox, Sharp, Martin, Lamberton Walters, Witmer and Hampson.

Local Appropriation.—Messrs. D. Evans, Porter, Fisher, Bloom, Bellis, Kirk and Carl.

Corporations—Messrs. Pearce, Bull, Marx, Diehl, M'Culloch, Bellis, Schoonover. Duncan and Porter.

Lands.—Messrs. Marx, George, W. Evans, Bole, Smith, Taggart and Lamberton.

Library.—Messrs. Swartzwelder, Nickleson and Klotz.

Printing.—Messrs. Williams, G. T. Thorn and H. S. Evans.

Inland Navigation and Internal Improvements—Messrs. Myers, Noble, Wilcox, Ball, H. M'Kee, Diehl, Watters, J. Smyth, Grittinger, Fuller, Fausold; Fisher and Williams.

Divorce.—Messrs. Fick, Baker, Herring, J. F. M'Culloch, Steel, Fenlon, and W. Smith.

GEN. TAYLOR AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.—The following is an extract of a letter received in Philadelphia, says the Ledger, from an intelligent and reliable source in New Orleans:

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29, 1848.

'General Taylor was expected to pay this city another visit, say about the 8th of January, at which time arrangements have been made to give him a ball; but if the Cholera continues to that time, it is probable he will not come. I have, however, had conversations with persons to whom he has imparted some of his views, and as the results of them, I will state the following, which can be relied upon:

'He will sign any bill passed by Congress incorporating the Wilmot Proviso in the new Territories.

He is very moderate in his political views and feelings, and will soon banish ultraism from his presence.

He is opposed to removing Democrats from office who have not *electioneered*, and who have administered their duties faithfully.

No prominent appointment will be given to the States of New York or Louisiana, as they are represented in the Government by having the President and Vice President.

He desires to confer such an appointment on Pennsylvania, and it is probable that Mr. Binney will be offered a seat in the cabinet. If Mr. B. does not wish a post, Mr. Joseph R. Ingersoll will be sent to England. Perhaps Mr. M'Kennan may be Post Master General, or some one else from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Clayton, Mr. Bell, and Mr. King are persons pretty certain to go into the cabinet.

General Taylor will go to Nashville and Louisville, arriving at the latter place about the 10th or 12th of February. When in Kentucky, he will be closeted with Governor Crittenden, whom he most highly esteems, and whose advice and opinion relative to the cabinet will be to a great extent followed. He will most certainly endeavor to get him in the cabinet, as one in whom he can rely.'

The following extract from a letter from Baton Rouge, dated December 15th, to the editor of the Cincinnati Gazette, gives further particulars as to the views of General Taylor:

'General Taylor told me that he was already overwhelmed with applications for office, so much so that it occupied all his time not necessarily devoted to business to read the numerous letters, many of which are long and tedious, so that it is quite out of his power to give answers.

'Besides,' says the General, 'I am not yet President, and, when I am, let these applications be made through the proper departments, and if it is wished to remove an incumbent, let it be shown that he does not answer the Jeffersonian standard for an office holder, and that the applicant does—for, so far as lies in my power, I intend that all new appointments shall be of men honest and capable.

'I do not intend to remove any man from office because he voted against me, for that is a freeman's privilege; but such desecration of office and official patronage as some of them have been guilty of, to secure the election of the master whom they served as slaves, is degrading to the character of American freemen, and will be a good cause for removal of friend or foe. The offices of the Government should be filled with men of all parties—and as I expect to find many of those now holding to be honest, good men, and as the new appointments will of course be Whigs, that will bring about this result. Although I do not intend to allow an indiscriminate removal, yet it grieves me to think that it will be necessary to require a great many to give place to better men.

'As to my cabinet, I intend that all interests and all sections of the country shall be represented, but *not* as some of the newspapers will have it, all parties. I am a Whig, as I have always been free to acknowledge; but I do not believe that those who voted for me wish me to be a mere partizan President, and I shall therefore try to be a President of the American People. As to the new territory, it is now free, and slavery cannot exist there without a law of Congress authorizing it, and that I do not believe they will ever pass. I was opposed to the acquisition of this territory; as I also was to the acquisition of Texas. I was opposed to the war, and although by occupation a warrior, I am a peace man.'

Upon the subject of improving our great rivers and lakes, the friends of the measure may rest satisfied that they have a friend in President Taylor.

