

# The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

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S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, February 6, 1879.

It appears that Senator Christy was, on the 1st instant, still undetermined as to his resignation to accept the Peruvian Mission offered him by Mr. Hayes. Zach. Chandler may therefore still miss the Senatorial prize. The Senate can spare him.

The Williamsport lumbermen estimate that they will get one hundred and seventy millions feet of logs into the boom at that place this season. Operations in the lumber regions have been unusually active, and the supply will be largely in excess of last year.

In the house of representatives at Harrisburg there was a long discussion, on Monday night, on a resolution to instruct the Pennsylvania U. S. Senators to support the Reagan anti-discrimination freight bill. It went over, under a call for the orders of the day, before a vote was reached, but will come up again on Friday as unfinished business.

Conkling can now hold "the greatest effort of his life" in reserve for some future occasion. It would have been foolish to waste it in a bootless contest over a few paltry custom house appointments.

The present daily utterances of vindictive and unreasonable malice, by the New York Tribune, against the people of the South, are in strange contrast with the forgiving kindness and sincere patriotism that the columns of the same journal exhibited after the close of the war and until the end of the presidential campaign of 1872. Then, it nobly responded to the beneficent inspirations of the great-hearted Horace Greeley; now, it meanly cringes under the malign influences of Jay Gould and the Union Pacific railroad monopoly. The difference is as great as the contrast.

That was a rare scene in the Senate of the United States when Conkling produced a letter asking for the appointment of a Mr. Bradley to a place in the New York Custom House for the reason that he was a son of Mr. Justice Bradley of the Supreme Court:

"Son of whom?" shouted some Senator.

"Son of Justice Bradley," replied Mr. Conkling in a very loud voice.

"What Justice Bradley is that?" asked another Senator.

"Why, Justice Bradley, of the Electoral Commission," said Mr. Conkling, "and of the Supreme Court of the United States."

"Oh, ho!" shouted a third Senator, "then they wanted to provide for him, did they?"

As all the rogues who aided in stealing the Presidency for Hayes have been provided with federal offices, why should not Bradley's son be taken care of? The part the father took in the 8 by 7 commission certainly entitles the son to some consideration, Bradley should have his reward as well as the others.

THE ARLINGTON ESTATE.—The heirs of Gen. Lee have obtained a decision of the United States Court which places the celebrated Arlington property, opposite Washington city, in their possession. This beautiful property, originally the estate of G. W. Parks Custis, at the opening of the war belonged to his daughter, Mrs. Lee, wife of Gen. R. E. Lee of the confederate army, and up to that time their family residence. It was seized by the Government and much of its beauty despoiled by the war, and afterward sold for taxes and came into the hands of different parties. The decision of the Court restores it to the heirs and ejectments will now be issued against all in possession.

The soldiers' cemetery is located upon this property, but the heirs promise it shall be undisturbed and that a clear title will be given to the Government for the ground enclosed.

## Arrogance Rebuked.

The Senate of the United States, on Monday last, confirmed the appointment of Gen. Merritt for Collector of Customs in New York and Mr. Burt for Naval officer. It will be remembered that Senator Conkling in the last Congress had the President's appointments to these offices rejected by the Senate, and his satellites, Arthur and Cornell, retained. In this he was sustained by the votes of some of the Democratic Senators. The President, after some time, again nominated and sent in the names of Gen. Merritt and Mr. Burt, when the lordly Roscoe again attacked the appointments and demanded the rejection by the Senate. Although "the best effort of his life" was made to accomplish it, it seems he did not find that body, at least the Democratic members, quite so complaisant, and they have administered a well-deserved rebuke to this arrogant and haughty demagogue, and Messrs. Arthur and Cornell have leave to gratify Mr. Hayes by their retention.

## Bayard on Grantism.

In a recent interview with a correspondent of the St. Louis Post, the distinguished Delaware Senator expressed the following views in relation to the proposed third term programme of the stalwarts of the Republican party: "The principle laid down by the founders of this government claiming that the people shall rule themselves, is to be substituted by one new and foreign to the genius of our institutions—that the ruling power shall be from without and not, as was intended, from within—that is, to substitute an involuntary for a voluntary system. Grant's nomination would only be the signal for renewed confusion and trouble throughout the country. In the South the negroes alone would vote for him, and the people everywhere know his policy and ideas of administration, for they have tried him for two terms and know to what desperate straits he has brought our affairs already. I believe that there was more peace and harmony throughout the country when Andrew Johnson went out of office than when General Grant retired from the Presidential chair, and this agitating of the question is only having a tendency to unsettle the business of the country."

