

THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA., Friday Morning, - February 28, 1873.

A THOROUGHLY wicked scribbler says the relations of Mr. Cokes Ames with his fellow members have somewhat changed since 1858. They keep calling on him now to know if he has anything to add; they followed him up then to see if he had anything to divide.

The elections thus far held in this State under the Local Option law have resulted as follows: For License—Forest, Schuyler, Northumberland and Cambria counties. Against License—Clearfield, Bradford, Tioga, Jefferson, Cameron, Lycoming, Center, Wayne, Susquehanna and Blair. The other counties vote on the third Friday in March.

Don Carlos has entered Spain, and proclaimed himself king. An alliance has been effected between ex-Queen Isabella and the Duke de Montpensier, whereby the latter is to become regent during the minority of the Queen's son, Prince Alfonso, who will be wedded to the Duke's youngest daughter. The Republicans are distracted, while the Carlists are steadily gaining ground. Such is the burden of Tuesday's news from Spain.

An important bill, of not only local, but general interest, passed the House of Representatives at Washington, on Wednesday last week, without a division. It provides that after the first of July next, all postage letters shall be charged at the rate of two cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof, from this excepted book, magazine and newspaper manuscripts, and corrected proofs passing between authors and publishers, and also correspondence on postal cards. Weekly newspapers within the counties where the same are printed and published may pass through the mails free of postage, and magazine and newspaper manuscripts are declared to belong to the third class of mailable matter. As an important item to the craft the country over, there is inserted a provision that newspaper exchanges are not to be interfered with.

The little State of Florida affords a fine example of the results of negro and carpet-bag rule. There is not a dollar in the Treasury, and the bonded and floating debt, according to the report of the Comptroller, is \$5,844,421. As there are less than 30,000 voters, white and black, in the State, taking the last Presidential election as a test, it follows that each voter's proportion of the debt is over \$190. Add to this the county and municipal debts, and the general average will doubtless run up to \$200 for each voter. How the State funds have been squandered was shown, says the N. Y. Sun, in the account we published the other day of the bond transactions of M. S. Littlefield, a shining light of the Administration party, who also distinguished himself by his financial achievements in North Carolina under the corrupt Holden administration.

The State tax on personal property by the last Auditor General's report yielded over a half million of dollars. This tax is mainly produced by the assessment of the horses, mules and cattle of the farmers and workmen of the State. Money at interest produces but a very small amount of this tax, as it evades taxation by a convenient forgetfulness to return it. But the poor man's cow cannot be hidden from the assessor on his annual rounds. A bill to repeal the tax upon cattle, horses, and mules was, on Monday last, as we learn from the Harrisburg Patriot, introduced into the Senate by the Hon. William A. Wallace. This is a step for the relief of that interest which should first be taken care of by the law making power of the State. Although this repeal will aid in reducing the revenue of the commonwealth, it is for the interest of the whole people.

In our local department will be found a statement of the vote polled in this county, on Friday last, for and against the Local Option law. The returns are taken from the official papers in the Prothonotary's office, with the exception of the borough of Loretto, where the majority only is given, the returns from that place not having yet been received. It will be seen that the vote cast falls about two thousand short of the full vote of the county, and when we think of the furious snow storm that prevailed during the entire day, we are surprised that the vote was as large as it is. In the different boroughs the entire vote, or nearly so, was polled, while in most of the townships not more than one-half the voters made an effort to get to the election. It would be idle to speculate as to what the result would have been had the full vote of the county been out. No man can predict with any approach to accuracy on which side of the balance the scale would have turned. We must regard the result as the expression of the popular will of the county, and the friends of the measure who remained away from the polls have themselves only to blame.

In reference to the vote cast in the two wards of Ebensburg and the adjoining township of Cambria, we think a comparison with the balance of the county will show that, in proportion to the vote polled, the expression against license in these three districts was more manifest than in any other portion of the county. At haste it seems so to us. We do not propose to discuss the wisdom or propriety of the decision arrived at by a majority of the electors who voted on the question. It is enough to know that their verdict is final and conclusive, under the provisions of the law, for the next three years, when the same question can again be referred to the voters of the county, and then a majority of them can reverse or reaffirm the verdict which has just been pronounced.

Report of the Poland Committee.

Whenever a thief is tried by a jury of thieves, says the Philadelphia Sunday Morning, an acquittal of the defendant may, of course, be anticipated. Therefore the report of the Poland Committee recommending the expulsion of Messrs. Ames and Brooks, and virtually exculpating all the other Congressmen implicated in the bribery and corruption of the Credit Mobilier business, warrants the inference that the men who investigated the case are but little, if any, less guilty of complicity in that matter than those whose conduct they were appointed to examine. Their report seems to have excited considerable opposition in Congress, as it has most certainly surprised and incensed the public mind, and it is devoutly to be wished that the action of the committee will be severely denounced and utterly rejected by both branches of the National Legislature. That tribunal owes it to its own honor and dignity, as well as to the credit of the country, to mark its disapprobation of the offending members in a manner so emphatic as to vindicate its own integrity and remove the blush that has been cast upon the national character.

