# THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA.,

Friday Morning, - - Feb. 9, 1877.


CASANAVE, Returning-Board statesman, was examined by the House Committee on Powers and Privileges on Monday last, and the *World* pronounces his testimony remarkable for the fact that he contrived in the course of it to enrich the language, with the tremendous word "contabulated." He was weak enough, however, to allow Mr. Burchard to bulldoze him into confessing that he meant "consolidated." He appeared to know nothing about how the board contrived to "contabulate" the Republican candidates into office.

NEXT November *two* State officers—an Auditor General and State Treasurer—will be elected, the first to serve for *three* years and the latter for *two*. Under a provision of the new constitution the incumbents of these offices are not capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms. The present Auditor General is Justus F. Temple, Democrat, of Greene county, elected in 1874, and the State Treasurer, William Rawle, Republican, of Erie county, elected in 1875. The officers to be elected in this county at the next election are Prothonotary, District Attorney and Poor are House Director.

A BILL is now pending in the State Legislature which provides for the erection of new counties. We have not seen a copy of it, but learn from the Harrisburg *Patriot* that it provides that an old county shall not be so divided as to reduce its population below 50,000 nor make its territory less than 400 square miles, and that the new county must have at least 20,000 inhabitants and 400 square miles. The bill also provides that a majority of the voters in the territory sought to be made a new county shall decide the question of division. If this bill should pass both houses and be signed by the Governor, new counties in this State will be like angels' visits, "few and far between."

AMONG all the liars who have come to the surface in connection with the Louisiana election it is indeed refreshing, as the Philadelphia *Times* well remarks, to find one man who can speak the truth. It is not habitual with Kellogg, but he can do it when he tries, and he struck pretty near the truth when he aid that Packard, the pretended Governor, is a fraud, his Legislature a fraud and the whole concern rotten and ready to tumble. He ought to have added, as he well knows from his close association with the Louisiana Returning Board, that Tilden honestly and fairly carried the State by about 8,000 majority and that Nicholls, the Democratic candidate for Governor, was elected by 9,000 majority over Packard, who, as Kellogg says, is a fraud.

MURTAGH, the immaculate and spotless patriot who runs the Administration organ in Washington, calls upon Morton, Chandler and the rest of the faithful to die in the last ditch. "If we must fall," says the magnificent Murtagh, who was recently engaged in the fruitless effort of luring a Congressman into a house of ill fame, "let it be with no stain of cowardice on our splendid record. If we must give way to our political adversaries, let it be in a spirit of true manhood and courage that will remain in history to testify to the generations of the future of our greatness and heroism." Ah, truly, remarks the Pittsburgh *Post*, but there is not water enough in the broad Potomac to purify the garments of Murtagh and his fellow scoundrels. The ocean itself would be too limited for the job.

LUZERNE county is punishing some of its official rogues of both political parties, to the great satisfaction of honest citizens generally. On Saturday, Courtwright, ex-County Treasurer, was sentenced to four years and six months imprisonment, for the embezzlement of large sums of public money. He made restitution of $20,000. Courtwright is a Republican and one of the pleas for a merciful sentence was that he was induced by leading politicians to do what he did to raise money for political purposes. A Democratic County Commissioner was fined a hundred dollars for extortion in office, and two ex-clerks in the Commissioners' office got four months each and $800 fine for conspiracy in office. Another Commissioner, sentenced some time ago, is serving out his term of imprisonment. All this the Pittsburgh *Post* pronounces good work. It will purify the political atmosphere up in Luzerne.

ON Saturday last, in the House of Representatives at Washington, a bill was passed fixing the salary of Senators and Congressmen at $5,000, the same as at present. The section of the bill which proposed to reduce the annual compensation of the President from $50,000, as is now provided for by an act of Congress passed in 1873, down to the original salary of $25,000, was adopted by a vote of 126 yeas to 47 nays. This bill, so far as reducing the pay of the President from *fifty* thousand dollars to the old standard of *twenty-five* thousand, will not pass the Senate, and even if it did, Grant would promptly veto it for the plain and simple reason that he signed the bill known as the back-pay bill, by which his annual salary was increased to *double* its original amount, and for the additional reason that one year ago he *vetoed* a bill to restore the salary back to $25,000. Although the salary of the President, until the passage of the infamous back-pay, act of 1873, which proved to be the political grave of hosts of Democrats as well as Republicans who voted for it, had always been $25,000, still it is an open question for the decision of Congress whether it is sufficient even for Tilden, with his *barrels* of money, about which so much has been said by the Republican papers.

