

THE PROGRESS OF REFORM.

When a political party has long held sway, there is a tendency to relax the vigilance, which alone can meet the requirements of good government.

Then too, those who hold office are always opposed by others, who would like to occupy their places, and these opponents are always on the alert to discover possible dereliction from duty, on which they may ground more or less distinct accusations looking to the overthrow of the incumbents.

In this our State of Maryland, where the Democratic party has for many years been the ruling power, this whole order of thought has been brought out in a highly practical way.

In a large city like Baltimore, where the changes of population are great and frequent, and where the party majorities were overwhelmingly great, it was an easy matter to find great discontent with the registration lists.

Five trackmen of the Baltimore and Potomac railroad were instantly killed on Monday, by being run over by a train of the Western Md. Railroad in the railroad tunnel near Pennsylvania Avenue station.

ABOUT forty-eight millions of dollars was spent last year in the construction of buildings in New York, the exact sum being \$47,786,670.

THE oldest resident of Washington, and well known among printers, died, in his 73rd year, Wednesday morning, at his home on Missouri avenue.

HENRY TUCKER, the musical composer and author of "When This Cruel War is Over," and other popular songs and tunes, was buried from his residence in Brooklyn, N. Y., on last Sunday.

ON Wednesday, Mr. Hoblitzel of Maryland, introduced a bill providing for the construction of a Maryland and Delaware ship canal, to connect the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, and it was referred.

COMPARATIVELY speaking Baltimore has produced more first-class artists, musicians, authors and composers of the present age than any other city in the United States.

EXTENSIVE preparations are being made in Philadelphia to receive the Jewish refugees, now on their way from Russia, and expected at that port about the 22d inst.

GENERAL HANCOCK is visiting his farms in Henry county, Missouri. He recently purchased considerable land in Minnesota.

October. In subsequent years they are to sit five days after the first Monday in September, and on the first Monday and Tuesday in October. Their pay is to be \$4 a day. Notices of times and places of registration are to be given in two newspapers of opposite politics. Registers are to administer an oath to all applicants for registration, but no questions to be asked touching causes of disqualification not enumerated in the Constitution.

The summing are designated the "first summer sitting," the "September," and the "October sitting;" no register to enter or strike off any name except during a regular sitting. Penalties for registration frauds by registers or others having custody of the books are a fine of \$500, or three years imprisonment, or both.

A SHOOTING affair occurred in Washington on the 9th inst., at the Republican office. Some private animosities culminated in a Mr. A. M. Soteldo, accompanied by his brother, calling at the office of the paper, when an attack was made upon Mr. Easton, the news editor.

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A BABY ELEPHANT was born in Mr. Barnum's establishment, last Saturday a week, whose weight was 145 lbs. It has since been named Bridgeport, after his place of residence, and he had the baby insured for \$300,000, paying a premium of \$1,000 a week for the insurance.

THE members composing the Committee on Ways and Means will be the subjects of obituary notices and the recipients of a large amount of posthumous taffy if the tariff question is not shortly settled.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 15th, '82. The old question of the relative dignity of the two Houses of Congress has lately been revived by the introduction of a resolution looking towards an equalization of the salaries of employees of the House and Senate. A similar attempt was made in the Forty-fifth Congress.

The managers of that annual swindle, the River and Harbor bill, are putting their heads together and preparing to "catch on" to an unusually large slice this year, beginning about where they left off last year. It is now said that the bill for making deep spots navigable rivers has its keel laid, so to speak, with a gross amount of nine millions for a basis. This does not include the Mississippi River improvement—

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Mr. McKinley looks as faded as a last year's sunflower, and Mr. Tucker has lost enough hair to stuff two bolsters or a dish of boarding-house butter. The fearful tragedy of the Kilkenny cats will be repeated on an appalling scale if the House does not take some action which will avert the catastrophe.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

NEW ORLEANS has a debt of \$20,000,000. Over one hundred line officers have volunteered to go on the Jeanette search.

H. W. MILLER, a clerk in the Pittsburg postoffice, was arrested Saturday for robbing the postoffice of stamps to the amount of \$1,500.

HON. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS of Georgia, celebrated his 70th birthday in Washington on last Saturday.

"A GIRL'S CHOICE.—It was in a drug store of course. All interesting incidents occur in drug stores, that is nearly all. She was pretty, with blue eyes and golden hair, one of that kind of beauties the post would have called an "angel," but for the fact that a colony of pimples on her fair frontispiece precluded all thought of a celestial being.

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