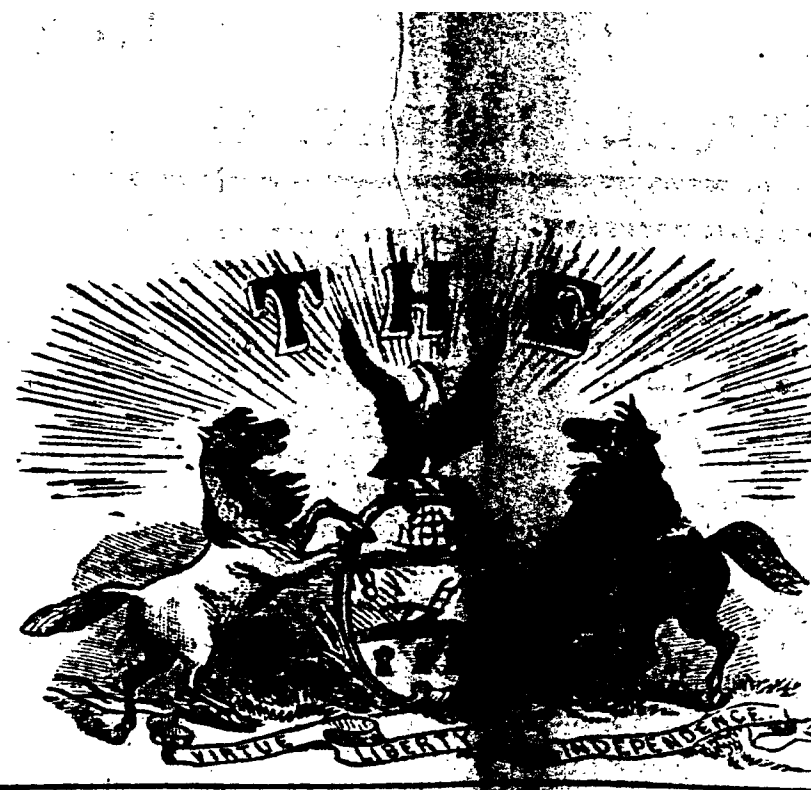


Beaver Radical



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FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, D. C., April 1, 1873.

Some days ago all the trunk railroad cars leading into New York, some six in number, sent a formal notice to the Postmaster-General, signed by the presidents of the said roads, notifying him that on and after April 1st, the postal cars would be withdrawn, unless the compensation for running said cars was increased in accordance with the rates they had demanded and agreed on should be allowed by the Department. The Postmaster-General has positively refused to concede what they demand, and it now remains to be seen whether the roads will carry out their threat. The Postmaster-General maintains that under the law he has no authority to grant the amount of increased demand.

This movement of the railroads caused Senator Windom in the Senate to submit the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard be directed to inquire and report to the Senate at the next session, as to the nature and extent of the obligations subsisting between railroad companies and the postal service of the country, and whether any and what additional legislation is necessary to guard the postal service against interruption or injury by the action of the part of any or all of the railroad companies. Mr. Windom wished to say that although Congress increased the compensation of railroad companies some five hundred thousand dollars, it was now understood that they refused to perform a service, namely, to transport postal cars. Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, said that the railroad companies had entered into a combination, it was necessary to make inquiries in order that the Senate might take prompt and effective action when they meet again.

Senator Cattell, of New Jersey, who is appointed general financial agent for the Government in Europe, at the earnest request of the President and the Secretary of the Treasury has accepted the position. He will have the management of the standing loan which is to be negotiated on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Morrill held the same position that Judge Johnson held when the first part of the loan was marketed, and will have control of the officers and clerks of the Treasury Department sent to England to negotiate the negotiation of the new loan.

