

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1869.

Economy, Retrenchment, Faithful Collection of the Revenue and Payment of the Public Debt.—GRANT.

FATHER ABRAHAM! EVERYBODY READS IT!

Make up your Clubs!

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: 1 copy, one year, \$1.50; 6 copies, (each name addressed), 7.00; 10 copies, 11.00; 15 copies, 15.00; 20 copies, 20.00.

THANKS!

We are under very great obligations to one of our distinguished representatives in the Legislature, Dr. Gatchell, for a copy of the annual School Report, printed in the German language.

PLAYED OUT!

The late elections in Connecticut and Rhode Island prove conclusively that the copperhead bugaboo cry of "Nigger, Nigger!" has fallen into utter contempt.

COL. WICKERSHAM.

The re-nomination and unanimous confirmation by the Senate of our townsman, Col. J. P. Wickersham, as State Superintendent of Common Schools, is a compliment well deserved.

FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Webster Unabridged Dictionary—the national standard of our language—gives the following definition:

"DEMOCRAT, n. One who adheres to a government by the people, or favors the extension of the right of suffrage to all classes of men."

—No man, therefore, can be a 'Democrat' in the true sense of the term, who is opposed to the Suffrage Amendment.

THE "WAVE."

The Boston Post, a "Democratic" paper, says: "It was from a lack of incentive that the Connecticut election, in great part, went as it did, to which should be added the fact that the wave of last fall which carried General Grant into the Presidential chair has not yet wholly subsided."

WE STILL LIVE!

We are getting on. We learn fast. We yield to what is inevitable with becoming grace. Negro soldiers gave us a shock from which we had scarcely recovered when emancipation, wholly and at once, struck us with a death-like chill.

"POLITICIANS."

The newspapers of the State are becoming aroused on the subject of denunciations of politicians, which is becoming so fashionable among the "parlor politicians" of the day—the very exquisite gentlemen who have great reputations, away from home, as "influential," "high character," and all that, who turn up their aristocratic noses at the men who do the work of the party and contribute the money necessary to carry on the work of advancing the cause of Freedom and Humanity.

They are men without heart and without convictions, who study politics as they study the ebbing and the flowing of the tides (and there are such in Lancaster,) and hold themselves in readiness to desert their party as soon as they hope to get place and prominence in another.

RHODE ISLAND.

The Entire Republican State Ticket elected by about 4,000 Majority. Rhode Island held her election on Wednesday week, and follows Connecticut. In the election a year ago her Republican majority was 4,300. In 1867 it was 4,194.

The Senate stands: Republicans, 26; Democrats, 7; and the House, Republicans, 70; Democrats, 12. This secures the passage of the suffrage amendment.

HOW THEY SQUIRM!

The presentation of the allegory of the "Drummer Boy of Shiloh," in this city, last week, under the auspices of the G. A. R., wonderfully affected the nerves of the corps of editors and reporters of the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The Grand Army of the Republic numbers 3000 posts, and a membership exceeding 400,000.

THE CRAWFORD COUNTY SYSTEM.

As the time approaches for making the annual nominations in this county, considerable interest is being manifested on the subject. The following article from the Columbia Spy, of Wednesday last, is worthy of consideration.

"It will not be long until the people will be called upon, under the Crawford county system, to nominate candidates for county offices, &c. It is highly important that these nominations be made without fraud or stuffing of the ballot boxes; for otherwise we apprehend, from expressions of voters all around, they will not be satisfied, and the ticket will be repudiated.

INQUITOUS.

We call the attention of the reader to the letters from Harrisburg, in this paper. It will be seen that a bill of the most objectionable character has passed the House, and great efforts are made to get it through the Senate.

EX-GOV. CURTIN.

The many friends of this distinguished gentleman will learn with pleasure that he has been nominated to the U. S. Senate, and confirmed, as Minister to Russia.

TIMES OLD AND NEW.

Senator Wilson, in the United States Senate, in replying to some remarks by Senator Sprague, made the following reference to times old and new in New England:

"I know something of the stern trials of men who seek of their fellow-men leave to toil for wages, but I know, and am grateful to God for the cheering fact, that the laboring men of the country have made immense progress during the past third of a century. I speak not now of the mighty change in the condition of the toiling millions of the South. I speak of the improvement in the condition of the great body of the mechanics and working men of the North, of New England, of Massachusetts, and of Rhode Island, too.

Last week six sons of Samuel Diller, deceased, of Hanover, York county, after celebrating their mother's birth-day, concluded to have themselves weighed. They weighed 1,429 pounds.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, April 7, 1869.

