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## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r.

The next postmaster of Bellefonte is coming and will be a democrat.

The *Texas Siftings* defines an "offensive partisan" as a fellow who has an office that some other fellow wants.

If Logan had not been re-elected to the senate, his next jump for notoriety would have been from the Brooklyn bridge.

The Mormons are still coming. The steamship Wisconsin, from Liverpool, landed four hundred Mormon emigrants at New York the other day. They are mostly in families.

All departments of the North Chicago Rolling Mills, at Bay View, Wis., including the nail works, will shut down next Saturday, throwing between 1,300 and 1,500 men out of employment. It is not known how long the mills will be idle.

Millions of young grasshoppers are reported coming out of the sandy soil on the south side of the Arkansas river above Pueblo, devouring early vegetables and tender shrubs. Their appearance is similar to that of 1873, when they were swept east by winds and consumed an immense amount of growing crops in Kansas.

The legislature might turn its attention to the passage of an act to prevent accidental shootings, and thus save many lives. A heavy penalty should be laid upon any one leaving any fire-arms unloaded—as it always turns out that the ones that are "not loaded" do the killing, and if obliged to be loaded they wouldn't be handled.

The Pennsylvania legislators have the thing down fine. They have been going home on Thursday "because the attendance on Friday is so small," and their return has been delayed till Tuesday "because hardly anybody gets back on Monday, you know."—*Boston Record.*

We are thinking when these fellows vote to raise their salary to \$1500 they are making it coarse enough.

This legislature has had the audacity to pass a bill increasing the salary. The Senate amended the Salary act so as to allow Senators \$4,000 and members of the Legislature \$2,000 for a term of two years. Those who voted for an amendment evidently value their services a great deal higher than do the people at large. Perhaps Gov. Pattison will be of the same opinion when he comes to pass upon the bill.

Some of the fellows who have been drawing fraudulent pensions—and there are thousands of them—are becoming conscience stricken. A man named Snyder, who belonged to a New York Regiment during the war and who has been drawing a pension of \$72 per month, called at the Pension office and requested that his name be taken from the rolls and payment stopped. The only reason he gave for his singular request was that the Government had already done enough for him. Commissioner Black says a similar case was brought to his attention some months ago. A Kentuckian requested to have his pension stopped, and a considerable sum which he had not drawn, returned to the Treasury, as he believed he had fully recovered from his debility.

The facts of the corruptions and extravagance of the Agricultural Department under Dr. Loring exceed far what were pronounced lies or gross exaggerations. The place has now found to have been rotten through and through. Gov. Colman, the new Commissioner, may have hoped to find something to hold on to, but if he did entertain this idea he will have to give it up or suffer in the attempt.

The leading idea of the department appears to have been to spend the appropriations, amounting to nearly three-quarters of a million annually, as lavishly and for as great personal benefits as possible. The facts of the seeds have already been given. That appropriation has been criminally perverted. The sorghum appropriation has been spent in a manner still worse. It would be merciful to call the way it was done the manifestation of ignorance on the part of Loring and his so-called experts. Thousands and thousands have been squandered on criminally ignorant experiments requiring costly machinery, which not even the head expert knew how to use. No beneficial results have been achieved, unless, while setting out intending to improve Prof. Collier's results for which Loring drove him from the department, they sustained them all in spite of themselves, may be called beneficial. What was called science was a little better than the merest charlatanism. What has cost a million is not worth a cent. Ignorance, pretension, speculation and down-right dishonesty are the best that can be imputed to the concern.

## OVERHAULING THE REPUBLICAN RASCALS.

The New York *Sun* says in ordering a searching inquiry into the history of the so-called repairs upon the third-rate man-of-war Mohican, Secretary Whitney begins a task entirely in the interest of truth and justice. We believe that he is the man to carry through the work.

The wooden ship Mohican, of 1,900 tons displacement, was ordered to the Mare Island Navy Yard in 1872 for repairs and reconstruction upon the Robbersonian plan. This vessel was then about fourteen years old. It had originally cost \$333,000 to build her. During the six years immediately preceding the time when Secor Robberson took the Mohican in hand, more than \$237,000 had been expended in repairs on her hull, and more than \$60,000 on her boilers and machinery. This ought to have left the ship in fair condition, to say the least; but Robberson took her out of commission and sent her to Mare Island to be overhauled anew. The process has been going on for thirteen years under Robberson and his successor of the same dynasty. The Mohican is about ready to go to sea, where she will not be of the slightest value either for defensive or offensive naval warfare.

