The Advocate.

Henry A. Parsons, Jr., - Editor

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1882.

ENTERED AT THE POST-OFFICE AT RIDGWAY, PA., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

The Day of the People.

The dawning of Popular Representation is at hand. Those old musty documents known as the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, contain the principles with which the ship of a free State may sail without other chart or compass. The eternal principle of popular representation is one of the vital planks in the grand old structure which we call Nation. The people shall rule themselves. All delegations of authority shall come from the people. In these days too often we see the expressed will of the people set at naught in the interest of a petty office or at the behest of a party chieftain. At Cincinnati the unholy hand of a Cameron gave us Hayes in defiance of the wishes of a large majority of the Republicans of the old Keystone State. Then at Chicago the 306 who stood by Grant attempted in their blind devotion to a great leader to throw down the traditions of the country and upset the idea of popular government by a step and a long one toofin the direction of an Empire. These are notable examples of a disregard of the wishes of the people, and they stand as warning mile stones to all men that there are ambitious and unscrupulous men, even in a Republic whom it will not do to trust too far. Columns could be written on these high misdemeanors, but a hint suffices for our purpose.

Last fall at the Republican county convention, of Elk county, a great mistake was made; the wind was sown which is bringing forth the whirlwind. Authority was given the Chairman of the County Committee to appoint the committee. This disposition of the committee the delegates had no power to make, and that they exceeded their authority in the premises no one doubts. After the chairman got this unheard of power he proceeded to stuff the committee to suit his own idea of politics in utter disregard of the wishes of the Republicans of the county. In the first place it had always been customary to appoint three members of the committee from each precinct. This custom the chairman, with his usual disregard of anything that seems to stand in the way of his servitude to the masters, appointed but one member in each district. When questioned as to the propriety of his action he gave the questioner to understand that it was no one's business, and that he was running the machine. In this action he made a blunder which no amount of excuses will release him from. Republicans of Elk county are you prepared to be dictated to by one man, and that one man of no very large calibre either? Are you prepared to have your rights as citizens and Republicans trodden under foot by a man simple because he holds an official position and dances when his masters pipe? Last week (Wednesday), this committee or a fraction of it (six men all told) were present. The chairman held two substitutions for use in case of emergency, and had things "fixed" to suit himself. After the meeting was over the mighty chairman, informed a gentleman that as there was no Republican paper in the county the report would be published when the *Democrat* came out it contained the report. The chairman's too utterly-utter disregard of the THE ADVOCATE will have about as much effect on the course of this paper as a flee bite would have on the cheek of a Stalwart. While for eleven years we have struggled to maintain a Republican paper in Elk county, and much of the time without the support of the mighty chairman, we feel amply repaid for our trouble by a steady increase of subscription list and job work and advertising patronage, and feel able to get along without his recognition as long as by faithful work we merit the support of our friends. This point we will have more to say about hereafter. The outrageous action of the Little "Boss" is something that stinks in the nostrils of honest men and cries for vengeance at the hands of the voters. When will the people have their day?

In our issue of March 16, we favored the calling of a County Convention to appoint a delegate, is that the reason the committee was called together in such hot haste and in silent conclave? It is our opinion that the appointment of a delegate to the State Convention is one in which every member of the party has an interest, and that due notice should be given through the columns of the newspaper. And not that the delegate should be placed at the disposal of a man simply to keep him in the position of postmaster. Look to these things Republicans of Elk county. See to it that the delegates to the next County Convention are men who will stand firmly by the eternal and living principles of FREE RULE and POPULAR REPRESENTATION.

—The Bradford *Star* states that the compliments of McKean County "are doubtless at the command of the Hon. Lucius Rogers for the Republican nomi- for the office of Secretary of Internal Affairs, and if he should permit his name to be used in that connection he will receive strong support in the convention from various quarters of the State."

