

Lancaster Intelligencer.

THURSDAY EVENING NOV. 25, 1882.

Our Elegant Attorney General.

The New York Sun does not seem to like our elegant Attorney General Benjamin Harris Brewster; his style does not suit it; apparently it is not sufficiently democratic, the Sun, which shines for all, assuming to shine with special brilliancy for common people. Anyone who is out of the common run of humanity the Sun looks upon with aversion. There can be no doubt that the attorney general is a remarkable man in his habits and attitudes. He is a fastidious man. He belongs to the ruffled-shirt generation. He is elegant in his tastes. He has a good opinion of himself. But then he has good foundation for his opinion. He conducts himself so as to deserve his self-esteem. He is not particularly careful to demean himself so as to obtain the approval of everyone in everything he does; but he is particular to obtain his own. And a man who takes care to maintain his self-respect can be permitted to do pretty much what else pleases regardless of what the world says; always provided that he has a just opinion of what his self-respect demands. This Mr. Brewster has. He has never done anything that we know of that need cause him to hang his head in shame. To be sure, he has lately gone through Pennsylvania sounding the praises of the Camerons; but then it is altogether a matter of opinion as to how far these friends of Mr. Brewster are worthy of praise. Mr. Brewster thinks better of them than most people, and as he so thinks, so he has a right to say. The Sun found fault with the Brewster-Cameron orations and doubtless justly; but also with Brewster in defending his friends, and in this it was unfair. It complains, too, of our attorney general that he is more ornamental than useful in his office. It thinks he leaves the work to others and is only careful to draw the salary and applause. It contemplates him for his abstention from the Star Route trial, until the last days; but it neglects to note that he then appeared and made the most effective speech of the occasion. It may be that he might have done better if he had hung around during all the weary weeks of the trial; but if so, it shows how extraordinarily talented and strong a man our attorney general is; since with the small attention the Sun says he gave to the trial he was able to take the wind out of the sails of all the other accomplished counsel in the case who had given their whole attention for months. Now the Sun is troubled because the attorney general has caused his office to be fitted up in a luxurious manner at the cost of the government. Of course the government ought to pay the expense of furnishing Mr. Brewster's office; and it ought to make it comfortable for him. He is entitled to a respectable furnished office from a respectable government which can afford to decently provide for its servants. And we at least are not disposed to object to luxurious appointments for a luxury-loving attorney general. That may be a vice, but it is a small one, and about as little expensive to the government as any vice can be. Mr. Brewster is fastidious in all his tastes, and has no common vices. He does not cheat, or swear, or chew tobacco, we believe. He is nice in his habits, clean in his linen and spotless in his character. He likes pretty things about him. He enjoys a handsome apartment elegantly furnished. The Sun says he has a \$1,200 Turkish carpet and a \$250 table, covered with exquisite Algerian lace, which is no doubt very handsome, though if so it seems to be cheap at its figure of \$100. Then there are four \$300 curtains hung in the extravagant attorney general's windows. These figures do not alarm us. We know that they express the sum total of the extra cost of the attorney general to the government. We know that he only costs us his salary and his furniture. We think we have him cheap. He may not be a man to work the flesh off his bones for us, but he is a man to make tell the hours of labor he does give to his public duties. If his elegant carpets, curtains and tables enable him to work better, as no doubt they do, it is a matter of economy to provide them. Economy is a good thing, but there is a true and a false economy. The Sun raises its hands in horror at the expenditure of the public moneys; but the public moneys were collected to be expended; and the only thing to see to is that they are expended economically. It being truly economical to surround our elegant attorney general with elegant appointments the Sun barks up the wrong tree when it condemns the cost of his furniture. The editor of the Sun, no doubt, works best in a bare room, on a wooden chair, upon an oil cloth covered pine table; it would not be economy to hem him about with elegance; but Mr. Brewster is another sort of a fellow.

A GRATIFYING sign of the times is the unanimity with which the entire Democratic press of the state endorses the views expressed by the INTELLIGENCER in the matter of reducing the expenses of the state government by wiping out the useless offices that through successive Republican administrations have served no better purpose than that of furnishing rostering places for political birds of prey.

We gather from the utterances of our contemporaries, and the disposition they all show to carry out the pledges of the late Democratic convention on the subject of legislative reform, that hummers and hangers-on will find their occupations gone when the new administration is installed at Harrisburg. The people have no use for such.

drawn into the seductive fields by the bait thrown out to them. Many of them have been completely shorn in their wool gathering expedition, and now that the harvest has been reaped it is to be hoped we will have a short breathing spell and that the confusing antics of the bulls and the bears may be spared us for a little season.