WE published last week the names of the honorable gentlemen comprising the Electoral Commission to ascertain the result of the Presidential election. As a matter of course the first difficulty in their way was the vote of Florida, in regard to which able and exhaustive arguments were delivered before the Commission on Saturday and Monday by the counsel on each side—Judge Black, of this State, Charles O'Conor, of New York, and Merrick of Washington City, representing the Democratic electors, while Wm. M. Evarts, and E. W. Stoughton, both of New York, and Judge Mathews, of Ohio, appeared for the Republican electors. The vital question to be determined by the Commission is whether it will go behind the certificate of Stearns, of Florida, in favor of the Hayes electors and ascertain what votes were cast and who were honestly chosen electors. This is the important question to be determined by the commission, and on its solution will depend the Presidential issue. At this hour (Wednesday, 5 P. M.) we are without any advices as to the conclusion reached by the Commission, but hope to be able to announce it before we go to press on Thursday evening. Whatever the outcome may be the country must and will submit to it.

P. S. The Electoral Commission, by a vote of 8 to 7, decided on Wednesday afternoon that it would *not* receive any evidence outside of the electoral certificates from Florida, but that it *would* receive evidence on the question of the eligibility of F. C. Humphreys, one of the Hayes electors from that State, and that the argument of counsel on both sides would be heard on that day. Humphreys is said to have held an office under the United States at the time of his election, and was therefore precisely in the same position as Watts, one of the three Hayes electors in Oregon. The Commission would render its decision on Thursday or to-day, and on its final determination hangs "all the law and the prophets," so far as the Presidential uncertainty is concerned. This is the very latest news on this important question which we are able to furnish our readers.

FOLLOWING is a synopsis of the proposed stay law which passed first reading in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg one day last week. As this proposed law vitally affects a very large and unfortunate class of the people of this whole State, and is of course applicable to the same class in this county, we ask either Mr. Thomas or Mr. Downey, who represent Cambria county in the lower house, to send to the FREEMAN a printed copy of the bill, in order simply that the people here, of both political parties, may have a chance to read and fully understand its provisions, and to express their judgment on the question involved. It is a very important measure and ought to be well discussed and fully considered by the Legislature. Here is the synopsis referred to:

"That upon all judgments now remaining unsatisfied, o which may be obtained within six months from the passage of this act, or upon which a sale of real estate has not yet been confirmed, there shall be a stay of execution for two years as regards judgments now existing, and from their date as regards judgments obtained within six months after the date hereof; provided that the defendant is possessed of real estate within the county in which such judgment shall have been obtained, or in any other county within this Commonwealth to which such judgment shall have been transferred (and subject to be sold for the payment of such judgment) within the opinion of any Court or any Judge in vocation, or Justice, or Alderman having jurisdiction, at a fair valuation, a sum sufficient to pay or satisfy the same over and above other incumbrances and the amount exempted from levy and sale, upon execution, or said defendant shall give security for the payment of the same, to be approved by the Court or a Judge thereof in vacation, or the Justice or Alderman before whom the same was obtained," &c.

THE Philadelphia *Inquirer* is an out-and-out Republican journal, and its utterances generally pass as orthodox Republican authority. This is what it has to say with reference to the Maddox-Pickett-Wells developments:

Enough remains to demonstrate that the Louisiana returning board, or two of its members, Wells and Anderson, were ready to sell the vote of the state to the friends of Mr. Tilden, and that many of the affidavits presented to the board proving intimidation, and on which over ten thousand votes were thrown out, were manufactured to order in the custom house. This business has assumed such an infamous shape at last that it cannot be permitted to remain unsearched to its lowermost depths. If yesterday's evidence be true, the country wants to know it; if it be not true, and part of a conspiracy, the country will insist upon knowing that. The worst part of it is that there is nothing in the evidence which alleges Wells and Anderson to be mere political traders which is not entirely consistent with their well known characters and the reputations they have made for themselves in connection with Louisiana affairs. Long ago General Sheridan, in his official reports, branded Wells as a skulking thief, capable of any act of dishonesty, and yesterday's evidence, until refuted, will show Sheridan's opinion to have been well formed.

