TEXT BOOKS.

THE WAR FAIRLY COMMENCED.

Superintendent Burt to the Front--He Replies to the Communication Sent to the Senate by Mr. Merrill--A Racy Discussion of the Subject.

Hon. D, Burt, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, sent the following communication to the Legislature yesterday:

Not believing it proper to ask the Senate to print this reply to the personal attack of Mr. Merrill upon myself, it is printed at my own expense.

I ask as an act of justice that persons who have put in circulation copies of his charges, without waiting to ascertain whether they are true or false, should see that they are followed in every instance by copies of this reply.

MATERIALS OF THE ATTACK.

The author of this attack has made quotations from my correspondence, given extracts from an essay written five years ago, ransacked circulars, reported his version of public addresses, adduced alleged conversations between him and myself, and rehearsed what he says I said to somebody who told it to him. To meet these extraordinary tactics, I am forced to refer to some of Mr. Merrill's letters, and also to a conversation of his with myself. I propose to deny some of his assertions and to greatly modify others, but I do not accuse him of intentional misrepresentation. A candid public must not impugn the motives of either party, but weigh the probabilities and form its own conclusions.

THE THEORY OF MR. MERRILL'S CHARGES.

On the 16th of April last, Mr. Merrill wrote me a letter in which he says, "I think you will concede that the law should be carried into active operation under the most liberal construction of its provisions, and that everything should be done which may be done, without positive prohibition, to make its execution the greatest success possible."

With this as a guiding policy, *anything not positively prohibited*, it is not strange that the first scheme offered for my sanction should be in positive violation of our general school law. The letter in question was accompanied by a printed specimen of a blank prepared by the contractor, but so constructed as to appear to be the work of the Superintendent. On this form, which can be seen at my office, district clerks are made to issue the following order, "And the County Treasurer of ——County is hereby directed to retain the amount of the value of said books from any moneys in the treasury, or that may come into the treasury, belonging to this district, in payment of the same."

It requires no lawyer to detect the unlawful feature of this plan, and it was at once rejected by the Superintendent. This was his first offence, and it has never been forgiven. That same blank months before Mr. Merrill knew what books he could secure, and before I, as one of the commission, knew what he would find and submit, required me to instruct clerks to report to me how many books of each kind, to be furnished through the commission, they they woul take.

But in addition to this bold proposition, Mr. Merrill undertook to discharge the duty assigned to me in Section 1 of the law, in the words, "and such other books as may be required by the Superintendent of Public Insiruction." Without having consulted me he inserted in the blank a geography and six writing books of the extra class to be selected by myself. This blank I received while attending an institute in the southern part of the State.

A teacher to whom I showed the scheme remarked, "Mr. Merrill proposes to run the educational affairs of this State."

While I would not say that, yet these statements will show why I have been compelled to stand somewhat on the letter of the law. These facts divest of all force certain charges made against me on this point.

This same policy, of resorting to extreme and questionable measures was proposed to me before the letter of April 16th was written.

"FOR YOUR INTEREST."

Soon after the passage of the law Mr. Merrill came to my office and in my prive room opened the subject by saying, substantially as follows: Now Mr. Burt I want you take right hold of this and help me carry it through. The law gives us a chance, and we must get the books into the schools. The policy of doing anything the law does not squarely forbid was urged, and after beating about awhile, he said in a low very emphatic manner, Mr. Burt, I want to say this. It will be *for your interest* to take hold of this thing and help me carry it through.

These words were uttered in a way that impressed upon my mind beyond the possibility of any failure in memory, the words, "*for your interest.*" I have thought of that expression many times and wondered what it meant. I do not affirm that in the mind of the speaker it had any sordid signification. But I have been unable to see what interest I can have in this business, aside from that of the public schools and the cause of popular education. I told Mr. Merrill then that I should be governed by a regard for the educational welfare of the State, and that, while acting under this rule, I would be friendly to him and favor his plans as far as I deemed them just and right. But this is not satisfactory. He counts me his enemy and impeachment is suggested, because I would not help him to carry out a device for getting estimates for books last April, four months before he had any to offer, on which he could base a bargain with some publisher. I deemed it deregatory to the intelligence of our district clerks to assume that they would commit themselves to books before knowing who their authors would be, or what they would contain. Events have confirmed the wisdom of this position. Many of the books foisted upon us are not only unacceptable to the mass of our best scholars, but some who blindly ordered them for their schools now regret the act. I am perfectly willing to leave my refusal to go into that scheme for pushing unknown books into our schools, to the judgment of the people.

This charge of contumacy in the matter of blanks is refuted by the fact that on the 27th of September I prepared them, both for clerks and county superintendents, and sent copies to every superintendent in the State, informing all that they should be supplied with as many as they wanted. This was done, not because I believe it can be legally required of me, any more than the contractor can ask me to print for him at the expense of the State his bills of sale and shipment.

