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NO. 11

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ, Editor.

1887
DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMITTEE.

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Belleville	7th W	Thomas Frazier
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Belleville	14th W	Hiram Grove
Belleville	15th W	William Keen
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Belleville	32nd W	John H. Beck
Belleville	33rd W	G. J. Woodring
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H. Y. Sitzer, Secretary. JAMES A. McCLAIN, Chairman.

A hundred thousand dollars are said to be in Albany to defeat high license.

This is about the time of the year that winter begins to linger in the lap of spring. Most folks would be pleased if the courtship would cease or gray old winter leave before the wee small hours.

The suit of the Government against the Bell telephone company began in the U. S. Circuit court in Boston on Monday to annul two patents on the ground that Bell was not the original inventor and were fraudulently obtained. Hello! hope it will be "good bye" Bell.

A revenue proposition in which the counties would be benefitted was discussed in the legislature a few days ago the bill provides that half the monies received as tax on personal property shall go to the State, and the other half to the counties. Some of the country members think the State is not entitled to so much of this money, and Mr. Peoples of Lancaster offered an amendment that two thirds of it be turned into the county treasuries.

The Sultan of Morocco has turned reformer and prohibited the sale or purchase of intoxicants of all kinds, and has abolished the State tobacco monopoly. The Moorish tobacco and snuff shops have been closed. Large quantities of leaf tobacco have been publicly burned by the Sultan's order. Several Moors have been stripped and flogged through the streets for smoking in defiance of the Sultan's order. The populace of Morocco can see no sense in the Sultan's commands, are angry at his interference with their habits, and a-ert that the prohibitions are enforced only against the poor.

Ex-Gov. Curtin, before he left Washington for his home, did a graceful and touching act which will go far to heal the wounds between ex-confederate soldiers and the old war Governors. Governor Curtin's most intimate friend in the House was General Oates, of Alabama, who was a flashing Confederate officer. He was one who followed Lee in his campaign through Pennsylvania, and to-day carries an armless sleeve as an evidence of his presence at Gettysburg. Governor Curtin when Minister to St. Petersburg, was presented with a handsome and valuable pair of sleeve buttons by the Czar of Russia. Not long since one of the buttons was lost.

One morning the two men met at Chamberlin's, when Governor Curtin took from his pocket the remaining button. Asking for the armless sleeve of the Confederate General, the Governor gracefully placed the button in the shirt cuff and said to General Oates that he desired to leave with a memento that as upon the soil of Pennsylvania, and perhaps with a Pennsylvania gun in the hands of a Pennsylvania soldier, he had lost his arm, he wanted to present him with the button as an evidence that he, as the Executive of the State at the time of the struggle had forgotten the past and would bind the wounds of his foes with ribbons of love and good fellowship.

General Oates, though brave as a lion, showed the gentleness of a woman after looking first at the little trophy and then at the old war Governor and could not restrain his tears. They bade each other an affectionate farewell, and Mr. Curtin started for the train to carry him to his rural home, forever to retire from the stage of public life, where he has been a prominent actor for nearly a half a century.

THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

The bill appropriating \$15,000 annually to each state having an agricultural college, for the support of an agricultural experiment station passed both houses of congress and will receive the signature of the President. Dr. Atherton, of the State College is the author of the bill and it was drawn to meet the necessities of the farmers of the country. The modern farmer is much in advance of his predecessors of a hundred years ago, and the farmer of the 20th century will be largely in advance of the farmers of the present day. Agriculture is a science and its principles are becoming fixed. Our agricultural institutions have always been limited in their usefulness by the prejudices of the farmers themselves. That prejudice is gradually wearing away as the college grows into the confidence of the farmer. The establishment of an experimental station will be of vast importance to the farmers of our state, as the law requires that the results be published for the benefit of that class. Dr. Atherton is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts in this matter, as he has worked tirelessly to accomplish it.

AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

The most important as well as significant movement yet undertaken by or in behalf of the negroes, is that reported from Virginia which has for its aim organization for independent political action. The movement is under the leadership of E. A. Randolph, a prominent colored lawyer of Richmond, and in order to give it force and effect a convention of those interested has been called to meet in Danville during the first week in May.

Mr. Randolph says in his announcement that the colored people have dealt too extensively in politics and too little in business and he draws the inference that had the conditions been reversed the material interests of the race would have been promoted.

