

The Schemes for Plunder
TO THE TAX-PAYERS AND THE PRESS.

The honest and confiding masses of our people rarely anticipate outrages upon their rights, for they are slow to believe in the existence of premeditated wrongs. They rely upon those, whom they entrust with power, to protect them against the measures of designing and corrupt men. Thus resting in security, at the present time, they are, no doubt, unprepared for the schemes upon the Treasury of the State, which the Pennsylvania Central and the Sunbury & Erie Railroad, have in view.

Under the circumstances, therefore, we deem it our duty to direct attention to propositions which these mammoth corporations contemplate springing upon the Legislature at an early day of the Session. They are:

First—The repeal of the Tonnage Tax which the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company is engaged to pay. This tax, as just in itself as an obligation imposed upon any of the people for the support of government, amounts annually, if we are not mistaken, to upwards of \$3,000,000. We say it is a just tax and should be paid without a murmur, because the Central Company in the grant of privileges obtained from the State, became a competitor for the trade, which would have otherwise been obliged to find its way to the markets of the East and West over the Main Line of the State Improvements. Through the rivalry thus established, in opposition to its own works, (and by means, as is alleged, of gross corruption,) the State sank two-thirds of the cost of the Main Line in the sale which was made to the Pennsylvania Central. It is also a just tax, that should not be resisted, because it is levied in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. But for the acquiescence in this tonnage tax, and a belief that no attempt would be made to deprive the State of it, the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company would probably have no existence to day. And the Company is abundantly able to pay this, or even a greater tax.

With a knowledge of these facts, any interference with this sort of revenue can only be regarded as a most infamous and barefaced outrage upon the rights of the people. With as much, if not more propriety, the Banks of the State can expect to be relieved from the payment of dividend tax; and all other corporations and capitalists, who are more largely benefited by the protecting care of government, than the masses of people are, may also look for exemption from taxation—and thus increase the burthens of those who are least able to bear them.

The people need only be aroused on this question, to put it at rest for ever; and we appeal to the Press of the State to "cry aloud and spare not" at this time.

SECOND—The release (by granting a prior mortgage or some other scheme) of the \$3,500,000 mortgage held by the State against the Sunbury & Erie Railroad Company. This is a no less unjust and obnoxious measure than the one just adverted to. What has the State to show for the enormous outlay of money in the construction of the canals, in this mortgage of \$3,500,000! The Sunbury & Erie Company, through whose agency, and for whose benefit, the sale of the State Canals was brought about, should—considering the mode and manner of the sale—be the last applicant for Legislative favors; and we sincerely trust there will be found enough honesty in our Legislature to give a quietus to the plundering schemes of the controllers of this corporation the coming session, who have made themselves rich already out of the funds of this work, and any further aid would doubtless be squandered as before. If they can not go on, let them make way for others.

The tax-payers can justly realize what has already been done for the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company and the Sunbury & Erie Company, when we tell them that these two corporations get the control of State property, which cost upwards of THIRTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, for ELEVEN MILLIONS, and yet they will not only be begging, but will probably use more seductive arts for the additional concessions alluded to.

Let the People and the Press, by a united expression of sentiment, by petitions, letters, remonstrances, and public meetings put down these TWIN INQUIRIES. We append a short form of petition, which we recommend for general circulation. Let all the names possible be obtained, and sent to Harrisburg as soon as the Legislature convenes, as it is said the Sunbury & Erie scheme is to be tried under whip and spur, before Gov. Packer leaves the Executive chair. There are prominent men, of all parties and sections, in both these schemes—therefore we ward the TAXPAYERS that THEY THEMSELVES must work in this matter, or Five to Ten Millions more of Taxes will be thrown upon them by these two Companies, this winter.

To the Hon. the General Assembly of Pennsylvania:
Your petitioners, Tax-payers of this Commonwealth, most earnestly remonstrate against any Act or resolution, being passed releasing the Pennsylvania Railroad Company from the payment of the Tonnage Tax which it is bound in law and equity, and abundantly able, to pay.

