Weekly Intelligencer.

St. Clair county will endorse Mr. Nesbit's railroad tax bill, as Lafayette county thanks him for it.

The Kansas City Price Current is one of the most ably edited commercial journals which comes to our table.

The governor has appointed Messrs. Basil Duke and D. H. Armstrong as police commissioners for St. Louis.

Lament of the Iowa State Register:

"After the battle's through
Washing the Embers Dun;
Rather stooped out, the Blue—
On top of the hemp, the gray."

Joyce is the only one left in durance vile, and he will soon be set at liberty. "Reform within the party" is not so popular now as it was before the election.

The ice in the Missouri river at Jefferson City and below has moved out, and at this place it has become so rotten that it can hold but a little while longer.

The character of the Globe-Democrat is best illustrated by the pen pictures which Mr. Chauncey I. Filley, one of the foremost republicans in the state, draws of its proprietor.

A petition was presented in the house of representatives a few days ago, from the citizens of Putnam county, asking that the salaries of county judges and clerks, and of circuit clerks be reduced.

The Saint Louis Times says that the New York Times capitalizes the failings of the republican party as "Commerce, Cowardice and Conkling." The N.Y. Times would be better pleased with the virtues of Fraud, Force and Ferry.

The bill to count the electoral vote passed the house on Friday of last week, by a vote of 191 to 81, and on Monday president Grant returned it to congress with his approval, accompanied by a message fully endorsing it.

Gen. McDonald was released from the penitentiary last Monday morning. He took his departure for St. Louis by the first train. He insists that if there was a whiskey ring he knew nothing of it. After all maybe it was all a myth, that "starred thing," but Chauncey I. Filley does not seem to think so.

The senatorial contest in West Virginia terminated on Friday of last week in the election of Hon. Henry G. Davis for the long term and Hon. Frank Hereford for the short term. Mr. Davis thus becomes his own successor, and Mr. Hereford, present member of congress from the third district, succeeds the late Senator Caperton.

Rich, of the Hannibal Clipper, must have Irish blood in his veins. In describing a fight between a beautiful girl and a coon, in which the girl came out victorious, he says that "the young lady had no other arms than her hands." We suppose that these are not the arms she puts around her lover's juggular when he parts with her of evenings.

The trial of Edgar A. Moore for the murder of Mabel Hall, a ballet girl at the Theater Comique, St. Louis, was barely completed by his conviction, when, on last Monday morning, about one o'clock, in the bar-room of that establishment, Wm. Weiners, an employe of the theater, wantonly shot and killed "Mac" Lawrence. Both these murders have created much excitement in the community.

The Sedalia Democrat seems to be very hostile to Mr. Nesbit's railroad bill, and says of it:

"This bill, if it carries, will prove a hardship upon such counties as Pettis, Lafayette, Cooper, Henry."

Please read the bill, neighbor, and you will see that you are very much mistaken as to three of the counties you mention, out of four. Come, now, do the fair thing, don't make such counties as Lafayette, Cooper and Henry pay *all* the railroad debt of the state.

The New York Times presents its compliments to Messrs. Edmunds and Conkling in these words: "There are two or three candidates for the presidency in the republican party who are persuaded that the success of Tilden at the present time will further their ambition four years hence. They prefer that the party shall suffer present defeat under Gov. Hayes, if thereby the way is paved for future success under themselves. In short, they are willing to sell out the republican party, provided the consideration for the sale shall be the candidacy for the presidency when the prospect is good for success."

A few days ago the judiciary committee reported adversely on the bill to increase the jurisdiction of justices, and the chairman, Mr. McIntyre, said this was done because of the character of the men filling the positions of justices of the peace. We regret this action, as we think their jurisdiction should be increased. It would be a convenience to litigants, and would prevent a great deal of litigation, as with respectable jurisdiction a better class of magistrates would be selected, and often, as it used to be in Virginia, cases would be merely submitted to the judgment of the magistrate, and settled without suit.

The St. Louis Times, of the 28th inst., contains a very interesting letter from Mr. Chauncey I. Filley, post-master at St. Louis, and shows the character of the billet-doux by printing the following extracts as head-lines: "My Dear Deacon McKee." "Terrible responsibility attaches to you as a foul, leprous poisoner on the body politic." "Great as was the year for expositions, you did not compete for ever having done a generous public or private act." "My dear, Honorable Deacon McKee, I thank you that, cur-like, you returned to your vomit. It is my time to talk." "You owed and you now owe Giles F. Filley a large amount furnished you in your forced need." "In his extremity he called upon you to pay what you owed him." "With that deep sense of honor characteristic of your life, you did—what?" "Turned upon your heel, and said to Mr. Filley: 'That matter is outlawed, and you cannot collect it.'" "As a grabber you are a success. Do you recollect the $100 check that I sent to the county committee." "It is possible that you grabbed it? Yes, not only possible, but actually so." "You have misconstrued my silence. You shall have no occasion to misconstrue it longer. Call again. Very respectfully, Chauncey I. Filley.