Joseph Barrett, Esq. for a long period of time Treasurer for the State of Massachusetts, died at Concord, on Saturday, the 6th inst.

Messrs. Briggs and Reid have been elected Governor and Lieut. Governor by the Legislature of Massachusetts. In the Senate the vote was unanimous. Gov. Briggs lacked some 333 votes of an election by the people.

LOCAL MATTERS.

REPORTED FOR THE PITTSBURGH DAILY GAZETTE.

Court of Quarter Sessions.

SATURDAY, January 3.

The Court of Quarter Sessions met on Saturday morning at ten o'clock. The first business was to sentence a number of prisoners.

The following sentences were passed—

Harry Smith, Larceny, 15 months penitentiary.

Ernest Gweck, Larceny, 15 months penitentiary.

Samuel Williams, Larceny of a considerable sum of money from Lewis Baker, in gold and notes.—The Court stated that Baker was a young man from Ohio, having in his possession about $700, being his share of his father's or grandfather's estate.

The prisoner said he had not stolen the money, but won it by gambling.

The Court said that if he had taken advantage of an inexperienced young man, and had thus cheated him out of his money, it was as bad as stealing. The sentence was—Penitentiary 2 years and 6 months.

Wm. Davis—colored man—larceny of a trunk containing clothing, &c., Penitentiary 3 years and 6 months.

James Clarke, larceny,—coats &c., from the Mansion House, property of. J. A. McCullough—Penitentiary 15 months.

Andrew Connor—the fellow prisoner of the last sentenced criminal—applied for an opportunity of seeing his wife before sentence. The Court said he might have an opportunity of making any statement, or giving any proof as to his previous character. Connor's wife sat beside him for some time in the dock, and the Court deferred passing sentence until the prisoner had an opportunity of seeing such friends as he desired.

Mr. McGraw intimated his intention to move for a new trial in this case.

David H. Armstrong and Joseph Randolph, of the Allegheny police, indicted for assault and battery, produced a pardon from the governor.

Hollinbaugh and Donally, two men indicted each by the other for assault and battery, were each fined $25 and costs, the Court stating that had it not been for their families they would have felt it their duty to send them each for 3 or 4 months to the county jail.

CASE OF JOSEPH ZIMMERLEE—MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL.

The Hon. W. W. Irwin begged to make a suggestion, which he thought would meet with the approbation of the Attorney General, and also with that of the Court. There was a motion for a new trial, and also a motion for an arrest of judgment. He proposed that instead of going through the formality of arguing these motions separately, there might be a general argument blending the two together. This would avoid the necessity of numerous speeches, and in point of fact, he was so satisfied with the thorough investigation which Mr. Heidleburg had given to this subject, that he did not think it necessary for him to occupy one moment of the attention of the Court.

Mr. Bigham, for the Commonwealth, said he had no objection to adopt the course proposed.

Mr. Heidelberg then moved for a new trial saying that he would first put in a number of reasons why the Court should grant this motion, and next, that should it be refused, he would move for an arrest of judgment. He then read the following:

REASONS FOR A NEW TRIAL.

1. New evidence discovered since the trial.
2. The verdict is against the evidence.
3. The verdict is against the weight of the evidence by an able, experienced, and unimpeached witness—Dr. Armstrong showing:

That there were symptoms testified to by unimpeached evidence, character of delirium tremens, and not found in common drunkenness.

The evidence disproving malice.

The absence of provocation and also of malice together with evidence of insanity gives weight to the latter, and should have done so in this case.

The presumption arising from the (deliberate) use of a deadly weapon was rebutted by proof of mental derangement and absence of malice.

The intention (to 'kill'ect,) was further disproved by the defendants good character and kind feeling between deft. and his deceased wife.

4. The proof does not meet the allegations as to wounds: the indictment avers that they were on right side of the body of the deceased; the evidence shows them to be on the 'left.'

REASONS FOR AN ARREST OF JUDGMENT.

1. The Court had no jurisdiction; for the Supreme Court of this State was sitting in this county when the aforesaid Court of Oyer and Terminer had commenced to be holden, which is prohibited by the fifth section of the fifth article of the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

2. Some of the jurors empanneled in the above case were not 'good and lawful men' of the county.

3. The talesmen were directed by the Court to be summoned and returned and empanneled before the regular pannel was exhausted.

