

Cambria Freeman.

EBENSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 10, 1870.

The Johnstown Tribune, the Co. Com'rs and the New Jail.

If the recently installed editor of the Johnstown Tribune is a correct exponent of public sentiment in that ancient and renowned borough, it is fair to infer that its citizens entertain towards the people of the northern portion of the county, and especially towards the citizens of Ebensburg, a feeling of bitter and undisguised hatred.

The last number of the Tribune contained a labored, inconclusive and abusive article, which the editor submitted to the candid and dispassionate consideration of his readers, on the subject of "Our County Commissioners and the New Jail."

The Act of Assembly to which the editor refers was passed on the 16th of April, 1834, and when he acknowledges its binding force, he strikes the whole argument and his mouth ought to be closed.

The initiative, over the erection of a new jail begins with the Grand Jury. The first presentment made to the Court by that tribunal was at March Sessions, 1869. The Foreman of that Grand Jury was Francis O'Friel, Esq., of Loretto.

On the 29th of June, 1869, approved and ordered to be filed, and it is hereby recommended to the Commissioners of Cambria county that the presentment and the like presentation of the Grand Jury at March Sessions, 1869, be carried into effect by the erection of a "NEW AND SUPERIOR JAIL."

This order of the Court was signed by Hon. George Taylor, President Judge, and by Hon. George W. Ely and Hon. James Murray, Associate Judges of the Court.

Three weeks after this order of the Court, at an Argument Court held on the 29th of June 1869, the Commissioners, through their counsel, presented a petition to the Court, asking the Court to approve of a loan, on the credit of the county, of \$40,000, to be applied to the erection of the proposed new building, and to authorize them to issue the bonds of the county, in amounts not less than \$50, bearing not more than 6 per cent interest, and payable not more than ten years from their date.

On the same day the Court granted to the Commissioners the authority prayed for. If the Commissioners thought, at the time they presented this petition to the Court, that \$40,000 would be sufficient to erect a substantial jail for a county which is increasing as rapidly in population as Cambria, and which would last for generations, they discovered their error when the architect submitted to them his estimate of the actual cost.

Blair county contains about the same population as Cambria. The contract price for building the new jail in the former county is \$64,000 and yet the contractor, a man of long experience in the business, after having honestly expended the whole \$64,000, is about to be generously relieved from his undertaking by the Commissioners of that county—they themselves completing the structure at an additional cost of \$10,000, making \$74,000 in all, which is \$10,000 more than the amount for which Mr. Callan agreed and bound himself to complete the Cambria county jail.

If a new jail must be erected, and no man, even in Johnstown or within the jurisdiction of the "District Court," will say that it ought not to be, then it is the part of true economy to build one that will be amply sufficient for all the purposes of the future. We know that it is somewhat burdensome on the people, but such things have happened in many of the counties of this State and will take place in many others in the future.

Now, what did the Commissioners do? They first consulted a skillful and experienced architect, Mr. Haviland (who came here from Hollidaysburg, where he was then and still is superintending the erection of the new county prison for Blair county) as to the best location for the jail. His decision was against the erection of the new jail on the ground now occupied by the old prison, which had been pronounced by a State prison inspector, more than two years ago, to be a positive, shameless nuisance, and a standing disgrace to the county.

The architect selected the present location, and the Commissioners purchased the ground and concluded the contract with Mr. Callan. The assertion that they purchased "a lot in a swamp" is simply a falsehood. In digging the foundation a sufficient quantity of flagstones have already been taken from it to macadamize Centre street from the Academy to High street. It may, therefore, be literally said that the new jail will be built upon a rock.

The Commissioners, one of whom is a resident of Conemaugh borough, will not "reign" in order to appease the wrath of the editor of the Tribune or to silence the clamor of those whom he represents. They have no personal interest whatever in the erection of the building, but are simply and to the best of their ability carrying out the plain provisions of an Act of Assembly, as well as obeying the order of the Court. The work will be prosecuted to a successful completion, and when finished will reflect credit on the contractor and honor on the county.

The Treasury Investigation.

It will be seen from an article which we copy from the Harrisburg Patriot that the Senate Finance Committee has commenced its investigation of the inner operations and practices of the State Treasury department. The Committee is empowered to extend its examination back for the last ten years. We trust that the investigation will be thorough and complete, without any regard as to what former incumbent, whether Republican or Democrat, may be affected by any exposures that may be made.

The present Treasurer, R. W. Mackey, underwent a partial examination before the Committee and it will be observed, from the article referred to, that he refused to state how much money he had made by loaning the surplus funds in the treasury to his pet banks. This is just where the shoe pinches—not only in his own case, but also in those of his predecessors in office. There can be no doubt but that a sweeping reform is imperatively demanded in the management of that office, and in order that a solid basis may be erected for stringent and necessary legislation in reference thereto, the people expect the Committee to do the work that has been committed to their hands without fear, favor or affection.

