The Free Press.

BURLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAR. 11, 1881.

PUBLISHED BY
The Free Press Association.
G. G. BENEDICT, Editor,

Terms—$2.00 a year, always in advance.

The National House of Representatives, which expired at noon Friday, left behind it a calendar containing more than one hundred pages. Sixty of these pages are devoted to private bills, of which no less than 930 fill, the bulk of them being pension bills. These, with a good sprinkling of relief bills and a few propositions to remove political disabilities, form what is known as the private calendar. With the exception of the bill (reported adversely) retiring General U. S. Grant, there is no bill of any public importance on this calendar. The public calendar to which is referred all measures disposing of the money or lands of the Government, is the grave of over 150 bills. Over 100 bills upon the Speaker's table remained unacted upon. Chief among them in importance are the measure known as the Eaton tariff commission bill; the Senate bills for the erection of a new Congressional library, for the relief of Fitz John Porter, the measure known as the "educational bill," and the bill in relation to the Japanese indemnity fund. The apportionment bill, which passed the House Thursday, was not acted upon by the Senate and therefore failed to become a law.

The argument for calling Congress together before next winter is that it may save the treasury the higher rates of interest which must be paid on the five and six per cent loans until the funding bill is passed. But Mr. Garfield may not consider this saving sufficiently important to demand an extra session. After the army appropriation bill had failed in the spring of 1877, President Hayes did not convene Congress until the middle of October, so that the special session merged into the regular one beginning in December. As the 47th Congress could hardly be got together before the 1st of May and the session then would probably continue into the hot weather, it is recommended by some of President Garfield's advisers, that if he concludes to call an extra session, he shall fix the date about the middle of October. This policy has much to support it, and Washington correspondents say that Mr. Garfield is inclined to adopt it. The necessity for a special session at all is regretted by many sensible men of both parties.

It is once more rumored—as it has often been rumored before, when the Mormon question has been receiving especial attention from the people and powers that be—that the Mormons are preparing to leave Utah for some more secluded region. The story now is that the astute Mormons some time ago scented danger from afar. Perhaps they had a "special revelation" of what was being written at Mentor. For several months they have been quietly negotiating with the Mexican government for the purchase of a large tract of country for the purpose of colonization. It is, however, not thought likely that the Mexican government will allow the Mormons to bring their "peculiar institution" into its territory. Many intelligent Mexicans fear that the introduction of Mormonism would demoralize the lower classes and the Indian population. The Catholic influence is squarely set against Mormonism, and the Protestant clergy of Mexico have equally protested against the granting of lands to the over-married "saints."

Wayne MacVeagh, the new Attorney-General, was born at Phœnixville, Chester County, Pa., April 19, 1833. He graduated at Yale College, in the class of 1853, and was admitted to the bar, April 26, 1856. Soon after he was elected District Attorney of Chester County, and served in that capacity for three years. During the war Mr. MacVeagh was twice in the service, first as a captain of a company of cavalry, which was in the service for two weeks only, when the invasion of the State was threatened in September, 1862. In 1870, President Grant appointed him to succeed E. Joy Morris as Minister to Constantinople. This position he held until the close of 1871, when he resigned. In early life Mr. MacVeagh had married a daughter of Mr. Lewis, his law preceptor, and after her death he married, in 1867, a daughter of ex-Senator Simon Cameron. His connection with the Louisiana commission three years ago is well remembered. Mr. MacVeagh is a careful, painstaking, diligent man in all that he undertakes, and his reputation as a lawyer is the guarantee of his fitness for the place to which he has been called.

The National Republican Committee held a meeting on Saturday to hear a report of the committee having under consideration the basis of representation in the next National convention. A majority report recommended that hereafter National conventions shall be composed of four delegates at large from each State, and two from each Congressional district, and that the district delegates should be chosen at respective conventions held in the districts. A minority report recommended that the next National convention consist of a number of delegates from each State equal to twice the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress, and that the Republicans of each State should direct the manner of choosing its delegates. The meeting adjourned for one year after referring the reports to a sub-committee which consists of Messrs. Chandler and Forbes, who favor district representation, Platt and Gorham, who favor the unit plan, and Martin of Kansas, who proposes that each State shall have four delegates at large, each Congressional district one delegate, and one delegate for every twelve thousand Republican voters.

While the inauguration of Gen. Garfield was one of the most successful pageants of its kind on record, the general proposition that the inauguration ceremonies commonly disappoint most of the thousands who gather to see them remains true. For those who must depend at such times on the Washington hotels and boarding houses for accommodations, there is, of course, the inevitable discomfort attending an enormous crowd of visitors. There is commonly a very long procession; but long processions become wearisome, and after one has seen citizen soldiery and army regulars march by for an hour, he is apt to think that it did not pay to come so far for no other purpose than to see them march by for two hours or more. As for the other sights and scenes which make Washington such an interesting city, the time of an inauguration is the worst time possible in which to try to see them. Thus on Thursday last, the Capitol building, large as it is, was so thronged that thousands of the "sovereign people" were denied the privilege of looking in upon the doings of Congress, and on Friday the number of disappointed ones was much greater. The reports say that only a small portion even of the favored ones inside the Capitol could get on the stand to see General Garfield sworn in. The diplomatic corps were excluded, and a number of Senators could not get through the crowd. The crowd in front of the platform was so immense that thousands could not hear a word. The grand ball in the evening appears to have been a distinguished success as compared with some previous ones, especially that of eight years ago, when the weather was very cold, and the ball room was in an extemporized shed which could not be warmed, and many of the shivering hundreds who appeared in ball costume caught their deaths of cold. But fortunate as the managers were in securing such a spacious and convenient building for the ball this time, and successful and attractive as it was, as a spectacle, there are inevitable drawbacks attending a throng of five or six thousand persons on such an occasion, which could not have been avoided; and we notice that some of the accounts speak in a very guarded way of the delights of the occasion. The inauguration was on the whole a very fine affair; but those who did not witness it can comfort themselves with the thought that many who did, heartily wished themselves at their homes, long before it was over.

Prizes for Young Vermont Farmers.

We publish, to-day, the award of prizes offered to Vermont boys under seventeen years of age, by two of the Trustees of the University and State Agricultural College, with a tabulated statement of the results of the competition, which can not but be of interest to every farmer. It will be seen that the first prize of $25 and a scholarship in the University (worth $50 a year for four years), for corn, was taken by Frank J. Hubbard of Whiting; and the first prize, of the same amount, for potatoes, by Lewis S. Breed of Goshen. The second prize of $20, for corn, was taken by Edgar J. Tuthill of Newfane; and for potatoes by Frank J. Hubbard. The third prize of $15, for corn, was taken by J. T. Goodenow of Montpelier; and for potatoes by Burt Royce of Williamstown. The fourth and fifth prizes for corn were taken by Edward N. Casey of Whiting, and H. C. Thayer of Guilford; and for potatoes by Eugene Plastridge of Northfield, and George R. Powers of Lunenburgh. No less than *three hundred and five* boys competed from *one hundred and forty-six* different towns. The best yield reached, it will be seen, was at the rate of 122 bushels of dry shelled corn to the acre, and of 492 bushels of potatoes to the acre. As the average production of Vermont farms is estimated to be 39 bushels of corn and 140 of potatoes to the acre, it will be seen that the results secured by the boys are quite encouraging. In Maine, where similar competitions for prizes have been held for two years past, the results reached the last year were still larger; but then the young Maine farmers had one year the start of our Vermont boys, and another year, if the prizes are continued—as we trust they will be—may find our boys at the front.

The farmers of Vermont undoubtedly appreciate the direct efforts for the advancement of our great agricultural interest which the State University and Agricultural College has been exerting. The veterinary lectures delivered throughout the State, by Professor Cressy, at the expense of the University, and then printed and circulated free to all applicants; the useful and practical lectures of Professor Perkins, Professor Atwater and Professor Sabin, at many farmers' meetings and institutes; the series of experiments with fertilizers, supplementing and giving practical value to the analyses of fertilizers previously made in the laboratory of the University, and now these agricultural competitions, instituted by members of its Board, have been of wide and unquestionable benefit to the farmers; and if the University had more means it would do still more in these directions. In proportion to its cost, this last experiment promises to be one of the most useful; for the farmers' boys of to-day, who have the enterprise and pluck and skill to enter these competitions, will be the successful farmers of a not distant day in the future. Their reports are required to contain certain statements of the processes by which they secured the results attained, which may hereafter be compiled and made available for the instructions of others; and at any rate their successes will naturally stimulate themselves and others to renewed efforts in the future. We congratulate both the liberal gentlemen who established the prizes, and the successful competitors on their success.

