Educational.

REPORT OF JOHN C. ELLIS,

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ADAMS CO.,

For the School Year ending the first Monday in June, 1862.

Published by order of the State Sup't, T. H. Burrowes.

The Superintendent of Common Schools says: "The reports of County Superintendents embrace a three-fold object. First, to give such information of the workings of the system and of the views of the local officer, as may enable the department to discharge its functions properly and intelligently, and usefully to report to the Legislature. Second, to furnish all the necessary statistical items, that can be numerically expressed, to be tabularized, so as to present both specific and general results at a glance, and lead to reliable comparisons and conclusions. And third, to make known such facts and conditions, and such individual opinions and suggestions of the local officer, as, though they cannot be tabularized, are still of sufficient general bearing and interest to be worthy of public attention."

There is wisdom in this. Prof Agassiz says, "Comparisons are at the bottom of all philosophy. It is by comparisons that we ascertain the difference which exists between things, and it is by comparisons, also, that we ascertain the general features of things, and it is by comparisons that we reach general propositions. Without comparisons we can never generalize. Without comparisons we never could go beyond the knowledge of isolated disconnected facts."

In view of the above, and in obedience to "Instructions for Annual Reports of County Superintendents," as given in the Pennsylvania School Journal, of May, 1862, I proceed to report as follows, viz:

SCHOOL HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.—Menallen 1, very comfortable and attractive. Freedom 1, good but poorly furnished, Oxford 1, very superior. Total 3.

INSUFFICIENT SCHOOL HOUSES.—Berwick Borough 1, Butler 2, Cumberland 3, Franklin 4, Germany 3, Hamiltonban 3, Huntington 2, Mountjoy 1, Mountpleasant 4, Menallen 4, Oxford 2, Reading 2, Tyrone 1, Union 3. Total 35.

SCHOOL HOUSES SUPPLIED WITH SUFFICIENT FURNITURE DURING THE YEAR.—Germany 2, plain but good and comfortable; Hamiltonban 1, neat and convenient, desks in tiers, accommodating 2 pupils each; Liberty 2, same as in Hamiltonban, nearly; Menallen 1, very comfortable, desks accommodating 2 pupils each; and commanding a front view of the entire blackboard; Oxford 2, desks of cherry wood and supported at their centre by iron pedestals, for seats, chairs which are permanent and supported in like manner with the desks, desk and chair costing originally about $6. There are 50 desks in the room. In the lower room, the desks are of pine wood, modern in form and comfortable, with benches for seats. Total 8.

SCHOOL HOUSES WITH INSUFFICIENT FURNITURE.—Berwick Borough 1, Berwick township 1, Butler 2, Conowago 3, Cumberland 4, Franklin 9, Germany 2, Hamiltonban 2, Huntington 3, Latimore 1, Menallen 6, Mountjoy 3, Mountpleasant 7, Reading 1, Straban 4, Tyrone 1, Union 2. Total 52.

APPARATUS SUPPLIED DURING THE YEAR.—Butler 2 new blackboards, Franklin 2, Germany 2, Latimore 6, Liberty 2, Menallen 2, Mountjoy 2, Reading 1, Straban 1, Tyrone 1, Oxford 2. Total 23. Beyond blackboards and in a few instances, Globes and Outline Maps, we possess no school apparatus.

GRADED SCHOOLS.—None were established during the year.

SCHOOLS CLASSIFIED BUT NOT GRADED.—Berwick township 1, Butler 6, Conowago 4, Cumberland 4, Franklin 7, Freedom 4, Germany 4, Hamilton 5, Hamiltonban 4, Hampton 1, Huntington 6, Latimore 5, Liberty 4, Menallen 8, Mountjoy 5, Mountpleasant 7, Oxford 4, Reading 5, Straban 7, Tyrone 3, Union 5. Total 101.

SCHOOLS NEITHER CLASSIFIED NOR GRADED.—Berwick Borough 1, Berwick township 1, Butler 2, Cumberland 4, Franklin 4, Freedom 2, Germany 2, Hamilton 2, Hamiltonban 4, Huntington 2, Latimore 1, Liberty 1, Menallen 1, Mountjoy 1, Mountpleasant 2, Reading 2, Straban 1, Tyrone 4.

Number of applicants for admission to the teacher's profession examined in each district during the year:

Berwick township 7, Butler 17, Conowago 5, Cumberland 16, Franklin 14, Freedom 5, Germany 11, Hamilton 17, Hamiltonban 8, Huntington 6, Latimore 11, Liberty 4, Menallen 10, Mountjoy 11, Mountpleasant 15, Oxford 6, Reading 10, Straban 14, Tyrone 10, Union 10. Total 208. To this add 20 examined privately, and we shall have the total 228. The professional certificate was given to 8 applicants; the provisional to 167, and to 41, certificates of any kind were refused.

