

The Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Terms, \$2 per Annum, in Advance.

BELLEFRONTE, PA.

Friday Morning, January 22, 1869.

Pennsylvania, the Constitution, and the Union.

The great interest of Pennsylvania is to have a union of the States under a Constitution in force over all, respected by all, and operated equally by all. The conception of a general government for the American republics, whose independence was recognized by King George, was based on the corner-stone of equality, and the Union was designed and proclaimed in the Constitution to be for specific purposes, and those specific purposes are enumerated in the Constitution. All powers not granted to the General Government by the States, nor prohibited to the States, were reserved to the States or the people. This is plain; and requires no proof beyond reference to the Constitution itself. But a party has risen up in the country, which proclaims to be for a "strong government"—which defends legislation not permitted by the Constitution—which says to legalize and Constitutionalize acts of the most unblushing usurpation—which tramples the reserved rights of the States—which overrides precedents, and puts its iron heel upon the protests of the people—which ignores the old landmarks, and scorns those who gave them as guides to freemen in the Western world.

Pennsylvania, we assert, is deeply interested, or should be, in the preservation of the rights of the States and the conduct of the General Government, in the spirit and intent of its founders and under the Constitution; for Pennsylvania enjoys what Pennsylvania should never surrender with the lives of her sons—INHERENT SOVEREIGNTY—national republican sovereignty—the recognition of nationality and her right to a position in the family of nations, wrung from George the Third, King of England, by the valor of her patriot sires and sons. This sovereignty she neither fully delegated, nor partially surrendered, nor had she the right to, so long as freemen dwell in her borders. She did, however, consent and agree to a conferring of the exercise of certain sovereign rights by the creature of her will and of the will of her co-equal and co-sovereign republics—the General Government of the United States, under a Constitution and Union for "specific purposes." More than this, Pennsylvania had no right to surrender or confer to other hands, and there is no record in existence that Pennsylvania ever conferred more than the right of her creature to exercise certain rights. For the exercise of these rights conferred by Pennsylvania, the General Government was the agent of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania was recognized by King George, after a successful revolution, to be a free and independent State, entitled to enjoy her rights of sovereignty as an independent nation of the earth; and yet there has arisen a set of despicable traitors in her borders who dare to assail the sovereignty of their native State, and to claim to owe allegiance to the agent and not to the mistress which bore them!

At the late election held in this Commonwealth and nationally, by deceptions and frauds, by conspiracies and combinations with enemies abroad, a majority of many thousands was polled in insult to the dignity of the Republic of Pennsylvania, to the scandal of her brave sons, and with a view to the overthrow of the sovereignty of the State. It is well for the proud sons of Pennsylvania to mark well the intents of the small hand of foreign emissaries in their midst, who have succeeded, at intervals, in manipulating the sovereign expression of the will of Pennsylvania in apparent sympathy with the monarchists and revolutionists of her sister republics, and to visit upon them their condign displeasure.

The friends of Col. P. DONAN, formerly editor of the Missouri Vindicator, but more lately of the New York Record and Vindicator, will be glad to know that he is at his old home at Palmyra, Mo., and enjoying excellent health. Mr. DONAN, as the public are aware, is the author of those impetuous and most humorous articles which have received so wide a circulation over the nose de plume of "R. E. Bell." We hope the Colonel, who is a true Democrat; a brave man, and an accomplished gentleman, will soon have a peck of type and a lemon-squeezer, or more, in some good place, and be enabled to again take that position in the world of politics for which he is so well adapted by education, mind, and force of character. Good luck to him in whatever sphere he may engage his talents.

Is Protestantism a Failure?

A short time since the following letter appeared in the New York World, and we give it here for the reflections which it suggests and presses upon the mind:

THE FAILURE OF PROTESTANTISM. To the Editor of the World:—Will you kindly admit one word from me suggested by your item of yesterday? I have not predicted that Protestantism will fail. My statement is that it has failed. As a religious system it has disappeared from the convictions of the vast majority in lands known as Protestant. Its failure, however, does not necessarily involve its immediate disappearance from the eyes of men. Ancient Polytheism disappeared as a religious system from the convictions of the Greeks and Romans centuries before it vanished from the eyes of men. I do not forecast the future; I simply give voice to a wide-spread sentiment, that, on the walls of Protestantism God hath written the words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel;" and that men must now look for their religion either to Rationalism or to Catholicity.

