

The Columbian.

BLOOMSBURG, PA. Friday Morning, Feb. 17, 1871.

Judge Black for the Presidency.

Several western papers and some in this State, urge the nomination of Judge Black for the Presidency. Banking amongst the very first of American Statesmen, if he has a peer, in intellect, patriotism and fearless integrity, he would be a President of whom any country on the face of the globe might well feel proud. But, in view of the fact that the Presidency has lately been held by mere politicians, statements of second and lower rank, by men of no more than military ability and distinction, and even by buffoons, as well as aspired to by hosts of similar ilk in plain view of this recent history, it is not hoping against hope to expect to see the people rally to the support of one so intellectually and morally great and of such matchless purity and patriotism as Judge Black? His nomination would lose every racial of every grade from every selfish interest, every evil disposed puppy and self-seeker, every unpatriotic purpose and illegitimate money making scheme, to arouse all the slander, and hatred, and vile motive that can actuate human nature, to foster opposition to him. Is there virtue enough in the land to resist all that? Millions of money could be commanded to defeat him, or any other as great and pure as he, and against these influences there would be nothing but pure patriotism and intellectual ability to oppose. The question again arises, is there virtue enough in the land to sustain the right in such a contest?

It would be a proud thing for any party to have such a candidate as its exponent—a prouder thing still for any country to have the merit of electing such a candidate. But, we fear, the American people can never make such a boast. Discreditable to our National pride as it is, the fact exists, that there is something else than high patriotic purpose and overwhelming ability necessary to constitute a successful candidate in political contests. The least offensive amongst these "something's" is combination of sectional feelings and interests, or the possession of ephemeral popularity for some peculiar cause. Too often, the worst form, selfish interest, and bad demagogism control, and in the retinue come all manner of disreputable motive and object. The man of comprehensive mind, understanding all questions and boldly supporting or opposing all upon the solid principle of public requirement and general good, who has the manhood to oppose bad popular measures with energy and effect, or to oppose that which demagogues have made popular through wrong, or yet to support with power a measure of merit that may be unpopular because misunderstood and consequently misrepresents—a great honest brave man, we are compelled to admit, is seldom popular except when he has the rare opportunity of demonstrating his great merit in a single brilliant act that forces attention. Happy and honorable would it be to the country if these things were otherwise. Unfortunately the truth is as we have stated, and we all have to deal with public affairs as they exist and arise before us.

But in any case, we would like to see the Democracy of Pennsylvania play the noble part and present Judge Black for the Presidency. In spite of any subtle reasoning on the subject, we are yet unwilling to admit that rare fitness is not a strong element of success even in a Federal contest. At least, if defeat did follow, we would never have cause to be ashamed of what we had proposed to do.

Difficulties with England—Alabama Claims, &c.

The public were surprised last week by the announcement of the Queen of England, in her speech at the opening of Parliament, and of the President of the United States by message, that all the troubles between the two countries had been referred to a "high commission," composed of five distinguished citizens of each country. The proposition was first made by England to refer the difficulties growing out of the fishing interests on the Canadian border. The President accepted on condition that the Alabama claims should be referred to the same commission. The British authorities accepted provided all other difficulties growing out of the late rebellion were included. The Commissioners on the part of the United States are Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, B. C. SHERMAN, Minister to England, Justice NELSON, of the U. S. Supreme Court, E. R. HOAR, late Attorney General, and Senator WILLIAMS, of Oregon. The commissioners on the part of Great Britain are Earl GREY, Prof. BRYAN, of Oxford University, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, British Minister at Washington, and Sir JOHN A. McDONALD and Sir JOHN ROSE, of Canada. Little doubt is entertained that the commission will be able to settle all pending difficulties between the countries, and thus remove all cause for discord or war. Of course it can not be expected that either will obtain all its desires, as in all such cases if settlement is effected it must be by compromise.

