

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, March 27, 1879.

WELLS and Anderson, of returning board fame, recently under prosecution in New Orleans and acquitted under some technical ruling, failed to pay their attorneys for defending them, and they have brought suit to recover their fees.

FATHER TAFT, the late accommodating Attorney General in Grant's administration, who could always make a law to suit any emergency, appears to have distanced Chas. Foster, and has now the inside track in the race for nomination as the Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio.

THE Greenback organization in Congress is evidently becoming demoralized, and will scarcely be able to continue to hold the balance of power. Since the organization, Hendrick B. Wright and two or three others have appeared in the Democratic caucus. If the balance of the 13 scatter thus, Mr. Dewees might as well close his National headquarters.

THE Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Times, never lavish in compliments to the Democrats, admits that the officers and employes of the lower branch of Congress, as a general rule, are very efficient, and that the business of the session, so far as the House is concerned, will run smoothly. "At the desks," he says, "there is a better set of officers than there has been at any time in twenty years."

REPUBLICAN newspapers howl with a dismal sort of distress over the fact that only four Union soldiers are to be found in the United States senate. How is this? If it is essential to have Union soldiers in the Senate as an offset to the "Confederate brigadiers" why have Republican legislatures been so extremely derelict in duty to the country. Even Pennsylvania Republicans have had several splendid opportunities to elect a Union soldier, but we have never heard that they embraced a single one of them. No more gush of that kind, if you please.

SENATOR WALLACE, Chairman of the committee charged with the investigation, proposes to go to the bottom, and see all the inner workings of the Deputy Marshall system of regulating and controlling elections. He presented a resolution in the Senate on Thursday last, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for a "detailed statement of the accounts of the Marshalls in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts and Maryland rendered to date, for and in regard to employment of and payment of wages or fees charged for services performed by them, or their special deputies in regard to conduct of elections in November, 1878, showing the amount claimed by or paid to each of said deputies, and the aggregate paid or claimed by said Marshalls for services connected with the said elections."

THE Northern radical papers seem to have a wonderful sympathy for the South at this time and are quite distressed that a Northern man should have been elected Speaker of the House instead of a Southern man. The "Rebel Brigadiers" are just now the joy of their hearts. But the Atlanta Constitution could not have been aware of the deep interest inspired in these patriotic journals in favor of the South, else it could not have sent forth a sentiment like this. "The Southern Democrats do not care whether the Speaker hails from the North, the South, the East or the West. They know that he is no more entitled to the position because he may happen to be a Southern man than if he be a Northern or Western man."

Federal Supervisors.

In the issue of Monday, March 17, the Philadelphia Times has an editorial upon the issues now pending before congress. The Democrats are therein justified in demanding the repeal of the jury test oath, as also the prohibition of the use of soldiers at elections; but they are at the same time warned that they will not be sustained by the country if they demand and insist upon the repeal of the provisions of the statute authorizing the appointment of Federal supervisors at elections. The Times is usually very clear and sound upon questions of policy, and we are sorry to see it so deeply in the mud on this question. It is true that Representative Springer and some other Democrats are disposed to compromise on this question, and to permit the supervisor law to remain, when it is so amended as to remove its more obnoxious features. This is put upon the ground that it would look like wishing to remove the guaranty of fair elections, to insist upon the absolute repeal of the Supervisor act. We think both the Times and the compromising Democrats are wrong, both in principle and policy. Elections are and ought to be held under State laws. The qualifications of voters are fixed by the several State constitutions, and all election officers are elected or appointed under State laws. Misconduct on the part of these officers is a crime against the State, and not against the General Government. It is impossible even for representatives in Congress to be elected at elections held under a code of Federal laws. What would the Times say to a proposition to have all Congressmen elected under a federal code which should provide all the machinery for a proper and practical election; such as defining the extent and boundaries of election districts, the previous registration of voters by federal officers, the election of judge, inspectors and clerks to hold the election, defining what evidence the election officers should require as to the qualification of each voter—the payment out of the National treasury of the expenses of the election, and finally, a Federal returning board of some kind to receive, compute and certify the returns? All this would be as practical and proper, and much more convenient, than to appoint Federal officers to oversee and supervise State elections. All elections should be fair and honest, and adequate provisions should be made to guarantee and enforce this fairness and honesty, if any evil disposed person should attempt to produce a false result by fraud or violence; but these provisions should be made by the several States and not by the federal government. The provisions of our election laws in Pennsylvania for the appointment of one overseer from each party to oversee the election whenever citizens petition for their appointment is a far better guaranty than any that can be made by Congress. These State overseers are appointed by the Courts in each county, where the Judges are generally personally acquainted with the people and can make fair and judicious selections, whereas, at least, the federal supervisors must be appointed by the U. S. District Court, where the district judge could have no personal knowledge of the men he was asked to appoint. For instance, how could Judge Ketchum at Pittsburg make proper selections of supervisors for Benner township, Philipsburg or Houtsdale boroughs? The fact is, the federal supervisor law was never intended to promote fairness and honesty in the conduct of elections, but, on the other hand, was devised as a means for fraudulently and corruptly controlling the result of elections against the wish and voice of a majority of the people. We challenge the Times to refer to one single instance, in which federal supervisors were either appointed or acted for

