THE PRESIDENCY.

THE BUCKTAIL DEMOCRACY.

Asa Packer, of Pennsylvania, Speaks—Judge Thompson, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Man—"Geary is a Weak Man."

The democracy of Pennsylvania, in convention at Harrisburg some two weeks since, led in the "new departure" from the beaten track so long trod by the democratic branch of American suffragists, and were speedily followed by Ohio. The new departure was particularly important in at least one particular. We refer to the adoption of the

NINTH, OR "MULATTO ARTICLE,"

as it is termed by its enemies, and which fully recognizes and endorses the fifteenth amendment to the constitution. This was one of the boldest strokes of the democracy to capture the vote of disaffected republicans that has yet developed itself, and to lay before the readers of the HERALD the opinions of a leading Pennsylvanian—a leading man in point of wealth and intelligence—a HERALD reporter called on

JUDGE PACKER,

at the Astor House, on Wednesday evening, and found him quite willing to furnish all the information in his power. "But," said that gentleman, when the HERALD commissioner made known his business, "I have given my time almost exclusively to my legitimate business of late, and it is possible I may have arrived at some wrong conclusions. I am not a politician now, you know."

REPORTER—I have called to ask your opinion of the new departure in Pennsylvania; what effect it will have in the Presidential canvass, and if the ninth article of the Harrisburg resolutions will have the effect intended?

Judge PACKER—Well, really, I have not given the matter any study; but it has never proved advantageous to any party to attempt to gain votes by the process you allude to.

REPORTER—I find there is a general feeling in Philadelphia, among some of the younger and more ambitious democrats, that this article was a wise provision.

Judge PACKER—Disaffected republicans, I think, will hardly be blind enough to be caught by such a palpable fraud.

REPORTER—Do you think life-long democrats will, as a general thing, endorse that article?

Judge PACKER—On that question I would not like to give an opinion; people often at the last moment change their minds; rather than see the party defeated they may vote the fifteenth amendment. I do not think it a wise act on the part of the Harrisburg convention to have inserted that article.

REPORTER—It is said that Colonel A. K. McClure, of Philadelphia, ostensibly a republican, but at heart a democrat, engineered most of the resolutions adopted on that occasion.

Judge PACKER—Well, McClure is a—i——,

REPORTER—A politician?

Judge PACKER—Yes; that just expresses it—a politician.

REPORTER—Do you think Geary has Presidential aspirations?

Judge PACKER—Geary! There is no use talking of him.

GEARY IS A WEAK MAN.

REPORTER—He will probably sink into oblivion after his present term of office expires, won't he?

Judge PACKER—I think so. Like many other smart men Geary overreaches himself. He struggles too hard.

REPORTER—Allow me to ask you a question point blank. Who do you consider the most available candidate that Pennsylvania has to offer for a democratic nominee for the Presidency?

Judge PACKER—That would be a difficult question to answer.

REPORTER—Suppose Curtin should take it into his head to come home; I have heard him referred to repeatedly as

"PENNSYLVANIA'S FAVORITE SON;"

do you think he would be a strong man on either side?

Silence.

REPORTER—I will suggest another name—Judge Thompson, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania?

Judge PACKER (brightening up at once)—Yes,

THOMPSON'S THE MAN;

I know of no better.

REPORTER—Do you regard him as a representative Pennsylvanian, a representative democrat and a really available man for the democracy to nominate?

Judge PACKER—I do; what is more, I think he would be a strong man in every sense of the word. His record is above reproach.

REPORTER—He is possibly not well enough known outside his native State for the democracy of the whole country to unite on him if nominated.

"Well," said the Judge, with a sly twinkle of the eye, "maybe the less any Presidential aspirant is known the better are his chances of success."

REPORTER—Conceding that, has he any other special recommendations for the position?

Judge PACKER—He is upright and honest, able and influential and a lifelong democrat.

REPORTER—It has come to be recognized that this canvass will be conducted on a somewhat different basis from former ones. It is altogether a question of expediency who the nominee shall be.

THE MAN IS NOTHING.

The first question to be asked regarding a candidate will be, "Is he a man that all can unite on?" and, recognizing this, you think favorably of Judge Thompson?

Judge PACKER—Yes, Thompson is a most excellent man to meet these requirements.

REPORTER—I would like to ask you

A FEW WORDS ABOUT CAMERON.

Is he helping Grant any?

Judge PACKER—I am not intimate with Cameron, and do not know a great deal of him of my own personal knowledge. He has been friendly to Grant in some instances.

REPORTER—Pennsylvanians, I find, have come to consider Cameron a man of policy. When he has done with a man, or thinks he can use him no further he drops him. In fine, they say that Cameron's only reason for befriending a man is to either use or abuse him.

Judge PACKER—Well (with a smile), Cameron, I suppose, is a politician. I believe Geary told you some time ago what he thought of Cameron.

