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FOR LATEST Commercial Intelligence, Domestic, Markets, River News, Imports, Money Markets, &c. see third page.

See next page for Telegraphic News.

OUR WESTERN RAILROAD.

We again beg leave to direct the attention of our citizens to the propriety of calling upon our city Councils to authorise a subscription of $200,000 to the stock of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad. It is a small amount for this city, and is necessary to secure an object vital to the prospective prosperity of the city. We say it is a small amount, when compared with what other cities have done, and with what Pittsburgh is able to do, and it is small considering what Allegheny city has done. At the present moment, the people of Cincinnati are circulating petitions, praying of the Legislature of Ohio, that the city of Cincinnati may be authorized to subscribe *one million* of dollars to the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company, designed for the construction of a Railroad from that city to St. Louis; and such is the spirit and zeal manifested, that three thousand names were obtained in a few days, and a highly respectable committee have been sent with the petition to Columbus. Now this road, which Cincinnati is so anxious to give a million of dollars to, is not half as important to that city, as our Western Road is to this—for the Ohio and Mississippi Road merely opens up the country between St. Louis and Cincinnati, while our road opens up to us all the immense Lake Country, and all the interior of the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan.

That it is important and highly necessary that this city should subscribe this stock now, for the success of this project we can easily show. We learn, from good authority, that the town of Salem Ohio, has already secured a large individual subscription, and that the inhabitants have pledged themselves to raise enough, at once, to prepare the road for the rails through the county of Columbiana. A letter from Stark county, states that that county will furnish sufficient means to take the road thro' her borders. Wayne and Richland counties will not be behind. All that is wanting, therefore, to justify the directors in putting the road under contract from this city to Massillon, and probably to Wooster and Mansfield, early next spring, is the subscription of $200,000 on the part of the city, and the filling up of the individual subscription, already begun, to $200,000 more. This would make, in all, from the two cities, and individual subscription here, $600,000, a sum which is believed would prepare the road for the rails to the State Line, and on receiving which the Directors will put the road under contract.

We will not waste time in showing the importance of the road, and that the stock must be among the best in the Union. If any remain to be convinced of this in this community, we despair of enlightening them. Let us then have a prompt and vigorous action, and place our goodly city on an eminence in regard to rail road facilities unequalled by any city in the West.

We ask the candid examination, by our readers, of such articles and facts, as we, shall give from time to time, in relation to the Homestead Exemption Question—a question which is pressing itself upon the country, and must be met; and we trust will be met in the spirit of justice and candor.—We know that an undue prejudice has been excited against this movement, from the imprudent conduct of some of its ultra friends, who in their zeal for reform never know where to stop, and arouse up at once, by their utopian theories, a vigorous opposition. Let the question be examined on its own merits, divested of extraneous and unnecessary adjuncts, and we feel satisfied that it will commend itself to the favorable consideration of every benevolent heart, and of every sound mind. It is simply an extension of the same benevolent principle which abolished imprisonment for debt, and many other of the barbarous codes of the dark ages of the world. Several States of the Union are now considering the question, and among them the great and enlightened State of N. York. The Legislature of that State, composed almost entirely of Whigs, is at the present moment engaged in maturing a law exempting the Homestead of every debtor from sale by execution, and the only difference of opinion seems to be, how expensive a homestead shall be allowed. The following article we cut from one of our Pennsylvania exchanges—from what one we do not now recollect. Although it does not present the subject in its strongest light, still it is worth consideration:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.—The question of exempting from sale on execution, for debts contracted after the passage of the law granting the exemption, is becoming one of every general interest throughout the country. Already some of the States have acted favorably upon it, and it is expected that others will do so during the present winter.

In Pennsylvania it has attracted less attention, perhaps, than in some of the neighboring States; but even here quite a number of the country presses, located among the laboring yeomanry, have spoken warmly of the humanity and wisdom of the measure. Nothing can be said against it which may not, with greater force be urged against the few articles the poor man is already allowed to retain. The policy of the existing exemption law is for laws to allow a debtor the necessaries of life, as apparel, food and furniture, together with such things as are a chief means of gaining a livelihood, as a mechanic's tools, team, implements of husbandry, &c. The same policy should certainly spare the family shelter. A house is not less necessary than furniture to fill and adorn it. The team and tools, the wheel and wool, may be dispensed with, but a house of some kind must be had at all events, and it will not answer the reasoning to say it may be rented, for teams, tools, and furniture may be hired also. If, then, the policy of exemption, as now practiced, is well founded, the poor man's home, equally comes clearly within its reason and spirit, should also by exempted.