DISTRIBUTION OF RAILROAD TAXES.

We are indebted to the politeness of Hon. Mr. Nesbitt, of St. Clair county, for a copy of his bill, entitled, "an act providing for the levy, collection and disbursement of all taxes derived from certain railroads herein named." That the tax-payers of Lafayette may get a clear idea of this important matter, we print in another column not only this bill, but a similar one presented in the twenty-eighth generally assembly by Mr. McClelland, of this county. As Mr. Nesbit's bill only reached us yesterday we have not sufficiently studied it to express a positive approval of it as a whole; but at a glance we think that it correctly covers the ground. It will be remembered that this question was first broached by Capt. Joseph L. Stephens, of Boonville, in an able and exhaustive letter upon the subject, written to the St. Louis Republican, early in the year 1874. Mr. McClelland, as the second member of the committee on ways and means, when representing this county, perfected the bill which we publish under his name. It we understand the subject correctly, there is but one justification for taking the taxes on railroads out of the hands of the counties, that is, that the *whole state* built the railroads, and that it is consequently unjust for counties in which the roads were located, and which were benefited thereby, to derive all the benefit of the taxes upon such roads. To illustrate: The state debt is, say, $17,000,000, created by the building of certain subsidized railroads; Lafayette county's assessed valuation is, say, $7,000,000, Pettis county's the same. Lafayette county having been better settled and improved for many years than Pettis, has paid a much greater amount in taxes on this debt, which has been largely reduced, though she has not an inch of this subsidized road within her borders, while Pettis has, say, thirty-five miles of the road, machine shops and a large amount of rollin stock. Besides the advantage of the location of the road to Pettis county—which location was an injury to Lafayette—under the present apportionment of taxes, Pettis can collect more taxes from the railroad than she pays to the state upon the debt; Lafayette cannot collect a cent and is compelled to drain from her people $17,000 or more per annum to pay interest and principal on a debt which was created to her prejudice. We like Mr. Nesbit's bill best in this, that it only applies to the subsidized roads. There is no reason why it should apply to any other. Mr. McClelland's bill applies to *all* railroad property in the state. The railroads built by counties within their own borders, or by individuals, should pay taxes on their property where it is located. There is but one thing with a seeming of justice that the counties in which the subsidized roads are located can urge, and that is that they should be entitled to taxes on the amount of subscriptions that they may have made to such roads, or on a part of the amount, equal to the proportion which still remains unpaid of the entire railroad debt, as originally contracted. But even this seems hardly fair, when it is considered that other counties, which obtain nothing, have so long been paying the debt for them. We have only generalized in this article, as we have not had time to hunt up the figures, but the argument would be the same even based on exact *data*, and we give both the bills, as on closer study there may be some features in the first that it might be well to engraft upon the last. Lafayette county's representatives can have nothing more important to engage their attention than the passage of this bill, as it will save to her people $17,000 per annum, and be an act of long deferred justice.

No enterprise that we know of has more of the attractions of romance, at the same time that it is based on the solid foundation of a growing necessity, than that of a direct business connection between Brazil and the Mississippi valley. It would open up to our people new markets; introduce us to a new people, who are governed by a liberal and intelligent ruler; present to thousands of our young men fresh avenues of adventure, and be in a thousand ways of benefit to the greatest agricultural country on the earth. The New Orleans and Rio Janeiro steamship line has been for some months making preparations to put a line of steamers to plying between the two ports, and the St. Louis Dispatch of a recent date has information from its officers that their plans are almost completed, and that it will be but a short time before they will be ready to begin operations. The importation of coffees from Brazil into the United States during the year 1876 amounted to 1,487,262 bags. Of this, New York received 734,981 bags; Baltimore 175,735 bags; New Orleans 158,853 bags; Galveston 47,900 bags; Mobile 37,700 bags; Savannah 19,900 bags; and Richmond 12,163 bags. A very considerable part of the importation that has heretofore come through eastern ports will naturally flow through New Orleans when the latter place has good transportation facilities, as the bulk of the coffees are consumed in the west, eastern folk being more of tea drinkers. Beside, the principal export to Brazil is flour, which is largely supplied by the Mississippi valley states, and when trips can be made profitable both ways, freight will be very low, as it will be an all water route. To render the consummation of this project feasibly, no person has done more than has Capt. Eads by the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi. It will be remembered that while coffee is the only Brazilian product, and flour the only American article here mentioned for this trade, that both countries may exchange a great many other products. St. Louis is greatly interested in the establishment of this commerce, and through her the farmers of Missouri. We hope to see it established soon, and successfully.

In spite of the fact that McDonald says that Bristow's prosecutions were merely a conspiracy to make himself president, the St. Louis Republican publishes this paragraph: "The late commissioner of internal revenue, Mr. Pratt, stated officially the whiskey ring had stolen directly from the government $1,000,000. Some of the members of the ring pardoned out of prison have got their money yet. They are rich and free—rich by their robbery of the government, and free by the grace of the chief officer of the government.

