

# The Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.  
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Terms, \$2 per Annum, in Advance.  
BELEFONTE, PA.  
Friday Morning, May 6, 1870.

## "Unknown," Unseated Lands.

Within the past few days we have heard a considerable amount of growling among a certain class of speculators, because the County Treasurer has advertised lands, the warrantee names of which no one knows as "Unknown." The fact that they are advertised as "Unknown" is the excuse for the complaint, but the real cause is, that they are advertised as such.

For years back, there has been a number of tracts of land that we believe have escaped the regular tax sales, simply because the warrantee name was unknown, and because Mr. Wolf has seen proper to advertise these "unknown" lands and offer them for sale for the taxes, is the reason of the cause of the growling among the dry bones of speculators in unseated lands. They say, "Why don't he advertise the name of the warrantee?" That would be a very difficult thing to do. There is scarcely a tract of unseated land in the county that has not a dozen or more claimants. Pray, how is he to decide whose the owner? The different parties who claim don't know themselves who among them is the rightful owner, and we would like to know how the Treasurer is to decide.

There is not a man, however, who owns one acre of unseated lands in the county, but knows he has to pay tax upon them—he knows also that if he does not pay his taxes, his land will be sold. Knowing this, it is his duty to pay his taxes, and if he don't pay them, he shouldn't complain if they are sold, though the warrantee and owner are both unknown.

The fact that he has not paid his taxes, is enough to satisfy any honest man that his lands will be offered at Treasurer's sale, and the parties who are waiting to see their names as "owners"—only to give them that much more of a title—will, perhaps, waken up to find another claimant for what they imagine theirs, and the little matter of 25 per cent. to be paid in addition, before they can loosen the hold of the parties to whom the lands are sold off.

## Let the Editorial Convention be at Bellefonte.

In the *Huntsville Watchman* of this week, we find the following article:

LET US HAVE A CONVENTION.  
At the present time the members of the Democratic party are pursuing a course of masterly inactivity which is detrimental to the interests of the state and nation. The time has come when we must organize, and we must organize in a way that will give us a plan of action for the coming year. We must have a convention of our party, and we must have it at Bellefonte. We must have it at Bellefonte because it is the center of the state, and it is the place where we can best see the needs of the people. We must have it at Bellefonte because it is the place where we can best see the needs of the people. We must have it at Bellefonte because it is the place where we can best see the needs of the people.

## The Difference.

Since 1861 the Democracy have had control of the county finances. When they came into power at that time, they found a bonded down with a debt of one hundred and forty five thousand dollars, that the Know-nothings of that day—the mongrel party of today, heaped upon it in six years. That debt has been reduced to \$35,000—with \$37,000 of taxes due the commissioners, to pay it with. A county order, is worth just one hundred cents on the dollar, and will be taken the same as money by any business man in the county.

Away back in 1850 something, the party in opposition to the Democracy got control of the finances of the borough of Bellefonte. At that time, there was not a cent of debt against it. To day, no one knows how much it is indebted, but the general estimate places it above one hundred thousand dollars. We do not know the exact figures, but we do know that since 1864, the council has got authority from the Legislature to borrow ninety thousand dollars. What it has done with this there is no one knows—it has borrowed it at 8 and 10 per cent and pays the taxes on it, and the borough credit today, is in such a condition, that a borough order will not bring sixty cents on the dollar. There is not a business man in town who will take them, over the amount of his taxes, and you can't even trade them for store goods.

numerous boarding places, so that there is every convenience for the comfortable accommodation of a large number of strangers. The "Bush House" itself has 100 sleeping rooms, the "Brokerhoff" about 80, "Garman's" about the same number, while the "Cumming's" runs up into the fifties. Our railroad facilities are all that can be desired, three trains leaving the town daily, east and west. We have splendid scenery, first class trout-fisheries, and our mountains and woods abound with game, so that there is everything to amuse the eye and gratify the taste.

But while there are all these things, it is not probable that much amusement will be indulged in. The occasion will be too serious a one for sports and the line of policy to be adopted by the Democracy in the future will engage all our attention. The course of the party in regard to the Fifteenth Amendment must be indicated by a full expression of the views of the men who do its work, and their resolves should go forth to the world clothed with all the power which vigorous, thoughtful minds and high political integrity can give them. We shall assemble to work, and we shall work not alone for the party good, but for the good of the whole people of today and for the benefit of generations yet to come.

