

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, May 22, 1879.

It was much nicer to serve as member of Congress, with chances for a share in fat contracts, than to go to the front as a drafted soldier. At least so thought Blaine and he put in a substitute.

THEY AGREE TO ADJOURN.—The Legislature have at last, by concurrence of both Houses, agreed to a final adjournment on the 6th of June. Thus after a session of one hundred and fifty days, which closes on the 5th, our statesmen have agreed to serve one day, gratis! How generous!

THE proposition incorporated in the revenue bill laying a tax on crude oil of ten cents per barrel was defeated in the House of Representatives on Monday last by a vote of 37 to 99. This is probably a final settlement of the question for the present session. The oil men are jubilant, and Lish Davis of the Committee of Ways and Means decidedly cross.

BLAINE tells the story of the substitute he put in the ranks of the army to do his fighting for him after he was drafted. It is now in order for him to explain how he rushed to Washington as soon as the first hostile shot was fired to secure a profitable gun contract for a friend. He might at the same time tell exactly what share of the profits of this contract went into his own pockets.

WHAT does our genial neighbor of the *Republican* mean? Of course the Democrats are ready to "give up" slavery? The South did so fourteen years ago, and no sane man has ever thought of again giving life to it. It is a dead issue. Not so, however, the cry of radical thieves like Robeson, Belknap, Pinchback, Shepard and a hundred others for "our old commander" and a third term.

THE negro exodus is rapidly subsiding. The deceived emigrants who have been able to retrace their steps and return to their former homes in the South, have exercised a powerful influence in allaying the craze which seems to have possessed the colored population some weeks ago. In the meantime the planters discovered they would have no difficulty in commanding all the labor they need, and are likely to be much benefitted by getting rid of the surplus.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that Blaine's entertainment the other day had been duly advertised, it did not draw as big a crowd as one he gave several years ago. The audience was made up of invited friends and a goodly array of "sisters, cousins and aunts" under the leadership of Gail Hamilton, who seems to have acted as the Hebe of the occasion; but withal it was a thin house, and the performance was not half so good as that afforded by the reading of the Mulligan letters and the disclosure of the ex-Speaker's connection with railroad jobbery while occupying the Chair in the other branch of Congress.

IN the Senate of the United States, a few days ago, the imperious and lordly Conkling came grandly to the defence of Johnny Davenport and his infamous devices for preventing foreign-born citizens from voting in the city of New York. He could see nothing wrong in arbitrary arrests without cause, or in the iron cages erected for the incarceration of Johnny's victims. "The King can do no wrong," say the believers in monarchical forms of government, and Roscoe evidently thinks the same of Republican election officials. The only wrong his distorted optics can discern anywhere is south of Mason and Dixon's line. Out upon that kind of hypocrisy!

Now for Veto, No. 3.

The legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill, including the sections repealing the arbitrary and unjust election laws, passed the Senate on Tuesday last by a vote of 37 years to 27 nays. The bill goes back to the House in which it originated, for concurrence in the amendments attached to it in the Senate, and will probably reach Mr. Hayes for another veto the last of the week.

In the proceedings of the Senate upon this bill, the significant fact appears that not a single Republican Senator attempted in the least to discuss its merits. Their speeches, one and all, from Conkling down to Logan and from Blaine to Windom and Chandler, were mere tirades of sectional passion, misrepresentation of the intentions of the Democratic party and abuse of the Southern members of Congress and the people they represent. It is by means like these that the reckless, illiberal and unpatriotic leaders of the Republican party expect to rekindle the expiring embers of sectionalism to serve their partisan purposes in the election for President in 1880.

Mr. Hayes can give us veto No. 3 if he sees proper, as he no doubt will, to do so; but he will look in vain through any of the arguments of his friends in Congress for substantial reasons upon which to base it. If the arts of the demagogue, violence, passion and untruthful and distorted presentations of historical facts will suit for a message he will be at no loss for examples to imitate. He can turn to the utterances of the "stalwarts" named and the supply will be found abundant.