There are 836 newspapers in Paris.

THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

The electoral count tribunal consists of justices Nathan Clifford, Samuel F. Miller, Stephen J. Field, Wm. Strong and Joseph P. Bradley; of senators Thurman, Edmunds, Bayard, Frelinghuysen and Morton, and of representatives Hunton, Abbott, Payne, Garfield and Hoar. As justice Bradley is a republican it will be seen that the republicans have one majority on the commission, but as with the exception of Morton and Garfield they are all men of enlarged views, and disposed to do right, democrats at Washington have every confidence in a verdict for Tilden. If he is defeated it can only be done by quibbles of law, and even the republicans on the committee, with the two exceptions we have mentioned, we think will be above taking advantage of technicalities. Tilden's cause is just and should prevail. Each of the fifteen members of this tribunal, took, on last Thursday, when they assumed their functions, the following oath: "I do solemnly swear that I will impartially examine and consider all questions submitted to the commission of which I am a member, and a true judgment give thereon agreeably to the constitution and the laws. So help me God." If the members of the commission divest themselves of partisan feeling, and conscientiously discharge their duty under this oath everybody will bow in ready acquiescence to their verdict. Let us hope that they may. At two minutes past one o'clock on last Thursday the senate marched into the hall of the house of representatives, and a few minutes thereafter the joint session to count the electoral vote for president and vice-president was called to order by the president of the senate, who proceeded to open the certificates, and hand them to the tellers. The ten electoral votes of Alabama were promptly declared as having been cast for Samuel J. Tilden for president, and Thos. A. Hendricks for vice-president. Arkansas' six votes were next announced for Tilden and Hendricks, next California's six votes were recorded as having been cast for Hayes and Wheeler. When Florida was called, there were two sets of certificates, a halt was made, and the matter referred to the commission. Representative Field announced as counsel for the democrats Mr. O. Conor of New York, Judge Black of Pennsylvania, Hon. Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, Mr. Mirrick of Washington, and Mr. Green of New Jersey. Mr. Evarts announced the republican counsel to be Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Stanley Matthews, Mr. Shellabarger and himself. The commission then adjourned until 10:30 a. m. yesterday morning. No conclusion was reached on Florida's vote yesterday.

Messrs. Wells, Anderson, Kenner and Cassanave don't like David Dudley Field.

Gov. Phelps's reception on the evening of the 30th inst., is described as the most brilliant that has ever taken place at Jefferson City.

St. Louis Times:—Frank Hereford who has just been chosen United States senator from West Virginia, taught a private school at Jefferson City in the state, in 1850. The editor of the Courier, Jacksonville, Illinois, was one of his pupils.

Iglesias, is in San Francisco, a fugitive from his country, and Diaz the successful general has control of its destinies. Iglesias claims to be the constitutional president of Mexico, and says that he will soon return to Mexican soil, even if it must be as a prisoner. If he has money enough to pay his board bills he had better stay where he is.

The New York Herald thus Mr. Garfield in an able editorial, from which we make this extract: "It seems extraordinary that Mr. Garfield should permit himself, or be encouraged by others, to take the oath prescribed by the bill. All fair minded men will reprobate such a proceeding. What a farce, what a mockery, what a profanation it will be for this man to take a solemn oath that he will be impartial! He has decided the case in his own mind, decided it unalterably before hearing it. Believing as he does that the tribunal is a flagrant breach of the constitution he ought, as a man of honor and principal, to wash his hands of all complicity with it and of all responsibility for its proceedings."

The investigation before the house committee of the Missouri legislature, of which Mr. Chilton is chairman, has developed the fact that money was paid in connection with the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad bond renewal legislation. The names of Dr. Mumford and John A. Rudd of the Kansas City Times, Mr. Hathaway, a member of the legislature at the time the bill was passed, Jno. T. Crisp and others, are mixed up with the matter in a not very creditable manner. While it has not as yet been shown that the money expended was used to bribe legislators, enough has been revealed to justify the people in their demand that the investigation shall be searching and thorough; and if the laws have been violated the guilty parties should be indicted and punished.

The new charter having taken in some of the environs, the St. Louis Times gets off the following:—"Mother, may I go out to swim? No, my darling darter; the ponds are in the limits now, and it's agin the charter."

Slavery is diminishing every year in Brazil. By the law of 1871, all the children of negroes are born free. In the province of San Paulo, the number of slaves in three years declined from 147,746 to less than 156,000. In 111 of the 151 parishes of the province, 18,156 children of slaves, happier than their parents, were born free beings. In the province of Pernambuco, the number of slaves have been reduced from 106,201 to 100,000, and 12,312 children were born into freedom. The same ratio of decrease is visible in other provinces throughout the Empire.

DAVID DAVIS.