They also remonstrate against granting any further Legislative aid to the managers of the Sunbury & Erie Railroad, by a release or change of the Mortgages the State holds against them, or in any other way.

Your petitioners rest in hope that the Sinking Fund now in operation may prove beneficial in gradually but surely wiping out our State Debt, but we are resolutely hostile to any more burdens being imposed upon us to enrich Corporations of any name or nature.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA.
Thursday Morning, Jan. 3, 1861.
T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

The Pittsburg Gazette advises the people of Pennsylvania to arm themselves and be ready to go to war with treason. Cannot Coudersport raise a company and report to Col. Kilbourn? Try it.

The President has appointed Mr. Holt, late Postmaster General, to the post of Secretary of War in place of the traitor Floyd. It is understood that Mr. Holt will act in concert with Gen. Scott. The day is dawning. Amen.

The N. Y. Herald of Tuesday, in an editorial article, asserts that President Lincoln has determined on the following portion of his Cabinet officers:

Attorney General—Edward Bates, of Mo.
Secretary of the Interior—David Wilmont, of Pa.
Secretary of War—John C. Fremont, of Cal.

The above, so far as it goes, constitutes a perfect Cabinet, and indicates the intention of the President elect to not only select the best men but to maintain the integrity of his party and its platform. Could he do otherwise and be Abe Lincoln?

Another Plea for Temperance.
The Rev. C. Strong, pastor of the Methodist congregation of this village, will lecture on Temperance, at the Hall of the S. T., on next Saturday evening—meeting to commence at 7 o'clock.

There ought to be no vacant seat on that occasion. Respect and courtesy for the speaker, if nothing else, should secure a full house. But the subject is of vital importance to the people of Coudersport and vicinity, and for that reason they should be on hand in strong force at the meeting on Saturday evening. If Mr. Strong has interest enough in our welfare to prepare an address for our benefit, shall we not have interest enough in our own behalf to attend and encourage him with our presence and attention? A full house will ensure an interesting meeting. Let us see who are willing to work for the cause. J. S. M.

Another Traitor Out.
The public service is gradually getting rid of traitors. A few weeks since Cobb resigned because, after having done all the damage he could to the Treasury, he was not allowed to enhance the entire destruction of the government. He led the poor, imbecile James Buchanan to the verge of the precipice, and because he would not make the fatal leap, deserted him. Thank God for the desertion that time!

Next came the resignation of the Secretary of State, corporeal Cass, who resigned because he would not follow Buchanan to the verge. Thank God for that resignation, too, for it caused the imbecile to ponder his position, and led to the latest and best providence.

John B. Floyd, a worse than Barr, has just followed the Treasury Keeper, and for a similar cause. Thank God for this—may it call for a further expression of thanks for the resignation of James Buchanan, the miserable tool of them all.

There is, after all, some hope for the country to right—some hope for the statement of open and subsidiary treason, before it is too late. The noble strategy of Major Anderson has pre-empted the issue, and will ultimate in a proper adjustment of the remedy. The government condemns him, but the people will sustain him, as does also the best military ghaichest in the world, Gen. Scott. Would that Buchanan could forgo his servile treachery to Slavery for a sufficient period to make him Secretary of War in place of the peevish recreant and traitor who has just resigned. The end of Secession and treason, with all their concomitants, would soon come.

With treason in every department, winking at and abetting its practical development at Charleston, there is no telling what the next eight weeks will bring forth; but at the end of that time we may safely count on the overthrow and punishment of treason at the hands of Mr. Lincoln. We can afford to wait, though in anguish.

We give the latest news from the seat of war in detail.

Negro Insurrection in Georgia.
Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860.—The following dispatch, dated at Macon, Ga., on Thursday, Dec. 27, reached a Georgian gentleman here last night, who has allowed me to copy it for the Tribune:

"Rumors of a rising among the slaves in the south-western part of the State prevail here. It is impossible to say with certainty whether an insurrection has really taken place, or is only threatened.

