THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

Centre Hall, Pa., Feb. 2., '72

TERMS.—The CENTRE HALL REPORTER is published weekly at $2 per year in advance, or $2,50 when not paid in advance. Halfyearly and quarterly subscriptions at the same rate. Single copies five cents.

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The Republican State Convention has been called for the 10th of April at Harrisburg. The contest for Governor is said to be between Hartranft, White and Jordan.

Gray, radical, was elected senator, in the 4th district, Philadelphia, over M'Clure, by a greatly reduced majority. This gives the rads 1 majority in the senate.

There was a lively time in the Kentucky senate, on the morning of 27th ult. The senator from Louisville, and the senator from Grant county, got high on a railroad bill, and both drew pistols. They were removed by the sergeant-at-arms.

The Harrisburg Morning Patriot, speaking of the present legislature says:

"First as well as last the mortifying confession must be made. Never, since the first rain ran off the roof of the capitol, has a body so feeble, so incompetent, and so corrupt, been assempled within its walls."

EQUALITY.

By the 14th and 15th amendments, Fred Douglass, or any other negro can be elected to the presidency of the United States, but Carl Shurz or Gen. Jas. Shields can not, because born on foreign soil. This is a stigma upon our country, and to it wipe out, the proposed 16th amendment should be adopted, which would be nothing more than placing a naturalized foreigner upon an equal footing with the negro in this country. But strange and inconsistent as it may seem, the radical party which brayed so long and so loud for negro equality, now opposes the adoption of the 16th amendment, after giving Sambo all the rights possessed by a native born American. Is this true statesmanship?

All the nigger congressmen voted against the proposed 16th amendment, by which a foreigner is made eligible to the Presidency. This shows that the black statesmen have no high appreciation of the "equality" doctrine which raised them to an equality with the white man, or else they lack a proper understanding of it. Sambo evidently thinks that he is better than a white foreigner, and that the Irishman and the German is not a "man and a brother," as is the African.

In another column the readers of the REPORTER will find the doings of the liberal republicans of Missouri, in state convention. This movement, so formidable, has struck terror into the ranks of the corrupt crew of Grant-office holders. We have no doubt if the honest portion of the republicans had the power, Grant and his corrupt administration would soon be ended. We honor republicans who boldly strike for reform. Let reform in the administration of our affairs be the watchword of all honest men, of whatever party, and let it be carried to the polls, for it is high time that the rascals, republican or democrats, be put down.

The Newspapers Cause President Grant to Come Down.

The President has given his check for $5000 to balance his little account which has been standing against him in the Treasury department since he was an army officer.

This shows the influence of the press. This defalcation of Grant's dates back to the Mexican war. Presently the newspapers got to find it out, and published it; Grant became ashamed, and accordingly, a few days ago, sent in his check for the $5000, which he thought had gone into forgetfulness. But he should also be made to pay the interest, which would have been demanded from any other citizen.

Proposed New Railroad.

We understand, says the Lewistown *Democrat*, that arrangements are being made for building a branch road from Adamsburg, on the line of the Sunbury and Lewistown RR., northwardly across Middle Creek Valley, (passing south of Troxelville,) thence eastwardly through Centreville, where the line crosses Penn's Creek, and thence north-eastwardly to Mifflinburg, where it will connect with the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek RR. This new link will be only 16 miles in length, and will reduce the distance from Lewisburg to Lewistown and all points west at least 12 miles over all other routes, and open up a large number of iron-ore beds, as well as a large lumber trade. Many prominent citizens of Lewisburg are urging this project, and its speedy accomplishment is among the things entirely probable.

The formal opening of the Muncy Creek Railway took place on Tuesday of last week, the 16th instant. This road connects the Phila. and Erie road, at Muncy, with the Catawissa road, at Hall's Basin, and is part of the link of ninety miles, "connecting Binghamton with Williamsport, taking in the coal mines, other mineral deposits and vast timber regions in Sullivan county, and completing an important trunk railway from Boston to Pittsburg, almost on the air-line between these points."

Despise not your inferiors.

Sneak-thief Movement.

The latest and most contemptible sneak-thief movement that we have heard of for a decade, is the conspiracy to deprive all papers not published at county towns of any share of the legal advertising, and forcing the county officers to advertise only in papers printed at the county towns What proposition could be more unreasonable and unfair? What justice is there in passing a law directing all advertising to be done in the Bellefonte papers, and none other in the county? Do not the printers outside the county seats, pay taxes, and render service, just as well as those in the county towns who would thus be favored with a legalized monopoly of all such work, leaving the proper officers, who are the best judges what mediums to select, no choice or say in the matter?

