A message from the House was received announcing its concurrence in certain joint resolutions. The resolution providing for a joint assembly, on Tuesday next, for the election of certain State officers was reported back with amendments. Mr. Goodhue moved that the Senate do not concur, and on motion of Mr. Hendee the resolution was ordered to lie.

Reports—By committee on rules. Rules of the session of 1866 amended. The 17th rule is so changed as to place upon the committees on judiciary, claims and education, five members each, and also, to appoint a committee on railroads and on federal relations.

The rules as reported were adopted.

The following standing committee of the Senate were elected by a *viva voce* vote:

On Rules—Messrs Prout, Clapp, Bullard.

Finance—Senators Smith, Dewey, Walker.

Judiciary—Senators Kellogg, Dale, Hard, Prout, and Canfield.

Claims—Senators Hendee, Baker, Brown, Henry, Dyer.

Elections—Senators Goodhue, Orcutt, Atwood.

Education—Senators Lane, Martin, Anderson, Bullard, Hendee.

Agriculture—Senators Baker, Barrett, Leonard.

Manufactures—Senators Burt, Goodhue, Allen.

Military Affairs—Senators Henry, Barstow, Root.

Highways and Bridges—Dale, Clapp, Atwood.

Railroads—Senators Martin, Simpson, Smith.

Banks—Senators Root, Anderson, Barrett.

Land Taxes—Dale, Sanborn, Brown.

Printing—Orcutt, Sanborn, Dyer.

General Committee—Barstow, Hill, Canfield.

Federal Relations—Hill, Walker, Hard.

HOUSE.

Joint Resolution—From the senate, providing for joint assembly at 2 P. M., on Tuesday next, to elect certain state officers; amended, on motion of Mr. Park of Bennington, fixing the day for joint assembly on Tuesday the 22d, and adopted.

Bills introduced and referred—By Mr. Brigham of Hydepark, to incorporate the Lamoille Valley Railroad Co.; to com. on railroads.

Memorial—By Mr. Cleveland of Brookfield, of Wm. B. Stevens, of Bradford, against the right of Barron Hay to a seat as the representative from the town of Bradford; to com. on elections. Adjourned.

SENATE.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 14.

On motion of Senator Martin, the President appointed as a committee on the part of the Senate on joint rules, Senators Martin and Walker.

A message from the House asking the concurrence of the Senate to a joint resolution to appoint a committee to visit the State Reform School. Also notifying the Senate that the House had appointed a committee on their part to wait on Gen. Sheridan and receive him on behalf of the State.

On motion of Senator Dewey, House joint resolution, providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of certain State officers, was taken up for consideration. The amendments proposed Saturday were withdrawn, and Senator Dewey proposed a new amendment, which was passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment. The resolution as amended leaves out the appointment of Bank Commissioner, three Directors of the State Prison, and Superintendent of State Prison.

Bills introduced—By Senator Dale, for widening and removing obstructions from the Nulhegan River and its tributaries; referred to committee on Judiciary.

By Senator Walker, defining and extending the powers of Masters of Chancery and Notaries Public; referred to committee on Printing. The bill is as follows:

Sec. 1. Masters of Chancery and Notaries Public, are hereby authorized and empowered within their several jurisdictions to do and perform any judicial acts, and duties, which Justices of the Peace are, or may be, authorized to do, and perform within their jurisdictions; except to try and determine civil and criminal cases; and to make true and just records thereof, and to certify the same, and the same shall have the same force and effect as the records of Justices of the Peace.

Sec. 2. Masters of Chancery shall have power to sign subpoenas, and take recognizances for costs to all Bills in Chancery and petitions for foreclosure of mortgages returnable to the Courts of Chancery, within and for the County in which such Master in Chancery may reside.

Resolutions Passed—House joint resolution for the appointment of a committee to visit the Vermont Reform School, in concurrence.

HOUSE.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 14.

The Speaker announced as the select committee on the part of the House on invitation to Maj. Gen. Sheridan to visit the Capital, Messrs Proctor of Rutland, Park of Bennington, Rounds of Chester, Morrill of Reading, Beattie of Brunswick.

Joint Resolutions—By Mr Marvin of Alburgh that a committee of three members of the Senate and five of the House be appointed to visit and report as to the condition of the Vermont Reform School; adopted.

By Mr Glazier of Stratton, to invite J. S. Adams, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Education, to address the Legislature on the subject of education; adopted.

Resolutions—By Mr Park of Bennington, that the committee on Banks be directed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of Bank Commissioner; adopted.

By Mr Parker of Wolcott, that so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the militia be referred to the committee on Military Affairs; adopted. Adjourned.

SENATE—AFTERNOON.

Joint Resolution—By Mr Barstow, inviting J. S. Adams, secretary of the Board of Education to address the members of the Legislature on the subject of Education, at an early day; adopted.

