

The Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

JOHN W. FUREY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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BELLEFONTE, PA.

Friday Morning, January 20, 1871.

Heaven - as Connected with John Cessna's Private Rooms at Harrisburg.

We read that the last hours of JOHN COVINO, prior to going to bed on the night on which he died, were spent in the society of JOHN CESSNA, the infamous little wretch who is now trying to cheat Hon. B. F. MYERS out of the seat in Congress to which he was legally elected. What the subject of that consultation was, can be easily surmised. COVINO was CESSNA's right hand man, and together they had determined that fraud should prevail to give the latter the seat. But immediately after this last consultation, the Death-Angel stepped in to prevent the outrage, and COVINO was suddenly ruminating away to give an account of the deeds done in his mortal body.

It is not for man to judge his fellow men after he has gone to his last account, and we would vainly hope that Mr. COVINO's last political hours were not stained with anything disreputable. But yet we would not like to give out the name of the company of such a man as JOHN CESSNA. The public are only too well acquainted with this man's history, and they know him to be a vile, intriguing scoundrel. Much better for JOHN COVINO, perhaps, had he gone into the presence of his God from a purer atmosphere than that polluted by the expression of the evil desires and purposes of this base little congressional schemer.

And yet the Mercy and Love of God are co-existent with His Justice. Who shall say, that when the Angel of Death knocked at the door of Mr. COVINO, and, in dread tones, bade him accompany him to the World of Spirits, that that last moment was not employed in devout and humble petitions to the Throne of the Redeemer for forgiveness. Perhaps that last breath, which blessed the attainment of the Savior, was caught upon the wings of a pitiful angel, and waited to the Father's ear, who hath declared that "who ever cometh unto me I will not cast out." And who knows but that, in that last moment, the soul of the dying Congressman, striven at the feet of the Redeemer, was cleansed from earthly sin and stained by the blood that washed upon Calvary for all mankind?

Let us, at least, hope that such was the case. God knows, we all have need of charity, and the goodness of God is boundless. If ARTHUR LINDSEY could go to heaven from the box of a theatre, as learned divines have told us he could and did, he shall not JOHN COVINO also had not even though his spirit sought the Presence fresh from the contaminating society of a wretched demagogue like JOHN CESSNA.

And to the latter, let this dispensation of Providence be a warning. It should teach him to cease his evil doings, lest, at an hour when he thinks not, a summons may come to him also. Let him give up his fraudulent purposes, his schemes and rascalities, and his attempts to override the will of the people. They have given his place to his superior morally, mentally and physically. Is there anything surprising in this that he should have the face and the knavery to contest? Is it God that ruleth? Men are but his instruments.

The attempt of the Radicals to oust Col. DEWEY from the seat in the Senate to which he was so overwhelmingly elected, is probably more of a nuisance than anything else. Mr. LINDSEY probably spent a good deal of money in the canvass, and it is likely his friends have taken this way to secure him some money to cover his outlay. If he contests the seat of Mr. DEWEY, according to the Radical custom, (learned out, however, only in favor of their own men) he would be entitled to an appropriation to pay him for his time and expenses. This may be the idea that obtains among the friends of Mr. LINDSEY. However, we shall see.

Anybody who says that it don't pay to have cuts in a newspaper, don't know what he is talking about. A Georgia editor tells us that twenty-four hessian Chinese walked into his sanctum the other day, and through the medium of an interpreter paid for 24 copies of his paper. He was told that they took it for the sake of the pictures in it, among which were a rat out of Costar's, a catarrh out, a guano mark, and an umbrella picture.

The Auditor Generalship.

To the list of candidates for the position of Auditor General of this State, we feel inclined to add one more name, and that is the name Hon. S. T. SURGER, of this place, late Senator, and formerly Acting Commissioner of Patents under President BUCHANAN. Mr. SURGER is a Democrat whose name would be a tower of strength before the country, and whose election, we believe, could be secured without difficulty. He is a gentleman of extensive information, of varied talents, and of the most incorruptible and unblemished integrity. With him as a candidate we could march to assured and certain victory.

