The Vermont Watchman.

BY W. W. PRESCOTT. MONTPELIER, VT., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1884. VOL. 80.—4075. NO. 6.

Watchman & Journal.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1884.

Watchman Premiums for 1885.

The publisher of THE WATCHMAN offers the following attractive list of premiums to canvassers and to subscribers, new and old, the offers to remain in force till January 1, 1885:

For two new subscribers: The National Standard Dictionary, a pronouncing lexicon of the English language, containing forty thousand words and illustrated by seven hundred wood cuts. To which is added an appendix of useful and valuable information. A universal handbook for ready reference. This is the same book that proved to be so popular a premium last year.

For four new subscribers: Either THE WATCHMAN for one year; or a set of Mrs. Potts' famous cold-handle sadirons, consisting of three irons nickel plated, stand, and black walnut handle. These articles are in general use by housekeepers and highly prized by them. Retail price $2.50.

For six new subscribers: Either a Union Platform Scale, with scoop, weighing from one-half ounce to two hundred forty pounds, an indispensable article in any family, especially a farmer's; or the Bailey Novelty Wringer, family size, warranted white rubber rolls. A strictly first-class machine.

For eight new subscribers: *Harper's Magazine*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Harper's Bazar*, the *Century* or the *Atlantic Monthly* for one year. These are all standard publications and need no advertising.

SPECIAL OFFER TO OLD AND NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

For five dollars we will furnish THE WATCHMAN for one year to old or new subscribers, and either the Union Platform Scales or the Bailey Novelty Wringer described above. The lowest retail price of the scales is $5 and of the wringer $4. Canvassers can themselves make use of this special offer as a help in securing the premiums offered above. The cash for the paper and the scales or wringer must accompany each order.

Samples of the above articles can be seen at THE WATCHMAN office. The condition attached to the above offers is that the cash for a full year in advance from January 1, 1885, shall accompany each subscription. Every new subscriber for a full year will receive the paper the balance of this year without extra charge. These are rare inducements to subscribers and canvassers, and we trust they will enlist their speedy and earnest efforts. Sample copies free.

W. W. PRESCOTT, *Publisher*.

Current Mention.

READ carefully the premium offers at the head of this column.

THE annual meeting of the Vermont State Agricultural Society will be held at St. Albans to-day (Wednesday).

ANY party wishing to purchase a first-class engine of eight horse power will do well to call at THE WATCHMAN office.

WE are indebted to Mr. Willis Bliss of Corinth for several fine specimens of natural fruit grown upon apple trees which have been cultivated by himself.

SOME good wood is wanted at this office in payment of subscriptions. Those who are anxious to settle their accounts in this way are requested to attend to it at once.

HON. DANIEL ROBERTS, receiver of the First National Bank of St. Albans, began in the United States court last week a large number of suits against the stockholders and debtors of the bank.

FREE PRESS: "The letter carriers are having a hard road to travel. Each one is stopped on every trip by some democrat who hauls out a piece of tape and commences measuring to see if the uniform will fit him."

THE members of Dr. Sauveur's school left in Burlington last season $25,000 at the lowest estimate, and some of the people of that city quite naturally think it worth while to make a vigorous effort to secure the school there permanently.

THE new skating rink at North Montpelier is to be formally opened to the public on Wednesday evening of next week. Music will be furnished by the Marshfield cornet band. A cordial invitation is extended to the public in general.

WE are in receipt of the thirty-second annual announcement of the medical department of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for the year 1885. Together with the announcement is published a catalogue of the alumni from 1854 to 1884.

FRANK HARRIS, who was appointed commissioner for Vermont to represent the colored people of this state at the New Orleans exposition, finds himself embarrassed by southern prejudice against his people. The Massachusetts commissioner for the colored people has resigned because of discriminations by the managers of the exposition against the interests of that race, and there is a prospect that the whole affair will be a failure, so far as the colored people are concerned, for this very reason.

WEDNESDAY night J. H. Holden's safe in Barrett & Holden's store, Middlesex, was robbed of $200 to $300 and several papers, of no value except to the owner. The front door of the store was opened with the aid of a "jimmy," and the safe was broken open without the aid of powder. The combination handle was knocked off and the spindle driven through. The dog was then cut off, the bolts drawn, and the door thereby left free to swing on its hinges. The robbery was not discovered until Thursday morning, and there is no clue to the perpetrators.

