addition to the amount justly chargeable to the Naval Pension Fund, an appropriation of $30,000,000.

During the year 1869 the Patent Office issued 13,762 patents, and its receipts were $686,389, being $213,926 more than expenditures.

I would respectfully call your attention to the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior for uniting the duties of supervising the education of freedmen with the other duties devolving upon the Commissioner of Education.

If it is the desire of Congress to make the census, which must be taken during the year 1870, more complete and perfect than heretofore, I would suggest early action upon any plan that may be agreed upon, as Congress at its last session appointed a committee to take into consideration such measures as might be deemed proper in reference to the census and to report a plan.

I desist from saying more. I recommend to your favorable consideration the claims of the Agricultural Bureau for liberal appropriations in a country so diversified in climate and soil as ours and with a population so largely dependent upon agriculture. The benefits that can be conferred by properly fostering this Bureau are incalculable.

I desire respectfully to call the attention of Congress to the inadequate salaries of a number of the most important officers of the Government. In this message I will not enumerate them, but will specify only the Justices of the Supreme Court. No change has been made in their salaries for 15 years, and within that time the labors of the Court have largely increased, and the expenses of living have at least doubled during the same time. Congress has twice found it necessary to increase largely the compensation of its own members, and the duty which it owes to another department of Government deserves, and will undoubtedly receive, its due consideration.

There are many subjects not alluded to in the Message which might with propriety be introduced, but I abstain, believing that your patriotism and statesmanship will suggest the topics of the legislation most conductive to the interests of the whole people. On my part I promise a rigid adherence to the laws, and their strict enforcement.

U. S. GRANT.

SERIOUS AFFAIR IN MILO.—The *Dundee Expositor* has an account of an attempted shooting affair happening in Milo, Yates county, in which Mr. Charles Lewis and Mr. Andrew Guile were the principal actors. The facts of the case as the *Expositor* learns from neighbors of both parties, are as follows: We premise by saying that by saying that there has been a personal difficulty of a very unpleasant character of some eighteen years standing between Lewis and Guile. A neighboring farmer has raised the past season some grain on Lewis's farm on shares, and it was put in one of Lewis's barns to be threshed. The neighbor, knowing of the trouble betwee Lewis and Guile, and not being able to procure any machine to thresh except Guile's, consulting with Mr. Lewis on the subject, and he assented to Guile's machine doing the work. The machine was brought on Monday of last week, and Guile came with it to set the machine and start it aright, when he intended to leave. The threshing had commenced when Mr. Lewis approached the barn with a shot-gun, loaded with bullet and buck-shot, in hand, leveled at his intended victim, and pulled the trigger. Fortunately the gun missed fire, or Mr. Guile would have been killed on the spot, as he was within close range.—Mr. Lewis proceeded very deliberately to prime his gun anew and put on a new cap, but by this time friends of the parties interfered and put an end to the shooting for the present. Mr. Lewis was subsequently arrested and gave the required bonds for appearance in Court to answer in criminal proceedings.—An attempt was made by Mr. Lewis to settle the matter with Mr. Guile, and two neighbors were selected to adjust terms of settlement, but it was found no settlement could be made after criminal proceedings had commenced. It is a very unfortunate affair, and we think will prove disastrous to Mr. Lewis.

Mrs. Hannah Sanderson, Merrimack, N. H., writes Oct. 26th to R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H. "I cheerfully certify to your Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer, having experienced its effects on my own head. When I commenced using it my head was nearly bald, only having a little hair on the side and back of my head. I have worn false hair fifteen years and upward. I have now laid it by. I commenced using it in May, and now my hair is from two to four inches long and thick, where there was none when I commenced using Hall's Hair Renewer. My hair is now growing very fast and does not fall off. I recommend this to all those whose hair is turned gray or thin, and especially to those that are bald.

"I am acquainted with Mrs. Hannah Sanderson and can certify to the truthfulness of this stanement.

"WILLIAM T. PACKER,
"Justice of the Peace.

REDUCTION OF THE STATE DEBT.—We call attention to the proclamation of Gov. Geary, declaring the paymont by the commissioners of the Sinking Fund, for the year ending 30th November, 1869, of $1,725,597 97 interest, and $362,762 09 principal of the public debt. Thus we see that under wise Republican management of the finance, the debt is gradually being reduced. Great credit is due to the Financial officers of the State for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duty. —*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

A panic in a Methodist Church, in Troy, New York, caused by an alarm of fire, was recently quieted by an ingenious expedient. The floor having caught from a defective flue, a rush was made for the doors, women and children were screaming and fainting, the men were pushing and struggling to escape, when some unexcitable person with great presence of mind, struck up a familiar hymn, others joined in the air, and during the singing partial quiet was restored. During this brief interval the fire was extinguished.

