

Lancaster Intelligencer.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 30, 1882.

Is Justice Here a "Fair Play?"

The New Era, in commenting upon the strange instruction of District Attorney Davis to the chief of police that he must make complaint against the mayor's special fire-bug detectives as well as against the fire-bug he caught, proceeds to remark very significantly that...

The public is in no mood to be trifled with concerning the administration of justice. Public opinion—and we are sorry to have to put it on record—is fast settling down to the conviction that Lancaster county justice is a farce. The common talk is that if a man has influential friends or money enough to avail himself of the exhaustless delays and technicalities of the law, he can fire buildings or perpetrate red-handed murder with impunity, finally escaping, if no other avenue is open, through influences thrown into the jury box by "ways that are dark," but by tricks that are by no means "rain" in the estimation of lawyers whose chief claim to distinction is their ability to secure a jury to suit the case in hand. That such things should be talked about and believed is a sad commentary upon the administration of justice. Where there is much smoke there must be some fire, and the smoke which now ascends from our temple of justice has become almost suffocating. It is about time the judicial detectives should look after the legal fire-bugs who furnish the oil and matches.

That is a severe arraignment of the administration of justice in Lancaster county. The INTELLIGENCER has heretofore found occasion to challenge the methods of our courts; but we do not think it has ever said anything more denunciatory than this utterance from a journal that has lately presented the presiding judge of this court to the Republicans of the state as their fittest candidate for the supreme bench. "Lancaster county justice," as administered by this court, we are now told "is a farce." The common talk "is that a man with money or influential friends can fire buildings or perpetrate red-handed murder with impunity," and escape finally, "if no other avenue is open," through tampering with the jury box.

The INTELLIGENCER, for making some intimation of this kind in a much more guarded way, fell under the anathema of "this here court" and its editors were disgraced. Probably the very severe way in which our benign and benighted judges burned their judicial fingers on that occasion may so inspire them with the discretion that is so much better than rash valor, that they will not undertake to send the New Era editor to jail for contempt. But if they know what their own dignity requires, and what is demanded to preserve the respect in which their court should be held, they will at once request the editor of the New Era to say upon what evidence he charges that Lancaster county justice is a farce, and that money or influence releases prisoners, and that the jury box is tampered with. These are so serious charges to be passed by unheeded by the judges. They demand investigation.

There is common talk such as the New Era repeats. We understand that it has been inspired to its utterance by what is said concerning the result of the Miller homicide trial just concluded, and in which a verdict was rendered that in undoubtedly is not sustained by the public judgment. Judge Livingston presided over the trial. The jury panel was exhausted, as it always is in murder cases. The sheriff summoned Jurymen from the bystanders. The lawyers put in their work, the judge had little to say to the jury beyond defining for them the degrees of murder, and Miller was acquitted. Miller is a man of means and influence in his section and an active politician of the Republican persuasion.

Possibly the thing was fairly done; and possibly not; the New Era seems to think not; it says the people think not; and we think very likely not.

You see how the thing could have been done, with a court none too sharp, lawyers none too scrupulous, an easy clerk and a benign sheriff. The lawyers would exhaust the panel; among the bystanders would be plenty of the prisoner's friends; the lawyers would not know it, the sheriff would not recognize them and the court would not see it; and yet they would get on the jury. It is a good thing for a prisoner to have his friends or his lawyer's friends on the jury. But it is not a good thing for a court of justice that the thing should be done so easily; and perhaps so honestly. The court officers need not necessarily be corrupt to make the game successful; they had only to be stupidly good natured; from the bench down.

But such things would not happen in a court where justice was administered by alert and acute as well as honest ministers; even under our present system of drawing jurors, who so sadly need amendment. Talesmen ought to be drawn from the bystanders only on rare and unexpected occasions; it should never happen, as it now does, that the defendant in a murder case should know that it was in his power to exhaust the panel and compel a resort to the bystanders to list a panel of jurors should be provided large enough to resist exhaustion from the defendant's challenges; and when that mischance does occur the court should see to it that the sheriff does not pick up jurors put right under his nose for the purpose.

