The Centre Democrat.

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PUBLISHED IN CENTRE COUNTY.

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WE return sincere thanks to our friend, the Hon. L. A. Mackey, late member of Congress, for several valuable public documents.

THE bar of Keokuk, Iowa, have had a meeting to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Secretary McCrary as Judge of the Circuit Court of the United States. The resolutions are a strong boom for McCrary, but it is probable the Senate may have some objection to his confirmation not met by the Iowa bar. He has the reputation of being the author of a certain message not very creditable to himself or respectful to the Senate.

THE Republican aspirants of Luzerne county are early in motion. Candidates for office are making their wants known and fixing their friends for nomination. Wadham, the present Senator, Charles A. Miner, Representative of the Wilkesbarre district, Slocum, Ackerly, Smith and Halsey, are all troubled by the Senatorial bee, and are making vigorous efforts to beat each other in the race for championship.

JUDGE KELLEY, in his travels in Europe last summer, had an interview with Bismarck, and on his return home published in the *Times* the result of his conversation with the great German statesman, to show how nicely these great men concurred in their views on questions of finance. The German statesman, however, is not satisfied with the views assigned to him by the American statesman, and repudiates them in positive terms, denying that he gave expression to the sentiments ascribed to him. Thus a question of veracity is pending, and Judge Kelley has the floor.

THE reconstruction of the Patent Office at Washington, which was badly injured by fire, has been progressing during the last year. Some idea may be obtained of the vast proportions of this ponderous structure from the following extract from the report of the architect in reference to the fire-proof cases required for the reception of models in the two wings to the main building:

"When the two wings are fully occupied the plate-glass fronts will represent an aggregate length of three and one-tenth miles, and a height of eight and one-half feet. The plate-glass used will cover one and three quarter acres, and the glass shelves, of one-quarter inch thickness, through the glass, will cover about one and three-eighth acres."

THE contest for the Republican nomination between Grant, Sherman and Blaine, is becoming interesting. Grant, with plenty of leisure and free travel, has the big boom of all the fools and all the rogues connected with his administration, including the Belknaps, the Robesons and the whiskey thieves, to boost him. Sherman has the majority of the 90,000 office holders, and all the patronage of the Government, with Agnes Jenks, and such, for correspondents; while Blaine follows, as the dog Tray, to appropriate the bone. But it is all labor lost. The Democracy intend to have something to say as to who shall be President; nor do they intend to be cheated and defrauded by Sherman's intrigues or Grant's troops.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

From our regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1st.

Thanksgiving Day came in with delightful weather which had the haze and temperature of Indian Summer in it. The Departments were closed and the army of employes had a day for enjoyment, that could not be surpassed in its clear autumnal brightness and balminess, but much private work was not suspended, for the preparations for winter demand unceasing effort, Many of the congregations of our churches provided feasts for the poor of the church homes and asylums, and never has the loving charity of woman been more apparent than in the bounteous Thanksgiving dinners which were spread before the afflicted in the Woman's Christian Home, the Washington Asylum and the Children's Hospital. The caterers to public amusement were generously patronized, for the difference here, as in New Orleans, between religious and secular observance is so slight, that many who congregate in church in the morning to join in prayers of thankfulness, flock to our theatres in the evening to laugh at some comedian, or to be instructed by some such tragedian as John McCullough, who is now playing here to crowded houses.

There has been a strong revulsion of feeling in favor of Gen. Mahone, who led the debt readjusters column in the late Virginia election. He is a candidate for Mr. Withers' seat in the United States Senate, and, if supported by the Republicans, as well as the readjusters, will be elected. Cool heads here begin to think that one who, like Gen. Mahone, has an undoubted Democratic record, and has done as much as he to keep the carpet-bag and scallawag element from crushing the State, is not so bad after all, and that his assertion that he has only the honor of Virginia at heart, must be met with consideration. This vexed Virginia debt question certainly has two sides to it, and it is to be hoped this election of Senator may show us the true policy of the State.