Two years ago, Mr. SURGER was elected to the State Senate from this district, and he was the only man in it, we believe, who could have been elected at that time. But the Radicals gnawed their teeth with rage over his election, and determined that he should not long enjoy the honors or emoluments of his position. So they instituted a contest, and by a mass of falsehoods, given before a Radical committee, who had made up their minds from hand to the contest they should pursue, succeeded in depriving Mr. SURGER of the seat, giving it to his opponent, whom he had fairly and honestly and emphatically defeated.

For this reason, if for no other, we think it would be a graceful act to tender the nomination to Mr. SURGER. It would show that the fraud committed upon him and upon the people of this district, two years ago, was not indorsed by the country, and would be a cutting reproof of the scoundrels who were engaged in the perpetration of it. The very fact that he was sacrificed by the baseness of party spirit at that time, gives him, we think, a strong claim upon the gratitude and admiration of the Democracy now. Besides this, there are other cogent reasons why Mr. SURGER should be nominated for Auditor General. Certainly a man better qualified cannot be found, nor one who would more conscientiously perform his official duties.

We, therefore, on our own responsibility, enter the name of our late Senator as a candidate for the Auditor Generalship, believing that we subserve both the interests of our State and our party by doing so.

The Editorial Convention.

The Democratic Editorial Association, which met in Harrisburg on Wednesday last week, was numerously attended, and did its work in two sessions. The following are given in the Patriot as among the proceedings.

A large number of democratic editors met at Belmont's hotel yesterday afternoon and to a full session. Jacob Ziegler, Esq., president of the association, called the meeting to order. In the absence of P. Gray MEEK, Secretary John W. Brown was elected Secretary. The following were the officers: Chairman, William Lane; Secretary, John W. Brown; Treasurer, John W. Brown; and a committee of three, who shall serve one year or until their successors shall be elected. Their duties shall be those usually pertaining to their respective positions.

Article II. There shall be one regular meeting of the association each year, on the second Tuesday of June, the place to be designated by the association from time to time, special meetings to be called by the president, by and with the consent of the executive committee.

Article V. Nine members shall constitute a quorum. - I. Irvin Steele, H. J. Shible, and Benjamin Whitman be the executive committee until the second Tuesday of June next.

Resolution. Resolved That Bellefonte be the place of next meeting. Agreed to. Resolved That the secretary be authorized to procure a book in which each member is to sign his name.

Resolved That the secretary be authorized to have printed as a circular embracing the constitution as adopted, and send to each editor a copy of the same, with the understanding that if and indicate his desire or not to become a member of the association, and to say for what that the next meeting will be held at Bellefonte and an excursion had to be then and there decided upon. Adjourned.

According to a resolution passed by the Association at Altoona, at the time of its meeting there, the next session was to have been held here. However, it was afterwards decided best to hold it at Harrisburg, and the arrangements were so made. Next June, we shall have the Democratic editors of the State in Bellefonte, and we can promise them a pleasant reception and a good time. From this point in excursion is to be arranged, free of cost to the newspaper men, and we expect to see a large turn out.

The latest French idea is balloons guided by eagles, which are made to soar upward or downward by a piece of raw beefsteak fantastically manipulated just in front of their voracious maws, and just close enough to them to be out of their reach. The hungry eagle follows the beefsteak and the balloon follows the eagle. Mine Gott, vot a beepsel!

A Gubernatorial Candidate.

