

## The Middletown Transcript.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.  
SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1886.

### The Delaware Whipping Post.

A great deal of twaddle has been written and published, recently, in and out of this State, on this subject. It has been characterized as a relic of barbarism and a disgrace to the civilization of the 19th century. We have no very high appreciation of the civilization of the 19th century, over and above that of several centuries preceding it, and readily conclude that any institution calculated to cast disgrace upon it, must be bad indeed. But, let us examine the matter a little, and see if there really is cause for the expenditure of all this surplus philanthropy over this Delaware whipping post, which so painfully affects the tender sensibilities of our mercenary moral sentimentalists. Submit the question to a practical test. Not one of the culprits punished by the lash, in New Castle, would prefer to take his whipping and go at large after it, to years of confinement in the penitentiaries of other States. And even where a short confinement of three or six months is imposed along with the lash, it would still be preferred, if the culprit's choice were consulted. This settles the question as to the humanity of the two kinds of punishment imposed for this grade of crime. Clearly, the lash is the lightest punishment, and per consequence, the most humane. It is disagreeable to witness the infliction of punishment, we grant; but let any one, who has seen the operation of the whipping-post, go to some State Penitentiary and witness the sadness and gloom which hang like a pall upon the countenances of the wretched convicts, and ask himself how many of them would not prefer to take the lash and their liberty to the weary years of confinement, if the alternative were presented to them. So much for the inhumanity of the thing. A great deal more might be said, but this will suffice.

On the score of public economy, the Delaware system of punishment has much more to commend it than the expensive State prisons of other States. It will not be denied, we presume, that punishment of some kind is necessary for the protection of society against the vicious marauders that would prey upon it. But why should society punish itself, in the infliction of punishment upon the vicious? This is done by the State-prison system. These expensive establishments are a heavy burden upon the body politic, in the way of taxation for their support. Few, if any of them, have ever been self-sustaining. The basis of their organization is, to arrest the vicious members of society and support them at the public expense. The system here, is, to punish, corporally, and turn them loose to support themselves, instead of being a charge upon society. Is this not the wiser course, as well as the most economical, and the most humane?

### The Proposed Railroad from Hallowtown to Elkton.

The Eastern Star is sanguine as to the projected enterprise. After recounting what has already been done, he asks:—"Why should not the railroad from Hallowtown to Elkton be built? It is emphatically a Maryland road, intended to put the city of Baltimore in close railroad connection with the Eastern Shore counties—without 'going round the horn,' via Wilmington! The mutual interests of Baltimore and the Eastern Shore demand that this branch road should be built, and that speedily. It is also essential to enable us to flank the 'Delaware monopoly.' And there is only one thing which can defeat the early construction of the road, namely: the useless throwing away of the resources of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company upon the shippers who are now plotting to get possession of them. If the affairs of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad Company are properly directed, the road can be completed to Eastern without materially increasing its floating debt, and leave a large balance to aid in building the branch from Hallowtown to Elkton; and we understand that Cecil county has \$60,000 in cash all ready to be put into the road, and that responsible parties in Cecil have pledged themselves to raise the amount to \$100,000. Baltimoreans have also signified their willingness to contribute \$100,000 towards its construction. The branch is 25 miles long, and will cost only about \$300,000. When built it will be a paying road, as it will run through a very fine country, and will afford facilities for freight, the lumber, coal, lime, &c. from Port Deposit, so much required on the Eastern Shore. The road can, ought and will be built; and although the editor of the Transcript is considerably our senior, we expect and believe that he will live to see it.

A letter from Washington says:—"Speculations as to the probable cost of General Grant's Cabinet continue to occupy all circles of society here, yet only a single point seems to be held in common, and that is, that the persistent effort, which will be made to force Edwin M. Stanton upon General Grant will prove successful.

The Electors met in their respective State capitals, on Wednesday last, and cast their votes for President and Vice President.

