Local Intelligence.

How the Radicals Opened the Campaign in Lancaster.

The Ratification Meeting a Complete Fizzle.

Grant Cant, Coldness and Cold Victuals.

No Enthusiasm.

The Masses Tired of Radical Rule.

The Nominations Fall Still-born.

Even "The Old Guard" Falters.

The Radicals of Lancaster concluded to take time enough to let it be widely known when they intended to hold a meeting to ratify the nominations of Grant and Colfax. They waited until their numerous news-papers had fully informed the people in the city and county that Tuesday night, the 26th, had been set apart for the opening of the campaign with what was announced to be "A Grand Grant Ratification Meeting." The day came bright and pleasant, and morning, noon and afternoon passed, but no sign of the approaching assemblage was to be seen. The streets of our city seemed to be duller than usual. Even the regular old political hacks from the rural districts failed to turn up. At dusk the *Examiner* office still looked deserted. The appointed hour came, and, contrary to all former usage, the Court House bell was rung long and furiously. At quarter past 8 o'clock we looked in. Scattered about among the benches were some fifty anxious looking individuals. Some minutes passed and the band came along, followed by a very meagre and quiet crowd of boys. It played outside a while, and then, in obedience to orders, marched in. A few scattering people followed, and when, at a very late hour, Picayune Johnson, in his capacity as Chairman of the City Executive Committee, arose to introduce Col. E. Franklin as President of the meeting, there may have been two hundred persons present, all told. We never saw so slim a gathering on such an occasion, and if this is to be taken as a specimen of the manner in which the nomination of Grant is received throughout the country, the Democratic candidates will have nothing to do but to walk over the course without any serious opposition. Never in all our political experience have we witnessed so complete and ridiculous a fizzle. It was, beyond question, the most utter and complete failure in the shape of a political meeting we ever saw.

Col. Franklin had prepared an excellent Radical speech, and it was finely delivered. He has the air and voice of an orator, and as his well rounded periods dropped from his lips, we could not help thinking it was a pity they should be addressed to almost empty benches.

After the Colonel had got through with his eulogy of Grant and Colfax, and his announcement that he fully endorsed the platform, Picayune Johnson, Esq., arose and announced that he had been requested to nominate certain persons as Vice Presidents of the meeting. Thereupon he proceeded to read a list of one individual from each election district in the county. The usual motion was put, and they were all declared duly elected, and invited to come forward and take their seats; but, not a single man of them responded. They were not present. All of them, without a single exception we believe, were at that very minute taking their ease in their country homes. We have no doubt they will enjoy the joke when they read the announcement of their presence at this meeting in their papers. It certainly looked queer to see "A Grand Grant Ratification Meeting" without a single Vice President, when some fifty were nominated and elected. To cover up this marked and ridiculous failure of the county bucks to come to time, and to put a little life into the spiritless gathering, Major Shenk moved that the band be requested to play, "Old Grimes is Dead," and that serious air was accordingly executed, with a solemnity that led us to conclude that the audience had assembled to bury impeachment. From beginning to end the affair resembled a wake more than a ratification meeting.

We do not intend to bore our readers with an account of the speeches which were made by the Cincinnatus Ellmaker, the polished Hood, and the honest and virtuous Fisher. There was nothing in Mr. Ellmaker's speech worth noticing. Mr. Hood's showed some fancy and power of invective. He seemed to be pretty well satisfied with the platform, and thought it promised a speedy coming of the political millennium of negro suffrage and negro equality. On the bond question he regarded it as especially sound, construing it as a solemn pledge that "every dollar of the national debt, principal and interest, must be paid in the shining mint drops of gold, which Tom. Benton used to say shone so beautifully through the meshes of a long silk purse." We were a little surprised to hear Mr. Hood abuse Old. Thad. most unmercifully for having declared that the five-twenty bonds ought to be paid in greenbacks. The severest part of his speech was that in which he denounced the Chief Magistrate. He called him dishonest, and intimated that he was a rascal utterly unfit to be trusted. This was something we could not exactly understand. Perhaps Mr. Hood has some hope that impeachment may shove him out of the nomination for Congress this fall. We shall see.