Secretary Whitney says that the aggregate amount of money expended on the Mohican since she was docked in '72 is nearly \$900,000, and that more than two-thirds of this amount has been spent during the administration of his cheerful predecessor, the Hon. William E. Chandler. From Mr. Whitney's statement and the figures already on record, it is easy to compute the total cost of the Mohican as she stands to-day:

Original cost, with machinery	\$ 333,000
Repairs, Bureau of Construction, previous to 1872	237,000
Repairs, Bureau of Steam Engineering, previous to 1872	60,000
Bureau of Equipments, previous to 1872	125,000
Repairs since 1872 and to date	900,000
<b>Total for the Mohican</b>	<b>\$1,655,000</b>

Mr. Whitney says that a new ship of the same character and class could have been built for \$250,000. Startling as this exposure of dishonest extravagance and systematic plundering appears, the Mohican's is only a specimen case. For about fifteen years we have been engaged in exhibiting the fruits of Robbersonism in the Navy Department. The process of rigid and impartial investigation which the first honest and fearless Secretary of the Navy, since 1869 proposes to apply to the Mohican, would reveal in the case of almost every other vessel of the United States, wooden or ironclad, the same disproportion between the money expended and the results obtained for the expenditure.

Mr. Whitney is going to work in the right way. Every honest citizen is with him. Let the whole infamous record of Republican rascality in the Navy Department be uncovered to the light of day.

Gov. Pattison has vetoed the congressional and legislative apportionment bills. If ever the veto power was righteously exercised, this was the time. A more iniquitous measure could not have been hatched. We do not hesitate to say that every member of the legislature who voted for these bills was guilty of perjury after having taken the oath to support the constitution. The apportionments as passed are as clearly unconstitutional as it would have been to pass an act to impair the obligation of contracts. The unconstitutional and iniquitous feature of the bills are so plainly set forth by the governor that any member voting to pass the same over the veto is guilty of double perjury and should be holding open jaws to take him in.

Watches must be scarce in this state, else liars are plenty when the assessor comes around. Pennsylvania has a state tax on watches the result of which, as reported by the secretary of internal affairs, are amusing. The population of the state is about 4,500,000. The number of voters last November was 900,000. But in all this population and this army of voters there were only 45,596 watches—gold, silver and "common." So it would appear that there were last year 4,454,404 Pennsylvanians, not one of whom had a watch.

Reports received by the *Farmer's Review* of Chicago from all the Western and Southern wheat growing States, including the Pacific Coast region, indicate that the outlook for winter sown wheat is the worst in ten years, and under the most favorable conditions will fall considerably under the wheat crop of 1881, when the total product was 380,000,000 bushels. They have received reports from 3,000 correspondents.

A recent act of the legislature, approved by the Governor, permits all to testify in their behalf. While much may be said in favor of it, it may be urged against it that in murder cases it gives the criminal the advantage of his victim who can not appear and tell his side of the story.

