

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1868.

HOW VERY NICE.

The very affable and innocent editor-in-chief of the organ of Thuggery, says he will not reply to personal assaults. A wise conclusion on his part. Let him also make up his mind not to make them, and he is safe from "personalities."

NEW MACHINE.

A valuable, and very economical labor-saving machine, has just been invented at Harrisburg. If worked to its full capacity, it will "paste" and "fold" over four thousand Legislative documents in a single day.

HURRY THEM UP.

What has become of the "ventilation" promised by the very proper editor of the organ of the Thug plunderers? Hurry it up! The "History" of "Jolly Jack," too; where is it? Can't you get some of your "hangers-on about the State Capitol," to get up something? Try, do!

WELL DONE.

The amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for universal suffrage, passed the House of Representatives on Saturday last. Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, offered an amendment providing for universal amnesty and universal suffrage, but it received only 26 votes.

Article—Section 1. The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of race, color or previous condition of slavery of any citizen or class of citizens of the United States.

We hope the Senate will at once pass the amendment, so that it may be sent down to the State Legislatures without delay, as many of them are now in session. When ratified by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the States, the amendment becomes an integral part of the Constitution. Speed the welcome day!

HUMAN RIGHTS.

In eight years the strength of the Government of the United States has increased a thousand fold. Before 1860 the doctrine of State Rights had well nigh founded the central power. Government was nothing more than a chimera. The States were omnipotent. They could do everything. The people were ignored. The Constitution settled nothing, especially if slavery were involved.

"VENTILATE" THE BRIDGES.

According to the report of the County Auditors, the bridge building system in this county needs a little "ventilation." It appears that instead of giving contracts to lowest bidders, the building of bridges, which have cost the county about \$70,000 during the last three years, the Commissioners have a contractor of their own, and by some private arrangement or understanding they have been paying just whatever was agreed upon between them and him.

THUGGERY AND THE GRAND JURY.

The Columbia Spy, of last week, contains an article relative to the action of the Grand Jury in a certain case, in which the editor of that paper was the prosecutor, which develops a weakness in a quarter which we had hoped would be pure above all cavil and suspicion. We have not room for the whole article, and must therefore content ourselves with giving an extract from it.

In the beginning of October last, a complaint was made against Elwood Greist, late County Treasurer, for speculating with the county funds in violation of law, and against the interest of every tax-payer in the county.

The law covering such cases reads as follows: SECTION 62, of Penal Code—"If any officer of this Commonwealth, or of any city, borough, county, or township thereof, shall loan out, with or without interest, or return therefor, any money or valuable security received by him, or which may be in his possession, or under his control by virtue of his office, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor in office and on conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, &c."

It will be thus seen that the law is very plain upon the subject. It was hoped that the District Attorney could have found time to draw up an indictment, and send it to the Grand Jury at November sessions, and dispose of the matter speedily. It was not, it seems, convenient for him to do so, for reasons best known to himself and the accused.

Of course, the editor-in chief penned this article—it is "Jack" himself all over. He is too old and experienced in Legislative jobs and ring management to uphold and defend this most notorious swindle directly, and yet, as the swindlers are his friends, if not his confederates, he must say something in order to divert public opinion from this pasting and folding "outrage."

Intelligent men conversant with the political "thugs" and their acts in the county, were astonished at the complexion of the jury, and inquired what it meant or foreboded. They were there in strong force, whether by accident or design, we know not. When the jury met at the January Sessions they were sworn as follows:

"I do (swear or affirm) that as a member of this Grand Inquest, you will diligently inquire and true presentment make, as well of all such matters and things as shall be given you in charge, as of those things which you shall know to be presentable here. You will present no one for envy, hatred, malice, or ill-will, neither will you leave one unpunished through fear, favor, affection, reward, gain, or the hope thereof—but you will present all things truly, as they shall come to your knowledge to the best of your understanding."