After Mr. Hood had concluded, Elwood Greist, Esq., the editor of the *Inquirer*, introduced some resolutions laudatory of the candidates and the platform, and they were passed.

General Joe Fisher then bored the small crowd until it grew beautifully less by degrees, and when he concluded, Jack Hiestand, with an air of complete disgust, moved that the score who still remained adjourn. At the suggestion of Col. Franklin, three feeble cheers were given by the few remaining feeble voices for Grant and Coldfax, and this miserable abortion of a ratification meeting finally fizzled out ingloriously.

THE PRESBYTERIAN UNION.—A formal plan has been simultaneously reported in the Assemblies of the Old and New School Presbyterian Church favorable to their union. The report was made on the 22d inst., by a joint committee appointed for the purpose, and gives full and satisfactory reasons for each article of the proposed reunion, among which the following may be quoted as specially pointed: The report proceeds to affirm that the necessity for a closer union among Christians of a common faith and order has come to be felt, in new sense by the members of our several Churches. It cannot be denied that there exists a wide-spread and earnest longing for more of visible unity among all classes of Christian people. With these facts well authenticated before them, the committee feel that, if the hearts of Christian people, combined already throughout the land in Christian work, should be disappointed as to that organic union which they crave, and this, through differences asserted by the clergy, which laity either do not understand or with which they have no sympathy, the certain effect will be to lessen the sentiment of respect and confidence on their part towards their appointed leaders, and weaken the force of paramount motives. The joint committee recommend that each of the two General Assemblies shall appoint a committee of five to constitute a joint committee of ten, whose duty it shall be to prepare and propose to the first General Assembly of the United Church a proper adjustment of the boundaries of Presbyteries and Synods. A minority report, dissenting from the views of the majority was presented in the New School Assembly by the Rev. Robert W. Patterson, of Chicago. The minority report was referred to a committee of nine yet to be appointed.

POST ROUTE CONTRACT.—The Postmaster General orders a contract with the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad for service on route 1,831, from Columbia to Sinking Springs, with branch to Lancaster, for the term beginning 1st of July next, at $1,424.70 per annum, service to be six times a week and back, or more frequently if required and cars run; also, from Parkesburg to Oxford, Pa., contract, route, the service is increased to three trips per week at *pro rata*, giving daily, except Sunday, mails from 1st of July.

THE INCOME TAX.—A bill in equity is now before the U. S. Circuit Court of the Philadelphia District, in which the constitutionality of the Income Tax is denied. The bill avers that the act is in violation of Article 4, Section 9, of the Constitution, which says: "No capitation or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken." The complainant has refused to pay his tax, amounting to $544.45, his property has been levied upon, and he now asks that the Collector be restrained from proceeding further. The case is to be argued the first Monday in June.—The Courts no doubt will be anxious to sustain the constitutionality of the law, but cool observers are a little puzzled how it can be done, the language of the Constitution is so explicit. If the Income Tax is a "direct tax," it would seem that Congress ought to have laid it "in proportion to the census." If it is not a direct tax, it would be difficult to say what a direct tax is. It is curious how Congress could have overlooked the question now raised, and it shows the importance of having Acts well discussed before passing them.—*Exchange.*

MISTAKE IN BAER'S ALMANAC.—The Harrisburg *Telegraph* states that in the almanac for 1866, published by John Baer & Sons, of Lancaster, a mistake occurs in the "short almanac" on the last page. The month of September is marked as commencing on Monday, when it should be *Tuesday*. August has thirty-one days, and is only marked thirty, while September, with thirty days, is marked thirty-one. As a great many of these almanacs are in use in this vicinity, it might be well to mark the mistake and avoid blunders.

AN OLD INHABITANT.—On a farm in East Nottingham, Chester county, resides an old tortoise marked 1636. It is known to have been on the place nearly one hundred years. In 1824 the present owner of the farm found it and the initials T. C. and the figures 1699 were then on it. He marked his initials on it at the time with the date of that year, forty-four years ago. He also mentioned it to an old lady (who lived on the same place), who remarked, "That is the old tortoise; I heard of it more than forty years ago."—*Oxford Press.*

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