Number and duration of Visits to each school in each district by the County Superintendent, during the year:

With the exception of 4 or 5 schools, which stress of weather and sickness prevented me from reaching within the term, they all received one visit, and some of them 4—duration 1½ hours.

VISITS BY DIRECTORS.—The number of these visits I am not able to give, though I am pleased to be able to report, they are becoming more regular and frequent.

VISITS BY CITIZENS.—Those in some neighborhoods were numerous, in others unfrequent—number not known.

SECRETARIES.—Their salary when merely acting as Secretary. Berwick Borough nil, Berwick township $12, Butler $10, Conowago $5, Cumberland $15, Franklin $10, Freedom nil, Germany $5, Gettysburg nil, Hamilton $12, Hamiltonban $10, Hampton $5, Huntington $10, Latimore $10, Liberty $4, Menallen $15, Mountpleasant $10, Oxford $20, Reading 15, Straban $5, Tyrone $10, Union $10.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT.—In Mountjoy district, this officer visited the schools monthly with good effect—compensation $10.

DISTRICT INSTITUTES.—Two—1 in Franklin district, 1 in Menallen, meeting every Saturday, and attended by the Teachers of the respective districts—general benefit great. The law of April last, will prove, I think, quite a moral phosphate to these literary vegetables, increasing their number and products, and will enable many teachers to find those regions which to them, hitherto, have been terra incognita.

Number of schools in each district in which the Scriptures were regularly used for moral instruction:

BERWICK BOROUGH 0, Berwick township 0, Butler 6, Conowago 0, Cumberland 3, Franklin 6, Freedom 4, Germany 1, Gettysburg 7, Hamilton 0, Hamiltonban 3, Hampton 0, Huntington 5, Latimore 3, Liberty 2, Menallen 4, Mountjoy 2, Mountpleasant 0, Oxford 0, Reading 3, Straban 6, Tyrone 4, Union 0.

Number of schools in each district in which the Scriptures were not used:—Berwick Borough 1, Berwick township 2, Butler 2, Conowago 3, Cumberland 5, Franklin 6, Freedom 2, Germany 5, Hamilton 6, Hamiltonban 5, Hampton 1, Huntington 3, Latimore 3, Liberty 3, Menallen 5, Mountjoy 4, Mountpleasant 9, Oxford 4, Reading 4, Straban 2, Tyrone 3, Union 5.

Number of schools in each district in which moral instruction was given by means other than reading the Scriptures:—Berwick Borough 0, Berwick township 0, Butler 0, Conowago 2, Cumberland 2, Franklin 4, Freedom 1, Germany 4, Gettysburg 7, Hamilton 5, Hamiltonban 3, Hampton 1, Huntington 2, Latimore 2, Liberty 3, Menallen 5, Mountjoy 4, Mountpleasant 7, Oxford 4, Reading 4, Straban 2, Tyrone 9, Union 5.

DISTRICTS.—Their progress and condition.

BERWICK BOROUGH.—The school term was extended from 6 to 9 months. Arrangements for erecting a superior house for graded school purposes are earnestly progressing—Directors are becoming zealous and anxious to advance the school. The text books are not at all uniform, and consequently the school is badly classified; great improvement in this respect could be made. The Directors will see to it.

BERWICK TOWNSHIP.—Prospects hopeful, in that the text books are becoming uniform, and that better teachers than those employed this year, will, in future, be secured.

BUTLER.—This district, in educational matters, had long lain dormant; it is, however, now throwing off the lethargy which had hitherto so effectually retarded its progress, and bids fair soon to rank among the foremost districts of the county. Arrangements for building, this summer, a comfortable and attractive brick school building, and for thoroughly repairing one, and possibly two of the old ones, have been completed. Her directors are becoming alive to the importance of their official position—good teachers were employed—the schools, with one or two exceptions, made good progress, and all things are wearing decidedly a hopeful aspect.

CONOWAGO.—Progress commendable—the introduction of Mental Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar into all the schools here, is of marked and gratifying importance—text books now nearly uniform, will be wholly so next year—grade of teachers greatly improved—doing very well.

CUMBERLAND.—The schools here, were very much disturbed by measles, hooping-cough, &c. Under the circumstances, however, a few of them did very well; others made no perceptible progress. There are some noble teachers in this district. A brick school house 26 by 32 feet is to be erected this season.

FRANKLIN.—An improved grade of teachers secured for a majority of the schools. With three exceptions, the schools progressed rapidly, indeed, a few of them are superior in all respects. The school near Arendtsville is entirely too large, and fails to suit the wants of its patrons in many respects. The purchase, in that village, of a suitable site for a new building to be erected, in accordance with the improvements of the day and the suggestions of experience, should claim the immediate attention of the directors.

FREEDOM.—A portion of the township of Hamiltonban has been attached to this district, with a view, however, to an ultimate separation and the creation of a new school district. The schools did well. In Freedom proper, they made marked progress.

