

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1877.

THURSDAY, the 19th inst., is to be observed in Minnesota as "a special day of prayer for the annihilation of grass-hoppers."

SECRETARY SCHURZ failed to rise to the full stature of a civil service reformer in appointing ex-Secretary Chandler's chief clerk and henchman to be assistant Secretary of the Interior. His name is Bell.

THE annual tax levy of the city of Detroit (for local purposes only), as just fixed and determined by the Board of Estimates, aggregates \$869,855.60; a reduction of \$42,395 from the estimates of the Common Council.

IN NOVEMBER Wayne County gave 18,726 votes for Presidential electors; but the total vote of the county at the recent election was only 9,277. No charter election in Detroit and a meager vote in the city.

THE Rev. Wm. A. Muhlenberg, author of that old and popular hymn (written 54 years ago), "I would not live away," died on Sunday night last, at his rooms in St. Luke's Hospital, New York, of which he was superintendent, in the 81st year of his age.

NOW THAT Chamberlain has switched himself off the track the public eye is fixed on Packard. The anti-Hayes Republicans are calling upon him to "stick," but the indications favor the early dissolution of his Legislature, and that accomplished he will have to take himself out of the way.

THIS came over the wires from Columbia, South Carolina, on Tuesday afternoon: "The United States troops were formed in line and moved out of the State House at noon to-day." One more victory in behalf of State rights as guaranteed by the Constitution.

SENATOR BURLEIGH'S bill prohibiting the issue of free railroad passes to judges of the Supreme and Circuit Courts and members of the Legislature came to grief on Tuesday, all after the enacting clause being struck out. It deserved a better fate.

THE Southern hotel, St. Louis, was burned at an early hour Wednesday morning, or but little after midnight. Eleven persons, guests and servants, lost their lives, and the number is supposed to be greater. The loss is nearly \$1,000,000, with an insurance a little less than \$500,000.

THAT was a good message Gov. Crosswell sent into the Senate on Friday last, giving his reasons for permitting the bill creating the Twenty-third Judicial Circuit to become a law without his signature. His reasoning against a further division and increase of circuits is forcible and convincing, and in view of it we think that he made a mistake in not vetoing the bill.

AT LAST the Senate has adopted a joint resolution increasing the salaries of circuit judges to \$2,500. The vote stood: yeas, 22 (just enough); nays, 6. A proviso was attached requiring a rearrangement of the circuits after the census of 1880, no circuit to have a population less than 100,000. This figure will throw too many counties into some of the northern circuits, and make the judge a circuit rider in earnest.

SENATOR PATTERSON, of South Carolina, is credited with saying: "I tell you who we carpet-baggers ought to do. Why, d—n it, we ought all to resign and let the Democrats get the Senate." Sensible at the last, even if spite is at the bottom of his logic, instead of an honest acknowledgment that the carpet-baggers should resign because misrepresentatives of their States.

THE seat of Belford, Republican, admitted to the recent Congress as member from the new State of Colorado, and claiming a seat in the next Congress, will be contested by Patterson, Democrat. Belford claims to have been elected to the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses at the same time. Patterson claims that Belford's pretended election to the Forty-fifth Congress was irregular and illegal, and that he was regularly and legally elected in November last.

THE Supreme Court, in its recent decision denying a mandamus in behalf of the Auditor-General and against the Board of Supervisors of Monroe county, threw a bomb-shell into the State offices and the halls of the Legislature. The decision cuts off an anticipated source of revenue to the State and promises a depletion of the treasury. Gov. Crosswell sent in a special message on Monday, and the Legislature is now wrestling with the question. The decision is undoubtedly correct, and exposes the ignorance of legislators in dealing with questions of taxation. Washtenaw county is shown by the schedule to be a small debtor to the State.

"STEEPED down and out": that is what Gov. Chamberlain, of South Carolina, did at the hour of high noon on Wednesday, turning the executive office and its effects over to Gov. Hampton. Reason, as assigned by his official associates and advisers: "We are unanimous in the belief that to prolong the contest in the absence of that moral aid to which we feel ourselves and our party justly entitled at the hands of the National Administration, installed in a large measure through the same agencies which are now held to be insufficient for our maintenance, will be to incur the responsibility of keeping alive partisan prejudices which are in the last degree detrimental to the best interests of the people of the State, and perhaps of precipitating a physical conflict that could have but one result to a defenseless constituency." And, won't that be a grand text for Wendell Phillips and call out one of his most eloquent and demon-like philippics. He will lecture the political hide of Hayes and his "slave-hold Cabinet" without mercy.

