

The Centre Reporter.

VOLUME (OLD SERIES, XL, NEW SERIES, XVI.)

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1883

NO. 3.

THE CENTRE REPORTER. By FRED KURTZ.

Under the new rules governing the Democratic organization in this state, Centre county will have four delegates in future state conventions—one delegate for every 1000 democratic votes cast for governor. Pattison's vote in Centre Co. was 4178. Under the new rule the number of delegates in the Democratic state convention will be 359, or 108 more than heretofore. In our opinion it makes the convention unwieldy.

Dukes, the man who shot Nutt at Uniontown, appeared at Harrisburg on 11, and at once consulted with Speaker Faunce, of the House, whether there was anything to bar him from taking the oath and his seat as a member. The Speaker told him he thought not and advised Dukes to take the matter into consideration for himself.

At Reading, Pa., two brothers were arrested, charged with selling the meat of hogs which had been bitten by a mad dog and died of rabies. It is hard to say what punishment is severe enough for such miscreants.

In Baltimore, the other day, a German, Joseph Mische, shoved off this mortal coil in quite a merry mood. His body was found with a bullet wound in the right temple. In his right hand was a revolver and in his left a glass and a wine bottle was on the ground near by. On his person was found a paper with the following writing in German: "As I have lived, so have died—always merry—my last glass is tendered to my friends."

The Senate on 9th, passed the presidential succession bill. An amendment offered by Mr. Morgan, providing that the cabinet officer becoming acting president shall act only until a president is elected, or the vacancy otherwise filled, was agreed to, as was also one offered by Mr. Ingalls, providing that it shall be the duty of the acting president to convene congress by proclamation, giving twenty days' notice of the time of meeting. The bill was then passed—Ayes 40, noes 13. The bill provides that in case of the removal, death resignation or inability of both the president and vice president the secretary of state shall act as president; and if there be no secretary of state the secretary of the treasury shall so act, the vacancy always to be filled by the cabinet officer next in rank down to the secretary of the navy.

In the state senate the Independents were severely snubbed by the stalwarts. The Patriot says the action of Senators Reyburn, Adams et al., in connection with the attempted confirmation of Philip C. Garrett, has caused a diversity of comment. Senator Stewart is righteously indignant at the insult offered the independent republicans, in the rejection of this distinguished member of the committee of one hundred. He says that in retaliation he will vote against the confirmation of all notaries public, whom he may know voted against him for governor. Where there is any doubt as to the action of these appointees he will call upon Senator Cooper for the necessary information. Senator Herr, who has become quite a reformer, is thoroughly disgusted with the rejection of Mr. Garrett as a member of the board of public charities and says such a course is well calculated to "bust" the republican party.

Pattison's inauguration has not cost the state one cent. Score one for sensible reform.

Cooper, stalwart and late chairman of Beaver's state committee, wants a law passed fining every man who does not vote, \$2.50.

The House has put itself against the Legislative Record by 172 to 16. Good. Thank the Reporter and other papers for raising the alarm.

Down at Richmond, on 9, snow fell to a depth of 18 inches. Beats us up here. "Grit," the weekly of the Williamsport Daily Banner comes up to the plane of weeklies of the larger cities. We always admire "grit."

Lot M. Morill, one of the republican leaders in Maine—governor, congressman and U. S. Senator, died a few days ago.

Thanks to our contemporaries of the press for complimentary notices of the Reporter on its enlargement and improvement. Modesty restrains us from re-publishing these kind expressions.

The Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company was organized, on 10, in Clearfield, Pa., with a capital of \$5,000. Wm. A. Wallace was elected President.

A SHARP LEGISLATOR.

The reader of the Reporter will remember that for the last four or five years we have been calling attention to the money drawn by the members of the Senate and House for postage and stationery, \$100, who then drew their stationery besides and most of them used the postage stamps for paying individual debts and left the documents unmailed, to be expressed to their homes at an additional cost to the state, and that we put down the thing as a steal and unlawful.