But while the principle upon which all our exemption laws rest, would leave to an unfortunate family a small habitation as an object of first necessity, there are many reasons in favor of the measure that do not apply to any other species of property. A dwelling house is always accommodated to the size, arranged and ornamented to the taste of a particular family. In this respect it is unlike a store, shop, or tavern. They are planned, not to suit a particular merchant, landlord, or mechanic, but to accommodate a particular trade or traffic, and of course are as suitable for one, man carrying on such a trade or traffic, as another; and experience shows that while this kind of real estate will generally command a respectable price in market, frequently more than cost, the former is almost always sold at a ruinous sacrifice. A man's home, like ancestral pictures, is far more valuable to him than to any one else, and when sold, though it may not enrich the purchaser, it makes the unfortunate loser poor indeed. It is, more or less, a sale of all the affections and attachments which the whole household cherish for their old haunts and home. To them the homestead is valuable, not only as a shelter, but for its associations and endearments. The tree they have planed, whose germination and growth they have watched and watered, has to them an ideal value, and if you drive them from it you deprive them not only of their shade and shelter, but the mental satisfaction with which they regard it as the object of their care.

But aside from any arguments connected with the debtor himself, the State has a deep interest in the proper settlement of the question. The yeomanry of the country must always be relied upon as its defence against revolution at home or invasion from abroad. Bound by interest to the soil they cultivate, they become the natural supporters of the government that confers and protects their title. The land owner, unlike the capitalist, cannot fly with his property, or shift it with the shifting government and the laws. His safety lies in the stability of law and good order in society. In anarchy and revolution he can gain nothing, but lose much. Should not, then, the policy of the government be such as to enlarge that class of its citizens holding an interest in common with its own?

Again—The proposed exemption would present a serious check upon the monopoly of the soil by the wealthy. It is a common opinion that this evil is confined mostly to the old world; but this is a great mistake—we need not go beyond the limits of our own state to show its fallacy. The settlement of portions of Pennsylvania has been retarded more than half a century by the early purchase and retention of the soil by rich companies and individuals; and even now the development of its resources is greatly checked, and its annual produce lessened, by the same cause.

So seriously is this evil beginning to be known and felt, that the proposition to limit the amount of land which any one person may hold at any one time is rapidly gaining supporters. To this limitation, are many objections; but would not the exemption suggested, secure most, if not all its good, without any of its bad results? Although the purchase of land to any amount might not be positively prohibited, would not very expensive purchases be greatly curtailed, by allowing every man to retain a portion? The homestead, as stated above, always sells at a loss, and there are many capitalists who hang about sheriffs' offices, and double their money by buying in the poor man's home. Place that home beyond the reach of chicane or misfortune, and one branch of land speculation and monopoly will be entirely destroyed. Instead of a dependant tenantry, the soil will be cultivated by freeholders, and hundreds of idle, shiftless, landless citizens, stimulated by the hope of retaining, will be induced to acquire and cultivate a portion of the earth.

Having mentioned a few of the blessings which this exemption may give to the debtor and the State, let us inquire how it will affect the creditor, for his rights and interests should be as carefully guarded as theirs. Suppose that at the time a credit is given, it is stipulated by the parties, that in case of failure to pay, the creditor may seize all the debtor's property, except his dwelling house, would any one say, that upon the happening of the contingency provided for, the creditor could be allowed to violate his contract and drive the family of the unfortunate debtor into the streets? Certainly not. But parties contracts in view of the existing laws of the State, and, in their contemplation, such laws become a part of the contract as if drawn up at length and inserted in it. Nor will it be claimed that the creditor may violate his implied any more than his express contract? And if not, in what respect is the creditor injured? So far from being injured, it seems to me he will be benefitted.—There is no wisdom in the policy that strips the falling debtor at once; for from that time however honest or numerous his debts, he pays no more.—Driven from his fireside, and compelled to set up his household goods in new and changing places, his ambition and energy are gone. His lessened earnings are absorbed in rents, if not wasted in dissipation. The wisdom of this policy is the wisdom of the woman who killed the hen that every day laid the golden egg, in order to secure the mass of gold she supposed her hen contained, and thus, without finding the expected fortune, lost her daily treasure.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MR. WHITE—In your paper of the 20th instant, there is an article signed 'One of the Committee,' which I suppose is intended as a reply to my note of a date preceding, addressed to the auditing committee of city councils, in which I called their attention to a statement which I thought calculated to make a very erroneous impression in regard to the relative proportion of taxes paid by the city and county, and contrary to my hope, 'one of the committee,' in his rejoinder, instead of giving us the data upon which they founded the assertion, that 'whilst property in the city was assessed at its bona fide value, property in the country, farms, &c., were assessed at less than one-tenth of what they should have been,' kindly assures me that if, instead of 'putting myself in print,' I had called upon the committee, I should have had all the information by which they were enabled to arrive at a conclusion so 'clearly' discreditable to all the assessors in the country districts. In this opinion, however, 'one of the committee' is probably mistaken, for I lay no claim to the character of those

'Whose optics are so sharp, I ween,
As to see what is not to be seen.'.

