The Erie Observer.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1869.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania met at Harrisburg on Tuesday last, and organized by the election of Wilmer Worthington, of Chester, as speaker of the Senate, and John Clark, of Phila., as speaker of the House, with the usual complement of Clerks, Doorkeepers, Messengers, Pasters and Folders, &c. All the officers are of course Republicans, as that party has a majority in both bodies. The Democrats supported C. B. Burnett, of Wayne, for speaker of the Senate, and Samuel Josephs, of Philadelphia, for speaker of the House. Their choice of Josephs is a matter of surprise to us, as it will be to all who are familiar with the public men of the State. A proposition from responsible parties to do the pasting and folding of both bodies for one-fourth what it costs under the present system, was summarily rejected. The Republican members, in caucus, have agreed upon John Scott, of Huntingdon, (the Cameron and Pennsylvania R. R. candidate,) for U. S. Senator, and R. W. McKee, of Pittsburgh, for State Treasurer. No legislation of importance has thus far been transacted.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Message of Gov. Geary, sent into the Legislature at the opening of its session, is a brief and business like document, containing much of interest to the people of the State.

It commences by thanking Providence for the favors he has vouchsafed our people, and congratulating the Legislature upon the auspicious circumstances under which it meets.

The balance in the Treasury at the close of the last fiscal year was $4,661,836, and the receipts $5,216,049, making, with the depreciated funds on hand, $9,918,918. The expenses during the year have been $8,905,492, leaving a balance of $1,013,415, or nearly $3,650,000 less than at the commencement of 1868, which is not a very favorable exhibit certainly. It is but fair to say that of the expenses over $4,400,000 were for loans redeemed, and nearly $2,000,000 for interest on loans, though, if we are not mistaken, a considerable amount of money was borrowed to meet the first named liabilities.

The Sinking Fund had a balance on Sept. 3, 1867, of $1,731,912, and its receipts to Nov. 30, 1868, were $3,418,992, making in all $5,156,904, for a period of one year and three months. During the same time $4,222,871 were paid out in interest and for the redemption of the State debt, leaving a balance of $934,032, or about $800,000 less than in 1867. The special tax levied under the act of May, 1861, for creating a fund to meet the war debt of the State, had a balance of $319,933 in Sept. 1867, which was increased by the amount of $433,979 during 1868. During the year $169,245 have been paid out for interest, leaving a balance of $574,667, which, added to that of the general fund, makes a total of $1,508,700, applicable to the redemption of the State's outstanding obligations.

The State debt has been reduced in two years $4,209,386, under the system adopted by a Democratic Legislature, as explained at length in our last issue. The State holds assets in the form of $6,400,000 bonds of the Penna. R. R. Co., and $3,500,000 bonds of the Phila. & Erie R. R. Co., which do not mature in many years. The public debt Dec. 1, 1867, was $37,704,409; it is now $33,268,946, and would be still further reduced if all the money which belonged to the Sinking Fund had been honestly appropriated to the purpose for which it was collected.

The Governor recommends that some plan be devised for the safe investment of the large sums frequently lying idle in the Treasury, and suggests the buying up of the State bonds, which seems to us a good idea. He advocates the extinguishment of the debt at the earliest practicable period, not inconsistent with other public interests, and urges the strictest economy and utmost retrenchment in every department of the Government. The custom of leaving the General Appropriation bill until near the close of the session is denounced, as affording an opportunity to introduce items that ought not to be in it. By this plan, the Governor has been forced to sign the bill against his wishes, or call an extra session, which would be more likely to make the matter worse than improve it.

The schools of the State are in a highly satisfactory condition. The statistics of that department show over 15,000 separate schools, 16,771 teachers and 800,515 pupils. The cost of tuition during 1868 was $3,273,269; of buildings, &c., $1,991,152; contingencies $854,253, making a total spent for common school education of $6,200,537, or an average of $7.74 for each pupil. The Governor calls attention to the fact that many thousands of children do not attend school, and recommends that "something be done to remedy this growing evil." The four State Normal Schools are commended as offering an opportunity of securing a better class of teachers than heretofore. He thinks the promotion of the educational interests of the State one of the most important topics that can enlist the attention of the Legislature. The Soldiers' Orphans' Schools are under a separate organization, and the number of attendants was 3,431, for keeping and teaching whom the State expended in six months $236,970, or an average weekly cost of $2.65 per pupil. The schools are spoken of in warm terms, and their encouragement strongly urged.

The State Agricultural College, in Centre county, is endowed with the interest upon a fund of $318, 500, which amounted last year to $25,642. The sum of $43,886 has been spent in the purchase of three model farms, in Centre, Chester and Indiana counties.

The martial spirit of the State is reviving, and in Philadelphia especially military organizations are rising into favor. There are 77 volunteer companies now in existence, and the Governor favors the encouragement of a general organization throughout the Commonwealth. He proposes the reduction of the number for a company to fifty.

A new Registry Law is advocated, which shall obviate the defects in the last one. The Governor takes occasion while on this topic to read a homily on the purity of elections, which would come with better grace from a member of a party that has not benefited as much by frauds as that to which he belongs.

He proposes the establishment of an Insurance department, similar to that in operation in New York, by which none but reliable companies can have an opportunity of doing business.

During the year he has received applications for pardon from 1,638 persons and granted pardons to 106, of whom about 5 per cent. have again been arrested for crime. This part of his duties he pronounces the most difficult, and argues at length to show that it is impossible to deal exact justice in all cases. A table accompanying the Message shows that the average of pardons granted by him is not equal to that of many of his predecessors. In the case of persons under sentence of death, he asks for power to be given him to commute, when advisable, to imprisonment in the penitentiary, instead of, as now merely withholding the death warrant and keeping the prisoner in dreadful suspense.