The ablest member now in the House, is J. M'Dowell Sharpe, of Franklin. We do not know whether he read the Reporter, but we are pleased to observe that he has called the attention of the House to this steal, which costs the state some \$25,000 per session. And as Mr. Sharpe is one of the foremost lawyers of the state, the Reporter flatters itself that it was correct in the view it took of this business. Let the distinguished member from Franklin insist upon having this steal put an end to. We are also pleased to see that the same able gentleman has made a move against that nuisance, the *Leg. Record*.

We call the attention of Mr. Sharpe to a table which we publish elsewhere in this issue of the Reporter, carefully made up from the Aud. Gen'l Report, 1881, and which gives the amount that can be lopped from enormous charges paid for doing some little things about the hill—it is in these where the extravagance and stealings are carried on.

WHERE THE CHIEF-CLERK CAN MAKE A REAL POINT.

To discharge a lot of scrub-women and pages, was all right—there were too many. But they got only a few dollars, and they were not an eye-sore to the people. But we score one for their discharge.

Now then, we call the attention of chief-clerk Meek to larger game that will flutter around him and ask him to keep his shot-gun heavily loaded and let drive at practices of former chief-clerks who had heavy bills for things in and around the chamber. Who got the divies the chief-clerks might know. We call the attention of clerk Meek to the items below, taken from the last Aud. Gen'l Report, and if he will see that bills of the kind shall not be foisted upon the taxpayers, we will score one for him. Here is one of the big leaks and where the people want reform:

Members \$50 each for stationery, \$10,000.
William P. Small, acting chief-clerk for contingent expenses, 1881, \$1045, \$81, \$41.

Harry Huhn, chief clerk for contingent expenses, \$8,500.

Harry Huhn, chief-clerk, for lacks, &c., \$187.

Harry Huhn, chief-clerk, for repairs, \$805.

Harry Huhn, chief-clerk, for repairs, \$107.

Harry Huhn, chief-clerk, for indexing journal, \$200.

Here are nearly eleven thousand dollars, outside stationery, that passed into the hands of chief-clerk, Harry Huhn, just for fixing around the House, besides the regular salary of that officer, which is \$2500.

Then there is the deal for carpets and oil cloths, \$2708. What was done with the old put in the session before? Then there are further "repairs" amounting to near \$2000 all coming under the jurisdiction of the chief-clerk. Now how much steal is hidden under the name "of repairs?" Repairs has been a big thief around the House chamber for 30 years, and we would be pleased to have Meek route him out and let Reform take his place.

The expenses for the government of the District of Columbia are paid by the United States. The population is 180,000 and in territory its extent is about that of one of our Pennsylvania townships. It costs about \$2,150,000—or near \$12 per head for every man, woman and child. At this rate the expenses for governing Centre county one year would foot up \$450,000. Now this gives the reader of the Reporter an idea of ring rule. But as the United States pays the expenses for governing the District of Columbia, the people there do not feel the effects of these outrageous expenses. In cities like Philadelphia, however, where the people pay for the fun of having the ring manage the city's affairs, the tax-payers shudder when the collector comes around. There have been enormous jobs in the District of Columbia, and men like Boss Shepherd have made millions there out of worthless paving contracts and such like. Will congress look at this rottenness, and plant a little reform there?

To remedy an rpparant defect in the presidential succession bill, in the Senate, on 12, Mr. Ingalls introduced a bill to provide for determining the existence and the removal of the inability of the president of the United States to dis-

charge the powers and duties of that office. The bill provides that whenever two heads of departments shall state in writing to the chief justice of the supreme court that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, if the court be not then sitting, the chief justice, shall, within ten days, convene it to hear and determine summarily the question of the alleged inability, and if, upon said hearing, it shall appear to said court that such inability exists, they shall certify their decision to the vice president, who shall thereupon discharge the powers and duties of the office of president.