The President appointed as a committee on the part of the Senate to canvass the votes for county officers, Messrs Dyer, Canfield, Sanborn, Lane, Dale, Burt, Hill, Hendee, Barrett, Simpson, Leonard, Dewey, Goodhue, Brown. To visit reform school: Messrs Burt, Allen, Brown. On Library, Messrs Dewey, Lane.

A resolution from the House, inviting J. S. Adams to address the General Assembly, was passed.

HOUSE.

The Speaker announced the appointment on the part of the House of the following Joint Standing Committees:

Under Fourth Joint Rule, Messrs Miner of Manchester, Benson of Clarendon, Ball of Granville.

On Bills, Messrs Fletcher of Cavendish, Houghton of Stamford.

On Joint Rules, Messrs Phelps of Townsend, Stone of Berkshire.

On the Library, Messrs Welch of Williston, Tenney of Thetford, Webber of Rochester.

The speaker also announced the appointment of the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Elections, Messrs Proctor of Rutland, Miles of Hinesburgh, Walker of Rochester, Martin of Sheldon, Kellogg of Benson, Glazier of Stratton, Rodimon of Bridgewater.

On Ways and Means, Messrs Park of Bennington, Goss of Vergennes, Morrill of Reading, Hibbard of Concord, Hall of Groton, Herrick of Brattleboro, Jones of Northfield.

On Military Affairs, Messrs Rounds of Chester, Meade of Randolph, Waterman of Wilmington, Beattie of Brunswick, Corey of Craftsbury, Howe of Jericho, Horton of Mt. Holly.

On Judiciary, Messrs Miner of Manchester, Ross of St. Johnsbury, Brigham of Hydepark, Rounds of Chester, Ferrin of Montpelier, Wood of Fairhaven, Wheeler of Jamaica.

On Education, Messrs Phelps of Townshend, Tenney of Thetford, Wheelock of Cambridge, Hubbard of Stockbridge, Bullard of New Haven, Miller of Pomfret, Howe of Castleton.

On Claims, Messrs Van Sicklen of Burlington, Thompson of Lyndon, Cady of Morristown, Sykes of Dorset, Allen of Irasburgh, Humphrey of Underhill, Denison of Royalton.

On Railroads, Messrs Converse of Woodstock, Cleaveland of Brockfield, Parker of Wolcott, Welch of Williston, Jones of Cornwall, Johnson of Rockingham, Crane of Newport.

On Banks, Messrs. Hard of Arlington, Smith of Ferrisburgh, Woods of Milton, Lane of Derby, Soper of Coventry.

On Manufactures, Messrs Ball of Springfield, Gray of Middletown, Graham of Winhall, Goodell of Brandon, Parker of Hartford, Ayres of Weybridge, Robinson of Putney.

On Agriculture, Messrs Catlin of Swanton, Sexton of Waltham, Wright of Pownal, Stuart of Barnet, Squier of Charlotte, Cooper of Canaan, Irish of Grand Isle, Cristy of Johnson, Bigelow of West Fairlee, Cheney of Glover, Noble of Timmouth, Foster of Calais, Gorham of Westminster, Loveland of Norwich.

On Land Taxes, Messrs Benton of Guildhall, Emmons of Hartland, Bliss of Georgia, Eaton of Monkton, Colton of Sherburne.

On Grand List, Messrs Brookins of Shoreham, Swinnington of Leicester, Sheldon of Rupert, Simonds of Peru, Nelson of Byegate, Willard of Wheelock, Morse of Bolton, Tuttle of Essex, Cook of Lemington, Silsby of Lunenburgh, Smith of Highgate, Halbert of Fairfax, Fisk of Isle La Motte, Hazen of North Hero, Cristy of Johnson, Willey of Waterville, Cleveland of Braintree, Drew of Tunbridge, Joslyn of Barton, Davis of Troy, Rogers of Wallingford, Holmes of Sudbury, Warren of Middlesex, Haskins of Marshfield, Rice of Newfane, Lynde of Guilford, Spafford of Weathersfield, Nott of Sharon.

General Committee, Messrs Frisbie of Poultney, Clark of Addison, Shuffleton of Sunderland, Shedd of Hardwick, White of Shelburn, Noyes of Brighton, Martin of Montgomery, Marvin of Alburgh, Weeks of Stowe, Smith of Stafford, Corey of Craftsbury, Porter of Fayston, Stetson of Whitingham, Pollard of Windsor.

On State Prisons, Messrs Richardson of Westford, Shedd of West Windsor, Pelton of Ludlow, Foster of Whiting, Whedon of Pawlet, Fuller of Waterbury, Barron of Washington.

