

# 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, April 17, 1879.

SEE the speech of Mr. Blackburn, published on our 3d. page.

A RECENT telegram from Washington to the Republican newspapers of the North contains this alarming condum: "Is the President weakening?"

MR. WHEELER having vacated the chair, Senator Thurman was elected President *pro tem.* of the Senate, on Tuesday last, by a vote of 28 to 18 for Mr. Ferry.

Signs of weakness in the back-bone of Mr. Hayes still continue to be a source of alarm and trouble to the stalwarts of his party. They greatly fear that he will ultimately decide that "discretion is the better part of valor," and approve the army bill.

THE one hundred days of the regular session of the Legislature is up today. From this time the members are under pay of \$10 per diem. No indication of an early adjournment. The Treasury plethoric, living good in Harrisburg, and boarding cheap and not likely to advance between now and the 4th of July.

It is said that the widow Oliver has entered the lecture field and contemplates making a tour of Pennsylvania, to build up and strengthen any weak parts of the Cameron dynasty. If she could procure the companionship of the Jenks, they would draw large audiences, combining the strength of the Cameron and Sherman influence.

THE Honorable Harry White—our Harry, the former blatherskite of the State Senate, now in Congress, undertook a few days ago, to say that the "law authorizing the employment of troops at the polls to keep the peace" was a Democratic measure, and the passage of the law received the sanction of Democratic congressmen. This was a gross and shameless perversion of truth, and Harry knew it, if he knew anything about it at all. The Hon. Procter Knott did not let him get off without exposure, which he made so complete, that the blush of shame would have mantled his cheeks had he been less accustomed to such mendacity.

It is gratifying to learn that Marshal Kerns, of Philadelphia, when he made up his list of election deputies, did not forget one Brown, the notorious repeater, who was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, in 1872, for voting twenty times for Grant. Brown did not remain long in confinement. For services so valuable, Grant soon gave him a pardon. Since then he has been known as Brown, the twenty-timer, and no doubt he faithfully earned his ten dollars in the service of Marshal Kerns at the last election. Brown is always on hand when the purity of the ballot-box in Philadelphia is to be protected, and Republican officials always give him employment.

A CAUCUS of the Republican Senators was held on Saturday, in which there was a general interchange as to the course to be pursued by the minority of the Senate in regard to the army appropriation bill. It is said no formal action was taken, but it was agreed upon all hands that every effort should be made to defeat the passage of the bill in its present shape. Of course, they will—nothing less was expected. The Republicans will not surrender the army control of the elections if they can avoid it. Nor will they dispense with the employment of deputy marshals and supervisors, to manipulate the polls in the interest of fraud, if they can continue to maintain the law authorizing the use of such agencies.

"We do not think the DEMOCRAT ought to complain of Mr. Yocum for voting with the Democrats on the army appropriation bill."—*Watchman.*

The *Watchman* labors under a great misapprehension. The DEMOCRAT did not complain of Mr. Yocum's vote on the army bill; it only stated a fact. The Democrats did not need his vote to pass the bill, and that is about all we said on the subject, except that leading Republicans charge him with violating his pledges made to them when he was a candidate. If all the Greenbackers in the House had voted in the negative with the Republicans, the army bill would still have passed by a majority of four votes, so that the Democrats were not in the least dependent upon outside help for their success. Whatever Mr. Yocum's motives may have been, it was not our purpose to criticize his vote either favorably or unfavorably, and we shall not do so now. "As an honest man," he is at liberty to vote as he pleases, though his Republican supporters do think it somewhat strange that, "as an honest man," he does not pay more respect to his promises. Perhaps he was also under promises to another class of supporters? But into that we will not inquire. Whether he does, or does not hereafter show "good judgment, good sense and manly independence," we are entirely willing that he shall improve his opportunities while he remains under the excellent tuition, tender nursing and gentle care of the *Watchman*.