I asked the Secretary of State to allow me to print these blanks at the expense of the State, that I might illustrate my personal good-will to Mr. Merrill. When these blanks were issued, he had laid no readers before the commission, and the appendices of the grammars and largest arithmetic had not been authorized. I appended a note stating that no readers had been submitted.

LANGUAGE THAT MISLEADS.

In view of these facts the bluster of Mr. Merrill's communication to the Senate on this point indicates something less than sober sense. This policy of resorting to any means not positivly prohibited in order to carry his point has led Mr. Merrill into measures the morality of which I have heard questioned. In a circular of his, dated May 1st, 1877, he says: "The city of St. Paul, being an independent body, acting under a special charter, was exempted from the law."

The charter of St. Paul has nothing to do with the matter. St. Paul as a school district is organized under a special law and a proviso of the text book law exempts *all* special districts in the State. Why not say just this, and not use language calculated to make the impression that this city is the only one in this State not included in his scheme?

After informing us what books are authorized by the Board of Education in this city, he says: "They make no change in books, but get a reduction on those now in use *till* the State books are ready." This language conveys the impression that when the State books were ready, they would be used in St. Paul. Had Mr. Merrill any reason to believe that such would be the fact?

Why did he use language calculated so lead the rural schools to infer that St. Paul would use his books, when he knew that the city had an arrangement to secure books from another source?

Before any readers had been accepted by the commission; or the appendices of the grammars and arithmetic had been authorized, several papers of the State advertised a full list of books; including some not yet laid before the commission, with the assertion of Mr. Merrill, "I am ready to fill orders as soon as the State requisition is received." This style of advertising what he could not supply, and asserting that he was ready to fill orders for books not then laid before the commission, may be good business morality, and I pass no judgment upon it. My object in referring to the matter is to show why I have declined to commit myself unreservedly to the lead and dictatation of Mr. Merrill. He praised his books before he knew what they would be, and desired to secure both my official and personal influence in favor of books that I had not seen, of anything he saw fit to propose; and because I have not servilely voted for all the books offered, and extolled them them as "superior to any in use," I am counted an enemy and threatened with impeachment.

Let the theory on which I am accused be properly understood and I need not answer his charges in detail. They all rest on the assumption that I have no right to any personal opinions on the character of the law, but that because I am a State officer to whom it assigns certain duties, I must silently and obsequiously sanction all his measures, however questionable their propriety.

READY TO OBEY THE LAW.

I will notice only a few points in his specific charges. The assertion that during the pendency of the bill I was not opposed to it, is a mistake. The Hon. Richard Chute says, "you told me before the bill passed, that you did not believe in the plan for supplying books, but that if it passed, you would obey and execute the law so far as you have any duties under it." I told others the same thing.

For reasons sufficient to myself I did not assail the bill before it passed. I have only criticized the scheme since its passage in a way that ought not to be mistaken for a purpose to resist the law. I have no other purpose than to execute all its provisions so far as it imposes duties upon me.

Mr. Merrill asked me what I thought of the plan of paying for the books out of the State school fund. I replied that it could not be done, and suggested the State school-tax fund, believing then that such a fund would soon exist.

My late article on "those books" anticipated the perverted use made of the Stillwater essay. Because State uniformity seemed possible in 1873 it does not follow that it can be secured now. I notice the title page of Mr. Merrill's assault says only "Cheap Text-Books," dropping the word "uniform" from the title of the bill. It is about time this should be done, as numerous counties are adopting each a series for itself.

OPPOSED TO THE OLD BOOK RING.

No man would to-day fight that old book ring with more vigor than myself, if it were now alive. Were it in existence, I would resort to any measure necessary for its destruction. The expression, "even if the State has to go into the book trade," is quoted as if I favored such a scheme as a general and permanent plan. If one suggests brimstone as a remedy for the itch; would you infer that he recommended it as an unguent for perpetual use? My expression "even if," denotes that I had in mind a special evil, to be cured by a desperate remedy.

Our great mistake is that after dissention between publishing houses was bursting the old ring into fragments never to be re-united, we adopted our State machinery for the destruction of an organization already doomed to death.

Here the object of the letter which D. Appleton & Co. turned over to Mr. Merrill, can be shown. I addressed the same as a circular to some eight publishing houses, for the purpose of information that would enable me to give intelligent answers to numerous inquiries regarding books.

The notion that a Superintendent of Public Instruction has no business to write such letters, might meet with some favor were our Senate a star chamber.

I do not consider myself a mere machine for executing law in ignorance of the objects for which it exists. Nor do I believe that our Legislature proposes to act on this subject in ignorance of the facts that I have placed within its reach. It was singular that the printing of a few items "concerning those books," should make it necessary to discharge at once the big gun loaded for a later occasion.

WHO COMPOSED THE OLD RING.

