

PITTSBURGH:

THURSDAY MORNING—FEBRUARY 4.

STATE CONVENTION.—At a meeting of the Democratic State Committee, held at the Hotel Hartman's, January 26, 1884, it was voted to send to the legislative caucus of the State Convention before its convening on the 1st day of March next, a resolution to the Representatives of the State who were then in the Hall of the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., to nominate candidates for the election of each of the members of Congress for the term of next four years, as per the Constitution of the State.

C. H. MURKIN,

Secretary.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Judges of the Supreme Court have recently intimated to the Legislature the propriety of abolishing the old system of districts, and establishing a law to provide for the holding of the sessions of the court—especially in case of plenary session. They indicate that Philadelphia would be preferred by them; but that if this city is selected, an increase of salary would be required in order to enable them to live as becomes their position. The question is one which is susceptible of division, but in our estimation both propositions are eminently proper. There are not probably to be found in the State five men who are more constantly overworked, mentally and physically, than the Judges of our Supreme Court. In fact, it is the most arduous work performed by any of the branches. We have added to the committee the names of the two most eminent physicians, representing Clay, Calhoun, Webster, Randolph, Chase, Justice Marshall, Patrick Henry, and Mr. Mirer, the agent for the publication of Dr. Appleton & Co., in this city. This work furnished us very convenient and popular form, as far as prepared selection of speeches by some of the most eminent writers and statesmen of America. Several of these speeches are now published in volume form for library purposes for the first time. To the credit of our own history will be a valuable one, from the fact that in addition to a variety of miscellaneous addresses and speeches, it contains specimens of the eloquence of the continental Congress and portions of discussions on the adoption of the Federal Constitution in State Conventions. A short, compact biographical notice is given in each section, to which is attached specimens of eloquence, some valuable historical and explanatory notes. The feature of the work, however, is in the beautiful and consummate engraving, representing Clay, Calhoun, Webster, Randolph, Chase, Justice Marshall, Patrick Henry, and Mr. Mirer, the agent for the publication of Dr. Appleton & Co., in this city.

A copy of the above valuable work has just been placed upon our table by Messrs. Hunt & Mirer, the agents for the publication of Dr. Appleton & Co., in this city. This work furnished us very convenient and popular form, as far as prepared selection of speeches by some of the most eminent writers and statesmen of America. Several of these speeches are now published in volume form for library purposes for the first time. To the credit of our own history will be a valuable one, from the fact that in addition to a variety of miscellaneous addresses and speeches, it contains specimens of the eloquence of the continental Congress and portions of discussions on the adoption of the Federal Constitution in State Conventions. A short, compact biographical notice is given in each section, to which is attached specimens of eloquence, some valuable historical and explanatory notes. The feature of the work, however, is in the beautiful and consummate engraving, representing Clay, Calhoun, Webster, Randolph, Chase, Justice Marshall, Patrick Henry, and Mr. Mirer, the agent for the publication of Dr. Appleton & Co., in this city.

BUCKEY'S OPINION ON WASHINGTON.

A Washington opinion of the Cleveland Plain Dealer has written in relation to the late festival at the house of Senator Douglass, of Washington. He says:—

The entertainment consisted of dancing, eating, talking and laughing—nothing done well, nothing done ill, nothing done in a disagreeable or painful manner. The ladies all go to the dance, and the men all go to the dance.

It is a work rare usefulness, morally and physically, than the Judge of our Supreme Court.