As to the guilt of all the persons accused, there can be no reasonable and honest doubt. The evidence adduced against them in the course of the protracted inquiry, is quite sufficient to carry conviction to every candid mind, if not to force it even upon every unscrupulous and dishonest one. Hence the effort of the committee, in its disingenuous and impotent report, to excuse certain leading Congressmen, clearly convicted of having been bribed with Credit Mobilier stock, on the pretence that they were ignorant of the criminal nature of the transaction, is so obviously absurd as to be ridiculous. Those members not only knew that they were being bribed, but they thought they had effectually secured themselves against exposure, and the odium of their case has only been aggravated by the detestable perversion and perjury by which they have tried to deceive their judges and the people, and to escape the just consequences of their crime. Nor does it help them at all to have their gross prostitution of a highly honorable and important trust attributed to their stupidity rather than their want of virtue. If they have not sense enough to distinguish so palpable an instance of bribery as that to which they were willing parties, they surely are intellectually and morally incompetent to sit in Congress and legislate upon the great concerns of this nation. As for Mr. Colfax there can, we think, be no question that he was entirely party and consenting to the foul scheme which has covered him with everlasting infamy. And he, above any other companion in his guilt, has made himself supremely contemptible by his wretched, villainous, imbecile manner in which he has sought to avoid his doom by the feeblest sort of lying, and attempts to defeat truth by confusing dates, facts and figures that would disgrace the most bungling witness subpoenaed to cheat a Quarter Sessions jury. Even the confusion forced from him by the dire exigencies of his situation, that he accepted gifts of three, if not four thousand dollars, from Mr. Nesbitt, of New York, who was a Government contractor at the time and whom Colfax declares he scarcely knew, shows the Vice President to be deplorably destitute of a gentlemanly sense of honor and self-respect. No man of the right sort of spirit and a due appreciation of the dignity and responsibility of the exalted office held by Mr. Colfax, would accept naked gifts of large sums of money from a stranger for electioneering purposes, or any other use, and thereby place himself under a personal and political obligation, that might possibly, at any time, impair his independence and compromise his integrity as a member of Congress. But Colfax tells the world that he did this three or four several times, and we are of the opinion that his conduct in that respect was as near to voluntary self-delinquency by acceptance of pecuniary favors, from indifferent persons, without any express consideration whatever, as any two things can be, which are closely related and yet not the same.

In the case of Colfax it so bad, so miserably hopeless and unmitigable, that even the leading papers of his own political party can only sneer at and commiserate him. The New York Evening Post, Mr. Bryant's paper, thus speaks of the fallen statesman: "We are sorry for poor Mr. Colfax. If he wants the innocence he has the weakness of a child, but of a child too old or too imbecile to learn. The pity we feel for him is akin to that which we feel for partial idiots. It is provoking, and one's hands almost itch to inflict deserved punishment, but there is so much of inanity in the commission of the fault that pity for him who persists in committing it is the predominant feeling. As to argument or explanation, Mr. Colfax's case, like Mr. Patterson's, is past all that. It does not in the least matter what he says. He may have a new story for every day, and a new version of that story every hour; he may bring in as witnesses to their truth all the ladies with whom he is acquainted and who have basked ever so long in his smiles; he may call upon the parents, paternal as well as maternal, of all the young Schuyler Colfaxes, who outnumber in the Western States by many hundreds the young Geo. Washingtons and Benjamin Franklins. In vain. What he says is not of the slightest moment. The only feeling we can possibly have about his case is a mild and feeble curiosity as to what he may say next."

Among the additional "indications" of Colfax is one from Mrs. Richardson, formerly McParland, a lady under some obligations to Colfax in the matter of her Indiana divorce. She relates that Colfax was a regular stipendiary of Nesbitt. Certainly Colfax forgot to mention this on the witness stand, and we do not see that Mrs. Richardson's recollection of it helps his case. The remittance of several drafts from Nesbitt is now known, but this increases the improbability that he sent a thousand dollars in a bank note instead of a draft, which was the allegation of Colfax.

A Hermit.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY SEUT OUT FROM CIVILIZATION—A LIFE OF SOLITUDE. Many years ago there lived in Philadelphia a brother named Harper, who was engaged in business together, and were successful merchants. They lived luxuriously, and seemed in the enjoyment of all the blessings of life. One of them finally concluded to go to Europe for a year, partly on business, and partly for pleasure. He had added falsehood to his other offences, and every step he has taken has plunged him deeper into the mire. He has been bought at a cheap rate, and has sought to escape detection by falsehoods more than his former offences. He has been bought at a cheap rate, and has sought to escape detection by falsehoods more than his former offences. He has been bought at a cheap rate, and has sought to escape detection by falsehoods more than his former offences.

