

# Democratic Watchman

Terms, \$2.00 a Year, in Advance

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

## Banned in Emigry.

Congressman McCORMICK, of the Lycoming District, does not seem to give the general satisfaction in awarding the post offices at his disposal, that a congressman with an eye to his popularity would naturally desire to give. He made a bad mess of the Beech Creek post office, where he turned out a well qualified old Republican named SMITH, whom almost everybody in the neighborhood was satisfied with, and who on account of his efficiency had been allowed to hold on under the Cleveland administration, and put in his place a young fellow named Enoch HASTINGS, who is SMITH's superior only in the capacity to do more party work.

That the people of the neighborhood most concerned in this postmaster question, did not want a change was shown by HASTINGS' application having but sixteen names on it, while the remonstrance against putting SMITH out had more than a hundred signatures. But as Mr. McCORMICK is using the post offices as rewards for personal and party service, the wish of the people for whose benefit it should be supposed the post office at Beech Creek exist was not taken into account. That this conduct of the congressman has created great dissatisfaction in the neighborhood effected by it, was indicated by his Beech Creek constituents burning him in emigry last week.

The Republicans who took part in this dummy cremation, should by this time be able to see that in disposing of the offices the party managers pay greater heed to the demands of the spoilsmen, than to the wishes and interest of the people.

## Princely Munificence.

The presentation and opening of Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE'S "princely gift," as the newspapers call it, of a \$300,000 free library to the city of Allegheny, on the 20th inst., was attended by impressive ceremonies and the presence of no less distinguished a public personage than President HARRISON. It is said that Mr. CARNEGIE contemplates treating Pittsburgh in the same "princely" manner by furnishing it with a free library that will cost a million of dollars.

Dazzled by such ostentatious munificence, there are too many who are unable to see back of it the amount of fleecing to which the public is subjected to enable such "princely" acts to be done. By means of an extortionate tariff which has "protected" CARNEGIE in getting undue profits on his manufactures, every body that uses them, whether it be the railroad companies which are sure to recoup the increased cost at the expense of their customers, or the individual needing structural and other kinds of steel, is made to contribute to the steel-king's "princely" benefactions.

Wouldn't it be of greater advantage to the people if they should furnish their own libraries and save the tribute which enables Mr. CARNEGIE to furnish them? A system which makes the people the beneficiaries of the "princely" liberality of a class made rich by discriminating legislation, is not one that is calculated to promote either the moral, political or pecuniary welfare of the citizens of a republic.

## Editorial Corruption.

The Chief Clerk of the Commissioners of Schuylkill county has created quite a sensation in the journalistic circles of that section by declaring that all the newspaper men of the county are corrupt. We are not in a position to know the extent of editorial corruption in other counties, but if some one, judging from the showing of the Auditor General's Report, should say that some of the editors of Centre county display symptoms that indicate corruption, he wouldn't be a great distance from the truth. The report shows that for advertising the constitutional amendments the following charges were made by the different newspapers of the county, and paid by the State: Keystone Gazette, \$203; Bellefonte Republican, \$198.80; Centre Democrat, \$118.77; Daily News, \$51.80; Centre Hall Reporter, \$26.15; Democratic Watchman, \$24.70.

The service rendered for these payments differed very little in the space occupied and the number of publications, and the editor who made the lowest charge put his figures as high as he conscientiously could under oath. The difference shown in the amounts of the bills rendered and payments received would seem to justify the assertion that the editorial fraternity of Centre county is not entirely devoid of corruption.

## Unsympathetic Sympathy.

We observe that Governor BEAVER and other political leaders of his stripe in this State, profess to be in sympathy with the ballot reform movement, but see a constitutional objection to the Australian system which they say could only be overcome by a constitutional amendment. A provision of the constitution requires the ballots to be numbered, and this they are quite sure renders the proposed new plan of voting incompatible with that document.

Isn't it singular that politicians who have been entirely blind to the constitutional restraint of corporate abuses, and haven't been able to make themselves see that the constitution requires an anti-discrimination law and other legal curbs on the encroachments of corporations, should so readily discern the impediment which the organic law throws in the way of a reformed system of voting? Is it unjust to them to believe that by involving it in an amendment contest, as they did with Prohibition, they hope to defeat ballot reform, or at least delay it until after the next Presidential election.

