

The passage by the late Legislature of this State of a law to prevent bribery and fraud at nominating elections, is an instructive as well as humiliating commentary on the crooked ways of office-seekers and their friends. If it is honestly enforced it will prove to be a broad-sword against all corrupt practices at primary elections, since it strikes at the root of the evil. As the Democracy of this county propose to nominate candidates for county offices next September under the Crawford County System, we will publish the law next week.

The daily halting in the joint convention of the New York Legislature for successors to Conkling and Platt had not resulted in a choice up to Wednesday last. The papers of both parties in the State are calling upon the Legislature to put an end to the fruitless contest by a final adjournment, thus permitting the people to adjust the dispute when they elect a new Legislature next November, and that will most probably be the outcome of the bitter warfare now carried on in the Empire State between the rival houses of Garfield and Conkling.

The doings of the Democratic County Committee which met in the Grand Jury room on Monday last, will be found published elsewhere. It will be seen that the Committee reversed the action taken at its meeting in February last, and decided that the Crawford County System of nominating candidates for county officers shall hereafter prevail in this county. In taking this important step we are very confident that the Committee has reflected the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the Democracy of the county, who have long desired a change of system and a measure to try and improve it. The Crawford County System is to be supplemented with something better if it fails to give satisfaction. We believe also that postponing the primary elections until the last Saturday in September, at least for the present year, will meet with general approval. We will refer hereafter to the rules adopted by the Committee to enforce the new system, which will also be found published in connection with the other proceedings.

When the lower branch of the New York Legislature met yesterday week, Mr. Bradley, a Conkling member from the western part of the State, rising to a question of privilege, stated that on the previous evening he had been paid \$2,000 to vote for Dewey, (one of the Garfield candidates for Senator), and that he had placed the money in the Speaker's hands immediately afterwards. The Speaker said he had received from Bradley a roll of bills amounting in value to the sum named, and had the money then in his pocket. A committee of investigation was appointed and Bradley appeared before it in the evening and swore that the money had been given to him by State Senator Sessions, who belongs to the Garfield faction. After Bradley was through, Sessions took the stand and swore that although he had conversed with Bradley about Conkling and Platt, he had never given him a dollar. Of course one of these two men committed deliberate perjury. Conkling's friends pronounce the affair part of a corrupt scheme to buy up some of his supporters, while the other side denounces it as a conspiracy on the part of the Conkling men to break the ranks of their opponents by falsely charging them with bribery and corruption. The committee is still pursuing the investigation. It is an interesting case, showing, as it does, one faction of the God and morality party in that State charging the leaders of the other faction with trying to bribe a legislator, and this latter faction asserting that the other is guilty of conspiracy and perjury. If the Sessions try to bribe Bradley, or has Bradley committed perjury? "Which is true and which the liar?" is the puzzle to be solved by the committee.

A very strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Governor to induce him to veto the Judicial Apportionment bill, but we hardly think it will succeed. It is a most shameless measure and will forever be a reproach to the Legislature that enacted it. Before the adoption of the new constitution in 1873, the number of Common Pleas Judges in the State was forty-five, which was increased by the appointment of 1874, to seventy-three with five Orphans' Court Judges. If the new bill is signed and affords fifteen more, running the number up to ninety-eight, the business of making additional law Judges for districts low in existence continues to increase as it has been doing since 1873, the time will come when men claiming the title of "Judge" will be almost as numerous in the State as "Generals" after the late civil war. Under the bill, if signed, Cambria will become a separate district and be entitled to elect her own President Judge. This, however, is no fault of the Legislature, but the fault of the constitutional convention, and judging from the mania for additional Law Judges which prevailed at Harrisburg during the late session, and the facility with which they were obtained, especially where they were not needed, it is not too bold a flight of the imagination that before the apportionment of 1891, Cambria will have an additional Judge learned in the law, although the present two weeks term of Court occupied but four days, three days last week and Monday of the present week.

If Grant goes to Albany, as he says he intends doing, to lobby for Conkling, his bottle-holder at the Chicago convention, the country will then witness the disgraceful spectacle of an ex-President and the acting Vice President, Arthur, both playing the same degrading role, Strong as Grant's love for Conkling is, he sees the fatal handwriting on the wall, and as he has never been charged with being a fool, he will not visit the New York capital; and even if he did he couldn't do Conkling any good, since his case is past all human remedy.

STATE TREASURER BUTLER enforced the opinion furnished him by Attorney General Palmer about two months ago, by refusing to pay the members of the Legislature, when it finally adjourned on yesterday week, more than one thousand dollars each, together with mileage and the amount allowed to a member for stationery. This action of the Treasurer cut down the salary of each member to the extent of five hundred dollars, that being the aggregate pay for the fifty days of the session in excess of one hundred, the Attorney General holding the opinion, as expressed in his letter to the Treasurer, that the act of 1874 allowing a per diem of ten dollars for fifty days beyond one hundred was unconstitutional. The members of the Legislature resisted this unexpected action of the Attorney General, as it was perfectly natural for them to do, claiming that the fifty days clause in the act of 1874 was not unconstitutional, and that its validity had been recognized and acted on by every State Treasurer for seven years, and that if it even was in conflict with the constitution it was not the province of the Attorney General, but of the Supreme Court, to decide that question. We did not believe, and so stated at the time, that Palmer could sit down in his office and declare an act of the Legislature unconstitutional, with all the effect that the word implies, but we believed he was correct in the view he had taken of the question, and we think so still. The war of words over this disputed question between the Attorney General and the Legislature has been intensely bitter and in many respects anything but creditable. The Legislature through a committee of six of its members, three from each House, will now commence proceedings by applying for a mandamus in the Dauphin county Court to compel the State Treasurer to pay the members the disputed \$500, and in that way the question will get before the Supreme Court for its decision. No harm can result to the members, or to the State from these proceedings so far as we can see. If the Court sustains the views held by the members, the State Treasurer will pay them, but on the other hand, if it decides against them, the members will then be placed in the position of trying to get from the public treasury money to which the constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, declares they are not entitled; and surely no member of the late Legislature, except a Republican "rooster" from Philadelphia, would recklessly assert so baseless a demand. If this question of legislative pay is now definitely settled, as it will be, future sessions will not be annoyed by its discussion and much valuable time lost as was the case with the one that has just closed.

