The Pittsburgh Post.

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OATHS OF OFFICE.

A Full Statement of the Oaths required of Government Officers.

[From the National Intelligencer.]

Much inquiry having been made with respect to the precise language of the "oath of office" prescribed in different departments of the Government under the constitution and laws of the United States, we cite for the information of our readers the subsisting regulations under this head.

The appointment of the constitution with regard to the President of the United States is as follows:

"Before he enter on the execution of his office he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

It is known to all that the first law passed by the first Congress assembled under the present constitution was "An act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths." This law was enacted under the following provision of the constitution, as contained in its sixth article:

"The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound, by oath or affirmation, to support this constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

By the terms of the law, which was signed by President Washington on the 1st of June, 1789, it was ordained that "the oath or affirmation required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States shall be administered in the following form, to wit: 'I, A. B., do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States.'" The different sections of the law impose this oath alike upon senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States, upon members of the several state legislatures, and upon all executive and judicial officers of the several states. It is also ordered by this statute that "all officers appointed or hereafter to be appointed, under the authority of the United States shall, before they act in their respective offices, take the same oath or affirmation."

The military oath taken by officers of the army and navy is in the following words:

"I, A. B., do solemnly swear or affirm (as the case may be) to bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and to serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies and opposers whomsoever, and to observe and obey the orders of the Presidents of the United States of America, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the articles of war."

The following form of oath of allegiance, as is known to our readers, has been recently prepared with a view to its administration to all the employees of the government connected with the several executive departments. The form was prepared by the Attorney General, who was himself, we believe, the first to take and subscribe the oath:

"I, A. B., at this present time in the United States service as ——, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the constitution and government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith and loyalty to the same, as established by the constitution and laws; and, further, that I do this with a full determination and pledge, without any mental reservation or evasion, to perform in good faith all the duties which may be legally required of me. So help me God."

The intent of the constitution in imposing the oath obligating state officers to support that instrument must be clear to every mind, and when we recall the recognized principle of morals, that, in the matter of oaths, the *animus imponentis* is to govern, we shall at once perceive the barriers which the framers of the constitution believed themselves to have erected by this prescription against any proceedings on the part of state officers which should have for their effect to undermine and destroy the government founded on that constitution. The foresight with which this precautionary injunction was laid on the authorities of the several states is illustrated as well by recent events as by the following observations which Judge Story makes on the subject—(2 Story's Commentaries, p. 648-3):

"That all those who are entrusted with the execution of the powers of the national government should be bound by some solemn obligation to the due execution of the trusts reposed in them, and to support the constitution would seem to be a proposition too clear to render any reasoning necessary in support of it. It results from the plain right of society to require some guarantee from every officer that he will be conscientious in the discharge of his duty. Oaths have a solemn obligation upon the minds of all reflecting men, and especially upon those who feel a deep sense of accountability to a Supreme Being. If, in the ordinary administration of justice in cases of private rights, or personal claims, oaths are required of those who try as well as of those who give testimony, to guard against malice, falsehood and evasion, surely like guards ought to be interposed in the administration of high public trusts, and especially in such as may concern the welfare and safety of the whole community. But there are known denominations of men who are conscientiously scrupulous of taking oaths, (among which is that pure and distinguished sect of Christians, commonly called Friends, or Quakers,) and, therefore, to prevent any unjustifiable exclusion from office, the constitution has permitted a solemn affirmation to be made instead of an oath, and as its equivalent.

