

THE BEAVER RADICAL.

SMITH CURTIS, EDITOR.

BEAVER, PA.

Friday Morning, February 21, 1873.

OUR DUTY.

We are to decide on the third Friday of March at the polls, whether or not license shall be granted to sell intoxicating liquors in Beaver county for the next three years thereafter. No more important question was ever submitted to the decision of the people, nor one perhaps more fruitful of good. We are surprised and gratified at the harmony of feeling and unanimity of purpose manifested in this cause by the friends of the movement, belonging, as they do, to different political organizations, and it furnishes good ground for the expectation that the county will go largely against license. Democrats and Republicans, irrespective of party affiliations, have united on this vital issue to rid the community of liquor-selling. The campaign has now fairly opened. The liquor men, organized and ready for action, and the temperance men, led by Samuel B. Wilson, Esq., are already in the field. The four coming weeks should be weeks devoted to the agitation of this subject. We believe now it is only a question of majority, but the majority should be so large as to leave no doubt in the minds of any as to which side public opinion inclines. The victory should be decisive not only to indicate the estimation in which this traffic is held, but to express the determination of the citizens that the evil shall hereafter cease. There is an unusual moral awakening on this question, and men who have not been known as temperance advocates, equally with those who never "touch, taste or handle the unclean thing," are committed now to the side of prohibition, and it is largely due to their efforts that the cause has taken such gigantic strides towards success not only in this county but in the State. But few temperance meetings have been held, no violent and denunciatory speeches have been made, but a quiet, all-prevailing revival has been going on in the community, the good results of which are seen on every side. The silent voice of conscience whose secrets are hidden, but whose power is felt frequently when least expected, has no doubt in this reformation played an important part in changing public opinion. The traffic in liquor, which has gone to such extremes that the limit of endurance seems to be reached, has well merited its downfall by the gross abuses of the trade, and the strong opposition that has been organized against it is a natural effort of society to throw off the weight that hinders its progress, and, to change the figure, purge itself of the evil that is consuming its life and endangering the very existence of good government. We are glad that the management of the temperance campaign is in the hands of those moderate men who cannot be suspected of fanaticism, for we are assured they will work up the canvass vigorously, without giving unnecessary offense to liquor dealers, but with an invincible purpose to succeed and put down the brakes on grog shops and dram selling. The liquor traffic costs the State too much and is too fruitful a source of crime and degradation not to be suppressed. The citizens have a right to demand protection against a business that increases their taxes, that endangers the health, usefulness and respectability of citizens, that threatens to subvert law and order and debauch the morals of the community. The clear necessity of reform explains the unanimity of all classes in regard to it. That license will not answer is the settled conviction of all; it has been tried and found wanting; young men are tempted to drink; drunkards are made under it, and our jails filled with criminals, made so by the use of liquor. Some law more stringent is necessary; perhaps the Local Option measure offers the remedy, and will accomplish all that its friends desire; but, however it may be, let every good citizen give it a fair trial for three years. We appeal to

the liquor men themselves to yield to the prevailing public opinion and fall in with the temperance current. All are supposed to be actuated by a desire to promote the public good; why then not give the temperance men, in turn, an opportunity to try their plan, and then, if it does not work well, repeal it. What we desire to have is a fair and honest trial of Local Option. Let the majority determine whether liquor shall be sold or not, and let every one vote with a clear knowledge of what he is doing, and after the law is made, whether in favor or against license, let it be faithfully executed. We believe that prohibition will prevail, and that the results will be such as to prove the wisdom of the measure.

CHINESE CHEAP LABOR.

In another column we have published an account of the Beaver Falls meeting to protest against the introduction of Coolie labor into the Cutlery works at that place, and the result of the interview on Monday of the citizens' committee appointed to wait upon and confer with the trustees of the Economites. The Economites have agreed to consider the matter and give their decision, in a few days, in writing. From certain intimations there is some reason to believe that a considerable number of the members of that Society are opposed to the experiment and are anxious to have the Chinese discharged.