4. The prisoner was refused a full pannel, although insisted on by his counsel, C. Darragh, Esq.

5. The Talesmen were not chosen from among the bystanders.

6. The jurors empanneled on this case were allowed to, and did separate after they were sworn, and before they had agreed on their verdict.

7. It does not appear by the record that the jurors were 'lawfully sworn or affirmed.

8. It appears from the Record, that the jurors were all of them sworn, and that they rendered their verdict on their respective oaths and affirmations.

9. It does not appear from the record that the prisoner, Joseph Zimmerle 'was arraigned.'

Mr. Heidleberg entered into these reasons at great length, admitting however, on the outstart, that he was not able to state to the Court the nature of the additional evidence.

Mr. Bigham replied—entirely setting aside many of the reasons adduced by Mr. Heidleberg—especially the reasons alleged in arrest of judgment.

Mr. Magehan was about to reply to the arguments of Mr. Bigham, when

The Court inquired whether the counsel would forego the exceptions on the motion of arrest of judgment, and apply such of them as were of weight to the motion for a new trial, if the Court should be disposed to grant it?

After a short consultation among the Counsel—

Mr. Irwin intimated the wish of the counsel to submit to the suggestions of the Court.

The Court replied that in granting a new trial they did not wish it to be understood as impugning the verdict of the jury, in any way, who had already decided on this case. A full, and fair, and patient investigation of the case had been had—much eloquence and legal talent had been displayed, and yet the jury had had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion at which they had arrived.—The main ground—perhaps the only ground upon which the Court would be disposed to grant a new trial, was, first, the consideration that, if convicted, the conviction must result chiefly from the evidence of his own child—a most distressing consideration, and which the court had used its influence to arrest, so far as suggesting to the counsel for the commonwealth the propriety of dispensing with the evidence of the child, if possible; and secondly, that a strenuous effort had been made by the defendant's counsel to continue the cause until the next term. If, therefore, the Court granted a new trial, it would be mainly on these considerations—so that the defendant might have every opportunity of defending himself.

Mr. Irwin said he took great pleasure in bearing his testimony to the humanity of the Court, and was satisfied that the motives of the Court in urging the trial on, in opposition to his motion for a continuance, originated only from the best feelings. He was very grateful for the indulgence which the Court had shown; and now that the Court had intimated its disposition to grant a new trial, he would ask another grace, and that was, that it should be continued till next term.

The Court said it would be necessary to make that a subject of a separate motion.

A new trial was then granted.

DISTRICT COURT.—Friday, Jan. 12.—School Directors of the 4th Ward vs. Henry McCullough. This was an action brought to recover the first payment due on the ground and materials formerly occupied by the Public Schools of the Fourth Ward, and sold to the defendant for $6,000—one third down, and the remainder in equal payments, in one and two years with interest.

The plaintiffs gave in evidence the action of the Board of School Directors, in relation to the change of the location of the School Buildings, and proved the sale of the old site on Irwin street, the terms of sale, as stated above, and the tender of a deed of the property to Mr. McCullough. It was also proved that Mr. McCullough took possession of the premises, but, under the advice of his counsel, refused to make payment without a bond from the individual members of the Board, to keep him harmless from all costs and damages, which might arise from any dispute about the title. This the Directors refused to give, conceiving the title and their right to sell indisputable.

The counsel for the defence urged:

1st. That the money receipt in the deed was not signed, and that the tender of such a deed was not sufficient.

2d. That the School Directors had no authority to change the location of the School Buildings, and that they could not, therefore, make a good title to the property.

He offered to prove by Mr. Dennis Leonard and other citizens of the Ward, that the change made by the Directors in the location of the School Building was unnecessary.

This offer was objected to by the counsel for the plaintiffs, on the ground that the School Directors were the proper persons to determine all questions of that nature, and that they had full power to make the change if they deemed it necessary.

The objection was sustained, and the Court refused to hear the testimony.

His Honor, Judge Hepburn, charged the jury, that there was nothing in either of the objections advanced, and that they were bound to find a verdict for the plaintiff.

The jury without leaving their seats, rendered a verdict for the plaintiffs for $2049 66¢.

An exception was taken by the defendant's counsel to the charge of the Judge.