The New "District Court" Bill.

About two weeks ago a bill was prepared in Johnstown and sent to the Legislature, which provided for enlarging the jurisdiction of the "District Court," and also for the election of a Sheriff or Marshall, Prothonotary and District Attorney. The bill was referred to the Local Judiciary Committee, and last Thursday evening was set apart by the committee for the purpose of hearing the views and arguments of the friends and opponents of the measure.

John Adams said: "I have never read reasoning more absurd and sophistical than that which the Hon. Charles H. Wetts and Rosseau to demonstrate the natural equality of mankind."

Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people (the negroes) are to be free, nor is it less certain that the two races equally free cannot live under the same government.

If any gentleman from the South shall propose a scheme to be carried on by this government upon a large scale for the transportation of the colored people to any colony or any place in the world, I should be quite disposed to stir almost any degree of expense to accomplish that object.

Judge Grier.

The last day of January terminated the official connection of the Hon. Robert C. Grier with the Supreme Court of the United States. It was the occasion of an interesting correspondence (published in another column,) between Chief Justice Chase, his Associates on the Bench, and Judge Grier, which is as honorable to the Court as it is complimentary and flattering to the retiring Judge.

The Erie Observer says a strange fatality seems to be overhanging the young Republican attorneys of that place. No less than four of them have been in unpleasant scrapes, involving their legal and personal standing, within the past year.

It is now quite evident that all suspicions against the parents of murder were without foundation, while at the same time it is somewhat strange, that after the diligent searches made for the children, and the large rewards offered for their recovery, they should be found within two miles of their homes.

Simon Cameron has fallen heir to \$1,000,000 by the death of his father-in-law, James McCormick, of Harrisburg.

Our Harrisburg Letter.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 5, 1870.

Dear Freeman: The exciting topic this week has been "An Act to provide for the appointment of a Metropolitan Police in the City of Philadelphia." The newspapers have been discussing the merits and demerits of this bill for some time past. It is to be presumed that nearly everybody is familiar with the name if not with the provisions of the bill. This act divides the city into five police divisions, with a commissioner for each district vested with the entire control of the police force of said city.

The bill, and each division elects a commissioner every fifth year, with a salary of \$5,000. One of the commissioners named is Ex-Gov. Pollock, and the Mayor is to be an ex-officio member of the board for the time being. The Democrats feel very much exercised over the bill, inasmuch as Senators Lindeman and McIntyre were absent when the bill passed the Senate, and there is a strong suspicion that the gentlemen named were influenced by improper motives.

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Justice Grier.

MR. JUSTICE GRIER'S REPLY. WASHINGTON, February 1, 1870.—Dear Brother: Your letter, read to me by the Chief Justice, interested me very much, and I could then make no reply. I promised to respond in writing.

My pen, even now, cannot express the profoundest emotions it awakened; sentiments of esteem and affection towards each one of you; sentiments of regret, not unmingled, I trust, with resignation, that increasing infirmities have compelled our separation, and sentiments of gratitude for such a testimonial from my brethren at the close of my long term of service.

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The Treasury Investigation.

MR. TREASURER MACKAY ON THE STAND—HE REFUSES TO ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS.

The Finance Committee of the Senate, acting under the resolution of Senator Lowry, met in the Senate Committee room last night, for the purpose of hearing testimony in regard to the management of the State finances. Mr. Mackey, the present State Treasurer, and Messrs. Irwin, Kemble, Moore and M'Grath, former State Treasurers, have been summoned to appear as witnesses before the committee.

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The Huntingdon Horror.

CONFESSION OF ALBERT BODENBURG—A BENEVOLENT MAN BEING THE MURDERER OF THE PEIGHTAL FAMILY.

Albert Bodenburg, one of the parties convicted of the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Peightal and a boy visiting them, at Huntingdon, Pa., has made a confession. He charges Bodenburg with committing the murder, and says that he assisted in the proposition of Bodenburg to take any hand in murdering its inmates. He further says: "I told him, 'Charley, you have already in Altoona sworn and promised me that you would not kill these people; had you not sworn to me I would not have come with you. I told you this same thing in Altoona: I mean still to do what I agreed to, but if you mean to do this thing which you have now told me, I will start right away back to Altoona, and you can do as you please with me. I do not want to have anything to do with such a cruel deed. After considering a while, he said to me 'you need not take part at all in this affair. You stand here on the railroad and keep a lookout and if anybody comes you will let me know.' I told him 'only for the purpose of stealing, remember, you can expect my service, and not for anything else.'"

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General News Items.

A raft containing George Treemeter, his wife and two children, was upset on the Ohio river, below Louisville, last Wednesday night, and all but one of the children were drowned.

A recently married man in Wilmington, Del., ill-treated his wife and received therefor a severe beating at the hands of his mother-in-law. He humbly promised not to do so any more.

A heroic boy, only 8 years old, named Brown of Newbury, at