What has been the cause of the decline of the Protestant religion? Let those answer who have prostituted it to all manner of secular uses and abuses. For years the Protestant religion has been made the sustaining pillar in the fabric of politics. Not only in our own country, but throughout the world, it has been prostituted from its original high aim to the uses of politicians, as a stepping stone to power and place. In England Protestantism is a part of government, and its proscriptive legislation against those who differed with it, has recoiled upon the church of its authors, and it is sick with the poisons of its own emission. Church and State united in death to both church and State. It is scarcely necessary to refer, even in this article, to its history in the United States, as made for it by religious and political fanatics. From witch-burning on the banks of the Connecticut two centuries ago, to the lowest depths of Black Republican hatefulness all over the land, in the past ten years, have ever been present and the chief instruments of wrong mounting high, the leaders and fanatics of the Protestant church. The late bloody war between the States, as well as the many terrible wars which have preceded it since the Reformation obtained power, are more or less attributable directly to the interference of Protestant fanatics in the temporal affairs of governments and peoples. We do not object to the Protestant church as a religion, for were its manifold creeds observed more in the spirit of religious worship, and less in the practice of politics, peace, and not turmoil, would have blessed its reign and the world. If it is passing away, and there are few honest men who do not acknowledge and mourn the evidence of its unmistakable decline, the Protestant religion like none other to blame than those who have spoken for it, who have acted for it and in its name, who have destroyed its influence among men as a religion in the endeavor to build it up as a temporal power, and who have prostituted its name and cause to the uses of bad men and a despicable party.

It is a remarkable fact that, in the late agrarian war by the vundal Yankees and infidel leaders of the North upon the rights of the people of the South, the Protestant church of the world threw its influence almost entirely with the infidel party. It became at once the cloak of infidels, and its adulatory the voluntary memory of infidel warriors. In all lands its course has been the same with little variation. In grasping for power, its leaders have succeeded only in losing both their religion and the hold of the Protestant church upon the minds and hearts of the people, and hence it is not strange that it has become honey-headed in its youth and is preparing to lie side Polytheism and the thousand other religions which have gone before it to the grave of its fruitless and unwept ancestors.

There can be no true Christian religion which is unchristian in its practices. Church and State, united in any degree whatever, cannot endure; either the church must go down or government become a despotism borne down by corruption. The church is the guide, the promise and the consolation of the soul, and temporal government the ruler of the body. The one beckons on to a home beyond the grave, the other is to protect the home this side the grave. There is a gulf between the two, to cross which is to conquer time and to unite this world and the next with a rotten bridge, like the many which have been thrown across the gulf and have fallen to decay.

The decline of the Protestant church is the decline of the Christian religion to a serious extent, and a loss to mankind which cannot be even computed. What the warring world might have been under its early teachings of "Peace on earth, good will to men," had fanatics and demagogues not lowered its standard, it is easier to divine by reflection than to realize by existing surroundings.

But we hope for the best, that the church may recover its lost ground,

and yet endure to bless mankind with redemption from sin by the saving grace of a Christ crucified. No other religion has offered to man so beautiful a theory of a future existence, as the Protestant Christian religion, nor is it likely that any other yet to come will offer a stronger impulse for right-doing than the promise of rewards and a future estate.

But the Rev. F. C. EWER is not far wrong in his estimate of the loss of influence of the Protestant church. He, however, errs in the opinion that Protestantism can go down and Catholicity, a similar Christian institution, go forward and prosper. Protestantism and Catholicity compose about all of the Christian creeds. To destroy one is to build up the other; but to undermine the very foundations of the whole fabric and to throw the world into Rationalism and Atheism. This will undoubtedly be the fate of the world on the decline of either Protestantism or Catholicity.