Longfellow.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet of America, on Friday March 24, 1882, yielded up his life peacefully and calmly in the midst of his family at Cambridge, Mass. He was born February 27, 1807, and was at his death almost a month more than seventy-five years of age. Full of years and honors he has gone to the land of the blest, while on earth his immortality will grow brighter and brighter until the end of recorded time.

"Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream,
For the soul is dead that slumbers
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not our goal,
Dust thou art to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul."

Militia Court Martial.

An act of the legislature of 1881 provided for trial by court martial of members of the National Guard charged with violations of the laws governing that organization. The first convictions under it where the sentence has been imprisonment, are now promulgated by the court martial, which has been in session at Scranton. Jubas Harding, of company G, Thirteenth regiment, for threatening a superior officer and for other violations of military discipline, has been sentenced to pay a fine of fifty dollars and undergo an imprisonment of fifty days; Harlo Manard, of the same company, for disobedience of orders, has been sentenced to thirteen days' imprisonment.

—Hon. Henry Souther has been spoken of as a candidate for Governor. He would no doubt make an acceptable candidate. And Elk county, where he has many friends, would be for him to a man. But the little "boss" has had our delegate instructed for Beaver. And what are the people going to do about it? Following we reprint a complimentary notice from the Philadelphia *Press* which suits us to a T:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRESS:—There are several reasons why Hon. Henry Souther, of Erie, would make an acceptable candidate for Govenor. He has had a large experience in public affairs, is a first-class lawyer, and has served with distinction on the Bench and in the Legislature and other important stations. An orignal Republican, his course has been such that Mr. Cameron, Mr. Wolfe, or the most fastidious Continental could support him.
X. Y. Z.

—Judge Jeremiah Black is quoted by a correspondent of the Providence *Press* as saying, in regard to the rumors of Mr. Arthur's marriage: "I do not doubt that the President is the constant subject of matrimonial overtures from all quarters, some of them most diplomatically presented. When I was associated with President Buchanan as a Cabinet officer from his own State, I was continually solicited to be the medium of the delicate approaches and propositions."

GOLDEN DAYS for April, an excellent Magazine for boys and girls, is on hand as usual. This great juvenile publication is issued weekly, and also in monthly parts. It is well that we have a pure, fresh and entertaining periodical issued in behalf of the youth of the land, which offset in a certain measure the steady stream of trash which emanate from so many publishers. A delightful weekly is GOLDEN DAYS. Send for specimen copy to JAMES ELVERSON, publisher of GOLDEN DAYS, Philadelphia, Pa.

—General Grant preserved a masterly inactivity at the White House in all except getting out of the way of the callers. When they inquired for him at the front door he slipped adroitly out through the conservatory. Mr. G. W. Childs gave a dinner to the General and his wife at Philadelphia Saturday night on their way to New York.

—Among the last signatures of the poet Longfellow was the one which he affixed to his portrait engraved by Marshall. There were 1,025 impressions taken from the plate before it was destroyed, and of these Longfellow signed 1,011, putting his name to the last one a week ago last Tuesday, on which he wrote to the publishers of the picture, Barrie and Co., of Philadelphia, the almost prophetic words, "My task is done." It is five years since Marshall began his work on the plate, and the picture, which was exhibited for the first time Saturday, does not show the ravages which failing health has lately made in the face of the poet.

The Utah Commission.

MORMONS OF OPINION THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE.

Washington, March 27.—One of the most important subjects before the president now is the appointment of the commission to organize the territory of Utah. Great efforts are being made on the part of Mormons to secure the appointment upon that commission of ex-Delegate Hooper, of that territory, on the ground that the Mormon interest ought to have some recognition. Mr. Hooper is a Mormon in faith, but not a polygamist in practice. He has never had but one wife and he would be eligible in that respect for service on the commission, and for that matter for election to congress. Hooper is not so determined a Mormon as most of those who are polygamists by practice, and if any representative of the Mormon hierachy should receive a place upon that commission he probably would be favorably considered, but those who have been the promoters of the anti-polygamy bill would oppose any such recognition of the Mormon element, and would insist that there would be danger that some of the essential objects sought by the bill might be defeated by such an appointment. It is ascertained that Mr. Kirkwood, who is soon to be ex-secretary of the interior, will be appointed president of this commission if he will accept the place.