It was found necessary to subdue the elephant Romeo, Covington, Ind., lately. To accomplish this he was thrown down and his legs fettered, and then for eight hours he was belabored with stout iron rods, and wounded with the spear innumerable times. When released from his bonds he rose to his feet in a sorry plight, and, as his keeper said, a child could drive him with a rye straw.

GEORGE R. MCGEE, late prominent attache, at Cleveland, of the Security Life Insuradce Company, has absconded with a large sum of the Company's money. He also owed heavy amounts to parties in Cleveland.

By a recent order of the Allegheny county, Md., School Board, the reading of the Bible in the schools of the County has been discontinued. This action has caused a great deal of comment.

THE Supeme Court of Missouri has decided a sheriff's deed to be void on account of an inadequate description of the land sold.

HON J. D. MORRILL has prepared an elaborate bill for funding the national debt at 3 65 100 per cent., and providing for free banking.

SPEAKER BLAINE, is announced, will favor the repeal of the duty on Nova Scotia coal, although himself an owner in a Pennsylvania coal mine.

FRESH GROUND PLASTER
AT TIOGA,
BY T. L. BALDWIN, & CO.
$7,50 per ton.

The Agitator.

WELLSBORO, PENN'A.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22, 1869.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO PATRONS.

The first number of the AGITATOR to be published in January, 1870, will appear under the auspices of a new firm. The paper will also appear in an enlarged form, so far as printed surface is concerned, and otherwise improved.

In view of this change, notice is hereby given to all persons indebetd to the firm of Cobb & Van Gelder, on jobbing, advertising, and subscription accounts, that such indebtedness must be settled on or before *Jan. 1, 1870*, as the business of the *old firm* closes on the 31st of December 1869. The new firm will fulfil all contracts to subscribers and advertisers from that date.

COBB & VAN GELDER.

We commend the reading of Gen. Grant's first Annual Message to all who admire common sense and straightforward dealing. It is like his inaugural, a plain statement of facts, and sensible conclusions drawn therefrom. The Golden Age is upon us.

The *Jamestown Journal*, (N. Y.) is soon to be published daily, as well as weekly. We congratulate the Jamestonians upon this decidedly convincing proof of the enterprise of their town.—The weekly edition is one of the ablest and raciest journals published anywhere. That the daily will have all the freshness and flavor of the weekly we cannot doubt. Bishop is not a lazy thinker.

Judge Grier has resigned. He has been unfit to discharge the duties of his office for half a dozen years. Now let us have a law with a *life limit* for officeholding. Retire every judge at 65 on a pension. Then pay better services to the active judges. Every man fit to sit in judgment as a law judge, can command a practice more lucrative than his salary at present.

Dr. G. W. Pratt, of the *Corning Journal* has been appointed Tally Clerk in the House of Representatives, Washington. The position is one of the most responsible in the Clerk's Office; and none but a first-class man can fill it. We are glad to be able to state that Dr. Pratt will make as popular an officer as did Mr. Sherman, whom he succeeds; and further, that the appointment is highly creditable to Mr. McPherson.

THE AGITATOR.—RETROSPECTIVE.

The year 1854 constitutes the era of a great moral revolution. It will go down in history as a time of a great awakening of the consciences of the American people; during which, the fact that the duty of a citizen is a strictly moral and religious duty, dawned upon popular comprehension.

It was, preeminently, "a time demanding new measures and new men." Born a trade pollifico, but from season, equal partner with conscientious conviction. The dry details of political economy were borne to the ear of the mustering army of progress.—The old issues—Bank, Tariff, Internal Improvement—dried up.

In the early morning of this revolution—1854—THE AGITATOR was established. The suggestion came from DAVID WILMOT and JOHN S. MANN.—Its sponsors were L. BACHE and W. W. MCDOUGALL. The firm of Bailey & Cobb undertook the publication, and the writer hereof was the editor. The material and good will of the *Wellsboro Advertiser*, then published by WM. D. BAILEY, were purchased for the sum of $850, and with this THE AGITATOR started. The type used was long primer and brevier; size of sheet 24x34; circulation 650, half of it paying, perhaps. The regular advertising patronage was worth about $300 a year, and the jobbing as much more.

Dec. 31, 1854, Mr. Bailey retired from the firm, and Mr. DAVID STURROCK came in. The price of the paper was reduced from $1,50 to $1 per annum, cash down. This cut down the circulation to 350; but before the end of the year 1855 was ended the circulation had reached 900; and by the middle of 1856 it had gone above 1000. At that time country papers with 1000 cash subscribers were not common. In fact, we suppose that no county paper in Northern Pennsylvania had so large a circulation. From this time to 1858 the circulation varied, once touching 1200, but averaging 950. In 1857 Mr. Sturrock retired from the firm of Cobb, Sturrock & Co., and the writer took sole charge, retaining it until Jan. 1, 1859, when the establishment passed into the hands of HUGH YOUNG at a small advance upon the original cost in 1854. Mr. Young procured new type for the paper, so that it started out in its fifth year with as handsome a face as any of its contemporaries.

