

The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

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

TERMS: \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

VOL. 2.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1880.

NO. 19.

The Centre Democrat.

Terms \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

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

Thursday Morning, May 6, 1880.

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR SUPREME JUDGE,
GEORGE A. JENKS, of Jefferson county.
FOR AUDITOR GENERAL,
ROBERT P. DECKERT, of Philadelphia.

POSTMASTER GENERAL KEY, the erring brother of the Cabinet, it is said, is about to vacate—the acting President, Mr. Hayes, having offered him the vacant district judgeship in Tennessee. This is the second break in the Fraud Cabinet, and in both instances has the withdrawing member retired on judicial appointment.

THE Harrisburg Patriot donned a new dress last week which made a vast improvement in its appearance. We are exceedingly glad to notice this sign of prosperity in the only Democratic daily newspaper at the State capital. The Patriot has always been conducted with ability, is in all respects an excellent news journal, and should receive a liberal support from the Democracy of the State.

OUR friend, T. C. Hipple, Esq., of Lock Haven, will be the member of the Democratic State Committee, for the thirty-fourth Senatorial district, during the ensuing year. We heartily endorse the selection. Mr. Hipple is an earnest party worker, discreet and reliable in judgment, and has had considerable experience in political campaigns. He will prove to be the right man in the right place.

WHEN the Democratic State Convention placed the name of our fellow-townsmen, C. M. Bower, Esq., upon the electoral ticket for the twentieth Congressional district, it paid a well-merited compliment to a most worthy and faithful young Democrat. Though still young in years Mr. Bower has given active and useful service to the party, and the honor of being made a candidate for elector of President and Vice President of the United States is a recognition of his standing in the party and his merits as a Democrat of which he may well feel proud. We make record of the fact of his selection for so important and honorable a position with feelings of real pleasure.

OUR Congressional district, the twentieth, will be represented in the Democratic National Convention by J. N. Cassanova, Esq., of Centre county, and Edward Bigler, Esq., of Clearfield county. A better choice could scarcely have been made in the district. Both are active, earnest and intelligent Democrats, well acquainted with the opinions of the people whom they have been selected to represent at Cincinnati, and will prove useful and faithful members of the Pennsylvania delegation. They will be honest and independent in the performance of every duty, and act solely with a view to advance the best interests of the party in the approaching Presidential campaign.

THE correspondent of the New York Tribune, who wrote up the proceedings of the Harrisburg Convention for that journal, says in reference to the discussion on the unit rule that "Mr. Sowden had to be heard, however, in reply to Mr. Speer's taunt," and that "his return blow was a sharp allusion to Speer's part in the back pay grab, but the Convention had the good sense not to hear him through." Certainly he could not be heard through. Every one present, except Sowden, seemed to have enough "good sense" to know that the "sharp allusion" to the "back pay grab" would apply with much greater aptness and force to another distinguished and conspicuous member of the convention for his part in that unsavory bit of Congressional legislation, than to the gentleman at whom it was aimed. Of course, Sowden suddenly subsided.

The Last Chapter in the Bribery Cases.

In our last issue we announced that the Riot-bill bribers had been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary and to the payment of a fine of \$1,000 each. This week we have the further announcement to make that the Pardon Board was called by the Governor on last Friday, who recommended that a pardon be granted by the Governor, and the prisoners are again at large to receive the congratulation of their friends. The reasons given for this hasty, if not indecent action, is, that the sentence was excessively severe and not warranted by the law—that the law in these cases did not justify imprisonment in the penitentiary. It is the lot of all men to err, but the great experience and eminent ability of the judge who passed the sentence is entitled to quite as much weight with the public as the board of politicians who have undertaken to review him in this hasty manner. If he erred, there was a remedy of higher jurisdiction to review and pass upon and stamp the error in legal form. Now, they are mere pardoned convicts who were sentenced to the penitentiary by stern justice, but released through the sympathy of political friends. This is their status. While the action of the Board saves their heads from being shaved, it does not save their reputation or the degradation of the sentence. Surely if their legal advisers or the Board of Pardons had full faith in the reasons given for their release, they would have sought a full vindication by a reversal in the Supreme Court.

The release of these men does not detach a single feather from the judicial cap of the brave old judge, who, regardless of the public prominence they have heretofore held, vindicated the law, and stamped the seal of crime upon the base practices which have made the Legislature of our State a by-word and reproach, and filled our statute books with fiction and fraud. The lesson he teaches is one of warning to the venal, and gives some hope in the future that the people will not be entirely at the mercy of rascals within and corruptors without our Legislative assemblies.