The Clinton Democrat of last week throws to the breeze a proudly flying flag on which is inscribed the name of its candidate for gubernatorial honors, at the next election. This name is that of L. A. MCKEY, Esq., of Lock Haven, an able financier and a devoted gentleman, and a man who would not doubt make a very excellent Governor. Mr. MCKEY was the Democratic candidate for Congress in this district in 1868, and although the district was at that time overwhelmingly Radical that it was not possible to elect a Democrat, nevertheless Mr. MCKEY made tremendous gains upon the ranks of our enemies all over the district and earned his own county by the unprecedented majority. For her, of *thirteen months* - I do not yet know to begin to prefer with the certainty the course of the Democratic convention, which will have before it, when it assembles, abundance of good material out of which to choose a candidate; but should matters so constitute as to make Mr. MCKEY our nominee, we could give him a most cordial and earnest support. He is a gentleman of ability and integrity, and would honor the office as much as the Democracy would honor him. From the Democrat's article we extract the following:

Having refused to become a candidate in the next year, we should like to see the name of L. A. MCKEY as a candidate for the next gubernatorial term. Why? Because he is a man who has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State.

Through his means and personal exertions in this district he has secured for the Democracy the seat in Congress for the next year. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State. He has done more for the Democracy than any other man in this State.

The Tennessee has sailed for San Domingo with the commissioners on board, at the head of whom is old BAZ WALKER, besides the clerks and newspaper reporters. Blow gently, ye winds of heaven, and rock the good ship lightly, ye ocean billows. Above the timbers of the gallant vessel are some good fellows, though they be not commissioners. We would mourn the fate of the newspaper men should the ship sink to the bottom of the briny deep. Besides old WALKER hasn't made his peace with heaven yet, and his tough hide wouldn't be worth a cent for fish bait. Wait them gently, then, over the glassy surface of the glistening sea, that the newspapers may team with what the reporters may be able to find out about the much talked of island and its niggers.

A portion of the editorial fraternity affect to be bewildered or confounded by the contradictory statements of the Prussians and French in regard to their battles. When these gentlemen reflect that from the beginning of the war every statement officially made by the Germans proved to be the exact truth, that not one of the statements of the French since Napoleon's fall has been truthful, there is no excuse even for any body, least of all an editor, being deluded or having difficulty in ascertaining the truth. Go to the truthful source and you will have no trouble about obtaining the facts. - Bloomsbury Columbian.

Very explicit, Mr. Columbian! But will you have the kindness to inform us whether the first "official statement" of King WILLIAM at the outbreak of the war, that he "warred not against the French people but their Emperor" has proved to be the exact truth? When you enlighten us on this - the first "official statement" - perhaps, as one of the "beclouded," we shall request information in regard to the "exact truth" of several others.

The Sunday Mercury publishes Gen. LYTLE's splendid poem of "ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA," beginning "I am dying, Egypt, dying!" - and credits it to W. W. STORV. We do not know whether Mr. STORV will agree to appropriate the credit of this poem to himself, but one thing is certain, he didn't write it. Gen. LYTLE was the author of it, and should have the credit that attaches to it. Will the Mercury editors please to make the correction? Gen. LYTLE is dead, but his fame is dear to those who survive him. Besides this, the poem, as published in the Mercury, is full of errors.

Cloths, Cassimeres and Satinets, in great variety, at greatly reduced prices, at Forster & Dowlings.

Dr. A. D. Markley.

Among the worthy names suggested for the position of Auditor General, that of Dr. A. D. Markley, of Montgomery county, a former member of the Legislature, is received with particular favor in the eastern portion of the State. Dr. Markley is one of the best Democrats and one of the best men in Pennsylvania, and his nomination would be hailed with enthusiasm by his hosts of friends. In the event that the Democratic Convention should fail to nominate our distinguished townsman, Hon. S. T. SURGER, Dr. MARKLEY would suit us to a "T," and we should labor gladly, willingly and untruly for his election. The Doctor was an able and very popular representative, and is extensively known throughout the Commonwealth. He would make an excellent Auditor General.

