

The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

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

Thursday Morning, April 1, 1880.

A STATE CONVENTION of county, city and borough School Superintendents of Pennsylvania, is to be held at Harrisburg on the 20th, 21st and 22d of this month.

THE civil service reform order No. 1 of Mr. Hayes, it appears is in full tide of successful operation in Louisiana, where it is said that not less than sixty members of the State Republican Committee are composed of Federal office-holders.

"DID GARFIELD LIE?" queries the *Washington Post*. Townsend, of Illinois, says he did, but it must be a mistake. Besides being a General he is also a Reverend, and could no more tell a lie than sell his influence to speculators.

JAMES B. ANGELL has been nominated by Mr. Hayes as Minister to China, to take the place of George F. Seward, recalled. Seward is the rogue whom the administration and Republican members of Congress protected from impeachment in the last Congress.

DON CAMERON finds the third-term a heavy load to carry in Pennsylvania, but the Senator has youth and vigor on his side, and with the encouraging plaudits of his aged sire will stagger along with the burden regardless that the effects of the overloading may be visible in the future.

It is said that there is considerable coolness existing between Mr. Hayes and Gen. Sherman, growing out of the disposition of the General of the Army to ignore the *de facto* President as Commander-in-Chief. Not at all singular. It would be difficult for Sherman to realize that any thing earthly could out-rank him.

THE Washington monument at the Federal city, which was commenced over thirty years ago, and for which subscriptions were asked and received throughout the country, is still incomplete. It is now proposed to pass a bill providing for a joint committee of the two houses to sit during the recess for the purpose of definitely selecting a plan, and making arrangements for completing the monument.

EX-SENATOR STANLEY MATTHEWS is credited with the assertion, on his recent visit to Washington, that Sherman cannot possibly get a full delegation from Ohio—that he has no show of a nomination, and that if he were nominated the State would go against the Republican nomination. This is not promising for John, but we doubt whether Stanley Matthews is the best authority.

THE independent Republicans of New York who last fall made such a lively scratching demonstration against the election of Gov. Cornell, have entered the field against Conkling's instructions for Grant. They are forming vigorous organizations in different counties, and preparing to demand recognition at Chicago in favor of some good man. Sherman, perhaps. They repudiate Grant and Blaine. But then Sherman, as a good man, is not much better than Grant or Blaine.

IN imitation of his distinguished stalwart brother of New York, Senator Don Cameron has made the "greatest effort of his life." On Thursday last he made a speech in the Senate, proposing a joint commission, with authority to sit during the recess of Congress, to consider legislation for inter-State trade in connection with railroads and canals. His speech is not remarkable either in length or matter, but as a maiden effort it is due to announce that Don Cameron, the junior Senator of Pennsylvania, made a speech.

In the legislative bribery cases recently before Judge Pearson, in the Quarter Sessions of Dauphin county, it will be remembered that Petroff was convicted by the jury of the crime of corrupt solicitation, and that pleas of guilty of the same crime were entered in the cases of Kemble, Salter, Crawford and Rumbarger. The parties were under bail, and by agreement sentence was suspended by the Court until last Monday. In the meantime the parties appeared before the Board of Pardons, asking for pardon in advance of sentence. They were heard by the Board on last Saturday, and their petition was denied, the Board being equally divided upon the question, Secretary Quay and Secretary of Internal Affairs Dunkel voting in favor of recommending the pardon and Attorney General Palmer and Lieutenant Governor Stone voting against the recommendation. It is understood that the Attorney General and the Lieut. Governor, refused to permit a pardon until the sentence of the law had been carried in effect by the fine and imprisonment of the defendants, and in taking this position they undoubtedly will be sustained by public opinion. With this refusal perished the last hope of executive clemency before sentence. When Monday arrived the parties were called by Judge Pearson to receive the sentence of law, but none of them appeared and all that could be done was to order a forfeiture of their bail bonds and issue bench warrants for their arrest. The *Harrisburg Patriot* remarks that now these men "are fugitives from justice, but what they hope to gain by attempting to evade the penalties of the law is not easily discerned. They must live in constant dread of re-arrest, and perpetual exile is hardly preferable to a few months' imprisonment. The fact is that if sentence had been pronounced at the time of their conviction they would probably by this time have been in a fair way of reaching the board of pardons without encountering the opposition which their recent attempt to forestall the judgment of the court aroused against them. The delay of sentence therefore cheated not only the law but also the defendants."