The Governor closes with a dissertation upon national affairs, which is the poorest part of the Message, and would be of no interest to our readers. Aside from this, the document is generally unexceptionable, and will make a good impression for its common sense qualities.

THE RECORD CONSULTED.

Our friend who advocates *anti-Republican* ideas under *Republican* colors, and whose only fault is that he will persist in calling them *Republican* when he knows their whole tendency to be of a despotic nature, cannot be as *observing* as we supposed him, or it would not have taken him a whole week to *observe* in the *Observer* an article from the Lancaster Intelligencer showing up Gov. Geary's military record in the light in which it is familiarly understood by all well informed persons throughout the State. In his zeal to advance to the Governor's defence, he copies an alleged extract from a report to the War Department of the battle of Gettysburg, in which it is stated that "in front of Geary's position there were more rebels dead than were killed and wounded in the whole line of the 12th corps." All this may be true and yet reflect no special credit upon the redoubtable Governor. The extract which our un-*observing* friend of anti-*Republican* Republicanism copies does not mention that the Governor displayed any special skill or courage upon the occasion, and if our recollection serves us right he was entitled to none. The truth of the matter is, that he happened to have his division posted in an advantagous position by the order of his corps commander, that the field over which the rebels had to charge in his front was covered by the Union cannon, and that when the enemy made their attack our guns opened such a terrific fire upon them that they were mowed down by thousands, and compelled to retreat in confusion. The defeat of Lee on that day was owing mainly to the skill with which Gen. Slocum masked and concentrated his batteries, by which the former was led into a trap that rendered a successful charge nearly impossible. Gen. Geary's forces suffered comparatively little in the battle, showing that they were not engaged in a close fight, and our impression is that all their fighting worth mentioning occurred after the rebels had been put to flight, as above stated. We assure our anti-*Republican* friend of the *Republican* that we have not the least disposition to rob "Cæsar" Geary of "the things which are Cæsar's," neither do we propose that he shall receive "honor" except "where honor is due," as we shall take occasion to show when the Governor comes before the people for re-election.

THE WAR ON THE TREASURY.

The great army of the lobby is mustering for the attack which it contemplates making at the present session of Congress. As its different corps, called "Rings," are marshalling in plain sight, it may be well to take a bird's eye view of them. The first corps is the Whisky Ring. This is the most powerful and best disciplined of the rings and is the guiding column of attack. Next there is the Telegraphic Monopoly Ring, composed mainly of the officers of telegraph companies, who are determined to defeat the projected measure for reducing their present profits. Then comes the Public Land Ring, which proposes, under various pretences, to get hold of as many acres as possible of the land which the Government is supposed to hold in trust for the people. Next is the notorious and powerful Indian Ring, fighting for its life against the proposition to merge the Indian Bureau into the War Department, which would save thousands in salaries now paid to useless employées, and millions now filched by fraud. Lastly, there is the Pacific Railroad Ring. There are some six or eight so-called Pacific railroads clamoring for Government help. They hate each other, but necessity has forced them to band together to secure the coveted aid, and their success in getting two additional members appointed upon the Senate Committee on Railroads looks as if they might succeed.

There are other Rings—flankers, skirmishers, and bummers to the Lobby army—but like Homer, we have enumerated the principal divisions of the coming battle. Let the people ponder over them and keep a close watch on the acts of their representatives.

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES.

The people have pretty much lost all the confidence they ever had in Legislative Investigating Committees. The impression has come to be entertained that they are most frequently got up either to enable somebody to make an ostentatious display of heroic virtue, or that they are managed in the interest of parties who are ready to whitewash those who will pay, and blackball those who will not. No sooner does Congress or our State Legislature meet than the body politic breaks out all over with a sort of rash in the shape of Committees for inquiring into all kinds of alleged frauds, with power to send for persons and papers. In due time the persons and papers are sent for. Sometimes they appear, and ofttimes they do not. The Committees gravely sit upon such as come, and after a while print an undigested mass of evidence which nobody reads, accompanied by a long report filled with opaque suggestions that nobody heeds; and the grand result is a big Public Document which encumbers the mails, and a huge bill of expenses which depletes the Treasury, while the rogues (if there were rogues in the case) slip through the fingers of the Committees, laugh in their sleeves at the gullibility of public functionaries, and ply their swindling vocation with more vigor than before.

AN UNUSUALLY large crowd of distinguished visitors called upon President Johnson, on New Year's day, to tender him the usual compliments. The diplomatic corps attended in the brilliant uniforms of their respective courts, forming a striking contrast with the plain attire of American citizens who thronged the White House. The record which tells that Satan came also among them does not recite a fact more startling than must have been the appearance of Benjamin F. Butler, elbowing his way through the crowd, to grasp the hand of Andrew Johnson, while he expressed his delight at seeing that "great criminal" so well, and his hopes for continuance of prosperity to him through the remainder of the Presidential term. Most ceremonious etiquette is Pickwickian, but Mr. Johnson must have had a special realization of the fact about the time he was shaking hands, with such unction as the telegraph describes, with Gen. Butler.

GOV. HOFFMAN.

John T. Hoffman was inaugurated Governor of the State of New York on New Year's day, at the State Capital. Notwithstanding the furious storm, a large concourse of citizens was present, and the sixteenth and twenty-fifth regiments and a company of artillery paraded and escorted the Governor to the State House. The retiring Governor, Fenton, made a feeling address upon laying off his gubernatorial honors, and welcomed his successor to the Chief Magistracy of the State. Governor Hoffman made a most happy reply, closing with the hope that all present might live to see both their State and country attain a degree of peace and prosperity which has no parallel in their history. The Republican papers all agree in saying that he will make a popular and useful Chief Magistrate.