REPORTER—Yes; it was not very complimentary to Cameron. He said that Cameron took advantage of his gray hairs to pull the wool over people's eyes, or words to that effect.

Judge PACKER—Cameron has a great many strong friends, and still more bitter enemies in Pennsylvania; he is still a man of great influence.

The interview was continued, and the question of the voting of the miners was alluded to. Mr. Packer, from former and experience—the miners' vote defeated him for Governor—does not seem to have much faith in this class of our population. He thinks they are treacherous in the extreme, and that any candidate who places his dependence on them builds his house on the sand.

The HERALD commissioner informed Mr. Packer that the miners, at a secret meeting to which a HERALD reporter was the only person admitted, had concluded in future to vote for no party man, but for him only who would bind himself to befriend the laborer and under no condition to give his influence to any act that was calculated in the remotest degree to deprive the laboring man of any of his rights.

After discussing the utter hopelessness of Grant's cause in Pennsylvania, the HERALD reporter took his leave, and Judge Packer retired for consultation with some railroad magnates. The Judge concluded some two years since that politics was not his forte, and has given his whole time ever since to the development of the resources of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and its tributaries.

SENTENCE OF TWO MURDERERS IN ST. LOUIS.

[From the St. Louis Republican, June 6.]

Patrick Duffy was brought before Judge Primm, in the Criminal Court of St. Louis on Monday to have sentence of the law passed on him, consequent on his having been found guilty of the murder of Frederick Ostermeyer, his sister's husband. There was a numerous attendance of spectators in the court. The prisoner, a strong, healthy man, of medium height, maintained remarkable coolness, and there was not in him the slightest exhibition of fear.

The shackles having been removed from the prisoner's hands, the Judge said to him:—

"Patrick Duffy, have you anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be passed upon you?"

Duffy replied, "Yes, sir; but I would like to see my lawyers, Colonel Stephenson and Mr. Babcock."

The Judge—"That is not what I asked you. Have you anything to say to the court?"

Duffy replied, "I am not guilty, I did not strike the blow, was not the man that killed him. I was, of course no good friend of Ostermeyer's. He owed me $600. My niece was driven out of the house by him on a stormy night. He was the cause of her death, she having become abandoned through his means, and poisoned herself. If I had committed the crime he deserved it for what he had done."

The Judge after referring to the crime pronounced the following sentence:—

Patrick Duffy, it is the sentence of the law that for the crime of murder in the first degree, of which you stand convicted, you be taken from this court to the place from whence you came, there to remain until Monday, the 31st day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1871, thence, on that day, that you be taken to the place of execution appointed by law, and that there, between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and three in the afternoon of said day, you be hanged by the neck until you be dead.

After hearing his sentence pronounced the prisoner, as unflinching as before, slightly nodded his head and said, "That's all right; I'll face it like a man if I have got to."

He was then handcuffed and conducted by the county-marshal to the jail.

The time of the execution of Patrick Burns, Duffy's accomplice, who was convicted as an accessory in the murder of Ostermeyer, has been postponed to the 31st of July, the time appointed for the execution of Patrick Duffy.

RUNNING NOTES—POLITICAL AND GENERAL.

An enthusiastic Maine democratic paper exclaims in accents wild:—"From now till June 26 let Cherryfield be the rallying point." If Cherryfield is to be the only rallying point of the Maine democracy the coming campaign the radicals will have no occasion to make two bites of the party cherry next fall.

There is some canvassing in Maine in regard to who shall be the democratic candidate for Governor—General Roberts having declined a renomination. Convention June 26.

Warren Toole is making fight against James M. Cavanaugh for Delegate to Congress from Montana Territory. Mr. Toole is said to be a tool of the Indian ring.

It is proposed to remove the headquarters of the Ohio State Democratic Executive Committee from Columbus to Cincinnati. It is dangerous to swap horses while crossing a stream.

The Nashville *Union* remarks that "with the lights before us we can but feel encouraged at the prospects of a democratic triumph in the next Presidential canvass." Better take care those lights do not prove dark lanterns or *ignes fatui*.

The Indianapolis *Sentinel*—democrat—in referring to the names presented for the democratic nomination for President, says:—"In the race of 1872 we want a Western man." That is rather a modest demand when it is considered that the West has held the Presidential office for the last three consecutive terms. But perhaps Andy Johnson was considered of no account.

The proposition to remove the national capital from Washington has been revived since the local government of that city has been surrendered into the hands of a band of negro strikers.

The Utica *Observer*, "with no desire to meddle with the affairs of its neighbors," nominates Roscoe Conkling for the Vice Presidency on the republican ticket.

A real estate paper out West nominates Secretary Boutwell for President. A man whose modesty impels him to decline the honor of having a revenue vessel named after him certainly can have no aspirations for the Presidential chair.