THE New York correspondent of the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, writing to his paper relative to the disclosures of Returning Board rascality in the case of Louisiana, says:

The effect of these exposures on popular feeling here is less visible than deep. Republicans bite their lips, and, like the German boy who had been flogged, think damn. The best portion of the party feel outraged, and not a few confess that their faith in Republican institutions is shaken. There are men here who know Wells well and say he is equal to the million-dollar proposition. He is thoroughly venal, and the Administration which gave him the power and opportunity to do unlimited mischief is involved, irrevocably, in his guilt. Nobody dreams that the Louisiana vote can be given to Hayes. These exposures have ruined his prospects. Louisiana is his funeral. Two-thirds of the Republicans of this city to-day are morally certain that Samuel J. Tilden will be the next President of the United States, and, in view of recent disclosures, are rather glad of it.

A HALE old lady must be Mrs. Hale, aged 98 years, of East Reading, who, the Reading *Times* says, walked on Saturday from her residence to the court house, where she transacted some business, and then walked home again, the entire distance being over two miles. She was accompanied by her son, aged 65 years, who has four brothers older than himself.

## *Our Washington Letter.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5, 1877.

EDITOR FREEMAN—The proceedings of the "Electoral Tribunal" on Saturday were of more than ordinary interest, as the merits of the great questions at stake were then more clearly presented than on any previous occasion. A suggestion from the presiding Justice that both sides should follow the ordinary rules of procedure before courts was asquiesced in by both Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Evarts, of opposing counsel. Mr. O'Connor then stated his points in brief, and will conclude to-day, but not in time to be treated of in this letter. The two Democratic attorneys had spoken very briefly on the questions, but with decided force, as was clearly shown by the temper of the opposition. O'Connor is decidedly the center of attraction, and every word he utters is eagerly caught up by the members of the tribunal and by the audience. Our fellow townsman, Mr. Richard T. Merrick, opened the case on the part of the Democrats, and truly the citizens of Washington should feel proud of her boy, who held is own among the big guns of the nation, and presented his case in choice and forcible language that evidently had its weight with the tribunal. Judge Black followed in a speech of great power, but declared that Mr. Merrick had presented the Democratic side of the case so admirably that it left him little to say. The Judge was very humorous in his style of delivery and introduced any number of keen thrusts at the opposition, which were heartily relished by all present. Judge Stanley Mathews (for the Republicans) disagreed with his associates, Mr. Kasson and McCrary, who opened the case for the Republicans and said that whether the ultra position assumed by his earlier associates was clearly untenable or not must be conjectured. Thus it will be seen that the radical attorneys are differing in opinion, *and that too in open court*, among themselves as to the legal aspects of their side of the case, and this difference fell like a wet blanket upon the Rads. here, who are more than ever despondent, and are almost ready to give up the contest. The point made by the attorneys on the Republican side is that the tribunal has no jurisdiction in the case, but as that question has been already settled, their line of argument is considered here as a genteel "yield-up" of their case. Evarts may throw a little spirit into the already beaten enemy, but it will be only momentary. It seems to be a foregone conclusion that Florida will be given to Tilden, and ere this letter is set up in your types you may receive per telegraph notice to that effect. In a few days more the verdict will be made up and given to the nation, and then the people will yield a calm obedience, trusting for the correction of any evils it may entail to "Time, which at last makes all things even."

The fourth of March! Whether Grant's term expires on the 4th or 5th of March, there is a satisfaction in the thought that only four weeks remain of his leaden reign, which is not intended for poetry. The long, gloomy night is nearly over, and the day is beginning to break—the night of rings in all the government departments, in the post traderships and lobbies, in the secret service—when Belknap, Babcock, Orvill, Grant, Chandler & Co. were the powers behind the throne and when the threads of every tangled web of villainy led straight to the White House—this era is rapidly passing away. The number of corrupt men who have been crushed or driven into retirement during the past two years is a hopeful augury of the future. A better time is coming. The corruption of the Rads. will pass away amid the smoke of Tilden's booming cannon on March 5th, 1877.

Wells demands an immediate hearing, and he ought to have it. A man so black-souled and impure ought not to be kept out of the hearing of the penitentiary so long on the ragged edge.

The Senate committee which examined Littlefield to see whether anything useful for the Republicans could be got out of him, did not meet with the success hoped for. He reaffirmed all his previous statements, and they dropped him like a hot potato.

The President's salary is to be cut down to $25,000, the same as it was before the Rads. gave Grant's poverty (?) a lift at the expense of the people.

The Republicans claim that the constitution requires that everything purporting to be a vote must be counted. The people claim that the constitution only provides for the counting of the honest, *bona fide* votes. On which side lies the common sense of the argument?