The last turn in the cases has been reached. By the action of the Board of Pardons and the Governor of the State, in thus overruling the sentence of the Court, the prison doors have been unbolted and the convicted persons are to-day at liberty, and in so far as the representatives of political parties have been compelled to show a hand in the various stages of the disreputable affair, now is a good time for a passing review. Assuming that there can be no doubt of the guilt of these men, made so in the case of one of them by the verdict of a jury after trial in the court and in the cases of the others by voluntary confession, it is only fair that the action of officials, whether Democrats or Republicans, who had to deal with them should be placed in a proper light before the public. In this respect, how does the record stand? Of these five criminals, one of them, Crawford, was a Democrat. He held, under Democratic appointment, a subordinate place in the force employed upon the public grounds at Harrisburg. No sooner was the report of the committee of the legislature, that showed the part this man had played in this game of legislative corruption, made public than he was at once removed from the position that had been conferred upon him by Democratic power. Thus promptly did a Democratic Auditor General and a Democratic State Treasurer act in vindication of themselves and in deference to the demands of public opinion. A tainted man was not permitted to continue in place under them insignificant as that place was. Now for the other side. Two of these men, Petroff and Rumbarger, were prominent Republican

members of the House of Representatives, the one from a Philadelphia district and the other from Armstrong county. When the same committee report showed their guilt, as it had that of Crawford, what was the action of a Republican legislature in their case? Were they promptly expelled? No, indeed. Their Republican friends voted against a resolution of expulsion and retained them in their seats until the end of the session, though polluted with crime and the scorn of every honest citizen in the commonwealth. With the close of the session of the legislature last summer, came arrest and at last conviction in the quarter sessions of Dauphin county, and now as a fitting finale to this loathsome drama of public debauchery, we see a Republican Board of Pardons and a Republican Governor step upon the stage before the curtain drops upon last scene to stay the hand of justice upon pretexts too flimsy to submit to the judgment of the Supreme Court. If justice has been cheated in the final disposition of these cases, an enlightened public sentiment can draw a balance between the action of Democratic and Republican representatives, so far as they have had to do them, and place the responsibility where it properly belongs.

ALL appliances are now in active use by the Blaine and Sherman organs to discourage the nomination of Grant. The Sherman organs concede that with Grant as the Republican candidate, Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut, Wisconsin and Oregon, would all snugly harbor in the Democratic fold. The Democrats have strong convictions that this may be entirely true, whether it is Grant, Blaine, Sherman, or the dark horse, who lead the Republican forces, but the Duke is not the man to frighten at the mere mention of probable obstacles. He has been boomed all over the country as the Great Mogul—the "greatest living American" charged with the exclusive mission to "save the country." He cannot surrender these advantages, of course, and will press successfully for the Chicago nomination.

THE Greenbackers of Indiana held their State convention last week, and placed in nomination Richard Gregg for Governor, Thomas Debruler for Lieut. Governor, and J. B. Yengley for Secretary of State. Among the delegates-at-large chosen to the National Greenback Convention at Chicago is Mrs. Dr. Mary L. Thomas. This is perhaps the first woman chosen to represent a political party in a National convention, and may be the culminating policy of that great party to attain the governmental reform so long promised by its organization. The Greenback statesmen of Lemont and Martha Furnace will do well to note the new departure. It is suggestive, and might strengthen their aggressive forces for the coming campaign in Centre county.

THE Blaine boom is still onward. Last week he added California to his column, and is pressing the third-termers in Illinois with a very aggressive force, which means business. He made a bold onset in Ohio, but not being an Ohio man, of course he failed. He succeeded, however, in capturing some of the out-posts and creating considerable alarm along the whole line. The Sherman forces rallied in time to save the rout, and the Mulligans retired in order leaving the State in possession of Sherman. The question now is, what will Sherman do with it?

THE report of the committee, headed by Senator Davis, of West Virginia, discloses startling evidence that the books of the Treasury, are in a very mixed condition, showing great incompetency in its management. The report insists that reformatory measures should claim the early attention of Congress.

The State Convention.

