THE STATESMAN.

AUSTIN, TEXAS.

THUSRDAY - - - - - MAR. 1, 1883

PRESIDENT GREENE, of the Western Union, announces that his company has taken full possession of the Mutual Union wires.

MR. HUNTINGTON has, beyond any doubt, bought all the Charles Morgan interests and will take control of railways and steamship lines in April.

THE public men who may fall under this penitentiary lease are not a few; and destruction lurks not only about the legislative halls, but about departments.

THE full text of the land bill, as passed by the senate yesterday, is presented in these columns. It will probably be adopted by the house, with slight amendments.

THE legislature of Tennessee is getting agitated over the matter of state resumption of penitentiary and convicts. The lease system has been tried there for many years, and it now fails to give satisfaction.

TO SPEAK plainly about these leases of penitentiaries and convicts, their perpetuation would be the greatest of outrages committed upon Texas, and members of the eighteenth legislature would have to bear the responsibility of it.

HENRY WARD BEECHER'S son is in San Antonio, and the Express tells that he has a penchant for fine horse flesh. The Beechers are noted for penchants. Even the old man has taken a tilt-on a good thing more than once.

THE Nashville World reports Col. Polk in a feeble condition. He has but a short lease of life, in jail or out of it. His bondsmen have agreed to settle his liabilities by the payment of $300,000 in the new issue of Tennessee bonds.

IT IS said the Chenoweth railway bill is absolutely expiring of too much mysterious investigation. The denouement brought about by the issuance of that wonderful pamphlet was too much for it, and it ekes out the last days of a sickly existence.

PLANTERS and their agents are now in Austin ready to offer as high as $20 per month for penitentiary convicts; yet they are leased for fifteen years for a fraction over sixty-two cents per month to favored contractors. Can the legislature afford to endorse these leases because of personal influences brought to bear upon members?

SENATOR GIBBS is absent at his home in Dallas. His conservatism upon all questions, his distinguished ability and fairness in debate, and his untiring labors in behalf of all measures in the interest of the state, have shown him to be the peer of any member of the senate. Since the senate convened he has not, until now, missed a roll call.

BRADLAUGH has taken his seat in parliament, and, if the house of commons has recovered its wonted common sense, it will not make any further efforts to remove him. According to the spirit of British institutions, he has a perfect right to his seat, having been legally elected, and, if allowed quietly to hold it he will be harmless; but if again cast out the temper of a certain portion of the English people may make it very hot for the government.

GOV. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, asked the legislature to look into state prison management. It is supposed the superintendent was around lobbying against investigation; at least, the legislature did not investigate. The governor then instructed the convicts to write him fully as to their treatment and the evils of prison management, and the result was, on averaging the testimony, that the superintendent was decided wanting, and he was notified his services were no longer wanted for the state. Butler knows how to smell them up, and then he knows how to snatch officials.

IT IS said that the most eminent men of letters are readily persuaded to accept professorships in the German universities, though the pay is almost uniformly small. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the great German educational institutions make such strenuous efforts to secure men of note that the very selection of a scholar and the offer of a chair is an honor so greatly coveted as to be esteemed preferable to money. Bonn has eighty-seven professors and its entire salary list is less than $125,000. The salaries of all the seven hundred and twenty-five professors in German universities aggregate less than $750,000, which is little more than $1000 per annum each.

IN a letter which reached Austin yesterday from "Bayland Orphan Home" comes this appeal:

But for the sake of the children I should have resigned at the close of the year. On account of these children I have submitted to humiliations and hardships. I plead their cause now alone. In the name of humanity, of Christianity and all that is good, I plead for their emancipation from their prison house. They are not paupers only as they are made so by coming here—they are not criminals nor convicts; why keep them in prison bounds, away from their friends, cut off entirely from the world? For several weeks past only in one direction have the children been able to go over two hundred yards from the building, because of the water. To-day is Sabbath. Our houses are cold and dreary, not a comfortable room on the place where we can have service. In our open, rough, barn-like school house, no more to be warmed than out doors, we had morning service for less than an hour, as long as the children could stand it. When colder we have no service, no day school. Our dining-room is open and cold, our kitchen is bad. Why a board of men should want to put women and children in such a building is more than I can understand.

For twenty-four hours, during the beating rain, three or four streams of water ran across our room, rain beating in, under and over the rotten window casings. Such is the house in the picture you have; the other is worse. Who will say that the above state of affairs is a credit to the state of Texas and her noble manhood and womanhood?

These are facts for the consideration of the legislature, to which appeal has been made in behalf of these poor children. The committee to which their cause has been referred will do a wise and a holy thing to recommend aid.

CAREER OF C. P. HUNTINGTON.

