

The Columbian. BLOOMSBURG, PA. Friday Morning, Oct. 28, 1870.

THE COLUMBIAN has the Largest Circulation of any paper published in Bloomsburg, and is therefore the best advertising medium in the State.

THE FREE VOICE.—The attention of the reader is called to the speech of Mr. BUCKALEW, on the first page, on this subject. This speech is not a repetition of former arguments, but a continuation thereof, and probably gives a more practical idea of the details of the plan than anything that has yet appeared.

The Result in the State.

The Congressmen elected are divided between the parties very nearly as they should be, taking the last Presidential vote as a test of party strength—13 Republicans to 11 Democrats, though 12 members are indebted to Democratic votes for their election, and only an equal number owe that obligation to the Republicans.

As to the recent contest, so far as regards the popular vote, we look upon it as a drawn battle, rather favorable, however, to the Democracy. The vote was not full on, and there is not a sufficient majority of those polled for either side to make it safe to claim a decided victory. But, certainly, the large gain of Congressmen is something for the Democracy to exult over.

The most important point settled is this, viz: that the Republicans gain nothing by the addition of the Negro vote. As the Negroes nearly all voted, the general poll being light, the Republican gain would have been overwhelming had there not been a large accession of white men to the Democratic ranks.

The feeling of disgust with the Negro brought to the polls upon an equality will be much more effectual hereafter than at the last election, for white people only begin to realize the offensiveness of the proceeding. The more they reflect upon it the more determined they will hereafter be in resisting it, and the time is already close at hand when all parties will want to rid themselves of the odium of having the Negro vote. We therefore regard Pennsylvania as certain to be thoroughly Democratic hereafter. The Republican party is already on the wane, too, for other reasons, and one complete and thorough victory will send it to the tomb never to come forth again even by the powerful hand of reconstruction, unless it be under a new name, disguised, and with other objects in view.

Contesting Elections.

Immediately after the election it was announced that Messrs. SCHENCK of Ohio, and MORRELL, ARMITAGE, and CESSNA of this State, would contest the seats of their respective constituents. There seemed to be no ground for this course of action than that the successful candidates had been chosen by small majorities. That fact affords great facilities for contesting and thwarting popular judgment, for it is seldom if ever the case that some technical error (really of no moment) cannot be discovered in some one or more of the many election districts contained within the large boundaries of a Congressional district. One good result, however, attending these contests is, that candidates who thus fly upon the wings of controversy are more effectively killed thereby.

Of the above, Messrs. SCHENCK and MORRELL have already announced that they will not contest, their sense of honor precluding them from endeavoring to obtain a seat by means of technicalities and the sympathy of their political friends in Congress. Mr. ARMITAGE is a gentleman of high personal character, proud of his honorable name, and nothing short of the act will induce us to believe that he will contest upon technical grounds. He has been fairly defeated, in a district overwhelmingly Republican, because his own party were personally dissatisfied with him, and every instance of many honor before the result, and fight his battle manfully before the people who, rightfully or wrongfully, have rejected him.

But in the remaining case there is a different state of affairs. JOHN CESSNA is in politics what a dirty little whelp is in every puppy. He would just as willingly steal a seat in Congress, or anything else, as to obtain it by honorable means, and if the choice were left perfectly free to him we are by no means certain that his natural instincts would not lead him to prefer the meanest or most villainous way.

Contesting successfully will not be so easy in the next Congress as in the last. The Republican majority will be both more limited and more cautious. Even in the last Congress many Republican members shuddered at the outrages so often committed upon popular rights, but these were usually deterred from action by the overwhelming party majority. In the next Congress, it is apparent, too, that the Republican majority will be practically annihilated. Fair men will therefore have power and the outrageous schemes of the reckless will be more or less effectually curbed.

The unpopularity of throwing men out who have been elected will also deter the Republican majority hereafter. The recent elections make it abundantly manifest that it has become necessary for the Republican party to husband its strength if it would retain power. It can derive no advantage, and will incur injury, by the unfair gain of a few votes in Congress. While CESSNA would as soon of choice walk off with the seat as he would of necessity, the gentlemen named will scarcely be willing to forever blast their political future for the sake of an ill-gotten brief moment in Congress.

We conclude, therefore, that there is a vast amount of judge about the threats of contesting Congressional seats and look confidently for a nobler course of action.

The Philadelphia Sunday Morning (a quite credible source) gives this account of the matter: "At the affair dinner, CAMERON complained that 'the newspapers had little or nothing to say about him.' FORTNEY composed a column, which was read by General, I will not say the whole admiringly praising him in less than twenty-four hours." Hence the despatch that "My dear General" was about dying! "Nor was FORTNEY mistaken—nearly 'the whole batch' were yelping heartless praises within the prescribed time! Oh, newspaperdom, is not thy name frailty?"