THE examination of teachers for Washington county will be held at the court house in Montpelier, November 28 and 29, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to law, for those who wish a county license for five years. Candidates for this examination "must be twenty years of age, if men, and eighteen years, if women; must bring testimonials from the town superintendents who granted their certificates and from the committee who hired them showing they have taught successfully for at least ten weeks, and approving their moral character." Let them also be prompt in attendance.

SATURDAY night the store of J. H. George at East Hardwick was entered and the safe therein was broken open and robbed of $16 and several valuable papers belonging to the school districts. The tools, a sledge hammer and wrench, with which the safe was opened were obtained from a blacksmith's shop. An attempt was also made to open the safe in G. L. Johnson's gristmill with the same tools. This proving unsuccessful, gunpowder was used. Failing to accomplish their object by this means, the project was abandoned. Following the discovery of the robbery, great excitement prevailed in the little village. There is no clue to the perpetrators.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Seeing in the papers an account of the recent robbing of Judge Holden's safe at Middlesex reminds me of the very alarming frequency of such operations in this state. Is it not time for the state to offer some reward for the detection and punishment of these organized gangs of robbers? No individual or firm will be able to pursue them at his or their own expense so effectually as to break up this wicked and disgraceful practice. If an armed band of marauders were going about the state stealing in the day time and the local police were not able to subdue them, would not the state be put to the expense to call out the militia and protect its citizens? Why not, then, let the officers of the state offer a reasonable and suitable reward to any one who would arrest and convict these burglars, 'whose ways are dark and whose tricks are vile?'"

IF flaming posters are any assurance of the fulfillment of their intentions, the democracy will literally paint the town red on Thursday. Several prominent speakers are advertised to be present and address the vast throng which are expected to be present, among them Governor T. M. Waller of Connecticut, Hon. John R. Fellows of New York, Hon. E. F. Pillsbury of Boston, Colonel John H. George, Colonel Henry O. Kent and Hon. Hosea Parker of New Hampshire, and Hon. J. C. Monayhan of Providence, R. I. The Sherman Military Band of Burlington, the Brigade Band of St. Albans, the Cornet Band and the Mechanics' Band, West Randolph, and bands from Richmond, Bethel, Windsor, Marshfield, and Calais are positively to be present and democrats from other towns are expected to bring their bands. One feature of the torchlight procession in the evening, which will form at half-past six o'clock, will be a cavalcade of horsemen. From wagons in the procession there will be a continual display of fireworks. Salutes will be fired during the day and evening. The rail roads will carry for fare one way.

A DISTINGUISHED New York democrat having written Mr. Blaine, with whom he has been on terms of friendship for many years, complaining of the course of the republican committee, and expressing the hope that Mr. Blaine himself was making no attempt to influence the count of votes in New York, Mr. Blaine replied by asking in what possible manner he could influence it, directly or indirectly, and then took occasion to add the following: "In the whole controversy I have had no desire but the honest declaration of the result. I have seen no other request made by the republican national committee nor by any of its members. They have acted on their own judgments at every step and need no advice from me. I do not wish any political supporter of mine in New York to take the slightest advantage of mere technical defects in any returns where the honest intention of the voter is expressed. I would far rather lose than gain by the exclusion of returns on mere technical grounds. The presidency is not desirable if there be the remotest taint on the title. A promotion of that kind no more leads to honor than the possession of forged papers leads to wealth."

HARRY L. CHAPIN of Middlesex has been engaged during the past week in getting out four-feet sections of trees for the New Orleans Exposition, and has found the following kinds: sugar maple, black sugar maple, birdseye maple, soft maple, dwarf maple, striped maple, yellow birch (two pieces, one rough and one smooth bark), canoe or paper birch, beech, elm, basswood, white ash, brown ash, mountain ash, black cherry, bird or fire cherry, choke cherry, shade tree, leverwood, poplar, tree willow, "pussy" willow, green osier, witch hazel, hazelnut, alder, hemlock and balsam fir. The sticks vary in size from two inches through to over two feet, and weigh from five pounds to eight hundred pounds. He has also sent a curiosity in the shape of two maples four feet apart at base growing together ten feet from the ground into one smooth, round trunk. This alone weighs half a ton. He also shows some finished specimens of wood; spruce gum in lump and steamed and on section of tree; hemlock gum; Canada balsam, clear and in blisters, on slab from tree; some curious growths from trees, and several kinds of fungi forming shelf-like projections on trees and stumps.