WINTER.—Tuesday was the first day of the season, according to the almanac, and for once the weather and the almanac were in full accord, for the atmosphere was emphatically wintry, and has been so ever since. The season awakens reflections as varied as the temperament, the state or condition of man. To the poor it is "dread winter," where "horror wide extends his desolate domain;" "sullen and sad, with all his rising train of vapours, clouds and storms." To the rich, these are the joyous winter days, crowned with festive enjoyments, home happiness, and all the comforts and delights that the hours of long uninterrupted evening know. The seasons, in their turn, have each their own peculiar attractions and pleasures for man. Some prefer the budding glories and opening promise of Spring; some, the bright golden hours of the glowing Summer; and some, the "melancholy days" of sober Autumn. But Winter has its pleasures too:

Winter! I love thee, for thou com'st to me, Laden with joys congenial to my mind, Books that with birds and solitude agree, And all those virtues which adorn mankind. What though the meadows, and the neighbor's hill, That rear their cloudy summits in the sky—What though the woodland brooks, and low-land rills, That charm'd our ears, and gratified our eyes, In thy forlorn habitations appear? What though the zephyrs of the summer tide, And all the softer beauties of the year, Are fled and gone, kind heaven's ban not denied Our books and studies, music, conversation, And evening parties for our recreation; And these suffice, for seasons such'd away, Till spring leads forth the slowly-length'ning day.

The Cambridge Democrat and Herald proposes a canal from the head of Little Black Water River to Cambridge, seven miles. The advantages would be, that wood, lumber, grain, stock, poultry and every article produced on the farm, would have a safe and cheap means of getting to market. Such a means of water communication would enable the fine oysters of Fishing Bay to be brought direct to Cambridge, where they could be shipped to Baltimore by steamer or by rail to Philadelphia. The thorough draining of thousands of acres of land along the canal, would triple the crops now yielded, and prove of immense advantage to the people generally.

It is stated in Washington that Minister McMahon, who succeeds Washburne in Paraguay, has received decisive instructions to proceed to Asuncion with Rear Admiral Davis and a naval squadron and redress the wrongs committed by Lopez on American citizens. McMahon at latest dates was at Rio Janeiro awaiting instructions.

D'Israeli, the British Premier, has resigned. The Times denounces what it terms his cowardly retreat, but the Post, Telegraph, News and Standard all applaud the prompt action of the Premier as calculated to save the Queen from embarrassment and his party from needless mortification.

Easton and Cambridge are discussing the question as to which is entitled to take the most prominent position among the towns on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. They will both have to yield that position to Elkton.

The claims of Hon. John A. J. Creswell, of Cecil, are urged in some of the Republican papers in Maryland, for a seat in Gen. Grant's cabinet, as a representative of the border States.

POLITICAL STATUS OF GEN. GRANT.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette writes:

"People generally here and hereabouts are beginning to realize the situation, and to perceive that the new President will be wholly in the hands of the extremists of his party."

The Cambridge Democrat and Herald announces that Congress meets on Monday next, and there will be a devil of a time, no doubt.

SPECIE PAYMENTS.—We have very faint hopes of a return to specie payments within any reasonable period of time, but we spread before our readers the following extracts from some of our exchanges upon the subject, which will pass only for what they are worth:

A Washington letter says:—"There is a powerful combination now forming in this city, headed by Jay Cooke, for the purpose of securing an early resumption of specie payments. The combination is said to embrace a large number of the ablest men in the Republican ranks, who repudiate the proposition of Senator Sherman to prepare for resumption two years hence. They express the determination to have specie payments at a much earlier day, and the purpose is to press for an immediate resumption. A leading politician here, who professes to be in combination, says, that the scheme is fully endorsed by General Grant, who will throw the whole weight of his influence in its favor, and who will take an active part in securing its success.

It is stated that Senator Sumner recently expressed himself as determined to take a stand in Congress for the immediate resumption of specie payments.

In the absence of more exciting topics, the newspapers here (Washington) are discussing with vehemence the question of 'resuming' specie payments.

The New York Commercial is discussing, with the Times, the feasibility of resuming specie payments.

### LOCAL AFFAIRS.

MR. GREELY'S LECTURE.—Quite a number of persons from Middletown and vicinity purpose attending Mr. Greely's lecture on "Self-Made Men," to be delivered at Elkton on Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock. Mr. Greely is not much of a favorite among our citizens, but his notoriety attracts, not less than the subject of his lecture, which is a very popular one, and which the lecturer possesses the ability to present to his auditors in a very attractive form, provided he will keep his peculiar idiosyncrasies out of view.

