

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, August 14, 1879.

Democratic State Ticket.

STATE TREASURER,

DANIEL O. BARR, Allegheny county.

THE tramp law passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, last winter, will go into effect to-morrow. It will probably tend to stimulate an immigration of undesirable persons into adjoining States.

WILL Petroff take the stump for Butler? If "Previous Question" Hooten wants to have a rousing campaign let him start Petroff out in the country to explain how his good, kind friend Butler saved him from deserved disgrace by voting against his expulsion from the House last session.

LATEST returns from the Kentucky election indicate that Dr. Blackburn, (Democrat,) for Governor, will have 40,000 majority, which is a larger majority than Governor McCreary obtained four years ago. The Republicans have gained several members in both branches of the General Assembly. This result was due to local questions which were sprung up in the respective Senatorial and Legislative districts in which the Republicans were triumphant.

A PHILADELPHIA dispatch announces the arrest of Charles B. Salter, one of the persons charged with corrupt solicitation in connection with the riot damages bill before the Legislature at the last session. Salter entered bail for his appearance before the court of Dauphin county at its next term. It is also stated that William H. Kemble was notified to enter bail for his appearance on a similar charge. These men were both badly smirched in the evidence taken by the investigating committee last spring, and if guilty they should not be permitted to escape punishment.

SENATOR BLAINE don't think much of Congressman Fisher's political judgment. The statesman from Huntington has been left in temporary charge of the National Republican party, with headquarters in Washington. His eagle eye has swept the political horizon from the sand lots of California to the bleak coast of New England. He hastily ran his eye along the line which marks the course of the roaring Astorock, and remarked that the Republicans would lose Maine. That sort of prophecy don't suit the leader of leaders at all, and he has intimated in a mild way that Mr. Fisher can't kill Presidential candidates in that way. He says in substance that while Congressman Fisher may be a great man, that "there are more things twixt Heaven and earth, Horatio, than thou dreamest of in thy philosophy"

EDWARD McPHERSON, at present editor of the Philadelphia Press and formerly clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington and chief of the Bureau of Statistics, has risen to explain one of the damaging charges concerning his official integrity contained in the Glover report. The Press has sedulously maintained that the report did not amount to anything; that Glover was half fool and half knave, and yet its editor in chief has found it necessary to wade through six columns of his paper in a labored effort to show that he was not guilty of the venality so specifically charged against him. There is an impression getting abroad that ex-Congressman Glover made an exhaustive, and what is of more practical value, an honest investigation, and every effort to belittle the report and detract from its value by attacking its author will prove futile. John Sherman, stand up; your name comes next upon the list.

The Republican Platform.

The third resolution of the Republican platform is as follows:

Third. We declare our implacable hostility to the repeal of the national laws which protect the purity of the ballot box and secure fair elections, the election of Congressmen and Presidential electors being clearly subject to national control. Any attempt to throw off that control is simply an effort to establish fraud at national elections. Honest suffrage, equal rights, the unity of the nation and the supremacy of National Government in all matters placed by the Constitution under its control can be maintained only by the Republican party which is alone committed to their defence.

This is the most important resolution of the series; for, although somewhat obscure, in it may be found the real issue between the two great parties; besides, the real feeling and purposes of the radical party are stated with more than usual candor and frankness. They declare their "implacable hostility" to the repeal of the national election laws. That they are implacably hostile to the repeal of these laws, no one who watched the course of their leaders during the extra session of Congress can for one moment doubt. The stalwarts are undoubtedly in favor of the Federal election laws which now exist and of others that will give to Federal officers supervision and control of elections by means of which they can prevent the people from turning the Radical party out of power. This is the secret of their "implacable hostility" to the repeal of these laws.

The whole of this resolution is clearly predicated upon the proposition contained in it, viz: "the election of Congressmen and Presidential electors being clearly subject to national control." If this proposition cannot be sustained the whole doctrine of the resolution must necessarily fail. Is the election of Congressmen clearly subject to the control of the National government? Has the Federal government or any department or officer of it, under the constitution, the right to say who may or who may not vote at an election for a Congressman? The Democrats say, no; the Republicans say, yes. This is a simple, plain and direct issue which can only be determined by an appeal to the constitution itself. The provision of the constitution upon the subject reads as follows:

"Art. 1, Sec. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States, and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature."

By this provision the right to say who may vote for Congressmen is clearly given to the several States, and not to the Federal government. The whole power of the Federal government cannot confer the right of voting for Congressmen upon a single individual if such individual has not the right under the constitution and laws of his State. Neither can the Federal government deprive any one of the right of voting for a Congressman, if he possesses the qualifications of a vote in his State. The qualifications of electors for members of Congress may not be the same in any two States of the Union. Neither Congress nor any other department of the Federal government has any power to compel uniformity in this respect.