Distributing Committee, Messrs Deming of Salisbury, Monroe of Shaftsbury, Brown of Burke, Blandell of St. George, Jones of Granby, Perkins of Bakersfield, Irish of Grand Isle, Hyde of Eden, Palmer of Williamstown, Seavy of Brownington, Baird of Chittenden, Davis of East Montpelier, Conant of Grafton, Burton of Andover.

On Corporations, Messrs. Crane of Newport, Grover of Wells, Snyder of Huntington, Perkins of St. Albans, Gifford of Readsboro, Fulton of Newbury, Leonard of Dummerston.

On Town Lines, Messrs Herris of Windham, Hull of Orwell, Foster of Walden, Morgan of Topsham, Lawrence of Charleston.

On Mileage and Dedentures, Messrs. Hill of Starksboro, Willey of Landgrove, Pillsbury of Sutton, Isham of South Burlington, Tuttle of Essex, Ladd of Enosburgh, Robinson of South Hero, Weeks of Stowe, Moore of Chelsea, Webster of Lowell, Gibbs of Pittsfield, Reed of Waitsfield, Newell of Wardsboro, Spaulding of Weston.

On Public Buildings, Messrs. Ferris of Montpelier, Sollace of Bridport, Aldrich of Shrewsbury, McIntosh of Bethel, Tuttle of Essex.

On Roads Bridges and Ferries, Messrs. Ross of St. Johnsbury, Allen of Fairfax, Pearson of Franklin, Mann of Fairlee, Hill of Albany, Read of Danby, Atwood of Brattleboro.

On Federal Relations, Messrs. Converse of Woodstock, Park of Bennington, Marvin of Alburgh, Hubbard of Stockbridge, Nourse of Pittsford, Johnson of Rockingham, Brigham of Hydepark.

To Canvass votes for County Officers—Addison County, Messrs. Stickney of Goshen, Colby of Lincoln, Drake of Bristol.

Rutland County, Messrs. Ira of Searsburgh, Barton of Glastenbury, Woodard of Sandgate.

Caledonia County, Messrs. Ide of Sheffield, Corliss of Newark, Russell of Kirby.

Chittenden County, Messrs. Snyder of Huntington, Blandell of St. George, McGregor of Colchester.

Essex County, Messrs. Smith of East Haven, Parker of Bloomfield, Stevens of Maidstone.

Franklin County, Messrs. Carlisle of Richford, Reed of Fletcher, Perkins of Bakersfield.

Grand Isle County, Messrs. Fisk of Isle La Motte, Irish of Grand Isle, Hazen of North Hero.

Lamoille County, Messrs. Hyde of Eden, Brown of Belvidere, Wheelock of Cambridge.

Orange County, Messrs. Palmer of Williamstown, Peake of Orange, Blanchard of Vershire.

Orleans County, Messrs. Morse of Morgan, Bartlett of Jay, Hoyt of Westfield.

Rutland County, Messrs. Tryon of West Haven, Westmore of Ira, Thompson of Mount Tabor.

Washington County, Messrs. Hancock of Worcester, Wheatley of Woodbury, Richards of Plainfield.

Windham County, Messrs. Town of Somerset, Bullon of Halifax, Wellman of Brookline.

Windsor County, Messrs. Moore of Plymouth, Benis of Baltimore, Sherd of West Windsor.

Bills introduced and referred, &c.—By Mr. Park, of Bennington, in addition to an act in amendment to Sec. 54 chap 26 of the general statutes; to com. on railroads.

By Mr. Park of Bennington, relating to operating railroads in this State; to com. on railroads.

By Mr. Ferrin of Montpelier, in addition to chap 70 in relation to divorce; to judiciary com.

By Mr. Van Sicklen of Burlington, to incorporate the Burlington silver mining Co.; to com. on corporations.

By Mr. Bullard of New Haven on divorce and separation; to com on judiciary.

By Mr. Miner of Manchester, relating to railroads; to com on railroads.

By Mr. Wheelon, of Pawlet, directing the com on railroads to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of railroad commissioner; adopted.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Oct 15.

Mr Canfield presented the credentials of Senator Root of Bennington county, who appeared at the Bar of the Senate and received the oath.

The committee appointed to canvass the votes for county officers, were duly sworn for the performance of that duty.

Bills Introduced and Referred—By Mr Dewey, to incorporate the Montpelier and Wells river railroad company; to committee on railroads.

By Mr Barstow, to grant pay of seven dollars per month to certain soldiers, non commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, who enlisted as veterans in the 1st Army Corps, commanded by Gen. Hancock, and who were credited to the State of Vermont, or to any town in the State. Sec. 2 provides that no money which shall thus become due shall be subject to trustee process. Referred to committee on printing.

By Mr Hard, relating to the trial of offenses in the police court in the city of Burlington; to committee on printing.