As a ruler of railway organizations, it becomes questionable now whether Mr. Huntington does not outrank Mr. Gould. The latter has dealt largely in railways, while the former not only buys but builds the greatest of railway lines. It will, no doubt, interest the people of Texas to read a sketch of this wonderful man. The following is taken from the Railway Age:

Mr. Huntington was born on the 22d of October, 1821, at Harwinton, in Litchfield county, Connecticut. He comes of a lineage which counts among its noted men Samuel Huntington, one of the signers of the declaration of independence, president of the Continental congress and governor and chief-justice of Connecticut; Bishop F. D. Huntington and the painter, Daniel Huntington. Mr. Huntington's father was a farmer and a manufacturer, depending on his own labor for pocket money.

When young Huntington was fourteen years of age he left school and asked his father to "give him his time" on condition that he should thenceforth support himself. A proof of the confidence which the boy inspired in those who knew him, that not only did his father consent to this proposition, but when he came to New York, at the age of fifteen, he was able to obtain credit for a small purchase of goods with which he began his career as a merchant, a country neighbor of his father's not only vouching for him, but saying, "You may send me all of Huntington's notes; he is sure to pay." When about twenty-three he settled at Oneonta, Otsego county, New York, as a general merchant.

Soon after, in September, 1844, he had got on well enough in business to think of settling himself in life, and he took a Connecticut lady for a wife, who proved herself to be a fit helpmate for a man of his indomitable energy and spirit. In October, 1848, he made a shipment of goods to California, where a rush of gold-seekers had created a sudden demand for various products, and followed the consignment.

He sailed for San Francisco, by way of the Isthmus, in March, 1849, at the age of twenty-eight, in perfect health, active, very strong, with an iron frame and good New England habits. Arriving in San Francisco, he saw at once that that city, then the rendezvous of the idlers, was not the place for him, and on the very morning of his arrival after eating a frugal breakfast, hunted up a vessel going to Sacramento.

He found a schooner, the master of which offered him a dollar an hour to help load her, and he earned his passage money in this way. Here he, in a small way and with a limited supply of goods, began that business career in California which made him one of the foremost merchants of the state. He was quick to see a profit, and was widely known for fair dealing. He retained his New England habits, and was up and at work before the earliest of his clerks. Here Mr. Huntington made the acquaintance of Mark Hopkins, and a business copartnership was formed. By 1856 the firm had accumulated a handsome fortune. Their house was one of the most solid on the coast. It was in their store that the scheme of a transcontinental railroad was matured. The war, however, just then began, and those most forward in the project became disheartened. Then Mr. Huntington came forward with a new proposition. "I will," he said, "be one of ten, or eight, if Hopkins agrees, to bear the whole expense of a careful and thorough survey;" and the result was that in 1861 seven men entered into a compact that they would pay out of their own pockets all the expenses of a complete survey for a railroad across the mountains. Of these seven, one died, and, the difficulties proving greater as they advanced, one dropped out. The remaining five organized in earnest the Central Pacific railroad company. Mr. Huntington then came east. He remained in Washington looking after the Pacific railroad bill until it was passed and signed. His opinion of the venture was well expressed in his telegram announcing to his partner his success: "We have drawn the elephant." He then set out at once for New York to arrange with hesitating and doubting capitalists for feeding the ravenous beast.

It was now that all his qualities of persistence, courage, financial ability and knowledge of men were brought to the test.

Instead of begging among speculators, or pledging his bonds for material, he boldly announced that he would not part with the bonds except for cash, and that he would not sell any unless a million and a half were taken. His boldness won; but when the required amount was bid for the purchaser timidly desired some further security. Mr. Huntington made himself and his firm responsible for the whole amount, and it was on this pledge of their private fortune that the first fifty miles of the Central Pacific were built. When, later, the treasure chest was so low as to make it necessary either to diminish the laboring force on the work, or raise more means, he was again equal to the emergency. "We have no time to lose," he said, "and we must do it ourselves. Huntington & Hopkins can keep 500 men at work for a year at their own charge; how many will the rest of you undertake?" and it was agreed that the five associates should maintain, out of their private means, 800 men on the road for one year. That resolution ended their troubles.

At that time the government held the first mortgage on the road and franchises, and no government subsidy bonds were to be received until sections of fifty miles of road had been completed.

It was his task to remain in the east, not only to raise money, but to purchase and forward material and supplies, every rail and wheel of which must be purchased six to eight months in advance of its delivery. It is sometimes said that Mr. Huntington and his associates of the Pacific railroad company have been enriched by the bounty of the government. This is a misconception of the facts. He would have been a rich man if he had never touched the Pacific railroad. He has been heard to say that he thought it would have been better for the company had it never received any government aid, and he and his associates certainly never would have undertaken the work had they supposed the government would break faith with the company.