GRANT has returned from Mexico, having succeeded in getting certain railroad projects in that country pertaining to a company organized in New York, of which he is President, placed on a solid foundation, and last week in St. Louis expressed his views at some length to a newspaper reporter in regard to Conkling's downfall at Albany, Garfield's treatment of the New York "boss," Blaine's deviousness in the cabinet and other kindred matters. He thinks that Conkling is one of the greatest men this country has ever produced, and that his treatment by the New York Legislature is ungrateful and unpardonable. He was asked his opinion of Schurz, and answered: "Well, Carl Schurz will draw an official salary without earning it with more zeal and efficiency than any man I know. He is a failure anywhere you put him," as well as some other things equally derogatory to the "Flying Dutchman." Grant has a lively recollection of the severe blows dealt by Schurz when he was in the Senate against the general corruption of a administration, and especially against his pet scheme of acquiring the island of San Domingo. Grant don't owe Schurz anything politically, and must therefore be expected to say evil things about him. When Grant, however, charges Schurz with drawing "an official salary without earning it," he forgets that his own son, Fred, after he graduated at West Point, was sent to Washington, where he opened a banking house with John Sherman's nephew as his partner; that he acted as master of ceremonies at the White House, staying there month after month and never joining his regiment, but all the time drawing his pay as an army officer. In addition to this, when Grant was making his tour through Europe and Asia, this hopeful son joined him, having been granted leave of absence, traveled with him by sea and land, and returned with him, all the time drawing his "official salary without earning it." No graduate of West Point ever cost the country half as much as Fred Grant, and his father knowing, as he does, all about it, ought to be ashamed to prefer a charge as unfounded as the one he makes against Schurz.

THE REFUSAL of the State Senate to pass the Free Pipe bill after it had passed the House, will enable the Standard Oil Company to continue its monopoly of the oil carrying trade at an annual profit of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars would pay the \$300 claimed by each member for the fifty days pay beyond one hundred; and as the Standard Oil Company can easily afford the outlay in view of the great benefit conferred upon it by the Senate, it ought now to do the nice thing by paying the members what they claim is due them from the State, and should do so without a single word of explanation. The company would never miss the amount and could afford to pay ten times the sum to a very true Legislature for the defeat of a Free Pipe Bill.

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THE PHILADELPHIA LETTER. A SALVATION ARMY SCANDAL.—LEGISLATIVE FRAUDS.—JUDICIAL PERJURY.—TIBED OF THE NEW HATCHET STORY.—THE LITERATURE OF THE WAR.—THE ANDROSGOGG GIANT, ETC. PHILADELPHIA, June 13, 1881. (Special Correspondence of the Freeman.) DEAR MR. PALMER.—A terrible scandal has been making the lower part of this city very uncomfortable since the late session of the Legislature, and the independent Church and the Salvation Army. A brother of the Church and a sister of the Salvation Army are the principals in the matter. I am happy to say that although Mount Zion Church has lost two of its most active members, the Church still maintains its dignity. Mayor King is receiving praise all around for his sensible and judicious course in suppressing the fire-work nuisance on the coming Fourth of July. The boys are not so wild as they were last year. No joy pistols in Philadelphia this year, twenty-eight deaths having resulted from this dangerous amusement.

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ing up the so-called history of our late civil war. The literature of the war is a vast field for the student of history. I have just finished reading a history of the remarkable career of Hannibal Hamlin, both before and after the war. He was a man of great ability and high character. His life was a noble one, and his death a martyr's. The literature of the war is a vast field for the student of history. I have just finished reading a history of the remarkable career of Hannibal Hamlin, both before and after the war. He was a man of great ability and high character. His life was a noble one, and his death a martyr's.

THE ANDROSGOGG GIANT. The Androsgogg Giant, a man of extraordinary size, was reported to have been seen in the State of New York. He was said to be a native of the State, and to have been living in the mountains. He was said to be a man of great strength and courage, and to have been a brave warrior. He was said to have been killed by a party of hunters, and his body was said to have been found in the mountains. The story of the Androsgogg Giant is a very interesting one, and it is one that has attracted the attention of many people.

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Another Speech from Archbishop Croke. The extracts we published last week from a speech made by Archbishop Croke, of Chicago, will be found in the following pages taken from an address delivered by him at Tippecanoe, on yesterday week, to an immense concourse of people from that and adjoining parishes. The Archbishop, as will be seen, addresses the Irish people to confine all their efforts to improving the land instead of opposing or obstructing the progress of the country. The government is thinking seriously about arresting him. We hardly think, however, that it will be the edict with which it is in the opinion of the whole civilized world. The Archbishop's speech was a most interesting one, and it is one that has attracted the attention of many people.

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