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Father Abraham.

INDEPENDENT AND PROGRESSIVE.

LANCASTER CITY, PA.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1869.

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THE AMENDMENT.

Three more States have been secured for the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, making it safe, whatever New York and Ohio may do. Georgia, Texas, and Mississippi give us more than the requisite three-fourths. The great amendment saves universal suffrage in the South and North—gives us several heretofore doubtful Northern States, and seals to the Republican cause Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, and probably Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee. But for that the local Legislatures would have enacted property or educational tests, by the machinery of new constitutions. Now the great experiment will work out its own salvation everywhere.

☞Hon. William McKennan has been appointed by Grant, Circuit Judge of the Third Circuit, comprising the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. He is a resident of Washington, in this State, and son of Hon. T. M. T. McKennan, a gentleman some years ago prominent as an influential member of the old Whig party. There is some opposition to his confirmation.

HON. JOHN A. HIESTAND.

We are reliably informed that our jolly neighbor of the Lancaster *Examiner* is an applicant for the office of Appraiser at Philadelphia, made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Worthington. What his prospects are we don't know, but as he has been left out in the cold so far, it is about time that his many home friends take a decided stand for him, and as one of them we shall insist upon his appointment. He must have an office, and not be put off any longer, and if the powers don't give him one, and that, very soon, say within ten days or two weeks, Gen. Grant may expect to get such a broadside through the columns of FATHER ABRAHAM as will make him tremble in his boots. The idea of seeing our neighbor suffering and shivering out in the cold, and without even a single home member of the Legislature to fall back on in the present State Treasury crisis, and without any other kind of a show, is too bad!

Should the President continue to ignore the claims of our friend, we respectfully suggest the propriety of calling a general town meeting of the supporters and backers of our candidate, in order to present his claims in the most earnest and positive manner. This we propose in the name of humanity. Jack shall and must have an office, and if he can't make the Appraisership, then get something else for him—anything to keep him from freezing to death.

Since writing the above, we have succeeded in extorting a pledge from a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature to secure his appointment as one of the pages of the House, should our efforts to make the Appraisership for him prove unsuccessful.

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

Petitions are now in circulation, and being signed by hundreds and thousands throughout the State, praying the Legislature for the passage of a law submitting the question of license to sell intoxicating liquors, or prohibition, to the qualified voters of each ward, borough and township, thus removing the question of temperance from political party and placing it directly into the hands of the people themselves. Whilst the temperance men are nearly or quite unanimously in favor of such a law, the proposition is also favorably received by citizens generally—even by a number of the most respectable hotel keepers, who seem to be ready and willing to trust their business interests to their immediate neighbors, and it is not likely that under the operations of such a law the people would fail properly to discriminate between respectable hotels, kept for the accommodation of strangers and travelers, and the mere drinking shops and schools of vice and crime with which almost every city, town and village in the State is so seriously afflicted. The keepers of these mere drinking and tippling shops only will be likely to oppose the proposed law.

As the people will, in the end, decide this, as well as all other questions of public interest, we can see no reason why the system proposed should not be adopted by the Legislature. It is certainly fair, reasonable and just. As the temperance men cannot reasonably expect the enactment of prohibitory laws in opposition to the popular will—the deliberate judgment of the people—the keepers of dram drinking saloons should have no right to carry on their demoralizing traffic in open defiance of the majority of the people. Let the people have a chance to decide this question in each locality for themselves.

HIGHLY INTERESTING.

Whilst the "Hon" M. S. Quay is strutting about Philadelphia, "settling up the affairs of the State Committee" and giving orders and directions to the Senators and Representatives, whom he claims as his own, his neighbor of the Beaver *Argus* tells some very interesting stories about him at home. In the last number of that paper we find the following:

"* * * The election of Mr. Mackey was just as free from any sordid inducements as that of Mr. Kelley.—*Radical.*