The Fitz-John Porter bill passed the senate on 11. The amendment providing that Porter shall receive no pay or allowance prior to his reinstatement in the army was agreed to. Mr. Conger moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. Mr. Cameron (Pa.) spoke in favor of the bill. He described Porter's valuable patriotic services in organizing the troops at Harrisburg at the beginning of the war, and said he believed that Porter's influence had secured the adhesion of General Thomas to the Union cause. Messrs. Conger, Logan and Lapham spoke in opposition to the bill. The motion to indefinitely postpone was lost. Ayes, 34; noes, 31. At 2:10 the Porter bill was passed by a vote of 33 to 27. Cameron, Hoar and Sewell were the only Republicans voting in the affirmative. The Senate resumed consideration of the tariff bill and after a brief discussion adjourned.

Clearfield county has a big railroad and coal boom. We expect our neighbors across the ridges to be among the most populous counties of the state in course of time, as the vast coal fields of Clearfield are being opened up and new railroads traverse the county, thousands of miners and others will flock thither.

WHERE TO REFORM IN EARNEST.

A GUIDE TO HONEST LEGISLATORS.

If the Penna's Legislature is really desirous of obeying the voice of the people, which is loudly for cutting down expenditures, and the stopping up of the big leaks, the Reporter will point out plainly where the ugly holes are that suck in the public funds. We were the first to publish a list of these steals some years ago, and for the benefit of our servants now at Harrisburg, we will again show them up, pointing them out as contained in the Auditor General's Report for 1881. The sums we present are such as we take to be in excess, and most of them a clear steal:

SENATE.	
Stationery to Senators	\$ 4,000
Clerks and ass. clerks,	4,000
Speaker's clerk,	600
Sergeant-at-arms, door-	4,000
keepers and messengers,	5,000
Pasters and folders,	1,000
Pages,	1,000
Firemen,	1,000
Postmaster,	600
J. C. Delaney, paid already	900
as Librarian,—for post-	5,000
age, labor, &c.,	600
Postage for Senators,	600
Carpets, chairs, &c.,	1,400
Plumbing, &c.,	600
Forwarding doc's to Senators	1,400
Dellany, for repairs &c.,	800
HOUSE.	
Members, stationery, steal,	5,000
Clerks and asst's,	5,000
Speaker's clerk	600
Sergeants-at-arms, door-	10,000
keepers, and messengers,	1,000
P. M. and assistant,	8,000
Pasters and folders,	4,000
Janitors,	2,000
Pages,	400
Firemen	400
Chief clerk Small contin-	1,000
gent expenses	20,000
Postage stamps to members	5,000
Huhn, chief clerk, contin-	500
gent expenses	1,000
do do repairs	1,000
Carpets, oil cloths, &c	600
Seats and repairs	3,000
Forwarding doc's to mem-	1,000
bers	1,000
Resident clerk, postage labor,	1,000
express charges, &c.	1,000
Committee to improve venti-	1,500
lation	1,000
Salary State Library	1,500
Salary Sup't of printing	15,000
Public grounds, steal	2,500
Supplies for senate, pens,	2,500
toothpicks, &c, &c.	2,000
do do for House	2,000
do do departments	10,000
Leg. Record	1,000
Printing Wrappers	5,000
Advertising for proposals	6,000
Philad. School of Design	1,500
Pedrich for statement show-	5,000
ing titles and exhibiting	50,000
summary of powers grant-	
ed to corporations	1,500
On sundry items to the no-	
torious Dellaney	5,000
On public printing	50,000
Total,	\$200,000

Here are \$200,000 that can be lopped off of the expenditures and machinery of the state government will run right along without a jar. A committee, of either house, right on the spot, can find other holes yet to stop up which will save an additional \$75,000 to the tax-payers. Now, this is the kind of reform the people want. The eye of the tax-payer was not so much upon a few scrub women and pages as upon the stealings of clerks, and other employees at the capitol. Anything short of lopping off \$100,000 to \$150,000 dollars as exhibited above, is not very much in the line of Reform.

Let the fight be against the big thieves first and end with the pages and scrub-women.

AT HARRISBURG.