The *Avalanche* and the *Appeal*, of Memphis, are at it hot and heavy already—one in support of Jeff Davis and the other against him. Says the *Avalanche* of the *Appeal* editor:—

His military career began and ended in this city. It commenced in the militia and ended there. His active service in the face of the enemy was a campaign—it was patrolling a few blocks of buildings in Memphis and gloriously guarding old scrap iron in Fort Pickering.

Thus the new civil war is beginning in the South itself. Prepare for a street fight in Memphis.

As for Jeff Davis, the *Avalanche* remarks:—

Whenever he appears before the public he becomes a proper subject of newspaper notice. And he no more represents in his person the Lost Cause than a thousand private Confederate soldiers who are in this city. The Lost Cause went down at Appomattox Court House, and at Charlotte and Greensboro, North Carolina, and Gainesville, Alabama. It is represented in the half million graves of dead Confederate soldiers and in the history of their deeds, and in the honor and usefulness of the living.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* says:—

General George W. McCook, democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio, was once the law partner of Edwin M. Stanton.

An exchange wants to know if game will be made of Brigham Young's son now that he is a West Pointer.

The Ohio *Statesman* calls General McCook the "Chevalier Bayard of our times and the State."

The St. Louis *Republican* says:—"It would be difficult to imagine a more stupendous anachronism than the reappearance of Jeff Davis on the stump." This is, perhaps, not the only instance in which Jeff Davis has made an error in selecting the proper occasion to carry out his purposes. His whole career is full of anachronisms.

The Richmond *Whig* says Jeff Davis' "nostrums are of a negative character." Yet they have been, to use a line of an old Yankee song, "in mortal pesties pounded."

The Norfolk *Day Book* (old line democrat) thinks the Northern democrats are "throwing their fat in the fire" by advocating the new departure.

BILLS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

The following additional bills have been signed by Governor Hoffman and have been placed on file in the office of the Secretary of State:—

927. To fix the compensation of assessors in the town of West Farms, in Westchester county.

928. In relation to the laying out, opening and constructing of a public highway in the town of Hempstead, Queens county.

929. To authorize the widening and straightening of the public highway or street laid down and designated on the map of Woodsburg, made by Stephen Mosher, June, 1870, and filed in the office of the clerk of Queens county by Samuel Wood.

930. To authorize a tax of one-third mill per dollar of valuation of the year 1871 for construction of new work upon and extraordinary repairs of the canals of this State.

931. To amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Bond Deposit Company of the city of New York," passed April 20, 1864.

932. To provide for a plan for filling in the lowlands adjoining Fourth avenue, in the Tenth, Twenty-second and Eighth wards in the city of Brooklyn.

933. To provide for ascertaining and paying the amount of certain claims growing out of the execution of orders of the late Metropolitan Board of Health and of the present Board of Health of the city of Brooklyn.

934. In reference to apprentices and employers.

935. To amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the United States Inebriate Asylum for the Reformation of the Poor and Destitute Inebriate," passed April 5, 1864, and the act amending the same, passed April 23, 1866, and the act amending the same, passed March 27, 1867, and to amend the several acts in relation to the New York State Inebriate Asylum, and to change the number of its trustees and the mode of their appointment and directing the management of said asylum.

936. To allow further costs in suits brought by working women.

937. To provide for the construction of a swing bridge over Buffalo river in the city of Buffalo.

938. To authorize the Maiden Turnpike Company to construct tramways on their turnpike road, to fix the rates of tolls thereon and to change the location of their tollgate.

939. To appropriate money to repair the road injured by the Genesee Valley Canal in the town of Olean, county of Cattaraugus.

940. To incorporate the Brooklyn Steam Transit Company.

941. For the relief of George Saunders.

942. For the relief of Henry D. Denison.

943. To prevent the flooding of canals by reason of the construction of the State dam across the Tonawanda creek at the village of Tonawanda.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Jesse R. Grant, father of the President, is reported to have softening of the brain.

Governor Geary's eldest daughter, Angelica, it is rumored is engaged to Major Piller, editor of the Harrisburg *Patriot*.

The Rev Mr. Young, widely known as "Father Young," died suddenly at his residence in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sunday night.

Miss Lizzie Poor, daughter of Rear Admiral Poor, is to be married to Lieutenant Commander Jewell, of the navy, on the 15th inst.

Mrs. Myra Clarke Gaines has another fight on hand with the city of New Orleans in order to get possession of her property in that city.

The state of his health and the urgency of other duties have caused Senator Sumner to decline the invitation to deliver the opening address at the St. Louis fair.

Judge Swayne, one of the Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court, was in Detroit on the 5th inst., but left the same day for Grand Rapids, Mich.

Chief Justice Chase, whose health continues to improve, will be the guest of his daughter, Mrs. Senator Sprague, at Narragansett, R. I., this summer, and will probably go to Europe.

JOURNALISTIC NOTES.

There is an editor in New Jersey with the appropriate name of Scattergood.