At the same time their salaries are most meager in comparison with the talents, learning, and services required. These duties are yearly mounting not only through the natural increase of the population of our State, and consequent increase of business of all kinds, but the Legislature, by creating corporations, and other organizations has imposed additional labor upon the tributary. None of these duties have been reduced, less energy, while a large increase is to be looked for from nests of every kind in capital and remote parts from the seats of government. To secure the services of able jurists, it is necessary to pay the value of the services rendered, and this to the judges of our Supreme Bench is not done. We know it is distasteful to the members of the Legislature, to urge upon them an increase of salaries of any description, in this anxiety to save our people's money, the argument "if they don't like the salary let them sign, has frequently too much influence in matters like this, where we have the control of our lives and fortunes, it had better be paid upon the bench such men as will work well. In the system is perverted, in the Supreme Bench of our State, which basely beats the people of Pennsylvania, who are most determined. If the people are not willing to pay for that rate taken in their court of the resort, they cannot expect their business to be done in a first rate manner. Reciprocal and declaimations on some of the brightest ornaments of the Bench have already taken place. Look at the instances of Judge Black, Judge Davis and Judge Knox. We believe the members of the present Legislature, to be an unusually intelligent body of gentlemen. They are many among them—lawyers, editors and the like, who are well informed themselves and capable of informing their fellowmen in relation to all which the judicial status requires—the value and importance of the services rendered—the large amount of labor required, and the inadequacy of the compensation for it. In this matter cheapness is not transparency, and we hope before the session closes, to announce the passage of an act which shall relieve Pennsylvania from the imputation of having "the most hard working and poorly compensated judiciary in the world." Thus much we have to say in relation to the compensation of the Judges of the Supreme Bench.

In relation to the action of the court holding its sessions in different sections of the State, whatever may have been the original cause of its adoption, it is no longer necessary. Before the establishment of railroads, when travel was a tedious and expensive operation, and when the small amount of business brought before the court rendered it most convenient there was perhaps a fitness in the judges going from place to place, and thus bringing as it were "justice to every man's door," but now the system is not necessary, nor convenient. A large majority of the people of the State are adverse to that careful examination of each case which is required, and too frequently deprives the writer of that right which the law gives him of having his case heard and decided by a full bench of five judges. If the Legislature select one place easily reached by railroad from all the larger business and commercial points of the State, would do the people as well as the judges a service in the long run, or the State might be divided into two judicial districts, one in the East and the other in the West, the sessions of the court to be held in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

This subject, we are aware, might be likewise raised at much greater length, but our object is simply to call the attention of the Legislature to the evils which exist and leave it to their sagacity and wisdom to provide a remedy.

FRANCIS L. HAWKES,

The work is published by subscription in two octavo volumes, each containing about五百 pages. The travelling edition, Mr. H. Dill, will call upon our citizens with the work and solicit subscriptions.

EXTENSION OF STATE.

D. S. C. M. FITCH & J. W. SYKES,

We continue this editor as follows:

NO. 191 Penn Street, PITTSBURGH, PA.

MARCH 1, 1884.—**THE STATE.**—(Continued.)

When they have been examined, the subscribers and all other citizens of the State will be enabled to judge of the value and importance of the services rendered.

—In Cincinnati, last Saturday, Jacob Parker was sentenced to the penitentiary for life, for killing a young boy named Bennett, in a case here, a few months since.

—A new park, called Lafayette Park, containing forty acres, was held out in St. Louis.

—The 17th of February will be Ash Wednesday, which is the commencement of Lent.

—Col. Richard B. Jones, well known as the proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, in Philadelphia, came to his death on Saturday feet by falling from the third story window of his new establishment on Arch street, as he was endeavoring to fasten a shutter.

—A melancholy case of suicide occurred at the Smithwick House, in Broadway, New York, on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. A young man named Wm. B. Robinson, while in a state of delirium, threw himself from the head of a piano and struck his head against a chair, so that he died almost immediately.

—Louis Napoleon's son was slightly contused by fragments of glass at the recent attempted assassination.

The present open winter is bad for the hunting trade. There has not been snow enough to render it feasible to haul the logs to the river.

—A big man, named H. S. Beavers, has been convicted in Baltimore for shooting at and wounding a police officer.

During the month of January the change at the Philadelphia joint amounted to \$297,140, including 1,000,000 dollars, \$350,000 in silver, and \$54,140 in gold.