Robbery of Pennsylvania.

The present Legislature of Pennsylvania, there can be no question, is the most profligate and corrupt body which has ever assembled in the old Commonwealth of WILLIAM PENN. It has been in session but a few days, and yet the swandering of the people's money, wrung from the stiffened sinews of commerce and labor and from the horny hands of the farmer, has never marked the first days of any other session since the institution of that body, and augurs a fearful depletion of the treasury for party purposes and party rewards, which will well nigh bring about State bankruptcy before its close.

In the short period of four days, a record of the profligate and shameless donation of the people's money to pimps and parasites and in rewards for party service to unknown names all over the State, shows an expenditure of about \$200,000!

This is no part or parcel of the means which is usually showered broadcast by legislative piracy, in what is known as general appropriation or deficiency bills. These bills go deep down into the State vaults or strike at the heart of the State's credit in round numbers, and are yearly afflictions justified to some extent by custom and usage more than by the press of necessity. The people expect legislative bodies not unusually corrupt to steal a hundred thousand or so, for the pet schemes of central rings at the close of the session, particularly when there is any occasion for demonstration of loyalty in some form or other, or when the public have been prepared for an intended robbery by cautious agitation of some mean hoax or other scheme. But the appropriations now made are not of this character; they are special donations from the Republican leaders to numerous Republican hangers-on and dead-beats—for election services and whisky bills—made not from the purse of the Republican party, but from the purse of the people—the taxes wrung from over taxed and heavy-laden labor.

The Legislature, as we assert, has, in its first days, squandered—given away—donated—appropriated about \$200,000. For what? the reader will ask. For nothing, we answer—but to the State printing ring; to twenty-seven printers and folders; to all sorts of new offices, superdoms, and roustabout-hoods. The lather on fraternity has been increased by one branch to the exact number of members. Some of these parasites are expected to "knock about" the State house once in a while, and to draw their money; but all are not expected, nor intended to be there. Some of the army of printers and folders are living elsewhere, have nothing to do at Harrisburg, and will probably only attend to draw their large salaries, and to get drunk up rifle Republicanism.

Two hundred thousand dollars have been appropriated by the Republican party in such manner. What will be the total amount at the close of the session, the rings can best tell. Sure it is, that, without some check to the shameless use of the public funds going on, the State will be prepared to go into bankruptcy by the time the snow is off the ground.

(For the Bellefonte Watchman.)

A Forgery, a Burglary, and Many Falsehoods.

The letter published by Brick Pomeroy, purporting to have been written and signed by me, is a forgery, palpably base. I never applied to him for a position as editor, but, three, during the past year, declined to accept such position.

The publication made with so much flourish by Pomeroy, purporting to be all of the copy of "Brick Pomeroy Unmasked," was but a portion of two chapters or parts. Its possession was secured by a burglar in the manner of all burglaries. The book complete, and illustrated, will be issued in the next few days. All the statements made as to pay from bondholders, etc., etc., including the libelous stuff published against me, are the desperate and reckless authorships of an overdone mountebank.

ALF. S. KIEROLF. Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 20, 1869.

The Illegality of the Rag Currency.

Nowhere in the Federal Constitution can there be found authority, either expressed or implied, under which a Congress may issue paper promises to pay ("legal tenders" or "greenbacks") in lieu of a coin currency. Clause five of art. 1, sec. 8, says: "Congress shall have power to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin." Clause one of art. 1, sec. 10, says: "No State shall coin money," nor "make any but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts." Clause six of art. 1, sec. 8, says: "Congress shall have power to provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States."