General and lead. Being restored to the confidence of their people, and some of them being their way to the highest position. It is only eight years that General John B. Gordon led the column of the Confederate army in Northern Virginia in the memorable battle of Fort Steadman, a salient point on the Federal line which then half encircled the City of Petersburg. To-day General Gordon sits in the United States Senate. Then Alexander A. Stevens was President of the Confederate States. He is a member of the United States House of Representatives, in which he is a member of the Confederate army to keep him in countenance. The Secretary of War left Thursday for

Chicago, and from thence he will proceed with General Sheridan on a thorough tour of inspection of all the military posts and fortifications as far South as the Rio Grande. It is understood here that the great object of the Secretary's visit is to ascertain the cause of the troubles between the Indians and the Government. While the President is greatly encouraged with the results of his Indian peace policy, it has not had the success he desires. The Indian Peace Commission, the Society of Friends, and all others who have tried their hands upon the Indians, have, to a greater or less degree, failed. The Secretary of War will ascertain if possible what new measures, if any, are necessary to preserve friendly relations with the savages. The substance of the Secretary's report will be made the basis of some recommendation in the President's next annual message.

The deaths of Colonel Fry and Major Walker, paymasters in the army, which occurred recently, create no vacancy in that corps, but this fact does not seem to be known, as applications have been sent in for several days past. The act of July 29, 1866, provides the pay department of the army shall hereafter consist of one paymaster general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier general; two assistant paymaster-generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of colonels of cavalry; two deputy paymaster-generals, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant-colonels of cavalry, and sixty paymasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of majors of cavalry; and the act of March 3, 1869, provides that, until otherwise directed by law, there shall be no new appointments or promotions in either the adjutant-general's, inspector-general's, pay, quartermaster, commissary, ordnance, engineer, or medical corps of the army, and hence the vacancies cannot be filled. The list of paymasters does not now embrace more than forty-eight names, not enough to perform the duties required; but, on account of the laws above referred to, the vacancies caused by death, retirement, and resignations cannot be filled.

Senator Carpenter of Wisconsin is said to have worked hard to get his friends places in the Territories and succeeded very well. The Surveyors-Generals of Dakota and New Mexico are his friends. William G. Ritch, of Oshkosh, lately appointed Secretary of the latter Territory, calls him Senator "Matt," and is a devoted friend. Some jealous people, who credit the President *pro tem.* of the Senate with ability to see pretty far ahead, imagine that the Wisconsin boys, as Territorial delegates to a Presidential nominating convention, may yet hold the balance of power.

The new coinage act will go into operation on the 1st of April. The mint of the United States is established as a bureau treasury department embracing in its organization and under its control all mints for the manufacture of coin, and assay offices for the stamping of bars. The chief officer of the bureau is denominated the director of the mint, and is under the general direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. He is to hold his office for a term of five years, unless sooner removed by the President, upon reasons to be communicated by him to the Senate. Dr. Lindbergh will be appointed to this office, having been connected with the mint in responsible positions for the last twenty years, to the entire satisfaction of the government. The term, branch mint, is abolished, and the mints at Philadelphia, San Francisco, Carson and Denver are to be known as separate establishments. Those who are now directors of the mint will hereafter bear the name of Superintendents. The offices of the Treasurer of the Mints in Philadelphia, San Francisco and New Orleans, are to be vacated, and the Assistant Treasurer at New York cease to perform the duties of Treasurer of the Assay office. The duties of the Treasurers will devolve upon the Superintendents, and the Treasurers are to act only as Assistant Treasurers of the United States.

The salary of the Assistant Treasurer at New York, is not to be diminished by the vacation of his office as Treasurer of the Assay office. The other Assay offices are at Charlotte, North Carolina and Boise city, Idaho. There is no change in the gold coins, but in the silver coins there is to be a new trade dollar.

The two cent piece is abolished. The minor coins being five, three and one cent.

It is said that the appointment of Lieutenant Grant upon the staff of General Sheridan, as well as the order which allowed him to witness the President's inauguration, was without the President's knowledge.