HON. ASA PACKER, whose alarming illness was noticed last week, died in Philadelphia on Saturday night, and was buried at Mauch Chunk on Tuesday afternoon. In the death of Mr. Packer the State has lost an eminent citizen, who in his long and useful life attracted, as he deserved, a large share of public attention. In the Lehigh region, with the business interests of which he had been for so many years closely and extensively identified, his demise created a profound impression upon all classes of people. From the *Harrisburg Patriot* we take the following brief biographical sketch of his remarkable career:

"Asa Packer was born at Groton, New London county, Connecticut, December 29, 1805. At the age of seventeen he traveled on foot to Susquehanna county, Pa., with all his worldly goods contained in a knapsack. Here he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner and was married to Sarah M. Blakeslee. In 1833 he removed to Mauch Chunk and engaged in the business of boating coal to Philadelphia. For two years he acted as master of his own boat. In 1835 he made a profitable engagement with the Lehigh Navigation company, and afterward in partnership with his brother Robert, whom he had induced to migrate to Pennsylvania, entered into an extensive mercantile business and at the same time engaged largely in mining and shipping coal. In 1851 Judge Packer conceived the idea of building a railroad from Mauch Chunk to Easton, and in 1855 had the projected line completed, with branches to Hazleton and Mahanoy City. This was the beginning of the Lehigh Valley railroad. Judge Packer served two terms in Congress, was presented by the Pennsylvania delegation to the Democratic National Convention of 1868 as its preference for the presidency, and was the Democratic candidate for governor in 1869. He is the founder of Lehigh University, and has donated large sums to that institution since its establishment. He is reported to be worth \$20,000,000."

JOHN SHERMAN has magnanimously concluded not to be a candidate for governor of Ohio this fall. He leaves the way clear for Garfield or Foster. John always was a wise man. He no doubt fully realizes that his management of the fraudulent count in Louisiana by Wells and his returning board associates, and also his intimate relations with Mrs. Jenks, to say nothing of his connection with the Eliza Pinkston romance, would not make a good record upon which to go before the public this year. But will it be any better for the Presidency next year?

"In 1871," says the *Philadelphia Record*, "when the present Congressional election law was so amended as to more effectually provide for the scheme of military interference at the polls, the amendments were driven through Congress without debate or explanation under caucus pressure. The object of the law was undoubtedly not so much to overawe the people of the Southern States as to carry the State of New York by preventing a fair vote in New York city. In opposition to the amendments then fastened upon the law Senator Bayard made a most remarkable speech, which, addressed to a body prepared to obey law rather than to disregard it, would have led to a different result. The speech delivered eight years ago now reads like prophecy. The distinguished Senator quoted the repeated decisions of the Supreme Court as to the scope of the constitutional provisions relied upon to warrant military interference at the polls, the adverse opinions of Madison and Hamilton, the historic example of English law, and spoke of the inherited repugnance which has come down to us from our English ancestry against all attempts to invade the freedom of elections. Past precedents and future dangers were urged with splendid eloquence by Mr. Bayard to the unheeding ears of Senators whose hands were tied by a caucus decision. The passage of the bill was a blunder added to a long list of blunders of a like nature in which the powers of the Government have been abused in order to consolidate the power of a party. From that day to this the Republican party has been overweighed with its own self-imposed burden of unpopular legislation, and has found its power slipping through its fingers until the House and Senate are both in the hands of the opposition, the Presidency itself having been lost in fact and retained by legerdemain. The warning of 1871 has turned into a cry of menace. In the light of this experience, would it not be prudent for Republican leaders to take advantage of the opportunity offered them, under the pressure of the Democratic majority, to gracefully recede from an untenable position? The time has not yet arrived when the people of the United States are willing to place permanently in the hands of any party the power to control the result of elections by armed force."

SENATOR HILL, of Georgia, in his recent speech, made the declaration that out of the twelve members of Congress from that State, eight were Union men up to the date of secession by the State, and that of ninety-three members of Congress from the Southern States eighty-five were opponents of the doctrine of secession. These declarations and figures seemed to the *Washington Post* somewhat remarkable, but on investigation, the *Post* endorses the statement of the Georgia Senator's assertion that nine-tenths of the Southern members were Union men "up to the very hour when they were required to fight for or against their native States."