The *Age* is a new afternoon daily started at Houston, Texas, by McGary & Bickley.

Virginia Castleman Sophia Preston Breckinridge Taylor writes for the *Colored Observer*.

The Charlottesville (Va.) *Chronicle* is to be published after July 1 daily on a small sheet.

The *Crisis*, a democratic newspaper of Columbus, Ohio, has been merged into the *Ohio Statesman*.

John Knox, a printer, aged forty, from Palmyra, N. Y., committed suicide at Hartford, Conn., by cutting his throat.

Abner Newton, who has been the editor and publisher of the Middletown (Conn.) *Constitution* since 1837, died on the 28th ult., aged seventy-five years. He was the oldest printer in the State.

One of the earliest papers published in Maine was *Russell's Echo, or the North Star*, printed in Fryeburg, in 1798. It was started by Elijah Russell, who had formerly printed a paper in Concord, N. H.

Two Memphis editors have been calling each other a lot of things, and now both of them have their meals brought to them in the sanctum, for fear if they go out to lunch they may meet each other. When they are obliged to go out for a drink they are disguised so that no one will know them.

THE LATE TRAGEDY ON SHIPBOARD.

The Mutiny and Alleged Murder on the Ship J. L. Bowen.

EXAMINATION OF THE PRISONERS.

Yesterday the prisoners charged with mutiny and the murder of the captain of the ship J. L. Bowen Amesbury, were examined before Commissioner Davenport. The names of the accused are:—Manuel Antonio, Michael Antonio, Thomas Roach and James Thomas.

Mr. A. H. Purdy appeared as counsel for the government, and Mr. Robert N. Waite defended the prisoners.

It will be seen from the evidence printed below that nothing has yet been elicited to show which of the men struck the fatal blow that deprived the captain of life. The particulars of this lamentable occurrence, as they have appeared in the HERALD from the pen of the special reporter, are, so far as the testimony taken yesterday goes, fully corroborated by the witnesses sworn at the examination.

TESTIMONY OF THE MATE.

J. W. Sleeper, the mate of the ship J. L. Bowen, was examined at considerable length. He testified as follows:—When we reached port I caused the prisoners to be arrested as quickly as possibly; the trouble arose five days after we were out from port; at four P. M. the men were at work on the anchors; for the purpose of moving the anchors I had to put a tackle on it; Thomas put the tackle on in the wrong way; I desired him to fix it; he did it wrong again, and gave some talk that made me mad; I flung a stick at him; Manuel Antonio rushed at me with a bar; the captain threw him off; Thomas struck me several times; after this I saw the captain lying on the deck with his head split open; I did not see who struck the captain; Johnson, Mike and Thomas then took the captain aft; after this the captain lived about two hours and a half; I have not talked with Thomas since, nor heard him say anything in regard to this trouble; I am a nephew of the captain.

Cross-examined—When we left this port the captain did not desire me to get any shooting irons ready for these men; before the trouble the men had performed their duty well; when I found fault with the men the second time I called Thomas out of his name; Thomas called me in the same way; I then threw the stick at him; the captain then told me to take no impudence from the niggers; the stick I threw at Thomas was a piece of board, about eighteen inches long; it weighed about three pounds; Manuel Antonio then came toward me with a bar in his hand; he did not try to hit me; the second mate threw him down on the deck; I did not see him strike the second mate; Thomas followed me up and struck me; I did not strike back, but tried to get away from him; I was struck twice on the head and once on the shoulder; we sailed on May 23, civil time, and June 2, nautical time; saw no blows struck at the captain; when I was knocked down I told the men to stop and they desisted; after this the men obeyed all my orders and never attempted any further trouble; the prisoners, though they did not assist in hoisting the signal of distress, did not oppose that act; I was knocked from the forecastle to the main deck.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE B. CRANE.

This witness is second mate of the J. L. Bowen. He deposed—This difficulty took place during my afternoon watch on deck; the first mate told Thomas to fix the anchor properly; he fixed it wrong three times; the mate then addressed some harsh language to the sailors; I then looked out for a disturbance; the men had then armed themselves with capstan bars; they moved towards us in a menacing manner, Manuel Antonio leading them; as he came up I seized him and threw him on deck; Thomas came at me with a bar which he had raised to strike me; taking the bar from him I hit him on the head with it; the steward then came up with a cordwood stick; he tried to strike Thomas with it; I was at that time struck on the back of the neck and knocked senseless; after I recovered my senses the fight was at an end and I saw the captain lying dead on the deck.

Cross-examined—The throwing of the piece of wood by the mate was the first violence offered; all out Manuel Antonio rested their bars on deck; Manuel had his bar raised over his head; I did not see any one strike the captain, and did not see him mixed up in the fight; I saw him come forward before I threw Manuel to the deck; I did not see him have any weapon in his hand; I did not hear the captain tell the mate to kill the ——; did not hear him use harsh or bad language to the men; up to the period of the fight the men were good seamen and readily obeyed orders; my skin was not broken by the blows I got, but my neck is swollen.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW COSS.