Rev. A. A. Willis, will also deliver a lecture in the Odd Fellows' Hall, at Elkton, on Thursday evening, January 14, 1887. Subject—"Sunshine the Secret of Happiness."

POST OFFICE AFFAIRS.—A new post office is established at Urvellie, Kent county, Md. and Henry M. Rollison appointed postmaster; directly on the route from Elkton to Chestertown, on which service is six times a week. At Fieldsboro', New Castle county, Del. Edward Silex, Jr. is appointed postmaster, vice Joseph C. Hutchison, resigned. At Felton Station, Kent county, Del. M. Norris Stevenson is appointed postmaster, vice Wm. H. Cain, failed to bond.

IMPROVEMENTS IN MIDDLETOWN.—There have been erected in Middletown, during this year, twenty-two dwelling houses, one brick and two frame store houses, one steam saw factory, one large brick town hall, seventy feet square, and one large warehouse, besides stables and other out-buildings. Where is the town of not more than one thousand inhabitants, that can show more extensive improvements during the year?

Fairs, festivals, hops, lectures, concerts and sociables, are all projected, here, this winter, in view of the speedy completion of the Town Hall. Our citizens are fond of amusement, and will not lack that kind of aliment after the Hall is finished. A public Library and Lyceum, are also contemplated. Several gentlemen, with most commendable liberality and public spirit, have expressed a determination to make donations in aid of a Library.

The Cecil Democrat says:—"Easton papers say that a railroad is projected from Elkton to Hallowtown, in Caroline county, thereby to secure an equal chance for Baltimore, etc. This may be 'projected,' but it will never be built, nor would it pay if it should. If the people below want a direct route to Baltimore, they can readily secure it at a less cost, by making a short road from Elkton to Middletown.

Duck-shooting on the Bohemia and Sasfras rivers, has been quite lively this Fall. Two young gentlemen killed 66, in 24 hours, recently, on the Bohemia. They secured forty-eight, and eighteen others could not be secured, on account of the stormy day. We are indebted to one of the gentlemen alluded to, who is a capital shot, for a brace of fine black-heads.

A rumor was current here, some days since, that Mr. Charles Smith, carpenter, formerly of this town, was knocked overboard and drowned, from an oyster boat, between Wilmington and Philadelphia, on the 18th of November. This cannot be true, as a letter has been received here since from Mr. Smith, dated New Haven, Ct. Nov. 21st, 1886.

A protracted meeting has been in progress at the Warwick Methodist Protestant Church, for five weeks. Rev. Dr. Ewell, pastor. Forty-eight persons have been added to the Church, in that place, and about sixty have professed a change of heart. The meeting is still in progress.

Mr. Wm. Moat is building on Lake street, a frame tenement, 35 by 28 feet. Mr. John Morrison, contractor. Mr. Morrison is also erecting two back buildings for Mrs. Lydia V. Cannon, on Main street.

Mr. Lingo is building a dwelling house for Mr. Thomas W. Bucke, on Lake st.

Elizabeth Massey, a colored woman living on the farm of Mr. Samuel Fenimore, near Odessa, had the thumb of her left hand amputated on Monday last, by Dr. G. G. Chamberlaine, of this town, on account of bone fester. Chloric Ether was administered to facilitate the operation.

John Peoples, of Christians Hundred, was on Wednesday chosen Cashier of the National Union Bank of Delaware, at Wilmington, vice Joseph W. Day.

The Gazette says that the liabilities of Mr. Day, the late defaulting cashier, will amount to \$44,500.

FRESH FISH.—Our town has been supplied for some weeks past, with pike, perch, and mullets, from Noxentown mill-pond. They are taken by the gill-net, and are sold at ten cents per pound.

An election for nine Directors will be held in the banking house at Odessa, on Wednesday, the 6th of January next, at 3 o'clock, P. M. See notice of Cashier, in our advertising columns.

Wm. C. T. Poulson, convicted of forgery a year or so ago, and confined since at New Castle, has been unconditionally pardoned by the President of the United States and set at liberty.