A Rich Dodge! A few days ago it was announced by telegraph that Senator CAMERON had an attack of paralysis, but in a day or two a contradiction followed. In the mean time, the newspapers that felt so disposed had a rare opportunity for indulging in Cameronian puns, a small luxury of which the Senator is remarkably fond. Col. Fenner even had the satisfaction of heralding that he had died on the same day with the Senator, and that the meal was "exceedingly well served." That a sort of paralysis of short duration, and of not very serious moment, should occur after such indulgence is nothing new under the sun! We have heard of it! Big dinners and big drinks, swallowed and guzzled, are quite naturally followed by temporary paralysis—at least that will do for a polite name for it, but we don't often see it heralded to the public by friends!

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A MEDICAL JOURNAL in New York has made the discovery that half the diseases which affect modern humanity are to be attributed to carps. The writer asserts that carps are constantly occupying certain millions of particles of hair, cuticle, epithelium, ovules, fungi, and other organic matter, which, set in motion by the trailing skirts of the women, make the air alive with infection, and fill our nostrils and lungs with the seeds of everything horrible.

Supreme Court.

General session is expressed throughout the State at the defeat of the Democracy of Luzerne at the recent election, and explanation is impatiently called for. So far as we are able to judge at this point, we think one of the complaints of the Democracy of Luzerne is that they have entirely too many small great men, and that many of these, capable of little else than mischief, are most disgracefully selfish and factious. But the material cause of failure is the corruptions that have become so prevalent in that county, and this corruption pervades all their operations. The Scranton Democrat, for instance, coolly remarks:

"The Delegates have to be bought when elected; they have to be bought a second time in the convention, and finally must be bought a third time to secure their votes, and for the time, time and expense, they will sell to the opposition and defeat the men they themselves nominated."

And the editor might, with equal propriety, have said the same thing of the petty politicians who pervade the county. Of course, with this systematic corruption, there can be no success and ought to be none. Whole organized societies and other bodies of men are bought up, and therefore the party that is most reckless and unprincipled in the use of money succeeds. Let the system of FREE VOTING be applied to these fellows, and then their baseness and corruption will be crushed to the earth, and honest people will once more have their way.

For the causes adverted to, the Democrats lose a Congressman in the Democratic alone effected by this result, it would be of small consequence, but a vote in Congress and not Judge Woodward, who are disgraced by the result. When the election gives so grossly reckless and corrupt, what are people to expect from the bench? It is but poor consolation that the rogues may suffer as much by the result as honest men. What is wanted in the case, by all classes, is an honest, able and incorruptible Judiciary.

It is not for us to undertake to lecture or admonish the Democracy of Luzerne. We hope, however, that they will take such decided action as will hereafter relieve their friends in other parts from the misfortune of defeat and chagrin.

Thanksgiving. The President has issued a proclamation appointing Thursday, November 24th, as a day of Thanksgiving "for the bounty of God during the year about to close and to supplicate for His continuance hereafter."

Last year the President ventured to appoint a day different from the one universally observed (after a fashion) by Yankeeism, but this year he has submitted to New England whines and accepted their day: the last Thursday of November. A reliable account of its origin runs about as follows:

The Massachusetts colony were or pretended to be in a starving condition, or were apprehensive of it, when they concluded to make a raid into the Indian country to endeavor to obtain a quantity of Indian corn ready stowed away and partially covered with leaves. No Indians being about they stole the corn and returned home rejoicing. To make the theft look respectable and consistent with Yankee religion, they declared that the Lord had discovered it to them, and they therefore offered up public thanks. The occurrence took place on the last Thursday of November, which is now observed as an anniversary, and therefore the indignation at President Grant's last year for appointing a different day is by eating pumpkin pies, drinking skin milk and sticking their tanged noses into other people's business.

By many people in this State the day is observed with becoming religious services and devotion.

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Constitutional Convention.

The papers of all parties are advocating the election of a State Convention to revise the Constitution. That such a Convention, if composed of a majority of really able and honest men, might do much good, we do not doubt. But that men of such character would be elected under the present system is very much doubted. Should a Convention be called, we hope it may be elected upon the free voting plan, as in that case it would not doubt be composed almost entirely of the very best men of the State. Such a Convention would have the power of regulating matters in some manner that would to a great extent prevent Legislative corruption, and in fact once more make the Legislature itself respectable. This alone is a sufficient motive for assembling the Convention, but other improvements could also be made.