I. B. GARA, of Erie, is spoken of as a Republican candidate for Congress in that district. Mr. Gara, many years ago, was the editor of a Whig paper in this place. As a former acquaintance, a talented and gentlemanly opponent whom we respected then, we cannot but hope that if that benighted district must still have a Republican representative, that the honor may fall upon one so worthy and so fitted to confer upon them a respectability they never can regain by the party principles as now promulgated.

THE reward of virtue is always certain to come in one form or another. When the public cannot see it and therefore fails to do homage to its high deserts, the individual is still at liberty to prate about it himself, though occasionally he does so at the risk of being thought slightly brazen in countenance.

Locals Continued.

BILLIARDS.—A visit to the billiard saloon of Mr. Hiram O. Hoffer, on Allegheny street, will disclose the fact that the obliging and enterprising proprietor has recently introduced into his fine room three entirely new and elegant "Standard American" tables of Colender's make, upon which lovers of the game may realize all of enjoyment that it affords. Billiards is an ancient game; exactly how old no one knows. It is said to be of French or Italian origin, and has been known to the English speaking people of the world for not less than three hundred years. Probably one of the earliest references to it in English literature is by Shakespeare when he makes Cleopatra ask for billiards as a means of passing the hours made weary by the absence of her beloved Antony. But in the time of those unfortunate lovers it is scarcely probable that the game was known in Egypt. At this day it is without doubt recognized as one of the most attractive games of skill known to civilized nations. Refined and cultivated people are everywhere to be found among its votaries, and that it has such strong attractions for the higher and better classes of society is evidence that those who have leisure and the means for its enjoyment can indulge to a reasonable degree in its fascinations without detriment to their morals or injury to society. One of the objections to billiards is that its surroundings are often evil. Against this our friend Hoffer rigidly guards. In his quiet and well-conducted saloon there are no temptations of a bad nature to ensnare or injure any one. Intoxicating drinks are not sold in the building, gambling of any kind is strictly prohibited, and good order is always maintained. Persons desiring to spend an hour in rational and innocent amusement can therefore patronize this billiard room in the full assurance that it is without offensive adjuncts. Give Hiram a call and see for yourself.

THE CITY FATHERS.—This body met as usual last Monday evening, Messrs. Ardell, Crider, Harper, Kabelle, Reynolds and Shortidge being present. Mr. Shortidge was chosen President *pro tem*, and the minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

The Finance Committee, through Mr. Harper, submitted \$114.65 of exonerations on duplicate, and Mr. Mitchell read receipt of James Harris, treasurer, for market fees from May 6th to 17th—\$3.

Mr. Harper moved that the Nuisance Committee procure a "pound" for His Lordship the High Constable.

The Finance Committee was directed by the President to examine into the dog tax ordinance, and see if there are not some sly canines inclined to escape its penalty.

The Fire and Police committee reported "progress" on hose; that the Pennsylvania railroad is satisfied with action of council, and that increase of pay be allowed to Chief of Police. After a series of motions and amendments, decided to increase pay of Chief of Police to \$16 per month, and that of ordinary police to \$10 per month, until further action of council.

The monthly license report was submitted by the Chief Burgess, a check for the amount—\$10—accompanying the same.

Of four extra police appointed for circus day but three served, the fourth having made elaborate preparations for the occasion by imbibing too much "stimulant."

THE SUDDEN AND SORROWFUL DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—This community was shaken by a wave of sorrow yesterday morning upon the intelligence becoming generally known of the sudden decease of one of our oldest and most widely known citizens, Mr. Felix Mullen. The old gentleman had for a long time been in a very feeble condition, but none who had seen him walking our streets for the last few days imagined that he would so speedily pass away from earth. We remember passing him on the street the day before his death, but little did we think it cold damp was already on his brow.

Mr. Mullen returned to his home about six o'clock Tuesday evening and sat down as usual to partake of his supper. After eating he became suddenly and violently ill, and as an effect of the nausea threw up what he had eaten. Unconsciousness immediately followed and continued until death ended his sufferings. Dr. George L. Potter informs us that apoplexy was the cause of his sudden end.

This unexpected death will be felt with sorrow throughout Centre county. Deceased was father-in-law and always the intimate and confidential friend of the late Henry Brockerhoff, and was about 77 years of age. He leaves a wife, daughter and several sons to mourn his loss.