We are heartily glad that the subject of the Alabama claims is thus taken out of the hands of the demagogues, and is placed in a position of prompt settlement. The treaty to be made will no doubt cover all such cases arising in the future and will bind both countries. We doubt whether it will be quite comfortable for our government to agree for all future time to pay whatever damages may be done by war ships built in our ship-yards, yet such is the inevitable result of the Alabama claims. As to the fishing business, that is a pure Yankeeism. None but they have an interest in it, and while they demand and receive government protection in the employment, at vast expense, they also demand and receive from the government large bounties on the fish they catch. It would be a good thing for every body else, if the fishing waters were altogether transferred to the British. At least it ought to be provided that no bounties should be paid by either government, and cheap fish be thus secured to the people. At all events, "let us have peace."

Summary Laws.

The more excellent portion of the Temperance people are at this time quite active in petitioning the Legislature to pass a law requiring the people of each election district to decide by a vote whether liquor shall be sold within for the term of three years. We regard the bill as objectionable because it will not lessen the amount of public drinking, but merely drive it to particular points, and most likely increase the evil complained of. It will very certainly increase private drinking by decreasing the convenience of obtaining it in public it will induce people to keep it in their houses, and having it so handy and in quantity they will of course drink more themselves and also induce those who visit them, to drink. Elections are already rendered so common that many care but little about attending them or how they vote if they do, and these would add greatly to personal strife and ill-will because not only the private rights of minorities and of property will be infringed, but the majority will be looked upon as not only seeking their own meat but feeding their neighbors, too, upon just such provender as suits their own palates. We think, too, that all experience has proven that Legislative interference with men's palates is not only absurd, but can never be enforced, and invariably increases the evils intended to be stayed. In these views we are sustained by the best writers on the subject of this and every other country.

The local option bill is further objectionable in that it is local legislation in its worst form—dotting itself all over the State and general nowhere. If the law is good at all it is good for all. On every other question it is unanimously agreed that laws which affect only certain localities are a nuisance and ought to be abolished. In fact one of the main causes of Legislative corruption, and an alteration of the Constitution is very generally urged in order that their future enactment may be prevented. Yet the local option proposed would be an aggravated form of this reprehensible practice.

We hope true temperance men will reflect seriously before they push this matter further, and the back of interested leaders who live upon the agitation and deliberately make up their minds whether the measure in question is not calculated to retard their progress and seriously injure their cause. The famous "Jug law" of 1855, or thereabouts, is the legitimate father of the universal sale of liquor in saloons and small groggeries, and while it created this great evil it did no good whatever. The old, sober minded, common sense temperance men of an earlier period had succeeded in continuing the sale of liquor mainly to respectable hotels, which were kept by men of character for the most part, and thus had accomplished a great public good. But restless spirits would not allow the matter to remain there. The Yankees had opened their Pandora's box of Maine laws, and other similar absurd measures, and the result was to upset all the good that had been done, and greatly increase the evil. We are not in favor of drinking. Nor is this the history of merely one such attempt. The result has at all times and places been the same.

Our columns are open to the other side of the question, if any of its advocates desire to discuss it in short, terse and aggressive style. We do not mean temperance lectures or short sermons that no issue is made—but the propriety of this proposed Legislative enactment.

Coal Miners Strike.

For some time past the Coal miners of this State have been on a strike, but there is a prospect that they will soon go to work again during the present month. Exactly who caused the strike does not appear. It is charged upon the operators, with some show of reason, because of an overstock and the consequent lowness of prices. Others charge it upon the dealers, also interested in higher prices. Others again charge it to a conspiracy between the dealers and the officers of the Miners' Association. We do not know that it matters much to the public which party is at fault, here as in the strike of the Pennsylvania French Americans, but we do know that other and particularly the iron business, and the people employed by them, it becomes of public importance, and measures should be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the evil is often repeated the miners will suffer perhaps more serious injury by it than any others, and it therefore behooves all interested, or have power over the subject, to guard against it. We do not propose to define what measures would be effective to prevent strikes, but we do propose that here only direct attention to the fact that the evil is a very serious one to every body, to greater or less extent, and that therefore every body has a direct interest in preventing future strikes, if possible.

Too Much Legislation.