Some of the newspapers are severely criticising the action of Congress in issuing tickets of admission to the great national tribunal. It was certainly necessary to a greater or less extent, otherwise the wheels of justice might have been retarded by a noisy and tumultuous gathering which would have delayed the progress of the tribunal.

Stearns said, "I am the State and behold the only original returns of said State." Whereupon Florida was set down for Hayes.

The Returning Board villainy is styled "the certain shame of the American people." Hardly that, rather the crowning infamy of the Republican party. The American people have had no hand in the roguery.

The investigation into the conduct of the late election in Mississippi was continued before the Senate committee this morning and developed the fact that the Republican judges of election were generally ignorant negroes, and that it was an easy matter to get them drunk on election day. At this point the committee closed their testimony, having discovered that it was damaging the radical case.

The Senate committee will finish taking testimony in the Oregon case to-day. Morton has unearthed nothing as yet detrimental to Mr. Tilden's interest, and the investigation will therefore go for naught.

Florida whitewashed. The Republican members of the House committee who investigated the conduct of the late election in Florida have submitted a minority report, which in the main corresponds with the Senate committee's report, and of course excuses the rascality of the Rads. It is nothing more than was expected, and will meet with little or no consideration.

An interesting scene was enacted in the House committee room the other day. The witness Maddox was called upon to produce the letters from Wells to Senator West, and West was asked to open and read the letter. Bristling up and nervously twitching with excitement, he consented to do the reading, but he hastily glanced over the contents to assure himself that their was nothing damaging in it. His disappointment was apparent, however, and he wanted to volunteer a statement in reference to the character of the witness Maddox, but the committee promptly checked him, whereupon he retired from the table and shortly after left the committee room. Such conduct! and he a U. S. Senator.

The Secretary of the National Revenue Reform association, having delivered to Representative Willis, a collection of laws applied to the present revenue statutes, Mr. W. will call it up in the House in the course of a few days. It does not affect the rates of duties, but removes all doubts, heretofore existing on that subject. A number of bankers will be heard by the Committee of Ways and Means on Wednesday next in relation to the above. ANDERSON.

A BRANCH concern—the limb of a tree.

## *Sale of the Presidency.*

The editor of the *Tribune* is an old acquaintance of Wells, the forger and presidential auctioneer. He changed his opinions, or, to speak more accurately, has lately been expressing a very different opinion of this "eminent citizen" from that contained in his book "After the War," but the disclosures of Wells' confederates, Kenner and Littlefield, seem to remind the editor that it will not do to be ranked among his friends, and he now confesses, with some *if's*, however, that the old rascal is at his old tricks again. The *Tribune* in a recent issue says:

"The returning board case grows darker and darker, either for ex-governor Wells, or the men who may be conspiring against him. The clerk who before refused to answer questions now confesses, or pretends to confess, the whole story. *His testimony more than corroborates all that has been already divulged* If it is true, Gen. Sheridan did not tell half the truth about ex-Governor Wells; if it is false it is an amazingly complicated case of perjury. But has Mr. Wells nothing at all to say?"

Certainly, "*if false*, this is an amazingly complicated case of perjury." But it is simply impossible that falsehood could be sustained by such an amazing number of confirmatory facts.

General Sheridan was certainly right in saying, when Wells and his associates were attempting to make way with the levee fund, "that he was dishonest himself and had not one honest friend." Certainly the editor of the *Tribune* himself was right when he said that Wells was utterly faithless and betrayed in turn every one who trusted him. Certainly Messrs. Wheeler, Hoar and Frye were right when, having convicted Wells of perjury in swearing to facts not only shown to be false, but facts of which he could know nothing, having been in a distant part of the state at the time they were supposed to have transpired, they re-instated in office a Louisiana senator whom Wells had turned out on his own false affidavit alone; and certainly Littlefield is right when, with the original papers before him showing the erasures and false figures, he swears that it was by Wells' order the forgery was committed. For what other purpose could Wells have refused to put a Democrat on the board, as the law required, or to allow a Democratic clerk to attend its sittings, or have refused the opportunity to the committee of Congress to examine the papers, but to afford himself the opportunity to commit such forgeries and to prevent their detection?