But the true friends of honest elections believe that the adoption of the Australian system does not require any change of the organic law. The ballots may continue to be numbered as constitutionally required, and yet preserve the secrecy which the reformed system is intended to secure. Several plans are suggested which would fully insure the compatibility of the Australian system with the requirements of the constitution.

## A Lone Kicker.

There is something ludicrously melancholy in the lamentations of that good Republican WHARTON BARKER, of Philadelphia, by which he gives vent to his lacerated feelings, as follows, in the last issue of his paper, the *American*:

It may as well be learned now as at any later day that the hand laid on Philadelphia is the same that is laid on the State. The Quay system is over all. The two local managers, Martin and Porter, are Mr. Quay's instruments. The city is controlled by them, and controlled all the more readily because President Harrison has delivered over the State to Mr. Quay's use, and the title of the Federal "strawman" can be employed to carry out their schemes.

The dolorous import of the above jeremiad will have no effect upon Pennsylvania Republicans. They know full well that the hand of QUAY is on Philadelphia. They know equal well that it is also on Pennsylvania, but they seem to be entirely satisfied that it should be so. Long years of complacent servitude has rendered them incapable of seeing anything wrong in it. In fact their party fanaticism leads them to believe that everything is lovely. If BARKER kicks next fall we are afraid he will find but few of his party kicking with him.

## Balancing the Wrong Way.

It is good advice to tell the farmers to balance their accounts at the end of every year, so that they may know whether they are making or losing money in their business; but such balancing of farm accounts in these days usually shows the "damned total" in favor of the honest granger to be a rather meager quantity, if it is shown at all.

For example, we see in one of our exchanges that a farmer in Lower Muncie township, Lehigh county, upon summing up his income and outlay during the past year, and striking the balance, discovered that above his farm and living expenses he had cleared the magnificent average of ten cents a day. This is, indeed, a slow accumulation of wealth for a farmer doing business right in the midst of a region which on account of its iron manufactures is in the fullest enjoyment of tariff protection, and which, according to the theory of the tariffites, should furnish the most profitable home market for agricultural productions. But in spite of the boasted advantages of a tariff-made home market the farmer at the end of the year too often finds that after he has paid the tariff tax on every article he uses in his business and upon all the necessities of his daily living, the balance is on the wrong side of his ledger, and the mortgage grows apace.

## A Tariff Reform Victory.

The official count in the Fourth congress district refutes the pretense of the monopoly tariff supporters that the reformers did not make a substantial gain at the recent election. REYBURN'S majority over AYRES was 8579. In 1888 KELLY'S majority was 9639, showing that the tariff strength in the district sustained a cut of 1060. This can not be accounted for by the reduction in the general vote, as the Republican candidates for other offices had increased majorities in the district. Judge KELLY'S majority in 1886 was 41,604, '88 it was 9639, and at the special election when the fight was made exclusively on the tariff question, REYBURN'S majority showed the reduced figures of 8579. The

tariff reformers have reason to be gratified with this evidence of the progress their cause is making. The educational movement advances.

## Work at Home.

It is strange the peculiar gift some people have of looking through a mountain and discovering a mouse. Since Ohio went Democratic last fall, the Philadelphia *Press* and other republican sheets of this State have almost worked themselves into hysterics over the fear that the Democratic legislature of that State would so reapportion the counties into congressional districts, that hereafter the Democrats would have at least a fair representation in congress. Day after day, and week after week, they have bleated and bawled about the gerrymander that was likely to be perpetrated in Ohio, until their readers, if hypocrisy would sicken them, must be in the last stage of political prostration. These papers forget that right here in Pennsylvania, under their own noses and among the people who daily read their diatribes against the wrong of an unfair apportionment, we are suffering from a republican political gerrymander, compared to which the Democratic proposition to re-district Ohio, is eminently and politically just. Whenever these journals turn their batteries upon the republican Pennsylvania gerrymander, that gives to the party to which they belong, one representative for every 25,000 votes, while the Democrats are allowed but one for every 65,000 votes, the public may take some stock in their pretended efforts for fair apportionment and equal representation. Here at home is a wide field for republicans to work a just apportionment racket in, and to it we invite their united and earnest attention.