GERMANY.—The school buildings in Littlestown have been repaired, and though too small, are now tolerably comfortable. The books are uniform, and the schools in Littlestown made excellent progress in manner and in matter.—There is also an effort making to improve the schools throughout the district. New school buildings are needed here very much.

GETTYSBURG.—The schools made very creditable progress, and will compare favorably with any other public schools in the State. They were subjected to semi annual public examinations, which being conducted orally, furnished complete evidence of the progress and ability of the pupils generally. The school term is 9 months, divided into summer and winter sessions of 4½ months each, with vacations intervening.

HAMILTON.—The school term was extended from 5 to 5 months, and the schools in East Berlin were changed from mixed to distinct male and female schools; the boys being taught by a male and the girls by a female teacher.—They improved greatly.

HAMILTONBAN.—A few of the schools are complete in uniformity of text books, classification, recitations, &c. Would that we could say so of the other schools here. In the main however, the district is advancing. Three or four of the school houses are much out of repair, and their furniture is miserably poor.

HAMPTON.—(Ind.) Of this district we have nothing special to present. The school did tolerably well—is improving.

HUNTINGTON.—This district, in some of the schools, rather lost than gained ground, owing partly to a reduction of Teachers' wages and the consequences thereof, and partly to matters beyond the immediate control of the directors. This misfortune was wholly unintentional. There is fine material here, a good Board of Directors, and next year will find the district re-placed in her former high position. The text books, though uniform, are behind the age. We hope for a change in this particular.—At least two new school houses are much needed. Since this was prepared, the Directors have determined to erect them forthwith, and have published the necessary notice to contractors inviting proposals.

LATIMORE.—Very great general and special improvement. Uniform text books introduced in all the schools; school buildings repaired, and a blackboard crossing the entire room, placed in each one—a corps of most excellent teachers employed—rapid progress in the schools, and the term extended from 4 to 5 months—encouraging in all respects.

LIBERTY.—This is a progressive District. The school buildings were suitably repaired, and new furniture placed in two of them. The text books are now uniform in two of the schools, and are becoming so in the rest of them. Good teachers employed—Schools progressive, and a further improvement of school houses soon to be consummated.

MENALLEN.—An attractive, comfortable, and necessary school house was here erected in the mountain, with bleak hills, rocks, and waste surrounding it, measurably showing the enterprising and progressive spirit of the District. Very superior teachers were employed—schools progressive—mode of teaching, normal and successful—books uniform, but a part of the series is rather *antiquated*. Some of the old school houses are soon to undergo thorough repair. A District Institute was formed, and energetically and efficiently conducted. The directors and patrons are vigilant and anxious to advance their schools.

MOUNTJOY.—Very great general progress in all the schools but one. There are good schools here, two or three of them are quite superior. The school furniture, is old in style, and very worthless. An additional school house is required.

MOUNTPLEASANT.—This District has not attained to eminence in educational matters; some improvement, however, was manifested. Teachers' wages w. regraduated—text books are becoming uniform—are so in some of the schools, and these made considerable progress. There was not much apparent progress in the most of them. Mountpleasant is a large, wealthy, and populous district, and should possess good school buildings. There is not a first class school house in the township; nor do those which are there fully suit the District either in size or location. It was intended to change this state of things by enlarging one of the old school houses and building a new two-story one for a graded school, but an inability to consummate this wise design has occurred on the part of the Directors. We trust, however, the matter will not be long delayed.

OXFORD.—The school building spoken of in my last Report has been finished. There are yet two of the school houses unfit for use, properly speaking. One of these the Directors promise to re-build this summer. The school term was extended from 6 to 9 months, which gave a summer term for the first time. The schools in Oxford are large and the teaching force insufficient.

STRABAN.—The school term is divided into fall and winter sessions of three months each. Good teachers were employed.—One school building repaired, and the Directors contemplate erecting a new one in Hunterstown this summer. It is the intention of the District to put new and comfortable furniture in their school buildings. Teacher's wages were graduated. The schools made progress. This is quite a progressive District.

TYRONE.—General progress very good.

UNION.—Progress in schools quite commendable—good teachers employed—two new brick school houses to go up this Summer—Directors determined to advance the District. Text books uniform, and all school matters moving forward finely.