Mr. Huntington continues to live in New York, where he manages the affairs of the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific railroad systems, as well as those as the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad system, the greater part of which he has built, and many other great enterprises. In person, he is tall, of vigorous build, with grayish blue eyes, an aquaine nose and a firm, solid jaw. His favorite relaxation is reading. He has formed a large and well selected library, and has a familiar acquaintance with the best books in it. He has also gathered a large and very valuable collection of paintings. Friends and business acquaintances know him as the possessor of shrewd wit, and an admirable story teller. His years and labors have not told heavily upon him. He is still a hard worker, but when he leaves his desk for the day he leaves his business cares behind him. His charities are large—how large no one but himself knows, for so many are bestowed quietly—and judiciously given.

He has been heard to say that he would much rather furnish the poor the means whereby they could earn their bread, believing promiscuous alms-giving demoralizing to the recipient. His sympathy for the negro and Indian has led him to erect on the grounds of the Hampton normal and agricultural institute of Virginia, and present to it, what that institution has named the "Huntington industrial works," a form of charity which is calculated to help in making the students self-supporting and self-respecting. In religion, Mr. Huntington is a Universalist.

Among the systems controlled and operated by him and his associates, the executive business of which is largely directed from Mr. Huntington's office, are:

	Miles.
Chesapeake and Ohio	2,31
Trans-Mississippi	1,253
Southern Pacific	1,962
Central Pacific	2,229
Total	7,935

The above does not take into account the street railroads nor the steamship lines in which Mr. Huntington is a large owner—lines plying to the Chesapeake bay, to Brazil, Japan and China and other ports of the world, nor the roads under construction and in part operated in Mexico and Central America."

The Penitentiaries.

[Greenville Herald.]

A petition has been presented to the legislature, signed by a large number of citizens of Walker county, asking the state to resume the control and management of the penitentiaries and convicts. This petition, coming from the county in which the main penitentiary is located, and citizens who are familiar with the cruelties and abuses practiced under the present system of managing the convicts, is entitled to serious consideration. It says:

We believe the present system, with its illegal cruelties perpetrated by ir-

More Humane Treatment.

[Brenham Banner.]

The Dallas Herald, referring to the late revolt in the Sing Sing penitentiary, makes a strong appeal for the humane treatment of convicts, and expresses the opinion that in a majority of the penitentiaries the convicts are badly treated. It is only a few days ago that the Banner referred to the ease with which a favorable report could be secured from an investigating committee. The investigations should be more thorough than they are under ordinary circumstances.

An Unjust Reflection.

[Galveston Print.]

The National Republican newspaper at Washington estranged its Jewish patrons by saying that Judah P. Benjamin had none of the characteristics of the Jew but his stinginess. It was certainly a very foolish thing for the Republican to say. The Jews are not remarkable for stinginess. No people enjoy themselves more rationally and more thoroughly. No people take better care of their poor and helpless. No people appeal little to the charity of others while contributing so much to charities outside of their own. No people entertain with more large-hearted and liberal hospitality or do so much for public amusement. But Jews are seldom drunkards, rowdies and spendthrifts. Instead they are usually sober, industrious and economical, and hence they are prosperous and frequently become rich.

Only Half True.

[Boston Herald.]

The charge that the Democrats in congress stand in the way of tariff revision is not true, though it may be half true. A majority of the Democrats in both houses would be glad to have the tariff settled by the Republicans, and to avoid trouble when they come into power in the next congress. But these Democrats want real reduction and not a sham measure. On the other hand, a majority of the Republicans, aided by a few Pennsylvania and Georgia Democrats, want to "make believe" revise the tariff without any real reduction. Do Judge Kelley and Samuel J. Randall want to pass a tariff measure that amounts to anything? Of course not. They will prefer to let matters rest as they are. A majority of the Democrats of the house were ready to adopt the senate schedule on metals, more liberal than that of the ways and means committee, but the Republicans forgot their haste and refused the proposition with derision.

For Resumption.

[Sherman Courier.]

A minority report of the senate committee on penitentiaries, which is exhaustive on that subject, and in opposition to the cases now under consideration, has been submitted, and is creating considerable stir among the solons. It deals with plain facts and figures, showing that the state by leasing is giving away thousands of dollars to individuals, who make great fortunes out of the convicts. It is in favor of the state itself managing the penitentiaries. There seems to be considerable feeling against the state speculating in convict labor, but this opposition comes mostly from a faction that favors the speculative bidders. We cannot see where the harm is in the state managing its own convicts, and deriving a profitable revenue to aid in running our criminal courts, and defraying at least a portion of the heavy expense of prosecutions. It cannot be half so immoral to make a per cent from the labor of the criminals as it is to let them out in job lots to contractors who use and treat them as if they were a herd of unfeeling cattle, with no thought of reformation when their terms of sentence expire.

THE SCHOOL POLL TAX.