Business and Politics. The proposed nomination of John Wanamaker, for congressman at-large on the Republican state ticket, has led to the saying of some very foolish things in the public prints and by the Republican politicians with regard to such a nomination. One of these is that the newspapers which he patronizes so liberally with his advertisements would not dare to oppose him lest he withdraw his patronage. While we have no sort of doubt that, as a candidate, Mr. Wanamaker's high enterprise as a business man, and his good personal character would exempt him from the scurrilous warfare which is too often waged in the heat of a campaign, he would very soon discover that the honest newspapers of Pennsylvania do not sell their principles

with their advertising columns, and that as a representative of the Cameron power in state politics he would encounter just as vigorous opposition as that power merits. Another suggestion is that Mr. Wanamaker's nomination would force all the small storekeepers in the city and in the state to vote against him, and maybe against the whole ticket. To which the answer is made, "and if it does all the ministers will be with him in their congregations and in preaching from their pulpits." Equally narrow-minded and senseless is each of these suggestions. The "small storekeepers" will do well to stick to their business and the preachers to their text. The kind of men who would be influenced by such considerations for or against Mr. Wanamaker are not potential. The day for that sort of thing is past. Mr. Cameron may play the fool with the "business interests" of the state, but it is the privilege of a United States senator to be the biggest fool in the commonwealth.

THE memory of the war is too fresh, the sentiments which it awakened are too strong and too many of the survivors of it are still among us, to enable us to fairly determine as yet whether or not the observance of Decoration day is to be a permanent national festival. For a time its hold upon popular interest seemed to be weakening, and that there is a revival of interest in it is due to the fact that it has lost much of the former narrowness and sometimes sectional and party spirit which marked its celebration. The custom of strewing flowers on the soldiers' graves originated in the South, and since its adoption by the Union people the aspirations of war have been softened, and where the ceremony is observed now it is generally made an occasion for the expression of sentiments of fraternity and charity. Indeed the custom of decorating the graves has extended far beyond those of the soldiers and if Decoration day is to have a permanent interest it will be in this enlarged scope of its observance. We have none too many holidays, and one at this season, when nature is in her fairest garb, and especially since the increasing lateness of the spring has almost robbed us of "May Day," will be altogether timely. There can be no more graceful occasion for it than the remembrance of the dead, by the decoration of their graves, but we venture to suggest that a greatly improved style of decoration would be the planting of choice flowers and shrubbery instead of the present mode of laying out flowers and bouquets on the tombs; they wither and suggest forgetfulness of the occasion which inspired them.

Lo! the poor African. Is he not a man and a brother to be considered in connection with this vacancy on the Republican state ticket?

GUITEAU be hanged. It is the Pennsylvania "Stalwart of Stalwarts" who now commands public attention.

JUST as the funny paragraphs had got hold of Don Cameron's pious observations on the tariff question, along comes Cooper, red-headed and hopeful, and denies that Don said it.

MR. REED, counsel for Guiteau, has been unsuccessful in his application to Justice Gray for a writ of habeas corpus. The application was made last Friday, when Judge Gray said he preferred to wait until the case had been presented to his associates.

THE Atlanta Constitution is so tickled at Alex. H. Stephens' refusal to run for governor on the Independent ticket that it exultantly says: "The roller-chair of the venerable Georgia statesman is as heavy as the trucks of a coal car. It has crushed out the coalition and mangled independence."

IN accordance with Cameron's direction to Cameron's chairman, Cameron's state convention will re-assemble at Harrisburg on Wednesday, June 21, at 10 a. m., to nominate Cameron's candidate for Congressman-at-large on the Cameron ticket, who may or not be John Wanamaker. He hasn't decided and maybe Cameron hasn't.

Too many sentimental "pioneers" and farmers went out to the Rugby colony in Tennessee, and notwithstanding the advantages of the place itself, the colony has proved a failure. It is proposed now to introduce a new and much-needed element to success by encouraging the emigration of a large body of German families.

Under the morning skies, Over where the diamond dew, Thick on the meadow lies, Fresh, swift, and strong upborne, Like birds in eager flight, On through the fragrant dawn, Or through the rosy light; So on our path of life, Far up and far away, Into the vast unknown, Into the golden day.