The Senate proceeded to elect a President *pro tem*. Mr Henry nominated, and the Senate unanimously elected, Hon George W Hendee of Lamoille county. Mr Hendee received the oath of office, and assumed the chair with graceful dignity, after thanking the Senate for the honor conferred upon him.

A communication was received from the Governor, submitting the report of the state agent to the Paris Exposition. On motion of Mr Dewey the reading was dispensed with, and on motion of Mr Barstow, 1000 copies were ordered to be printed.

HOUSE.

Messrs Sheldd of West Windsor, Robinson of Putney, Wheeler of Jamaica and Waterman of Wilmington, having presented their credentials, appeared at the bar of the House, were sworn and took their seats.

Bills introduced and referred—By Mr Herd of Arlington, relating to the payment of soldiers who served in Gen. Hancock's veteran corps, (to pay to such as have not already received it, the $7 per month extra pay;) to com on military affairs.

By Mr Ferrin of Montpelier, to incorporate the Montpelier and Wells River railroad company; to com on railroads.

By Mr Ferrin of Montpelier, authorizing the establishment and maintenance of town, city and village libraries, (authorizing towns, cities and villages to raise a tax on the grand list to maintain libraries); to com on corporations.

By Mr Kellogg of Benson, in addition to and amendment of sec 22 chap 22 g s, (fixing a fine of $10 for refusal to perform the duties of office when duly elected); to com on judiciary.

Resolutions—By Mr Bullard of New Haven, appointing a committee of five to consider the subject of the expenses of litigation in the courts of this State; adopted.

By Mr Rounds of Chester, directing the clerk to procure the printing of 500 copies of Quarter Master General's report; adopted.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Governor, transmitting the annual reports of the Adj't and Inc. General, the Quartermaster General, the Trustees and Officers of the Vermont Reform School, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, which were severally received to lie, under the 4th joint rule.

AFTERNOON.

JOINT ASSEMBLY

The two Houses met in Joint Assembly at 2:30 P. M., for election of State officers. Hon. STEPHEN THOMAS, President of the Senate, in the chair.

For Secretary of State Senator Hendee presented the name of George Nichols of Northfield, the present incumbent.

Mr Fisk of Woodford, nominated George M. Fisk of Northfield.

The ballot resulted as follows:

Whole number of votes,	249
Necessary to a choice,	125
George Nichols,	221
George M. Fisk,	16
Scattering,	2

So George Nichols was declared elected Secretary of the State for the year ensuing.

For Sergeant at Arms Mr Ferrin of Montpelier, nominated Zebina C Camp of Montpelier, and he was unanimously elected by a *viva voce* vote.

For Auditor of Accounts Mr Miner of Manchester, nominated Dugald Stewart of Middlebury.

Mr Harris of Danville, nominated James B. Mattocks of Danville.

The ballot resulted as follows:

Whole number of votes,	251
Necessary to a choice,	118
Dugald Stewart,	208
James B. Mattocks,	24
Scattering,	2

So Dugald Stewart was declared elected Auditor of Accounts for the year ensuing.

For Commissioner of the Insane Mr Johnson of Rockingham, presented the name of Homer Goodhue of Westminster, the present incumbent, who was unanimously elected by a *viva voce* vote.

On motion of Mr Ross of St. Johnsbury, the election of Railroad Commissioner was indefinitely postponed; yeas 127, nays 55.

For Adjutant and Inspector General Senator Dale nominated William Wells of Waterbury, and he was unanimously elected by a *viva voce* vote.

For Quartermaster General Senator Dewey nominated Perley P. Pitkin of Montpelier, and he was unanimously elected by a *viva voce* vote.

For Judge Advocate General Senator Dyer nominated Stephen F. Atwood of Monkton, and he was unanimously elected by a *viva voce* vote.

The Joint Assembly then dissolved.

SENATE.

The President appointed the following joint committee:

Under the 14th Joint Rule—Senators Leonard, Simpson, Sanborn.

On Bills—Senators Anderson and Atwood.

Senator Prout introduced a bill to change the venue in certain cases. Referred to com. on printing.

HOUSE

A resolutions was offered by Mr Ross of St. Johnsbury, instructing the Committee on Corporations to report against all bills of incorporation which come under the general laws of the State; adopted.

The Free Press.

G. G. & B. L. BENEDICT.

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 18, 1867.

THE WEEKLY FREE PRESS.

THE BURLINGTON WEEKLY FREE PRESS is published every Friday morning, and contains the latest news reports of Boston markets and Cambridge Cattle Market; full State, County and local intelligence; well selected Miscellany, &c., &c. No care and outlay will be spared to make it a reliable, interesting and valuable family journal.

The circulation of the FREE PRESS exceeds that of any paper in the region, and it is, therefore, an unrivalled medium for advertisers.

