

The Herald.

A. K. RHEEM, Editor & Proprietor.
J. A. DUBAR, Editor & Proprietor.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
Friday Morning, April 16, 1869.

Meeting of the Republican Committee.
A meeting of the Republican Standing Committee will be held in Rhoads's Hall on SATURDAY APRIL 17TH, 1869, at 11 o'clock A. M. A full attendance is requested.

Postmaster for Carlisle.
A. K. RHEEM, Esq., has been appointed Postmaster at Carlisle.

ASSASSIN OF INTERNAL REVENUE.
Among the nominations sent to the Senate on Tuesday last, was that of DAVID F. WILLIAMS, Esq., of York, for United States Assessor, for this (the 15th) District.

DECIDED.—It has been decided that Hon. Leonard Myers is entitled to his seat in the lower House of Congress. The decision is just one. The honest people of his district have been grossly outraged by his having been kept out of the seat so long.

UNRECONSTRUCTED STATES.—The passage of the House bill empowering General Grant to order elections in the unreconstructed States, amended so as to compel the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, passed the Senate recently.

It is stated that the President is becoming so disgusted at the efforts to blacken the characters of applicants for office by rivals for the same positions, that hereafter he will consider these aspersions as recommendations, on the ground that "Hate-like Death," "loves a shining mark."

The Indiana Democrats who broke up their Legislature early by resigning, now find themselves exactly back at the point from which they started; and so persist in refusing to be sworn in, unless the Republicans will agree not to press the Fifteenth Amendment. Meanwhile, the appropriations cannot be passed, and the Republicans wisely make no bargains.

There is an individual in New York who is publishing a paper, the object of which is to induce the American people to adopt the Imperial style of Government. At first this attempt was supposed to be a joke, but we believe the enterprising editor is in earnest. We are sorry that a man who evidently possesses plenty of time and money should lose both in a little under-taking like that of faking our President a King, and our sovereign people simple subjects.

The Senate Committee on the Pacific Railroads, have reported against allowing any further bonds to be issued to the Union Pacific or the Central Pacific companies until assurances are received that the provisions of the law requiring a first-class road are complied with. The difficulty has arisen from the fact that each of the two companies wished to grasp as large a portion of the line as possible, and therefore would not take the time necessarily required to make a good road as they approached the point of junction.

GRANT'S MESSAGE.—Grant's message to Congress on reconstruction proves very satisfactorily that he is sound "on the main question." He endorses reconstruction, not lukewarmly, but with his whole soul. His request that a day be appointed for Virginia to hold an election to decide on her new Constitution, is timely and commendable. Congress is to wrangle over the status of Georgia, and its worthy efforts to decide the point whether that State is in or out of the Union, has come very near neglecting the necessary and obvious measures for restoring the three still disunited sisters to Uncle Sam's family. We only fear President Grant's hint comes too late.

AMERICAN VALLEY JOURNAL.
Messrs. JOSEPH RITNER, Jr., and C. D. ROCKAFELLOW, have purchased an interest in the Mechanicsburg Cumberland Valley Journal, and have associated themselves with the old Editor and Proprietor, Mr. CARMAN, in the conduct and management of the paper. The Journal, at first an independent paper, has of late proved itself a very able and efficient advocate of the principles of the Republican party. We wish the new firm, under the title of CARMAN, RITNER & CO., prosperity and success in their enterprise.

The President of the United States may owe something to the leading politicians who supported his election; but he owes far more to the People, who would have him for their President, and would not hear of any one else as a substitute. And that People, with great unanimity, insist that he shall save his health and strength for the four-year's work devolved on him by his votes, and shall neither sacrifice nor hazard them at the outset in his anxiety to satisfy office-seekers, however greedy or clamorous.

Before his inauguration, Gen. Grant advised many friends that he had resolved to have Cabinet officers of his own choice, and to devote on each respectively the labor and responsibility of the office. This was a just and wise resolve, and we regret that it has since been overruled, to the detriment of the President's health. In behalf of the great body of the People, who expect of him a good and an honest, we entreat the President to renew to his original wish, and just resolve, never to, and henceforth abide by it.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Late Session of Congress.

