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Pensioners.

MR. EDITOR:—A copy of last Friday's Daily Courier came into my hands to-day, in which I find a Washington item, headed "Pension List," so utterly devoid of truth, or even foundation, that I am moved to send you a few words in com- ment. The item says: "The Commis- sioner of Pensions appeared to be de- termined to run his bureau at high pressure and to count popular favor by speedy examination of pending cases. In the present condition of the Pension office, the effect of this hurry will inevitably be the allowance of many improp- er claims. Hundreds of new clerks were selected in a haphazard way, and it is common talk in the Pension office that many of these clerks are utterly unequal to the proper discharge of their impor- tant duties, as they had not had the education, experience and training nec- essary to the accurate examination of the evidence submitted in pension claims; and yet to them had been en- trusted the difficult work of judicially considering and weighing this evidence, and of practically deciding cases involv- ing in the aggregate tens of millions of dollars. Some of the other officers of the Government who have had long experience in the examination of claims against the United States, submitted on ex-parte evidence, say that there is no reason why fraud should not run riot in the Pension Bureau."

Now, the statements here made do great injustice to a large class of men, who, as a whole, are possessed of as much intelligence and mental acumen as can be found in any business, any where, and who are as capable of "ex- amining ex-parte evidence" as any of the "older officers of the Government." These statements also slander the Com- missioner, whose purpose is, and has been, to so manage the affairs of his Bureau that there shall be no frauds, and that every man shall do his duty. Could the people see and know the working of the Pension office it would not take them long to decide that the writer of the above is one whom the Commissioner has not delighted to honor. They would see, too, that the office is managed with a view to the strictest economy, and to get the great- est amount of labor possible out of the employee.

As at present managed, it is almost an impossibility for a fraudulent claim to pass. After saving the hands of the Examiner, it is submitted to the Board of Review, and medical experts, who have had long experience in the Bureau. All the evidence is reviewed, and criti- cally examined, and if any doubt ex- ists, the claim can go no further until all doubt is removed; and the office has means of discovering frauds. The day of pension sponge will soon be among the things that were.

There is often delay in adjudicating claims, but no one is as much to blame as claimants themselves, who fail to furnish or comprehend the calls made on them for evidence. The statements made in the article quoted, are absurd, false and malicious, and can be shown to be so by any one who will take the trouble to investigate. TRUTH.

The best medicine of the age for quickly curing indigestion, nervousness, etc., is Brown's Iron Bitters.

Truth is stranger than fish stories.

A famous North Country clergyman, whilst preaching, a few Sundays since, from the text "He giveth his beloved sleep," stopped in the middle of the dis- course, gazed upon his slumbering con- gregation, and said: "Brotherhood, it is hard to realize the unbounded love which the Lord appears to have for a large portion of my auditory."

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.—A sufficient quantity of liquor is used in the United States annually to fill a canal four feet deep, fourteen feet wide and 120 miles long. But what has that to do with Swaynes's Pills, the best family family medicine in the world? Millions of boxes have already been sold and there is a call for millions more. They cleanse and build up the overtaxed system; are no other medicine, and all for a quarter of a dollar. Do not delay, but give them a fair trial.

News Items.

A recount is to be made of the vote for Senator in Middlesex county.

A man in Lyons Farms is said to have picked two pears, of the second crop this year, from a tree on his place.

The State Board of Canvassers were appointed by Governor Ludlow last week. They are Senators Paxton, Youngblood, Beatty and Nichols.

The contracts for remodeling the Soldiers' Children's Home into a Deaf and Dumb Asylum have been awarded to Trenton workmen for \$9,034.

The Republican stay-at-homes in Cape May county numbered over 300, and the Democratic Senator and Assemblymen were elected by about seven- ty-five.

It is stated that since her husband's defeat in the recent election, Mrs. Rob- ertson has decided not to move into her palatial new house in Washington this Winter, but will go to Europe with her children.

A number of New Jersey ladies are interested in securing funds from this State for the Garfield monument at Washington; among them Mrs. Gen. Ricketts, Miss English, Miss Freling- huysen, Miss Pepen and others.

The Commissioners of the State Li- brary have appointed the State Treas- urer, Comptroller and Secretary of State as a committee to select a painting of the late President Garfield, which was authorized to be purchased by resolution passed at the last session of the Legi- slature. The cost is not to exceed \$200.

In the State Normal School Con- vention last week, the county reports showed the schools to be in a very flourish- ing condition generally. The numbers of scholars and teachers have increased about five per cent during the past year. Papers were read on the best modes of teaching, sanctification, and the Sunday School work.

Dr. Chatte, the successful Temper- ance candidate for Assembly in Mon- mouth county, said in a recent address that he expected to be the representa- tive of the people, and not of a ring, section or party. He could go to the Legislature as a citizen, as a man, to represent all, and he intended to leave the State House as honest a man as when he first entered it.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the State of New Jersey closed at Trenton Thurs- day. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: G. M., Samuel N. Rockhill, of Bordentown; D. G. M., Augustus N. Grassman, of Hoboken; G. W., William T. Brewer, of Camden; G. S., Lewis Parker, Jr., of Trenton; G. T., Joseph L. Lamb, of Juliustown; G. R. to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, William S. Izzard, of Camden.

It is related by an exchange that a young lady, who had been married over a year, wrote to her father in the city, saying, "We have the dearest little out- ling in the world, ornamented with the most charming little creeps you ever saw." The old man read the letter and exclaimed, "Twins by thunder."

Crushed, indeed: A youthful aspir- ant to poet's honors, whose maiden at- tempts bore the title of "Simply to Thy Cross I Cling," was struck dumb with horror when it appeared in the next weekly edition of the town paper under the title of "Simple Little Cross-Eyed Thing."

Josh Billings recently explained how he wrote his famous aphorisms. He said: "They come to me spontaneously. I may be walking down Broadway, or in an omnibus, on a train, or talking here to you, when they come like a flash. It may be some days, however, before I determine the exact form they shall have. One day, recently, I was called upon to make a hasty decision. Says I: 'Of two evils choose the less.' 'Then I stopped to think. 'That isn't right,' said I. 'It is as old as the hills and has been a proverb in all languages; but it's not right.' You don't want to choose either of two evils, do you? So I said, that of two evils accept the less. That is better."

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