

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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The Centre Democrat.

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S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, December 18, 1879.

It being necessary to put our office in repair the DEMOCRAT will not be issued next week. The first number of the second volume will appear on the 1st of January.

The Cincinnati Southern Railroad to Chattanooga, Tennessee, has been completed. The city of Cincinnati has expended about \$18,000,000 to open this important line of communication with the Southern States.

THE Indian murderers concerned in the assassination at the White River Agency are to be surrendered, on condition of their trial taking place outside of Colorado, where they allege they could not obtain justice. The government has agreed to the terms, and will try them by military commission at a point to be agreed upon when they are placed in custody.

THE *Altoona Daily Sun*, under the proprietorship of a publishing company, made its appearance last week. It is a seven-column paper, neatly gotten up, newsy, and Democratic. W. P. Furey, a native of this county, a gentleman of large experience in journalism, with ready tact and a fertile pen, is the editor. We wish the enterprise success. With three dailies possessing large merit, Altoona ought to flourish and become great.

THE late Grant demonstration in Ohio would seem to indicate that he is a greater man among the Buckeyes than Sherman, and unless the latter is exceedingly industrious in plying his most adroit tactics the former may carry off his delegation to the National Convention. Cameron's State has already been assigned to the great traveler, and the assignment will be ratified this week in Philadelphia. Uncle John's hopes to the contrary notwithstanding.

EX-SENATOR ALEXANDER RAMSEY, of Minnesota, has been appointed and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, without reference, Secretary of War, vice McCrary, appointed to a District Judgeship. The new Secretary is a native of Dauphin county, in this State, and has filled many important trusts satisfactorily, both to his native State and the State of his adoption. He is a worthy and popular man—too good to be the adviser and political associate of a mere Fraud.

A PAPER in St. Louis, edited by colored men, charges that the exodus relief board has squandered the money contributed to help the colored emigrants, appropriating large sums to themselves. Why do these simpletons complain of this disposition of the funds? Do they not know that the money is raised for that purpose? It is the reward of the unprincipled agents engaged in the disreputable work of reducing the poor negro from his home, to subservient the base, selfish objects of stalwart politicians.

At the Grant banquet in Cincinnati, last week, one of the speakers, Hon. W. S. Grosbeck, declared himself as follows:

"I would not give to the Federal Government as much additional power as I could put in the hollow of my hand. I would not take away from the State Governments as much of their power as I could hold in the hollow of my hand. Secession and centralization, political monsters,—Scylla and Charybdis. The channel of safety lies between them. May we be able to keep it, may we move watchfully, and ever take our reckonings only from written constitutions."

It is reported that these sentiments were received with much applause, and that even Grant was constrained to endorse them. If so, what becomes of the stalwart plea for a strong government with power to crush out the reserved rights of the people and the States?

Ourselves.

Under many difficulties, and with constant predictions of failure rung into our ears, we commenced the publication of THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT one year ago. This issue completes the first volume of our paper. How far we have met the expectations of the public we can only infer from the steady increase of patronage that has been awarded us without personal solicitation on our part. One thing is certain: we have endeavored to meet public approval by close attention to the collection of such matter to fill the columns of the DEMOCRAT as would be interesting and instructive to the reader, striving at the same time to avoid all that might offend good taste or do violence to enlightened public sentiment. If we have succeeded in this, one of the principal objects of the publication has been attained, and we will enter upon our second volume with the approved of our own consciences in having performed our duty and redeemed our promises when we started our enterprise. We shall proceed into the coming year with renewed and encouraged determination to render the DEMOCRAT in every respect still more worthy of the favor and support of the intelligent people of Centre county. While freely noting and criticizing the deeds and words of public characters, the actions and principles of political parties, and the passing events of the day, we have entered into no personal quarrels with our contemporaries or others, nor is it our desire or intention to do so hereafter unless driven to it to repel wrong or vindicate the cause of truth or justice.

The first number of the second volume of the DEMOCRAT will appear on the first day of January, 1880, and in view of the important events to occur in this year—including an election for President and Vice President of the United States—which will necessarily excite the public mind and lead to extended discussion, may we not hope that our friends throughout the county will remember us with still greater generosity. We promise to discuss all issues of a political or other nature that may arise and demand our attention, not with the object of deceiving or misleading the reader, but by presenting such arguments and facts as will lead to just conclusions. The success of the Democratic party—the advocacy of its principles and the support of its candidates will of course require and receive our earnest efforts, and yet we hope not to neglect the general features that have heretofore been a part of our paper. We shall collect and record the local news and occurrences of the times, and the agricultural, manufacturing and general business interests of our community shall receive attention commensurate with their importance. With these words we hope to extend a hearty greeting to our readers on New Year's morning.

