The Huntingdon Journal.

J. R. DURBORROW, - - - - - EDITOR

HUNTINGDON, PENN'A.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 7, 1874.

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OUR TRADE WITH CUBA.

The December number of *The Republic*, a magazine published at Washington, D. C., contains an interesting article on "The Cuban Problem," in which, after a brief reference to the Virginius affair, the general question of the future of Cuba is discussed with great ability. The following report of our commerce with that island will be read with interest:

Complete official returns for the first year ending June 30, 1872, the latest yearly returns published, are now before us. During that year the Havana published reports show that of the 306,220 hogsheads of molasses exported from the island the United States took 296,987 hogsheads, or 97 per cent. of the entire export of that article leaving only 9,233 hogsheads, or 3 per cent. for all other purchasers. Of these, Great Britain and her colonies received 8,139 hogsheads; north of Europe, 264; and all other ports, 780 hogsheads. During the same period the United States received from Cuba sugar to the amount of 1,041,065 boxes, while Spain received only one-seventh of that amount. Our entire purchases of goods from Cuba during the year amounted in value to $67,720,205, or 85 per cent. of the entire export of this island; while at the same time, owing to the restrictions and impediments imposed by Spain, the purchases of American goods by Cuba amounted in value to only $13,168,958, leaving a balance against us amounting to $54,551,274.—The duty on American flour in Cuba, for example, until quite recently, was $10 50 per barrel, and even now shippers assert that "it is more profitable to send flour from New York to Spain, and thence to Cuba, than to ship it direct from the United States to Havana." Under unrestricted Cuban ports and markets the annual exchange in amount of American flour for Cuban sugar would be not very far from equal in value. As it is, we paid Cuba during the fiscal year, for the item of sugar alone, within a fraction of $50,000,000, while for flour Cuba paid us a fraction over $1,000,000.

We have just received the returns of the exports from Cuba for the first seven months of 1873, ending July 31, as published in the Havana *Weekly Review* on the 27th of September last. Omitting fractions, the following are the relative proportions of sugar and molasses purchased by each country during the seven months: The United States took 67 per cent. of the entire export of these two articles; Great Britain and her colonies, 15 per cent.; France, 1 per cent.; South of Europe, 5 per cent.; North of Europe, 1 per cent.; all other parts, 2 per cent. Thus, we take over three-fourth of the entire export of these staple goods, against all impediments, while Spain is not named at all among the list of purchasers! As a State in the Union, in the circle of production, essential to a home supply, always sure and independent of foreign interference, it is justly claimed that Cuba can fill nobly the remaining gap with her coffee, cocoa, and tropical fruits. In this, too, she would serve all her sister States, for she would sell to every one, and buy of every one, which is not true of the special product of any other State. She would also add as much as the Union really needs of sugar lands, and would make that henceforth a strong and distinct feature in the national balance of interests.

Since the publication of *The Republic*, from which the above was copied, the Bureau of Statistics at Washington has collected and published complete returns of our trade with Cuba for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1873. The purchases of sugar in Cuba by our merchants amounted to the enormous sum, during the year, of $54,076,574. During the same period we paid them $9,676,544 for segars and tobacco, while their purchases of flour from us amounted to only $708,249. During the year our importation of goods from Cuba, of their own production alone, amounted to $77,365,749, while their purchases from us, during the same period, amounted to only $15,231,039. The commerce of the island is sustained almost exclusively by the United States. As a State in the American Union Cuba would be relieved of its enormous commercial restrictions, and would bound into immediate prosperity, while the balance of trade between the island and the other States would be equalized, and increased largely in amount.

☞ After this issue of our paper we design to establish a literary department, wherein short, original notices, of the leading periodicals, will appear from month to month, with notices of the contemplated issuing of books, by such houses as may favor us with an exchange of courtesies, as well as of all books received. This department will be under the control of A. B. Brumbaugh, M. D., who is better informed upon current English literature than any other man in the county owing to his occupying a similar position upon the *Pilgrim*. The lovers of books can thus, without extra expense, learn early the intentions of publishers and profit by the Doctor's criticisms. All matter pertaining to this department will be addressed to A. B. Brumbaugh, M. D., Box 12, Huntingdon, Pa.