Mr. Terrell, for a minority of same committee, presented a favorable report on senate joint resolution No. 27, proposing the payment of a poll tax for the benefit of the public free schools, as a qualification to vote in this state, and the undersigned respectfully dissent from the adverse report made thereon by the committee on constitutional amendments. The joint resolution proposes to limit the elective franchise to those who pay a poll tax, at least thirty days before voting, to be evidenced by the receipt of the tax collector, which shall be stamped as "voted" when the vote is cast, and returned to the owner. It exempts from such payment of taxes the soldiers of the Mexican war, and of the Texas revolution and "those who, from age, infirmity or physical disability shall be unable to earn a support."

Those who object to the proposed amendment do so upon the grouud that it requires, in effect, a property qualification to vote. The reverse is true; for it proposes in express terms to repeal the property qualification already in the constitution of this state, and extend the right of free suffrage to all "who from age, infirmity or physical disability are unable to earn a support."

Section 1, article 4, of the constitution of Texas provides: "The following class of persons" shall not vote in this state, viz: * * *. Third: "All paupers supported by the county." No matter how intelligent or patriotic that pauper may be (nor does it matter in what battle for his country he was disabled), he cannot vote, because the curse of poverty is on him. The joint resolution proposes to correct this, and to wipe from the constitution that property qualification.

But it goes further, and requires all those who are able to earn an honest living, to do something for the support of the state government, while enjoying its protection and benefits.

It requires each citizen whose children are being educated by the taxes paid by other men to contribute a poll tax, of less than two dollars, to help in that laudable work. To pay so small a sum is within the power of every able-bodied man, and enough its payment by him is but a small evidence that he takes an interest in public affairs, it is some evidence. A requirement to pay it harmonizes our system of state government, with the theory, old as the revolution of '76, that "taxation and representation should go hand in hand." This was the battle cry of the first revolution.

The undersigned cannot subscribe to the theory that all the burdens of government should be visited alone on those whose industry has accumulated visible property. The profligate and the vicious enjoy equally with the industrious the protection of the laws, the free education of their children and the administration of justice, and they should not jeopardize by their votes the excellence of those laws, unless they contribute something to support government, and thus show an interest in its administration.

The joint resolution does not propose to disqualify from voting those who fail to pay a property tax, for the simple reason that property when taxed can be seized by the tax collector and sold, and payment can be thus compelled.

The comptroller's report shows that the school delinquent and uncollected poll-tax for the year 1882 was over $92,000—enough money to give four months' instruction to 20,000 children of those poll-tax delinquents. If the proposed change in the constitution should have no other effect than to induce those who should have paid that tax to pay it in future, it will relieve to that extent the industrious element of society whose property is taxed to educate the children of those delinquents.

The character of those who should have paid that delinquent poll tax cannot be disguised. They consist chiefly of the thriftless, idle and semi-vagrant element of society of both races, whose number, as shown by the above figures, is alarming. They are often the fathers of children for whose education others are taxed, and use the elective franchise reckless of results, and too often on election day they are the pliant tools of designing men. In many localities they are so numerous that our best citizens will not become candidates for positions of trust, because they will not resort to the means deemed necessary to secure the element known as "the floating vote."

The joint resolution proposes that the payment of the poll tax shall be at least thirty days before the election. Thus some security is found in the fact that no one would attempt to control the vote of a corrupt man by advancing money to pay his poll tax thirty days in advance of his vote. It proposes also that the collector's certificate of the tax payment shall be stamped when the vote is cast, and this affords security against fraudulent repeating.

The tax collector of any county can furnishing startling revelations concerning the character of these delinquent poll tax payers. They often represent the extremes of society. The bankrupt husband living in luxury, pays an ad valorem tax on the property of his wealthy wife, and laughs at the effort to collect from him a poll tax. The poor negro, who has but one horse, is compelled to pay it, for its collection can be enforced by the sale of his horse; while the vicious and reckless of both races who own nothing, and constitute the most active element at elections, escape its payment altogether.

If a property qualification is feared as likely at some time to follow the adoption of the proposed amendment, it is respectfully suggested that the state constitution in article 11, section 10, already contains it. It is there provided that no one but a tax payer in a city or town can vote to levy a tax for school purposes. If a system of local taxation for schools shall be extended to the the rural districts, the same rule must be adopted, or property would be confiscated under the taxing power, by the votes of those who have children and own nothing. It is believed that all of your committee concede this to be true, and favor such a tax in school districts. The undersigned cannot subscribe to the doctrine that the payment of a property tax is necessary to qualify one to vote in a city or school district, and yet, that not even a poll tax should be required of him who votes for governor and state officers; unless it be true that the good of society is more involved in local elections than in general elections, where the highest interests of the lives, liberty and property of all the people of the state are concerned.

The proposition involved in the joint resolution is not new and is recognized in the constitutions of many of the states.

In Georgia the citizen cannot vote unless he has paid all the taxes due to the state. [Constitution of 1858.]

In Tennessee no one is permitted by the constitution to vote unless he has paid a poll tax.

In New Hampshire no one can vote who does not pay taxes to support government, and this has been the law since 1798.

In New Jersey, as in Texas, no pauper can vote.