LAFE DEVELIN, editor of the Cambridge City Mirror, and a leading Democrat of Indiana, has become disgusted with politics, and, like a sensible man, proposes to devote himself to business in future. In a late issue he publishes the following card:

TO THE PUBLIC.—After devoting a considerable time to politics without any beneficial results, and becoming disgusted with the employment, we have concluded to return to our profession and try and make a livelihood in that honorable calling; one that we never should have abandoned. Those who have legal business to transact will find us ready and willing to render them all the assistance possible.

AN IMPORTANT truth has seldom been stated more tersely than by Mr. Bowles, editor of the Springfield Republican, in his letter to Gov. Bullock and other Boston notables in reply to their tender of a public dinner. "My own observation," says Mr. Bowles, "is that the Press rarely does injustice to a thoroughly honest man or cause. It may be deceived with regard to a private individual, and misrepresent him for a time; but, with reference to public men and measures, its knowledge is more intimate and complete than that of any other agency possible can be, and I know that it withhold unjustly to the public one hundred times where it speaks wrongly once of the individual. Certainly, nine out of ten of all libel suits against the Press are brought by adventurers and speculators and scoundrels, whose contrivances to rob the public have been exposed." There never was a truer saying. Newspapers are of course liable to many mistakes; but we speak from experience in saying that the mistakes as to persons are quite as likely to be those of suppression as of utterance.

OF THE innumerable slanders which the Radicals have uttered concerning the Southern people, the most unjust and unfounded is that which represents them as being hostile to the coming of Northern men into their midst as actual settlers, with a view of developing the resources of that section. The *imperative necessity* of *bringing* in both labor and capital from outside has been fully *recognized* by them, and the truth is, none have been *more* kindly *welcomed*, more joyfully received than *bona fide* settlers from the Northern States. The New Orleans Picayune, in a *recent* issue, says: "No man is more highly esteemed or more heartily welcomed in the South than the Northern man. His skill, his intelligence, his industry, his learning, and the fruits of his ingenuity, culture and energy are gladly received, and he is at once invited in full communion with the Southern man in all the pursuits and avocations of *life*."

WE HOPE Congress will make haste, if not *to* abolish the *franking privilege* altogether, at least to guard against its abuse. The franking system has now reached such proportions that members of Congress have no longer time to write their names upon the multitude of documents which they send free through the mails, but use a stamp instead. The privilege was designed to cover the official correspondence of Congressmen with officers of the Government and with their constituents; but it has swollen to probably ten times its legitimate dimensions, and has turned the Post-Office of Congress into a perfect curiosity shop.

TELEGRAMS from Washington say another attempt is to be made to place John H. Surratt on trial. The Tribune refers to them as follows:

"Either the Government should, by some herculean and hitherto unattainable effort, contrive a trial of John H. Surratt that should be free from fatal blunders, or it should abandon the effort to try him. We have had enough of such performances as the last, and we hoped to be spared the humiliation of seeing the trial of a man for alleged complicity in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln made as great a farce as were the later stages of the trial of Jefferson Davis."

THE division of States seems to be the order of the day. Mr. Stevens' bill of last session to create three Commonwealths out of the vast territory of Texas will, it is said, be called up at an early day. A convention has been held in Michigan looking to the separation of that State into two, and lastly we have Gov. Brownlow's last message, in the shape of an editorial in the Knoxville Whig, over his own signature, calling for the erection of a new State out of East Tennessee.

ACCORDING to the report of the Internal Revenue Commissioner, the ten Southern States paid into the National Treasury during the year ending June 30, 1868, the handsome sum of over thirty-two millions and three-quarters. This is a large increase over previous years since the war, and shows that the South is again on the high road to wealth and influence.

Remarkable Murder Case.

The trial of Twitchell, charged with the murder of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hill, at Philadelphia, has created unusual interest. Mrs. Hill was a widow woman, in good circumstances, keeping house in what is termed a "respectable" part of the city—although this murder was committed there—and her own daughter, Mrs. Twitchell, and her son-in-law, Mr. Twitchell, the husband of her daughter, lived with her. They kept one servant girl.

One evening the servant girl returned home rather late, and rang the front-door bell for admission. Soon Mr. Twitchell appeared in his shirt sleeves, and let her in. Almost immediately afterwards an object was espied in the yard, which on examination proved to be the body of Mrs. Hill. Mr. Twitchell brought it into the house. Mrs. Hill was entirely dead. Her head and face were covered with blood. After carrying the body in, and laying it down, Mr. Twitchell commenced with his own hands to wash off the blood. He said she must have fallen from the window and been killed by the fall. But on examination deep wounds and gashes were found on her head, sufficient, according to the medical testimony, to have caused her death.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Twitchell were put under arrest that same evening, as soon as the neighbors and the police had gathered at the scene, and heard the only explanation which they attempted to make of the suspicious circumstances in which they were found. Mrs. Twitchell was in bed, and said she knew nothing about the murder, and that her husband was in the bed with her at the time the servant girl, on her return, rang the door bell.

It is not disputed on either hand that Mrs. Hill was thrown from the window of her room, in the second story of the house. But it is contended by the Government that she was first murdered in her room, and that her body was thrown from the window after her life had been taken. In support of this theory, it was proved that large quantities of blood were found at the head of the sofa, on the walls, on the carpet, and scattered about the room in which Mrs. Hill was last known to be alive. A poker was found on the premises, with hair adhering to it, which resembled Mrs. Hill's hair.

The theory of the prosecution is, that Twitchell murdered Mrs. Hill in her room with the poker, and then threw her out of the window. When arrested, both Mr. and Mrs. Twitchell manifested scarcely any concern at the death of Mrs. Hill. The circumstance that Mr. Twitchell washed the blood off her face has its weight, in the popular belief, to establish his innocence.