As Congress meets to-day, (December 1,) the hotels, lodging-houses, and hash-mills of Washington are filling up, not only with members, kings and queens of the lobby, and patriots in search of Government pap, but many of the political corpses of the country, whom a wise constituency, after a trial in one or more Congresses, have wisely concluded to leave at home by substituting better men. Among the latter the most lively is the cock-eyed statesman from Massachusetts, Ben Butler. What a cat, with its nine lives, is among animals, the invincible General is among politicians. You may submerge him in a sea of votes and club him with all kinds of villainous stories and lies, and he comes smilingly to the surface. Congressman Morse, of Massachusetts, states that Gen. Butler will never again run for Governor, but intends to invade his (Morse's) district next fall and run for Congress. He hopes, however, that apoplexy, cholera-morbus, or something else, may interfere; but we fancy that he, like many another politician, will have to accept the inevitable and submit, for a more irrepressible and persistent fighter than Old Ben has never been seen here. The political world is his oyster.

The Secretary and Agent of the Louisiana State Lottery Company has filed a bill in the Supreme Court of our District, against the Postmaster General, to restrain the Post-office Department from interfering with the delivery of money-orders, registered letters, etc. A rule has been granted to show cause why the injunction should not issue, returnable December 4. These proceedings are instituted in the Court of this district in order that the case may be speedily carried, for final adjudication, to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the lottery men expect to be sustained there, as were those who resisted our trade mark system and obtained the decision declaring it unconstitutional. We shall not be surprised if the Supreme Court rules as technically in regard to lotteries as to trade marks, for it is a stickler always for legal hair-splittings with a leaning over against equity. Wiping out the 8,000 trade marks of the country, worth millions of dollars to the proprietors, shows what lawyers can do when they act as judges.

The last Congress authorized the removal of the City Post-office from the general post-office building, opposite the Patent Office, to such other quarters as a designated commission should select, which, after canvassing the city, rented the "Seaton House," the immense five-story hotel fronting Louisiana avenue and C street, near Seventh street, and recently occupied by the Pension Office. It is now ready for occupancy, and the work of removal is in progress. Only the basement and the first and second stories will be used at present, though the other three stories will undoubtedly be taken for some other governmental purpose, inasmuch as the rental of $5,000 per year covers the entire building. The postal department has grown to such proportions that the present quarters are wholly insufficient to accommodate the needs of the general government and the city, hence the necessity for the above change. Yet we shall miss our daily visit to the prettiest government structure in the District. The delicate order of architecture of the general post-office building, in contrast with the heavy porticos of the Patent Office, is attractive, and few see it without being struck by its superiority in artistic beauty and design.

Mr. Hayes has pardoned Edward H. Peck, who last summer was sent to the penitentiary for stealing an overcoat. Peck at one time was a bright, talented newspaper correspondent, but, becoming addicted to excessive whisky-drinking, gradually sunk to the level of a gutter drunkard and a petty pilferer, and though frequently arraigned, sympathy for his past high standing saved him until the last offence. Though the judge and jury that convicted him, and prominent citizens united in petitioning his release, yet his thorough reformation is doubted, and we think Mr. Hayes should have permitted him to do further penance. FELIX.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 1.

New York is a great city in more senses than one. It is great in point of numbers and great in its way of doing things. For instance, the other day Mr. Vanderbilt sold to certain parties 250,000 shares of New York Central for thirty millions of dollars—20 per cent. in cash and the balance in 20 per cent. installments every month. This was a bona-fide transaction.

Two elevated railroads encircle the city and carry millions of passengers The trains run every five minutes—each train having three or four coaches. Other elevated railroads are being rapidly built, and will soon be in running order.