The bridge over the Sasfras river, between Georgetown and Fredericktown, is nearly completed. This will be a great public convenience, one which has long been needed.

Mr. Isaac Slaughter, of Cecil, mail carrier between that place and Middletown, slaughtered a hog a few days ago, which weighed 551 pounds. It was eighteen months old.

The Milford Mutual Friend says:—"Vendues are numerous. It seems as if the farmers in this vicinity were packing up their traps to emigrate.

A festival for the benefit of the M. E. Parsonage, began at Galena, Kent county, Md. on Thursday last, and will be continued this evening.

Mr. J. C. Lippincott, of the National Hotel, slaughtered four hogs on Tuesday, which weighed 1440 pounds, the largest weighing 406 pounds.

Sheriff Herbert has had under his keeping the past two years 307 prisoners, not one of whom escaped.

In the Court at New Castle, on Thursday, the jury in the case of Wm. M. Johnson vs. Samuel Townsend, (a civil action to recover damages for assault and battery) awarded a verdict for the plaintiff of \$200.

Joseph Shirby, indicted for arson, pleaded guilty a day or two since, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500, to pay \$1,000 restitution, costs of suit, and on Saturday next, December 5, to stand in the pillory thirty minutes, to be whipped with twenty lashes and imprisoned four years. Four other prisoners, convicted of petty larceny, were sentenced to be whipped on the same day, to pay fines, and to undergo various terms of imprisonment.

State vs. Aaron Conner, charged with rape, continued from last term, postponed until next court.

Mr. John Morrison, carpenter, and Mr. Frank Stevens, an employee, while at work on Mr. Moat's building, in this town, on Wednesday, were precipitated to the ground, a distance of seventeen feet, by the breaking of the scaffold. Both were considerably stunned and bruised by the fall, but fortunately sustained no severe injury. Another of the workmen saved himself from falling by clinging to the cornice, and climbing in at the window.

SALE OF A VALUABLE FARM.—Mr. W. J. Brittingham, trustee, sold last week 700 acres of the Essex Farm, lying on the Pocomoke river, to Messrs. J. C. Matthews and William Polk, of Odessa, Delaware, for the sum of \$18,000. The home-stead and improvements lying south of the road leading from Stevens' Ferry to Rehoboth are embraced in the purchase. —Somerset Herald.

Mr. Charles P. Cochran, of this vicinity, slaughtered 19 hogs, last year, which averaged 448 lbs. C. has 15 head to slaughter now, which will probably equal in size those of last year.

A number of Army and Navy officers assembled at Fort Delaware, on Thursday, to witness the result of the experimental firing of heavy ordnance.

LAND SALE.—Benj. Caulk, Esq. has sold his two farms in Appoquinimink Hd. containing about 310 acres, to Wm. E. Riley, Esq. for \$25,000.

The farm of Mrs. Susan B. Foard, on Bohemia Manor, advertised for sale in these columns, has been withdrawn from sale.

Coal is selling in Wilmington at:—Nut, \$9; Egg, \$9.75 @ \$10; Stove, \$10 @ \$11.

Fresh pork is selling here at \$10 per hundred pounds.

### Things in Kent County, Md.

STEAM YACHT.—General R. Clay Crawford, of Philadelphia, a Federal officer during the late war, again visited our town this week in his steam yacht, Tennessee. The General first visited our town some two weeks since, and he was so much pleased with its location and the beauty of Chester river, that he immediately entered into negotiations for the purchase of the late residence, with the grounds, of E. F. Chambers, deceased. On this, the General's second visit, the purchase was completed, for the sum of fifty-four hundred dollars. The General, we learn, will modernize and thoroughly repair the house, as a residence during part of the year. His steam yacht was built in Philadelphia and cost eleven thousand dollars. She has a powerful engine, which has some new features; and she can make, in calm weather, fifteen miles an hour. Her owner uses her for ducking and fishing and water excursions. The General says she is the first steam yacht built in this country, and is a complete success in every particular. —Chestertown Transcript.