"If the election of Mr. Mackey was free from *sordid* considerations, the public would like to know why Mr. Quay, as the representative of Mr. "Don" Cameron, so frequently waited upon General Irwin—during the closing hours of the last Legislature—and importunately insisted that the latter should honor the check of the said Cameron for *Two Hundred Thousand dollors of the State funds?*—alleging that the Penna. Railroad had 'gone back' on them in permitting the defeat of the Tax Bill in the Senate—by which uncalled for and infamous measure the above amount was not only to have been realized, but which was to have been a perfect mine of wealth to a select few in the future—and declaring also, in language more forcible than classic, that the Legislature was about to adjourn, the members had not been paid their respective prices, and some of them were 'raising h—ll.' And in thus calling upon Gen. Irwin to advance the money out of the State Treasury to pay the debt by which his own defeat was purchased, was there not exhibited an assurance almost incredible, verging on the sublime?"

☞The last issue of the Philadelphia *Sunday Republic*, says: "There is no longer any doubt that the policemen have been compelled to contribute a goodly portion of a month's pay to a corruption fund with which to buy the number of Republican legislators necessary to kill the police bill."

LEGISLATIVE REFORM.

With the exception of a paper here and there owned by and "run" in the interest of the ring of corruptionists, the Republican Press throughout the State, with remarkable unanimity, is squarely on the side of radical and positive reform. We cannot believe that the errors of last year will or can be repeated during the coming session, or that the voice of the Republican people, so emphatically expressed at the last election, will be disregarded. Yet, it is well to keep the subject constantly and prominently before the public. The ring is reckless, powerful and crafty, and needs constant watching. The only safety is in having nothing at all to do with it; to work and vote against its candidates; to knock down its "set up" and to demolish whatever "slate" it may present at time of organization. On this subject, that excellent and high-toned paper, the Pittsburg *Commercial* of Friday last, says:

"If we do not put the ring down it will break down the Republican party." This is the warning of a veteran Republican whose name is honored throughout the State. Last fall's election was an admonition to the party on the subject. The sins of last winter's session came near crushing the party. It would have been crushed, but for the fact that Republicans generally took ground against the corruptionists and boldly proclaimed for Economy, Retrenchment and Reform. The people were promised better things in the future—a promise between which and its fulfillment the Treasury Ring are arraying themselves with determined energy. They are making a desperate struggle for the "unexpended balance." It is the means whereby they control legislation, dispose of the offices and enrich themselves. To get into position last winter it cost the ring fifty thousand dollars. It was as corrupt a transaction as ever disgraced a State Capitol. During the year the "unexpended balance" has averaged one and a half million dollars. To continue this in their hands they are making desperate efforts. With the power it will give them, the ring expects to pass the infamous tax bill—of which it failed last winter—whereby at least one million more will be applied to the "balance." Their next campaign is laid out on an extensive scale, and there is no safety either for the party or the State, except in putting the Treasury Ring down from the start. Such is the will of the people, and we do not believe that all of the "unexpended balance" will suffice to defeat it".

PROTECTION.

A late number of the New York *Tribune* contains the concluding portion of Horace Greely's exceedingly able articles on the subject of political economy. As the articles have been regularly entered for copy right, they will no doubt be reproduced in book form and should find a place in every gentleman's library. We give the last paragraph in full:

"XV. Finally, the great truth, so forcibly set forth by Mr. Clay in 1832, that Protection has been to us a sheet-anchor of Prosperity, a main spring of Progress, has not been and can never be explained away. Our years of signal disaster and depression have been those in which our ports were most easily flooded with foreign goods—those which intervened betwixt the recognition of our Independence and the enactment of the Tariff of 1789—those which followed the close of the Last War with Great Britain and were signalized by immense importations of her Fabrics—those of 1837—42, when the Compromise of 1833 began to be seriously felt in the reduction of duties on imports; and those of 1854—57, when the Polk-Walker Tariff of 1846 had time to take full effect. No similarly sweeping revulsions and prostrations ever took place—I think none *could* take place—under the sway of efficient Protection. Said Mr. Clay in 1842, after premising that the seven years preceeding the passage of the Tariff of 1824 had been the most prosperous that our country had ever known: "This transformation of the condition of the country from gloom and distress to brightness and prosperity *has been mainly the work of American legislation, fostering American industry, instead of allowing to be controlled by foreign legislation, cherishing foreign industry.*" God grant us the wisdom and virtue to press forward on the shining path thus opened plainly before us, to the end that our Labor may be fully employed and fairly recompensed, and that age after age may witness the rapid yet substantial progress and growth of our people in all the arts of Peace—all the elements of National well-being!