As each individual therefore derives his right to the elective franchise from the constitution and laws of his own State and not from the Federal government he must necessarily look to his own State and not to the Federal government for the protection of this right. We believe it to be a universal proposition under our complex system of government that the rights of individuals derived from the State are to be protected and enforced by State laws; while the rights of individuals deriv-

ed from the Federal government are to be protected and enforced by Federal laws. It would be no more absurd for the States to claim the control of the rights of a person under a patent derived from the Federal government, than it is for the Federal government to claim the control of rights of persons derived from the constitution and laws of a State. So much for the election of Congressmen. Now for the election of Presidential electors. The following is the constitutional provision:

"Art. 2, Sec. 2. Each State shall appoint in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector."

Under this provision of the Constitution the Legislature of each State has absolute control over the appointment of Presidential electors. It may provide for an election by the people, which is usual, or it may elect the electors by the Legislature as was done in South Carolina for seventy years, or it may direct any other mode of appointment it may see proper. The office of Presidential elector is a State office under State laws over which the Federal government has no control whatever. All of this was decided by the electoral commission only two years ago. The decision of this tribunal ought to be authority with the stalwarts, although it went so far in its effort to cover up fraud that it forfeited the respect of every one else, for it not only decided that the Federal government has no control over the election of Presidential electors, but that neither Congress nor itself could inquire whether the person claiming the right to vote as a Presidential elector had actually ever been duly elected or appointed as such or not; that although the certificate of Presidential elector was obtained by fraud or was an actual forgery, still no department of the Federal government could go behind it, or inquire into its validity. How does this decision of the electoral commission upon this subject comport with the doctrine of this resolution of the Republican platform? Will our neighbor of the Republican explain and reconcile these two deliverances of his party?

When Governor Curtin and the other gentlemen sent to New Orleans by the Democratic National Committee, in the fall of 1876, invited John Sherman and the other gentlemen appointed by President Grant to co-operate with them in seeing that a fair and honest canvass was made of the votes cast for Presidential electors in the State of Louisiana, Sherman and his co-conspirators refused to do so, and predicated their refusal upon the ground that this would be an unwarranted interference in the affairs of a State; that the State authorities of Louisiana had exclusive jurisdiction over this subject. Surely at that time Sherman and the other stalwarts never dreamed that the election of Presidential electors was "clearly subject to national control."

After the adjournment of the electoral commission, one of its radical members, Judge William Strong, of infamous memory, wrote to a Southern friend defending the action of the commission and holding that an opposite decision—any attempt on the part of the Federal government to inquire into the honesty or legality of the elections in Florida, Louisiana or South Carolina—would have been "an infringement upon the sacred doctrine of State rights."

To these extremes of opposite doctrines have the Radical party been driven within a little more than two years in their efforts to justify and maintain illegal and fraudulent elections by which the will of the majority of the American people is set at defiance.

BOTH the political and social works are convulsed over the startling story that comes from away down at Narragansett Pier. Here it is said the modern Adonis, the curled and perfumed Conkling, New York's Senior Senator, barely escaped the deadly contents of an improved shooting apparatus by ignominious flight. The legend runs that ex-Senator and ex-Gov. Wm. Sprague of Rhode Island, returned to his home at Narragansett Pier, on last Friday, only to find the sweet-scented Conkling making the greatest effort of his life, by way of destroying the last lingering remnant of a home the venerable ex-Governor had left to him. It appears that Mrs. Sprague, who is a daughter of the late Chief Justice Chase, cared more for the fine physique, courtly manners and handsome face of Senator Conkling than she does for the old age, honorable life and blameless reputation of her husband. The gossip from Washington is scarcely fit for publication, telling, as it does, the particulars of the questionable relations which exist between one of the most widely known of our public men, and the daughter of one of the most conspicuous publicists who ever lived in America. Senator Conkling has never been a popular man with the masses, but while he failed to attach the people to him in his public career they have always respected him as a man of great ability, personally spotless, alike in public and in private life. Now that the curtain has been lifted and this ugly skeleton exposed, the little regard the country had for the imperious Senator from New York will develop into contempt, remembering, as people will, that he is allied to one of the ablest and best families in New York, with a home circle that embraces attractions enough to bind any one in the golden meshes of domestic tranquility and love. So much for its social aspect. As to its political significance it will suffice to say that there is one presidential candidate less than there was last Thursday night. Not that the men who make Republican nominations would seriously object to Conkling's immorality, but expediency will suggest the propriety of quietly dropping the gentleman out of sight.