I never use language imputed to me in quotation marks on page 8 of the charges. That Mr. Merrill slaughtered the book ring, I do not admit, and have elsewhere given my reason for this belief. I have never said that publishers reduced prices of their own accord. Understanding this point better than I did in 1873, I now say that jobbers and retailers were a part of the old book ring, and received very largely the profit of high prices; and that Mr. Merrill, himself, bought his school books at an average of 40 per cent. off, and by selling at the fixed retail prices, made two thirds of a dollar on every dollar paid for books.

The people are finding that they can save the profits which used to go to middle men by purchasing directly of publishers. The reductions of the last two or three years result from that rivalry between publishers which killed the Board of Trade, and they are sure to continue whatever becomes of our law; and this rivalry is sure to give us both reasonable prices and good books for the future.

The crime of stating, in the notice of the meeting at Mankato, that this law would be considered, occurred on this wise. Many superintendents and teachers had urged the committed of arrangements to put the subject into the programme. We did not think this wise, but to satisfy public expectation, the statement was made that it would come up. We knew this because persons determined to bring it up, had called at the State office, and was it a crime for some of these gentlemen to prepare a critique on the subject before going to Mankato? Is such an act "positively prohibited?"

NOT A GOOD REPORTER.

I was a guest of Prof. John, and of course "took tea with him." The contractor himself gave the Professor the books which he carried home from the convention and examined by himself while I was conversing with other guests on the veranda. As a reporter, Mr. Merrill is not a success. His performance at Mankato betrays too much feeling. Why has he not told us that Prof. John furnished him a room for the exhibition of his books; that I invited him to address the convention, and that he made a speech on "Uniformity and half-price," and eulogized his books as long as he pleased? Why represent that Prof John called upon me to make a speech, when he merely asked me to answer a question and explain the financial machinery of the law? Why not state that I said I did not intend to take any part in the discussion, but that I would answer the question? All that I said was on that point. I concurred in the explanation of Mr. iKrk. and said that some district clerks and treasurers are unreliable; that the law in its financial machinery is ill-advised. I made no such assertion as that I would not regard the spirit of the law.

I advised county superintendents, in view of the risk of loss imposed on county treasurers, to leave the question of ordering books to boards of county commissioners who have to provide for the payment of books ordered. I think such boards all over the State will sustain me in this advice; while all county superintendents know that if they see fit to send in orders against the wishes of county boards, they will be turned over to the contractor.

WAITING FOR AMENDMENT.

It is charged that I labored "for hours," about the first of May, to persuade the contractor not to go into the scheme. He probably dreamed this, for he did not spend half an hour in my office when he came to ask me to call the Commission. I merely inquired of him whether he knew that the State auditor could not draw warrants for want of funds to pay for books, and whether he really understood the feelings of educational men regarding his scheme. I said nothing stronger than this, promised to call the Commission and he retired.

Other state officers than myself have advised Mr. Merrill to wait until the law should be amended, but his anxiety to get into the job has led him to misunderstand his friends in giving that advice. In my case he has construed it into opposition. He may hereafter appreciate the intentions of those who made this well meant suggestion.

The original statement in my report quoted on page 13 of Mr. Merrill's production was correct. I did not say, as I affirm in words quoted below in small capitals, that he sold the readers. I said that he had supplied them directly to a district. In proof of this, I quote from a letter of the superintendent of the county. He says, "The two first readers of the Appleton series of which I spoke to you are in the school in district No. 4, which I visited November 23, where I saw them." This may be a mistake and the point is of no moment. Mr, Merrill did not mean to charge me with falsehood. He thought he had a good thing on me as a blunder, but was under too much excitement to read carefully.

That he supplied the practical arithmetic and grammar directly to schools, before he had inserted the required appendices, was no pecuniary wrong, since the books are as good without the padding as with it. The transaction, however, illustrates what may happen to one whose rule is, do anything not positively prohibited by the law. He is very liable to go beyond that line.

THE DAKOTA COUNTY MATTER.

The transactions between my office and Dakota county are correctly stated on page two of "Concerning those Books." In proof of this, I here insert my letters to the chairman of the county board and to the county superintendent.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 8, 1877.

"L. Van Inwegen,

"Dear Sir: Yours is received." [That is, the letter quoted on page two of the article referred to, and expressing the opinion that the orders should not be turned over to the contractor.] "If you will write to your new Co. Supt., Mr. Bailey, of Farmington, and request him to recall the orders sent me by Mr. Crowley, I will return them to him. This is the only legal course to pursue. If your Board directs Mr. Bailey to do this and inform him that you will take the responsibility, he will no doubt comply. This has been done to-day in two counties. Orders for books have been turned over from only one county in the State—18 districts out of 100. Instruct Mr. Bailey to write to me by Thursday of next week.

"Yours truly, D. Burt."