We are in hopes that the day is not far distant when the people of Pennsylvania will have an opportunity to vote upon an alteration in the Constitution which will diminish the number of sessions which the Legislature can hold, and confine its deliberations to general laws and measures concerning the State at large. In old times the General Assemblies of the different Colonies met annually. They were composed of good men, who had no desire except to insure benefit and advantage to the people. The measures they considered were such as were obviously requisite. They did what was necessary, and then adjourned. But all this is changed. The fact that the Legislature of a State is about to meet is considered almost a calamity. No one looks forward to the commencement of the session as a hopeful occasion. Citizens regard the meeting of their own Representatives with nearly the same feelings which they would indulge if they were informed of the convening of a band of robbers. They expect to be outraged, to be imposed upon, to have their dearest interests sold out to the highest bidder, or perhaps not even sold—given away to parties who represent, in many instances, the members of the Legislature themselves. So frightful has the evil become, that in many States, the Constitutions have been altered so as to reduce the number of the sessions of the Assembly. Biennial sessions are now held in thirteen States. If we could have an opportunity to institute the same reform. The Commonwealth gets along much better when the Legislature is not in session than when it is. We then rest upon the laws as they are, but though they may be; but while the Legislature is in session, we know not at what moment those which are bad may be made a thousand times worse.—Eric Observer.

"Patent Outlets."

The "outside" is the printer's term for the first and fourth pages of a newspaper containing four pages. It will be observed that they are on the same side of the sheet of paper. As they are devoted to news they are usually occupied with miscellaneous reading that is always in season. They are always printed in advance of the inside pages—the second and third. Recently a scheme has been concocted by New York Sharps to furnish country publishers with paper already printed on the outside, at very low rates. The reading thus furnished is mainly stupid and worthless and a disgrace to the editorial fraternity. It wholly takes from the editor the control of one-half his paper, and that very often the best half. It gives to the reader meaningless and useless reading, necessarily, for these "outsides" are used for an indefinite number of papers, of all shades of opinion and morals, and must be made unobjectionable to all. Of course the only way to do this is to avoid all positive opinion or assertion, everything that has point and consequence, the articles thus printed are all meaningless or totally indifferent to every body. An editor who can submit to that must have less mental in his soul than editors ought to have.

Any body may thus get up a paper, for they can steal the inside pages from their more industrious or abler contemporaries, as the inside is usually made up of news and of political opinion, or what is relevant to these. We are aware that the plan saves expense and labor, but it cheats the reader. The labor of making proper selections, if conscientiously performed, is much greater than that of writing editorials upon familiar subjects—greater even than any writing. But shirking this labor is far from being justifiable. When we agree to print a paper for a subscriber, and he pays his money, the contract is clearly that we are to give him as good a paper as we are able to print. We agree to do all the necessary labor to give him the paper as we can. If he wants somebody else's paper he will send to his publisher for it, and if we print somebody else's paper upon him for our own we are guilty of false pretence. When that somebody else's is so constructed that it will suit all shades of opinion and be equally agreeable to all, the transaction becomes a swindle. That is plain as sun and fire.

Why should not an editor feel it as strongly his duty to print a creditable issue, why should he not be as ambitious to excel in his outside, as in the inside print? We know that many editors set out to do the outside as well as the inside, but that those who reason in that way are, superficial and foolish. As well might they hold that any kind of talk (sensible or not, agreeable or not, offensive or not) would do as well for their associates as carefully considered and intelligent conversation. Upon the whole, any paper gains as much (or loses as much) by the quality of its selections as by the merit of its original articles. They are of at least equal importance and are generally sought and enjoyed by the reader. For the credit of journalism, and especially of country journalism, let every editor edit his own paper and do his best to excel. When we ask a hotel keeper for a dinner of bread and beef we do not like to be set down to mush and milk. The readers of newspapers are very much of the same way of thinking.

Editor's Book Table.

Wood's Household Magazine is the best cheap publication of the kind coming to this office. Its articles are of the highest quality, and as there is no other contributor among the best writers. Price \$1 per annum. Address S. S. Wood, Newburgh, N. Y.

Floral Guide and Gardener's Manual for 1871—PHELPS & REYNOLDS, Rochester, N. Y.—profusely illustrated with cuts of various flowers and vegetables, giving plain directions for the culture of more than 1000 varieties. Sent postpaid in paper cover for 5 cents; bound with notes, 30 cents.

