The Centre Reporter.

FRED. KURTZ.....EDITOR.

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CENTRE HALL, Pa., Dec. 16, 1880.

The letter of Judge Jerry Black on railroads, in this issue of the REPORTER is interesting and worthy a perusal.

A recent constitutional amendment in Kansas forbids the manufacture or sale of spirituous liquors in that state.

A man in Bucks county has just ended a lawsuit of forty-two years standing and recovered six cents damages.

If he puts his six cents at compound interest for forty-two hundred years he will have a "big thing" after all.

What will we do with Gen. Grant?

This country does not seem big enough to hold him—let us annex New Jersey, then there may be room enough for him.

We think we have hit it now—let congress donate 160 acres of the public land and a mule to Grant, then he can set up in farming, which is so very honorable.

Poor Hayes, even Bob Ingersoll has no good word for him, he says that during the recent Presidential campaign Hayes was not alluded to by either party, and that the republicans won in spite of him. Garfield, he says, was elected by 30,000 colored votes in New York.

Hayes, after referring to everything in his message between Utah and the N. Y. Custom house, forgot to urge the completion of the Lewisburg & Tyrone R. R. Darn these fraudulents.

N. B.—After looking carefully we find no mention in the message of the boro' for Centre Hall.

The what-to-do-with-Grant is causing botheration in a new quarter. Hayes having recommended making him Captain General of the army, General Sherman does not relish the reinstatement of General Grant in a military position which would outrank him, and an opposition may be developed to the proposition in army circles.

It is interesting to note that of the 304,248 immigrants who landed on these shores in the eleven months closing with November, 25,307 were from England, an unusually large percentage. Germany leads the list with 70,350. Ireland follows with 56,224, Sweden with 29,183, and England has the fourth place, sending us more new inhabitants than France, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Italy combined.

Messrs. N. W. Ayres & Son, of Philadelphia, send us their *American Newspaper Annual* for 1880. It is a handsomely printed volume, and the classification adopted is the most convenient we have seen, a fact that will be appreciated by all who have occasion to consult it. So far as we have examined it, the figures given about population, circulation, etc, seem to be trustworthy.

At the meeting of the house committee on ways and means, quite a long hy discussion took place upon the proposition to remove the internal revenue now imposed on bank checks, matches, patent medicines, etc. The matter was finally referred to the sub-committee on internal revenue with instructions to consider and report upon the same at a future meeting of the committee.

The tax on bank checks and matches, should have been removed long ago. The first was an annoyance as well as an ur. just tax while the latter struck every poor man and woman in an article of every day use.

A terrible massacre was committed by Victoria's band of Indians. A special from Fort Stockton says: "Persons just in from San Elizario reports that Mexicans from Chihuahua bring appalling particulars of the devilment done by the escaped and desperate remnant of Victoria's band in the neighborhood of that town. In that section from twenty to thirty men, women and children are known to have been murdered and mutilated in a most horrible manner. A detachment of ten men returning with General Terassas, after the abandonment of Victoria's camp, was attacked by about thirty Indians a few days ago and only Terassas and one man escaped."

The country seems to have a huge elephant on hand in Gen. Grant, not knowing what to do with him.

Some want to pension him. Some want to make him U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania; others senator from New York. Some, again, want to make him a senator at large. And last, the fraudulent president, Hayes, in his recent message, recommends the passage of a bill to make Grant Captain General of the army, which would give him a good salary to live on.

Has Ulysses then become our great national pauper? Ah, just here the happy idea strikes the REPORTER, let Barnum hire him at $10,000 a year to draw crowds for his show as he travels around. There's millions in him.

Mary E. Hollingsworth, a young girl who five months ago was turned away from her home in White Mills, Pa., and who was found in a bagnio in New York, told a terrible story in court. She alleges that she had been taken by a man called French Lewis to the house of Annie Hauritz alias Harrisburg, who paid him five dollars for her. She had been kept a prisoner in this house for five months. Annie Hauritz was arrested on a warrant issued by Justice Bixby and committed to await the action of the grand jury. The girl is in the house of detention as a witness.

