

THE LARGEST AND CHEAPEST NEWSPAPER IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

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DOINGS IN WASHINGTON.

Congress is obliged to adjourn on the 4th of March, which is not quite two weeks off, and as yet the important business, that which concerns the welfare of the nation, is scarcely touched.

On Wednesday the Senate was engaged in a discussion of the resolution authorizing the President to confer upon Gen. Scott the brevet rank of Lieutenant-General, for his brilliant achievements in Mexico.

EX-GOV. RITNER.

We had the pleasure, says the Harrisburg Telegraph, of taking this worthy and distinguished fellow citizen by the hand, while he was on a visit to Harrisburg a few days since, and was glad to find him in the enjoyment of excellent health.

Gov. Ritner is a striking illustration of the truth of the saying, that "every man is the architect of his own fortune." From the humblest position in life, with few of the advantages enjoyed by children of the present day in a common school education, by dint of industry, toil and the highest integrity, he won the esteem of all who knew him—and succeeded to the chief magistracy of his native State.

Gov. Ritner was gifted with extraordinary natural powers of mind, which being cultivated with the means in his power, soon distinguished him from those in the same position in life, and gave him an influence and position that led to the honorable elevation he attained to. He is a farmer—a practical tiller of the soil—and now resides on a plantation, near the place of his nativity, in Cumberland county, a few miles west of Carlisle, to which he retired when he left the chair of State, and the toils and vexations of office.

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LOCAL LEGISLATION.

On Wednesday last in our State Legislature, Mr. Bonham introduced a bill which authorizes the Cumberland Valley Rail Road Company to consolidate all the stock of that Company, into one uniform stock.

On Friday Mr. Bonham read in place a bill to change the name of Charles Edward Schind to that of Constantine Von Heilen.

The expenses of Government.—The supply bills which are before Congress include an expenditure of nearly forty-seven millions of dollars, as follows:—The Deficiency bill, amounting to about \$2,500,000; Civil and Diplomatic, \$8,500,000; Army and Ordnance and Fortifications, \$12,500,000; West Point Academy, \$200,000; Navy, \$10,000,000; Indian expenses, \$2,000,000; Post Office, \$5,500,000; Mexican Intercourse, \$5,000,000; Light and Harbor Appropriations, \$2,000,000; River Houses, \$400,000; Coast Survey, \$180,000; Penitentiaries, \$1,500,000; Total, \$48,580,000.

Arrival in Maryland.—A street fight took place in St. Paul's Mine, on the 14th of January, between Joseph Cooper, a brother of Senator Cooper, of Pennsylvania, and James M. Goodhue, editor of the Minnesota Pioneer.

The case of the affray was an abusive article in the Pioneer, in which Judge David Cooper (now in Pennsylvania) and Col. Mitchell were severely denounced. Goodhue received two dangerous stabs in the abdomen, and Joseph Cooper was shot through the hip. At last accounts both parties were recovering.

CUTTINGS FROM MR. BONHAM'S REPORT.

Mr. Bonham's report is entirely too long for us to review in extenso. We have determined, however, to give a few abstracts, showing the weakness of the argument in many parts. Take as an instance the following:—

It is a settled axiom of political economy that trade between nations must be barter, or an exchange of commodities for commodities. If one nation buys the produce of the other, and capital of another, it must pay for them in the products of its own labor or capital.

It is true that to have free trade, according to the idea of some political economists, nations must exchange commodities, and if the exchange is not of this sort, their theory fails. But that when one nation buys of another it must by some absolute necessity pay in the products of its own labor and capital, we think is hardly tenable.

Most frequently instead of dealing by barter or exchange of commodities, the nation buying of another manufactures pays for them in money. Don't our own history show that this is the case, and that whenever it is done to any great extent it is ruinous to the nation which thus sends abroad its money?

The free trade men all take for granted that we can raise grain cheaper than any other part of the globe, and that if we buy our manufactured articles from England she will be forced to take our agricultural products in return.

But the idea of a home market is a fallacious one. The manufacturers would consume the same amount of agricultural products, and keep among themselves the business of agriculture themselves that they now consume.

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FREE BANKING.

The Governor, in his message, calls the attention of the Legislature to the establishment of a system of free banking. The following explanation of that system, we copy from the Pittsburgh Gazette, as it is not generally understood.

One or more persons, desirous of embarking in the business, buy up say half a million of State or United States bonds, which are deposited with an officer designated by law, at the seat of Government.

This done, and having the lawful amount of gold and silver on hand with which to carry on the business, the Register—an officer chosen for the purpose, whose office is at the seat of Government—furnishes the bank with the amount of bills which it may lawfully put in circulation, equal by amount, and which are to be signed also by the cashier and Cashier of the bank.

These stocks form the security basis. This done, and having the lawful amount of gold and silver on hand with which to carry on the business, the Register—an officer chosen for the purpose, whose office is at the seat of Government—furnishes the bank with the amount of bills which it may lawfully put in circulation, equal by amount, and which are to be signed also by the cashier and Cashier of the bank.

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REPORT ON COMMON SCHOOLS.

We have received a copy of the seventeenth Annual Report of the Superintendent (A. L. Russell, Esq.) of the Common Schools of Pennsylvania, for the year ending June 1st, 1859, and find it to contain matters extremely interesting to the friends of education in the State, and the citizens generally.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Whole number of Schools, Number paid during the year, Average number of months taught, etc.

The principal cause of complaint against the present system is the incapacity of teachers, and the report proposes a remedy, by appointing a superintendent for each Congressional district, whose duty it shall be to establish and supervise a teachers' seminary for, through instruction in the Common School branches.