This move is gotten up and favored by interested parties, and sordid selfishness is at the bottom of it, and this spirit will attempt to have it put through the Legislature and made a law.

No honest, fairminded editor will favor such a proposition—it is only the sordid, selfish, sneak-thief, sheepfaced Shylock, who would steal the pennies from his dead grandmothers eyes, and sell his soul to the devil for a little filthy lucre, that would have the impudence to favor such a law.

From what we gather of the published proceedings of the late editorial convention at Harrisburg there were such narrow-minded, selfish sheepfaces present, to disgrace the craft, by favoring the enactment of such a law.

Upon this sheepface principle, no paper outside of Washington city should have any advertising coming from the national government, and no paper outside of Harrisburg have a crumb of advertising coming from the state government. Suppose this latter be proposed, how would the sheepfaced, sneak-thief Shylocks, who propose to monopolize the county advertising, and by law cut out the publishers outside the county towns howl and raise their hands in holy horror? Yet the principle is just the same.

We expect there are interested parties in the legislature, who will try help themselves by assisting in the passage of such an act.

Such a law is uncalled for. There is no justice in it. There is no wisdom in it. There is no reason for it. It is simply an outrage. It is meaner than the lowest order of nepotism and the quintessence of sordidism. As a matter of course, none but a narrowminded county-town Shylock would advocate so unfair a law, and no fairminded legislator will give it his vote. We will venture, that could the brain of those selfish sheepfaces, who favored such a proposition in the editorial convention, be examined, it would be found cramped up and contracted like the mouth of a green persimon eater.

We trust the legislature will show its good sense by voting down such a proposition, in spite of interested members who may favor it.

This matter can not be bettered, and that is not the intention by such a bill—the hidden intention is to enable some to grasp and monopolize all to the exclusion of other parties.

New York Custom House.

GRANT THINKS LEET HELD AN OFFICE.

The corrupt ignorance, not ignorant corruption says the World, which prevails at the White House, babbles about Leet's office in the Custom-House, and that he may be removed. Leet was appointed to no office. He put him up for a *job*. Leet was not even a warehouseman when he began to receive income from general-order business. He neither owned nor was proprietor then of a first Class III. warehouse. He was forced upon Bixby as a copartner by Grant. He did neither work nor anything else. Subsequently he did become a proprietor, with Abe Wakeman and Shed Shook as bondsmen. But even then he was not an officer of the customs any more than is a cartman. And yet Grant and his partisans talk as if the civil-service reform touched Class III. warehouses, and which of the latter the Collector, "on approval of the Secretary of the Treasury," shall designate to receive general order merchandise.

Gentleman, you can't in this way conceal your nastiness, or remove its odor! The transaction of Grant, Porter, Judge Dent, Boutwell, Grinnell and Murphy, was a bold *job*, unredeemed by a single palliating feature. Just as much a job as if Grant owned the Seneca quary and ordered all the stone used on government works to be purchased of him at his prices!

Put that in your pipes and smoke it!

The *Sun* says that one of the most experienced public men of this city estimates the profits of the General Order robbery of New York merchants now enjoyed by Major Leet's "mess" at over a million of dollars a year. Divided into four shares, this would give two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for each partner, enough to enable each one to buy and stock a farm near St. Louis every year.

Leet, one of Grant's pets who is said to be coining money out of the New York merchants, is thus shown up by the Tribune, of that city:

"Leet continued to hang about the White House and draw full pay and allowances as a colonel in the Regular army till August 5th, 1870, more than a year after he had had obtained control in good part of the "general order" business here. Then he resigned, taking the benefit of an act of Congress which offered a year's pay and extras to those army officers who would do so. He was thus actually paid as Colonel up to August 5th, 1871, by which time he and his confederates in the enjoyment of this "plum" must have gouged at least $200,000 out of the commerce of this port, a sum which we presume they have since raised to quarter of a million dollars."

In the Senate, on Monday, last, Mr. Dill introduced a bill, supplement to an act to incorporate the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek railroad company.

We have not learned what the provisions of this supplement are.

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Grant's Nepotism.

The following is an interesting slice from the proceedings in U. S. Senate, Jan. 22nd:

The amnesty bill came up as unfinished business. Mr. Edmunds (Rad., Vt.) had the floor, but was unable, owing to other engagements, to proceed with his remarks.