## Circulate Democratic Newspapers.

The Harrisburg Patriot makes some sound suggestions for Democrats to think about as follows: "The Democratic campaign begins about three months before the election and closes with the closing of the polls. The Republican campaign is prosecuted, through partisan publications, the whole year round. Almost every post-office has its club of subscribers to some city journal in addition to the circulation of the local Republican papers. In this way the perversion of popular opinion to the fallacies and false pretenses of the Republican party is constantly going on. On the other hand the active workers in the Democratic organization—that is those who are active in political campaigns—do not seem to recognize the importance of educating public sentiment through the dissemination of Democratic newspapers. This is certainly a singular contrast, but is nevertheless a fact. Now, if the Democratic party is to recover power in the Northern States, it must meet its adversary in the field of newspaper literature. Wherever the New York Tribune and kindred sheets sow the tares of political error and falsehood, there the seed of Democratic truth must be more thickly planted and more assiduously cultivated, through the agency of the Democratic press. And just here let it be remarked that there never was so propitious a time for the circulation of Democratic newspapers as now, when hundreds of thousands of voters in the Northern States have detached

themselves from the Republican party and are doing their own thinking. Now is the time to argue the Democratic cause in this vast audience."

## The French Presidency.

The venerable soldier President of France, after filling the office for five years, has handed in his resignation, and is to-day a private citizen. He never was a republican at heart, and is not one to-day. He rose in the army and received his baton of a Marshal, as well the title "Duke of Magenta" when the Imperialists held control, and his feelings are of course with that party. For this reason he should not have been elevated to the Chief Magistracy. He was, however, placed there, and it is due to him to say, he made a tolerably good executive, notwithstanding his imperialistic tendencies.

Some time since, the majority in the legislative body and the cabinet had a mutual understanding to reciprocal services. Each was to support certain desired measures of the other. Last week the legislature accordingly requested of the cabinet the removal of certain officials, civil and military, the underlying reason for which was that they were not of republican views and were of course obnoxious. Among those whose removals were suggested were the commandants of several of the military divisions of the country. As there were hints of a coup d'etat on the part of the President, and as these commandants are all royalists or imperialists, and could from their positions lend him valuable aid in its consummation, the republican element very wisely wanted some of them deposed. The request was communicated to President MacMahon with whom rested the power of appointment and displacement. He refused to remove the military officials, as requested, for the reason that they were faithful and patriotic soldiers, serving the country under all its changes, and as each was appointed for three years and had been allowed to hold over, some for five years, they should be permitted to finish out the full second term, completing six years. Again, all were his comrades and friends, and he could not lead himself as an instrument to effect their removal from commands, and the result of it was that he submitted his resignation.

His military service in the past has proved him a brave and good soldier, but this act proves him a weak executive. If the sentiment of the nation called for the removal of these officers, and the proper authorities lawfully requested it, as a civil head of the government he was a failure if he did not sacrifice his personal feelings to the public demand. Altogether it seems as though he was actuated by sinister motives, and that the rumored coup d'etat was not a myth.

The immediate crisis incident to the election of his successor has passed, and Mr. Jules Grevy is to-day the President of France; and the change has been effected without bloodshed or disturbance, which proves the fact that the present Republic does not exist in that atmosphere which enveloped preceding ones, and which, highly charged with electricity, supplied a goodly amount of thunder when the storm appeared. The outgoing of President MacMahon and the ingoing of President Grevy were accompanied with not even the rumbling of a light summer shower. Whatever may be the future, near or distant, of the French Republic, certain it is Jules Grevy will not dishonor it, or be one to clog its advance to happiness and prosperity; but, on the contrary, will be a strong power, keeping it in the proper channel, and pushing it onward to success. His abilities are wide, and in opinion he is conservative, holding the respect and confidence of all conflicting elements. Therefore his elevation to the Presidency at this time cannot redound in other than good of the country.