The following remarks on the subject we cut from the Lancaster Intelligencer. The ideas are in the main sound, but we object to the suggestion of electing the State Treasurer "by the people." Under that plan, in its practical working, "the people" would have but little to do with it, but the selection would necessarily be left to partisan Conventions. Such would be the magnitude of the pecuniary interest involved, that corrupt men would be sure to corrupt the Conventions, as they do now the Legislature. Similar Federal officers are appointed by the President, and we know of no evil arising from it. In our judgment, the Auditor General, Surveyor General and State Treasurer ought all to be appointed by the Governor, and should with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Attorney General, form a responsible Cabinet. We would give them all seats in the popular branch of the Legislature, without votes, but to be required to answer every proper question relating to their several departments that might be addressed to them. The political opponents of these gentlemen would then have the power to keep the people thoroughly advised of the manner in which each department of their State Government was conducted, and of course this power would be freely exercised. That the Governor of the State would make a better selection for each of these offices than 600,000 men can, is just as sure as that one competent man may know the peculiarities of a personal acquaintance better than 600,000 can. Under this plan no Governor would dare to appoint either an incompetent man or a rascalish one, for his political opponent in the Legislature would be sure to expose the delinquent officer in such manner as to bring odium upon the appointing power.

Without dissenting from this, further, we desire to call attention to the suggestions of the Lancaster Intelligencer, to wit: Legislative powers should be restricted to the enactment of general laws, and the power of granting charters to corporations be left to the courts, with proper restrictions of course.

No bill should be allowed to pass except after being printed and put on file, and then only on call of the yeas and nays, by a clear majority of the members.

All increased expenditures for ordinary purposes should require a two-thirds vote of the yeas and nays, and no increase should be made to the State debt without the sanction of a popular vote, except in case of war or insurrection.

The session of the Legislature should be limited and the salaries of members and officers be fixed by the Constitution.

Every member should be required to swear before taking his seat, that he had not directly or indirectly promised anything of value to secure his election, and that he would not receive anything in consideration of any official act.

The State Treasurer should be made elective, as well as the majority in every section of the Commonwealth, and all more partisan considerations ought to be cast aside by the people in the choice of delegates to this very important body of the State, and none others, ought to be selected for this important work.

In our respect the work of the proposed convention ought to be fundamental. The present system of choosing Congressmen, Members of the Legislature, County Commissioners, City and Borough Councilmen, and similar bodies ought to be broken up, and a plan adopted by which the minority would be given the right to represent the people.

We are glad to be able to say that the newspaper press of Pennsylvania is very largely in favor of the immediate and complete revision of the Constitution, and that the people are generally in favor of it. And any other judicious amendments to the State Constitution which might be suggested would receive the support of the press and the people without respect to party.

THE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE IN BRADFORD. From the time it was ascertained that the vote in this Congressional district was close, nobody doubted that Bradford would be the scene of a contest. It is now ascertained that the contest was between Mr. Wood and Mr. Fenner. Mr. Wood proposed to publish all the best stories entered in competition for the prize, and the contest would contain about twenty-five pages of other matter designed to entertain and instruct all classes.

THE OLD GUARD, the only Democratic monthly magazine now published, devoted to literature, science and art, political principles of 1776 and 1850, is on our table. Like all the numbers, it is filled with able literary and political articles. It is an invaluable publication and should have a place in every library. English & Co., publishers, No. 162 Nassau street, New York, at \$3 per annum.

OUR MAGAZINE is the title of a new dollar monthly published at Newton, New Jersey, by W. B. Mattison. The second number is now on our table and compares quite favorably with more pretentious publications. It is neatly printed, filled with original matter of the usual style of American Magazines, and contains valuable recipes for housekeepers. Price per annum \$1.

We have received and read with much amusement a translation of the first and fourth books of Virgil. Anselm rendered into modern American. It is certainly a very funny production, containing many capital hits, and is literal enough to render the story plain. It is profusely illustrated and in a most humorous way. There is certainly more in the pamphlet than anything of the kind we have seen for a long time. Published at the Herald office, Winsted, Conn., at 25 cents. It is well worth the money.

Editor's Table.

GODLEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The November number of this magazine has been received, and is, like its predecessors, very attractive. Mr. L. A. Godley is the father of periodical literature in this country, having commenced the publication of his Lady's Book forty years ago.

The number before us contains a steel plate, "Our Contributors"; a six figure colored fashion-plate; a large exposure of dresses, and other articles of the wardrobe; riding habits; hats, bonnets, etc.; various designs for the work-table, etc. The fancy alphabet for marking is a fine illustration. It would be impossible for us to enumerate all the beauties of this number, both literary and pictorial.

