

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, September 9, 1880.

Democratic National Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT,
WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK, of Pennsylvania.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM H. ENGLISH, of Indiana.

ELECTORS-AT-LARGE.
R. Emmet Monaghan, William H. Playford.

ELECTORS.
Dist. 1. John Slewin, 15. George A. Post.
2. Edwin A. Poe, 16. A. M. Bouton.
3. John M. Campbell, 17. J. P. Linton.
4. Gilles Ballew, 18. John S. Miller.
5. John N. Moffet, 19. J. O. Saxton.
6. Edwin Waldon, 20. C. M. Bower.
7. Nathan C. James, 21. I. A. J. Buchanan.
8. George Filbert, 22. Christopher Magee.
9. James G. McSparrin, 23. Robert M. Gibson.
10. Alfred J. Martin, 24. Thomas Bradford.
11. Adam Gerringer, 25. Harry W. Wilson.
12. Frank Turner, 26. Samuel Griffith.
13. P. J. Birmingham, 27. J. Ross Thompson.
14. H. E. Davis.

Democratic State Ticket.

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

THE Republicans will rejoice in a great victory this week in Vermont, and, no doubt, shout lustily in escaping a sound drubbing next week in Maine. Let them take comfort while they may. Their day of doom approaches.

THE United States marshal for Colorado, under Grant, C. C. Thompson, a delegate to the Chicago Convention, has been arrested and required to explain a slight discrepancy in his accounts amounting to the sum of \$18,050. He was arrested in Virginia where he was employed to advocate Garfield and reform to the Rebel-Brigadiers in the benighted South.

GEN. GRANT has addressed a letter to "Dear General Logan," in which he says, "it will not do to be beaten now," no doubt having specially in view the campaign to come off in 1884. He is to take part in the present canvass, and wave the bloody shirt in the face of his utterances in Texas and Illinois before the Chicago convention, on the loyalty of the Southern people.

THE charge of the De Golyer bribe of \$5,000 to Gen. Garfield for his influence was first made by leading Republicans in his district. Its truth was affirmed in the courts of Illinois. The law making the penalty for such offences two years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine was passed by Congress, of which Mr. Garfield could not have been ignorant, but he braved the penalty to receive the pelf.

THE Thompsons seem to be a popular family with the Democracy of Massachusetts. They have nominated Charles P. Thompson for Governor, and Alpha E. Thompson for Lieutenant Governor. This event marks the return of General B. F. Butler to the Democratic party, from which he has been wandering some years. He favors the Thompsons, as he also does the election of Hancock and English.

THE Bellefonte Republican evidently believes in the principle that a lie well stuck to is as good as the truth any day. It copies from the Chicago Tribune, in its issue of last week, the exploded story about an imaginary conversation said to have been overheard by the head waiter of the Girard House in Philadelphia, between ex-Gov. Curtin and several gentlemen while at breakfast at that hotel. The sable gentleman promptly denied having heard any such conversation, and his denial appeared in the Philadelphia Times the day after the original lie had been published in the New York Tribune. The publication will not avail anything here in Centre county, where Gov. Curtin's attitude in this campaign and his opinion of the De Golyer candidate are so well known. Still common decency and a regard for the amenities of life, would have dictated that this lie should have been omitted from the columns of our contemporary. There would have been that much more room for some other equally good invention that has not yet been contradicted.

False Issues.

