

Lancaster Intelligencer.

MONDAY EVENING, AUG. 6, 1883.

Vanderbilt's Views.

Mr. Vanderbilt sees fit at this time to communicate with the public. He has submitted to be interviewed, or probably, to state the case more accurately, we need to say that he has caused himself to be interviewed. Evidently he had something to say publicly. He desired to tell the public that business generally was good, and in particular that the business of the railroads in which Mr. Vanderbilt was interested was particularly fine. He had no desire to sell any part of his interest in them. A few years ago he did not seem to have so good an idea of the value of the New York Central railroad stock, which he now lauds highly. He sold a great block of it and invested the proceeds in government bonds. This was at a time when the stock was more highly valued by the public than it is now. But the people are always apparently possessed of a wrong idea about the values of Mr. Vanderbilt's railroads. He engages in the amiable effort to make their understanding better. He kindly places at their disposal the ready tongue of his spokesman, Chauncey M. Depew, esq., who occupies the position of attorney for Mr. Vanderbilt's railroads, and who engages in professional exhibitions of multifarious kinds in their behalf. When the Legislature is in session he is busy with it and its commissioners. In the vacation season he seems to stay by his chief at Saratoga, ready to speak for him. He is in charge of Mr. Vanderbilt's facts; and their manipulation, and the reporter of the associated press, who came to Mr. Vanderbilt for information, was referred by him to Mr. Depew, sitting conveniently adjacent, to get the lead that was appointed to be fitted into the public mind. Mr. Depew got along swimmingly and easily. If we could believe what Mr. Depew said we would all realize that the profitable business we are now doing had put us in possession of abundant cash, which it would be foolish in us to invest in any thing else but New York Central railroad stock. When Mr. Depew's speech about good crops, good business and the good roads of Mr. Vanderbilt had run out, the chief himself came forward with a declaration in an impressive voice that it had always been his practice when he found that he had a good thing to keep it. That, we venture to say, is a very universal practice, and by no means unique in Mr. Vanderbilt. But it was rashly said in view of that sale of his New York Central stock; which Mr. Depew was boosting, and which Mr. Vanderbilt declared to be now the very best thing entirely that he knew of. Mr. Vanderbilt's practice is undoubtedly to sell a bad thing when he knows he has it. He seems to be governed by very ordinary human impulses. But it would have been very well if he had explained why New York Central stock was a good thing to sell a few years ago, and a good thing to purchase now; especially in view of the fact that he is himself building another through western line in Pennsylvania, and some other fellows are paralleling his old road in New York. We fear that Mr. Vanderbilt does not sufficiently realize the fact that the public are not prepared to take his word as gospel truth. The fact is, that our experience teaches us to believe that when he talks to the public he does not mean what he says. It is but a short while since that he publicly proclaimed that the "Nickel Plate" road was of no account whatever to him; and yet a few weeks afterwards he bought it at a great profit to its builders, who had constructed it on purpose to "strike" him for the profit he got. Mr. Vanderbilt is a very important man because of the great capital he holds; and his words are worth listening to, even though they need to be read backwards. Properly understood he gives notice that he would like to give some one else an opportunity to make the fine profit yet to be realized out of the New York Central stock he still holds.

What is Civil Service Reform?

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph, a staunch Republican newspaper, makes this frank confession for some of its esteemed party contemporaries: One of the most amusing features of contemporary politics is the alacrity with which nearly all of our Stewart contemporaries jump to the conclusion that the Democratic cry of "Turn the rascals out," refers, as a matter of course, to themselves. In like manner the resolution of the Democratic state convention on civil service reform gives offense to the same class of party organs. They can see nothing in it except the rejection and exclusion from office of their political friends. The platform declares for "that genuine and deep reaching civil service reform which consists in the election to office of honest, intelligent, capable and courageous public servants, who will faithfully administer their trust and who will be held to strict accountability for such a discharge of it, and who will redeem and purge the departments of the general government from the corruption and fraud with which they have been permeated under Republican rule, and which the party has shown itself unable and unwilling to cure." As an abstract principle and sound civil service idea it would reasonably seem that this declaration must meet the wants and receive the endorsement of everybody who desires honest official administration. Nevertheless it is universally received by the Republicans as a declaration that they must go, a politer way of saying "turn the rascals out." Well, if it fits, we cannot help their putting it on.

The Perille and Inconsequential Objection

is made that this resolution does not apply to offices to which the incumbents are "appointed." It is true that the Democratic platform avows no sympathy with that new-fangled system which professes to determine the qualifications of letter carriers in cities of a certain size, and of clerks of an inferior grade in a few depart-

ments by an examination of applicants upon the location of the creeks in the Eastern shore of Maryland, and in spelling the names of extinct tribes of Indians,--an examination which the civil service commissioners have themselves been challenged to pass. But the character of men "appointed" to office depends entirely upon the appointing power, and if fit and proper men are elected to it--as the Democratic platform demands--and they are held to strict accountability, the public will need no further guarantee as to the character of their appointees.