## The Saturday Club.

THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WHOM MR. CHILDS ENTERTAINED LAST EVENING.

The receptions of the Saturday Club always bring together a large company of prominent men, but seldom, even at these entertainments, are to be met so many distinguished guests from other cities as were gathered at Mr. George W. Childs' house, at Twenty-second and Walnut streets, last evening. Beside very many leading citizens of Philadelphia, there were present Governor Hoyt and ex-Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania; Governor Carroll, of Maryland, and Governor Howard, of Rhode Island; Postmaster General D. M. Key; United States Senators J. D. Cameron, David Davis, H. B. Anthony, A. E. Burnside, M. C. Butler, John T. Morgan, William A. Wallace, John F. Jones and N. Booth; Speaker Randall and Messrs. S. B. Chittenden and Chas. O'Neil, of the House of Representatives; G. W. Callender, senior surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; ex-Governor A. H. Rice, of Massachusetts; Thomas T. Kinney, of the Newark Advertiser; ex-Governor Joel Parker and Marcus L. Ward, of New Jersey, and A. D. Dennis, of Newark; General R. F. Stockton, of Trenton; J. E. B. Latrobe and Mayor Latrobe, of Baltimore; John W. Garrett, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; D. C. Gilman, president of the Johns Hopkins University; Enoch Pratt, of Baltimore; Simon Cameron, Asa Facker, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad; Walt Whitman, F. Wald, of Boston, and the following from New York: Rev. Wm. Adams, D. D., president of the Union Theological Seminary; August Belmont, John Biglow, Elliott G. Cowdin, Wm. B. Dinwiddie, president of Adams Express Company; Chief Justice Daly, Wm. Henry Harbert, editor of the World; J. Henry Harper, of Harper Bros.; M. K. Jessup, the banker; George Jones of the Times; Benson J. Lossing, LL. D.; Charles Lanier, of Winslow, Lanier & Co.; J. Pierpont Morgan, of Drexel, Morgan & Co.; L. P. Morton, of Morton, Bliss & Co.; Edwards Pierpont, late Minister to England; Percy P. Pyne, of Moses, Taylor & Co.; Colonel H. G. Stebbins, president of the Central Park Commission; Samuel Sloan, president of the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad; J. Kearney Warren, Sydney Webster, General Alex. S. Webb, Whiteleaf Reid, editor of the Tribune; Dr. Wood, of Bellevue Hospital; Hugh J. Hastings, editor of the Commercial Advertiser; Cyrus W. Field, Colonel Richard M. Hoe, Chauncey M. Depler, H. H. Alexander, and S. W. Sananton.

## A Democrat's Duty.

Surprise is often expressed at the ease with which Republican leaders organize their party for a campaign. Most frequently it is ascribed to possession of public offices, but the main cause is found in the extensive circulation given to the party press. It is a part of their policy to secure for their papers the widest reading, and when the campaign opens it is only necessary to raise the banner that the masses have been educated to follow. Last winter Senator Cameron, voted on all financial bills, the same as Senator Wallace, but at the opening of the canvass Quay, found his party not in accord with the organization. The change of base apparently was Grow's Oil City speech, but the real change of base was when the workers commenced an active canvass for subscriptions for the New York Tribune. Never perhaps in newspaper history, was this work so thoroughly done, and as a result this organ of J. Gould, and Wall street, was so widely circulated and read, that Republicans throughout the State, were convinced that John Sherman was worthy canonization. Democrats must learn from the enemy to make the fight continuous and this can only be done by securing for our newspapers a wider circulation. Every day and week, these battles are being fought by men who receive no public patronage, or corporation assistance, they are a power that too many of our partisans choose to ignore. At this time the Republicans are beginning the campaign of 1880 in the newspapers, and it can be met only in one way and we therefore call upon Democrats everywhere, to extend the influence of such papers as seem most adapted to the needs of the hour. It is a necessity that admits neither of avoidance or delay.—Pittsburgh Critic.

"It is understood that Senator Wallace is opposed to the union of the Democrats with the Greenbackers and disaffected Republicans in the election of a United States Senator.—Warren Ledger.

