

The Potter Journal
AND
NEWS ITEM.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Jan. 3, 1873

THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

The arrangement to make Schuyler Colfax editor-in-chief of this paper has failed, and it is to remain under the management that controled it during the late campaign. We very much regret the failure, as the TRIBUNE, under the editorship of White-law Reid, is about as unreliable a paper as comes under our observation. It called Alex. McClure and Charles R. Buckalew REFORMERS, and stigmatized John F. Hartranft, and all who supported him, either thieves or the supporters of thieves, and yet had the assurance to claim for itself the position of an independent journal.

The TRIBUNE was always intensely partizan, but it was never so blindly and bitterly so as during the last campaign. We like men to be in earnest; in fact, have not much respect for any one who can so control his feelings as to act the cool impartial judge in any stirring contest over great questions. As with men, so with newspapers. We like best to read such as have opinions on all questions that affect the public welfare, and that express their opinions earnestly, persistently, and occasionally with severity, and we do not like to read a Republican paper that praises everything done by our party, and condemns without discrimination everything done by our opponents.

It is not, therefore, because the TRIBUNE zealously supported the nominees of the Democratic party for President that we are now objecting to it. It is because of the constant and egotistical assumption of independence and honesty which it claimed for itself, and denied to all who differed from it, that has alienated so many of its old friends. And it is this spirit, so arrogantly proclaimed in the two-column editorial explaining the failure of the movement to make it a Republican paper, that will prevent it from regaining the confidence of the best friends it had previous to its unnatural alliance with its old enemies.

The following extracts from this editorial explains somewhat of the late movements in relation to the paper, and of its present status:

"The affairs of the *Tribune* Association have been the subject of much unprofitable discussion recently in the newspapers, and of various idle gossip, for which there was little foundation in fact. It is now proper to state, however, that, as the result of certain intrigues and outside efforts to gain control of the papers and wrest it from the purpose to which our late chief devoted it, some changes have taken place in the proprietorship, and a large majority of the stock is to-day permanently concentrated in the hands of Mr. Greeley's chosen editorial associates—men whom he trained for this particular duty, to whom he intrusted the management of his journal in the gravest emergencies, whom he honored with the confidence of his thoughts and wishes, and whose purpose it now is to continue the work from which he was so suddenly called away."

"In taking up the unfinished task, which fell from his hands a few weeks ago, we happily have the men whom he brought around him, the facilities which he accumulated, and means so ample that when, a few days since, over half a million of dollars was paid for the bare control of the paper, we, knowing the worth of what Mr. Greeley had built up, bid higher and bought it back."

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

For more than thirty years this question has been the subject of discussion by the press and public speakers. The present pernicious system

is an inheritance from the Democratic party.

Under the earlier administrations it was the practice to fill vacancies in the subordinate offices with friends of the administrations, but not to remove faithful officers on account of political difference of opinion. Soon after the Democratic party, as organized under General Jackson, came into power, the demoralizing doctrine that "to the victor belongs the spoils" was proclaimed, and a clean sweep was soon made of all office-holders that did not give in their adhesion to the powers that be. The pernicious system then adopted and rigidly enforced, has borne just such fruit as thoughtful men predicted. Following the inevitable law which governs evil practices, the results will be worse and worse until there shall be a radical reform.

President Lincoln saw this, and set his face towards reform; but the exigencies of the war soon required his whole attention and this work had to be postponed.

President Grant came into power under more favorable circumstances, and is determined to bring back to practical operation the better system of the fathers.

In his second annual message President Grant urged upon the attention of Congress the necessity of changing the present method of appointments in the following emphatic language:

"Always favoring practical reforms, I respectfully call your attention to one abuse of long standing which I would like to see remedied by this Congress. It is a reform in the civil service of the country. I would have it go beyond the mere fixing of the tenure of office of clerks and employes who do not require the advice and consent of the Senate to make their appointments complete. I would have it govern, not the tenure, but the manner of making all appointments. There is no duty which so much embarrasses the executive and heads of departments as that of appointments; nor is there any such arduous and thankless labor imposed on Senators and Representatives as that of finding places for constituents. The present system does not secure the best men, and often not even fit men, for public places. The elevation and purification of the civil service of the Government will be hailed with approval by the whole people of the United States."

The position of President Grant met with such general approval from the people, that all parties in the late campaign gave it hearty support. The Republican National Convention made it an important part of the Platform, and is the 5th plank therein as follows:

"Any system of the civil service under which the subordinate positions of the Government are considered rewards for mere party zeal is fatally demoralizing, and we therefore favor a reform of the system by laws which shall abolish the evils of patronage and make honesty, efficiency, and fidelity the essential qualifications for public positions, without practically creating a life tenure of office."