Matthew Coss, steward of the J. L. Bowen, deposed—I came out of the galley and saw the second mate lying on the deck; I thought he was dead; saw a man at that time strike the first mate; I was so confused and astonished that I did not see exactly who it was; two men then made for me; one of them struck me; I was so scared that I cannot tell who hit me; the captain, whom I saw taken up from the deck, was all covered with blood; he did not speak; he died about an hour and a half subsequently.

Cross-examined—Did not see the commencement of the trouble; the men said they would kill me; got a broadaxe, and defended myself as best I could; I just had a piece of wood in my hand, but they took it from me; I saw the mate receive on the back of the head the blow which knocked him down; I was going to hit Thomas with the axe, but he said he had not done anything; I then went away from him.

TESTIMONY OF R. P. CIFVER.

R. P. Cifver deposed—I was a passenger on this ship; I did not come out of my room until the trouble was over; I dressed the wounds of the first and second mate; I was afraid, and did not talk with the men about the fight.

The examination at this stage of the proceedings was adjourned till to-day.

THE QUAKERS' FINILE.

Close of the Yearly Meeting—A General Conference of Friends from All Parts of the World to be Held Here Next Fall.

The Friends who have been in session here for several days closed their business yesterday afternoon and in the evening held religious services in the meeting house in Twentieth street. At the business meeting reports were read from the societies at Ferrisburg and Nine Partners, excusing themselves for not having raised their monetary quota last year, and from the Saratoga society asking that in future all moneys be raised by quota and not be left to voluntary contributions. An aged Friend at this point gave a brief exhortation to the younger members to make a full consecration of themselves to God.

The proposition of the Western Yearly Meeting suggesting the propriety of holding a General Conference of representatives of the Society of Friends in Great Britain, Ireland and America in this city, next fall, was read, together with the report of the special committee to whom it was referred, approving of the same, but suggesting that November would be a much better time than July for such a gathering here. The committee also desired that the conclusions of said Conference should be advisory only. The proposition was fully discussed by Friends, and with only one dissenting voice, was approved. The action of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting on the proposition was also read, but its vagueness prevented any concurrence in it by the New York Meeting. The former deemed the time barely yet come for the assembling of such a Conference, but believed it not far distant. It was the settled impression of many Friends that only good would result from such a gathering, and that the entire body would be drawn more closely together and be one in heart and fellowship as in spirit.

Dr. Thomas and Henry Watson, feeling themselves burdened with messages to the female Friends, went and delivered themselves of them, and Edith Griffith, having a like concern for the men, unburdened her soul to them in an address of encouragement to Christian cheerfulness, earnestness and perseverance and diligence in business, as well as fervency of spirit in the Lord's service.

The standing committees on Sunday schools, general meetings, &c., for the year were appointed.

A good old apostolic practice prevails among Friends of corresponding with societies in different parts of the world; and, as a number of such epistles were read at the opening of the Yearly Meeting here from Friends in Dublin, London, Canada and different portions of the United States, appropriate replies were read and directed to be forwarded to the same, and with this the business of the Orthodox Society of Friends for 1871 was brought to an end.

A FATAL MISTAKE.

Oxalic Acid is Taken for Sulphate of Magnesia.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Bathgate at Melrose, Westchester county, on the body of Patrick O'Rourke, aged about seventy, who died on the previous evening from the effects of a dose of poison accidentally administered by himself. Deceased had formerly been engaged in the manufacture of shoes, and while looking over the implements of his trade stumbled on a small package of something which he pronounced Epsom salts. During the afternoon deceased complained to his daughter of feeling unwell, and intimated his intention of taking some of the supposed saline cathartic. Without doubting the properties of the ambiguous drug, the daughter advised him not to take it, saying that he would feel better shortly. Thinking it would relieve him, however, the old man dissolved a quantity of the supposed salts in water and drank it. He was at once seized with violent spasms, accompanied by incessant vomiting and, although a physician was promptly called in, the unfortunate man died in about half an hour. A verdict was returned in accordance with the above facts.

ARREST OF JOE COBURN.

Joe Caught Wearing Stolen Jewelry and Run In on a Warrant—The Sale Traced to "Professor Billy"—His Appearance at the Tombs—Held in a Captain's Custody Until To-Day.

The pugilistic Coburn was yesterday arrested and taken before Judge Hogan at the Tombs, charged by Amos C. Bell, of 20 Fourth avenue, with being in unlawful possession of a gold watch valued at $125 and a gold chain valued at $100. In the affidavit filed in the court at the time the application for a warrant was made it was set forth that Bell had the watch and chain on his person on the 17th of March last, and that while walking in the street they were stolen from him by an unknown person. Coburn was neatly attired in a black coat and vest to match; his pantaloons were of light tweed and looked "summer," while from his breast

SPARKLED A NUMBER OF SMALL BRILLIANTS,

which, with his spotless shirt front and cleanly shaven face, gave him the air of respectability. But for his closely cropped hair there was nothing in his appearance yesterday to distinguish him from any other peaceable citizen.