When the indictment was called up against Mr. Griest, we presume they called Mr. Blair, who states that the bank of which he is a member, paid the defendant over six hundred dollars as interest for county funds, loaned said bank, by said Griest. This, of itself, was sufficient to find a true bill, if any regard was had for the sacredness of an oath. In the face of such testimony, the jury ignored the bill, and put the prosecutor in for the costs.

If it is really true that the fact of Mr. Griest having received six hundred dollars in violation of law, as alleged, was proven or sworn to before the Grand Jury, then in justice to all concerned, the action of that body should be thoroughly "ventilated." If influences of a questionable character were brought to bear upon the Grand Jury, the people should know it. The vote on the bill, should be published, if it can be obtained, so as to show each one's hand. We can hardly believe it possible that the bill was ignored by a unanimous vote, and if not, let us have the names of those constituting the minority. Grand Jurors, like other public functionaries, must be held to a strict accountability for their action.

HISTORICAL!

"The mild junior was laudably and honorably employed in 'smoking' 'gratuities' for himself through a 'corrupt Legislature' for services never rendered the State."

That is a bold LIE—nothing less. The "mild junior" defies Jack, or any of his associate Legislative bummers or Thugs, to show that he was ever engaged in the dirty business, at which Jack is an adept. Five years' work at Harrisburg, as a reporter, has enabled the said "mild junior" to learn something, and if Jack wants to compare notes, for the public benefit, he is ready for him.

We have several interesting contributions in "Pennsylvania Deitch," for which we expect to find space, probably next week. They are now in the hands of Pitt Schwebelrenner, who has kindly volunteered to correct spelling.

THE EXAMINER'S "HISTORY."

When we first exposed the notoriously corrupt and barefaced system of Treasury robbing through the pasting and folding room of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, by which over thirty thousand dollars were abstracted from the public Treasury, and divided round among the political jobbers, brokers, swindlers, bummers and hangers on, we expected there would be a general flutter among the bones. But, we did not believe that a Republican newspaper could be found in all Pennsylvania, claiming the least respectability—certainly none published in Lancaster county, and sustained and read by such people as are its substantial and intelligent citizens—would dare to become the organ and defender of the plunderers referred to. But, we are disappointed.

Even that old and hitherto respectable and reliable journal, the Lancaster Examiner, is out as one of the defenders and apologists of the publicly convicted peculators. If we are not directly misinformed—and we are sure we are not—some of the best friends and supporters of the Examiner, have recently waited on its editors and protested against its defense of the plunderers; and the fact that such protests, coming as they did from quarters entitled to respect in that sanctum, are disregarded, the inference is that the controlling editor is himself completely in the power of the corruptionists, and compelled to defend them and apologize for their shortcomings the best way he can.

As the Examiner may be entitled to some consideration, and as many of its readers are yet unable to believe it possible that its columns could be used for so base a purpose as an open defense of such a swindle, and system of robbery, as the one in question, we feel called upon to answer very briefly a few things contained in the last number of said paper—so far at least, as they relate to or assail FATHER ABRAHAM and its editors.

In the Examiner of Wednesday last, we find the following:

"We believe in 'fair play' in all things, and hence neither defend the men who voted for additional 'pasters and folders,' nor advocate the pretensions of Baugh & Cochran, who, we sincerely believe, made the proposition to do the pasting and folding for buncombe."

Of course, the editor-in chief penned this article—it is "Jack" himself all over. He is too old and experienced in Legislative jobs and ring management to uphold and defend this most notorious swindle directly, and yet, as the swindlers are his friends, if not his confederates, he must say something in order to divert public opinion from this pasting and folding "outrage."