The main feature of the report, and that for which it is to be most commended, is the proposition which the Superintendent makes of establishing a State Agricultural School. The propriety and usefulness of such an institution is fully urged by the Superintendent, and the duty of government to extend every possible facility to the advancement of agricultural science is strongly enforced.

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MATTERS ABOUT HOME.

Bellefleur Exhibition.—The exhibition of this Society will take place on Monday evening the 24th, instead of the 22d, as advertised in our last.

Washington's Birth-Day.—The birth-day of the immortal Washington we learn will be celebrated in a becoming manner in our borough.

A fire broke out yesterday in a smoke house attached to the dwelling of Mr. Peter Spahr, in Louthier street. The firemen were speedily on the spot and prevented the spread of the fire, with but little damage.

Volunteers of 1812.—Notice.—We are requested by Jacob Squire, Esq. to state for the information of the surviving members of the Volunteer Infantry, who marched from this borough under the command of Capt. Jacob Squire, and were attached to the 49th Regiment of Maryland Militia, under the command of Lieut. Col. Veazy, in the service of the United States in 1814, that all the members of the said company are entitled to forty acres of bounty land each, under the act of Congress of September 14th, 1850.

The Valentine Mania.—As a proof that the young folks fully availed themselves of the privileges of the recent anniversary of St. Valentine, we are informed that no less than from eight hundred to one thousand tender and sentimental effusions in the shape of Valentines passed thro' the Post Office in this borough.

Excitement in Boston.—Fugitive Slave Rescued by a Mob.—Boston, Feb. 15.—Frederick Wilkins, a fugitive slave, belonging to John Debrae, a Purser in the U. S. Navy. The case was heard before the U. S. Commissioner, and was postponed until Tuesday.

Shocking Affair in Georgia.—BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—The dwelling of Mrs. Swinden, near Macon, Ga., was destroyed by fire lately, and she and her four children perished in the flames. It is supposed that in a fit of temporary insanity she murdered her children and fired the house.

Murder and Suicide.—HOLIDAYSBURG, Feb. 17.—A man named Decht, at Blair Furnace, yesterday, killed his daughter with a hatchet, and before the murder was discovered he drowned himself in a saw-mill dam. He was partially insane.

A LEGISLATIVE EXCURSION.—The Baltimore Patriot says that the York and Cumberland, the Susquehanna, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Companies, have invited the Governor and the Members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to pass over their respective roads, free of expense, and it is expected the invitation will be accepted.

Personal Property Sales.

In addition to those heretofore mentioned, the following sales of personal property will take place, according to public notices printed at this office:

Sale of personal property of Daniel Ulrich, of Lower Allen township, on Monday the 24th of February.

Sale of personal property of George Priest, dec'd, at Good Hope Mills, West Pennsboro township, on Tuesday, the 25th of February.

Sale of personal property of Benjamin Diller, deceased, of North Middleton township, on Friday the 28th of February.

Sale of personal property of John Brindle, of Monroe township, on Friday the 7th of March.

Sale of personal property of Samuel Kinder, of South Middleton township, on Friday, the 7th of March.

Sale of personal property of Peter Dill, in Shiremanstown, on Saturday the 8th of March.

Sale of personal property of Jacob Good-year, Jr. in Churchtown, on Monday, the 10th of March.

Sale of personal property of Frederick Fisher, of Dickinson township, on Tuesday, the 18th of March.

THE ATLANTIC SAPE.

The Steamship Africa arrived at New York on Saturday night last, with two weeks later from Europe. The Africa brings the joyful news of the safety of the steamship Atlantic, about whose safety so much anxiety has been brooded.

The following additional foreign news has been brought by the steamship Africa:—The Ministerial crisis in France is over. The President has sustained his position; it is saying more than can be said of his conduct.

The report is received that the Pope is about to abdicate and retire to a monastery for life. The report is received that the Pope is about to abdicate and retire to a monastery for life.

The chief nations in Europe are making preparations to despatch their respective productions to the world's fair in London, during the ensuing summer.

THE PHOENIX OF WASHINGTON.—Mr. Malpas, the editor and illuminator of "Pearls of American Biography," has published an illustrated sheet, showing the pedigree of General Washington, as traced and illuminated by Mr. Malpas, carrying back his descent to Wm. de Herburn, Lord of the Manor of Washington, in the county of Durham, England.

LECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.—The Legislatures of the various States this year have a hard time of it in the election of U. S. Senators. In Massachusetts there have been fourteen ballottings, and still they are as far from a choice as ever.

A LOCO BUT NOT AN ULTRA LOCO.—Gen. James, the new U. S. Senator for Rhode Island, is not a bad pill for the Whigs to swallow after all. The Providence Journal says: He voted for Harrison in 1840, for Clay in 1844, supported Taylor in 1848, and was prevented from voting for him only by absence.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.—A meeting of the Board of managers of the State Lunatic Asylum was held at Harrisburg, on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Luther Reiley, President; Dr. John Arvon, of Philadelphia, Superintendent; John A. Viner, of Harrisburg, Treasurer and Aaron Bonbaugh, Secretary. Wm. D. Slaymaker has been appointed Steward of the Asylum.

NO LICENSE IN ILLINOIS.—The following is the substance of the no license bill which was passed by the Legislature of Illinois.—1. It repeals all license laws. 2. Prohibits the sale of intoxicating drinks in a less quantity than one quart, under a penalty of \$25. 3. If sold to minors increases the fine to from \$0 to \$100. 4. Provides for a penalty of not less than 25, nor over \$100, for selling more than a quart, and permitting the same to be drunk on the premises of the seller. 5. Giving away liquor to come within the provisions of the law.