In Pennsylvania no man can vote who has not paid a state or county tax, at least one month before the election.

In Rhode Island no one can vote who is not "really and truly possessed of real estate of the value of $134 above all incumbrances," and his deed must have been recorded ninety days before the election.

In Connecticut the voter must be of good moral character, and must have paid a county tax before he offers to vote. [Constitution of 1873.]

The tendency to relieve the ballot-box from the incubus of vice and ignorance is shown by the constitutions of other states.

In Massachusetts the voter must be able to write his name and read in the English language the constitution of his state, while Missouri, Colorado and Florida fix a period in the near future after which an educational qualification shall be required.

While the undersigned do not advocate a property qualification, it is respectfully submitted that liberty is only such when regulated by law, and that the union of communism and democracy has through all time, when successful, culminated in despotism the most terrible. There is no error concerning government more fallacious than the belief that elections or the ballot are the sole basis of liberty. Though liberty requires elections, yet when they are not controlled by intelligence and patriotism, they become its most terrible enemies.

Those who achieved our independence were more jealous than we of their privileges, and when they organized new territories, suffered no one to vote unless they had a fixed interest in the soil. The act of the congress of July 13, 1787, organizing the Northwest Territory, now covered by the states of Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, permitted no one to vote at a territorial election unless he owned fifty acres of land. [Sec. 10.]

The men who made this law were the companions of Washington in achieving independence, and staked their fortunes and lives on the doctrine that "taxation and representation should go hand in hand."

The joint resolution proposes no such extreme qualification as Jefferson, Madison and the fathers of Democracy imposed on the voters in territories. It requires not a property tax, but a poll (or head) tax, and the advocates of manhood suffrage who fear it, must place a low estimate on that manhood which rebels at paying less than $2 a year to help the state educate its children.

The industries of both races would, in the judgment of the undersigned, gladly now engraft the change on the constitution if it were submitted to them. The proposition has been twice canvassed in the senatorial district embracing the capital of the state, and twice approved by overwhelming majorities.

With a firm confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the laboring and property-holding voters of Texas, the undersigned dissent from the report of the committee, and recommend the passage of the joint resolution, that the people may vote on the same.

A. W. TERRELL,
BARNET GIBBS,
F. L. JOHNSTON, of Shelby,
J. A. PEACOCK,
GEORGE PFEUFFER,
A. E. STRATTON.

PERSONAL.

Julia Ward Howe is said to have abandoned the principles of woman suffrage.

Gov. Cleveland, of New York, expects to save $7000 a year out of a $10,000 salary.

President Arthur's name heads the list of the signers of the petition for co-education at Columbia.

Gladstone owes his long life to a phenomenal constitution, aided by a celebrated physician, whose commands he obeys implicitly.

Mrs. McElroy, the president's sister, who has presided over the social entertainments at the white house this winter, has already become a favorite in Washington society. She is an accomplished musician, and her singing and playing are greatly admired.

"Emerson, as a poet and essayist, was rated sixth or seventh in his class in Harvard," writes Josiah Quincy, whose letters have just been published. The names of the six or seven geniuses greater than Emerson have, unfortunately, escaped the memory of the biographer.

The late Marshall Jewell, who used to be connected with a Hartford fire insurance company, is said to have mounted a box amidst the ruins of the Chicago fire and assured the business men about him that his company's policies would be paid in full, and, with the top of his high hat for a desk, he there signed the first draft, indemnifying a skeptical merchant who desired to test his sincerity.

The Penitentiaries.

[Brenham Banner.]

The minority report of the senate committee opposes the ratification of the leases now claiming so much attention, and it favors resumption on the part of the states. The STATESMAN says "there are those who repeat Gov. Roberts' sentiment, that the state should not make money out of convicts; but these very people want individuals to make money out of them." It has been estimated that it costs the state on an average over $300 for each convict sent to the penitentiary. A majority of the convicts are sent for short terms, say from two to five years, there being probably more two year men than any other term. Now it is evident that the state does not and cannot get $300 for the work of a convict for two years, so the state actually loses money on her convicts no matter how they are worked. The people are taxed to pay the expenses of the courts in convicting criminals and if they can be so managed as to be made to reimburse the state we are unable to see that any injustice is done to the convict. Once convicted of a felony the criminal forfeits all right to sympathy and sentimentality; he is entitled to humane treatment, he should be sufficiently clothed to protect him from the inclemency of the weather and given plenty of wholesome food, and then be made to earn his living by hard labor. If his labor can be made to pay the expenses of his trial, conviction, transportation to the penitentiary and maintenance, it is nothing more than just to honest people who pay the taxes. The proper policy for the state to pursue is to make all it can out of the penitentiary, either by leasing it or assuming control, which, ever may be deemed most expedient.

What People Eat.