Richard Staples, who lately resumed his residence in Washington, was about four months ago attacked on the street in Chicago by a small dog; but, as no wound was inflicted, he paid no attention to the matter until Wednesday last, when he showed unmistakable symptoms of hydrophobia. He suffered intensely until yesterday, when death came to his relief. The whole disease was a great derangement of the cerebrospinal nervous system, and, after death, the body was covered with black spots, produced by the coagulation of the blood.

High winds prevailed on Saturday with occasional heavy showers. There was some damage to housetops, and large trees were uprooted in several parts of the city. The storm continued all night.

Friday, in the District Court, Judge Humphreys, in the case of the Farragut claims for prize money, for destruction of rebel vessels in forcing the passage to New Orleans, in which the arbitrators a day or two ago filed their report awarding \$268,000, was up, and Mr. Corwine, for the Navy Department, moved that the arbitrators file the evidence taken. Judge Humphreys overruled the motion, and General Butler, for the claimants, moved a decree on the award. On Saturday the hearing was resumed. Mr. Corwine filed exceptions to the arbitrators report. These exceptions were not argued, but were overruled by Judge Humphreys. Mr. Corwine then renewed the motion to direct the arbitrators to send up the evidence on which their award was based. This motion was overruled by the Judge, and thereupon the counsel for the claimants, &c., moved the court to enter decree confirming the award of the arbitrators and ordering the payment of the money, which was done.

Messrs. Wm. M. Irish and J. M. McGrew, the Commissioners appointed by the Postmaster General to revise the regulations of the Department, have completed their labor. Their draft of regulations has been approved and sent to the printer. The regulations comprise a digest of all the postal laws passed up to the close of the last session.

A large number of iron Postoffice boxes have been ordered by the Postmaster General to be put in use in those towns coming under the late law of Congress extending the free delivery system to towns having 20,000 inhabitants. In Pennsylvania, Scranton is the only city not having the free delivery system that can avail itself of this law, and in New Jersey, Camden, Elizabeth and Patterson come under the provisions of the act. About sixteen other towns located in different sections of the country are entitled to the free delivery system. SAM.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

The following was reported in the Constitutional Convention by Mr. McConnell:

PREAMBLE.

We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, recognizing the sovereignty of God, and humbly invoking His guidance in our future destiny, ordain and establish this Constitution for its government.

ARTICLE I.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

That the great and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and unalterably established, we declare that—

SECTION 1. All men are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness.

Sec. 2. That all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such a manner as they may think proper.

Sec. 3. That all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences; that no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect or support any worship, or to maintain any ministry, against his consent; no human authority can in any case whatever control or interfere with the rights of conscience, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship.

Sec. 4. That no person who acknowledges the being of God and a future state of rewards and punishments shall, on account of his religious sentiments, be disqualified to hold any office or place of profit or trust under this Commonwealth.

Sec. 5. That elections shall be free and equal, and no power—civil or military—shall at any time interfere with the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Sec. 6. That trial by jury shall be as heretofore, and the right thereof remain inviolable.

Sec. 7. That the printing-press shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the Legislature of any branch of the government, and no law shall ever be made to restrain the right thereof. The free communication of thought and opinions is one of the inalienable rights of man, and every citizen shall freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers or men in public capacities, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence, and in all indictments for libels the jury shall have a right to determine the law and the facts under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

Sec. 8. That the people shall be secure in their persons, houses, papers and professions from unreasonable searches and seizures, and that no warrant to search any place shall be issued without describing them as nearly as may be, without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation subscribed to by the affiant.

Sec. 9. That in all criminal prosecutions the accused hath a right to be heard by himself and his counsel to demand the nature and cause of the accusations against him, to meet the witnesses face to face, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and in prosecution by indictment or information a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the vicinage. He cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor can he be deprived of his life, liberty or property, unless by the judgment of his peer or the law of the land.

Sec. 10. That no person shall for any indictable offence be proceeded against criminally by information except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger, or by leave of the court for oppression or misdemeanor in office. No person shall for the same offence be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall any man's property be taken or applied to public use without the consent of his representatives, and without the necessity for such taking being first ascertained by a jury, and without just compensation being first made. The fee simple of land so taken and applied shall remain in the owner, subject to the use for which it was taken.