The Inaugural.

President Garfield's inaugural address is able as well as eloquent, like all his public utterances, and expresses the soundest of views on all the great questions considered. On the Southern question there is no uncertain sound. Justifying the emancipation and enfranchisement of the freedmen on the ground that there could be no half-way measures between slavery and equal citizenship, President Garfield says that "freedom does not yield the fullness of its blessings as long as the law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen," and declares that so far as his authority goes the colored people at the South shall enjoy full and equal protection in the exercise of the elective franchise under the Constitution and the laws. Saying this the President also makes an eloquent plea for reconciliation—for the burial of sectional controversies, the surcease of strife, the forgetting of the dead issues of the past; and for the onward march of a fraternally united people in the path of physical and moral progress. Here, surely, is a good plank for a Republican platform. Let the South drop the shot-gun, banish the tissue ballot, give the freedmen their rights and in good faith abide by the Constitution and the laws, and the ghosts of the old antagonisms will be laid forever. As long as the South refuses to do this, so long is it the bounden duty of the National Government to protect the colored people in their rights.

The Southern excuse that their conduct is justified by the danger that would arise from so vast a mass of ignorant voters is met by the declaration that a similar peril exists all over the country; and this is made the text for an appeal for universal education. Suffrage and education should go together; and the children of this generation, the heritors at no distant day of the sovereign power, should be educated to a full realization of their duties and responsibilities. Ignorance is a standing menace to the success of self-government; and in its extirpation the general government should do its part.

On the subject of the National finances President Garfield does little more than refer to his oft-expressed opinions—and no more was needed, his never-flinching stand for honest money and the National credit being known of all men. As to refunding, the brief sentence he gives to the subject indicates that he is in full accord with the views of ex-President Hayes, as expressed in his veto of the three per cent bill.

The President gives utterance to decided views on the Mormon question, denouncing the system as offensive to morality and dangerous to the Government whose laws and commands it defiantly disobeys. From the tone of this part of the message it is plain that this question will be made one of the leading issues of the new administration; and it is certainly high time that summary measures should be adopted in respect to this great and growing evil.

President Garfield further recommends that more attention than they have yet received be paid to the great interests of agriculture; favors a system of civil service reform, promising to lay before Congress a scheme looking in that direction; approves of a continuance of the system of internal improvements; refers briefly to the Isthmian canals; and closes with promises of economy in the administration of the Government and of holding its servants to strict accountability.

Of course in the brief space of an inaugural address the various subjects could hardly be more than touched upon, the necessary limits forbidding anything like a full discussion. But as a declaration of principles and an outline of the policy of the administration, the address will be received with hearty pleasure by the great mass of the people. The key-note President Garfield has struck is a high one, though no higher—it could hardly be that—than was anticipated from his career, his character and his abilities; and it will, beyond question, be maintained throughout his administration. The new Government starts off well, and our anticipations follow our wishes for its grand success.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

The Senate on Tuesday confirmed the appointment of Nathan Goff, Jr., as United States Attorney for West Virginia—the same office he held before his recent brief term in President Hayes's Cabinet.

At the Republican caucus of members of the Maine Legislature Tuesday, William P. Frye was nominated by acclamation for the United States Senate.

Strong appeals are sent from New York to the President to make Mr. Pearson, for some years assistant postmaster of New York, the successor of Mr. James. Postmaster General James says that he cannot help Mr. Pearson, as the latter is of his own family, having married Mr. James's daughter. In other quarters, however, the proposition seems to be regarded with favor.

President Garfield's Cabinet

The long suspense is over. Late Saturday afternoon President Garfield sent to the Senate his nominations for the Cabinet, as follows:

James G. Blaine of Maine to be Secretary of State.

William Windom of Minnesota to be Secretary of the Treasury.

Wayne McVeagh of Pennsylvania to be Attorney-General.

Thomas L. James of New York to be Postmaster-General.

Samuel J. Kirkwood of Iowa to be Secretary of the Interior.

Robert T. Lincoln of Illinois to be Secretary of War.

William H. Hunt of Louisiana, Secretary of the Navy.

Of the new Secretary of State it is unnecessary to say much, so familiar is his career to all readers. In outline it is as follows: James Gillespie Blaine was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, January 31, 1830, and is, therefore, now in the 52nd year of his age. His first venture in active life was as editor of the Portland, Me., *Advertiser*. He was a member of the Maine Legislature in 1859,'60,'61 and '62, was first elected to Congress as Representative in the 38th Congress, and was continuously re-elected to each succeeding Congress until July 10th, 1876, when he was appointed United States Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by Senator Morrill's transfer to the Treasury. He was subsequently elected Senator for the term which expires March 3, 1883.

William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury, is a lawyer by profession and was born in Ohio, May 10th, 1827. In 1855 he removed to Minnesota and was a Representative in the Thirty-sixth and the four succeeding Congresses. In 1870 he was appointed United States Senator to fill an unexpired term and was subsequently elected for a full term and re-elected in 1877. He is best known to the country at large from the active interest he has taken in the transportation question. At the Chicago Convention he received the vote of Minnesota for Presidential candidate.

Attorney-General Wayne McVeagh is an eminent Pennsylvania lawyer and a son-in-law of Simon Cameron—with whom, however, as is well known, he has no political affiliations. The only public office he has ever held was that of Minister to Turkey in 1870-71.

Thomas L. James, the new Postmaster-General, is now postmaster at New York, and his promotion will give satisfaction to the business community, by whom his executive ability in the office which he leaves is fully recognized.

Samuel J. Kirkwood, Secretary of the Interior, is a native of Maryland and is 68 years of age. He went to Iowa in 1855; was elected Governor in 1859 and again in 1861; United States Senator (to fill an an unexpired term) in 1866; Governor again in 1875, and United States Senator in 1876.

Robert Lincoln, Secretary of War, is the only surviving son of Abraham Lincoln, and was born in Springfield, Illinois. He is nearly forty years of age, and graduated at Harvard in 1864. He soon afterward went to Chicago, studied law, married, and has lived there since. He is regarded as a clear-headed, honest and straight-forward man, has been successful in his profession, and has a large and increasing business. He had the support of Senators Logan and Davis of Illinois. He was a Grant man at the Chicago convention.

William H. Hunt, of Louisiana, Secretary of the Navy, is a native of South Carolina. He went to Louisiana when a boy. He is recognized as a man of ability, accomplishments, and unquestioned personal integrity. Previous to the war he was an old line Whig, and during the rebellion he was a staunch Union man. He was attorney for Gov. Kellogg in his contest with McEnery in the celebrated Durell case. A few years ago he was appointed one of the judges of the court of claims by President Hayes, which position he now holds. He has the confidence of the Republicans of the South, and his appointment will give general satisfaction to that section.

The Cabinet has evidently been formed with the idea of conciliating conflicting party opinions. The wishes of a by no means inconsiderable portion of the party are consulted in the appointment of its favorite to the Secretaryship of State. New York is excellently well represented by Mr. James, the fitness of whose appointment will be recognized by all the opposing factions in the Empire State. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Windom favored the nomination of Gen. Grant by the Chicago convention; while Mr. Hunt preferred Secretary Sherman's candidacy. Mr. Kirkwood favored Mr. Blaine, and Mr. MacVeagh was anti-Grant. The Cabinet, though some exception might possibly be taken to one or two names, is on the whole a good one, and will probably be generally satisfactory to the people. Presidents are apt to suit themselves in the make-up of their Cabinets. President Lincoln surprised the country by appointing one or two of his rivals for the Presidential nomination; and President Grant named a highly unique Cabinet, consisting of E. B. Washburne, the late A. T. Stewart, Gen. John M. Schofield, A. E. Borie, John A. J. Creswell, E. R. Hoar and J. D. Cox. In his appointments President Garfield has undoubtedly pleased himself; and we hope the result will be such as to give the country reason for gratification also.

The Views of Mr. Windom.

The elevation of Mr. Windom to the head of the Treasury Department gives an importance to his opinions on financial and commercial questions, which they did not before possess. It is true that Mr. Windom while questions as to the currency were pending in Congress, voted with the inflationists, even to the extent of voting to pass the inflation bill over General Grant's veto. He also voted for the silver bill after President Hayes's veto, as well as before. On the other hand it is asserted that Secretary Sherman strongly recommended Mr. Windom as his successor, which would seem to be a pretty distinct indication that Mr. Windom had modified his financial views and can be trusted to carry forward the sound and conservative policy of his predecessor. On the great question of opposition to monopolies which is now looming up so strongly, Mr. Windom has taken recent and decided grounds. Under date of February 19th he addressed to the "National Anti-Monopoly League" a letter which was read at the Cooper Institute meeting of the 21st of last month. This is a strong endorsement of the principles and purposes of that organization, and a very emphatic note of warning against the rapid and overwhelming concentration of power in the hands of a few men who now control the vast trade avenues of the country. We copy the principal portion of it:

Senate Chamber, Washington, Feb. 19.