The *Star* says Miss Phoebe Cousins, the well known woman suffrage advocate of St. Louis, has applied to president Arthur to be appointed as one of the five commissioners to recorganize Utah territory under the recent act of congress.

Betty and the Baby.

PETITIONS FOR SERGEANT MASON'S PARDON POURING IN ON THE PRESIDENT.

(Philadelphia Press.)

Washington, March 24.—The flood of letters and petitions in behalf of the pardon or the commutation of the sentence of Sergeant Mason which is pouring into the White House shows an increasing interest in this matter all over the country. An enormous petition for Mason's pardon, containing over 12,000 signatures, was to-day received from Toledo, Ohio

Members of Congress are continually bearing to the President these petitions received from their constituents, which are referred, as usual, to the Judge Advocate-General of the Army for consideration. Active steps in Mason's behalf were taken to-day by the presentation in the Supreme Court of the papers and petitions asking a writ of habeas corpus. The Court, as stated last night would be done, took the case under consideration and will decide on Monday as to whether it will allow the filing of the petition. Meetings are being held in various portions of the city each night, in the interest of Mason's wife and child, and the contributions were placed in the hands of the lady friends to-day, to bring her from her home in Virginia to this city. She is expected to arrive in a few days.

AN APPEAL FROM MRS. MASON.

The Washington *Star* prints the following letter, which was received from Sergeant Mason's wife by Mrs. Mary Shannon, a lady who has been laboring actively in behalf of Mason and his distressed family:

"LOCUST GROVE, Orange county, Va., Sunday March 19, 1882. Dear Mrs. Shannon:—Your kind letter of the 16th is at hand. Very glad to see you. I did not feel very well, so I came home. I saw my husband on Tuesday, the 14th, and bade him good bye, and he said: 'Don't worry my dear wife, I will come out all right.' Yet I can't help worrying. My husband is all I have to look to for my support. It is enough to break my heart when I think over it. If my husband had committed some great crime, it would have been different, but he has not done anything to be punished for. I hope he will be pardoned by President Arthur. I hope you will go and see him for me, and, dear Mrs. Shannon, try and do all you can for me. I am very much in need and in distress, and I can't help thinking of my dear husband, for he has been good and kind to me ever since I have been married to him; and to think he has been so good and brave a soldier for eighteen long years, never in the guard house before, and carries a very bad wound on the left shoulder, and a piece out of the left ear. I think that is enough to give him a good and honorable discharge from the army, and a pension. I think he has been punished enough for what he has done. He has been in a place that a brute would not live in the same length of time. He has been there six months in that cold, damp cell, and sometimes not feeling very well. God is with him, and I pray He will protect him and all the people who are trying to get a pardon for him. I hope he will soon be released and come home to me. Go and see President Arthur, and let me hear from you soon.

"P. S.—I did not know my husband was to be sent away so soon. Oh, my heart aches with pain. I trust in God, and hope he will protect me.

"I remain your friend, with love to all,

"BETTIE E. MASON.

"Write soon. My little boy is well."

American News Papers in 1882.

The American Newspaper Directory, which will be issued next month by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., of New York, will contain the names of 10,611 periodicals in the United States and Teritories, which is a gain of 344 in the year just passed. The number of daily papers has increased in somewhat larger proportion, and is now represented by a total of 936 against 921 in 1881. The largest increase has been in New York—10 dailies, 29 of all sorts. Illinois and Missouri show a percentage of gain which is even greater, while Colorado leads all others in the percentage of increase, both of daily and weekly issues. California, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia have fallen behind 1881 in the total number of periodicals issued. In Georgia, Maine and Massachusetts the suspensions have exactly counterbalanced the new ventures. In every State not mentioned above, and in the Territories, there has been an increase.