Secretary Thompson of the Navy Department, in a speech the other day, admitting that the question of secession is finally settled, and not now entertained North or South, claims that the great question to be solved in the present contest is "whether the National Government shall remain to itself sufficient power to preserve its own life, or whether it shall humble itself at the feet of the several States and surrender the rights with which it is invested under the Constitution." If this is not the utterance of a demagogue it is that of a blind partisan fanatic, who cannot find it in his heart to do justice to his political opponents by stating facts as they exist. There is no such issue in the contest. He cannot lay his hands upon the utterance of a single Democrat in this broad land, either in Congress or out of it, expressing a desire to take from the National Government a single power or right guaranteed to it by the Constitution. On the contrary, the Democracy, without exception, advocates a sacred adherence to every provision of that instrument in its bearings upon the National and State governments. But there is an issue involved between the parties which the Secretary does not see fit to refer to. It is that of the attempt of the stalwart Republicans now in possession of the Executive Department, to usurp authority for the National Government not delegated to it by the Constitution, but reserved to the States. They want what is called a "strong government," with unlimited controlling power in the National Executive. Prominence is given to this fact by the assumption of the Executive to control the action of the last Congress, as well as the thinly concealed design of making the "civil power subordinate to the military," as illustrated by the action of Garfield as leader of the Republican Congress, to prescribe and remove Hancock from his command for upholding the converse of this proposition in obedience to the Constitution which he was sworn to maintain. In the passage of laws providing Federal and military supervision of the polls in direct contravention of the rights reserved to the States and the people to a peaceable and uncontrolled choice of their own representatives. To the power assumed to invade the Legislature of a State and by military force to determine who shall or who shall not be members of that Legislature. It is this tendency of the Republican struggle to centralize power not given in the National Government at the expense of the rights of the States and of the people, that the Democratic party take issue, and the concealment of this fact by false pretense in thrusting forward one which has no existence is disingenuous if not hypocritical on the part of the Secretary. But as the Republican party do not meet any fair issue presented in the present contest with manly candor, we should not perhaps expect a member of Hayes' cabinet on the stump, who holds his place under the most stupendous fraud and usurpation known to the civilized world, to be an exception.

THE Republicans of New York and elsewhere are greatly shocked at the lack of principle evinced by the Democracy in failing to continue the fight of faction which was so serviceable to them last year. No doubt the cordial union between the Tammany Hall and Irving Hall belligerents is a source of sincere disgust to the Republicans as it squelches any hope they may have entertained of carrying the State for De Golyer's attorney, or profiting in the Congressional representation by Democratic discord. The New York Democracy being now a unit and the State assured for Hancock and English, are not pleasant facts to contemplate from a Republican standpoint.

Rebel War Claims.

The foolish clamor of Republican newspapers and stump orators, of high and low degree, about the payment of what they are pleased to call "rebel war claims," should the Democratic party of the United States succeed in electing Gen. Hancock to the Presidency, is only additional proof of the desperation to which the supporters of the present administration of fraud are driven in their frantic efforts to maintain their hold upon their present ill-gotten lease of power. It is a worn-out calumny, and served the purpose for which it was invented years ago, and common decency, if not respect for the intelligence of the country, should have permitted it to remain in the dirty receptacle of slander to which it was consigned after its use in the last National contest. These silly alarmists, with that model Pecksniff of the times, John Sherman, at their head, figure out fabulous amounts which they say will be paid should the Democrats gain control of the government. Pay for the liberated slaves; the assumption of the rebel debt; pensions for rebel soldiers; reimbursements for the destruction of property, enter into their speculations, and they then draw a most startling picture of the ruin and disaster that is to follow when the government takes upon itself these burdens.

This kind of absurd bosh may possibly frighten a few ignorant people here and there into voting for the Republican candidates, but surely it can produce no effect upon the citizen of average intelligence, save that of open and pronounced contempt for its bold and unblushing deceit.

In 1876 the Democratic candidates for President and Vice President received a majority of nearly a quarter of a million of votes, so that the Democratic party comprises a fair majority of our voting population. Is not this majority as much interested in the welfare and prosperity of the country as the minority? Have those who make up this majority not as much at stake? Is it not as much for their advantage that the government be honestly and economically administered in accordance with the constitution as for the advantage of their opponents? Why, then, should a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President desire to bring about a condition of distress and bankruptcy in which the members of their party would be at least equal sufferers with their opponents, and that, too, by the payment of claims for which the government is in no way liable? This is a phase of the question that Republican spouters do not attempt to explain, simply because it cannot be explained upon any ground satisfactory to sense or reason.