any good purpose. There is no such instance on record, and never will be. The whole design of this law is to cover fraudulent and criminal purposes, and all its provisions should be wiped from the federal statute books.

A REPUBLICAN paper says "a public meeting is to be held in Philadelphia to condemn Wallace for fighting Randall." We have not seen any other evidence that such a meeting is to be held, nor learned that there is any occasion for it. But still it may be so, for there are a great many fools in Philadelphia, as in other places, and if this class want to air their folly they could not find a man they could injure less with the people of Pennsylvania.

We notice that the Republican papers, and some others, persistently charge that Senator Wallace labored to defeat Mr. Randall's election as Speaker of the House. Now, Mr. Wallace did no such thing. He is not that kind of a Democrat, and was too deeply interested in a successful Democratic organization of Congress to endanger it by any act of his. Mr. Wallace may have had a personal preference for the nomination of another man than Mr. Randall, but if so, is he to be condemned? Mr. Randall does not hesitate to exercise the right of personal choice, and why should Mr. Wallace be condemned for doing the same thing. We have the very highest regard for both of these distinguished men, and will receive with large allowance any reports published to their disadvantage, and manifestly put upon the wing for the same purpose and by the same men who labored last fall to distract and defeat the Democratic party.

REPUBLICAN statesmen who are just now making so much fuss over what they are pleased to term the "revolutionary" attitude of the democrats in Congress have extremely short memories. They seem to forget that when they were in power they gave the nation many examples of the same kind of revolutionary legislation which they are now so free to condemn. Democrats only propose to repeal the obnoxious election enactments in the same manner in which they became laws. Most all of them were passed by republican congresses as riders to appropriation bills, and if it was right to pass them in that way, certainly it cannot be wrong to repeal them in the same way. In truth the majority that now controls congress can find precedents made by the other side for everything they intend to do in relation to the repeal of the laws in issue between the two parties. Gen. Garfield, the republican leader of the house, seems to be conspicuous in denunciation of the mode by which democrats have determined to wipe from the statute books this partisan machinery of the republicans to control elections, and the New York World gives him a gentle reminder of the past that should be effective in calming the excitement of mind with which he is now apparently afflicted. It says:

"General Garfield's horror at the 'revolutionary' proposition of the Democrats in relation to the election laws is rather overdone. General Garfield observed to our correspondent that wicked as the Democratic proposition was in itself it was not so wicked or so dangerous to the country as the revolutionary method by which it was proposed to enforce it. To tack partisan legislation to an appropriation bill is the nefarious thing which he will resist to the last gasp. This may be regarded as a pledge for the future if General Garfield should ever belong to a majority in the House, but that contingency is too remote to be profitably discussed. The past, however, is not so secure as some of us would like to see it; and it is therefore in order for General Garfield to rise in his place and declare, with his hand on his heart, that a proposition to enforce any partisan legislation by attaching it to an appropriation bill was always scouted by the Republican majority of which he was a part in the days of the lamented Andrew Jackson. We have every respect of course for General Garfield, but when he talks in this despairing way about the Democrats, the impulse of our fallen human nature is to say, simply, 'Seat!'"