Does the Examiner mean to say that the fifty or sixty staunch Republican papers throughout the State, who have so ably, thoroughly and emphatically shown up and denounced the great swindle as it deserved, look upon it as a humbug? And who are the persons who are cognizant of the details? "Is it Dr. Gatchell, or the 'Resident Clerk,' by whom that gentleman was posted (or posted), or is it Jack's bosom friend, Mr. Ilyus, who did his part of the pasting and folding in Fiddler's Green, last winter, or, is it that other particular friend of Jack, 'Honest Andy Armstrong,' who gobbled \$91.80 mileage out of the Treasury, by means of a warrant certifying to 300 miles, instead of 30 miles, the real distance from Andy Armstrong's residence to the State Capitol? But Jack says in the same article:

"The attempt to raise dust for the eyes of the 'dear people,' will hardly succeed, especially when it is known that one of the bidders for the pasting and folding contract has, heretofore had his hands deep in the State Treasury, while acting as Clerk of the House of Representatives; and the other, the mild junior, was laudably and honorably employed in 'smoking' 'gratuities' for himself through a 'corrupt Legislature' for services never rendered the State."

Now that part of the extract which appears in italics is coming down to "dots," as it means to convey the impression that Mr. Rauch was himself guilty of treasury robbing, whilst Clerk of the House, during the sessions of '60, '61 and '62, and yet Jack don't exactly say so. Now, let us understand each other. You, Jack, was at Harrisburg when Mr. R. was there. You was then a Senator, and also an ex-member of the House. If you can fasten a single act of treasury robbery upon Mr. Rauch, then do so openly, boldly and in a manner becoming a man. Don't act the part of a sneak. Insinuations and generalities like the above are cowardly, mean, contemptible, and so regarded by all right-minded men. The assertion that the junior editor of FATHER ABRAHAM was engaged in "smoking," "gratuities" for himself is equally false, and may go for what it is worth. The sneaking insinuation is only made to divert attention from

"our fellows."

In a word, the corruptionists of Harrisburg, and their backers and supporters, including "the ring" in this city, are exposed and publicly denounced by a justly indignant people all over the State. Their long, low, black schooner, with all its plunder in a sinking condition. There is a general panic among the rats! The young ones are trying to get into life boats, whilst the older and more hardened snail, yet clinging to the wreck, in the vain hope of saving themselves in the end, are popular verdict is against them, and it will be a long time before they will again have a chance to plunder the public treasury, either by fraudulent mileage certificates or tawdry paste on yellow wrappers in the subterranean department of the House of Representatives.

THE PRESS TRIUMPHANT!

Six weeks ago probably less than five per cent of the adult population of Pennsylvania knew of the existence of such an institution as a pasters and folders department at Harrisburg. To-day almost everybody throughout the State is perfectly familiar with a most outrageous and barefaced system of plunder, in and through that very obscure and comparatively insignificant department. How faithless and corrupt representatives, and thieving bummers and hangers on managed to steal many thousands of dollars, under pretense of earning it by pasting and folding papers, is known and thoroughly understood by almost every taxpayer. The plunderers and corruptionists are publicly known, and, as is admitted on all sides, nineteen out of every twenty of them, now occupying seats in our Legislative Halls, will go home at the close of the present session, to stay. It is also a conceded fact that the people are thoroughly aroused to the importance of non-inating better men in future, and that they mean to do it. Practical and radical reform is already assured, and henceforth, corruption, swindling and stealing will not only be made odious but be punished also.

