The Erie Observer.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1868.

Rules of the Observer Office.

Subscriptions must be settled annually. After the expiration of the year, Fifty Cents additional will invariably be charged. No new subscriptions received without payment in advance.

Jobbing accounts will be collected at the close of the month in which the work was done.

Yearly advertising accounts will be collected quarterly; accounts for transient advertisements at the close of the month in which they were inserted. nov19-tf.

WE HAVE received a circular which gives us the information that a number of Democrats in Philadelphia propose to establish a new paper in that city as soon as the means can be raised. We are strongly of the opinion that, instead of starting additional journals, if the Democrats of the country would endeavor to give those they already have a better patronage, so that they might be able to increase their editorial force, and make other desirable improvements, it would be the best thing for all interested.

THE Pittsburgh Post insists that, notwithstanding hints to the contrary, J. Edgar Thompson is still in the ring as a candidate for U S Senate, and by all odds the most formidable name yet mentioned, if, as we before stated, T. A. Scott undertakes the affair. The latter gentleman is said to be the most powerful persuader that ever appeared in Harrisburg; he has been known to convince a man in five minutes that it was his duty to vote for a measure he had been elected to oppose.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We give our readers this important document in a supplement, instead of crowding out our usual variety by inserting it in our regular columns. It has been carefully revised, and will be found more accurate than the reports in some of the other city papers.

The Message bears the marks of careful preparation, and, like all Mr. Johnson's state productions, is a document of unusual ability, well worded, and calculated to make a profound impression on the thinking people of the country. Its positions are unanswerable in almost every particular, and nearly all will be eventually sustained by the better judgment of the nation. We trust this admirable document will be thoroughly read and digested by every man in the county, whatever may be his sentiments of Mr. Johnson personally, for it contains information without which no one can cast his vote intelligibly upon the issues of the day.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

The regular session of Congress commenced on Monday, with a heavy rain prevailing, and the Capitol looking as gloomy as it well could. Nevertheless, there was a considerable audience in attendance, including many negroes, comprising all varieties, from the ugly looking "buck" to the delicately tinted octoroon. No change of importance was made in the officers of either House, and Wade and Colfax will continue to preside over their respective assemblies until the fourth of March. The expected bills to secure negro suffrage in all the States, and to change the naturalization laws so as to make foreigners apply to the U S Courts, were introduced. A variety of propositions for bringing the country back to specie payment have been presented, and it is clearly evident that some measures for that purpose will be carried. A bill to continue the Freedman's Bureau is among the most notable measures that have yet been offered. Senator Drake proposes to abolish the grade of General and Lieutenant-General in the Army, as well as Admiral and Vice-Admiral in the Navy, upon these positions being vacated by their present occupants. The new colored member from Louisiana is on hand, and was upon the floor a short time on Monday, and sat upon a sofa on the Republican side of the House. He is a well educated mulatto, but has no certificate from the Governor, which his party friends give as an excuse for depriving him of a seat. It is stated that the Colored Library Association have written a letter advising him not to press his claim, as such a course, at this time, would probably be injurious to the future representative interests of the race. The two Senators elect from Georgia were refused seats on the ground that their State has not been suitably "reconstructed," having given a majority for Seymour. The House refused to read the resolutions of the Democratic Legislature of Oregon, censuring their Senators for voting for unconstitutional measures. Two Constitutional amendments have been introduced, proposing suffrage for all persons over twenty one years old, of either sex or any color.

A MISTAKE.

The Dispatch, Republican, and Gazette each copy some trash from a paper published at Harrisburg, to show that negroes were formerly entitled to vote in Pennsylvania. We have good legal authority for the statement that the conclusions reached therein are unfounded in law and fact. The proposition to strike the word "white" in the Constitution, in 1837, was provoked by this very pretension that negroes were entitled to vote. Our courts always rejected it, under the old Constitution, and negroes did not vote under it, as everybody of mature years knows. If some light mulatto slipped in a vote a few times, it would not invalidate what we affirm. The eminent jurist, Chief Justice Gibson, discussed the whole question in delivering the opinion of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the case of Hobbs vs Fogg, which was that a negro or mulatto is not entitled to exercise the right of suffrage, at the general election, under the existing Constitution and laws of Pennsylvania" Constitution of 1790. This is the law to-day in Pennsylvania, and would be so if the word "white" were not in the later Constitution of 1837. A recent decision of the Supreme Court, delivered by Judge Agnew, affirmed the doctrine of Hobbs vs Fogg.

INCREASE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The Philadelphia Ledger, a paper professedly neutral, but with Republican leanings, prides itself upon the reliability of its statements. We find the following among its special telegrams:

"The Northern journals generally publish what purports to be a synopsis of the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and probably without an exception, make the Secretary say that the public debt has been decreased, some journals giving the decrease at thirty-five millions of dollars.