At the date of this letter the statement in the last part of it was the whole truth as to districts, &c.

As the new county superintendent lives at Farmington, to save myself the charge of delaying the orders, if he did not propose to regard the wishes of the board, I sent him the following:

"ST. PAUL, Dec. 10th, 1877.

Superintendent L. Y. Bailey:

DEAR SIR—Your board of county commissioners have written me that they are not prepared to pay for school books. I have replied that I will return the orders at your request. You can confer with Mr. Van Inwegen and decide what to do. I will hold the orders until the last of the week. If you tink best to ask for their return, I will return them. If not, I shall turn them over to Mr. Merrill. Yours truly, D. BURT."

Note that these letters do not request or advise or suggest the withdrawal of the orders. They do not express a preference that they should be withdrawn."

They were sent in by the old superintendent without the knowledge of the board. I merely informed this board of his action and communicated its wishes to the new Superintendent, and left the matter to be adjusted as they pleased; writing to Mr. Bailey on Monday, "I will hold the orders until the last of the week. If you think best to ask for their return I will return them. If not, I shall turn them over to Mr. Merrill." I did not hear from Mr. Bailey, and on Friday I sent to the contractor a request to forward the books. I learn that a part of them have reached the county auditor, and that by some of the county officers they are considered inferior books, and regrets that they were sent are expressed.

READY TO EXECUTE THE LAW.

In fine, I have only to say that I excuse any errors or exaggerations in the production of Mr. Merrill, in view of an emotional excitement that has become somewhat morbid, and I shall continue to regard him as a friend.

If it is concluded to abandon this scheme I shall insist that the State deal not only justly but liberally by the party of the second part. If the legislature thinks best to carry out this plan, I shall not agitate the matter; but promptly and in good faith, help the schools to the books in every fair and legitimate way.

THE STATE PRISON.

A Protest Against Limiting the Location to Congressional Districts.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 22, 1878.

To the Editor of the GLOBE.

In the GLOBE of this morning, I noticed an article on the location of the new State prison, and an allusion to the bill introduced by Mr. Hinds. This bill proposes to restrict the commissioners, in the choice of a location, to the First and Second Congressional Districts, which combine less than half of the entire area of the State, and the apparent object of this feature of the measure is to array the members of the Legislature, from these two districts against those from the Third, in the contest for the new prison. This is entirely wrong. The lines of congressional districts should not confine the commisssion in its choice of a site. It is true that the present prison is in the third district, nevertheless it is located in the southern one-third of the State. In fact every one of our State institutions save and except the St, Cloud Normal School, lie in the lower half or southern portion of the State, and yet Mr. Hind's bill proposes to shut out northern Minnesota and in fact more than half the State from competition for the new prison. Is this generous—is it just?

Another bill is before the Legislature relating to a second prison, that introduced in the Senate, on Wednesday last, by Mr. MacDonald, providing for a commission to select a site near St. Cloud or Sauk Rapids, embracing a granite quarry. This bill is in accordance with the strong recommendation of Governor Pillsbury, who, withoui a partical of local interest in the matter takes a decided stand in favor of the granite quarries of Sauk Rapids, which are convenient to railways coming in from three different points, and which are also convenient to supplies of the best of lumber. There is, in my judgment, no better site for the proposed prison than that recommended by the Governor, and as a simple matter of justice to Northern Minnesota, which is fully entitled to receive it, it should be located as far north as St. Cloud. With the information at its command, there is no good reason why the Legislature should not fix the location, instead of leaving it to five or six Commissioners. The Governor's reasoning on the subject is clear and convincing. Let the Legislature follow his advice.

SUBSCRIBER.

Another Sanctimonious Swindler.

[From the Hartford Times.]

Charles Henry Moulton, the Washington real estate broker, who surrendered himself on Monday to the police authorities of London, as stated by a telegram, is wanted very much here, where there are half a dozen indictments waiting for him for swindling and forgery. He ran away about a year ago. Charley is one of the most innocent and Christian-like young men that ever resided here. Besides being a Sunday school teacher, he was one of the most prominent members of the Young Men's Christian Association, and always had charge of the street prayer meetings. He had a fine voice, and sang and talked in such a pleasant manner that people always felt better after they had been swindled by him. Altogether, he scooped up in this way about $75,000, among his victims being some of the principal business men of the city, and a great many poor colored people who intrusted with him their savings. He swindled an old colored rag picker out of $16,000, though there was not one in a thousand persons who ever thought that he had a dollar. He had a faculty of finding out who had money, and of roping them into one of his schemes, that was particularly refreshing to those even who have devoted many years to the same thing, and had made it a profession. He swindled smart and dull, and the first any one knew of him he was in Cuba. He then came back, indignantly denied that he had swindled any one; and gave bonds for trial, saying that he was ready at any time. He then worked up some kind of a funding scheme, by which he bled his former victims and many new ones, and then left. The way his victims found out that they were swindled again was by receiving letters from him saying that he had not forgotten them, and always remembered them in his prayers.