The Hon. L. E. Chittenden, President National Anti-Monopoly League:

* * * * * * * *

Corporate power has done much to develop our country. For its good deeds I freely accord it full credit. As an instrument to execute the will and serve the interests of the public, it is of incalculable value; but as the imperious ruler of the people it is a most cruel and relentless tyrant. Kept within the limits of proper restraint it is an invaluable servant of the public. Unrestrained by the forces of law and public opinion it will prove a most dangerous master. The individual citizen is impotent to contend with this gigantic and rapidly growing power. Governmental authority, State and National, alone is competent to restrain its aggressions and correct its abuses. I have long foreseen that the time would come when the people would be compelled to invoke the exercise of that authority for their protection. I repeat to-day, in substance, words uttered seven years ago, that 'there are in this country four men, who, in the matter of taxation, possess and frequently exercise powers which neither Congress nor any of our State Legislatures would dare to exert—powers which, if exercised in Great Britain, would shake the throne to its very foundation. These men may at any time, and for any reason satisfactory to themselves, by a stroke of the pen reduce the value of property in the United States by hundreds of millions. They may at their own will and pleasure disarrange and embarrass business, depress one city or locality and build up another, enrich one individual and ruin his competitors, and, when complaint is made, coolly reply, "What are you going to do about it?"

The men who wield this stupendous corporate power have grown wiser with the

passage of events. Hitherto they have been apparently content to absorb and control the great industrial and material interests of the country, by a monopoly of the channels and implements of transportation, but recently new and alarming conditions are presented. They know full well that if the people can freely communicate with each other, they will see the dangerous tendencies of this power, and organize to restrain it. Hence, in order to lay deep and sure foundations for the maintenance of their power, and to defeat the efforts of the people to curb it, they have now seized upon the channels of thought. Look at it a moment.

One man, who controls more miles of railroad than any other in the world, and who is almost daily adding new lines to his colossal combination, now also controls the telegraphic system of the United States and Canada, and is reaching under the sea to grasp that of Europe. Not content with all this, and determined that no instrument of commercial and political power shall elude his grasp, he is (as I learn) also the owner of three out of the seven newspapers which constitute the Associated Press through the agency of which the news is distributed over the entire country. He may at any time secure the fourth paper, which will give him absolute control over the news which the people shall receive. When that takes place what will be our condition? What chance will the people then have to resist the encroachments of corporate power? How shall they even communicate with each other on the subject? What opportunity will there be for a fair discussion of these questions?

The daily news, supplied to the myriad of newspapers, must first pass under the supervision of one or two men, who represent the Associated Press, and who are appointed by its owner. They will have full authority, and doubtless will be required to suppress, add to, or color the information thus sent out as may best serve the interest, the ambition, or the malice of tha man to whom they owe their places. Hence the twenty millions of people who read their morning papers at their breakfast tables will daily receive just such impressions as this one man shall choose to give them.

Public men and affairs, and business interests and movements, will be seen in the coloring which shall best serve his interests. The legislator who shall then be bold enough to raise his voice in behalf of the people, or to strike a blow in their defence, will be misrepresented or denied a hearing before his own constituents. The business man who shall venture to question the divine right of corporate rule will be crushed, and no telegraph wire or Associated Press will voice his woe or demand redress from his persecutors. The people will find themselves unable to communicate with each other except by the gracious will and pleasure of the autocrat of the wires. Should special correspondents undertake to supply information not deemed expedient to be sent by the Associated Press, they will find that the owner of the wires can supply a ready remedy for such presumption.

The channels of thought and the channels of commerce thus owned and controlled by one man, or by a few men, what is to restrain corporate power, or to fix a limit to its exactions upon the people? What is then to hinder these men from depressing or inflating the value of all kinds of property to suit their caprice or avarice, and thereby gathering into their own coffers the wealth of the Nation? Where is the limit to such a power as this? What shall be said of the spirit of a few people who will submit without a protest to be thus bound hand and foot? I have hinted at some of the dangers which menace our future. If it be to correct these evils, and to avert these dangers your league has been organized, it will receive the benedictions of the people.

The practical question is, "What are you going to do about it?" To my mind the answer is easy. This organized gigantic corporate power can only be kept under proper restraint by the organized power of the people, expressed through their State and National governments. That such governmental power exists and may properly be exercised I have not a particle of doubt. It is plainly written in our constitution, and has been unequivocally declared by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The limits of this letter will not permit a discussion of the constitutional question nor a detailed statement of the practical remedy for existing evil. I may, however, venture to suggest that, in my judgment, the first and most important duty of Congress is to emancipate the people from the supervision and control of corporate monopoly by the establishment of a system of postal telegraphy, whereby they shall be afforded a safe, sure and cheap method of communication with each other. There is no doubt of the economy and success of such a system. It has been tried in other countries with most satisfactory results.

I am aware that it will require much care, labor and skill to frame laws which shall successfully regulate and restrain the action of the great transportation companies, without unnecessary injury to them, and without omitting the essential elements of protection to the public, but I have no doubt it can be done. When the people demand it they will find the men to do it. I believe the time has come when this great work should be undertaken.

It will be far better for the corporations themselves that it be done now, by conservative, but thorough and judicious legislation, rather than to pospone it until the people, no longer able to bear the tyranny of corporate power, shall rise in their wrath to humble and destroy their oppressors. At some convenient time I shall endeavor to state specifically some of the legislation I would propose.

Very sincerely your friend,
WILLIAM WINDOM.

The Western Snow Storm.

Accounts of the terrible snow storm of Thursday and Friday last, in the Northwest, state that it was the heaviest snow fall ever known in that region. In Wisconsin the snow fell from three to six feet on a level, and drifts are reported covering houses, telegraph poles and railroad trains. Cuts on all railroads are filled. Great inconvenience was experienced in many places, in obtaining food and fuel; and in some places there is actual suffering.

Not a single railroad train was running on Saturday in the entire State, and all business was suspended. No attempt to clear the tracks will be made until after the storm ceases, and railway men estimated that fully a week must elapse, even with favorable weather, before trains can be resumed regularly. Mails all over the State are stopped. Telegraph wires continue to work to most points. The oldest residents in Milwaukee and throughout the entire State say nothing even approaching the present storm has ever been known.

From many interior towns actual danger of starvation among people isolated from neighbors and assistance was reported. In Milwaukee there is a genuine coal famine. But little coal is in the city and it was impossible for dealers to deliver any of that.

The American Express Company in that city has tons of freight on hand, and refuses to take money from the banks for transportation. The express companies have entirely suspended business. Despatches from the interior state that snow is absolutely burying everything smaller than a large building. A despatch from Watertown, Wis., says the main streets were lined with drifts from 15 to 20 feet deep. Similar accounts come from other quarters.

Lincoln's Inauguration.

"It is a curious circumstance," said the venerable Thurlow Weed yesterday, lying comfortably on a sofa at his house in Twelfth street, "that although I have been somewhat prominent in National and State politics I have attended the inauguration of but one of our Presidents. That was when Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated the first time. I went to Washington on that occasion because an impression prevailed strongly that that city would be attacked during his inauguration. There was a well-grounded apprehension of this, and the information was such as to occasion a great deal of solicitude, and what military force could be mustered was brought there. It was a very small number of troops indeed. Floyd, the Secretary of War, had the army so distributed that it was not available.

The Secretary of the Navy had almost all of our ships abroad. The Secretary of the Navy was a Connecticut man, and he was not disloyal, but he was imposed upon and had an opinion that no rebellion was really intended. General Scott was in command, and the few troops he had were ranged around the Capitol, and what impressed me —and I think I was never more impressed in my life—was when I happened, in walking around on Capitol Hill, to find a brass field piece mounted and pointed right down Pennsylvania avenue. There was a small number of troops around the gun, and I found Gen. Scott resting his elbow on one side of this cannon and General Wool on the other side, talking, and both resting their elbows on this field piece expecting an outbreak and prepared to sweep Pennsylvania avenue if there should be any attempt to interfere with the ceremonies or to make any trouble.

What struck me as exceedingly solemn was on such an occasion to see these two Federal officers waiting with anxiety whatever might happen, resting their elbows upon the cannon. Well, the inauguration went off quietly. It was a solemn occasion rather than a joyous one, as such occasions generally are. Everybody was anxious, and the whole affair was quiet and subdued.—*N. Y. World.*

The recent earthquakes on the islands near the coasts of Italy, destroyed hundreds of lives. In one place over 300 houses were wrecked.