COUNTY INSTITUTE.—Our County Institute was convened at New Oxford, and remained in session 4 days. It was attended by many teachers, by Mr. May, of Phila., Prof. Himes, of Troy University, New York, and by a large and attentive audience, and was, beyond doubt, the most profitable Association of Teachers ever held in the County.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.—To show that public sentiment in relation to Common Schools is improving with us, and that we really do progress in this wise, it might suffice to direct attention to the already stated improvements in the respective districts; but a mention of the further facts, that we have more than duplicated the qualifications of our Teachers—have inaugurated a greatly improved mode of imparting instruction—that our schools require now an infinitely better grade of teachers than they formerly did—that in several neighborhoods, the patrons of the respective schools are taxing themselves to pay in addition to the amount of wages allowed by directors, in order to secure the services of first class teachers—that the war has not seriously affected our schools—that new school buildings of an improved kind have gone up, and others are to go up immediately—that we have increased our blackboard surface a thousand fold—have extended the average school term—have Mental Arithmetic now taught in all our schools, nearly—are introducing vocal music—have Algebra and Mental Philosophy taught in several of our rural schools—and that a large and increasing number of our teachers are fitting themselves, at different Normal Schools, to keep pace with the growing wants of the age, should, I think, satisfy the most skeptical that here Public Sentiment is upward and onward. Still, candor compels me to add, it is a *pity* that many members of the community were not better informed as to the real character, design, and wants of our Common Schools. A little more intelligence in this wise, would check the arrogance of some, remove the sectarian exclusiveness of others, and modify the views and feelings of many. It is hard, extremely hard to accomplish good rapidly, when so many members of society do not see that every froward drop of the stream of power, issuing from them to the people in common, commixes itself with the current of popular ideas, and, to some extent at least, retards the course of human developments.

MODE OF EXAMINING TEACHERS.—A combination of the written and oral, with the use of questions and analysis, as nearly "similar in nature and difficulty and number, to every applicant," as practicable. I used this mode to test, not only the *scholarship* of the applicants, but to procure satisfactory evidence of their ability to conduct recitations so as "to elicit thought, and to habituate the pupil to facility of expression and precision in language—readiness in expedients to awaken curiosity, and tact in simplifying subjects just so far as to enable the learner to grasp those points which will guide him in the investigations, and their power to avoid such over-simplified explanations as leave no opportunity or motive for the pupil to task his own powers of investigation." The advantages of this method are so apparent, that enumeration is unnecessary.

Qualifications of candidates examined, as compared with those of last year, and the causes of the difference:

The qualifications of all the candidates examined were 50 per cent. better than those of last year, and of those employed fully 100 per cent. better. The causes of the difference are, first, the elvation of the standard. Second, the growing determination of directors to employ none but good teachers. Third, the improved condition of our schools. Fourth, Public Sentiment. Fifth, our summary disposition of sluggish and incompetent teachers, and, sixth, the high and honorable efforts of our Teachers to keep pace with the increasing requirements of the age.

FEMALES EMPLOYED.—We had more female applicants, but the number employed was not greater than that of last year. I submit, it would be well for Directors to consider the subject of employing female teachers in a higher and broader sense than is generally given to it, for I have invariably found that wherever an intelligent Lady teacher had been employed, the effect on the school was ennobling and refining.

Number of Districts with "Summer as well as winter schools."—Three—Gettysburg, Berwick Borough, and Oxford.

We are not yet ready throughout the county to have summer schools open at such time as would permit them to be contined on during the winter term under the same teachers; therefore the *present* time would not be suitable for a general commencement of them.

"BOARDING 'ROUND."—We had but one instance of the Teacher boarding 'round.—The neighborhood is a pleasant one, and the effect on the Teacher and school, was, in no wise injurious. Boarding worth $2 per week.

NEW MEASURES.—The results of the new measures, put into practice during the year, were beneficial and satisfactory—they will be continued.

TROUBLES OF THE COUNTRY.—Public Sentiment has not been seriously or injuriously affected in reference to education, by the unhappy state of our Country.

CLOSING REMARKS.—To many persons, as was to be expected, the discharge of my duty, was, apparently somewhat rigorous; but the great leading principle, which actuated me, in addition to a wish to fulfil the requirements of the School Department, was, an honest and active intention to do somewhat to elevate the educational force of the county; and, guided by my own experience in the past, and by that of my predecessors, I believed the only really practicable preliminary plan for securing a timely accomplishment of that object, was, to lop off the drones and the incompetent, as rapidly as we could spare them. I did this; and the consequences met my most sanguine expectation—*encouragement followed the blow*, and a vast number of noble hearted, generous, and devoted Teachers, without repining, rancor, or prejudice, yielded to my exactions, appreciated the nobility of their calling, and imposed upon themselves pecuniary and other sacrifices, in order to attain to due professional excellence.

The work is, however, but begun; our field of labor is still higher and broader; even it are still lingering relics of covert hostility and indifference which must be eradicated.

To you, Directors and Teachers, co-workers in the vineyard, I again appeal for aid. *Let the future excel the past.* Let us continue to persevere in our work, and ever remember that our schools, failing to receive a generous support *and encouragement*, will gradually emaciate, pine away, and ultimately DIE. We *know* the nature and extent of our work. We *know* that the question of Public Education is no longer as to its *continuance*, but as to its farther *advancement*. Our duty, then, is plain, and God, right, justice and humanity require its faithful discharge at our hands.

JNO. C. ELLIS.

New Oxford, June, 1862.

STANTON'S REPORT.