It would be sacrilege to turn this to political account, but if it had occurred in the south the whole northern pack of Ingersoll-Garfield worshippers would point to it as "another southern outrage."

The Herald in an editorial upon the probable changes in the Supreme Court alludes to a significant fact which speaks volumes in favor of the democratic party and its principles. It says that many of the republican judges, the moment they felt secure for life, became democrats. Judge Field, of California, appointed by Mr. Lincoln, became an extreme partisan for the democratic Presidential nomination. Chief Justice Chase used his place as Chief Justice to win the democratic nomination for the Presidency; Judge Davis, who, as a politician, managed the Chicago Convention for Lincoln, and made the various trades by which that deceased statesman was selected by the republicans at Chicago, also became a democrat, or the next thing to it.

To these might be added that many of the Presidents who were chosen by the opposition party, espoused the democratic party and its principles when in office because they found, that being under oath to support the constitution, in order to be true to that obligation, the principles of the democracy would have to be followed as they were in strict accord with the constitution. We cite Presidents Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson and even Hayes, who adopted the democratic policy with regard to the southern states and discarded that of the stalwarts whose candidate he was.

Gen. Washington, we believe, served his country as President without pay, and at a time when the salary was only half what Grant received. Washington, besides, did not have the fat takes, and valuable presents that Grant got, yet who ever heard of any of his countrymen bawling around the country for pennies to raise a pension fund for him?

If any one had gone around the country begging money to raise a pension fund for Gen. Jackson after his retirement from the executive mansion, it would have stirred up Old Hickory as upon memorable occasion on a steamboat when a fellow undertook to pull the general's nose, and his friends started to interfere. But Old Hickory, raising his cane, exclaimed, Stand aside; by the Eternal I'll me at him. Yes, by the Eternal, Gen. Jackson would have caned and boo ed any fellow who would have gone begging to make up a pension fund for him.

Grant received 400 thousand dollars as salary in eight years. He got corner lots big houses, bull pups, and other valuable presents. His wife got a clean $25,000 out of the infamous black Friday affair which ruined nearly all the business men of the country and caused a panic that was felt in every home, yet they say Grant must have a pension!

The whole thing is a disgrace to Grant and to the country.

The republicans in Congress, says the *Patriot*, are now engaged in fighting the very principle which they insisted should be applied and which they did apply to the counting of the electoral vote in 1865, 1869 and 1873. The Morgan joint resolution which they are antagonizing with so much bitterness and obstinacy simply revives the "Twenty-Second Joint Rule" established by the republicans themselves, except that it provides that when there shall be but one certificate of the electoral vote of a state only the concurrent action of the two houses shall reject, while the Twenty-Second Joint Rule enabled either house to reject the electoral vote of any state. The Morgan joint resolution provides that where there are two or more certificates from a state none of them shall be counted except by the concurrence of both houses. Under the republican "Twenty-Second Joint Rule" no debate was allowed. The Morgan joint resolution provides that no objection being made to the count of the electoral vote of any state such objection shall be in writing and signed by two senators and three representatives and senators and representatives shall each be allowed ten minutes for debate. It will be seen that the Morgan resolution while reviving the principle of the "Twenty-Second Joint Rule" proposes a decided improvement in the application of the principle. No fraudulent return from a disputed state could be counted under its provisions without being fully exposed to the public eye, and this is probably the reason why the republicans make such violent opposition to its adoption.

Ireland is still on a boil against the landholders, and England is getting her "dutch" up.

Public feeling in England is becoming more aroused by the continual outrages in Ireland and the practical overthrow of all law in that country. The tenants have—for the present at least—confiscated the property of their landlords. A branch of the Land League now holds its own "courts" in various parts of the island, assuming to administer justice; this of course amounts to the establishment of Lynch law under the very eyes of the Government.