IN February last during the session of the Legislature, the Hagerstown, Md., Herald and Torchlight charged Senator Farrow with having voted for the Democratic candidate at the election of state treasurer and with being influenced in his vote by improper considerations. Mr. Farrow brought suit for malicious libel against the owner of the paper, Deputy U. S. Treasurer Negley, of the Baltimore custom house, and has recovered \$2,000 damages. Pennsylvania Republicans who accuse the Independents of Democratic affiliations had better take care.

THE Press bears a report "that General Winfield Scott Hancock, of Pennsylvania, the Democratic candidate for president in 1880, is to be nominated for governor of Pennsylvania by the Democrats," on the fact that Gen. Hancock spent last Sunday at York and in part in the company of Judge Black. Far more unlikely things than Gen. Hancock's nomination have happened, but so far as it is conjectured from his social visit to York there is no foundation for the report. His visit was made in pursuance of a long contemplated purpose to go to Mr. Small's—whose guest he was—and had no political significance whatever.

WHITELAW REID's rich father-in-law has enabled him to redeem the Tribune

stock which was formerly hypotheated with Jay Gould, and now that he has a controlling interest in that paper, he can do with it what he pleases. One of his fanesies is his quarrel with Appleton, the publishers. It arises out of the fact that Chas. A. Dana, of the Sun, whom Reid hates so cordially, edits Appleton's Cyclopaedia, hence the Tribune could not notice it; then the Appletons refused to advertise in the Tribune, then it excluded them from every part of the paper and its readers may search in vain for a review of even Bancroft's last work in its columns. The Tribune is also shut off from Lecky, Darwin, Huxley and Tyndall. This is small business all around, especially as Geo. Ripley, one of the Tribune staff, is associated with Dana in the editing of the Cyclopaedia.

PERSONAL. SIMON CAMERON says "thumbs up." RAWLEY will not withdraw under fire. Neither will Junkin.

HARRY WHITE has secured the Republican vote of Armstrong county for congressional re-nomination.

DON CAMERON expects to never again be a candidate for United States Senator. Hardly ever.

W. A. DISCAN, esq., has carried Adams county for the Democratic congressional nomination and Adams is entitled to it this year.

GEO. H. HOYT, of Pennsylvania, and Governor Sherman, of Iowa, will deliver lectures at the decoration exercises at Erie.

REV. G. A. CARLSTEN, heretofore rector of Christ Episcopal church, Meadville, has resigned, to accept a call to St. Paul's, Erie.

M. BROWN, esq., is the Decoration day orator to-day in Albany, N. Y.; E. K. Martin, esq., in Marietta and W. D. Weaver, esq., in Maumee; Mr. B. G. Ames recites a poem at the Columbia celebration.

CONGRESSMAN J. VANDEBILT's will is estimated by his sister, Mrs. Mary A. Le Ban Berger. Deceased left an estate valued at \$600,000, "not one penny of which went to any person by the name of Vandebilt."

GEORGE LEAR, who is inclined along so far as to say "if the inclination be not recovered I will consider the propriety of attending it. When I see the call and learn the objects I can better determine whether I will be of any service there. I will not go merely to see a ballot taken for a man already nominated."

DARWIN grant under medical advice as a cure for giddiness, one glass of wine per diem, but believed he would be better off without it. For years he had taken snuff—a habit he much regretted and had often tried, though vainly, to abandon. He smoked each day two small cigarettes of Turkish tobacco, which afforded him rest of mind he could not otherwise gain.

HON. JOHN C. MORRIS, president of the state Agricultural society, died at his home, Friendsville, Pa., of typhoid pneumonia on Friday, May 26, 1882. He was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1832, and came to Pennsylvania after a service in the war as captain. He represented Susquehanna county in the Legislature in 1870-80, and served as president of the state Agricultural Society in 1870 and 1871 and again in 1882, and was the occupant of the chair at the time of his death.