The objection to Chinese importation is not because they are Chinese, nor ignorant, nor unaccustomed to our ways and customs, but because they are brought here in gangs, under long contracts, and compelled to labor with little remuneration and few privileges, being in a condition resembling that of slavery. Voluntary immigration is a privilege extended to all who desire to take up their abode in this free country and better their condition. Equal privileges, equal rights and equal justice we say to all, of whatever clime or race, who desire to emigrate to this country and become citizens. There is room yet and all are welcome. There is no very great danger in receiving such emigrants, for they soon become thoroughly Americanized and useful in their way; but the Chinese, when imported under contracts in gangs of one hundred or two, come without families, with no intention of becoming citizens, are simply sojourners in voluntary captivity, expecting to return at the expiration of their term of service. They are not emigrants and it is an abuse of the word to call them such. They are voluntary slaves, brought here to perform certain tasks at slave labor rates. The Beaver Falls importation perhaps is on a small scale, but it is a beginning. If every manufactory in the country should follow the example what would be the result? Labor would become cheap and dishonorable. Americans would have to live on the most economical plan in order to make a living for themselves and families. There would be disturbances, riots, war, and what else would happen no one could predict. Chinese immigration to any large extent would offer a serious political problem for solution, but the wholesale importation of them by contractors is what the people will not submit to, and the sooner Congress regulates that business the better for all parties concerned. Another strong objection to this cheap labor is that it is an evasion of the tariff laws and a violation of their spirit. Instead of importing knives made by cheap labor and paying duties thereon, cheap labor is imported upon which there is no duty, and the knives are manufactured here by such labor, thus evading the tariff, but reaping the advantage of the law, equally with the successful smuggler, who dodges the Custom House officers and thus gets his goods at cheap labor prices. It is evident that such a course, entered upon by our leading manufactories, is directly against fair competition, and tends to break down other establishments of like character, where Chinese labor is not employed, for the very bulwark of protection is broken down, and the contest between cheap and American labor, is renewed on

American soil, in a way that is peculiar.

One way to remedy this injustice, and protect American labor, would be to either tax heavily Chinese labor, or the products of such labor, so as to increase the cost of production until it shall equal that of American skilled labor. Labor here should be made more valuable and honorable, and whatever opposes this tendency, should be looked upon with distrust. Society here rests upon the broad principles of freedom and equality, and when the laboring class becomes restless and dissatisfied with their condition, the foundations of the government will be disturbed and the permanence of our institutions put in jeopardy. The Chinese question may be a vexatious one, and difficult to handle, but we are satisfied that Coolie labor will bring no good to the country, and will be attended, if the importation is continued, with very grave and disastrous consequences. In regard to the Chinese as simply emigrants, seeking a home in this free country, we would treat them with the same consideration as the Irish, or the English, or the German; but to import them to break down the price of American labor, and in a measure to degrade such labor, we think is neither patriotic nor just, and, if necessary the Government should interfere to prevent such results.

The Poland Committee made a report in the House on Tuesday. The galleries were filled, and all the members in their seats. The most intense degree of interest was manifested in the reading of the Report, action on which was deferred until next Tuesday. The Report is a history of the connections of the Credit Mobilier with the Union Pacific Railroad by the Hoxie and Ames contracts, and a rehearsal of the proceedings of Ames in peering into the stock of the Credit Mobilier where it would do the most good, and a presentation of the important testimony taken during the investigation of the matter. No recommendations were made in reference to any members of the House excepting Ames and Brooks, in regard to whom the Committee submitted the following resolutions:

- First, WHEREAS, Mr. Oakes Ames, a Representative in this House from Massachusetts, has been guilty of selling to Members of Congress shares of stock in the Credit Mobilier of America, for prices much lower than the value of such stock, with the intent thereby to influence the votes and decisions of such members in matters to be brought before Congress for action; therefore,
- Resolved, That Oakes Ames be expelled from his seat as a member of this House.
- Second, WHEREAS, Mr. James Brooks, a Representative in this House from the State of New York, did procure the Credit Mobilier Company to issue and deliver to Mr. Charles H. Neilson, for the use and benefit of said Brooks, shares of stock of said company, at a price much below its real value, all knowing that the same was issued and delivered with intent to influence the vote, and the decision of said Brooks, a member of the House, on matters brought before Congress for action, and also to influence the action of said Brooks as a Government Director in the Union Pacific Railroad Company; therefore,
- Resolved, That Mr. James Brooks be expelled from his seat as a member of this House.