David Davis was born in Cecil county, Maryland, March 9, 1815; was graduated at Kenyon college in 1835; studied law in Massachusettes, and went through a legal course at the law school of Yale college. In 1835 he removed to Illinois, was immediately admitted to the bar, and soon after settled in Bloomington. In 1844 he was elected to the state constitutional convention. In 1848 he was elected judge of the eighth judicial circuit of Illinois; was re-elected in 1855 and in 1861, but before completing his last term, he was, in 1862, appointed an associate justice of the supreme court by President Lincoln, with whom his relations were of the most intimate character. Appointed as a republican he nows ranks as a democrat, and was but a few days ago elected senator from the state of Illinois.

The wine product of California for 1876 was 10,000,000 gallons.

The expenses of the state government of Mississippi last year were over $500,000 less than they were in 1875.

The colored people of Georgia own 157,635 acres of land, and property in the aggregate valued at $5,188,867. Georgia is a democratic state.

Gov. Stone of Mississippi in his message said that the average price of the warrants of that state for 1875 was eighty-four cents on the dollar, but that last year they rose to par.

The value of the agricultural productions of California last year is estimated at $50,000,000. Adding the gold yield of $20,000,000, this makes the splendid total of $90,000,000 for the Queen of the Pacific coast.

During the past year the fish commissioners of Virginia hatched and distributed among the streams in the state 150,000 California salmon, 1,000 land-locked salmon from Maine, 1,200,000 shad, besides a large quantity of smaller fry.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The committee on appropriation will, in the legislative and executive appropriation bill, fix $25,000 as the salary of the president and accompany it with a provision repealing the section of the revised statutes which increases his salary to $50,000.

Mr. Wood of New York has introduced in congress a bill authorizing the construction of an ocean cable between Baltimore and Havre or Cherbourg, in France, with an extension to London. The principal mover in the project is John W. Garritt, president of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and it is intended to build up Baltimore and that road.

Cheap land in Texas is attracting considerable emigration. Several parties have already started from the mining districts in our own state. The fertile soil and genial climate of the gulf state offer rich rewards to the industrious settler. In time, it may be well to amend Horace Greeley's famous advice, and say, "Young man, go South."

Little Rhody now claims the oldest Freemason. Captain James Warner, born April 14, 1779, and now living in good health in Warwick, R. I., was initiated into Freemasonry in St. John's lodge, No. 1, Providence, September 27, 1803, and received the third degree November 9, 1803, as appears by the records of said lodge. The captain is now nearly ninety-eight years of age.

P. B. Plumb, who was elected senator from Kansas on the 31st ult., is a native of Ohio, is 40 years old, is president of a National bank, a lawyer by profession; came to Kansas in 1856, was colonel in the army; supported Greeley in 1872; is a liberal republican; is a quiet, bright, active, energetic business man, and is a great improvement on Harvey, whom he has just defeated. The legislature adjourned one week.

Some of the people of this country are soon to have an opportunity to get sight of the British "red coats." A regiment of British troops is expected to arrive in New York in a few days. The reason given for this invasion is the fact that English troops are needed at Vancouver's Island, in British Columbia, and a regiment is to be sent there through the United States, over the Pacific Railroad, permission having been obtained from our goverment.

LIGHT ON THE RETURNING BOARD.

Although every one who had studied the case with any degree of impartiality and intelligence was long ago convinced that the electoral vote of Louisiana has been fraudulently given to Hayes, yet the conviction needed the strengthening which could come only from a revelation of the exact manner in which the fraud was perpetrated. This deficiency has now been supplied by the testimony of J. J. Littlefield, who declares under oath that on the 5th of December last he was instructed by Wells, president of the returning board to alter the original returns from two of the polls in Vernon parish, so as to transfer 178 democratic votes to the republican candidates. He obeyed instructions, and after preparing the new and false returns, the originals—which gave the true vote—were burned, either by Wells or himself, he does not remember which. He furthermore testifies that Wells asked him to practice upon the signature of Thomas Franklin, who signed the originals, so that he could forge it for the false returns; but he asserts that he did not commit this crime. He also says that since his arrival in Washington he has had conversations with ex-Gov. Kellogg and United States Marshal Pitkin, of Louisiana, and that the latter advised him to "remember his friends and stick to his party."

Here, then, we have a clear and comprehensive view of part of the machinery by which an 8,000 democratic majority in Louisiana was turned into a republican majority of 3,500, and eight electoral votes which belonged to Tilden given to Hayes. What was done in these two precincts in Vernon parish was, of course, done elsewhere; and by altering figures, forging signatures and destroying original documents whenever necessary the infamous work was easily accomplished. The returning board in 1876 played precisely the same game as in 1874, and expected to succeed as well in the last instance as in the first—while the winnings would be as much larger as the stakes were greater. We ask those republican organs which have been defending the character and action of the returning board, and proclaiming the election of Hayes by the vote of Louisiana, to carefully study the testimony of Littlefield and report thereon. We ask every American citizen, whatever may be his politics, to examine under this new light the appliances by which a president of the United States was to be manufactured, and form his own opinions concerning them. We ask every man and woman who has any regard for the honor of the American name and nation, to look at the infinite shame which crowned and closed our Centennial year, and draw such moral therefrom as the subject furnishes.

