



BLOOMSBURG, PA. Friday, March 31, 1876

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

As a rule they reflect the will of the people, but not always. Circumstances sometimes occur that lead to the nomination of some new and unexpected man, or the adoption of a principle at variance with the sound judgment of the masses.

The Democratic Convention of 1864 nominated the army's favorite, Gen. McClellan, but blundered sadly as to its platform. The New York Convention of 1865 rejected Pendleton, but adopted his financial theory.

In 1872 the platform was well enough, but one of the candidates was not a Democrat. At Pittsburg in 1874, our State Convention was composed of able, earnest men, who made an admirable platform, and named excellent candidates. The result was success.

At Erie a year later, the Convention was mobbed, and led by such political adventurers as Wright and Hughes. The statesmen of the State, if we have any, either kept away, or were powerless to check the gushing oratory of Schuykly's champion.

In Committee, Hughes was defeated, but he tricked success in the adoption of his resolutions, and intolerance prevented the expression of any adverse opinion. Hughes got his candidate and platform, and the Democratic party was defeated.

At that time the COLUMBIAN took the opportunity of censuring the Erie demagogues, and the false principles then enunciated. For this we were taken to task by many of our brethren. But Lancaster has vindicated our position. The demagogues and political adventurers were placed in the rear, and their anti-democratic principles repudiated. The people have spoken, and so fitly that not even a howl is heard from those hurs.

We go into the canvass unshackled. Our platform is broad, generous, Democratic. "By this sign we conquer."

The Williamsport Gazette & Bulletin, although a Republican paper, is not without honesty; as will be seen from the annexed article, concerning the confirmation of Richard H. Dana Jr., nominated by the President as Minister to England.

Mr. Dana's appointment is endorsed by every reputable and decent man in Massachusetts. Both the Senate and the delegation in the house, irrespective of party, are urging the confirmation; a memorial has been signed by the presiding officers of both branches of the Massachusetts legislature, and nearly all the members, irrespective of party, requesting the senate to confirm; President Woolsey, of New York, has written a letter in favor of Mr. Dana, and says the latter is not guilty of literary piracy; the similarity in his notes and writings to those of another man, is not sufficient to warrant action by the senate; and it is further stated that letters are pouring into Washington from all sides from distinguished persons throughout the country to the same effect.

This is the state of affairs, in the midst of which the senate committee says the nomination is one not fit to be made. It has now come to be a matter of party, and the honest people of the country and Ben Butler can see the senate of the United States hesitate a moment under such circumstances.

It may be well to receive with care the testimony of some of the witnesses before the investigating committees at Washington. The evidence given by lobbyists, brokers and others of that kind should be rigidly scrutinized and not finally accepted as conclusive without some corroborating testimony. People who follow pursuits of doubtful purity cannot be regarded without suspicion, and they are none too good to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to blacken the reputation of honorable men. Those who would defraud either the government or their clients would not probably stop at perjury if there was anything to gain by so doing. We are led to these remarks by a charge made by one Lilly, a broker of Washington, who has for some time carried on the business of selling cadetships, that he gave Gen. A. H. Croft of this State \$2000. Gen. Croft indignantly denied the charge, and since then we have heard nothing of it. In the absence of anything more conclusive than Lilly's word we should hesitate to accept the statement, especially as Gen. Croft has always borne a good reputation.

It is very common with Republican papers to blame the Democratic party for having no financial policy and to attribute to that cause the continued business depression of the country. Of course this is the sheerest nonsense; the Democratic party is not responsible for the state of affairs which exists; that is the result of Republican financial tinkering. But in what respect is the Republican party better off? Is there a difference of opinion in that organization as to the proper financial course? There is as much dissension among them as among Democrats. The fact is that the money question is not a political but a personal one, and is not restrained by political views, as a general thing.