ONE of the noticeable features, the *Pittsburg Post* remarks, of the Grant reception in that city, was the anxiety to provide every comfort for Judge Agnew by those who, a short time ago, pushed him aside like old furniture. He deserves all the attention he received and was justly entitled to a central position in the business of the day, but it will badly compensate for the deadly jostle he received at the hands of these same Republicans at the Judicial Convention. Evidently the Judge's charity covereth a multitude of sins.

SENATOR WADE HAMPTON, of South Carolina, has accepted an invitation to deliver an address before the Grand Army of the Republic at Pittsburg, at such time as may be convenient for him to do so at an early date. The Grand Army cannot view the "Rebel Brigadier" as a very dangerous animal after all. They will at least have the pleasure of hearing an interesting address. Their temerity in introducing a dangerous Reb into the loyal City of Pittsburg will doubtless be rewarded.

The Press and the Courts.

The power of the Press for good or evil cannot be over estimated. In the wise economy of a free system of government the newspaper has been awarded the post of honor. It has been placed on the battlements of freedom as the sentinel of the people, and, following closely in the path of usefulness so clearly marked out for it, has come to be called the fourth estate. It has become the educator of the masses. It shapes the policy of statesmen, and reverses the attitude of cabinets. It must be assiduous in exposing wrong; must be the fearless champion of right, and at all times and under all circumstances should endeavor to fulfill the high mission to which it has been called by an enlightened public sentiment. It is now a mighty engine in the machinery of society, and so potent as to become dangerous when used by designing men for improper purposes. It is not the province of the Press to redress private grievances, or to revenge itself upon individuals. When it does this it ceases to fill the lofty position accorded it by all men.

In its criticism upon passing events the newspaper is naturally brought to record the doings of courts and the findings of juries. As a matter of news it is necessary for the progressive journal to lay before its readers everything that transpires in the County, State and Nation, and therefore it is entirely proper for the newspaper to give to its readers, in its own way, as well the proceedings of our courts as of the National Congress. But the editor should not dip his pen in the gall of personal hate, or write under the shadow of personal spite. He should calmly and dispassionately give facts and not fancies. He should follow the beaten path of truth, and not give his readers distorted statements that convey false impressions, even if they do not openly bear upon their face the finger marks of malice not unmixed with envy.

We are led to these reflections by an untruthful report, since widely circulated, of an incident that occurred in our criminal court three weeks ago. We refer to the story of the sentencing by Judge Orvis of a criminal to the penitentiary for three years for the alleged offence of contempt of court. One of our contemporaries, with an utter disregard of the actual facts and circumstances of the case, first gave this palpable misrepresentation to the public. Whether our neighbor was moved by enmity towards the judges on the bench thus to overstep the bounds of truth we do not know; but we do know he has done not only himself a grievous wrong, but has endeavored to inflict a serious wound upon the administration of justice in this county. Of all things that should be held sacred from the petty jealousy of ambitious politicians and scheming placemen our courts stand first and foremost. It is not meet that the fires of hate or malice should slumber at the foot of the altar of justice to be fanned into a flame at the convenience of a personal foe. However the journal in question may regard our judges, it should remember they sink their individuality on the bench. They are simply there "to carry out the sentence of the law," and that is precisely what was done in the case which has been so grossly misrepresented and has called forth so much unjust criticism. The prisoner at the bar—called a "boy," though he is twenty-four years old—had plead guilty to two separate and distinct indictments found against him by the grand jury—one for "breaking and entering in the night with intent to commit a felony," and the other for "larceny." The court had a proper right to pass sentence upon both, but the judges, after due consultation with each other, thought best to sentence him upon one and withhold sentence upon the other, subject to the good behavior of the prisoner should he ever return to the

county. This was accordingly done, but before leaving the court room the young man gave such unmistakable evidence of his true character that the presiding judge felt constrained to sentence him, as he could have done in the first place, upon the other indictment. This is all there was of it, and yet our neighbor, seemingly true to the behests of that almost inexplicable watchfulness which he always exercises over the interests of the criminal classes, immediately proclaims, as from the house tops, that a boy has been sent to the penitentiary for three years for contempt of court. Considering the direction in which this untruthful charge originated it is easy enough to account for its animus. Perhaps it may be too much to expect anything better from the same source. But that journals like the *Lancaster Intelligencer* and the *Hollidaysburg Standard* should have been deceived into giving currency to so absurd a libel is a matter of regret.