## Needs Baking.

Some half baked mongrel up in Huston township, is mad because the commissioners didn't appoint him Assessor. From about a half column of twaddle, and billingsgate about "rings," "impudence," "poisonous fangs," &c., of the County Commissioners, which he gets into the negro organ of this place, he takes the following, in reference to the instruction given the appointee.

The order to work his vengeance on this Republican, he instructed his appointee to value the property, by per cent. The Assessor of Huston township, in pursuance of this order, has been instructed to value property at one-third of its true value. The Assessor of Huston has been instructed to value property at one-half its true value.

Now, the man who wrote, and the man who published such stuff, must be either fools themselves, or imagine their readers to be. A lawyer, siller, he, no one ever read. There is not a man in the county who has sense enough to know when his belly is full, who does not know, that the commissioners instructions to Assessors are made out in accordance with the several Acts of Assembly, printed and pasted on the back of each assess book, and that after enumerating what articles shall be assessed, closes with with the following instructions:

We, the Assessors, are sworn to do, and how he could assess 100 per cent. higher than the law directs him to, or put Patton township, property at one-third its real value and Huston township, property at one-half its real value, will take the seditious who has discovered that such is the case, to explain.

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Now, will the Republican editors who are continually howling about the county finances, tell us why it is that a county order under Democratic financing will bring a hundred cents on the dollar, and a borough order under mongrel financing will not bring over sixty cents on the dollar?

As they won't. They DARE not.

## "503"

The negro vote in this Senatorial District is estimated at 500, divided up among the different counties as follows:

Centre ..... 175  
Blair ..... 175  
Huntingdon ..... 100  
Mills ..... 100  
Juniata ..... 50  
Perry ..... 50

It is this mass of black ignorance that radicalism expects to make outweigh the white men of the district. This is the body guard it expects to close round its candidates for Senate and secure their election. This is the body of black a-moors, whom the debauched, devilish, thieving, labor-oppressing, silk stocking leaders of the radical party may shall decide who shall represent the 30,000 white men of the District in the Senate Chamber at Harrisburg for the three coming years. Shall they do it?

The calamity at Richmond by which 28 persons were killed and over 100 wounded, is one of the saddest occurrences that we have ever heard of. Some of the best citizens of Richmond lost their lives, and many a family has been plunged into the deepest grief. In another place we publish an account of this sad affair. P. H. AYLER, a very distinguished lawyer and a great grand son of the celebrated PATRICK HENRY, was killed, with many other noted persons. The breaking of a girder, from beneath which the pillars had been removed to improve the appearance of the Court Room, was the cause of it all. Thus, for the sake of appearance, the lives of 50 people have been sacrificed.

The New York Times, referring to the intolerable burdens fastened on the country by the protectionists through their adroit and persistent agents in Congress, says:

The public mind will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff, and the protectionists will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff. The protectionists will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff, and the public mind will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff. The protectionists will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff, and the public mind will not tolerate the burden of a high tariff.

## Late Publications.

The monthly magazine devoted to Literature, Science and Art, the Political Principles of 1776 and 1860, by Thomas H. Smith, Editor, Vol. 1, No. 1, published by the American Book Co., Publishers, N. Y. \$1.00 per annum, lower to clubs.

The only strictly Democratic magazine in the country. And while being strictly Democratic, it is not exclusive. Its departments of Literature, Science and Art, are not excelled by any of the more pretentious publications of the day, and its political articles have a ring about them that sounds good in these degenerate times of mongrel rule. We would like to see the Old Guard in every household in the country, it would augur of better times.

The New York Magazine, Baltimore—Turnbull & Munroe 54 Lexington St. Per annum \$1.00.

The May number attractions are Mary Russell Mitford, by Margaret J. Preston, My Master, St. Pauls, the Lions of Mycenae, W. Gilmore Simms, Dukesborough Tales, No. 1, Philmore Perch, Rambles in Mexico, enyque Parmeigne, Monograms Chamber's Journal, The Earthy Paradise, Wm Hand Browne, Theft of the Years, Charles W. Hills, Open Hand Vices, Edward Spencer, Sweet Mother, Mrs. Judson; Mystery of Edwin Drood, chapters 1-111, Charles Dickens; Mosais—Reviews—New Books—The Green Table, &c.,—making in all, one of the finest and most entertaining table of contents presented by any publication for many a month. The New Eclectic always good.

The Architectural Review and American Building Journal, by Samuel Sloan, Philadelphia, Clayton, Reimann & Hoffinger, 815 & 821 Market Street. Per annum \$2.00, single copies 50 cents.

