

The Potter Journal
NEWS ITEM.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Jan. 31, 1873

ABOLISHED.—The Franking Privilege.

There is great cause for gratulation in the release of the Postal system of this country from the burden it has borne so long of carrying immense quantities of unpaid matter, for which the unobtrusive correspondence of the common people had to pay. But a better good than any pecuniary one comes from the wiping away of the aspersions so often cast upon our members of Congress that they would not give up one of their own privileges and immunities, although they had long discussed the question of doing so and promised it to the country.

Another great benefit to the public will be that the mails will not be so burdened, nor the whole people so flooded with political documents for weeks before every election. One would think voters would be less influenced by political intriguers, think less of speeches and more of the issues before them, and that the whole campaign would be more honest, manly and pure. Here is the text of the bill:

"Be it enacted, etc., That the franking privilege be, and the same hereby is abolished from and after the first day of July, 1873, and that thereafter all official correspondence of whatever nature and other mailable matter sent from or addressed to any officer of the Government, or to any person now authorized to frank such matter, shall be chargeable with the same rates of postage as may be lawfully imposed upon like matter sent or addressed to other persons; provided that no compensation or allowance shall now or hereafter be made to Senators, members and delegates of the House of Representatives on account of postage."

THANKS are returned to Mr. Jones, H. R., for a file of the Legislative Journal to the 20th.

Mr. Jones is placed on the Committee on Judiciary System (General)—a very important one—and also on the Committee on Federal Relations and on Divorces.

The time and attention of the Legislature have been very much occupied with contests for seats. Not a very wise way of spending the time that belongs to the people.

THE first number of the Mansfield Advertiser makes its appearance this week. It is well printed, compact and full of good matter. Price \$1.50 per annum, Mansfield, Tioga Co., Pa.

CONSTITUTION HALL, Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 29, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: Very little was done last week in the Convention, and I am informed not much progress was made in the Committees. As an illustration of what is being done in Committees, I am informed by a member of the Committee on Legislation that its entire session to-day was taken up in discussing a motion to amend Section 5th of Article XI of the Constitution by substituting the word *object* for the word *subject*, as it now reads, and the question is still open for discussion—no decision being reached.

If it takes two days to dispose of a single word, how long do you think it will take to dispose of the whole Constitution? Longer, I am afraid, than the patience of the people will hold out.

The event of last week was the appeal of the women for the right to vote, made in this Hall to all the Delegates who chose to attend—the chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, etc., presiding. Two evenings were occupied from half past seven until ten. Several of the addresses were exceedingly interesting, able and convincing. The ablest and best was that of Mary Grew, whose whole life has been spent in the service of human rights. The companion of Lucretia Mott, she could not fail to be argumentative and persuasive rather than sharp and repulsive as some of them were.

CONSTITUTION HALL, Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 29, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: The Convention has passed to third reading the sections providing for holding the General election in November—same day as the Presidential—and the Township elections on the third Tuesday in February. A very lively debate, lasting for two days, was had over the spring election clause. The Constitution of Pennsylvania, as of most of the States, is silent on this question, and the election has always been held on different days in different counties, to suit the convenience and comfort of the people. As no civil has ever resulted from this prac-

...a good many delegates could not see the wisdom of the change.

But the spicy part of the debate grew out of the desire of the Democratic Delegates to make a little political capital for their party out of this question. So they repeated the main ideas of the Democratic Reformers of the late campaign. A stranger happening in at that time would have supposed there was an election close at hand, and that this was one of McClure's reform meetings. Mr. Mann said he had always understood that large cities were very bad places but never supposed Philadelphia was quite as bad as the description given by her Delegates during this discussion. Mr. Gowen immediately tried to explain away the chief point in his previous remarks, and I suspect there will be less said about the corruption of Philadelphia in future discussions.