We desire to give additional attention to the local news of the various towns in this and adjoining Counties, in which our Weekly has a numerous circulation, and shall esteem it a favor if our friends will forward us any items of interest.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY FREE PRESS—per year $2 in advance, and if not strictly in advance $2 50.

Sheridan Coming.

Walton's *Journal* learns through Adjutant General Wells, who left Montpelier last Friday to meet General Sheridan, and arrange a definite day for his reception at Montpelier, that Gen. Sheridan fixed *Wednesday, the 30th of October*, as the day when he will visit the capital in compliance with the invitation of the Governor and Legislature. Arrangements are in progress to give "Little Phil." a reception on that day, which shall leave him no room for doubt how he stands in the estimation of loyal Vermonters.

The Governor's Message.

Governor Page's first message is a business like document—concise and brief, as every body likes a message to be, and sound, and without ostentation, like its author. Its exhibit of the condition of our State finances is gratifying, showing as it does a considerable reduction of the State debt, and an assurance that the work of reduction can go on, under a very considerable reduction of the taxes. The Governor's suggestion as to the collection of the taxes is an important one. The plan he recommends is that already practically adopted in this city, and one which commends itself in practice. The suggestion as to a change in the odious attachment law in our State, is also a very important one, though by no means a new one. The need of a change in the law has been repeatedly urged on the attention of the Legislature, and we trust is not to be still urged in vain.

The Governor evidently takes a sensible view of the Militia question, and in fact it is on all points an eminently sensible message, as all must own. To some of its points we shall allude to again.

The Vote of Vermont.

There has been a good deal of democratic crowing this year, based on an alleged democratic gain of 5,000 votes in Vermont.—There never was anything to base it on, but though the absurdity of the misstatement has been often corrected, the democrats stick to it, on the principle doubtless that "a lie well stuck to is as good as the truth." Thus Gen. Frank Pierce, who was called out from his obscurity, the other day, after his long "winter of discontent," as the old flies are induced to crawl out of their holes the first warm day in spring, said in his speech to the Concord copperheads who were shouting "over Ohio and Pennsylvania:

"It has been so long your part and mine, my friends and neighbors, to breast and smite back defiance at what we have believed to be the torrent of evil, that one hardly knows how to receive notes of triumph. I am free to confess, however, that the results which you have come to announce are not a surprise to me. There have been mutterings, and some distinct enunciations, which proclaimed them pretty significantly to my mind. Not the least of those was the encouragement and hope which came down to us from our neighboring State—*Montagne Verte*—a noble State, represented by high men for years—Judge Collamer, Governor Foot, Hiland Hall, and others of like stamp."

The official canvass enables us to see how much all this "encouragement and hope" was based on.

In 1866 the vote of Vermont was:

Whole No.	45,412
Dillingham,	34,117
Davenport,	11,222

This year the vote stands:

Whole No.	43,226
Page,	31,694
Edwards,	11,540

That is, about 2000 republicans stayed away from the polls, this year, under the general want of excitement and certainty of a big republican majority any way, and the democrats, under the stimulus of Andy Johnson's cantrips, and of unusual exertions to bring out a vote on which they could *claim something*, succeeded in adding 318 votes to their vote of last year! And *that* is the "distinct enunciation" from the *Montagne Vert*, which gives so much encouragement to the man who was going to have the fighting done in the streets of the North, when the war broke out.

We beg leave to commend to Mr. Pierce, and the N. Y. *World*, and the Burlington *Sentinel*, and the Woodstock *Age*, the following figures, showing the votes and majorities in Vermont, for the last five years.

1867, whole	No.	43,226,	Page's maj.	20,162
1866, "	"	45,412,	Dil'ham "	22,825
1865, "	"	36,456,	" "	18,716
1864, "	"	44,802,	Smith's "	19,302
1863, "	"	41,245	" "	17,411

The Republican majority this year is thus about 500 votes *above* the average of the last five years; and it is the largest majority but one since 1862, when the Democrats could hardly have been said to run a State ticket, and polled but 3000 and odd votes in the State, and when consequently the Republican majority reached 25,000.

If the Democracy can get any comfort out of a Republican majority of 20,000 in a total of 43,000, they are welcome to it; but let us hear no more of the "great reaction" in Vermont.

Vt. Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

For many years, we have been in the practice of scrutinizing the Annual Report of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and always with satisfaction at the thorough and minute exhibit which it presents. We see by its Fortieth Annual Report that it holds on the even tenor of its way, both as to the enlargement of its business and the moderate annual expense which has fallen upon those who have insured in it. To those who are not acquainted with the principles on which its business is conducted, it will be of interest to state them briefly. The general principle which underlies the whole is that the insurers, as a whole, shall pay, from year to year, the actual amount of loss incurred by fire during the year and the expenses incidental to carrying on the business—the expenses being always kept at the lowest mark consistent with securing a careful, skilled, and reliable administration of the extensive business of the Company—and no more; also, that there shall be as exact a distribution of this outlay on the insurers, in conformity to the amount of property insured and the measure of the risk, as careful observation and experience will admit of.