For weeks before the delegates to the Democratic State Convention were to meet at Harrisburg speculation was rife as to the probable outcome of their deliberations. The disturbing elements were many and apparently alarming to the future unity and harmony of the party, and it was but natural under the circumstances that a profound anxiety should possess the public mind. The active friends of the various Presidential candidates had made energetic efforts in behalf of their favorites, and the feeling worked up by them, together with the unfortunate condition of the party in Philadelphia, caused many grave apprehensions that all might not be well in the end. The intense interest thus aroused throughout the State manifested itself in the great throng of people who came together to witness the assembling of the delegates and hear their proceedings in Convention. One good sign was early noted. With here and there an exception on the part of some who gave way to boisterous and angry mutterings, the crowd was good natured and disposed to counsel peace. This sentiment largely predominated and no doubt had its effect upon those charged with the duty of reconciling the conflicting elements clamoring for recognition. The personnel of the Convention was above the average of bodies of that kind in ability and character, and that a way would be found out of the difficulties that surrounded their coming together was almost certain from the start. Fortunately, wise heads, with honest desires to serve their party, soon found that way. The committee of arbitration was suggested, and this plan was adopted at the first meeting of the body. This committee consisted of six eminent gentlemen who commanded the respect and confidence of every one. How could it be otherwise when at its head stood Andrew H. Dill with such associates as Jenks, Stenger, Mutchler, Speer and Gibson. To these gentlemen all questions in controversy were submitted and their conclusions were accepted by the Convention as just and satisfactory. Thus the dangers that at one time seemed to threaten disruption were passed in safety, and peace and harmony prevailed. In the further deliberations of the Convention the only approach to ill-will and a renewal of animosities was in the discussion that took place on the unit rule. This was also finally disposed of, much to the relief of all present, though not without well founded suspicions that there was unfairness in the count of the secretaries. But the struggle ended, and all acquiesced in the declared result.

The candidates placed in nomination for Supreme Judge and Auditor General are gentlemen to whom every Democrat in Pennsylvania can give his vote with a hearty good will. Hon. George A. Jenks, the candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, is well known to many citizens of Centre county and will command a generous support. He is one of the ablest lawyers now practicing at the bar in Central Pennsylvania, is a man of fine attainments and of exalted character, and his election would add much to the strength of the court of last resort. Col. Robert P. Deckert, the nominee for Auditor General, is just as worthy of support. He is also a lawyer by profession and has peculiar qualifications for the position for which he is a candidate. He was a gallant soldier during the war and in Philadelphia, the city of his residence, commands the highest respect of all parties for his fine qualities of head and heart. In another column of this paper will be found short sketches of the lives of both these gentlemen, which we commend to the attention of the reader.

A most admirable and appropriate close to the proceedings was the election of Hon. Andrew H. Dill to the chairmanship of the State Committee.

The wisdom that prompted this selection cannot be too highly commended, and the mention of the name went through the Convention like wild fire. Mr. Dill is known throughout the length and breadth of Pennsylvania so well and so favorably that he will receive the earnest co-operation of every Democrat. His great ability, ripe judgment and large experience in political management make him a leader we can all safely and confidently follow, knowing that he will work with an honest purpose to succeed, and that nothing will be left undone to secure victory, and the fruits of victory after it is won.

Such are our candidates, and such is the captain of our host. Now, Democrats, it behooves you to buckle on your armor for the fray. Momentous issues are at stake. Let us therefore go to work, organize at once, and open the battle that will decide the Presidential election of next November with as little delay as possible. No time is to be lost.

WITH Andrew H. Dill as Chairman of the State Committee several good things are assured. First of all, every Democrat in the State will receive fair and honorable treatment at his hands, which was not the case under his immediate predecessor. That will be one good thing. In the second place, it may be set down as a certainty, that the hall in which the State Convention is held a year hence will not be packed in advance of the assembling of the delegates by a brutal gang of ruffians, from the slums of Philadelphia, to act as door keepers, with authority to insult and maltreat decent people, as was the case at Harrisburg under his immediate predecessor. This will be another good thing. In the third place, there will be no lightning calculators among the secretaries of the Convention to falsify the votes of the delegates, as was also the case at Harrisburg under his immediate predecessor. This will be still another good thing. For all these good things Mr. Dill's honesty of purpose and integrity of character are an ample guarantee.

MR. HAYES has signed the army appropriation bill with its rider prohibiting the use of the army at election polls as an ordinary police force to preserve the peace, but could not find it in his conscience to approve the deficiency bill because of the rider which transferred the appointment of deputy marshals to supervise elections to the United States courts, and provided that they should be men of good moral character and selected in equal numbers from each political party. A veto message was therefore sent to Congress on Tuesday. In this message His Fraudulency pretends to give certain reasons for refusing to sign the bill. It is scarcely necessary to say that they are no reasons at all, but as a specimen of arrant cant and hypocrisy they would do honor even to Pecksniff.

WE neglected to notice last week the appearance of the Forest County National upon our table, with the name of our friend J. M. Kepler, Esq., at its head as editor and proprietor. The National will be earnestly Democratic in politics, and Mr. Kepler has all the ability, pluck and energy necessary to make it a useful helper in the cause. We wish the National long life and abundant prosperity.

ON Monday last the receipts of the National treasury footed up as follows: From internal revenue \$1,234,590.51; from custom duties, \$563,278.07; total, \$1,797,868.58. From this showing it is evident that Uncle Sam still continues to have quite a respectable daily income.