☞ The Spaniards surrendered the steamer Virginius and the survivors of her crew since our last paper. She was surrendered in a leaking condition in the Brazilian port of Bahia Honda. On her trip from that place to New York she foundered, off Cape Fear, and went to the bottom. This ends the Virginius.

A NEW VOLUME.

The Past, the Present and the Future.

With this issue of the JOURNAL we commence the fourth volume under the present management. We desire to present to our readers a few facts and suggestions covering the entire period of its publication:

The HUNTINGDON JOURNAL was started in 1835, by A. W. Benedict, the first number being issued on the 23d day of September of that year. The press and materials were purchased from WM. Orbison, esq., who had retained them for the rent of the building in which a former paper had been published, which from some cause or other had been discontinued, leaving the proprietor insolvent. This and a few other facts, which follow, show that the JOURNAL was started under circumstances not the most promising. There had been several attempts at establishing a paper here in opposition to the Democratic party which was then in power in the National and State Goverments, none of which proved successful. There were at the date above given, two other papers in Huntingdon, the *Advocate and the †Gazette, both Democratic, the former advocating the re-election of Gov. Wolf, and the latter the election of Henry A. Muhlenberg, the Democracy of the State being divided on these two candidates for Governor. The JOURNAL was started to advocate the election of Joseph Ritner to the office of Governor. At the last preceeding election for Governor the county had given a majority of 532 for Ritner, but at the Presidential election, a month afterwards, Jackson had a small majority (69) in the county, which of course elated the Democrats and depressed the opposition, whose candidate was William Wirt. In 1835 with the help of the JOURNAL, the county gave Ritner a majority of 1231. This, it must be remembered, was before the erection of Blair county, the greater portion of which was taken from Huntingdon county.

Mr. Benedict, the founder of the JOURNAL, was we believe, a native of Orange county, New York, the youngest son of a Presbyterian clergyman who had removed from Connecticut to that county. Mr. B. learned the art of printing in New York, and was afterwards engaged in the Book and Job printing business in Philadelphia, for several years, and had taken an active part in the politics of the city and county of Philadelphia; thus bringing considerable experience in political warfare with him, and the JOURNAL at once took a high rank among the papers of its party in the interior of the State. With a little experience in editorial life he soon became a vigorous and adroit writer, and the files of the JOURNAL show that he had many a sharp passage with his editorial cotemporaries of the *Advocate* and *Gazette* in which he utterly vanquished his adversaries.

In 1838 David R. Porter, "our own Davy R.," as the Huntingdon Democrats delighted to call him, became the Democratic candidate for Governor against Gov. Ritner. The bitter contest which ensued brought the JOURNAL to the front still more prominently, and its circulation during the campaign extended to all parts of the State; and its editorials were copied into other papers very extensively. In that contest Huntingdon county gave Ritner a majority of 926. Mr. B. continued to publish the JOURNAL till January, 1842—six years and about four months, when the paper may be said to have been fully *established*. He then sold out to Theo. H. Cremer.

A brief sketch of the subsequent life of the founder of the JOURNAL will not be considered out of place here. After disposing of the paper, Mr. Benedict turned his attention to the study of law; was afterwards admitted and practiced in the Courts of this county, with a few interuptions, till the time of his death, which took place on the 28th day of April, 1867. At various times he held the following offices: In 1836 he was appointed Collector of tolls on the Canal at this place which office he held for a year or two. In Jan. 1843 he was appointed County Commissioner by the Court to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Robert Moore. He filled the office of Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth during the Administration of Gov. Johnston; was elected to the Legislature in 1862; and was subsequently elected Clerk of the House of Representatives, which office he held at the time of his death. He also held various Borough offices during his eventful life. He was one of the most respected and influential of our citizens, and his death was regretted by all.

Mr. Cremer conducted the JOURNAL for three years and upwards, from January 1842, in which time he improved the mechanical appearance and kept up the circulation and reputation of the paper.—In August, 1845, he sold out to James Clark, who issued his first number on the 20th of that month and year, and continued to publish it until the time of his death, which occurred on the 23d day of March, 1851.