It is quite apparent the Convention is composed of men who do their own thinking and act on their own judgment. It is not under the influence of two or three leading minds. Respectful attention is given to every Delegate who has anything to say, but there is no following when the judgment is not convinced. This was illustrated last Friday, when nearly half the Delegates desired to adjourn over till Wednesday. The motion failed by two votes only. The minority persisted. It contained many of the ablest men in the Convention, and they acted as if they thought their wishes ought to be acquiesced in without a question; and so they exhausted the entire session in manuevering to secure an adjournment for four working days. But the majority stood firm, though such leaders as Armstrong and Buckalew did their utmost to secure an adjournment.—Their mistake was in trying to stop all the work of the Convention for so long a period. If they had acquiesced in the first vote against adjournment and gone on with the regular order of business until Monday noon, I think nearly every Delegate would have voted to adjourn over till Wednesday. The persistent effort to adjourn from Friday defeated any adjournment, and a good many would have been glad to see the gallant Hartman inaugurate a Government deprived of that privilege. But I hail the result of this little contest as a good sign. It seems to mean work and firmness of purpose in the majority regardless of leaders. Should this hope be justified to the end of the sessions of the Convention, its work will certainly be well done.

New County.

Our neighbors of Tioga seem very much excited over the attempt to divide that county, and we have a greater interest in the matter. Tioga, with more wealth, business and population, would be able to bear dismemberment, though the increase of expenses, the waste and loss occasioned unavoidably by a change of the county site would be a hard burden. But to Potter, with its sparse population, that finds even the present expenditure quite as much as it is desirable to pay, that is only now growing into a fair position among the sister counties, a division would be a great calamity. To the dwellers in some of the more distant townships it may often be very inconvenient to go so far to attend court to serve on juries, etc., but in the best arranged new county we cannot see how those difficulties are to be obviated, while on all persons of narrow means the additional expenditure will be sure to press heavily. We hope little Potter will make it emphatically known to our members of Legislature that she does not desire to part with any portion of her territory or inhabitants, and that the will of the mass of the people may be carried out. With all good wishes to those who are scheming to further their own personal advantage by that which must be a general public loss, we heartily hope that in this matter they will signally fail.

It is said that a bill has been prepared to repeal the Local Option law of last winter, and that any necessary amount of money will be raised by the liquor dealers to bribe or otherwise influence the members of the Legislature.

As this measure of local choice is plainly one that the people are anxious to have and test for themselves, it will be very easy to know that no honorable motive can induce members to vote against it or to give opportunity, by absence or inattention, for the enemies of good order to carry their nefarious plans. If this attempt at repeal is made, now will be a good time for the Legislature to clear itself from the

charges of bribery and corruption which have always been too freely made, and if the liquor interest does not make the attempt it will be because of a better general faith in the honesty of the public servants than is often professed.

ROULET, PA. Jan. 13, 1873.

ED. JOURNAL.—According to notice, J. B. Oviatt himself and son (as teamster) started Monday morning the 6th, for the bear hunt. There were no others from Roulette ready to go. On arriving at Coudersport found that out of the whole number that agreed to go, not one was ready; we drove on to Lewis Lyman's; there we expected a lead; and one man was there, (Mr. Peirce), the rest had backed out. We drove to Brookland, had a splendid dinner, worth twice the price they charged; drove on, arrived at B. F. Burrows', stopped for the night, and were ready early Tuesday morn for the hunt. Five men and boys volunteered which increased our number to nine men and boys, and six dogs; we surrounded the laurel patch; and at half after eleven I drove the bear out. He had a nest made of laurel; when I got within fifteen or twenty rods he started out, went down by a boy within ten rods, and on by a man within 12 rods. When he had safely passed, the man fired a shot, the bear thought there was trouble ahead and turned back and walked up the hill some twenty rods in sight of where two men were left standing. *But report says* that the chaps had in a hollow until the bear had safely passed back into the laurel; then they fired three loads and hallooed for dogs. All of the dogs were set on but took the wrong track and only one overtook the bear and he was a scared dog. Away went the bear, we passed on after him; one man said he had three balls in him; we gave up the chase that night and went to Burrows'. Early next morning, the 7th, only five were ready for the hunt with two dogs. We followed the bear north into the Ross Hollow, left him about sundown without starting him, came in at Flynn's, staid over night; one man dropped off. The 8th I hired one Smith to go and help break track, then there were five of us: Sam House, Wm. Frank, Wm. Smith, J. B. Oviatt and self. We took a circuitous route and went around the bear, then followed him up and found he had gone into a laurel patch; we placed ourselves around position, sent Sam House around on snow shoes; the bear whined him and came out within twenty rods of me, I shot him through the lights; he ran down the hill, I set on the dogs, the bear ran near Smith, he fired, he had two balls in his gun, they struck him in the shoulder; one bounded out; and the other went in about three inches into the flesh and lodged; Oviatt fired immediately after, and shot a ball through the top of the neck, only a flesh wound; he fired another and severed the big artery in his neck; House fired without effect; the dogs came up and attacked the bear, he got hold of one dog gave him a hug, was in the act of biting, when the other dog made a desperate pass at the bear's hain; which caused him to loosen his hold and go for dog No. two. Dog number one crawled out of his jaws, and so escaped death that time. The dogs kept the bear until Sam House came up and stabbed him with his knife and ended the fight. He measured over seven feet from the end of his nose to the hind feet. It was eighteen inches from the end of his nose to his ears. He was over three feet high. We captured him three-fourths of a mile from the bridge where the road comes out of the nine mile woods, on Pine Creek. The snow was from two to three feet deep and had a crust on it but not sufficient to hold a dog.