BANK RESIGNATION.—We learn that Col. Spencer, Cashier of Kent National Bank, intends resigning his position to take effect the first of January ensuing. Col. Spencer is engaged very largely in the peach business, having near eighteen thousand trees on his place. In addition to this, he is now commencing the cultivation of small fruits—strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and cranberries—on a large scale, which, if as successful as his peaches have been, will get the same number one reputation in the markets of our cities. These things, we presume, will command the whole time of the Colonel, and has determined his withdrawal from the Bank. —Kent News.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—The farm on which C. C. Smith resides, containing 301 acres, was sold at trustee's sale, on Tuesday, by R. Hynson, Esq. and purchased by John T. Edwards, of Cumberland, at \$20,000 cash. The same gentleman, as attorney for John Kennedy, sold at Kennedyville, on Saturday last, eleven building lots in that village, ranging in price from \$5 to \$11 per front foot. —Kent News.

AFFAIRS IN CECIL COUNTY.—The Elkton (Md.) papers contain the following items: On Wednesday last, a young white man, named Taylor McDowell, and two colored men, named Rogers, were drowned in the Susquehanna, near Port Deposit. They with others were at work among drift logs, and their skiff took water to such an extent that for safety they jumped overboard to swim ashore, but the cold water made them helpless. Three others clung to the skiff and drifted ashore.

On Saturday last, while two youths, named Chas. Lowe and Benj. Simcoe, of Northeast, were out ducking, by some means the gun of Simcoe was fired, and the whole load lodged in the side of Lowe, causing instant death. The deceased was a son of Ephraim P. Lowe, Esq.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN FRANCE.—Never since the establishment of the second French empire has the government adopted so despotic measures against the press as it does at present. All the Paris papers which have received subscriptions for the erection of a monument to Baudin, the republican deputy who lost his life in defending the republic against the coup d'etat, are being heavily fined. There is no country in Europe, remarks the New York Tribune, which has at present equally odious press laws, except perhaps Russia and Turkey. —Balt. Sun.

### Men of Wealth.

An account before us of the luxurious style of living among some of the English aristocracy throws the most brilliant of our American "swells" considerably into the shade. About sixty miles from London is the estate of the Earl of Spencer, which comprises ten thousand acres, divided into parks, meadows, pastures, woods and gardens. His library contains fifty thousand volumes, and is said to be the finest private library in the world. The Duke of Richmond's home farm consists of twenty-three thousand acres, or over thirty-five square miles, and this is in crowded England, which has in all only an area of 50,000 square miles, or just thirty-five millions of acres, giving, were the land divided, less than two acres to each inhabitant. The residence of the Duke is fitted up with Oriental magnificence. Twenty-five race horses stand in his stables, each under the care of a special groom. The dishes and plate upon the table are all of porcelain, silver and gold. His aviary is supplied with almost every variety of rare and elegant birds, and large herds of cattle, sheep and deer are spread over the immense lawns. The same authority from which we gather these facts, says that the Duke of Devonshire's palace, at Chatsworth, excels in magnificence any other in the kingdom. He spends the whole of his enormous income. In the grounds about the house are kept 400 head of cattle, and 1,400 deer. The kitchen garden contains twelve acres, and is filled with almost every species of fruit and vegetables. A vast arboretum connected with this establishment is designed to contain a sample of every tree that grows. There is also a glass conservatory 387 feet in length, 112 feet in breadth, 67 feet in height, covered by 76,000 square feet of glass, and warmed by seven miles of pipe, conveying hot water. One plant was obtained by a special messenger, and is valued at \$10,000. One of the fountains, near the house, plays 276 feet high, said to be the highest in the world. Chatsworth contains 3,500 acres, but the Duke owns 96,000 acres in the county of Derbyshire. Within the entire is one vast scene of paintings, sculpture, mosaic work, carved woodwork, and all the elegancies and luxuries within the reach of almost boundless wealth and highly refined taste. Five-sixths of the soil of England is divided among scarcely thirty thousand proprietors. There are twenty-nine bankers in London whose transactions yearly embrace six or seven hundred millions sterling.