"The fact is, that the Secretary's report shows an increase of the public debt for the year ending October thirty-first of over thirty-five million dollars, and the public debt statement shortly to be published will show an increase of the debt for the month of November just closed of about eleven millions, making a total increase of debt for the past thirteen months of forty-seven million dollars."

THE RADICAL newspapers are just now taking out their spite at Delaware, in disquisitions on the atrocities of the whipping post. This sort of punishment is cruel enough, but not half so horrible as that of solitary confinement, one of the favorite modes of torturing convicts in this State. Besides, why did not those saintly Radicals abolish the whipping post when they had control of Delaware?

THERE WERE many bets made that Governor Seymour would not obtain 10,000 majority in New York. The head of the Seymour electoral ticket did receive precisely 10,000 on a poll of 350,000 votes. The rest of the ticket did not receive as much, the average majority being 9,963. The Democratic betters, therefore, lose their wagers.

ACCIDENTS AND LOSS OF LIFE ON THE WATER.

The steamboats United States and America, two of the finest on the Western waters, collided on Saturday night, in the Ohio river, two miles above Warsaw, on the Indiana side. The United States was cut in two and sunk to the main deck in a few minutes. She had a lot of oil on board, which took fire, and soon both vessels were in flames. The reports are very conflicting, but as near as can be learned forty-five passengers, including eighteen ladies, and seven of the officers and cabin crew, were lost, while only four out of twenty-two deck hands are known to be saved. The accident is attributed to the pilot's failure to hear the whistles of the America in time to change the course of his vessel. Both steamers were wholly destroyed, but, through the coolness of the America's officers, none of her passengers were lost.

The steamer Hibernia, from New York for Glasgow, sunk on November 25th, seven hundred miles to the westward of the Irish coast. The passengers and crew all took to the boats, five in number. Two of those boats have been picked up. One, containing thirty-three passengers, is known to have been capsized, and all on board were lost. The fate of the people on the remaining two boats is yet unknown. It is certain that 52 persons, including the captain of the Hibernia, are saved. Intelligence of the missing boats is looked for with great anxiety.

On Monday morning about 10 o'clock, a schooner nearly dismasted was seen drifting on Lake Michigan, off Chicago. One man was seen on the deck making signals of distress; but before the vessel could be reached, she had drifted down as far as Oakwood station, when she struck with her broadside exposed to the waves, which made a clean breach over her. When approached, the man had disappeared, and there were no signs of life in the vessel. The man was doubtless washed overboard and lost, and probably the remainder of the crew has shared the same fate.

THE AMERICAN BASTILE.

The place which is most consecrated and dear to the affections of our Radical friends, is now but dust and ashes. Fort Lafayette is no more! It was destroyed by fire last week, and nothing but a mess of ruins remains to mark the spot where the martyrs to liberty suffered and died during the days of the war. Within the angles of its fortifications there were confined, by the hands of arbitrary and despotic power, hundreds of men, arrested without warrant, imprisoned without color or shadow of law, discharged, as they had been arrested, without any trial, or even the knowledge of who were their accusers. Suffering from a protracted and terrible imprisonment, broken in health and wounded in spirit, these deeply-injured victims of local partizan hate and a usurping Government were at last turned out upon that society against whose laws they had committed no offence. We well remember those terrible days when not one of the two millions of Democratic voters in the so-called loyal States had any guarantee, from one day to another, that he would not be seized, and, without judge or jury, kidnapped from his home, and conveyed to the frowning bastile which guarded one of the entrances to New York harbor. The tinkling of a little bell at Washington, and the clink of a telegraph wire, were sufficient to condemn him to a fate little less to be dreaded than that of death itself. We are sorry that fire has been permitted to obliterate this great historical landmark. It ought to have stood for ages, as a memorial of the accursed spirit and vengeful hate which the Radicals, in the days of their power, manifested towards their opponents.

THE CASE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The proceedings in the case of Jefferson Davis before the United States Circuit Court in Richmond have ended in a division of opinion between the two judges, Chief Justice Chase being in favor of quashing the indictment, Judge Underwood opposing. The case, therefore, instead of being peremptorily concluded, as it was hoped it would be in this trial, must now be dragged before the Supreme Court of the United States, and probably continue for some time to come a source of irritation and annoyance to all who have, with patriotic reasons, desired the issues of the rebellion to be closed forever. It is well known that the minister-spirit of the present Administration, Mr. Secretary Seward, has not intended, from the beginning, that Mr. Davis should be tried and punished; and President Johnson long ago committed himself so clearly to a promise to pardon Davis in the event of his conviction, that it would have been infamous at any time afterwards to permit him to be hanged. It was, therefore, fully determined not to hang Jeff. Davis. Why not at once have said so, and assigned the reasons? Very expensive lawyers have been employed to conduct the prosecution. This is no fault of the lawyers themselves, who, we suppose, have merely accepted the retainers which have been tendered to them. But it is clearly wrong on the part of the Government to keep up this solemn farce, and pay for it out of the people's money. The whole business is a kind of charlatanry worthy of a mountebank.