THIRTY-THREE republican members of the Kansas Legislature join in charging Senator Ingalls of bribery.

THE STATE COLLEGE.—A move was made in the Legislature on Monday night, during the session of the House, that looks like an investigation of the affairs of the State College by a Legislative committee. The officers of the College will no doubt be able to meet in a satisfactory manner all inquiries that may be made. The following preamble and resolution, introduced into the House by Mr. Kincaid, a member from Erie county, was adopted:

WHEREAS, By certain acts of assembly passed in 1854 an institution was incorporated called the "Farmer's High School of Pennsylvania," having for its object the education of youth in the various branches of science, learning and practical agriculture, the name of which institution was subsequently changed to the Pennsylvania state college; and whereas, By an act of congress approved July 2, 1862, land scrip amounting to 780,000 acres was donated to the state for the benefit of agriculture and mechanical arts, which land scrip was subsequently sold for the sum of \$439,486.80, and by act of 1867 one-tenth of the proceeds of said sale was appropriated to said college, together with the interest and income of the entire residue.

And whereas, The state has at other times made other large appropriations by acts of 1857, 1861 and 1878, to said college to aid in carrying out the purposes for which the institution was incorporated; therefore be it

Resolved (if the senate concur), That a committee of 3 from the house and 2 from the senate be appointed to examine the several acts of the legislature relating to said college, and ascertain what authority or control, if any, the state may have over the same, and also whether the same, as now carried on and conducted, be such an institution as was contemplated by acts of incorporation and as is required by the provisions of the several acts appropriating money for its support, and also the advantages resulting to the agricultural interests of the state have been commensurate with so large an investment. This committee shall have power to send for persons and papers and examine witnesses under oath, and report the result of their investigation to the legislature not later than 20 days after their appointment.

THE following handsome tribute to a noble man we take great pleasure in copying from the Harrisburg Patriot: "The army is always considered an element of danger to a free country," was the remark of Gen. W. S. Hancock the other day to a St. Louis interviewer. For this reason the General believes that the army will not be increased. There is no soldier in this or any other country who has clearer or more patriotic ideas on the subject of the relation of the military to the civil power than Gen. Hancock. He has given evidence of this fact on more than one occasion. His proclamation while commanding at New Orleans during the reconstruction period in which he made a plea for civil liberty worthy of the greatest statesmen of the republic is well remembered. While a true and brave soldier General Hancock evinces statesmanship of a high order. He has evidently given careful study to the federal constitution and republican institutions. He has thus learned what too many military men often overlook, that in time of peace and in a country where the administration of the laws is not impeded the civil power is superior to any military authority. With a man of his liberal and enlightened views at the head of the army or at the head of the government the liberties of the people would be safe. The time may not be far distant when Winfield Scott Hancock will be the favorite of the people as he has been and is the idol of the army.

This reads as though the Patriot would like to see the gallant hero in the White House at Washington, and the DEMOCRAT feels a strong inclination to second the motion.

REPRESENTATIVE FAUNCE is having an excellent run through the Democratic papers of the State as a candidate for State Treasurer.—Philadelphia Times.

And who is more deserving "an excellent run?" Honest, fearless and reliable, no fair Democrat can object to him.

A COMMITTEE has been raised in the Legislature to investigate alleged stationery frauds. This is right. If frauds exist they should be exposed and punished. But why should the committee set with closed doors? Can it be that the members' stationery accounts will not bear the light? It is somewhat remarkable in these days of economy and retrenchment, that the stationery account should swell from \$8,403 in 1875 to \$23,580 in 1878.

This increase certainly needs explanation, and should be made, in the light of day, so clear that the people can understand why these expenses should have such a constant annual upward tendency.

GENERAL NEWS.

The boiler of Johnson & Co.'s distillery at Cleburne, Texas, blew up on Friday killing two men.

Major Philip R. Tendall, of the United States marine corps, died suddenly at Portsmouth, N. H., on Friday morning.

The town farm-house at Williamatic, Conn., was burned on Saturday morning. Loss, \$10,000; insurance, \$5,000.