Mrs. HARRIET BRECHER STOWE CONVERTED.—We hear from Florida that Mrs. Beecher Stowe, the authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," who a year or two ago bought a place on the St. Johns river near Jacksonville, says she wants to live long enough to write another book to correct the mistakes of "Uncle Tom," and to show that a great blunder was committed when slavery was abolished. From her first condition of sentimental attachment to the negro she has lapsed into a state of unconquerable dislike and aversion. She will not have them about her, either in doors or out. She turned them all off her place, and allows no one with a black skin to approach her. We are told that an acquaintance of ours sought to send her a message by a black stevedore on board a steamboat, but she refused to allow the negro to approach her. Her mind, as we have been credibly informed, is very much inflamed against the negro; and this, probably, from comparing their efficiency and aptitude as laborers and servants with that of the Northern whites. Her fancy picture of the African has been spoiled, and her sentimental affection has turned, in consequence, to violent aversion. —Masson, Ga. Telegraph.

HUNTIQUET'S FALL.—The New Nation, the Richmond organ of extreme radicalism, has subsided from a daily to a weekly, the Rev. Mr. Huntiquet, its editor, having announced in his Saturday's issue that "owing to unexampled prostration" he was forced to suspend the publication of the daily from that date. Mr. Huntiquet, who is a clerical politician of the Brownlow order and spirit, and the recognized political high priest of the freed-men, was a prominent candidate for the nomination of the republican convention of Virginia for Governor, but failed to get it. Gen. Wells, late of Michigan, who represents what claims to be the more conservative wing of the republican party in Virginia, having obtained the nomination by a large majority. It would seem as if the situation in Virginia were brightening a little, when the recognized exponent of ultra radicalism has thus fallen out of favor with his own party.

Mrs. A. Gatewood, of 37 Bleecker street, New York, a day or two ago stole a quantity of lace from Mrs. Eaton, a dressmaker. On Tuesday, detectives arrested her, when she confessed her guilt, and asked a few minutes privacy before accompanying the officers. She was permitted to retire, and failing to return, the officers went up-stairs, and found she had cut her throat with a razor and was dead. Her friends state she was subject to kleptomania.

THE SUGAR CROP.—The Louisiana papers say the season has been a splendid one for the sugar planters, and they are making preparations for more extensive cultivation of the cane next year. The yield of the cane is everywhere greater than has been known for years back, and the quality of the sugar is superior to that of past times. At the present prices of sugar and molasses the planters will relieve themselves of many of their embarrassments.

In the United States Circuit Court at Richmond on Monday, Robert Ould, counsel for Mr. Jefferson Davis, moved to quash the indictment on the ground that the Fourteenth amendment proscribes the mode for punishing participation in the rebellion, which is disfranchisement, and no other punishment is prescribed. The prosecution moved to postpone the motion until the latter part of the term, but Chief Justice Chase decided to hear arguments on the motion on Thursday.

### The Grandeur of Nature.

We live peacefully on the surface of the earth, while oceans of fire roll beneath our feet. In the great womb of the globe the everlasting forge is at work. How dreadful must an earthquake be, when we are told by Pliny that twelve cities in Asia Minor were swallowed up in one night! Not a vestige remained; they were lost in the tremendous maw forever! Millions of human beings have been swallowed up while flying for safety. In the bowels of the earth nature performs her wonders at the same moment that she is firing the heavens with her lightnings. Her thunder rolls above our head and beneath our feet, where the eye of mortal man never penetrated. In the vast vortex of the volcano the universal forge empties its melted metals. The roar of Atna has been the knell of thousands, when it poured forth its catarrh of fire over one of the fairest portions of the earth, and swept into ruins ages of industry. In the reign of Titus Vespasian, in the year 70, the volcano of Vesuvius dashed its fiery billows to the clouds, and buried in burning lava the cities of Herculaneum, Stabæ and Pompei, which then flourished near Naples. In the streets once busy with the hum of industry, and where the celebrated ancients walked, the modern philosopher now stands and ruminates upon fallen grandeur. While the inhabitants were unmindful of the danger which awaited them; while they were basking with plans of wealth and greatness, the irresistible flood of fire came roaring from the mountain, and shrouded them in the eternal night. Seventeen centuries have rolled over them, and their lonely habitation and works remain as their monuments. They were swept away in the torrent of time; the waves of ages have settled over them, and at alone preserved their memory. Great nature, how sublime are all thy works!