Messrs. Bright and Chamberlain and the Radical wing of the Liberal party generally continue to oppose all idea of coercion in any form whatever, while Chief Secretary Forster as strenuously demands coercive measures, and is backed in his demands by the moderate element in the Cabinet. The controversy threatens to cause a serious split in the Liberal party.

The agitation of the land question, meanwhile, is extending to England. At a meeting of the Farmers' Alliance last week, a Sussex farmer demanded for members of his class the right to acquire the land they hold after a certain period of tenantcy. The English land lords are at last beginning to take the alarm at the numbers and activity of the organizations being formed among the small farmers and agricultural laborers for carrying out what is popularly called the "Free Land Policy," and we are quite likely to see an agitation in England which will recall the famous Reform and Anti-Corn-Law movements.

The Hell You Say.

The latest news that the REPORTER and the American people have, is by way of the fraudulent President's late message, where he informs the people that the obelisk had arrived at New York This reminds us of a joke between a school urchin and school-marm. She pointed to the first letter of the alphabet and asked him what it was. He said, don no. She told him it was "A," "The hell you say," says the boy, "I ofened heerd of it, but never saw it afore."

When Hayes tells us that the obelisk had arriv, we exclaim, The hell you say, we often heerd of that, but never saw it afore.

Boss Kelley has a part of the reward due him for his treason to his party in trading off Hancock—he has been kicked out of the Comptrollership and no longer is boss of the city of New York. Mayor Cooper on Friday sent in the name of Allen Campbell as Comptroller, and the board of Aldermen, by a vote of 13 to 8 confirmed it. Kelly was expecting a re-appointment, but did not get it

This is good so far.

But it is not enough;

Let every honest man, when he passes John Kelly, kick him with his dirtiest boots, as long as the treacherous boss treads American soil.

Below is another southern outrage, but of a character not to raise the regulation howl from the republican organs: A terrible tragedy is reported from Clarion county, S. C., where a young woman was brutally murdered with her unborn babies by three negroes, one of them a woman, robbery being their motive. An assemblage of white and colored men decided to execute the culprits by Lynch law, and the trio were soon swinging to the limbs of a tree.

Only a very limited number of papers—including republicans—have printed the windy Hayes message in full. How have—we were going to say "the mighty fallen"—but he never was mighty, only a contemptible fraud, now despised by all.

When Hayes in his message makes war upon the Mormons it rather seems to us as a parting shot at Beecher and Conkling over the shoulders of the polygamists.

REFORM IN THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

There are various plans suggested by which a popular vote directly for candidates for President may be secured, which will at the same time maintain the existing power of the States in determining the result. This is necessary to secure the adoption of any Constitutional amendment proposing the abolition of the Electoral College and a direct vote of the people for President, as we showed in THE POST yesterday. There are three plans under discussion at this time, two of which incorporate the principle of minority representation in the Presidential vote of the various States. They may be stated as follows:

1. A vote directly for President and Vice President, the State officers canvassing the returns, declaring the result and casting the vote of the State for the candidate having the plurality of the total vote. The vote of the State, of course would be equal to its Senators and Representatives in Congress. This would be an improvement on the electoral system, as it would obviate all "the trouble about the choice of electors and enable the people to vote directly for the candidates of their choice. It would substitute a College of States for a College of Electors.

2. A vote directly for President by the state at large, to determine the senatorial votes, and by Congressional districts to determine the representative votes. This would introduce the element of minority representation, just as we have politically divided delegations in Congress from most of the States. But this plan is open to the objection it would encourage gerrymandering, with the Presidency as the prize, and in heated contests—and Presidential contests always are heated—would encourage the colonization of voters from one district to another. Great progress has already been made in these devices to cheat the people of their honest choice, but with a Presidential election and a hundred thousand officers and hundreds of millions of patronage involved, the temptation would be increased a thousand fold. We do not think it would be much improvement on the present system.