Dear Father Abraham: If there ever was a time in the history of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, when we had a set of good and true men who have the interest and welfare of the people at heart—men who can sacrifice their own personal interests for the public good—that time is now. The crisis has come. The question to be determined here within the next forty-eight hours is whether the people through their immediate representatives shall govern this great Commonwealth, or whether their Representatives shall be used as pliable instruments in the hands of designing men, to further their selfish ends, and destroy the vitality of the body politic.

The bill, as you are aware, passed the Senate, and is now awaiting its chances in the House; the Tax bill passed the House last night and is now rallying strength to get through the Senate. I am told that a combination has been effected lately by the friends of both to hitch teams and thus get them through both branches.

The Appropriation Bill will hang long in the Senate. The report of the Committee of Conference was adopted in the House yesterday, but the committee are afraid, as yet, to call it up in the Senate, as up to this hour a majority of Senators are opposed to its adoption.

ADJOURNMENT.

Both Houses have agreed to adjourn finally on Friday next, at 12 M. And yet, should the Senate refuse to accept the report of the committee, the Governor will have to call an extra session to pass an Appropriation Bill.

LOCAL LEGISLATION.

An act to exclude certain farm land from the borough of Washington, Lancaster county, ruled out of order by the Speaker, the Courts having jurisdiction.

An act to incorporate the Intercourse association of Lancaster county, for the recovery of stolen horses and other stolen property and detection of thieves; also, a supplement to an act establishing the Fife's Eddy ferry; also, an act to incorporate the Manheim slate company—passed both House and Senate.

Senate bill to amend the number of terms of the several courts in the second judicial district, and to expedite business therein, passed the House with an amendment, excepting from its provisions writs of execution.

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The following introduced by Mr. Hopkins, also passed the House: An act for the taxing of dogs in the county of Lancaster for the benefit of the Home for Friendless Children of the county of Lancaster. It provides that the Commissioners shall have all dogs owned by citizens of the county returned by the Assessors, on which a tax of one dollar per head shall be collected, of which the treasurer shall keep a separate account for the use of the Home for Friendless Children. Any dog not so returned and taxed, is liable to be killed wherever found.

HARRISBURG, April 14, 1869.

Dear Father Abraham: This morning Senator Connell called up the Conference Committee's Report on the Appropriation Bill. Messrs. Wallace, Graham and Billingslet, in a few remarks, opposed its adoption. Messrs. Errett and Connell, members of the Committee, favored it. The vote was taken and resulted as follows:

Yea—Messrs. Connell, Errett, Henszey, Lower, Olmstead, Osterhout, Robinson, Sainson, Stutzman and Taylor—10. Nays—Messrs. Beck, Billingslet, Brown (Mercer), Brown (Northampton), Burnett, Coleman, Davis, Duncan, Fisher, Graham, Jackson, Linderman, McOandless, McIntire, Miller, Nagle, Randall, Seagriff, Turner, Wallace, White and Worthington, Speaker—22. No voting—Mr. Kerr. So the report was rejected.

An effort will doubtless be made to-morrow to re-consider the vote negating the report, with what success it is impossible at this time to conjecture. Another unsuccessful attempt was made in the House to-day to call up the Cattle Bill. Messrs. Bummy and Peters, voted "nay," and Messrs. Gatchell and Hopkins, voted "aye."

A clergyman in Maine, in the middle of the sermon, had occasion to use his handkerchief, and to his astonishment scattered in all directions some fifty specimens of paper dolls, which his little girl had lodged in the parental pocket for safekeeping.

The Elmira Gazette says:—"The entire gift of Ezra Cornell to the Cornell University will amount to about two million two hundred thousand dollars. Twenty years or so ago Ezra could not pay his grocery's bill."

Mr. I. B. GARA, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, has been appointed postmaster in Erie city. He will no doubt be confirmed. This is an excellent appointment.

STATEMENT IN BEHALF OF MRS. TWITCHELL—HER DEFENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15, 1869.

The Philadelphia Sunday Transcript of the 11th contains a good deal of gossip in regard to the birth and history of Mr. and Mrs. Twitchell. In contradiction to some former statements, it is denied that there is any ground for the belief that there was ever an improper intimacy between Mr. Twitchell, sen., and Mrs. Twitchell.