KILLING NO CRIME.

Gen. George W. Cole has been acquitted at Albany of the charge of murder in killing L. H. Hiscock for the alleged seduction of Cole's wife. The foreman stated that they found the prisoner to be sane at the moment before and the moment after the killing, but they were in doubt as to his sanity on the instant of the homicide. The judge said they must give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt; and thus instructed, they rendered a verdict of acquittal. It is getting to be an established rule that when a man kills another for illegal intimacy with his wife, no jury will bring him in guilty of murder for the act. According to the Cole verdict, we may as well stop indicting men for offences committed under any provocation of magnitude. "Anger is a brief madness," says the copy-book, and so every assault and murder committed by a man in a state of rage is committed by an irresponsible lunatic, and is not worthy of punishment. The greed of money being another form of insanity, the thief and the swindler ought to be let off scot free. Jealousy is also a kind of madness, and therefore disappointed lovers may with impunity pop at one another, not the tender question, but pistols loaded with ball. There is no end to the absurdities which legitimately follow from the acquittal of Gen. Cole on the ground stated by the jury.

POLITICS AND PERSONALITIES.

The query has often been raised why it is that politics, even more than religion, when once the subject of discussion and contention, should kill all good and kindly feeling in the hearts of men of a certain calibre, and convert them into a sort of moral outlaws, pushing them outside the pale of human sympathy and honorable dealing. The fact is deeply to be regretted, and without an iota of excuse. There is no reason why a political battle should not be fought in accordance with fair and honest principles, and conducted through out with manly courtesy and the courteous bearing of gentlemen. Let us agree to differ. Let us fight it out all summer and winter too; on the line we have chosen, but never forget that we are all brothers and members of the same great Commonwealth; and that if we are opponents for the time, we are not therefore necessarily enemies, and ought never to regard ourselves as such, because, although advocating opposite platforms, it is more than probable that we are equally sincere, and have the welfare of our country equally at heart.

THE best forms of notes and blanks in the city at the Observer office. tf.

A WORD IN SEASON.

We join with the N. Y. Tribune (and the more gladly because it so seldom contains any political suggestions which one of patriotic instincts can endorse) in entreating Congress to give careful heed to the statement that the next monthly report from the Treasury Department is likely to show an increase of ten millions in the public indebtedness! * * We must retrench and economize to the last possible degree. * Public credit demands it. The needs of the Government and the burdens of the people combine to make the demand imperative. Now is the time for every member to resolve—before the vultures have gathered about him, and the thousand appeals for relaxation here and liberality there have begun to have their effect—that he will, through this coming session, vote no single dollar for any appropriation not absolutely compelled by the necessity or the honor of the Government. Pledge yourself to this now, and you will be better able to begin the work of remorseless retrenchment, and to hold out against the unending importunities with which you are sure to be beset.

A COMICAL LETTER.—Few of our readers have forgotten Hon. E. O. Perrin, who stumped this section with Hon. Montgomery Blair, in the campaign of 1866, and they will appreciate the following letter from him resigning his position under the Federal government in order that he might accept the one to which he has been elected in New York:

NEW YORK, Nov. 11, 1868.

Hon. E. A. Rollins:

MY DEAR SIR: Please find enclosed my "last bill" as Special Agent.

I owe your department an apology for this long delay and apparent neglect.

But I have been so earnestly engaged, since last July, in trying to save the nation through the "unterrified Democracy" that I have had no time to devote even to personal affairs.

As an evidence of my power and ability to sway the masses in the right direction, and save the country if it can be saved, permit me to add that I stumped the State of Maine once thoroughly for Seymour and Blair, and it went thirty thousand for Grant. Could I have gone over it twice, the presumption is he would have carried it unanimously.

I am sure you will appreciate such disinterested labor.

But we have met the enemy, and we are their's "muchly."

Having, as I have shown you above, contributed my full share to bring about this result, I, of course bow to the will of the people.

There are two places, however, I wish for the future to avoid. One is the Radical Senate, and the other the unappreciative people of Peterboro', New Hampshire. One gave me no chance to have a hearing, and the others believed nothing they heard me say. "Honors were easy."

But I am all right before my own people, having just been elected Clerk of the Court of Appeals for three years, by thirty thousand majority. I am therefore one of the elect, and feel profoundly thankful that I am not as other Democratic candidates are. Many have been called, but very few chosen.

Being one of the favored few, and this being "positively my last appearance" at your department, may I call your early attention to the within "last bill" which, when "approved," closes an official career most agreeable to the undersigned, and, barring a few stumping tours, I trust most satisfactory to your department.