3. A vote directly for President and Vice President in all the States, *the vote of the State* (answering to the present electoral vote) to be divided among the candidates in the proportion their respective votes hold to the total vote. Divide the total vote of a State by its electoral vote for President, and you would have the ratio of the Presidential vote. Then divide the vote of each candidate by this ratio, and it would give his Presidential vote from the State in question. It is a very simple process, and the result arrived at would be an unmistakable fair and correct expression of the popular will. It gives to each candidate the exact proportion of the electoral vote of the State to which he would be entitled by the number of votes he received at the election. If he received two thirds of the popular vote he would have two-thirds of the electoral votes, and so on. Under this plan, Pennsylvania would cast, according to its popular vote at the late election, 15 votes for Garfield, 13 for Hancock, and 1 for Weaver. But some say this would advantage the Democrats. Yes, in this State, but in other States it would reduce their electoral vote. Missouri, for instance, under the proportionate vote plan, would give Hancock 8 votes, Garfield 6, and Weaver 1; New Jersey, California and Nevada would be about equally divided. In 1876, under this system, Tilden would have had a decided majority, counting on the basis of the Electoral College. He was honestly entitled to it. At the late election the States were evenly divided, and success under the proportionate plan would follow the candidate who polled the plurality of the popular vote We merely cite these figures to illustrate the scheme. We do not think partisian considerations need enter into the discussion, although there can be no doubt its first effect would be to break up the Solid South and the almost Solid North, solid so far as electoral votes go, and in the future prevent the political solidity of sections in any part of the Union.

This plan has been enbodied in a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Judge Bicknell of Indiana, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Electoral Count. We believe it was originally suggested by ex Senator Buckalew of his State, and was the result of his investigation of the subject of minority representation. It has many advantages over any other plan suggested, which will do away with the Electoral College and secure a direct vote of the people for President and Vice President. At another time we will endeavor to point out the good results that will follow its adoption A disputed Presidency, it seems to us, is the great peril to the peace and prosperity of the Union. It is likely to occur every four years under our Electoral College system, but would be most unlikely, if not impossible, under the proportionate vote plan.—*Pittsburg Post.*

Sectionalism in Ohio.

[New York Herald, independent]

During the recent canvass no journals were so stalwart as the republican papers in Southern Ohio. It made one's blood run cold to read of the horrors that would follow from the election of Hancock Since the election, however, the Southern merchants of Louisville and other points in Kentucky have been complaining of the tone of those republican newspapers, and talk about transferring their trade to other markets. We have discovered that a republican may be very stalwart about election times, but when he has goods to sell he would just as soon have a democratic customer as a republican. Now these republican papers take up a chorus of friendship for the South, deny that they ever said anything against their "brethren" and urge the brethren to come and buy in Cincinnati and to be as friendly as it is possible for brethren to be.

This change is a curious one. It is only another illustration of what we see every day of the insincerity of our political life. What the republicans wanted to do before election was to elect General Garfield. Therefore they howled about the "miseries of southern domination." Now they want to sell goods, and they coo and chirp in the most affectionate manner about "fraternity" and "union."

A PAYING BUSINESS.—Any person sending 50 cents to the Marlboro Chemical Works, Marlboro, Mass., will receive, post paid by mail, sample gross of Chinese Compressed Bluing sheets, the best in use for Laundry purposes. The fastest selling article in the market. Goods as staple as flour and can be carried in pocket. Immense profits. Those already at work are coining money and say it beats the world. New thing. Agents wanted everywhere.

"A great big house and nobody living in't,"—the fraudulent's last message.

THE DEMOCRATS AND THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

Speaker Randall said on 13, that the democrats do not propose to yield to the republican theory that the vice president counts the electoral vote, and mean to get the 147 votes necessary to pass the Morgan bill; that they had not backed down or abandoned their position, but might not insist on debate to the exclusion of other business until they had a reasonable prospect of success. This indicates that the bill will be allowed to lie over indefinitely,

1880-1. 1880-1.