The Anti-Chinese Bill.

SECRETARY OF SATE FRELINGHYSEN OPPOSED TO IT.

Washington, March 27.—The members of the New Jersey delegation say that Secretary Frelinghuysen is opposed to the president's signing the Chinese bill, and will use his influence to have it vetoed. It is understood that the Chinese minister takes the grounds that the bill is a direct violation of treaty stipulation, and that the twenty years' suspension of the immigration of the Chinese is not such a resonable time as contemplated by the terms of the treaty. The opinion is maintained that if the bill becomes a law the Chinese government will not consent to accept its provisions, but require the United States to abrogate the treaty as a whole. The Chinese minister thinks that the words "reasonable time" could not be made to extend beyond a period of ten years.

Cruel Joke on a Young Farmer.

(From the Elmira Advertiser.)

A young farmer of Clintondale, Ulster county, became deeply enamored of a young lady, a stranger in the neighborhood, who was temporarily stopping in the village, and after courting her assiduously for some days, popped the all-importantqu estion, received "yes" for an answer, and insisted on the marriage ceremony being performed the following evening. Accordingly, a large number of friends were invited and the couple made one by a justice of the peace of the neighborhood. Immediately upon the conclusion of the ceremony the bride was surrounded by her gentlemen friends, all of whom insisted upon kissing her, greatly to the displeasure of the jealous groom, whereupon she made her escape to an adjoining room, and the bridegroom has not seen her since, or at least has not been able to recognized her. The truth of the matter is that the bride was a pretty boy, and when he left the room he changed his garments and mingled with the crowd and enjoyed the fun. The groom will never get over the rather practical joke which his friends played upon him.

The Coming Great Comet.

(N. Y. Sun.)

If the comet that was discovered by a young astronomer in Albany a week ago fulfils half of the promises made for it, we may expect to behold, in May or June, a celestial spectacle such as has not been equalled since 1858 or 1811. This comet, although some 200,000,000 miles from its perihelion, which it will not reach for three months, shows a bright tail and a star-like nucleus. The inference is fair that the comet is a very large one, and that when it gets into our neighborhood it will present a magnificent appearance. Moreover, Prof. Chandler's figures show that the comet is plunging almost straight at the sun, which it will probably approach within 100,000 miles. The only other comet, in the long list of those bodies whose orbits have been calculated, which approached anything like as near to the sun as this are the comet of 370 B. C., the comet of 1667, the comet of 1680, often called Newton's comet, the comet of 1843, and the comet of 1880. The last named was observed only in South America and Australia and at the Cape of Good Hope. Concerning the comet of 370 B. C., of which frightful things are related, and which is said to have split in two, not much is known, but the measurements made in the other cases are generally to be depended upon. In fact, it was the approach of the comet of 1680 which led Newton to anticipate possible peril to the earth from the fall of great comet into the sun. This is not the popular view of the danger from comets, the fear usually being that they may strike the earth, or produce pestilence by mingling the substance of their tails with our atmosphere. Of late, the other view has been made more conspicuous, especially since Mr. Proctor's recent article on what he called the Menaeth comet of 1881 which he anticipated may return in 1897.