To carry out this principle, the rule of the company is to issue policies to run six years, unless there are proper business reasons for shortening the term, on not over two-thirds the value of the property insured, and to take a note, which acts as a first lien on the real estate if unincumbered, and when incumbered, with ample personal security, for a sum amply large enough to cover the total amount of risk—the rate at which the property is assessed varying with the risk—and on these notes the losses as they occur are at different times of the year are assessed at a rate per cent sufficient to realize from all the notes the amount needful to meet the loss. These assessments are summed up at the end of the year, and the insured are notified by public advertisement, of the total amount thus assessed, which sum they are bound to transmit promptly to the Treasurer's office. Failing to do so, the Company can enforce by law the payment of the entire amount of the premium note, to repay at the close of the policy what of the avails has not been needed to meet the annual assessments. This resort is, however, very rarely if ever needed. Besides the annual assessments, there is paid at the outset three per cent on the amount of the insurance note, which may be considered as an additional assessment of half of one per cent a year, for the six years which the policy has to run.

The average annual assessment on the notes, for the forty years of the existence of the Company, has been but a little over three per cent; and it is worth noticing how little the variation has been from that amount from year to year. Of the forty years, for two years near the beginning of its business, there were no assessments. On one year, it was less than two per cent., on ten years, it was two per cent, or that and a fraction; on fifteen it was three per cent, or that and a fraction; on nine years it was four per cent, or that and a fraction; and on three years it was five per cent.

The average annual cost of insurance for the last six years on about seven eighths of the policies (covering houses and barns and sheds and contents) has not been fourteen cents on the hundred dollars insured. On the more hazardous property it has of course been more, and according to the degree of hazard incurred; but in all cases less than it would be where insurance is effected for the profit of stockholders.

Counterfeit Treasury Notes.

Considerable excitement was created in financial circles last week, by the discovery of a large amount of counterfeit seven-thirty bonds in market. The number, is of course, not exactly known, but over $100,000 had been pronounced spurious Friday.

It appears that the counterfeit bonds have appeared in the market since the 24th of September, coming mostly from the West, and opinions differ as to their origin, some experts considering them to be of English manufacture. Suspicion as to their genuineness was first excited by duplicate numbers, when, by a close inspection with the use of the microscope and a comparison of the genuine with the counterfeit, their true character was discovered. About $70,000 worth of the spurious bonds had previously been redeemed at the Treasury, but the Government it is said will lose nothing by this transaction, as it has the receipts of the various parties presenting them.

All the counterfeit bonds will be destroyed, and the bankers sending them in are not credited with them, so that the government loses nothing, while the bankers and brokers suffer if they cannot go back on the parties from whom they purchased the spurious bonds.

The following points of difference between the genuine and spurious are given:

The Secretary of the Treasury will make a report in a day or two on the recently discovered counterfeits of the 7-30 bonds. The Department furnish to-day the following defects in the new counterfeit:

"The points of the star forming the seal are longer than in the genuine, and have a slightly blurred appearance, and the red ink of the seal is a shade lighter than in the genuine. The imprint at the bottom of the bond is set differently in the margin. There is an observable difference in the expression of the vignette, representing a female figure upon the face of the bonds, the lines not being as well shaded nor as smooth and uniform in color in the counterfeit. The figures denoting the number of the bond are slightly uneven, and the blue ink in which they are printed lacks the metallic and glossy appearance of the genuine. The red figures in the coupons attached, designating their numbers, are larger than in the genuine. The borders and ornamental lathe work of the coupons appear blurred and indifferently executed, and the white space between the margin of the bonds and the coupons is wider than in the genuine bonds."

In the lower left hand of the genuine ones, after the word "Treasury," there is a colon in fine script letter, thus: while in the counterfeits there is only a period or single point. In the line "Pay to the order of," the "of" in the genuine is very fine on the upper and lower outside line, and in the counterfeit coarse and heavy. In addition to these dissimilarities the line of stars on either end of the note are distinct and prominent in the genuine, and indistinct and blurred in the other. Turning the bond over, the heavy border surrounding the words "Pay the bearer" is of much finer workmanship in the genuine than in the counterfeit. Some parties say, concerning these and other differences recognised, that they are too nice distinctions, even for the practiced eye of an expert.

HOW TO GAIN A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.—The following is the full text of the remarkable secret circular sent out by the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania previous to the election in that State. It shows how they did their work:

"*Dear Sir*—The necessity for close attention to details in this contest is most apparent. It is comparatively noiseless, but it should be made full of activity.

The great end to be accomplished is:

To poll every Democratic vote.