"But it may not appear to all persons quite so clear why the officers of the state governments should be equally bound to take a like oath or affirmation; and it has been even suggested that there is no more reason to require that than to require that all of the United States officers should take an oath or affirmation to support the state constitutions. A moment's reflection will show sufficient reasons for the requisition of it in the one case, and the omission of it in the other. The members and officers of the national government have no agency in carrying into effect the state constitutions. The members and officers of the state governments have an essential agency in giving effect to the national constitution. The election of the President and the Senate will depend, in all cases upon the legislatures of the several states; and in many cases, the election of the House of Representatives may be effected by their agency. The judges of the state courts will frequently be called upon to decide upon the constitution and laws, and treaties of the United States, and upon rights and claims growing out of them. Decisions ought to be, as far as possible, uniform; and uniformity of obligation will greatly tend to such a result. The executive authority of the several states may be often called upon to exert powers, or allow rights, given by the constitution, as in filling vacancies in the Senate, during the recess of the Legislature; in issuing writs of election to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives; in officering the militia, and giving effect to laws for calling them; and in the surrender of fugitives from justice. These, and many other functions, devolving on the state authorities, render it highly important that they should be under a solemn obligation to obey the constitution. In common sense there can be no well-founded objection to it. There may be serious evils growing out of an opposite course.* One of the objections taken to the Articles of Confederation by an enlightened state (New Jersey) was that no oath was required of members of Congress previous to their admission to their seats in Congress. The laws and usages of all civilized nations (said that state) evince the propriety of an oath on such occasions, and the more solemn and important the deposit, the more strong and explicit ought the obligation to be."†

*The Federalist, No. 44; 1 Tuck. Black. Comm. App. 370, 371; Rawle on Const. ch. 19, p. 191, 192.

†2 Pitt. Hist. 22; 1 Secret Journal of Congress, 25, 1778.

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P. O'BRIEN,

Orders solicited at basement shop, Grant street, opposite Cathedral.

GEO. W. CASS. W. M'CLINTOCK.

GEO. W. CASS & CO.

IRON CITY NAIL WORKS,

Warehouse, No. 405 Liberty Street,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

ap4-3m

GLASGOW'S AMBROTYE GALLERY,

—IN—

LAFAYETTE HALL,

FOURTH STREET ENTRANCE.

TO THOSE PARTIES WANTING real fine Ambrotypes at a moderate price, and all who have been unable to obtain a good likeness elsewhere are respectfully solicited to call.

Large variety of cases and frames always on hand. Prices moderate and satisfaction guaranteed.

G. GLASGOW.

my10 87 Fourth Street, Pittsburgh.

REMOVAL.—GEORGE W. CASS & CO HAVE REMOVED THEIR COUNTING ROOM from No. 27 Wood street to No. 405 Liberty street, adjoining the Canal Basin.

They will offer to the Trade a full stock of NAILS and SPIKES at market rates. my18

THE WEST CHESTER ACADEMY

AT WESTCHESTER, PA., WILL IN two months from this date, be under the supervision of the undersigned as Principals. Gentlemen who intend to place their sons at this Academy, will please make application at once, as the number of students will be limited to 60. The next session will commence on the first Monday in September. The duties of the academic session during the SUMMER MONTHS, Pupils are received at all times at proportionate charges. The present number of students is 40, and the average of each class is small. The French, German and Spanish languages are taught by native residents in this town. For circulars apply to

WM. F. WILLIS, A. M., Principal.

ap12-2md&wd1st West Chester, Penna.

COLT'S REVOLVERS, COLT'S REVOLVERS.

$10 RIFLES! $10 RIFLES!!

Sharp's Pistols and Rifles in great variety. Fishing Tackle, Fine Jointed Rods and a splendid assortment of Hooks and lines, For sale at

BOWN & TETLEY'S,

my18 156 Wood street, Pittsburgh.

CITY TAXES

—AND—

WATER RENTS.

ALL PERSONS LIABLE FOR CITY and Business Taxes and Water Rents in the city of Pittsburgh, are hereby notified that the above taxes and water rents are now due and payable at the

City Treasurer's Office, Fourth Street.

On all payments made before 1 OCTOBER next, a Discount of FIVE Per Cent. will be allowed. Between August 1st and Sep ember 1st, a discount of Two Per Cent. Between October 1st and November 1st, an addition will be made of five per cent. and after November 1st all remaining unpaid will be put in the hands of collectors, with a further addition of five per cent.

WM. KOSBAUM, City Treasurer.

C. B. SEELY,

No. 134 FIFTH STREET, opposite Cathedral,

REAL ESTATE AND GENERAL AGENT.

DEALER IN

NOTES, BONDS, MORTGAGES and other Securities

ap4

J. M. LITTLE

MERCHANT TAILOR,

NO. 84 ST. CLAIR STREET,

(Dr. Irish's New Building)

ja12-1y PITTSBURGH.

OFF THEY GO AT $256 EACH!