But the returning board was simply the willing tool of a colossal conspiracy, and should be judged accordingly. These four scoundrels who attempted to fasten an usurper upon forty millions of people, were directed and sustained by such republican leaders as Chandler, Morton, Cameron and Logan. It was a deliberate and skillfully laid plot to cheat the country out of a legally elected president; and had it not been for the conservative element of the party, led by Edmunds, Conkling, Hoar and others, the plot would have succeeded, for the nation would have been plunged in civil war. While, therefore, Wells, Anderson, Cassanave and Kenner should receive such punishment as their villainous devices deserve, let not the chief conspirators escape. And they will not escape. Whatever may be the outcome of the presidential arbitration, the men through whose intrigues the country has been placed in the most deadly peril it has ever known, will go down to posterity as traitor's who only missed a traitor's doom through the mercy of the people whose confidence they abused and whose liberties they sought to ruin.

The testimony taken yesterday is still more startling, as it tends to show that Gov. Wells was willing to sell out his party to the democrats for a consideration of $1,000,000, to be divided among the members of the returning board. As this returning board could easily and absolutely settle the presidential question in favor of Tilden—who had carried the state—doubtless this arch-intriguer concluded his contemplated treachery would be worth a round million—which, however, was not obtained.—[St. Louis Republican, February 1st.

Personalities.

Will Bair, of this city, has a carbuncle on his neck.

Mr. Grove Young, of Aullville, was in the city Thursday.

Mrs. Isaac McVay, of Davis township, is dangerously ill.

Cole Younger is painting pails in the Minnesota penitentiary.

The sun calls Carl Schurz the "flying dutchman of politics."

Hon. J. L. Farris, of Ray county, was in the city last Wednesday.

Miss Bettie Drysdale is on a visit to her friends and relatives near Waverly.

Mr. R. T. Coun, of Davis township, who has been very ill, is convalescing.

Feons and carbuncles seem to be all the rage. Who cares if he ain't in the fashion?

Mis Lucy Jackson, of Virginia, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Geo. Goodwin, of Waverly.

Mis Maggie Douthitt, of Kansas City, is visiting the family of Mr. Jno. W. Grant, of this place.

Missfane E. T. Lewis is at present living at Fort Scott, Kansas, having removed from Macon, Mo.

The New York Herald's p. i. man says that hot water cures felons. Oblige us with a cure for carbuncle.

Our Cousins—Phoebe—is receiving many compliments from the newspapers on her beauty and eloquence.

Jonah Reems, one of the substantial farmers of Bono Hill, Jackson county, was in the city on business yesterday.

Messrs. John Montgomery, jr., and H. D. Merick, of Sedalia, were in the city yesterday on legal business.

One of our exchanges lows itself in speculations as to what were Adam's sensations when he first kissed Eve.

Mr. Saul Shelby, where head was very seriously injured by his hoss throwing from a horse some weeks ago, is improving.

The New York Herald says that Judge Davis will make an able and useful senator. That is more than it would say of Logan.

Miss Mollie Spotmaker, who has been attending Central College the past session, returned to her home, near Dover, last Tuesday.

Mr. Eli I. Wise, general traveling agent of the Topeka and Santa Fe railway, was in the city yesterday, in the interest of his road.

Lafayette county's great thoroughbred horseman, Capt. Ryland Todhunter, called to give us an account of his health last Tuesday.

Capt. Jake Connor, recorder of deeds of Lafayette county, desires to purchase a nice gray cat. Must be young, and gray all over.

Willie Russell, son of Mr. C. Ben Russell, who has been afflicted for some weeks past with inflamatory rheumatism has nearly recovered.

It is said of Commodore Judkins, late of the national line, that he is the only living navigator who has made five hundred voyages across the Atlantic.

One of the most whole-souled fellows in Davis township is to marry one of the fairest and most charming ladies in Lexington township next week.

Mr. Russell, the polite agent of the Missouri Pacific railroad, says you may buy your tickets where you please, of course, but never buy until you c. Ben.

Mr. Andrew Atkins, general traveling agent of the Illinois Central and St. Louis, Cairo and Short Line railroads, was in the city yesterday making rates for the Hardin grand travel.

The Herald concludes a highly eulogistic article on Senator Conkling with this sentence: New York, with a feeling of gratified pride, congratulates herself and her peerless senator.

Judge David Davis will accept the Illinois senatorship after the fourth of March. He will have great weight in the deliberations of that body—something over 200 pounds avoirdupoise.

Antonio Blitz, the great magician, died at Philadelphia last Sunday. Remember this item of information, and when the next "only original Blitz" comes around, set him down as a fraud.