The Cabinet.

PRESS COMMENTS.

The New York *Tribune* says the Cabinet, like the inaugural, is all that any earnest and practical Republican could ask. It represents fairly, and with strong and clean men, every section of the party.

The New York *Times* says: Such weakness as this in the make up of President Garfield's Cabinet may be traced to a desire to make it a thoroughly representative one, in which all sections of the country find recognition, and all sections of the party are duly considered.

The *Sun* says: It is evident that the Cabinet is not of the Conkling stripe. * * * Give Gen. Garfield and the new Cabinet a fair show.

The *World* says: Gen. Garfield yesterday sent to the Senate the weakest set of names ever made up into a list of a Cabinet. Two men alone, of positive strength and weight, should be exempted from this verdict. Mr. Blaine is a leading Republican politician, and Mr. James has been by far the best postmaster that this city has ever had.

The New York *Herald* says: The Cabinet is a body of vigorous men, most of them young. Windom, James, Lincoln, Blaine and MacVeagh are all in the prime and vigor of manhood. We cannot call it an able Cabinet, by no means as able as that of Mr. Hayes.

The Chicago *Tribune* says: The composition of the Cabinet will afford general satisfaction. It meets all the requirements of locality, it has a high average ability, unquestioned integrity, and, in its collective capacity, a very unusual experience of public affairs. * * * Mr. James will rip open the rotten, foul, extravagant star service, and repair the mischief that Mr. Key, through gross negligence, permitted to be done.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* says the Cabinet, on the whole, is a good one, and that it is a fortunate solution of a difficult problem; that Garfield has exhibited fine tact in securing such a well balanced Cabinet.

The Springfield *Republican* says: Garfield's Cabinet is not as good as his inaugural. It is mediocre, spotty, and full of holes.

The Indianapolis *Journal* says the Cabinet is respectable but not great. As a whole it does not rise above mediocrity. Senators Blaine and Windom are the only men in it of really national reputation. It does not compare with the original Cabinet of Hayes.

The Hartford *Courant* says: We are bound to suppose that President Garfield has selected assistants fit to carry out his policy. We must take this on trust until his Cabinet demonstrates its capacity.

The Boston *Journal* thinks the Cabinet will give very general satisfaction, and speaks favorably of the qualifications of the appointees.

The *Advertiser*, regarding the new ministry on the whole as a good one, says of Mr. Windom: "His record is not so clear as could be wished."

The Boston *Herald* says it is certainly inferior to the Cabinet of President Hayes in important respects. It, however, regards the Cabinet as strong in personal qualities and one that will compare favorably with most of the official families of recent Presidents.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

It is said the *Atlantic Monthly* cost its publishers $20,000 a year more than its income under Mr. Howell's editorial management.

Jacques Seelo, of French descent, who was born six miles from Mt. Clemens, Mich., near Detroit, and had always lived in that neighborhood, died Sunday, aged 105.

England is preparing to enforce the coercion act and important arrests are expected. The number will be very much diminished by the voluntary exile of numbers of the suspected.

The National Bank of Virginia at Richmond has been robbed of over $23,000, and it is said that a bookkeeper, who has disappeared, has been stealing systematically for many years.

At Halifax, N. S., while excavating under the old Northrup Market on Buckingham street, the workmen struck a vein of gold quartz from which several rich samples have been secured.

A deficiency of $85,000 has been discovered in the accounts of the Springfield (Mass.) Silk Company, of which $60,000 has gone through the connivance of Henry Hallett, treasurer, with dishonest agents. Hallett's reputation has hithert been good.

A shooting affray took place in Wallapole, Ill., on Saturday night, between James and Charles Fair on one side and Riley and John Hall, brothers, on the other. Charles Fair was mortally wounded. All are reputable merchants and the affair creates much excitement.

A Fort Buford special says the Missouri river at that point has risen twenty feet and is still rising. A freshet from the extreme northwest will force and inundate the country if warm weather continues. The snow is from four to five feet deep and thawing rapidly.

There is great excitement throughout in Munster in anticipation of arrests under the coercion act. Business in Cork is almost suspended. A number of prominent Leaguers and Nationalists have left for England, and some for the United States. Irish Americans swarm in the towns and villages.

The O'Leary walk was concluded Saturday evening, Panchot leaving the track with a score of 541 miles and 8½ yards. Khrone's score was 523½ miles; Curran made 504½ miles; Lacouse, 489½ miles; Campana, 450 miles. There was a small attendance and the receipts were but little more than the expenses. It is also charged that the pedestrians were some of them bribed by gamblers.

Near Evanston, Wy., the dead and wounded have been removed from the Almy mine. The total number of dead is three white men and twenty-six Chinamen; total wounded, twenty-five Chinamen and one white man. The mine is now considered safe from further fires. The remains of the Chinese were taken to Evanston, Sunday, by special train for interment in the Chinese cemetery.

The Chicago Lumbermen's Exchange held its annual meeting at Chicago Monday. The president's address contains the startling statement that, owing to the enormous growth of the lumber business, it will take only twenty years to exhaust the great pine forests of this country if the present rate of depletion continues. The receipts of lumber of all kinds at the port of Chicago during the year 1880 were 1,564,000,000 feet.

Thirty-five persons have died of the plague in Kerbela, Nedjeff and Diagara in the province of Bagdad. Precautions have been taken to localize the epidemic. It is officially announced at Rome that in consequence of the appearance of a disease supposed to be the plague in the province of Bagdad, vessels from Turkish or Egyptian ports would be examined before being allowed to disembark passengers or cargo in Italian ports.

During the great February snow-storm in London, for two days street traffic was nearly stopped, trains were blocked, and food supplies in some neighborhoods were partly cut off. One day a huge "poster" appeared, signed by the Lord Mayor, announcing that, "as the Americans had telegraphed that another fearful storm was crossing the Atlantic all householders were advised to provision their houses for ten days." Numbers of unsuspecting people were taken in, the news spread fast and there was a rush upon canned goods, but it proved to be a hoax.

The Dame aux Camellias, if she really exists anywhere but in the fancy of Dumas fils, is the glittering apex of a pyramid the base of which does not glitter. In Montreal we are told there are 111 houses of ill-fame; and the lives and ends of the wretched creatures who fill these houses are of all the depths of human misery and shame the very lowest. A true history of the career of a low prostitute ought to be bound up with the Dame aux Camellias.—*Goldwin Smith's Bystander.*

The following are additional details of the earthquake at Casamicciola on the island of Ischia: The first shock occurred at 1.30 o'clock on Friday afternoon, and the second an hour later. The whole upper part of the town was destroyed, and two thermal establishments seriously damaged. The details confirm the damage to property and loss of life and injury to people previously mentioned. The second and fatal shock lasted seven seconds, accompanied by a noise like subterranean thunder. Then came a crash of falling houses, accompanied by shrieks of the victims. The probable loss of life will reach 200. The damage to house property is 1,000,000 francs.

OVER THE LAKE—A BRAVE ACT.—A correspondent of the Plattsburgh *Republican* writes the following: The Ausable mine is situated about a mile west of Ferrona station, Clinton county, N. Y. On Wednesday morning, February 23, the watchman discovered the powder house to be on fire. He awakened the superintendent, Captain R. A. Savage. Captain Savage ran quickly to the burning magazine, but he could not get in. The fire was on the roof, and a few moments were still left. He went immediately for James Gregory, who held the keys of the powder house, giving orders at the same time for the families living near to go to a place of safety. The fire progressed rapidly, and by the time the keys were procured it was deemed unsafe to approach the burning building. The buildings and machinery, all put in new and at a great expense of the owners, in a few moments must be blown to atoms and possibly loss of life sustained. "Boys, this is too bad," was his next exclamation; "give me the keys, I will chance it," and started for the door of the burning powder magazine. James Gregory said: "Boys, it is a shame to stand here and see him go alone," and started after Mr. Savage. The men all begged them not to run such a risk, but they went. When Capt. Savage got the door open the fire was very hot, and the box containing the exploders was burning, and he quickly caught up a box of giant powder while Gregory grappled the exploders. After getting all the giant, black powder and exploders at a safe distance, they returned and put out the fire amid the grateful cheers of men, women and children.

CORN AND POTATO PRIZES.

A LIST OF THE YIELDS OF CORN AND POTATOES FROM ONE-EIGHTH OF AN ACRE, OBTAINED BY VERMONT BOYS.