The editor of the Christian Statesman, published at Milwaukee, says he was lately informed by a railroad official that he transported over his road at one time four tons of cockle seed, to be ground up and mixed with black pepper. A confectioner of that city recently received a letter with a bandsomely lithographed head, from a New York firm of "importers, manufacturers and exporters," whose business was "established in 1820." The letter says: "Inclosed please find sample of refined French terra alba which we offer at seven-eighths cents per pound. Barrels included. Packed in handsomely new barrels and branded 'California Beet Sugar.' Freight to Chicago $3.70 per 100 lbs. Shipped as sugar." Terra alba is merely a finely powdered white earth. This earth is largely mixed with the cheap candies. Some of the baking powders are made of this earth and ammonia. There are mills in which nothing is ground but terra alba. Gypsum is also largely used. Shiploads of this article are sent to China to be used in making green tea. Another letter, also from an enterprising New York firm, says: "If you use terra alba, we can sell you goods like the inclosed sample at one and a half cents per pound. It is put up in sugar barrels, and each barrel is stenciled 'Imported Potato Starch,' and shipped as such." A firm of Philadelphia druggists show quite equal enterprise. They offer through their agent 100 pounds of an article they call "California Sugar" for 90 cents, for which they have a large trade among confectioners. This is sweetness dirt cheap. It is no wonder that our people are afflicted with dyspepsia and debility, and that children die young. Until laws against the adulteration of food are enacted and energetically enforced, we shall have to eat not only the proverbial "peck of dirt" but no end to nastiness, and there is no telling what poisons.

Fish for the Farmer.

No man in the United States is so well fixed for having fresh fish to eat or sell as the farmer. They can, by buying a scraper, do all the work necessary for making one, two or three ponds, with their own labor and their own teams; and if they have not got a spring or running water, they can pump enough to supply their ponds with a ten foot wind-mill. The requisites for success are not many: (1) The pond must be at one side of the stream or runway, so that a heavy rain or freshet cannot wash the fish over the dam. (2) The pond where the fish live through the summer must be shallow, with a mud bottom, but muddy water running in is not desirable. (3) The pond where the fish are wintered must be ten feet deep, with mud bottom, and not disturbed in winter by cutting ice. (4) The fish grow faster by being fed. (5) German carp are the only desirable kind. (6) No other fish or turtles of any kind should be in the ponds. (7) The ponds must be so arranged that every drop of water can be drawn off.

The carp are not ready takers of bait, so they are not so liable to be stolen as other fish. The pipe for drawing the water off can be made of wood, with a leather home-made valve at the inside end. Around this inside end a slatted box should be built to keep the fish from going out and the rubbish from clogging the pipe.

Corporation Lands.

[San Antonio Times.]

One of the dangerous tendencies growing out of the ownership of large property interests in the United States is found in the fact that vast bodies of the public domain in our government are granted to private corporations. The government has recently granted to an English or Scotch company a vast body of land, either in or near the border of New Mexico, which in area is almost equal to an empire. The same mistake (if such it may be called) has been made in Texas. The time was, and only a few years back, when the man who in Texas who owned in his own right 20,000 acres of land, was considered a large land owner, but now the man of 20,000 acres is barely considered a free holder. The time may soon come in the history of this country when the folly of large land grants, and especially those made to corporations, will be fully and forcibly demonstrated. When the government was formed the fathers of the republic, in order to guard against the possibility of a system of landed estates, such as there exist in England, provided in her constitution against "entailments" and "primogeniture," and the same provisions are found in most, if not all, the state constitutions. The wisdom of such constitutional limitations has never been doubted, and when lands remain in the hands of individuals the constitutional provision must not be violated; but when grants are made to corporations the law may not reach them. In law a corporation never dies, hence lands granted to corporations may have the force and effect of creating in the individuals who may compose the corporation a never-ending estate. It is true that a corporation may become the owners of large bodies of land by purchase, and the same results would follow, hence we do not propose to consider the question from a legal standpoint, but rather the effect and consequences of large land grants as affecting the material development of the country under such a policy. We have often asserted that agriculture forms the basis of all material wealth in all countries adapted to such industry, and hence it must follow that the more extensive you make the industry the greater will be the wealth of a nation. And as large land grants tend to retard rather than encourage agricultural pursuits, they work an absolute injury to the country. We find now in Texas, along our western border, many evidences of the evils which have and will grow out of the large land grants. The grants which have been made to railroads, while we think they are wisely made, still they may in time result injuriously to the state for the reason that some of the railway companies, and perhaps all, have taken their lands out of the market and are now leasing them to the flock masters and the cattle men. When these land grants were made such a thing was not looked for, because the value of railroad property is more dependent upon the products of the soil than all other industries combined, and hence they will doubtless soon see the folly of retarding the farming interest along our western border and will put their lands on the market. The corporations which have recently made the large government purchases contemplate engaging in the stock business, and hence the large area of country owned by them will become vast pastures instead of farms. The stock men of the state, and especially the large cattle men of northwestern Texas, are knocking at the door of our legislature for a law either selling or leasing the public domain to them for pastures, and should such a law be passed one of the richest and fairest portions of Texas will continue a wild frontier for years.