BREEF FUM UNFLUTE.

SHANKSVILLE, Deatsember der 9t, '69.
MISTER FODDER ABRAHAM:

Ich bin aw amohl tsu der conclusion kumma for an breef on dich tsu shreiva. De Tscitung g'fallt uns gor ivver ous doh huvva, abbordich sidder dos mer der Bevvy eara likeness g'seana hen, un now setsht uns aw noch so a fotograffly fum Abey gevva, un sell deat de fomelia complete macha. Sog awer der Bevvy se set tsum duckter gea, odder braucha for 'em kleana sei dorrich-fol.

Mer sin aw orrig gepleest mit der weil du seller kærl wu fun fum Pit g'macht hut amohl recht ous gebutzt husht. De leit doh huvva deata all doat gea in denna dully tseita wanns net for der Pit wær, for sei breefa duna ols de gons nochbershaft uf toona.

YAWKUP UNFLUTE.

☞The Lebanon *Courier* of last week says: "The members of the Legislature owe it to their own good names to expel from the floor of the House and the Senate, the coming winter, every professional borer who obtrudes himself upon them. These practiced scoundrels do much to debauch the Legislature, and frequently bring a worse name upon that body than its conduct would fairly subject it to. Out, then, with the borers."

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

A curious calculation is made concerning the reduction of the national debt. During the nine months of President Grant's administration it has been reduced at the following rate:

Reduction from March 1st	$71,903,625 00
Reduction per month	7,989,261 00
Reduction per week	1,843,680 03
Reduction per day	262,421 63
Reduction per hour	10,934 20
Reduction per minute	182 23
Reduction per second	3 04

☞ The following is a succinct account of the gifts of the late George Peabody: "For Institutes in Danvers and Peabody, $250,000; Peabody Museum in Salem, $150,000; Newburyport for a library, $30,000; Memorial Church in Georgetown, Mass., to the memory of his mother, and a free public library in the same place, $100,000; Phillips' Academy, Andover, $30,000; Massachusetts Historical Society, $20,000; Harvard College, for Museum and Professorship of American Archæology and Ethnology, $150,000; Yale College, for Museum and Natural History, $150,000; Peabody Institute in Baltimore, $1,000,000; Maryland Historical Society, $20,000; Kenyon College, $25,000; Public Library in Post Mills, Thetford, Vt., $10,000; Southern Educational Fund, $3,000,000; London poor, $1,750,000; his kindred, $1,500,000."

☞ Judge Pearson has refused a new trial in The Credit Mobilier Case, against whom suit was brought by Auditor General Hartranft, who employed able counsel and obtained a verdict in the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin county, recently, in favor of the State for $407,000. Gen. Hartranft is deserving of the thanks of the tax payers for his care and watchfulness of the financial interests of the State.

☞We are compelled to go to press this week without our Philadelphia letter. Trust our correspondent will be more prompt in future.

COMMUNICATED.

ROHERSTOWN, Nov. 24th, 1869.