Never has there been such prosperity in New York as exists at the present time. The city is crowded with people. The streets are full—the street cars are full—the hotels and boarding houses are full. All departments of trade and business are full of life and activity. The shipping and railroad business was never so great. The banks, so long depressed, are now doing well and commanding high rates of interest for their money. The wholesale trade is good, and you can scarcely get waited on in the retail stores on Broadway and Sixth avenue. Three years ago when in the city one could see a poster on nearly every other business house and dwelling-house telling you it was for rent. All these notices now, on the contrary, are asking for "cash girls," "errand girls," "clerks," "book-keepers," and employees of various kind. This is a very agreeable change to a great city, and everybody is happy and feeling good about it.

I must tell you something about the medical colleges and hospitals. There are three leading medical colleges in New York city, namely: the University of New York, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. There are fifteen hundred students in attendance at these three colleges. The hospitals can be counted by the score. The New York City Hospital is by odds the most complete in this country and not excelled by any in Europe. The Woman's Hospital is a model hospital and *unique* of its kind. No tongue can tell the amount of good it has done for suffering women. The very best talent of the medical profession preside over these hospitals. Here is where new remedies, new operations and advancements are made known—on this account they are of especial interest and importance to the medical practitioner. As other departments of science and art are advancing so the medical profession is pushing on and making rapid strides. Formerly when one was so unfortunate as to require some painful operation he must first be strapped down to a table—now he can take a few inhalations of ether and he awakens from his sleep not having felt the least pain from the operation. We now possess many new and most valuable remedies which our forefathers knew nothing about—the same can be said of many important operations. Years ago hospitals were expected to receive all kinds of patients—that is patients suffering from all kinds of diseases. At the present time hospitals are more special. The Woman's Hospital receives women only. The Children's Hospital receives children only. The Eye and Ear Hospitals receive patients suffering from these diseases, and so on down to the Infant's Hospital, which is the last and in one sense the least.

All these hospitals are largely medical charities—where the poor are treated gratuitously and where many rich people go and pay in order to receive skillful treatment, and with it skillful nursing, which now-a-days the medical profession value very highly.

The number of patients treated at these hospitals is simply enormous. I have gone to the trouble to obtain the statistics of one department, and that is the department of the Eye and Ear. There are three hospitals that treat nothing but diseases of the eye and ear. And these three last year treated twenty thousand eight hundred and ninety-five patients. And as many of these cases are chronic there is an average daily attendance of over two hundred. As this is but one department, one can have some idea of the aggregate work done. H.

HAYES TO CONGRESS.

ABSTRACT OF THE MESSAGE.

The President congratulates Congress on the successful execution of the resumption act. Since the first of January United States notes have been redeemed in coin, but the demand has been comparatively small, and the voluntary deposit of coin and bullion in exchange for notes has been very large. The excess of the precious metals deposited or exchanged for United States notes over the amount of United States notes redeemed is about $40,000,000. The resumption of specie payments has been followed by a very great revival of business. With a currency equivalent in value to the money of the commercial world we are enabled to enter upon an equal competition with other nations in trade and production. The increasing foreign demand for our manufactures and agricultural products has caused a large balance of trade in our favor, which has been paid in gold from the 1st of July last to November 15, to the amount of about $59,000,000. Since the resumption of specie payments there has also been a marked and gratifying improvement of the public credit. The bonds of the government, bearing only 4 per cent. interest, have been sold at or above par, sufficient in amount to pay off all the national debt which was redeemable under present laws. The amount of interest saved annually by the process of refunding the debt since March 1, 1877, is $14,297,177. The amount of the national debt which matures within less than two years is $792,121,700, of which $500,000,000 bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and the balance is in bonds, bearing 6 per cent. interest. It is believed that this part of the public debt can be refunded by the issue of 4 per cent. bonds, and by the reduction of interest which will thus be effected about $11,000,000 can be annually saved to the Treasury. To secure this important reduction of interest to be paid by the United States further legislation is required, which, it is hoped, will be provided by Congress during its present session.

SILVER COINAGE.