The Silver Outlook.

[Washington Correspondent (Jan. 19) N. Y. Herald—Anti-Silver.]

The silver men are a little boastful to-night. The succession of silver speeches in the Senate encourages them to believe that they are getting stronger, but the anti-silver men are reserving their fire, and there is no reason to believe that the silver men have gained any votes. Their object is understood to be to vote down all amendments and pass the Bland bill pure and simple. They can get but a small majority for this, however, for a good many Senators who favor the bill will vote for an amendment giving the profits of coinage to the government. Of course any amendment sends the bill back to the House, and the silver men are, for some reason, very desirous that it shall not go back there. The debate so far is on the Matthews resolution. That on the bill itself has not yet begun, and will continue for some time. A considerable number of amendments will be offered after the bill comes before the Senate, and these amendments will also be discussed.

The receipts of the two performances given at New York for the benefit of John Brougham, the disabled actor, were upwardsof $10,000.

INDIAN WARS.

Alaska Red Skins Cutting Each Other's Throats—Rumored Outbreak of Northern Bands.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22.—Portland dispatch: Henry Paine, who had charge of a donkey pack train during the late Nez Perces campaign, arrived to-day from Dayton, W. T., with news that a rumor had reached that place of an Indian outbreak under chief Moses. A prominent hotel keeper had informed Paine that several families had been murdered, and the savages were prepared to enter upon another campaign. Gen. Howard immedately telegraphed to Walla Walla and other points to ascertain the truth of the rumors. A telegram was received to the effect that such rumors had been circulated, but nothing definite received. It was the general thought that the rumors were foundationless.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23—Victoria dispatch; The steamer California has arrived from Wrangel and Sitka. The people of Sitka are in fear from war and want protection from the government. The Sitka and Hutsonn Indians were at war when the steamer arrived, and ceased hostilities while she lay there, but commedced again as soon as she left. Large numbers were seen assembling in war paint. The Indians are destroying many government and other buildings which are empty, the people are not strong enough to prevent them.

The quartz lodes at Sitka prospect well. As yet there has been no *bona fide* effort to develop them.

Mr. Dennis, United States Custom House officer at Wrangel, has made a raid on the Hootzmoo whisky makers, Indians and white men. He discovered and destroyed twenty-one stills, some with whisky and much material for making it.

THE "SOCIAL EVIL."

How Our Morning Cotemporary Advertises It, and Shields Those Who Rent Buildings for Such Purposes.

ST. PAUL, January, 21.

Editor of THE GLOBE:

In to-days issue of the *Pioneer-Press* there appears an article bearing the ominous caption—"The Social Evil."—which though timely and commendable on general principles, contains one assertion that casts its weakness over the entire article. We quote—

"Mrs. France rents her great mansion off a gentleman who undoubtedly does not know for what purpose it is used."

"Any Writer who, will thus, like a whining sycophant, endeavor to court the favor of any man who wantonly advances his money and influence to support a house whose crimes would pale the deepest infamy of hell, because the individual stands in the front rank of social and commercial influence, is a man too weak and cowardly to merit attention in the columns of any respectable journal, or if this ebullition emanates from the editorial staff of the *Pioneer Press* it displayes a weakness unworthy of its source, and incompatible with the general outspoken language of its columns. History records and rumor has it that the fast increasing business of this shameless *demi monde* rendered it necessary to increase the size and capacity of her den, which was accordingly done by her landlord who, asthe *P. P.* has it, was entirely innocent of its uses, proceeded at once to erect the "spacious mansion" spoken of, and transfer his tenant thereto in due time.

For years this Mrs. France has been the keeper of a house of ill-fame upon the premises, and by the apparent consent of this innocent gentleman. (?) If, indeed, the owner of these premises is ignorant of their uses, then, indeed, is his proverbial business sagacity greatly belied. The fact that this "spacious mansion" was erected and is still owned by one of St. Paul's most prominent citizens, with and by his knowledge and consent occupied therefor, is so glaringly apparent that many good citizens of Cedar street have come to look upon this hell-hole as the founderling of a man whose position and influence would, to say the least, warrant greater expectations. We need not mention the name of the owner of this property, as we are loth to drag it from its higher and more honored circle, and cause the blush of abject shame to crimson the face in all other respects glowing with all the fervor of honest manhood and respected citizenship. While all honest people burn with a desire to suppress the social evil of our beautiful city, none fail to see the uselessness of the attempt when the sin is abetted by men of wealth and station.

Our motto is: Down with the Social Evil! even if in the crash we hear the cry of ruined wealth, honor and station of our ablest citizens. Let it fall and bury within its ruins alike the sinner and the abettor, and all who willingly help, directly or indirectly, to support and build up this damning monument of crime.