The Secretary of War in his report states that that portion of the United States which is now or has been during the last year, the scene of military operations, is confined within ten military departments; that the armies operating in those departments, according to recent official returns, constitute a force of seven hundred and seventy-five thousand three hundred and thirty-six officers and privates, fully armed and equipped; that since the date of the returns this number increased to over eight hundred thousand; that when the quotas are filled up it will number a million of men; and that the valor of our troops has been displayed on many occasions, and the skill and gallantry of their officers have been distinguished at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Gaines' Mills, Malvern Hill, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Chantilly, "and other places."

South Mountain, and Antietam are not considered worthy of special mention, but must be included in Mr. Stanton's "other places." Some of the papers think it strange that he should omit these great battles from the list of victories in which "the valor of our troops has been displayed," and "the skill and gallantry of their officers have been distinguished." But there is nothing strange about it: for the mention of them would be a recognition of the services of Gen. McClellan in saving Washington and the Union cause by those well-fought and dearly-won victories; and that is a stretch of magnanimity to which Mr. Stanton has proved himself totally incapable. But, the loyal people of the Union will remember the "other places" that he so curtly passes over; and give them a place in history compared to which his own exploits in the Cabinet will be hardly noticed except for their paltry jealousy and littleness.—*Reading Gazette.*

A Significant Remark of President Lincoln.—Said a leading Democrat of the West, the other day, to the President, "If those who helped to place you in power were as truly your friends, and as unselfish and honest in their support of your Administration, as those who opposed you, you would have less trouble." "*I begin to think so,*" said the President.—*Providence Post.*

The Compiler.

OUR FLAG!

The union of lakes—the union of lands—
The Union of States none would sever;
The union of hearts—the union of hands—
And the Flag of our Union forever!

H. J. STAHLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

GETTYSBURG, PA:

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 15, 1862.

☞In the House, at Washington, on Monday, Mr. Richardson proceeded to review the President's Message, and said it was remarkable for what it says, and still more remarkable for what it omits. The one half of the twenty-one pages was devoted to the negro. There was no page, sentence or line as to the bravery or conduct of those in the field endeavoring to maintain the Union and Constitution. No sorrow was expressed for the lamented dead, the maimed and wounded; no sympathy was expressed for the widow or the orphan made by the progress of this war, which could have been avoided by honorable compromise, if the President and his friends had desired peace. The President proposed to tax the white man forever for the benefit of the negro. This was the substance of the message.—Tears of blood are to be shed and countless millions of dollars spent for the black man, and when the public ask the President to know what hope there was of the restoration of the Union, by inference they are told, if you carry out my plans and schemes you may hope to have the Union restored. Every argument for a change of the Constitution is for the negro. No benefit for the white man. But the people in due time will compromise for the benefit of white men, not for negroes. In the course of his remarks condemnatory of the administration he spoke in opposition to the bill passed indemnifying the President and others from the consequences of suspending the *habeas corpus*, saying the courts will not sanction the reckless and tyrannical exercise of power. The party in power, he argued, had violated the Constitution and the laws.

A Base Slander Rebuked.—It is no light matter to call a citizen of this country a traitor. In the madness of political strife, men on the platform and editors in their chairs hurled this foul epithet at a body of their fellow citizens whom they expected easily to intimidate, and whom they treated as so many subjects under the radical sway. But a majority of the citizens of the loyal States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, New York, Illinois and New Jersey, with a calm, quiet, determined spirit, answered the slander with the American weapon, the ballot, and the slanderers are seeking refuge for their diminished heads! Their present aspect is not only pitiable, but is characteristic, and calls the people to bear witness that their defeat is deserved.

Lovejoy's District.—The entire vote cast for Hon. Owen Lovejoy in the late election in Illinois, was 11,623, and Mr. J. T. Henderson, his immediate opponent, had 11,020. Counting the scattering vote, Mr. Lovejoy's majority in 1856 was 6000, in 1858 about 7500, and about the same in 1860. The usual Abolition majority in his present district has been from 3000 to 5000. His re-election, therefore, is not much of a victory. One more like it, will send him into the shades of private life.

☞Dr. Edson B. Olds, of Fairfield county, Ohio, who was arrested last summer by the Government for expressing his opinion on public affairs, has just been elected to the Legislature by a majority of 2500!

Hard up for Votes.—The Chanango *Union*, published at Norwich, Chenango co., New York, states that at the time of the late election, there was a negro in jail there for rape upon a lady seventy years of age.—He was bailed out by the Republicans to enable him to vote for Wadsworth, and he did so!

Lincoln's Logic.—The President says that "without slavery the rebellion could never have existed—without slavery *it could not continue;*" yet he proposes to continue slavery until the year 1900. According to his own logic, then, the rebellion must last until 1900.