These are the only portions of the organic law in reference to the currency, and it must be admitted by every reader or investigator that a great stretch of the imagination is requisite to make them cover the legal tender and greenback acts of the Rump Congress. When coin is mentioned, paper certainly is not meant, nor is it proper to suppose that the power given to coin money included authority to set up presses in the Treasury Department for the purpose of printing greenbacks—which are sometimes dignified by the name of money. It is only by classing greenbacks as securities, that authority under the Constitution can be claimed by Congress for the issuance of a paper currency, but it is very questionable to class greenbacks as securities. By securities, the framers and adopters of the Constitution assuredly meant the bonds which the Government might issue for the purposes of borrowing money and not notes to be used as a circulating medium. Had the intention been to allow the issue of a paper currency, Congress would have been empowered to print money as well as to coin it, and to punish the counterfeiting of paper currency as well as the securities and current coin. The greenbacks are secured, of course, by pledging the Government faith on their faces, but that does not necessarily bring them under the term securities. The main object of greenbacks is not to secure payment to Government creditors but to provide a medium of exchange; hence they are currency and not securities. The object of Government bonds is not to furnish a medium of exchange, but simply to secure the payment of money loaned by persons to the Government.

It is thus pretty clear that the legal tender or greenback acts of the Rump Congress rest upon a very flimsy and unsubstantial basis. It is true that it will be contended that the Government is bound by the acts of its agents, but how can it be bound by an illegality? A subsequent Congress may not see fit to perpetuate the great fraud, and who dare take it to task? Or the people may, hereafter, refuse to be bound by the acts of the Rump Congress, and demand their reputation. What subsequent Congress will have the tenacity to reenact or validate those acts without more certain constitutional authority than they can find in the organic law?

Taking all these facts together, the groundwork of the Government paper currency is very weak and liable at any moment to be swept away. It will not matter, what series of circumstances may combine to sweep away this currency, fraud, but it would be better could the abomination be made to disappear without resort to a further inflation of the rag currency. By what ever means, however, the rag currency may be swept away and whatever distress may temporarily result, the people must rejoice because real, substantial prosperity cannot visit the country while it exists. Every commercial and industrial pursuit must continue precarious and unstable so long as gold and silver are kept out of circulation. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the time may soon come, as come it must, sooner or later, when a dollar will represent a hundred cents and not seventy-five cents, or sixty-five, as stock jobbers may determine—when clean gold and silver dollars, quarters and dimes may jingle in the pocket in place of the disgracefully ragged, dirty, greasy and sticking bits of paper which now flood the country as greenbacks and fractional currency. Hasten the time for the overthrow of the plague of rags—the curse put upon the country in defiance of Constitutional authority by a corrupt and arbitrary fragment of a Congress made up of Radical Ruffians.

—One of the most startling sensations of the day, both in literary and political circles, is the terrible exposure of Brick Pomeroy, by ALF. KIEROLF. Mr. Kierolf is known throughout the country as the editor of the late Sentinel and the Herald, one of the ablest and most consistent Democratic papers in all the land. His revelations in regard to Pomeroy, will undoubtedly horrify many of the world's admirers.

For ourselves, we have long known enough to make us subscribe to the maxim of the talented Trojan: "Timeo Yankos, etiam dona forant;"—Palmyra (Mo.) Spectator.

Moguls of Mongrelism.

We continue our biographies of the authors and leaders, living and deceased, of the Black Republican party. JOHN BROWN, senior, of Kansas. A most estimable, upright and sincere man was Mr. Brown. He was of that peculiarly spiritual class of men who die young, not from any especial desire on their part to sever the ties which bind them to earth, but to gratify and accommodate those more cruel persons whose duty it is to sever the ties.

When Mr. OSAWATTAMIE BROWN was a youth, he exhibited the most unmistakable evidences of ability for the leadership of a party of grand moral ideas, from his love of horses; and were he living at this time, he would doubtlessly be rewarded with a cabinet office by the great "Hoss TALK," in place of Mr. DEXTER, of Haverhill—a very fast, but otherwise less deserving recipient of office. Many a pleasant midnight ride over green fields and on the highways of Kentucky, Virginia, Missouri and Kansas, did young Brown enjoy in his youth, on the back of nags borrowed from strangers and strange neighborhoods. In his love of this character of exercise, we discover a great resemblance between BROWN and GRANT, although the latter confined his weakness of borrowing saddle cattle only from the sworn enemies of his suffering country in the South, while Brown so loved the loss of his neighbor that he never could successfully repress the desire to visit his stable, whether friend or foe. This was a strong evidence of the stable character of the rising man, who afterward gave to the country that thoughtful legacy of incalculable value to the Pacific railroad and the patriots at Washington, called the Black Republican party.