The thirty-three days, to which the XLII Congress limited its first session, were, on the whole, well spent. We are grateful for some excellent legislation completed, for some very bad legislation prevented, and for the early adjournment. One or two measures that ought to have passed were lost between the Houses; but on the other hand some exceedingly worthless ones shared the same fate.

The act by which the session will be longest remembered is one for whose prompt passage we have to thank the sagacious statesmanship of Gen. Grant. We mean the law that closes the series of Reconstruction measures, and provides for "the crowning of the edifice."

No tincture, very enactment has, in these latter years, marked our progress toward restoration. We shall be at the end of the policy of hatred and revenge; the end of irritating and useless disfranchisements; and the means of bringing to the next session of this Congress a full representation once more—for the first time since 1860—of every State in the Union. It has another and not less grateful significance. It is the first movement of the new Administration in matters of national policy.

Next to this, we reckon the act to strengthen the Public Credit, a measure which this Congress only gained the honor of passing because of Mr. Johnson's perversity in depriving the last one of it through his Pocket Veto. Its excellent effect was immediately perceptible—if now we can only re-entrench it by using our surplus gold to buy up our bonds in the market, and by a relentless and thorough collection of our Customs and Internal Revenue, we shall soon be on the highway to an era of sounder finances. The bill to enlarge the judicial system by the addition of one Justice to the Supreme Court, and by the appointment of Circuit Judges who shall relieve the Supreme Judges of a part of their present onerous duties, is a measure the necessity of which the court dockets have long demonstrated, and the good results of which may soon be seen in the more rapid disposal of causes through the various circuits. The conclusion of the Treaties-Office discussions we can hardly commend so highly. It retains the principle which we hold to be important, but does it in a blind, bungling way that was only accepted with satisfaction because it seemed under the circumstances to be the best thing then attainable. The long-anticipated Indian Appropriation bill, which was finally cut down to six and a quarter millions, ought we fear, to have been reduced yet lower. The experiment of giving two millions of this amount into the hands of a Commission of Friends, to be disposed of according to their best judgment among the Indians, promises well, but after all, it is one of those measures which can only be judged by the result. We have the consolation that, in any event, they can hardly make things worse than at present. The grant of further time to the liquor dealers for taking spirits out of bond is one of those unfortunate pieces of legislation which now and then become a law in some unwise and doubtful manner.

We have enumerated the main features of this short session's work. The Memphis and El Paso bill, offering a chance to a company which proposed to build a Pacific Railroad without a subsidy, failed; and so did the Census bill, but, on the other hand, three or four objectionable measures that once seemed likely to pass, the National Bank tinkering, the West India lunacy and the beggarly "disability" peddling, met the same end. Altogether, these thirty-three days of the XLII Congress have given us some valuable legislation and nothing very new. It is not always that we are able to signalize the close of a session by a verdict so complimentary.—New York Tribune.

The Rhode Island Election.

The Rhode Island election follows that in Connecticut closely. Complete returns from Connecticut led Jewell, Republican Governor, by 511 majority; give a Republican majority in the Legislature of 38 on joint ballot, and elect three of the four Congressmen. This news needs no sugar to render it palatable. It probably had its influence in Rhode Island. The little State is better qualified to give than take a lesson in sound politics, however. The vote at the last Presidential election was 12,983 for Grant, against only 6,645 for Seymour. The last Legislature had 22 Republican majority in the Senate and 64 in the House. The majority for Jencks, for Congress, in the First District, was 3915, and for Dixon, in the Second, 1,492, at the last election.

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Neutrality in Cuba.