The first thing to be done is to learn the names of all the Democrats and doubtful men. For this purpose the blanks were furnished you, and so far as you have returned to me the lists I to-day send you copies by mail. Send the remainder as rapidly as possible.

These lists are to be placed in the hands of active men in the district. I enclose in each list a circular describing their duties, for their direction. I also enclose to you a copy thereof.

Make it your business to employ these men yourself; do not trust to letters; go and see them; pay them for their time in warning the dilatory, and for election day, and to provide the means to haul the slow men to the polls. It is better to spend money in this way than by meetings. If you have any doubt of the men you employ tell others of our friends that you have placed money in their hands.

Get your detailed vote for 1865, and for 1866. Compare the two, and this will show you the district likely to be slow. Give them special attention now. It is important to get trustworthy men in each district. Do not devote your attention to making a specific majority, but look to getting your whole vote. When this is done the majority follows.

In very slow districts, I would suggest a special contract with active men, thus: In 1865 the district polled 100 Democratic votes; in 1866, 120 Democratic votes. Now for every Democratic vote over 110 polled we will pay you a fixed sum the day after the election. This is simply an incentive to bring men out, for the vote of 1866 shows they are there. See that your agents have all Democrats assessed, naturalized, and their taxes paid. Let me know what I can do for you. Send forward the lists rapidly.

Be very careful of this paper; keep it entirely private. Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM A. WALLACE,

Chairman Democratic State Central Committee.

FROM MONTPELIER.

MONTPELIER, Oct, 15, 1867.

Dear Free Press:

The elections of certain State Officers today, give the first open indication that there are two parties in the Legislature. Hitherto the democrats have had no candidates, and have given no intimation of their presence. Today however, they saw fit to nominate democratic candidates on two offices, and have thus afforded opportunity for an estimate of their strength, or rather weakness.

On Secretary of State, Mr. G. M. Fisk of Northfield, Democrat, was nominated, and received 19 votes in Joint Assembly, against 218 for Dr. Geo. Nichols, the present most acceptable and worthy incumbent in the office. On Auditor also, the democrats nominated Mr. J. B. Mattocks of Danville, and gave him 24 votes, against 208 for Hon. Dugald Stewart, who will continue to be re-elected probably as long as he desires to hold the office.

Adjutant General Wells and Q. M. Genl. Pitkins, were reelected as matters of course, by acclamation, as was also the attentive and efficient Serg at Arms, Mr. Camp.

The election of R. R. commissioner was indefinitely postponed. It is understood that there are four or five candidates for that exceedingly laborious and responsible office.—Not to attempt to be "sarkastical," the office is one of no redeeming except to the clever gentleman who may happen to hold it.—There is no authority attached to it, no information of any particular value furnished through it; no good done by it, to the public or to the roads. The Legislature might as well abolish it, as they doubtless will do the new useless office of Bank Commissioner. As it cost the State nothing, however, but the time given to the election of the Commissioner, (the Railroads being required to pay the salary and printing of the report,) it is possible the Legislature may not conclude to do away with the R. R. commissionership just yet.

No debates have as yet rippled the calm surface of proceedings in either house, but doubtless discussion and controversies are coming in due season.

YOURS ANON.

Personal and Political.

Gen. St. John R. Skinner is reported dangerously ill, at Washington.

An assistant engineer of the navy named Sawyer has been tried by court martial and found guilty of disrespect to his superior officer in declaring that the President ought to be impeached—and, by order of Secretary Welles, suspended from duty for one year on half pay.

Official returns from all the counties in Pennsylvania give Sharswood 744 majority.

The oldest inhabitant of Portsmouth, Mass., John G. Brewster, died on Thursday last, in his nineteth year, of sheer old age; he was hardly ever sick in his life and expired while drinking a cup of tea.

Rev. G. M. Blodgett has been appointed Consular Agent at Frelighsburg, Canada. He was for some time Chaplain of the U. S. Hospital in this city.

The republican majority in Iowa, is about 25,000, against 16,575 in 1865, and 35,412 in 1866 on a popular vote. The vote has been very light.

Hon. Norman Williams of Woodstock the *Standard* says is in a very alarming condition of health.

Judge Pollard is on the House Committee of elections, and is at Bridgeport, Mass., investigating the Barnum case.

It is said that Gen. Grant is urging Gen. Rawlins for the post of Secretary of war, and he will probably be appointed.

Gen. Sickles has been officially denied, by the President, a court of inquiry.

Gen. Sheridan has been granted two months leave of absence.

The Impeachment Committee meet on Monday, and intend to have their report ready on the opening of Congress.

A Columbus (O.) special despatch states that Mr. Onderdonk, the defeated Democratic candidate for State Senator from Gallia county, Ohio, will contest the seat on the ground that he was beaten by colored votes.

Another despatch says Gov. Hayes' election will be contested on the same ground.