For this change—for the most wholesome awakening of the public mind all over the State, and the assurance we have that the days of treasury thieves and corrupt politicians, ring, and buncombe, the people are indebted to the independent Republican Press throughout the State. The first article on this subject, which effectually exposed the corrupt system, was an editorial in FATHER ABRAHAM, of December 11th, 1867. The startling and unanswerable facts set forth in said article, at once induced our honest Republican contemporaries everywhere to investigate, discuss and "ventilate" them. Our subsequent offer, at the time of meeting of the Legislature, to do the work of pasting by contract, at less than one-fifth of last year's cost, and the refusal of the members of the House to accept it, and the most barefaced and unblushing outrage by "putting in" twenty-seven additional pasters, at once presented a square issue between the combination of corruptionists and their confederates, on the one side, and the Republican Press throughout the State on the other. The matter was soon decided. The broadsides poured into the camp of the swindlers by such journals as the Pittsburg Commercial, the Lancaster Express; all the Philadelphia papers; the Miner's Journal, the Village Record, the Lewisburg Chronicle and forty or fifty others of the same stamp, have already purified the party by exposing and condemning all who have been trusted, tried and found wanting. The termination of this "ventilation" so gloriously and successfully, proves that the Republicans can and will remove any and all abuses in their own party; that the people can safely confide in the Republican Press of the State. The significant silence of the copperhead papers, with few honorable exceptions, clearly proves that that party cannot be trusted; that reform is not in their line, and that a sound state administration, as well as national, can only be assured by the continued success of the Republican party—a party whose organs dare speak the truth on all occasions—a party of sufficient character to reform and correct itself when wrong, and to make proper examples of those who prove faithless, from "Honest Andy" down to Andy J. at the "other end of the avenue."

THE TWITCHELL CASE: In the Philadelphia Court on Saturday last, Judge Brewster pronounced the opinion of the Court against granting a new trial to George S. Twitchell, jr., found guilty of the murder of Mrs. Hill. At the conclusion of his review of the reasons filed for the new trial by the counsel for the defense, the Judge pronounced the following sentence:

"That George S. Twitchell, jr., the prisoner at the bar, be taken from hence to the jail of the county of Philadelphia, from whence he came, and from thence to the place of execution, and that he be there hanged by the neck until he is dead, and may God, in his infinite goodness, have mercy upon his soul."

Twitchell, on the conclusion of this last solemn expression, dropped into his seat, and for the first time since the Coroner's investigation, he gave evidence of realising his fearful position. In a short time he was removed to the van and taken to prison. It is believed that his counsel will take the case to the Supreme Court. Before the sentence was pronounced, on being asked whether he had anything to say, without a tremor in his voice, Twitchell replied: "All that I have to say is, that I have been tried and convicted of a crime of which I know nothing."

A MODEL DEMOCRATIC CITY.

New York, at all times, abounds in burglars, pickpockets, sneak-thieves, incendiaries, forgers, swindlers, murderers and copperheads. Not a day passes but long lists of violations of the peace by these various classes of dangerous men are published; but the past week or two have been more fruitful of daring crimes than we remember to have been the case before. The terrible murder and attempted robbery of Mr. Rogers in Twelfth street, close to Broadway, on the sidewalk in front of his house, by a ruffian who has contrived to escape from the vigilance of the police, was still a subject of public consternation, when a gentleman and his wife, on Saturday evening last, while on their way to their home in Fourth street, just out of Broadway, were attacked by a gang of thieves, knocked down, and would have been robbed of a large quantity of diamond jewelry, which they were carrying to their home for safe-keeping, had not their cries alarmed the villains, so that they fled before the police officers could arrest them. But the most astounding robbery that has been committed in New York was that which took place in the Park Bank, on Saturday morning last, in the full sight of a large number of clerks, and at a time of day when the streets around the bank were more than ordinarily crowded with people. A party of four or five men entered the bank just after it had been opened part of whom loitered about the entrance, while one of them took an iron shield from a bag, and with a tremendous blow shattered a large plate of thick glass, behind which lay several packages of greenbacks. Before the astonished clerks could discover what had caused the crash, the thief thrust his hand through the hole he had made, seized a package of bills, and ran into the street. But he was instantly pursued by an officer, and before he had run far was seized and the money recovered. His comrades, who are said to belong to a gang of newly-arrived English thieves, escaped. They showed themselves well acquainted with city localities; and there was a defiant boldness in their method which is characteristic of New York rogues, who act as though they were sure of protection and countenance when brought before our criminal judges. Another robbery of a singularly bold and startling character occurred on Saturday night, close by the headquarters of the Police Department in Mulberry street, by some sacrilegious rascals, who broke into the office of the Calvary Cemetery, and succeeded in carrying off \$10,000 from an iron safe.