A RESIDENT OF CEDAR STREET.

Light Called for on a Knotty Question.

Editor THE GLOBE:

The many friends of free discussion through the State have received your paper with pleasure. We have felt the need of another morning daily at the capital for months past, and our confidence in your ability to make a paper successful makes us glad that you are the one who at last has assumed the responsibility of starting one. We also like THE GLOBE in its make-up and character, and will do what we can to give it circulation. Just now we are interested in what our Senators and Representatives are doing, and we hope you will be able to aid very much in the work of reform politically which you have espoused. There is one matter which we hope you will see is not suffered to escape your attention, which is likely to affect education in Minnesota for good or ill for years to come. This is the Merrill book law. It is but honest for the writer to say that the book legislation of last winter was unwise in the extreme. Perhaps he would not so much fear this were it not for the course which is being taken by those who at first advocated it, and who are now endeavoring to render it operative. It is very well to want text books cheapened, but we want good books. It is very well to cry out against the publishers, I suppose, but is it needful that we have a monopoly established in our own State? I can understand why Mr. Donnelly should advocate a scheme of this kind. He undoubtedly thinks it will benefit the people, and his whole heart and soul is given to good works in their behalf. But Merrill, is he a real patriot? You know, living in St. Paul as you do, and when he speaks of having embarked his entire fortune in this enterprise, we want to be sure that he has done it from pure motives. And Mr. Sanford Miles, is it true or not that he has been a standing candidate for State Superintendent for several years past, and that he has interest in getting Burt out that he may get in?

I am quite ignorant about these matters, and may be too fearful, but in common with many others, I am beginning to wonder whether all these men are pure patriots and only seeking to help us poor people, or whether some of them may posibly be inadvertantly acting from selfish motives.

Please probe this matter a little and give us light. You can, if anybody can.

GRANGER.

Blakely Trembles for the Pioneer Press.

[Minneapolis Tribune of Tuesday.]

The Saint Paul morning papers, under the spur of the competition which the establishment of a new morning daily has occasioned, favored the public this morning with a paper as usual, and announce that they will hereafter print seven papers a week. The public will hail this arrangement with satisfaction, but it will prove rather a severe one to the publishers. It adds 15 per cent. to their expenses, and not a dollar to their income. Perhaps they can stand it. We sincerely hope they can.

King Alfonso's Marriage.

MADRID, Jan. 22.—Elaborate preparations have been made for the marriage to-morrow of King Alfonso and Princess Mercides. Queen Christina Francisco de Assissi, the King's father, the special foreign envoys, and thousands of visitors have arrived. The Count and Countess of Paris, the brother-in-law and sister of Princess Mercides have gone to Aranjuez to congratulate the Princess. The King received the German, French and British envoys yesterday. The latter delivered an autograph letter from Queen Victoria to the Duchess of Montpensier, and a bracelet for the Princess Mercides. He also brought an Indian scimetar, with a scabbard and hilt inlaid with gold and precious metals, as a present to the King from the Prince of Wales.

ENGLISH GRAIN MARKET.

Stocks Short and Indications Favorable to Fall Prices.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The Mark Lane Express says the imports of foreign wheat into London has shown a marked falling off and the bulk of last weeks arrivals was from America and Germany. Business has been almost at a stand still as buyers and sellers have been waiting anxiously to see what course political affairs will take. Our stock of wheat is moderate and our prospective supplies insufficient to exercise any great depressing influence on the future course of prices. Millers are, as far as can be ascertained, holding very light stocks and should events turn out of a less pacific nature than recent anticipations have led us to suppose, a large demand may be predicated both for wheat and feeding stuffs, Trade therefore remains dull and prices have suffered very little decline either for wheat or feeding stuffs.

SETTLING ESTATES.

A Bill Introduced in the Senate which Interests People in St. Paul Who Expect to Die.

A bill important to Ramsey county was introduced in the Senate this afternoon by Senator Macdonald. The following is a synopsis of its provisions:

Relating to the auditing and adjusting of claims and accounts in the county of Ramsey against the estate of deceased persons;

SECTION 1. Provides that on the second Tuesday of March, 1878, and of each alternate year thereafter, it shall be the duty of the judges of the District Court of Ramsey county to appoint a person, learned in the law, to act as Private Commissioner for and in said county, and after said appointment said judges shall forthwith deliver their certificate thereof to the person appointed; who shall, as an act of acceptance, cause the same to be recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of said county,

The duties conferred upon commissioners by Chap. 53 of the General Statutes of 1876 shall, in all cases, be preformed by said Probate Commissioner, and he shall have the power and authority that is by said Chap. 53 granted to Commissioners. And upon the appointment of an administrator, or of the executor the Judge of the Probate Court of said county, shall at once give said Probate Commissioner notice thereof in writing.