THE SURPLUS ANNUALLY COLLECTED FOR THE FEDERAL TREASURY

from the people of the country is just about as much as the internal revenue tax. The latter is a complicated system, inquisitorial and oppressive in its operation and sustaining a needless army of officeholders. Whisky and tobacco are proper subjects for taxation, but let it be levied and collected by and for the states and the communities which pay the taxes and suffer from the use of them. The internal revenue must go. It was a war measure. The emergency which demanded it has passed. The tax system must be simplified. The Democrats of Pennsylvania are for its abolition. The Republicans want to retain it, because it makes places for the officeholders and a corruption fund for the party. Nevertheless it must go.

THERE ARE NEARLY FOUR MILLION DOLLARS LYING IDLE IN THE STATE TREASURY

No, it is not idle. The Allegheny National Bank (Magee's) has \$820,538.65; Farmers' and Mechanics' national bank of Philadelphia, \$822,972.19; People's bank of Philadelphia (Kemble's) has \$427,856.10; and Baily's bank, at Union, town has \$285,000. Millions for the bosses; not one dollar for the people. The Democratic state platform declares: "The long continued abuses and spoliation of the state treasury and the defiance of law by its management make essential a radical reform, so that large funds shall not be accumulated by taxation of the people to be distributed among the favored depositors of state officials, but that all surplus in excess of the immediate necessities of the state government shall be invested in interest-bearing state or federal securities until it may be applied to the extinguishment of the state debt."

AND NOW IT TURNS OUT THAT THE WHITE PLUME OF NAVARRE WAS BLACK

GENUINE civil service reform means the abolition of the useless offices. That is what the Democrats of Pennsylvania favor. It is deeper reaching than new devices to provide how they shall be filled. It is a consummation devoutly to be wished in the fist encounter in New York this evening, the "Sluggers" and the Maori may simultaneously strike each other so hard as to effectually impair their further usefulness in the prize ring.

A PRIVATE LETTER FROM OHIO SAYS

"I sincerely hope that the Democracy of the old commonwealth will give the enemy another severe drubbing this fall. We will most certainly carry Ohio in October, Hoadley will make the most vigorous campaign that has taken place for years."

SMITH M. WEED, A NEAR FRIEND OF TILDEN

bitterly resents the imputation that Mr. Tilden lacked interest in Hancock's election. He says that he gave \$25,000 to the national committee--more than any other individual except his friends, Barker and Wm. L. Scott--besides making many local subscriptions. Mr. Weed is quite sure that Mr. Tilden will not run again.

THE WIDOW OF ADMIRAL DALGREN

who has made some social and literary pretensions in Washington, has ventured upon a novel in which she essays to sketch the conditions of politico-social life during a winter at the national capital. She travels in the well-worn rut of making coarseness and shoddiness the prevailing topic of public men and their wives, and in the most commonplace treatment of this idea does no credit to herself nor to her country.

THE REMARKABLE ARTICLE WHICH WE REPRINT FROM A REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER

printed in Chairman Cooper's own county is a vigorous but truthful arraignment of boss methods and a fair and manly statement of the economies enforced by Democratic administration of the state department. If Cooper undertakes to gnaw this file thrust between his teeth it will make no impression on the file.

THE NECESSITY OF LEGISLATION OF SOME KIND ON THE SUBJECT OF COLOR BLINDNESS

is becoming every day more apparent. An eminent physician who has given special attention to this ophthalmic defect announces that the percentage in which it exists among males is about four per cent. while among females it is exceedingly rare. Among the railroad employes of the United States, about three per cent. have been found to be affected by color blindness. This dangerous defect is not uniform in all men, some who are blind to red or green being able to recognize yellow or blue. The railroads of the country should fix upon a determinate color standard by which the powers of vision of their respective employes may be accurately measured. It is a matter of the supreme importance to the public that no man, incapable of distinguishing danger and safety signals on the rail, be placed in a position of trust where the life of a citizen is involved.

TRADESMEN, FARMERS AND OTHERS WHO ARE NECESSITATED TO SEND SMALL SUMS OF MONEY THROUGH THE MAILS

will derive particular benefit from the new postal note for sums less than five dollars which is to go into effect October 1. The superiority of the postal note over the money order lies in the fact that it is payable to bearer, and does away with the necessity of acquiring into the pedigree of parties present. It is a little larger than a bank note and contains on the right end three columns of figures for the dollars, dimes and cents respectively, and on the left end a place for the month and the year. The postmaster, on receipt of the money makes the necessary punches in the proper columns indicating the amount of money received and its date of its receipt, signs and

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