A first Spring Brick Dwelling House, 20x34, 2½ stories high, with Basement Kitchen, Cellar, &c., on the south side of Pius street, between 27th and 28th streets, Pittsburgh. Terms easy. Apply to

S. CUTHBERT & SON,

my18 51 Market street.

CARBON OIL.—20 barrels just received and for sale by

(108) ENOS H. COLLINS,

Miscellaneous.

BAYNE & NEEPER,

(SUCCESSORS TO A. H. BAYNE.)

STEAM BOOK BINDERY,

—AND—

BLANK BOOK MANUFACTORY,

No. 72 and 74 Third Street.

PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL BINDING in every variety,

BLANK BOOKS

Ruled to any intricate pattern, and bound in every desirable form. All work warranted to give satisfaction.

Prices at the Lowest Rates.

SAM'L P. BAYNE.....WM. W. NEEPER.

ap23md

THE MERCANTILE AGENCY;

FOR THE

PROMOTION & PROTECTION OF TRADE.

Over 240,000 Business Houses Reported, Embracing every City, Town and Village in the United States, Canada, and other British Possessions in N. A.

R. G. DUN & CO., Proprietors.

A. ARMSTRONG, Manager.

Corner of Wood and Fifth Streets, Pittsburgh, Pa

Established New York, June, 1841, Pittsburgh, March, 1852.

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mh21-dtf

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STEAM ENGINE BUILDERS

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General Machinists and Boiler Makers,

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MANUFACTURE, ALL KINDS OF Steam Engines, ranging from three to one hundred and fifty horse power, and suited for Grist Mills, Saw Mills, Blast Furnaces, Factories, etc.

Have also on hand, and in the construction of Engines and Machinery for grist mills, and for upright, muley and circular saw mills.

Also, on hand, and finished and ready for shipment at short notice, Engines and Boilers every description.

Also, furnish Boilers and Sheet Iron separately, and Wrought Iron Shafting, Hangers and Pulleys in great variety, and continue the manufactory of Woolen Machinery and Machine Cards.

Our prices are low, our machinery manufactured of the best quality of materials, and warranted in all cases, to give satisfaction.

Orders from all parts of the country solicited, and promptly filled. feb14-1yd&w

WM. TREACY,

HOUSE, SIGN & ORNAMENTAL

PAINTER AND GLAZIER,

Fourth St., Between Wood & Smithfield,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

All work promptly attended to. my31-1yd

NEW WALL PAPER STORE,

No. 107 Market Street,

BETWEEN FIFTH AND LIBERTY STREETS.

THE SUBSCRIBER IS NOW OPENING a new and large stock of

PAPER HANGINGS,

Embracing a complete assortment for Dwellings, Stores, Offices, Halls, Churches, &c., to which he would respectfully invite the attention of the Public, having in entire new stock of goods recently purchased and now arriving. Those in want of new goods will find them by looking through our assortment before purchasing elsewhere.

JOS. R. KRUGER.

ap18-1y

Dissolution of Partnership.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing between JOHN L. DAWES and JOHN F. CLULEY, of the firm of Dawes & Cluley, is hereby dissolved by mutual consent. J. F. CLULEY having purchased the interest of J. L. DAWES. The business will be carried on as heretofore by J. F. CLULEY, who will pay all claims against the late firm, and is authorized to collect all debts due the late firm of Dawes & Cluley.

JOHN L. DAWES.
JOHN F. CLULEY.

my24-1wd

PRODUCE—

200 Sacks Peaches,
400 do Apples,
10 Kegs Lard,

WM. H. SMITH & CO, No. 118 Second and 147 Front streets.

mh25

JUST SO.—$250 for a Two Story Brick Dwelling House of four rooms and finished attic, No. 22 Duquesne street. For sale by

S. CUTHBERT & SON,

my18 51 Market street.

Co-Partnership.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE THIS day formed a Co-Partnership under the name and style of "ERK NEEPER & CO., in the Paper, Rag and general Commission Business.

NOW RESIDING.
C. HENRY MERRICK,
EDWARD C. CLAFF.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 1st, 1861.

Mr. M. PEARCE.....C. HENRY MERRICK.....E. C. CLAFF

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mar PITTSBURGH, PA.

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