In view of this action of the National Republican Convention, and of the universal acquiescence in it, pending the election, we do not see how any Republican member of either branch of Congress can honorably oppose CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Why is it not as injurious to the party to oppose this leading plank of the Platform, as it was during the campaign to oppose the election of the candidate? If treason to the party is to be punished by exclusion from chairmanship of committees, by what right shall Senators Logan and Carpenter retain theirs? We heartily endorse the action of the Senate caucus on this subject—so far as it went. Clearly the friends of the Administration, being a majority of the Senate, ought to control all important committees. But how can a

Senator who opposes one of the chief measures of the Republican party and of the Administration, with any propriety be counted among its friends?

The Democratic Conversion.

Senator Sumner, and other old-time Republicans asked the colored men and their friends to support the Democratic candidate for President in the last campaign, on the ground that the Democrats had abandoned their opposition to equal rights, and were converted to the Christian view of this great question—that God made of one blood all the nations of the earth, and gave to each human being precisely the same civil rights.

As the Democrats themselves made no such pretensions, we could not understand how sensible Republicans could make it for them. But the *Tribune* begged and plead with its old readers to accept as a fact the conversion of the Democrats, and to vote for their candidates from President down to County Auditor on that ground.

Every vote given in Congress, and in the State Legislatures, when the rights of the colored man were concerned, flatly contradicted this assumption; the whole history of the Democratic party contradicts it; still the people were asked to believe that a willingness to vote for Horace Greeley was evidence of sound conversion.

In view of their past course and present temper, this willingness seemed to us only an evidence of a desire to defeat the Republican party on any terms.

The vote of all but six of the Democratic members of the Constitutional Convention to dispense with our assistant sergeant-at-arms—to prevent a colored man from being elected to that position—clearly shows there was no conversion.

The same thing was shown in Congress a few days ago by a vote thus explained by the Washington correspondent of the *N. Y. Independent* under date of Dec. 14:

The House yesterday did not hesitate to make use of the doctrine of equal rights to tide off a bill to reimburse William and Mary College for the alleged destruction of property by United States soldiers during the war. The sum to be given the college was \$65,000, and nearly all the Democrats and some Republicans favored it; but an ingenious opponent of the measure offered an amendment providing that the college should be open to colored students. Of course the Republican members could not resist the logic of their principles, and the amendment was agreed to; and then the amended bill lost every Democratic vote and was rejected by an overwhelming majority.

Lectures.

Gov. Curtin is lecturing on Russia—a fertile and interesting theme. He spoke in Lock Haven a few days ago.

Anna Dickinson, on Labor Reform, speaking for some of those whose labors cannot be comprised in the limits of eight hours a day.

Bret Harte, on "The Argonauts of '49"; that early California madness that was worse than war.

But the most interesting lectures of which we receive any accounts are those of Prof. Tyndall on Light. The wonderful discoveries that have been made within the last few years almost make one feel that we had not known what light was. It is well that we can use things without knowing much about them, that the sun, and moon, and stars answered all the purposes of illumination before we understood how far off they were, what their motions, or what the nature of the emanation we call light. But stay! it is no longer an emanation, but a "form of motion." The illustrations and experiments make the lecture plain, it is said, to all.

Far West.

The *Independent* of Dec. 5 publishes a long article on scenes in the West, along the Northern Pacific railroad commencing "Duluth to Sundown—so my ticket facetiously read:"

"Four years ago the country where Duluth now stands was all forest and the verdure sloped unbroken to the lake. And yet to-day it claims 5000 population."

together that the railroad twisted and turned in many sharp curves to pass them. These lakes are from 100 to 1000 acres in extent, sometimes a mile long, but generally not more than one quarter to half a mile. They seem to be all of one characteristic look, a wild forest of birch and timber hemming them closely in. The fishing is said to be splendid and they are the breeding places of millions of wild ducks."

Of the "Red River country" he says, "It is one of the greatest curiosities in agricultural scenery. Level as the floor and stretching to the horizon all around you without a swell or depression; wild as the desert, lifeless as if forsaken, treeless as the ocean, it surprises the traveler and yet leaves a pleasant impression." * * * "The Red River valley is about sixty miles wide, twenty to thirty of which are on the Minnesota side of the river and thirty to forty in Dakota, and extends without a break 400 miles north to Lake Winnipeg."

IN THESE days when rapid communication, brings to our ears every heart-rending calamity that takes place in any part of the country, there is no need of playing on our feelings by inventing tales of disaster and death.

Quite lately there was a sad story of the destruction of a lighthouse, at Anticosti by a storm, and of the death of all of a family of eight persons in a house near by, by lightning. Now this is shown to be without foundation, and we are all in some degree prepared to doubt other reports of accident and trouble. Of course it would be immense comfort if we could doubt them all; but while we know that there are suffering and misery in the world and that we must all do what in us lies to help those who suffer, it is very hard to have our sympathies unnecessarily worked upon.

The difference in statements made by different papers, which unavoidably see things in adverse lights, brings us confusion enough without any trouble being taken to manufacture spurious cases.

Weather.

The excessive cold of the last ten days seems to have been very general over this continent, while storms and floods are desolating many parts of Europe.