The industry which some people are manufacturing in the making and unmaking of cabinets for Mr. Pattison might be better employed in furthering the movement that has been started looking to the abolishment of the useless securities that have long been a scandal and disgrace to the commonwealth.

HONORS are even between pupil and stage. The Rev. George C. Minn, the Chicago divine, has hardly made his debut on the stage before Actor George Williams appears in Philadelphia as a newly made preacher. It would be interesting to know what Actor Minn would say to the Rev. Mr. Williams' remarks that "I can be a better Christian off the stage than on it."

The third assistant postmaster general, Hazen, has just issued a catalogue of the articles accumulated in the dead letter office to be sold at auction in Philadelphia, beginning on December 4 next. More than 8,000 articles will be thus disposed of, including jewelry, books, toilet articles and almost everything that could possibly be sent through the mails.

The postoffice authorities, who telegraph all over the country that they have detective agents at work who report that they have fair prospect of catching the robbers of the mail between Denver and New York are evidently not well qualified for the detective business. They might as well go fishing with a telephone attachment to their lines, notifying the fish of their attentions, as to warn the thieves in this public way.

FRESHMEN given to superstition are noting that the third republic has entered upon its 13th year, that number, besides being generally unfortunate, being particularly unfortunate to French governments. The World helps their gloomy forecasts by reminding them that this is the thirteenth government that France has had since the downfall of the old regime—Louis XVI., the Republic, the Directory, the Consulate, the Consulate for Life, the First Empire, the First Restoration, the Hundred Days, the Second Restoration, the Monarchy of July, the Second Republic, the Second Empire and the Third Republic—following each other in the order named.

PERSONAL.

GOVERNORS-ELECT PATTISON and Cleveland are ministers' sons and so is President Arthur.

MANAGER MICKLER, of Chicago, is writing a reply to Col. Ingersoll's attacks upon the Scriptures.

SENATOR DAVID DAVIS is on his way from Bloomington to Washington. He denies the story of his coming marriage.

GEORGE W. FOSTER'S office in Columbus, Ohio, has been a graveyard for a tombstone factory. The office is littered with models for a Garfield monument, to be erected by the state.

THOMAS BOBBETT is the oldest Democrat in Chatham county, N. C. Though 95 years of age, he rode five miles to the polls at the late election, and voted the straight Democratic ticket, from congressman to constable.

MRS. CHRISTINE NELSON occupied the lower private box at the Chestnut street opera house in Philadelphia, last evening, and witnessed Modjeska's performance of "The Songstress." The songstress was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Childs, with whom she dined at the Hotel Bellevue. Yesterday morning Mrs. Nelson drove through Fairmount park. She was out to all callers, and since her arrival in the city has seen only a few personal friends.

DEAD MEN'S BONES.

Believed to be the Remains of Revolutionary Patriots.

While workmen were engaged in digging away the foundations of the old Dutch church at Nassau and Cedar streets, New York, they came upon a place in the floor of one of the vaults which was covered with boards. Upon these were removed and found the pit, about five feet square, bricked up on all sides. The pit was filled with numberless skulls and human bones piled in promiscuous confusion. Up to 10 o'clock sixteen skulls and five boxes of bones were taken out of the pit, and had only been dug about two feet down. It is not known yet how deep the pit is or how many skeletons it contains. The presence of the vault was entirely unknown to any one and the church had no record of it. The discovery of the bones has created quite an excitement around the neighborhood and the streets near are black with curious sightseers. The bones are believed by some to be the remains of Americans who were confined during the Revolutionary war in the old sugar house.

The Court's Mistake.

Judge Davis used to tell some admirable stories of an old Illinois judge, one of which we chance particularly to remember. One of the judges was rather reticent about conveying to jurors his charges to them his own opinions with regard to the merits of the case. In one case he had done so with great plainness, but to his amazement the jury hung out for hours without coming to an agreement. The judge inquired of the neighborly matter, and learned from him that one juror was hanging out against the other eleven. He sent for the juror at once, and stating to the jurors that he had plainly intimated how the case ought to be decided, said he understood one juror was standing out against the other eleven. He proceeded to rebuke the juror sharply. The obstinate juror was a nervous little man, and as soon as the judge was done he arose and said: "Judge, may I say a word?" "Yes, sir," said the judge, "and what have you to say?" "Well, what I want to say is, I am the only fellow that's on your side."

The Indians.

All the Navajo Indians in New Mexico have returned to their reservation, and no further trouble with them is expected this year.

The commissioner of Indian affairs has refused to allow the chiefs of the Mille Sauc Indians in Minnesota to go to Washington for a pow-wow. He tells them that the terms of the treaty will be faithfully adhered to, and that so long as they refrain from committing outrages they will not be compelled to remove to the White Earth reservation.