SENATOR EDMUNDS, of Vermont, may expect some day to be President of the United States, but he should reflect that there is one impediment in the way which he will never be able to overcome, and which will be forever a bar to the realization of his hopes in that direction. He was one of the infamous eight of the 8 to 7 electoral commission who voted to set aside the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box in 1876, and instead install a fraud in the White House. Such a man will never inspire the American people with sufficient confidence in his integrity to induce them to elect him President. The Presidential theft of 1876 will never be forgotten. The infamy of that deed will stick like the poisoned shirt of Nessus to all the actors in it through life. They will never be able to shake it off.

A STATEMENT is published that Grant will positively withdraw, and that Edmunds, the Vermont Senator, will come into prominence on the roll of favorites for the Chicago nomination. The friends of the "great traveler," however, ridicule the idea that he will withdraw in favor of any one, and well they may. He wants the office, and has been working and intriguing for it ever since he vacated, on the 4th of March, 1877, and now when he has the nomination assured, it is not likely that he will surrender his chances to either the Yankees of Vermont and Maine, the Financier of Ohio, or the Diplomat of Illinois. No! Grant is determined to be the Republican candidate, and the Democrats have only to put up a good, acceptable man, to beat him, and forever settle the third-term question, as well as that of an Empire on the American Continent.

The Federal Election Laws.

From the foundation of the government until after the close of the civil war in 1865, the people of the States were permitted to regulate their elections in their own way, under their own local laws, without a thought of interference from the Federal government. Such officials as Federal supervisors of elections and Federal deputy marshals at every recurring election for President and members of Congress were unheard of. No Federal bayonets, under pretence of preserving the peace, ever gleamed at the polls, and no reputable statesman of any of the political parties in existence before the war dreamed of meddling in affairs over which, by the common consent of all, the State governments alone were believed to have control. The clause of the Constitution under which it is now gravely assumed that Federal officials can exercise authority over the elections, watch the polls and scrutinize the returns, was the same then as now, but no public man of past days was bold enough to avow that it meant that which stalwarts of the present time do not hesitate to assert. Voters are made voters by State laws, and it is a broad rule of construction that makes them amenable to Federal power when they go to the polls.

But an entirely different meaning is now put upon the Constitution. A new class of statesmen have arisen who think they know more than the fathers who framed our fundamental law. They have been at the head of a great and powerful political party for many years, and seeing themselves growing weaker, and likely to be overthrown, they must do something desperate to maintain their hold in the administration of the government, and without the slightest regard to right or justice, the system of election supervisors and deputy marshals, appointed from their own party alone, to act as party agents and workers in the elections of the people, was one among the many devices hit upon to keep their party from defeat and disruption. It was a single step in the direction of that great and overshadowing centralization towards which the country has been gradually moving under Republican ascendancy and influence, but was one fraught with no ordinary danger to the liberties of the people and the cherished maxims of home rule that have come down to us from the times of Jefferson and Madison. Ostensibly these laws were passed by the party in power under a plea that they were necessary to preserve the purity of elections. But the manner in which they have been enforced is of itself a sufficient proof that the plea was merely a false and hypocritical pretense. No such necessity existed. The machinery of the Federal laws, with power in the officials appointed in pursuance of their provisions to arrest and imprison without warrant or process, was not needed to secure honest elections. They have been used solely to insure political success and not to promote any good end. As an exchange tersely expresses it, "the Republican party, the men who have controlled its administrations and its campaigns, stand before the world, and will thus stand in our political history for all time, of having used the Federal election laws, not to promote the public welfare, not to help bring in the candidates having a majority of voters supporting them, not to purify the ballot, not to conserve the principles of local self-government, but to accomplish the ends of corrupt men by corrupt methods." This is the truth of the whole matter—the truth and nothing but the truth—and the man who doubts it, doubts in the face of palpable and incontrovertible facts.

But to embolden the stalwarts in their pet scheme of controlling the voters of the States, we now have a decision of the Supreme Court affirming

the constitutionality of these laws. This decision would command more respect were it not a notorious and undeniable fact that the majority of the court as now constituted never decides a political question against its party. On no occasion has any one of that majority ever been known to sink the partisan in the judge, and it cannot be expected that the judgments of such a tribunal upon political issues will exert a very powerful influence over the public mind. Of course with this judgment of the court, so long as these laws remain upon the statute book they must be regarded as valid and binding, and until the time comes when they can be repealed must be obeyed, but it does not follow that Democrats must believe they are right in principle, or a necessity of the government any more than they did before the decision of the court was rendered. The laws must therefore stand until repealed. This cannot be done so long as the Fraudulent Hayes remains in the White House, and the best that Democrats can therefore expect is to make them as little obnoxious as possible. This was the secret of the amendment recently passed by the Democrats of the House, against a united opposition, placing the appointments of marshals in the courts and providing that they shall be selected in equal numbers from all the political parties. We expect but little from this proposed change. The radicals of the Senate, determined to keep in their hands an unjust advantage for the benefit of their party at the next election, will fight it bitterly, and in the end Hayes will probably be forced to send in a veto. The disguise will be thrown off, so that no one can doubt that the only object of radicalism is a determination on their part to control elections by foul means, and make the people pay for being cheated out of their rights.