Mr. Davis (Dem., Ky.) moved to lay aside the Amnesty bill informally for the purpose of taking up his resolution directing the Committee on Retrenchment to inquire whether the President has conferred public offices of trust or profit in return for presents, and has been guilty of other misconduct. He offered a modification of it directing the committee to inquire into the expediency of Congress passing a law forbidding any person in the service of the United States to receive any gift or to appoint any of his relatives to office.

Messrs. Conkling (Rad., N. Y.) and Morton (Rad., Ind) were willing to have the resolution taken up, but not by laying the Amnesty bill aside informally, because that would enable any Senator to cut off the debate by calling for the regular order.

Mr. Sumner opposed laying the Amnesty bill aside otherwise than informally, and thought that Mr. Davis ought to be allowed to take up his resolution and make his speech in this the ordinary way.

Mr. Conkling said that this was a very extraordinary resolution, and he desired whenever it should be taken up it should be fully discussed and pressed to vote, so that the judgement of the American Senate might be promptly given upon its merits and its propriety.

Mr. Davis (Ky.)—I concede that this resolution is a very extraordinary one; but I insist that the subject and the occasion of it are very extraordinary too, (Laughter.) They are amply sufficient to justify the resolution—at least, they are so in my judgment, and I decide questions of propriety for myself. Mr. Davis than quoted from Mr. Conkling's speech on the retrenchment debate before the recess, in which he said that whenever anybody should propose any investigation aimed at either individuals or officials, or would point out any branch of the public service, he (Mr. Conkling) would favor the most radical and sweeping investigation that could be devised, and said: "Now, here is a branch of the public service needing investigation. I have proposed this resolution on my own responsibility, and whatever may be the scandal of it I am ready to bear it. I want the king of the political forest as well as the lesser beasts to be investigated. (Laughter.) I want the committee to investigate

—'the lion in his den,
The Douglas in his halls,'

and, for one, I am disposed to lead a march to beard that lion in his den. (Laughter.) The office of Chief Executive Magistrate is said to be the fountain of honor; but it is the fountain of dishonor, of abuse and corruption in our country. I want it purified by free, manly, unfettered, and unfaltering investigation. What have we seen within a few days! *The President of the United States published as a defaulter to the amount of four or five thousand dollars for upwards of twenty years.* I presented my resolution. *The newspapers opened upon him, and at last, driven by the denunciations of the papers, or some other cause, he was forced to come forward and make good the amount of his defalcation.*"

Mr. Sherman suggested that the Senator (Mr. Davis) was discussing the merits of his resolution, although it was not before the Senate.

Mr. Davis—Then I will not pursue that line of remark.

Mr. Sherman said that the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) must know that when he offered a resolution arraigning the President in this way, it must give rise to a general discussion. He was willing to postpone the Amnesty bill, with the understanding that this resolution was to take its place until disposed of, and he gave notice to the friends of the Amnesty bill that he would not agree to have it taken up again until they shall have made up their minds to stand by it and press it to a vote.

Mr. Thurman advised Mr. Davis to withdraw his motion, as to press it would plainly give rise to a long and probably excited debate, which would postpone the Amnesty bill.

Mr. D. said he knew it would give rise to a debate, and he was prepared for the most exciting debate that could arise. (Laughter.) But he did not wish to antagonize it against the Amnesty bill, and therefore he would withdraw it now, but would soon again bring it before the Senate.

The Passive Policy in Washington.

Our special Washington despatches state that at the democratic congressional caucus last night there was an expression favorable to the passive policy "so far as national politics are concerned," The dispatch adds: "No movement looking to any coalition or conference for the next national convention was made."

The truth is, whatever expression was had, outside of a consideration of matters before congress, was merely accidental; and while we are, of course, gratified to know that the members of the democatic party in our national councils are favorable to the Missouri, or passive policy, yet we would be deceiving our readers not to tell them, at the same time, that the caucus was not called to act upon this question, and that the democratic congressmen have not assumed, as will be charged, *dictate* to the party through the agency of a close caucus. Nevertheless, their voice is entitled to due weight as coming from men enjoying good opportunities to scan the whole political situation, and it possesses great value as indicating the sentiments of prominent individuals possessing influence in their respective localities. It is, "so far as national politics are concerned," that the passive policy chiefly applies. We have repeatedly explained that it signifies no abandonment by the democracy of advantages already possessed, or readily attainable. Its meaning is concisely stated by the Chicago Times. "It does not contemplate an abandonment of the democratic party organization, but simply a withdrawal or retirement of that organization wherever, with relation to the republican party organization, it represents the popular minority. It would, then, be a withdrawal of the national democratic party organization, and a corresponding withdrawal of the state and local organizations in all the states, congressional districts and lesser constituencies where the democratic party includes only a minority of all the voters composing the constituency. In all the states or lower constituencies, where the democratic party constitutes an undoubted majority of all the voters, the Missouri policy would leave that party intact to nominate and elect its candidates."