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LETTER FROM JUDGE BLACK.

Transportation Problems and Political Government.

The New York Chamber of Commerce recently sent out to leading business and professional men through the country a series of questions relating to the general subject of the freight rates and discriminating tariffs of railroad companies The object was to collect opinions in regard to a matter of pressing importance to the trade and commerce of the country. Among other answers received is a long one from Hon. Jere S. Black, who pleads in his well-known clear and incisive way with the general subject of the relation of the great transportation corporations, to the Federal and State governments Mr. Black's views are bold; not to say radical, but he puts them in a style which forces attention. The legally-vested rights of railway corporations, he says, like other rights of property, are sacred, and no violation of them comes within the scope of honest inquiry But, says Judge Black, "on this question railroad men misunderstand their situation." He holds that railroads are not holders of property, but of franchises, and adds:

"They believe, or pretend to believe, that railways are the property of the companies authorized to run them, which is a cardinal error, and the parent of much false argument. A public highway cannot be private property, and a railroad laid out and built by the authority of the State for the purposes of commerce is as much a public highway as a turnpike road, canal or navigable river. It is the duty of the State to promote intercourse and trade by making highways of the best sort through her territory. To this end she may take land and materials, which is an exercise of the power of eminent domain. She can build a railway at her own expense, using the direct agency of her own officers, and after it is built she can make it free to all comers or reimburse the cost by special tax on individuals who have occasion to use it. She can delegate the taking and the taxing powers to a corporation or a natural person; and that is what she always does when she grants a railroad charter. But in either or any case the road belongs to the State, and all the people have the right to use it upon compliance with the necessary regulations and payment of the proper tax.

"The corporations who have got into the habit of calling themselves the owners of the railroads have no proprietary right, title or claim to the roads themselves, but a mere franchise annexed to and exercisable thereon. They are the agents of the State for the performance of a public duty. If the franchise be forfeited or surrendered or if it expire by efflux of time the State takes possession of the road and runs it herself or employs a new agent. The company cannot keep the road any more than an out-going collector of a port can appropriate to himself the custom-house where he did his official work. The State having need for a public highway at a particular place, makes a contract with a corporation to open and put it in condition to be used, and by way of reimbursing the builders and operators she authorizes a tax upon those who travel or carry merchandise over it. But this tax must be reasonable, just, uniform, prescribed and fixed, so that every citizen may know beforehand exactly how much he must pay, and so that when he pays or tenders the proper amount he will acquire an absolute and perfect right to the use of the road. The amount of the tax, toll or freight in any case is not a subject of bargain between the shipper and the corporation, but a thing to be settled, fixed and prescribed by public authority. If the company may charge what it pleases then the road is not a public highway; the public has no rights in it all and the charter which authorizes the taking of land to build it is unconstitutional and void.

"These principles," Judge Black says, "Are discussed fully and carefully laid down in numerous decisions of the courts. Being public property, it is absurd to say that the State has no right to regulate them and control them in the performance of their functions by such laws as will prevent partiality, plunder and extortion No free State can disarm itself of this power by any act of its executive, legislative or judicial officers. They could as lawfully sell the State out and out The franchises of railroads are property, but their limits must be regulated by law and and these limits must not be exceeded. A charter doing so is void. Legislation to bring fares and tolls within reasonable rates has been decided by the Supreme Court to be constitutional, The real, not the apparent cost of a road must be the measure of the reasonableness of rates.

Status of Land Grant Roads.

"Most of our Western roads were built with the proceeds of public lands granted mediately or immediately by the United States to the several companies which now have them in charge. They did not really cost the stockholders anything, and in some cases they got lands worth a great deal more than all expenses of making, stocking and running the roads. The two companies between Omaha and San Francisco raised in cash out of government bonds, lands and mortgages of their franchises four or five times as much as they necessarily expended upon the roads. The stockholders, without paying anything, put the enormous surplus into their pockets, These roads, thus built at the public expense and in some cases paid for by the public five times over, are now claimed as the private property of the companies and the right of the public to use them as highways is utterly denied; nevertheless I think the claim of these companies to take reasonable tolls stands upon the same foundation as that of companies whose roads were built by the stockholders themselves at their own proper expenses. The grant of the lands invested the grantees with a title which could not be revoked if the conditions of it were performed.