Report of Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphan Schools.

In looking over this report, the most striking particular is the small number of soldiers' orphans that have been under the charge of the State, or Pennsylvania's tribute of thousands of soldiers many, of course, were young men without families and a greater number, perhaps, left their families provided for; but still the number cared for by the State seems wonderfully small.

Since the system went into operation the whole number of the orphans received has been 6129. They are now being discharged on arriving at sixteen years of age more rapidly than they are received; and one most satisfactory feature of this report is the account of the present situation and occupation of those who have left the various schools.

In the establishing of new schools and the closing of some it has been rather difficult at times to keep track of our children and to know where they are now living. Of Potter county children we find two in this list: Levi McCann, farming at Mansfield, and Albert Vanuwegin, in charge of large saw-mill at Corry, Pa.

There have been discharged "en masse" 1817, and from the reports all are doing well.

From the reports of the inspectors it appears that the schools are constantly becoming better provided and better managed, and that the children have been wonderfully exempt from contagious diseases, especially small-pox. Comfort says:

The degree of good health enjoyed by the orphans is, indeed, remarkable. Typhoid and scarlet fever raged in the vicinity of several of the schools but did not enter them. The small-pox prevailed, during a large part of the year, nearly all over the State with more or less severity, and great anxiety was felt for the safety of the large number of children under your care. Most of the institutions anticipated your instructions, though timely given, and vaccinated their schools before your orders could reach them. In Philadelphia and vicinity communication with the outside world was cut off during the season of greatest danger. But notwithstanding the precautions taken, the escape of thirty-seven hundred children, with barely one exception, from the prevailing pest, seems little less than miraculous, and adds for expressions of gratitude to Him who saves from the "pestilence" than walketh in darkness."

School libraries are furnished and periodicals taken, and thus are the children kept acquainted with what is going on in the world outside. Most of them attend church and Sunday schools are generally held in the institutions.

The reports of the principals of the are very interesting. From that of A. L. Guss, Cassville, the following extracts are taken: The services of a very competent and extensively known German professor of vocal and instrumental music, assisted by a full supply of music books and three instruments, has done all that was practicable towards teaching the whole school a scientific knowledge of music, and has given some twenty pu-

...whence the company received intelligence of the satisfactory result of the negotiations. The capital of the company is \$20,000,000.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company intend to run a regular special steamer between here and Samana Bay next month.

Division.

There is said to be a good deal of feeling concerning the project for a new county among the citizens of the Eastern part of Potter County. They expect if the new county is formed to be a good deal nearer to a county seat, to have the county buildings erected by private parties, and in various other ways to be benefited by the new arrangement.

It seems to us that a little sober second thought will show that the advantages will not be all upon one side. Should the part of this county desiring it be set off, it will still be held for its proportion of the debt already incurred in the erection of first class county buildings at this place; there will be new county officials to be paid; Courts to be held four times a year with twice as many jurors as are required under the present arrangement, and we have not yet heard it suggested that private enterprise will pay all these bills. Taxes will undoubtedly be increased by the erection of a new county, not alone in the townships which go off, but in what is left.

And where are the compensating advantages? Why, a few land-holders who are interested in the building up of a new county seat will be still further enriched at the expense of the tax-payers who are apparently so desirous of the change.

We suppose the majority will rule in this as in other matters, but we ask that it may be seriously considered, and that the people will not allow themselves to be lamed by the specious representations of interested parties. Look into this matter in all its bearings and do as to you seems best, old men of Potter.