It is the duty of every citizen to participate in the political affairs of the community and what the colored people want to do is not to refrain from politics but to make their participation in it intelligent as well as active.

THE INDIANA DEMOCRATS IN THE RIGHT.

The case of Smith against Robertson to determine the question of the disputed lieutenant governorship was finally settled on the 14th, so far as the courts are concerned, when the Supreme court denied Smith's petition for a rehearing. The court holds in effect that the general assembly is the only tribunal competent to pass upon the question.

The little town of Punxsutawney, Jefferson county, is booming in the way of railroads, coal mines and coke ovens, and promises to rival the famous Conneville region before many years. Three years ago there was not a coke oven in that county, and coal mining was only done on a moderate scale. But things have changed, and to-day Punxsutawney and for a radius of several miles north and west of it the most active operations have been and are now in progress. The Walston mines have 500 ovens in operation, and 200 additional ovens will be built this spring. The company employs between 700 and 800 with an average monthly pay roll of \$15,000. The population of the village, which has sprung up with the past 3 yrs. is now over 2,000 and 100 houses are in course of erection for the miners to live in. At Atron, 500 coke ovens will be built within the next 30 days. Last Fall Fisher & Co., of Huntingdon, Pa. purchased 3,000 acres of coal land two miles west of Punxsutawney, and will begin operations just as soon as the Bell's Gap Railroad from Mehaffy's is completed. The superintendent of the railroad, Mr. Ford, will put 1,000 men to work this week on the grades and expects to be hauling coal and coke over it within four months. White-head & Co. have purchased between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of coal land four miles north of Punxsutawney. A branch will be run from their property to Reynoldsville, and connect with the low grade division at the latter point.

The Republicans of the legislature are offering an appropriation that is to cut the Democratic chances of electing congressmen down to nothing, and none at all in Philadelphia. Democrats must walk whenever the Republicans have the power to do it. We can't blame the Republicans—but what are we to think of pretended Democrats who will help out Republicans in office and power in preference to good and competent Democrats? Go away with such fellows.

There is one grand consolation, that after the legislature has adjourned, one will have the satisfaction of seeing the Legislative Record bumbling through the mails three months after.

THE LAW OF LICENSE.

AN ABLE OPINION BY JUDGE CUMMIN, OF LYCOMING COUNTY.

Judge Hugh H. Cummin on Saturday, in granting and rejecting applications for license, in Williamsport, gave an important general opinion that is considered a noteworthy one by the bar, and is favorably commented on by everyone as being the ablest and most concise exposition of the law that has ever been uttered by the bench. In suspending a number of applications for further information and consideration the court delivered substantially the following opinion:

"Notwithstanding much has been said from time to time by the courts on the subject of contested licenses, there still remains much apprehension and haziness about the real point at issue in such cases. Courts are just as much bound to grant licenses in proper cases as they are to refuse licenses in improper cases. Courts do not make the law. Their only function is to administer it. What are the questions involved in a contested license case? The applicant must, in the manner prescribed, present in his petition the following facts: First, that he is a person of good repute for honesty and temperance; second, that he has accommodations required by law; third, that his house is necessary to accommodate the public and to entertain strangers and travelers.

"The statute also provides that it shall be lawful for the court to hear remonstrances against such application. It followed that such remonstrances must traverse all or some of the facts alleged in the petition, and should, in substance, at least, set forth that the applicant is not a person of good repute for honesty and temperance, or that the applicant has not the accommodations required by law, or that the applicant's house is not necessary to accommodate the public and to entertain strangers.

"Thus we discover that the questions to be determined are questions of fact, not questions of political economy, not questions of morality, not matters of sentiment. The points before stated are the only ones that can arise in the controversy, and are the only ones the court can pass upon. This is true not only from the manner of the procedure, but because the statute of April 14, 1859, section 1, decides 'that the several courts of quarter sessions empowered to grant licenses shall have and exercise such discretion and no other.'

"The point of issue being thus clearly defined, how shall the facts on which the case is to be presented? This is easily answered as to the first and second points, because they are susceptible of positive proof, but how shall they be presented as to the third point? The necessity of the house? Just here it may be observed that on this point the court is not called upon, nor has it authority, to decide whether it is better that such public houses should or should not sell intoxicating drinks. The only question before the court is whether such licensed house is necessary for the accommodation of the public, and the entertainment of strangers and travelers.