NEW AND VALUABLE SEEDS GIVEN AWAY.—We have received a circular from N. P. BOYER & CO., of Parkersburg, Chester county, Pa., relative to samples of Norway Oats, Alaska Clover and Chester county Mammoth Corn; they generously offer to send sample packages free to all farmers who send stamps to pay postage. Messrs. N. P. Boyer & Co., are the largest Importers in the United States, and as there is so much bogus Norway Oats and other seeds being sold, they wish to give every farmer in the country a chance to test their genuine seeds, free of charge. We hope all our farmer friends will avail themselves of this generous offer.

At the special election on the 1st in Philadelphia, the Radicals elected their candidate for Representative by over 400 majority, in place of a Democrat who had died. Of course great rejoicing prevailed. Yet the truth is the district was always Radical, in political opinion, the Democratic candidate last fall having been elected on purely personal grounds.

European Affairs.

The news from Europe is monotonous, excepting as to the British commission to settle American affairs and the French election. Full and reliable returns of the latter have not yet been received. It is far ahead from the "conservative" as heard about 400 representatives, and the Republicans of all shades less than 100. The former are mostly composed of Bonapartists, Orleanists and Churchmen. The English papers say the Orleanists (sons and grand-son of King Louis Philippe) are in a majority, and that a council of State, with the Count of Paris (grand-son of Louis Philippe) as President, is likely to be established as the government. Napoleon has issued an edict claiming that all acts since his deposition (and including it) are a fraud and therefore void. It would not be surprising were he yet declared legitimate sovereign of France by the new Assembly.

The Little remnant of so-called Republicans is made up of odds and ends that not only could not agree among themselves if left to themselves, but in such predicament would cut each other's throats as fast as circumstances would allow. About 200 members are yet to be heard from. There will no doubt increase the conservative strength. The French armies are practically dissolved. Pretty good order is observed just now, in view of the Prussian guns, but what will result when the latter retire, no one can imagine. The French element which forced Napoleon into the war, by their demagogical appeals, in order to enable them to overturn his government, seems to be now pretty universally corrected by the people and have no followers but the thieves and other outlaws.

LONDON, Feb. 13, 1871.

The French Assembly held a preparatory session at Bordeaux to-day, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of members in attendance and of fixing a day for the first public session. About 300 Deputies were present. The rules and regulations of the Chamber of 1849 were adopted.

The President, for himself, and in the name of his colleagues at Bordeaux and Paris, resigned the powers confided to them as the Government of National Defense. He stated that the Ministers would remain in office until the constitution of a new Government to maintain order.

The President read a letter from Garibaldi, in which the General declines the seat in the Assembly offered him by several Deputies.

A dispatch from Paris says that 200 candidates for the Assembly were balloted for at the elections in that city, and that the counting of the votes is therefore necessarily very slow. It was thought that the votes are so scattered among the various candidates that the delegation from the capital is not full, and that a second election will have to be held.

A dispatch from Bordeaux this evening states that the result of the elections in 20 Departments is still awaited by the Government. Most of these are occupied by German troops. M. Trochu is elected by 18 Departments; General Trochu by 7; General Changarnier by 4; M. Gambetta by 3; M. Jules Favre by two Departments.

The Versailles correspondent of the Times telegraphs on the 12th, that the delivery of the arms to the Germans has been completed by the army of the Rhine. The Germans are destroying the French guns, which prove to be useless on account of the removal of portions of the breech-loading apparatus.

Provisions in immense quantities are continually arriving in Paris, and the soldiers are kept busy unloading the trains. The French Government has stopped the purchase of provisions for Paris.

Gen. Ducrot is seriously ill, and it is reported that he has resigned his position as Commander in Chief of the Army of the Rhine.

The city of Paris has been authorized to contract a loan of 200,000,000 francs, and to levy a municipal tax.

A Commission numbering four Germans and three Frenchmen was sitting at Versailles to arrange details unforeseen at the time of the Convention of January 28th, for the capitulation of Paris.

The Prussian army is to make its triumphal entry into Paris on the 26th inst. The report that the Prussian French Armistice has been extended until the end of the month is probably true though unconfirmed. It is another assurance that the elections have been a general expression of a desire for peace, and that the Assembly will accept the terms which the Germans are ready to extend. It is further reported that a treaty of peace was concluded between Bismarck and Favre, subject to the ratification of the French Assembly. If so, the war is no doubt at an end, as the French are powerless to continue it.