Up to this time not much attention had been given to the local department of the paper. Mr. Young at once made a change in that respect, and the local value of the paper was thereby greatly increased. The great war soon arrived, and the columns of the AGITATOR gave to the public the experience of eyewitness on the field and in camp. In fact the paper during that stormy time constituted a graphic history of events.

In January, 1863, the writer once more became possessed of the material and goodwill of the establishment, Mr. Young retiring. But little addition had been made to material and fixtures.—The paper was printed on a Washington press, and the material for fine work was wanting. But times were hard.—Paper was 30 and 35 cents per pound, and other things in proportion. When the year 1864 came in, the balance sheet of the concern showed a deficit of over $400—the expenditures having exceeded the income that much. But the circulation increased. A cylinder press was purchased, and by July, 1864, the circulation went over 1500. Meantime the subscription price was raised to $1.-50 per year. Advertising increased, and the receipts for jobbing alone, in 1865 were more than the entire receipts in 1855. A rotary job press, Ruggles patent, paid for itself in less than a year in increased profits. The receipts exceeded the expenses about $300 in 1864; in 1865 about $900. But about $1000 had been expended to make the business pay.

In December 1865, Mr. P. C. VAN GELDER purchased an equal one-half interest in the establishment, bringing in what the concern needed most—capital and business enterprise. The facilities for doing good work were limited when he came in. The newspaper was enlarged to seven columns, new type procured, and the jobbing room replenished with new styles of type, labor saving appliances, and other improvements, so that, under his energetic management, the jobbing account income for 1866 exceeded $2,500, and the advertising fairly drove us to the corner. In January 1867, another column to the page was added to keep pace with the demand of advertisers, and the sheet printed on was increased in size from 24x36 to 27x41—the largest size country paper. The circulation steadily increased, also, sometimes reaching 2,400, and never falling below 1,750. THE AGITATOR will close its 16th and enter upon its 17th volume with a larger number of subscribers than ever before,—"Progress and Improvement" has been Mr. Van Gelder's motto from the first; and now the establishment has all the modern improvements, save steam power, and can compete, as for presses, machinery, type, and workmanship, with any printing office outside of the cities. Ten years ago all work was done on a hand press, 250 impressions an hour being about the maximum, To-day we have presses equal to 1500 impressions an hour, and could if necessary, work four jobs at the same time, on as many presses. So much for history.

While THE AGITATOR remains true to MAN, it will have my peculiar regard—a regard which the severance of business relations cannot weaken, or discharge. My connection with it as editor and publisher closes to-day.—There is no egotism in the foregoing sketch of the fortunes of the paper, as the credit for its success belongs to the people of Tioga as well as to its proprietors. It has been the unwaving friend of the masses of mankind from the hour of its birth. It has held the good of all higher, and of greater account than the good of any man. I am glad that my leavetaking comes in the time of its highest prosperity. How much I like Tioga county air and fare, and how much attached I am to its people, need not be named here. We have tried to aid each other, and with a fair degree of success.

Mr. Van Gelder and myself have been partners for four years. We have never had an unpleasant word between us. His good judgment and enterprise have been of great value to the paper. Our relations have been mutually pleasant and profitable, and our friendship does not expire with our partnership.—Can I say more, or say it better? In JOHN I. MITCHELL, who will be associated with Mr. Van Gelder in the conduct of the paper, the people will recognize an honest man, therefore a friend. He is a man of talent and high tone, whose errors will be of the head rather than of the heart. Not only Mr. Van Gelder, but the people, are fortunate in this partnership. The new firm will deserve as well of the public as the old one did; and as a last word I declare that, as in the past, THE AGITATOR will contribute as much to the prosperity of Tioga county as the people can contribute to the prosperity of the paper. M. H. COBB.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The above announcement of MR. M. H. COBB retiring from the AGITATOR will, no doubt be greatly regretted by its readers as well as by ourselves, though his retirement has been contemplated for more than a year. With this number then, and by mutual consent of all parties, Mr. Cobb passes the pen (editorial) and his one-half interest in the AGITATOR to the undersigned; who, in assuming the entire control of the establishment do not propose to wade through a long article of pledges and promises of the future course of the paper, but will simply say—that we intend to practice what we preach—"live and let live, PAY AND BE PAID." Its political conduct will be in the future as in the past—REPUBLICAN, profound and unshaken. In success or defeat, it will adhere to those principles because we believe them to be right.—All "wire-pullers," "cliques," or "wolfish politicians" must take a back seat, while we pursue the even tenor of our way defending the right, and opposing the wrong. In short, we shall spare no labor or expense in making the AGITATOR acceptable to its readers, and shall also add such facilities to the establishment necessary to keep pace with our rapidly growing village. Believing that a lively paper, good work, promptness and fair dealing is the key to success—we start out with very flattering encouragements for the future.