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...pils considerable proficiency in the use of the piano and organ. We feel that we may justly boast over our good music. The cost of this department for the school year has been about \$900, and is of course extra, and a free will offering of the principal, and for which some will accord neither credit nor thanks.

Moral.—We cannot indulge in wholesale praises of the moral condition of the pupils—they are by no means saints. When first gathered, these children were as a whole, by no means up to the average of children in manners and morals; many of them indeed have never had good example nor heard good precept. A number are often thoughtless, some are mischievous, and perhaps a few even malicious; wicked persons and others, by unguarded remarks often put mischief in their heads, and incite them to evil. Still, by care and kindness there have been but few glaring departures from our established rules, while the conduct of many has been entirely unexceptionable.

Anniversary and Re-union.—A prominent landmark in the history of the school for the year, was the "re-union" of the "sixtyers" at our anniversary on the 6th of November, at which time the school had completed its sixth year under our care. Fifty-six of the one hundred and forty-four sixtyers which had then gone from these walls, returned—no longer children, but well-beloved and intelligent young ladies and gentlemen. It was a grand social Jubilee. Quite a number of visitors also graced the occasion, while the Broad Top brass band added in attracting and entertaining a large crowd.

Mr. F. A. Allen of Mansfield gives his labor plan thus:

Industry.—No system of labor, heretofore adopted, has been satisfactory so far as our school is concerned. To remedy this defect we have purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land, one half of which was under a partial state of cultivation. On this land our boys have the fullest and widest field for labor. In two hours from the time of purchase, over one hundred boys were setting fires to stumps, brush heaps, etc., and by night, some three hundred blazing fires gave visible signs of what our boys can do when opportunities present themselves. Some boys were seen cutting, potatoes, beans and lin wheat, and give good promise of a fine crop.

The Superintendent closes his report with a "special circular" to the principal of the several schools, which begins as follows:

DEAR SIR: Under an act of the Legislature I propose to place, near the first of September next, about fifteen soldiers' orphans of proper age and qualifications in the State Normal schools with the design of training them for teachers.

From the Press are taken the following propositions before the Constitutional Convention:

The report presented on the previous day to the Committee on the Legislature, through its chairman, Mr. Wayne Mac Veagh, embodies sundry important proposed changes in the constitution. The vital propositions are the following: Biennial instead of annual sessions of the Legislature; a carefully prepared oath to be administered to members of the Legislature, that they have not given bribes to secure an election, and have not received bribes to influence their official action; a limitation of the pay of members to \$100 for each period of two years, and prohibiting extra allowances as members of committees or perquisites of any kind.

The report also provides that the elections for the Legislature shall occur once in every two years—Senators to hold for four years and Representatives for two years; limits the number of Senators from any one city to four, and details a comprehensive scheme of apportionment of members of the Legislature, based upon the system adopted by the Constitutional Convention of Illinois.

By Mr. McConnell, for a board of three inspectors of penitentiaries, jails, houses of refuge, and other prisons and public insane asylums or infirmaries, to be elected by the people; the board to have supervisory powers over such institutions, and to report annually to the Legislature upon their condition, etc. Also providing that said board, with the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, constitute a Council of Pardons, with power to grant pardons and reprieves, to modify sentences in all criminal cases, and to change any sentence of death to imprisonment for life or for a term of years; every pardon, &c., to have the concurrence of four members of the board, and no pardon to be granted before sentence, nor in a manner other than specified. Referred to the Committee on State Institutions.

An Austrian savant is said to have discovered, by means of a microscope, in a stone taken from the pyramid of Dashour, many interesting particulars connected with the life of the ancient Egyptians. The brick itself is made of the mud of the Nile, chopped straw and sand, thus confirming what the Bible and Herodotus have handed down to us as the Egyptian methods of brick-making. Besides these materials, the microscope has brought other things to light—the debris of river shells, of fish and of insects; seeds of wild and cultivated flowers, of corn and barley, the field pea and common flax, cultivated probably for

both food and textile purposes, and the radish with many others known to science.

Pen and Scissors.