The Reform started at Harrisburg is all good, but it is only a drop of what is wanted. There was not much complaint about scrub-women and pages, altho' too many, and what they got was a trifle and that was not stolen. Reform must run into the big steals by the big fish and jobbers.

A bill has been introduced in the House requiring Justices of the Peace to attach seals to their returns. A bill was read to abolish the contract system in penitentiaries. A Dauphin member has a bill for a vote every three years on general license. Another bill to fix the salary of members \$1000, long or short session. Then a bill to prevent political organizations from paying taxes for voters. Then there is this bill that offers a new idea: That there shall annually be levied upon voters a poll tax of two dollars and fifty cents, in addition to other taxes now prescribed by law for State, city and county uses, the voter not to pay the tax if he votes but if he fails to exercise the franchise.

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Relative to the new railroad projects the Lock Haven Republican of a late date, says, "that there will be two railroads built up Beech Creek is about as certain as anything can be. On Tuesday, December 26th, an agreement was entered into between the Williamsport and Clearfield Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad, under which the former company will enter at once upon the construction of a railroad from the mouth of Beech Creek to Snow Shoe. The charter of the Williamsport and Clearfield company authorizes the building of a road from Williamsport to Clearfield town, and it is stated they propose after the construction of the road to Snow Shoe to continue across the Summit to Clearfield. The contract has already been awarded to strong parties in New York for building the road from Beech Creek to Snow Shoe and work will commence at once, as it is expected to complete the road so as to connect with the Bald Eagle Valley at Beech Creek by the first of next August. The rails have been purchased and will be forwarded as soon as possible. The price of iron is now lower than for some time past and the company concluded to take advantage of it. An offer was made a few days ago to parties furnishing the rails, and it was accepted. Some active demonstrations may be looked for within a very few weeks, and it is not improbable that two new railroads will traverse the country between Beech Creek and Clearfield within the next year. The officers of the Williamsport and Clearfield company are New York men of large means and have the confidence of capitalists, and with the backing of the Pennsylvania Railroad will push things from the start.

"About seventy miles of the Susquehanna and Southwestern Railroad from Jersey Shore, up Beech Creek into Clearfield county, will be let within the next few days. When this is done we may look for lively times in this section of the country."

The Girard estate, college and all, is now valued at about eighteen million dollars.

Two children were burned to death at Petrolia, Pa., by their clothes taking fire from a stove.

PERSONAL.

W. T. Meyer, of Aaronburg, one of the most accomplished musical instructors in this part of Penna., favored our sanctum with a call.

Mrs. Brisbin, of Joliet, Illinois, sister of our neighbor D. K. Geiss, gave us a call. This is her first visit to her old home since she left with her father, 16 years ago.

Prof. J. N. Corman informs us that Rebersburg will have another musical convention the week of Feb. 12. Mr. Corman, we find is not at all suffering from throat consumption, as was erroneously reported.

Mr. Reuben Hartman, of Millheim, accompanied by his son, gave us a call.

Dinches has nice, fresh, plump oysters, and the best oyster crackers, always.

THE MILWAUKEE HORROR.

75 Persons Burned—Men and Women Jump from the Windows.

Milwaukee, January 10.—The city is grief-stricken by the most terrible disaster that has ever visited it. The Newhall House, a six story brick building, was burned to the ground at an early hour. The fire was discovered at about four o'clock, when all the guests were sleeping, and in less than half an hour, the whole building, long designated as a death trap, was enveloped in flames. Scenes of the utmost horror prevailed. The inmates of the doomed building jumped by dozens from the upper stories, covering the stone sidewalks with lifeless bodies. The shrieks of the unfortunate filled the air in a heart-rending manner. The people below were unable to render any aid. Quite a number of the terrified guests and employes of the hotel, appeared at the windows, and seeing the distance to the ground fell back to perish in the flames.

The employes of the hotel, which accommodated 800 guests, numbered eighty-six, mostly lodged in the sixth story, exit by way of the roof was cut off by the fire and the two standpipes with the fire ladders were not available for the same reason. A number of wholesale establishments in Water street were damaged by fire and by the falling walls of the building. It may be safely said that sixty persons are dead and thirty seriously injured.