According to the Greensburg Argus, Hon. Jacob Turner, member of Congress from the Westmoreland district, says that the investigating committee has traced fraud to the steps of the White House, and thinks the mansion will be rung for further explanations. This Centennial year bids fair to be a lively one.

Wright and Baudall joined teams at Lancaster, and the slow coaches had to hustle around.—Huntington Journal.

It would have been a mighty slow coach if Wright had hustled it much. All that was heard of him at Lancaster was when Hon. Stanley Woodward charged him with having obtained his election as delegate by fraud.

The Philadelphia Ledger has entered upon its forty first year and has been enlarged by an additional column on each page since an addition to the number of columns. It now has thirty six columns printed from new types. As an advertising medium the Ledger is invaluable and its crowded pages show the public's appreciation of the fact.

A bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within four miles of the California University is called by a San Francisco paper "an act to promote pedestrianism among students."

Since Zack Chandler's accession to office, the Department of the Interior is known as the "Department of Michigan." What an eye for statement Grant has.

THE HARRISBURG CONVENTION.

The Republican State Convention met at noon on Wednesday last in Harrisburg. W. H. Koontz, of Somerset, was made temporary chairman, which was a concession to the party outside of the Cameron-Mackey ring. Edward McPherson, formerly Clerk of the House of Representatives was chosen permanent chairman. J. Don Cameron, a member of the ruling family, W. R. Leeds, the Pilgrim leader, H. M. Hoyt, of Wilkes-Barre, the present Chairman of the State Committee and R. W. Mackey, ex-State Treasurer and financial manager of the ring were elected delegates-at-large. Russell Erett was to have been one of the delegates-at-large, but his Congressional aspirations probably necessitated his withdrawal. Benjamin H. Brewer and John W. Chalfant were chosen as electors-at-large. The platform of the Lancaster Convention of last year was reaffirmed and Hartranft declared the choice of the Convention for President.

The Radical organs are squirming under the exposure of Republican rottenness and are devising all manner of plans to divert attention from the results of Democratic investigations. The attacks made on the Hon. Heister Clymer are attributable to this dread of exposure. The *Milwaukee* has just discovered a new cause for alarm. It says:

The present session of Congress, notwithstanding the boasts of the Democrats is not likely to prove a profitable one for the people. It has been in session nearly four months, nothing has been done worth mentioning, except the exposure of a few Democratic thieves, and experienced members predict that the adjournment will be on the first of July. The indiscriminate reduction of appropriations will be more than counterbalanced by the expenditures necessarily attending a long session until July, than if they adjourn in April, but "the expenses necessarily attending upon a long session" ought to be saved and the thieves (whom the *Milwaukee* ingeniously calls Democrats) allowed to go unscathed and roberies pass unchallenged to save "expenses." It is "the evils likely to flow" from a continuance in session that troubles the *Milwaukee*. Belknap was one of those "evils" and there are more of them to come yet.

When a Republican is tried before a St. Louis jury and found "not guilty," it is about time that the Democrats should take the country back some of the malignant expressions which tended to prejudice the cause. If General Babcock had been found guilty of the oppression of the *Belleville* Republic, would have devoted columns to the justice of the verdict. How many will have the manhood to devote a single paragraph to the justice of his acquittal.—*Belleville Republic*.

If Gen. Babcock's trial had been free from suspicion there would have been many opponents of the administration who would have assented cheerfully to the justice of his acquittal. But there were some points connected with his trial which were of a very dubious character. An investigating committee is now engaged in the study of facts relative to a certain letter written by Attorney General Pierson, a copy of which was found in his possession and which he was given to his attorneys, greatly to his advantage. Such upright Republicans as Bristow have no reason to complain of unfairness on the part of opponents of the administration. They have been praised for their good works and warmly supported in their efforts to administer the affairs of government with honesty and fidelity.

The following is an extract list of Pennsylvania Delegates to the Democratic National Convention, at St. Louis.

