

THE SITUATION AT TEWKSBURY.

One of the most interesting questions in relation to Tewksbury now is as to whether the Governor will veto the appropriation for the maintenance of the almshouse, which was finally passed in a separate form by the Legislature on Wednesday. Gov. Butler vetoed the general appropriation bill, containing this and thirteen other appropriations for similar institutions, several weeks ago, on the ground, first, that such appropriations ought not to be all provided for in one bill, thus preventing proper consideration being given to each, and, secondly, because he believed that the amount paid in salaries at these institutions were about a third too large. The Republican majority in the Legislature has now adopted the plan of passing these appropriations in separate bills, without altering the amounts in each, and has this week passed several of them. That for Tewksbury almshouse appropriates a total of \$90,000, of which \$20,000 is for salaries, and it will reach the Governor's desk within a few days. The question now is, "What will he do with it?" The Governor, last week, several days before this bill was passed, offered to run the State almshouse on an appropriation of \$70,000, and to allow the Republican State committee to call at the almshouse whenever they pleased, without giving previous notice, and inspect and criticize its management under the officers to be put over it by the Governor. The Republicans declined to thus give the Governor a chance to make a practical demonstration of their past mismanagement. The almshouse has been run since Jan. 1st, on the credit of the State, and without detriment, last year's appropriation having been then exhausted. It is reported that some eight or ten of the attendants have recently left, because of not receiving their wages, and through fear of not getting any this year for want of an appropriation. Mr. Fallon, of Lawrence, is still acting as superintendent under the board of health, lunacy and charity, who have not yet appointed Capt. Marsh's successor. The dismissed captain and his family have not yet completed their preparations for leaving the institution. Probably the slowness of their departure is partly accounted for by the great and tender love which they bear toward the inmates. But, thanks to Gov. Butler's investigation of their management, the two elder members of this philanthropic family must soon "get up and git," and there is a probability that the younger members, all full grown, will shortly follow suit. It seems probable, as stated by a contemporary, that if no money is voted by the Legislature, in such shape that the Governor can sanction the bills, the almshouse will probably be closed as a State institution, and the inmates would have to be cared for by the town of Tewksbury, which would then look to the State for its pay. The expenditures thus far this year have been over \$30,000, or at nearly the rate of \$90,000 for the whole year. It is thought by some that, as the separate appropriation just voted is to be expended by the State board instead of by the Marshes, the Governor will not veto the bill. There is little doubt that if the bill is vetoed it will not pass over the veto, as the Republicans do not control the necessary two-thirds majority in the Legislature.

THE ABUSES at the State almshouse might be reformed without so much publicity, say the Republican organs, and then they want the people to blame Gov. Butler for (as they put it) "unnecessarily smirching the fair fame of Massachusetts." But, in the light of the facts, this argument will not hold water. One fact is, that the Republican authorities had not made, or tried to make, the necessary reforms, though scandalous abuses were shown by investigation to exist in the almshouse management as far back as 1876. It is also a fact that the results of that investigation were made public in the report of the committee of the Legislature which conducted it. The only difference between the investigation of 1876 and Gov. Butler's is that Gov. Butler's has brought out more facts. The former exposed abuses, but we do not remember that the Republican organs pretended to think then that the abuses might be reformed without publicity. The exposer then were Republicans, while now it is Gov. Butler that is doing the exposing. If the Republicans were sincere for reform, why didn't they discharge Supt. Marsh in 1876? If there is nothing to reform now, why do the Republican State board of health, etc., discharge him now? The answer is,—because Gov. Butler is conducting the investigation now, and means business, and because of the greater amount of publicity which has now been given to Marsh's mismanagement. "Wickedness loves darkness," and those who want the Republican party to escape censure, and the Marshes to keep their positions, hate publicity. Old Marsh might have held the superintendency of the almshouse until his death, and his sons after him, if it weren't for the great publicity given to his mismanagement.

THE DEFENCE in the Tewksbury investigation, so far as the testimony goes, reads a good deal like the reports of the prosecution. The defence opened Monday, and the investigation adjourned yesterday until next Monday. The efforts of Counselor Brown during the past five days were directed almost exclusively to combatting the testimony of Dr. Dixwell, one of the Governor's witnesses, who testified that, when a student at Harvard Medical College, he dissected "two or three babies a week," taking some of them to his room for that purpose. Several physicians have been called by the defence to prove that no infants' bodies were dissected in the college, or allowed within its walls, but some of these witnesses have admitted on cross-examination that they did see a few such bodies there which were dissected, and one of which was used by Prof. Jackson to illustrate a lecture before the students. It was also admitted that the janitor might have received cargoes of infants' bodies at night, and delivered them to students, without the knowledge of the college authorities.