The idea has been turned over and over in certain Democratic circles until it is threadbare. We have no information concerning the attitude of this gentleman, in the matter of the Senatorship. But if he held that the Democratic members had nothing to gain for the party, or the people, by voting for Judge Agnew, he certainly was on the right track. There was at no time any serious intention on the part of the Republicans, to bolt the nomination of Cameron and the votes cast against him, could only be effective so far as they testified to harmony of sentiment between the members and their choice. If then Senator Wallace, did advise that Heister Clymer more fully represented the views of Pennsylvania Democracy than Daniel Agnew, who will gain it.—Pittsburgh Critic.

## FEBRUARY, 1779.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

While the popular mind pursued for a time so diligently and with a great degree of patriotic zest as well as historic profit the unfolding pages of the centenary period, it must be confessed that there has been a notable subordination of attention to the subject. Since the celebration of the Monmouth battle at the end of last June, we have heard little of centennial demonstrations, and the study of the Revolutionary movement seems to have fallen into a languor that, compared with its previous activity, is quite to be deplored. It must be remembered that the events of 1778 by no means concluded the war; they were but part of the long-maintained struggle. Not until the 19th of October, 1781, did the British army march out from Yorktown to stack its arms in token of surrender, and it was at the end of November, 1782—more than a year later—that the treaty of peace by which King George at last consented to the independence of his revolting American colonies was signed at Paris.

At the end of 1778, and in the months of 1779 that correspond to those just past and now passing, the Revolutionary struggle was maintained simply by the fortitude and persistence of a few leaders with the support which the armaments of France contributed. In some respects the situation was discouragingly bad. The credit of the affiliated colonies had gone down steadily under the emissions of paper money which people believed could not and would not be redeemed. The events of December and November, 1778, had called out twenty millions more of Continental currency, and the total of these unfortunate bills now exceeded one hundred and six millions of dollars, while their value had gone down so that a dollar of paper was worth but five cents in silver. Officers of the American army, who depended upon their pay for subsistence and the support of their families, could not stay in the service, but quitted it by scores from absolute poverty; the enlisted men, though more fortunate as to actual food, for this the commissaries were obliged by some means or other to provide, were fretting daily over their arrears of pay. The British had been recruiting loyalist troops. Howe had been able to raise a regiment in Philadelphia, and Rawdon, later, raised another, which included nearly five hundred deserters from the American army. Clinton, at New York, pent up and unable to wage any active campaign, was discouraged, it is true, but at the South there had been a chapter of disasters for the patriots and successes for the British arms. General Robert Howe, the American commander in Georgia, had led an expedition early in December against St. Augustine and failed entirely; on the 29th of the month Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, with three thousand men from New York, had taken Savannah, with numerous prisoners and much spoils of war, and during January the whole of Georgia was restored to the control of the King's arms.

Very incomplete as so hurried a sketch must be, this presents some idea of the situation at the beginning of February a century ago. The American Congress was in session in Philadelphia, having come back from York the preceding summer, when Clinton gave up the city. The chief American army lay in winter quarters in New Jersey, with the headquarters of its commander at Middlebrook. The troops were huddled at Valley Forge, and while their food supply was irregular and often insufficient, they were, thanks to the importations of clothing from France, decently and, perhaps, comfortably clad. In this respect the sufferings of the preceding winter were not repeated. Washington, himself, at the beginning of February, was just ready to return to camp. He had spent more than a month in this city consulting with Congress. Arriving here on the 22d of December, it was not until the 2d of February—one hundred years ago to-day—that he mounted his horse and rode off by Bristol and Trenton toward the little hamlet on the Raritan, where his headquarters were established. He had passed the intervening time in anxious efforts to improve the financial situation, to provide for his troops more systematically and regularly, to make such dispositions for the approaching campaign as would best utilize the French aid, but especially, and perhaps as the very beginning of all these undertakings, he was laboring to bring about a greater unity and a more concentrated effort on the part of thirteen alternately jealous and confiding associates. In December, 1778, he had written to the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates that "the States separately are too much engaged in their own concerns," and America, it seemed to him, was on the brink of destruction. Pleading then for the "momentous concern of an empire," for "the great business of a nation," he was engaged in great part during the January days that he spent in Philadelphia, a century ago, in preparing the way for that Union at whose formation, eight years later, he fitly and grandly presided. The nation, existing in its strength and confident of its future, may look back to the period whose centenary we observe to-day as one when the American chieftain, "first in war" then, but presently to lay its secure and firm foundations.