- At Large. William A. Wallace, Andrew H. Dill, Heister Clymer, M. North, DISTRICT DELEGATES. 1. George McGowan, William M. Reilly, 2. John R. Rad, Thomas D. Penrose, 3. Samuel J. Ranney, James McMillan, 4. W. V. McRath, Henry Donahoe, 5. John Fullerton, Frederick Gerker, 6. R. E. Monaghan, J. B. Rhodes, 7. George Lee, James G. Cochran, 8. Amos B. Warner, Evan Mishler, 9. W. Hayes Gray, J. L. Steinmetz, 10. William Mutchler, Thomas B. Metzger, 11. David Lewis, Alexander Cochran, 12. Hendrick B. Wright, James Corbett, 13. D. E. Nio, W. M. Ramsey, 14. George W. Ryan, George H. Spang, 15. R. A. Feltner, 16. John B. Beck, George D. Jackson, 17. R. L. Johnson, E. L. Kerr, 18. Dr. A. J. Fisher, John A. Magee, 19. E. F. Hatcher, 20. A. C. Nover, Thomas M. Utsey, 21. Charles E. Boyle, Alexander Patton, 22. Anthony F. Keating, W. J. Brownan, 23. Malcolm Hay, Alexander Cochran, 24. William C. Dunlap, Ianthus Bentley, 25. Silas M. Clarke, H. N. Lee, 26. John T. Cochran, James A. Stranahan, 27. Robert L. Borel, James Thompson.

A contest is spoken of in this district.

Judge Jerry Black's opinion of the Democratic House of Representatives was expressed, according to a Washington correspondent, in the following emphatic terms: "The House is a disgrace to the name of his client, Kirkbourn, when one of his Democratic friends said: 'But, Judge, you couldn't do differently.' 'Couldn't do differently' is a very strong expression; 'couldn't do differently' I all that Democrats in this House are after is garbage—garbage; and it won't be long before it will be thrown out as garbage yourselves.—Press.

We don't take any stock in the above story. The Democrats of the House have certainly unearthed a good deal of what is unpleasantly like garbage, but the Judge must know that it is Republican filth and certainly those men who have been instrumental in bringing it to light are doing the country what corruption exists in the administration ranks, are not likely to be thrown out by the people for so doing. They are the smacks of the Press office.

A few years since the Iowa Legislature dispensed with hanging for murder. Since then a great many Iowa trees have been felled over there are suggesting a return to the old method of punishment, in order that the few trees they may receive protection. They do not object so much to a reduction of the population by mob law as they do to the breaking of limbs from their trees.

The Supreme Court of the United States delivered an opinion on Monday in the Kentucky election case, deciding that the act of Congress under which certain whites were indicted for interfering with the exercise of the suffrage of colored voters is unconstitutional and void. The court also delivered an opinion in the Grant Parish case from Louisiana, affirming the unconstitutionality of the Enforcement act.

The New York Tribune justly compliments the chairman of the Democratic State central committee by saying: "The choice of Captain McClellan, of Pittsburg, as chairman of the State central committee, was a fortunate one. He is a young and energetic man, who has served a term in Congress, and who also is an irreproachable record all the qualifications that count in conducting an active political canvass."

The industry of the investigating committees at Washington is bringing to light frauds committed years ago. The Democrats seem determined that the Republican carnal shall bring back not only last year's stolen corn but also that of two or three years back.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 28, 1876. Special Correspondence.

A majority of the committee on Indian Affairs has reported in favor of transferring the Indian Bureau from that of the War Department to the Interior Department. As Belknap is out of this is a good move, for the new Secretary of War, Judge Taft is known to be an honest man. It is hardly to be hoped that the change will be made, as under the present arrangement the recommendations for Indian agents are divided among various religious denominations and they will bring all the influence to bear that is possible to prevent the transfer of their patronage. It is a remarkable fact that in the present year there has been more recalcitrance in the transactions with the Indians than ever before. Either these religious agents are very old-fid and easily imposed upon or they "go smokes" with the other thieves in plundering both the government and the Indians.