It shall be the duty of each executor and of each administrator within three months after his appointment to make and file with the Probate Court and with the Probate Commissioner, a verified list embracing the name and address of each creditor, and of each person claiming to be a creditor, of the estate in his charge, so far as the same may have, in any manner, come to his notice or knowledge, and so far as he may be able so to do said commissioner shall give said claimant at least thirty days personal notice, or notice through the mail, that claims against such estate are being audited.

Whoever has claims against the estate of a deceased person, upon which administration should be granted in Ramsey county, he, or his attorney, may at any time file with said commissioner, his post address and a statement in writing of his claim, and whenever within a year thereafter administration proceedings are commenced, said commissioner shall forthwith forward to said claimants by mail, a notice thereof.

The decision and report of said probate commissioner when filed, shall have the same force and validity that the decision and report of commissioners now have, and it may be appealed from in like manner.

Said commissioner shall hold his office for two years and until his successor is appointed, and he shall receive for his services the same compensation that one commissioner now receives. The act is to go into effect on and after the second Tuesday of March, 1878.

Railroad King in Trouble.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Wm. H. Vanderbilt appeared at the coroner's office this morning and was placed under $2,000 bonds to appear at the inquest in the case of Matthew Rielly, who died from injuries received by being run over in November by Mr. Vanderbilt.

OFFICIAL.

Proceedings of the Common Council

Special Meeting.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 19, 1878.

President Dawson in the chair.

Present, Ald. Allen, Dowlan, Dreis, Grace, McCarthy, O'Connor, Rhodes, Smyth, Mr. President—9.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From His Honor the Mayor, calling the meeting for the purpose of approving bond and contract of the City Printer.

The contract was read and approved, the bond also. Sureties being T. M. Metcalf and J. W. Cunningham.

MISCELLANEOUS,

An ordinance to amend Section four of an ordinance entitled "Spirituous liquors, billiard tables, pigeon holes," etc., was passed under a suspension of the rules. (See publication.)

Ald. Grace called attention to the fact that the Superintendent of the Poor Farm was anxious to take the down wood on Como park.

Referred to Committee on Parks.

[For ordinances see annexed official publication.]

Adjourned.

WM. DAWSON,
President of Council.

M. J. O'CONNOR,
City Clerk,

Official Publication of an Ordinance Passed by the Common Council of the City of St. Paul, January 19, 1878.

ORDINANCE No. 137.

An ordinance to amend section four (4) of an ordinance, entitled Spirituous Liquors, Billiard Tables, Pigeon Holes, &c.

The Common Council of the city of St. Paul do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. That section four (4) of an ordinance, entitled spirituous liquors, billiard tables, pigeon holes, &c., approved October 9th, 1869, is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 4. Any person or persons may obtain a license to keep a billiard table, pool table, and ten pin alley, and to permit the games of billiards, pool and ten pins to be played thereon, to be obtained in the same manner provided for obtaining licenses to sell or vend spirituous liquors; Provided, that any person or persons obtaining such license shall pay the sum of ten dollars for each and every billiard table, pool table, or ten pin alley so licensed as aforesaid.

This ordinance to be in force from and after its passage.

Yeas—Aldermen Allen, Dreis, Grace, McCarthy, O'Connor, Rhodes, Smyth and Mr. President—8.

Passed January 19th, 1878.

WILLIAM DAWSON,
President of Council.

Attest:
M. J. O'CONNOR,
City Clerk.

Approved January 22d, 1878.
J. T. MAXFIELD, Mayor.

Etiquette in Washington.

At a Cabinet meeting last week the most momentous questions under consideration were the social customs at Washington. Neither the President nor any member of his Cabinet seemed to be informed as to what the usages are. The etiquette of state-dinners was the chief topic, and the Cabinet officers wished to know whether they were expected to invite the Committees of the two Houses which had to do with their respective departments. Several amusing stories were told of the experience of former Administrations. It appears that Andrew Johnson used to invite members of the House, taking them all alphabetically; that Gen. Grant only invited his friends, and nobody else, but one time made a singular mistake by inviting the ardent Bourbon, Saulsbuy, of Delaware, instead of Sargent, of California, to a private political conference.

MONEY AND TRADE.

FINANCIAL.

Money and Stocks.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Gold weak; opened at 101⅝ and closed at 101½.

Carrying rates 6 per cent. to flat.

Silver at London, 53½. Here silver bars are 118¾ in greenbacks and 115 in gold. Silver coin ¾ to 1 per cent. discount.

Governments firm.

Railroad bonds strong and higher.

State securities steady.

Sterling, long 81½; short 84.

Money 5@6 per cent. closing at 4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent.

Custom receipts, $248,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $588,000. Clearings, $17,000,000.

Produce exports, $5,867,000.