## Is it so?

After all the blowing of the republican county papers about the balance in the county Treasury, at the last settlement, it now leaks out that that balance is from \$12,000 to \$14,000 less than represented. In that statement, that puts the county surplus at \$23,100.47, including all the outstanding taxes, worthless notes, out-laid duplicates and accounts, there is no mention made of the contract price for the superstructure of the bridges at Karlsruh and Howard. The cost of the iron for these two bridges, we are told, will be over \$12,000 of which but a little over \$1,000 has been paid—\$400.00 on the Karlsruh bridge and \$644.00 on account of the one at Howard. For the balance due the Pittsburgh Bridge Company, on their contract for these two bridges there is no estimate given, nor is there allowance made to pay the difference out of next year's estimates.

With these two bridges completed and paid for, neither of which is taken into account in the county statement, the balance in favor of the county, after two years of republican administration will be but \$12,000, and if the worthless accounts that have been received and placed in the list of assets are deducted from this, the total balance of cash and available taxes will be less than \$7,000.

When a board of Commissioners can smuggle up an item of \$1,566.60 of State tax, without accounting for it in any way, is it to be wondered at, that they would drop out of their statement a little indebtedness of \$11,000, in order to make the county balance appear larger than it really is.

## From Affluence to Starvation.

Once Prosperous, the Father Dies in the Poorhouse, and the Son Starves to Death in a Freight Car.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 23.—Eight months ago the body of Dr. Charles H. Miller, of Hutchinson, Kan., was found lying in a freight car on the Allegheny Valley Railroad, in this city. There were no marks of violence, and although the case was supposed to be one of murder, the mystery surrounding the stranger's death was never cleared up. No relatives claimed the body, and the authorities long ago practically forgot the case.

From inquiries made recently by an old friend of Dr. Miller, it now appears certain that he was actually starved to death. He was the son of Joseph Miller, once a wealthy resident of Lykens, Dauphin county, Pa. There were also eight other sons, Edward, William and Charles H. Edward was a prosperous tanner; William a contractor and builder, and Charles, the youngest, a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

Charles developed talent as a writer, and after he was graduated as a doctor of medicine he devoted more time to literary work than to his profession. He wrote a little volume of poems that were highly praised, and was a regular contributor to a number of periodicals. In 1877 the mines in which the family were interested were discovered on fire. It was two years before work was resumed, and real estate in the town was hardly worth the taxes. To make matters worse for the Miller family, a flaw was found in the title of the property. They were dispossessed, and in his old age Joseph Miller found himself penniless. William and Edward Miller, the older sons, were pulled down in the wreck. In a few years Mrs. Miller,

died, and her husband found a resting place in the Dauphin county almshouse, where he died alone, a year ago.

Edward Miller is now a street-car conductor in Philadelphia, and William Miller a carpenter.

Dr. Charles H. Miller found himself compelled to turn to the practice of medicine for a livelihood, but he had none of the qualifications of the physician save good theoretical knowledge of medicine. Consequently he drifted from one town to another in unavailing efforts to find enough patients to make a living. Finally he decided to go West, and settle in Kansas. There bad luck followed him.

A short time before his body was found in the car in the Pittsburgh yards, he wrote to a friend in Lykens that he would starve if he remained in the West, and was determined to work his way East. Nothing was heard of him until the local paper at Lykens printed a paragraph stating that a body supposed to be that of Dr. Charles H. Miller, well-known in Lykens, had been found dead in a freight car at Pittsburgh.

By the time the notice was printed the body had been buried, and no friends were left with interest enough to investigate the statement. Lately, however, the wanderings of unfortunate Dr. Miller have been traced. One of those who had a kindly remembrance of other days, learned how he had left the West for the East without money to pay way or buy food. This gentleman was in Pittsburgh to-day. He says no doubt that Doctor Miller got into the car to steal a ride, that the doors were locked, and that before they were opened he had died of starvation.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR MAKE THEIR PLATFORM.—We are requested by the K. of L. at this place to give the following resolutions, unanimously adopted by the Bellefonte Assembly 2363, at its regular meeting held on Monday evening last, a place in our paper:

Resolved, That we denounce the bill now pending in the Senate of the United States, introduced by Senator Buller, of South Carolina, as a bill in the interest of monopoly by working upon the prejudice of the people, and driving the colored man back to the Republican party and the people of the South to the Democratic party; that speeches being made in Congress upon this bill are for that purpose and nothing else, as the colored people are American citizens, and the law would be unconstitutional.