The house in which the parties lived was purchased with Mrs. Hill's money, but the title was taken in the name of Mrs. Twitchell. An effort, not entirely convincing, was made to prove that Mrs. Hill was about to commence a suit to recover this property, and that a fraud was practiced upon her in taking the deed in the name of the daughter.

On the other hand, it appears that Mrs. Hill had only a life estate in her real property, which was very considerable, and that the reversion went, not to Mr. and Mrs. Twitchell, but to the heirs of Mrs. Hill's former husband; so that the Twitchell's would seem to have been pecuniarily damaged in this respect by her death.

Much blood was found on Mr. Twitchell's clothing. This was accounted for, in part at least, by his having carried the bloody and bleeding body of Mrs. Hill into the house after it was discovered in the yard, and also from his having been engaged in washing off the blood. But the Government contended that some spots of blood which were found on his clothing could only have been made by the blood spouting from a wound in a living person. One doctor, called as an expert, supported by his testimony this theory of the prosecution. But other doctors, called as experts by the defence, gave it as their opinion, that all the spots of blood could have been caused by letting the head fall back into the pool of blood in which it lay when Mr. Twitchell first attempted to raise the dead body up, as it lay in the yard.

The general good character of the prisoner was established by the testimony of numerous witnesses. There had been some difference between him and Mrs. Hill, but evidence was introduced showing subsequent declarations and acts of friendship by her toward him.

The most important testimony for the defence was that of a man named Algier, who said that about ten minutes before nine o'clock on the night of the murder he saw two men come out of the front door of Mrs. Hall's house, and pass up the street. When he read the account of the murder in the paper the next morning, he told the people at his boarding place that he saw the very men who did it.

After an absence *from* the court-room of but thirty minutes, the jury returned with a verdict of murder in the first degree. Very rarely in the later history of criminal trials in Pennsylvania has this solemn verdict, which the statutes provide shall be followed by sentence of death, been rendered with such promptness and decision. The counsel for the defendant did not move for a new trial, and we infer this exciting case is closed.

From Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 1, 1869.

EDITOR OBSERVER: *Dear Sir*—Our capital city, which has lain so long in undisturbed tranquility, is soon to be pested with the presence of that strange commingling of ignorance and arrogance known as the Pennsylvania Legislature. Already the influx has begun, and it is probable that by to-morrow evening the whole "kit and poodle" will be here, ready to begin work on the 5th. The present Assembly will not be superior to the last several sessions, either in point of talent, or as regards the wisdom of their policy. I do not say that ours is in any respect inferior to that of any other State, but I do say it is a sorry spectacle to see the set of men who assemble here from year to year. We have sadly degenerated from the good old days of Democratic rule! Not that the people are less intelligent, nor that we cannot afford as many great men, but because the people are willing to be humbugged by any political trickster who has money enough to buy his election. O, when will the people choose principle rather than politician,—statesmen rather than politicians,—true, moral men rather than ignorant, whisky-drinking demagogues?*

People are already beginning to talk about the next gubernatorial candidate. A number of names have been mentioned upon the Republican side, but Geary is the most probable candidate. If his personal efforts, or the efforts of his personal friends—if begging letters and earnest solicitations—can affect anything, certainly such will be the result of their State Convention. But can he be elected? That is the question which comes first in the Republican catechism. Talent, character, statesmanship, everything are absorbed in this one momentous inquiry. A large class of thinking Republicans think not. His course has not been of such a character as to recommend him to public notice; and, besides, he has brought disgrace upon the high office which he fills. No one ever pretended that his ability was anything above the common level. His military name alone is what brought him into prominence. Experience has shown that to be an efficient ruler of a great state requires more than a soldier's education, and reasonable Republicans will support a good, sound Democrat rather than re-elect this essence of conceit and ignorance. A Philadelphia Republican paper, in a bitter article against Geary, makes this ominous statement: "With a standard bearer so ignorant and pompous and corrupt, we will fail signally." Such is the tone of many of their newspapers, but whether they will suffer their mouths to be closed or not remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, the judgment of the Democratic party is setting upon the Hon. Asa Packer, a man in every way fitted for the position. His name is familiar to every reading man of the State, and is coupled with the most benevolent acts and Christianlike integrity. He would in himself be a power *likely to crush down all opposition*. The Philadelphia City Item, (Republican), thus speaks of him: "Doubtless the Democracy, in view of the demoralized condition of the Republicans—a demoralization certain to ensue upon the nomination of Geary—will put forward their best man—Judge Packer, perhaps, a sagacious, common-sense Pennsylvanian, whose popularity will carry Philadelphia by a majority of at least ten thousand." Mr. Packer's name is intimately associated with the educational interests of our State; he is a consistent Christian, and has *done as much, if not more*, than any other man to further the interests of the Commonwealth. It would be but a matter of mere justice, in consideration of his faithful services, that he should be made the unanimous choice of our people for their Governor.

Besides the advantage we will possess in such a candidate, it is likely that by election day the Republicans will be obliged to show their true color on the suffrage question, (heretofore carefully concealed), which will work well for the Democracy. The Republican party owe their past successes to two facts—first, in the selection of military men rather than statesmen; second, in the concealment of their true principles under the cry of "traitor," "Ku Klux," &c. These subterfuges will be made manifest one day, and will operate against the interests of Radicalism. In the meantime, it becomes us to "bide our time," and, when the hour comes, strike home once again for liberty and union.

Yours, GAMMA.

[*We fear our correspondent has fallen into the prevailing fashion of abusing members of the Legislature without due consideration. Though his comments are too true as respects some of the members, we know, from personal acquaintance, that a large proportion, if not a majority, are men whose characters, for morality and ability, will compare favorably with the community in general. It must be admitted, though, that, taken as a whole, our legislators do not come up to the standard of ten or fifteen years ago. —ED. OBS.]

