

The Daily Review.

Towanda, Pa., Friday, April 1, 1881.

EDITORS.
S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD.

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The Legislature.

It has come to be expected that the press of the State will raise a hue and cry about the shortcomings of the legislature at every session. Many of these newspaper writers know no more of the subject than they do about the man in the moon. As a rule our legislators are men of character and at least ordinary ability and integrity, and we agree with Mr. Howard Jenkins of West Chester, who comes to the defence of our law-makers in a long article in the Philadelphia Press that they are abused more than they deserve. In concluding his article, Mr. Jenkins sums up with this fair conclusion:

In conclusion permit me to add that the Legislatures, in my opinion—proved after fair if not good opportunity for judgment—deserve better treatment at the hands of the newspapers than they have received. The people, I unhesitatingly say, have reason to be encouraged with the evidence of an increasing purpose to serve faithfully and honestly the public interests. The independence, the purity, and the public courage of the membership has been increased. The character of the proceedings in both Houses is in the main creditable and far less deserving criticism than exaggerated accounts of an occasional contentious session cause the public to suppose. The House, from its large number of members, its crowded, uncomfortable and unhealthy chamber, the previous inexperience of many of its members, and perhaps other causes, is necessarily less composed and more subject to disorder than the Senate, but, as I have already indicated, its procedure, in the main, brings no discredit on the Commonwealth, and if the newspapers were as solicitous to take notes of its ordinary action and present to the public evidence of its faithfulness and capability as they are to seize upon incidents of disorder or fault, I am quite sure that we should soon have a different and a much more just public opinion formed upon this subject. I am far from saying that there is no room for improvement and equally indisposed to pretend that the newspapers have not an important work to do in fairly criticising the shortcomings that appear in the Legislature, but I am still convinced that this criticism should be always made with full knowledge of the facts—founded upon much more accurate and detailed reports than are now sent from Harrisburg—and with care, good judgment and sound discrimination. Under such circumstances, the real power of the press would increase, its influence with the Legislature would be vastly augmented, the efforts of good men in the Legislature would be encouraged and supported, the people would recover confidence in their law making body, and the Legislature itself would feel that, while its shortcomings would be exposed, its good work would receive due commendation. All of which certainly would be to the public benefit.

In his lecture on civil-service reform on Saturday night George William Curtis said that when Abraham Lincoln was President there used to be in Washington a broker in office, who for convenience sake Mr. Curtis called Jeremiah Jones. From early morning till late at night, at all hours, in fact, in all places, upon every opportunity, when the dangers threatening the country were at their height, Jeremiah Jones was very busy trying to secure a place for some scrub-woman, a berth for some porter, a clerkship for another, a place in some department for some one else. Somebody asked the President how he spent his day, Mr. Lincoln replied: "In the morning when I wake up, the first thing I do is to pray, and then I look under the bed to see whether Jeremiah Jones is there, and I thank God if he isn't there."

At the request of the Merchants' Association of Baltimore and others a bill has been introduced in the Legislature asking the right of way for a ship canal across the State of Delaware anywhere below Appoquinimink creek. Congressman Martin, Governor Hall and other promi-

nent men were named as incorporators. Capital \$30,000,000.

According to the correct estimate the Boston Herald thinks that in ten years, if we do not choose an intelligent and patriotic Congress to enact wise navigation laws, we shall have lost \$1,000,000,000—a round billion of dollars—by reason of deprivation of the means of ocean transportation.

General Lew Wallace declines the appointment as Charge d' Affaires to Paraguay and Uruguay.

Business Cards.

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Towanda, Jan. 13, 1881.

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Practical Cutter and Tailor.
Towanda, Jan. 13, 1881.

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With same additional charges for cartage.

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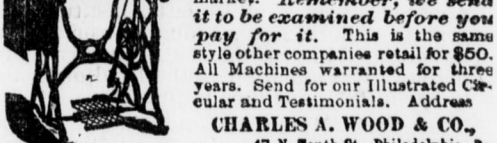
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