Whereas, There is a growing tendency toward corruption at the poll in this State; and whereas, a free, pure and unbiased ballot is the only safeguard of the liberties of the people.

Resolved, That we demand a law inaugurating the Australian system of voting, and we especially appeal to all honest and patriotic men, regardless of party, to urge the adoption of this measure. We demand a law prohibiting the using of free railroad passes by any member of the State Legislature, county or State officers, and judges of the courts of the State. We brand it as a species of bribery against the interests of the people.

We demand the owning, printing and distributing of text-books for the public school of the State; said books to be furnished to the patrons of the schools of the State at actual cost of production.

Whereas, The State tinkering of railroad laws has not given to the people that relief from railroad encroachment desired, in fact, has only fastened the monopoly and strengthened the positions of corporations; therefore be it.

Resolved, That we declare in favor of national control of freight and passenger rates, and ask for an enlargement of the Interstate Commerce law, whereby all parts of the country may receive the same benefits of transportation, and that the products of the farm receive the same attention and consideration as mechanical products.

Whereas, The present salary and fee bills governing the salaries of the State and county officers were established at a time when the products of the farm, factory and furnace commanded prices much higher than now; therefore be it.

Resolved, That we demand the reduction of the salaries of all State and county officers, proportionally with the decline of the prices of farm products.

Whereas, The different telegraph companies of this country have been robbing the people of the United States at the rate of \$100,000,000 in the space of twelve years by extortionate charges for the transmission of intelligence, on an invested capital of less than one fourth of that amount, therefore be it.

Resolved, That we demand at the hands of the national government the building of a National telegraphic system to be operated in connection with the post office.

Resolved, That this Assembly favors a general pension law for all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the late war.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the different newspapers of the county for publication.

## An Iowa Kicker.

Governor Larrabee, of Iowa, who is holding over because of the inability of the Legislature to organize and inaugurate Governor-elect Boies, has a poor opinion of Senator Allison and regrets that the Republicans of the State did not nominate Judge Rothrock. He says Allison's election will cast the Republicans several Congressmen, declaring that—'I have no hesitation in saying that Senator Allison will prove a very serious load for the Republican party this year. He has not the confidence of the people. He expressed no sympathy with recent Iowa movements. He hasn't the courage of a mouse. He has run and dodged at the least alarm of danger to himself. As far as ability is concerned, there are a score of men in every county in Iowa who could fill his shoes. Allison is a candidate for the Presidency and has expended Iowa interests to promote his own personal ends.'

The wool failure for yesterday was at Medway, Massachusetts. The total "rot" which sometimes decimates the sheepfold appears to have extended to the woolen mills. The accounts of failures make their appearance with almost as much regularity as do the reports of the weather from the Signal Service Bureau.

## The Siberian Outrages.

Delicate Women Flogged into Unconsciousness—Prisoners Driven to Suicide to Escape the Brutality of the Jails.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Further details of the outrage in the political prison at Kara, Siberia, reached the Russian exiles in London from friends who are located a short distance from the scene of the horrors. They are brief, but conclusive, confirming fully a report of the affair received here from an official in St. Petersburg who is in sympathy with the causes of the people.

It appears that the trouble of the Kara prison originated in a "hunger strike" in August, when the women political prisoners tried to starve themselves to death to escape the brutalities of their jailers. All the women imprisoned there abstained from food for fourteen days. The jailers did not believe that they would be able to keep up the struggle. At first they jeered at the women, then tempted them with food and then, finding this of no avail, threatened them. When several of the women were at the point of death from starvation the prison officials resorted to artificial means to compel them to take nourishment. The methods adopted, however, were violent and heinous and the women were compelled to abandon their strike.