The Reading railroad company commenced the payment of its hands in Reading on Monday, launching upon that community \$80,000.

The democrats of the Sixth Texas congressional district convention have nominated Columbus Upton, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Schlicher.

The explosion of a boiler at DeForest's steam saw mill at Springfield, Mass., on Friday, probably fatally injured James Taylor and Horace Langdon, and severely injured two others.

Madame Bonaparte, the famous old lady of Baltimore, is very sick, and there is little hope of her recovery. She is in her ninety-sixth year, and has always said she would live to be one hundred.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Record writes from Lock Haven that a brick house in that city, occupied by D. F. Good, was partially destroyed by fire on Saturday morning. Loss \$3,000; covered by insurance.

The vote in Connecticut House of Representatives on the question of woman suffrage was: 25 yeas; 21 nays—not two-thirds, necessary for submitting the amendment to the Constitution to the people.

Monticello, the former residence of Thomas Jefferson, was sold Thursday last at Charlottesville, Va., in partition between the heirs of the late Commodore Urah P. Levy, to Jefferson M. Levy, the principal heir, for \$10,000.

The ice on the Hudson opposite Poughkeepsie, N. Y., moved out with the tide on Sunday afternoon without doing any damage. A steamer has arrived from Newburgh with coal boats in tow.

J. F. Oates, General Superintendent of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, has offered his resignation, to take effect on March 31. Mr. S. T. Smith, Receiver, assumes the duties of General Superintendent.

The jury in the case of James L. Slaughter, late Cashier of the First National Bank of Indianapolis, Ind., on trial in the United States Court, before Judge Blodgett, on the charge of embezzlement, returned a verdict Monday of not guilty.

The trial of Rev. Dr. Talmage was begun before the Brooklyn Presbytery Monday afternoon. The doctor made a speech, in which he stated in the most emphatic manner that he courted full investigation of the charges against him, denying them in toto.

Two contracts have been received at the works of the Harrisburg Car Co. One of these is for 1,000 coal cars for the Central railroad of New Jersey and the other is from the Canada Southern railroad for 600 boxes cars. The work will begin in about two weeks, when 500 men will be employed.

Pope Leo XIII does not countenance the theory that all dancing is of the Evil One. To some ladies who asked his permission to dance during the late carnival he said: "Go, my dears, and enjoy yourselves in an innocent dance; only don't keep up too late your papas and mamas when they want to get home again."

The treasury department will now redeem called bonds embraced in the sixteenth to the eightieth calls inclusive, paying interest to the date of redemption; or it will redeem at once bonds included in said calls, with interest to date of maturity, and apply the proceeds to the payment of any subscriptions for the four per cent. consols.

About 2 o'clock on Thursday morning Matthew Creek, proprietor of a dry goods store in Jamestown, Ky., having his suspicions aroused by a noise in his store, arose from his bed, proceeded to the store and found a burglar behind the counter. He shot him dead, fifteen buckshot penetrating his body. It is not known where the burglar was from.

A large body of miners on Monday last were gathering at West Elizabeth. The last reports state that one thousand men are there, with brass bands. Much indignation has been expressed over the action of D. C. Hultz, superintendent of the Allegheny county Home, in giving the striking miners an order on a store for five barrels of flour, to be charged to the county.

The greatest consternation has been caused in the town of Reading, Mass., by the discovery that treasurer Nathan P. Pratt, of the Savings bank in that town, is a defaulter to a large amount, and, while enjoying the fullest confidence of the community, he has been for years engaged in a systematic robbery of the bank. Pratt's defalcation will, it is thought, aggregate \$90,000, and cover a period of three years.

The prospecting committee of the Kansas colony started upon their journey to the West Monday night. The two pioneers, with their garments done up in shawl straps, were escorted by the colonists, to number of 150, each carrying a torch. A brass band preceded the party, several members of which carried banners bearing the words "Go West," "Soldiers and Sailors' Colony," and similar announcements.

The Secretary of the Treasury has decided to redeem \$50,000,000 called 5-20s which mature between April 1, and 11 on presentation.

About four hundred of the plantation negroes who recently arrived at St. Louis from the South left Saturday night for Kansas, and about two hundred by the steamer Helena for Mississippi Sunday afternoon.