And even 'one of the committee,' in his reply appears to have been not so very 'clear' in the matter as formerly, for without giving *any* particulars, he says that 'without *particularizing' any further*, he will refer me to the township of Ross, with which he says I must be familiar, and that there I will find farms, large and small, rated at about one *fourth* of their value. Mark how he is approaching the truth in the premises!—another effort, and he may succeed. But even to sustain himself in that, he refers to two farms not in Ross township, valued—as all other real estate was—three years ago, and on which the very enterprising proprietors have since made very valuable improvements. The other which he alludes to, he has not been kind enough to give me the slightest clue by which to refer to it. Will 'One of the Committee,' or the whole committee, be kind enough to inform me how such an erroneous discrepancy, if it exists, happened to escape the notice of the last convention of assessors? How it happened, even since, to escape the vigilance of our excellent Board of County Commissioners, and was left standing for three whole years, to be brought to light by the Auditing Committee of the City Councils. But in sober seriousness, my dear sir, without fifty years' experience—which you are again wrong in saying I laid claim to—I am fully aware that the general valuation of property in the country is not much below the mark, and if yours is too high, it is not our fault. Now, do not complain on us for what we can't help—don't call us names, and say our assessors are all a set of foresworn scamps.—Just inform us *politely*, when your burdens are heavier than you can bear, and we'll lend you a hand. We are all thriving in the country, and we will rejoice in the prosperity of the city. None of us are going to California for gold—every farmer of us manufactures his own gold, and, when made, it looks better, and will wear longer than any that you will bring from the 'diggings.' If you will be civil, and ask kindly, we will even help you to grade and pave 5th Street, *every Summer*, and assist you with all those cross diggings about the new Court House—all those *improvements* tend to elevate the *standing* of that splendid edifice, which we built for you a few years ago; and it will give us pleasure to see our money so very *economically* expended. You never hear *us* complain. We pay, cheerfully, our *tax*, which you impose for the privilege of furnishing you with your daily bread.—When you examine and take our produce, pray be cause its *weight*, or quality, or dimensions, do not square with city views, we never complain. We deal with you on the presumption that you are all honest men; and I am happy to know, without fifty years' experience, that some of you are really such. If you help us occasionally to build a bridge or two, it furnishes a facility for the supply of your necessities, and we in return cheerfully pay for your summary committments, &c. Now, in all good humor, Mr. Committee Man, when you again 'put yourself in print,' give us the documents. You have facilities for this, which are not so convenient to us in the country, and if we can 'clearly' see that there is any thing wrong in our mutual relations, we'll right 'em for you without cost. The polite allusion to the locale of feeling in country gentlemen, and the acknowledgement by the citizens generally, of the honor conferred by the writer, are accepted and duly appreciated. Their value being greatly enhanced by the very respectable medium through which they are so 'clearly' communicated. Yours, &c., S.

Ross Township, January 22d, 1849.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—The Anniversary Meeting of the Colonization Society was held on Tuesday evening last week in the House of Representatives at Washington. It was very fully attended, and is characterized as one of the largest for many years except the last, when Mr. CLAY presided.

HON. ELISHA WHITTLESY called the meeting to order, and Mr. McLain, the Secretary of the Society, then read the Annual Report—from which it appeared, that 443 emigrants have been sent to Liberia the past year, of whom 324 were slaves liberated for the purpose of colonization. Of the full number 113 were free colored, and 2 recaptured Africans. These were sent from 13 states, and the greatest number went from Virginia. Of the whole number, only 12 have died—The applications for emigration already number 657, and there is a probability 500 more.

The receipts of the Colonization Society during the year are stated at $50,114; while the expenditures have been $51,953. A number of Auxiliary Societies have been formed the past year.

—The speakers of the evening were Hon. Richd. W. Thompson of In. the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Walker. Hons. J. R. Ingersoll and McLane, of Md., and Hugh Maxwell, Esq. of New York. The speeches were all eloquent and powerful and the interest of the meeting continued unabated until its close.

PUBLIC LIFE IN MISSOURI is attended with inconviences not common to elevated stations. Gov. Edwards, in his farewell address, says almost every Governor has fallen before envy, malice and hatred. The brief history he gives of his predecessors is quite interesting. He says.

"One—a good man and a patriot—resigned and left his post before his time expired; the next left before his term was out, and not in good odor; the next committed suicide a year in advance of the close of his four years; and the next has moved at all times ready to meet an assassin, during at least three and a half years out of the four of his administration."

Gov. Edwards may congratulate himself on going out of his office without having to be carried.