We cannot give a better idea of this valuable publication than by quoting part of the proprietor's notice, which tells us it is "Devoted to the development of that Art which embraces all Arts, and to relative Mechanical inventions; to the spread of building news, practical information, etc., in America. Its regular contributors are the ablest, most practical and enterprising men of the times. It contains illustrations and infuquation of great value and interest to the general public. Further, it is the organ of no individual or section, on the contrary, architects and others are solicited to make use of its columns for descriptions and illustrations of prominent

buildings, and novel and interesting designs from every portion of the country, thereby opening up for themselves a wider sphere of usefulness, and aiding us in making the REVIEW more cosmopolitan."

## The Colored Democrats.

That the Democracy shall coax the negro vote is an idea that we object to. In fact we protest against any such debasing action on the part of the Democratic party, and while there is much that is truthful in the following article, yet there is not one Democrat out of a thousand who can endorse the line of policy, it would eventually necessitate; or the principles it would necessarily imply:

The entire republican press of the country is now agitated because the democracy have expressed a determination to control the negro vote.

Democrats are charged with hypocrisy and inconsistency, because, after opposing the Fifteenth Amendment, and declaring the negroes in the southern states incapable of properly exercising the privilege of suffrage, they now avow their purpose of arraying the blacks against the ruling party.

The affectation of facetiousness with which the republicans treat the idea that the negroes can be withdrawn from that party, is curiously mingled with alarm and indignation that such a proposition should be made. They seem to think that the "man and brother" was released from his former master to be come their property, and that an attempt to wrest him from the gripe of the carpet barger is not only the climax of impudence, but an effort at larceny for which those making it ought to be severely punished. It would not be strange should congress pass a law making it an indictable offence for a democrat to present a negro with the ballot, or instruct him as to the wickedness and rottenness of the ruling party. Such a law would not be one whit more clearly unconstitutional, absurd and wicked than the general provisions of the reconstruction infamy.

As to the alleged inconsistency and hypocrisy of democrats in working to marshal the negroes on the right side, our republican friends will do well to remember that opposition to a measure is a very different thing before and after its accomplishment. In the former case, it may be both politic and just, and in the latter, inexpedient and wrong. Probably a good many more than half of the men in the country to day are obedient to and making the best of laws to which they were opposed at the time of their passage.

Admit, for the sake of argument, that the Times has admitted it without any such reservation,—that the democracy were wrong in their opposition to negro suffrage, does it follow that they must continue to oppose it when established by the federal constitution? Our republican advisers have told us that we are like the Bourbons, in that we never learn anything; but now, when democrats say they will not only improve on republican tactics, but will educate the negroes so they will understand the political issues most nearly and directly affecting the interests of their own race, those same republican advisers tell us that the idea is not only preposterous, but eminently knavish, because, in fact, it looks to the despoiling of the ruling party of its property.

We have only considered the right of democrats to electorally "bugger" for the purpose of disabusing the minds of republicans of the idea that no such right existed, and that to assert it is unexpressible effrontery. The black man is no longer contraband. He is free to go and come between political parties, and it is the privilege and duty of democrats to win him to a better party than the one now claiming him exclusively as its own.

As to the ability of the democracy to control the negro vote, it is hardly a debatable question. Governor English said he could do so in Connecticut. In Connecticut the blacks have strongly condemned the tariff. In Tennessee they vote independently. In Tennessee they are acting with the democratic party. In Virginia Governor Walker has released them from the control of the carpet bagers. The leading men of Louisiana have assured Senator Hendricks that they will turn the blacks against the republicans. The democrats in South Carolina say they will carry the state if they can have a fair election.

The republican party has carried the reconstruction infamy to completion only to place in the hands of democrats a weapon with which to crush the authors of it. —Chicago Times.

## Grant and the Negroes.

General Grant closely resembles Charles Sumner in respect to his not liking to come into close physical contact with the negroes. The other night, during the celebration in honor of the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, just after he had finished his "speech," and when the portico in front of the White House was packed with people, an old negro woman rushed towards him from out of the crowd, and seizing his hand, began to kiss it with great vehemence, accompanying each effort with a gurgle of satisfaction audible to those some distance off. When she had finished, he was about to slip his hand back into his breeches pocket again where it was before, but was prevented by a cross eyed boy, also black, who darted forward and repeated the kissing operation with equal gusto. Grant let him have his fill, however, but when he had finished, turned round to Marshall Sharpe, who stood behind him, with the remark, "I can't say that I like that much, Sharpe." It was hardly to be wondered at, for the cross-eyed boy used the word, and Grant's hand had undergone a salutary bath.