Mr. Clark was a whole-souled, ardent Whig, who devoted himself, heart and hand, to the good cause which he espoused. He was the only editor of the JOURNAL who died at his post, and therefore the following extract from the JOURNAL which announced his death will not be considered out of place here:

"Mr. Clark was born in Dauphin county, Pa., on the 9th day of February, 1818, and was, on the day of his death, aged 33 years, 1 month and 14 days.—He learned the art and mystery of printing in Harrisburg, under the instruction of his elder brother, Samuel H. Clark, esq. In August, 1845, he removed to this place and became the editor of the JOURNAL, and continued such until the time of his death. As a mark of confidence and esteem, he was, on the 11th of January, 1849, appointed Aid-de-Camp to Governor Johnston, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel. As conductor of a political paper, Mr. Clark had few equals in the State, and the readers will bear witness that justice was done to all their interests, so far as it is in the power of a newspaper to do so."

The JOURNAL next passed successively into the hands of J. A. Hall, J. Sewell Stewart, esq., S. L. Glasgow and Dr. Wm. Brewster, the first two of whom have since died. None of these four gentlemen were practical printers, nor did they bring any previous experience to their labors as editors of the JOURNAL. Mr. Hall had for some time been a school teacher, and at the time of his accession to the editorial chair, had a select private school in successful operation in this place. Mr. Stewart was a well-known member of the legal profession, and at the time of his death, on the 7th of February, 1871, held the office of U. S. Revenue Assessor. He was a man of good attainments, and of a poetical turn of mind. The precise date of these successive changes we have no means of giving; but Hall and Stewart each became tired of editorial life after about one year's trial. Glasgow maintained his post probably for two or three years; and Dr. Brewster for three or four years. The last two mentioned editors still live, but it will be noticed that there has been great mortality among the editors of the JOURNAL. Successively Clark, Hall, Benedict, and Stewart have all fallen. But the JOURNAL itself has outlived all its cotemporaries in the county. The *Advocate* and *Sentinel* and the *Gazette* both went down before 1843, and in that year the JOURNAL was the *only* paper published in the place, the *Globe* not being started until 1844.—About 1840 a Democratic paper, the *Watchman*, was started up, edited by E. V. Everhart, esq.; but it, too, went down, and is now almost forgotten.

In December, 1859, the JOURNAL passed into the hands of S. G. Whittaker, who consolidated it with the *American*, a paper established on the 9th of May, 1855, by J. A. Nash, one of the present proprietors, in the interest of the American party. The consolidated paper was christened the *Journal and American*—Nash & Whittaker proprietors—which title it bore up to the first of January, 1871. In December, 1865, Mr. Whittaker sold his interest to Robert McDivitt, and on the 13th day of December, of the same year, the new firm of J. A. Nash & Co. issued their first paper. On the 19th of December, 1866, the paper was enlarged from a six to a seven-column paper. This firm was dissolved on the 1st of May, 1867, Mr. McDivitt retiring and Mr. Nash becoming sole proprietor, who continued to conduct it until the 1st of January, 1871. One the 30th day of November, 1870, J. R. Durborrow, the present editor, purchased the *Republican* from Theodore H. Cremer, esq, and consolidated it with the *Journal and American*, and the first issue of the consolidated paper, under the title of THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL, was dated on the 4th day of January, 1871.

The *Republican* had been started, by Mr. Cremer, in the campaign of 1869.—The first edition is dated September 15th, of that year. The materials were those previously used by John Lutz, in the publication of the Shirleysburg *Herald*, and subsequently by Lutz jr. & Bare in publishing the Mt. Union *Herald*, and purchased from their successor, John Dougherty, esq. The immediate cause of the establishment of the *Republican* is to be found in the following opening lines of the initial number: "Recent developments render it clear and certain, beyond peradventure, that the Republican party of this county has been controlled by a handful of oath-bound conspirators, whose object and aim has been to force themselves into office to the exclusion of all others, and to promote each others' interest in business as well as in politics." A lively campaign was the result, and the League ticket was defeated. It was a six column paper, and printed on the co-operative plan. It was the third paper, in the county, in the interest of the Republican party. When purchased for the purpose of consolidation it had a circulation of about 525, which, after deducting the number who usually discontinue when a paper changes hands, and those who were recipients of both papers, left a *bona fide* circulation of 315. The circulation of the *Journal and American* was about 820, of which number about 100 discontinued, so that THE HUNTINGDON JOURNAL, under the new management, started with a circulation of 1,035.