This plan for the defeat of the Grant administration has been growing steadily ever since it was first proposed. Circumstances have been fortuitous to place it prominently before the people, and the progress of the movement has been in proportion to the disposition or opportunity to give it an earnest and patriotic consideration. The proposition is now coming to be pretty well understood throughout the country, and we state nothing but our honest conviction when we say that the signs now point to its early and enthusiastic adoption by the democracy for the presidential campaign of this year.—*Missouri Republican.*

The infamous features of the Philadelphia Registry Law, are known to all. The democratic press has been crying out against this outrageous law for the last three years. Honest and fair minded republicans have demanded it, so unjust, is it throughout. The Bulleton, radical, of 24th ult, says:

The State Senate has passed to a third reading an amendment of the Registry law, by which the Aldermen belonging to the minority party will have authority to select their own election officers, and by which summary power to revise and alter the registry will be given to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. The original Registry lay was passed in accordance with a pleasant theory that the Republican party is wholly virtuous while its antagonist is altogether corrupt. The fact however is, that, each contains a very fair portion of dishonest and unscrupulous men who will always use any advantage that is given them, for their own benefit, without respecting the most sacred rights of their opponents. The Registry law has been used in that fashion, and for this reason, as in view of the fact that the requirements of common justice demand that the Democrats should at least have a fair chance for representation in a matter in which they are vitally interested, its amendment is imperatively required. There is no difference of opinion upon this subject among respectable Republicans. The honorable press of the party in this city demanded such an amendment last winter, and they will cordially approve of it if it is made now. Nothing can be lost by fairness and honesty in any case If we cannot carry this city for the Republican party in every election by an actual majority of the voters, we do not wish to carry it at all. A triumph won by fraud is an outrage upon the people, and its ultimate consequences will be disastrous to the winner. Even a suspicion of injustice must be hurtful to the party that labors under it, and that such a suspicion rightly attaches to the Republican party while it sanction this unequal law, cannot be doubted.

LEGISLATIVE.

In the senate many petitions have been offered in favor of a local option law.

Mr. Davis of Philadelphia, presented a petition, sixty-seven feet long, of citizens in Philadelphia praying for the local option liquor law.

Mr. Brooke, of the citizens of Montgomery county, praying for amendments to the game laws of this commonwealth.

In the House, on 23rd ult., a vote was had on bill No. 10, and act authorizing the electors of the Twenty-third ward of Philadelphia to determine, by ballot, whether licensee shall be granted to sell intoxicating liquors within the limits of the said ward or not.

On the final passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were required by Mr. Josephs and Mr. Griffiths, and were as follows, viz:

YEAS—Messrs. Albright, Ballantine, Beardslee, Black, Bomberger, Bowman, Brockway, Brunges, Beck, Burkholder, Cooper, Dailey, Daniels, Darrah, Dratt, Dougherty, Ely, Fleeger, Fox, Gatchell, Gilfillan, Gleason Gray, Greenawalt, Griffiths, Guss, Hancock, Hereter, Herrold, Josephs, Keech, Labar, Lamon, Lane, Lawshe, Lawson, Letherman, Levering, M'Connell, M'Gowan, M'Junkin, M'Mullin, Magee, Mahon, Marks Mickey, Miller, Mitchell of Tioga. Moore, Morford, Newbaker, Peisert, Porter, Potts, Prizer, Purtell, Rogers of Erie, Rogers of M'Kean, Sample, Sanner, Schminkey, Shortt, Shuler. Smith of Fayette, Smith of Philadelphia, Staples, Starr, Strock, Taylor, Uhler, Vodges, White, Wilcox, Williams, Wilson and Elliott, speaker—77.