The committee appointed by the Legislature to prosecute and, if possible, bring to punishment certain persons who endeavored to secure the passage of the \$4,000,000 riot bill by corrupt means, had a meeting at Harrisburg, this week, to arrange the details of the prosecution. Mr. Wolfe, of Union county, is the chairman of this committee. He announces that the case will be vigorously pushed, and expects the trials to come off in the courts of Dauphin county some time in September. It is said the committee have engaged Senator Mat. Carpenter, of Wisconsin, Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, and Frank B. Gowen, President of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad company, as attorneys for the prosecution. If this is correct it has a look of business, and means that some of the gentlemen against whom the prosecutions are directed may have more trouble to escape than they have hitherto anticipated.

THE Republican begs the question entirely. How the Democrats of Centre county may have treated "certain Democratic aspirants for Senatorial honors" has nothing whatever to do with Samuel Butler's war record; and the DEMOCRAT never claimed votes for Mr. Barr on the ground of services in the army. When it does so it will be prepared to show when and where he served. Come, now, since you say Samuel Butler "shouldered his musket like a true patriot, and placed his life in jeopardy, that the Government might live," please answer our inquiries. When did Samuel Butler shoulder his musket? How long did he carry it? In what battles of the war did he put "his life in jeopardy, that the Government might live?"

Senator Wallace Interviewed.

THE REAL ISSUES OF THE DAY IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

A Herald reporter interviewed Senator Wallace recently in New York. In answer to a question as to the real issues, he said:

"Home rule and finance. Local government is our aim, and it is really the only living issue at present before the people. A government of the people by the people is what we want and must have. Electors in their several districts and localities must be free to vote as they like and must be relieved from the presence and force of Federal influence and dictation. Finance will take care of itself. The country is now prosperous. In another year it will be more so. And by that time commerce will have so regulated the money question that it will have completely disappeared. That is, all the apparent difficulties in the way will have settled down into a natural channel. Our time resembles in a great measure that of Jefferson and Hamilton. In 1800 and 1801 the public mind was filled with similar questions to those now demanding solution at our hands. If we remain true and steadfast to that principle of the nation for itself we must win, but we cannot in any other way. A man must be at liberty to vote the way he wishes and must be free to talk aloud to his friend on election day on what he considers his rights and privileges without being afraid that a marshal or other Federal officer will put his hand upon his shoulder and move him off. Local government, or, as it is sometimes called, 'home rule,' is what the country wants and what we will give it. The people have grown impatient at the incessant thrusting of the Federal arm into their local matters, and are determined to destroy the advancing system of centralization. They look with a jealous eye on the increasing influence of the great capital, and are getting restive at the influence of huge monopolies."

"Then you think the application of the home rule system will satisfactorily arrange all these difficulties?"

"The people will then feel and see they are governing themselves and not being governed by privileged classes. They will understand their own needs. In every section and quarter of the country and apply the proper remedy. Let any man go back to Jefferson and Hamilton and read the arguments put forth then by both and he will see and it is now the substantial issue."

Powers of Minnesota Air.

From St. Paul Pioneer Press.

A lady, who from Detroit, Mich., and her great-grandmother was being an invalid. She lost the opportunity in stating that she had not Minnesota to recuperate. She did not hesitate to enter into a conversation with any person she came in contact with, giving advice, climatological or physiological, to invalids, and seeking the same from those of robust constitution. Her conversation was always prefaced with the introductory inquiry, so common to visitors, "Did you come here for your health?" She thus addressed a stalwart, ruddy-visaged young man at the dinner table of the Metropolitan a few days since, and the following dialogue ensued:

"Yes, madam, I came here probably the weakest person you ever saw. I had no use of my limbs, in fact my bones were but little tougher than cartilage. I had no intelligent control of a single muscle, nor the use of a single faculty."

"Great heavens!" exclaimed the astonished auditor, "and you lived?"

"I did, miss, although I was absolutely toothless, unable to articulate a single word, and dependent upon others for everything, being completely deprived of all power to help myself. I commenced to gain immediately upon my arrival, and have scarcely experienced a sick day since, hence I can conscientiously recommend the climate."

"A wonderful case?" said the lady, "but do you think your lungs were affected?"

"They were probably sound, but possessed of so little vitality that but for the most careful nursing they must have ceased their functions."

"I hope you found kind friends, sir?"

"Indeed I did, madam; it is to them and the pure air of Minnesota that I owe my life. My father's family were with me, but unfortunately my mother was prostrated with a severe illness during the time of my greatest prostration."

"How sad! Pray, what was your diet and treatment?"

"My diet was the simplest possible, consisting only of milk, that being the only food my system would bear. As for treatment, I depended entirely upon the life-giving properties of Minnesota air, and took no medicine except an occasional light narcotic when very restless. My improvement dated from my arrival. My limbs soon became strong, and my sight and voice came to me slowly, and a full set of teeth, regular and firm, appeared."