A NATIONAL Emigrant Aid Society has been started in Washington city. It is headed by Zach. Chandler, Garfield, Hamlin, Windon, Teller and such rampant partisans, never distinguished for excessive philanthropy. The object no doubt is to colonize the colored man of the South in such States as will enable these stalwarts to maintain their ascendancy over this unfortunate race, not for any love they have for the negro, but for the political power they may wield by using him. This power they have lost in the South. The intelligent colored men there begin to understand their true interest, and to know their true friends, and the Northern partisan, by their carpet-bag agencies, can no longer manipulate them, hence the necessity of withdrawing them to other parts. Many will go and are now emigrating, principally to Kansas, where their starving and distressed condition excites the deepest commiseration of the benevolent everywhere. In the South there is a large excess of colored population, more than can be supported by the labor of the country. Any influence that withdraws this surplus, whether through pure philanthropy, or by the selfish promptings of partisan interests, may eventually result to the benefit of the emigrant from the forced necessity thrown upon him of personal industry and frugality to obtain a livelihood, and at the same time relieve that great country of the worthless and vicious class of idlers who now overrun and impoverish it.

ACCORDING to the late Secretary of the Senate in his testimony before the Wallace committee, it cost \$150,000 to elect the 122 Republicans to Congress, who now vote to maintain a standing army to terrorize and control honest voters at the polls. This money was squeezed out of the office-holders, with Hayes' and Schurz's consent. It cost over a quarter of a million besides that for United States marshals and supervisors. This amount was stolen from the taxpayers by order of Devens and Hayes. On the other hand, to put the 148 men into Congress who voted last Saturday for a free ballot and unintimidated elections, it cost less than \$5,000, accord to Mr. Duncan S. Walker's testimony, all of it the free-will offerings of men who believe in Democratic principles. Carefully studied, there will be found to be much food for thought in these simply stated facts.

In the year 1875, Mr. Evarts, the present Secretary of the State under Mr. Hayes, appeared as one of the speakers at an immense mass meeting, held in the city of New York, to protest against the unconstitutional use of the army in the southern States by the Grant administration. On that occasion he made a great speech, in which he took a decided stand in favor of civil methods of government in time of peace, and called upon the people to demand "the absolute abstinence of the federal power from interference in the States except upon the invitation of the legislature for the suppression of actual violence, and upon its withdrawal immediately and necessarily after that violence is suppressed." These words were then uttered by Mr. Evarts, and unless his opinions of the exigencies in which the "federal power" can be lawfully exercised have very materially changed since that meeting was held, he will scarcely ask or expect Mr. Hayes to veto the army appropriation bill because it repeals eight words of a section of the law that permits the presence of federal soldiers at election polls on the pretence of preserving the peace.

It is now generally conceded that the bill appropriating four millions of dollars from the State treasury for the payment of the damages occasioned by the Pittsburg riots is dead, at least for the present session of the Legislature. The consideration of the bill was indefinitely postponed, and while its friends may move for a re-consideration, they no longer hope for success. Aside from the grave question of the right or duty of the State to assume the payment of losses arising from local disturbances, this measure has from the start been surrounded by bad influences—influences that gave it, whether justly or unjustly, the appearance of a big steal of money from the treasury of the people. We are glad to record the fact that the Representatives of Centre county have from its first introduction into the House been consistent and unwavering in their opposition to its passage, and we doubt not will be so to the end. In taking this position they certainly represent the wishes of their constituents, who can say to them for their votes in the various stages of legislation that the bill reached, "well done, good and faithful servants."

A VIRGINIA military company a few days ago made a friendly visit to a company in Washington city. They carried, very properly, the flag of the State of Virginia. The loyalists, par excellence, connected with the G. A. R. and the Executive departments seeing a company of soldiers from the South, parading under a banner not familiar to them, concluded it was a "Rebel Flag." They became greatly excited, and called a meeting and denounced the Virginians in unmeasured abuse for thus appearing in the presence of the truly loyal in the National capital. It was all a mistake of course, they were not familiar with the ensign of Virginia, and never having ventured nigh enough to a Confederate flag to know the difference, should be excused, if they can have the manliness to make a proper apology to the Virginians.

