

Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.



LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1869.

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

FATHER ABRAHAM! EVERYBODY READS IT! Make up your Clubs!

Table with subscription rates: 1 copy, one year, \$1.50; 6 copies, each name addressed, \$7.00; 10 copies, each name addressed, \$10.00; 15 copies, each name addressed, \$15.00; 20 copies, each name addressed, \$20.00.

This week we failed to receive the picture intended for this number of FATHER ABRAHAM in time to be inserted.

GATCHELL! Our late distinguished representative, Dr. Gatchell, has announced himself for re-election.

BRAINS. The Chicago Times says: "The Democratic party has always possessed, and does now possess the brains of the nation."

DECORATE THE GRAVES. By a general order from the headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic, the 30th of May next has been set apart as a memorial day to do honor at their graves to the memory and glorious deeds of the fallen soldiers of the nation.

AMUSING! It is not a little amusing to notice how some of the Republican papers, published in Democratic Congressional Districts of this State, are pitching into the arrangement made by the Republicans in Congress, six weeks ago, by which appointments for those Districts should be controlled by the two U. S. Senators.

THE ASSESSORSHIP. The Inquirer is trying to get up some feeling against the removal of Mr. Warfel and the appointment of Capt. Rea to the Assessorship of this district, pronouncing the removal an outrage.

THE INSANE. The Legislature of Pennsylvania has passed an important law relative to the admission of the insane into asylums.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER. Harrisburg, April 19, 1869. Dear Father Abraham: The Legislature of 1869, is no more—it expired on last Friday noon—and its members have all left for their homes.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY.

This popular society, consisting of a number of legislative functionaries who figured prominently during the late session at Harrisburg, gave a public exhibition of mutual admiration and regard just before the final adjournment on last Friday.

The ceremonies opened by Mr. Strang, the leading champion of the extra twenty-seven Pastors and Folders, who made the first admiration speech, "addressing himself particularly" to the gentleman from the Tenth District of Philadelphia, Mr. Davis, and presenting him, in behalf of his friends of Harrisburg, "both in and out of the Legislature," with an elegant cane.

Mr. Davis received the testimonial in his usual happy and modest style, to the great admiration of those present, both on the floor, in the galleries and out in the rotunda.

Next, several beautiful silver pitchers were placed upon the clerk's desk, and Mr. Jones, of Berks, stepped forward and tickled Mr. Wilson, of Allegheny, with a very appropriate admiration speech—speaking "purely personally" of Mr. Wilson, and in conclusion, handed over one of the pitchers which Mr. Wilson gratefully accepted, confessing his embarrassment and indebtedness with becoming modesty.

Mr. Davis then proceeded to make Mr. Nicholson feel good by presenting him with the other mug, and made a telling speech to his friend—using "the term in an individual capacity," and Mr. Davis was applauded. Mr. Nicholson responded, "as briefly as possible," as he did "not feel in a condition to make any extended remarks."

Mr. Strang's turn next. Clark, of Warren, was selected by his admirers to make the speech, in which he said, before the entire assembly, that he "loved him as he does his own brother." That was impressive. A page (why not a pastor and folder?) then delivered to Mr. Strang a gold watch and chain. Mr. Strang then did something good for the soul—made an honest confession, that he supposed his legislative career is at an end, and asked that any unpleasantness during the session be forever obliterated.

For the purpose of a little variety, a democratic show was announced as next in order, and Mr. Brown, of Clarion, on behalf of his fellow democrats, presented a gold watch and chain to Mr. Playford, of Fayette, and Mr. Playford responded, very modestly asking why he was signaled out from among so many, who deserved just as much admiration as he did? He thanked Brown and his other democratic admirers for the costly "ticker," and stuck it into his pocket.

Mr. Corman, another democrat, then called up his friend and fellow democrat from Old Berks, saying unto him: "I, the representative of your friends on this side of the House, present you this slight token of our appreciation of your worth as a man and representative," and handed him a gold-headed cane.

Mr. Jones expressed his gratitude, and accepted the cane. The occasion, he said, was sad and affecting, because we are about to part to meet no more. He cordially thanked his admirers for the gift, and whilst on the floor he embraced the opportunity to present to Mr. McCullough, on behalf of his many admirers, a token of their affection and regard. Whether it was a cane, a mug, a gold watch, a velocipede or a new hat, is not stated. All we do know is what the reporters say, that in presenting it (what is it?) Jones said, "allow me (turning to Mr. McCullough) to present, &c., and that it was delivered to Mr. McCullough, who also made an admiration speech, gratefully accepting the—what ever it was.