P. C. VAN GELDER,
J. I. MITCHELL.

The very last Revolutionary pensioner is dead. His name was Daniel F. Bakeman. This, we believe, makes the grand aggregate of "last Revolutionary pensioners" about 500. The next "last" will probably die in six months from date. And so on. The old saw—"A man can die but once,"—is disproved. General Washington's body servant has died over a hundred times, the last pensioner over five hundred times.

We most heartily second the recommendation of Judge Strong, late of our Supreme Court, for the vacancy in the Supreme Court of the United States caused by the resignation of Judge Grier. He was for eleven years a judge of the Supreme Court of the State, and we never heard a whisper of accusation against him, affecting unfavorably his repute as an able jurist and a just judge. In an hour of great trial he proved superior to the motives of the partisan, and his retirement from the Bench was dictated by a motive so pure and honorable that the world would scarcely credit it were it made public.

NEW-YORK TRIBUNE!

THE GREAT FARMERS' PAPER!

The Paper of the People.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE

GREAT FAMILY NEWSPAPER!

It is cheap because its circulation is larger than that of any other newspaper.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FORM CLUBS.

The New-York Weekly Tribune

contains all the important Editorials published in the DAILY TRIBUNE, except those of merely local interest; also literary and Scientific Intelligence; Reviews of the most interesting and important New Books; letters from our large corps of Correspondents; latest news received by Telegraph from all parts of the world; a summary of all important intelligence in this city and elsewhere; a Synopsis of the proceeding of Congress and State Legislature when in session; Foreign News received by every steamer: Exclusive Reports of the Proceedings of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute: Talks about Fruit; Stock, Financial, Cattle, Dry Goods and General Market Reports.

The Full Reports of the American Institute Farmers' Club, and the various Agricultural Reports, in each number, are richly worth a year's subscription.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

To keep pace with the growing interest in practical Horticulture, and to comply with frequent appeals from all parts of the country for information of a practical character on the subject; we have engaged the services of a person who is experienced in rural affairs to write in a lucid style a series of articles on the management of Small Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Culture, and how to make them pay, giving general and specific directions from planting to the ultimate disposal of of the crops.

Of late years there has been a lucrative business carried on by unprincipled men, in selling worthless and old plants under new names to the inexperienced. The Tribune will be always ready to guard the farmer against any such imposition that comes within our knowledge.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

To make The Tribune still more valuable to its agricultural readers, we have engaged Prof. James Law, Veterinary Surgeon in Cornell University, to answer questions concerning diseases of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and other domestic animals, and to prescribe remedies. Answers and prescriptions will be given only through the columns of The Tribune. We are sure that this new feature in The Tribune will add largely to its readers, as all owners of animals are liable to need the information proffered. Inquiries sho'd be made as brief as possible, that the questions, answers, and prescriptions may be published together. In short, we intend that The Tribune shall keep in the advance in all that concerns the Agricultural, Manufacturing, Mining, and other interests of the country, and that for variety and completeness, it shall remain altogether the most valuable, interesting, and instructive Newspaper published in the world.

It has been well observed that a careful reading and study of the Farmers' Club Reports in The Tribune alone will save a farmer hundreds of dollars in his crop. In addition to these reports, we shall continue to print the best things written on the subject of Agriculture by American and foreign writers, and shall increase these features from year to year. As it is, no prudent farmer can do without it. As a lesson to his workmen alone, every farmer should place the Weekly Tribune upon his table every Saturday evening.

The Tribune is the best and cheapest paper in the country. This is not said in a spirit of boastfulness. It has fallen to New-York to create the greatest newspapers of the country.—Here concentrate the commerce, the manufactures, the mineral resources, the agricultural wealth of the Republic. Here all the news gatherers, and the patronage is so large that journalists can afford to print it. This is the strength of The Tribune. We print the cheapest, and best edited weekly newspaper in the country. We have all the advantages around us. We have great Daily and Semi-Weekly editions. All the elaborate and intricate machinery of our establishment—perhaps the most complete in America—is devoted to the purpose of making The Weekly Tribune the best and cheapest newspaper in the world. The result is that we have so systematized and expanded our resources that every copy of The Weekly Tribune contains as much matter as a duodecimo volume. Think of it! For two dollars, the subscriber to The Tribune for one year buys as much reading matter as though he filled a shelf of his library with fifty volumes, containing the greatest works in the language. The force of cheapness can no further go.

The Weekly Tribune is the paper of the people. It is a family paper. Here the school may read lessons of science. Here the farmer may read lessons of science. Here the school may read lessons of science. Here the farmer may read lessons of science. Here the farmer may read lessons of science. Here the farmer