We have in the same paper, accounts of hundreds of people, drowned by the overflowing waters, and their property, their homes, even the earth of their fields swept away, as though no precaution or effort was of any avail; and of accident and loss of life in various parts of the country here, owing to the intense cold. One woman was killed in her kitchen in Harrisburg, while preparing breakfast, by the explosion of the water back of the range. The water pipes were frozen during the night, and the range got very hot before any water flowed in, so that when it did come, the iron flew all to pieces.

Judging by the reports of low temperature and falls of snow in various parts of the country, it would seem that our high region has been quite as easy a place to live in as any. The thermometer went as low in Lawrence, Kansas, as in Coudersport, and in most places in or near our own latitude it was lower.

So we could not have the satisfaction of thinking people were comfortable elsewhere, if we were cold; and we fear that few, if any, were better supplied with the means of keeping warm than we.

The following is taken from "The Jubilee Singers' Campaign," by G. D. Pike, Boston, "The doctor" being the one to whom all the stories of the campaigners are told, and whose remarks run through the book adding no little to its interest.

"I often think of these things," said the doctor, "and feel that we are living in the most blessed days the world has seen. Sometimes, when I am attending an evening's entertainment in some spacious hall, I get a conception of the possible revelations of the future. I notice, on entering, how dim and shadowy everything appears. People are massing together, but you cannot recognize even your friends in the distant part of the house. The splendid paintings, the statuary, the carving, and the frescoed ceilings are obscured by the darkness till the time comes for the en-

tertainment to commence—till the distinguished personage of the evening, with his attendants, arrives. Then, by one turn of the janitor, on flashes the light, and every person and thing appears with all the beauty and gladness the heart could wish. So, I think, it will be in the visible church. The multitudes are gathering. One workman may not see another, eye to eye, as yet. The ten thousand adornments and accessories that will gladden the millennial morning are hidden in the darkness. Nevertheless, the beautiful mosaics of the heavenly walls, the golden candle-sticks and the harps of gold are all there. The great table for the marriage supper is being spread, and the garments, pure and white, are almost ready. When the fullness of time shall come, when He shall appear with all His holy angels, with one turn of Providence it shall be light."

THE American Missionary Association reports the total receipts during the year just closed as \$329,938.93. They have ninety-nine common schools with 8731 pupils, twenty-one graded and high schools, with 110 teachers and 6277 pupils; and seven chartered institutions of a higher character with thirty-six instructors and 1800 students, of whom 333 are under College instruction and thirty-four studying theology. The report is very interesting, and any one reading it and some accompanying letters, will not wonder that they want more money, and few could resist their appeal.

HON. SOBIESKI ROSS, of Coudersport, has been elected a Director of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway. The fact acquires peculiar significance because of Judge Ross's connection with the Pine Creek Road. It is understood to indicate that the A. and G. W. is interested in building the new line and thus securing an independent route to Buffalo. Judge Ross deserves great credit for the energy and persistence with which he has worked for the road which will contribute so much to the growth and prosperity of this district, and if he now secures its speedy completion as a link in a great railway thoroughfare, he will deserve the lasting gratitude of the people of Potter and Tioga counties.—*Wellsville Agitator*.

The Lancaster Express says:

"The handsome design for the proposed soldiers monument is now on exhibition at Barrs's bookstore." So it seems that Lancaster County is slower even than Potter, in building her monument. A very fine description of it is given, but if not yet commenced will it ever be done? We would think a plain and simple monument, built at once, would be better than a splendid one lingering through years ere its completion. When shall we give money for such a work as freely as when our hearts are sorest for its need?

"As an evidence of reviving interest in the completion of the Washington Monument, it may be stated that the first fruits of a recent appeal to the Masons of the country in behalf of the monument were lately received by the society, in the form of a draft for the equivalent in currency of \$125, gold, from the Grand Secretary of Cal., Mr. Abell, this sum being the contribution of two subordinate lodges of the State, which should be credited with their patriotism, Gibsonville Lodge, 158, \$100; Sierra Lodge, 144, \$25. Mr. Abell reports that other lodges are moving in the cause, and from the advices of the society it is believed that this is but the commencement of a general and generous response on the part of the Masonic Fraternity, of which Washington was so exalted a member.

"The States also are taking hold of the matter, New Jersey and Minnesota having already followed the example of New York, the former contributing \$3000 and the latter \$1000. New York, it will be remembered, appropriated \$10,000 to the fund. Similar appropriation bills were introduced in the Legislatures of a number of other States, but they were not reached for final action before adjournment. The society makes these acknowledgements."

It is stated that papers, letters, and manuscripts of the historian Prescott were destroyed by the Boston fire. During the absence of the family having possession of them, they had been stored for safety in the vault of a large warehouse. Many of these manuscripts were copies of rare works and documents relating to early Spanish and American history. Their loss will be a great calamity to the literary world.

THE production of bituminous coal in Great Britain has heretofore been 170,000,000 tons annually, while that of the United States has been but 3,000,000 tons. Now, however, England is importing coal from France and Belgium, and the United States are exporting it to the West Indies and other countries hitherto supplied by England.