"When the application is for a house not before licensed, perhaps the only evidence of its necessity is to be found in the papers filed, having due regard to the number and character of the petitioners and remonstrants. Such a case, however, should not be determined by merely counting the number of petitioners and the number of remonstrants, and deciding in accordance with the preponderance of numbers. That method would clearly meet the important rule, viz, the characters of the signers. By the word character, as here used, is not meant only the moral or religious standing of the signers, but their probable knowledge of the subject on which they speak and their ability to form an opinion thereon.

"When persons sign a petition for or a remonstrance against a license, touching the point of the necessity of the house, they say to the court 'We know what public houses are needed for the accommodation of the public and the entertainment of strangers and travelers in our township, ward or borough, and we have the ability to form and express an opinion on that subject.' On this the signers have some knowledge of that subject, and some ability to form an opinion thereon, and do form an opinion. Signatures to the petition or remonstrance are therefore to be valued by their number, by the character of the signers, and having regard to their knowledge of the subject and their ability to form an opinion thereon."

The house congressional appointment committee have made a report. It makes all the districts in Philadelphia Republican, which throws out Randall. The 21 district is composed of Centre, Clinton, Clearfield, Elk, Forest and Clarion. Union falls into a Republican district. Of the gerrymander 20 are Republican, 7 Democratic, and 1 doubtful, Schuylkill.

THE BRIDGE GAVE WAY.

AN AWFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT NEAR BOSTON.

Boston, March 14.—A horrible railroad accident occurred on the Boston and Providence railroad this morning, by which twenty-four persons were killed and one hundred and fourteen injured. It was the 7 o'clock train from Dedham with its freight of workmen, business men and shop girls hurrying toward this city. The train was made up of nine passenger coaches and a baggage car. Just on the other side of the Forrester Hills station is the Buzzeby bridge which runs obliquely with the track on either side. The engine and three cars passed safely over the bridge but when the next car touched the abutment there was a tremor felt and in an instant the end of the bridge gave way, and the third car breaking through went down dragging all the remaining cars with it.

The first car was turned completely over, and the one immediately following it broke through and smashed it into pieces. Then came the other cars, tumbling one after another into the street, a distance of fifty feet at least. Those in the forward car that went down never lived to know what happened. They were mangled and squeezed up in horrible shapes. The other cars were horribly mixed up with sleepers, rails, heaters, &c. It is supposed that more were killed by the cars falling into each other than by the force of the fall itself.

The last three cars that went through remained fastened together and with the rails remaining in an inclined position. When the accident took place those in the inclined cars escaped on hands and knees to the street. In the two cars on the ground those who were wedged in between seats were taken out, together with those who were already dead, were laid on the temporary cots. Those who were able to speak told their names but many were there who could not articulate a syllable.

As the dead were removed they were laid in a row on the stone wall, while the wounded were laid on cushions which were hastily gathered together.

About 30 persons were killed and over 100 wounded.

A curious feature of the disaster is the fact that the entire bridge went down with the wreck. Not a scrap of iron remained attached to the abutments, and but for the chasm and the awful wreck beneath there was nothing to indicate that a bridge had once spanned the abyss.

Congressman Scott predicts a tight money market this spring.

The Pittsburgh Post in its new dress and 8 page form, is an improvement up with the times in journalism. The Post is an excellent paper, and is a power in western Pennsylvania.

Curtin leaves congress with the regret of many of his fellow members. He won distinction on the floor; his social qualities and affable disposition, with the ever readiness to tell "a good one," will make his absence felt among the national lawmakers when congress meets again.

Picked Up by a Revenue Cutter.

NORFOLK, Va., March 13.—The three-masted schooner Clara E. Colcord, Capt. E. B. Colcord, from Cardenas to Philadelphia, with a cargo of molasses, has arrived here in tow of the revenue cutter Hamilton. Capt. Colcord reports that at 5 o'clock yesterday morning, in a squall off Fenwick's Island, he lost both the main and mizzen masts, which came down on the house, crushing it and doing other damage to the wheel and deck. The wreckage went over the side and he was compelled to cut it loose with all the rigging and sails attached. At 9:30 o'clock this morning he was picked up by the revenue cutter.