In or out of office, through victory or defeat, I remain very truly yours,

E. O. PERRIN,
Late Special Agent.

POLITICAL PREACHING.—Our warmest sympathy unites with that large class in every community, of both partizan organizations, who dislike, on going to church on Sunday, to hear only a continuation of the political arguments with which they have been wearied all the week long, instead of a discourse on some soothing and elevating topic, which shall lift the soul for the time out of and above the harrassing cares of daily life, and give it renewed strength for the labors of the coming week. The minister who disappoints his congregation in this fashion, behaves very much like the host at a dinner party who should set his guests to breaking stones or cobbling shoes, instead of treating them to a savory meal enlivened with genial social fellowship. The Sabbath is a day for the rest not only of the body, but for the soul, and this rest cannot be attained unless those external faculties of the mind which are busied with week-day affairs are suffered to remain quiet, and the more interior powers which take hold of spiritual things are brought into activity in their place.

THE WAY THEY DO IT.—The Clearfield Republican calls attention as follows to the gross inequalities of our present Congressional apportionment: Most of our readers understand that the faults pointed out are due to that system of unfairness which makes everything subservient to the interests of the party in power:

"The late election for Congressmen again betrays the infamy of the last apportionment. Thus, the First, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth, *five* districts, polled but 113,000 votes; and the Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, and Twenty-fourth, *four* districts, polled 106,000; while the Eighteenth, Nineteenth, (our own district,) and Twentieth, *three* districts, polled 96,000. In short, it takes 10,000 more voters in the Northwestern part of the State to elect a Congressman than it does in Lancaster, Lebanon, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Delaware and Philadelphia, and 6,000 more than it takes to elect one in the Southwestern portion of the State. In Allegheny county 26,000 voters elect a Congressman, but in our district it takes 32,000, and in the Crawford and Clarion district 34,000."

MASONIC.—The Grand Lodge, A. Y. M. of Pennsylvania, met on Tuesday at the Masonic Hall, Chestnut street, Philadelphia. The attendance was large, and after the transaction of business relative to the Order, the following officers were elected or the ensuing year: R. W. Grand Master, Richard Vaux; R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Robert A. Lamberton; R. W. G. S. Warden, Samuel C. Perkin; R. W. G. J. Warden, Alfred A. Potter; R. W. Grand Secretary, John Thompson; R. W. Grand Treasurer, Peter Williamson. The installation of officers will take place on St. John's Day. Democracy is above par in the Masonic Order, the two highest of the above officers, and one or more of the others, being leading members of our organization. Messrs. Vaux and Lamberton are among the ablest men in Pennsylvania, and our Masonic brethren show excellent discrimination in retaining their services.

THE WIDOW OF DOUGLAS.—This lady, since her marriage to Major Williams, of the regular army, has continued to reside in Washington, in a residence presented to her by Mr. Douglas, shortly before his death, in close proximity to the house of Gen. Grant. The exquisite peacefulness and privacy of Mrs. Williams' life show the difference between what are called *its marriages de société*, and what we name, familiarly, love matches. Eight years ago Mrs. Douglas had a fair prospect of being the mistress of the White House. Now she is the wife of a man whom she loves with all the ardor of a true woman's nature, living in modest retirement, and a great deal happier, undoubtedly, than if she were the "first lady of the land."

THERE SEEMS to be a mutiny in General Geary's camp. Fitzgerald's (Philadelphia) City Item, always intensely Radical, pays the following tribute to Geary:

"Poor Geary is traveling and begging day and night to secure a renomination. He coaxes, implores, promises, threatens, whines and cries. Never before has such a spectacle been seen in this State. Mr. W. W. Ketchum and General Harry White, of Indiana, are his competitors—both older and better men, and neither of them liars."

A CORRESPONDENT of the Clarion Democrat warmly urges the claims of Hon. W. P. Jenks, of Brookville, to the next Democratic nomination for Governor. Mr Jenks' nomination would be one of the most available that the party could possibly make. Neither his public nor private reputation could be successfully assailed.

EDITOR'S CHIP BASKET.