Nor is it any less certain that having offered to sell the vote of the state to the Democrats, who refused to buy, he has sold it to their opponents. Every man who upholds the power of Wells to make this disposition of the state, whether before or after the act, becomes a party to it. This is just what the Radicals do. They assert the power of the returning board to dispose of the state at their discretion, and claim the presidency, because in the exercise of his discretion, and to enable him to sell the state to them, he has thrown out a Democratic majority of 8,000 votes. No intelligent man will believe that such a man would throw out this majority for nothing. To maintain that he has the right to throw out this majority is, in effect, to maintain his power to sell, and sanctions the act of setting up the office for sale to the highest bidder.

WHOM DID MARY KNOX MARRY?—One of the most curious cases of litigation on record is occupying the attention of a court in Putnam county, New York. The question at issue is, who married Mary Knox? It appears not to be denied that Mary was married to somebody on the evening of November 8 She says so, and the minister who married her swears to it. Who was the bridegroom is the question. Mary says it was John A. Merritt, a youth some years her junior. John says it was not, and the minister is uncertain. He thinks, however, it was not John, because it did not look like him—a tolerably good reason, one would say. According to Mary Knox's story John came for her with a carriage, in pursuance of an agreement previously entered into, took her to the house of the Rev. Mr. Dean, where they were united in the bonds of matrimony, and then brought her back to her father's house and left her. Since that time he had studiously kept away from her, and she was forced to bring suit to recover him.

Now John Merritt denies the soft impeachment and declares that he was never married to Miss Knox. The theory set up on his behalf is that the brother of the young lady personated him and acted the part of the bridegroom, and that it is a conspiracy to force him to take up that role against his will. The queerest part of the case is the testimony of the clergyman. He thinks that the young man whom he married on the evening in question resembled Merritt in some particulars and resembled George Knox in some particulars. In other particulars he looked quite unlike either of them, and on the whole, he doesn't think it was either of them. Who, then was it? He doesn't know and nobody else seems to know, and the court is puzzled over the case. Altogether it is a queer case, and it is expected of the court to determine the facts. Either John married Mary for some reason when he didn't want to, and is trying to shirk his marital obligations, or the Knoxes have conspired to entrap him into the family, or there is some mysterious third party mixed up in the affair. Of course the bare facts presented to the public constitute a very small part of the story, the particulars of which are wrapped in mystery.

ALIVE IN AN AIR TIGHT COFFIN.—The body of a man who went to California to regain his health, was recently shipped in a metallic coffin for his former home in the East. When the Central Pacific train arrived at Ogden Junction the corpse was consigned to the Union Pacific Express Company and placed under the charge of the Express Messenger, Frank Burgess. While the train was in the western part of Nebraska, Mr. Burgess heard sounds from the coffin that led him to believe that the dead man had come to life. It was in the night, and he heard the sound as he lay dozing and half asleep. Again the noise was heard, and the attention of the messenger was riveted to the coffin, and the horrible possibility that the dead might be alive thrust itself upon the messenger so forcibly that he called the attention of other employees to it, but after listening a moment, they merely laughed at him. The convictions of the express messenger, however, were so strong that he heard moans from the coffin that he had the case opened when the train made its next halt. The weather was very cold and upon the glass plate of the coffin there had accumulated a thin film of frost, such as might have been deposited by the breath of a person confined in such narrow quarters. The face was also drawn up against the glass plate, and other disturbances indicated life. While Burgess had no doubt that the man, though dead then, had been alive in the coffin, the other employees explained the accumulation of frost on the glass as the natural exhaltations of the dead body, and the disturbances of the corpse as due to the movement in the shipping.

A private dispatch from Chicago says when the coffin reached its destination and was opened, the hands of the corpse were found clinched, the lips bitten, and the mouth filled with bloody froth. The man had been alive, and it was his moaning that had been heard but not recognized.

## *News and Other Notings.*

—Clarion county produces $30,000 worth of oil every day.

—There is a cow in Georgia that gives forty quarts of milk a day.

—There are eight Russian gunboats now in the harbor of San Francisco.

—Charles O'Connor is sole arbitrator of a suit involving a million dollars.

—Fifty seven thousand cattle are grazing in Cheyenne county, Nebraska.

—An Erie father furnishes his lovely daughter with $15,000 pin money yearly.

—A nurse dozed by the fire in Shelby, Ky., and a baby fell off her lap and was burned to death.

—The mammoth sponge that was found in Florida is twelve feet in circumference, and weighs nineteen pounds.

—A total abstinence club in Lowell, Mass., has 4,000 members, including the mayor and representative citizens.

—Phil. Sheridan has been summoned to Washington to testify as to his past and present opinions of Returning Board Wells.