The melodious voice of the warbler from the Sun will be heard upon our streets next Monday, chanting in dulcet strains going, going, gone. Which he is a Frenchman from Cork, named Conner.

We had a pleasant visit last saturday from Mr. G. W. Thornton, of Middleton township. He reports wheat to be looking well in his neighborhood, and boasts of having one of the best spelling classes in the county.

Dr. J. Watson, of this city, a few days ago, cut from the back of Mr. Jack Ewing, a large, fatty tumor, which had annoyed him for a long time. The operation was skillfully performed, and the patient is doing well.

Senator Christiancy is getting tired of that bogy report started on him by the papers. He says Mrs. Christiancy has no baby, and never did have one, and unless the paragraphists quit worrying her, never will have one.

Mrs. Evan Young, who was, about ten days ago, attacked with some fever, producing inflamation of the implistic vessels of the right arm, of a very serious character, is now somewhat better, but not yet out of danger.

"A young lady of Norfolk was so agitated while dancing with the Grand Duke, that she fainted in his arms. The action of nobility merely passed her over to one of the old ladies with the remark, 'Toodamtheinovitch,' and secured another partner."—[Worcester Press.

The Richmond Conservator of last week says "Sam Reid keller, of Lexington, was in the city on a dear hunt last Sunday." When any of our boys start on that kind of a trail, they always find their game, so we suppose there were two hearts made glad—Sam's and the "dear's."

There seems to be an evil genius attending the successful manufacturer of pills and patent medicines. Helmbold went crazy, and now Dr. Ayer is reported to be insane. The millions of grapes that he has caused must have preyed on his conscience. No wonder. He has doubled up more men than did the armies of Hannibal.

Mr. Jno. B. Shelby, son of Thomas Shelby, Esq., called to take leave of us Monday last. He was on his way to St. Louis, where he has become a member of the firm of Brown, Shelby & Co., commission merchants. We wish Mr. Shelby a success-ful career as a merchant, as Lafayette county never turned out a better boy.

Our blacksmithing friend, Ed Kramer, is so industrious that, when he got one of work for a little while one day this week, not having anything else to pound on, he give one of his thumbs a whack with a hammer. He says that he is now perfectly satisfied that the hammer is harder than his thumb, and merely out of respect to the hammer, he is carrying the thumb in a sling.

We are glad to see that the Times appreciates modest merit, as is evidenced by the following notice of Prof. Neet, who recently visited Sedalia: "Wm. F. Neet, one of the employes of the Lexington Intelligencer, a very rapid compositor, and a faithful, good-tempered and trustworthy a man as ever looked in vain for an item in leaded type, called on us this week. We were glad to see him."

It has been for some weeks rumored that Elder W. R. Cunningham, who recently went to Certhage, Mo., from this county, was dead. As proof that he is not *very* dead, we print this extract from a note which we received from him, dated at his home, January 19th: "As letters continue to come from both Lafayette and Johnson counties, but chiefly from the former, inquiring as to the correctness of the report of my death, you will please allow me to say through your paper that my health is unusually good."

Rev. R. P. Kerr, pastor of the O. S. Presbyterian church in this city, has been sick for several weeks and unable to attend to his pastoral duties here. Last Sunday, after the regular services, conducted by Rev. J. M. Chaney, a congregational meeting was called, at which Mr. Kerr asked and obtained leave of absence for two months for rest and recuperation. He will spend the vacation in Florida, whither he departed last Monday. His wife left with him, *en route* for the home of her parents, in Tennessee, where she will remain during Mr. Kerr's absence. His many friends here hope for his speedy recovery, and that he may find both health and pleasure in the sunny south. The pulpit will be supplied during his absence, and regular services may be expected, as usual.

A new paper called the Democrat has been started at Independence, Mo., by Charlton E. Beatty.

Dr. Ayers, who makes pills, is hopelessly insane, and $2,000,000 is as good as orphaned.—[Rochester Democrat. This is not enough. His fortune is much greater. His income is $2,000 a day, and we suppose there has never been a time in the last dozen years when he has had less than $500,000 lying idle and awaiting investment.—[N. Y. Sun.

A son of R. B. Cunningham of Sedalia named Silas, and aged 22, made several attempts at suicide on the 29th inst. At an early hour the night before he took laudanum and then croton oil, and when his father and physicians interfered to save his life he shot at them. Afterwards he shot himself, but not seriously. He is not believed to be insane, but says he will yet destroy himself. Love disappointment is the cause.

The headquarters for domestics; Conkling & Beeding now and always hold the largest stock in the city and retail them (strange as it may seem) at lower prices than wholesale merchants job them. tf.

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

WELLINGTON.

News items exceedingly scarce this week.

Rain, mud and bad roads the chief topic of complaint.

It is thought that the wheat in this vicinity is poor.

The handling of tobacco has commenced, there is a big crop about here.

Dr. P. S. Falkenson and Capt. Reeder moved to Lexington this week.

Tom Price talks of going to California in the Spring.