The Speaker occupied the chair all the time. Then the ceremonies of the society were interrupted by a committee from the Senate, giving notice that the session was almost played out; and before the society could proceed, the Secretary of the Commonwealth slipped in and presented a message from the Governor. Also, a committee who reported that they had waited on the Governor, and that the latter had nothing more to say or communicate to the assembled crowd.

The society then proceeded to finish up the admiration ceremonies, according to programme. Mr. Porter made an admirable speech, and handed Mr. Corman a handsome ebony gold mounted cane, which the latter accepted in due form.

Next in order, came miscellaneous articles, and admiration speeches, among which were the following: By Mr. Nicholson, on behalf of the pages, a gold ring to Gen. Selfridge, clerk of the House.

By Mr. Strang, on behalf of friends, a silver tea set, also to Gen. Selfridge, who thus got more than his share. By Mr. Nicholson, a gold headed cane to Billy Cooper. By Mr. Wilson, a clock to John A. Small, the amiable resident clerk. By Mr. McCullough, on behalf of the clerk, a gold mounted gavel to speaker Clark.

GENERAL FISHER.

At various times during the late session of the State Legislature, when referring to the corruptionists, we have classed both our Senators, General Fisher as well as Mr. Billingslet, among those who would hold out firmly to the last, on the side of retrenchment and reform, and against the ring of plunderers and notorious swindlers who brought so much disgrace upon the State by their open, defiant and unblushing disregard of law and common decency.

Whatever his shortcomings may have been in the past, and in other respects, we have had the very best reason to believe that he would at all events hold out all the way through, against that most notorious pasting and folding swindle, by means of which the treasury was robbed of over sixteen thousand dollars. But at the eleventh hour, on the eve of final adjournment, finding that one more Senator was needed to pass the appropriation bill, with the section inserted to recognize and endorse the swindle, and to filch the money from the State Treasury, the ring managers, it seems, knew their man. They "went for" General Fisher, and secured his "reluctant" vote, which passed the bill by one majority. Had his vote not been needed, he would now, no doubt, claim and receive credit at home for having been faithful to the end.

To make the matter worse, Senator Connell, the leader of the corruptionists in the Senate, promptly came out in a letter to the Lancaster Express, apologizing for and trying to justify Gen. Fisher's conduct. But, as every school boy in the State knows who Mr. Connell is—that he is and has been during the entire session the bold and outspoken champion of the corruptionists, this attempt to humbug Gen. Fisher's constituents by such a production as the letter referred to, will amount to just nothing at all.

The people of Lancaster county will want some better authority than Senator Connell's certificate of character, to be induced to re-elect this faithless public servant. They have his record, and by it, and not by Mr. Connell's white-washing, they will judge him, and pronounce their verdict at the next Republican primary election, if he gives them a chance.

A VOLUNTARY TRIBUTE. The editor of the New York Independent spent a few hours in Harrisburg, a short time ago, and in order to "kill time" visited the State Legislature, then in session.

"Happening to be in Harrisburg a day or two ago, we made a visit to the Pennsylvania legislature. Our curiosity to gaze upon that subhedrim was not prompted by the fine reverence which inspires one to make a pilgrimage to some historic shrine. We were not powerfully drawn toward that conclave as if it had been a convention of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, or of the framers of the Federal Constitution. Nevertheless, finding ourselves within an easy walk of the legislative presence, and the weather being fair, and the train not due for two hours, we sauntered toward the capital-grounds, swung open the oily-hinged gate, roamed awhile up and down the gravel-paths, listened to the singing of the spring birds, and then entered the ungainly brick edifice, and sat down to compare the innocent tree-top notes out of doors with the human jargon inside. More than a common bedlam saluted our ears. The Keystone Legislature was on that day a double choir of discords. In both houses there was wrangling enough for ten taverns; but the lower house in particular was in an open riot of unruly tongues. The speaker's gavel gave passionate raps for quiet, but only added to the hubbub of noise. A certain member's personal character had been wantonly assailed in a public print, and he was tremendously repelling the just aspersions. In our travels we have visited legislatures, and never saw much decorum in any; but we have never heard such an incessant buzz of Babel in any other so-called deliberative body as in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. But the chief disagreeableness of the spectacle was the noticeable look of inferiority which a large majority of the members wore on their faces. Never before have we seen so squallid an array of low brows grouped together in any one legislative chamber, not even in Albany. Solid Pennsylvanians say freely (and with many interspersed damnations) that the present legislature is the most corrupt that ever pruned upon that bleeding commonwealth. We take no part in this accusation, not merely because we cannot substantiate the authentic facts, but because men may have bad-looking faces without having ill-meaning hearts. Far be it from us to insinuate that the Pennsylvania legislature is corrupt; we simply mean to characterize it as the most suspicious-looking public body we ever saw. After sitting an hour among the sorrow-stricken spectators, we returned joyfully to the fresh air, the blue sky, the singing birds, and the common people. And we soliloquized as follows: "What a country is ours!—God's bounty is lavished upon it, Nature's smile daily glorifies it, and even man's misgovernment is not able to ruin it."