## VICTOR HUGO.

In Victor Hugo France has lost her most imposing personality, and a pang of bereavement will be felt by many on this side of the ocean who had learned to honor his majestic genius and his broad humanity. It may well be doubted whether any man of letters ever lived—and we do not except Voltaire or Goethe—who attained in his own lifetime to such a degree of apotheosis, to a recognition so ardent and so nearly world-wide of illustrious achievements in many fields of art and thought. Victor Hugo had reached a kind of primacy; we had almost said pontificate, over the priesthood of the pen, and his position was peculiarly august in this particular, that in him, as in Milton, the poet was impaced with the patriot, the sequestered student of the beautiful with the impassioned orator, the man of letters with the man of action. Victor Hugo's life has been almost coeval with the century of which for many years he was perhaps the most conspicuous and by far the most interesting figure. He has witnessed all the political vicissitudes, the social transformations, the revolutions in literary taste and canons which France has experienced since 1815; and in all of them he was an agent or second cause, as well as a spectator. In politics he had run through the whole gamut of conviction from royalism to socialism; he was successively a pensionary of Louis XVIII, a peer of France under Louis Philippe, a fervent republican in the Legislative Assembly dissolved by Louis Bonaparte, almost a Communist when elected a delegate of a Paris constituency to the Bordeaux Assembly, an advanced, uncompromising radical in the Senate, which he entered nine years before his death. These changes of opinion and of sympathy, in which his enemies professed to find proof of light-headedness or dishonest inconsistency, were really so many stages in his progress toward a ripe and high conception of political ideals and civic duty; and the twenty years of exile, which proclaimed an inexorable protest against the second empire, gave a conclusive answer to the charge of interested aims. Nor was he afterward restrained by prudential motives from a steadfast advocacy of amnesty to the convicted Communists, whose desperate excesses he abhorred, but whose fundamental object, local self-government, he believed to be the keystone of all sound reform in France. He lived to see the work of mercy done, and the last years of Hugo, a fellow laborer at Schoenberg's, a political offender by a touching apostrophe to Louis Philippe, were hallowed by the gratitude of thousands whom his eloquence had rescued from New Caledonia and Cayenne.

As a philanthropist and social enthusiast Victor Hugo had come to be revered by multitudes who would have been indifferent to his work in literature, or, at all events, unqualified to appreciate its striking scope and admirable quality.

## FOUND MURDERED.

*John Irwin Lying Dead by the Roadside With His Throat Cut from Ear to Ear.*

Huntingdon, Pa., May 29.—This community was startled this morning by the discovery that a horrible murder had been committed last night near Warrior's Mark, a small village about twenty miles west of here, the murderer being John Laporte, son of the venerable Judge Laporte, and the victim John Irwin, a fellow laborer at Schoenberg's mines, near Warrior's Mark. The two men had been drinking freely in the village, and left together about dusk, and it is supposed they became embroiled in a fight, which ended fatally. A passer-by found Irwin on the road south of the village with his throat cut from ear to ear, and his face crushed in as if with a club. There is no doubt that the murder was committed by Laporte, but he has not yet been arrested, though it is said he was seen early this morning near his father's farm. No cause for the murder can be assigned by the acquaintances of the two men, who were considered close comrades. Both were unmarried and about 27 years of age. Laporte is regarded by his fellow-laborers at the mines as a very peculiar temperament and it is believed that, inflamed with liquor, he committed the deed while in a violent passion.

At 8 o'clock this evening the accused was brought to town by his father and was lodged in jail. The greatest excitement prevails.

## THE SNYDER MONUMENT.

*Impressive Ceremonies at the Unveiling.*

Selins Grove, Pa., May 27.—The monument of ex-Governor Simon Snyder was unveiled to-day. Governor Pattison, ex-Governor Curtin and Hartranft, Gen. Simon Cameron, as well as several State officials, and the majority of the Legislature arrived shortly before noon, and received by a general salute, the members of the Twelfth Regiment and Grand Army. Gov. Pattison on his arrival was taken to the Missionary Institute, where in a few words he presented the graduating class of the classical department with their diplomas. The unveiling of the monument took place at 2 o'clock, the stars and stripes, with which it was surrounded, being removed by Miss Mary Snyder, a grand-daughter of the deceased governor. Gov. Pattison then in the behalf of the State transferred the monument, which is a very handsome one, to the custody of the citizens, and it was received by A. W. Potter, Esq. The oration of the day was then delivered by ex-Governor Curtin. Gen. Simon Cameron and several others made brief addresses, and the sermon delivered in German at the grave of the deceased Governor in 1819 was read by J. P. Shin del, Jr., a son of the minister who wrote it.

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## MINISTER CURTIN'S FIVE YEARS' SERVICE AT ST. PETERSBURG.

*His First Encounter With Gortschakoff—Resenting an Insult from the French Minister—Curtin's Interview with Napoleon III.—The Czar's Present of a Portrait by Bonnat.*

[Special Correspondence of the World.]

