

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, May 20, 1880.

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR SUPREME JUDGE,
GEORGE A. JENKS, of Jefferson County.
FOR AUDITOR GENERAL,
ROBERT P. DECHERT, of Philadelphia.

Curtin for Congress.

The Democrats of Centre county have an imperative duty to perform. From the expressions of opinion that come to us we hazard nothing in saying they will meet every requirement that the situation demands of them. Two years ago, under the stress of a pressing party emergency, Andrew G. Curtin was made the Democratic candidate for Congress in the twentieth district much against his will. In the long campaign of 1878 he was used in the State canvass to the neglect of his own district, and from certain well understood causes, to which it is now unnecessary to refer, the result was a disappointment to the Democracy of the district. That Gov. Curtin received an honest majority of the legal votes polled at that election there can be no doubt in the mind of any unprejudiced man, but another was returned to occupy his place in Congress. After a prolonged and expensive contest to secure his rights, an adverse result through party defection in Congress has again overtaken him. Throughout he has been a deeply wronged man, and it now remains for the party in Centre county to right the grievous injustice he has suffered as far as it may be in their power to do so.

We sincerely believe we only echo the sentiments of nine-tenths of the Democrats of Centre county in asserting that Gov. Curtin should again receive the Democratic nomination for Congress in this district. From every district in the county we have the amplest assurances of a firm determination to stand by him. It may be proper to remark that we do not know what Gov. Curtin's intention in the matter may be. We are not speaking for him, or with his knowledge. We have no reason to believe that Gov. Curtin desires a renomination for Congress this fall. We do believe, however, that justice demands that the man who has been made the victim of hate and malice should have the opportunity of silencing his traducers by a direct appeal to the people for that complete vindication, which will surely come with the idea of November should he once more be our standard bearer. All Governor Curtin asked at the hands of Congress was that his claim should be remanded back to the people for adjudication. This was refused him, and it now remains for the Democracy of this county to do their share in securing for him that right which was wrongly denied him by the lower branch of Congress.

It is rather amusing to see the dexterous manner in which the New York Tribune and its rival, the Times, try to keep the respective Blaine and Grant booms up to their proper altitude. One day the Tribune gives the most accurate figures as to the composition of the Chicago convention, and of course forges Blaine away to the front. The next day the Times counters on Jay Gould, and "the man on horse back" is shown to have such a decided majority of the delegates who are to nominate a Republican candidate for President that it almost seems unnecessary to have any formal meeting of the convention.

AFTER ALL, there may be some excuse for the vote of Alexander H. Stephens against Governor Curtin last week. There is no longer enough of him left to maintain for any considerable period of time a sentiment of gratitude.

The Curtin-Yocum Contest.

It requires but a slight investigation to bring to the surface the causes which produced the unfortunate result in Gov. Curtin's contest for a seat in Congress, announced to the readers of the DEMOCRAT last week. Before proceeding to a consideration of these causes, it may be proper to state in this place that while the result may be regarded as an astonishing and disgraceful commentary upon the action of a body presumed to be Democratic, there is at least one feature of the case to which the friends of Gov. Curtin can refer with unbounded pleasure. The record of the vote shows conclusively that on the side of Curtin were ranked the ablest, purest and most reputable of the Democratic representatives from all sections of the country. This especially applies to the South. From that section such representative men as Gen. Joe. Johnston, Gen. Randall Gibson, Gen. Armfield, with a host of other "Southern Brigadiers," gave the great War Governor their most hearty and cordial support. Against him, on the Democratic side, with the single exception of Stephens, of Georgia, was arrayed a small squad of exceedingly small men, with little character for ability or party fidelity—some of them mere jobbers in politics, and actuated in all things by selfish and mercenary motives—whose opinions have slight weight in the determination of any question of right or wrong. The supporters of Curtin can well afford to let the names of Aiken, Richardson and Tillman, of South Carolina, Bouck and Deuster, of Wisconsin, Bright, of Tennessee, Caldwell, of Kentucky, Chalmers and Singleton, of Mississippi, Stephens and Felton, of Georgia, Harris and Richmond, of Virginia, Hostetter and New, of Indiana, and Mills, of Texas, go before the public as the men responsible for his overthrow through the meanest of motives, and offset them by the names of the reputable and eminent gentlemen who stood manfully by the right regardless of personal considerations. Among these gentlemen may be named a number of distinguished jurists, such as Judge Phelps, of Connecticut, who was elected to the Superior Court of his State in 1863, for a term of eight years. At the expiration of this term he was re-elected in 1871. In 1873 he was taken from the bench of the Superior Court and elected to the Supreme Court, the highest judicial tribunal in the State. Judge Bicknell, of Indiana, was elected judge of the 2d Judicial Circuit in 1852, and held that position during twenty-four years, having been elected four times consecutively. He was also a professor of Law in the University of Indiana for eleven years. Judge Geddes, of Ohio, was elected a judge of the 6th district Court of Common Pleas and served in that capacity for fifteen years. In 1871 he was the Democratic candidate for judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Judge Phister of Kentucky, was Circuit Judge of the 10th Judicial District of Kentucky, for six years, and was also appointed by Gov. Leslie as one of the Commissioners to revise the statute laws of his State. Judge Sawyer of Missouri, served for seven years as Circuit Judge of the 24th Judicial District of his State and was taken from the bench and sent to Congress. We give the record and career of these gentlemen in order that the contrast between the pigmies who claim to have voted against Gov. Curtin on legal grounds and the eminent lawyers, whose services in their respective States as able and irreproachable judges are a part of the history of the great Commonwealths they represent in the Congress of the United States, may be more striking. It is not probable that all these trained and capable jurists could be mistaken as to the law and the facts involved in this case.