LAWS FOR LANCASTER COUNTY.

The following is a list of the acts relating to Lancaster county, which passed at the late session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, for a copy of which we are indebted to Gen. Fisher: An act to authorize the Governor to appoint additional Notaries Public in the city of Philadelphia, and in the counties of Lancaster, Erie and Somerset.

An act to extend the provisions of the 21 section of an act entitled an act relative to the appointment of an additional Notary Public in the county of Lancaster, and authorizing an acting Justice of the Peace to hold said appointment in the township of Warwick, in said county.

A supplement to an act entitled an act relative to roads and public highways in Fulton and Salisbury townships, in Lancaster county, extending the same to Providence township, in said county.

A supplement to an act entitled an act amending the charter of the municipal corporation of the city of Lancaster, and dividing the same into nine wards, approved April 5th, A. D. 1867.

A further supplement to an act relating to the Common Schools of the city of Lancaster, authorizing the directors to sell real estate.

An act authorizing the Columbia Water Company to borrow money.

A supplement to the charter of the Municipal Corporation of the city of Lancaster, changing the time of certain elections in said corporation and for other purposes.

An act to incorporate the Lancaster County Insurance Trust and State Deposit Company.

An act to consolidate the offices of Assessor and Constable in the township of Brecknock, in the county of Lancaster, and East Town and South Coventry townships, Chester county.

An act to incorporate the African College.

OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

HARRISBURG, April 19, 1869. Dear Father Abraham: The Legislature of 1869, is no more—it expired on last Friday noon—and its members have all left for their homes, many of them to receive the plaudits and thanks of their constituents, and some, doubtless, to receive the execrations and denunciations of the people of the entire State.

So it always has been and so it always will be. The doings of the Legislature are now a part of history, and as time alone will tell whether its acts will result in good or evil to the State, the public, I am satisfied, will not have as much cause to regret what has been done, as they will be gratified and rejoiced to know what infamous and outrageous acts that seemed almost certain of consummation, happily failed. I allude more particularly to the onerous and unfair tax bill and the notorious Cattle Bill. Up to Thursday noon, fears were entertained that some sudden attempt would be made to force their passage—the former having already passed the House and the latter the Senate. As stated in my last, they were urged by a powerful combination, with plenty of means and weighty arguments to aid them in their villainy. But just at the time they felt sure of success, a stranger made his appearance among the law-makers, who proved to be an agent of the New York and Erie Railroad Co., with rumor says, \$30,000 in ready cash, and a promise as much more as necessary, to smother the tax bill. Whether or not this persuasive was used and succeeded in putting the quietus on the scheme, your correspondent, not being in the ring, is unable to state; but, at all events, these twin sisters of iniquity went down to a merited grave together, the one necessarily carrying the other with it.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL. On Thursday morning the Senate reconsidered the vote rejecting the report of the Conference Committee on the Appropriation Bill, and the same incident thereto was very amusing. With the exception of Mr. Jackson, who made the motion to reconsider, the Democrats voted solid against the report, as did also Messrs. Billingslet, Brown, Fisher, Graham and White. Before the Speaker's name was called, finding the bill was again lost, its friends requested the Clerk not to announce the result of the vote, and then began the scene. A crowd gathered around the desks of those Republican Senators who voted with the majority, and begged them most piteously to change their votes; they were ably assisted by the pastors and toilers, with whom especially it was a matter of great moment. In a short time, from the Democratic side was heard incessant appeals to "announce the vote," but the Speaker turned a deaf ear to their demands. Finally, Messrs. Brown and White asked and obtained leave to change their votes—and still there was one less than the requisite number to carry the report. At this stage, Senator Fisher asked moment. In a short time, from the Democratic side was heard incessant appeals to "announce the vote," but the Speaker turned a deaf ear to their demands. Finally, Messrs. Brown and White asked and obtained leave to change their votes—and still there was one less than the requisite number to carry the report. At this stage, Senator Fisher asked moment. In a short time, from the Democratic side was heard incessant appeals to "announce the vote," but the Speaker turned a deaf ear to their demands. Finally, Messrs. Brown and White asked and obtained leave to change their votes—and still there was one less than the requisite number to carry the report. At this stage, Senator Fisher asked moment. 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