The President has appointed a son of FRED DOUGLAS to a sort of supernumerary clerkship on the San Domingo commission. Young Douglas is now a clerk in the third auditor's office in Washington, and during his absence will draw his salary the same as if he was discharging the duties of his office. This is the way the people's money goes. Enough white spend thrifts cannot be found, it seems, to satisfy GRANT, and so he has recourse to the ranks of darkydom. It is thought that the San Domingo niggers will receive the commissioners with more favor when they see one of their own color among them. What a penetrating chap GRANT is, anyway!

Suppose Gov. GEARY is looking forward to the Presidency. That don't make what he said in his message, about military usurpation, any the less true, and we are quite sure he couldn't make a worse President than GRANT. He's not the only man that is presidentially inclined, nor he won't be the last one. We don't believe the next President will be a Radical at all, but if we are to be inflicted this way for another four years, why not GEARY as soon as any of them. They all show the same car marks, though perhaps JOHN W. has got a little of the tar rubbed off of his.

Hon. JAMES E. ENGLISH has been renominated for Governor of Connecticut. The Democracy could not have done better. Gov. ENGLISH is one of the ablest men in the country, and will be triumphantly reelected. The Connecticut folks have at last got on the right side of the fence, and they are determined to keep there. Radicalism is dead in Connecticut.

The Count JOANNES, a New York lawyer, claims that he has discovered the NATHAN murderer. The Count is such a vulgar individual, however, that his statement must be taken cum grano salis. The matter is now undergoing an investigation, and we shall soon know whether the cold blooded assassin has really been caged.

Late Publications.

PETERSON'S LADIES NATIONAL MAGAZINE. February Terms: Two dollars a year, invariably in advance. Published by CHARLES J. PETERSON, 306 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The February number of this charming book is already on our table, which shows the enterprise of its energetic publisher. It opens with a handsome steel engraving, "Mamma's Head Nurse," followed by a Parisian fashion plate, and a "Mat in Astrakhan Work," and then by a suggestive wood cut, entitled "Home, Sweet Home," connected with a tender and entertaining story. Then we have numerous plates of styles for ladies and children, embroidery, &c., after which a piece of music, entitled, "I've no Mother, Now I'm Weeping." The literary contents are as usual first-class, and just the thing to keep young ladies, and young gentlemen, too, for all that, from running about at night. The editor's table is filled with good things, and, on the whole, we don't see how the present number of PETERSON could be improved. Send for it.

THE MANUFACTURER & BUILDER. - Western & Co., Publishers, 37 Park Row, N. Y. Price \$1.50 a year; four copies for \$5.00. Single copies 15 cents. January, 1871.

This excellent publication is again on our table. The present number opens the third volume, and its healthy appearance is evidence of its success. We commend it to manufacturers, builders and mechanics, as a most valuable and useful work.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY, an Illustrated Magazine for the people. Conducted by J. G. HOLLAND. Scribner & Co., New York. Subscription price only \$3 a year.

The present number of Scribner's Monthly for February is the 4th of its issue. It is emphatically, as its title denotes, a magazine for the people, which

is proved by the great demand for it. Dr. Holland, the editor, is a writer and poet of fine ability, and possessed of a good deal of journalistic talent. The magazine is printed on large and beautiful type, which is just the thing for sore eyes. Its contents are of a high literary order, and it numbers among its contributors some of the best writers of the day. We predict that Scribner will be a success.

R. H. McDONALD & CO'S ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL FOR 1871. Price ten cents. R. H. McDONALD 32 and 34 Commerce street, N. Y.

McDONALD'S ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL for 1871, has been received. It is of large quarto size, each page illustrated with elegant engravings, and contains original and selected articles of great merit. Among the contributors are Grace Greenwood, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Joseph P. Thompson, D. D., Frederick W. Cox, Henry Wardsworth Longfellow, John B. Gough, etc. A beautiful song, "Come Home Father," words and music by Henry Work. For sale by all News Agents. Price, ten cents.

\$443,000--A Stupendous Swindle.

