

The Republican.



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CLEARFIELD, PA.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1862.

The State Printing — By a Member of the Legislature.

Two weeks ago, in referring to the closing scenes of the Legislature, we alluded to the State Printing job as now conducted. In doing so, we have mentioned a member of the committee appointed to investigate that leak in the Treasury, in the person of Mr. Meek, editor of the *Bellefonte Daily*, who intimates that Mr. McCullough talked the minority report of the committee to death; and further states that we were on the door of the House at the time. We confess that we were caught in bad company that day, but, instead of watching legislation, we were, at the solicitation of a member, with several other outsiders, examining a basketful of gold watches, chains, silver pitchers, and a bundle of gold-headed canes, which several members of the "mutual admiration society" had brought into the House for the purpose of stalling a gift enterprise, as we supposed. We never dreamed that legislation was going on, because there was more noise and confusion in the House than there was at Marietta during the riot several days previous. What Mr. McCullough said or done in the premises, we know not; but will proceed to give Mr. Meek's version, as we find it in the *Watchman* of last week:

"After giving its opinion—and a very poor one it is—of the Legislature in general terms, the *Watchman* says: 'We never expected more than a dozen or two to be lost.' That the tax-payers have been for several years robbed of \$30,000 annually by the 'gold-princes' of Harrisburg, there can be no doubt, and why the committee failed to report the facts to the Legislature seems the world. Perhaps the members can explain. We do not recollect the names of that committee, or we might be more pointed, but we will endeavor to ferret them out."

"We were greatly disappointed in one thing. A committee was appointed to investigate the State Printer's account, but it failed to make a report of its proceedings. We never expected more than a dozen or two to be lost.'

"LET US HAVE PEACE."—Such was Grant's first speech, and the people of the United States supposed he uttered the sentiments of his heart when he said so. The entailing of expense and reduction of the Army was another freak of economy promised to the nation but broken to the hope. The General of the Army last week issued an order to re-open recruiting offices for the purpose of increasing, instead of reducing the expenses of the Government. The Government robbers seem to be more potent for evil under Grant than under Johnson or Lincoln. If the same number of men were in the employ of the government now, that there were under Lincoln, the "machine" would be turned upside down and the bottom knocked out of the Treasury. Of such is Grant peace economy reform.

A MOVEMENT.—The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, in view of the corruption which prevailed in the last Legislature, opposes returning any member from that city, who held a seat at either the last or previous session, to the House. The resolution, introduced by Mr. McCallum, that the committee shall have full power to inquire into the conduct of the members of the Legislature, and the public required, concluded by the authority of the House to finish the investigation and file their report with the resident elector upon the next election.

"FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR FRIEND FRIENDS,"—and the rest of mankind!—as one of that committee, the writer of this article will attempt to explain. The resolution introducing the committee on Printing, to examine the State Printer's account, was referred to the House on the 1st of February, under the rule, it was referred to the Committee of Supply, and although repeated efforts were made to have it considered, yet it was not until the 24th of March that it was entered upon and passed finally. This was in the session and just at the time that members are kept busy trying to get their legal privilege attended to, that the committee had little hopes of performing thoroughly the duties imposed upon them by the passage of the resolution. Yet it went to work in good earnest. Meetings were held almost every day as the minutes will show, papers, and bills, and persons connected with the State printing were examined to the short was the time, and just as good the work to be accomplished, that the committee after laboring assiduously until within twenty-four hours of the close of the session, and finding it impossible to make such an investigation, and report as duty to themselves and the public required, concluded to ask the authority of the House to finish the investigation and file their report with the resident elector upon the next election.

"NO ONE for a moment believed or even dreamt that the House would refuse to grant the extension of time asked for, to complete the work, justified as the same authority had been granted almost every session to other committees, and to a committee of the Senate at the late session investigating the military academy school. But judge of the surprise of the members when, upon the presentation of the resolution, granting more time, it was vigorously opposed by Mr. Strong and some of the other members on the Republican side, and decided by the Speaker that the House had no power to extend the time and that any report the committee had to make should be presented before 12 o'clock of that day—leaving but short forty minutes in which to write out and make the report.

"After this decision the majority of the committee absolutely refused to take and further acted in the matter. The speaker from the 11th district of Philadelphia, Mr. Bush, and the writer of this分歧 from the decision of the majority, submitted a bill and report as the facts ascertained by the 11th district, this would permit. This was done, and a few minutes before twelve o'clock—the motion was carried—offered that report be voted out of the committee. But this again was opposed—and that opposition was from the Representatives of Cleveland county. Mr. McCallum, who, properly and with the design of preventing the filing of that report, made a final order and by statute so-arranged the time of the Report, and a few moments after 12 o'clock when he called the point of order that it being twelve o'clock, the time of final adjournment—the report could not be received, which point the Speaker decided well taken, and the report was not permitted to go upon the record. These facts, the editor of the *Republican* is aware of, for he was upon the floor of the House at the time of their occurrence.

"The facts set forth in that report were about as follows:

"In 1852 the State printing and paper amounted to but \$33,221.17; in 1853, it reached the calendar sum of \$33,221.17—an increase of \$161, \$10.87, and \$60,254.43 more, than in 1852, when the war was being waged, and almost double the amount of printing being done.

"The amount of the extra \$10.87 per month, was due to the fact that the printer had to pay for the services of the Postmaster, and the amount of \$60,254.43 more, than in 1852, when the war was being waged, and almost double the amount of printing being done.

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