ABOUT thirty or more of the members of the Third Vermont Battery met in Montpelier in the Grand Army hall last Thursday and there held a very pleasant re-union. The call for the meeting was only issued about one week previous, and the residences of many of the old members were not known to those who sent out the notices. Some two or three hours were spent in recounting army experiences and in getting together as many of the addresses of the members as possible, after which a permanent organization was perfected and the following officers were elected: President, George B. Hall of Roxbury; vice presidents, Jesse Cayhue of Montpelier and E. M. Savage of Waitsfield; secretary, E. W. Rolfe of Tunbridge; treasurer, George S. Herrick of Montpelier; executive committee, E. W. Rolfe of Tunbridge, E. M. Savage of Waitsfield, Charles H. Stone of Montpelier, H. P. Closson of Thetford and Benjamin M. Clay of Brattleboro. Votes were passed directing the executive committee to draft a constitution, to collect the names and addresses of all the old members and to call future meetings. Letters from Lieutenant W. B. Perrin, now of Nashua, Iowa, and others unable to be present were read, and the "boys" adjourned to meet at the call of the executive committee, each expressing himself well pleased with the reunion and promising to attend the next.

THE near approach of the thanksgiving season makes of particular importance the following historical allusions by a correspondent to its early observance: "The first New England thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims of Plymouth at the ingathering of their first harvest in the autumn of 1621. Its record is preserved in a letter of Edward Winslow, sent home to England the following winter. By order of the governor, a party of four went out to shoot wild turkeys, and secured a bountiful supply. Others brought sea fish and duck, and the festival was continued for a week, with out-of-door sports and trials of arms. It is supposed they had in mind the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, which was in October—a feast at ingathering and lasted seven days. Ninety Indians, with the great chief Massasoit, came and joined in the festive scene, bringing five deer to the common entertainment. The first autumnal thanksgiving officially appointed by the colony of Massachusetts Bay was on November 16, 1633. This was another colony from that of Plymouth, and was founded a few years later at Salem in 1626 and at Boston in 1630. The festival, however, was not of regular annual recurrence anywhere till a much later period. It gradually grew in the affections of New England people, till it became an established observance which has now become national."

IT appears that in the report of the hearing of the Randolph case the comparative cost of schools in another district was inadvertently given for the cost in Mr. D. H. Morse's district. Mr. Morse's statement was that the school cost less in his district under the town than under the district system, giving no figures. As a matter of fact, however, the records in Mr. Morse's district show that it raised an average annual school tax of twenty-three and one-fifth cents on the dollar of the grand list for the last five consecutive years prior to the adoption of the town system. Add to this the nine cents state tax and the actual cost is thirty-two and one-fifth cents on the dollar to support a school twenty-seven and one-fifth weeks per year under the old system, against a tax of thirty cents a year for thirty weeks of better school under the town system. Mr. Grow's statement should have read that the tax in his district had usually ranged under the old system from twenty-two to twenty-eight per cent, which, with the nine per cent state tax, would make from thirty-one per cent to thirty-seven per cent; also that better teachers, not at a cheaper rate, had been hired under the town system of management. In a report written up in some haste and without opportunity for revision, absolute accuracy of statement was impossible. The exact facts, however, do not improve the case of the petitioners.

Montpelier.

MRS. T. O. BAILEY is visiting friends and relatives in town.

THE choir of Bethany church was minus a tenor last Sunday.

E. W. THOMPSON left for Boston yesterday, having been in town a day or so.

TAYLOR, the wizard, is to perform at Capital Hall November 21, 22, 23 and 24.

MR. AND MRS. J. H. MIMMS of St. Albans are spending the present week in Montpelier.

MR. AND MRS. T. W. WOOD returned yesterday to their winter residence in New York city.

PROFESSOR TOWNSHEND has returned to the hill and resumed his labors as instructor in elocution.

GENERAL P. P. PITKIN is named as one of the trustees of the proposed Vermont Soldiers' Home.

J. W. SAULT of the St. Albans *Messenger* spent Sunday in town as the guest of his brother-in-law, A. C. Harlow.

PROFESSOR DICKINSON, teacher of vocal music at the Seminary, has been engaged to conduct a singing-school at Northfield.

JUDGE AND MRS. REDFIELD entertained the members of the supreme bench at their residence last week Thursday evening.

REV. MR. HINCKS exchanged pulpits with Rev. S. H. Wheeler of Waterbury Sunday morning, returning to fill his own pulpit in the evening.

THE proposed talk about Kindergartens, by Miss Amy Fisk, is necessarily postponed a few days. Further announcement of it will be given.

A BILL has been introduced into the legislature appointing T. J. Deavitt a commissioner to collect Vermont's claim against the United States.