Mr. Bell appeared before his Honor, in company with Joe and Captain Garland, of the Twelfth precinct, and swore positively that the chain was his, but the watch he was not so clear about. The Judge took the affidavit and asked Coburn to state how he came into possession of the articles referred to therein. Joe replied that he had recently purchased the chain from "Professor Billy Clark," the proprietor of the Arbor, in Houston street, for a certain sum of money, and as a proof of this assertion he desired to have "Billy" brought to the court. The watch he purchased a few days previous to last St. Patrick's Day, so that he was well aware that that certainly did not belong to Mr. Bell. The Captain was sent after the "Professor," accompanied by Coburn, but on arriving at the Arbor they discovered he was lying in bed sick with rheumatic fever, and unable, according to the certificate of the medical man in attendance on him, to leave the house. He admitted to the Captain that he

CERTAINLY DID SELL THE CHAIN TO COBURN,

though nothing was said about the manner in which he got possession of it. Mr. Bell said that he was out walking on Sunday last, and subsequently, entering a place (where not stated) where Coburn was, the first thing that attracted his attention was the guard hanging from the latter's person, and he applied on the following day for a warrant, on which Coburn has been arrested.

Judge Hogan intimated that as Clark had corroborated Coburn in the matter of the sale of the chain he could not hold him on that charge, but he would leave him in the custody of the Captain until to-day, in order that further inquiries might be made of Billy, so as to trace the affair in the regular way. Coburn therefore left the court in charge of the officer, looking not a whit worse for the heated ordeal of sitting in the close courtroom and his parade with his captor. It is expected he will be discharged when the case comes on for examination.

MURPHY'S MUSCLE MEN.

Theodore Allen and His Gang and the Republican Primary Meeting—Examination Before Justice Cox Yesterday.

An examination was commenced before Justice Cox, at Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday morning in the case of Theodore Allen and William P. Burke, charged with feloniously assaulting Messrs. Winterbottom and Butler, at the republican enrolment held at No. 202 Spring street on Monday night last, the facts as to which have already appeared in the HERALD. Ex Judge Stewart appeared for the defence, and first called up the complaint preferred by Winterbottom. Allen, who is out on $6,000 bail, appeared early in the morning, and Burke, who is suffering from consumption and unable to furnish $10,000 bonds, was brought up from the prison, looking more like a corpse than a human being.

A number of witnesses were examined, all of whom were present at the disturbance, and who testified that there was a general scramble at the meeting in question, and that oaths and chairs were very freely thrown around, and that the general instructions given to hit a head wherever they saw one was very implicitly obeyed.

The case was here adjourned until nine o'clock this morning, when the defence will place their witnesses on the stand. Judge Stuart solicited Justice Cox to reduce the amount of bail in the case of Burke, on account of his impaired health. Justice Cox promised to consider the matter when the proper bail should be produced before him.

THE ILLINOIS CYCLONE.

Terrible Destruction—Singular Effect Upon Vegetation—Altogether Wonderful Phenomenon.

A remarkable phenomenon occurred on Friday last near Mason City, about six miles west of Jacksonville, Illinois. It is regarded as one of the most remarkable tornadoes or incipient cyclones ever witnessed in this or any other country. A correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* says that on the morning of the day stated, while the air was intensely sultry, an inky-hued cloud or smoke-like column was observed gathering near the earth's surface. Soon this great black column, the base of which rested on the earth, shot up three distinct and well-defined, but narrower and spire-like cloud columns, which continued to ascend rapidly until they reached and seemed to attach themselves closely to a passing cloud above. The frightful spectacle continued to move eastward slowly, but constantly, for some fifteen minutes, then changed its course slightly to the southeastward, greatly to the relief of the people of Mason, who were expecting to see their town torn to pieces by the angry elements. For some fifteen minutes longer the dreadful apparition moved slowly on, changing its shape considerably as it progressed. The two outer spire-like columns soon disappeared, leaving none but the inner column resting upon the great base cloud below, and still attaching itself to the cloud above. Suddenly the awful apparition disappeared, as if it had been but a vision or a dream, and not a fearful reality. While the black current was moving a cold current of air coming from the west was most sensibly felt at Mason City, and a mile away from its track an odor much like that of burning sulphur was inhaled by several persons. A gentleman who had been a soldier and was in many battles stood but a hundred yards from the tornado when it passed, and he says that small flashes of electricity were constantly visible in the storm column passing from the earth to the cloud above, and that rapid popping, cracking reports were heard, reminding him most forcibly of an infantry regiment in battle firing their muskets as fast as possible.