—The largest woman in Kansas died at Elk Falls, in that State, last week. She was 22 years of age, and weighed 320 pounds.

—L. A. Tucker, of Drake's Mills, has an eight-months' old bronze turkey that weighs over twenty-three pounds. Send it to Greece.

—Two coal miners were killed in a mine at Lemonte, four miles north of Uniontown Pa., on Saturday, by a large piece of slate falling on them.

—A Peorian the other day borrowed a team to perform an errand to a short distance, and charged a poor girl $2 for a ride as far as he went.

—The Wheeling *Register* gives the devil his due and says that "with all his wicked inventions, he had never conceived a Louisiana Returning Board."

—Two women were arrested in Meadville last week for circulating counterfeit half dollar coins. About $25 was found upon the person of one of them.

—Mr. Frank Twist, a spirited and intelligent citizen of Nashua, N. H., running barefoot upon a wager, froze both his feet so that they had to be amputated.

—Minnie and Annie Stryley and Nellie Voorhous, aged five, eight and ten years, were drowned at Salem, Mass., Saturday evening, by breaking through the ice.

—Five skeletons, presumably of mound-builders, have been unearthed in Lorain, O., in quite a good state of preservation. The jawbones and teeth are noted as unusually large.

—Rev. Stuart Robinson, of Louisville, Ky., who recently obtained a judgment of $30,000 against the Missouri Democrat for libel, has declined to receive more than $2,708 of that sum.

—Unemployed workmen of New York, in a mass meeting on Saturday night, called upon the legislature for an appropriation of two million dollars to give work to fifty-five thousand idle men.

—There has been an unusual mortality among the bees in England this winter, owing to the severe weather. We have not learned that they suffered in this country notwithstanding the cold.

—A handbill, signed by a Rev. Mr. Baxter, is being extensively circulated in London, England, announcing the approaching translation to heaven of 144,000 Christians without dying.

—The locomotive house of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Trenton, N. J., was destroyed by fire on Sunday. The locomotives were all run out and saved. The loss will not fall short of $75,000.

—George Risewick, of Bloomsburg, drove a four-in hand with a double-seated sleigh containing four persons, from Bloomsburg to Danville, a distance of ten miles, in 34½ minutes, recently.

—Clara B. Laird, of Allegheny city, only fourteen years of age, committed suicide at California, Pa., on Saturday night last, by taking arsenic. Cause unknown.

—Mrs. Maria Isabel Toomes, of Oakland, Cal., is the latest person to die and leave her fortune to her faithful nurse. The nurse was a Mrs. Isabella Butler, a printer's wife, and the fortune amounts to $141,000.

—A correspondent of the Warren *Ledger* residing at Pittsfield, in that county, says he has measured all the snows that have fallen since the 24th of November, and it puts out just ninety four inches—nearly eight feet.

—Joseph F. Dengler, lately convicted at Pottsville of taking $8,000 that did not belong to him from the funds of the National bank of which he was cashier, has been sentenced to two years and two months in the penitentiary.

—Three maiden ladies, named Christiana, Susan and Mary Kunkle, aged respectively 83, 63 and 53 years, have died near Quarryville, Lancaster county, within five months. Neither of the two elder had ever seen a car or a railroad, and never had a beau.

—A bill will be shortly introduced in the Virginia Senate doing away with the sending of persons convicted of the lower grades of crime to the Penitentiary, and instead to make them work on the roads in the county in which the offense is committed.

—An old steamboat man is said to predict a freshet of unusual magnitude next spring. He argues that, as we had no rain during the fall of 1876, these will be unusually copious in the spring, and as there is a large body of snow on the land, the streams will be unprecedently swollen.

—Jacob Den Herder, one of the Michigan Hayes electors, is in trouble. It appears that Herder is a Hollander. He came to Michigan when thirteen years old. The Democrats have been looking up the records, and assert that no proof exists of Herder ever having been naturalized.

—The old fort in Marblehead, Mass., built during the war of the revolution for the protection of Salem harbor, is now garrisoned by a large bull terrier. He never strays beyond the line of earthworks and is so fierce that all who approach the fort are compelled to beat a hasty retreat.

—On the farm of Gabriel King, at Mt. Ætna, Berks county, a sow gave birth to a litter of thirteen pigs, one of which had eight legs. Four of the feet were at their natural place while two had grown out on the back and the other two on either side of the hind legs. The pig has since died.