FRED A. HILLERY, a recent graduate of the Vermont Methodist Seminary, secured the Ayres prize at Wesleyan University for the best examination in the studies required for admission.

THE fourth recital of the term will be given in Seminary chapel this evening at half-past seven o'clock. The programme will consist of piano and organ solos, duets, trios and choruses and a recitation.

EDITOR KINSLEY of the Burlington *Clipper* was at the "Hamlet" Thursday seeking for an item. The new motor in THE WATCHMAN office, both machine and motive power, afforded him subjects for reflection.

THE senior exhibition at the Vermont Methodist Seminary occurs on Friday evening at half-past seven o'clock. The programme will consist of original essays and orations by members of the senior class.

A SPECIAL convocation of King Solomon Royal Arch Chapter, No. 7, will be held at Masonic Hall on Friday evening, November 21, at seven o'clock. Work, Royal Arch. Sojourning companions cordially invited.

MISS WAIT'S class in lustro-painting will meet at the Pavilion parlors to-day (Wednesday) from nine until eleven A. M., and one until three P. M. Any wishing to join the class should call at the parlors at half-past eight o'clock.

WE understand that to-morrow forenoon E. K. Voodry is to fulfil a campaign obligation by wheeling C. H. Carter from the shops of the Lane Manufacturing Company to the post-office in a wheelbarrow. The Montpelier band is to act as escort.

IN this village, on Friday night, Colonel George O. Tyler of Burlington was presented with a costly gold ring emblematic of the thirty-third degree in Masonry. The ring was the gift of the three Vermont Masons who have just attained that degree.

THE tricks of Hernandez, the magician, at Capital Hall Saturday evening were seen by a fair-sized audience. The entertainment was satisfactory throughout and every promise with regard to the performance and the bestowal of gifts carefully fulfilled.

MOUNT ZION COMMANDERY, No. 9, Knights Templar, will hold a special conclave at Masonic Hall for *work* this (Wednesday) evening, at seven o'clock. All Sir Knights visiting Montpelier are cordially invited to be present. A banquet will conclude the exercises.

LAST week Dr. H. A. Cutting delivered the fourth and last of the course of very instructive and interesting scientific lectures which he has so kindly given before the students of the Vermont Methodist Seminary in response to an invitation from the Adelphi Society.

E. G. SARGENT and H. C. Reed threshed for Charles E. Perrin of this village on his farm in Berlin eleven hundred thirty-five bushels of oats in three and three-fourths days, moving their machine twice in that time. The last day they threshed three hundred and fifty bushels.

AMONG the prominent gentleman in Montpelier Monday evening were Messrs. B. B. Smalley, W. G. Shaw, C. M. Spaulding and V. P. Noyes of Burlington, Julius N. North of Shoreham, E. A. Chittenden of St. Albans, Warren C. French of Woodstock, A. P. Hunton of Bethel and Charles Thatcher of Bennington.

DR. H. A. CUTTING gave a talk at the school-house Wednesday afternoon before the pupils of the Washington County Grammar School and the two higher grades of the Union School. He spoke for an hour upon matters of general observation, and his remarks were listened to with much interest by those present.

DR. C. A. BAILEY, who has just closed a very successful practice of four years in Williamstown and settled in Montpelier, went to Boston last week, in company with one of his former patients, Mrs. Barnet Goodrich, who had an operation performed in that city on Thursday for the removal of a dangerous internal tumor.

MR. APPLEBEE'S lecture upon "Longfellow" was well attended and highly enjoyed, and, as the closing lecture of the course, left a pleasant impression upon the minds of the audience. Though an Englishman by birth, he threw the greatest enthusiasm into his recitation of "Paul Revere's Ride," which was warmly applauded.

AN old folks' supper will be served by the Mission Band of the Baptist church in their vestry on Friday evening, from six to eight o'clock. There will be a sociable and musical entertainment following the supper. "Mortgaging the Farm" is to be sung. Fancy articles made by the band will be disposed of. All are cordially invited.

WHILE Frank Randall, a painter, was hanging the blinds of one of the second-story windows of the rectory Monday morning, the ladder on which he was standing and which rested on the front piazza, slipped and he fell to the floor, breaking two ribs. Dr. Templeton was called and the injured man was properly cared for.

J. H. ENGELS of Brandon, for three years organist of the first Baptist society of Troy, N. Y., has secured several pupils for instruction in instrumental music and is to locate here for the present. Mr. Engels is evidently a musician of high attainments, and we hope that he may prove himself deserving of the excellent recommendations which it is his privilege to bring to Montpelier people.