The Belknap articles of impeachment are not yet prepared, nor have the managers of the House yet been elected, both will be done this week and it is presumable the trial will commence next week. Sufficient evidence has been secured to render his conviction certain, though as yet it is uncertain whether the Senate will try the case upon its merits, as Belknap's attorneys will claim that his resignation deprives the Senate of the right to try. This was evidently Grant's idea when he so hastily accepted the resignation of his corrupt Secretary. It has been proven before the committee on War expenditures that Orville Grant sold several Post-trademarks and the disgusting spectacle is exhibited, of the President of the United States allowing his brother to peddle out the official patronage.

Secretary Bristow even, the man whom every one thought had "the clean hands and pure heart" of which all the members of the administration were known to be lacking, has been snatched in a male transaction. The case was before the court of claims when Bristow was assistant Attorney General in 1872 and was barred by the statute of limitations, but Secretary Belknap directed that this plea should be waived, subsequently Bristow resigned being an attorney for the plaintiff. All of which taken together does not look well.

The most disgraceful of all Belknap's transactions yet brought to light is the steal made in putting headstones to the graves of the dead soldiers. Even in this work the government was robbed of several hundred thousand dollars and it has been proven that the favored contractor had assured that he would not be required to abide by the specifications. How much he paid for the work and who received the money has not yet been discovered.

The House will hereafter meet three nights of each week to discuss the appropriation bills. A determined effort is being made by the Republican members of the House to defeat the economies proposed by the committee. And the Republicans of the Senate have declared they will not agree to the bills as reported. Their committee has taken the diplomatic and consular bill passed by the House and restored all the officers cut off by the House bill, and have placed the salaries at the old figures. The indications are that the House will carry the session well into the summer. Jay Gould and his party having discovered that they were beaten and that the Texas and Pacific bill would certainly pass, quietly smuggled a new bill into the Senate committee on Railroads by which they proposed to take the lands granted to the Texas and Pacific and build a road which would be under the control of the Texas central and have its only terminus Galveston. Monday was set for the consideration of this bill in the committee, and Huntington, Governor of Texas, came over from New York with a strong lobby to work it up. There are whispers that Senator West of Louisiana, who has been a strong friend of the Texas and Pacific favors this new project. It is directly against the interests of the State he represents and recalls the fact that when the question of the manner of opening the mouth of the Mississippi river was under discussion, West was strongly in favor of the Fort St. Philip canal, until a certain time when he suddenly became an advocate of the Jetty Plan. Huntington sold a member of Congress that he would send a million dollars to defeat the Texas and Pacific bill. He may have been using convincing arguments with West.

The Supreme Court has just rendered two most important decisions on the constitutionality of the Force bill or Ku Klux act. One is an appeal from Kentucky in the cases of Hiram Reese and Matthew Foushee by which they were indicted for refusing to receive and count the vote of a colored man named Wm. Garner. After an exhaustive review of the case the court, all the judges concurring except Mr. Justice Hunt, decided that the law was unconstitutional, and Congress had not provided "appropriate legislation" on the subject. The other case was from Louisiana where Wm. J. Cruikshank, Wm. D. Irvin and John P. Hadnot were indicted under the Ku Klux act for "land and conspiring together" to intimidate certain citizens of African descent and thereby to prevent them from voting. Without deciding upon the constitutionality of the law, the prisoners were discharged because of the vagueness of the indictment. But the dicta of the court are very plainly to the effect that had it been declared the law unconstitutional they would have declared the law unconstitutional.

The Payne cargo bill on finances was brought up Monday and defeated, receiving only 81 votes. As I have said in another letter this bill does not satisfy either the hard money or the greenback men, hence its defeat.

The administration men are openly working for Conkling the most devoted Henchman of Grant. The Democrats should avoid securing his nomination as it would surely result in the election of the Democratic candidate.