☞Republics in other ages have been overthrown by artful conspirators or armed aggressors; and the knife of the assassin has struck down Liberty in the dark, or the sword of a Military Chief cleaved it on the battle field. No such dignified fate is offered to us by the Lincoln administration; but we see in its success only the body of Liberty hacked and mangled by the dull knife of a miserable bungler.—*Lancaster Democrat.*

☞The Minnesota people are ferocious and threaten to rebel because "Old Abe" will not let them hang the three hundred infant-killing, women-scalping red skins who are in custody. The newspapers are very defiant and say plain things to the President.

☞A shocking abortion case has just been revealed in New York. A betrayed girl of good family, after horrible suffering from the hands of an abortionist, was taken from her death-bed, given some gin, hurried into a carriage, and pushed into her father's drawing-room, where she fell exhausted, and was soon a corpse. The doctor, the nurse, and the seducer, are under arrest.

☞The Abolition Journals, now that they see that they cannot pervert this into a mere Abolition war, croak over "a divided North." But who divided the North? Who but the Abolitionists.

Congressional Election in Louisiana.—Military Governor Shepley has issued a proclamation calling upon the loyal citizens of the 1st and 2d Congressional districts of Louisiana to send representatives to Congress.

The Defence of Washington.—Geo. Francis Train says McClellan has fortified Washington so well that no army can reach the White House but the army of contractors.

BILL OF INDEMNITY.

On Monday, the House, at Washington, passed a bill introduced by Thaddeus Stevens, to indemnify the President of the United States and other persons for the suspension of the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus and acts done in pursuance thereof. Yeas 90, (Republicans,) nays 45, (28 Democrats, 11 Union, and 6 Conservative Republicans.) Mr. McPherson did not vote.

The *Patriot & Union*, of Monday, in commenting upon the bill of indemnity proposed by Stevens, remarks:

Look at this proposition in its naked deformity! During the past year hundreds of citizens of the United States, living under the protection of the Constitution, in States where the ordinary and peaceful administration of justice has not been obstructed by insurrection or popular tumults, have been dragged from their homes by agents of the administration and incarcerated in military prisons. Without being permitted to know the nature of the accusations against them—without being informed of their accusers—without the privilege of meeting the concealed enemy who whispered some tale of treason into the greedy ears of despotic officials—these citizens of the United States have been imprisoned, punished in company with secession prisoners and petty official thieves, whom the big official thieves ventured to make examples of, and finally turned loose without trial, and as ignorant of accuser and accusation as when the prison gates first yawned to receive them.

That outrages such as these have been committed in innumerable cases by the agents and hirelings of the administration in this land of free institutions and Constitution and laws, is a truth as familiar as household words.

Mr. Stevens admits it, the administration which he represents admit that they have violated the Constitution which they solemnly swore to respect and defend, in infringing upon the sacred and indefeasible rights of private citizens. But while they acknowledge their guiltiness and tremble for the consequences, they propose no reparation, no atonement for their crimes against personal liberty; but, with amazing assurance, ask Congress to step between them and violated laws and broken oaths, by the passage of an act of oblivion which shall forever shield them from just punishment. These arrests may have been instigated by the purest personal malevolence, without even the poor excuse of mistaken zeal for the public good; they may have been the work of public plunderers who pointed the alguazils of power to watchful guardians of the public purse who obstructed the path between the plunderers and a bleeding treasury; they may have been the work of rivals in business or trade, or even in love; they may have been the work of perjurers, of swindlers, of common pickpockets. But the generous mouth of oblivion with which Mr. Thaddeus Stevens proposes to cover President, Secretaries, Military Governors, Provost Marshals, perjurers, contractors, and all manner of swindlers and false witnesses, is intended to hide all alike, and to exclude the public eye forever from a view of the secret machinery of the modern inquisition.

We shall not take time to accumulate illustrations of the working of an act of indemnity such as that under consideration. We are not in the slightest degree surprised that the agents and instigators of this infamous business are invoking such protection as their coadjutors in Congress can give them. They may well seek some covering. After while they will call upon the mountains and the hills to cover them. If these outrages pass forever without punishment—signal and exemplary punishment, which shall prevent the occurrence of similar outrages so long as we remain a free people, and vindicate the majesty of outraged justice—we are much mistaken.—Pile up your acts of indemnity, Mr. Stevens, until they cover the whole despotic brood, from the President down to the meanest member who executes his decrees! Pile them up, we say, and see whether you can smother Justice, or cover her impartial eye. Thank Heaven, the time is not far distant when the supremacy of the Constitution will be recognized, and all such *ex post facto* legislation as this act for the indemnification of tyrants and knaves will be torn to shreds and exist only as one among the many evidences of the infamy of its authors.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE PERPETUATION OF THE UNION.

In the National House of Representatives, on Friday week, Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, offered resolutions in favor of the integrity of the Union. Mr. Lovejoy, Abolitionist, objected. The resolutions were as follows:

Resolved, That the Union as it was must be maintained, one and indivisible forever, under the Constitution as it is, and the fifth article, providing for amendments, included.