We have already said, the Transcript continues, that Mrs. Twitchell is not yet ready to give to the public a formal statement, but while in prison awaiting trial, in conversation with prison officials, she made a partial explanation, which has never been published. When informed of her husband's conviction and probabilities of her own fate, she remarked "I know nothing of this murder; that afternoon George and I were out riding, and when we got back to the house mother was getting tea, as Sarah Campbell had gone out. I noticed that George was very much depressed in spirits. He never was much of a talker, but this night he was quieter than usual. He scarcely spoke at all at the table, and after supper I said to mother: 'There is something the matter with George; suppose you go and talk with him, while I clear away the things. Mother went up stairs and I did clear away the things, and when I got through I went to my room. George was then in the sitting room reading the paper and smoking a cigar. I went to bed and don't know how long I was asleep when I was aroused by a cry of Sarah Campbell in the kitchen.' This is the only statement she has ever made outside of whatever she may have communicated to her counsel.

WHY MRS. TWITCHELL CEASED HER VISITS TO THE PRISON.

At the outset it may be well to remind our readers that on the day of inquest she appealed to her husband to tell what he knew of the murder, and that if he was guilty, to act like a man and relieve her. This she refused to do, but instead of the greeting on her part being warm and affectionate, it was cool, as would naturally be the case with one who looked upon her husband as the murderer of her mother. Immediately after her acquittal, Twitchell and his friends commenced trying to get a statement from Mrs. Twitchell which would take from him the charge and transfer it to his wife. So shrewd were the parties engaged that one of them visited Daniel Dougherty, esq., to ascertain from him whether a person once acquitted of a charge of murder could be tried a second time, although there be a confession of guilt. The response being that there could not be a second trial, the efforts were renewed with redoubled vigor, until Mrs. Twitchell's friends heard of them and advised her to absent herself from prison.

She always denied any complicity in the murder, and her fears of confession by him were based upon the fact that she knew that he did not believe in the immortality of the soul, and that his professions to Mr. Bringham of piety were only shams designed merely to retain his service in the game for life he was playing. Others besides herself had every reason to feel assured that he would not hesitate at any time to save his life, for there is every reason to believe that to at least one human being, George S. Twitchell, Jr., confessed his crime, and made himself the sole actor in the tragedy. Throughout this effort to induce his wife to take upon herself an unjust accusation in order to save his life, Twitchell had frequent conversations with his friends, who, anxious as they were to assist him, could not overlook the damning proofs of his own guilt. They saw the inherent improbability of his confession, and they were anxious to have some parts of it explained to the satisfaction of the public. A day or two before his death his strong love of life led him again to refer to it, and he remarked to his aunt, Mrs. Moore, "It is hard that I have to die for this thing." Mrs. Moore then inquired of the prisoner, "how can you account for the blood that was found on your shirt?" Twitchell related to her the circumstances of the murder in keeping with his so-called confession. He told her how he was aroused by his wife calling to him, how he went down into the dining room and was there told by her that she had quarreled with her mother and murdered her. "My first impulse was to alarm the neighborhood, but my second impulse was to save my wife. Twitchell then stated to Mrs. Moore the circumstances attending the throwing of the body from the window. He asserted that he grasped the body of the murdered woman by the head and shoulders while his wife took hold of her feet. They then brought the body to the window and rested it on the sill, in which position it was held by Twitchell, while his wife ran down stairs and out into the yard immediately under the window. When she reached this position, Twitchell quietly lowered the body into the arms of his wife, by whom it was laid at length upon the pavement. In this way he accounted for the circumstance that the body, when found, was not thrown together as it might have been if hurled violently from the window, but laid in a straightened condition. Twitchell concluded by saying that he supposed the blood came upon his clothes by having hold of the murdered woman in the manner described. Mrs. Moore inquired what became of Camilla's clothing. "How was it that it was not bloody as yours?" To this he responded that the clothing was carried off. In face of all these confessions Mrs. Twitchell has remained quiet. She has realized that if she denied the story while her husband was alive, she would be accused of an attempt to insure his death. She was willing to do any service to him, and she was also willing to assist him to the extent of her means, but when he wished her to go a step further and assert herself guilty of a crime she did not commit, she left him. It is anticipated that within a few days Mrs. Twitchell will make a full statement in her own behalf.

The funeral of Twitchell, it is stated, was only attended by his father and brother and a few near relatives. Mrs. Twitchell was not there.

CHICAGO is somewhat excited over the successful application, by one of her citizens, of coal oil as a fuel for locomotive engines. The experiment was made recently on a passenger train with the most gratifying success.

IN New Orleans there are some clerks that they are glad to get anything to do. Half a dozen were hired on one street to act as waiters at a hotel, glad enough to do it so as to get their bread.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

[CUTTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.]