The scenes at the morgue, where thirty-two bodies are lying in a ghastly heap on the floor of a small room, are heart-rending beyond human power of description.

Tom Thumb got out through the front door, and his wife was brought down the fire escape by a fireman.

Regarding the origin of the fire Mr. Antisdel said the night watchman saw it first, but before he could do anything, the flames shot up the elevator igniting every door. "I am confident that the fire started at the elevator, but how I cannot say. I was awakened by the noise and rushed out to find the building filled with flames and smoke and people flying for their lives." A number of the rescued guests say the fire started from the basement and went through the elevator to all parts of the house before an alarm could be given.

John Antisdel, proprietor of the Newhall House, is a raving maniac, running up and down the streets crying: "Oh, my God! who set that on fire?" The halls of the hotel were a scene of the wildest confusion. Men, women and children rushed up and down in the dense, suffocating smoke, avoiding the flaming frames and roaring blaze, and in their frantic efforts rushed by the stairs and windows leading to the fire escape, tumbling over the bodies lying unconscious. A man stood on the corner of the fifth story, twenty minutes, not daring to leap. Finally he became bewildered by the smoke and slid off the perch to the canvas below. The few who held it could not give necessary resistance. The body was shattered to a lifeless mass. Above the last unfortunate sat a man crouched upon a window sill, gazing like one absent-minded into a fiery abyss, motionless, but from time to time sending up heart-rending shrieks. The flames enfolded upon him, singeing his hair and licking his night-clothes. With a despairing look he tumbled back into the fire.

About a dozen jumped from the Michigan street front. Each leap meant death or shattered limbs, and not less than four unfortunate, at one time, lay upon the icy sidewalk, clad only in night-clothes, blood and brains oozing from wounds through which the bones protruded.

The scene in the alley west of the burning building, was sickening. As early as 6 o'clock the bodies of seven unfortunate girls were stretched upon the snow, with broken limbs writhing in agony.

GOOD MRS. TOM THUMB.

Tom Thumb and wife were rescued, from the hotel by Police Officer O'Brien. They were in their night clothes, and Mrs. Thumb suffered much from the cold air. The General, immediately upon being placed in the express office, began mourning the loss of valuable diamonds and other jewelry belonging to himself and wife. The latter heard him through and replied reprovingly, "What if we have lost everything, just look at those people there," pointing to mangled forms of twenty dead and dying men and women lying upon the floor. The little woman then bravely began relieving the sufferings of those around her by supplying them with water and the display of other acts of sympathetic kindness.

WHAT THE GENERAL SAYS.

Tom Thumb, one of the rescued inmates of the house, tells the following story of his experience:—"I was partially aroused from a heavy sleep by a violent beating and pounding at my door. I was hardly awake when I arose and wondered what the matter could be."

"It seemed as if retreat was impossible. The blinding, suffocating smoke and terrible heat were about us. We finally made our way through the smoke to the front balcony, and the officer called people to put up a ladder. The freezing water from a stream thrown into the building above us poured down on and nearly drowned us."

HOTEL FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, January 14.—The Planters' hotel, one of the largest in the city, took fire this morning shortly before 6 o'clock and burned so rapidly that four persons lost their lives. The greatest confusion prevailed when the alarm was given, and nearly all the guests escaped in their night clothes. The weather was intensely cold

and the firemen were thereby greatly hindered in their work. It is thought that there were not more than four victims.

300 PERSONS BURNED IN A THEATRE.

St. Petersburg, January 14.—During the performances at a circus in Berdischeff, in Russian Poland, a fire broke out in the building, and before the spectators could escape the whole structure was ablaze. Three hundred persons perished in the flames.