—Hon. John Divens, one of our popular Associate Judges, was in town on Tuesday.

—Brig. Gen. James A. Beaver has been appointed by Gov. Hoyt a member of the military board.

GENERAL NEWS.

Pittsburg has seventy-five glassworks, which employ 5,148 hands.

The Logan House, Altoona, is receiving two thousand dollars' worth of improvements.

Pennsylvania produces 63 3-10 per cent. of all the coal produced in the United States.

In 1878 Allegheny county had 77 7-10 per cent. of the puddling furnaces in the United States.

The city of Lock Haven has paid up what it owes the State and the mandamus has been withdrawn.

Jacob Schaefer made the unprecedented run of 690 in a game of billiards at Chicago last Thursday night.

A reading room has been opened at Lewisburg by the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Spiketown. (Allegheny county) society is terribly flustered over a tripple wedding in that place in one family.

More strangers visit the grave of Thaddeus Stevens in Lancaster than go to any other locality in that city. It is a Mecca for colored tourists.

So far as known up to the present the popular vote in Switzerland, stands 166,824 for and 138,692 against the re-establishment of capital punishment.

Mrs. Rusk, a young and handsome woman, in Allegheny, became tired of being whipped every day by her husband and eloped with another gentleman.

Dr. John McCulloch, an eminent and well-known physician, died at his residence in Huntingdon on Thursday evening after a long illness. His age was about 72 years.

The Solar Oil Company, Limited, is the title of the company organized at Williamsport for the purpose of refining oil for export and manufacturing lubricating oils under special patents.

Mayor Stekeley, of Philadelphia, has in contemplation the idea of culverting the Schuylkill river and thus reclaiming acres of ground. He has sent communications on the subject to the council.

Among the prominent people who sailed from New York for Europe on Saturday were Commodore and Mrs. Garrison, Lord and Lady Harris, William H. Vanderbilt, and the Comte de Santorenia.

General McCandless will deliver the oration at Gettysburg on Decoration Day. An excursion party from the State Legislature will be present, and excursions are expected from various points. The occasion promises to be one of interest.

It is said that most of the local papers oppose the Mayor of Reading in his efforts to close the saloons and cigar stores on Sunday. Strange that newspapers claiming intelligence can be found to say aught against a measure so manifestly for the public good.

The Smithsonian Institute reports that Professor Peters, of Clinton, announces the discovery by himself of a planet of the tenth magnitude in twelve hours sixteen minutes right ascension, six degrees forty-six minutes north declination, with a slow motion south.

Rev. T. H. Robinson has concluded to accept the Presidency of Wilson College, which was tendered to him some time ago. He has for many years been pastor of the Market Square Presbyterian church in Harrisburg and is one of the most prominent ministers in the bounds of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

Saturday afternoon a violent thunder storm passed over Wilmington, Del. Several houses were struck by lightning, which stunned at least a dozen persons in different parts of the town. In two cases the parties did not recover for some hours. It was the first thunder storm of the season there and the most violent for years.

Chief Engineer Barnes, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with a corps of assistants, commenced last Friday the survey of a route from Malvern station on the Pennsylvania Railroad to West Chester. The object of this is yet a secret, but strong surmises are indulged that it means a virtual heading off of the Reading Railroad Company in its intention to make a connection at West Chester.

At half-past 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon the steam yacht *Louisa*, owned by Mr. Charles Stenglein, with a New York excursion party, ran on the rocks in Little Hell Gate and upset. James Hall, aged 40; William Adams, aged 8, of Morrisania; and Rosie Stenglein, aged 15, of No. 1626 Third avenue, were drowned. John and Frederick Stenglein and Mrs. Adams and daughter Sarah were saved.

The Cape May season was inaugurated last Saturday by the arrival of an excursion party of representatives of Philadelphia newspapers. The principal time of the train by which they came from Camden to Cape May, eighty-one miles, is one hour and fifty-eight minutes, but the trip was made in ninety-eight minutes, the fastest time ever made over the road. The run from Mount Pleasant to Cape May, twenty-three miles, was made in twenty-two minutes.