SENTENCE TO THE STATE PRISON.—A correspondent of the Newburyport, Mass., Herald gives an account of the sentence of one Glines, of New Bedford, who, it will be remembered, induced a young girl to go with him in a chaise, on the plea that her father was sick, and after getting her into the woods committed an assault upon her, from the effects of which she did not recover for some time. He put in the plea of insanity, in mitigation of the crime, but without avail. He was sentenced by Judge Mellen to *twenty years* confinement at hard labor in the State Prison. Served him right.

A FARCICAL DUEL.—A duel lately came off in Fountain county, Ind. The combatants were LORENZO D. Orvis and James Durby. It appears that the seconds aimed to make the affair as farcical as possible, by loading their rifles with 'Something fresh and softer than lead.' The ground being measured off, and word given, bang went their instruments of death. The reader may readily guess that no bones were broken. To render the affair still more ridiculous, the surgeon in attendance promptly proceeded to the discharge of his duty by stepping up to the murdered two with his implements, comprising an old rusty axe, tobacco cutter, tap borer and jack knife, but finding neither of the 'brothers of honor' hurt, he gave orders that they should be cleaned and sent home.

FROM HARRISBURGH.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURGH, Jan. 20, 1849.

Dear Sir:—The Committee on Inland Navigation of the House, this morning by Mr. Fuller, reported a bill for the completion of the North Branch Canal—that is, from the mouth of Lackawana river just above Wilkesbarre, to the New York State Line. As this is a most important bill, and one upon which much discussion is likely to ensue, I give it at length:

An Act to provide for the Completion of the North Branch Extension of the Pennsylvania Canal. [Read by Mr. Little, of Wyoming, and reported by the Committee on Inland Navigation.]

Be it enacted, &c. SECTION 1.—That the Governor be, and he is hereby authorized to negotiate a loan by issuing negotiable certificates of stock for a sum sufficient to complete the North Branch Canal; $500,000 of said loan to be paid into the treasury, in the year 1849; $500,000 in the year 1850; and during the year 1851, such a sum, if any, as the Canal Commissioners shall deem necessary for the final completion of said work, an estimate of which they are hereby directed to furnish in their annual report, which loan shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding 6 per cent per annum, payable half yearly at the Bank of Pennsylvania, in the city of Philadelphia; and for the reimbursement of said loan at the expiration of 12 years, and the payment of interest accruing thereon, the tolls hereafter received at the Collector's offices at Berwick and Northumberland, on the said Canal, are hereby specifically pledged.

SECTION II.—The Governor is hereby authorized to cause to be executed, certificates of stock, bearing interest at 6 per cent, transferrable, &c.

SECTION III.—The money authorized to be borrowed by this act, shall be applied to the completion of the North Branch Canal; and the revenues accruing in the said Canal, from and after the passage of this act, shall be and are hereby set apart and appropriated as a fund for the payment of the accruing interest, and for the reimbursement of the loan aforesaid; and as an additional guarantee for the payment of the principal and interest thereof, the faith of the State is hereby pledged.

SECTION IV.—The Canal Commissioners are hereby directed to put the said work under contract as early as practicable after the loan shall have been negotiated.

The entire North, this session, is pouring into the Legislature a flood of petitions in favor of the completion of this Canal. Some of the applications for damages, also caused by the work on the 94 miles of the extension partially made, above the mouth of the Lackawana, have likewise been presented. These applications for damages can only arise in consequence of the bank not being completed. If finished, it would prove an advantage, instead of detriment, and nothing of course, could be obtained from the Commonwealth. I have heard it estimated that the applications of this kind, which will be pressed, and which will be founded in justice, if the work is not resumed, must reach an aggregate of claims not short of half a million of dollars. The friends of the resumption of this work and its completion, urge that nearly two and a half millions of money has already been expended upon that part of the line above the mouth of the Lackawana. That all the heavy work on said line is done, and that moreover, the work since its neglect, has sustained very little if any permanent injury. New dams of course will be required. That by the estimate of competent and experienced Engineers, $1,100,000 will easily finish the work. The tonnage in the North Branch will consist chiefly of coal, the line passing through the centre of the Wyoming coal field. Two hundred thousand tons of this staple sent to market the firs year is thought an exceedingly moderate estimate The Canal is one hundred miles long. At a half a cent per ton a mile, the revenue would be one hundred thousand dollars. But it is urged, that at the end of five years from its completion, not less than half a million of tons would annually pass upon it. At this rate it would in a very short time pay the costs, and pay an interest to the Commonwealth.