It is reported from Reno, Nevada, that the Washoe and Pite Indians have declared war against each other, and are engaged in a bloody conflict.

MILLIONS LOST IN OIL.

ANOTHER BAD DAY FOR THE BULLS.

Fluctuations in the prices at the Bradford Exchange—The Market Unsteady and Unsatisfactory—Better Prospects.

A Bradford dispatch says: The oil market Friday was fatally panicky as on Thursday, and the slaughter of the bulls equally as disastrous as that of the bears. Thursday night the market closed at \$1.05 but opened up in the morning with sales at \$1.04, and then broke off without interruption, under the wildest scenes of confusion and excitement went to \$1.02, which was touched at noon. In the afternoon the market recovered and advanced rapidly to \$1.06, but continued unsteady and unsatisfactory throughout the session. At the close some heavy trading was done at \$1.04, which was the best bid. The sales of the day were 3,550,000 barrels.

The entire trade in oil is paralyzed from this sudden break in values. At times on the Exchange the market would drop 5 cents without a sale being made, buyers being scarce and few and far between. In fact, confidence is impaired to so great an extent that it is doubtful if it can be restored for some time to come. It is conceded that there is nothing in the situation in the field to depress prices, and speculators are still at a loss to determine the exact cause of the trouble. The plausible theory is that the entire country is not loaded up, and when the heavy dealers began selling the small fry tried to follow suit en masse, and then the scramble began. The prospects are just now that a steadier market may be looked for, and possibly a slight recovery. If the market is to rule and suffering that prevail in the oil country are without a parallel in the history of the trade. The actual loss to the region by the decline of Thursday and Friday, and the depreciation in the value of stocks and property, is roughly estimated at not less than \$15,000,000. So far but three failures have been reported on the Bradford Exchange, and these were of small dealers. Heavy losses have been sustained, however, by some of the large producers, one losing nearly \$100,000 on a single contract. It is thought that should gain sufficient strength to hold steady Saturday, it is thought that no more failures will be likely to occur.

A dispatch from Pittsburgh says this was another day of gloom and anxiety at the oil exchange. The market was weak with an utter lack of confidence, and prices declined in a short time from \$1.01 to \$1.00, but afterward recovered a little and closed firm at \$1.01. During the downward course the wildest excitement prevailed, and it was a very strange sight to satisfy margins. The transactions were very heavy, and many thousands of dollars were lost. As yet no failures have been announced.

In the afternoon the market showed considerable improvement, and advanced from \$1.00 at the opening of the session to \$1.02, closing quiet steady at \$1.02. Sales of the day were 4,265,000 barrels. It is the general impression that the worst has been passed, and that Friday witnessed the culmination of the whole manipulating scheme.

A BRAVE MOTHER'S DEATH.

Perishing in the Flames After Escaping Her Children From Her Burning Dwelling.

The first ward of Scranton was the scene of a disastrous fire at 2 o'clock Friday morning. At the residence of a miner named James Ruddy awoke to find his house in flames. The occupants of the dwelling were Ruddy, his wife and six children. The fire was close upon them. Ruddy, who was scarcely able to move from the effects of a recent mine accident, took up the youngest child and escaped with difficulty from the burning building. This effort unfitted him for rendering further assistance and his brave little wife carried out the other five children, darting in and out with a roller and bucket, and engaged in her own safety. Her hands and face were blistered in the fearful ordeal and when she took out the last two children, a boy and girl, their night clothing was on fire. The girl's hair was burned off and the boy's face and hands were severely scorched. The neighbors were beginning to assemble at the scene Mrs. Ruddy recollected that her husband's savings, amounting to \$200 in gold, were in a room up stairs, and despite the protest of those about her she went to fetch it. She had no sooner gone up the stairs than the upper floors fell in with a crash and the place was completely enveloped in flames. All efforts to save her were futile. Her shriering and wailing were heard by the ones who had plucked so bravely from the ill-fated house in which she perished were kindly cared for by the neighbors, but it is thought the boy and girl cannot recover.

The remains of Mrs. Ruddy were not discovered among the ruins until the afternoon, when it was found that the flesh was burned from her bones. Most of the money which lured her to destruction was found in good condition. Two buildings besides Ruddy's were destroyed by the flames and the occupants had a narrow escape. Mrs. Ruddy was only twenty-six years old.

NOVEL LAW POINTS.

The Massachusetts Courts Called on to Decide Two Curious Cases.

The commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Catholic church are quarreling in the courts over the bequest of \$200,000, the present value of the estate of Catherine Powers, an Irish woman, who died twenty-five years ago. Her oddity-expressed will, written on a scrap of paper in 1857, authorized the Rev. Thomas Lynch to draw the contents of the bequest for the benefit of the money as she said: "Part for my burial expenses and the residue for charitable purposes, masses, &c." The testator having no heirs or next of kin, the will was not probated until 1877. Meantime the estate grew and developed. The money was kept together until the death of the testator, and the residue, which was both Catholic and Father Welch were both Catholics, it is manifest that she intended to give the money to the Catholic church for charitable purposes, and he claims in a representative capacity that church. Assistant Attorney General Barrows holds that under the will the estate lapses for uncertainty, and, therefore, no next of kin, escheats to the state, subject to the power of the Legislature to confer it upon any charitable institution. The case is on trial in the supreme court.

A novel point at law has been raised in the supreme court of Massachusetts. In 1868 Nathaniel Goddard Fuller insured his life for \$1,000, the policy being made in favor of his wife or assignees. In case she died before he died, the money was to be paid to their children. He then went to California. In 1876 he started to return to this country, and with his wife and children embarked on a ship, which was never heard from. The insurance money was applied to the estate of his son, but the heirs of the wife now seek to have it applied to them. The defendants rest their claim on the ingenious argument that the husband being an accomplished swimmer, the probability is that he survived his wife. The judge will think it over.

BORKAN BLASTS AT BUFFALO.

Some Destructive Results of Friday's Gale.

A very severe storm raged Friday morning before daylight at Buffalo. It was at its height about 3 o'clock, when it was accompanied by thunder and lightning. Signs were unheeded, trees blown down and the windows in some houses blown

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE IN MOTION.

The Regular Term of Criminal Court—True Bills in 20 cases—Conviction of Pease and Deserter taken into custody.

Friday afternoon—Com'th vs. James McGroarty, malicious mischief. The evidence for the commonwealth showed that a number of men, including the defendant, were boarding at the house of Daniel Brennan, Dillerville, on the 7th of October the defendant went up to Mrs. Brennan's room and put her dress and her daughter's hat on; he tore the dress badly and damaged the hat.

The defense was that upon this evening there was a little party at Brennan's, and all got drunk and during the party the defendant put this dress on for fun, and when he came down stairs Mrs. Brennan, who was enjoying it, put her sun bonnet and apron on him and pinned a bow on his back; he got some papers at the desk and finally Mr. Brennan told him to take it off, which he did; the dress was not torn or injured. The jury rendered a verdict not guilty with defendant to pay one-fourth of the costs and Dan Brennan, the prosecutor, three-fourths of the costs.

The grand jury returned the following bills: True Bills.—Austin Frazer, assault and battery; Washington McArde, false pretense.

Ignored.—Peter Graybill, violating fish laws, with county for costs.

Saturday morning.—As the jurors were discharged last night the duty of peace and desecration cases were taken up this morning and were disposed of as follows: Com'th vs. Mary Clark, surety of the peace. Mary Clark, Salisbury, was the complainant and the evidence showed no threats and the complaint was dismissed with the prosecutor for costs.

Com'th vs. Jacob Bullock, of Marietta, deserted the defendant was charged with deserting from the army to support his wife. Sentenced to pay \$2.50 per week to his wife with costs of prosecution.

Com'th vs. Isaac Frimfock, of Columbia. This defendant was also charged with deserting from the army. The case was continued until January and the defendant promised to take his wife and support her.

Com'th vs. Daniel Brennan, of Dillerville, surety of the peace. James McGroarty testified that Brennan threatened to shoot him on November 1st. The defendant denied it and the complaint was dismissed, and each party ordered to pay half the costs.

Com'th vs. Patrick Craig, surety of the peace. Daniel Brennan was the prosecutor in this case, and he testified that the defendant, who works on the new railroad above the city, threatened to kill and destroy him. Patrick denied ever having made any threats whatever. The complaint was dismissed with county for costs, and the defendant consented to a recognizance to keep the peace.

Com'th vs. John Keenan, surety of the peace. Daniel Brennan again came to the surface as prosecutor in this case and charged Keenan with having threatened to kill him. Keenan, who is a foreman of track layers on the new branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, testified that Brennan was continually coming to the place where his men were at work and getting into quarrels with the men. He ordered him away and said he would boot him if he did not get Keenan out of the place to pay the costs and enter into his recognizance to keep the peace.

The cases of surety of the peace against the following were dismissed as the parties were in jail for other offenses: James May, Michael Gueff and James Miller. Michael Gueff pleaded guilty to the charge of fornication and bastardy and was sentenced as usual.