## THE RICHMOND HORROR.

Particulars of the Disaster—How the Dead were Disfigured—The Entire City in Mourning—A General Suspension of Business—Numerous Providential Escapes.

RICHMOND, April 27.—Such was the intense interest felt in the decision to be rendered by the State Court of Appeals in the majority case to-day, that by eleven o'clock a. m. a crowd of eager citizens filled the court room, which is located on the upper floor of the capitol building on the north side, and immediately above the House of Delegates. The room is about 20 by 25 feet, the judges' bench at one end being confronted by a small gallery at the other. The entrance to the court room is from a balconied gallery in the upper story, over the Washington monument on the lower floor, and above is a sky light in the roof, which admits the light. This balcony, or gallery, was also filled with people who could not gain admittance to the court room. At the time of the catastrophe it is estimated that no more than three hundred persons were in the court room, but these filled it to its utmost capacity. A large number of the legal fraternity and members of the press were in the room immediately in front of the bench and the gallery. The opposite end was filled with leading citizens, and the centre of the small room was thronged by a crowd, both seated and standing. There was a general conversation or discussion as to the merits of the case going on among the assembled audience, and all were eagerly awaiting the advent of the judges. At length two of their Honors entered—Judge Joyner and Anderson—and took their seats, when the conversation lulled among the people, and for the first time there was a perceptible silence.

## THE VICTIMS.

Suddenly and while awaiting the arrival of the remaining judges, a report as of a smothered gun under the floor was heard, followed immediately by another similar report, and everybody started from their seats and looked towards the centre of the room, from whence these ominous sounds seemed to issue. People there stood up and looked themselves for an explanation of this strange and mysterious noise. But they had not long to wait. There came a cracking sound, as of some timbers breaking, and then the floor was felt giving away in the centre of the room. Simultaneously everybody jumped to their feet, for all felt the danger was imminent, and self-preservation is the first law of nature. But it was too late. Down went the floor with a terrific crash, with its living, breathing and frightened human freight dragging with it the gallery and its living mass, and down they went a distance of nearly twenty five feet to the floor of the House of Delegates. Then, with the descending mass, the ceiling above, which was somehow attached to the gallery above, came down with another fearful crash, smothering and crushing the living and struggling mass of victims beneath.

## PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPES.

A ledge of about twelve feet, on which the bench was located, did not go down, and on this many lives were saved, including the judges and reporters. As soon as the fearful crash had occurred, those who could clutch hold of the windows, stepped out of the gallery and ran out to other rooms, and thus many others were saved.

## A TERRIBLE SCENE.

The scene which followed is utterly beyond description. Between the two bodies of the floor and ceiling was the mass of people, and the force and power of the latter, with the gallery falling upon them, forever silenced their cries for help. It was a scene of horror never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. To those who remained above, and who ventured to look down into the vacant space of the court room, nothing was visible but a cloud of thick dust, through this the frantic cries of the victims yet alive could be heard vainly appealing for help. The crash was felt in every portion of the building, even to the basement, out of which the officers ran in precipitate haste, and soon the alarm of the catastrophe was pealed through the city on the bells of the surrounding churches. This sound had the effect of bringing promptly to the scene the fire department, besides a large concourse of citizens, who were under the impression that a conflagration had taken place. Hooks and ladders were at once brought into active requisition, and the work of extricating the dead, the mangled, the wounded and the dying was commenced.

## A FORTUNATE INCIDENT.

Luckily it was an hour prior to the meeting of the legislature, when the House of Delegates would also have been thronged, and hundreds of others would have been added to the already immense list of killed and wounded. As it was, some fifteen or twenty persons are reported to have been in the house, some of whom escaped and were killed, one of the pikes among them. An incident of the lamentable occasion is that both the mayors—Ellison and Cahoon—who were the most interested parties present, went down with the floor into the yawning room beneath, Ellison escaping unhurt, while Cahoon was slightly injured.

## THE DEAD DISFIGURED.

When the corpses were brought and exposed to the square, scarcely one of them could be recognized, so fearfully disfigured were they, and the broken-hearted wives, sisters, and mothers of several even failed, in some instances, to recognize the victims. The faces of all the dead were fearfully swollen and blackened, it is supposed, from suffocation, and about the mouth and lips was a sort of coagulated froth, incured with blood, which was hardened and stiffened with dust. In the case of Dr. J. B. Brock, reporter of the *Enquirer*, it is said his wife failed to recognize him, and a brother reporter only dis-

covered his identity by searching his pockets.