The question here arises, where is the market for all this coal. It is answered in the towns, cities villages, and farm houses of Central and Western New York. The Salt works alone of that State will consume annually nigh 100,000 tons; and when the North Branch Canal is finished to its connection with the Canal of New York, coal will be taken *by water through* the following counties viz:—Bradford and Wyoming in Pennsylvania; Tioga, Chenango, Yates, Seneca, Ontario, Wayne Monroe, Orleans, Niagara, Erie, Broome, Madison and Oneida, New York. These counties contain a population of 700,000. The consumption of coal in England amounts to something more than a ton for each individual inhabitant; on that basis, the great consumption of coal in New York, and the Lake region, teeming with millions, and which will be reached by means of this Canal, can easily be estimated. It is a fact that coal could be delivered from the Wyoming coal region at Buffalo for $5 per ton.

The project for erecting a new county to be called Carroll, out of parts of your county, Washington, Westmoreland and Fayette, is again on the Legislative carpet.

I believe there is a majority of the members averse to any new County projects. These are generally pretty numerous, and there is no telling what log-rolling may accomplish. Let me enumerate them:—

Carroll—Out of parts of Washington, Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Fayette, adjacent to the Monongahela River. Monongahela City, proposed county seat.

Lawrence—From Beaver and Mercer. Newcastle, proposed county seat.

Tionesta—From Venango, Crawford, and Warren.

Pine—From Clearfield, Indiana, and Jefferson.

Lackawanna—From Luzerne. Carbondale, county seat.

Madison—From Berks, Montgomery and Chester. Pottstown, county seat.

Conestoga—Lancaster and York. Columbia, county seat.

Quite a small list you see, compared with the usual average of such applications. But we are early in the session yet, and may "do better."

Our friend, Fenlon—honest John, as they call him in Cambria—appears to have a crow to pick with the administration of the Allegheny Portage Railroad, which tried, it is said, to save him the necessity of crossing it on his way to Harrisburg, this winter. John has already thrown two bombshells into the Canal Commissioners room, in the shape of resolutions of inquiry, in regard to number of hands employed at different periods; money expended, and what for; amounts due and unpaid, &c. Honest John ardently means to ascertain how some things are done as well as others.

Among the petitions which have been presented is one by Mr Saively, from citizens of Allegheny county, for a uniform standard measure for Bituminous Coal, which was referred to the members from that county. Talking of Coal, how about the acts to "further develope the mineral resources of the Commonwealth," by authorizing warrants to be laid, so as to cover miners under ground, work with you? Up in Luzerne county, they are perfectly wild in opposition to it. The member from Clearfield, also, Mr Wattles, has already placed on file a bill repealing it, so far as relates to that county; rendering all warrants issued under it null and void, and directing the State Treasurer to refund the money. Petitions, however, have been presented, praying that if the law should be repealed, it may be done so as not to destroy rights already vested.

You doubtless recollect the troublesome election inspector, who, at the Governor's election, in the 5th Ward of Southwark, by his obstinacy, prevented a portion of the people from voting, that two or three hundred Whigs and Natives were prevented from voting in time. The same result occurred in a more modified degree at the Presidential election. There is a proposition now before the Legislature, to divide the ward into two or more divisions, and so bid defiance in future to all such men as Mr Inspector Murphy.

There is a disposition manifested this session to amend the Common School Laws. On motion of Mr Grittenger, of Lebanon, after some discussion, the Committee on Education, were directed to inquire into the expediency of re-modeling the school laws, so as to make them clearer and more comprehensive. Mr Hover, of Lancaster, suggested no amendment to them, which I think, has pith in it: to appoint an Assistant Superintendant of Common Schools, in every county of the Commonwealth. If these should be selected from men of the highest order of talent and education, with power to license, or not, teachers, the foundation of improvement in the system would be attained. A high and fixed rate of wages, and a high standard of qualification for teachers, is the infallible panacea for the evils and defects of the system.

The effort to avoid the inclined plane, in the Columbia Railroad, near the Schuylkill, a place that is the dread of travellers and the annoyance of transporters of goods, has again been renewed. The embarrassed finances of the State, makes its success very doubtful—aside from this it would succeed at once. The payment of the February interest will be too tight a squeeze to allow elbow-room for such treasury-tapping projects as this work is.