IN CONSIDERATION of the large amount of uncultivated and tillable land in Virginia, the Petersburg Express argues that the greatest need of the State is an influx of foreign immigration. The advantages of soil and climate, the resources of the mines, and the various means of transit and transportation avail little without a people capable of developing and of creating wealth. The husbandman, the mechanic, the artisan, and day laborer are required, and they must come from abroad. The Charleston Daily News is in favor of the small farm system. It acknowledges that the large plantation can be no longer profitable. Instead of one princely possession, there should be a hundred homesteads; and it is foreseen that by the increase of population and the establishment of varied industry the South is likely to become richer and more thrifty than before.

THE COSTUMES of the ladies who promenade Broadway now surpass those of the theatre in gorgeousness. Such brilliancy in colors was never before witnessed on the arena of fashion.

GENERAL NEWS.

The late Gov. Tod of Ohio left an estate of $500,000.

A set of false teeth were attached in Kentucky, by the sheriff, for taxes.

Opium eating has become very general in Maine. This is a result, it is argued, of the prohibitory law.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher is reputed to be worth $150,000, earned in "shrieking for freedom."

In Adams county, Ill., having a voting population of ten thousand, ninety-six divorces have been granted within a month.

A colored woman recently died in Redding, Fairfield county, Conn., who was the mother of twenty-four children, including six pair of twins.

In Delaware they flog thieves at the public whipping post, and in Massachusetts they flog grown-up young women in the public schools.

Paul de Cassagnac, editor of the Paris Pays, has already fought upward of sixty duels, and had been wounded in only four of them.

Mosley Clark, born in June, 1747, died in Richmond, last week, aged one hundred and twenty-one years and six months. He was a wagon driver during the revolutionary war.

A farmer in Michigan, finding that his sheep were disappearing mysteriously recently, placed a wolf trap in the field. A few days afterward he found it sprung, and now one of his neighbors is laid up with a sprained ankle.

It is mortifying to learn, as now we do, that the tonnage of the United States to-day, as shown by the records of ship building, is but a little more than half of what it was in 1855, and only a trifle greater than it was in 1847.

Two San Francisco policemen tried to arrest a Chinaman. They found it necessary to leave him a moment, and handcuffed him with his arms each side of a lamp-post. When they returned their prisoner was gone. He had climbed up the post and swung his arms over the top.

A couple were married in Charlotte co., Virginia, the other day, the parson standing on one side of a creek and the loving couple on the other. A freshet had washed away the bridges, and the young folks were bound to get married. One of the attendants swam the creek to place the license in the preacher's hands.

In Decatur, Ill., the other day, a man thought he had found a long piece of dress goods upon the pavement. He picked up one end of it, and commenced wrapping it around his arm, when on looking around the corner he discovered a lady at the other end and quietly talking to a friend. He concluded to abandon the prize.

The last quotations of flour in San Francisco are reported $4.75 and $5.75 in gold, or say $6.40 and $7.75 in greenbacks. Here for similar brands we pay from twelve to fourteen dollars in the national currency. Happy San Francisco! where gold is the circulating medium, where labor is in demand, and where flour and all the essentials of life are as cheap as dirt!

A deluded citizen of Portland, Me., becoming impressed with an idea that the world is soon to be visited by a second deluge, has applied his whole property ($6,000) to the building of an ark of refuge. The boat will be 50 feet long, 15 feet wide, flat-bottomed, square-sterned, round bows, with a house a little aft of midships. He is sole planner and builder, and intends, when it is completed, to furnish it with necessary provisions and calmly await the rising of the waters.

The excess of women in America, it has recently been admitted as a physiological fact, is in the United States about six per cent. Old England and New England are becoming more and more the countries of old maids. The latest census returns in the former country show 610,000 more women than men, and the proportion in New England is almost two women to one man. Indeed, in some of the country districts this ratio is far greater in favor of the sex.

Several journals give in the form of foreign correspondence the trial of five women at Marseilles, France, for poisoning their husbands. The New York Courier des Etats Unis has published in several numbers a full report of the case. The women put their husbands out of the world by the aid of a conjurer. The effect of his conjurations was materially aided by frequent doses of arsenic. One of the women was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment, and two others, with the "conjuror," to imprisonment for life. Two were acquitted. The verdicts of guilty were in each case accompanied with the declaration that there were "extenuating circumstances in the case.

In Lafayette, Sussex county, N. J., a widow White made a confession, just previous to her death, on Saturday, which horrified the town. Being a member of the Methodist Church, she sent for some of her fellow members to attend her in her dying hour, and to them she confessed that about seven years ago she poisoned her infant child, and that it died. A year or so afterward she administered poison to her husband's father, and he too died. Later still, on the return of her husband from the army, she dealt to him also a fatal poison. The woman had borne a good character. The only reason assigned for making this dying declaration was her desire to rid her conscience of this immense load of crime prior to her death. She was perfectly sane up to the time of her decease.

(The Memphis Appeal, in a recent review of the condition of the planters of the South, concludes that they are better off than ever before, and that their prospects could not well be improved. The largest cotton crop ever raised was in 1859-'60, which was about 5,000,000 bales, realizing, at $50 a bale, $250,000,000. This year the crop will be about 2,000,000 bales; it is worth $100 a bale, and in the aggregate $200,000,000, or only one-fifth less than the crop of 1859-'60. Now, to the profits of this year are to be added some important items. Their expenditures do not include interest on the money which the laborer, as a slave, was worth; nor taxes on the same; nor food for the idle, the sick, the young, or the aged. More than this, their money has not been sent North for the purchase of provisions, for whatever food their people require has been produced from their own soil in the greatest abundance.

