

THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

EBENSBURG, PA., Friday Morning, - - Feb. 16, 1877.

WASHINGTON letter too late this week.

If anybody has a Roland they would like to exchange for an Oliver, no doubt Simon Cameron, the venerable Senator from this State, aged 78, would be gratified to hear from them.

SEANOR MORRILL, of Maine, who has been very ill for several days past, was at last, before he took seriously ill, but his condition was such as to give strong hopes for an early recovery from the bodily ills which now afflict him.

It is a singular fact that no ex-President of the United States is now living, and only two ex-Vice Presidents, Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, who was elected in 1860 with Mr. Lincoln, and who is now a member of the United States Senate, and Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, who was elected on the ticket with Grant in 1868. Mr. Colfax occupies his time in preparing and delivering public lectures in various portions of the country on such subjects as he believes will both please and pay.

THE STAY LAW, for a copy of which we are indebted to Hon. Jas. J. Thomas, one of the members of the House from this county, was defeated in that body on Tuesday last by a vote of 79 yeas to 39 nays. On the same day the joint resolution providing for the annual purchase of Putnam's Digest met with a similar and much more merited fate. We have the stay law in type and intended to publish it for the information of our readers, but as it has received its quietus for the present session at least, we deem it a dead issue and withdraw it accordingly.

"M. P. H." the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Times, writing under date of the 12th inst., says that Mr. Morrison, of St. Louis, brother of the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, telegraphed to the latter on the day previous that many of the best lawyers believed the Florida decision was sound and that it would not impair Mr. Tilden's case in Louisiana, which was sure of success. The Congressman replied by telegraph: "That is all very well, but when the seven spot can beat the eight I shall feel a good deal more hopeful." This shows how two brothers view the situation.

The following decision has been rendered by Attorney General Lear in response to a private letter: "You will elect all officers at the election this month whose terms expire on or before the first Monday of April next. Those who were elected in February, 1875, and whose terms expire between the first Monday of April, 1877, and the first Monday of April, 1878, have their terms extended to the first Monday of April, 1878. Their successors, by the act of March 10, 1875, must be elected in February, 1878. This applies to assessors whose terms would have expired the day after the election—1876—in November. Their terms are extended to April, 1878. And the constables will be continued to the same time, if they were sworn in after the first Monday of last April."

The investigation before the Congressional committee into the facts of the Louisiana election presents the most shameful record of political fraud and debauchery that was ever exhibited in all our previous bitter contests in this country. All honest men of both parties are sick unto death with the details of the villainies of J. Madison Wells and the other members of the infamous Returning Board of that State. No measure of perjury, forgery or fraud seems to have been considered by the Board too monstrous for its members to attempt, either through the hope of pecuniary gain or ambition. The Philadelphia Times well remarks, "the most damning evidence before the nation to-day is the mute but terribly persuasive appeal of the hidden original returns of the State, which the members of the Return Board refuse to deliver even under the penalty of imprisonment. If their records were honest and could be sustained by the honest returns of the vote of the people, they would have been the first evidence presented to the Committee when the inquiry began."

More than a quarter of a century ago the foundation was laid in Washington city of a national monument to perpetuate the memory of General George Washington. Its original design contemplated the highest structure of the kind in the world, the entire height to be over five hundred feet. The most elegant and polished blocks of marble and other remarkable stones from almost every civilized country in the world, were sent by their respective governments to the Monument Association at Washington, to aid in its erection, so that when completed it might greet the rays of the morning sun in his coming and that his parting beams in his evening might linger and play around its summit. But this grand conception was not to be realized. Up to 1852 the monument was erected, in all its magnificent proportions, to the height of about two hundred feet, and then, for the want of funds and other causes, the work was suspended and has continued so up to this day, to the lasting disgrace of the country. We now learn from Washington that the engineers appointed under an act of the last session of Congress to examine into the stability of the foundations of the monument will recommend the tearing down of the present structure and the removal of the stones to another locality in the same city, to form the base for a granite shaft, of imposing height and design, in honor of him who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

The Electoral Commission.