At a recent speech in this city, at which no ladies were present, a man in responding to a toast on "Woman," dwelt almost solely on the frailty of the sex, claiming that the best among them were little better than the worst, the chief difference being in the surroundings. At the conclusion of the speech, a gentleman present rose to his feet and said: "I trust the gentleman in the application of his remark, refers to his own mother and sisters, and not to ours." The effect of this most just and timely rebuke was overwhelming; the maligner was covered with confusion and shame.——During the famous fishing season of last year, John Banyard and Abe Adams went out on the Bay to try their luck. A storm came up, keeling the boat to one side, and overboard went the two distinguished disciples of Ike Walton. Some parties who happened to be close by went to their assistance, and rescued the half drowned pair. On being questioned how the accident occurred, John replied: "We didn't capsize; we only went down to see why the darn'd fish wouldn't bite."——We don't often give advice to the ladies, but feel no hesitancy in warning them, whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated, never accept an intemperate husband. The promise of such a man to love, protect, cherish and keep her in sickness and in health, is solemn mockery; it is a fraud of the meanest kind, practiced on an unsuspecting, confiding and innocent female. May heaven save the rising generation of females from that worst of earthly afflictions, that sorest of all degradations, a drunken husband.——One of our editorial neighbors, spending a day of rest at home, and wishing to be undisturbed, instructed his servant girl to admit no one, and if any person should inquire for him to give an "equivocal answer." Night came, and the gentleman proceeded to interrogate Bridget as to his callers. "Did any one call?" "Yis, sir, wan jintleman." "What did he say?" "He axed was yer honor in." "Well, what did you tell him?" "Sure I gave him a quivikle answer jist. I axed him was his grandmother a monkey?"——There is nothing which helps to establish a man's character and standing in society more than a steady attendance at church, and a proper regard for the Sabbath. Every head of a family should go to church for an example, if nothing else. Lounging in the streets and bar-rooms on Sunday is abominable and deserves censure, because it lays the foundation of habits which ruin both soul and body. Many a man can date the commencement of his dissipations, which made him a burden to himself and friends, an object of pity in the sight of enemies, to his Sunday debauchery.——During the baseball epidemic last year, our friend R—— took a great interest in the games. One day, his little six-year-old was sitting in repose upon the front steps, with a base-ball in his hand, gazing intently at the moon. "Pa," he suddenly spoke, "is there only one man in the moon?" "That's the tradition, my son; the man in the moon is the only inhabitant of that bright world we have ever heard of." After a moment's pause he remarked, with a sigh, "He must be lonesome, pa, and no one to play base-ball with!"——All the depot, last July, D—— and L—— were [illegible] about poultry, and the way to make the raising and sale of them profitable. Said B.: "A hen has the capacity of laying just six hundred eggs and no more, and she finishes the job in about five years. Now what is to be done with her, after that?" "Cut off her head and sell her for a spring chicken!" exclaimed L., whose experience at market probably justified the suggestion.——Frank is a philosopher as well as a wag. "Where are you going," asked he of an acquaintance. "To see a friend." "Then I should like to go along, for I never saw one yet!" We fear there was more truth than poetry in the observation.——The Arabs have a fable of a miller, who was one day startled by a camel's nose thrust in the window of a room where he was sleeping. "It is very cold outside," said the camel; "I only want to get my nose in." The nose was let in, then the neck, and finally the whole body. Presently the miller began to be extremely inconvenienced by the ungainly companion he had obtained, in a room certainly not large enough for both. "It you are inconvenienced," said the camel, "you may leave. As for myself, I shall stay where I am." The moral of the fable concerns all. When temptation occurs, we must not yield to it. He who yields even in the smallest degree, will soon be entirely overcome.——A little boy, five years old, was sent to a grocery store on some trifling errand, and while there his bright eyes lighted upon a barrel of pippins exposed temptingly to view just outside the door. In going out he took one and returned to his mother munching it. "Where did you get that nice apple, Willie?" she inquired. "Got it at de docery," replied the boy. "Did the man give it to you?" "No, I took it." "Why, my son, that was naughty; you should not take apples or anything else without permission." "But nobody saw me." "Oh, yes, my son, there was one who saw you." "Who?" "Why, God saw you." The boy stopped a moment to consider, and then, with a good deal of satisfaction expressed in his face, replied: "No, he didn't, ma, there was an awning over the store."——Fashion makes the ladies look well; but it doesn't make them good. The moment a woman gives herself up to the fascinations of the gay goddess she's a gone creature. You might as well try to find a needle in the Atlantic ocean as a heart in her bosom. Fashion is an iceberg that exists without a heart.——"Why," said one of our schoolmarms to a young scapegrace who had caused her much trouble by his bad conduct, "why is it you behaved so well when you first came to school, and are so disobedient now?" "Because," said young hopeful, looking up into the teacher's face, "I wasn't much acquainted then."——A sick man, slightly convalescing, recently in conversation with a pious friend, who congratulated him upon his recovery, and asked him who his physician was, replied: "Dr. —— brought me through." "No, no," said his friend: "God brought you out of your illness, not the doctor." "Well, maybe he did, but I am certain the doctor will charge me for it."——At the Court lately, a learned lawyer, dissatisfied at his success with an Irish witness, complained to the Judge. The Hibernian said, "I'm no lawyer, yer honor, and he wants to puzzle me." Counsel—"Come, now, do you swear you are no lawyer?" Witness—"Faith, and I do; and you might sware the same about yourself without danger of perjury."——When a man and woman are made one by a clergyman, the question is, which is the one. Sometimes there is a long struggle between them before the matter is finally settled.——"What sort of a sermon do you like?" said Dr. —— to Lawyer ——. "That kind of a sermon which drives a man into the corner of his pew, and makes him think the devil is after him."——Never attempt to do anything that is not right. Just as sure as you do, you will get into trouble. If you even suspect that anything is wrong, do it not until you are sure your suspicions are groundless!——There was once an independent old lady whose comments on the Bible were very pointed. Speaking of Adam's naming all the animals, she said she didn't think he deserved any credit for naming the pig—any one would know what to call him.——A merchant advertising for a boy, adds: "Lads parting their hair in the middle need not apply."