"The greatest care is taken to keep the matter secret, but most exaggerated reports are whispered abroad in this town to-day.

"There is certainly much excitement among the negroes everywhere, and the occasional rumor of fighting at Charleston make them restless and very dangerous. 'I am told that some planters are hastily getting all things ready to send their wives and young children to the North.'

FORT MOULTRIE EVACUATED.
Guns spiked and the Fort in Flames—Great Excitement.

CHARLESTON, Thursday, Dec. 27, 1860.—Fort Moultrie was evacuated last night. Previous to the evacuation the guns were spiked.

The Fort is now being demolished by fire.

Only four soldiers were left in charge. The troops have all been conveyed to Fort Sumpter.

Intense excitement prevails. The Convention is in secret session. It is only the gun-carriages that are on fire at Fort Moultrie.

The cannon are spiked, and it is reported that a train is laid to blow up the fort.

This last report is doubted. The excitement and indignation of the people is increasing.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27—12:30.—Major Anderson states that he evacuated Fort Moultrie in order to allay the discussion about that post, and at the same time strengthen his own position.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27—1 p. m.—Capt. Foster, with a small force, still remains at Fort Moultrie.

Several of the city military companies have been ordered out.

A collision is not improbable.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 27, 1860.—The military has been ordered out to protect the magazines and arsenals in this locality. It is reported that military corps from the interior are en route here.

I have just had an interview with Capt. Foster, now in command of Fort Moultrie. He says Anderson has acted upon his own responsibility. Fort Moultrie has not been set on fire.

Capt. Foster is still in command of Fort Moultrie, with a few regulars.

The Governor, Convention, and citizens were taken by surprise at the destruction of Fort Moultrie. No such event was anticipated or dreamed of in any quarter, save by the very few to whom Maj. Anderson confided. The effect has been a very striking one upon both military and citizens. All ask, What next?

CHARLESTON, Thursday, Dec. 27, 1860.—The Governor to-day has been tendered the services of troops from Georgia, Alabama, and different portions of Carolina, and many companies may be here to-morrow.

Special Dispatches to the N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, (Dec. 27, 1860)—It is not clearly known whether Maj. Anderson, in his occupation of Fort Sumpter, acted under specific orders or merely general directions; but it is certain that neither Mr. Buchanan nor Gen. Scott knew that the thing was to be done till they heard of the exploit.

The action is commended by all military men, and it ends the question of the forts in Charleston harbor. Capt. Anderson is now impregnable.

The Cabinet are in session this evening on private dispatches from Charleston supposed to refer to the assault on Government property in the city. The members of the Cabinet are, at least, greatly excited about something. It is supposed to be an apprehension that they will be called upon to do their duty to the country.

The intelligence that Major Anderson had retired to Fort Sumpter, after spiking his guns at Fort Moultrie, produced a great sensation in both branches of Congress. The Republican members are almost universally firm and determined. They abhor treason and intend to make no terms with revolutionists, but let them go their length. They think the time has come to know whether we have got a Government.

J. S. P.
WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 27, 1860.—The intelligence of Major Anderson's sudden removal from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumpter produced a profound impression here to-day, and is variously regarded according to the feelings and prejudices of the different sections.

His present position is impregnable against any force South Carolina can employ, and commands Charleston, the ship-channels, and all the forts in the harbor. He acted without specific instructions from the War Department, except to hold the forts and act on the defensive, though it is known that Gen. Scott favored this step, when reinforcements were refused for Fort Moultrie, and perhaps may have intimated as much to the officer in command of the station.

South Carolina, he will hesitate before venturing to rebuke this act.

A Cabinet meeting was held on this subject this afternoon. The Disunionists denounce Major Anderson's conduct in the strongest terms, and regard it as exhibiting a hostile animus on the part of the Administration. They say it will precipitate a crisis, but others believe it is the best peace preserver yet devised. While Major Anderson holds Fort Sumter, there will be no collision.