### THE PERPETUAL SESSION OF CONGRESS.

—There is a movement on foot for the repeal of the act providing for a perpetual session of Congress. The act, it will be remembered, was passed January 22, 1867, and provides that in addition to the present regular time of the meeting of Congress there shall be a meeting of the Fortieth Congress of the United States and of each successive Congress thereafter at twelve o'clock M. on the 4th day of March, the day on which the term begins for which the Congress is elected, thus, in effect, making the session of Congress the whole year round. When it was adopted it had a special object in view—namely, to watch Andrew Johnson, that terrible executive officer, lest during some interval of congressional repose he might perpetrate some bold act that would upset reconstruction and destroy the radical party. That danger having passed, leading radicals consider there is no longer any necessity for exhausting vigilance, and go in for a little rest hereafter. It is probable the act will be repealed this winter. —Washington Correspondence of the New York Herald.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Mrs. Leslie and her two children were burned to death at Sing Sing, on Saturday evening, in consequence of the upsetting of a kerosene lamp. The mother was holding her infant in her arms, and her little boy, aged three years, was playing under a table on which a kerosene lamp was burning. The little fellow in his play kicked the table, and the kerosene spilling over ignited, exploding the lamp. The flaming fluid ran down upon the boy, setting his clothing on fire. The mother, seeing his peril, placed her babe upon the floor and rushed to the rescue of her son. She was in flames in a moment, and the treacherous fluid also encircled the infant setting its clothing on fire. The piercing shrieks of the mother and her children soon brought the neighbors to her rescue, and the consuming flames were speedily extinguished, but not until the three victims were so horribly burned as to result in death.

A double murder occurred at Prestonburg, Ky. a few days since. A constable named John Moore, while striving to collect a debt from William Huff, had a quarrel with him. Moore then armed himself, and meeting Huff shot him dead in the street. Moore was arrested, but a son of Huff, fearing the murderer of his father would escape, went to the jail, and calling Moore to the window of his cell, shot him in the head, inflicting a fatal wound. Public opinion there was very strong against Moore, and justifies his murder.

We are pained to announce that the estimable wife of Bishop Lee of this diocese—Julia White Lee—died at the residence of her husband, in Wilmington on Sunday morning. For several weeks past Mrs. Lee had been seriously afflicted with what appeared to be a cold, but which rapidly developed itself as wasting consumption. —Journal and Statesman.

SNOW IN RUSSIA.—The foreign papers of the 16th say that there has been such a heavy fall of snow upon the Alps that for two days the traffic upon the Fell railway over Mount Cenis, both for goods and passengers, has been suspended. The Italian says that many of the travelers proceeding to France were compelled to return to Genoa and embark there for Marseilles.

The municipal election in New York on Tuesday resulted in the success of the Democratic ticket. A. Oakley Hall was elected Mayor and Richard O'Gorman Corporation Counsel, by 54,000 majority, in a vote of about 75,000.

A few nights since T. F. Timmons, a cattle dealer, while passing a bridge near West Jefferson, O. was thrown from his horse by a cord thrown across the bridge, and robbed of \$7,500 by two highwaymen. George Rounds, Wm. Wells and Wm. Wilson, are to be hung at Prisoners' Alley, Md. on the 5th of January for the murder of the captain and mate of the schooner Brave, in March last.

A destructive fire broke out in a large drug store in Market street, above Sixth, Philadelphia, on Thursday, which spread until it destroyed property to the amount of \$500,000.

### Items of News.

A small frame house near Pho's wharf, Accomac County, Va. occupied by a negro family, was recently burned, and four children roasted in the flames. Efforts were made to rescue the children, but they were unavailing, the building being enveloped in flames when the fire was discovered, and there being nobody in the house except the children.

The bee-raisers in the vicinity of Louisville, for a circuit of twenty-five miles, were recently startled by the discovery that their bees had all simultaneously decamped, going no one knew whither. The mystery is still unsolved. The deserted hives were all full of honey, containing from sixty to seventy-five pounds each.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued an order to collectors of Internal Revenue directing them to deposit all public moneys, after the 1st of December, with an Assistant United States Treasurer, or with a designated public depository, and to discontinue the practice of depositing with National Banks.