I enclose a bill offered in his place by Mr. H. S. Evans, of Chester, (the editor of the Village Record,) for the abolition of Militia Trainings, and the extinction of the State debt. It is a most important proposition, and one, if available to accomplish the end proposed, undoubtedly worthy of the careful scrutiny, and fostering care of every one who desires to see the public burdens liquidated. The object of the bill is to release the state from militia musterings, which, in point of fact are a heavy loss to the Commonwealth. 250,000 able bodied citizens being subjected to a loss of two days annually in mustering—and to substitute in place thereof a small tax of 30 cents. This tax is estimated to amount to $60,000 per annum. This is to be appropriated as the first item of the sinking fund. The second item provided for, is the discount now allowed to tax payers for prompt payment of State Taxes; and prompt payment is enforced in the 6th Section. This saving would create an additional fund of $41,000. The saving by the reduction of the per centage for collection of the State Taxes, is estimated at 40,000 and constitutes the third item of the sinking fund—making in all about $140,000. The important features of the project are as follows: 1st. it imposes no new taxes, unless the substitution of a small tax in view of military trainings, which cannot justly be regarded as such, be so considered. 2nd. It economizes the collection of the State Taxes. 3d. It enforces the prompt payment of taxes, by imposing 5 per cent upon such as neglect to pay at the time appointed. 4th. The fund thus constituted, will amount annually to the sum of $140,000, besides the interest accruing annually upon the State loans purchased by the fund, and which interest is to be added to the fund, to be appropriated to the same purpose. 5th. This fund will increase at compound interest, and by the addition of the interest accruing upon the stock, also at compound interest, in such a ratio that in the space of about 55 years, it would entirely extinguish the State debt. The power of the fund so created can only be properly appreciated, when it is considered that it would require the appropriation of $500,000 annually, for a period of eighty years to accomplish the payment of the State debt. Another feature worthy of reflection in connection with the consideration of this bill, is the fact that the taxes of the people would be paid with more cheerfulness when any prospect shall be afforded of a Sinking Fund. It would also put the State credit upon a solid basis, and bring up the State stocks to par in a few years. Such are a few of the arguments in favor of this bill.

The Ohio and Erie Railroad charter, besides being vetoed by the Governor, is being a sharp squeeze for its life—if it is alive—in the Legislature. The Senate yesterday passed the bill for repeal of the act, by a vote of 16 yeas to 12 nays. The repeal bill will meet, however, with opponents in the House.

The resolution for inquiring in regard to the unrecognized laws in the hands of the Governor, was the order of the day again this morning. Messrs. Roberts, Myers of Berks, Speaker Packer, Biddle, Evans of Chester, Little, Ealeman and Cooper, participated in the discussion. All the speakers agreed in thinking the acts to be undoubtedly laws, and Speaker Packer and Myers, talked darkly about "a misdemeanor in office," and the duty of the house as a tribunal for the impenchment of the Governor. This last, however, is "all leather and prunella"—sound and fury, signifying nothing.

Mr. Swartzwelder has introduced a bill for the election of Judges by the people. This measure is growing in favor with men who were originally opposed to the Reform Convention change—preferred the town by which the Judges held office, and fixed their services for a term of years instead of during good behavior, the Judiciary system was left in that condition of subserviency to the powers that be, as to make an appeal, directly to the good sense of the people, by means of an election, the next best "reform" to be adopted. The system of electing Judges works well in Ohio and admirably in New York—and why should it not in Pennsylvania!

The election of Deputy Attorneys by the people of the several counties is another proposition just introduced to the notice of the present session of the Legislature. This, too, is a measure destined to succeed ere long.

In politics not much is stirring. There is a calm in the political world just previous to the Presidential Inauguration. The Pennsylvania delegation in Congress are divided on the Cabinet question, though I understand Stewart has the majority for Secretary of Treasury. Josiah Randall's friends are pushing him for Attorney General, and McKennan's, for Secretary of War. LINDEN.

An act to abolish Militia Training, diminish the cost of collecting the State Taxes, and to provide a Sinking fund for the payment of the State Debt.

Read in House of Representatives, by H. S. Evans, of Chester, Jan. 18, 1849.

Whereas—The performance of military duty upon the several days now provided by law for the training of the militia has always been regarded as a burdensome tax upon the citizens, and of no practical utility in imparting a knowledge of military tactics, and it is exceedingly to be desired that the same may be compounded by the payment of a small sum annually in lieu thereof. And, whereas, it is the desire of all the citizens of this Commonwealth that a permanent sinking fund may be provided for the extinction of a large debt with, which the State is now burthened. And, whereas the compensation paid to the collectors for collecting the state tax upon real and personal estate amounted in the year 1848, to the sum of $70,000, and the discount allowed to the tax payers for the prompt payment of said tax, amounted in the same year to the sum of $41,000, both of which sums are lost to the revenues of the State. And, whereas, the imposition of additional taxes for the establishment of a sinking fund, ought to be avoided. Therefore—

Be it enacted, &c.—That so much of the militia laws as relate to the training of the militia of the Commonwealth, at stated periods annually, by companies and battalions, be and the same is here by repealed, and that hereafter every citizen enrolled in the militia and liable to military duty, in lieu of such training, shall be liable to an annual tax of thirty cents, to be assessed as State taxes are now assessed, and collected as the State taxes are now, or may hereafter be collected, and subject to the same regulations for the collection thereof as are prescribed, or may hereafter be prescribed for the levy and collection of State taxes.