NAYS—Messrs. Beach, Conrad, Delacy, Edwards, Fetter, Harvey, Henry, Keffer, King, Koons, Lusk, Meek, Mitchell (Mifflin), Morris, Ross, Schwartz and Woolever —17.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

SELLING LIQUOR ON ELECTION DAYS:

In the house, on 25th. the following bill was acted upon:

That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for any person in this commonwealth, whether licensed or unlicensed, to buy, sell or give away to be used as a drink, any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider, or any substance containing alcohol, on any part of any day set apart for any general or special election, by the citizens in or within any precinct, ward, township, county, or other election district or division in or within this commonwealth.

SEC. 2. Any person violating any of the provisions of the first section of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be subject to imprisonment in the jail of the proper county for a term of not more than one hundred days, and in addition to the above shall also be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars and costs, at the discretion of the court.

On the motion to suspend the rules for the final passage of the bill, the following is the vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Albright, Ballentine, Beardslee, Black, Bomberger, Bowman, Bright, Brockway, Brunges Buck, Cooper, Daniels, Darr, Delaty, Dougherty, Ely, Fleeger, Fox, Gatchell, Gilfillan, Gleason, Gray, Greenawalt, Griffiths, Guss, Hancock, Henry, Hewit, Hunsecker, Keech, Labar, Lamon, Lane, Lawsee, Letherman, Levering, Lusk, M'Junkin, M'Mullin, Mahon, Mickey, Millar, Mitchell of Mifflin, Mitchell of Tioga,. Moore, Morford, Newbaker, Noyes, Peisert, Porter, Potts, Prizer, Quigeley, Rogers of Erie, Rogers of M'Kean, Sanner, Schminkey, Shortt, Shuler, Smith of Philadelphia, Starr, Strock, Uhler, White, Wilcox, Williams, Wilson and Elliott, speaker—68.

NAYS—Messrs. Beach, Burkholder, Conrad, Darrah, Edwards, Fetter, Harvy, Keffer, King, Koons, Latta, Lawson, M'Gowan, Magee, Meek, Morris, Pursell, Ross, Sample, Taylor and Woolever—21.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

New and Desirable Music, just issued, by Mr. J. P. Shaw, Music Publisher, Rochester, N. Y.

SHOWER OF METEORS, MAZURKA—By the popular Composer, Mr. J. M. Chadwick, is remarkably brilliant and taking, of medium difficulty, and sure to please. Needs only to be tried to be appreciated.

HEAVENLY DREAMS—Poetry and music by Mr. J. P. Swett, This is certainly one of the best Songs we have heard in a long time, it cannot fail of becoming popular everywhere.

The above pieces may be obtained of any Music or News Dealers, or of the Publisher, postage free, for 36 cts. each. Send for a copy.

Empty vessels sound loudest.

The Common Schools of Pennsylvania.

Mr. J. P. Wickersham, State Superintendent of Common Schools of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the year ending June 5th, 1871, has just submitted his report to the Legislature. The following statement of the condition of the system is given:

Number of school districts in the State	2 023
Number of schools	15,700
Number of graded schools	4,684
Number of school directors	13,320
Number of superintendents	81
Number of teachers	18,021
Average salaries of male teachers per month	$41,04
Average salaries of female teachers per month	$32,86
Average length of school term in month	6,56
Number of pupils	884 614
Average number of pupils	567,188
Percentage of attendance upon the whole number registered	.68
Average cost of tuition per month for each pupil	98
Cost of tuition for the year	$8,926,529,88
Cost of building, purchasing and renting school houses	8,886,263.51
Cost of contingencies	1,167,124,94
Total cost for tuition, building, &c., and contingencies	8,479,918,82
Total cost, including expenditures of all kinds	8,580,918,33
Estimated value of school property	16,886,624,00

If $520,000, expended in supporting orphan schools, be added to the $8,580,918,33 expended for common schools the grand total will be $9,100,918,33. The increase in the most important of the items in the statement, as compared with those of last year, is as follows: In number of districts, 21; in schools, 1468; in graded schools, 1742; in school directors, 220; in superintendents, 2; in teachers, 409; in number of pupils, 5723; in the average number of pupils, 11,247; in cost of tuition, $181,114-07; in contingencies, $1,898 89; in cost of building and renting school houses, $6,20,-619,17. Total cost, including expenditures of all kinds. $869,157,13.

The State, outside of Philadelphia, has 14,161 schools; 16,482 teachers; an attendance of 700,040 pupils; an average attendance of 495,622; and an average school term of 5 months and 21 days. Male teachers were paid $40 03 per month, and female teachers, $31,12. Expended for school houses, $3,009,194,41; for tuition, $3,183,418,86; contingencies, $799,275 48 The receipts for the year were $6,023,451,-65; expenditures, $6,988,888,95, leaving a debt of $965,437,10.