So far as the criminal is concerned, we might say something about his adventures in the line burglary and robbery at Wallaceton, Bigler and Blue Ball, in Clearfield county, on the night succeeding his operations in the same line at Phillipsburg, in this county, but it would be useless to do so. As a sequel, however, to the cunningly devised story of his incarceration for an additional term of three years for contempt of court, we may remark that when the sheriff took him to Allegheny and consigned him to the tender mercies of the warden of the penitentiary, he was immediately recognized by that official, from a photograph in his possession, as an old offender for whose apprehension a reward was standing. As soon as his term of imprisonment expires he will be wanted at Brooklyn, N. Y., to answer to criminal charges similar to those for which he is now undergoing the penalty of the law. The Courts have their sphere; so has the Press, but whenever a newspaper seeks to invade the domain of justice it should be brought to a full realization of its proper position. The newspapers which published this parody on truth therefore owe it to themselves and their readers to make an explanation in accordance with the facts.

When the misrepresentation of facts in this case first appeared, we determined not to notice it, believing that the official standing of Judge Orvis would sufficiently vindicate him at home, but as the story was taken up by others and circulated abroad, we have since felt it our duty to offer this correction.

THE total vote of the late election in Louisiana was 118,600, being 43,000 less than in 1876. The falling off in New Orleans was 20,000, and in the country 23,000. The vote for Gov. Wiltz was 75,000, and his majority 30,000. The vote for the Constitution was 87,000 against 27,000. The majority for the debt ordinance was 14,000. The reports of violence are untrue. The only disturbance in the State during the late election was the capture of the ballot-box and returns by a band of men headed by the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Gillespie, and the killing of two men by Deteige, the Republican candidate for Sheriff in St. Martin.

Was Souder's Legislative Committee snubbed at Pittsburg by General Grant? There seems to have been a hitch of some kind between the Committee and the Governor's Staff as to which should have charge of him, and it is reported in the Philadelphia newspapers that Grant, to fix matters between them, informed the committee that he was first the guest of the citizens of Pittsburg and then of the staff. Furthermore, it is said that the committee was only taken on the special train by surference of the staff. Souder must explain. He should not for the honor of the State permit one of its representative bodies to be treated with indignity.

In New York, remarks the *Harrisburg Patriot*, the Democratic returning board refused to go behind the returns for the purpose of counting ballots cast for Clarkson N. Potter for lieutenant governor which were rejected by the county canvassers on account of incorrect spelling. The law would not permit them to go behind the returns. In Maine the Democratic Governor and council refused to go behind the returns at the request of the Republicans in order to rectify fatal defects in the returns. The law forbids their doing what the Republicans demanded. In New York the observance of the law benefited the Republicans; in Maine it seems to have operated to the advantage of the Democrats and Greenbackers. Hence the satisfaction of the Republicans with the work of the returning board of New York and hence the bitter howl of disappointment of these same Republicans at the outcome in Maine. You see the law is an excellent thing when it gives the Republicans of New York a lieutenant governor and other officers, but a terrible infliction when it gives the control of the legislature of Maine to the Democrats and Greenbackers.

THE religious controversy in New York, in which Dr. Talmage is a prominent actor, bids fair to rival the turbulence of political animosity in Philadelphia and elsewhere. The clergy have not yet got to firing pistols and using bludgeons to enforce their views, but they have invaded the vocabulary of the fish market for terms of reproach sufficiently strong to convey their affection for each other. Dr. Talmage, in his Sunday discourses of last week, among other charges against the Brooklyn clergy, applies to them "moral rottenness." To which twenty-two of the clergy respond, that Talmage is guilty of "malignant falsehood" on all the counts of his indictment, "of the most ignoble kind." At the present stage of the controversy the lie only has passed between them, but this generally precedes the pistol and bludgeon, so that the reverend gentlemen are in a fair way to bring themselves down to the level of ward ruffians.

GEN. GRANT, in continuation of his journey around the world, arrived in Pennsylvania on last Saturday, and since then has been feasted and flattered by his admirers, we should think, to his heart's content, if such a thing could be. His reception at Pittsburg—arriving at the first named city on Saturday and at the capital of the State on Monday—were splendid occasions. He reached Philadelphia on Tuesday, which completed the circuit of his travels, as it was from that city he sailed when he started towards the old world. The demonstration in his honor on the day of his arrival was one of the grandest ever called forth by any man in the city of "brotherly love." Now let us have peace.

THE official result of the late election in Maine for members of the State legislature has not at this writing been announced. It is rumored, however, that defective returns have been thrown out and that both parties will be affected thereby. A dispatch to the *Washington Post*, of Tuesday morning, predicts that in the Senate there will be nineteen opposition Senators to twelve Republicans; and in the House of Representatives, seventy-seven opposition members to sixty-two Republicans, with two vacancies. The council has decided the returns from Lewiston, Bath, Rockland and Saco to be fatally defective. The Republicans make awful faces over this result, but it has been reached in accordance with their own statutes, and in whatever Gov. Garcelon and the council have done they have followed the strict letter of the law.