THE absurdity of making jurors in the federal courts of the South take the "test oath" is well illustrated in the cases of the citizens of South Carolina, now on trial in the City of Charleston, for alleged violations of the election laws. This oath is to the effect that the deponent never aided or abetted in any way in the late civil war. The judge of the court in which this oath is administered himself gave a son to the Confederate navy; and of the officers of the court, the district attorney, the clerk and the marshal served as soldiers in the Confederate army. These men are now loyal federal officials, and not one of them can take the oath they insist on applying

to jurymen in order to increase the chances for convictions in these cases of political persecution.

THE special Washington correspondent of the *Harrisburg Patriot* gives an account of the opening of the debate in the Senate, on Monday, on the army bill. It says that Withers of Virginia, began the discussion on the Democratic side, and was followed by Blaine, "who flung out the folds of the gory nether garment in regular stalwart style. Wallace followed in one of his closely reasoned argumentative efforts and was frequently interrupted by Blaine and Hoar. When Blaine asked him whether the federal troops present at the elections in Kentucky in 1864 were not there to prevent confederate soldiers from controlling the ballot-box, Wallace replied that his interlocutor meant to use a law enacted for war times to shackle freemen in times of peace, which brought down the galleries."

THAT veracious and high-toned Cameronian journal, the *Harrisburg Telegraph*, says that "Curtin is about to be given a stolen vote in Congress." Oh! bless your soul, no, Mr. *Telegraph*; Gov. Curtin will be given a vote in Congress because he was honestly elected to Congress by a majority of the lawfully qualified electors of the Twentieth Congressional district, as the evidence now before the House committee on elections will disclose to the satisfaction of Congress and the country. This is Curtin's case in a nutshell.

"In the interests of the people," said Senator Wallace in his able argument on the army bill, last Monday, in the Senate of the United States, "In the interests of the people we must restore the original principles from which four years of war have divested the government, bring the military to strict subordination to the civil power, permit a free system of laws to be based upon a free ballot, and expunge a standing menace upon free institutions." Noble words. Thanks to the distinguished Senator who uttered them.

In the distribution of committee chairmanships, speaker Randall has assigned four to Pennsylvania. Mr. Coffroth is at the head of invalid pensions; Wright of the causes of the depression of labor; Clymer of expenditures in the State department, and Wise of manufactures.

JUDGE KELLEY announced in Congress the other day that Mr. Garfield's revolution is only Pick-wickian revolution; and, however ridiculous it may appear, our Republican friends pretend to believe that it is still going on.

Most of the general legislation of Congress during the entire period of Republican domination was deliberately and intentionally aggressive upon the clearly defined and unquestioned rights of the states. It proceeded from the settled purpose of the Republican party to gradually centralize undelimited powers in the General Government. This expansion of Federal authority, this enlargement of its domain beyond the boundaries set up in the fundamental law, this infringement upon rights which the states were careful to retain and guard when they gave the central government its charter, commenced with the inauguration of the Republican party, and was continued until a Democratic House called a halt in its aggressive and subversive career. In attempting to bring the Government back into the sphere of action prescribed by the Constitution the Democratic party is discharging the highest duty of patriotism and statesmanship. And the people who sent the Republican party out of power because of its repeated assaults upon their rights, and because of its dangerous centralizing tendency, will give their hearty approval and support to every honest effort looking to a restoration of constitutional methods.—*Washington Post.*

Captain Edward L. Young died at Norfolk, Virginia, last Thursday morning, aged 97. He commanded a privateer in the war of 1812, was the oldest citizen of Norfolk and probably the oldest Mason in the United States, having belonged to that order sixty-six years.

A farmer from Berks, going West recently, passed through Snyder county in a wagon with his family. The latter consisted of a wife, eleven children, five dogs and a cat and kittens.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The taking of the census next year will cost about \$4,000,000.

There are about 700 men employed in the railroad shops at Renovo.

S. S. Seely, editor of the *Jersey Shore Herald*, is in quite feeble health.

A snoring match is to come off in Harrisburg, the man making the most notes in a given time to receive a prize.

A young man in Salladsburg boasts that he has kissed a girl 450 times in six hours and three laps, and thinks he has won the premium.