SECTION II. The said tax when collected shall be transmitted by the county Treasurer annually to the State Treasurer, who shall keep a separate account of the amount so transmitted from time to time; and the State Treasurer in his annual statement to the Legislature shall give distinctly the amount of said tax, so transmitted to him.

SECTION III. The money paid into the treasury as aforesaid, shall form a fund, to be called the Sinking Fund, and the proceeds thereof, together with such additions as are made by the 4th and 5th sections of this act, or as may from time to time be provided for the increase of said Sinking fund, shall be appropriated by the Governor and State Treasurer annually if the purchase of the loans of the Commonwealth at the current market price thereof, not exceeding the par value, the certificates of which loans so purchased shall be cancelled, and the debt reduced so much; and there shall be added to the said fund by the Treasurer of the state, at least 15 days prior to the time appointed for the payment of the semi-annual interest in the state debt, from any revenue in the treasury, a sum equal to the amount of the interest on the entire debt so paid, in the same manner as if the said stock had not been cancelled which sum shall also be applied to the purchase of state loans in like manner as above, and so on annually until the whole debt of the State be paid out of the fund so provided.

SECTION IV.—The act of 1844, allowing a discount, when paid in the year 1848, amounting to the sum of 41,000 dollars, is hereby repealed, and paid. The sum of $41,000 so allowed for discounts, shall be hereafter annually appropriated to the sinking fund, established by the foregoing provisions of this act.

SECTION V.—The sum of $45,000, being three fifths of the amount paid in the year 1848, to the several Tax Collectors, for collecting the State Tax, upon real and personal estate, shall also be added annually hereafter (together with the interest which may accrue thereon) to the sinking fund above provided for, and invested in like manner.

SECTION VI.—The Collectors of the State Taxes, in the several wards, boroughs, and townships of this Commonwealth, shall, on or before the 4th day of June, in each and every year, post up a printed or written notice or advertisement in at least eight of the public places of the several wards, boroughs, or townships, giving twenty days notice of the time they will receive the Taxes assessed upon the inhabitants thereof, at the place appointed for holding the ward, borough, and township elections, and the Tax-payers shall then pay over the amount of their State Taxes, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 6 o'clock P.M.; and for the Taxes so collected, the Collector shall receive the sum of two per cent, in the manner now allowed by law; and he shall continue to receive such Taxes for at least two consecutive days. And if any Taxpayer shall refuse or neglect to pay over at the time and place appointed, the amount of Taxes assessed against him, it shall be the duty of the Collector to collect it in the same manner now provided for by law, and he shall receive five per cent for his trouble, which additional five per cent, together with two per cent, to be allowed by the County Treasurer, from the State Taxes, for the amount of the Taxes so collected, shall be the compensation of the Collector.

SECTION VII.—All existing laws inconsistent with the provisions of the act, are hereby repealed.

AN ACT in relation to a Notary Public of Pittsburgh.

SECTION I.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in general assembly met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That so much of the act passed January fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, fourtitled a supplement to the act to enable the Governor to appoint Notaries Public and for other purposes' as requires one of the additional Notaries Public authorized to be appointed by said act for the county of Allegheny to reside in the Borough of the Northern Liberties be and the same is hereby repealed and the said additional Notary Public is hereby authorized to reside in any part of said county.

Received signature of Governor, Jan. 18, 1849.

SINGULAR ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY.—William W. Brown writes to the Liberator that one of the most interesting cases of the escape of fugitives from Slavery has occurred. He gives the following particulars:

"William and Ellen Crapt, man and wife, lived with different masters in the State of Georgia—Ellen is so near white that she can pass without suspcion for a white woman. Her husband is much darker. He is a mechanic, and by working nights and Sundays, he laid up money enough to bring himself and his wife out of Slavery. Their plan was without precedent; and though novel, was the means of giving them their freedom—Ellen dressed in man's clothing, and passed as the *master*, while her husband passed as the *servant*—in this way they traveled from Georgia to Philadelphia. They are now out of the reach of the bloodhounds of the South. On their journey they put up at the best hotels where they stopped. Neither of them can read or write; and Ellen, knowing that she would be called upon to write her name at the hotels &c. tied her right hand up as though it was lame, which proved of some service to her, as she was called upon several times at hotels to "register" her name. In Charleston S. C. they put up a tithe'hotel which Gov. McDuffie and J. C. Calhoun generally make their home; yet these distinguished advocates of the "peculiar institution" say that the slaves cannot take care of themselves. They arrived in Philadelphia in four days from the time they started."

Mr. Brown writes that these fugitives will attend the meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, in Boston, the last of the present month.