"If railroad companies have the unlimited power they claim all industries are at their mercy," says Judge Black. "No such power belongs to them legally, yet in many cases they have usurped it and abused it.

Discrimination in Rates.

"They boldly express their determination to charge as much as the traffic will bear, that is to say, they will take from the profits of every man's business as much as can be taken without compelling him to quit it. In the aggregate this amounts to the most enormous, oppressive and unjust tax that ever was laid upon the industry of any people under the sun. The irregularity with which this tax is laid makes it still harder to bear. Men go into a business which may thrive at present rates and will find themselves crushed by burdens unexpectedly thrown upon them after they get started."

Judge Black goes at large into the subject of discrimination, selecting some of the most striking cases to illustrate his argument. He says the railroads go into every sort of business in their imperious way and they must be regulated so that they will be compelled to do the duties they owe to the public faithfully and without discrimination or extortion. The States have the power to do this, but Congress must regulate inter-State commerce, and to do so must have supervision of rates and tolls. Judge Black concludes:

The Power of Corporations.

"Doubtless you are right in the belief that public opinion will be in favor of your movements. Reflecting men cannot deny its justice. But the influence of these great corporations can hardly be calculated. They have methods of defense and offense which make them almost invincible. You have referred to portions of their history which provided this. Some of the State governments are literally subjugated by them now. It will require a strong organization and much labor to reduce them. Undisciplined militia in the open field make a poor fight against regulars intrenched, What are cornstalks against cannon? Such is truth against money. You ask what I think of regulating these affairs by the agency of commissioners. In England I believe that plan has been a complete success; in California I understand it is a dead failure."

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

We take pleasure in announcing that we have made arrangements with the publisher of the Chicago Weekly News which enable us to club that paper with the REPORTER, at the very low price of $2.25 per year, a trifle over the regular price of the REPORTER alone. This is beyond question the first time that a metropolitan weekly has been brought within the reach of subscribers at so small an additional price.

For this comparatively small amount our readers can place themselves in command of the whole situation. All events of interest, local, national and foreign, will be presented completely and promptly by one or the other of these publications. The single feature of full and trustworthy Chicago market quotations will be worth, to many of our readers, more than the additional amount involved in the clubbing arrangement. To those who are not familiar with the character of the Chicago News, we would say it is the best representative of independent journalism in the West.

The Weekly News is a large eight column folio, "cram full" of telegraphic and general news, short and pithy editorials on the topics of the day, written in a familiar yet incisive style, and in all its departments evidently aims to give facts in few words, without the verbiage and fine writing which render so many of the large metropolitan journals "a weariness to the flesh." Facts, not words, appear to be its motto.

We trust that all our readers will avail themselves of this unusual opportunity of securing a Chicago weekly paper at so trifling cost.

Specimen copies of the Chicago Weekly News may be seen at this office.

Or, to any of our present subscribers, sending us $2 in advance on REPORTER, and two *new names* with $4, we will send him and the new ones the Chicago Weekly News 1 year free as a premium—thus securing two large papers for the regular price of the REPORTER. We do this hoping to make up the cost to us by an increased circulation.

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We extend an invitation to everybody in want of anything in our line to call at our store rooms opposite the Bush House, and see what we have, and learn from those in attendance more paticularly the scope of our business.

Bellefonte May 6, ALEXANDER & CO

A CHILIAN ARMY MOVING ON LIMA.

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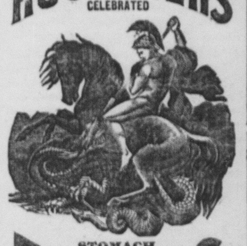

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