The most important measure that has occupied the attention of the Constitutional Convention since the last issue is that relating to the franchise. A number of changes have been suggested in the manner of voting; such as to vote *in vivo*, or to require each voter to write his name on his ballot. There will undoubtedly be some changes of this kind introduced into the new instrument to prevent false counting and fraudulent voting. What is the best possible plan to protect the purity of the ballot box, is not discovered, and any plan, to be successful, must depend largely on the vigilance and integrity of the people interested in getting an honest vote.

GENERAL GRANT and Sen. Henry Wilson were notified on day, by a Committee appointed the Senate and House of Representatives, that they had been elected President and Vice President for the term of four years and after the fourth day of March next.

The communication of "Independence," criticising the blunder in the erection of the iron bridge, lately swept off by the flood in Independence township, is crowded out this week by other matter. We hesitate to publish such severe criticisms unless fully satisfied of their truthfulness and that they are made through good motives.

"In point of fact he is game not worth bagging, and we only give him a quiet shot now and then to keep the little fellow from sinking entirely out of sight."

How a shot can keep one from sinking, perhaps the editor of the *Argus* can explain. We would advise him to submit his manuscript to some of the school children for correction before publishing.

We have prepared a statement of the facts in regard to the *Argus* lie, so wantonly displayed in the last issue of that sheet, which is crowded out this week, but which will appear in our next.

BERKS COUNTY is said to have given a heavy majority in favor of license, but we have not yet seen the returns.

FOREST COUNTY on the 3d inst. gave 34 majority for license.

FROM HARRISBURG.

The Late Ex-Gov. Geary—Local Option Supplement Bill—Exemption of Property—The Republican State Convention—Hon. Russell Errett.

Correspondence of the Radical.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 17, 1873.

Little business was done in the Legislature last week, owing to the death of Gov. Geary. The funeral did not take place until Thursday, and there was no regular session until Thursday night. The funeral was a very imposing one, and indicated very unmistakably that the deceased Governor was more highly esteemed by our public men and by all classes of citizens than his enemies would have us believe. His sudden death in the prime of life, and the circumstances that surrounded his death aroused the sympathies here, as never before. There was no public man in Pennsylvania who apparently had such a promise of long life as Gov. Geary, and there was not one who knew him but what would have named him last if told of the death of a public man, and asked to name the one. Although many noticed he did not look so well during the last year, yet he seemed to all vigorous and strong, with a powerful constitution, such as few men are blessed with. Physically speaking he was a perfect man, and a post mortem examination revealed the fact that every vital organ was perfectly sound, and there was no apparent reason for his death. According to one physician who was present, the examination proved that he should have lived to be one hundred years old. The theory of the physicians is that his nervous system was exhausted, that he fainted at the table and was so weak that he could not rally. This theory is certainly not a very plausible one, so far as the multitudes are concerned, but nevertheless may be the right one.

Gov. Hartranft and the Legislature deserve all honor for the respect shown the deceased, and the consideration and kindness with which the family and friends were treated.

On Thursday night both Houses met at seven o'clock and considered the bills on the private calendar. The Senate remained in session until the calendar was disposed of, adjourning at eleven P. M., and the House at one o'clock A. M. No bills of general importance were passed, and so far as your correspondent is informed, no bills from your district was on the calendar of either House. The House adjourned on Friday at noon, and before the Committees had time to report.

The friends of temperance in this city, and in Lancaster and Williamsport, are much excited over the fact that the supplement to the Local Option bill, which passed the Senate, has not yet been reported from the House Committee. The municipal election in Williamsport is on Friday of this week, and the delay will prevent a vote on the question of license.

It has been generally believed that the Committee on Judiciary General in the House was right on the question, and the bill was sent there because that Committee had the confidence of the friends of the bill. The *State Journal* and *Philadelphia Press* of to-day comment on the delay very severely, and perhaps unnecessarily. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mahon of Franklin, declares he is ready to report the bill, as it passed the Senate, and will call it up and urge its passage through the House at once. It is to be hoped the House will second him in this effort, and that before the week closes this important supplement will be a law. The fact that the liquor men all over the State have been active, holding secret meetings in every county, and subscribing largely to a fund, professedly to secure a repeal of the law, alarms the friends of Local Option and leads them to suspect every one who hesitates. There is little doubt money was raised to secure a repeal, and that the agents of the liquor

league were here for that purpose; but they met a cold reception, and soon found they could not secure sufficient votes in either House, and that, if they did, the Governor would not approve the bill. Public sentiment is so strong that many members who inclined to repeal, now openly declare that no amount of money will induce them to vote that way. Your readers may take it for granted that the effort won't be made, or, if made, will fail.