Geo. L. I. Painter, Esq., has retired from the publication of the *Muncy Locomotive*, and is succeeded by his sons, W. T. & T. B. Painter.

A new school house is to be built at Huntingdon, under a contract of \$15,295. Preparations for the building commenced last Monday.

The Kentucky Republican State Convention at Louisville last Thursday was very largely attended. Walter Evans was nominated for Governor.

A band of gypsies occupying wagons fitted up with every convenience and drawn by well-fed horses driven by colored hostlers recently passed through Lancaster county.

Three boys were drowned in the Ohio river, opposite Wellsville, Ohio, on Friday, by the upsetting of a skiff in which they rowed out to enjoy the swell from a passing steamer.

An energetic effort will be made by publishers to secure a diary in which Madame Bonaparte made copious notes of the leading events in her life. During life she was offered \$10,000 for these notes by a Boston publishing house.

Miss Julia Eveline Smith, of Glastonbury, Vt., the only survivor of the Smith sisters, celebrated for their resistance to taxation without representation, was married on Wednesday last to Amos G. Parker, of New Hampshire. Both bride and groom are in their 89th year.

Charles W. McKeeough, chief steward of the steamer *Bohemian*, from Liverpool, was arraigned before a United States Commissioner at Boston, Monday, on the charge of smuggling small parcels of Irish whisky. Edward O'Malley was also arrested for receiving the liquor. Both parties were held in \$300 each.

Providence Savings Bank and Trust Company, of Providence, Pa., suspended last Saturday, being unable to meet its obligations after having taken advantage of the sixty-days laws. The liabilities are \$75,000 and the assets \$100,000, principally in notes and bonds, of which probably not more than half can be collected.

The proposition of the coal miners at New Castle, Pa., that wages that have been reduced now from six to seven and a half per cent, for various classes of work and that the remainder of the master's demands be submitted to arbitration has been rejected. A long and fruitless discussion followed this action. Meetings were held last Saturday at which seventeen thousand men were present. They declared their determination to resist the masters' demand.

Good Friday was observed in New York in an appropriate manner. Business of the Stock, Produce and Cotton Exchanges were entirely suspended, while many stores and warehouses were closed. None of the State Courts were in session and very little was done around the municipal and Federal departments. Services were held in all churches, which were attended by large congregations. In Brooklyn the Courts and municipal departments were also closed, and churches were filled with worshippers.

Thursday morning last, Mr. Samuel Stem, owner of a large tannery near Waterford, Juniata county, was killed on the railroad. Wednesday night in company with Joseph Deering, a merchant of Johnstown, Juniata county, he left Philadelphia on the Pacific express, having a ticket to Harrisburg where he intended stopping until morning, and then going west on the way passenger train. The supposition is that in the neighborhood of Hanna street the man was aroused from a sleep by the brakeman announcing "Harrisburg," and thinking that the train had passed the station, plunged off at that place and was struck by the fast line going east, which passes the Pacific at that point. He was 65 years of age.

Mr. Charles E. Pugh, who succeeds Mr. G. Clinton Gardner as General Superintendent of the Pennsylvania railroad, assumed the duties of the office on April 1. The elevation which Mr. Pugh has now attained through a series of promotions is an evidence of what hard work and merit must bring to pass. Mr. Pugh began railroad life as a freight agent at Newport, Perry county, Pa., in 1859. In three years he was made conductor of a passenger train running between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. After serving one year he was promoted to the responsible position of train dispatcher of the Philadelphia division. Two years later found him assistant train-master of the same division, and six years later he was appointed general agent of the company at Philadelphia. In this last position his satisfactory performance of its exceedingly onerous duties during the centennial year justly increased his already established reputation. During the year over one hundred and fifty thousand cars were moved and more than three millions of passengers transported without a single accident. In his present position Mr. Pugh possesses the confidence of all the employees who know him.

## Petrification.

THE BODY OF THE LATE BENJAMIN SINGERLY, A FORMER STATE PRINTER, FOUND TO HAVE PETRIFIED.

From Harrisburg Patriot.