Fire was discovered Monday morning on the top of one of the breasts in the Keystone mine, near Pottsville, which burned through the vein and communicated with the air course. At half-past six at night this portion was under control, when it was found that the pillar dividing the adjoining breast was burning fiercely. The fire is extensive and may lead to serious results. It has not yet been decided what method will be

adopted to effect its extinguishment, although experienced miners and engineers have been on the ground all day. The mine is operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Company.

A pleasant little war has now broken out in Dartmouth College. The Faculty refused some small privilege and the students became angry and assembled before the residences of Professor Bartlett and Professor Lord, indulging in such a serenade as horns, groaning and singing. The Faculty in turn dismissed two members of the Senior class, when the students showed that they were not subdued by soaking at the pump two students who were supposed to have given the professors information.

Williamsport dispatches says that the Tidewater Pipe Line is almost completed, and Superintendent Benton feels confident that oil will be flowing through it by the 1st of June, if not sooner. But very few pipes remain to be placed in position now. The entire quantity has been received from the manufacturers. The enormous receiving tanks at that place, with a capacity of nearly 60,000 barrels have been completed, but the service pipe to the railroad has not yet been laid. This will not require much time, however, as the distance is only about two miles. The tanks are located on a hill 350 feet above the level of the railroad. A number of the new oil cars built by the Philadelphia and Reading railroad to transport oil to the seaboard have arrived already.

The Executive Committee of the World's Fair met in New York Saturday night and resolved not to fix a date for holding the fair until a site had been selected; that the exhibition should be located on Manhattan Island, and recommended that the site be between and taking in part of Riverside and Morningside Parks. They declared against the proposition for a primary convention of representatives of the various States, or even adjoining cities. A draft of a bill to Congress was unanimously adopted providing for holding an international exhibition of arts, manufactures and products of the soil and mines, in the city of New York, in the year of 18—.

The act provides for a commission of one delegate from each State and Territory, to be known as the United States International Commission, to prepare and superintend the execution of a plan for holding an exhibition. No compensation is to be paid from the United States Treasury to these commissioners, nor is the United States to be liable for any expenses attending the exhibition. This commission is to fix a date. The bill also provides for a Board of Finance, who shall have power to open a book for the subscription of capital stock not exceeding \$10,000,000, and further provides for the organization of boards similar to those of the Centennial Exhibition.

Pension Arrearages.

In response to a letter addressed to him by Secretary Schurz, inquiring what amount of funds can be made available monthly for the payment of arrears due upon pensions which were allowed prior to January 25, 1879, the secretary of the treasury states that, including the amount already paid, \$2,500,000 will be available prior to July 1, and \$2,000,000 monthly thereafter. At this rate nearly the whole of the next fiscal year will be required to complete the payment of these arrears. The commissioner of pensions in view of this has to-day issued the following circular letter, a copy of which will be mailed to each applicant for arrears as soon as a supply can be printed:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, PENSION OFFICE, WASHINGTON, May 17, 1879.—Sir: Your application for arrears of pensions has been received at this office. Owing to the limited amount of money available each month for payment of arrears due those whose pensions were allowed prior to January 25, 1879, a comparatively small number of cases only can be adjusted monthly, and therefore some delay may occur in settlement of your claim.

The right to the arrears is fixed by the act of January 25, and not by the date of filing the application, therefore the claim will be settled without regard to date of receipt in this office, but in such order as to distribute the payments equitably among the several pension agencies as near as may be.

No further information will be furnished you in relation to your claims for arrears until it has been settled, when you will be notified and promptly paid the amount found to be due.

Ex-Governor Seymour on the Chandler Kind.

From an Interview in Chicago Times. The advocates of military interference are the most violent partisans and those who seek to keep up sectional hate. They are the men of whom it has been well said that they are full of fight now because they did not fight when they had a chance. The Senator who first called for blood-letting in 1861 was the first to run away from the field when blood was flowing. He now grows fierce again. I do not think it is true, as has been charged, that he broke the lines of our troops, by his retreat, but it is certain that his anxiety to save his own blood did not encourage our soldiers in the fight. I do not think the country will follow the lead of those who stir up strife which others are to fight out, maybe, at the cost of their lives. The Democrats will feel as one man on the new issue. They see that it means that fraud is to be upheld at the polls.