L. A. Godley, Philadelphia, Publisher. Terms \$3.00 per annum.

THE LADY'S FRIEND FOR NOVEMBER.—This is a very handsome number. The fashions in this magazine are always equal if not superior to any that can be found elsewhere, in all desirable particulars. A group of graceful and elegant ladies, in parlor or pleasure-ground, tastefully and stylishly dressed—that is what we see in the colored fashion-plate of "The Lady's Friend"; and it is not possible for those living in country places to have a better guide to fashion. The steel-plate is a scene from Scott's "Fair Maid of Perth"; there is a pretty, colored Tidy pattern, and the music is the famous "German Fatherland," the "Solid Silver," an admirable story, and "The Mysterious Chest" will be sure to please young ladies. In the attractiveness of its literary matter, this magazine is admitted to take the lead. Great inducements are offered to new subscribers. All new subscribers for 1871, who subscribe by the first of November, shall receive the November and December numbers in addition gratis, making *Fourteen Months* in all! Those who subscribe by the first of December, shall receive the December number free—making *Thirteen Months* in all! Those desirous of subscribing for the lady's magazine for next year should take advantage of these liberal offers. Price \$2.50 a year (which also includes a large steel engraving). Our copies, \$3.75 copies (sent on order gratis). "The Lady's Friend" and "The Saturday Evening Post" (and one engraving). \$4. Published by Deacon & Peterson, Philadelphia. Sample copies sent gratis.

THE PHEENOLOGICAL JOURNAL AND PACKARD'S MONTHLY, offers an inviting table of contents for November—Julius Favre, the leading statesman in the New Republic of France; Mrs. Mowatt Ritchie; R. M. Bishop, the eminent Western Merchant; Bismarck, the Prussian Premier; W. H. Hooper, the Mormon delegate to Congress; Dexter Smith the Song Writer; What can I Do Best, recommended by the Clergyman; Physical Education; The Governors of New York—Wm. H. Seward; What Makes Woman unhappy? Spiritualism, a candid discussion; Great Men; Railway Progress; Republicanism vs Monarchy, etc. Single numbers 30 cents. Subscription for a year \$3. Now is the time to subscribe, as a new volume begins with the January number, and the publisher offers special inducements to new subscribers. One which strikes us is that, for \$3 a copy of the *Pheenoological Journal* and a copy of the *Christianity* or *Review* for one year, and a copy of those fine engravings from Marshall's Washington, the price of which alone is \$5. Address R. S. Wells, N. Y.

PETERSON'S MAGAZINE.—The November number of this, the cheapest of the lady's books, is running over with original stories and poetry, to say nothing of engravings, fashion-plates, patterns in embroidery, &c. &c. A powerful review of the late election, by one of the most touching and beautiful poets of our time, is superb. In the work everything in the issue is first-rate. The Pro-pectus for 1871 is just out, with great inducements to subscribers. The price of Peterson's is only two dollars a year to single subscribers, while other magazines of its class are three or four. To clubs the terms are lower still, viz: five copies for \$8, or eight copies for \$12. Every person getting up either of these clubs will receive the magazine for 1871 gratis, and also a splendid copy-right engraving, (24 inches by 20). "Washington at the Battle of Trenton." *Now is the time to get up clubs.* Specimens of the magazine sent gratis if written for. We advise you to subscribe for nothing until you have seen a specimen. Address Charles J. Peterson, 308 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

WOOD'S HOUSEHOLD MAGAZINE, published by S. S. Wood, Newburg, N. Y., \$1 per annum, single copies 10c, is one of the largest and best dollar magazines. It is high-toned, interesting and thoroughly household in character. Every number of Vols. VII and VIII will contain a \$100 prize story complete. Besides furnishing \$1,200 worth of prize stories, during the year, Mr. Wood proposes to publish all the best stories entered in competition for the prize, and the contest would contain about twenty-five pages of other matter designed to entertain and instruct all classes.

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The Earthquake.

The shock of an earthquake, which spread across the Atlantic slope on the 20th inst., kept the usual track so far as the news of the progress of the waves is concerned. Its occurrence during a period of really surface phenomena lends force to the theory that there is an intimate connection between the surface and the interior of the earth.

The West India islands were but the other day the theatre of a storm of wind and rain almost unprecedented. The waves of the sea were high, and the rain fell in great quantities. The shock was felt in Cleveland at about seven o'clock, and was so violent that the people rushed into the street in great alarm. The same shock was felt in Meadville a few minutes later, but was not so violent. The few days earlier a great rainfall carried down and destruction through some of the fairest portions of Virginia. Monday night a great storm swept the north-west, and the waves of the sea were high, and the rain fell in great quantities. The shock was felt in Cleveland at about seven o'clock, and was so violent that the people rushed into the street in great alarm. The same shock was felt in Meadville a few minutes later, but was not so violent. The few days earlier a great rainfall carried down and destruction through some of the fairest portions of Virginia. 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