LEGAL BLANKS.—We remind those in need of blanks that our assortment is the most complete in the city, comprising every sort generally in use by Justices, Attorneys, Constables, Property Owners and Business men. They are all prepared by experienced men, got up in the best style, and sold at the most reasonable prices. A liberal deduction will be made to dealers or others purchasing in large quantities. tf25-tf.

[The following letter from the pen of Dr. W. M. Wood, of the U. S. Navy, formerly a resident of Erie, will be read with interest by his many friends in this city. It was originally published in the Baltimore Episcopal Methodist:]

A Visit to New York City.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14, 1868.

Mr. Editor:—Once more in New York. I remember that when, a long time ago, I first came to the place which has grown into a teeming hive of humanity, I was myself a very small member of a stage-coach load of passengers which was ferried from the Jersey shore in a row-boat, and I dwelt amid the narrow, tortuous streets, wishing myself home again. Since then I've been here many times, have entered it landward, riverward, and seaward; observing its growth, changes and progress in every direction, and with each visit I find it a fresh study—never an old story. The ("up-town" of one period is the "down-town" of another, with its more quiet and refined society, which has reached the higher stages of metropolitan civilization, and withdrawn itself from the vulgarity of extreme fashion. A new and more boldly extravagant aristocratic quarter, with its sensuous splendors, is passing through the first steps of culture and civilization; those who by the rapid success of enterprises of gain—honorable or otherwise—have been lifted from plain and often vulgar obscurity, to the privilege of demanding an entrance to the circle which gold has created, and in which it flashes its gaudy decorations. Naturally the first operation of the new-comer's claim must be made by out-flashing his predecessors—an external manifestation of extravagance which wins wonder, or a notoriety of deportment which defies opinion. But the first ambition satiated, there comes another and a higher, the desire to be respectable, to study the refinements which have repulsed material claims, and in one or two generations we may have an "old family" setting a high example in morals, art, and literature. It would have taken ten generations of feudal superiority to have done as much. This I take to be the social mission of New York. Its power catches the rough and undisciplined energies which create its wealth and magnificence, and by elevating and instructing their accompanying ambition, elaborates the artistic and social refinement of which the splendid city boasts. An elderly and highly respectable New Yorker, as we looked upon the passing throng from the omnibus which bore us up-town, remarked to his companion, as he pointed out an exaggerated female costume: "Fashion sanctions that, does it?" and continued: "Why Sodom and Gomorrah were swallowed up and our city exists, I cannot understand." I only quote the comment—do not make it.

On Sunday I heard the distinguished Presbyterian clergyman, Dr. Hall, preach from the text "Do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?"—Micah xi: 7. He made a most powerful and eloquent appeal for increased effort to give those words more efficiently to the people of New York, not only to the ignorant masses, but to the counting house and the commercial classes. Such is New York's sober judgment of itself. But may we not take pride in all these results of wealth, and energy, architectural magnificence and social luxury presented for the admiration of the world. We do, and will. Super loyal subjects of brilliant monarchs have prided themselves upon the splendid vices of their Sovereigns, and as a people our worship is greatness and grandeur, or what we conceive to be such—we are even boastful of the greatest rebellion—the great armies we have moved, and the great slaughter they have caused. We are then, of course, proud of New York—we only require her to be great, and are not exacting as to the quality of the greatness. But what has it cost? Where are the victims? The pyramids stand as a wonder to the world, but who can tell the amount of human life and suffering upon which they are built? Half of one of the busy hours of the day on Wall street will show the observer an unsightly array of victims to New York's grandeur. Anxious men hurrying along as if to escape some chasing calamity, with their eyes fixed on the pavement a little in advance of their feet, as if fearful of being delayed by a friendly eye or greeting, many of them never seeing their families during the day, never seeing their children except when asleep, unless it may be occasionally on a Sunday; all taste for domestic or any quiet enjoyment annihilated, and the only enjoyment of life being in the excitement of business or pleasure. What becomes of parental influence, family education—in the duties of which lies a happiness that all the millions of Wall street cannot buy. Family education to right ends is next to an impossibility in New York. Whatever the teaching in-doors, Broadway, the Fifth avenue and Wall street give the controlling influences to the young. This is the compensating penalty it pays for its greatness. Verily it has its reward in grandeur, paid is individual and family happiness—a high price for the most glittering gem in the coronal of national vanity, and may none whom I love be part of the price. It may be asked, why this of New York more than any other city? The question is pertinent, and to some extent I admit its force, and fear that all cities gain their aggregated power and influence by the sacrifice of individual independence, happiness and morals. If unfortunately, city influences preponderate, it is probable the best qualities of a people are overwhelmed. When any individual has lost, or has never been endowed with a taste for appreciating the fields and woods and waters, the labors, the natural and home enjoyments of country life—not the butterfly enjoyment of a summer's flitting, but autumn's closing labors and the winter fire side—he has lost a conservative power, and merits pity as a ready and perhaps necessary victim to the artificial excitements of city life. Says Octave Feuillet through the mouth of M. des Rameures: "Formerly between the Alps, the Rhine, and the Pyrenees, there was a great country, which lived, which thought, and which acted not exclusively through its capital, but for itself. It had a head, assuredly; but there was also a heart, muscles, nerves, and veins with blood in them, and yet the head lost nothing by that. There was then a France. Monsieur, whence came that prodigious concourse of intelligences all fully armed, and of heroic hearts, which the great social movement of 1780 suddenly brought upon the scene? Please recall to mind the most illustrious men of that era—jurisconsults, orators, soldiers. How many from Paris? All came from the provinces." So much, *en passant*, upon the general question of city and country. New York! (what a name for a cosmopolitally imperial metropolis,) differs from other American cities in this—its rapid material prosperity has overgrown and destroyed those original and better elements of social respectability which were once superior to wealth. Boston has yet full faith in its classic superiority. Philadelphia still feels the influence of science, and philosophy running down from the days of Franklin and Rittenhouse, Rush and Wistar. Baltimore has not yet lost the influence of the time when it was the court of a high toned and cultivated landed aristocracy.