WESTERLY, R. I., March 13.—Isaac Weir and Jack Williams, both of Boston, fought so a finish. The "Spider" won after thirty-six hard fought rounds, which occupied two hours and twenty-two minutes. The fight was for a purse of \$300 and an outside bet of \$500 a side, with the stipulation neither man should weigh more than 120 pounds the day before the fight. It was agreed that neither principal should bring more than nine men, including seconds to see the fight. Weir had recovered entirely from the injury to his left hand, which caused a postponement of the fight from March 3. He weighed 119 pounds.

The Baby and the Scales. A Waterbury mother weighed her newborn babe each week after birth, and was much gratified to note a regular increase of a pound and a half each week. This week, however, no gain was perceptible, and the mother took alarm, and with it the conceit that the child was pale and thin. Her husband let in a load of light upon her, disturbed mind when he pointed out that the baby had passed the limit of the scales and could not show further increase.

She Knew the President.

According to the Washington Post a little six-year-old daughter of a Senator, who has frequently accompanied her father to the White House on business, saw the mistress of the mansion for the first time at her reception. "I never had so pleasant a meeting as before," Miss Cleveland, she whispered when she got a chance to speak to the lady confidentially, "but I am very well acquainted with our husband."

THE LAST SOLEMN RITES.

Services at Plymouth Church Over the Departed Pastor.

BROOKLYN, March 12.—Brooklyn was a city of mourning. The death of no public man of late years, not excepting ex-President Grant, has so stirred up a manifold sympathy of grief. Business was practically suspended. The courts were closed, the schools closed, business in the city and county departments ceased. The public buildings are draped in mourning—an unusual thing when the man for whom the mourning is displayed is a private citizen—and though the city are publicly displayed evidences of grief. Two hours before the time set down for the funeral services to begin in Plymouth church the streets were filled with well-dressed men and women, and at 9 o'clock the plain front of Plymouth church was looking down upon a throng such as had never before, of any kind, gathered within its precincts. Citizens of all grades and sects were there. Clergymen, lawyers, bankers, men about town and politicians all jostled each other in an attempt to get into the edifice where the body of the man, who for more than a generation had been the spiritual father of his city, lay for an hour, regardless of the sharp March wind and the clouds of dust that swept up the narrow street, the crowd, too large by hundreds to be accommodated in the church, stood and waited.

The services at the church were begun promptly at 10 o'clock. During the service there was much grief shown, and the prayer of the assistant pastor was very touching. The order of the services was as follows:

While Dr. Hall was speaking the vast audience sat in an almost oppressive silence, and then there was a rattle of hands across the sound came from all parts of the house. The feelings of all seemed to be in unison. Dr. Hall said in part:

"The hand that rests so still yonder, laid aside the pen over a page of the unfinished 'Life of Christ.' Possibly the last flash of that great conviction great revelation, him of the probable end of life was that his work was to be left unfinished—that he had not told men all that he would have them know of that precious revelation. Mr. Beecher has been a man of the people, Christward. We remind you that though the English-speaking race to-day mourns his loss, the American people, the Americans feel that he has been a great leader or adviser in the guidance of all manner of substantial interests, though the legislation of the state has passed him an unusual honor—of adjournment, as his right, though the presses and divines and orators of all degrees are trying to compass the lightly grief that we have had him with us so long—and have lost him—yet as he lies there so quiet, we may look at him as one apostle of one supreme thought, a preacher of the everlasting gospel of the ever living Christ."

The Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, who was counted by the most intimate friends of the deceased, said:

The Roman Colosseum, the largest amphitheatre in the world, capable of holding 80,000 people, would not have been large enough to hold all the persons who would to-day like to have attended these funeral rites, and hence these overflow meetings, the disposition to speak well of the dead. It is a mean thing in human nature that we are apt to postpone until after their decease the praise that were due the living. Post mortem eulogies are often an attempt to make amends for anle-market injuries. There will be two ears that to-day will not hear one word of appreciation and there will be two eyes that will not read one word of complimentary journalism—the eyes, the ears; of the mighty man for whose obsequies we are convoked. We commit his immortal spirit to the bosom of a living God. It is a beautiful thing in human nature, the disposition to speak well of the dead. It is a mean thing in human nature that we are apt to postpone until after their decease the praise that were due the living. 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