Washington, May 23.—Andrew G. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, was for five years our Minister to St. Petersburg. He was there during the period of the French-Prussian war. Some of his reminiscences have been topics of entertainment at the dinners in Washington, where Mr. Curtin is always one of the most welcomed guests. He has a very rich fund of experience. His friends are urging him to write his memories covering the period of his service as war Governor and as a Minister abroad. Mr. Curtin says that his position in St. Petersburg cost him about twelve thousand dollars a year more than his salary. There is no place in Europe where it is more important for the Minister to keep up a certain scale of expenditures in order to maintain a good social footing at this place. One of the earlier incidents of Curtin's career at St. Petersburg occurred at a dinner where Gortschakoff, the Chancellor of the Russian Empire, sat opposite to him. Mr. Curtin was unknown to most of the guests. Gortschakoff began talking to him in a very abrupt brusque fashion about the Alabama Claims Commission, which had just been established. "It will never succeed," said he. "You Americans are always getting up some new thing. The principle of it is opposed to every tradition of European diplomacy. Have you read the English press upon it?" "Yes," said the Governor. "I have read what they have to say. But it is barely possible that they are mistaken." The Chancellor did not drop the subject, but said, "Have you seen the speech of Lord John Russell in which he denounces the commission as a humbug?" Curtin had been listening with a very mild air to all this talk. He now turned upon the Chancellor. He said with great abruptness and dignity: "Yes, I have read his speech. I also remember his speech denouncing your plan for suppressing the Polish insurrection. Your reply to him then was so overwhelming that it took away from him completely the little he ever had." At this all of the guests applauded, and Gortschakoff was quite content to drop the subject.

Upon another occasion soon after this Curtin attended an evening reception given by the French Minister, General Fleury. Gen. Fleury was then the right arm of Napoleon III. He had a salary of \$75,000 a year as Minister and an allowance of \$50,000 besides for entertaining. More than this, he was allowed to draw for what sums he needed for extra entertainments. He occupied an entire palace and entertained upon the most lavish style. Gov. Curtin when he entered found the large rooms of the palace filled with brilliantly uniformed officials. He was in plain evening dress and attracted but little attention in the gayly dressed crowd. When he advanced to be presented to the Minister and Mme. Fleury, Gen. Fleury bowed slightly and did not speak to him. Mme. Fleury bowed very coldly and said nothing. The Governor stood in a very awkward position for a moment or two and then he wheeled about and marched back into the general salon. The marked coolness of his reception made a good deal of gossip among his diplomatic associates who were acquainted with him. One of them came up to him and asked him what was the matter. He said he did not know, but one thing was very certain—he would never cross the threshold of the French Minister's house again. He had his carriage called and returned at once to his own quarters. This affair created great excitement among the diplomats. It was immediately huzzed about that the American Minister, on account of the rudeness of his reception, had gone away in a great rage, vowing he never would return. The next morning a secretary of the French Legation called upon Mr. Curtin. He called, he said, for the purpose of apologizing for the manner of his reception the night before. Mr. Curtin said that no apology was necessary, and very diplomatically refused to acknowledge that there was any cause for grievance. Finally the Secretary asked him if he would receive General Fleury. He replied that he would, if the French Minister. A few moments after General Fleury arrived. Then came Mme. Fleury. They told the Minister that he was unknown to them by sight, and when he came in plain evening dress they thought that he was some wandering English tourist. Their regrets were so warm and earnest that Mr. Curtin became very thoroughly reconciled.

They became quite intimate afterwards. Towards the close of the war between France and Germany Gov. Curtin gave a dinner, at which Gen. Fleury and wife were the honored guests. During the dinner a dispatch was brought in to the French Minister. He opened and read it and handed it to Mr. Curtin without a word. It was the dispatch announcing the surrender of Napoleon III. at Sedan. Fleury at once left the house. He was obliged to leave St. Petersburg almost immediately. Notwithstanding his large income he was head over heels in debt. He was obliged to sell everything down to his wife's furs to satisfy these debts. In St. Petersburg they have a custom when a member of the Diplomatic Corps goes away for his associates to go down to the station with flowers and presents to give him a brilliant send-off. The morning of the Fleury's departure Gov. Curtin and his wife purchased a huge bouquet of flowers and drove to the station. When they arrived there they found the once popular Minister and his wife alone. Not a single one of the people whom they had so lavishly entertained in Petersburg had come down to see them off. Mme. Fleury came up to Mr. Curtin with tears in her eyes as she

said: "You are the only one of our old associates who had the kindness of heart to remember us this morning, and you of all others, who thought when you first met us that we were rude and insulting in our manner of greeting you."