THE New York Herald trots out another dark horse for the inspection of delegates to the Republican National Convention. It is a spavined old nag called Hamilton Fish.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.

Sketches of their Private Lives and Public Services.

George Augustus Jenks, the Democratic candidate for Supreme Judge, is only forty-four years of age. He was born in Punxsatawney, Jefferson county, Pa., March 26, 1836, and has resided in Jefferson all his life. He learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, but quit the carpenter's bench to obtain a collegiate education. While fitting himself for college he taught school and was thus engaged for eighteen months. Entering Jefferson college he was graduated thence in August, 1858. Choosing the law as his profession he studied privately and was admitted to the bar in Punxsatawney, Jefferson county, Pa., February 16, 1859. Ever since that date he has been engaged in active practice and has attained high rank as a lawyer. Until 1874 he never held any office, except that he was a School Director and member of the Town Council of Brookville. In that year he was nominated and elected to Congress as a Democrat from the twenty-fifth district, composed of the counties of Armstrong, Clarion, Forest, Indiana and Jefferson. In this election he received 11,627 votes against 11,109 for General Harry White. Mr. Jenks, in a single term of Congressional life, became a man of mark, his sound common sense and legal ability commanding almost immediate recognition. When the Electoral Commission was formed he was chosen by his Democratic colleagues as one of the counsel to represent the Tilden case before that body and his argument was commended as a model of forensic eloquence, but even more notable for compression of facts and deductions in small compass. He spoke without a note, but was almost the only one of the many lawyers who addressed the commission to confine himself strictly to the small time allotted and yet present a complete argument. Since he left Congress, Mr. Jenks has devoted himself closely to the law, but was in 1878 strongly supported as a candidate for Governor in the convention which nominated Andrew H. Dill. Mr. Jenks was married February 3, 1860, to Mary A. Mabon. Politically, in his own words, he has been "a Democrat since birth, as were my ancestors before me."

ROBERT P. DECKERT.
Colonel Robert Porter Deckert, the Democratic nominee for Auditor General, was born in Reading, August 16, 1842, his father being Elijah Deckert, a lawyer of that city. Colonel Deckert is a grand-son of Judge Robert Porter, whose two brothers were Ex-Governor David R. Porter and J. Madison Porter, Secretary of War under Tyler. Colonel Deckert came to this city while in his tenth year. He graduated from the Central High School when eighteen years of age, and entered a course of law studies in the office of his brother, Henry M. Deckert. On the breaking out of the war of the rebellion he entered the army as sergeant major of the Twenty-ninth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, Colonel John K. Murphy. With his regiment he took part in the campaign of the Shenandoah Valley, and participated in many of the battles of the Army of the Potomac. In the famous "march to the sea" Colonel Deckert was assistant adjutant general to General Slocum, commanding the Army of Georgia. He was promoted frequently for gallant services in the field, and at the close of the war had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was admitted to the bar in 1867, and in the following year was appointed assistant to District Attorney Furman Sheppard. He was elected in 1870 State Senator from the First District for an unexpired term, overcoming the usual heavy Republican majority of the district. On the expiration of his term as Senator he resumed his position as Assistant District Attorney. When Mr. Hager was elected District Attorney, Colonel Deckert declined a reappointment, and has since devoted himself to law practice. He has taken much interest in military matters, and was last year elected colonel of the Second Regiment.

Representative Clymer's Marriage.

The marriage of Congressman Hiestor Clymer to Mrs. Mimi Von Schrader Clemens, widow of the late James Clemens, took place at St. Louis on Monday afternoon of last week. The ceremony was performed according to the ritual of the Roman Catholic church by the Rev. Father Brantner, at the residence of the bride's mother, the widow of the late Baron Von Schrader, on Garrison avenue. Only the immediate relatives witnessed it, and in every respect it was a very simple affair. There were no bridesmaids, but Mr. Clymer was attended by Mr. Miliken. The bride wore a costly pearl silk dress. Those present were members of the Von Schrader and Clemens families, Mr. E. M. Clymer, of Reading, and Mr. and Mrs. George Brooke, and Mrs. Edward Brooke, of Birdsboro', Pennsylvania. The ceremony took place at 3 p. m. At 5 p. m. a reception was given, at which the first families of St. Louis were represented. At 6.30 Mr. and Mrs. Clymer left by the Vandalia road, for the East. There will be a short tour, and then Mr. Clymer will resume his duties in Washington. The presents were numerous and valuable, but were not displayed. They included a gold and silver ice cream set from Mr. Clymer's fellow-committeemen in Washington.

Bradford county has placed a five per cent. loan of \$30,000.