KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

CALLED TO CHICAGO.

Dr. Thorps Offered the Chair of History at the University There.

Professor Francis Newton Thorpo, one of the youngest of the members of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, has been honored by a call to the University of Chicago, to occupy the chair of history in that university, which he fills at present at the University of Pennsylvania. The end requests him to accept the pest and enter upon his new duties at once and he has about decided to accept. It is likely, however, that he will continue in his present duties out if the close of the term and go to Chicago in the summer in time for the full opening. Professor Thorpe has been very active in the University's work in the six years in which he has alled the chair of American history. He is the author of several historical works, principal of which are his "History of the People of the United States—a treatise," and a series of studies on "State Constitutions." Both of these have gained widesprend attention and have won for him considerable distinction. His resignation will be received at Pennsylvania with great regret.

A burgiar entered the residence of Rev. university, which he fills at present at the

Pennsylvania with great regret.

A burgier entered the rudence of fier, Father Riegnery, of St. o.ph's Catholic church, South Easton, who, he was in the church adjoining hobling service. He was discovered by M**. Mary Berger, of South Bethlehem, and Miss Mary Jacquain, who were in the house with Mrs. Reguery, the aged mother of the priest, who is lying at the point of death. He pointed a pistol at the women and told them to keep quiet, but they screamed and their cries were heard in the church. This brought several members of the choir into the house and the burgiar fled. He got \$23, the morning collection, which lay on a table near the window through which he had entered.

A notice was posted at the Western File

through which he had entered.

A notice was posted at the Western File Works at Beaver Falls to the effect that the plant would resume operations full handed on April 27. These large works have been closed down since October last. When running full employment is given to about 350 persons, so that a notice of resumption is glad news to many families. With the resumption of the file works every important industry at Beaver Falls, with one exception, will be in operation. That exception is the Mayer Pottery Works, which was burned last fall, but it is being rebuilt bigger and better than ever and will be in operation by the 1st of June.

of June. George Buchanan, colored, of New Haven, George Buchanan, colored, of New Haven, was arrested in Wheeling by officer Gardener for murder, he baving shot and killed Henry Smith, colored, at Canonsburg last July, Fennsylvania officers arrived and Buchanan was taken back. Smith boarded with Buchanan at New Haven. One night while the wife was at church, the two men quarreled and the husband shot Smith twice, killing litm. He then escaped.

George Murnhy, a passencer brakeman on

George Murphy, a passenger brakeman on the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroud, made a miraculous escape from instant death at Columbia. He stepped from the engine on which he was riding in front of a draft of cars which were being shifted down a siding. He was rolled lifty feet. He was picked up insensible and taken to the hospital. He is lattred internally, but may recover. injured internally, but may recover,

Efforts are being made to form a pool between the Altoona Iron Company, the Portage Iron Company, of Buncansville; the Hollidaysburg Iron and Nail Company, and the Eleanor Iron Company, the four leading iron concern in Blair county, for the manufacturing of mill iron. The Cambria Iron Company furnace, at Gaysport, may be operated by the joint interests.

Kittangler, resolvers of the Presbyterian

operated by the joint interests.

Kittanaing presbytery of the Presbyterian church held a two days' session at indiana. Rev. Dr. It. D. Wilson, of Allegheny Theological seminary, and Finley P. Wolf, of Kittanning, were chosen commissioners to the general assembly, with Dr. S. W. Miller, of Saltsburg, and S. C. Lewis, of Indiana, as niternates.

Robert Elliott, of East Brudy, a brakeman on the Allegheny Valley railrond, fell between the ears at Wood Hill and was instantly kill-ed. The body was cut in twain. An inquest was held by Coroner Snowden and the rail-rond company was absolved from all blame. Elliott leaves a wife and family.

Rev. John M. Miller, of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greenville, has resigned his pastorate on account of ill health. He will go to Jacksonville, Fin., where he will take charge of the Trinity Methodist church of that city. Rev. L. D. Rader, of that city, will occupy the puipit.

The Longmend Iron company and the Conshohocken Tube company, of Conshohocken, have gone into the hands of receivers. The failure is the largest that has ever occurred in this county. Linbilities will amount to about \$300,000. The assets will not be over \$150,000.

Rev. N. Luccock, D. D., of the Pittsburg conference, has resigned the pastorate of the Smithfleid Street M. E., church, Pittsburg, to take charge of the Union M. E., church, St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Luccock is one of the most brilliant and scholarly ministers in the M. E.,

One of the largest timber deals in many years has just been closed by the purchase of 26,000 acres of timber land in Center, Clinton, Union and Lycoming counties, about 30 miles east of Beliefonte. M. H. Kuip & Co., of Shamokin, are the purchasers.

of Shamokin, are the purchasers.