Messrs. Todd, Smith and Shaler for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Woods for the defendant.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.—Captain Herron, the new Mayor, took his seat at the Mayor's desk on Saturday morning, to investigate the cases brought into the watch house the previous night. He was assisted by ex-Mayor Adams. There were, in all, four cases—the first a man rejoicing in the name of Dr. Thomas Cooper, charged with drunkenness and vagrancy. Committed, 15 days.—Francis Taylor and Thomas Martin were each charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct. One committed 24, and the other 48 hours.—The last case was that of a poor maniac named Alonzo Gross. He was found in the Diamond by a watchman, who was unable to make him understand any thing.—When brought before the Mayor, he rambled at a great rate, talking in the most confused, disjointed, and absurd manner it is possible to conceive. He spoke of temperance: said it was the foundation of the earth and the end of eternity: of the Saviour—that he had died, and that he, like him, would die for men; of God, whose eye observed all things—and that his eye, like God's could scan the human heart. He went on in this strain a great while, extending his arms—then seating himself on a chair, then rising and throwing his cap first over his head, and then up to the ceiling. There being no asylum for such cases, and the poor man being unknown and a stranger, he was committed to jail for five days, as a vagrant. He was perfectly sober, having, as the watchman stated, drunk nothing but water.

A COLD BATH IN THE MONONGAHELA.—On Saturday morning a young man, evidently a novice in the art of skating, took a hearty ducking in the river. It appeared that having got on a pair of skates, to which he was clearly unused, he made a dash in a straight line. Now it so happened that the direction of the said straight line was right to that part of the river which was not frozen; and being under full weight, and not having as yet learned to 'wheel,' he went heels over head into the water, to the great amusement of the spectators. Fortunately it was not more than four feet deep, so that no harm was sustained beyond the drenching and the mortification of being laughed at.

After the severe frosts of last week, we had a change in the weather on Saturday morning when it began to rain a little. For a few hours it was scarcely possible to pass along the streets on account of their slipperyness. We saw several people very unwillingly embracing the paving stones, but have not as yet heard of any serious accident.—Towards evening the rain fell heavily and the river began to rise.

ADMITTED TO THE BAR.—Friday: on motion of Hon. A. W. Loomis, Mr. Edwin H. Stow. Saturday: on motion of A. Burke, Esq., Mr. Quincy A. Brooks.

THEATRE.—Mr. Oxly takes a benefit this evening, as Gisippus, in the splendid drama of that name. Mr. Oxly is deservedly popular with the play-goers of Pittsburgh, and there will doubtless be a full attendance out.

Winchell the comic lecturer has 'stepped out' to amuse the good folks at Wheeling. We understand he will be back here in a few days.

We direct the attention of travellers to the advertisement of Mr. Washington Evans, who has fitted up the Virginia Hotel, at Cumberland, in admirable order, and is prepared to entertain travellers with comfortable quarters.

DISPATCH OF A REVENUE CUTTER FOR CALIFORNIA.—We learn from the New York Sun, that orders were received at that port on Monday morning, from Washington, directing the U. S. revenue cutter Ewing, to sail immediately for California. The Sun adds:—The was put in readiness in a few hours and proceeded down the bay, but was compelled to anchor at quarantine and wait for the first fair wind. This sudden and unexpected movement of the Revenue Department, we understand, is caused by the late astounding intelligence received from California. So vast are the treasures of gold spoken of in these accounts,' says a correspondent, 'that government appears afraid to publish them; lest the Atlantic cities should be depopulated and commerce interrupted by the multitudes of people who would wishing to emigrate to the gold regions.'

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MARRIED.

On the 9th inst., by C. Foster, Mr. LEWIS BLASE of Allegheny city, to Miss MARY A. MAHER, of this city.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., by the Rev. Geo. Upfold, D. D., ISAAC M. PATRICK to ELIZABETH S., daughter of Geo. Grant, Esq., all of Pittsburgh.

MEETING OF THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.—A meeting of the League will be held in the Fifth Presbyterian Church, (Rev. N. West's,) on Smithfield street, this EVENING, the 15th inst., at 4 before 7 o'clock—at which time action will be taken on business of great importance to the best interests of the Association. Earnestly desiring the countenance and approval of the community, and needing much encouragement as the presence of our friends is calculated to afford, we most respectfully invite the public to attend. ja15

W. R. Wright, M. D., Dentist, OFFICE and residence on Fourth street, opposite the Pittsburgh Bank. Office hours from 9 o