## The Signal Service.

THE MODE OF ENTERING AND REQUIREMENTS.

Any person desiring to enter the Signal Service of the United States must enlist as a private soldier in the army, subject to army regulations. After enlistment he receives a preliminary examination by a Board of Examiners in Washington City. The course of examination, which is rigid, consists of—writing from dictation, spelling, mental and written arithmetic, up to and through decimal fractions, geography of the United States. On passing the examination successfully the applicant is sent to Fort Whipple, near Washington, and assigned as a private soldier to the Signal corps. He remains at the Fort under instruction, until reported to the chief officer proficient enough to be sent to a Signal station as an assistant. While at the Fort military duty is exacted, aside from the studies. Whilst at a station, as assistant, he continues his studies, and recites to the observer in charge of station once every week, remaining there one year. At the end of this time he may apply, through the recommendation of the observer, for examination with a view to promotion. If the application is granted he returns to Fort Whipple for a further course of studies, requiring generally about four months. At the end of the term he is examined by the Professors, and if his proficiency is satisfactory he goes before a Board of Examiners and here the examination is extremely rigid and thorough, and, if successful, he is ordered to a Signal station as observer in charge, with the rank and pay of Sergeant of Cavalry in the United States army.

His duties at a station are to record the readings of the various instruments in the office, and report the same to the chief Signal officer at Washington City three times every twenty-four hours, by telegraph. Besides these three telegraphic reports, there are four additional observations daily, which are recorded and sent by mail weekly to chief Signal officer.

Reports of the various instruments from all stations in his district are received by him three times every twenty-four hours, by telegraph, which he makes out in bulletin form and posts in the most public places in the city as soon as required. He is required to hold danger or caution signals when ordered by chief officer. They consist of a red flag by day and a red light at night. These cautionary signals must be hoisted so they can be seen by captains of vessels at sea or on the lakes.

The instruments required at all stations are: Two mercurial barometers, two standard thermometers, two hygrometers, two maximum mercury thermometers, two maximum spirit thermometers, one self-registering electric anemometer, to measure the velocity of the wind, one anemoscope, to give direction of the wind, and one rain gauge. Standard authorities used by Signal service, and always furnished each station: Loccum's Meteorology, Pettington's Horn Book, Myers' Manual of Signals, Pope's Telegraph and Guyot's Meteorological Tables.

The observer at a station is responsible for instruments, books and other property belonging to the service, and is subject to military orders, and may be removed to a different station at any moment.

## A Scotchman's Lost Bond.

THE REMARKABLE STORY CONNECTED WITH \$5,000 WORTH OF UNITED STATES SECURITIES.

A special dispatch to the New York Times from Washington says:

"A novel and interesting case has been presented to First Controller Porter for decision. A wealthy Scotch gentleman, while travelling by rail in his native country, in 1876, lost his portmanteau, containing \$500,000 in bonds of various nations, among which were \$5,000 in United States 6 per cent. coupon bonds. Some time ago the police of Scotland arrested two men and one woman upon suspicion of having stolen the portmanteau. Upon being arraigned they confessed theft and related a singular story about the disposition of the property. They explained that, not being able to read, they were not aware of the value of the papers, and, fearing to retain them, they were burned. A relative of the Scotchman residing in this country now comes forward with an application for the issue of duplicates for the bonds stolen, a full description of which is given. Similar applications to European Governments whose bonds were among those alleged to have been burned have been granted. A transcript from the records of the Scotch courts sets forth the facts and attests the respectability of the gentleman who lost the bonds. The First Controller intimated to-day that if, upon a thorough examination, the facts are found to be as stated, he will approve application. Should the duplicates be issued they will have to be deposited in trust with the United States Treasurer in order to secure the Government against loss. When these particular bonds are called for redemption the amount will be paid the owner, and in the meantime he can regularly draw the interest."

A CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE.—The legal profession of the counties of Franklin, Cumberland, Adams and Fulton have united in presenting to the President the name of Hon. John Stewart, of the Chambersburg bar, who was a member of the Constitutional Convention, for the bench of the United States District Court at Philadelphia.