Stocks opened strong and advanced generally during the morning call, Granger stocks being the favorites of speculation on account of the increasing receipts on these roads, with Lake Shore next in order. After call there was a fractional reaction, but a firm undertone was maintained. Ohios were an exception to the general tendency of the market, and declined to 7. Pittsburg also declined to 72¾, though recovering afterward to 73, the building of a rival road being assigned as a reason for the weakness. Coal shares were dull add irregular, fluctuations, however, being confined within narrow limits. During the afternoon the market was strong, with Lake Shore the principle feature, which advanced under purchases by leading speculators to 62¾. Michigan Central followed to 81¼. The market closed strong, though at a slight reaction from the best figures of the day.

The transactions 112,000 shares, of which 2,000 were Erie, 61,009 Lake Shore, 10,000 Northwestern common, 3,500 Northwestern preferred, 5,000 St. Paul preferred, 2,000 Ohio, 8,000 Lackawanna, and 95,000 Western Union.

GOVERNMENTS.

Coupons '81	107	New 4½s	103¾
Coupons, '65, new,	103	New 4 per cent	101½
Coupons, '67	105¾	10-40s, regular	107⅞
Coupons, '68	108¼	Coupons	108
Coupons, new 5s	106⅛	Currency, 6s	118

STOCKS.

Western Union Tel.	77	Northwestern pfd.	63¾
Quicksilver	15	C. C. C. & I.	35
Quicksilver pfd.	30	New Jersey Central	15¼
Pacific Mail	23¾	Rock Island	99¾
Mariposa	1	St. Paul	39¾
Mariposa pfd.	1	St. Paul pfd.	69½
Adams Express	99¾	Wabash	15¼
Wells & Fargo	83½	Fort Wayne	91
American	48½	Terre Haute	5
United States	45½	Terre Haute pfd.	16½
New York Central	106¾	Chicago & Alton	79
Erie	9¼	Chicago & Alton pfd.	100½
Erie pfd.	22	Ohio & Mississippi	7¾
Harlem	141	D. L. & W.	80¾
Harlem pfd.		A. & P. Telegraph	19¼
Michigan Central	60⅞	Missouri Pacific	1¾
Panama	120	C. B. & Q.	102½
Union Pacific	68	Hannibal & St. Jo.	11¾
Lake Shore	62⅝	CentralPacific bonds	104⅛
Illinois Central	74¼	Union Pacific bonds	104
Cleveland & Pittsburg	72½	U. P. land-grant	103¼
Northwestern	37¼	Sinking fund	95¼

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee 6s, old	36	Virginia 6s, new	30
Tennessee 6s, new	35¼	Missouri 6s	104½
Virginia 6s, old	30		

LONDON, Jan. 22—5 p. m.

Amount of bullion gone in, £10,000.

CONSULS.

Money	95⅝	Account	

U. S. SECURITIES.

5-20s '65	106¼	Erie	9¼
5-20s '67	107	Erie preferred	22½
10-40s	109	Illinois Central	75
New 5 ₩ cents	106½	Penn. Cent	32½

PARIS, Jan. 22.

RENTES—109 francs and 7½c.

COMMERCIAL.

St. Paul Produce Market, January 22.

FLOUR—Very dull; $5.00@5.50 for XXXX. Patent Process $7.00@7.50. Rye flour $5.00@5.50. Buckwheat flour $6.00@6.50.

WHEAT—Firm at 95c for No. 1.

CORN—Cars outgoing 36@37c; extra old 45½46c; offers liberal, trade dull.

OATS—Outgoing trains 29@30c; supply fair, medium trade.

GROUND FEED—$19.50@20.00; bran $8.0@9.00; shorts $12.00..

BEANS—Common $1.00@1.50; medium hand picked $2.40@2.50; navy $2.65.

BUTTER—Hardly any market; choice grades will bring 25c; fair grades 18@20c; medium 14@15c; shipping 7@8c.

EGGS—18c.

POULTRY—Choice turkeys 8@9cc; chickens 7@88c; market ran even; no over stock and supply equal to demand.

DRESSED HOGS—Dull at 4c.

DRESSED BEEF—4@5c for sides.

MESS PORK—$11.50@12.00.

HAY—Wild, dull at $7.00@10.00.

Milwaukee Produce Market.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 22.

FLOUR—Dull and nominal.

GRAIN—Wheat opened firm and ¼c lower, and closed steady; No. 1 hard $1.07¼; No. 1 $1.07⅛; No. 2 $1.04½; seller January $1.04½; February $1.04½; March $1.05¼@1.05⅜; No. 3 99c. Corn firmer; No. 2 41c. Oats firmer; No. 2 24c. Rye unchanged; No. 1, 51@52c. Barley lower; No. 2 57¾c cash; February 58c.

PROVISIONS—Dull and weak; mess pork $10.50; lard, prime steam $7.30; kettle $7.62½.

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