It should be remembered that New York is the central point for Copperheads and rebels. There they flourish in all their loveliness and scoundrelism, and it is from just such localities that their majorities came.

THE HACKMAN WHISKY CASE.

That highly virtuous journal, the Lancaster Inquirer, has been severely criticised about what is known as the "Hackman whisky case." We are profoundly in the dark on the subject, so far as our personal knowledge is concerned, and have never paid any attention to it, because we felt sure from the flutter made by the Inquirer, that it was a "mare's nest," and that the moral and religious editor of that sheet only wanted to insinuate a charge against some one he hated, not having the courage to speak out boldly. The Examiner, of Wednesday, contains the following facts in the case:

If the Inquirer desires the facts in the case, its editors can easily procure them for publication, and thus display some honesty in their statements to the public, instead of their intended insinuation of a dark and mysterious fraud connected with the transaction. The facts as they come to our knowledge, bear no resemblance to the "Hackman whisky case," nothing more than that the general government undertook to make out a case in which it failed. A. S. Hackman died in the latter part of March, 1868, and nearly one month after his death, Mr. Alexander, then assessor, was directed by the department to assess against him the amount of tax alleged to be due to the Government. Mr. Alexander assessed the tax against Mr. Hackman, who was then in his grave, without notice to the administrators or any one else except the department. The administrators of Mr. Hackman's estate, finding the department delayed proceedings, urged that the case might be removed to the United States Court, and to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue, to do. It being necessary to give clear titles to property sold by the administrators of Hackman's estate, and this assessment supposed to be a lien upon it, one of the administrators gave his bond, ample in all its sureties and in double the amount, to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, as security for the amount assessed, or so much thereof as might be recovered against Hackman.

The department thereupon released the real estate from the lien. The department delaying the determination of the case, the administrators of Hackman's estate urged and requested at different times that suits be brought upon this bond and let them into a fair defense in the United States Court, and have the case judicially ended, either for or against the estate, or in the language of one of the administrators, a reliable and worthy citizen of the county of York, "if the Government should have it; if not, then Hackman's estate should have it, and that he would properly account for every dollar."

The department referred the matter to the Collector of this district for opinion. That officer investigated it fully, and made report to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue, and that the claim could not be established in any court of the United States. On this report, the Government feeling satisfied that it was unable to make out a case against this estate in the courts, abandoned any further prosecution, and after a delay of three years, relieved it from any further liability. This is the entire history of the case, and shows no material respect from any of the numerous whisky cases from this county, in the settlement of which some persons intimately connected with the Inquirer have been actively and profitably employed.

All kinds of Job Printing neatly executed at this office.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Business of the Session—Notaries Public—The Contested Election of Bunn vs. Witham—How Copperheads carry Elections—The Civil Code Commission—Bates' History—State Rights and the "Nigger"—Editorial Convention—State Librarian—Reform Committee—Local Legislation, &c.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 24, 1868.

DEAR FATHER ABRAHAM: After a short recess, the members have returned to Harrisburg, and both Senate and House are again at work. But few bills of a public nature have as yet been acted on, while the local bills already introduced number upwards of two hundred. The truth is, too much time at the beginning of the session is occupied in the consideration of bills of the latter class, while measures of more general interest are not matured as early as they should be, and are passed by to make room for these "little Williams," until adjournment day is at hand, when they are too often hurried through, without that deliberation which their importance demands.