Rev. A. A. Moore preaches here to-morrow.

Our banks are issuing big mud-dividends just now.

The rain and thaw-out is bad on the Narrow Gauge, but no accident has occurred, and it makes its regular time, doing a good business.

On account of bad roads, few people have been in town this week.

Lone Lee, of this neighborhood, talks of going to St. Louis with an eye to a business situation.

Mrs. Ann Baker and family expect to start to California in the Spring with the view of making it their permanent home.

John Moore will go to Hannibal City in a short time to locate with his brother in the practice of law.

That's about all the news we have, and now for something else, to the way of what an old man says he has seen, which may be of benefit to many in the way of seeing ahead, and steering the life craft safe from some of the snags in the stream before them. "I have seen a man sell a good farm, turn merchant, and die in an insane asylum. I have seen a farmer travel about so much that there was nothing at home worth looking at. I have seen a man spend more money in folly than would support his family in comfort and independence. I have seen a young girl marry a young man of dissolute habits, and repent of it as long as she lived. I have seen a man depart from the truth where candor and veracity would have served him to a much better purpose. I have seen an old man marry a young girl, and wish the remainder of his days that he hadn't done so. I have seen the extravagance of children bring their parents to poverty and want and themselves to disgrace. I have seen a profane, conceited son wide awake for the fortune of the family, while the husband pulled at the other end of the rope. I have seen a young man who despised the counsels of the wise and advice of the good, and his career ended in poverty and wretchedness."

There will be a musical concert given here next Tuesday night at the Odd Fellow's Hall for the benefit of the Baptist church in this place, the proceeds to buy an organ for said church.

Harry Tunstall intends retiring from the mercantile business. He has a large stock of goods on hand, and in order to get rid of them, will sell very cheap. He is now selling most of his stock at less than cost. The trade will lose a good man when he retires. John14-tf.

WATERLOO.

How temperate does high! another week has almost winged its flight, and whatever we done toward getting ready for the Independence Echo answers "what?" It was our intention to commence writing earlier in the week and to write more from our city, as it is decreasing of considerable notice, but we men, you know, cannot always put into execution our desires or intentions, for just as we were ready to commence writing, our better half suggested that some wood had better be cut for the stove, and of course it was cut, and then as it was quite modest, though the wood had to be brought in, we unintentionally though unavoidably tracked into the kitchen on our feet a considerable amount of wet earth. Then she thinks that a good scouring would add greatly to the appearance of the floor, and as we do not keep a domestic we took the hint, though rather reluctantly, wishing all the time that while we that is me individually were rubbing and scrubbing that some sympathizing friend would call on any kind of business.

The weather with you and us I suppose is of a similarity, though I venture the assertion we have the most mud.

The farmers who raised tobacco are very busy shipping the same, as this it about the only season they have had since it has been house 1.

L. P. Day, of Wellington, is beginning to talk tobacco, though he has bought but little as yet, but will no doubt buy all in the neighborhood, as he is a very liberal trader.

Our debating society is in a flourishing condition; meets regularly every Friday night at the schoolhouse, and never fails to burn what wood the teacher leaves for Monday morning.

Mrs. R. D. Harris will have a sale of horses, mules, hogs, farming utensils, household furniture, &c., &c., on the 24th inst.

J. A. Edmonds is happy since the rain and thaw; he only wishes now for a few days of warm weather that he may supply his many customers with the largest and best variety of frogs. VIVE VALE.

WAVERLY.

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER: It is with many misgivings I sit to pend this letter, as I know you can hold get it before Friday night, and I know very well what happens to Friday correspondence.

The roads are simply frightful, and it is an utter impossibility for people to come to town. The mails are carried on horseback to Brownsville and Lexington, and the Carrollton mail has missed coming for several days, owing to the danger of crossing the river. The ice is supposed to be very rotten, and the ferry boat is not yet running. It is thought that the ice will break up in a day or two, and as the ferry at this point is only in danger, a force is at work cleaning around it.

Being cut off from connection with Carrollton deprives us of the St. Louis papers, and just at this time of political excitement the papers are of far more than usual interest and importance. Just think of the possibility of the presidential question being decided in a day or two, and of our not being able to hear a word of it.

The people of this place want the Narrow Gauge R. R. extended down here, and it would certainly have all the business of this section. It would be of almost incalculable interest to Lexington, and we hope to see the work undertaken very soon. There are several wealthy men in this place who would make liberal donations, and others would take some stock to help the road along.

Mr. Jas. W. Goodwin bought a 50 acre farm last week from Mr. C. Hays, paying $50 per acre. The land is highly improved, with good houses on it. We have heard that this sale has since been annulled, the property was claimed very cheap.

We hear that thieves have been operating in this vicinity lately, driving off cattle and sheep. It would not pay to be caught at such tricks.

Mr. Tom Young came to from Lexington last night, and says the officers were after some horse thieves below Dover as he came along. Mr. Young thinks he will have to get four horses to haul his empty buggy back home.