The Lancaster Express says: The desire of President Grant and his Administration not only to fulfill the treaty stipulations of our Government in its intercourse with foreign powers, but to comply with all the claims of justice and good neighborhood, is shown by the instructions which, by direction of the President, have been transmitted to Admiral Hoff, commanding the West India waters, advising him of an expedition which is said to be secretly preparing at New Orleans. By General Sherman, recently of the United States Army, in connection with a number of men late of the rebel army, to aid the Cuban insurgents. The Admiral is directed to keep a sharp look out for the expedition, and to capture if it attempts to carry out its object. It is very evident that the same class of men, who were the cause of our present difficulties, are now being used to bring about a rupture with a foreign power, and to excite our countrymen to a course of violence which would be a disgrace to our country.

One of the journals in the Pillsbury interest, while professing to be especially friendly to Gen. Grant, pretends that though his Administration maintains a "physical neutrality," yet its "moral sympathies" are in favor of intervention against the Spanish Government. In other words, that while giving instructions to the commander of our squadron to cut off filibustering expeditions from this country, the Administration does not really desire to see them intercepted, and will be better pleased if Admiral Hoff shall evade a compliance with his orders. "This is an imputation of inefficiency and bad faith on the part of President Grant, which we indignantly reject as totally unwarranted, and contradicted by all that has been heretofore known of his character, which has ever been distinguished for honesty, plain dealing, and the absence of the smallest taint of hypocrisy. We do not believe his nature has undergone a sudden change for the benefit and convenience of the Cuban revolutionists or their filibustering sycophants."

The confirmation by the Senate of General Grant's nomination of Gen. Longstreet to the office of Surveyor of the Customs for the port of New Orleans seems to us a proper act, and one that deserves commendation, the more so because it is vehemently opposed and denounced by rebels and Democrats alike, who stigmatize this veteran soldier as a traitor, because, having fought out the civil war to its close, and submitted with a good grace to the arbitration of the sword, he has fully recognized the folly of an embittered civil strife and the prolongation of factional struggles. The case of Gen. Longstreet does not stand alone. Other rebel leaders repented and embraced Republican doctrines before the war was over. A brilliant instance occurred with a rebel General in Arkansas. Subsequently to the war, ex-Governor Brown, of Georgia, who had been a determined rebel leader, submitting to the results of the war, embraced Republican doctrines, aided in carrying Georgia for the reconstruction, and was a delegate to the National Convention at Chicago.

Longstreet's case is rendered conspicuous by the fact of his having been one of the three corps commanders upon whose exertions mainly depended the successes of Gen. Lee in Virginia. Of his abilities as a soldier, no man who knows anything of military affairs can entertain a doubt. It is held by many of our friends that these very qualities ought to be reasons for rejecting his nomination, because he owed service to the Republic under whose auspices he had been taught all he knew. But it must not be forgotten that these men led to a theory of State sovereignty which was believed in by a very large part of the Northern people also, and that in their eyes their allegiance was due to the national government only through their States; and that when their States refused allegiance they were absolved. It was a terrible error, and has caused a fearful sacrifice of blood and treasure. But good has come of the struggle, for slavery and caste are alike abolished, and the Republic is consolidated beyond a peradventure.

The Foreign Appointments.

L. J. Motley has been appointed Minister to England, and though we regret that Mr. Greeley was not offered the position, it is certain that no better man could have been chosen. An Minister to Austria, Mr. Motley was eminently successful, as an author he has shown almost unequalled knowledge of European politics, and all that he has written shows that he will fully sustain the American policy in regard to the Alabama claims. The President intends to act with vigor and decision in regard to this matter, and no one is better fitted to reverse the mistakes of Beverly Johnson than Mr. Motley. We do not want war with England, but we demand justice. The cowardly submission, the wretched surrender which Mr. Seward made, will never be ratified by the American people. Besides this, Mr. Motley's appointment is in honor to American scholarship, and in all literary man must take a proper pride.

General Scales goes to Mexico, Mr. Jay to Austria, Mr. Sanford will stay at Brussels, and Mr. Dudley will be continued as consul at Liverpool.

Ex-Governor CURRIE has been appointed Minister to Russia, and quite a number of other diplomatic appointments have been made.