The religion or principles of this sublime organization, Brown conceived one day in the bushes of Kansas, while dodging the prying impertinences of a sheriff's posse comitatus, who sought the possession of his body under charges made by his enemies that he had murdered a family and burned up their bodies, to hide the deed in the ashes of their own house. When Senator DOTY's bill was before Congress giving to the territories of Kansas and Nebraska the right to become free or slave States, according to the wishes of the inhabitants, BROWN engaged himself to the New England Anti Slavery Bible Society to take a census of the inhabitants, and to ascertain how many wicked persons wanted to have negroes work for a living in Kansas like poor white people. BROWN did this service well, for although it was known many such lived in Kansas, when the vote came out, very few pro-slavery men came to the polls, for BROWN and his pious and exemplary aids had planted most of them and swept off their homes with the wind of the torch. It is remarkable that nearly all the prominent men of the Black Republican party have been agriculturists and plant seed that sprout not nor grow again this side of resurrection.

But there are few planters who are not themselves planted by succeeding and more successful planters; and it so happened that the brilliant and accomplished author of the Black Republican party visited Virginia to spread the principles of the new party to which he had given birth, among the enslaved "sons of the kings of Dahomey," when a very wicked man by the name of Wise, a ruler in the "Old Dominion," seized the great Kansas agriculturist and planted him in the rich soil of that State. And although we hear much about "JOHN BROWN's soul marching on," we have every reason for saying that JOHN BROWN's body is not making any progress whatever, excepting toward dust.

Still the glorious principles of the organization to which he gave birth, are living and likely to continue to prosper in all parts of the country, where jail and penitentiaries, State houses, reform schools and Pacific railroads are built and patronized—where highwaymen are honored and chattering negroes are elevated to equal privileges—where Gov. GRAY's, and Senator CAMERON's, and General BUTLER's, and the "loil" spirits of the treasury bills march on to place and power—where dead thieves are canonized, and living robbers worshipped—where festering corruption darkens dark places, and bribe strings about unblinking abandon—everywhere in all places where murder, subornation, perjury, and other crimes are practiced and go unwhipped. In the manner of Christ, his apostles, we may safely say that whenever two or three Republicans are gathered together, there is the spirit, the marching, itinerating soul of the lamented JOHN BROWN in their midst and in their hearts.

News Items.

