

American Volunteer.

CARLISLE, PA.

Tuesday Morning, April 26, 1871.

EDAMONG the Bills found by the Grand Jury for our present April Court, was one against Mr. John Harris, one of the present County Commissioners, who was indicted for malfeasance in office—in other words, bribery. When this Bill came before the Grand Jury, it was given a con-consideration such as no other Bill received. The charge against Mr. Harris was a very serious one, and its investigation was calculated to lead to developments, not only in regard to Harris' official acts, but to the acts of others who have held the same office. Quite a number of witnesses were examined by the Grand Jury, and after a most calm and careful investigation, "true Bill" was found, by a vote of 20 to 2 days.

When the case of Harris was called by the Court (on Friday,) the attorneys for the county expressed a desire to proceed with it at once, but the counsel for the defendant asked a postponement of the case till August, and this request was granted by the Court, upon the ground, we believe, that it could not be reached at the present time. A general regret was expressed by citizens of the county at the postponement. If Mr. Harris (so the people argued,) has been guilty of receiving bribes in office, as charged in the Bill of Indictment, he should be promptly tried and promptly removed from office. If innocent, he should have been tried and his innocence established. We say nothing concerning his guilt or innocence, for now that his case is in court, it would not be right in us to express an opinion, except the hope that he may be able to clear himself from the charges preferred against him. But we do say emphatically, that the people of this county expected an immediate trial of this case, and freely expressed their dissatisfaction with its postponement. We repeat, if Mr. Harris is guilty, he should not be permitted to remain in office one hour; if innocent, it is due to him, to the men who voted for him, and the people at large, to establish his innocence at the earliest possible moment. Statesmen would appreciate this policy, but unfortunately for our people we have no statesmen in power—we have snobs. Oh, how this American people are paying the penalty for elevating a man to the Presidency, whose only ideas of duty are pleasure for himself and for tones for his hundreds of relatives—but to Judge Kelly's remarks. Remember, Judge Kelly is an able and learned Radical, and remember too, that Grant is opposed to his views on this subject of oppressive taxation:

MR. KELLY.—Mr. Speaker, I desire to invite the attention of the House to the income during the past year now collecting. The income during the past year now collecting in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000—certainly more than \$100,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury estimates the amount of the new Government's revenues for this year for this year have been \$180,000,000. The receipts from Internal Revenue alone exceed those of the first eleven months of last year 20 per cent. From this point of view, shall we collect about \$180,000,000. The income from bonds and miscellaneous sources will certainly carry the revenue of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1870, at \$200,000,000. The receipts from customs for this year have exceeded the amount estimated. The receipts from customs last year were \$180,000,000. The income during the past year now collecting in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000—certainly more than \$100,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury estimates the amount of the new Government's revenues for this year for this year have been \$180,000,000. The receipts from Internal Revenue alone exceed those of the first eleven months of last year 20 per cent. From this point of view, shall we collect about \$180,000,000. The income from bonds and miscellaneous sources will

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AMNESTY.

This important bill, which passed the House last week by the decisive vote of yes 131, nays 46, relieves all Southern members of disabilities except ex-members of Congress, ex-army officers, and those who composed the Confederate Congress. These men, who are still disfranchised, are the ablemen of the South, and nothing but petty spite induced the author of the Amnesty Bill to exempt them.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald* says that had all the members of the House been present an amendment could have been carried giving amnesty to every one. But notwithstanding the great importance of this bill, we find that some forty-seven members were absent from their seats during the discussion of the bill, and when the final vote was taken. It is a pity that this habit of absenting members could not be arrested or punished in some way. Scour of bad measures are passed and many good measures lost every session because of the direction of that class of members who appear to have no time to attend to the duties for which they are paid entirely too much.

The final vote on the Amnesty Bill, the Pennsylvania delegation voted as follows:—

Yeas—Meers, Acker, Foster, Grinnell, Kelly, Myers, McMillan, Shewell, Schofield—10;
Nays—Meers, Creeley, Mercer, McJunkin, Moyer, Thompson—5;
Abstain—Wadsworth, Messer, Dietrich, Gietz, Haldeman, Harmer, Killinger, Myers, Neely, Shoemaker, Speer—9.

