

The Secretary of War reports that while the authorized strength of the army is 18,165, the number in July last was 17,498, and 11,000 of that number were available for service in the field.

He recommends that provision be made for retiring, disabling and infirm officers. The necessity for existing tenting is urged, as is in the equipment of frontier citizens for frontier service, for six months' terms, the men to provide their own horses.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. The report of the Secretary of the Navy enters largely into the achievements of the Paraguay Squadron, and into the new and extended arrangements for suppressing the African Slave trade.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. The report of the Secretary of the Interior embodies a mass of information relative to the general Bureau constituting that Department.

Halpin's Book. This book about which there has already been so much said in Congress and elsewhere, is, as near as we can learn, a work intended more to fill the pockets of the author, than to elucidate any great truths.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Hon. L. O. C. Branch, member of Congress from North Carolina, was arrested at a late hour last night, on a warrant issued by Justice Donn, on a charge of being about to make arrangements to leave the District of Columbia for the purpose of engaging in hostile combat with Galusha A. Grow, of Pennsylvania.

A REMARKABLE FAMILY.—A correspondent of the Ohio Citizen furnishes the Editor of that paper with the following account of a remarkable family, residing at present in Bourbon county, Ky., as obtained from the father and sons.

The Minnesota legislature has elected Morton S. Wilkinson, (rep.) U. S. Senator, in place of General Shields, (dem.) whose term expires on the 4th of March, '60.

Abolition War in the South.

The editor of the Eastern Argus, in an article in reference to the unnatural and infamous war that has been waged by the Abolition-Republicans of the North against our brethren of the South, takes the following correct and sensible view of the matter.

It is not very plain that not only every impulse of genuine patriotism, but self-interest prompts all conservative, Union-loving men of the North to assist in putting an end to this senseless and injurious abolition agitation.—Our duty to ourselves, our children, our country, and our God, all demand this from us.

TAKING COLD.—A cold is not necessarily the result of low or high temperature. A person may go directly from a hot bath into a cold one, or into snow even, and not take cold.

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M'Kean County Democrat.

Thursday, January 12, 1860.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO'S ADVERTISING AGENCY. 110 Nassau Street, New York, and 10 State St. Boston.

We acknowledge the receipt of Legislative documents from Hon. A. M. BENTON.

Hon. J. L. Gillet is now in Washington, having returned to settle his accounts with regard to his agency.

We would call the attention to the advertisement of Scott & Conlon, Merchant Tailors, Olean. They are prepared to do all kinds of work in their line of business.

It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, that J. P. Russel is ready to furnish the public with everything in his line.—He keeps good Oysters, and in fact everything he has is "tip top." Call at the Fobes House Saloon, Olean.

L. HOBBS, of the Citizen, has the appointment of Transcribing Clerk, in the House. We know not to which to congratulate: our cotemporary in his good luck, or the readers of the Citizen, in their relief during his absence.

Hon. Judge MASON, of Iowa, who made himself so popular with the inventors of the country, while he held the office of Commissioner of Patents, has, we learn, associated himself with Munn & Co., at the Scientific American office, New York.

We understand that Joseph WHITE has opened a house for the purpose of accommodating the traveling public en route for Ridgway, via Buena Vista, about 10 miles from this place.

For the past three or four weeks we have been blessed with a beautiful run of sleighing; but as we are entitled to a January thaw, it accordingly came along on Saturday last and continued up till Wednesday evening, leaving our streets very near bare.

We publish the proceedings of a Democratic meeting held at Ridgway on the 3d instant.—The Democracy of Elk concur with M'Kean, in the choice of S. C. HYDE as a Representative delegate to the State convention; they also concur in the choice of JOSEPH S. HYDE, of Ridgway, as the choice of that county for the remaining delegate.

THE BALL, at the "Bennett House," on Tuesday evening last, was well attended and passed off in good style. Those present seemed to be disposed to make the most of the occasion, and "went in" for a good time, generally.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The Legislature of this State met on Tuesday, the 3d inst., and organized by the election of Hon. Wm. M. FRANCIS, of Lawrence, Speaker of the Senate, Russell Errett, of Pittsburg, clerk; W. C. A. LAWRENCE, of Dauphin, Speaker of the House, and E. H. RAUCH, Clerk. Simon Cameron, it is said, has a controlling influence in both Houses.

LEAF YEAR.—The year of our Lord 1860, has been wisely set apart for the benefit of that class of ladies who are anxious to enter the state of matrimony, but who have not had the good fortune to entice some luckless wight into the meshes of their net.

COURT PROCEEDINGS. Most of the civil cases were either settled or continued; and but four cases on the list we learn were tried and disposed of, as follows:—E. J. Fobes vs G. R. Moore, judgment for plaintiff. E. Morrison vs J. A. Anderson, judgment for plaintiff. D. Kingsbury vs Craumer and Ackley, ejectment to enforce payment of purchase money, judgment for plaintiff. James M. Dickson vs G. Irons, judgment for plaintiff.

In the Quarter Sessions, John Moore was convicted of riot and sentenced in the county jail for three months. Geo. S. Ferguson was tried for stealing timber. Verdict, not guilty.—Defendant for costs. H. J. Gansel indicted for larceny and false pretenses. Plead guilty in both cases. Was sentenced for larceny to fourteen months imprisonment in the Western Penitentiary.—Citizen.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN ELK COUNTY. The Democratic citizens of Elk county met at the Court House, in Ridgway, on Tuesday evening, January 3d, 1860.

On motion, it was agreed that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Elk Advocate and the Democratic papers in the Representative and Senatorial Districts.

A NEW DROP GAME.—New York sharpers are somewhat famous for their adroitness in "raising the wind"; but the following specimen of Western knavery is rather ahead of New York in that line of business.

A man of genteel appearance, with carpet sack in hand, taking it a-foot came along the public square in Lexington, Scott county, Indiana, and when crossing the square dropped dead, was called, rubbing corners, and medical aid still slept, and was very stiff; to all appearance his limbs were paralyzed so that he could not be raised without the limbs giving way.

JOHN BROWN'S CAREER IN KANSAS. LAWRENCE, K. T., Dec. 17th. A "John Brown" and slavery meeting was held in Lawrence last evening, December 16th.

DEATH OF DOW, JR.—Eldridge F. Paige, well known as "Dow, Jr.," the author of the famous "Patent Sermons," was found dead in a house of prostitution in San Francisco, on Dec. 4th.

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