The following is a list of the yields of corn and potatoes obtained by Vermont boys under 17 years of age in competition for prizes offered by two of the Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. The first boy on each list receives a prize of $25 and a scholarship in the University, the second boy $20, and the third $15, the fourth $10, the fifth $5. The yields of corn are given in bushels of *dry shelled* corn, 56 lbs to the bushel, and of Early Rose potatoes, 60 lbs to the bushel. Three hundred and five boys, from 146 towns, sent in their names as competitors, many of them in both kinds, so that the number of plots under cultivation was nearly four hundred. One hundred and two boys have sent in reports of their yield of corn, and one hundred and five, of potatoes. It has been decided to publish the names of those only who report yields of over 80 bushels of corn and 300 bushels of potatoes to the acre. The statistician of the Vermont Board of Agriculture, in his published Report for 1878, gives as the average production of Vermont farms, 39 bushels of corn, and 140 of potatoes, to the acre. It will be seen that the boys have done remarkably well for their first trial, especially considering how unfavorable the season was in most localities, but we will hope that they will succeed still better in future trials.

We take this opportunity of thanking the committees in the several towns for their services in connection with the Reports.

M. H. Buckham,
Geo. A. Merrill, Committee
Edwin D. Mason, of Award.
John B. Mead,

SHELLED CORN.

Name.	Town.	Committee.	Yield 1-8 Acre. Bu.	Yield 1-8 Acre. Lbs.	Rate per Acre. Bu.	Rate per Acre. Lbs.
F J Hubbard,	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	15	14	122	
Edgar J Tuthill,	Newfane,	W T Bruce,	15	[illegible]	122	
J T Goodenow,	Montpelier,	Charles T Sabin,	14	54	119	40
Edward N Casey,	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	24
H K Thayer,	Guilford,	W W Barney,	14	20	114	48
Frank Paddock,	Colchester,	A S Barton,	14	16	114	16
F W Burnham,	Putney,	H C Bacon,	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	24
E A Burnham,	Putney,	H C Bacon,	14	6	112	48
Willie C Whipple,	Pomfret,	O M Tinkham,	14	3	112	24
Fred H Scott,	Townshend,	G H Houghton,	13	50	111	8
Leon J Thayer,	Guilford,	W W Barney,	13	42	110	0
A B Kellogg,	Dorset,	I N Sykes,	13	42	110	0
G E Corser,	Dummerston,	G W Walker,	13	25	107	32
R L Covey,	Brattleboro,	Charles W Sargeant,	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	16
Mark Bushnell,	Starksboro,	L G Ferguson,	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	32
E F Gully,	Addison,	C W Reed,	13	16	106	16
Wallace M Bates,	Westford,	J H Macomber,	13	24	107	24
Willie A Wilmot,	Thetford,	H P Closson,	13	22	107	8
O K Hollister,	Montpelier,	W G and E D Nye,	13	17	106	24
Willie W Miller,	Pomfret,	O M Tinkham,	13	13	105	48
Frank F Davis,	Clarendon,	C C Pierce,	13	12	105	40
Willie A Marsh,	Barre,	Allen F Wood,	13	5	104	40
H B Chapin,	Middlesex,	J H Holden, and W Chapin,	13	5	104	40
J R Woodward,	Braintree,	J C Cleveland, Jr,	13	3	104	24
Frank P Dartt,	Wethersfield,	C H Hubbard,	12	49	103	0
Emmett Tuttle,	Manchester,	E B Smith,	12	28	100	0
Albert A Wheelock,	Barre,	W C White,	12	[illegible]	102	48
Charles W Baker,	Johnson,	R C Cristy,	12	[illegible]	102	[illegible]
Albert J Carter,	W. Windsor,	Edwin B Steele,	12	[illegible]	102	[illegible]
John E Leach,	Westminster,	S S Stoddard,	12	40	101	40
H M Thompson,	Andover,	Lewis Howard,	12	38	101	24
Harry G Bullard,	St. Johnsbury,	Jacob G Hovey,	12	34	100	48
I G Robinson,	Calais,	W W Ainsworth,	12	32	100	32
Louis M Cole,	Shaftsbury,	S A Whipple,	12	32	100	32
Charley Kenyon,	Hinesburgh,	Oscar O Peck,	12	21	99	0
Lyn Lee,	Fletcher,	C K Leach,	12	15	98	8
Henry D Wild,	Peacham,	J R Kimerson,	12	8	[illegible]	8
Herman B Bullard,	Swanton,	Andrew J Brown,	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	8
Geo A Woodward,	Springfield,	Horace H Brown,	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	32
Homer B Fuller,	Corinth,	Caleb C. Fuller,	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	8
E T Wheelock,	Barre,	W C White,	11	38	93	24
H M Farnham,	Williamstown,	H D Abbott,	11	28	92	0
Walter E Clark,	Ferrisburgh,	John Bell,	11	27	91	48
Willie Abbott,	Williamstown,	H D Abbott,	11	24	91	24
B A Ferguson,	Peacham,	J R Kimerson,	11	17	90	24
George M Baker,	Danby,	J C Williams,	11	14	90	0
Emmett B Nye,	Highgate,	Nelson Nye,	11	0	88	0
Horton H Blake,	Fairfax,	C Wheeler, and G A Hatch,	11	0	88	0
O W Stoughton,	Weathersfield,	C H Hubbard,	10	55	87	48
A F McAllister,	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	10	50	87	8
Henry Hollister,	Orange,	Samuel Kimball,	10	49	87	0
Spencer Beebe,	Rupert,	W Root, and J G Burton,	10	48	86	48
J Ross Roberts,	Manchester,	E B Smith,	10	46	86	32
Herbert R Fay,	Jericho,	A B Somers,	10	44	86	16
L E Cooley,	Brattleboro,	J H Taft,	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	40
Frank S Rogers,	Westford,	John Allen,	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	0
Arthur W Hubbard,	Rochester,	W W Williams,	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Everett C Horton,	Barnet,	Peter Lindsay,	10	27	83	48
Orrin E Dean,	Bethel,	B H Dean,	10	12	81	40
Bernice E Silver,	Bloomfield,	Milton Cook,	10	1	80	8
Irving A Hazen,	Hartford,	S J Merrill,	10	4	80	32
G A Davis,	Rutland,	Henry Hayward,	10	0	80	0

POTATOES.