It has been stated that the present extravagance of fashion in female attire is to be met and reproved by extreme simplicity in the costume of those whose established social position places them above its vulgar tyranny, and whose example ought to be influential. Such a protest may have some influence in other cities, but will have none in New York, for there the controlling taste, however modified, comes up from below. In spirit and form its type is the color—scarlet.

Our study of our great commercial city may be a profitable lesson if it corrects in one individual, or one family, the great mistake of our national character—that wealth, with all its admitted uses and power, is, either in its pursuits or its interests, in its labors or its splendors, the highest object of human ambition, or worth a life of slavish devotion. Our words are not wasted if they induce a single individual to remain satisfied with the respectability of an honest and useful, though humble life, and teach him to derive such pleasure from the varied upholstery of nature spread around his rural home, that he has no longing for the costly artificial decorations of city palaces. As he looks upon the rushing crowd of Wall street he may be amused by its absurdity, and pity its insanity, congratulating himself that he is not of it, but can walk out of it, an independent, provincial and

COUNTRY MAN.

A CHALLENGE.—We have received the December number of "Merry's Museum," for young people, and old people, too, who have not forgotten that they were once young. The publisher, Horace P. Fuller, Boston, claims that "Merry" is the best magazine of its kind issued in the country, and challenges comparison. Our readers can decide this point for themselves by sending to him two three-cent stamps for a specimen. The January number begins a new Volume, which will be further enlarged and improved. Terms, $1.50 a year in advance.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The number for December has the following contents: Our Painters, by John Neil; Autumnal; Caleb's Lark, by Mrs. Jane G. Austin; The Fate in the Glass—IV., Hooker, by E. P. Whipple; Co-operative Housekeeping—2d paper; A Walch in the Night, by Algernon Charles Swinburne; A day at a Consulate, by O. M. Spencer; A Gothic Capital, by Theodore Bacon; Our Paris Letter; The First and the Last, by Edward E. Hale; Reviews and Literary Notices.

"THE TELEGRAPH," published at Kenosha, Wis., says:

A Good Medicine.—It is not often that we say much in favor of patent medicines, because it is hard distinguishing between the humbug and the really valuable medicines. But we go out of our general custom to say that Hoofland's German Bitters is no humbug. We have tried it, and we know it to be almost infallible in cases of indigestion, disarrangement of the Liver, &c. It has cured us of the most obstinate case of the Jaundice, after every other remedy had failed. And in no less than half a dozen instances, where we have recommended it to our friends for the same disease, it has proved alike efficacious; and we have yet to hear of the case wherein it has failed. "Hoofland's German Bitters" is entirely free from all Alcoholic admixtures.

Hoofland's German Tonic is a combination of all the ingredients of the Bitters, with pure Santa Cruz Rum, orange, anise, &c., making a preparation of rare medical value. The Tonic is used for the same diseases as the Bitters, in cases where some Alcoholic Stimulus is necessary. Principal Office, 631 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. Sold everywhere by Druggists and others.

DR. SAGE'S CATARRH REMEDY is no patent medicine humbug gotten up to dupe the ignorant and credulous, nor is it represented as being "composed of rare and precious substances brought from the four corners of the earth, carried seven times across the Great Desert of Saharah on the backs of fourteen camels, and brought across the Atlantic Ocean on two ships." It is a simple, mild, soothing, pleasant Remedy, a perfect Specific for Chronic Nasal Catarrh, "Cold in the Head" and kindred diseases. The proprietor, R. V. Pierce, M. D., of Buffalo, N. Y., offers a reward of $500 for a case of Catarrh that he cannot cure. For sale by most Druggists everywhere. Sent by mail, post-paid, for sixty cents. Address the proprietor as above. dec10-2w.