Kearney is stumping southern California for the new Constitution. In his speeches he abuses people without stint. A dispatch from Santa Anna says there on Thursday one of the men thus vilified gave Kearney an unmerciful beating.

Mayor Williams, of Gloucester, Mass., has published a request for contributions from the country at large in aid of the families of the seaman lost at St. George's Bank during the recent gales. One hundred and forty-six able-bodied men were lost, leaving 57 widows and 150 orphans dependent upon the charity of the public for support.

Some days ago, in New York, Commissioner of Jurors Dunlap selected forty-eight names of jurors for the trial of the suit for \$1,000,000 by Cornelius J. Vanderbilt against William H. Vanderbilt. On Saturday the counsel met and each struck off twelve names, leaving twenty-four, from which twelve will be selected in court for the trial.

A storm of the severest nature swept over Memphis just after midnight on Friday of last week. It quite likely came from the southwest and continued three hours. During its progress the lightning struck the Memphis cotton and woolen mills, situated in the southern part of the city, which were entirely destroyed. The mills, valued at \$90,000, employed a force of 125 hands, who are thrown out of employment. Insurance, \$60,000.

Colonel Bazilewitch, of the Imperial Russian Guard, visiting at Berlin, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment on the charge of picking a lady's pocket. The verdict is generally deemed outrageously unjust on the evidence, the corpus delicti not having been produced. Colonel Bazilewitch, who is supposed to have been the victim of conspiring circumstances, has gone to St. Petersburg to lay his case before the Czar, having been liberated on appeal, after giving his personal security for 300,000 marks.

On and after April 1, the Western Union Telegraph Company will withdraw from the territory operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and Telegraph Company. The withdrawal will affect a number of cities and towns in the State, including Norristown, Phoenixville, Pottstown, Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Shamokin, Harrisburg and Williamsport. It is understood that an arrangement has been effected by which the receipts will be pooled on a basis very satisfactory to both companies. It is understood that the contract covers a period of fifteen years.

Saturday afternoon, as a freight train on the Philadelphia and Erie railroad was passing through the ice gorge on the track a few miles east of Renovo an axle of an oil-tank car broke, and in a few minutes thirteen oil cars were wrecked. As soon as the first tank was broken the oil ignited and almost instantly a terrible fire ensued, which, as it communicated to the other cars, caused them to explode. The intense heat warped the iron rails and consumed the ties like paper. As soon as the oil was consumed a wrecking train was on hand and the rubbish was cleared away with all possible dispatch, and the regular passenger trains were only detained a few hours. About three hundred feet of track had to be relaid entirely. As each oil car contains about 3,600 gallons, the amount of oil consumed will reach 468,000 gallons. The balance of the cars were pulled away in time, or the destruction of oil would have been much greater. This is the point, it should be understood, where the road was blockaded by ice a few days ago and a track had to be cut through.

The rise in the river at Lock Haven brought about 175 rafts to that place, and for three or four days past business has been unusually brisk. Since Saturday morning the river has been falling rapidly, and the water is now too low for rafting purposes. About twenty rafts are now tied up in the pool of the dam awaiting a rise to go below. The market has varied considerably. Prices have ranged all the way from 5 to 15 cents per foot for lumber, according to quality. Oak of course, has brought the highest price, and the best grades of pine and spars 10 to 12. The lowest price is for hemlock. The total number of rafts for the spring business is expected to reach from 1,000 to 1,200. Clearfield county alone will send 640 to market. The balance will come from the other tributary streams of the river above here. Of the comparatively small number that have arrived at Lock Haven but a small quantity have gone below. A few are expected to reach Marietta, however, if they are not purchased at other points. The schute at Shamokin dam, opposite Sunbury, sustained great damage during the ice flood, and the passage through it is attended with great danger to rafts. When the next rise comes there will be a great rush of rafts for market. The lumber manufacturers are getting their logs ready to drive them down the river to the booms at Lock Haven and Williamsport. It is estimated that the output of logs will reach 185,000,000 feet, and it is expected that every saw mill at Williamsport will be running before the middle of April.