A large number of cases were not processed on payment of costs. The grand jury returned the following bills: True Bills.—John Drachbar, John Daily, John Wertz, Harry Snyder, Geo. Blair, Lewis Reidenbach, arson; C. F. Miller, arson; of Christian Bender's stable.

Ignored.—C. F. Miller, arson of Joseph White's stable; Philip Smith, accessory to arson; John Staley, arson.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Michael Harnish Instantly Killed.

Michael Harnish of West Willow, Pa. was instantly killed yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock on the farm of his brother, Abraham Harnish in Providence township. It appears that Abraham and Michael, accompanied by Abraham's son, Martin, went out to cut a hemlock tree. A rope was tied to the tree to direct its fall. When it fell, Michael ran to get out of the way, but the tree fell in an unexpected direction and one of the large limbs struck him on the back of the head, fracturing the skull and killing him instantly, in the presence of his horrified brother and nephew. The dead body was placed in a wagon and conveyed to the family residence in West Willow. The funeral will take place at one o'clock on Sunday afternoon at the home of the deceased in the family living ground on the farm of Emanuel Harnish.

Deceased was a bachelor of considerable fortune, aged about 50 years. He was an excellent citizen, beloved by a large circle of relatives, and by the entire community among whom he resided.

INTERESTING REMAHS.

The Old Court House—The Lost Ballroom "Pathfinder."

We have been shown some interesting relics, which we believe are to be presented to the Linnæan association of this city. They consist of a photograph of the old courthouse which used to stand in Centre Square, where the Soldiers' monument now stands; the top of the great ballroom "Pathfinder," in which Prof. John Wise made his last and fatal voyage; a piece of the valve rope cut from the same ballroom just before Prof. Wise made his ascent from St. Louis, and the elastic valve spring intended for the same ballroom, but replaced by a heavier one before the ascent was made; several pieces of cord used in making the netting with which the ballroom was covered. The photograph of the court house belonged to Prof. Wise for many years. The piece of the ballroom "Pathfinder" was cut away after the canvas had been sewed together to make room for the valve, and the valve-cord, was cut away because it was too long. These relics were sent to Mr. Bittner by Prof. Chas. E. Wise, son of the late astronomer.

Prof. Hermann, the Magician.

Prof. Hermann, the famous prestidigitator, appeared before a small audience in Fulton opera house last evening. The professor is a world-renowned representative of his special line of entertainment, but last night's programme, although consisting of startling and mysterious feats, was rather meagre. The spirit cabinet was an especial feature of the evening, and that with his other tricks made up a list of attractive and astonishing performances. The professor's explanations of the nature of the audience. The specialties which form a part of the programme are excellent, the surprising dexterity of the balancing of Awata Katsushin, a Japanese, and John Wingfield with his trained dogs, eliciting rounds of applause.

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DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Printers' Paper Mill Destroyed, Loss \$100,000—Binkley's Bridge Burned, Loss \$10,000.

This morning about half-past nine o'clock, the Printers' paper mill, situated on the Conestoga creek, near Binkley's bridge on the New Holland turnpike was discovered to be on fire, and in a very short time it was, together with its valuable machinery and material, a total ruin, involving a loss estimated at \$100,000. The fire is supposed to have originated in the machinery in the second story, as it was at that point it was first discovered. The main building was of stone, three stories high, and 80 by 60 feet in diameter. It was originally built as a flouring mill but was converted into a paper mill many years ago and was filled with a costly machinery. The machine room in which the paper was manufactured was a stone building, one story high and 130 feet in length. It was supplied with three immense boilers and two engines, one of which was a 60-horse power and the other 25-horse power. There were besides four water wheels and complete machinery for the manufacture of paper—our machine alone cost \$18,000.

The loss on the building is estimated at fully \$25,000, and the machinery and material at \$75,000. There was in the mill about \$3,000 worth of manufactured paper, all of which was destroyed. A heavy business was being done in the mill, there being many orders to fill for customers—one being a heavy order for writing paper from a Boston firm.

One-half the building was owned by J. K. Bittner, and the other half by Jacob Bittner and James Symington. The latter gentleman owned all the stock.

Following is the insurance on the building: On the building.....\$5,000 On machinery.....15,000 On stock.....2,000 Total.....\$22,000

The losses are divided among the following names: The Commercial Union of London & Provincial.....\$1,250 National Fire and Marine Insurance Co. of N. York.....2,000 Insurance of North America.....2,500 Franklin Fire and Marine Insurance Co. of Philadelphia.....1,000 The Commercial Union of London & Provincial.....1,000 Lafayette of Brooklyn.....1