Good Templars Convention.

The Northumberland District Good Templars Convened in the Hall of Bloomsburg Lodge, on Wednesday evening Feb. 9th, and remained in session during the day following.

The attendance of delegates was larger than usual.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Convention:

Resolved, That we as a Convention, urge our Lodges to visit the clergy-man of the churches in their places, requesting them to exert their members to actively co-operate with us in the temperance cause, and to join our Lodges as Christian duty.

Resolved, That as a temperance organization, we can not and do not intend to get along without the active support of the churches, and that every church should be a temperance organization.

Resolved, That we, as Good Templars, will do all we can to disseminate total abstinence principles in Sunday Schools and Common Schools.

Resolved, That, as our Lodges should seize hold of every opportunity, especially at temperance lectures and South, to invite persons to become members, our members should be invited to have one special meeting of prayer, monthly, in behalf of the cause, as well as our God we do nothing.

Resolved, That, as our members are becoming more and more interested in their children, therefore, we should have one special meeting of prayer, monthly, in behalf of the cause, as well as our God we do nothing.

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DEMOCRACY MEANS A GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE.

Radicalism means a government for the officeholders by the officeholders.

A CINCINNATI paper says that "Senator Cameron will retire at the close of his present term." Not if he can help it, he won't. Simon is not of a retiring disposition.

GEN. VON MOLTKE is not a Dane as has been stated. He was born in Mecklenburg, and entered the service of Denmark early in life, but afterwards quit- ted for that of Prussia.

It now seems to be certain that there will be a short spring session of Congress, when the San Domingo business will perhaps come up on the report of the commissioners, and there will probably be some ventilation of revenue reform.

RADICAL CONGRESSMAN BOWEN, a South Carolina Carpet-bagger, is on trial at Washington city for the crime of bigamy. He denies that he was ever married to either of his two wives! The evidence is quite positive that he was married to both.

GEN. LOGAN went to the war a Democrat and came back a Republican, and is now a Radical United States Senator. Things get mixed.

THERE has been much anxiety manifested by the Senate papers about the steamer TENNESSEE, which had the San Domingo Commissioners and their retinue on board. Recently she has been heard from and is safe. The granites in breeches can therefore rest easy for the present.

A POTTSVILLE despatch says that a contract has been signed for the importation of coolie laborers, to mine coal in Schuylkill county, and that the first installment of these laborers will arrive about the first of May. This movement may lead to a revolution in coal-mining affairs in our State.

EMOTIONAL insanity is evidently not duly appreciated in Ohio. Dr. Galentine, the dentist who shot Dr. Jones, a physician, for being too intimate with his wife, has been found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. The jurors no doubt thought such killings were getting to be too common.

BOTH houses of Congress passed a bill to repeal the principal provisions of the Test oath. As the President neither signed or vetoed the bill within ten days it has become a law. Thus by one the Radical proscription measure are passing away and in a few years may be left to keep up a few feeble and empty, or to lead to future hostility. "Let us have peace."

HON. LEVI SAUBERY, who has been elected to succeed his brother as United States Senator from Delaware, is a lawyer of considerable reputation and distinction, but has never served in Congress. A singular feature of this Senatorial contest was the fact that three brothers were the only candidates—the present Senator, the Governor of the State, and the one who was finally elected Senator.

TWENTY thousand dollars have been appropriated to defray the expenses of the select committee to investigate alleged "Southern outrages." This is the way Radicals use the funds of the government in efforts to perpetuate their own power. As carpet-baggers are low priced fellows, and scalawags can be bought cheap, this amount should get up truly startling tales of Ku-klux-klaners.

THE RIVAL POWERS of Russia and Turkey are showing their teeth over the question of the Protectorate of Roumania, should the Hospodar Charles resign. Turkey is concentrating a heavy force of reserves at the Bulgarian frontier, while Russia, not less active, is sending vast columns of troops to strengthen the garrisons of the fortresses of the Black Sea and the rivers Danube and Pruth.

The people of Southern France protest against peace, and rail at the Armistice. This is the