Messrs. Editors: Some time ago quite an excitement was occasioned at this place, concerning the far famed J. B. Whisky, by the arrival of some of the Revenue Officers of this District, and we deem it a simple act of justice to ourselves, that some of the proceedings on that Sabbath day should be made known to the many friends of J. B. and to the readers of your paper. After they had attended to summoning every person to appear in Philadelphia on the following morning, to assist as they supposed in condemning Mr. J. B. for intended fraud of the Government, they even went so far as to summon persons who purchased some of the J. B. on the recommendation of Physicians, and also persons who purchased before the Revenue Laws went into effect. What their motive was for doing this we cannot tell, unless it was to show what an immense amount of authority they possessed. So great was the excitement in the Outside Assistant Deputy Collector, (for such he called *himself*) that he openly declared, that before he returned from Philadelphia he would purchase a new suit of clothes on the profit of his trip, resulting from the sale of J. B. Whisky. We very much fear that his new suit don't fit, at least we have not seen him wear it yet, but probably were he again to visit Mr. Erbs' residence in quest of Mr. Hostetter's Whisky, he might probably procure the necessary article as those he wore on a former visit to that place we presume were considerably damaged during the search. But we do not propose to confine our remarks to any one particular person, for the fever ran quite high in several uninterested persons, who willingly and unasked for said that they also had purchased some of the Whisky. We presume their motive was a trip to the Philadelphia Court, but we do not blame them, for no doubt they expected to do the Outside Assistant Deputy Collector a great favor, and no doubt he thought so himself considering the terrible Whisky excitement he was laboring under that Sabbath afternoon. But suffice it to say, we trust all who went were well paid for the trip, but we very much fear that they did not receive the boasted twenty cent mileage, when paid they calculated to receive. The case has now been tried and, Mr. J. B. and his Whisky dealt with fairly, and to the satisfaction of all his many friends, but very unsatisfactory to the gentlemen who made the seizure.

We understand that quite an amount of the Whisky is missing, and can not be accounted for by Mr. Baer, and he calls upon the Watchman to know whether he can account for it or not, as it was in his charge during that time.

A CITIZEN.

GOLD has been arriving at the Philadelphia Mint for several months past from a tract of land in the Guayana, Republic of Venezuela, said tract being owned and worked by residents of Philadelphia, under the title of the Orinoco Exploring and Mining Company. Altogether $114,000 have been sent to the Mint since April of this year; $50,000 of this amount was the product of fifty-eight days' work of one mill running twenty stamps.

THE Chicago *Journal* has the following startling item of local news: "A terrible warning to 'fast' young men is found in the case of John F. Purck, a bank clerk of this city, who, having become demoralized by 'wine and women,' committed suicide at a house of infamy early this morning. There are scores of young men, of respectable standing, outwardly, who are going to destruction in the same way, only less precipitately."

DR. PAUL SCHOPPE, under sentence of death, has presented a petition to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, earnestly asserting his innocence of the murder of Miss Steinecke, and asking a new hearing on a writ of error. Attorney General Brewster has assented to the granting of a writ of error, returnable on the first Monday in January, which will be issued. His execution on the 22d inst. will therefore not take place.

"HOORAY" for the Women! A dispatch from Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, dated Dec. 6th, states that the Female Suffrage bill had passed both branches of the Wyoming Legislature. What an exodus of the Susan B. Anthonys, Anna Dickinsons, Elizabeth Cady Stantons, etc., there will be to that Womans' Rights' Paradise.

THE Pope has ordered a statue of Geo. Peabody to be erected in Rome.

Father Abraham's Chips.

THERE are 70,000 Indians in Alaska.

THE Arondale Relief Fund, amounted, up to Nov. 27th, to the sum of $95,200.

IOWA has built 643 miles of railroad during 1869.

MARRYING and settling down is now called co-operative house keeping.

DIVORCES may be had for $5 of a colored Justice in Florida. O, ye unhappy ones! thither wend your way.

Iowa has now over three hundred thousand dollars in her treasury, and does not owe a dollar!

THE *Liberal Christian* asks if the principle of sleeping cars can't be successfully introduced into church architure.

CHESTER county is a good place for partridges to emigrate to. They cannot be shot there for five years yet.

THE full vote on the lay delegation in the Methodist Episcopal church, stands 103,476 for and 51,606 against.

THE Internal Revenue receipts for last month were $13,145,570; an excess of $3,505,570 over that of November 1868.

THE world produces 713,000,000 pounds of coffee per annum—the greater portion of which comes from Brazil.

IT has been suggested, since President Grant's reference in his message to Georgia, that Sherman march from Atlanta to the sea again.

AT a recent municipal election Bodwin, England, two women voted, of whom one was 92 and the other 94 years of age. Let our American sisters take courage.

TEXAS has gone for the Republicans, notwithstanding the split in the party. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Legislature are all Republican.