This state of affairs led Mme. Sigida, whose death by flogging has already been announced, to ask for an interview with the director of the prison in hope of securing an amelioration of the condition of the prisoners. This request was granted, but when she was taken before him she found him abusive. It is said that in her exasperation at his abuse she called him a villain and slapped his face. It is not positively known, however, what took place during the interview, but whatever did happen Mme. Sigida did not return to her companions.

She was taken from the director's office and conveyed to the prison in which common offenders were confined. Three of her companions from among the political prisoners were permitted to join her. The advice received state that these were Mary Kolesky, wife of Professor Kolesky, of Kiev; Mme. Smirnitky and Mary Kojunij. The last two ladies were from Ojassan.

Two months elapsed after these events before Lieut. Gen. Baron Korff, governor general of the province of the Amour, instructed the directors of prisons that the secret edict of March, 1888, which ordered that political prisoners should be treated by prison officials in precisely the same manner as criminals condemned for common law offenses would be enforced, and ordered the directors to notify the political prisoners of both sexes that they would be liable to corporal punishment if they violated certain of the prison regulations. The main prisoners, foreseeing immediate danger, held a consultation, and sent to the director of the prison a petition that he would telegraph to the minister of the interior, at St. Petersburg, requesting him to suspend the application of the edict. The director refused to pay any attention to their petition, and thereupon the men warned him that the first flogging of a political prisoner would be the signal for the others to commit suicide together.

Three days afterward, Lieut. Gen. Baron Korff sent a special order directing that Mme. Sigida be punished according to the fullest extent. Mme. Sigida was stripped and received 100 lashes. She was carried off bleeding and in an unconscious condition, and her death ensued from a rupture of the heart. Her three companions committed suicide within an hour of the time of hearing of Mme. Sigida's death. The corpses of the four women were buried at the same time in the courtyard of the common offender's prison.

For weeks a cordon of vigilance was closely maintained around the prison that nothing was known of what was happening within. Since the secret channel of information has been reopened it has been learned that the men carried out their threat of suicide. They met together, and thirty of them shared what prison they could obtain and then went to their cells to die. The quantity of poison which had been smuggled into the prison was not sufficient to kill quickly, but in the course of the evening two of those who shared it—Boborov and Kojunij—died. Their convulsions and the dead silence which reigned in the other cells roused the attention of the guards and they immediately summoned physicians, who administered emetics to the survivors and endeavored by every means to counteract the effects of the poison.

EVERGREEN NURSERIES, of Evergreen, Wis., claims to be the largest nursery of the class in America. It now contains several millions of small Evergreens, comprising some fifty varieties, and about the same number of Ornamental Trees and Flowering Shrubs. These Nurseries now serve about three thousand customers annually, whose orders range all the way from one dollar to one thousand dollars or more each. A stenographer and type-writer is employed for the correspondence. During the digging and packing season twenty-five to thirty men are employed and about fifteen to twenty are required to take care of the trees during the growing season. These Nurseries are making a specialty of plants for Evergreen Hedges and have several millions ready for sale, of three or four of the most popular varieties.

Their prices on Tree Seedlings are much below any others we have seen. It will pay any of our readers thinking of planting an Evergreen Hedge, or any other ornamental trees or shrubs, to send a postal card to these nurseries asking for their Catalogue.

## A Poor Vindication.

It will be remembered that when Grover Cleveland ran for President Rev. Dr. Bell, of Buffalo, raked together and published columns of the vilest filth and scandal against him. For this the New York *Post* characterized him as a "gutter snipe," etc. Bell brought suit against the paper for libel, laying his damages at \$25,000. The suit has been pending ever since until the 7th of this month, when it was ended by a Buffalo jury bringing in a verdict of "no cause of action." This is a poor vindication for Dr. Bell.

## Death of America's Biggest Millionaire.

John Jacob Astor Leaves His Millions Behind and Goes to a Land Where Money is of No Account.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—John Jacob Astor, the richest man in America, whose wealth in land in this city and in securities whose values suffer no fluctuations from the stock changes, is placed anywhere between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000, died to-day aged 67 years.

He left his millions behind him at 4 o'clock this morning. Mr. Astor had not been well for some weeks. December 14 he came home from Europe suffering with the grip. Mr. Astor complained yesterday morning that he was feeling poorly, but in the evening he went out to dinner. Soon after his return home he became so ill that his family were greatly alarmed, and sent for their physician. He at once hastened to Mr. Astor's bedside, but when he reached it he found his patient already dying. Hardly any pulse was perceptible. Mr. Astor continued to sink slowly until he died.