As fearful as was the appearance of this column or columns, reaching upon the earth and reaching to and taking fast hold on the clouds of heaven, more marvellous, if possible, was its destructive work upon the earth in its pathway, which was near three miles in length and varying in width from twenty to eighty feet. Not a spear of grass, not a stalk of corn or wheat, not a shrub, not a particle of green vegetation was left alive. Had the fires descended from heaven and fallen in the pathway of this tornado, as they did on Sodom, the destruction of every living thing of the vegetable kingdom could not have been more complete. For some distance in its path the earth was literally ploughed up to the depth of six inches. In passing over the unbroken prairie, so inconceivably rapid must have been the rotary motion of the wind of the tornado that the earth was gathered up from the deep roots of the prairie grass, and the turf, with its bare roots as clean as if they had been washed, was lifted from the earth and left strewn in the storm's pathway. Where the course of the tornado led through a wheat field every stalk of wheat standing in its path was torn down and twisted into every conceivable shade; and where an osage hedge lay across its way for the width of its path the hedge bushes were torn into shreds.

But the most wonderful of all the phenomena connected with this tornado is that the column of whirling air must have been intensely hot, as is shown by the fact that every spear of grass, stalk of corn and wheat—every green thing in its path—were literally dried to a crisp. The prairie grass along the storm's track, which was luxuriantly green before the tornado passed, was left as brown and dead as it is found in midwinter. The leaves of the hedge where the tornado passed across its way crumbled as do the dead, dry leaves of the forest after the blasting autumn frost has done its work. The young corn which stood in its way is as black as if a withering fire had passed through it. Another feature of this tornado was, that while its rotary motion must have been of inconceivably great velocity, its progressive motion was not above the rate of six miles an hour. The outlines of its pathway were so well defined that five feet from the outer line of total destruction of vegetation of every kind not a vestige of its effects could be seen. In fact, the outlines of its path of destruction were almost as clearly marked as that of a mower's swath through the meadow, and its work more complete.

Fortunately no house stood in the tornado's line of march. It passed between a farm house and barn, but escaped both. Its onward movement was so slow that man or beast, if in its way, could easily escape. The progressive motion of a tornado is usually at the rate of thirty to sixty miles an hour; the fact of this one moving at the rate of six miles per hour was most singular. The path of a tornado is usually a quarter or a half mile in width; this one was but twenty to eighty feet in width. This is another unusual feature.

INSURANCE ISSUES.

OFFICE OF THE EMPIRE CITY FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, NEW YORK, June 8, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

ISSUE BETWEEN INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Home Life Insurance Company, it appears, some few weeks ago made application and got a receiver appointed for the Empire Fire Insurance Company on the usual grounds. This order the Empire men contend was obtained surreptitiously, and yesterday, through their counsel, they got an order calling upon their opponents to show cause why the appointment of a receiver should not be set aside.

In calling your attention to the above article, taken from your paper a few days ago, permit me to say that there is no such company as Empire Fire in this city, and therefore likely to mislead the public into the belief that the subject had reference to this company. It must mean some other company, and I would thank you to make the correction, as the Empire City Fire Insurance Company has no controversy with the Home Life Insurance Company. Yours respectfully,

WM. A. BURTIS, President.

THE COURTS.

Important Decision in Bankruptcy—Charge of Attempted Murder on Shipboard—The Norwich-Roy Collision Case—Verdict of Damages Against the City—More of the Black Friday Gold Transactions—The Fisk-Aimee Suit Settled—Business in the General Sessions.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Important Decision by Judge Blatchford as to Voluntary Conveyances—Opinions of Chancellor Walworth and Lord Chancellor Westbury.

John Sedgwick, Assignee in Bankruptcy of James K. Place and James D. Sparkman, vs. James K. Place and Others.—This case has been reargued in the United States District Court. The plaintiff sets forth that the settlement made by Place on his wife of property in the Fifth avenue should be set aside and rendered void and fraudulent, on the ground that it was made with the view of cheating his creditors.