Later.—Intelligence from Charleston, to members of the Cabinet, states that the populace have seized the public property in Charleston to retaliate upon Maj. Anderson's movement, and the consultation at the White House is upon this and other points connected with the policy now to be pursued. Mr. Buchanan will probably be compelled to confront the very issue he has been conspiring to avoid.

Later.—

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860.—The Palmetto flag was raised early yesterday afternoon over the Custom-House and Post-Office.

At 5 o'clock last evening the Palmetto flag was raised at Castle Pinckney.

A large military force went over last night to take possession of Fort Moultrie.

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860.—Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney were taken possession of by the South Carolina military last night.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1860.—The crisis in the Cabinet culminated last night by the refusal to withdraw Major Anderson's command from Fort Sumter, which practically involved a surrender of the public property to the Secessionists. That question was decided by a formal vote, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Thompson, Thomas, and Floyd.
NAYS—Messrs. Holt, Black, Stanton, and Toucey

Much outside pressure was brought to bear on Mr. Toucey, and he finally yielded. Soon after this decision, Mr. Floyd addressed a letter of resignation to the President, couched in offensive terms, and stating that he considered the action of the Cabinet as a breach of faith toward South Carolina. It was immediately accepted, as he led this movement, and endeavored to split the Cabinet upon it.

The general belief is that he was actuated by personal motives, to withdraw attention from the pending investigation. He has heretofore professed to be a Union man, and decidedly opposed to the rash course of South Carolina. Mr. Buchanan's friends now express regret that he was not dismissed long ago.

Messrs. Thompson and Thomas will not resign, though they are quite as much, and perhaps, more identified with the South than Mr. Floyd, and voted with him on the removal of Major Anderson.

No successor has yet been indicated for Mr. Floyd, but there is a prevailing desire that Gen. Scott should be invited to act for the short time that remains of this Administration. His experience and wisdom would strengthen public confidence materially at such a juncture.

It is due to Major Anderson to state that he acted without advice and upon his individual responsibility in the recent movement. The President distinctly stated, yesterday, in Cabinet, that he violated his orders, and would be censured for that, and for burning the gun-carriages in abandoning Fort Moultrie. The purpose is to transfer him elsewhere, after the present flurry, being made of too stern stuff for Mr. Buchanan's base uses.

Gen. Scott has written to Major Anderson, saying he has behaved like a brave man and patriot, and he would stand by him to the last. He also addressed a letter to Mr. Floyd, on Friday, informing him that as he had, during his presence here, assumed to issue orders in disregard of his authority, and without his knowledge, he should hold no further communication with him.

The proceedings in Charleston yesterday have produced a decided reaction here, even among Southern Democrats. The seizure of the revenue-cutter by the State authorities, and the rescue of a slave by the mob, after being rewarded by their own Judge into custody of the United States, exhibited a revolutionary temper which cannot be palliated. The captain of the cutter doubtless resigned to betray the vessel into the hands of the Revolutionists. The three lieutenants attached to the cutter telegraphed to the Secretary of the Treasury to know what they should do, and he ordered them to remain there for the present.

For the Potter Journal.

Spelling.
Twenty years since, spelling was considered not only a very important branch, but in many schools it was the chief. A prize was offered to the one who should "leave off at the head most times." Spelling schools were in vogue, and school was arrayed against school, each using every laudable effort to "spell the other down." The more thorough introduction of other branches, in a measure supplanted spelling and it came to be much neglected in many schools; and perhaps with some reason; for, when conducted on the old system, it occupied far too much time, and failed to gain the desired end.

When spelling was partially revived again, educators were called upon to devise some means whereby the art of spelling might be more easily acquired and become more practically beneficial. The great object to be gained is to learn to write correctly. It is a notorious fact that many good oral spellers make wretched work in writing. The theorist might

not arrive at this conclusion, but theory often soars where practice has to creep. Perhaps, you are a little incredulous. If so, please ask your "first class" at the next recitation to "provide themselves with slate and pencil then let them write the lesson as you pronounce it, after which, in my opinion, if it be the first effort, your incredulity will become credulity.