## THE CAPITOL BUILDING.

Which dates nearly to the Revolutionary era, is dilapidated and insecure, and is now but a wreck of what it was, the whole northern side of it being a mass of debris. While the dead and wounded were being removed many alarms took place, and the people rushed from the building repeatedly in terror of another calamity.

## SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS.

Throughout the entire city business has been suspended, stores are closed, and the community are mourning their irreparable loss. Many of the stores are draped in the emblematic crape. Women and children are crying and weeping in every direction, and men are rushing hither and thither seeking fresh details of the sorrowful tragedy.

## A MEETING CALLED.

The following call has been issued for a meeting, at which Gov. Walker will preside:

To the Citizens of Richmond: A terrible calamity has just occurred, by which many who were in life but a day ago now sleep in the calm repose of death. It is fitting upon such an occasion that some public action should be taken expressive of the deep sorrow that pervades every heart; and it is therefore recommended that the people assemble on the capitol square to-morrow at twelve o'clock to give a suitable expression of their grief and sympathy on this mournful occasion.

## REMARKABLE ESCAPES.

Among the miraculous escapes of those of the reporters of the *Whig*, the *Dispatch* and *State Journal* all of whom were seated immediately on the edge of the falling floor, poor Brock being so far back that he fell into the fearful abyss and lost his life. Several others grasped or clutched hold of doors, windows or benches, and saved themselves by extraordinary exertions and the interposition of Providence.

His Excellency, Gov. Walker, whose office joins the court room where the calamity occurred, had a narrow escape. By his untiring exertion during the day he was instrumental in relieving the wounded, and having the dead bodies removed much sooner than would otherwise have been the case.

With great promptitude the Governor commanded the building to be closed, and prevented the crowd rushing upon destruction when it was certain that presence could only embarrass the proceedings.

Some of the mob disputed the way, but the Governor stood upon the steps, and, single handed, barred the way, keeping them back until assistance came. During the day he was constantly on the scene, giving directions, and by his presence stimulating those who were working to further exertion in relieving the suffering and dead.

Among those of the wounded who condition was most doubtful were Gov. Governor Wells, Mr. James Neely, Mr. M. W. Chesterman, Mr. Thomas S. Hancock, and William C. Dushan, agent of the Old Dominion Steamship Company. The first are reported better to night, but Mr. Dushan is not expected to live.

A gentleman who narrowly escaped with his life, descends to the scene, says: "I was seated at one of the tables with the reporters when the floor caved in, and the crashing of ceiling, floor and timber followed. My chair then fell and I went over the ledge, but happily, grasped the floor and was for a time suspended. I involuntarily prayed, and heard a clinging companion say, 'Lord have mercy upon me, I'm gone.' It was a terrible moment. I shall never forget it."

The crashing of the floor, the shrieks of the mass who went down in their death slaughter, and the frantic efforts of some to escape, with my own slight chances of life, were all tearfully presented in a single instance. When I recovered and got myself back on the platform I had fainted, and was but met by somebody from the fatal apartment.

## THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Fifty eight persons were killed and one hundred and seventeen wounded.

## LATER.

RICHMOND, April 28.—To day all the houses of business are closed, having crape on the windows and the inscription—"Closed in consequence of the calamity at the capitol." The streets are filled with funeral corteges. In the funeral corteges of the dead policemen both sets of police joined. All late political animosities seem to have been forgotten. The bells of the city have tolled all day, and the streets look like Sunday.

A crowd of about 7,000 people are now assembled in the park hearing addresses of condolence from Governor Walker, Judge Orr, Judge Crump, Governor Wise and others, delivered from the southern portico of the capitol.

Thomas P. Baldwin, one of the injured, died to-day. He was from Newark, N. J., and owned a large clothing house here.

Both houses of the legislature held informal meetings this morning and agreed to unite with the citizens in any general procedure.

The body of colored Senator Blair was sent home this morning, the hearse being followed by white and colored members of the Senate to the depot.

## EX-GOVERNOR WELLS IS BETTER.

The New Orleans Times says that ever since the termination of the war the mind of Pierre Soule has been unsettled, and that the once great orator, unquailed advocate, accomplished jurist and scholar dwindled into a helpless and hopeless imbecile, and passed the last two years of his life in the most frivolous and imbecile manifestations of the complete overthrow of his once magnificent powers.

To a White Man's Party and a White Man's Government, let all the people say "Amen!"