- W. W. Hays was inaugurated Mayor of Harrisburg, last week.
-Hon. Oden Bowie has entered upon his duties as Governor of Maryland.
-About \$14,000,000 were deposited in the Massachusetts savings banks last year.
-Senator Stewart has been unanimously re-nominated for Senator from Nevada.
-The one per cent. legacy duty of Baron Rothschild's property amounted to \$2,000,000.
-Another destructive conflagration in Philadelphia. One of the finest blocks in the city.
-Senator Chandler was re-elected for six years, by the Michigan legislature, on the 6th inst.
-Chicago mailed 3081 copies the past year, and divided 341. Ten per cent. is a very fair average.
-The Stephen cotton gin in New York, involving \$2,000,000, has been decided against the government.
-Hon. Godlove S. Orth is becoming prominent as a candidate for the United States Senatorship from Indiana.
-Gov. Green Clay Smith has resigned the Governorship of Montana, and has retired from public life to a farm in Scott county, Kentucky.
-General Grant has accepted an invitation from General Hawley, of Wall Connecticut, to inspect some of its manufacturing establishments.
-The Atlantic (via New Era) of the 9th inst., records the return of General Meade to his post from his holiday trip to the North, in fine health and spirits.
-The Virginia Public Guard was established in 1860, and has cost the State over \$2,000,000. Its recent abandonment will save the State about \$2,000,000 annually.
-Paul De Kock, the well known fictitious novelist, was at last accounts lying at the point of death in Paris. He had but a few weeks previous commenced a new serial novel.
-The Michigan Masons propose to erect in Detroit a grand Masonic temple, to cost \$200,000 exclusive of the site, and to establish in connection with it a library and art gallery.
-The spiritualists in Michigan are holding a State Convention in Jackson. The president's report declared that Michigan is the banner State in the work of spiritual reform.
-A sleeping car was thrown down an embankment on the Pan Handle Railroad, near Pittsburg, on Tuesday of last week. Three persons were killed, and four others seriously injured.
-The majority in Minnesota for the Negro Suffrage Amendment to the State Constitution, as officially declared, is 5372. The proposition to preserve the Grand Jury system had 15,781 majority.
-The House Committee on the District of Columbia has before it a petition for the establishment of a National Asylum for the Blind in the District, open to soldiers and sailors and their children.
-The message of Governor Baker, of Indiana, is about fourteen columns in length, and the Cincinnati Commercial says that with a little arrangement and classification it would pass for an encyclopedia.
-The sensation in hotel life in Dayton, O., on Friday last, was the arrival of a double wedding party from Miami county—a father and his son—who had married sisters, the father wedding the younger.
-Marylanders are complaining of unequal representation in the State Legislature, as the Constitution assigns to each county arbitrarily, and without due regard to population, the number of its representatives.
-A Boston gentleman, a few days ago, dined with a club, and invited the members to dine with him on Tuesday. At this time appointed they assembled at his house—not to a dinner party, but to attend his funeral.
-A white prostitute has been entered in the United States District court in the case of the Hon. John C. Breckinridge, and that statement of a better time, it is to be hoped, will no longer be a wanderer from his native land and a refugee in other climes.
-The celebration of the anniversary of Tom Paine's birthday (Jan. 29) is becoming more observed lately. We see frequent announcements in our exchanges, of the approaching festivities by the intell. speeches, sentiments, music, dancing, etc. the chief courses.
-The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette mentions a report that President Johnson has agreed to nominate for Commissioner of Internal Revenue either Hon. Columbus Delano or Mr. Parsons, of Cleveland, as may be desired by the Radical element of Congress.
-The leading Times says that an amateur gunner of that city visited Harrisburg on the 11th inst., to purchase two thousand cartridges with which to stock Berks county. The Times adds "that his success was not very flattering as the open winter and scarcity of snow has prevented the hunters from noting them."
-Some portions of New Jersey seem to be suffering from an invasion by a small army of quack doctors, and the Hudson County Medical Society has proposed a bill which will prevent to the Legislature, forbidding any person to practice in that county unless he be an authorized practitioner. It is also proposed to lay a heavy fine on those who pretend to dispense drugs without a proper training.
-The Richmond (Va.) Southern Opinion contains a bona fide letter from a sure-enough lover to his sweetheart, which is a little remarkable in its character. It seems that the lover and his sweetheart have studied and learned a new alphabet, composed of figures and punctuation points. This lover is forbidden to visit his dulcinea at her "father's mansion," but he beats the old gentleman by sending his sweetheart a love letter through the columns of the Opinion, which she receives. That talies one for the young man; now if the "cruel parent" would stop the visits of the Opinion to his home, he would beat the young man, and tally one for himself. But as it now stands everything is lovely. It is needless to copy more than a line or two, including the young gentleman's name, and the date line. It is very eloquent and touching; read it!
3.5 41 3.20 47.1200-7.0 5.61 1.4 5.5 31; 9 21 4.4 3.2 3.4 3.1 4.811.3 30; 8.5 3.1 9 4 3.5 3.9 3 4 21.51 5.1 2.1 2.2 6.6 8.9170 3.5 3.1 3.5 3.80 9.0 4.6 5.4 6.1 3.5 1.4 4.5 3.1 3.2 2.4 5.5 35; 55.4 9.9 5.5 1.9 45.2 5.5 4.8 8.5 5.0 1.0 1.4 9.36 9 4.0 5.1 8.0 5.4 2.00 9.0 5.0