In Philadelphia the school houses number 380; teachers, 1590; registered pupils, 134,574; belonging to the schools, 81,854 pupils. School property valued at $3,315,-407. In reference to the schools in Philadelphia, the State Superintendent says "that it is useless to conceal the fact that the working of her public school system, good as it is in many respects, is not quite satisfactory to the best school men of Philadelphia. The Superintendent suggests that the following changes seem to him desirable:

1. A better mode of examining and certificating teachers.

2. The respective duties of the Ward Board of Directors, and the Board of Controllers of the city, more clearly define, or, in other words, more unity in the school administration of the city.

3. Taxes for school purposes levied and collected by the school authorities.

4. More complete supervision

The value of the school property of the State is set down at $16,889,624, an increase of $1,062,447 over the previous year. The State appropriation to the schools was $500,000. Of this amount $95,887,66 were paid to Philadelphia; $30,430,42 to the city and boroughs, $68,661 to county superintendents for salaries; $15,000 to State Normal Schools; $2500 to Lincoln University; $4,039,59 to districts previously non-accepting, and $284,181,33 to the several districts. The general appropriation for 1872 was increased to $650,000, and the superintendent asks for $750,000 for 1873 The aggregate appropriations made to the several State Normal Schools reached the sum of $186,905 36.

Of the 12,091 school houses reported 7774 are frame; 2338 brick; 1500 stone; 326 of logs; built during the year, 640. Of the whole number 1492 are unfit for use. Of the 14,018 schools 3434 are graded; 345 were graded during the year; 10,597 are well classified; 11,536 have uniform text books, and in 11,716 the Bible is read. The number of male teachers employed was 7640; female, 8845; average age of teachers 234 years.

The number of institutions in which there are soldiers' orphans is 89; number of orphans in schools and houses, May 1, 1871, was 3007; number of orders of admission issued since, 418; number of discharges since May, 150; number in charge of the State, 1660; number of orders of admission issued since system went into operation, 6907; number admitted, 5907; cost of system for the past year, $500,000; total cost since going into operation, $2,992,-298,34.

MISSOURI POLITICS.

Liberal Republican Mass Convention—The Resolution Adopted.

Jefferson City, January 22.—The Liberal Republican Mass Convention met in the Hall of Representatives at noon, and is one of the largest ever assembled in the State. It was called to order by Colonel Wm. M. Grosvenor, chairman of the Liberal Republican State Committee. Judge Debolt, of Grundy county, was elected temporary President, and Colonel Lawder, Secretary. Judge Debolt made a brief speech, in which he refered to the work before the Convention as a grand and noble one, hoping a movement would be inaugurated which would command the support of the majority of the American people in the interest of reform and true Republicanism. Various committees were then appointed for facilitating business, and after a stirring speech by Hon. C. P. Johnson, of St. Louis, the Convention took a recess till two o'clock,

The Convention is not only large in point of numbers but contains a majority of the leaders of the liberal Republican party of Missouri. Apparently it is composed of about the same men who figured in the bolting Republican Convention that nominated Brown for Govenor. Some surprise is noticeable at the character of the American element in the Convention, it being much greater than was expected, while as lookers on, there several prominent gentlemen from States—Senator Fowler, of Tennessee, Judge Oliver, of Ohio, Mr. Scovill, of New Jersey, and many others—who seem to be measuring the extent of the Grant opposition in the Republican ranks here. Nearly every county in the State is represented, and the Convention has been well worked up considering that it is merely for consultation and the comparison of views. A large number of people have arrived by the midday trains, and the hotels and public resorts seem quite as well filled as the State house.

On reassembling this p. m. the Committee on Resolutions reported through their chairman, Col. Grosvenor. The reading of the platform called forth repeated and very enthusiastic applause and a general storm of cheers followed the close. The resolutions, which were adopted without any dissent are as follows:

THE RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, That we, the Liberal Republicans of Missouri, faithful now as we were in the dark days of civil war to the vital principles of true Republicanism, by no act or word will endanger rightful severeignty of the Union, emancipation, equality of civil rights or enfranchisement; to those established facts now embodied in the Constitution we claim the loyalty of all good citizens.

Resolved, That true and lasting peace can come only from such profound reconciliation as enfranchisement has wrought in this State, nor can the Government be just or great in which tax-payers have no actual part; we therefore demand with equal suffrage for all equal amnesty for all, that the intellect and experience of every State may be welcomed to active service for their common welfare.