Sec. 11. That all courts shall be open, and every man for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation shall have remedy by the due course of law and right and justice administered without sale, denial or delay. Suits may be brought against the Commonwealth in such manner, in such courts and in such cases as the Legislature may by law direct, and that no law shall limit the amount of damages recoverable, and where an injury caused by negligence or misconduct results in death the action shall survive.

Sec. 12. That no power of suspending laws shall be exercised, unless by the Legislature or its authority.

Sec. 13. That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishment inflicted.

Sec. 14. That all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offence, when the proof is evident or presumption great, and the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

Sec. 15. That no commission of Oyer and Terminer, or jail delivery, shall be issued.

Sec. 16. That the person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in prison after delivering up his estate for the benefit of his creditors in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 17. That no contract, nor any law impairing contracts or making irrevocable any grant of special privileges or immunities, shall be passed.

Sec. 18. That no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the Legislature.

Sec. 19. That no attainder shall work corruption of blood, nor, except during the life of the offender, forfeiture of the estate of the Commonwealth; that the estates of such persons as shall destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in case of natural death, and if any person

shall be killed by casualty there shall be no forfeiture by reason thereof.

Sec. 20. That the citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by petition, address, or remonstrance.

Sec. 21. That the right of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.

Sec. 22. That no standing army shall, in time of peace, be kept up without the consent of the Legislature, and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power.

Sec. 23. That no soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Sec. 24. That the Legislature shall not grant any title of nobility or hereditary distinction, nor create any office, the appointment to which shall be for a longer term than during good behavior.

Sec. 25. That emigration from the State shall not be prohibited.

CHINESE FUNERAL.

BEAVER FALLS, March 27, 1873.
Editor Beaver Radical:

It may be to some a matter of curiosity, if not of interest, to become acquainted with some of the peculiar customs of the Chinese, in disposing of their dead.

Another (this being the second) of the Beaver Falls Chinese, died on Friday evening, the 14th inst., whose funeral we had the privilege of attending on the afternoon of the following day, and after watching carefully the entire procedure, we are enabled to relate the following:

The defunct had been conveyed to one of the out houses, either before or after death had taken place, and there laid upon a bunk in the most rude and uncivilized manner, his clothing was perhaps

Some bed clothes were thrown over him, belonging to the bed upon which he died.

We noticed near the bed, where the defunct lay, six burning candles and a bunch of burning incense, which is called *haung*. We learned from them that the smoke arising from this burning material continues to ascend higher and higher until it reaches Heaven.

They believe that at the appearing of the smoke, the Almighty at once descends to earth to learn the true cause for which the messenger of smoke has thus ascended.

They also believe the descension on the part of the good being, to be really necessary, from the fact that the incense is used on other occasions and for other purposes.

But that God, when finding that the soul has been separated from the body of a person, he at once proceeds to dispose of it according to the deeds done in the body. If the soul be accounted worthy it is taken up, and if condemned, it is taken down into darkness, and for this purpose the candles are kept burning at the bedside of the defunct.

They would consider it absurd to say that God could conduct a soul down into a state of darkness, unless he be aided by a material light. However, when the time had arrived for the procession to start to the burial place, the body was placed in a neat coffin and quietly carried and placed in the hearse. A few carriages, together with the company on foot, were quickly mustered in procession and began to move slowly away. No sooner was the procession fairly started, than the company who remained at their quarters, began discharging their fire works, the sudden explosion, and the smell of powder, are supposed to be efficacious in frightening away the demons, and hindering them from seizing on the soul of the defunct, and as these malevolent spirits have also the reputation of being extremely covetous, and fond of money, people endeavor to get on their weak side.