"Remarkable—miraculous! Surely, sir, you must have been greatly reduced in flesh?"

"Madam, I weighed but nine pounds. I was born in Minnesota. Good-day."

The yellow fever still seems to be on the increase at Memphis. On Tuesday twenty-two new cases of the dreadful scourge were reported and six deaths. On Saturday last the disease was officially declared to be epidemic by the authorities of the city.

GENERAL NEWS.

Schuylkill county has ten militia companies. During the last year there were 926 inmates in the Berks county prison.

Governor Bishop, of Ohio, has been looking over the Bradford oil fields.

Philadelphia contributed sixty-four prisoners to the Berks county jail during the last year.

The hospital for the insane at Danville has about four hundred and fifty-two inmates at present.

In Reading a woman passing along the streets puffing away at a cigar attracted a great deal of attention. The fairy female was from the township of Maxatawny.

The striking employes and the proprietors of the Hudson Iron Company, at West Stockbridge, Mass., have compromised for \$1.12 per day, and the men returned to their work on Tuesday.

The Democrats of the First district, San Francisco, Saturday evening, nominated for Congressmen Charles U. Sumner, short hand reporter of the Supreme Court, vice Judge Robert Ferrall, who declined.

Norfolk, Va., has a haunted house. The other night a large crowd of persons gathered on a porch of the house to see what the ghost would do, when the porch gave way, precipitating the crowd to the ground, injuring several of them.

Two boilers on the towboat, Iron Valley, exploded while passing New Cumberland, a short distance from Wheeling, W. Va., on Saturday morning. The pilot, the Captain's son and Thomas Prince are missing, and it is supposed they are killed.

A passenger steamer, Mary Morgan, collided with a produce freight steamer, Pierpont, one mile above Fort Delaware, on Friday night. A large hole was stove in the Pierpont and she sank with 3,000 baskets of peaches and other produce on board. The passengers and crew of the Pierpont were taken on board the Mary Morgan.

Some time ago General Miles captured a number of half-breed Indians from Canada, who were suspected of selling liquor and ammunition to Indians on this side of the line. He inquired of the War Department what should be done with them, and the Secretary of War referred the matter to the Secretary of State. Mr. Evarts has replied that in view of all the circumstances of the case that the Indians be allowed to return to Canada. This course will be pursued, and General Miles will be instructed accordingly.

The name of Edwin Forrest is now to be made even more famous than it was by the great actor, as Mr. Bonner, editor of the New York Ledger, owns a horse by that name that on Friday afternoon last trotted a mile in the fastest time ever made. The first quarter was made in 0.32, the half in 1.05, the three-quarters in 1.38 and the mile in 2.14. This performance was made on the three-quarter mile track on Mr. Bonner's farm near Tarrytown. It is the fastest time ever made and will likely remain so during this season, unless indeed Edwin Forrest shall eclipse himself.

A Shocking Scene.

FIGHT AT A FUNERAL—COFFIN KNOCKED OVER AND THE CORPSE THROWN OUT.

AMHERST, VA., August 8.—Yesterday the funeral of an old and highly esteemed colored woman, Jane Clark, took place at Union Hall Church, in this county. An immense crowd was in attendance. It had been arranged that the Rev. Bob Cook of Lynchburg, should conduct the funeral services, but when the vast concourse of relatives and friends of the deceased got in the church they found a strange preacher in the pulpit. The Society of Sisters of Sarah, to which the deceased had belonged, insisted on having Rev. Mr. Cook, while the relatives demanded that the preacher in the pulpit should go on, and so ordered him. The parties threatened to pitch the preacher out of the window. Then a fierce fight took place in the church, in which both men and women took part. In the struggle the coffin was knocked over and the corpse thrown out on the floor. This horrible sight did not stop hostilities, but the relatives fought until they drove every member of the Society out of the church. It was then found that the preacher had fled, and the burial took place without a preacher. Several parties were seriously hurt.

To John Sherman.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, June 22, 1877.

SIR: I desire to call your attention to the following paragraph in a letter addressed by me to the Secretary of the Treasury on the conduct to be observed by officers of the General Government in relation to the elections:

"No officer shall be required or permitted to take part in the management of political organizations, caucuses, conventions, or election campaigns. The right to vote and express their views on public questions, either orally or through the press, is not denied, provided it does not interfere with the discharge of their official duties. NO ASSESSMENT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES ON OFFICERS OR SUBORDINATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED."

This rule is applicable to every department of the civil service. It should be understood by every officer of the General Government that he is expected to conform his conduct to its requirements.

Very respectfully, R. B. HAYES.