Three masked men entered the house of John Whaling, a merchant at Everson, and carried away \$300. The robbers knecked at the door, which was opened by Whaling, whom they intimidated with revolvers, forcing him to hand over the money.

Mrs. Catharine Conley, of Pittsburg, has laid claim to a tract of land in Mercer county, worth \$100,000. It was granted to her father by the government for services in the war of 1812. Mrs. Conley had not heard of the fortune until recently. She is ever 84. The woods surrounding the Shamokin

owder Company's works, at Irish Valley, were set on fire and the flames soon crept owards the magazine. Although in danger of being blown up any minute, a gang of men inally saved the mill.

Every officer in the Sixth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, has written to Colonel Perry E. Washabaugh requesting him to make a strong effort to to have the regiment selected to represent the brigade in New York on April 27.

Carrollton Adams, of North Branch, Wyo-ming county, was shooting at a target when he accidentally shot his wife in the head, kill-ing her instantly. He was immediately ar-rested to await investigation by the coroner.

The miners of the Essen Coal company, of Federal, held a meeting and decided not to go to work under the ironeiad. They asked for 50 cents, which the company is willing to pay under the 10 per cent plan.

The main of the Pottsville Water company burst at St. Clair, and before the great flow of water was checked, a portion of the road-bed of the Reading Ilailway's Mill Creek branch was swept away.

.Workmen remodeling Westmoreland coun-ty court house, at Greensoug, found many ancient documents bearing the signatures of George Washington, William Penn and King

It was accidentally discovered the other lay that several boys in the First ward shool at New Castle were in the habit of

chool at New Castle were in the habit of carrying revolvers into school.

Kittle Hane's house, at Johnstown, was the scene of a night of drunken reveiry, and in the morning one of the participants burned it down. The loss is about \$1,000.

Grimes Mattox, an Irwin merchant, was held up by three men, but recognized one's voice and named him and all fied. The next tay he was assured it we : all a joke.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Abstract of the Important Measures in Both Houses.

April 12.—The Senate met at noon for the first time since the death of ex-Senator Voorhees, who, until a recent day was a conspicuous member of the body. The opening prayer of flev, Dr. Milburn, the blind chap nin, made cloquent reference to Mr. Voornees brilliant talents, impassioned ardor, choquence, genuine patriotism and the unseifsh dedication of his great powers to overy cause, human and divine, which enlisted his care. Divine consolation was invoked for the family of the man who had inscribed his name on the tablets which perpetuated the great orators and statesmen of his generation.

Immediately following the prayer Mr. Gor-

Immediately following the prayer Mr. Gorman, of Maryianal, moved that as a mark of
respect to their late associate the Senate adjourn, adding that many Senators desired to
attend the funeral. The motion prevailed,
and at 12:05 p. m. the senator adjourned.

April 13.—Senator Chandler introduced
his bills empowering the secretary of the
navy to take possession of the armor plants
of the Bethielson and the Carnegio compahiss. He intends that the government shall
take only the Bethielson plant and use it to
complete the now unfinished war reseals.
Just compensation shall be made through
the court of claims. Senator chandler a
scheme seems to meet only with rivicule.

April 15.—The Chipmonk all reids, the

April 15.—The Chipmunk oil fields, the Senera oil company and the Senera nation of Indians in Western New York occupied the attention of the Senate for several hours this attention of the Senate for several hours this morning, and Senator Quay not only exposed some alleged shady transactions between the oil company and the council of the nation regarding an oil lease, but at the same time secured action by the Senate designed to render null and void a lease which the company secured from the council of the Indians.

It was the Indian appropriation bill that was under consideration and the Senato spent the day on it.

The Indian bill was not completed when at 5 o'clock the Senate adjourned to Monday.

at 5 o'clock the Senate adjourned to Mouday.

April 15.—Representative Smith, of Jefferson, called up the lited bill to-day and proposed numerous amendments. He was successful in baving them adopted, and advancing the bill to the third rending calcular. The amen intents provide that if the matter regarded as libelous is substantially true, published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the defendant shall be acquitted, but the jury shall determine the law and the facts. In no case is the defendant to be indicted for printing and publishing the same lifed in more than one county of the commonwealth. The commonwealth is also given the right to stand aside jurors.