Some time after this Mr. Curtin went to London for a little rest and change. Napoleon III. was then at Chiselhurst. During Curtin's stay in London Chiselhurst Wyckoff called on him. He asked if he would like to call upon the ex-Emperor. Mr. Curtin replied that he would not think of calling upon him without receiving an intimation from Napoleon that he wished to see him. The next day one of the aids-de-camp of Napoleon called upon him and asked him to visit the ex-Emperor at his earliest convenience. Mr. Curtin named 3 o'clock the next day. He was received with a great deal of warmth. The ex-Emperor talked for a long time about his own career, his poverty, his former life in London and his visit to New York. Finally, after nearly two hours of talk he came to the real point of his desire to see Mr. Curtin. He said to him, "You are on intimate terms with Gortschakoff. Have you any objection to telling me what are his real views upon the subject of the re-establishment of the Empire?" "I know what his sentiments upon this subject are," said Mr. Curtin. "They are of such a nature that I do not feel at liberty to communicate them to you." "I understand you," said the ex-Emperor, "and an much obliged to you for your civility in calling."

Gortschakoff's opinion, which Curtin withheld, had been very vigorously expressed. He said that this "damned French scoundrel" should never have any help from him in getting back his throne, as he regarded him as a man dangerous to the peaceful condition of affairs in Europe. When Curtin returned to St. Petersburg Gortschakoff invited him to dinner. During the dinner he said to Curtin, "You have been away." "Yes, in London." "You saw many people there." "Yes, I saw some distinguished people." "Yes, I saw some prominent American friends of mine." "I am told that you also saw the man upon whose arrival at Washington. Owing to the trouble then existing between the State Department and Minister Catacazy, no official notice was taken of the Grand Duke. Novakoff, a friend of Curtin's, came to him and said: 'The authorities are thinking of sending you your passports. It will be nothing personal to you. You must not take it as a desire to get rid of you. We want you to consent to go to Constantinople for a time and then return.' "No, sir," said Curtin, "I am here as the representative of the United States. If my passports are sent me I shall go home." Novakoff then arranged a dinner at which Gortschakoff was present. At this informal repast Curtin was able to explain a good many things about the Catacazy affair that he could not have done officially. It was to his explanation that the recall of the Minister was due.

When Minister Curtin came to leave Russia and called upon the Czar to bid him farewell, the Emperor expressed great regret. He asked him if he would not consent to remain longer. Curtin replied that his health would not permit and that his personal interests demanded his return. The Emperor in his anxiety to have him remain offered him the use of one of his palaces in the Livadia, in the southern part of Russia, during the winter, so he could escape the severe season in St. Petersburg. Mr. Curtin insisted upon going, however. When the Emperor saw that his decision was not to be changed, he said, "I desire to give you some testimonial of my friendship." The Minister replied that under the laws of his country he could receive nothing. The Emperor then said, "I have a portrait of myself painted by Bonnat. I had intended it for the Emperor. But I want to give it to you for the property of yourself and your family." "If you give it to me in my official capacity it will have to go to the State Department," said Mr. Curtin. The Emperor said, "I do not intend it for any department. Give me your home address and I will send it to you after you have retired from official life."

Some months after Mr. Curtin received notice from the commanding officer of a Russian war vessel at the port of New York that he had a package for him. The package was brought from New York to Philadelphia and exhibited at Earl's, where it attracted a great deal of attention. One day Simon Cameron, Curtin's most vigorous enemy, came into the gallery. He looked at the picture for a moment and then said: "Does old Curtin say that the Emperor gave him that picture?" "Yes," said Mr. Earl.

"Well, I will bet," said Cameron, "that he either stole it or had a poor copy made so as to use it here at home for political effect."