THE attendance at the Golden Fleece, Saturday evening, was the largest of any since the opening. The principal attraction was the announcement of the races which took place. In each of these there were three contestants. The one-mile race furnished a good exhibition of speed, while the orange race was the source of much amusement for the spectators. The best time in the former was 3:58. Excellent music was furnished by the Montpelier band.

MR. BURPEE, treasurer of the Montpelier Carriage Company, informs us that the item which appeared in THE WATCHMAN last week, and which was furnished by one of the employes, concerning the future plans of the company in the case of Cleveland's election, was entirely without foundation. The company is in an exceedingly prosperous condition, having on hand more orders than can possibly be filled before the last of December, with the help already employed.

LETTERS uncalled for at Montpelier, Vt., post-office November 15, 1884: Mrs. Mary Braingan, Mrs. Mary D. Brown, Mrs. Mary P. Chace, Mrs. William Gordon, Mrs. H. B. Mears, Mrs. Nora Rollins, Mrs. Britana Rouleau, Mrs. Frank Steele, Mme. Thorp. Gentlemen—B. W. Barnet, J. C. Brown, Henry Fisher, George Gates, John Rigby, E. A. Smith, H. W. Shaw. Parties applying for any of the above must say advertised and give the date.

GEORGE W. WING, Postmaster.

MR. AND MRS. J. W. BROCK entertained a large number of friends and acquaintances at their residence last week Tuesday evening, it being the second formal reception during the present session. After a hearty greeting from the host and hostess, the guests were ushered into the elegant parlors, where the time was pleasantly spent in greeting old acquaintances and making new ones. Lunch was served a little after nine o'clock, and a little later the Montpelier cornet band contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by rendering two or three selections on the lawn, after which they were invited within. The company broke up about eleven o'clock with general expressions of kindly feeling to the host and hostess.

IT was announced at the close of Rev. James K. Applebee's lecture, Thursday night, that the net proceeds of the second course to be held in trust for the Montpelier public library, will be in the vicinity of $75. This makes about $150 secured for the proposed library from Mr. Applebee's lectures alone. The entire responsibility attending the engagement of the lecturer has been borne by the Rev. J. Edward Wright, who has also taken entire charge of the advertising and other necessary arrangements, and has given a great amount of time to the work. In consideration of the spirit which we are confident prompts such an action on the part of Mr. Wright, it is probable that he feels well repaid for his labors by the success with which they have been attended, but this fact in no way lessens the debt of gratitude which the entire community owes him, and which it can only repay by heartily seconding in some substantial way his efforts in behalf of this most deserving cause.

LAST Saturday word was sent to A. O. Cummins that there was trouble with the water-works on Heath's meadow. Mr. Cummins and Joel Foster went at once to the place designated and found that a length of the main pipe had burst and the waters of Berlin pond were moistening Mr. Heath's meadow without extra charge. Hastening to the gate near the river the pressure was found to be so great as to make it impossible to turn the wrench and they were obliged to go to the top of the hill on Berlin side and close the gate at that point, where the pressure was not so great. Thus, for nearly an hour the water had been pouring from the "main," and the meadow was flooded. Investigation revealed the fact that a stone weighing some two hundred pounds had rolled from the edge of the ditch upon the pipe. The reverse pressure of the water which must have followed the concussion of the falling stone caused a long crack through which the water flowed. A new length of pipe was supplied yesterday.

BROOKS POST, No. 13, held a camp-fire at their hall last week Tuesday evening. The room was crowded and it was one of the largest and brightest camp-fires the post has ever enjoyed. Commander Holden presided, and among those present were Comrades Governor S. E. Pingree, Lieutenant-Governor E. J. Ormsbee, Adjutant and Inspector-General T. S. Peck, Senators W. Gibbs, Edwin Horton and E. B. Howe; Representatives S. W. Estey of Dummerston, L. M. Hutchinson of Worcester, W. H. Parker of Cambridge, George W. Humphrey of East Haven, Azro White of Reading, Alfred Childs of Landgrove, George L. Farrington of Searsburgh; Comrades General Stephen Thomas, General P. P. Pitkin, Colonel F. V. Randall, Colonel John B. Mead, Captain R. J. Coffey and others. After an hour of welcome, the post served a generous supply of hot coffee, hard-tack, doughnuts and cigars, after which the time till midnight was spent around the camp-fire, telling stories of the camp, battle-field and army life.