Our paper went to press on the afternoon of yesterday week with the latest intelligence then received in regard to the action of the Electoral Commission, composed of five Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, five members of the Senate, and five members of the lower branch of Congress, as a tribunal, to ascertain and finally determine the true and legal result of the recent Presidential election. This, of course, as every well-informed man of both parties well understands, refers to the true and honest returns from Florida, Louisiana and Oregon, but eventually, and more especially, to Louisiana and Oregon. The commission on Friday last, by a vote of 8 to 7, decided that Humphreys, of Florida, one of the four Hayes electors from that State, was not ineligible as an elector, and that therefore the four votes of Florida should be counted for Hayes and Wheeler. This, in the face of all the facts, was done, and the vote of that State was counted on last Monday under the decision of the Commission as stated. In the slang phrase of the prize ring, "this was the first blood for Hayes and Wheeler." On the same day Georgia with its eleven votes was counted for Tilden; Indiana, fifteen votes for Tilden; Illinois, twenty votes for Hayes; Iowa, eleven votes for Hayes; Kansas, five votes for Hayes; and Kentucky, twelve votes for Tilden. Then came before the Commission the vote of Louisiana, from which State there are two certificates, one in favor of Hayes, the foul and villainous work of Wells and his three infamous colleagues on the Returning Board, and the other in favor of the Tilden electors. These two returns having been opened in the presence of the joint convention of the Senate and House on Monday, and respectively objected to, were referred to the Electoral Commission of fifteen, and the argument on the Louisiana vote was commenced on Wednesday morning before that tribunal. Although no man of either party doubts that Tilden carried Louisiana by a majority of over eight thousand, and that Wells and his Returning Board reversed the popular judgment by throwing out 13,000 Tilden votes in certain parishes, thereby wickedly, fraudulently and corruptly giving the State to Hayes by about 4,000, we are not without hope that justice will yet be done to the votes of that State by the Electoral Commission. We are free to admit, however, that if the decision of the commission in the Florida case not to go behind the certificate of the Governor, and thus investigate fraud in the count of the actual vote, is applied to the Louisiana case, the chances for Tilden, who was endorsed by a majority of 260,000 voters of the country, will become small by degrees and beautifully less. If the bold, notorious and shameless frauds in this Louisiana affair will not be allowed to be exposed and brought to the light of day, their Presidential elections are a broad farce, and four corrupt scoundrels in a room in New Orleans can dictate who shall and who shall not be the ruler over the 40,000,000 people of this vast free country. In the Florida case the commission, by a vote of 8 to 7, decided that it would receive evidence as to the ineligibility of Humphreys, one of the Hayes electors, and after hearing the matter fully discussed, sustained his election. Of course the commission even if it refuses to go behind the frauds of the Louisiana Returning Board, will allow proof that two of the Hayes electors in that State, Brewster and Lesieve, were ineligible, both United States officers at the time of their election. No decision could possibly be reached on this question to-day (Thursday), and our readers, like ourselves, must patiently wait for the verdict. If Hayes assumes the Presidency under the false and fraudulent count of Wells and his Returning Board, he will be regarded as a usurper by a vast majority of the American people.

We see it stated that a bill is pending before the present Legislature to reduce the fees of all county officers. The present fee bill was passed in 1868 and is perfectly plain in all its details, regulating or specifying the compensation of each and every such officer. We have not seen the bill referred to and cannot therefore express any opinion in reference to the modifications of the bill of 1868 which it proposes to make. We may say, however, that as a general rule we are opposed to the frequent alteration, or change, by the Legislature of the fees of county officers, and this for many obvious reasons. But if that body, in its collected wisdom, believes that the present fees are too excessive, let it by all means supply the act of 1868 by an entirely new one, and then, in the interest of the people as well as of the officers, let it be made as plain as the law, and not be the subject of constant legislative discussion and change. The new constitution requires that "the compensation of county officers shall be regulated by law," but that the compensation, or fees, then or now allowed shall continue to be received by them until the expiration of their respective terms of office; and that in counties containing over one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants the pay of all county officers shall be fixed by salary. This latter constitutional provision only applies to the three counties of Philadelphia, Luzerne and Allegheny, and an act was passed by the Legislature at its last session, in obedience to this requirement of the constitution, regulating by a fixed salary the compensation of all officers in the three counties named, without interfering, however, with the existing fees of any officer in any other county. The present bill, if it should become a law, is therefore only to go into effect after the terms of the incumbents now in office expire. As a matter of information for those who are not familiar with the penalties of the law against taking illegal fees, we append the act of 1860 on that subject:

If any Justice, Clerk, Prothonotary, Sheriff, Coroner, Constable, or other officer of this Commonwealth, shall willfully and fraudulently receive or take any reward or fee to execute and do his duty, in office, but such as is or shall be allowed by some act of assembly of this Commonwealth, or shall receive or take by color of his office any fee or reward whatever not or more than is allowed by law, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office, and on conviction thereof he shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars or to undergo an imprisonment not exceeding one year.

The Electoral Tribunal.

FULL TEXT OF THE FLORIDA DECISION—DEMOCRATIC OBJECTIONS THEREUNTO.