The coinage of gold by the Mints of the United States during the last fiscal year was $40,986,912. The coinage of silver dollars since the passage of the act for that purpose, up to November 1, 1879, was $45,000,850, of which $12,700,344 have been issued from the Treasury and are now in circulation, and $32,300,506 are still in the possession of the government. The pendency of the proposition for unity of action between the United States and the principal commercial nations of Europe, to effect a permanent system for the equality of gold and silver in the recognized money of the world, leads me to recommend that Congress refrain from new legislation on the general subject. The great revival of trade, internal and foreign, will supply, during the coming year, its own instructions, which may well be awaited before attempting further experimental measures with the coinage. I would, however, strongly urge upon Congress the importance of authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to suspend the coinage of silver dollars upon the present legal ratio. The market value of the silver dollar being uniformly and largely less than the market value of the gold dollar, it is obviously impracticable to maintain them at par with each other if both are coined without limit. If the cheaper coin is forced into circulation it will, if coined without limit, soon become the sole standard of value, and thus defeat the desired object, which is a currency of both gold and silver, which shall be of equivalent value, dollar for dollar, with the universally recognized money of the world.

RETIRING UNITED STATES NOTES.

The retirement from circulation of United States notes, with the capacity of legal tender in private contracts, is a step to be taken in our progress toward a safe and stable currency, which should be accepted as the policy and duty of the government and the interest and security of the people. It is my firm conviction that the issue of legal tender paper money, based wholly upon the authority and credit of the government, except in extreme emergency, is without warrant in the Constitution and a violation of sound financial principles. The issue of United States notes during the late civil war, with the capacity of legal tender between private individuals, was not authorized except as a means of rescuing the country from imminent peril. The circulation of these notes as paper money for any protracted period of time after the accomplishment of this purpose was not contemplated by the framers of the law under which they were issued. They anticipated the redemption and withdrawal of these notes at the earliest practicable period consistent with the attainment of the object for which they were provided. The policy of the United States, steadily adhered to from the adoption of the Constitution, has been to avoid the creation of a national debt, and when from necessity, in the time of war, debts have been created, they have been paid off on the return of peace as rapidly as possible. With this view and for this purpose it is recommended that the existing laws for the accumulation of a sinking fund sufficient to extinguish the public debt within a limited period be maintained. If any change of the objects or rates of taxation is deemed necessary by Congress, it is suggested that experience has shown that a duty can be placed on tea and coffee which will not enhance the price of these articles to the consumer and which will add several millions of dollars annually to the Treasury.

THE SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY.

The President calls attention to polygamy in Utah, and says the law for its suppression has been decided by the Supreme Court to be within the legislative power of Congress, and binding, as a rule of action, for all who resided within the Territories. There is no longer any reason for delay or hesitation in its enforcement. It should be firmly and effectively executed. If not sufficiently stringent in its provisions it should be amended, and, in aid of the purpose in view, I recommend that more comprehensive and more searching methods for preventing, as well as punishing, this crime be provided.

The President says that the elections of the past year, though occupied only with State offices, have not failed to elicit, in the political discussions which attended them all over the country, new and decisive evidence of the deep interest which the great body of citizens take in the progress of the country toward a more general and complete establishment, at whatever cost, of universal security and freedom in the exercise of the elective franchise. He appeals to the intelligence and patriotism of all good citizens, of every part of the country, however much they may be divided in opinions on other political subjects, to unite in compelling obedience to existing laws aimed at the protection of the right of suffrage. He urges Congress to supply any defects in these laws which experience has shown, and which is within its power to remedy, and invokes the co-operation of the Executive and legislative authorities of the States in this great purpose.

The subject of civil service reform is next discussed, but the President has nothing new to say. He speaks of the grave evils and perils of a partisan spoils system, and goes over the same ground as in his message last year. He also recommends that Congress make the necessary appropriation for the resumption of the work of the Civil Service Commission. He is convinced that if a just and definite test of merit is enforced for admission to the public service and in making promotions, such abuses as removal without good cause and partisan and official interference with the proper exercise of the appointing power, will, in a large measure, disappear.