THE NORMAN'S IDEAL COMPANY appeared at Capital Hall on Friday evening and were greeted by quite a good-sized audience, including many ladies and several members of the legislature. The company consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Clarendon Smith, the principal actors, and a support of amateurs from Sheldon. Whatever of merit there may be in the play was more than counteracted by the great verdancy of the performers, and a more ridiculous scene was never witnessed in Capital Hall than that which followed the rise of the curtain on this occasion. The audience became disgusted and soon began to leave the hall. Confusion and disorder followed and long before the close of the play every lady and most of the gentlemen had left the house. The company cancelled all engagements, including one to appear at Barre Saturday night, and disbanded on Saturday. In justice to Mr. and Mrs. Smith we would say that we are informed that before breaking up all the salaries were paid and everything was done fairly and in a business-like manner. The company will be organized anew and their engagements will be filled later in the season.

Legislative Notes.

NELSON G. PIPER, the representative from Cavendish, is detained at home by the serious illness of his wife.

MAJOR JOSIAH GROUT made one of the best speeches of the session, last Wednesday, advocating the bill changing the Orleans county shire.

FIVE hundred seventeen bills have been introduced in the house and one hundred forty-six in the senate. This is the largest number for many years.

J. B. SANDERSON, the member from Highgate, who has been prevented from attendance thus far this session by illness, was sworn in and took his seat last Wednesday.

WHY should skating rinks pay a franchise tax while other places of amusement are exempt from the burden? Is a skating rink a more objectionable place of resort than a billiard hall?

THE governor returned house bill No. 185 without his signature, it being the first veto of the session. No objection was found to the general purpose of the bill, but there were one or two fatal minor defects in it.

WHAT is the cause of the feeling of dissatisfaction which leads to an effort to abolish the State Board of Agriculture? We are surprised to see this disposition on the part of the farming interest, as the board has, in our opinion, never been more efficient than at present.

THE committee on banks and banking will report a bill this week placing savings banks and trust companies under the same restrictions as to investments, with the exception perhaps of some more liberty in the matter of loaning funds to the officers. The committee on ways and means will probably report a bill making the tax on these institutions the same.

A LITTLE two-and-a-half year old son of one of the members of the house, accompanied by his mother, attended the opening service a few mornings since, and when the chaplain commenced his prayer the little fellow dropped on his knees and began, in an audible voice, "Now I lay me down to sleep." The example ought not to be lost on the members.

THE bill to reimburse E. H. Daniels for alleged loss in building the reform school at Vergennes will not be passed. The state cannot afford to open this door for a deluge of similar claims now and hereafter. A legal contract is not a heads-I-win tails-you-lose arrangement, and Mr. Daniels would not have reimbursed the state if he had cleared $5,000 on the job.

THE *Free Press* of Saturday, in its account of the election of supreme court judges, alludes to the gentleman from Halifax who opposed Judge Royce. This allusion seems to us uncalled for. Whatever may be the ability of any gentleman who conscientiously advocates any measure with civility, he should be treated courteously. Unpopular measures are not advocated upon the floor of the house with a hope of winning applause and favor, but from good motives and a sense of duty.

A LARGE number of the members of the legislature have discussed the desirability of having a general reunion, next year, of all who have ever been members of the general assembly, and Mr. Fullerton's resolution granting the use of the hall of the house of representatives for two days in the first week of October, 1885, for that purpose, is the result of the discussion. It is believed that such an occasion would bring to Montpelier a very large number, including many now residing outside of the state, and the town would doubtless be scarlet color while they were here.

THE senate chamber was the center of attraction Thursday, the bill to change Orleans county's shire being the bone of contention. The bill had already passed the house by a very large majority. The principal features of the contest were the cross-examination of Senator Amsden, chairman of the special committee having the bill in charge, and the speeches of Senators Thompson and Ide. Senator Thompson labored to show that the county buildings were in a satisfactory condition and that it was an injustice to the county to compel them to go to the expense of establishing a new shire, without leaving it to the vote of the people of the county. His speech was an eloquent effort and the argument plausible, but, considering the fact that the senator is a lawyer at Irasburgh, the present shire, and has a very strong personal and financial interest in the matter, his allusion to a subsidized press employed to misrepresent facts was in very bad taste, to put it mildly. Senator Ide replied, showing that former contests of this nature had been settled by the legislature and in no case had it been submitted to a popular vote. There were some sharp personal thrusts between the senators, after which the proposed amendment, referring the matter to the people, was refused and the bill ordered to a third reading. The final contest on the question will occur in the senate this (Wednesday) afternoon.