THE Spanish Gunboats have been released, by the Government authorities at New York, and will proceed to Sea at once.

A VENERABLE individual in Scotland, some 106 years old, has just left off the use of tobacco, because "its effects are injurious and it tends to shorten life."

A MISSISSIPPI journal says: The other day a negro tried to outwalk a locomotive, and "he leaves a wife and six children in straightened circumstances."

"DEAD HEADS" will please take notice. The accidents on the Pacific Railroad are causing a diminution in the number of applications for free passes to California.

A DETROIT woman attempted to smuggle twenty-three pounds of butter across the line under her dress. It melted and betrayed her.

IT is said that Mr. Richardson, whose death we noticed last week, was worth $75,000. His interest in the *Tribune* was valued at $40,000. He left no will.

PERE HYACINTHE delivered an address for the benefit of the French Benevolent Society in New York, on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at the Academy of Music, and left for France on Friday.

IN the Alabama Legislature the Democrats elected a colored Clerk in preference to a white man. We always said they would do so when colored men got the right to vote.

THE Kings that rule the city—Smoking, Drin-king, Tal-king, and Thin-king. The latter occupies a very inferior position, however, which is not as it should be by any means.

BURGLARS entered the Erie County, (Ohio) Treasurer's office on Saturday morning, blew open the safe and made off with its contents, the value of which is not yet ascertained.

JUDGE BALDWIN, of Nevada, who was killed in the railroad collision on the Western Pacific Railroad, neglected to wind his watch, and so missed the train he intended to take from San Francisco. His life was insured for $45,000.

A LAUNDRESS has advertised in one of the daily papers, for a situation in a family; and, as proof of being properly qualified, mentions, that she has *washed one lady* for *nine* years!

A CHICAGO lady advertises that she would be pleased to form the acquaintance of a gentleman with the view of a ton of coal. A fine chance for some of our young bachelor coal dealers.

THE Senate Chamber and House of Representatives at Harrisburg are all ready for the reception of members and present a very neat and comfortable appearance.

MRS. LINCOLN has returned to Frankfort for the winter. It seem there is not a word of truth in the story of her intended marriage with a German baron. She is living in retirement.

THE success of the Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home, of Chicago, may be inferred from the statement that it has received during the year, 334 boys, 178 of whom were orphans, and seventy-eight have but one parent.

A YOUNG man named Vincent A. Q. Vandever, of Rising Sun, Md., committed suicide on Friday last, at his father's residence, by shooting himself through the heart.

THE Wyoming Legislature adjourned *sine die* on Saturday. Gov. Campbell has signed the Woman's Suffrage bill, and it is now a law of the Territory.

MRS. BLACKWELL said in Detroit the other day that there are 15,000,000 women in America who wanted their rights, and were going to have them with the aid of their 15,000,000 tongues.

THE pork packing season in Indiana is nearly closed, more from the want of currency than the failure of hogs. There will not be as many slaughtered as last season, but the superior weight may make the product about the same.

IN Philadelphia on Tuesday last the Court disposed of another of the villains hired to take the life of Revenue Detective Brooks. McLaughlin, whose testimony in the former cases was clearly suborned, was found guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill, and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

JUDGE FOWLER, of New York, in accepting a nomination recently, took occasion to say that he was entitled to something, for he had voted ever since he was of age with the Democratic party; whereupon one of his audience observed in a gruff but very audible voice, "What's the use of talking about twenty-eight times in a life? I voted thirty in one day. What ought I to get, say?"

AS EVIDENCE that American ideas are getting foothold in Italy, a correspondent cites the fact that American rocking-chairs are now in high favor, though when first introduced by American families, they were looked upon by the natives as something ridiculous.

THE Schuylkill Navigation Company have prosecuted the city of Philadelphia for $500,000 damages, alleged to have been sustained by them during the draught last summer, by the city consuming the water of the Schuylkill river and thereby suspending navigation.

FRENCH statisticians assert that the mortality among women has decreased 18¾ per cent. since corsets went out of fashion, but that brain diseases has increased among them at the fearful rate of 72¾ per cent. since chignons and other pyramidical ornaments came into vogue.