Correct the Error.

To the Editor of The Statesman:

Among the fifty odd counties located in northwest Texas, by a law of 1876, there is a mistake in the bestowment of a name which the legislature ought to correct. It was doubtless a clerical mistake in the engrossment or enrollment of the bill. The name given is Dickens, "as a martyr of the Alamo." No one of that name fell in the Alamo. The name intended was evidently Dickinson, in honor of Almeron Dickinson, lieutenant of artillery, whose wife and infant were spared and are known of throughout the country. The most perfect list of those martyrs, corrected from every known source, can be seen in possession of Gov. Pease, Gen. Andrew Neill and probably others in Austin; and in all accounts of that event the name of Lieut. Dickinson has been classed as fifth in prominence, following those of Travis, Bowie, Crockett and Bonham. The writer has been of this opinion from the first, but was not absolutely sure of there being no "Dickens" on the roll until these lists could be examined. Let us have

THE RIGHT NAME.

THE STATESMAN OUT WEST.

KERRVILLE, Feb. 20, 1882.

To the Statesman Publishing Company, Austin, Texas:

Your card of 12th inst. informing me that I am indebted for subscription to January 4, 1884, in the amount of $4 is at hand, and enclosed you have the amount by check on John Tobig, banker, at San Antonio.

I have been one of your subscribers for many years and believe you are generally about right upon all questions of public interest, and venture to express a hope that you will not join the crusade against railroads until we in this out-of-the-way section, who are willing and anxious for the chance to pay five cents per mile fare, shall have obtained some of its advantages. Very truly yours,

JOS. A. TIVY.

A Road Law.

[Brenham Banner.]

The Austin STATESMAN, referring to the demand for a road law, says that bad roads cost the people of Texas millions of dollars annually. Stock is overworked and injured in hauling on bad roads and produce that should be in market is kept at home at great loss to farmers. Every winter the people of the towns are placed under involuntary contribution by being compelled to pay from $6 to $12 per cord for wood which, were roads good, they could buy at from $2.50 to $4 per cord. But unfortunately human nature is perverse, and some men would rather pay $15 a cord for wood than to contribute $10 towards repairing roads and bridges. The people of the state are almost unanimous in their demand for a better road law, and the solons of the legislature will be recreant if they do not formulate one.

Per Capita Statistics.

Mr. Chambers, of Tarrant, makes the following statement from census reports for 1880, as to the total valuation of property in Texas for that year:

Total value.....$311,470,736
Total population.....1,591,749

Which shows a per capita wealth of $195.60 for the whole state. The following is the compilation for the several named counties, and is interesting, as far as it shows in connection with pro rata questions which may come before the legislature as to the distribution of the wealth of the state, and especially as to the pro rata distribution of the state schoox tax. It gives but a few counties of the state, but serves as an index:

COUNTIES.	Wealth 1880.	Population 1880.	Amount pro rata 1880.
Dallas	$ 8,441,330	33,488	$252 13
Galveston	15,530,781	24,131	643 60
Grayson	5,262,532	25,985	200 26
Bexar	10,111,883	55,476	231 20
Fannin	4,189,515	25,501	163 90
Fayette	5,034,843	27,996	180 00
Harrison	7,060,746	38,108	182 00
Hill	8,834,214	27,987	314 00
Tarrant	3,210,624	25,171	127 00
Milam	4,834,160	24,671	196 00
McLennan	6,672,98	36,934	214 00
Navarro	2,781,332	18,659	150 00
Nacogdoches	4,832,408	21,702	223 00
San Augustine	1,099,12	11,569	99 00
Smith	534,94	5,084	105 00
Washington	3,274,48	21,863	150 00
Van Zandt	5,315,632	27,565	192 00
Brazoria	2,129,979	12,619	118 00
Brazos	3,338,840	14,016	238 00
Henderson	2,147,070	13,876	159 00
	1,248,110	9,735	129 00

Mr. Gebhardt has distinguished himself again. He summoned before him the cook at the Cincinnati hotel where Mrs. Langtry is a guest and swore so much that the cook "invited him to go outside and fight." "I can pluck a goose for you," said the cook, "even if the river is still a-risin'."

Ex-President Hayes, in introducing Senator-elect Colquitt, of Georgia, to a Cleveland audience, spoke of him as one of the most promising of coming men. He is a Democrat and a graduate of Princeton.

One Objection.

[Seguin Times.]

Elsewhere we publish Senator Terrell's poll tax bill. It will be seen that our level headed Senator Pfeuffer agrees with Judge Terrell. Should it become a law the repeaters, dead beats and vicious floating population, whose votes are bartered and sold "like dumb driven cattle," would be nearly the only ones affected by it. Our only objection to it is that it would increase the Democratic majority in Texas, already too large, to over 200,000, and kill the Republican party so dead that the resurrection trump would scarcely reach it.