Name.	Town.	Committee.	Yield. Whole. Bu.	Yield. Whole. Lbs.	Yield. Large. Bu.	Yield. Large. Lbs.	Yield. Small. Bu.	Yield. Small. Lbs.	Per Acre.
Lewis Sherman Breed,	Goshen,	H S Churchill,	61	30	50	6	11	24	492.00
Frank J Hubbard,	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	56	[illegible]	50	11	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burt Royce,	Williamstown,	H D Abbott,	56	18	46	18	10	0	450.40
Eugene Plastridge,	Northfield,	A O Smith and C K Jones,	55	[illegible]	41	[illegible]	14	0	[illegible]
George R Powers,	Lunenburgh,	Hiram A Cutting,	55	29	51	14	4	15	443.87
Guy S Scott,	Westmore,	R Averill,	55	22	49	15	6	7	442.93
H F Cameron,	Maidstone,	Samuel S Benson,	55	15	47	23	7	52	442.00
F D Carpenter,	Derby,	Marshall Carpenter,	54	52	48	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Geo. W Caldwell,	Lincoln,	A C Merrill,	54	[illegible]	49	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emmett B Nye,	Highgate,	Nelson Nye,	53	[illegible]	48	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	428.16
William Leland,	Westmore,	R Averill,	52	15	46	45	5	30	418.00
Guy M Bently,	Ripton,	Herman C Dutton,	51	15	45	30	5	45	410.00
Horton H Blake	Fairfax,	C Wheeler, and G A Hatch,	51	0	42	0	[illegible]	0	408.00
Arthur B Kellogg,	Dorset,	I N Sykes,	50	52	45	0	5	52	[illegible]
Frederick Jewett,	Middlesex,	J H Holden, and W Chapin,	50	[illegible]	41	58	[illegible]	[illegible]	400.44
S H Bickford,	Barton,	O A Adams,	49	30	30	30	19	0	396.00
Albert M Stafford,	Walden,	G H Stevens,	48	48	43	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	390.40
Arthur W Nye,	Barre,	Lewis Pettingill,	48	41	43	21	5	20	[illegible]
Frank S Paddock,	Colchester,	A S Barton,	48	40	42	18	6	22	[illegible]
Edson K Hill,	Ely,	R W Baner,	48	2	38	22	9	40	[illegible]
Ernest G Tuthill,	Newfane,	W T Bruce,	48	0	37	0	11	0	384.00
Justus L Batchelder,	Brookfield,	W Penn Bigelow, and W Green,	47	[illegible]	44	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Geo.S Taylor	Morgan,	Samuel Lord,	46	12	39	47	6	25	[illegible]
Bertie L Allen	Pomfret,	O M Tinkham,	45	45	37	[illegible]	8	7	366.00
John W Woodward,	Braintree,	J C Cleveland,	45	[illegible]	41	0	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Charles E Blake,	Lowell,	James Brown,	44	49	39	29	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Charles R Prentiss,	Windham,	Asahel Upham,	44	30	33	15	11	15	356.00
Penn W Strong,	Pomfret,	O M Tinkham,	43	58	34	0	9	58	[illegible]
Erwin F Gully,	Addison,	C W Reed,	43	0	42	0	1	0	344.00
Bernice E Silver,	Bloomfield,	Milton Cook,	42	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	0	[illegible]
Chas E DePoutee,	New Haven,	Edward A Dana,	42	[illegible]	33	12	[illegible]	30	342.24
Azro G Dutton,	Brookfield,	W S Graves, and M Green,	42	31	39	17	2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ernest C Larabee,	Halifax,	C F Griffin,	42	[illegible]	38	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
John L Casey	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	42	0	40	0	2	0	336.00
Lewis W Davis,	Burlington,	Committee,	41	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
W A Chapin,	Middlesex,	J H Holden, and W Chapin,	41	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	34	[illegible]
E M Heath,	Castleton,	J E Metcalf,	40	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	20	[illegible]
Geo F Kimball,	S Burlington,	John E Smith,	40	42	32	[illegible]	8	12	[illegible]
Frank O Willard,	Grafton,	Samuel Phelps,	40	[illegible]	32	[illegible]	7	1	324.16
Geo H Baker,	Danby,	J C Williams,	40	[illegible]	35	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]
Irving G Robinson,	Calais,	W W Ainsworth,	40	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	[illegible]	15	[illegible]
Edward Mather,	Brattleboro,	J B Taft,	40	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	320.00
Harry B Wright	Weybridge,	John A Child,	40	0	34	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	320.00
Barton Bradley,	Williston,	G W Whitney,	39	31	33	0	[illegible]	31	[illegible]
Isaac H Patch,	Johnson,	R C Cristy,	39	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	3	[illegible]	316.00
John L Alger,	Barnet,	Peter Lindsay,	39	[illegible]	32	[illegible]	6	44	[illegible]
Ward B Howard,	Ripton,	Herman C Dutton,	38	[illegible]	32	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
W C Webster,	E. Roxbury,	Wm. B Orcutt	37	[illegible]	35	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	298.40
A F McAllister,	Whiting,	C H Ketcham,	37	30	34	30	3	0	300.00

The Tax Law.

The Boston *Post* pitches savagely into the new tax law of this State, first, because it requires of every taxpayer a full statement of all his taxable property, and second, on the ground that it requires every taxpayer to disclose all his debts. In the first particular the Vermont law does not differ from the Massachusetts law, with which the *Post* finds no particular fault. As to the second, the Vermont law does not directly require, and certainly does not *compel* any man to disclose his debts. If he wishes to withhold from the knowlege of the listers a part or all of his debts, he can do so. Only he can claim no deduction for debts which he is not willing to disclose. This may seem hard to him; but it will be no harder than that he should be taxed, as heretofore, much more than he ought to be, because so many taxpayers avoided taxation on their personal property, by general and false allegations of indebtedness.

The Montpelier *Watchman*, in a recent editorial, after remarking that the "law opens up no new sources of taxation, nor allows any deductions or offsets not permitted by former laws," adds the following pertinent suggestions:

"The sole purpose of No. 70 of the acts of 1880 was to lay requirements upon tax-payers and listers so strict that such personal property as slipped through the meshes of the old law would be caught by the more closely woven texture of the new act—a sort of drag-net designed to scoop in the slippery eels that lay low down in the bottom of the stream and have hitherto escaped the efforts or the disposition of the listers to take them in. The inventory of real and personal estate with its list of formal and searching questions aiming to unearth every item of taxable property, and the "iron-clad oath," are the means relied upon to accomplish under the new act that which the old law has failed to do—bring out for the purposes of taxation all the personal property in the hands of men who have artfully dodged, by evasions more or less ingenious or by downright dishonesty of purpose, the payment of their just share of the burdens of taxation.

It is maintained by many, without the warrant of a single word in the law, that each taxpayer is to appraise his own property. The language of the first section of the act and of the listers' oath in the thirteenth section is sufficiently clear on that point. The taxpayer is required to give the lister all necessary information about his property, and the lister is required to appraise each item of that property. The listers' appraisal, not the taxpayer's valuation, is the basis of taxation. Stocks will be appraised at their full worth, including both their par value and whatever premium may accrue to them by reason of undivided surplus. Debts due, like notes or book accounts, will be appraised according to the information given, due allowance being made for the bad and doubtful. That more or less difficulty and vexation of spirit in individual cases will be experienced in filling out the inventories provided by the secretary of State is natural to expect, but a little care and patience will lighten the difficulty and soothe the vexation. Similar difficulties are incident to any radical change in long established methods. A wise choice of listers at the approaching town election will have much to do with the successful and satisfactory working of the new law.

Letter from Iowa.

NEWELL, Buena Vista Co. Ia., Feb. 28.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

One of the subscribers to your paper has propounded the following questions, and I thought if they were answered in the columns of the FREE PRESS they might interest a score of others. What is land worth per acre? What is coal worth? Do you have to fence? What kind of barns do you build? Does your land need any fertilizers? Does dairying pay as well in Northwestern Iowa as in Vermont? What is farm labor worth per month?

I reply: Land three or four miles distant from enterprising railroad towns is worth about seven or eight dollars per acre, unimproved. Coal is worth four dollars per ton. No fences are erected in Northwestern Iowa, which embraces about one-fourth of the State. The herd law prevails; all cattle are herded for five months at from 50 cents to $1 a head. A few good barns are now taking the place of old straw stables, but the stables (so called) of the first settlers are built in this manner: A few crotches are set in the ground, and a few poles or brush are put on top and nailed on the sides, and hay or straw is put on the sides and on top. Men who own more that 20 head of cattle, generally let their cattle run under open sheds, for saving feed is no object when hay can be cut and stacked on the prairie for $1.00 a ton. It pays as well to haul manure on land here as any where, but little has been used as yet. You can see no difference in the crops raised on land that has been under cultivation twenty years from those raised on new land. Dairying pays well. A cow worth $25.00 will pay for herself the first year, all calves are reared here and a good many shipped every Fall. Good packed butter has been worth from 25 to 30 cents for the past six months. It does not rule quite so high in warm weather. Creameries are being built in every county in the State, and 50,000,000 pounds of butter were made in Iowa last year. Farm labor is worth $16 per month. It has been found that a good crop of flax can be raised the first year that the land is broke, and much of this product is being raised. This county is settling up rapidly. I have seen this county in the past twelve years (since my sojourn here) increase from 150 to 8000 inhabitants. I no longer live on the frontier. Musk rat hides are no longer a legal tender for money, and wheat flour at $3.00 per cwt. is no longer considered a luxury as in days of old. We have good markets. Corn is now 30 cents a bushel; it is generally worth from 20 to 25 cents, wheat 90, oats 25, live hogs $4.50. Corn fed cattle on foot $4.00 per hundred weight.

This has been a severe, cold Winter with good sleighing most of the time. We have now one foot of snow. One half of the corn crop of 1880 raised in Northwestern Iowa is two feet under snow, and it is almost impossible for farmers to find enough to feed. The winter has been a great trial to most farmers; it has made coal high, and hay scarce, and a good many cattle will die from exposure, as all the open sheds are drifted full of snow. The railroad trains have been blocked for a week at a time, several times; and the mercury has ranged as low as 32° below zero.

Yours, A. W. Eno.

The Change of Control of the Northern Pacific.