A married woman, residing in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, adopted a novel and very effectual plan for avenging abuses received at the hands of her husband. It would appear that the husband is generally very kind, but unfortunately has a weakness for the ardent. When intoxicated he is very harsh in his treatment, and his wife is frequently obliged to seek refuge in the houses of neighbors to escape personal harm. Matters have been in this condition for some time past, and the wife bore the ill treatment until forbearance ceased to be a virtue. She determined upon revenge. One night last week the husband came home intoxicated, and, according to usual custom, proceeded to abuse his wife. She escaped, however, and remained in a neighbor's house until the husband had retired. She then returned home, and securing a rope, firmly pinioned the husband. After having secured him so that it was impossible for him to offer any resistance, the wife proceeded to chastise her husband in a most vigorous manner, and repaid with interest all the abuse she had received. The husband cried out with pain, implored a cessation of hostilities, and was profuse in his promises of the kindest treatment in the future. The wife, however, did not desist until she felt confident that the chastisement would be remembered.

ONE vote and a contrary pig were the means of the declaration of the war of 1812 with Great Britain. Two neighbors, having adjoining farms in Rhode Island, got into a dispute about the depredations of a pig belonging to one of them. They went to law about it, and on the day a United States Senator was to be elected by the Legislature they were obliged to attend court. One of them was a member of the Assembly, a Hartford Conventionist and opposed to the war. His vote would have elected an anti-war Senator, but in consequence of his absence a war man was chosen, and war was declared by the majority in the Senate. It is further related that this member of the Legislature was himself elected by one vote. The moral of all of which is—Be sure that you vote and that you don't get into any dispute about trifling matters, for there is no telling what a single vote may be instrumental in effecting in regard to the future destiny of the country.

AN INDIAN boy from the West lately passed through by cars to a Missouri town as freight, having a tag with his destination tied to his clothing.

THE SCHOOLS and colleges of the South have been more numerously attended this season than ever before.

A GEORGIA editor received a watermelon and a basket of strawberries as a Christmas present.

THE EMPEROR of China is 14 years of age, and his affianced bride 11.

THE inequality and injustice of the apportionment of members of the Legislature of this State is seen wherever we look. Luzerne county polls 750 more votes than Lancaster. Yet Luzerne has one Senator and three Assemblymen, while Lancaster has two Senators and four Assemblymen. Luzerne is Democratic and Lancaster Radical. That is why so unjust a distinction is made. Lancaster is a Congressional district, and another county is added to Luzerne. In this we have another exhibition of the palpable unfairness of the present apportionment, by which the will of the people is defeated.

Our Indian Wars.

Mr. A. H. Jackson, of New York city, has compiled from the official record, and will soon publish, an exhibit of the cost and causes of the several Indian wars during the last thirty-seven years, beginning with the Black Hawk war of 1831-32, which cost directly $2,000,000, and indirectly, in the destruction of property, employment of militia, volunteers, pensions, etc., $3,000,000 more, making an aggregate of $5,000,000, attended with a loss of 4,000 of our people. Officers of the Army and Government, including the present Secretary of the Interior, who served through this war, are unable, even at this late day, to tell what was the real cause of that conflict. They are confident that it was forced upon the Indians in the interest of broken-down politicians and speculators. The Seminole or Florida war lasted nearly seven years, employing the army and navy, the militia of Florida, and volunteers from other States, costing 15,000 lives and $100,000,000. The number of Indians engaged was estimated by the Indian Agent at 500 warriors; the army officers estimated their number at 1,000. Nearly 300 of the Indians still remain in the everglades of Florida. The others were moved west of the Mississippi. Those in Florida insist that they were never whipped. The first cause of this outbreak was an interpretation given to three treaties; one requiring the removal of the Seminoles, the whipping of an Indian, and the imprisonment of Osceola, who escaped and became the leader of the war party. At about the same time a difficulty occurred with the Creeks, Cherokees and other Indians, costing in the aggregate $1,000,000. In 1852 we had the Sioux war on the plains; the cause, an Indian killed a cow worth $10, the property of a *Mormon*. This war lasted nearly four years, and cost about three hundred lives and nearly $40,000,000. In 1864 came the Cheyenne war, which lasted nearly a year, costing 1,000 lives and, with the Sioux war at about the same time, $60,000,000. Cause of the outbreak with the Cheyennes, a charge made against them of stealing a horse worth $50; with the Sioux, the opening of a road and the establishing thereof in their country, in violation of treaty stipulations. The war with the Cheyennes ended with a treaty of peace in the fall of 1865, but that with the Sioux continued until the treaty which was recently made by the Peace Commission. The Cheyenne war was resumed and continued seven months in 1867, in consequence of the burning of their village by Gen. Hancock. It cost about 300 lives, and from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000, and is not fully settled up yet. On the Pacific slope, during the last 20 years, Indian outbreaks have cost in the aggregate $300,000,000. In New Mexico Territory, since we acquired it, three campaigns against the Navajoes have cost $30,000,000. The cause, the enslavement of Nevajoe women and children by the Mexicans. The troubles in that Territory with Indians have increased its cost to this Government to $150,000,000. Indian troubles on a small scale in some of the States and Territories, with the expenses growing out of a war, the claims for destruction of private property, will make our Indian troubles foot up nearly $1,000,000,000 during the last 40 years, and in almost every case the fault was with the whites. The present conflict with the Cheyennes, Apaches, Arapahœs, Kiowas, and Comanches, grew out of a failure to fulfil treaty agreements, and the blundering of some of our military officers. To destroy the roving Indians, as is proposed by some, will cost, taking the Seminole war as a criterion, 37,000 of our people, and $1,000,000,000, and keep 100,000 troops employed ten years.

Consumption Can be Cured.