MR. ELLIS, a member of Congress from Louisiana, has presented a petition in the House from the National Union Soldiers Association asking Congress to appoint "a committee to go to New Orleans to investigate into certain facts now in possession of said association, which facts will prove that certain Federal office-holders there hold other positions through connivance at frauds which implicate three of the first officers of the government, including the President himself." It would seem that a sufficient number committees have already visited New Orleans, and obtained abundant evidence to prove all that this association desire investigated, and more than enough to show the connection of the Hayes administration with the most profligate and graceless scoundrels of the age—now residing in New Orleans and scattered throughout the world under pay from the National Treasury.

THE Democratic State Committee of New York has issued a call for the State convention to be held at Syracuse on the 26th of April. The Tammany division of the party have determined to hold their Convention at the same time and place. What the result of the two conventions may be, is hard to tell, whether in hopeless discord or a union of the two factions. The indications at present, however, do not look promising, as the fight between the Tilden and Kelley men still continues with unabated bitterness.

THE Hon. Thomas A. Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, publishes a notice to the employes of the company that their pay will be raised from the 1st of April to the same compensation they received previous to the reduction, June 1, 1877. This will be glad news to the employes, besides reflecting credit upon the directors of the road, as a voluntary recognition of the cheerful compliance of the employes in the necessities that controlled the reduction at a time of great depression.

THE Freedman's Bank, says the *New York Star*, was a special and unique creation, officered and directed exclusively by the truly loyal, and of course, the patrons deemed it as secure as the United States treasury. But the institution ingloriously burst and the unlucky depositors are yet whistling for seventy per cent. of their hard-earned savings.

A year ago a committee of the Senate was appointed to examine into the condition of the wreck. The committee, Republican in texture, with the colored Bruce as chairman, has just completed its report, which, judging from an advance abstract printed in the *Tribune*, will fully confirm the worst that has been said of the mismanagement of this bank. Not only did the officers violate the charter, but they prevailed upon a Republican Congress to amend that instrument so as to afford greater scope for squandering the money of their gullied depositors. In reference to several historic transactions, headed by the Seneca sand-stone contract, the report freely avers that large sums were loaned, not only on inadequate security, but "in accordance with corrupt agreements between the officers of the bank and the borrowers."

Moreover, the expenses of winding up the collapsed concern during the past four years have been \$335,994, and it appears to be as far from winding up now as it ever was. The committee thinks that the faithless trustees and officers cannot be reached by legal proceedings, for they took particular care to give no bonds for their faithful discharge of duty, and by a singular coincidence the charter embraced no penal provisions to punish their infidelity.

As Radicalism used the money of the colored man in this organized swindle, so it is using his vote and his alleged grievances in politics, and many colored men, both north and south, are shrewd enough to see it.

SENATOR KELLOGG having been twice tried and condemned as a fraud could not expect to remain in the Senate. The first trial and condemnation was by the Administration, when they mustered out the fraudulent Legislature from whom he claimed his election—the second, by the committee of the Senate appointed to investigate his claim, who decide he was not elected to the Senate by the Legislature of Louisiana. After all the testimony against the honesty of his claim, Senator Kellogg's modesty will not allow him to remain, and we shall not be surprised to hear of his withdrawal any day.

GEN. PAINE, the Commissioner of Patents, has resigned and will vacate as soon as he can arrange the unfinished business now on hand, which he believes he can accomplish in two or three weeks. His reason for resigning is that the position is not remunerative, and he desires to resume the practice of his profession. It seems to be understood that Edgar M. Marble, law officer of the Interior Department, will be appointed Commissioner of Patents, and J. K. McCammon, of the Department of Justice, will succeed Mr. Marble.

Mr. Abel R. Corbin, a brother-in-law of General Grant, died at his residence in Jersey City on Saturday at the age of seventy-one. He was born in this State and went to St. Louis in 1833, where he founded the *Missouri Argus*, now known as the *Globe-Democrat*. In 1842 he removed to Washington, where he was clerk of a Congressional committee for sixteen years. In 1863 he removed to this city and became prominently before the public in connection with the "Black Friday" gold speculations of September, 1869. He changed his residence to Elizabeth, N. J., in 1870, and lived there until recently. Mr. Corbin was married twice, his second wife being Virginia Grant, Gen. Grant's sister. He was buried on last Monday, from his late residence, No. 532 Pavonia avenue, Jersey City.