We now propose to allude to some of the potential causes which led to this

adverse result, and it will be readily seen that they were beyond the power of Gov. Curtin or his friends to control:

First, we will consider the Democratic members who voted against Curtin, representing districts in which there is a large and preponderating Greenback vote. Bouck, of the 6th Wisconsin district, who received 14,349 votes against 11,748 for his Republican competitor and 5,144 for the Greenback-National ticket.

Deuster, of the 4th district in the same State, who polled 11,157 votes, while Frisby, Republican, had 11,022, and Judd, Greenbacker, had 1,205 votes.

New, of the 4th Indiana district was fortunate enough to receive 15,146 votes, while his Republican opponent had 14,655 and the Greenback champion had to content himself with 199.

Hostetter of the 8th district in the same State, received 13,164 votes against Hunter, Republican, who had 12,124 and the Greenback-National candidate 4,929.

Rothwell, of the 10th Missouri district, had 14,793 votes, Pollard, Republican, 10,875, Broadus, Greenback-National, 5,683.

Caldwell, of the 3d Kentucky district received 9,344 votes, Hunter, Republican, 8,502, Wright, Greenback-National 2,329.

It is apparent from the foregoing statement of the vote in the respective districts of the above Democrats who voted against ex-Gov. Curtin, what selfish and personal interests actuated them to insult the Democracy of the 20th Congressional district of Pennsylvania. These returns speak for themselves, and require no comment.

The second element in the combination against Curtin was the magnificent scheme to defraud the National Treasury of a million and a half or two millions of dollars, under the guise of paying claims to a few States, alleged to be due them for supplies and expenses incurred during the war of 1812. About one million of this sum is destined to reach the State of Virginia. A considerable portion of it is to enrich somebody in Maryland, with small spots thrown to the whales of the States of Pennsylvania and New York. The immaculate gentlemen who are endeavoring to pilot this job through Congress, secured a pledge from the Greenback members to support their gigantic steal, in consideration of their votes for Yocum. The bargain was sealed and Messrs. Harris and Richmond of Virginia, Henkle of Maryland,—and possibly O'Reilly of New York—have executed their part of the contract. When mercenary considerations enter into the action of such men, their support of Yocum was not only natural but a necessity.

Thirdly, we come to consider the petty spite of such excuses for men as Aiken, Richardson and Tillman of South Carolina against Speaker Randall, on account of the manly action of the Speaker in refusing, in the 45th Congress, to allow injustice to be done the two colored members who then represented in Congress the two South Carolina districts now misrepresented by Richardson and Tillman, who were then contestants without a shadow of right.

And now we come to the only man in the whole category of traitors for whom we can offer no excuse—little Alec Stephens. This relic of a by-gone day has cheated the undertakers of Washington out of a pleasant job for the last fifty years. He is a Grant man, but he couldn't forget the Altona Conference of War Governors, during the late unpleasantness, and therefore he could not vote for Curtin. He, almost in his dotage, assumes to be a political Warwick, and wishes to keep the Democratic majority in the House so small as to make himself a power in Congress should the next Presidential contest be thrown into the House. He is supposed to control a little coterie of so-called independents, Felton of his State and a few others.

We wish him joy, but it is barely possible that the people will relieve him of the trouble of electing a President. A parting word to two others. Singleton, of Mississippi, never did any thing, either in war or peace, to make him a marked man. Mediocrity and incapacity are his distinguishing traits. Chalmers, his colleague, has a reputation. He acquired it at Fort Pillow.