The Death Penalty.

An ill-advised bill has been introduced by the Legislature and sent to the Governor for his signature, which is designed to give effect to the power of commuting the death penalty. While the idea of commutation is proper to strict justice and cannot be too speedily introduced into our code, great care should be exercised in the bestowal of the power. The Governor is too far from their court-room to exercise the power discreetly. The time, place and circumstances of the trial are all material to a revision of a solemn judgment, and especially to its overruling or change in any way. The pardoning power is one thing, the power to commute quite another. Their association is a fatal mistake. The former has been placed in the hands of Executive officers by State and National Constitutions, and may now be considered as strictly an executive action, to be exercised not upon a review of the judgment, but upon an inquiry as to whether the ends of justice have been met by an unexpired term of incarceration, by subsequent good conduct, or by extenuating circumstances not in themselves judicial. On the contrary, the power or right to commute is judicial in its nature, and its exercise should be brought down to the time, place, and circumstances of the trial. It should be subject only to the influence that created judgment, and should be never always be lawyers. They are liable to be beset and pestered. Weeks, months, even years, may have elapsed since the commission of the crime, the remoteness of circumstances, the forgetfulness of the witnesses, the remoteness of the crime, may have been allowed to soften by lapse of time before application for commutation. All these things tend to narrow the sphere of justice. What is wanted is the power of an alternative vested in the Courts. Give the Judges who sit at a trial the right to sentence to death or to imprisonment for life, or in other words, give them the right to commute the death penalty on the spot. This will check all interference with their judgments afterwards, except by pardon. It will save prisoners from that conflict of hope and fear, that demoralizing suspense, those thousand deaths they will be made to die before the day of execution. By reason of the knowledge that the judgment of the Court is not a finality, Illinois has given their verdicts they have a right to say whether the penalty for murder shall be hanging or imprisonment. This is infinitely preferable to a judgment of the power in the hands of the Governor. It is coincident with the trial, and that is sufficient to save it from the abuses that spring from the afterthoughts of over-interested parties.

We learn from the Harrisburg State Guard that on Friday last Governor GEARY vetoed the bill authorizing the Executive to commute the death penalty to imprisonment. This is one of the wisest acts of Governor GEARY's official career, and he will receive the plaudits of all right-minded men therefor.

April Ninth.

The Reading Dispatch of April 9th, has the following: To-day, four years ago, after one of the most gigantic rebellions ever made against any government on the face of the globe, a new life and a new peace was born to the United States, at the cost of the blood of over a quarter of a million of patriots and over two and a half billions of treasure. Four years ago to-day, after a long and continued struggle between the Union-legions and the horrid treason, the leaders of the lawless rebellion struck their flag—Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, victory preched upon the Union flag, armed treason was crushed, and peace, happy peace, came to gladden the hearts of the millions of free men, women and children through the length and breadth of all the land.

The history of the rise, progress and fall of the late Democratic rebellion is too fresh in the minds of the American people to require any recital of its causes or its effects upon the country. Its incidents are indelibly impressed upon the minds of the people, from the school-boy to the aged veteran upon the verge of the grave. The wounds of the late war are not yet completely healed—curses upon a recent President—but light begins to dawn, the bright star of peace begins to twinkle in the Southern skies, and Lee's surrender passes another anniversary day, our whole Union will rejoice in a happy, permanent and lasting peace, not soon again to be disturbed.

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The New Pacific Railroads.