Judge Blatchford has just rendered a very lengthy decision in the case. He says the plaintiff is not entitled to a decree as prayed for as respects such property, furniture and proceeds. Mr. Sedgwick, the plaintiff, as assignee in bankruptcy of James K. Place, is vested, by virtue of section fourteen of the Bankruptcy act, with all property conveyed by the bankrupt in fraud of his creditors. It was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1823 (Sexton vs. Wheaton, 8 Wheaton, 229) that a voluntary settlement in favor of a wife cannot be impeached by subsequent creditors, merely because it is voluntary. In Hinds, lessee, vs. Longworth (11 Wheaton, 199), in 1826, the doctrine was laid down that the mere fact that a grantor who makes a deed to a child in consideration of affection is in debt to a small amount will not make such deed fraudulent as against creditors, if it be shown that the grantor was in prosperous circumstances and unembarrassed; that the gift to the child was a reasonable provision according to his state and condition of life, and that enough was left for the payment of the debts of the grantor. This doctrine was approved by the Court of Appeals of New York in 1841, in Carpenter vs. Roe (10 New York, 227), and in 1862, in Babcock vs. Eckler (24 New York, 623). The case last cited also says that subsequent indebtedness cannot be invoked to make that fraudulent which was honest and free from impeachment at the time. In Van Wyck vs. Seward (6 Page, 62) in 1836, Chancellor Walworth said:—"I presume it cannot be seriously urged that when a parent makes an advancement to his child, honestly and fairly retaining in his own hands at the same time property sufficient to pay all his debts, such child will be bound to refund such advancement for the benefit of creditors, if it afterwards happens that the parent, either by misfortune or fraud, does not actually pay all his debts which existed at the time of the advancement." In the case of the Bank of the United States vs. Horsman (6 Page, 529), in 1837, the same judge said it was the settled law of New York that a voluntary conveyance was not, *per se*, fraudulent even as against creditors to whom the grantor was indebted at the date of the deed. In Frazer vs. Weston (1 Barbour, Ch. R. 220), in 1845, the same judge sanctions a conveyance formed upon the consideration of blood or blood or of marriage merely. The legal presumption, therefore, is that such a conveyance is valid and not a fraud upon the rights of any one. The judge refers at much length to other authorities, citing the decision of Lord Chancellor Westbury, in 1864, in the case of Spirett vs. Willows (3 De Gex, Jones vs. Smith, 293, and 11 Jurists, new series, part 1, 10). In that case the Lord Chancellor said:—"The plaintiff sues as a creditor to set aside a voluntary settlement or deed of gift made by the defendant, his debtor. The plaintiff's debt was contracted before the time of making the settlement. He has since recovered judgment at law and the debtor has become bankrupt. The plaintiff complained in the words of the statute of Elizabeth that his judgment and execution are hindered, delayed, and defrauded by the conveyance of the goods and chattels of his debtor made by this voluntary settlement. The defence is that at the time of making the settlement the debtor reserved and had property enough to pay the plaintiff and all his other creditors in full, and that the settlement, therefore, is not fraudulent, because the debtor remained solvent after he made it. There is some inconsistency in the decided cases on the subject of conveyances in fraud of creditors, but I think the following conclusions are well founded:—If the debt of the creditor by whom the voluntary settlement is impeached existed at the date of the settlement, and it is shown that the remedy of the creditor is delayed or delayed by the existence of the settlement, it is immaterial whether the debtor was or was not solvent after making the settlement. But if a voluntary settlement or deed of gift be impeached by a subsequent creditor, whose debts had not been contracted at the date of the settlement, with express intent to delay, hinder or defraud creditors, or that after the settlement the debtor had no sufficient means or reasonable expectations of being able to pay his then existing debts—that is to say, was reduced to a state of insolvency, the law implies that the settlement was made with intent to delay, hinder or defraud creditors, and that it is, therefore, fraudulent and void. It is obvious that a voluntary settler retaining money enough to pay the debts which he owes at the time of making the settlement, but not actually paying them, cannot give a different character to the settlement or take it out of the statute. It still remains a voluntary alienation or deed of gift, whereby, in that event, the remedies of creditors are delayed, hindered or defrauded. I am, therefore, of opinion that this settlement is void as against the plaintiff.

Judge Blatchford quotes other authorities, and says that James K. Place, the settler, was for several years previous to December 1, 1865, in a prosperous business in the city of New York as a member of the mercantile house of J. K. & E. B. Place, in which he and E. B. Place were the only general partners and James D. Sparkman was the sole special partner. The copartnership had, by its terms, on the 30th of November, 1865, some time yet to run. In the summer of 1866, J. K. Place being at that time prosperous in business and free from embarrassment and abundantly solvent, determined to make a settlement on his wife of a house for a residence. In pursuance of that purpose he purchased for $5,000 a ground rent lease of a lot of land on Fifth avenue. The holder of the lease assigned it to James K. Place, by an instrument dated June 21, 1866, and recorded September 13, 1866. He immediately commenced the erection of a house on this lot. Within the principles settled in the cases before referred to James K. Place was solvent and pecuniarily in a condition to make the settlement. It was not unreasonable in amount, and after he made it he had abundant property left to pay the debts which he owed.

As to the Fifth avenue property in question the Judge decides in favor of defendant; and with respect to other property involved he gives a decree for the plaintiff.

It is understood that this case may possibly be appealed to the United States Circuit Court.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN ADMIRALTY.

Yesterday Judge Blatchford rendered a decision dismissing the libel in the collision case of The Norwalk vs. The James Roy.

The Erie Railway War.

The Erie reference respecting the Heath and Raphael stock has been adjourned to Saturday.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

Attempted Murder on Board Ship.

Before Commissioner Shields.

*The United States vs. John