Following is the full text of the decision reached by the Electoral Commission on Friday last in the case of Florida, as also the objections interposed by certain Senators and Representatives to the counting of the electoral vote of said State for Hayes, as decreed by the tribunal referred to:

DEMOCRATIC OBJECTIONS. WASHINGTON, February 9, A. D. 1877.—To the President of the Senate of the United States, presiding in the meeting of the two Houses of Congress under the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for and regulate the counting of the votes for President and Vice President, and the decision of questions arising therefrom, for the term commencing March 4, anno Domini 1877." The undersigned, commission mentioned in said act having received certain certificates and papers, purporting to be certificates and papers accompanying the same of the electoral votes from the State of Florida, and the objections thereto submitted to it under said act, now report that it has duly considered the same, pursuant to said act, and has decided, and does hereby declare, the votes of Frederick C. Humphreys, Charles H. Pierce, Wm. H. Holden and Thomas N. Long, named in the certificate which voted for Hayes, and the votes of the State as appears by the certificate submitted to the commission as aforesaid, and marked number one by said commission, and here-with returned, are the votes provided for by the constitution of the United States, and that the same are hereby certified, namely, four votes for Rufus B. Hayes, of the State of Ohio, for President, and four votes for William A. Wheeler, of the State of New York, for Vice President.

The commission also has decided and reports that the four votes referred to in the said State of Florida. The ground of this decision stated briefly, as required by said act, is as follows: That it is not competent under the constitution and the law, as it existed at the date of the passage of said act, to go into the merits of the papers opened by the President of the Senate in the presence of the two Houses, to prove that other persons than those regularly certified to by the Governor of the State of Florida in and according to the determination and declaration of their respective electors, or that the State Canvassers of said State prior to the time required for the performance of their duties had been appointed electors, or by counter proof to show that they had not, and that all proceedings of the courts or acts of the Legislature or of the executive of Florida, subsequent to the date of the passage of the act of Congress, are inadmissible for any such purpose.

As to the objection made to the eligibility of Mr. Humphreys, the commission is of the opinion that without reference to the question of the effect of the vote of an ineligible elector, the evidence does not show that he held the office of Shipping Commissioner on the day when the electors were appointed.

AN INSANE LOVER'S CRIME.—Harrison Turner was the insane son of the Widow Turner of Sorrel Hill, Crawford county, Pa. Milton Anderson was a tenant on the farm of the late Mrs. Anderson, and had a daughter about sixteen years old, and young Turner insisted that she must marry him. His persistent attempts to thrust his presence upon the girl at last led Anderson to forcibly eject him from the premises. On Tuesday of last week the farmer and his daughter, who had been in a field some distance from the house, were carrying an army musket. Aiming at them when they were within a few feet of him, he ordered them to stand. The men stopped. Turner, pointing the gun at Anderson, exclaimed: "You're out on a limb. He then fired. The gun was loaded with buckshot. The charge passed clear through Anderson's body, killing him instantly. Turner then began to reload his gun, and the hired man fled in alarm. When he returned to the spot with members of the household, Anderson had been laid out on the ground, with his face and half of his head blown away. He had evidently placed the muzzle of his gun under his chin and discharged it. Anderson was 40 years old. Turner was about 22.

About four years ago Carl Wailand and wife settled on the ridge two miles from Pleasanton, Wisconsin. During the first year of his residence, when his wife was about to be confined, Wailand drove her from the house, and the child was born in the straw stack. She then went into the house, with the child in her arms, but was refused admission by the husband. She was driven out of the house, and during this neglect one of the babies and the mother died. Wailand soon married again, and his wife became a mother about a month ago. The surviving child of the first wife died of starvation and neglect on Monday of last week, and was buried secretly at night by the father in the burying ground. The new-made grave excited the suspicions of the neighbors toward Wailand, and on being interrogated he acknowledged that his child had died and had been buried by himself. The boy was summoned, and, on the statement of a physician, brought in a verdict that the child had been starved to death.

A bill was reported from the Ways and Means Committee on Monday last, making an aggregate reduction of about \$1,500,000 in the salaries of the employees of the Legislature. The bill, as referred to the Committee, reduced the salaries of members from \$1,000 to \$700, but the proposition met with very little favor. The following reductions were unanimously agreed to: Chief clerks, from \$2,500 to \$1,800; resident clerk, from \$2,000 to \$1,500; reading clerk, from \$1,500 to \$1,000; transcribing clerks, from \$800 to \$700; sergeant-at-arms, from \$800 to \$700; assistants, from \$600 to \$500; messengers, from \$500 to \$400; janitors, from \$300 to \$200. The bill dispenses with the door-keeper in the rotunda and two messengers, but the committee believing that they are unnecessary.