One of the most troublesome pieces of legislation is the passage of bills authorizing the appointment of additional Notaries Public. Already, this session, two bills from your county have been presented asking for the appointment of two additional Notaries—one for Lancaster city, and one for Warwick. In the House, the first proposition was defeated, so far as it applied to your city, but was amended so as to provide for an additional twenty-five for Philadelphia. To do away with these specialities, Mr. Nicholson, of Beaver, some days ago, introduced a bill giving the Governor power to appoint as many as he thought necessary in each county. Its passage is quite probable, and the event will doubtless be hailed with delight by those from your county who are applicants. It will do away with the necessity of churning into certain little bargains, you know. You will merely have to convince the Governor that there is a necessity for such an appointment, and the commission will be forthcoming at once. But I am anticipating.

As was expected, the contested election case of Bunn vs. Witham, has been settled satisfactorily to the former gentleman and his friends. After reading the report of the committee, there can be no doubt, in the minds of the unprejudiced, that his opponent held his seat by fraud at the ballot-box. According to the report, five witnesses testified that they were part of a gang of men who went from poll to poll, in that gentleman's district, and by changing their clothing, voted the Democratic ticket no less than one hundred and fifty times. A more outrageous, infamous and disgraceful disregard of the election laws than that proven by the expose of this committee, was never known, and goes to show most conclusively, the necessity for the early passage of a strict and rigid Registry Law.

It will be remembered that during the session of '67, a bill was passed providing for the appointment of three commissioners to revise and collate the civil laws of the Commonwealth. The Governor appointed Messrs. Derrickson, Hall and McVeigh as the commission—all doubtless good men and able lawyers. By act of 1868 they are given till 1870 to complete the work. Last week they reported the titles of fifty-odd bills, with a brief abstract of each, and state: "These bills may hereafter be consolidated and arranged under fewer or different titles, but not until the entire work is completed, when it can be more satisfactorily determined what bills are appropriate to each other," &c. It is evident that there is considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the Legislature with their way of doing business—and no wonder; for really the public are at a loss to know what of practical good they have accomplished. They have been serving for two years, at a salary of \$3,000 each per year—a snug little sum, which in the aggregate amounts to considerable. Senator White's resolution, requesting the gentlemen to send in their bills in full, as early as possible, may have a salutary effect—and may be (who knows?) but the forerunner of a motion to repeal the act creating the commission, and thus do away with what has become rather an expensive luxury.

The Legislature evidently have an elephant on their hands in the shape of Bates' Military History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers. For several years Mr. Bates, and his corps of assistants, have been engaged in their work at a very large expense to the State, and at last the first volume has appeared, and 5,000 copies have been printed by the State printer. How to dispose of them is the question at present agitating the minds of the lawmakers. The committee of conference on the subject, through their chairman, on Friday last, recommended that they should be distributed among the members and officers of the Legislature, and to the Governor and State Librarian. A lengthy debate followed in the Senate, in the course of which it was alleged that the 5,000 copies were printed without proper authority—that the book itself was a fraud—a useless expenditure of the public money, &c., &c. The proposition of the committee was laid aside for the present. In the House, the motion has also been under discussion. Mr. Webb introduced a resolution, which may go to the root of the subject. It requires a committee of three to ascertain by whose authority that number were printed, what is to be their cost, and when and at what cost the work will be completed. What will become of the question, your deponent saith not. Mr. Bates promises to complete the history during the present year.

There is a disposition manifest on the part of some Republicans in the House to retrench expenses, and it has "cropped out" in the shape of a resolution looking to restricting, if not totally abolishing, the franking privilege. It is regarded as rather a "home thrust" at those of our Democratic friends, who, it is alleged, are in the habit of sending home, under frank, their dirty linen. Seriously, though, a great deal might be said in favor of the proposition. Mr. Kleckner, of the House, proposes to abolish entirely this privilege, and allow each member, and Senator \$150 per session, for postage. In this way, he thinks nearly \$14,000 annually will be saved to the State. Such a course, on the part of the lower House, would be so inconsistent with its late action on the pasting and folding question, that we are free to suppose that there is considerable funerals in the movement. After the business which