The Senate passed a bill on Friday, repealing all special laws exempting property from taxation, and declaring what property should hereafter be exempt. The list includes churches, school buildings, poor houses, almshouses, asylums and church burial grounds, and repeals all laws exempting cemeteries and halls from taxation. It is time a general law was passed, as half the bills presented to the Legislature were to exempt property from taxation. In Philadelphia alone there is about sixty millions of property exempt, and every year millions worth of property was added to the list. Nearly all the cemeteries in the State are money making investments, and yet all were exempt, as were the buildings containing Odd Fellows and Masons halls. This bill sweeps all the special acts, exempting such property, off of the statute books, and we trust the House will pass it as unanimously as the Senate did.

Politicians are beginning to agitate the question of calling a State Convention to nominate candidates for Supreme Judge and State Treasurer. The Legislature has not yet passed a bill for the election of a State Treasurer, but will doubtless pass one providing for an election in October. The present able State Treasurer is strongly pressed to be a candidate, and if he consented, would have no opposition; but he declares emphatically that he will not be under any circumstances. It is not known as yet who will be candidates. Hon. James L. Graham of Allegheny, is spoken of, and the party can present no better man for the position. He is probably the only man in the west who could get the nomination, owing to the fact that the west has had the office for six years, but it is very doubtful if he would accept, as it is understood he is a candidate for Congress when his term expires in the Senate. If he is not a candidate the convention should take Coleman of Lebanon, Judge Olmstead of Potter, Brooke of Delaware, Hoyt of Luzerne, Lilly of Carbon, or some men of like character who would command the confidence of the people, and unite the whole party in his support.

For Supreme Judge, Hon. W. H. Armstrong of Lycoming, is oftenest spoken of, and the selection would be so fitting and popular that there is little doubt he would be nominated if a candidate. Col. Fraak Jordan is also spoken of and would be strongly pressed if he desired the nomination, which is considered doubtful. Hon. George Lear of Bucks, and A. K. Green of Northampton, are also named, and the candidate will in all probability be one of the four just named, and either would command the full confidence and strength of the party.

Hon. Russell Errett will be continued as Chairman of the State Central Committee, whether he desires it or not. The party can't do without him, because no man in the State can fill the place, as he does. Take him for all in all, Russell Errett is one of the truest, ablest and safest men in the party in Pennsylvania. He is one of the most deserving, and yet he is forced into positions where brains and head work are only required, while many of less ability and worth get the honors and the pay. This is partly owing to the fact that he is not ambitious, and being poor only looks to such positions as insures him support for his family, and do not entail heavy expenses. He would do honor to the President, if he would place him in the Cabinet, or to the State, if he were sent to represent her in the Senate of the United States. He is needed, however, to carry the party through at elections, and will be kept in that position so long as he consents to serve, while others will get the reward. If the party makes judicious nominations at the next Convention, and Errett is placed at the head of the Committee again, Pennsylvania will give our candidates fifty thousand majority in October. If there is no division in our party, it is doubtful if the Democrats will place any ticket in the field.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Union Passenger Supplement—Sudden Change—Governor's Appointments—Senator Nagle a Candidate for Re-election—Register's Pay.

Correspondence of the Radical.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17, 1873.