Most of our city readers will remember Benjamin Singerly, Esq., formerly proprietor of the *Daily State Journal* and State printer for a term of years, who died suddenly after traveling from Philadelphia to Pittsburg one very hot day about two years ago. Mr. Singerly was a very heavy man weighing from 350 to 400 pounds. He was interred at Pittsburg. A few weeks ago the relatives of Mr. S. made preparations to have him resurrected and taken to Philadelphia where his parents and other relatives are buried. When the hands to whom the work of raising the body was entrusted dug down to the top of the casket, they were surprised to find that no offensive odor prevailed—a circumstance that makes it unpleasant at any time to take up dead people in order to carry them from one point to another. The rough box was opened, but the attempt to remove the casket from it was ineffectual, on account of its extraordinary weight. This created considerable surprise, and it was at last suggested to open the casket. An undertaker was entrusted with the job and when the lid was removed the face and body were found to have undergone petrification—had assumed the color of yellow marble, and the entire face and form seemed as one mass of marble chiselled from a block—not one of the features or lineaments were out of place or unnatural in the slightest degree. The body was raised from the grave by means of a block and fall and was found to weigh (when weighed for transportation to Philadelphia) nine hundred and eighty pounds!

These facts were related to a *Patriot* reporter five days ago from what he thought at that time to be a reliable source, but seeing no mention made of the case in the *Pittsburg journals*, he waited further developments. The same story, from a strictly trustworthy source, was again reported yesterday and we therefore feel justified in giving them publicity.

## Fitz John Porter's Acquittal.

NO ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT—WHAT WILL BE ASKED OF CONGRESS.

From dispatch to the Philadelphia Times.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The President has thus far taken no action on the report of the Board of Inquiry in the Fitz John Porter case. A member of the Cabinet said to-day that the subject has never been referred to in Cabinet meeting and the administration seems at a loss what to do in the premises. It is said that General Porter will bring his case before the present session of Congress if he can do so, and unless the President acts on the report of the board General Porter will petition Congress on the strength of the report to relieve him from the sentence of the court-martial, which cashiered him in 1862. Efforts for restoration to the service and for sixteen years' back pay will be the subject for future action. Opinions of officers at the War Department are that General Porter never anticipated or thought of a report so overwhelmingly in his favor and that all he ever expected was a relief from the dishonor of the sentence cashiering him. It is thought by headquarters officers that the court-martial in 1862 rendered a just sentence from the evidence before them, but that the later evidence shows that Porter was not unfaithful to the interests of the service, but that he was unjustly antagonistic to General Pope.

## Notable Court Cases at Richmond.

RICHMOND, April 11.—There is good authority for stating that the recent action of United States Judge Rives in indicting the county judges in his (western) district for not having mixed juries in their courts will be followed by a similar movement in this (eastern) district, and that the United States District Attorney will probably to-morrow present the names of a number of the county judges for indictment.

The cases of the United States against a number of prominent Virginians, known as the "golden cases," have been set for trial in the United States Circuit Court to-morrow. These are cases in which the Federal Government sues ex-Governor William Smith and other ex-State officials who were in authority at the time of the evacuation of Richmond, in 1865, for \$50,000, gold, claimed by the United States as spoils of war and said to have been appropriated by the defendants.

Nearly a year ago a case was tried in Philadelphia in which Alexander Ervin was charged at the instance of Henry G. Morris with having forged a paper purporting to be an agreement on the part of the latter to allow the defendant \$100,000 as his share of certain operations in pig iron connected with Southwark foundry, of which Morris was proprietor and Alexander Ervin confidential clerk. The jury were unable to agree and were discharged. Meanwhile a civil suit pending pending against Ervin to compel him to render an account on the case was referred to a master. The master finds that the paper purporting to be an agreement on the part of Morris to allow Ervin \$100,000 is a forgery; that Ervin, while in the employ of Morris as confidential agent and financial manager, did not truly account for moneys passing to his control, and orders that he pay to his assignees for credit the sum of \$158,238.57, which was due June 30, 1875. The decree includes interest on notes used by Ervin.