Perhaps the best way to conduct a spelling class is to provide the class with writing materials and require each student to write every word as it is pronounced by the teacher. I suggest two plans for consideration. The class should occupy a seat where they can easily write and pass slates. Ring the bell for a signal, then pronounce the words distinctly and as fast as the class can well write. Fifteen words make a very good lesson. Each one should now take his slate in his right hand and, at the signal, pass it to the one who sits next, at the same time taking the slate from the one who sits at the left in his left hand. The slates should be passed 3 or 4 times.

Then call some one in the class to read no 1 as it is on the slate he holds, all who differ should raise their slates and hold them up. If there be any up call some one whose slate is up to read the same word when all who agree with his reading should drop their slates. Continue this till all the slates are down.—Spell the word correctly or write it on the black-board, and require each one to underscore it if incorrect. Go through the whole lesson in this way, then pass the slates to their owners and require each one to write every underscored word correctly and spell it orally.

A more thorough and I doubt not better plan for advanced schools was recommended by the Supt. of Tioga Co., to a class of teachers at Mansfield. The exercise should be conducted as above till the words are all underscored. The teacher should then take the class roll and when he calls A's name, the one who holds A's slate should tell the number of underscored words and the teacher should mark it in the class-roll. This being done with the entire class the slates may be returned to their owners.

Every underscored word should be corrected, written on paper and preserved.—This should be done every day till report day which should be once in one or two weeks, when the teacher should take the papers pronounce the words making errors for a second report. The number of words on the paper should agree with the number marked in the class roll.

Perfect order and no communications are necessary to success in this exercise. A skillful teacher can go through an exercise of twenty words with a class of 20 in from 20 to 30 minutes.

J. W. BIRD.
Charleston, Tioga Co., Dec. 15, 1860.

HOME JOURNAL FOR 1861.
New Series—New Features—New Type.

MORRIS AND WILLIS, EDITORS.

A new series of this widely circulated family newspaper, will be commenced on the fifth day of January, next—printed on fine paper and new type. With the January number will begin the publication of a series of beautiful original works of fact and fiction, written expressly for the Home Journal, by the best authors of America. The first of these is from the facile pen of a well-known and highly gifted author, and is a powerfully written, startling, mysterious, and deeply interesting history of *crusade and married life*. This charming story will be succeeded by others of a similar description, several of which are already in preparation. All the former peculiar features of the paper, which have given it a world-wide reputation, will be continued, while the several new ones will add infinite variety to its already diversified pages.—Among them are a number of fresh, spicy, amusing, original sketches, which smack and relish of the wit, humor, raciness, brilliancy, and sparkle of the times. As heretofore, no labor or expense will be spared to maintain the high reputation of the Home Journal, which is everywhere, both at home and abroad, acknowledged to be the most refined and elegant repository of literature and the arts on this side of the sea, and the best and cheapest family newspaper in the world. As no more copies of the new series will be printed than are ordered, those who desire to begin with the commencement of the volume will be able to do so by forwarding their subscriptions without delay.

TERMS.—For one copy, \$2; for three copies, \$5; or one copy for three years, \$8; for a club of seven copies, \$10; and at that rate for a larger club—always in advance.

Address MORRIS AND WILLIS, Editors and Proprietors, 167 Fulton Street, New York.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1860.—Senator Baker of Oregon and David Wilnot of Pennsylvania arrived here from the East this morning. Mr. Baker's visit is of a purely private character. Mr. Wilnot came by invitation of the President elect, who called upon him at his hotel immediately after his arrival, and spent some five hours with him in the course of the day. It is certain that Mr. Wilnot will represent the Republican banner State in the Cabinet, but no definite position is as yet assigned to him. He returns East this evening.

It is now understood that one after the other of the gentlemen selected for the Cabinet will be summoned hither.