The appearance of this new comet on the heels of the discussion awakened by Mr. Proctor's suggestion gives the subject renewed interest, especially in view of the announcement that the coming comet is going so close to the sun. Unless the calculators have made a very great blunder it will pass through the corona, and, if large enough, may graze the luminous surface. It should be noticed that there is a discrepancy between the estimates of the perihelion distinct made by Prof. Chandler of Harvard University and Prof. Boss of the Dudley Observatory, the latter making the distance considerably greater than that above given. Both agree, however, that the approach will be a close one. The question whether the earth may not at some time be in danger from a great comet is all the more interesting because men of science are not exactly in accord upon it. Mr. Proctor is not the only astronomer who thinks that if ever the world is to be destroyed with heat it will be when a great comet plunges into the sun. Even those who think Mr. Proctor is mistaken in his conclusions admit that, given a comet big enough and massive enough, undoubtedly its fall upon the sun would prove disastrous to the earth. But they say it would require a body having a mass something like that of Jupiter to produce such effects, and compared with Jupiter the most massive comet ever seen are more pigmies. Besides, there seems good reason to believe that a comet would, on approaching close enough to the sun, be pulled to pieces and so drop piecemeal into the great orb, the fall being prolonged perhaps though many revolutions, so that the accession of heat caused by the conversion of the comet's motion would be distributed over a considerable period of time. Besides, as Prof. Young has pointed out, if a comet fell into the sun the increase of heat would be mainly used up in producing expansion of the sun's orbs, and would afterward be radiated out again through a long space of years. Another very interesting objection has been raised to Mr. Proctor's theory, namely, that as three-quarters of the surface which the earth presents to the sun is covered deep with water, such an increase of the sun's heat as the fall of a comet might produce would cause a great increase of evaporation, which would use up the extra heat, and so protect the earth from harm. According to this view we are reasonably safe so long as the oceans last and the sun does not gets too hot.

Of course the reply may be made to these objections that, although no known comet is great enough to cause us harm by its downfall upon the earth, yet we do not know but that comets exist thousands of times more massive than any human eyes have ever seen, and that such a comet may some time pay us a visit. In fact, we have had a rather distant view of one comet that really seemed to belong to an order of magnitude different from that of ordinary comets—a sort of celestial whale among fishes. This was the famous comet of 1811, which had a head almost as big as the sun itself. But it kept far away, its perihelion distance being some ninety million miles. If such a comet as that should rush upon the sun, Mr. Proctor thinks, it would soon show us what it could do. But his opponents say that even the downfall of the comet of 1811, although it might make the weather uncomfortably hot for us, would not, "dissolve the elements with fervent heat." Those who may have a lingering suspicion of danger can take comfort in the fact that when this huge comet disappears it was traveling on a track that must have carried it uncounted billions of miles away from the solar system, so that it is not likely to return in thousands of years, if ever. That the astronomers themselves are not much alarmed is shown by the fact that they are all very anxious to witness the promised spectacle of the downfall of a comet in 1897 or thereabouts.

Whether the coming comet's close approach to the sun will throw any light on this interesting question of course cannot be foretold, but all the present indications are that it will pay its respects to the ruler of the solar saytem with royal splendor, presenting perhaps such a scene as was witnessed when the great comet of 1264, which failed to return, as expected, in 1860, spanned the heavens with its tail. In the mean time there is no occasion for anybody to be alarmed, but good reason for everybody to rejoice that we are likely to witness one of the grandest phenomena of the skies.

—The Bradford *Reporter* makes an offer of $10,000 in gold for the word that shall best describe the contradictory condition of the Democratic party. The competition is not limited to age, sex, condition or degree and it is especially desirable that spring poets shall wrestle with the conundrum.

—The election Committee has decided the contested election case in the First South Carolina district in favor of E. W. M. Mackay, Republican contestant.

Payment of Poll Tax.

THE VOTER MUST PAY IT IN PERSON OR BY AN AUTHOTIZED AGENT.