RISING OF THE PEOPLE.—Only a year ago it came to light that Mr. Washburne, then a member of Congress from Illinois, now Minister to France, sought to secure a clerical for a lady in Washington, who was to discharge no duties in the position to which she was assigned, that was to remain in the house of Mr. Washburne and teach his children the French language. The people of the United States were thus forced to hire a French teacher for the family of a Congressman who was drawing five thousand dollars a year and mileage for his services. This was considered most contemptible on the part of Mr. Washburne, but what shall we say of another and a similar case alleged to have come to light in connection with the management of affairs there? It seems that there is a colored clerk in the Treasury Department drawing a salary of twelve hundred dollars a year, i.e., who has no more knowledge of affairs there than the man in the moon. Though paid as a clerk, he remains at the White House as a *baber*—the mate inmates of that establishment being too penurious to pay for their own shaving. A government barber! Haugh!

Senator Connell has introduced a bill which promises to give all the money realized from tavern, store, and other licenses, which now go into the State treasury, to the counties in which such licenses are assessed and collected. The sum accruing to the State Treasury, on account of leases of all kinds, in 1870, was a little less than \$300,000. It is not likely that this bill will pass, though the present easy condition of the State finances would doubtless admit of such a depletion of the Treasury or the Commonwealth.

A bill has been reported in the State Senate, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, authorizing the State Treasurer to be hereafter elected by the people. There is no earthly reason why this office should not be elected by the people the same as Auditor and Surveyor General. Every year's election in this office is the cause of more or less corruption in the legislature, and it is about time an end should be put to it. The Democrats are favorable to it, and the bill will pass the Senate.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE MONEY?

In a speech in the house, shortly before the adjournment of the last Congress, Judge Kelley of this State, insisted that our people were unnecessarily taxed and he wanted that the inquisitorial Income Tax be repealed. There are other taxes quite as obnoxious as the Income Tax from which the people might be relieved, without detriment to the public interest. Just think of a country with less than forty millions of inhabitants, paying annually to the Federal Government some four hundred and twenty millions of dollars. Their other taxes—State, County, School, Road, Borough, County, Township and Military—amount to as much more, making in all between eight and nine hundred millions of dollars, paid by the people every twelve months! This is evidence of two things—the wonderful resources of our country as well as the wonderful submissiveness of our people. We verily believe there is no other people on the face of the earth who would quietly submit to be thus robbed. Tens of thousands of men are almost starving their families that they may be tax-gatherers. Why not then stop off a portion of the taxes why not reduce the tariff? Grant says no, his cabinet says no, and a servile and corrupt Senate says no. Less than three hundred millions would be sufficient to pay the current expenses of the government, the interest on the public debt, and fifty millions a year for the sinking fund. Why not then lift one hundred and twenty millions of taxes from the shoulders of the most oppressed people? Statesmen would appreciate this policy, but unfortunately for our people we have no statesmen in power—we have snobs. Oh, how this American people are paying the penalty for elevating a man to the Presidency, whose only ideas of duty are pleasure for himself and for tones for his hundreds of relatives—but to Judge Kelly's remarks. Remember, Judge Kelly is an able and learned Radical, and remember too, that Grant is opposed to his views on this subject of oppressive taxation;

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A member, give us the items.

Mister Kelly.—From Customs, the amount of receipts will be \$200,000,000; from Internal Revenue, \$100,000,000; from military sources according to the estimate of the Secretary, \$20,000,000; and from lands, \$5,000,000. It was \$32,000,000 last year.

Mister Kelly.—Yes, sir, and from lands we received last year over \$4,000,000. Thus it will be seen that we are in the receipt of not the amount estimated by the Secretary, but over \$200,000,000, but a sum probably \$25,000,000 in excess.

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