Owing undoubtedly to the determination of the Legislature and the Governor to grant to grants of land and guarantees of bonds for any of the numerous projects to build new Pacific Railroads, the ring which was formed at the commencement of the last session of Congress, by which the speculators interested in all the different routes combined their strength to carry all of them through, seems to have been broken and dispersed, and the National Treasury has been relieved of the burden which was laid for its spoliation. One or two of these companies, abandoning the ring, have lately made applications to be allowed simply the right of way, without either grant of land or money; and though this is very distasteful to the other companies, who perceive that their schemes would not afterwards be likely to receive favors from Congress which rival roads did not ask, the indications are very clear that this is the policy to which they will have to submit. A bill was introduced in the House on the 2d in regard to what is called the Northern Pacific Railway Company, upon this basis, and though it met with some opposition from those who wished to get position and lands for other Pacific roads, and who regarded it as setting a bad example, few of the members dared to place themselves upon the record as favoring a downright robbery of the Government, and the bill consequently passed without any serious opposition to its principles.

POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

The Lancaster Examiner of Wednesday last, has the following: "Among the recent appointments to office, we notice those of James R. Sheen, Postmaster at Senanton; A. K. Rheem, Postmaster at Carlisle; Geo. H. H. Bingham, Postmaster at Philadelphia; and Mrs. Pitzer, Postmistress at Doylestown. The above appointments are all good and will receive the public commendation. The recipients, with the exception of the last named, have fairly earned, by hard work for the party, the distinction given them; and even in the restricted cases, the disposition of the office was well considered, as no man did more hard and unrequited work for the party than the husband of Mrs. Pitzer, who, as one of the editors of that sterling paper, the Bucks County Intelligencer, did yeoman service in the cause of Liberty and Freedom."

Letter from Washington.

Washington, D. C., April 12, 1869. LAST HOURS OF CONGRESS.
Friday's session of both Houses continued into the small hours of Saturday morning. The Senate adjourned at about 12 o'clock, and the House at 1 o'clock. One of the very last acts of the House was the passage of a resolution of sympathy with the Government of the Republic.

We learn from the Harrisburg State Guard that on Friday last Governor GEARY vetoed the bill authorizing the Executive to commute the death penalty to imprisonment. This is one of the wisest acts of Governor GEARY's official career, and he will receive the plaudits of all right-minded men therefor.

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News and Other Items.

Boston has a velocipede school for ladies. A. G. Colt & Co., of Hartford, Conn., returned an income this year of \$16,692,200.

Allentown is said to be the only city in Pennsylvania that has two post-offices. A grand old of the Christian Church, returned an income this year of \$16,692,200.

A student at Princeton College, Ill., stabbed his teacher recently while receiving a weekly admonition.

Confederate Gen. Ripley is bankrupt in London. He has debts to the amount of \$100,000.

A Texan exchange says: The Southern Enterprise comes to our office wrapped in 500 copies of bonds to the amount of \$100,000.

The highest personal human habitation on the surface of the globe is the Buddhist monastery of Haino, in Tibet, at a height of 15,111 feet above the sea.

Miss Anthony calls Train "the symbol of a better world." The Chicago Post coincides in the opinion, and thinks the word should be "symbol."

A Kentucky editor says three beautiful young ladies were seen in the city of London, who were distinguished by their beauty and grace.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Commonwealth vs. Thomas Robinson, Larceny—Not guilty. Commonwealth vs. John O'Brien and Geo. Brady, Larceny—Plead guilty and sentenced to one month in the county jail.

Commonwealth vs. William Zeigler, Wm. Highlands, David Shumback, Wm. Miller, Cutting Timber Trees, Removing a Boundary Line, entry and Retainer—True Bill. Commonwealth vs. Abraham Anderson, assault with intent to ravish, assault and battery—True Bill.

Commonwealth vs. Adam Titus, murder of a woman, Manslaughter—3rd count—True Bill. Commonwealth vs. David Rhoads—Disturbing Meeting.

SALE OF A VALUABLE MILL PROPERTY.—We direct the attention of our readers to an advertisement of Mr. J. A. Dewar of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Pa., Mr. Dewar offers for sale a most valuable and most desirable property.

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DISCUSSIONS.

We understand with great pleasure that measures are already being taken in many places to celebrate the first anniversary of "Decoration Day." It is the duty set apart for decorating the Soldiers' graves with flowers on the 30th of May.

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TOWN AND COUNTY MATTERS.

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