—Edith Keller, daughter of Thomas Keller, a carpenter, at Mill Hollow, about two miles from Wilkesbarre, gave birth to her second illegitimate child a few days ago. Her father, with whom she lives, is believed to be the father of both. Public indignation is so strong that the father has fled.

—Judge Pearson, of Dauphin county, has decided that the County Treasurers are not only entitled to the commission allowed by the State for the collection of taxes due the Commonwealth, but to twenty-five cents for each license taken out, as well as their salary of $1,500 a year.

—Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Scrantan, Reading, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Erie, Wilkesbarre, Williamsport, Allentown, Altoona, Chester, Titusville, Meadville, Lockhaven, Corry, Carbondale, New Castle, Oil City, Franklin, Parker and Monongahela City are the incorporated cities in this State.

—N. S. Leuheim, Cashier First National Bank of Montrose, Pa., was taken before a New York Court on Monday, and held in $10,000 bail, charged with forgery. The prisoner was also held in $5,000 bail to await requisition from the Governor of Pennsylvania, on the charge of misappropriation of $90,000 in that State.

—A few days ago a child of Mrs. Christian Benner, of McAlisterville, Juniata county, during the temporary absence of the mother, got its head through the belt of a sewing machine and when discovered was almost strangled to death.

—About four hundred shanties are far out on the ice in Saginaw bay. These structures are made of thin wood, lined with heavy building paper, and rest on runners, so that they may be moved readily. The inhabitants are fishermen, who cut holes through the ice and capture great quantities of fish. The population is over a thousand, and there are stores, saloons, and a hotel in this strange village, which will last probably until March.

—There is great destitution in Minnesota in the district devastated by grasshoppers in 1875 and 1876. The people are suffering for the commonest necessaries of life. Legislative action has been recommended by the governor of Minnesota for the relief of these unfortunate persons, but unless the work of the state authorities is supplemented by the swifter charity of private individuals there will be fearful news to hear before the winter is over.

—James Flood, of New York, murdered his wife Mary, on Sunday morning. The parties quarreled and separated some time since and Flood, suspecting that his wife was on too intimate terms with a German grocer's clerk on Crosby street, went there and while he was at the back door his wife escaped by the front, and was pursued by her husband, who overtook her at her own door and plunged a tinsmith's reamer, a sharp pointed instrument fourteen inches long, into her breast. She died in a few minutes. Flood escaped.

—The Sunbury *Daily* notes the fact that a little son of Jeremiah Kelly, of Hughesville, who has been dangerously ill with diptheria, was successfully treated by inhaling the fumes of slacked lime, last week, and is now out of danger. A small piece of lime was placed in a cup and the fumes conveyed to the mouth of the child through a funnel with a long tube. It is said that in a short time after the treatment a large lump of tough mucus was discharged from the throat, after which the little fellow at once commenced to get better.

—The details of the sacking of the town of Cali by the liberal forces under General Pena in Canca, South America, are now received. It was a terrible massacre involving the lives of 300 people. Before the battle which resulted in the capture of the place the attacking general harangued his followers promising them that the price of their victory would be six hours of sack and slaughter and the gratification of unrestrained lust, for which purpose he charged them to spare the women only, destroying the other inhabitants, root and branch.

—The New York *Herald* has a story that Charles O'Conor on Monday asked Secretary Fish to accompany him to the White House, where Mr. O'Conor was presented to the President, and made him an apology for what he owned was intemperate and unjustifiable language in a recent published letter. The President, it is said, met Mr. O'Conor frankly, and confessed that he had never seen the letter, but had seen allusions to it in the newspapers. He received Mr. O'Conor's apology in the spirit it was given. It is said the two spent some time in general conversation.

—The colored Republicans of Philadelphia, in convention on Friday last, adopted a memorial to the public, in which they say that their manhood and the interests of their children demand complaint of the treatment received at the hands of the Republican party, for whom they have borne ignominy, contumacy and persecution, and yet bear the party an undying devotion; that they have been denied even a part of the emoluments of office, and declared their determination not to rest till they attain the place and respect in common with every citizen.

—The Shippensburg *News* says a singular incident occurred at the residence of John Yundt, near that place, last week. The female members of the family were about to commence the quilting of a cotton bed spread or "comfort," and Mrs. Yundt, in order to make the cotton more compact, began to pat it, or compress it with her hands, when it suddenly ignited and exploded with a loud noise, and tore the entire fabric in shreds. As a matter of course the whole household was thrown into the greatest confusion and consternation. No cause, as yet, can be assigned for this singular occurrence.