The house refused to pass a ball doing away with the publication of the sheriff's dection proclamation by voting the measure flows. An amendment to the rempulsory squeation ast proposed by Mr. Hammond, of Westmoreland, was passed on second reading. It increases the age limit of pupils from 15 to 16 years, permits school directors or controllers to designate special schools for offenders, truants or disobscient pupils, and requires registration of all pupils by the attendance officer and a report of the absences. This completed the morning session.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

April 13.—The Waiton capitol bill passed finally in the house to-day by a vate of 149 to 39, and the senate promptly concurred in the amendment. The measure which now goes to the governor for his signature, came up this morning on a special order. Mr. Smith, of Beaford, moved to re into committee of the whole for the consideration of his amendment, which limited to \$300,000 the cost of furnishing and describing the building. After a short debate the motion was defeated by \$1 years to \$5 mays. Mr. Robb, of Allegheny, then moved to go into committee of the whole to amend by providing for an annex to the cast wing of the proposed building, to be equipped at a cost of not more than \$25,000, with a plant to furnish heat and light for the public building.

Harrisburg, April, 12—After a desultory struggle, lasting three house or second reading without a division.

In the Senate the following bills were introduced: Mr. Hyde, Eds, authorizing contracts between overseers of the poor in any borough or township in counties not having county poor houses and the action of the poor houses.

Mr. Vauchan, Lackawans, allowing the article to be colored a non-poisonous, deep green, and increasing the maximum the from \$300 to \$200 and the penalty of 10 to 30 days to not exceeding six months for the first offense and providing for two years imprisonment for every subsequent offense.

The Senate adjourned on the bill requiring all congressional, judicial and legislative candidates to be nominated at primary elections by ballot, which was on final passage.

April 14.—The Senate got down to business at 11 o'clock, but there was very little essential providing for two years imprisonment for every subsequent offense.

clections by ballot, which was on final passage.

April 14.—The Senate got down to business at 11 o'clock, but there was very little work done during the first hour. Then the resolution to investigate the workings of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and the Wikkestarre and Lebigh were reported negatively. This resolution alleges that the two companies are really one, and that the latter company has falled to pay the State taxes to the amount of many millions of dollars. The auditor general, in a letter to the committee, says that no money is due the State for taxes from this company. Senator Gibson, the author of the resolution, made a long speech in favor of it. He was interrogated by several senators, but did not seem to be able to satisfactorily answer the questions. A vote was taken on the resolution, and it was defeated by a vote of thirty to three.

The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Thomas—An act supplementary to an act to provide for the better government of

The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Thomas—An act supplementary to an act to provide for the letter government of the cities of the first class in this Commonwealth. By Mr. Milleisen—An act to secure better ventilation, wiring and lighting of public schools. By Mr. Becker—An act to provide for better government in cities of the first class.

first class.

At 12:45 the Senate took up the calendar, and the first bill on final passage was the bill entitled. An act providing that all candidates in Congressional, judicial and legislative districts be nominated at primary election.

TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON.

A Colossal Monument to be Dedicated It Philadelphia.

On the 15th of May a colossal monument will be dedicated to General Washington in the city of Philadelphia, and the coremony will be one of imposing character.

will be one of imposing character.

Some idea of the magnificence of the monument may be lerived from the fact that its cost will fall little short of 600,000. As a work of art, R is even superior to the Grant monument in New York City.

More than eighty-six years have clapsed since the movement to erect a handsome memorial pile to General Washington in the city of Philadelphia first subscription to the fund was made in 1810, and others followed in rapid succession; but the movement began to lag after a few months, and it looked attone time as if the monument would never by creeted. Finally, however, the great enterprise has been successfully completed, and the towering pile of marbie which Pennsylvania on May 15 will deticate to the virtues of General Washington is in every respect worthy of the pariotic impulse which inspired it.

Bishop F. D. Huntington (Episcopai) of Syracses, has confirmed 22,000 persons during the 27 years of his episcopate.

MAY DAY.

FESTIVAL OF THE FLOWERS, ITS ORIGIN AND OBSERVANCE.

May Day 4000 Years Ago-The Day in Egypt, China, Mexico and Peru -Old Customs in Connection With the Holiday.