GONE WITH A HANDSOMER MAN. THE Terrible Effects of Carleton's Poetry. The eloquence of Mrs. J. E. Harris with E. H. Slooper, the United States mail agent at Charlotte, Mich., causes a great sensation. Mrs. Harris is younger than her husband and was much admired. Last week Mr. Slooper bought a quantity of farm implements at Charlotte and returned with them together with a costly wagon and carriage. When Mr. Harris returned home on Saturday night he missed the carriage and was told by Mr. Slooper, who was on intimate terms with the family, that he had borrowed it. The trusting husband left home next morning as usual. When he returned at night he says a volume of Will Carleton's poems lay open on the kitchen table, and a little note called his attention to the poem, "Gone with a Handsomer Man," and concluded by saying he never more hoped to see her, as she was following the dictations of the gentle passion of love, which she deemed more binding than her marriage vows, and that the "handsomer man" was Mr. Slooper. The husband immediately applied to the additional police in apprehending the recalcitrant couple.

CATTLE LOWER at Chicago. There was a big decline in the price of cattle at the Union stock yards in Chicago on Monday. It averaged about a cent a pound, live weight, which corresponds to a reduction of much more than that in the price of dressed beef. The direct reason was the fact of much larger receipts. The arrivals were about double those of any day in the week, including yesterday's. The head of Texas lots, which was a large increase in the receipts of fat cattle, but that grade declined sharply, as a result of the greater supply of poorer stock. The New York market remained firm, from which it is inferred by some that there will probably be a further decline here unless the arrivals of the future should much exceed present expectation. Prices have been so high, however, that there is plenty of room for a reaction if the cause of that fortitude be partially removed. The cause was a greater supply of grass feed offered to make a material difference to the market in this important respect.

A Regular Bear as a Fellow. One of the trains arriving from the West at the Broad street station, Philadelphia, yesterday, had among its passengers a curious creature, who seems to be only half human. He has a head that rises peculiarly at the crown, and, low down on either side, are two very small and delicate. His legs turn at the knees, and his feet are broad and flat and have six toes each, and he shambles in walking just as a bear does. A bright red line circles his throat. The muscles and joints of all four of his limbs are more like those of a bear than like those of a human being, and he snaps occasionally with his jaws after the manner of the former animal. The man who accompanied him states that he was captured nearly a year ago in a wild state.

The Attire of English Waiters. A new departure has been made in the attire of bathroom waiters in London. An association has been started, all the members of which adopt an extremely neat and lively of black with gilt buttons, and knee breeches with silk stockings. This precludes the gratification of their receiving hearty greetings as honored guests of the house; but it improves the appearance of a supper room, and, moreover, the liveried attendants exact a larger fee than is paid to them when they appear in the ordinary evening array of English gentlemen and their butlers.

A Jailor's Courageous Wife. In Wentworth, N. C., four negro prisoners broke out of their cells in the jail and called the jailer from the main entrance. When he left this post they knocked him down and made a dash for liberty. Thereupon the jailer's wife, the jailer's wife seized the fourth man by the throat and leveling a revolver at his head threatened to kill him if he attempted to move another step. He surrendered and walked back to his cell. He is known as a desperate robber.

What a Safe Harbor Van Dan. On Saturday night a man of big fight in Safe Harbor. A number of men got on a spree and aroused the town by disfiguring each others' faces. Several were badly cut and bruised and are now suffering with sore heads.

State of Houses. Samuel Hess and Daniel Logan, sold at public sale yesterday at Daniel Logan's sale and exchange stables 17 head of Canada horses at an average price of \$351 per head; the highest one sold brought \$325.

BEAVER'S WEAKNESS.

"Wanting in a Most Essential Qualification." American. Concerning Gen. Beaver's relationship to the wasteful and worthless "state college" of Pennsylvania, the question first asked by many persons is whether he may be fairly charged with any moral delinquency as to the expenditure of the money given by the general and state governments. No doubt is expressed, as far as the facts are known, that a just answer to this inquiry would be in the negative. What is to be said is that Gen. Beaver and those whom he has influenced to secure the continued expenditure of the state endowment are fairly chargeable with not setting a good example or showing themselves true to a high standard of public duty. They well know that, as the legislative committee unanimously reported in 1879, "the institution has never received benefits at all commensurate with the amount of money" appropriated by it to the college, and that "the trustees have signally failed to secure the continued expenditure of the money given by the general and state governments. No doubt is expressed, as far as the facts are known, that a just answer to this inquiry would be in the negative. What is to be said is that Gen. Beaver and those whom he has influenced to secure the continued expenditure of the state endowment are fairly chargeable with not setting a good example or showing themselves true to a high standard of public duty. 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