Resolved, That no form of taxation is just or wise which puts needless burdens upon the people; we demand a genuine reform of tariff so duties shall be removed which, in addition to revenue yielded to the treasury, involve an increase in the price of domestic products; and a consequent tax for the benefit of a favored interest.

Resolved, That the shameless abuse of Government patronage for the control of conventions and elections, whether in the interest of an individual, a faction or a party with the consequent corruption and demoralization of political life demands a thorough and genuine reform of the public service. Those who would suppress investigation forget that they owe a higher duty to the country than to any party. We honor those Senators whose courageous course has compelled a disclosure of grave misdeeds, and they deserve the thanks and hearty suppost of all good citizens.

Resolved, That local self-government with impartial suffrage will guard the right of all citizens more securely than any centralized authority, and that it is time to stay the growing encroachment of executive power, the use of coercion or bribery to ratify a treaty, the packing of a Supreme Court to relieve rich corporations, the seating of members of Congress not elected by the people, the resort to unconstitutional laws to cure Kukluxism, irreligion or intemperance and the surrender of individual freedon to those who ask to at the practice or creed of some shall be the law all, we demand for the individual the largest liberty consistent with public order; for the State, self-government, and for the nation a return to the methods of peace and constitutional limitation of power.

Resolved, That being Republicans makes it not the less our duty to expose corruption, denounce the usurpation of power and work for reform necessary for the public welfare. The times demand an uprising of honest citizens to sweep from power the men who prostitute the name of an honored party to selfish interests. We therefore invite all Republicans who desire the reformation set forth, to meet in National Mass Convention at the city of Cincinnati, on the first Wednesday of May next, at 12 m. there to take such action as our conviction of duty and public exigency may require.

Disgrace of the Supreme Court.

The New Legal-Tender Decision by a Packed Supreme Court.

In these days of judicial declension it is a trial and a grief to see the Supreme Court of the United States set its feet in slippery places, as it has done in reversing its own decision in the Legal Tender case.

When the Court was composed of eight members, it decided by five to three voices that the Legal Tender act of 1862 was null and void so far as it related to preceeding contracts. This decision was in the interest of honesty and integrity. It was a rebuke to foul play, and elevated the standard of public morals before the world.

This Court has since been reconstituted by an increase of its members to nine, two of whom are fresh from the bar, where the paid counsel of great railroad corporations whose interests were and are adverse to the former decision. By the aid of these two attorneys upon the bench, the vote in the Court as now constituted stands five to four for the reversal of the former decision.

"The decision of courts," said Lord Chatham on a memorable occasion, "is not law, it is only an evidence of the law." In the present case we must regard it as pretty poor evidence too. It is only testimony of lawyers who were committed to their judgment under the stimulus of an endeavor to find an interpretation which should favor the interests of power ful clients. The decision is an attorney's opinion rather than a conclusion of an impartial bench of judges.

The argument, too, as presented by Mr. Justice Strong, is rather that of an attorney than that of a judge. What shall we say, for example, to these words taken from it?

"If now the decision of the Court "establishes that these obligations "can be discharged only by gold "coin, and that, contrary to expec-"tations of all parties to contracts, "legal-tender notes are rendered un-"available, the Government has be-"come an instrument of the grossest injustice."

Who is so blind as not to see that this is the most formidable argument used against the decision itself when applied to contracts made before the passage of the act? It is almost impudence to attempt thus to twist it from its original legitimate uses and apply it as it is now applied.

And again, the following sentence from the same opinion is abhorrent to every sentiment of mercantile honor, as we trust it is against all sound law.

"The obligation of a contract to "pay money is to pay that which the "law shall recognize as money when "the payment is to be made."

We will alter just one word in this sentence, and then it will speak the language of common sense and true morals: "The obligation of a contract to pay money is to pay that which the law recognized as money when the (contract) was made."

If anything else than this is law, it is very bad law, and unworthy any court of real justice.