OR the origin of May Day with ita joyous associations, we are compelled to go back to a time when men personified the powers of nature and called them gods and goddesses. How far back the goddess of the flowers was adored at the season when the earth put on her green mantle with its floral spangles of every hue, we do not know, for the earliest records speak of a spring festival as an institution already well established and even then known from more ancient times. The Egyptians made pictures of everything, so it is not surprising that among the paintings on the walls of their catacombs there should be found some which, from the accompaniments of flowers, garlands and wreaths, are judged by the antiquarians to be of a spring fes-tival, a feast of flowers. May Day is therefore at least 4500 years old. When traces of May Day are discov-ered in the earliest ages of Egypt and at the dawn of history in Greece, among the Etruscaus, among the Celts of the Rhone and the Germans of the Rhine, in Scandinavia and Wales and Ireland, among the natives of the Indian Peninsula and among the Aborigines of America and Australia and New Guinea, the conclusion is safe that such a custom is of universal observance and remotest antiquity. it may be that the Chinese are not as extravagant as they seem when they claim that May Day originated in the Celestial Empire 90,000 years before



MAY DAY DANCE OF LONDON BOOTBLACKS,

the flood, being instituted by the never-to-be-enough-praised Emperor Chi-Whee, who was fond of flowers and employed exactly 1,000,000 men

to take care of his garden.

Leaving, however, the claims of the glorious Chi-Whee to be defended by his own people, it is worth remembering that a festival, in many particulars bearing a close resemblance to our May Day, was celebrated all over every one who could spare the time went into the woods and fields for a day's outing, gathered flowers and returning laid them on the altars of It is also interesting to know, Flora. that on these occasions the goddess of flowers was personated by a young girl, the prettiest who could be found, who, during the day, received the homage of her friends and was flowers, which the country people, in the hope of gaining shekels, or oboli

The custom of remembering the day, however, still survives, and little girls wearing garlands, and carrying with them a doll decorated with flowers, termed the "Lady of the May," still go about the towns on this day, pre-senting their doll to the passers-by as a modest hirt for halfpence.

May pole to be found in all England.

It is a strange circumstance that the that great metropolis who now do honor to the May Day. When Pepys was keeping his journal the whole gather flowers and wash their faces in dew for good luck and looks, but the May, while in Mexico and Peru, the custom gradually fell in caste until finally it remains only among the dregs of society. Every May Day, however, it is religiously observed by the street boys, who, with green branches or leaves in their hands, parade to the music of a fife and drym. rade to the music of a fife and drum, attended by two or three figures fantestically attired and a "jack-in-the-x," whboo is indispensable to the oc-casion. Who the jack originally represented, or what was the significance of his presence on so joyous an occa-sion, can not now be ascertained, but he is always on hand, and in different countries assumes different forms. From street to street goes the little procession of ragged and dirty folk. halting here and there to dance and caper about, while one of the number diligently passes the hat to collect such pennies as the spectators feel like contributing, but, poor and dingy as it may be, it is one of the survivals of the grand parades in honor of Flora, of which emperors and kings were proud to be a part. In France there are more remains of

the old-time customs, and even to the present day the dance of the milk-maids marching in procession with their cows is seen in scores of villages Italy and the south of Europe at the statis season. That the dance origibeginning of the Christian era, when nated with dairy people is unquestat this season is a hint of the same tioned, and it was probably once limited to their numbers, but now it is transient as a jovial custom like this, participated in by any young women nothing is, in reality, more perma-who choose, the only requisite being nent, and the manner in which appar-

that they shall wear a dairy maid's hat. When the pole was at the height of its glory in England it was also in great favor in the Low Countries, where May poles as high as the mast tant from our own. crowned with the spoils of the fields, a of a three-decker were often set up. genuine Queen of the May. As cities grew, it became inconvenient to go far into the country, for the excursion be ascertained from the remains of the steamers and railroad trains packed paint with which they were formerly full of pleasure seekers were not, and a substitute was found by bringing a tree into town, setting it in the ground in a public place, decorating it with flowers, which the country people, in ornamented the top with an iron band, which, at the time of the annual festior denarii, or whatever other coin was val, was covered with flowers, thus legal tender for debts public and primaking a very presentable wreath. A vate in the neighborhood, were easily | tub containing a tree or shrub was oc-



THE DANCE OF THE MILKMAIDS IN PROVENCE.

induced to bring in. Thus, in the May pole is seen the descendant of the green tree, and the dancing about it in circles is explained by the fact that the only way to dance around it at all is in a circle, and also, perhaps, the circle has always had a mystic significance, being much used in charms and incantations.

From authors of our own tongue we may glean almost innumerable references and allusions to the pretty enstom of hallowing the May Day, and we also learn that less than 200 years ago the May pole was as indispensable in every English village as the stocks or the pillory. When the Puritans came into power the May Day dancing and flower gathering were tabooed and May poles were all cet down. But after grim old Oliver passed away the people began to amuse themselves again, erected talier May poles than were ever known before, and danced

casionally substituted for the wreath, but as the tub was hard to get up and easy to fall down, it was not in much

In the quiet country districts of France, Germany and Italy there are still queens of the May, young girls who are on this day crowned queens of the festivities. A little floral arbor is provided, in which the queen sits in state all day long, taking no part in the festivities; no one speaks to her; save a bow or courtesy in passing, no one pays her any special attention, and the situation would seem rather dreary, but the honor of the position has compensations, and at every May Day there is lively competition among

the various candidates. In many parts of Europe the May festival takes the form of games and athletic sports of various kinds. In England thefe were formerly the Robin ated is shown by the fact that of late

from the ballads which are the principal literary survivals of the famous hunter. Every entertainment, at one time or another, has a contest in archery as a special feature, a peculiarity of the Swiss games also, which have probably inherited this part of their programme from the exploits of William Tell.