His little hut was rudely built by his own hands, under the shelter of a huge rock, and there he dwelt in quiet seclusion, and his brother died and himself a ruined man. Colfax must be impeached. The country demands it. No false pretence that his term is about to expire and that the resolution of impeachment will be operative must be allowed to screen him from the disgrace and punishment as well as of removal attaches to his crime, and hence it is believed by many that if the articles of impeachment should be found during his term of office the case could be tried after the expiration of the term for the enforcement of this penalty. If Colfax were to retire half an hour afterwards the resolutions of impeachment should be adopted by the House as a mark of their condemnation of his action. The republican members with the exception of General Butler and five others, present under the stigma of shielding this unfaithful and degraded man, who has brought disgrace upon the second office in the United States. Let us see whether they will dare to suffer their records to remain as yesterday's vote has left them.—N. Y. Herald.

The temperance men in some of the Western States have recently outstripped the authors of the Maine law in the stringency of their provisions in regard to the sale of intoxicating drinks, and while granting licenses under certain conditions, so hedge them around with restrictions that a dealer in such articles is likely to run a greater risk than dealers selling without licenses in most of the States where the sale of liquor is entirely prohibited. A bill has passed the Lower House of the Indiana Legislature, and is likely to become a law, which will prohibit the sale of liquor to any person who has been convicted of a crime, and who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in any State for a term of more than six months. A bill has passed the Lower House of the Indiana Legislature, and is likely to become a law, which will prohibit the sale of liquor to any person who has been convicted of a crime, and who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in any State for a term of more than six months.

THE GREAT CENTENNIAL MEETING.—The Centennial meeting on Saturday evening, Feb. 23d, was what may emphatically be termed a signal success. It was a success in point of attendance and enthusiasm, and certainly well calculated to give an substantial result. The hall was crowded from pit to dome; the speeches were able, eloquent, and inspiring, and the spirit infused by the meeting such as was well calculated to give an impetus to the cause of the Centennial. Reports from the different committees were made, showing an aggregate of subscriptions of \$737,000 for the city alone. To this are to be added the \$500,000 approved by the Legislature, and the \$500,000 from the leading railroad companies, making an aggregate of \$1,737,000. If to this be added the expected appropriation of \$1,000,000 by the Legislature, we have a grand total of two and three-quarter millions from Pennsylvania alone. This, with the \$500,000 from the State outside of the city limits, which ought to make the sum total three millions at least, or more than three times as much as Pennsylvania's quota.

But we cannot stop here. There are other contributions to be made. As it is well known that the Centennial will be held in Philadelphia, it is not to be wondered at that the amount already subscribed should be deemed necessary to the successful prosecution of the enterprise. As a whole, the prospect could not be deemed to be more favorable at present. Enough is now known to give the positive assurance that all doubts as to a triumphant result have been removed.—Phila. Evening Herald.

THE CASE OF VICE-PRESIDENT COLFAX.

The Credit Mobilier infamy presents no more degrading chapter than which records the fall of Vice-President Colfax. The story of this unfortunate man presents not a single point that can excite popular sympathy. A low-priced corruptionist, he has added falsehood to his other offences, and every step he has taken has plunged him deeper into the mire. He has been bought at a cheap rate, and has sought to escape detection by falsehoods more than his former offences. He has been bought at a cheap rate, and has sought to escape detection by falsehoods more than his former offences.

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An invalid lady on Tuesday reported from the House Judiciary Committee that it was inexpedient to impeach Vice President Colfax, and asked that the Committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject. This gave rise to discussion, whereupon the matter was postponed till Wednesday. The bill to increase the capital stock of the Pennsylvania railroad, and allow an additional issue of bonds, which passed both branches of the Legislature recently, was recalled from the Governor's desk on Tuesday, and is now in the Senate, conferred by the House, and passed finally, and signed by the Governor. Another case of impulsive mania is reported from Rutland, Vt., where a colored servant girl the other day attempted to cut off her master's ears and fingers of her employer's little child, for whom she had manifested the strongest attachment, and afterwards was with difficulty restrained from killing her mistress. An extraordinary hen in Lewistown, Me., cackled with admirable regularity, but then she laid her eggs in an extraordinary irregularity like this demanded scientific attention. The hen was sacrificed, and the post mortem developed the presence of twenty-two eggs inside this incomprehensible loaf. Mr. Jones, the new Senator from Nevada, is said to be the first native of Wales elected to the United States Senate. In 1855 he said to a cousin: "James, I am now going to work for myself, for I have worked long enough for others, and I am not going to visit home before I am elected to the Senate of the United States." The latest report is that Centre county has given 1,000 majority against license, instead of 500 for license, as announced. Blue jays are said to be very numerous in Schuylkill about 2,500 against license, and about 2,000 for license. These reports ought to make the sum total three millions at least, or more than three times as much as Pennsylvania's quota.

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News and Political Items.

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Comparatively few persons have an idea of the extent of the silk manufacturing business of the United States. From a mere experiment, ten years since, it has suddenly assumed really vast proportions and promises to become one of the leading pursuits of the country. According to the latest issued report of the Silk Manufacturers' Association of America it appears that \$30,000,000 is the amount of capital invested. Sixteen thousand operatives are employed, who earn about \$5,000,000 wages, and the products of whose labor amount to between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000. A Cincinnati paper publishes this as a veritable transcript from the docket of a magistrate in Covington, Ky.: "Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. George Washington for beating his wife Martha Washington. Witnesses of whose labor amount to between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000. 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