EUGENIA HAIR RESTORER.—The cheapest and best. Mammoth bottles only 75 cents. The Eugenia Hair Restorer eclipses all known discoveries for the rapidity with which it restores gray and faded hair to its original color, promotes its rapid and healthy growth, prevents and stops it when falling off, and is a most luxuriant hair dressing for the human hair and head, rendering it soft, silky and lustrous. Sold by S. Dickinson & Son, sole agents in Erie. dec12-1y.

CLOAKINGS, flannels, blankets, sheetings, prints—a large stock at 512 State street.
dec3-2m. L. ROSENZWEIG & Co

IRISH POPLINS, dress silks, all colors, just received at 512 State street.
dec3-2m. L. ROSENZWEIG & Co.

DRESS GOODS—less than importers' prices, at 512 State street.
dec3-2m. L. ROSENZWEIG & Co.

THREAD and guissure laces at 512 State street. L. ROSENZWEIG & Co.
dec3-2m.

PAISLEY SHAWLS! Paisley Shawls! At 512 State street. L. ROSENZWEIG & Co.
dec3-2m.

LADIES' and Gents' Furs very cheap. Hats, Caps and Furnishing goods. Suits made in the best manner by Jones & Lytle. oc29-tf

New Advertisements.

Advertisements, to secure insertion, must be handed in by 9 o'clock on Thursday morning. All advertisements will be continued at the expense of the advertiser, unless ordered for a specified time.

AUSTIN'S
JEWELRY STORE,
29 North Park Place, Erie, Pa.,
Is very attractive in the way of
RICH ARTICLES
OF
Gold and Silver Goods,
to those who are mindful of the Holidays.
A VERY LARGE STOCK
is now opening, including
ALL the NEW STYLES.
CALL AND SEE.
Those whose sight is impaired, can try a pair of the
Lancashire Spectacles,
THE BEST IN USE,
And see all about the cost and quality.
THESE SPECTACLES ARE
Warranted for One Year.
Broken Specs replaced with new ones, without charge.
TRY
AUSTIN.
dec10-tf.

No. 12 PARK ROW.
W. H. GLENNY,
Importer, Wholesale and Retail
Dealer in Crockery
AND
GLASSWARE
Has just received a large assortment of
French Bronze, French Fine Gilt Goods,
Bohemian Glass Vases, Bohemian Glass Cologne Sets and Card Receivers, French China Vases, English Parian Marble, Statuary and Vases in great variety,
LAVA CIGAR SETS,
Lava Vases, Lava Card Receivers, Lava Tobacco and Match Boxes, French Artificial Flowers, French China Gold Band Dinner and Tea Sets, French White China Dinner and Tea Sets, French China Toilet Sets, gold and decorated, English China Toilet Sets decorated,
Decorated CHINA Spittoons,
China Moustache Cups and Saucers, China Cups and Saucers and Mugs,
Silver Plated Ware,
Elegant Silver Plated Tea Sets,
DINNER CASTORS,
BREAKFAST CASTORS,
CAKE BASKETS,
BERRY DISHES,
With Rich Cut Glass Linings.
ICE PITCHERS, WATERS, GOBLETS,
Mugs, Pickle Castors, Syrup Pitchers, Spoons, Forks, Knives with plated handles, Knives with Ivory handles, Tea Bells, Nut Picks,
NUT CRACKERS AND NAPKIN RINGS,
Also a large assortment of
CHEAP CUT GLASS WARE
(NEW STYLES.)
A large assortment of
CROCKERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Merchants supplied at less than New York prices. dec10-3w.

WARRANT IN BANKRUPTCY.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE that on the 12th day of Nov., A. D. 1868, a warrant in Bankruptcy was issued against the estate of William D. Miller, of Corry, in the county of Erie, State of Pennsylvania, who has been adjudged a Bankrupt on his own petition; That the payment of any debts and delivery of any property belonging to such bankrupt, to him and for his use, and the transfer of any property by him are forbidden by law; that a meeting of the creditors of the said bankrupt, to prove their debts and to choose one or more Assignees of his estate, will be held at the Court of Bankruptcy, to be holden at the office of the Register, in the city of Erie, in the county of Erie and State of Pennsylvania, before E. E. Woodruff, Register, on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1869, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

THOMAS A. ROWLEY,
U. S. Marshal, Messenger.
By G. P. Davis, Dept. U. S. Marshal.
dec10-4w

Saw Mill for Sale.

THE undersigned offer at private sale their valuable Saw Mill property on Walnut Creek, upon the McKean road, about six miles from Erie. The Mill runs by water power, is double geared, was built new three years ago, and is in good order throughout. The Mill has a large patronage and is in one of the best locations in the county. Fourteen acres of land are attached, with the water privilege. There are two good Frame Dwelling Houses and a Barn on the premises. The place is a capital situation for a