John Jacob Astor was the son of William B. Astor, who inherited the bulk of the \$20,000,000 fortune left by the original John Jacob Astor the grandfather of to-day's dead. John Jacob Astor the first was born in 1763, the third son of poor peasants, at Waldorf, in Baden, and their name was usually spelled "Ashdoo." Indeed, the elder brother of John Jacob the first, signed his name "Henry Ashdoo," even after he had come to America. John Jacob Astor came to America in 1784, and began with a stock in trade consisting of six furs and two other musical instruments.

He entered the employ of a furrier in this city and in a few months mastered the trade, which was extremely profitable as carried on with the Indians. Astor visited the Canadian woods, going on foot and carrying in a pack on his back baubles such as delighted the Aborigines. He traded them for furs and carried the first home on his back. He made money, enlarged his business, using pack sleds and the like, and in a few years he was doing an immense trade, getting the skins for literally nothing of the Indians and sending them to the Orient, where they were exchanged for most valuable goods, teas, spices, Indian and Japanese silks and the like. The profit averaged \$30,000 to every cruise, and when, in 1850, the old man died he left \$20,000,000.

He founded the Astor Library at the urgent solicitation of Washington Irving, Fitz Green Halleck and an old and trusted commercial friend. He had been extremely penurious, even to meanness, and delighted in saving pennies when he was a millionaire.

He had three sons. The first died a babe. The second named after himself, John Jacob Astor, was demented, and was kept in a fine residence in West Twenty-third street at his father's expense, and after his father's death on the income of a fund of \$100,000 set apart for that purpose. Then John Jacob passed away, aged 60, thirty years ago.

The Astor millions had been handed down to a third son, William B. Astor, and he it was who began the movement for better tenement houses in New York. When William B. Astor died he left the vastly increased family fortune to his eldest son, John Jacob Astor the third, who is now dead. Thomas G. Shearman in the Forum for November set down John Jacob Astor's fortune at \$150,000,000, making him the American Croesus. "The Astor" was known for half a century as New York's landlord. It has been estimated that the estate included more than a thousand dwelling houses, yielding an average rental of \$2,600,000.

## Democratic and Republican Speakers.

Louisville Courier-Journal.  
The Republican party when in control of the House has chosen the following Speakers:  
Schuyler Colfax.  
James G. Blaine.  
Warren Keifer.  
Thomas B. Reed.  
The Credit Mobilier scandals drove Schuyler Colfax from public life.  
The rulings of Mr. Blaine in connection with certain bills before the House cost him the Presidential nomination of his own party three times, and defeated him when nominated.  
Warren Keifer's conduct in the chair disgusted his own party, and ended his political existence.  
The Democrats when in control of the House have chosen the following Speakers:  
Michael Kerr.  
Samuel J. Randall.  
John G. Carlisle.  
Mr. Kerr died from overwork and the results of a strict performance of his duty. His conduct in the chair won for him the honest praise of friend and foe.  
Samuel J. Randall was firm, courteous and exceedingly jealous of the rights of the minority. His conduct reflected high honor on his party.  
John G. Carlisle presided with the dignity and the impartiality of a judge. No man on the Supreme Bench was ever freer from partisan rulings than was Speaker Carlisle. With Carlisle in the chair it ceased to be a partisan office, and was clothed with the dignity of the judiciary.

Mr. Reed is bent on making a record that will link his name with every deed of violence against the Constitution, and every scheme of corruption directed against the Treasury. His two years in the chair will stand as perpetual warning against putting a jester in a place of such power. The Democrats can well afford to conduct the Congressional campaign in the fall upon the records of the Republican and the Democratic Speakers of the House.

VETERAN SOLDIERS who take pride in comradeship and soldierly should make a note of the fact that this administration, with a soldier at the head of it, takes no note of scars. A Democratic veteran in office has to walk the plank with as little ceremony as if he had never fought for the flag or smelt gunpowder.

It isn't always the fast girl that gets married first. It is the little demure girl who sits in the corner with one young man and hangs on to him.