After this pleasant remark of Cameron's the autograph letter of the Emperor Alexander conveying the portrait to Mr. Curtin as a mark of his esteem and friendship was exhibited alongside of the picture. It is one of the best of the celebrated painter's pictures and in itself is an object of great mercantile value.

## DISCIPLINE IN THE CHINESE ARMY.

A Shanghai correspondent of the London and China Telegraph, writing recently thus reports: "I am told that the garrison of the Woosung forts is to be re-inforced by 4,000 men, who will march to their posts in a day or two. A few Chinese soldiers passed through the settlement in full panoply of war—that is, all of them had umbrellas opened to keep their jackets dry, as they marched in the rain. Some of them had rifles on their shoulders in any way but the right one, more of them had flags with which to scare the French. They were most of them fine fellows, but lack the very essentials of making them formidable to the peasantry in the neighborhood of their camp. The lack of discipline is a fruitful cause of trouble in the Chinese army; officers are often unfit for their positions and unable to control the men under them by gentle means, but they are willing to use harsh ones. Flogging is quite common in the Chinese camp, and there appears to be no limit to the number of strokes an offender may receive; for any infraction of the rules of propriety any number of strokes from 50 to 500, or even 5,000 may be given. I have often seen 2,000 administered to a man for slight offense. Sometimes the flogger himself gets licked for being too gentle in the use of his bamboo. Of course a long continued beating on the fleshy part of the thighs, however gentle soon beats the flesh into a black and denuded mass, which is often broken and bleeding, and takes along time to cure. The marks generally remain during life, but that is a matter of small consideration to officers who have themselves suffered such punishments. Sometimes the officers appear to have a desire of avenging themselves on the unfortunate members of their corps, as an atonement for the wrongs they have themselves suffered. Cutting off a finger or an ear, sometimes the lips, is resorted to as a punishment for slight offenses. Many Chinese officers have but one ear."

## AN IRISHMAN'S DEVOTION.

The following anecdote, taken from "Passages in the Early Military Life of Gen. Sir George T. Napier, K. C. B.," written by himself, bears high testimony both to the influence which George Napier—of the famous brothers—had acquired over his men and the affection they bore him. He was lying wounded after leading a gallant attack on the enemy. "My servant came and told me that John Dunn, an Irishman whom I had enlisted several years before, wished to see me. When he came into the room he immediately said, 'Oh, captain, but I'm come to see how you and your brother is after the wounds! Didn't I see you knocked over by the Frenchman's shot? And sure I thought you were kilt! But myself knew you wouldn't be pleased if I didn't folly on after the villains, so I was afeared to go pick you up when you was kilt, long life to you! But I pursued the inim' as long as I was able, and sure I couldn't do no more; and now I'm come to see your honor, long life to you again!' I shook hands with him, and said: 'But, John, you seem wounded yourself. Why is your arm tied up?' 'Oh, nothing at all to prevent me from coming to see your honor and your honor's brother lying there, Captain William, long life to him! I hope he is not dead.' Upon insisting to know if he was wounded, at last he replied, 'Why, sure it's nothing; only me arrum was cut off a few hours ago below the elbow-joint, and I couldn't come till the anguish was over a bit. But now I'm here and thank God your honor's arrum is not cut off, for it's mighty cruel work! I'd rather be shot twenty times, though the doctor told me he did it aisy too, long life to his honor. I'm sure he didn't mean to hurt me all he could help.' I then asked him for his brother, who was also a recruit of mine and in the company, and an uncommonly fine handsome soldier as ever stepped, and who was a particular favorite of mine. He hesitated a few moments and, heaving a convulsive sob, said, 'I see him shot through the heart along-side wid me just as I got the shot myself, and he looked up piteously in my face and said, 'Oh, John dear, my poor mother!' And sure I couldn't look at him again for the life of me; my heart was broke, and I came away to the rear. But he died like a soldier, as your honor would wish him to die, and sure that's enough. He had your favor while he lived. God be wid him, he's gone now!'"

"The babe's in the wood," remarked a spanner, at the same time pointing to an infant sleeping in its cradle.

Life has no significance to me save as the theatre in which my powers are developed and disciplined for use, and made fruitful in securing my own independence and the good of those around me, or as the scene in which I am fitted for the work and worship of the world beyond.