LEGISLATIVE DICTATORS.

Being natural-born blunderers or intermeddlers, or incited thereto by vicious outside intriguers and partisans, —we neither know nor care which, — certain members of the Legislature are reported as having assumed the humble role of petitioners to the Board of Regents of the University. The petition, said to be the offspring of a legislative caucus, —Speaker Rich being one of the numerous signers, modestly prays:

- 1. That the Regents convene in special session at their earliest convenience.
2. That when convened they re-instate Dr. Rose in his old position in the laboratory.
3. That they refund to him \$850, which they seem to assume that he paid over to the University, about the time the deficiencies were discovered, under at least a semi-compulsion; and,
4. That they order a withdrawal of the chancery suit brought against Dr. Rose (in connection with Dr. Douglas), and now pending, making Douglas sole defendant.

And this after a long and expensive investigation, set on foot for the nominal purpose of furnishing information to aid intelligent legislators, but really, —as shown by its methods of pursuit, by the thoroughly pettifogging argument of the report, by the one-sided and sometimes lame conclusions, and by the action under discussion,—in the interest of parties outside of the University. This, too, in the face of a report which still leaves a portion of the missing funds in the hands of Dr. Rose. This, too, in the face of the well-known fact that the report of a legislative committee is not in the nature of a decision or decree of a court of law or equity, and binds nobody to restore and pay over the missing moneys. This, too, in face of the fact that nothing but the decision or decree of a court, probably of the court of last resort, will be final in any sense, satisfy the public, and compel restitution.

The bare statement of these points is sufficient to show the absurdity of the proceeding, and also to raise the presumption that the movers in the matter have not the utmost confidence that the verdict or decree of a court would correspond with the conclusions of the committee. A suit in chancery, equally implicating Drs. Douglas and Rose, is a proceeding that will dispose of every issue at one and the same time, and make a final end of it. If such a decree shall be against Dr. Douglas for the whole amount, Dr. Rose will go out of court honorably and triumphantly acquitted. If it shall find a portion of the moneys in the hands of each, each will be held accordingly. Withdraw the suit, proceed against Dr. Douglas, get a decree against him for but a portion,—not an impossible result,—and a new suit against Dr. Rose would then be necessary, involving extra expense and delay, where expense and delay have already been too great.

The suit is now pending, under the amended bill, should have been brought fifteen months ago,—at the very date disagreement arose between Dr. Douglas and Dr. Rose as to the possession of and responsibility for the moneys not turned over to the University,—and it should now be prosecuted to the earliest termination. It will not do for the legislators who thus assume to hold a club—the club of no appropriations—over the Regents, to allege want of confidence in the courts. The party the legislative majority represent has every member of the Supreme Court, has but recently solemnly declared their ability and purity, and has just nominated, and the people have re-elected the chief-justice by such a majority as must be considered a vote of confidence.

Besides, it should have suggested itself to these officious legislators that the Regents are a constitutional body, responsible under their oaths to the people, and that to the Legislature, and that a threat disguised as a petition is a species of bull-dozing not within the constitutional prerogative of the Legislature. It can control the outgoings from the State treasury, or condition the appropriations it may make, either wisely or foolishly,—there is no constitutional guarantee of legislative wisdom or against legislative folly,—but it must not usurp the powers of the Regents. When it shall do that, either directly or indirectly, the doors of the University will be sealed,—the beginning of the end will be at hand.

—A great deal has been said here and there about a "University Ring," a "Mutual Admiration Society," etc., but we may be permitted to suggest to the knot or "ring"—whether local or denominational—which seems bent on rule or ruin, that responsibility for the failure of necessary appropriations will be branded upon their foreheads, and that the sober second thought of the well-wishing, honest, and genuine friends of the University,—not belonging either to a Douglas or Beal-Rose "ring," and wearing no man's collar,—will sooner or later compel them to hide their heads in shame. We would also suggest to the members of the dominant party in the Legislature to read anew and carefully, the resolution of the late State Convention, and to the minority members that the University was founded, cherished, and brought through adversity to prosperity by the Democratic fathers of the State, that under Democratic control no stain ever rested upon its good name, and that it is their duty to ignore all personal jealousies and considerations, and give their influence and votes to further build up and magnify the University,—to so vote that it shall not be made the foot-ball of either denominational, partisan, or legislative demagogues.