Belknap says, and probably with some show of truth, that the initial steps in the Fort Hill post-trademark business were taken by members of his family without his knowledge. If this be so, the case of the President is morally worse than that of the Secretary of War, for the former furnished his brother Orvil with the information necessary to enable him to make money by peddling out post-trademarks, the President knowing the use his brother was to make of this information. By the by, when the Republicans were engaged in impeaching Andrew Johnson, how would they have rejoiced to find facts in regard to Johnson and a member of his family like those brought out before CLYMER's committee concerning the GRANTS.—N. Y. Sun.

The Republicans is issued this week as usual, notwithstanding one editor is attending a Conference and the other the Republican Convention. They are not opposed to uniting "Church and State."

THE STATE CAPITOL.

HARRISBURG, March 28, 1876.

As the Legislative week of last week was devoted of considerable of its interest by the assembling of the democratic class at Lancaster, so this week has been bisected by an adjournment on Wednesday (to-morrow) on account of the gathering of republicans in Convention to-morrow.

On Thursday after the return of the democrats, the famous "boom bill" was taken up in the House and forced through a second reading, which action was a defeat of the ringsters and decidedly one of the best pieces of work accomplished by the House during the present session. Philadelphia's statesmen are very sore at the result; they vow vengeance and retaliation may be looked for in some quarter or other.

Quite a stir was occasioned last night amongst the friends of the Centennial by the intelligence transmitted from the Senate, that the bill appropriating \$100,000 to erect a State Centennial building had been defeated in that body. The bill was called up promotorily by Senator Anderson of Crawford and considerably more opposition to it than was expected being developed it fell to the chagrin of its friends and we might add somewhat to the astonishment of its enemies who scarcely expected such a result, their object being not to play the unparliamentary part of opposing the bill *in toto*, but to modify its provisions as to the amount to be appropriated and the manner of expenditure.

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THE HEAVY FREIGHTS OF SATURDAY IN NEW ENGLAND CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN RHODE ISLAND AND CONNECTICUT.

—The well-known hymn, "Rock of Ages," was written 100 years ago this month, in March, 1776. Its author was Augustus Montague Toplady.

—By the fall of a roof in the chamber of the Pine Brook coal shaft, near Scranton, on Saturday, two men, named Kelley and Killcullen, were instantly killed.

—A block of silver, highly polished, 3 feet in length, 12 inches in diameter, worth \$51,000 in gold, and said to weigh 4,300 pounds, has been sent from the City of Mexico for exhibition, as one of the products of that country.

—Adler & Furst, distillers, of St. Joseph, have been found guilty of violating the revenue laws. Their minimum penalty is fifty-five years imprisonment and \$27,500 fine.

—An evening paper at Manchester, N. H., publishes the statement that J. Q. A. Sargent, of that place, paid Secretary Belknap twelve thousand dollars for a contract to furnish heating apparatus in the government buildings at Fort Leavenworth.

—Mr. Reynolds', famous stallion, Hambleton, died at Chester on Sunday night, aged about 25 years. He was the sire of the most noted and valuable trotting stock in the country.

Nathaniel McKay, the Contractor, who was charged in the Philadelphia Times with being implicated in certain frauds at the Navy Yard, has brought a libel suit against Col. McClure, editor, and Frank M. Laughlin the publisher of that paper.

—The town of Bloomington, Ill., is in danger of being overcrowded by tax-burdened citizens, as soon as it becomes generally known that the assets of that town amount to \$200,000 more than its liabilities.

—If the centennial exhibition costs \$7,500,000, the amount claimed to complete it, in order simply to realize this sum it will be necessary for 15,000,000 people to visit it at once, at the price of admission, 50 cents; and as the time is confined to 155 days (from May 10 to November 10, deducting Sundays, on which it will be closed), it will require the daily attendance of over 94,900 people.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. Letters of Administration on the estate of Edward L. ...

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG FOR THE YEAR 1875. ENDING WITH MARCH, 1876.