We have now endeavored to lay before our readers a partial statement of the causes which led to the decision of this memorable contest in favor of Mr. S. H. Yocum. Considering the grotesque elements which entered into the combination against Andrew G. Curtin—and we have given but a few of them—no other result could have been reasonably expected. It will be readily seen from the facts we have adduced that the merits of the case were never considered at all. The judgment of the men who recorded their votes for Mr. Curtin was rendered nugatory by the foreign elements which entered into and decided the contest. We can only add that this result has had the effect of intensifying the devotion of Gov. Curtin's friends to his fortunes. The eternal fitness of things, and their honest belief in his integrity and Democracy will not allow them for one moment to accept this as a final adjudication of his right to a seat in Congress.

We are sorry to observe that our friends of the Harrisburg Patriot have far less indignation to expend upon the twenty Democrats in Congress who basely betrayed Governor Curtin and the Democratic party, than it has for the inconsiderate denunciation of the "Confederate Brigadiers" by the Philadelphia Times. The Patriot concedes the justice of Gov. Curtin's case, and admits that he should have been seated. There can therefore be no valid excuse for the treachery of those reputed Democrats who voted against him, but notwithstanding this, we are deeply grieved to note that these unfaithful men are treated by that journal with the most considerate tenderness, while it is unreserved, at the same time, in its condemnation of the mistaken zeal of the Times.

The friends of the distinguished manager of the Presidential fraud of 1876 seem to be quite elated, and have got themselves into a very happy frame of mind in the belief that the third-termers and Mulligan Guards have become so embittered by personal warfare as to necessitate the rejection of both at the Chicago convention. The result may be realized, but will it help Sherman? Doubtful! The discreet politicians of that convention will probably hesitate to select a man so closely identified with the frauds of 1876, and, as a member of the fraudulent administration, has so recklessly used the funds of the Government to pension the villains who, under his management, aided in consummating the fraud. Indeed, the prudent members of the convention will scarcely dare to offer the people a man covered all over with putrid sores, not only in the pursuit of personal wealth at the public expense, but in reward of scoundrels whose demands he could not resist without danger of exposure. They had better take Hayes. He is only the receiver of stolen goods, while the former is the main thief.

The House has passed a joint resolution providing for the adjournment of Congress on the 31st of this month. It is probable the Senate will concur in the resolution, as the members, like those in the House, seem anxious to get away from the consideration of any question which a reasonable modification of the tariff laws might impose. A release of the oppressive duties upon salt and sugar, and also upon paper, and articles entering into the manufacture of paper, might at least, receive attention by way of compromise on other great and needed reforms.

The thanks of the Democracy of this district are due Messrs. Beltzhoover, Colerick, Ryon and Speer, for their able presentation of Governor Curtin's claim in the late contest before Congress. Mr. Beltzhoover flashed his maiden sword in this effort, and the young and brilliant member from the Cumberland District has only emphasized the universal judgment, as to his fine abilities, both as a lawyer and as an effective and eloquent advocate. Mr. Ryon, of Schuylkill, was, as he always is, clear, cogent and powerful. His profound knowledge of law and his long experience as a practicing lawyer eminently qualified him to brush away the cobwebs which were cunningly woven around the case, and his speech more than justified his enviable reputation. Mr. Colerick of Indiana, speaking for the West, made a concise, logical and effective argument. Speer of Georgia, although one of the most youthful members of the House, is justly esteemed as one of the ablest, and he unquestionably voiced the almost unanimous sentiment of his section when he plead with impassioned eloquence for Governor Curtin.

The Duke of America seems to be out of the woods. The unfair means taken last week by the Blaine and Washburn combination to rule him out of the Cook county convention, has recoiled upon the combination. It had the effect of rallying the friends of Grant and the third-term in other parts of the State who have secured a very decided majority to the State Convention—sufficient to control a unanimous delegation to the National Convention. Illinois is considered the pivotal State, decisive of the fate of the third-termers as well as the Mulligan Guards. The latter have lost, and our Republican friends may now prepare to fall in line under the third-term banner, to be led by one who, in eight years of administration, only proved his incompetency, and reduced his party from an overwhelming majority to a very decided minority, which was only saved from total annihilation by the gigantic frauds which placed the present imbecile in the Presidential chair.

The logic of our esteemed contemporary of the Republican on the Curtin-Yocum contest might be all very well in its way were it based on sound premises. But it will not do to put the action of the few hundred Democrats of the 20th district who cast their votes for Yocum against the thirteen thousand who faithfully supported Curtin, and assume that the first represents the will of the party. The same is true of the vote in Congress. A few renegades deserted their party, while a large majority, comprising the ablest and most reputable of the Democratic members, acted with fidelity to Gov. Curtin. The renegades cannot with justice be made to stand for the majority of the party in Congress.