The quantity of coal and coke carried over the Pennsylvania railroad for the second week of March was 129,793 tons, of which 87,535 tons were coal and 42,258 tons coke. The total tonnage for the year thus far has been 1,333,511 tons, of which 1,003,012 tons were coal and 330,499 tons coke.

GENERAL NEWS.

General W. S. Hancock owns a farm near Windsor, Henry county, Mo., and has ordered some extensive improvements to be made on it with the view of ultimately making it his home.

The United States Ship Constellation, which sailed on Saturday for Ireland laden with contributions for the sufferers by famine, will land at such port as the *New York Herald* relief may desire.

Miss Jennie Flood, daughter of the California millionaire, will have an income of a hundred thousand dollars a year when married. She is more than ordinarily anxious to get married on this account.

L. R. Loomis, a young man from Detroit, employed as an express messenger on the Chicago, Saginaw and Canada Railroad, whose marriage to a young lady of St. Louis, Mo., was fixed on Thursday last, was arrested on Tuesday for the theft of two packages of money. He confessed his guilt, but desired to have the wedding take place as announced. After consultation with the parties interested, the knot was tied, and an hour afterward Loomis was on his way to Detroit with the officers.

The Indianapolis *Sentinel* says that Ex-Governor Hendricks is somewhat annoyed by intimations in various quarters that he would consent to run as second on the ticket with Mr. Seymour or Mr. Bayard or General Hancock. He wishes it to be distinctly understood that while he has the utmost respect for these and other distinguished Democrats whose names have been mentioned as possible candidates for the Presidency, he positively declines to stand as second to any one.

Principal William Davis, of the Edenburg school, Clarion county, dismissed the pupils the other day because the desks were not dusted, and laid all the blame on the janitress, whom he pronounced "one of the most indolent specimens of humanity on the face of the earth." The janitress, "a most worthy young lady," has a brother, who proceeded to knock the teacher down with a hoe handle, and when the injured man went to a lawyer the latter refused to take up the case, telling him that he deserved all that he had got. Here the case rests for the present.

About 10 o'clock on Saturday night last, an affray occurred in a saloon at Greensburg, Pa., which resulted in the death of a man named Chiselm. It appears that Chiselm's wife ordered Mac Dixon, the proprietor of the saloon, not to sell her husband any liquor. Chiselm, who was somewhat intoxicated, called at the saloon and ordered drinks, which were refused. He then quarreled with Dixon, who knocked him down. After getting up, he walked towards the stove grumbling, when Dixon hit him a second time knocking him down, causing him to fall on his head and breaking his neck. His body was then taken outside and placed against the house, where it was found by the Sheriff. Dixon was arrested and lodged in jail this morning. He bears a bad reputation, having already served a term in prison.

Dr. Sommerhill, who lives near Tionesta, Forest county, was driving into town, accompanied by an invalid relative, some days ago, and when passing through a dense clump of bushes a large black bear sprang into the road in front of his team, which became panic stricken and overturned the vehicle, spilling the driver and his companion into the highway. The bear rushed upon them and a terrible fight ensued, the Doctor having only an iron bound whiffle tree for defence. His wife heard the disturbance, and came out with a gun and the dogs and ended the fight just as Dr. Sommerhill had about given up from exhaustion. This will do for a bear story.

Pennsylvania Railroad Election.

THE FORMER OFFICERS RE-ELECTED AND ALL SALARIES ADVANCED TEN PER CENT.

The newly-elected Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company met on the 24th for organization. The following officers were elected: Colonel Thomas A. Scott was unanimously re-elected president; Messrs. George B. Roberts, Edmund Smith and A. J. Cassatt were then elected additional members of the board, to set respectively as first, second and third vice-president; Joseph Lesley was re-elected secretary and John D. Taylor treasurer. The president then announced the following appointments, which were confirmed:

General solicitor, John Scott; assistants to the president, Strickland Kneass, John P. Green and J. N. Barry; cashier, B. F. Crawford; assistant secretary, John C. Sims, Jr.; comptroller, Robert W. Downing; general manager, Frank Thompson; consulting engineer, W. Hassell Wilson; general freight agent, James McC. Creighton; general passenger agent, L. P. Farmer; purchasing agent, Enoch Lewis; general superintendent of the Philadelphia Division, Charles E. Fugh; general superintendent New Jersey Division, F. Wolcott Jackson; general superintendent Philadelphia and Erie Division, W. A. Baldwin; general superintendent Delaware and Raritan Canal, Isaac J. Wister.

These are all re-appointments except Mr. Creighton, who takes the place of S. B. Kingston, deceased. It was agreed to advance the compensation of all the officers and employes to the amount which it was prior to June 1, 1877, to take effect from and after April 1 next. This is equal to a larger amount than an advance of ten per cent. would be on present salaries.