On Thursday last a criminal suit charging one William H. Shrouds, an election officer of the Eleventh division of the Twelfth ward of Philadelphia, with unlawfully rejecting the vote of one William Durst, was tried before Judge Allison of that city. The history of the case is substantially as follows: Curst, the prosecutor, was challenged for non-payment of taxes. He presented a tax receipt, but was again challenged on the ground that he had not paid the taxes for which he held the receipt. He was sworn by the election officers, but refused to say on his oath that he had paid the taxes. His vote was then rejected. In his examination in court he said that he believed that the republican city committee had paid the taxes for which he held the receipt, but he did not know of his own knowledge that such was the fact. Council for the defense took the ground that Durst in failing to pay his poll tax or in deputizing any one to do it, had not complied with the requirements of the new constitution as to the qualification of voters, and that Shrouds was therefore justified in refusing to take the ballot.

Judge Allison, in a long and comprehensive charge on this point, said: "The new constitution holds as one of the qualifications of a voters that he"—emphasizing the pronoun—"shall have paid a state or county tax within two years. The refusal of the prosecutor in this case to make oath that he had made such a payment, in connection with the admission that he had not made it and had no personal knowledge of its having been paid, justified the judge in rejecting the vote. The judge called attention of the jury to the phraseology of the constitution; that, propely interpreted, would require that the tax should be paid by the voter himself or by some person whom he had authorized to pay it for him. In the latter instance, he said, the principle would apply that what a man does by another he does by himself. "But this," he said, "by no means allows a stranger to intrude himself into the business of a voter, who alone can determine whether he pays tax as a qualification for voting or not. The custom has prevailed in this city, and been extensively practiced, of obtaining names of voters from the assessment list and without the consent of the voter, and even without his knowledge, having taxes paid for him." This, the judge thought, does not constitute a legal payment of tax, because it is not done by the voter, directly or indirectly and is an unauthorized act of a stranger on whom the law confers no such right. If the defendant in the case before him, he said, had accepted the prosecutor's vote, he would have been more properly chargeable with violating the law than by the act for which he was indicted.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty and put the costs upon the prosecutor.

—Emory P Beauchamp, of Indiana, who has just been appointed to a Swiss Consulate, was an applicant five years ago for the Belgian mission. Secretary Everts, according to the New York *Tribune* correspondent, mentioned the matter at a meeting, asking Secretary Thompson regarding the candidate's qualifications, inasmuch as they were fellow townsmen. Postmaster-General Key then said he could tell a story which would throw light on his. He said Mr. Beauchamp had the year before addressed an amusing series of love letters to a young lady abroad, in one of which he had made an offer of his "hole hart." This was a good specimen of his habitual spelling. The story raised a laugh in the Cabinet, which disposed of Mr. Beauchamp's chances for the Belgian mission. When he called upon Mr. Thompson afterwards to inquire concearning his prospects, that gentlemen advised him to return to Cologne, and be thankful if he were allowed to stay there.

—New York State produces, according to the Richburg *Echo*, 20,000 barrels a day. Allegany county produces 16,000 barrels and Cattaraugus county 4,000 barrels. New York State produces one-third of the total oil product of America. About one year ago it produced one-sixteenth.

Estate Notice

ESTATE of James S. Champion, late of Millstone township, Elk county, Pa., deceased. Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary have been granted to the undersigned upon the above named estate. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims against the same to present them without delay, in proper order, for settlement.

JAMES M'FARLAN, }
WILLIAM CLYDE. } Adm'rs.

—The largest stock of scrap pictures own in at THE ADVOCATE office.

Borough Ordinance, No. 13.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN MONIES FROM THE BOROUGH FUND OF 1881 TO THE ROAD FUND OF SAME YEAR.

Be it ordained and enacted by the Town Council of the Borough of Ridgway, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same.

That the sum of four hundred ($400) dollars is hereby transferred from the Borough Fund of 1881 to the Road Fund of 1881, and the Treasurer of said Borough is hereby authorized to make such transfer on his books of account with the Funds of the Borough as aforesaid.

This ordinance shall take effect on and after Mareh 18, 1882.

C. H. McCAULEY, Pres't.

Attest, W. C. HEALY, Sec'y.

Approved this 7th day of March, A.D. 1882.

J. POWELL, Chief Burgess.