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN AN ILLINOIS COAL MINE.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—A dispatch from Coulterville, Ill., says: Yesterday afternoon a terrific explosion occurred in the coal mine of Jones & Pesbit, near here. Of 12 persons in the mine at the time only 2 escaped a man named Mason and a boy. Mason was at the mouth of the shaft, and was badly hurt. The boy was uninjured. At eight o'clock last night relief parties had not been able to enter the mine, foul air rising in dense volumes and overpowering them at once. The fate of the ten men is not known, but it is believed to be impossible that any can escape.

Nothing could be done for several hours, therefore a telegram was sent to White Oak for a force of miners. These manned the cage at 8 o'clock last evening and descended. The smoke was still thick below, but after about an hour's work they penetrated one hundred yards through the debris to where James King lay on his face dead, though his body was still warm. A dead mule was next found, and another hundred yards further the nine men were discovered lying only a short distance apart most of them face downward.

FATAL GUNNING ACCIDENT.

A week or so ago two young men named Eves and Blackburn, of Stormstown, Centre county, were out gunning about a mile and a half from that ancient village, and from some cause the ramrod of young Eves' gun became so tightly fastened in the thimbles of the stock that he could not remove it. In order to get it from his place Eves asked Blackburn to take hold of the gun, placing one hand in front and the other back of the lock, and Eves took hold of the ramrod. Eves gave a quick jerk which drew the gun through Blackburn's hand, raising the hammer as it was driven through, and in the same instant the hammer not being drawn back a sufficient distance dropped, and the contents of the rifle were sent crashing through the young man's bowels, inflicting a fatal wound. The young man fell to the ground and his comrade, who was the younger of the two, hastened to carry the sad news to the friends of the young man, who appeared in a short time, finding him sensible and entreating his companion not to cry as he was not seriously hurt. Medical aid was sent for, but before it reached, the heart of the lad had ceased to beat. Death came from internal bleeding an hour and a half after the accident occurred. He was 18 years old; the son of Mr. Joseph Eves, a prominent and highly respected citizen of Stormstown.—Huntingdon Local News.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

A FREE LECTURE COURSE ON FARM TOPICS.

A course of lectures will be delivered at the Pennsylvania State College, beginning TUESDAY MORNING, JAN 30, 1883, and ending Friday afternoon or evening, February 3. The lectures will embrace a wide range of subjects, of special importance to agriculturists, and opportunity will be given, as far as time will permit, for questions and discussions in connection with them. They will be open to all, free of charge, and all interested are cordially invited to attend, any one lecture, or the whole course.

A few rooms in the College can be supplied at a charge of \$3.00 for each room, this charge including rent, fuel and use of such furniture as is furnished to students, viz: bedstead, mattress, table, washstand and chairs. Other articles, such as light, bedclothing, towels, etc., will need to be furnished by the occupants for themselves.

Table board can be had at the hotel or with private families in the village, the usual charge of the latter being \$3.00 per week. A few, by early application, may procure board in the College Club at their usual rate of about \$2.00 a week.

The lectures will treat on a variety of important and interesting subjects, as follows:

1. By President Atherton—Two Lectures: Industrial Education, and Political Economy for Farmers.
2. By Professor McKee—One Lecture: Book-keeping for Farmers.
3. By Prof. Jordan—Fifteen Lectures: Agricultural Chemistry, 4; Fertilizers, 3; Stock-Breeding, 2; Cattle-Feeding, 3; Dairying, 3.
4. By Professor Buckhout—Eight Lectures: Botany, 3; Fruit-Growing, 3; Vegetable Gardening, 1; Entomology, 1.
5. By Professor Ommond—Three Lectures: Farm Mechanic, 2; Meteorology, 1.
6. By Prof. Barnard—One Lecture: Roads: their Construction, Maintenance, and Drainage.
7. By Prof. Ewing—One Lecture: The Anatomy of the Domesticated Animals.
8. By Professor Bell—Two Lectures: Drinkable Waters, and Adulteration of Foods.

Persons proposing to attend the course will promote their convenience and ours, by notifying us in advance. Communications on this subject may be addressed to

PROF. MCKEE, State College, Centre Co., Pa.