TOBACCO is now paying the bulk of the internal revenue tax. At no time since tobacco was taxed did it contribute a larger proportion of the total revenue than for the last two months. Eighty per cent. of the gain for the first quarter of the present fiscal year is on tobacco. Some of the Virginia districts show an increase over last year of 400 per cent.

THE Kansas City *Journal* says a considerable number of Mormons from Salt Lake have come to Jackson county and settled near Independence, where they formerly resided. They have recovered some of their old property, including the temple ground, on which si e they propose to erect another place of worship. These Mormons repudiate polygamy.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

CULLED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Nothing of importance has yet been done by either Senate or House. A number of bills and petitions have been presented in both Houses and the Senate has acted on a number of appointments.

The work of the President is expressed in the reports, which show that, in addition to the batch of circuit judges, he has sent in three hundred and sixty nominations for Army, Navy, and Treasury.

The tenure of office bill it is expected will be repealed this session.

Senator Cameron and family, are stopping at the Arlington House.

If no legislation is had before January 1, the bill under which the census of 1860 was taken will be again revived, and the taking of the census will proceed under it. The United States Marshal will then have the matter in charge.

Hon. D. J. Morrell introduced into Congress a bill to fund the debt of the United States at a lower rate of interest, to make the National Banking System free and for other purposes.

A correspondent writing from Washington, says that the idea of the free banking system has many supporters in both Houses of Congress, and present indications are that such a system will be established during the session. Further indications are that Secretary Boutwell's recommendation for contraction at the rate of two millions per month will not find many supporters. The demand from the South for more money appears to be very strong.

The Internal Revenue Bureau has prepared a list of grain distillers in the United States. It comprises eleven hundred and seventy-five names, though only about four hundred are now in operation.

The first reception of the season was given by Secretary Fish and Mrs. Fish and took place last Friday evening. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, the latter including the Cabinet officers, foreign ministers, Senators, and prominent army and navy officers.

The Senate has confirmed the nominations of General Belknap, Secretary of War, and Mr. Robeson, as Secretary of the Navy.

Senators and members are able to secure accomodations in Washington this winter at at twenty-five to fifty per cent. less than last season.

It is probable that the House will agree to the increase of the House of Representatives to three hundred.

Negotiations are now in progress to secure a reduction of postage on all mail matter for the continent of Europe, which does or can be sent via England.

On Tuesday of last week, Paul Gerard, a brother-in-law of the Portugese minister, was married to Miss Maria Bareka Wormley, a quadroon of some notoriety and rare beauty. The occasion caused considerable stir in social circles.

Senator Cragin, of New Hampshire, has introduced a bill in the Senate on the subject of polygamy, which aims at the destruction of the pernicious system of Brigham Young, in Utah. The bill puts the whole machinery of the courts in that Territory in the hands of the United States officers, and declares null and void all laws passed in the special interest of the Mormon system.

A committee of colored men from the Labor Convention, called on the President last Friday to express the thanks of their body for the course he had pursued towards the blacks, and for the whole course of his administratin in its effort to protect the loyal citizens of the South.

Efforts are being made to abolish the franking privilege.

The soldiers of 1812 are presenting petitions, asking that they may be put on the pension lists, and two or three bills to grant their prayer have been introduced in Congress.

Congress will adjourn over the holidays.

Visits of Indian delegations to Washington are forbidden. All business must be done through the agents.

Eulogies were pronounced in both branches of Congress, on Tuesday, on the late Senator Fessenden.

An effort to increase the tax on whisky is apprehended.

An equestrian statue of General Grant is shortly to be erected on the terrace of the Treasury Department. Senator Sherman and Representatives Garfield, Kelly, Butler and Logan, and General Spinner and H. D. Cooke are the leaders of the movement.

The trial of Porter-Farragut prize and bounty cases will begin on the 22d inst., in the Supreme Court of this district, before Judge Wylie.

Commissioner Delano on Wednesday authorized a reward of one thousand dollars for the arrest of the Missouri distiller who killed Assistant Marshal Mooney lately, near Sedalia.