The Philadelphia Press says the leading business man of that city, Mr. John Wanamaker, will about the first of March transform his grand clothing depot at Thirteenth and Market streets into an immense store of goods and ready-made clothing store, including all its branches, from the lowest-priced domestics to the finest lines of silks and dress goods. It is said that "Oak Hall," Sixth and Market, will be the headquarters for men's clothing, and such energy and increased force have been added to it as will not only keep its old reputation, but will make it still higher, if that be possible. An establishment on the order of A. T. Stewart's, of New York, will be a great acquisition to Philadelphia, and Mr. Wanamaker is just the man to do this.

News and Other Notings.

A married couple are now living in New Castle, Lawrence county, whose respective ages are 108 and 105 years.

Two express messengers in Duquesne, Pa., have quarrelled over a young girl and propose settling their difficulty by duelling—according to the C. O. D.

Captain Boyton is among the foreigners who have been promised a reception by the Pope—indeed, it has probably been accorded to him by this time.

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A little son of Joseph Knott, residing in Mann's Narrows, Millin county, five weeks ago swallowed a brass watch and chain and still retains it in his stomach.

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A girl at Bayonne got up in her sleep and went to a skating pond. Her father found her seated, comfortably dressed, on the trunk of a fallen tree on the pond. She had just awakened and was bewildered.

When the centurion, Father Boehm, died, Dr. Lovick Pierce, of Georgia, became the oldest Methodist minister in the United States. He is now ninety-two, and preached for his son, Bishop George Foster Pierce, a few Sundays ago.

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At Rickton, in this State, a procession of men and women armed with iron clubs and clubs recently crummed a certain female out of town, because she thought more of the attentions of other men than of her husband. They say the job was well done.

A supervisor of Delaware county has recently been fined \$200 for non attendance on the duties of his position, and a very full condition of the public highways, causing delay, injury or loss, may result in recovery of damages, to say nothing of the imposition of fines.

During the late deep snow in Tuscarora county a man constructed, for the amusement of his children, a snow house thirty feet high and twenty by ten, with appropriate furniture. It has several windows, and has a man of snow to represent Dr. Kane; also a polar bear.

A shocking murder was committed at a hotel in Etna borough, eight miles up the Allegheny river from Pittsburgh, on Saturday evening last. George Steiner, while feasting with liquor, shot his brother Charles, a married man, through the heart, of course killing him instantly.

John Stevens ran away from his wife in Elmira thirty-four years ago. Recently she discovered him in California, where he had accumulated \$100,000 in gold and wife. She is willing he should retain the second wife, but she demands a third of his fortune, and is likely to get it.

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When the centurion, Father Boehm, died, Dr. Lovick Pierce, of Georgia, became the oldest Methodist minister in the United States. He is now ninety-two, and preached for his son, Bishop George Foster Pierce, a few Sundays ago.

Two brothers, John and George F. Keller, met at Corsicana last week after a separation of forty years. Strange to say, the oldest Methodist minister in the United States. He is now ninety-two, and preached for his son, Bishop George Foster Pierce, a few Sundays ago.

Two well diggers were at work in Bloomington, Ill., and had, after reaching forty feet, begun to bore deeper with a drill. Suddenly there was an outbreak of gas, which was lighted by the flame of a candle, and the explosion killed both of the men.

At Rickton, in this State, a procession of men and women armed with iron clubs and clubs recently crummed a certain female out of town, because she thought more of the attentions of other men than of her husband. They say the job was well done.

A supervisor of Delaware county has recently been fined \$200 for non attendance on the duties of his position, and a very full condition of the public highways, causing delay, injury or loss, may result in recovery of damages, to say nothing of the imposition of fines.

During the late deep snow in Tuscarora county a man constructed, for the amusement of his children, a snow house thirty feet high and twenty by ten, with appropriate furniture. It has several windows, and has a man of snow to represent Dr. Kane; also a polar bear.

A shocking murder was committed at a hotel in Etna borough, eight miles up the Allegheny river from Pittsburgh, on Saturday evening last. George Steiner, while feasting with liquor, shot his brother Charles, a married man, through the heart, of course killing him instantly.

John Stevens ran away from his wife in Elmira thirty-four years ago. Recently she discovered him in California, where he had accumulated \$100,000 in gold and wife. She is willing he should retain the second wife, but she demands a third of his fortune, and is likely to get it.

The Springfield Republican remarks that the decision of the commission in the Florida case amounts to a denial of the right of Congress to go behind the returns, which is "a historical fact of great weight in our future constitutional tendencies.