They fell for this purpose, all along the road, supposed bank notes, that the wind carries away "in all directions, and as the demons are by no means as cunning as the men, they are taken in by this device, and fall into the trap with charming simplicity, though the supposed bank notes are in fact only bits of white paper, while they are engaged in pursuing these deceitful appearances of riches, the soul of the defunct proceeds quietly and comfortably along without any danger of being stopped by the way.

In this way the procession was conducted to the cemetery, and while the procession thus moved forward, there was also a procession, namely, a procession of boys, numbering, we should think not less than one hundred; we will not stop,

however, to give even a brief description of the department of this company of young Americans during the entire progress of the funeral, but with *say* that it was bad, very bad indeed. After having reached the cemetery, the coffin was taken from the hearse, and placed in the grave in about the usual way or manner. When this had been fully accomplished, they then gathered into a great heap every particle of clothing, and in fact, every possible article belonging to the defunct, this heap was then set on fire and entirely consumed. While the fire was yet burning, all badges of memory (which are white) that were used for the occasion, were brought and cast into the fire; Chinese costumes being always in opposition to those of Europe and America, as we wear black, they, of course, will wear white.

The Chinese are in the habit of offering viands and sometimes splendid banquets to their dead, these are served before the coffin as long as the body is kept in the family, and on the tomb after the funeral. Although this practice was not fully carried out in the particular case which we have mentioned, yet there was an offering of the same nature made, and placed at the head of the grave, it consisted of quite a variety of Chinese provisions, viz: meat, rice, eggs, &c., to which the entire company clasped their hands and bowed as if to say farewell.

What idea is really in the minds of the Chinese on the subject of this practice? Many people have thought, and written that the souls of the departed are supposed to take pleasure in regaling themselves with the subtle and delicate parts, the essences as they might be called, of the dishes offered to them; but it seems to us that the Chinese are far too intelligent to carry absurdity to such a point as this. The masses no doubt observe these practices quite mechanically, without ever thinking of the meaning of them, but for those who are in the habit of reflecting upon what they do, it is impossible to believe they can outdo themselves so grossly. How, for instance, could the Confucians who believe the complete annihilation of both soul and body, suppose that the dead come back to eat? We believe that this habit is practiced by many of the Chinese as an act of honor to the memory of their relations and friends, to show that they still live in their remembrance, and that they like to serve them as if they were yet with them.

The Chinese think as we do, that death is the definitive separation of the soul from the body, but they also think that the degree of illness is in direct proportion to the number of attempts which the soul makes to escape, and when the sufferer experiences the terrible crises that endangers his life, it is proof that the soul has been momentarily absent, that it keeps going away to a certain distance, but returns again. The distance being so small that it is still able to exercise considerable influence on the body, and keeps it alive, although it suffers dreadfully from this transitory separation; if the dying person falls into the last agony, it is evident that the soul has gone with the firm resolution not to come back again; nevertheless, all hope is not yet lost, and there is a method of making it take up its abode again in the unfortunate body that is struggling with death.

They persuade it, they ran after it, they conjure it to come back, they describe in the most moving terms the lamentable state to which they will be reduced if this obstinate soul will not hear reason; they weep, they groan, they lament, and let off squibs and crackers of all kinds, they make a frightful noise around the poor soul and hustle it about in all sorts of ways, so that if it does not give it up at last, it must really be a most stubborn and ill-disposed spirit. However profound may be the darkness and ignorance of the Chinese, with regard to the truths of christianity, it is probable that these ideas and practices, are, or have been based upon some kind of belief in a future life, hence we see that the faith in the immortality of the soul may be classed among the earliest traditions of the human race.

W. E. J.

—Recent advices report that the Imperial Governments of Germany, Austria and Russia refuse to recognize the Spanish Republic. Prince Bismark leads off in the line of denial on the ground that the Madrid Executive does not represent the tone of the Assembly, the legislative body having yielded to the pressure of the masses in proclaiming it. Russia and Austria accept the theory of the Prussian Premier, and have adopted a similar course of action.

—State Treasurer Seeger of Minnesota, under impeachment by the Legislature, has resigned.