THE FISHERIES.

Our relations with foreign countries have continued peaceful. With Great Britain there are still unsettled questions, growing out of the local laws of the maratime provinces and the action of provincial authorities, deemed to be in derogation of rights secured by treaty to American fishermen. The United States Minister in London has been instructed to present a demand for $105,305.02, in view of the damages received by American citizens at Fortune Bay on the 6th day of January, 1878. The subject has been taken into consideration by the British Government, and an early reply is anticipated. Upon the completion of the necessary preliminary examination the subject of our participation in the provincial fisheries, as regulated by treaty, will at once be brought to the attention of the British Government, with a view to an early and permanent settlement of the whole question, which was only temporarily adjusted by the treaty of Washington. Efforts have been made to obtain the removal of restrictions found injurious to the exportation of cattle to the United Kingdom.

THE ISTHMUS CANAL.

Diplomatic intercourse with Colombia is again fully restored by the arrival of a Minister from that country to the United States. This is especially fortunate, in view of the fact that the question of an interoceanic canal has recently assumed a new and important aspect and is now under discussion with the Central American countries, through whose territory the canal by the Nicaragua route would have to pass. It is trusted that enlightened statesmanship on their part will see that the early prosecution of such a work will largely enure to the benefit, not only of their own citizens and those of the United States, but of the commerce of the civilized world. It is not doubted that, should the work be undertaken under the protective auspices of the United States and upon satisfactory concessions for the right of way and its security by the Central American Governments, the capital for its completion would readily be furnished from this country and Europe which might, failing such guarantees, prove inaccessible.

The portion of the message devoted to the army and navy is a mere summary of the reports of the Secretaries of War and the Navy. The business of the Supreme Court, the President says, is at present largely in arrears. In the courts of many of the circuits, also, the business has increased to such an extent that the delay of justice will call the attention of Congress to an appropriate remedy. The remedy suggested by the Attorney General is the appointment of additional Circuit Judges and the creation of an Intermediate Court of Errors and Appeals which shall relieve the Supreme Court of a part of its jurisdiction. The President next gives the figures published in the report of the Postmaster General and then takes up the report of Secretary Schurz.

THE INDIANS.

The Indian policy sketched in the report is indorsed. Its object, which is to make liberal provision for the education of the Indian youth, to settle the Indians upon farm lots in severalty, to give them title in fee to their farms, inalienable for a certain number of years, and when their wants are thus provided for to dispose by sale of the lands on their reservations not occupied and used by them, a fund to be formed out of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians, which will gradually relieve the government of the expenses now provided for by annual appropriations, must commend itself as just and beneficial to the Indians, and as also calculated to remove those obstructions which the existence of large reservations presents to the settlement and development of the country. I therefore earnestly recommend the enactment of a law enabling the government to give Indians a title in fee, inalienable for twenty-five years, to the farm lands assigned to them by allotment. I also repeat the recommendation made in my first annual message that a law be passed admitting Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal relations, to the benefit of the Homestead act, and to grant them patents containing the same provision of inalienabilty for a certain period. The President announces his intention of protecting the Indians of the Indian Territory, but as settlers work their way in the difficulties will increase, and he approves of the advice given the Indians on a recent occasion, to divide among themselves in severalty as large a quantity of their lands as they can cultivate, to acquire individual titles in fee, instead of their present tribal ownership in common, and to consider in what manner the balance of their lands may be disposed of by the government for their benefit.