There has been a marked change in public sentiment in this city with reference to the Union Passenger supplement since my last letter was written, and today thousands, who a week ago were denouncing the bill, are anxious that the Governor would approve it. The meeting, called for last Saturday evening, to express the indignation of the citizens of Philadelphia at its passage, proved a great failure. Not more than one hundred persons participated even by their presence, and most of those were persons interested in the Market street line. The proposition of the Union line, published on Saturday morning, was so fair and just that the merchants at once demanded its acceptance, and the President of the Market street line is now censured loudly, by the very men who were his friends when the bill passed, because he did not

promptly accept the terms offered. But the change of tone in the newspapers was most marked. On Saturday the *Press and Inquirer* contained bitter editorial attacks against the bill and in denunciation of the Legislature, while the Sunday papers and the evening dailies were either out against it or silent. On Monday the *Inquirer* and *Press* came out strongly in favor of the Union Passenger, as did the Sunday papers, and with the exception of the *Ledger*, *Dispatch* and *Bulletin* every paper in Philadelphia demands the acceptance, by the Market street line, of the terms proposed by the Union line. Both branches of the city Council were carried by the friends of the bill, and thus, in one day, there has been an entire revolution in public sentiment. This shows how senseless public clamor is, how little public men should regard it. Always wait for the safer second thought before deciding upon a question of public importance, should be the rule of all men in public places. The Governor has not yet signed the bill, but doubtless will do so today. He would, like to have it amended so as to require the consent of Councils, but as both branches of Council reconsidered their action, and virtually passed a resolution asking him to sign the bill, there is no excuse left for refusing to give it his approval.

Kemble, McGrath and company have made a splendid fight against a powerful corporation, and merit the success they have achieved.

The Governor has appointed English, Flour Inspector, and Colesberry, Harbor Master, completing his list of appointments in Philadelphia. He has been fortunate enough to please all classes of citizens in his appointments, and there is a more general approval than ever known before.

After being out twelve days the jury in the gambling cases came into court on Friday with a verdict of conviction, and there is general rejoicing among the good citizens of this city. The attempt of a gambler on the jury, to force the rest to agree with him, failed, and the resolute men, who refused to yield, are entitled to great credit for their courage and endurance.

There is little of political importance to communicate. Senator Nagle has determined to be a candidate for re-election, and, as he is the only Democratic Senator from the city, there will be a desperate effort to re-elect him. He is a good Representative and a fair man, and will be elected, although he may have a hard fight. His competitor will be Representative Lamon, of the House, and if the election had occurred one year earlier Nagle would have been left out with Dechert. He has hosts of friends among the Republicans, and there is a feeling among them that the Senate is sure to be Republican anyhow, and that the Democrats of Philadelphia should have one Representative in the Senate, which almost insures his election by a decided majority. If any Democrat is to be elected in this city, Republicans all desire that he be the one. The Hon. William Bunn retires from the Register's court, and Joseph Bonham, Esq., aspires to his place. The office of Register is only worth seventy thousand dollars a year, or two hundred and ten thousand per term, and hence only such gentlemen, as Bunn or Bonham, aspire to the position. If it was a good paying office some high-toned cuss, as they are termed here, would be after it and give the "rounders" great trouble.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—Illness of the President—Mr. Lawrence Presides at a Lecture on Woman Suffrage—Mr. Imbrie and His Assistants, &c., &c.

Correspondence of the Radical.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11, 1873.

The Constitutional Convention is at this time a source of such interest to us here in Philadelphia, that I feel sure your readers will be pleased to find a little picture of it in your columns. The discussion of Woman Suffrage which was inaugurated by Mr. Broomall's amendment to the resolution on Suffrage, which proposed striking out the word "male" from the new Constitution, has brought out the entire talent of this body. The argument being altogether with the Suffragists, they, of course, had the best of it so far as the applause of the ladies was concerned. Indeed Convention Hall has been like a flower garden, blooming with crops of new bonnets and bright faces during the past five nights. The whole scene is a pleasant one. The handsomely fitted up hall, beautifully carpeted with five dollars a yard tapestry; the elegant and substantial furniture, made at the well known cabinet manufactory of E. D. Trymby, and the sumptuous upholstery, unite in producing a charming ensemble.

Mr. Meredith, the venerable President of the Convention, has been laid up for the last ten days suffering with gout, that plague of the hereditary aristocrat; but his place is supplied temporarily by Mr. Walker, who, in a speech made last week, openly said "he loved the entire female sex, if a man of his age might be permitted to do so, but objected to the increase of population."

Mr. Lawrence, of Washington, presided at Bishop Simpson's lecture on Female Suffrage on Friday evening last, although he took occasion to say that he did not desire to commit himself at this time. Directly beneath the President's chair are a series of desks with chairs, &c., for the accommodation of the clerical force, with their chief, Hon. D. L. Imbrie,