Politically, for the last three years, the JOURNAL has adhered strictly to the promise made in our salutatory published in the issue of January 4th, 1871: "In politics the JOURNAL will maintain, with all the vigor that it can successfully bring into requisition, the integrity of the Republican party and the principles enunciated in its National Platforms." The existence of the League has made our efforts much more local than they otherwise would have been. We were compelled to shape our course to accomplish the most for the Republican party in Huntingdon county. In the campaign of 1871 the ticket was composed of both League and anti-League men. The JOURNAL gave a hearty support to the entire ticket, and, although there was much dissatisfaction expressed against several persons who were candidates, from the different standpoints, yet the entire ticket was triumphantly elected. We labored hard to produce this result, because we believed that the factional spirit which had manifested itself, for several years, would acquiesce in the efforts to harmonize, and would entirely disappear, but we reasoned from a false premisis. The elements were not satisfied with the exhibit of their individual strength and determined to test them to the utmost.

In the campaign of 1872 we pursued a conciliatory course until it became apparent that factionalism was as rampant as ever. It became evident that Mr. Speer was, in a great measure, responsible for the disaffection which existed in the Republican party, and that the combination of Speer and League men would have to be broken up, and we conducted the JOURNAL to this end, and we had the satisfaction of beating the co-alition ticket badly with the exception of Mr. Speer, and his defeat would have been accomplished had not the Republican candidate been extremely obnoxious to a large number of leading Republicans, and had not Mr. Speer poured out his money like water. We admit that money is still more powerful than newspaper tact. This was Mr. Speer's last triumph; we mean to chronicle the next one when it occurs! The election of Mr. Speer and the money which he dispensed, however, was the means of infusing new life into the League, and it became evident that it would again enter the race to carry off the prize for the Democrats. To head off its usual dodges and charletanry the JOURNAL pursued a consistent course intended to arouse the people to a sense of their danger, and the result was that the League was beaten two to one at the delegate elections, and a straight Republican ticket nominated. As had long been foreseen the League sought and found a pretext for withdrawing from the Convention and setting up a ticket of its own. The course of the JOURNAL was then directed to hold the entire batch of Seceders up to the support of this ticket, and to keep them from voting directly for the Democratic ticket, which was accomplished to a much greater extent than was expected, but the League succeeded in misleading a number of good men, who really believed that it possessed some formidable strength, while others, who are open and avowed temperance men, were deceived into supporting the same ticket. This enabled it to run a much larger vote than it would otherwise have done. The result of the election, however, opened the eyes of those who had been successfully duped and they now see clearly. Unfortunately several of the Regular candidates were defeated, but the candidate, upon whom almost the entire campaign was conducted, was elected, and the League suffered a Waterloo defeat! In the future there will be but one Republican party in Huntingdon county, and that will be controlled by the honest voters. This is an outline of the political history of the JOURNAL since the 1st of January, 1871. We look back upon it with considerable satisfaction, feeling that it has accomplished all that could have been expected, and forward with high hopes and renewed vigor, expecting in the not far distant future, that it will be as prominent in State, if not in National, politics, as it has been in those of Huntingdon county.