Gen. Banks is going on a railroad mission to Mexico to secure the exclusive right to establish a railway from Tehuantepec to the Pacific Ocean, in the interest of New England capitalists and Marshal O. Roberts of New York.

The Rev. Albert Barnes, of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, has been compelled to resign his charge and to give up preaching, reading, writing, and studying immediately and entirely, or, his physicians say, he will lose his eyesight.

Judge Hugh S. Bond has been nominated for governor, by the Republicans of Maryland, whose platform, just adopted, is universal manhood suffrage, uniform education, payment of the national debt, and the repeal of the present militia law of that State.

Gen. Butler in a letter lately published says he is a democrat "as was Democracy before it became Conservatism under the manipulations of Fillmore, George T. Curtis, Winthrop, Josiah Randall, and persons of their opinions, who never drew a Democratic breath. The Democracy must look to the Radical and Republican party for the resuscitation of its true principles as applied to men as men."

Rev. Lewis Francis and wife, of Castleton, have returned home from their European tour, reaching this city Friday.

Gens. Sheridan, W. F. Smith, Brooks, Heintzleman, and other distinguished officers, are expected to attend the Reunion of Vermont Soldiers at Montpelier on the 28th.

At the meeting of the new Board of Directors of the Erie railroad, on Tuesday, John S. Eldridge was elected President, at the same time Mr. Underwood resigned his seat as Director, and Daniel Drew was chosen in his place and was constituted Treasurer of the Company.

Prof. E. W. Blake, jr., has been invited to fill the chair of physics in Columbia College for the present, to supply the place of Prof. Rood, who is prevented by illness from discharging his duties.

Dr. S. W. Thayer will sail for home in the steamer "Java," from Liverpool, on the 26th instant.

The Congregational church at Malone, N. Y., has called Rev. E. B. Byington of Windsor, as the successor of Dr. Herrick, at a salary of two thousand dollars.

President Angell lectures on "Education" at Morrisville on Thursday evening next. On Wednesday evening, he delivers the discourse before the Bible Society at its anniversary at Montpelier.

From the Vermont Chronicle.

Commutation Laws.

These are enactments which allow convicts to earn a certain diminution of their terms of sentence, by their industry, obedience and good behaviour. They exist in nine states, viz: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. We sincerely wish we might add Vermont, as a tenth, in the list, for the reason that we believe the principle of these laws is founded in justice, and that the policy established by them is wise and beneficent.

By these acts, convicts, by uniform good conduct, may earn a diminution of the period of confinement of some five days per month, more or less, in different States. In New York, from the fourth to the tenth year of imprisonment they can earn seven and a half days per month, and thenceforward ten days; so that one sentenced for ten years can shorten his time two years and one month—a fraction over one-fifth of the whole term, and one sentenced for twenty years can diminish it five years and five months—a little more than one-fourth of the entire term.

In the acts of Illinois and Wisconsin, there is included a provision for restoration to citizenship. In Illinois, every one who passes the whole time of his sentence with a clean record of good conduct may, upon the presentation of a certificate of that fact, from the warden to the Governor, receive from him a full restoration to all civil rights.

The law of Wisconsin varies from this only in regard to the mode of certifying the fact of restoration.

In all these laws, except those of Maine, the time earned by good conduct may be forfeited, partially or wholly, by subsequent bad behaviour. In some of them this forfeiture rests with the Superintendent; in others, with the directors or inspectors.—These officers may determine the fact and the extent of the forfeiture. In Maine, however, time once earned is never lost.

In all these prisons, it is customary to explain the law to the prisoner, as he enters, and in some, (as in Charlestown Massachusetts,) to furnish him with an almanac, in which he may carefully note the days earned by good behaviour, and those lost by bad conduct.

These laws are fraught with some important advantages, and they constitute a decided improvement in legislation relative to the treatment of convicts.

1. They help to prevent frequent pardons. Such pardons are exceedingly injurious. They partially nullify the certainty of punishment, increase the hope of pardon without regard to thorough reformation, and seriously impede all moral and religious influences for the effectual amendment of life.

Commutation laws preclude these evils. They place the desired end of early release positively within the prisoner's own reach, so that he may begin his confinement with hope of gaining what will not depend upon outside influences and executive clemency, but upon his own earnest endeavor in his imprisonment. This inspires self-respect, good resolution, prevents despondency, recklessness and revenge, promotes cheerfulness and ready obedience to the authorities, and tends eminently to the internal restoration of the fallen man. Commutation laws, moreover, have an aspect of impartiality and justice in the treatment of prisoners, which commands the respect of even the worst of men, so that all feel at the outset that they have an equal chance of early release by good behaviour, even though they have no influential friends to aid them outside of the walls. Release therefore by good conduct and becoming practically a better man, comes to be the end sought, and not a pardon by incess