It is a singular fact, as showing not chimney sweeps and bootblacks of only the university of the custom, but London should be the only people in also the fact that all the varieties probably had one origin, that many of the features of the celebration in was keeping his journal the whole countries very widely separated are court used to go out at sunrise to almost identical. The Chinese, as well as the English, had a Queen of the



QUEEN OF THE MAY IN EUROPE.

thing. While there seems nothing so ently frivolous and meaningless cele-brations are handed down from parents to children, from race to race, constitutes one of the bonds which unite us to remote ages and countries far dis-

A NATION OF READERS.

Now Have a Library.

where the percentage of illiteracy is lower than in the United States, but there is no country more deserving to be called a nation of readers. The peasantry of other lands rarely make a practice of reading; but in America the laborer, the artisan and the farmer are ardent readers of the daily newspapers, and often of class publications, even if they do not venture into the field of general literature. The magazines owe their enormous circulation to their widespread love of reading, there being dozens of them that sell more than a hundred thousand copies every month, thus proving that they must go into millions of households.

The tremendous and ever-increasing output of books is another testimonial of the habit of the people. This growth of love for reading must to a great extent influence their lives for the better; and although it by no means follows that a library will make readers, there can be no denying the fact that a convenient and comfortable room, with something of artistic sim-plicity and finish about it, set apart



PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

were ever known before, and danced about them harder than ever. But, as often happens in such cases, when nobody opposed the May Day and its pole, both soon fell into "innocuous desuctude," and now there is hardly a mime representing some scene chosen addition to the dining-room, one was broken of years a very large proportion of the houses built contain a room set apart for that purpose. It is well within the memory that when a house contained two rooms on the first floor in 000 of people in the D

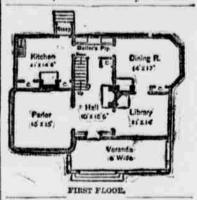
called "front parlor" and the other "back parlor," or, more euphoniously, perhaps, parlor and reception room. At the present time, however, one of the rooms is almost invariably dubbed "the library," even if it has only a

beggarly array of books.

It is meet and fitting that the library should be a general sitting room and the place where the best of the home life centres. Most plans that are drawn now give the library one of the choicest locations in the house, and full advantage is taken of this fact in the fitting and furnishing of the

Reds and browns are the most pleasing colors, but these may be shaded to light fawn color, terra cotta, or warm yellow if necessary. There may be a panelled ceiling and hardwood floor, the latter covered with rich Oriental rugs, if means permit. Of course these are not essential; some of the most delightful libraries have merely papered ceilings, and floors covered with cheaper carpets or dark mattings.

In a new house where everything is planned from the beginning, the prob-lem of fitting the library is compara-tively simple. Instead of movable bookcases, which are always cumber-

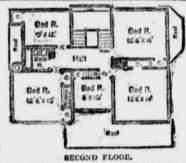


some, low shelves should be arranged around the walls as permanent fixthe ceiling to fill odd corners. Dust is a great enemy of books, and to keep this out is the excuse many people give for sticking to the old-fashioned way of having bookeases with glass doors; but this end is just as well obtained by placing escaloped leather valances on the shelves, or hanging attractive India silk curtains in front of them.

The central feature of the room should be an elegant library table for books and magazines, a desk made for writing and not for mere display, one or two straight-backed chairs, several easy-chairs and a comfortable lonnge.

The attached plan shows that the architect has provided a most attractive library, finished in cherry, with flooring of maple, the whole room lending itself to the most artistic furnishing, and that without a great cutter. outlay of money.

The arrangement and sizes of the rooms are shown by the floor plans, the width of the house being forty-



four feet four inches, and depth, including veranda, twenty-five feet two inches.

This design can be built in the vicinity of New York for about three thousand five hundred dollars, though There may be one or two countries in many sections of the country the here the percentage of illiteracy is cost should be much less. Copyright 1897.



the engagement was



broken off.

Heli Chatelain, the traveler in Africa, says that among the 200,000,-000 of people in the Dark Continent.