THE New York Court of Appeals has announced a very important decision: that is that the board of excise of New York City "have no power at law to grant licenses to persons other than keepers of inns, taverns, or hotels, to sell strong and spirituous liquors and wine to be drunk on the premises." The temperance people threaten immediate prosecution of the hundreds and thousands of saloon keepers holding licenses which are illegal and will afford them no protection.

THE LATE ELECTION—OFFICIAL.

The Board of County Canvassers met in the city on Tuesday, last, and canvassed the returns for Justice of the Supreme Court and Regents of the University. The official figures will be found below. The canvass of the vote on the Court House loan was not made, but will be made on Tuesday next. We, however, anticipate the canvass by giving a complete table of the vote, except for the town of Saline, the returns from which have not been filed in the office of the County Clerk. Against that town we give the majority reported in favor of the loan:

Table with columns: For the Loan, Against the Loan, Severn-Cooley. Rows include A. A. city, 1st ward, 2nd ward, etc., and various towns like Ann Arbor, Augustus, Bridgewater, etc.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

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The Suspension Bridge.

The inspection of the suspension bridge at Niagara, is virtually finished, and the official report will be published in a few days. Every link, spike, bolt, chain, anchorage, and cable in the vast structure has been carefully examined, and, as I am told by one of the engineers, found to be as good as new, sound and reliable beyond question. Whatever misgivings with respect to this bridge may have been created by the disaster at Ashabata, the inspection shows that they had no foundation. Should the mighty arch go down into the Niagara river to-morrow, no coroner's jury could ever find that the Great Western railway had not done all that human foresight and engineering skill could suggest to render such a calamity impossible.

The bridge was built by Mr. Roebeling in 1853-'54. Its four towers are each 90 feet in height, and constructed of out-stone blocks eighteen inches thick. The base of each tower is sixteen feet square and the top eight feet square, the cap-stone being ten feet square. Each tower is surmounted with an iron saddle with rollers upon which rest the cables, firmly holding the saddle in position. The rollers allow the cables to move each way in construction or expansion there is no additional strain upon them or the towers. At all other points of bearing are cut-stone caps, securing everything from the action of the elements. A massive arch connects the towers some 20 feet from the base above, which is in the railway track, and below, the carriage way. The anchor pit, cut in the solid rock, is 24x20 feet, and 24 feet deep, with drifts for anchor plates, weighing 6,000 pounds each, to which are attached chains with links 250 pounds each, which reach up through "gains" cut in the rock, when they connect with massive wrought-iron shafts, over the ends of which is looped the wire that forms the cables. The wires, brought to a tension of 1,200 pounds, are looped upon the shafts at the anchorage, which is filled with masonry and concrete, rendering it almost solid rock. The wire for the cables was put through a process of boiling in oil, with a glutinous mixture, being kept in the cauldrons thirty minutes, and then dried in the sun. It passes through this process three times, being thoroughly annealed and rendered impervious to water. It was then spliced. Each cable was composed of 5,000 strands, which is so spliced as to be in fact one continuous wire, 1,250 miles in length. Each strand was laid with a tension of 1,200 pounds. At each cable contains 1,250 miles of wire, the four contain 5,000 miles. The whole weight of wire is over 500 tons, giving a safe working capacity of 12,000 tons. It is estimated, however, that the cables would easily bear a strain of 15,000 tons. Connecting these cables with the bridges are 670 suspenders, each of 30 tons capacity, with 50 guys fastening the bridge to the river banks, extending from the center to the rocks in such a manner as to prevent a lateral or lifting movement by the wind. A single guy extending from one end of the bridge to the other with an engine and tender weighing 50 tons, would bring 326 tons, so that at their mean bearing capacity of 12,000 tons it would take forty trains on piled on top of the other to strain the cables.

The engineers will report that there has been no granulation, no corrosion, and no setting, save the slight natural spring of the cables. Cars have been passing over the structure day and night these twenty-two years past, and frequently one thousand cars have crossed it in a single day, yet it is absolutely as sound to-day as it was when the first train railed over it in 1854.

The people of Louisiana and South Carolina want the government of their choice, and if they can't get that will have no other except a military government. This is the whole matter in a nutshell, and fifty mixed commissions, with Wheeler at the head of each, cannot make more or less of it.—St. Louis Republican.

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