Both Houses of Congress remained in session Friday until nearly daybreak Saturday morning, and re-assembled at 10 o'clock. It was generally expected that the session Saturday would be continued through the day Sunday, but the presiding officers of both Houses construed the adjournment resolution to mean that the first session of the Forty-first Congress should adjourn at 12 M. yesterday. Accordingly, when that hour arrived, they adjourned their respective Houses sine die. The closing scenes were almost void of general interest, but were marked with unusual decorum and freedom from the boisterousness which usually occurs on such occasions.

There is just enough body left to Senator Brownlow to keep his soul pinned to one place. His feet are useless for walking purposes. His hands shake with a fearful palsy. His tongue almost refuses to articulate a word, yet his mind is as active, his judgment as clear, as when in the meridian of health and strength, of unimpaired manhood. Confinement in a rebel dungeon brought on the severe physical suffering which afflicts this Senator. The dampness, the wretched food, and constant expectation of death, made him what he is to-day. His private secretary, who is his son, always occupies a place by his side, and through him he manages to perform his duty as Senator. What an unflinching will this man brings to bear upon life! Very few in his condition would think of leaving a sick room; and yet, day after day he may be found at his desk, completing the last remaining chapters of the book which ends only when the pen falls from the nerveless fingers, and the hand has been a mass of trembling dust. Parson Brownlow has just entered the wintry forest of age. Medium-sized, broad-shouldered, with a waist as handsomely tapered as a woman's, he has a fine intellectual head, large, kindly blue eyes, but the lower part of his face indicates his sensitive organization, and the lines around his delicate, mobile mouth have been scamed and scored with passion. He must have been made of the best kind of material in the beginning, else the constant friction or the carrying of so many pounds of steam to the square inch would have destroyed the intricate machinery long ago.

From the present indications it is probable that the Senate will remain in extra session from two to three weeks, a longer time than has been supposed. The session will be lengthened by the necessity of dealing with the Alabama treaty in some definite way. It is understood that Mr. Sumner, whose position as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs gives him much weight, will take the ground that the Teverdy Johnson treaty must be rejected altogether; that negotiations must be entered upon de novo, and that the only admissible base for such negotiations is the concession by England that her action was wrong in itself.

In the Post Office Department a list of the employees in each bureau has been prepared, and Postmaster General Creswell is giving it a careful examination, to ascertain how many can be spared from each branch, and to select from the list the individuals to be discharged. This will occupy his time, with the pressure of other business, for about two weeks, when the process of decapitation will begin. It is estimated that within the next three months there will be dismissed from all the Government departments between four and five hundred employees of both sexes.

The Senate confirmed about one hundred and ninety nominations in executive session to-day, among them Wilder, postmaster at Columbia, S. C. He was once a slave, and one Senator who-to-day voted for him went some years ago to buy him. He is a very competent and intelligent man, and his office is worth three thousand dollars. Jonbert, the colored Assessor for New Orleans, was also confirmed.

Lieutenant Governor Dunn, of Louisiana, is daily upon the floor of the Senate and the House. He produces a decided sensation. He is a large, well formed, black (not yellow) man. He has a superior education, is easy and dignified in manner, a graceful and fluent speaker, and withal a man whom every one is compelled to respect—Garrett Davis shakes his head laughing and says, "I told you so," and with emphatic meaning Wilson replies, "So did I, and I am profoundly grateful to God and the Republican party that I now see it."

The President stated, on Thursday, that he was being deceived in many instances about appointments, and that he had made up his mind whenever he learned that everything was not fairly represented, he should promptly remove the nominee, and correct any error he had made as soon as he found it out.

Senator Ross called on the President on Monday, and demanded the appointment of a man whom the President had refused to nominate. The President again declined, and told Mr. Ross that he had his mind made up on that question, when the Senator made a very insolent and profane reply, whereupon he was ordered by President Grant to instantly leave the house, and without waiting for any further demonstration from the President, Mr. Ross made a bee-line for the door, and never stopped until he was safe within his own lodgings. [This man Ross was one of the "cusses" that saved Andy Johnson from impeachment.]

"A painful accident occurred in Frog Gulch, yesterday, which has passed a wet blanket of gloom over a hitherto joyous, whisky-loving community. Dave Spigger—or as he was familiarly called "Murderer Dave"—got drunk at his usual hour yesterday, and, as is his custom, took down his gun and started after the fellow who went home with his girl the night before. He found him at breakfast, with his wife and thirteen children. After killing them, he started to return, but, being weary, stumbled and broke his leg. Dr. Bill found him in that condition, and, having no wagon at hand to convey him to town, shot him to put him out of misery. Dave was dearly loved by all who know him, and his loss is a Democratic gain. He never disagreed with any but Republicans, and would have materially reduced the vote of that party had he not been so ultimately cut off."—Siskiyou Knock Down.