Resolved, That if any person in the civil or military service of the United States shall propose terms of peace, or accept or advise the acceptance of any such terms, on any other basis than the integrity of the Federal Union, and of the several States comprising the same, and the Territories of the Union, as at the beginning of the present civil war, he will be guilty of a high crime.

Resolved, That this Government can never permit the intervention of any foreign nation in regard to the present civil war.

Resolved, That the unhappy civil war in which we are engaged was waged, in the beginning, professedly not in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, or purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired, and was so understood and accepted by the people, and especially by the army and navy of the United States; and that, therefore, whoever, shall pervert, or attempt to pervert the same to a war of conquest or subjugation, or for the overthrow or interference with the rights and established institutions of any of the States, or to abolish slavery therein, or for the purpose of destroying or impairing the dignity, equality, or rights of any of the States, will be guilty of a flagrant breach of public faith and of a high crime against the Constitution and the Union.

Resolved, That whoever shall propose, by Federal authority, to extinguish any of the States of this Union, or to declare any of them extinguished, and to establish territorial governments within the same, will be guilty of a high crime against the Constitution and the Union.

Resolved, That whoever shall affirm that it is competent for this House, or any other authority, to establish a dictatorship in the United States, thereby superseding or suspending the constitutional authorities of the Union, and shall proceed to make any movement toward the declaring of a dictator, shall be guilty of a high crime against the Constitution and the Union and public liberty.

A Republican moved to lay the resolutions on the table, which was carried, by yeas 75 (Republicans), nays 50, (five Conservative republicans only voting with the Democrats.) Mr. McPherson voted with the yeas. This action looks as though the Republican members of Congress do not desire the perpetuation of our free institutions, but a Dictatorship instead. Whither are they drifting?

☞While a number of boys in Brooklyn, N. Y., were recently playing at the dangerous sport of throwing stones, a little girl, passing at the moment, was struck and instantly killed. The boy who threw the stone will be tried for homicide.

LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

WE WANT WOOD.

☞Those of our patrons who intend paying their subscriptions in WOOD, will please forward it once, as the cold season is near at hand.

DISCHARGE OF DRAFTED MEN ON HABEAS CORPUS.—On Tuesday, the 2d inst., petitions were presented to the Court of Common Pleas of the county, Judge Fisher presiding, for Writs of Habeas Corpus, to be directed to Col. Alfred E. Lewis, the Commandant of Camp Gettysburg, to bring up Henry H. Hossler, Andrew Pottorff and Lewis Brady, drafted men in Camp, and show cause why they should not be discharged, the Petitioners alleging that they had been illegally drafted and were unjustly held in the service of the United States. M. & W. McClean, Esqs., represented the petitioners. The Writs were immediately allowed, and Col. Lewis promptly complied with the requisition of the Writs by rendering up the men the same day, and made return that he held them in the service of the U. S. by virtue of the Draft for Adams county, as made through the orders issued from the War Department. The Writs having been returned during the progress of a protracted jury trial, no opportunity for the hearing was had until that trial was finished on Saturday afternoon. The cases were then called up. The Counsel for the relators stated the ground of their application to be that the 5th Section of the 4th order of General Orders No. 99 of the War Department, containing the regulations for the Draft, provided that at the time fixed for making the Draft, there was to be drawn from the wheel a number of ballots equal to the number of drafted men fixed as the proper quota of the county, and no more; and that the Commissioner of the Draft had exceeded his authority in drafting these men, after having previously drawn the full quota of the county.

Nothing beyond the act of the Commissioner was brought in question, and as to the facts there was no dispute. Col. Lewis, the respondent, was present, but took no part.

The Orders of the War Department were given in evidence, and Col. Swope, the Commissioner, testified that the relators had been drawn after the quota of their townships and of the county had been drawn, to supply exemptions which he had allowed out of the drafted quota.

Messrs. Hossler and Pottorff were drawn out of Straban township, and Mr. Brady out of Franklin. The drafting had commenced on Thursday, the 16th of October, and continued on Friday and Saturday following, until the full quota were drawn. It will be recollected, as we published the fact soon after, that on the following Monday, the 20th of October, six men were drawn from different townships to supply exemptions allowed by the Commissioner.—Two of these six had been exempted by the Commission r: one was discharged on the order of Col. McClure, for the reason that the 1st draft was in excess of the quota, and the remaining three were the relators in Court.

The same question which arose in these cases had been argued before Judge Pearson, at Harrisburg, a few weeks ago, in the case of a man drafted in Lancaster county, a very large number having been drafted in excess of the quota of that county. Counsel was employed in behalf of the U. S., and a determined resistance made to the discharge. Judge Pearson delivered a very full and elaborate decision, declaring the act of the Commissioner in drawing above the quota to be without authority and void, and he therefore ordered the discharge of the men.

In the cases in our Court, Judge Fisher concurred in the views of Judge Pearson.—The facts were clearly proven, and the relators were discharged from the service of the U. S. and the custody of Col. Lewis. They went on their way home rejoicing, about the time that the Regiment was starting on the cars for probably a far distant destination.