The Springfield *Republican* tells how the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company secured control of the Northern Pacific. Premising that the former company, of which Henry Villard, a German-American, is president, had secured a monopoly of the transportation business of Oregon and Washington Territories both by water and rail, and that the plans of the Northern Pacific threatened to interfere seriously with this monopoly, it says:

For some time the Oregon management sought to dissuade the Northern Pacific from building down the Columbia, proposing various plans for an alliance of the two companies, but all of them, it is likely, based upon an exalted theory of the value of their own property. At all events the efforts at compromise failed and the Northern Pacific remained free to carry out its original purposes until Mr. Villard conceived the idea of buying it outright and so preserving and extending his valuable monopoly. With this intention, a short time ago, he invited his capitalist friends to advance $8,000,000 for a purpose not to be disclosed until May, and so great was the confidence in his financial and executive abilities that not $8,000,000 but $15,000,000 were soon subscribed for his use. With this, or as much of it as was required, he set to work to buy up a controlling interest in the stock of the Northern Pacific, and has now secured some $25,000,000, enough to give him command of the situation, as of the outstanding stock, common and preferred, amounting to about $75,000,000, no other man or set of men owns so large a block or could probably control so much in any vote of the stockholders. President Billings, the largest individual owner, is supposed to have about one-third of the amount now held by Mr Villard and his friends. The other directors of the road hold at present comparatively small interests, doubtless some or all of them took advantage of the high market created by Villard's purchase to sell out. It is understood that some of the members of the syndicate from whom Mr. Billings obtained the heavy loan for the completion of the road a few months since are supporting the Villard scheme. What President Billings's course will be under the circumstances is not known; he may sell out his interest and retire from the management or may remain and work in harmony with the new dispensation, as they will presumably be glad to have him. No one has questioned the wisdom of his administration. No great railroad enterprise in this country has been conducted with stricter integrity or more even justice to all the interests involved and few with greater ability than the Northern Pacific, since Mr. Billings undertook to pull it out of the mire. Whether he goes or remains, the credit of opening the way, in the face of tremendous obstacles, to the full consummation of the enterprise belongs to him.

Mr. Villard and his associates have great faith in the future of the Northern Pacific, and consider its securities well worth the price they have paid for them. They are energetic men and there is no danger that the enterprise will languish in their hands.

Hon. Stephen N. Stockwell has been compelled by serious illness to relinquish the editorial charge of the Boston *Journal*. He has been connected with that paper forty years.

PERSONAL.

Judge Hunt, the new Secretary of the Navy, has, it is said, been four times married. His present wife was the widow of the late Clement Hopkins, son of Bishop Hopkins. Judge Hunt spent several weeks in Burlington a year or two ago.

Judge James L. Gillis of Iowa, one of the men tried for the abduction of William Morgan, the betrayer of the secrets of Masonry, 50 years ago, is and has long been the last survivor of the band, nearly all the others having come to some sudden end. A few years ago one of his sons was called to the door of his home and shot down, and week before last another son was killed in the same way. The Judge and his friends are said to believe firmly that these tragedies trace back to the Morgan affair.

Washington specials state that William M. Evarts is to be minister to England, and that Surgeon-General Barnes will be retired in favor of Chief Medical Purveyor J. H. Baxter.

The statement made by some correspondents that the mother of President Garfield is the first woman who has ever seen her son inaugurated for the highest official position in this country, can probably be disputed by Mrs. Jesse R. Grant of Jersey City, mother of General Grant. The step-mother of Lincoln also lived to see her son President of the United States, although she did not go to his inauguration.

Intelligence comes from Philadelphia that Miss Anna Dickinson will favor that city with impersonations of *Claude Melnotte* and *Hamlet*, and perhaps *Macbeth*, at the Chestnut Street Theatre, April 12, 15 and 16, the "off nights" of Signor Salvini's engagements.

The following item is going the rounds: "Twenty-five years ago the people of Brattleboro, were surprised one day at finding the figure of an angel molded in snow standing on one of their streets. It was soon discovered that Larkin G. Mead, a Brattleboro boy, had done the work, and funds were readily forthcoming to assist him to pursue his artistic studies. Mr. Mead is now engaged at his studio in Rome in making for Brattleboro a marble copy of the snow angel which first brought him into notice.

In the course of a long interview with a reporter of the New York *Herald* William H. Vanderbilt gave utterance to the following graceful sentiments: "The popular tendency is to exaggerate immensely the possessions of rich men. If a man makes a large amount you'll hear of it three of four times as often as if he incurs a heavy loss. Any man who by his talent and industry accumulates $100,000 will appreciate it more than if he had stepped into a million over night by an operation in stocks, and it will stay by him. My guiding maxim in life is, 'Do what you think is right and fair to others, regardless of what people may think.'" As to his controlling Wall street speculation, Mr. Vanderbilt said: "What nonsense! Why, there are twenty men down there who could go round me three or four times before breakfast. No, not 20, but 120. Supposing I could get all the money there was down in Wall street, I should only be a devilish sight worse off. I tell you the nicest thing in this world is to be satisfied with what you have, and that's what I am."

General Garfield's class at Williams has not only furnished a President, but a Treasurer of the United States (Gilfillan), a member of Congress (Jacobs), and an Assistant Quartermaster General (Rockwell). General Garfield and General Rockwell have been companions and friends for many years.

VERGENNES—NEW BRANCH RAILROAD.—It is now regarded as an assured fact that money enough has been subscribed to secure the survey of a new railroad, or a branch of the Central Vermont road, from about a mile south of the city, to the Falls, thence north and east, striking the main track a short distance north of the present depot. The old branch (discarded years ago) crossed the river below the Falls, and was of little worth to manufacteries on the Falls. The contemplated improvement is designed to take in all present and prospective business in the vicinity. Some fourteen thousand dollars will be necessary to make the survey, and we notice among the larger subscriptions that of Geo. D. Wright for Vermont Shade Roller Co., $2000; W. Scranton, $2000; C. A. Booth, $500; N. J. McCuen, $500. This is the kind of public spirit Vergennes has been languishing for since General Strong acted for this city in locating the present road, more than a quarter of a century ago. It is only a straw, but if the current sets that way Vergennes may become more than a city in name.

VERGENNES.—The volume of water thundering over the falls in this place chants the requiem of Winter. The falling spray has ornamented the west banks of the falls with a small mountain of frost work, beautiful to look upon. The ice above the falls is wearing away fast under the swift current, which will weaken it so much as to render it harmless when it breaks up—which it customarily does on the Sabbath.

Both sleds and sleighs are in use in adjoining towns. Travel is still difficult on some of the cross roads in consequence of the drifts.

It is gratifying to see the face of Mr. Benjamin F. Young on our streets again, after more than sixteen weeks of painful illness from inflammatory rheumatism.

The Vermont Shade Roller Company have purchased the heavy work team of C. W. Potter, and propose freighting their curtain rolls to the depot themselves in the future. It has been done by other parties for several years, by contract.

To fully appreciate the beauty of distant mountain scenery you should visit Vergennes and take an early morning stroll. Away to the West towers, in silent majesty, over the four ranges of the Adirondacks, Tahawas or Mount Marcy, white and glistening in the morning sunlight; on the east, Mount Mansfield, with her four thousand feet of elevation, and Camel's Hump, of nearly equal altitude, answer back to the Empire State in robes of Nature's ermine. Standing in the warm light of these cloudless Spring mornings, the picture is one that must be seen to be appreciated. We are very proud of our midget of a city, although it has a Rip Van Winkle weakness, in the matter of business, comparatively.

As our city election does not occur till near the close of March, the annual report is yet to be printed. It is about ready for the printer, I am told.

Bailey of the *Register* made us a flying call to-day. By the way, a rumor is flying about that the *Journal* office is in trouble again.

That was a neatly put compliment to Mrs. Hayes, last Sabbath, by Rev. George E. Hall, of this place. In speaking of positive people, persons of strong convictions for the right, and courage to put them in practice, he said, in substance: "All honor to the wife of President Hayes, who banished the wine cup from the Presidential table. The influence of so noble an act of moral courage merits a nation's thanks; she will ever be held in grateful remembrance."

The new tax law is afflicting "bonds" men. It will be useless to move out of town for a few days, and then return, and shake hands with the listers. The blanks must act as a painful check to treacherous memories. The don't-want-to-tell party is large, but the minuteness of that blank schedule is suggestive of make a clean breast of it.

There is much curiosity to examine Mr. Vennor's "almanacks," and one of our enterprising stationers has sent for several copies of the Canadian weather maker's productions.

WATERVILLE.—Several of our farmers tapped their maples on Monday and Tuesday last, and got quite a run of sap.

Hon. E. H. Shattuck has received the appointment of postmaster for Waterville, vice William Wilbur resigned.

The contract for carrying the mail from our village to Jeffersonville for the coming four years, commencing July 1st next, has been let to our townsman, Luke Potter.

The marriage of two of our young ladies has taken place within the past week, both husbands being from adjoining towns.

Mrs. Austin Denio, daughter of Deacon William Wilbur, died quite suddenly of typhoid pneumonia at her home in Glover, the funeral being held on Sunday last.

The exercises of the fourth quarterly meeting were held here on Saturday and Sunday last, being conducted by Rev. D. P. Bragg of Cambridge.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur took place on Friday evening last, some 75 or 80 of their friends being present. Also on Monday evening the tenth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Maurice was celebrated in like manner. Among the presents of the first named was a fine French china tea set and the latter a very nice sofa besides numerous other gifts. C.