One of the greatest affronts and outrages ever perpetrated against the people of the United States was consumated yesterday, in the legal-tender decision of a packed majoritiy of our highest judicial tribunal. We will not dwell on its tendency to undermine respect for judicial decision, although it is a scandalous spectacle to see the same court promulgating diametrically opposite opinions on the self-same question, within the short period of three years. The essence of this great scandal is, that this is no true decision of the Supreme Court, but the decision of Ulysses S. Grant, dictated by him when he packed the court for the very purpose of overruling a former decision of that tribunal on the same question. It is the most flagrant instance, even in our recent history, of striking at the very roots of justice and undermining the great cardinal principles of the Constitution. Nay, it subverts the fundimental principles of all free government. The separation of the judicial from the executive departments, has always been regarded as the chief bulwark of English as well as of American freedom. In England it was extorted from the crown after long struggles; but in this country we possessed it from the beginning, and kept it until it was taken from us by President Grant. This ignorant man disliked the decision on the legal-tender question rendered two or three years ago, and determined to pack the Supreme Court with judges on whom he could rely to reverse it. This was the sole reason for his appointing Justices Strong and Bradley, thus reinforcing the minority of the court and creating a majority whose decision would coincide with his views. This virtual usurpation of the judicial power by the President, making the decisions of the Supreme Court a matter of personal will and executive dictation instead of the solemn judgements of a body of independent judges learned in the law, is all the more dangerous because it is perpetrated within the forms of the Constitution. General Grant is the Supreme Court. He has so packed it with subservient partisan judges that he is able to decide all legal questions in which he feels a personal or party interest.

Judge Strong, one of Grant's appointees, delivered the opinion, and Judge Bradley, his other appointee, supported it by a separate opinion, thus bringing the results of General Grant's packing into bold exposure. Judge Strong's argument is a tissue of chicaning sophistry which affronts justice and common honesty, as well as the Constitution. He derives the authority to make Treasury notes a legal tender from the war power. This pretence was tersely exploded in advance, so far as it applies to the present case, by Mr. Clarkson N. Potter in his very able argument before the court. Mr. Potter's neat exposure of the fallacy is worth inserting here:

The constitutional power of Congress is always the same. Whatever power to raze, to burn, to impress, or to destroy it, it has because these powers are appropriate, and plainly adapted to the exercise of the authority expressly delegated to it to make war.. *That the government can only use its powers in this respect in time of war is because it is only as a means of exercising the power of making war that it has authority to use them at all.* Nevertheless, the power of Congress to make war remains always the same. *If the power to issue Treasury notes, and make them a tender for pre-existing debts, was a necessary and proper means of executing the power to make war, and that power alone, then indeed the right to exercise that means would have begun when the war began, and ceased when the war ceased.*

General Grant's packed majority not only falls into unsound logic and bad law, but insults the public conscience by attempting to obliterate the eternal distinction between right and wrong. According to this decision, it is just for a man who borrowed a hundred dollars to discharge the debt by making a tender of the value of thirty dollars. There is no such thing as intrinsic justice, no distinction in the nature of things between right and wrong, the only rule being whatever Congress declares to be right is right, however revolting to the moral sense of mankind. If Congress may legalize the payment of thirty dollers to discharge a debt of a hundred it may equally legalize the payment of one dollar, or even of a nickel cent, to discharge the same debt. Every healthy conscience unhesitatingly decides that such a doctrine abolishes all just moral distinctions, annuls promises, destroys the obligation of contracts, and makes the dictates of immutable justice the sport of legislative caprice and packed tribunal. A laboring man who just before the passage of the Legal-tender act deposited a hundred gold dollars in a savings bank, and was paid two years afterwards in paper worth only thirty-seven dollars, was not cheated or robbed, according to General Grant's packed court, but received back a just equivalent for his deposit. It requires nothing but an act of Congress and the decision of a packed tribunal, to transform rascality and robbery, the violation of contracts and defrauding of creditors, into public virtues There could not be a more melancholy proof of the unsettling of the foundations of morality than the promulgation of this scoundrelly doctrine in the face of the community by what was once a tribunal of justice. A community is frightfully demoralized in which such a decision can be received without provoking indignant remonstrance and scorn.

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ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE.—Letters of administrations *de bonis non cum testo annexo* on the estate of Nancy Runkle, late of Potter twp., dec'd, have been granted to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate will make immediate payment those having claims will present them properly authenticated for settlement.

A. LUKENBACH, Administrator.
jan5.6t.

EXECUTORS NOTICE.—Letters Testamentary on the estate of George Runkle, late of Potter twp., dec'd, have been granted to the undersigned. All persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate will make immediate payment, and those having claims will present them properly authenticated for settlement.

AARON LUKENBACH, Executor.
jan5.6t.

ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE.—Letters of administration to the estate of Philip Musser, late of Gregg twp., Centre county, dec'd., having been granted the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate settlement, and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for payment.

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