THE governor has approved and signed the following bills, since those last reported, in the order named: S. 58, an act to authorize the removal of obstructions from the Gihon branch of the Lamoille river; H. 103, an act to pay Wilson S. Lovell the sum therein named; H. 113, an act to incorporate the Lyndon savings bank; H. 205, an act to pay Lorenzo G. Coolidge; S. 40, relating to education of the blind; S. 43, authorizing the compiling, printing and distribution of the laws relating to elections, qualifications of voters and the naturalization of foreign-born citizens; S. 73, to amend section 2,915 of the revised laws; H. 40, to incorporate the Vermont Telephone and Telegraph Company; H. 146, enabling certain school and town officers to obtain books and papers of their office; H. 155, to pay J. H. Brown the sum therein named; H. 157, to incorporate the Southern Vermont Telephone and Telegraph Company; H. 172, to incorporate the Society of St. Peter, Winooski; H. 219, changing the time of holding the supreme court in the county of Windham; H. 2, relating to appeals in civil causes from justice's courts; H. 31, giving dealers in monuments and copings certain powers; H. 60, to incorporate the Vermont Cattle Company; H. 132, relating to the grand list; H. 163, authorizing payment of counsel employed by town grand jurors in criminal cases; H. 195, relating to the payment of fines and costs when the respondent is committed in default of payment.

THE military committee had a meeting last week to further consider the bill establishing a soldiers' home in Vermont. Petitions from about six thousand citizens of the state, praying for a soldiers' home, had been received. The committee is in favor of establishing a home, but discussed two bills, one of which was house bill number fifty, introduced by Mr. Hutchinson, which makes it a state institution, the farm and property to belong to the state and always subject to its control. A bill to create a corporation for the purpose of building a home, the state to give a certain sum annually to the corporation, was also discussed by the committee. The latter bill is similar to the one establishing the insane asylum at Brattleboro, while the former is more like the one establishing the state reform school. The committee seemed of the opinion that there were not far from one hundred soldiers now that were in need of the home, and the number is liable to increase. There was some suggestion that the committee visit the soldiers' home at Franklin, N. H., or Chelsea, Mass., with the view of obtaining better information as to the probable cost of the building needed and the expense of supporting the inmates. It was stated that Massachussetts appropriated $15,000 annually for the soldiers' home in that state. The last annual report of that institution, made last week, showed the number of soldiers admitted since November 1st, 1883, to be one hundred seventeen; re-admitted, forty-four; discharged upon their own request to earn a living, one hundred five. The number of inmates at present in the home is one hundred five.

THE senate committee on finance and the house committee on ways and means gave a hearing Monday evening to the savings banks and trust companies. The financial gentlemen appeared to complain of the discrimination the revenue law makes in taxing savings banks one-half of one per cent on their deposits, and trust companies one per cent. It was claimed that whatever reasons may have existed two years ago for the discrimination, they will cease to exist if the Butterfield bill, placing the two institutions upon precisely the same basis as regards their privileges and restrictions, becomes a law. The representatives of the banks and trust companies declared that they were or would be satisfied with the present tax rate on savings banks, but could not stand a rise. Inquiries by Mr. Dillingham developed the fact that notwithstanding the tax, the stock of some of the trust companies represented paid six per cent and sold at a high premium when any was put on the market; that savings banks which are paying now four per cent interest to their depositors could still pay three and one-half per cent to three and three-fourths per cent if the tax were raised one per cent, and that their interest rate would not be reduced more than one-fourth of one per cent, if at all, if the tax were raised to three-fourths of one per cent. Mr. Dillingham showed that if the tax on trust companies was reduced to one-half of one per cent the loss of revenue to the state would be about $15,000, but if the tax on both savings banks and trust companies was made three-fourths of one per cent there would be a gain of about $11,000 in the revenue, while if the savings banks were advanced to three-fourths of one per cent and the trust companies are still taxed one per cent the gain would be about $26,000. The tax in Maine is three-fourths of one per cent, in New Hampshire and Rhode Island one per cent, and in Massachusetts one-half of one per cent, making an average of about seven-tenths of one per cent. In New Hampshire eleven banks paid five per cent dividends, forty-six four per cent, six four and a half per cent, and two two per cent—average rate, four and one-sixth per cent. In Vermont five banks paid four per cent, seven paid four and a half and four paid five per cent—average, four and forty-seven one-hundredths per cent. If the Vermont banks paid a tax of three-fourths of one per cent, they would still net a higher average rate than the New Hampshire banks, which are taxed one per cent.