And now we desire to speak of our business—the past, the present and the future:

When we came here, in the Fall of 1870, and proposed to consolidate the *Republican* and *Journal and American*, we promised all, to whom we spoke on the subject, to print a first-class country paper. The population of the town and the county led us to believe that such an enterprise could be easily sustained. Previous experience had much to do with bringing about this conclusion, but, when we launched our boat and paddled out from shore, into deep water, it soon became apparent to us, at least, that the experiment was much more hazardous than we had calculated. We had reckoned without our host. Huntingdon was not prepared for the improvement. She had never appreciated printing above a man and a boy working an old hand press. These could live at a few dimes per day and grow fat, but an office which required the services of seven or eight persons per day, and considerable outlay for materials and machinery besides, was quite another thing. When we looked about us for patronage, we saw only a few individual slices, nothing in the world of any considerable amount to fall back upon, not even one strong individual, nothing but mere two or three dollar dribs, and these the product of runious prices. There was no county patronage worth mentioning, which is one of the main spokes in the wheel of the country journalist; no borough or municipal patronage; no banking house patronage; no rail road patronage; no heavy manufacturing establishment to give hundreds for advertising and printing; no nothing to stand at our back with a bill aggregating amounts that would pay for a single month's blank paper, and to crown all, those who did advertise liberally previously, cut down their amounts one-half. This was the introduction of our experiment into Huntingdon! No wonder our Mr. Nash became much alarmed when column after column of advertising was ordered out! But, we went to work in the midst of this supreme selfishness and indifference (and we doubt very much whether it has ever been surpassed anywhere in the United States,) in good earnest and with the aid of a number of zealous friends, whose kind offices we will ever cherish, we run the circulation up, inside of 1871, from 1035 to 1600. We brought order out of confusion. We adopted a schedule of prices and adhered to it, but our prices were railed at, on all sides, and yet we knew then that they were only living rates. No party could run a paper and support themselves at less and live. We fought it out on that line and we have survived it. The victory is ours! But, then, there is comparatively little bulk patronage even to-day. The county, for whose interest we labor incessantly, and thereby lessen the burdens of the tax-payers, still insists upon paying less than individuals for its work, while every other class of men who labor for it must have the outside farthing; the borough, which receives as much, and more, attention at our hands than any other portion of the county, pays us but a trifle, not enough to keep our devil in tobacco; the banks get their work done elsewhere; of the rail roads we do not wish to complain, but there is still much room for improvement; and our manufacturing and mercantile establishments, with the infusion of live elements, are doing well enough, but all could do much better. There has been a disposition to ignore our efforts, in behalf of the business interests of the county, and to run off to Philadelphia or elsewhere, because a few cents or dollars may be made on a bill, but such selfishness always comes back, with tenfold force, in the course of a decade.

Since our connection with the JOURNAL, we are not aware, that we have slighted or neglected a single interest of the community. We have advocated every improvement which we believe to be demanded, a number of which have been introduced. And we shall pursue the same course in the future! Having stood by the interests of the community, saving and making for them, in the aggregate, considerable sums of money, we insist upon it that we are entitled to the patronage. With the patronage that we think we ought to have, in Huntingdon county, we could put more force upon the JOURNAL and improve it considerably, but up to the present we have not felt able to do so, yet we hope ere long to be so circumstanced that we can make it all that we think it ought to be. We are happy to say that the enlarged JOURNAL is no longer an experiment, but a fixed institution; and we hope that the people of Huntingdon county will feel the same pride in it that we do, and give it all the support that we claim for it.

*The Shoals blast furnace in Lawrence county, Indiana, will in a few days commence running, using ore from the newly discovered beds in Indian Creek township.

*The panic has not frightened the Iron Company at Elk Rapids, Mich. Its furnace is running as usual, and it is now buying its wood for next year.

*The Spanish Minister has resigned.

*Cuba is quiet.

*Cuban bonds are quoted at 40 in London.

*Gen. Sickles has been appointed Minister to Spain.

*Gen. Jno. A. Dix has been appointed Minister to France.

*Gen. Rufus King has been appointed Minister to Rome.

*Gen. Geo. H. Pendleton has been appointed Minister to Germany.

*Hon. Thos. H. Nelson has been appointed Minister to Mexico.

*Hon. Chas. Nordhoff has been appointed Minister to Hayti.

*Hon. Thos. Jefferson has been appointed Minister to Peru.

*Hon. Thos. Ewing has been appointed Minister to Belgium.

*Hon. Thos. Ewing, Jr., has been appointed Minister to Portugal