W. H. Wright, M. D., Dentist,

OFFICE and residence on Fourth street, opposite the Pittsburgh Bank. Office hours from 9 o'clock to 12 A. M., and from 2 o'clock to 5 P. M. sept14-y

REMARKABLE CASE OF SURGERY.—We find the ollowing semi-professional account of the sufferings and death of Rev. Elam H. Walker, late pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Danville, Livingston county, in the New York Day Book, from the pen of the Editor, Dr. Bacon:

"His death was caused by the growth of a singularly hard and obstinate tumor in the throat, which began about twenty years ago [as a sequel to a neglected sore throat or quinsy] with deep seated and scarcely perceptible "lump" on the right side of the neck, and gradually enlarged without occasioning particular annoyance, until within the last two or three years, during which it encroached towards the front and left-side, producing a distressing and constantly increasing constriction of the larnyx and trachea, [the respiratory passage,] that became for the last few months a prolonged and agonizing strangulation, making every breath a laborious and almost convulsive struggle against suffocation, under which the strength of his robust and otherwise perfectly healthy frame was gradually worn out. About ten days since,—it being evident that he must die by strangulation in a day or two, if not relieved, a desperate [but, in the circumstances, perfectly proper and justifiable, as well as desirable] operation was performed upon the diseased throat, by Dr. F. H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, an eminent and skillful surgeon. But the incision only revealed the utter hopelessness of the case.—and made it evident that the intended operation could not be completed by the removal of that portion of the tumor, which produced the strangulation, without causing instant death. The formidable and mysterious *thyroid gland* was the constricting body, which could not be separated without uncontrollable and immediately fatal hemorrhage. The only remaining chance, even of a few hours of life, was to open the respiratory passage below the seat of the disease.

This was done by the operation of *tracheotomy*; and through the artificial aperture thus formed, the sufferer obtained for the last four days of his life, the first full and free breathing which he had known for years,—though, of course, from the moment of the perforation of the trachea, he entirely lost the power of speaking.

The disease has been under vigorous treatment for more than a year past, with the aid of minute consultation with the most eminent physicians and surgeons in the State, without any permanent relief. It differed essentially from common *bronchocele*, ["goitre,"] which is a prominent, indolent pendulous tumor, and was not impressible by the remedies which are so uniformly successful in that self-born or never fatal disease, and tended more as a deformity than as a danger to life or general health. An instance of strangulation from genuine, common goitre, is a thing unknown. The tumor in this fatal case was not prominent or pendulous, nor sufficiently conspicuous to be noticed as a deformity.

The only relief experienced from the treatment was for a short time last August, when active medication was followed by a considerable discharge of pus and blood from the interior of the throat,—after which for a few days, the patient breathed with an ease and freedom which he had not known for months.—This favorable turn was very transient. The first exposure to fatigue and dampness brought back the original difficulty, which from that time was wholly unyielding and steadily progressive. The gradual tightening of a hard band around the throat, pressing on the wind pipe, would give the best idea of the nature of the distressing process by which his life was extinguished.

Remarkable as was the disease, [unparalleled in the experience and reading of several of the most learned and eminent men of this city,] the deportment of the sufferer, throughout, to the last, was equally so. Such calm faith, such smiling cheerfulness, in every extremity, were never equalled in the observation of the writer."

THE COLONIZATION CAUSE.—The American Colonization Society have recently sent out 440 emigrants, which has exhausted their funds, and they are now appealing to aid to send out 500 more to Liberia. Applications of this kind are rapidly increasing, and unless pecuniary help be afforded, the Society must become embarrassed at the very time when vast openings of usefulness to the African race are rewarding their philanthropic efforts, and when owners of slaves are willing to release them if they can be transferred to their own land.

We find in the last number of the *African Repository*, some interesting and startling facts in reference to the slave trade. According to the estimate of Lord Howden, British Minister to Brazil, 60,000 Africans were imported as slaves into that empire, in 1847. This vessel alone made five successful voyages during the year, importing between two and three thousand slaves. Of 52 slave vessels sailing from Rio de Janeiro in 1846, fifteen were American.—*Philadelphia Daily News.*

A SPIRITED WOMAN.—In the reign of Charles II a lady incurred the displeasure of a neighboring magistrate, who had her arrested, and brought before him as a Popish recusant, when he threatened to commit her. But at the same time addressing her, he said, 'I do not like to be ill natured, and if you will call the Pope a knave I will quash the indictment.' 'Sir' replied the high minded lady, 'I do not know the Pope, and therefore, will not say that he is a knave; but I know him half as well as I know you, I would swear he was a knave, and an arrant knave too.'

HENRY CLAY.—If our telegraphic despatches are correct, in regard to Mr. Clay having consented again to enter the Senate, the whole country will be delighted to know that the nation and the administration are to have the benefit of his experience and wisdom. With such men as Mr. Clay and Mr. Webster in the Senate, there is no danger from the foolish machinations of Mr. Calhoun.

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