The readers of the PATRIOT, says that paper of the 17th inst., have not forgotten that on that last night of the last session of congress a resolution was passed authorizing the post-master general to adjust the accounts of one George Chorpensing. As the name of John Cessna was connected with the resolution as its mover, and as advantage was taken of the confusion which generally attends the last hours of a session of congress, suspicion was at once awakened. Chorpensing was a mail contractor a number of years ago, and has already received two large sums of money from the treasury in the settlement of his accounts. This resolution, it was alleged, was merely to allow the postmaster general to take up some unimportant items that had been omitted in former settlements. No sooner had the resolution passed the house than Cessna whisked it over to the senate, and by assertions similar to those employed among the members of the house, procured its passage. As the resolution was very fair on its face the President at once signed it.

Not long after the passage of this resolution, and while it was in the hands of the postmaster general, it was whispered abroad that Chorpensing was about to be put in possession of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars on one of his claims for losses as a mail contractor. This excited great surprise among those who believed that this man's peculiar accounts with the government had been closed forever. The pursuit of the money of the treasury on fictitious claims is an exciting and tempting quest, especially when it has been rewarded, as in this case, with extraordinary success.

From the 15th of July until Thursday last, there was no public mention of this claim. It had been lying in the hands of the postmaster general awaiting "adjustment." To the astonishment of the House, on Thursday, Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, arose and stated that the postmaster general had settled with Chorpensing and had issued a warrant in his favor for four hundred and forty three thousand dollars. The "items" that were to be adjusted had been swollen to nearly a half million of dollars. We quote from the Congressional Globe of last Friday:

"Mr. Dawes. Before moving that the house resolve itself into committee of the whole on the state of the Union I desire to bring to their attention a special matter. Upon the last day of the last session, and appearing in the book of United States laws as the last measure approved by the President, a joint resolution was passed authorizing the postmaster general to adjust the accounts of George Chorpensing. It was passed by unanimous consent in the hurry of the last days of the session. This was the third, I think, of a series of bills of a like character which, since I have been here, have been passed in favor of Mr. Chorpensing. This was stated to be merely for the purpose of allowing him remuneration for some items left out of his accounts. I am credibly informed - I say credibly informed, although perhaps I ought to have said it is almost incredible - that under that resolution thus passed, and which, as I have said, was the third of a series, and as I supposed, would close the accounts of my distinguished friend, Mr. Chorpensing, a warrant has been issued for the sum of \$443,000, and is now before the sixth auditor for settlement. Under the circumstances, and with some knowledge which I have of the history of this transaction, I feel compelled to ask the house to adopt the resolution which I send to the clerk's desk. I may be misinformed as to the facts, but I do not think I am."

The clerk read the resolution, as follows: Resolved, That the Committee on Appropriations be instructed to inquire into the amount and manner of allowances of the claim of George Chorpensing, approved July 16th, 1870, and that the sixth auditor be requested to do by the payment of any warrant thereon (to report thereon and that they have power to send for persons and papers.

Thus through the vigilance of Mr. Dawes has this money been stopped on the way to Chorpensing, his attorneys, and a hungry lobby. The resolution above was adopted with the same unanimity which attended the passage of Cessna's resolution on the last night of the last session of congress. The members were convinced that a gross fraud had been perpetrated. Cessna, the attorney and agent of Chorpensing, sat

in his seat dumb as an oyster during the passage of the resolution of Mr. Dawes, not venturing to defend himself or his client. There are rumors that he has a heavy fee depending on the success of this claim. Four hundred and forty-three thousand dollars will cut up very nicely. It is to be hoped that the committee will make a rigid examination of this case. They should not rest until the affidavits and depositions on which it is based be followed to their corrupt sources. The country has passed through the Galt, and the Gardner scandals. It is not to be doubted that this Chorpensing claim, though smaller in amount, belong to the same class of frauds. We forbear at this time to mention some of the means which are said to have been employed to give success to this claim, but there is no doubt that the committee will make the discovery, and arrive at the correct conclusions. It may seem hard to those concerned that such a brilliant scheme of plunder, just at the moment when its complete accomplishments were awaited, should be thus cruelly destroyed. All that was needed was the signature of the sixth auditor. Only that was in the grasp of hundreds of thousands of the public money. It was but the dash of an official pen between expert and the enjoyment of wealth. It will be a long while, we trust, before the signature of the sixth auditor will go to this warrant for four hundred and forty three thousand dollars.