The message concludes with urging a generous policy toward the District of Columbia.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

SOMETHING IN RELATION TO THE B. E. V. RAILROAD.—We clip the following from the Philadelphia *Ledger* of the 27th ultimo:

At a meeting of the officers and stockholders of the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad Company held yesterday, at the Girard House, Colonel James Biddle, of this city, presiding, and at which were present Hon. L. A. Mackey, President, Thomas A. Scott, ex-Governor A. G. Curtin, State Treasurer A. C. Noyes, Hon. James Gamble, and Mr. John Irwin, of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Edmund Blanchard, Secretary and Treasurer, a general mortgage for $400,000 was authorized to be issued, to provide for the payment of a first and second mortgage maturing in July, 1881 and 1884, and extending the time of both loans at 6 per cent. for thirty years from January 1st, 1880. The mortgage in which the Fidelity Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company of this city, are named as Trustees, also provides for the payment of one per cent. yearly into a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the total indebtedness of the Company, which is now $400,000, having been reduced $100,000 in a similar manner within the past ten years.

The road extends almost in an air line from Lock Haven, on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, in Clinton county, to Tyrone on the Pennsylvania Railroad, in Blair county, a distance of fifty-three miles, with a branch of two and a half miles to Bellefonte. It is operated under a ninety-nine years' lease by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, made in 1864, the latter paying 40 per cent. of the gross receipts and the cost of maintenance. The capital stock of the company is $550,000, and it is confidently expected that with the consolidation of the two mortgages into one, running thirty years longer, and reduction of the rate of interest one per cent., which sum will go into the sinking fund, its affairs will be even more prosperous than heretofore.

We are also informed that the Board of the Bald Eagle Valley Company at the same meeting urged upon the Pennsylvania Railroad Company the erection of a depot and the construction of a "Y" at Bellefonte, so as to permit the reversing of the engine at this place. The depot should be erected on this side of the railroad over the race, and be in keeping with the other elegant buildings belonging to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The business office of the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad is also now located at this point.

—On Tuesday night of last week the people of Millheim were summoned by the cry of fire and the appearance of flames te the house of Mr. George Moyer. It was found, however, that it was only his pig pen which had ignited from a butchering fire burning near it. Three turkeys confined in the pen also perished, which was rather unfortunate considering the near approach of Thanksgiving. "Who would be a turkey hen, fed and fattened in a pen?"

—Miss Alice Bollinger as proprietress and Miss Sue Lenker as assistant conduct an aristocratic dressmaking establishment at Aaronsburg. They are greatly pressed with orders from the Aaronsburg ladies who are securing new winter costumes.

—The protracted meetings in the African M. E. Church, of this place, attract large congregations. Considerable excitement existed, and large throngs gathered about the mourner's bench last Sabbath evening.

—Part of the roof of the house belonging to Mr. Philip Musser, near Millheim, was burned away on Tuesday of last week. A butchering fire burning close by was the cause of the accident.

—Dr. J. B. Stem, of Millheim, expects to move to Linden Hall, where he will engage in the mercantile business in connection with his professional duties.

—Mr. J. C. Condo, of Penn Hall, has recently been adding several improvements to the exterior of his house.

MARRIAGES.

ROBB—HEATON.—On the 27th ult., at the residence of the bride's mother, by Rev. George P. Hartzell, Mr. Frederick Robb, of Curtin township, and Miss Hannah H. Heaton, of Boggs township, this county.

LINGLE—AUMAN.—On the 29th instant, in Penn township, by Rev. S. Musser, Mr. Jonathan Lingle to Miss Susan Auman, both of Gregg township.

McDOWELL—KLINE.—At the residence of the bride's parents, November 27, 1879, by Rev. J. Benson Akers, Mr. Harry T. McDowell, of Hamburg, Clinton county, to Miss M. Belle, eldest daughter of Mr. Samuel F. Kline, of Howard.

BIGLER—GRAHAM.—In Clearfield, on Wednesday, November 12, 1879, by Rev. H. S. Butler, Mr. H. F. Bigler, youngest son of ex-Governor Bigler, and Miss Florence M., youngest daughter of James B. Graham, Esq., all of Clearfield.

DEATHS.

MARTIN.—On the 20th instant, in Haines township, Polly Martin, widow of the late Samuel Martin, aged 76 years and 19 days.