ST. GEORGE.—At the town meeting it was voted to buy the Vermont Gazetteer, the same to be cared for by the town clerk for the benefit of the town.

George Danforth, employed by M. W. Hinsdill on a horse power sawing machine, had the misfortune of getting one hand badly cut by coming in contact with the saw.

Raymond A. Tilley and wife, who for the last three or four years have been living with G. N. Slocum of South Burlington, are expected to locate again in this town, on what is known as the "Goose-Creek" farm.

Sugar makers are happy.

Hayden's Last Moments.

A CORRECTION.

WINDSOR, March 2, 1881.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

The rumor now going the rounds of the press that Hayden took a large dose of morphine just previous to his execution is false. Such a rumor has been afloat in this vicinity, but it all started from groundless suspicion. On Friday morning, Hayden, when he arose, was taken sick, and could not retain anything in his stomach, vomiting even milk. The prison physician was called and after examining him made the following prescription: Aromatic Spirits Ammonia, 40 drops; Compound Spirits Lavender, 1 ounce; dose ½ teaspoonfull as needed in water. He gave Hayden a number of doses of this medicine and relieved him of the trouble. Hayden took no morphine, drug or stimulant of any kind, with the exception of the medicine I have described.

I remain, yours respectfully,
WENDELL P. RICE,
Supt. Vermont State Prison.

STATE NEWS.

Clarendon, at its town meeting, elected a lady superintendent of public schools.

Joe Durant of Wells River was cleaning a pistol and discharged a ball, so that his hand will have to come off.

Justin Holman and Mr. McIntyre have started from West Randolph for a year and a half's sojourn in Alaska.

The fishing season is now at its height in Memphremagog, and large quantities of muscalonge are being hooked.

The other night a regular July shower occurred in Springfield, accompanied by sharp flashes of lightning and heavy thunder.

S. S. Scott, hardware, furniture dealer and grocer of Bennington has failed for $30,000, only $5000 of which is owing out of town.

Diphtheria has been doing its fearful work again at Leicester Junction, in the family of Mr. Simon La Mount; four out of five of his children have recently died.

St. Stephen's church, Middlebury, has just been presented with a beautiful Parian marble baptismal font by three of its friends and communicants. The cost was about one hundred and ninety dollars.

The town report of St. Johnsbury, shows that the bonded debt of the town is $150,000 of 5 per cent 5-20 bonds; also a 5 per cent temporary loan of $24,000 making a 5 per cent debt of $174,000. The treasurer has paid out during the year $21,471.52; of this $10,361.19 was paid out on orders.

Mrs. Renewed Stancliffe of Whitingham, 82 years old, recently attended a band exhibition, it being the first performance of any kind she ever attended. She has never seen the steam or horse cars, and has never been 25 miles from where she was born, although she has always been what is considered a well woman.

At the annual meeting of the Brattleboro and Whitehall railroad, the following directors were elected: C. F. Thompson and Francis Goodhue, Brattleboro, O. L. Sherman, Williamsville, A. Stoddard and J. H. Phelps, Townshend, E. L. Waterman, Jamaica, J. W. Mellendy, South Londonderry. The directors chose C. F. Thompson president and J. A. Butler clerk and treasurer.

W. H. Harrington of Boston, who is interested in silver mining at Ellsworth, Me., and Chester B. Downer of Sharon, Vt., are prospecting for silver on the farm of George Brockway at West Hartford. Under the direction of an experienced miner a shaft 20 feet deep has been sunk in quartz rock, and the work will be prosecuted with vigor, as the prospects are flattering.

Thomas Donovan of Rutland, an old gentleman between 70 and 80 years of age, was attempting to cross the railroad tracks at the south end of the freight depot, Tuesday evening, when he was struck by two cars that were being set upon the siding. He was thrown down, his right arm was crushed and broken and his head was cut. Owing to Mr. Donovan's age it is feared he will not recover from the shock.

Lewis Duprey, a ten year old French boy of Monkton, who has never studied geography, can bound every State in the Union, and describe all the lakes, rivers and mountains. He can bound every country on the globe, describing in minute detail all the rivers, mountains and lakes, the ocean, islands, straits, etc. He will map out the United States on a black board, giving the size and shape of each State, and mark out all the rivers, lakes and mountains, giving the length of rivers, and height of mountains.

A sad and distressing fatality occurred in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. K. Russell of Bellows Falls recently, resulting in the death of their little daughter, Annie May, of some eight years. A day or two previous she had suffered a very dangerous attack of diphtheretic or membranous croup, which had arrived at a stage when the physician thought her only chance was by a surgical operation in the throat. The operation was apparently very successful, the tubes being placed in proper position, when suddenly the lady in attendance for the moment discovered she was in great distress and called for help. It was immediately found that the tubes had been removed or were out of place, and blood was probably flowing from the incision into the trachea down to the lungs, and though instant efforts were made to replace the tubes, the child died immediately, just at the moment when hope was becoming strong.

The Sabin house at Windsor, which was burned last week, was erected nearly one hundred years ago, and was constructed in the most substantial manner, as the hardwood frame and timbers testify. It was first occupied by Captain Nathaniel Leonard, father of the late Chief Justice Leonard of Missouri. The next occupant was Amasa Paine, a prominent lawyer, and eminent jurist in the early part of the century. Mr. Paine's office was situated in the northeast corner of the grounds now owned by Mr. Sabin, and now stands on the north side and forms a part of Tenney's furniture shop. The Leonard mansion next passed into the possession of Colonel Josiah Dunham, editor of the *Washingtonian*, published in Windsor at that time. In this house President Monroe was entertained in 1817. In this house, also, Col. Dunham established the noted female seminary and ladies' boarding school, at which many distinguished ladies from the South as well as from the North were educated. When Col. Dunham went to Kentucky, the house passed into the possession of his brother, William Dunham.

CHELSEA.—Orange county Supreme Court began its session Tuesday, the 8th inst. Present, Chief Justice Pierpoint and Judges Royce, Ross and Veazey. There are thirty-three cases on the docket, whose hearing will consume the week.

Friday morning Fred Staples, of Bradford, was lodged in jail in default of two hundred dollars bail, having been convicted of breaking into a house on a Sunday ten days before. He is insane and has made both night and day hideous since arriving at the jail. It is a local suspicion that he was sent to jail more for the sake of relieving Bradford from the expense of supporting a town pauper at Brattleboro than for the purpose of illustrating the majesty of the law.

HINESBURGH.—The snow left us after one hundred and four days of uninterrupted sleighing and the little frost in the ground is fast coming out. Some timid bird notes are heard in the woodlands, but it takes more than one swallow to bring the spring. Many sugar orchards have been tapped and an excellent run of sap is reported.

The western fever is unabated among our young men. Alfred Davis, Herbert Irish and Michael O'Brien started for Peoria, Ill., last Monday, where they have secured work in a sugar refinery.

There are now lying in the cemetery vault the remains of the late Mrs. Phoebe Bissonette, her daughter Mrs. Lucinda Weller and a grandson, making three generations of the same family lying in the same vault, waiting for interment.

Mr. E. O. Martin has taught a successful singing school here this winter.

Last Sunday evening there was a concert given by the Juvenile Temperance School under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. in the Congregational church. The forty or more children that took part gave a pleasant surprise to everybody.

J. C. Mansur has sold his interest in the tin shop to John S. Patrick and the new firm will be Read & Patrick.

We are sorry to hear that Dea. Mansur intends to find a permanent home in California next summer on account of his wife's health.

The spring term of the academy began Feb. 21st. Thirty-four pupils are attending the school. The advanced Latin class has begun Greek and it is confidently expected that some of these bright boys will seek a higher education. They have pluck and ability and we would say to their parents, encourage your boys to go to college. Such encouragement will improve the whole school by exciting thoroughness in the elementary classes. To fit for college properly requires hard work and good discipline of the mental powers and it furnishes a motive to master the common studies which nothing else will. The fashion of undervaluing a thorough education is going out. Men of culture are coming to the front everywhere. So our children's interest in the future will be better consulted by giving them a good education than by giving them farms or wealth which an ever fickle fortune can sweep away in a day.

VERGENNES.—The many friends of Chas. H. Lawrence, Esq., of Chicago, nephew of Judge Pierpoint, will learn with sorrow of the loss of his bright little son Harvey, nearly five, of diphtheria, on Monday last. Mrs. Lawrence and the two children spent last Summer in Vergennes; and many hearts will sympathize with the parents in this their sad bereavement.