An Eastern medical periodical gives an interesting account of the complete cure of Mrs. Amos Stauffer, of Manor, Lancaster county, Pa., of hereditary Consumption. Her parents and several brothers and sisters died of this terrible disease. Mrs. Stauffer was herself reduced to a mere skeleton; the pulse at 140; her breathing painfully difficult; expectorations very excessive; diarrhœa worse than chronic, and her condition so hopeless that at a conference of the old and skillful physicians she pronounced incurable. At this stage of the disease, Dr. S. B. Hartman, of Millersville, Lancaster county, Pa., a physician of fourteen years standing, prescribed MISHLER'S HERB BITTERS. The patient soon experienced a pleasing invigorating sensation throughout her system, and, encouraged by her friends to continue under Dr. Hartman's treatment, she did so, gradually improving under increased doses according to her strength, until she entirely recovered. Mrs. Stauffer is still living, in the full enjoyment of perfect health. C. B. Herr, Esq., President of the Lancaster County Pa.,) National Bank, substantiates the particulars of this most wonderful case.

Job Printing.

We remind the public that the Observer office is now fitted up in the most complete manner, and that our facilities for doing Job Work of every kind are unsurpassed by any other establishment in this section. We are prepared to do all styles of Printing in ordinary use, plain or colored, at short notice, and on the most reasonable terms. Business men in need of anything in our line will find it to their interest to give us a call.

feb13 tf.

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.

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. jy25-tf.

LADIES' and Gents' Furs very cheap. Hats, Caps and Furnishing goods. Suits made in the best manner by Jones & Lytle. oc2-tf.

IRISH POPLINS, dress silks, all colors, just received at 512 State street.
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Business Directory.

WHOLESALE GROCERS.

Caughey, Burgess & Walker, 25 and 26 N. Park.
Johnston & Brevellier, 513 French st.
P. A. Becker & Co., 531 French st.

WHOLESALE BOOTS AND SHOES.

Arbuckle & Clark, 32 North Park.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

L. H. Clark, 14 Park Row.
S. Z. Smith, 505 State street.
C Englehart & Co., 19 North Park.
George Zurn, 822 State street.
F. Pfeffer, 816 State st.
Guckenbiehl & Schlaudecker, 1314 Peach st.
M. Doll & Son, 1218 State st.
Henry Gross, 509 French st.
Jacob Liebel, 1117 Parade st.

BOOK STORES.

Caughey & McCreary, North Park.

BOOKSELLERS AND NEWS AGENTS.

Wm. J. Sell & Co., 708 State Street.
Lockhart & Pettit, 1301 Peach st.
May & Brother, 722 State st.

FLOUR & FEED.

H. B. Haverstick, Park Row.
Crouch & Bro., 819 French st.

MUSIC STORES.

Mrs. Wm, Willing, 808 State st.

SEWING MACHINE AGENCIES.

Wheeler & Wilson, 5 Reed House.
Howe Sewing Machine, 817 State st.

CROCKERY & GLASSWARE

Wm. H. Glenny, 12 Park Row.

WATCHES & JEWELRY.

T. M. Austin, 29 North Park.
Jarecki Bros., 508 State st. opp. Brown's Hotel.
Ferdinand Everaars, 9 East Seventh st.

HATS AND CAPS.

J. H. Smith, 525 French st.

CONFECTIONERY.

F. F. Adams, No 20 North Park Row.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

Hall & Warfel, 630 State st.
J. B. Carver & Co., 21 North Park.
Wm. Nick & Sons, 702 State street.
Dr. S. Dickinson & Son, 711 State street.

DRY GOODS.

Edson, Churchill & Co., 3 Noble Block.
J. F. Walther, 804 State st.

DRY GOODS AND CARPETS

Warner Bros., 506 State st.

GROCERIES.

Burton & Griffith, 1324 Peach st.
F. J. Rexford & Co., 1321 "
Henry Beckman, 504 State st.
A. Minnig, Corner 8th and State st.
F Schlaudecker, 624 State st.
H V. Claus, 28 East Fifth st.
P. Schaaf, 704 State st.
Hanlon & Bro., 603 French st.
Colton & Kendig, 712 State st.
Messner & Selter, cor. Parade & Buffalo sts.
Frederick Cooper, 1240 State st.
French & McKnight, 521 French st.
J. Dreisigaker, corner of 4th & Myrtle st.
M. Kneib & Son, 1027 Parade st.
A. Kurtis, 1118 Parade st.
V. Schultz, Schultz's New Block, Federal Hill.
Evans & Brown, 1325 Peach st.
Henry Neubauer, French st. near the Park.

BAKERIES.

N. Preuss, 420 State st.
Wm. J. Sands & Co., corner State and 3d sts.

CLOTHING STORES.

John Gensheimer & Son, 632 State st.
F. Wagner, 626 State st.
Jones & Lytle, 10 North Park.
John M. Justice, 511 State st.
Baker, Ostheimer & Co., 503 State st.
Isaac Rosenzweig, 514 State st.

TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

E. R. Welshman, 1318 Peach st.
Hoag & Askine, 708 State st.
C. Deck, 703 State st.
M. W. Mehl, 517 French st.
H. Y. Sterner, 401 State st.

HARDWARE.

Boyer & Fuess, State st. between 12th & Depot.

STOVES AND TINWARE.

Hubbard Bros., 701 State st.
Barr, Johnson & Co., 1018 and 1020 State st.
Peter Rastatter, 1012 Parade st.
Pattersons & Avery, 527 French st.
Tibbals, Shirk & Whitehead, 12th & Sassafras.

FURNITURE WAREROOMS.

J. H. Riblet & Co., 111 State st.
Stark & Franz, 1122 State st.
J. W. Ayers, 715 State st.

LUMBER MERCHANTS.

Brawley & Ball, State st., near depot.

MILLINERY & STRAW GOODS.