The Surratt Infamy.

Why John Surratt is not Permitted to Tell His Story - A Pustillanimitis Julyary

This unhappy gentleman is continued before the public long after he ought to be forgotten by the abuse that is heaped upon him by certain journals. Why he should not be permitted to tell his story, if he can find any one to listen, is a matter of some astonishment. Looking at the character of the journals, however, engaged in abusing him, one discovers the secret to be, I believe, that the revelations made by Surratt, in reference to his trial in Washington, are so damaging to the tribunal before which his life hung in jeopardy, and to the people engaged in the prosecution, that it is necessary to offset his statement by wholesale abuse. If this story is true, and we have no reason to doubt it, the conduct of the Court here, under Judge Fisher, as a of the Government, as controlled by the prosecutor, was perfectly infamous. Surratt was guilty of complicity with the assassins of Mr. Lincoln, of course the country wanted him punished. If on the contrary he was not guilty, the country desired that he should be acquitted.

This does not seem to have been the spirit which animated the Court. It seemed determined to convict, regardless of evidence, and steps were taken to secure this result that ought to damn with infamy forever every official connected with it. Surratt's counsel sought to prove that at the time of the assassination he was at Elmira. Of course, if this could have been sustained, it was not possible to convict him of having a part in the assassination. His counsel, to sustain this alibi, relied upon two noted registers, and one telegram sent by Surratt, under the name of Robinson to Booth, whom he supposed to be in New York. One of these hotel registers and the telegram could not be found, and from the fact that the register preceding the one required and the register following were at the hotel, and that the entire files of telegrams were perfect except this one, the inference is conclusive that they were abstracted by some interested party. Of course, this could only be done by some one concerned in the prosecution. The remaining register which the defence succeeded in obtaining, Judge Fisher ruled out, upon the extraordinary ground that Surratt might have returned from Canada subsequent to the apparent date, and so registered the name. I doubt whether in the whole annals of criminal jurisprudence such a trial with such rulings can be found. A thrust for blood seemed to animate every creature, except a portion of the jury concerned in this pretended investigation.

John Surratt was to be hung because he was John Surratt. The censure for all this falls upon the presiding Judge. The infamous proceeding could not have continued a moment without his sanction. It is small wonder, then, that certain journals take up the fight and strive to distract public attention by abuse poured upon the head of this poor creature. Judge Fisher is yet in existence. He has passed from the bench he disgraced to a more lucrative position, where, it is said, he is now nanking his fortune.

The entire judiciary of this district needs reconstruction. Really possessed of the powers only that pertain to ordinary county courts, it assumes to itself a position, and reaches out for powers in a manner that is really ludicrous. I do not exaggerate when I say that the entire judiciary of the district is without dignity. One or two of the judges surpass the famous Dogberry in their decisions and the manner of their delivery. What the poor people of this district have been guilty of, that they should be punished in this way, makes a conundrum difficult to answer.

But, all considerations of propriety aside, the trial of John Surratt ought to be well ventilated, and the shame of his prosecution fixed upon the men who engaged in it. The one remaining feature of the pure government given us by our fathers is in the judiciary, and we can not guard it with too much care. To permit such scandals as this trial, to use the mildest term, to go unrebuked, is to demoralize the whole system; nor can I see why places upon the bench in this unhappy district should be made an asylum for decayed political lunks. - Cincinnati Commercial.