—The Advertiser announces a contest by the Smiths' family. If the entire family are present as performers, it will take a large hall to hold them.

—A bill is about to be introduced into the Kentucky Legislature, to forbid marriages between colored men on the ground that it militates against the principles of equality and freedom.

—Ex-Governor Walker, and Ex-Senator Stansbury are both in New York city.

—Ex-President Tilden is being dangerously ill at his residence, Sixty-third Street, Va.

We notice by the Chicago papers, that our friend D. W. Bass, the model railroad man, is directing his attention to the civil branch of affairs. He is a candidate for Alderman in the ninth ward of Chicago. If the whole wealth of that city is of the same complexion of politicians as the ninth ward of Pittsburgh, we will stand a poor chance.

A Financial Governor.

Gov. Brown, of Georgia, in some Banks and Banking. He discusses that question in his recent annual message and expresses his surprise, asserting that the thing looks very suspicious that the balance sheets of the banks should show an exact balance between the assets and liabilities, "never varying a quarter of a cent."

The Governor devotes a good deal of space to this extraordinary coincidence. He supposes it may be owing to the banks having a reserved fund which they are afraid for the people to know that they have made, and he thinks that such a fund is a part of the assets of the banks, and should be remembered when a return is made on audit.

The papers throughout Georgia are filled with ridicule of their Governor. We presume he has not given much attention to the science of book-keeping, nor if his message be a specimen, to the study of history, or grammar, or the art of composition—these two being chiefly consumed in comprehending the very power, which he has used freely on all occasions.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the road a committee was appointed with full power to act for the general retrenchment of working expenses and salaries. The result of their action has been the dismissal of a number of clerks and other employees—a reduction of ten per cent upon salaries over \$500 per annum commanding with the president of the road. The salaries of other employees have been reduced. What pity that this system of general retrenchment did not commence long ago!

The receipts of dry goods in New York during the four weeks just ended are less than for any corresponding period for eight years, the total value having fallen below three millions of dollars. The total value of the month's imports is only \$2,206,134 against \$10,889,370 for the same period last year, showing a falling of 37,460,822.

Hole-in-the-day, a celebrated Chippewa chief, was recently shot in a duel, by a man named Gilly. The deceased left no less than seven wives.

The Pittsburgh and Cincinnati is to be held.

G. RAYFORD is to be held.

A committee from G. H. Latshaw, Esq., president of the Pittsburgh and Cincinnati City Council, refers to the long-stand of an intended completion of the Pittsburgh and Cincinnati Canal from Little Creek (where it now connects with the Pennsylvania Railroad) into Pittsburgh upon its own independent line. It is estimated that the revenue of the road would be nearly doubled by its extension, without any material increase in its expenses. Additional details, corroborative of that estimate, have been since obtained, and further reasons for carrying the plan into effect have appeared. The plan may never come to fruition, but the necessity of making it go is to raise the liberty to make a provision of the slaves under the city of Pittsburgh, whose existing mortgage would otherwise extend over this new section of the work. The master has been referred to a joint special committee, which will in all probability visit and inspect the road on an early day.

Messrs. Spalding and Ford, the Presidents of the two branches, have been added to the committee.

Dr. E. H. BROWN, of Pittsburgh, has recommended to the members of the Board of Education, the removal of the schoolroom of the Pittsburgh and Cincinnati Canal from Little Creek, where it now connects with the Pennsylvania Railroad, into Pittsburgh upon its own independent line. It is estimated that the revenue of the road would be nearly doubled by its extension, without any material increase in its expenses. Additional details, corroborative of that estimate, have been since obtained, and further reasons for carrying the plan into effect have appeared. The plan may never come to fruition, but the necessity of making it go is to raise the liberty to make a provision of the slaves under the city of Pittsburgh, whose existing mortgage would otherwise extend over this new section of the work. The master has been referred to a joint special committee, which will in all probability visit and inspect the road on an early day.

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