A. M. Blake, South Park.
A. P. Gillmore, 706 State st.

BRASS FOUNDRIES.

Jarecki & Metz, 1123 State st.
H. Jarecki & Co., 89 East 9th street.

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John Baccus, 611 French st.

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John Gorr, 1212 State st.

WOOD TURNING SHOP.

P. J. Roth, 1258 State st.

COAL DEALERS.

Saltsman & Co., cor. 12th & Peach sts.
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E. W. Reed & Co., cor. 6th & Myrtle sts.

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E. Leonhard, Ninth st. bet. State & Peach sts.

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Geo. Mœrshfelder, 1256 Turnpike st.

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Frank Winchell & Co., 824 State st.
G. W. Ellsey, American Block Park Row.

New Advertisements.

Causes for Trial.

LIST OF CAUSES FOR TRIAL ON THE 4TH MONDAY IN JANUARY, 1869.

Sill in trust, &c., vs. Gillet & Post issue, No. 114 Nov. Term 1867,
Brock & Weiner, vs Rosenzweig iss, No. 291 Feb. Term, 1868.
Ewing vs. Scott et al is. No. 236 Aug. Term, "
Briggs vs. Osborn, No. 139 " " 1860.
Rouse et al vs. Burch No. 91 Feb. " 1861.
Quirk vs. Osborn No. 35 May " 1863.
Taber vs. Pa. R. R. Co., No. 94 May " 1865.
Howell vs. Pfleger, No. 153 Aug. " 1866.
Erie City vs. Barr, No. 207 " " "
Erie City vs. Barr, No. 308 " " "
Winchester vs. Spires, No. 86 Feb. " 1867.
Bryan vs. Spires, No. 219 " " "
Use Spencer vs. Hoppock, Glenn & Co., No 47 May Term, 1867.
Arnold vs. Douglass et al No. 54 May Term, "
Crozier vs. Scott, Rankin & Co. No. 65 May Term, 1867.
Day vs. O. C. R. R. Co., No. 73 May Term, "
Loomis vs. Smith, No. 129 " " "
Gilbert vs. Kelsey, No. 154 " " "
Pinney vs. Overton, No. 156 " " "
Kelsey vs. Mosier Comm. &c., No. 164 May Term, 1867.
Second National Bank of Erie vs. Brown, No. 219 May Term, 1867.
Kimball vs. Aldrich, No. 220 May Term, "
Johnson vs. Smith, No. 221 " " "
Gray vs. Kincaid, No. 224 " " "
Hubbard vs. Albert, No. 250 " " "
Smith vs. Haynes, No. 273 " " "
Mausell vs. McClure's Adm. No. 280 May Term, 1867.
Fleming vs. Taylor & Wells, No. 1 Aug. Term, "
Benson vs. Phelps, No. 24 " " "
Benson vs. Way, No. 25 " " "
Jowett vs. Jowett. No. 42 " " "
Clark vs. Thompson, No. 82 " " "
Hughes vs. Am. Ex. Co., No. 103 " " "
McLallen vs. Davis, No. 107 " " "
Cooper's Adm. vs. Landis, No. 110 " " "

C. P. ROGERS, Prothonotary.

Causes for Trial.

LIST OF CAUSES FOR TRIAL ON THE 1ST MONDAY IN FEBRUARY, 1869.

Somberger vs. Pa. R. R. Co. No. 130 Aug. Term, 1867.
Shaffer vs. N. E. Boro, No. 144 " " "
Reeder vs. Anderson, No. 174 " " "
Sturgeon vs. Sturgeon, No. 182, " " "
Kramer vs. Porter, No. 234 " " "
Loesch vs. Fickinger, No. 242 " " "
Vandresser vs. Belsher, No. 247 " " "
Gingrich vs. Loesch, No. 9 Nov. " "
Devore vs. Brockway, No. 13 " " "
Devore vs. Brockway, No. 14 " " "
Thayer vs. Pinney, No. 33 " " "
Bushley vs. Cooper, No. 52 " " "
Whittaker vs. Parsons, No. 82 " " "
Cotter et al vs. Hatch, No. 96 " " "
Morris, Tasker & Co., vs. Thompson, No. 112 Nov. Term, 1867.
Cosper vs. Caughey. No. 119 Nov. Term, "
Graham vs. Brown, No. 133 " " "
McCreary vs. Sloan, No. 186 " " "
Commonwealth vs. Erie & Wattsburg P. R. Co., No. 208 Nov. Term, 1867.
Kane vs. Leary, No. 229 Nov. Term, "
Reynolds vs. Leary, No. 230. " " "
Dreisigaker vs. Jackson, No. 233 " " "
Seiter vs. Schneider, No. 236 " " "
Weidemann et al vs. Stott et al, No. 5 Feb. Term, 1868.
Wildman vs. Greenfield Tp. No. 16 Feb. Term, "
Jones vs. same, No. 17 " " "
Sweitzer vs. same, No. 18 " " "
Davis vs. same, No. 20 " " "
Reed vs. Amity Tp. No. 21 " " "
Inman vs. same, No. 25 " " "
Lamport vs. same, No. 26 " " "
Chaffee vs. same, No. 30 " " "
Use Sterrett vs. Thornton, No. 56 " " "
Liddell vs. Crook, No. 94 " " "
Demeling vs. Smith, No. 133 " " "

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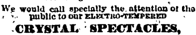

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The Day Book, therefore, demands the restoration of the White Republic, and as this must be and will be accomplished, either through their reason, or the blood and suffering of the people, it earnestly labors for the former, and by boldly grappling with the errors, lunacies and crimes of Mongrelism, it strives its utmost to save the country from the awful necessities of the latter.

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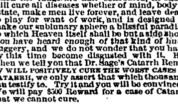

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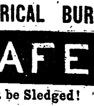

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