A GERMAN AT A BANK.—A German, who had \$300 in gold deposited in one of the Western banks, stepped up to the

counter the other day, presented his certificate, and demanded his gold. He was paid, which he said to the banker, "But you give for gold now, eh?" "Five per cent," was the response. "Oh, yaw dat fish goot. I sell you dese for goot paper monish." "All right," was the reply, and \$315 in currency was handed the depositor, who took \$15 from his roll of notes, and handed back \$300, saying: "I deposits dat mit you. You're goot, I sees." And taking his new certificate, he departed with his \$15-premium.

New Advertisements.

LOOK HERE.
A. L. HOSS indebted to the late firm of A. SMITH & JONES, are politely requested to call at C. Smith's store, and settle and pay without delay. By so doing you will much oblige us—otherwise we will be under the painful necessity of trying to oblige you. SMITH & JONES.
Coudersport, Jan. 2, 1861—3mo.

WINTER TERM in the Coudersport Academy will open Jan. 7th 1861, and continue thirteen weeks.
RATES OF TUITION:
Primary Branches \$2.00
Common English 3.50
Higher English and Latin 4.50
Extras—Drawing 2.00
French 2.00
No deduction to be made for an absence of less than one third of a term.
TEACHERS, Miss C. A. STOCKWELL, C. H. McDOUGALL.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.
The undersigned having just received a large and well selected stock of
GLOCKS, WATCHES & JEWELRY,
offers them for sale at prices that will compare favorably with those of any city or town within 100 miles. Every article of jewelry and every style of Watches and Clocks usually found in retail Stores kept constantly on hand, and warranted to be as represented.—Also, Best Patent Revolvers kept on hand, and sold cheap.
Repairing done on short notice, in good style and fair rates.
Call and see me at the sign of the "BY WATCH."
Coudersport, Jan. 1, 1861.

LIST OF LETTERS remaining at the Post Office at Coudersport, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1860:
Adams F. W. & Co. Lord, H.
Avery, Addison—2 Lyman, O. C.
Acker, Miss Catharine Leib, Joseph E.
Aylesworth, G. Logue, James
Avery, John W. McDougall, W. W.
Andrews, O. Mather, A. B.
Chamberlain, Chauncey
Campbell, James S. McNeess, Charles
Cobb, L. Monroe, Miss Sallie C.
Clark, C. Patriot—3
Conse, Miss Jane Pinch, Jas. W.
Democrat—4 Robinson, Z. F.
Daniels, M. H.—3 Riley, Miss Martha
Fish, J. Stephens, Sal.
Fisher, Peter Stout, A.—2
Garrett, H. Storrs, S. H.
Griggsby, Susan E. Tillotson, Stephen
Horton, A. Wolf & Brothers,
Howard, W. J. White, S. H.
Harrington, E. R.—2 Wartz, J.
Hullender, H. Wilcox, G. W.
Hosens, B. T.

Persons calling for the above will say they are advertised.

YOUR ATTENTION!
FOR A MOMENT,
IF YOU PLEASE.

THE SUBSCRIBER has just received a new stock of

DESIRABLE GOODS,

Direct from New York, consisting of
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES of all kinds,
HARDWARE, CROCKERY, BOOTS & SHOES,
HATS & CAPS, latest styles, READY-MADE CLOTHING, DOMESTICS, such as SHEETINGS, TICKS, BATTIS,

&c.—in short, all kinds of goods usually kept in a

NO. 1 COUNTRY STORE.

All of which will be sold very low for

READY-PAY.

The above-named stock of Goods is now open and for sale at the

New Brick Store

near Canfield's Flouring Mill, a few rods east of the Allegheny Bridge.

IN COUDERSPORT,

where the proprietor would be pleased to receive calls from his old customers and as many new ones as feel disposed to

DEAL WITH HIM.

The market price paid for all kinds of

FARMERS' PRODUCE

in exchange for Merchandise.
Yours truly,
COLLINS SMITH.
Coudersport, Jan. 2, 1861—15-6mo.

The Rochester Straw-Cutter.
OLMSTED & KELLY, Coudersport, have the exclusive agency for this celebrated machine, in this county. It is convenient, durable, and CHEAP.
Dec. 1, 1860—12