A SCANDALOUS STORY.

President Arthur's Name in the Mouths of Gossips—The Story as it Grew from a Newspaper Correspondent.

[Special dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—This city is alive just now with one of the biggest scandals which has ever found its way into public print. Every drawing room, bar room, hotel and boarding house teems with it now. The name of the president of the United States is involved in the stories, the details of which are unfit for print, and which shock the most callous ear at every repetition. The following review of the matter appears in an evening paper, the perusal of which will give a better idea of the nature and extent of the scandal than could be otherwise conveyed:

AN INJURED HUSBAND THREATENS TO LICK THE PRESIDENT.

[From Saturday's Pittsburg Leader.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—There has been for some time a good deal of disagreeable gossip of a scandalous nature, in which the name of the president of the United States has been coubled with that of a distinguished lady. There is no apparent ground for these stories further than can be found in the indiscreet conduct of the lady herself, who is as beautiful as distinguished, and who has habitually thrown herself in Mr. Arthur's way, to the scandal of her husband and the soiling of her own honor. Yet these stories have thickened and grown since last summer until now they are in the mouths of every male gossip-monger and on the tongue of every society woman in the capital. It is whispered about to-day that the husband of the lady, who has protested in vain against his wife's reckless exposure of her character to those scandalous insinuations and attacks, has gone higher with his complaint, and has personally threatened to hold Mr. Arthur accountable. If but a small part of what is talked about is true there is a tempest brewing in the neighborhood of the white house which will raise the hair of the whole country.

[The foregoing special originally appeared in Saturday morning's Pittsburg Dispatch, under the heading, "Storm Signals Hoisted Over the Presidential Mansion by an Irate Husband." The dispatch below appeared, so far as we know now, only in the Dispatch.—Ed. Critic.]

THEIR LAST RESORT—STAR ROUTERS CIRCULATE AN IMPROBABLE STORY ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT.

[From Sunday's Pittsburg Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The following story about President Arthur is pretty freely circulated around town to-day: The star route folks—Brady, Dorsey et al—knowing the desperate straits they are in, put a private detective on the track of the president. They discovered (or claim to) that on three separate occasions he left the white house alone and met on the corner of Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania Avenue, just above, a lady of high social standing. (No one seems to know her name, or if they do it has been suppressed.) After meeting, they proceeded on foot, and shadowed by the detective, to a well-known though private house of assignation in the West End. Now the star route people say that unless President Arthur mitigates or entirely suspends the prosecution against them they will disclose the whole matter. Gen. Arthur is a man like other men, and doubtless enjoys life, but that he proceeded to a public assignation house on foot is ridiculous. [Then came correspondence sent to this paper the next day]:

The scandal about the president was eagerly read yesterday morning, upon the arrival of the Pittsburg paper which contained it. But one opinion was held in regard to the sending of such matter to be published, even if true, and that was condemnation, and that it was an unpatriotic thing to do all admitted. The story was sent to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the Philadelphia Times and the Pittsburg Dispatch, the latter of which published it, but the two former papers did not use it. No one believes the story, and it rumored that the husband of the lady—a high state department official—whose fair name is thus brought into dishonor and ill repute, means to proceed against the paper that has injured him so foully. There is but one opinion among the better class of correspondents here, among whom the gossip has been known for several weeks, and that is that it is a reproach to the profession to deal in such material. The subject was the talk of the city all day yesterday, and still continues this morning, and every one unites in condemning the correspondent and paper alike, and express hopes that both sender and publisher may receive punishment. "A."

To this the Critic adds:

THE PRESIDENTIAL SCAN. MAG.—THE AIR FULL OF RUMORS—HOWEVER, THERE'S BEEN NO KNOCK-OUT.

It was rumored on the streets last night, and again to-day, that the alleged trouble between President Arthur and the injured husband had culminated in an assault upon the president. The rumor, however, could not be traced to any definite source. The president was, as usual, "in" to visitors to-day, and did not appear to be, as has been represented by certain special correspondents, in a "sea of trouble." On the contrary, those who saw him say that he was cheerful and in good spirits. Neither the president nor the department official whose name has been mentioned in this connection has a single mark upon his face suggestive of a knock-down, and if they engaged in a fight at all the blows must have been delivered below the belt, which is contrary to the rules of the prize ring, and the battle was therefore declared a draw. There are all sorts of stories going the rounds to-day concerning the president and the aggrieved official. The last story is to the effect that the aggrieved husband has already placed in the hands of Secretary Frelinghuysen his resignation, to take effect immediately.

The correspondent of the Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette has furnished another version of the presidential scandal, in which the whole matter is attributed to the jealousy of certain "leaders in society," who are included in the elegant generalization of

"ANCIENT LADIES."

[Special to the Commercial-Gaz