—A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature making it the duty of the prothonotaries of the several courts of common pleas in this Commonwealth to keep a separate docket, in which shall be entered in alphabetical order the names of all persons who may be found to be lunatics or habitual drunkards; and also the names of all persons or parties against whom injunctions have been granted, restraining them from selling or in any way encumbering real estate. The trouble might be to know who is a habitual drunkard, and after it is known, the prospect is not a pleasant one to the habitue of the intoxicating cup, to be put on record with lunatics, and it should be an additional incentive to beware of the drunkard's doom.

—A handsome boy boarded for a year in a Nashville hotel, and conducted a sewing machine agency. He was active and successful in business, and a pet of the women, with whom he was fond of associating. His youthfulness insured him more freedom with them than would have been accorded an older beau; but one day he hugged and kissed a chambermaid, and was complained of to the landlord. At this point in the story the pronoun "he" must be changed to "she," for the offender confessed to being a woman in boy's clothes. She said that being compelled to earn her own living, she learned by experience that her sex was a detriment. So she took to trousers, and in that guise she not only did better in business, but was able to bamboozle the women.

—Mrs. Janette M. Robinson of Chicago says that she has been cured of paralysis in direct answer to prayer, and several of the clergyman of the city vouch for the truth of her story. She was, according to her account, a helpless invalid for seven years. Physicians were in vain, and she steadily grew worse. Her jaws became fixed by long disuse, and she could not speak. One day, when particularly despondent, a physician having just told her that she could not recover, she read in her Bible the text, "All things whatsoever ye ask, believing, ye shall receive." She had faith in that Scriptural promise, and she prayed fervently that she might be miraculously cured. Suddenly she was able to move her jaws, and to speak. She got up and walked without difficulty, and has been well ever since.

—John D. Forrest died at New Castle on Friday morning from the effect of injuries inflicted by himself. He had committed *hari kari*, that is, disembowled himself. On Wednesday night Mr. Forrest complained to his wife that he had a pain in his abdomen. She immediately sent for a physician. When the latter arrived he found Forrest lying on his bed showing evident signs of great suffering. The doctor removed some of the clothing from the patient's person, and was horrified to see a sickening gash clear across the abdomen. The bowels were protruding, and were slashed in a frightful manner. It was clear that he was doomed to death. He gave as a reason for the act that he had been suffering from violent mental depression. Mr. Forrest was an educated man, and well known. He was recently book-keeper of the Beaver Falls cutlery works.

THE LESSON OF A LIFE.—In December 1845, in the department of the Doubs, Xavier Thiriat, a boy of ten, accompanied four young girls of about the same age to the church. They had to cross a stream over which was placed a single log. The boy crossed it safely, the first girl attempted it fell in. The boy jumped in, pulled her out, and then walked through the water, guided each of the girls safely across. Some time was lost by this, and the children reached church late. Xavier, not wishing to be late, did not go up to the altar with the girls he had kept behind. He reached home safely, but the dangerous disease followed, by which he was left a complete cripple for life. His mode of moving about was on his knees, so completely were his legs bent and distorted. Coming of very poor parents, there was every prospect that this would be a heavy charge to his family. Instead of becoming a wretched burden to himself and others, he resolved to make of this, he reached manhood he had become a good and intelligent. Reading all the books he could lay hold of, he became the best educated man in his district, and by well acquired extensive influence, which he always used for good. He induced many young people to read and study. His contributions to the local newspaper, the *Echo des Vosges*, attracted attention, made him known, the result of which was that further intellectual opportunities were extended to him. He made himself a good botanist, meteorologist and geologist, constructed others in these branches, and secured the foundation of several libraries. He could not, however, be satisfied without achieving his independence and earning his own living. He obtained the position of manager of the telegraph at a neighboring town, became secretary to the mayor, became a correspondent to several newspapers, and received the highest prize of the French "Franklin Society."—*Sunday Times.*

All this was accomplished by a man of character and strong religious feeling under circumstances not merely of difficulty but at first sight absolutely hopeless, a horrible deformity, intense suffering, a source of instruction, enabling him to overcome these disabilities were overcome, and this ignorant and crippled boy raised himself the light, intellectual and moral, of his whole district.—*Philadelphia Times.*

—John Leach, of Philadelphia, arrested in Shippensburg, last Friday week, escaped the other day, and taken back and placed in jail to await trial for deserting his wife and four children.


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