CONGRESS will adjourn to-morrow for the holiday recess and reconvene again on the 6th of January. Thus far the House has shown a commendable disposition to push along the public business, and we hope it will continue to do so after it gets together again.

GENERAL NEWS.

A new glass company has been formed in Pittsburg, with a capital stock of \$30,000.

The Continental Hotel at Alliance, Ohio, was burned at an early hour on Saturday morning.

Representative Kenna, of West Virginia, has already raised \$500 among the members of the House for the relief of the poor in Ireland.

By a fall of top slate in Faust colliery, near Tremont, Friday morning, Frederick Hay, John Bickler and a boy named James were instantly killed.

An English physician reports many instances within his experience where the boxing of children's ears by parents and teachers has resulted in deafness.

The railroad miners in the vicinity of Pittsburg have held a meeting and decided to ask 31 cents per bushel for digging. The operators will not grant it.

A curious sight was presented at Lagrauge, Georgia, last week. In the midst of a snow storm might have been seen green grass and the peach and pear trees in bloom.

On Thursday a Mr. Kaiser, of Brimmesville, purchased a \$7,000 residence in Ailientown. That night his wife was bereft of her reason and had to be removed to an insane asylum.

Secretary of War Ramsey is a portly man, with a good humored look. He has grey hair and wears gold rimmed spectacles. He has been an office-holder off and on (but more on than off) since 1843.

A fire on Saturday night in William J. Arnold's planing mill, at Providence, R. I., caused a loss of \$15,000. Insured. Stephen A. Durham, a fireman, fell from the roof of the mill and was dangerously hurt.

Rev. George White, rector of Calvary Episcopal church, at Memphis, was stricken on Sunday with paralysis while addressing a Sunday school class, and is in an extremely critical condition. He is eighty-two years of age and universally respected.

Two young ladies, May Williston, daughter of Judge Williston, and Janie Watt, daughter of C. C. Watt, ship-builder, who were skating on the river at Newcastle, N. B., on Saturday, broke through the ice and were drowned. Their bodies were recovered.

Archbishop John Henni, who is lying critically ill at Milwaukee, is seventy-six years old, and celebrated the semi-centennial anniversary of his priesthood last spring. He has been bishop of the diocese of Wisconsin for nearly a quarter of a century.

In accordance with rules adopted by the board of Education in Petersburg, Va., all the public schools there closed on Friday for one month, in consequence of the fact that the State failed to contribute its full quota of funds to carry them on, and rather than reduce the salaries of teachers the Educational Board considered it best to give a winter vacation.

W. W. Winton, President of the Second National Bank, his son, A. Hewington, his son-in-law, Thomas Lavey, and his brother-in-law, Isaac Dean, were arrested at Lancaster last Monday, charged with maliciously conspiring to defraud the bank of \$135,000, on oath of George S. Goodale, receiver. They gave bail in the sum of \$80,000.

The following telegram was received by Secretary Schurz, Monday afternoon, dated at Los Pinos agency, December 13: "Ouray has left for the hands of White River Utes to assist in bringing in the Indians demanded. It is as certain that the Indians will be surrendered as any thing that can be relied upon with Indians. Adams left for Denver yesterday." Signed Hatch, commander.

Wholesale arrests have been made by the police authorities at Red Bank, New Jersey, on Monday, of negroes for the complicity in the robbing of farmers in that vicinity. One of the negroes on being arrested made a confession, implicating a dozen others, and Monday night the town lock-up was full of colored prisoners. Their depositions cover a period of several months and have puzzled the police for a long time.

General Grant naturally got along the ex Confederates in Louisville. As he stood before a Tennessee delegation his eye chanced to fall upon a man who stood apart from the others. For a moment Grant's head went down, as though he were in deep thought. Then he stepped forward, grasped the stranger's hand and said: "I have seen you before, sir; but where I cannot call to mind." "Yes, General," said the stranger, "you saw me at Fort Donelson. I then commanded a Tennessee regiment, and with the best portion of my men knocked my way out of the fort, avoiding capture." "Oh, yes," responded the ex-President, "I recollect you perfectly now; you are Colonel Wilson."

A grand yet awful calamity happened to the town of Red Rock, McKean county, on Friday morning, of last week. Thursday evening a man with a lantern went into the derrick of one of Emerson's oil vats, situated above the town. This became ignited and in turn set fire to six hundred barrels of oil, which exploded and next fired an oil tank containing twenty five thousand barrels of oil. Five hundred men labored earnestly in digging ditches to direct this flowing stream of burning oil away from the town, but their efforts were fruitless. It rushed upon the town utterly destroying it. No lives were lost, but a quarter million dollar's worth of property was destroyed and three hundred families rendered homeless.