There is a large quantity of butter coming into this place every day. There is hardly any demand for it, and the farmers frequently take it back home with them.

Dr. Tucker went gunning Tuesday, and while returning home at night broke a single tree, and had to leave his buggy about three miles from town.

Clara Shelby, a very respectable colored woman, died of pneumonia Wednesday night, aged 15 years.

A protracted meeting is being held at the Christian church, conducted by Elder Featherstone, of Carrollton. There was one baptism Wednesday night. The weather is so bad people cannot get out to attend church.

The wife of P. M. Harris presented him within the last week with a fine boy.

The sentinel, of this place, gives the Intelligencer a large share of its space this week, but the notices are not very complimentary. We bespeak your leniency.

Business is at a stand still, as there is no outlet for produce, and money is scarce.

Miss Bruner is teaching singing in this city. She has two classes, and they are said to be learning rapidly.

Miss Lucy Jackson, of Virginia, is here visiting her sister, Mrs. Geo. Goodwin.

Miss Katie Hereford, a very attractive young lady from Covington, Ky., is here on a visit to her relatives. She is stopping at Dr. George Hereford's, but will leave for home next week, and the hearts of the Waverly young men will be broken. She has made many friends.

Miss Sallie Baer, one of Waverly's most attractive young ladies, who has been attending school at Christian College, Columbia, is at home on a short visit to her relatives.

Our popular young dentist, Dr. S. Blair Harris, expects to make a short visit to Covington, Ky., in a short time. M.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 29.—There is not a particle of truth in the statement recently made that the Spanish government is in negotiation with the Cuban insurgents with a view to grant them autonomy, or self-government. On the contrary, Spain occupies the same position as heretofore with regard to the affairs of Cuba, with no probability whatever of changing it.

Indiana proposes to change her state election from October to November. A wise move.

EQUALIZATION OF RAILROAD TAXES.

House Bill No. 576, Regular Session, 28th General Assembly. Introduced by Mr. McClelland, of Lafayette County.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES DERIVED FROM THE TAXATION OF RAILROADS AND RAILROAD PROPERTY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. Upon the assessed values of all railroad property in this state, there shall be collected, in lieu of all other taxes, an annual tax equal in amount to the average per centum of all taxes assessed and paid upon other property in this state, for state, school, county and municipal purposes; and for the purpose of ascertaining the rate and amount of such tax the county clerks of the several counties in the state, shall, on or before the first day of July in each year, certify to the state auditor the average rate of taxation for county, school and municipal purposes in their respective counties for such year, and on or before the first day of September, of each year, the state auditor shall make a true average of the several counties as certified to him, and shall compute the tax upon the several railroads in this state, according to such ratio on the assessed valuation, and shall transmit certificates to the president, or other chief officer of as railroad company, a statement of the amount of taxes so assessed and due from such road, which sum such railroad company shall, on or before the first day of January, thereafter, pay to the treasurer of the state, and in the event of the neglect or refusal of any railroad company to pay such taxes as hereinbefore provided, it shall be the duty of the governor of the state to seize such railroad and its appurtenances, and hold and operate the same by such agents or persons appointed by him for that purpose, until such time as the net income shall pay all taxes so assessed. *Provided, however*, that any road paying such tax before the first day of January, in each year, shall be entitled to the same discounts and rebates as may be by law allowed to other tax-payers; and in addition to the remedy of seizure hereinbefore provided for, the same penalties shall be imposed for neglect or refusal to pay all the time when and taxes imposed and assessed as may be by law imposed upon other tax-payers.

Sec. 2. All state paid or received into the treasury of this state under the provisions of the preceding section, shall be appropriated as follows: First, There shall be paid to the several counties, cities, towns and townships in this state, by which moneys have been subscribed and paid in aid of any railroad so assessed for taxes, a sum equal to the whole sum collected in such county, city, town or township, and the same proportion of the amount paid by such county, city or town in aid of such road beats to the whole sum paid by the state and all counties, cities, towns and townships on the line of said road. *Provided, however*, that the sum so paid to any county, city, town or township shall not exceed the amount which such county, city, town or township would derive from a tax levied upon the railroad property within its borders if assessed at the same rate as other property therein.

Sec. 3. All railroad taxes so collected, as aforesaid, shall be applied in payment of the interest and principal of the state debt contracted in aid of such railroad companies where special aid has been granted, and in all other cases shall constitute a special fund for the payment of the interest and principal of the general common indebtedness of the state; and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this section, it shall be the duty of the county court of each county, the mayor of each city, and the trustees of any incorporated town, to cause to be repaired and kept forever in with the state auditor, a statement of the amount subscribed and paid by each said county, city, town or township in aid of any railroad in this state, which statements shall be verified by the affidavits of the officers making the same, and the amount of tax to be paid over to such county city, town or township shall be determined by the state auditor therefrom, as hereinbefore provided, who shall draw his war