MR. JOHN BRENNAN, immigration agent for the State of Iowa, writes to say that many persons from Pennsylvania and other portions of the East are going out to Iowa with the expectation of finding homes on vacant Government land, and that most of them are miserably disappointed, since there is scarcely a thousand acres of such land left in all that State, which will probably be wholly taken up before spring. Parties who contemplate emigrating to that section may obtain reliable printed information by writing to Mr. Brennan, whose office is at Sioux City, Iowa. We may add, for the further information of persons who are about moving to the West, that all the Government land which is good for anything has been taken up in the States east of the Missouri river, and even in such distant Territories as Dakota and Colorado the best lands, so far as surveyed, have already been entered.—Press.

The tragical element in the story of the fate of the ship *Norfolk* with her hundreds of passengers, is intensified by the supposition that the steamer that caused the catastrophe went to the bottom shortly afterwards with all on board. If the supposition prove true the public rewards offered for the detection of the steamer will read strangely enough.

A YOUNG man who went West from Danbury a few months ago, has sent only one letter home. It came Friday. It said: "Send me a wig." And his fond parents don't know whether he is scalped or married.

The Boston newspapers report a "grand social assembly" of deaf mutes in that city on New-Year's Day. It must have been an uproarious affair.

DURING the late freshets in Polk county, Ga., a little boy attempted to save a younger sister, by swimming across to a place of safety. The brave little fellow was borne down by the current, and he and the object of his care were found, when the waters subsided, dead in each other's embrace.

There is food for thought in the story that is told of a young lad who for the first time accompanied his father to a public dinner. The waiter asked him, "What will you take to drink?" Hesitating for a moment, he replied, "I'll take what father takes." The answer reached his father's ear, and instantly the full responsibility of his position flashed upon him. In a moment his decision was made; and in tones tremulous with emotion, and to the astonishment of those who knew him, he said—"Waiter, I'll take water."

NEW U.S. SENATORS.—Roscoe Conkling, re-elected from New York; Simon Cameron, from Pennsylvania; Richard Oglesby, elected in Illinois; W. B. Macken, in Kentucky; Timothy O. Howe, in Wisconsin; John P. Jones, Nevada.

In addition to the American Steamship Company, Philadelphia is to have another foreign line in the International, running between this port and Antwerp. The steamers are large, well-built, and will compare favorably with any that make New York their haven. The line will begin operations in a little more than a month. It will give new impetus to the commerce of the city, and should meet with liberal encouragement.—Press.

THE VIENNA EXPOSITION.—The House Committee on Foreign Affairs will report a bill appropriating \$100,000 toward defraying the expenses attending the Exposition of United States productions at the Vienna World's Fair. This amount is regarded as insufficient for the purpose, \$2,000,000 having been applied for the Paris International Exposition, and therefore a motion to amend the bill may be made in two Senate. There is no doubt that two national ships will be detailed to carry American productions to Vienna.

FINANCIALLY, New Jersey, as we learn from the Controller's report, is the most prosperous Commonwealth of the Union, with very little debt and less taxation, and property assessed at \$663,655,97.

Not the least admirable of the many excellent provisions of the civil service reform bill is that section which came up for discussion yesterday before the Civil Service Commission, providing for the reorganization of the clerical force of the Treasury Department, and the payment of equal salaries to male and female clerks performing equal duties. This is a woman's rights bill of the proper kind.

PROPOSITION in the Constitutional Convention, by Mr. Carter, abolishing capital punishment and establishing imprisonment for life, with entire withdrawal of the pardoning power, unless in cases where innocence may be judicially proven. Referred.

MAJ. H. B. STRAIN, elected to Congress from the 2d Minnesota district, and S. Ross elected to Congress from the 15th Pa. district, were born in Coudersport, and were boys together when there were but eight families in the place.

WINDOW GARDENING.—During the month of January stimulants may be applied to plants to advantage, and can be forced into blooming by March. Fill an old pail half full of horse manure, turn warm water on it, let it stand a while, then pour off and use the water in the saucers, letting the plant stand in the nourishment. Never allow any water to touch the leaves, but pour water not very cold. Oleanders and cacti require no water during the winter months; but fuchsias need to be very moist, else they will not bloom.

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AT THE

OFFICE OF THE

JOURNAL AND NEWS ITEM.

John V. Brown,

PROPRIETOR OF

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(Via OSWAYO, P.A.)

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A. H. PEIRCE