THE joint judiciary committee gave a hearing Friday evening on the divorce bills. Rev. C. S. Smith called attention to senate bill 75, which was prepared to embody the suggestions of the committees of the ecclesiastical convention, of which the members were Judge Redfield, President Buckham, Hon. Frederick Billings, Hon. George Nichols, Rev. H. F. Hill and himself. The main points are provisions for having all applications of divorce lie over one term of court, for compelling, when advisable, the attendance of the libellee, and for the punishment of the adulteries of divorced persons. Rev. S. W. Dike then spoke at some length in an informal way on the general subject of reform in divorce law, and answered the questions of the committee. The plan of laws of divorce in the system of law of the family was outlined, and the need of developing this branch in connection with the whole was shown. Some striking statistics of the relation of divorce and kindred evils to crime were given, with the need of more, which could be easily obtained with a better system of official statistics. The inferior protection law gives to woman in all that pertains to her marriage, from its beginning to its dissolution, compared with that given her in the matter of property, was pointed out. Two significant distinctions were made as to the evils of divorce and their remedy at law. The first was that divorce is an unnatural or violent termination of the family. And the fact that these unnatural or violent destructions of families were as high as six per cent of the whole number ended in the same period from all causes should alarm us somewhat as that ratio of deaths of individuals from casualties would. The state is deeply interested in having as many families as possible go on to their natural end in the death of husband or wife. The second was that divorce is a measure of last resort, a surgical operation of the courts which practically said the two thousand families of New England broken up annually by the decree of the courts are past all remedies of religion or philanthropy and must be destroyed. This is heroic treatment that ignores and discourages all remedial agencies. So long as the present extreme freedom of divorce continues, popular attention will not readily look at the healthful remedies for domestic ills. Mr. Dike said he did not look so much at present to reduction of legal causes for granting divorce as to stricter proceedings such as this bill contemplates, to greater protection of the family against the particular crimes that assail it and a strengthening of marriage and other laws together with divorce laws. Senator Thompson and others questioned him as to the effect of the property rights of married women in divorce.

MR. C. E. PUTNEY, principal of St. Johnsbury Academy, appeared before the committee on education Wednesday night in favor of the senate bill to prevent the demoralization of the public schools. The bill gives school committees power to forbid, under penalty, owners or managers of skating rinks to admit school children. Mr. Putney said the influence of the rinks was neutralizing school work and spoke of the injurious effect of the rink in St. Johnsbury in diverting the attention of school children from their studies. The influence of the rink was also ruinous morally, and power should be given some competent authority to protect the schools. The matter was discussed at the recent meeting of principals in this village and the bill drawn by Hon. H. C. Belden was the result of the unanimous recommendation of the teachers and had the support of the superintendent of education. Mr. Hopkins of South Burlington explained the provisions of house bill No. 95 in regard to compulsory attendance on district and town schools. Mr. Allen of Hinesburgh gave the result of the adoption of the town system of schools in that town. The system was adopted in 1876 against great opposition by large taxpayers with few scholars and by the back districts which seemed to fear that they would lose their rights and advantages under the system. After strong opposition for five or six years the system was permanently adopted, is now popular and the town could not now be persuaded to go back to the district system. Three years were taken to equalize the value of school property. The experience of this town, as detailed by Mr. Allen, was the same in respect to the advantages of the town system of school management as that of Waitsfield, Brighton, Middletown and others where it has had the benefit of mature trial and opposition has had time to sober off. There is entire harmony, equality of privileges, equal taxation and frugal, wise, successful management, with more weeks of school, better and permanent teachers. In Hinesburgh some teachers have been in service three or four consecutive years. Colonel J. B. Mead made a stirring appeal for the town system of schools and highway management. The hearing was continued on Thursday evening, when Senator Hobson gave an account of the practical working of the town system of schools in Brighton. Representative Savage reported for Waitsfield, Representative Stone for Eden, Representative Knapp for Woodford, and Representative Dunton for Charleston. Their testimony was entirely harmonious and in the strongest degree conclusive as to the efficiency of the town system and its vast superiority over the district system. It was of the same general character as much that has already been published. Superintendent Dartt made an eloquent plea for the adoption of the system. Mr. N. W. White and Rev. S. I. Bryant of Hartford explained the operation of the free text-book system adopted by that town and favored the free text-book bill now before the legislature.