The War Department had refused to discharge the relators on account of any alleged irregularity in the Draft, and obliged the men to seek their remedy in Court. This they did and obtained it.

An additional fact exists for showing that the act of the Commissioner in making the last draft was unwarranted, which is, that according to the admission of Col. McClure himself, the Superintendent of the Military Bureau of the State, at least 6,000 men above the quota of the State were assigned for the Draft, in order to compensate for exemptions that would be allowed out of the Draft. The popular impression has been that the excess was much larger than the amount stated.

THE DRAFTED MEN of this county left "Camp Gettysburg" on Saturday afternoon week, in three trains of cars. The few sick in the Hospital were sent to their homes temporarily, with one exception, who was left in charge of one of our town physicians. Major Buehler, the Colonel of the Regiment, not having arrived from his command in Western Virginia, at the time the Regiment started, the men were in charge of Lieut. Col. E. G. Fahnestock and Major Camp. Col. F. accompanied them as far as Washington, (at which place they were ordered to report,) and has since returned home for a few days on special business. He informs us that they reached the Capitol in safety and without trouble, nothing special occurring on the route. It is supposed the regiment by this time is at Fortress Monroe, as they were to embark for that point from Washington. The number of the Regiment is the 165th.

☞Col. C. H. Buehler, late Major of the 87th P. V., arrived here on Saturday evening week from New Creek, with a view to early taking command of the 165th. He is looking very well. He leaves for the Regiment to-day.

HO! FOR THE HOLIDAYS!—Mr. E. H. Minnigh has just returned from the cities with a large supply of Candies, Confections, Notions and Fancy articles of every description, suitable for Holiday presents. They are worth calling to see. The supply is large and the selections well made. Persons desiring to present their children with a handsome Gift, or School Teachers wishing to treat their scholars in that way, are requested to call.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—We learn, with regret, that John Carbaugh, Esq., of Franklin township, was frozen to death on Saturday night, in a field near his residence. He was in Gettysburg, to see his two sons off in the cars in the afternoon, who are drafted soldiers. He went in a buggy with a friend to Cashtown, and thence started across the fields to his residence, and from the inclemency of the night perished. He was not found until Sunday evening.—*Sentinel of Tuesday.*

☞Mr. Isaac Goldman has opened a Clothing and Variety Store, at Col. Samson's old stand, North East corner of the Dinmond. He has a full and inviting stock. Give him a call.

☞Lieut. H. W. McKnight has been compelled, on account of ill health, to resign the Second Lieutenancy in Capt. McCreary's Company. Serg't. J. C. Leivensberger has been elected in his place. The health of the Company is reported good.

PRISONERS RELEASED.—A number of the citizens of this and adjoining counties were taken prisoners by Stuart in his late raid into this State. Among them were the following, who have lately been released by the Rebel authorities at Richmond:

G. G. Rupley, of Mercersburg.
Joseph Winger, Clay Lick.
S. Shroder, Adams county.
A. Hartman, Adams county.
J. M. Cowan, Mercersburg.
J. B. Kimes, Somerset.

They reached Washington on Thursday last, on parol, to return if they do not secure the release of an equal number of Rebel prisoners. Hon. E. McPherson has secured for them the release of six secesh and they have returned to their homes. We understand that there were others, taken at the same time, who are still detained at Richmond.—*Chambersburg Spirit.*

GODEY FOR JANUARY.—We have received the January number of this very popular work, and feel as though we can scarcely do justice to it in a very short notice. The engravings are always excellent in this Magazine, but those of this number seem to be more than ever the result of the artist's best labors. The engraving entitled "New Year" is exceedingly fine, and the fashion plates are elegantly gotten up, besides being the standard authority. The literary department of the Book is quite attractive. Its columns are filled with the productions of some of the best writers of the country. Every person should have Godey's Lady's Book. The terms are, one copy, one year, $3; two copies, one year, $5; three copies, one year, $6; four copies, one year, $7.

☞Our young townsman, Robert McCreary, of S., the other day, sent us a pleasant surprise—being nothing less than a dozen fine plump Partridges. That they were disposed of with high relish by all the household, may well be inferred. He has our hearty thanks.

Robert is not only a "crack shot," knowing how to "bring down the birds" scientifically, but a very clever gentleman into the bargain. We are "this to command."

☞The work of putting up the Telegraph wire was commenced on Monday—beginning at Gettysburg. We suppose that "News by Telegraph" may be looked for in a day or two.

☞Lieut. Theo. T. Tate, of the 11th Penns. Cavalry, formerly of this place, was recently complimented by receiving from his Company, in Camp McClellan, at Harrisburg, a beautifully finished sword.

☞The jury in the case of Paul P. Fink vs. Jacob Yealy, James Taylor and Edward Collins, Supervisors, on Saturday afternoon