GOOD! It is announced that the Pennsylvania Railroad will issue no passes to politicians to attend the Chicago and Cincinnati conventions. Round tickets will be issued at reduced rates from designated points east, and prominent points on the route. The notice that clans who contemplate attending the conventions to run machines, will be required to pay fare, will no doubt have a restraining influence upon many who expected to have a "high old time" at Chicago and Cincinnati, at somebody's expense other than their own.

ALL those little schemes so nicely arranged between certain Democratic members of Congress and their Greenback allies, will no doubt take an additional lease of life, since the principal part of the unholy compact has been cemented by the sacrifice of ex-Gov. Curtin. Jobbers in the National legislature are not particular as to their political bed-fellows so long as their personal interests do not suffer.

The investigation of the case of Whittaker, the colored cadet at West Point, who was alleged to be outraged and mutilated by disguised parties who entered his room at night, some time ago, has about reached its conclusion. The evidence of the experts employed in the case points with almost unerring certainty to the fact that the mutilation was self-inflicted. It is a remarkable case, and can only be accounted for in the desire on the part of the cadet to create sympathy and thereby secure the promotion which his deficiencies of study would not warrant. This plan to secure promotion is certainly more unmanly than cunning, and will probably end in expulsion and disgrace.

It is said that Gen. Scofield is to be relieved from duty at West Point, and that his successor is to be Gen. Pope, who is a Christian Soldier after the style of Gen. Howard. This administration does not need such men as Scofield. His efficiency and independence of character does not commend him to a fraudulent administration, who will no doubt be better suited in Pope. He will fill the bill.

CHIEF JUSTICE SANFORD E. CHURCH died at his residence at Albion, New York, on the 14th inst. Judge Church was one of the most popular and prominent men in New York, and his sudden death has created an intense sensation, not only in that State, but throughout the country. He has been frequently spoken of in connection with the Presidential nomination by the Democracy.

If Andrew G. Curtin had not in the goodness of his heart permitted himself to be persuaded to insist upon the release of Alexander H. Stephens from the old Capitol prison in 1865, that ghastly semblance of humanity would probably not have been in Congress to play the part of an ingrate in 1880.

The Milton Fire.

THE BURNED TOWN—MILTON'S TERRIBLE DEASTER.

MILTON, Pa., 15.—The fire that swept the town left a sad spectacle this morning as the smoke ascended from the ruins of the 641 houses destroyed yesterday. The ravages of the conflagration are seen in the demolition of nearly every business house and all the buildings, with a few exceptions, of any importance. Houses were not only destroyed, but their occupants saved very little of the contents. In the business portion of the town the people had no idea of the fate which awaited them; and consequently made no effort to remove furniture, etc., until too late. From the point where the fire originated, cinders were thrown in countless profusion on the tops of houses located hundreds of yards away, which were soon enveloped in flames. The marvelous rapidity with which the fire spread caused a panic among the inhabitants, and their lamentations were heartrending.

Last night about six hundred of the houseless were compelled to sleep in the open air, under blankets, saved from the wreck, furnished them by those more fortunate, while the rest of the sufferers, about 1,400, were sheltered by their friends, whose houses were not destroyed.

Supplies from Williamsport, Harrisburg, Sunbury, Lock Haven, Watsonstown, Lewisburg, in provisions and clothing, have arrived, and are being judiciously distributed. Two carloads from Harrisburg reached here to-day. The State Capital has done nobly, having contributed in addition to provisions, about two thousand dollars to the relief of the sufferers, \$1,200 of which were subscribed in an hour last night. This morning, four of the nine Ward Committees returned \$97.25. The loss by the fire will not fall much below two million dollars.

The northern oil field fires destroyed \$1,000,000 worth of property.

The pay roll of the Bethlehem Iron Company on Saturday amounted to \$100,000.

The mother of Hon. John A. Lemon, republican nominee for auditor general, is lying ill at her residence in Hollidaysburg.

Gen. W. H. H. Davis, of Doylestown, has been appointed one of the board of visitors to the naval academy, Annapolis, Md.

David P. Daniels, a wealthy farmer of Lawrence county, was severely injured by a falling tree during a storm Tuesday evening of last week.

It is stated that Mr. F. P. Gowen, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, will make a visit to Europe during the early part of next month.

It was unusually cold for the season along the Hudson river on Friday night. Ice formed in the back country, and early vegetation suffered severely.