John Nevins, a native of Ireland, and living with his son at Underhill, Vermont, is said to be 117 years old, and yet is as vigorous as a man of sixty. He has worked on his son's farm during the past season. He is the father of thirteen children, the "baby" of the family being fifty years old.

It is stated that Clarkson S. Potter, of New York, gets a fee of \$300,000 from the London bankers, Overend, Gurney & Co. for prosecuting their suits against the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company. Mr. Potter is a son of Bishop Potter, and a democratic Congressman elect.

The rice crop of Plaquemine Parish, La. is said to be this year the largest and best ever made. The rice planters will ship to market over 25,000 barrels, 230 pounds each, of clean rice. The sugar crop of that parish is expected to amount to 10,000 or 12,000 hogheads.

Some time during Tuesday night last Miss Peck, a relative of the Collector of the Port of Mobile, and a passenger on board the steamer Sarah, from that city to New Orleans, had stolen from under her pillow nine thousand dollars in greenbacks.

A bill is on its third reading in the Tennessee Legislature providing that lawyers who do not gain their cases shall not receive any fee. The idea is to prevent needless litigation, which is stimulated by unscrupulous lawyers.

The Union Pacific road conveys passengers one thousand four hundred and thirty miles from Chicago. "Only ten days to California" is advertised by the company, in connection with the Wells-Fargo Express.

Ashler L. Smith, a produce dealer, was knocked down on Cambridge bridge, Massachusetts, Sunday night, and robbed of over \$1,500 and a gold watch. The robber escaped without being identified.

The sleighing is excellent in Oxford, Franklin, and Androscoggin counties, in Maine. At Livermore Falls snow was a foot deep a few days ago, and at Farmington there was still more.

The ship Helleponne, from Melbourne, Australia, went to pieces near San Francisco, Cal. on Thursday, and eleven of her crew, including the captain and mate, were lost.

Mrs. Thomas Williams, the wife of a St. Louis huckster, gave birth to four living children last Tuesday—three girls and one boy. Two of the children have died.

It is stated that Mary Hayes, the Louisville courtesan who fell heir to five hundred thousand dollars in gold, is lying in the last stages of consumption in this city.

Governor Scott, of South Carolina, sent in his message to the Legislature on Monday. He says no State is more solvent or has a fairer prospect of meeting her liabilities.

The Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis has adopted resolutions approving the bill now before Congress favoring the uniting of telegraphing with the postal department. A box containing upward of \$50,000 in securities of various kinds was taken from the safe of the Pequot Bank, of Bridgeport, on Monday afternoon.

About 160 barrels of ale were run off into the sewers of Buffalo the other day, the watchman of the brewery having been drowned in the vat containing it.

The negro woman, Martha Starkey, is still in jail in Centerville, under the indictment of assault and battery with intent to kill Mrs. Guillemin.

A Salt Lake despatch says that new and rich silver mines have been discovered on White river, the ore yielding from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per ton.

Snow fell to the depth of eight inches in Shoreham, Vt. on Saturday, while in Ogdensburg, which lies adjoining, the farmers were plowing.

John Powell died in a New York ball room on Thanksgiving night. Too much dancing and heart disease were the cause. A Florence correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette says that Garibaldi is determined to leave Capri and go to America.

The newspapers having announced everything else about Reverend Johnson, now say he has forty grandchildren.

Sheet music reproduced in a miniature shape by means of the camera, has made its appearance in New York.

Mrs. Moran, 105 years old, died on Thursday, in the Mercy Hospital, Chicago.

She was born in Ireland in 1783.

The third Ohio congressional district gave Schenck 475 majority for Congress. Grant's majority is 1,614.

Minnesota pays \$10 apiece for wolf scalps, and in the past year has expended \$10,000 in such purchases.

It is stated that Senator Sherman, of Ohio, is not an aspirant for a place in Gen. Grant's cabinet.

A Newburg (N. Y.) lady has been made the mother of four children at one birth—two boys and two girls.

The revolutionary movement in Costa Rica proved successful, and Jimenez has been installed as President.