But a complete answer to this charge of the payment of rebel war claims is to be found in the fact that all such claims are forever barred by the Constitution of the United States. In support of this assertion it is only necessary to quote the fourth section of the fourteenth amendment, which is in the following words:

"The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for the payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume to pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

This section of the fourteenth amendment is a part of the Constitution of the United States, and is as "valid, to all intents and purposes," as any other article or section that it contains. But, say some of the gentlemen who speak with such glib tongues upon the subject, "when the Democrats come into power they will repeal the amendments." They fail, however, to tell their hearers of the difficulties that would beset the attempt. The manner of amending the Constitution is

prescribed in Article V, and a proposed amendment only becomes valid "when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, as one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress." Now, in the face of this provision of the Constitution, and with a Union composed of twenty-one Northern and only fourteen Southern States, how dare any of the howlers about rebel claims and compensation for slaves, assert that the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments will ever be changed or repealed.

But there is one point more. It is the attitude of the Democracy towards these amendments. In 1872 the second plank of the platform upon which the Democracy went before the people made the following promise:

"We pledge ourselves to maintain the Union of these States, emancipation and enfranchisement, and oppose any re-opening of the questions settled by the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution."

This pledge of fidelity to the amendments was re-affirmed by the National convention of the party, which met at St. Louis in 1876, by the following resolution:

"For the Democracy of the whole country, we do hereby re-affirm our faith in the permanence of the Federal Union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered civil war, and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government."

At the National convention of the party held at Cincinnati last June, the principles embodied in the platform of 1876 were re-adopted, and Gen. Hancock in his admirable letter of acceptance avows his determination in no equivocal or uncertain terms to uphold the Constitution in all its parts. He says:

"The principles enunciated by the convention are those I have cherished in the past and shall endeavor to maintain in the future. The thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States, embodying the results of the war for the Union, are inviolable. If called to the Presidency I should deem it my duty to resist with all my power any attempt to impair or evade the full force and effect of the Constitution, which in every article, section and amendment is the supreme law of the land."

The position of the Democratic party and its candidate for President upon this question of the validity and inviolability of the amendments to the Constitution is therefore plain and unmistakable. Standing before the country, therefore, in this attitude, with a standard bearer whose devotion to the best interests of the Union cannot be doubted—whose whole life is a pledge of his honesty and sincerity in whatever he says or does—this flimsy fabric of rebel war claims vanishes into thin air, and our stalwart friends may as well devote their time to the discussion of some issue that has more substance in it. The intelligent voters of the United States will not be frightened at a shadow.

As a sample of the economy of Republican legislation during the time that party had entire control of Congress, the waste of the public domain is a fair average. During the time the Republicans held a two-thirds majority, a period of several years, they gave away to corporations and squandered 296,000,000 acres, covering 294,580 square miles. The extent of this land squandered for the benefit of rings and and Congressional speculators, can scarcely be realized. It will aggregate more than is embraced in the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio and Indiana.

THE Hayes circus is on its rounds, and in imitation of the Grant hippodrome, is about to exhibit in California. The fraudulent character of the Hayes' show of domestic animals is not likely to be as successful in drawing the crowd as the hippodrome fresh from foreign parts.

How to Elect Hancock.

The Doylestown Democrat pertinently remarks that "those who wish to elect Hancock must not forget that harmony and hard work are necessary to do it. It will take a good deal of both, but it can be done. Harmony in the ranks and among the leaders will consolidate the party to a single object; while work will give them the necessary drill and discipline requisite to bring the voters to the polls in solid phalanx. Harmony in a political party is just as necessary to achieve a great victory as it is in an army, and without it either can be easily overcome by an inferior force. From this time forward until the first Tuesday of November, the Democratic and conservative masses of the country should have but one object in view, the election of Gen. Hancock. They should give the intervening time to the service of the country. The thieves and villains who are now living on public plunder do not mean to be shaken off until after the most herculean effort to hang on. If we wish to save the country, we must drive out the rats which are gnawing away the timbers of the ship of State. Remember that harmony and hard work will do it."

PROMINENT among the events of the past that the people should not forget in casting their votes at the approaching election, is the Presidential fraud of 1876-7. No one has the temerity to say that the fraud was not perpetrated, or to justify its enormity. It was one that cannot be condoned by the vote of an honest man, whatever may be his political predilections, without making himself a party to the crime and the disgrace and wrong it entailed upon our Republican institutions. Is this stating the case too strong? Mr. Tilden was deprived of the Presidential office to which he was legally elected by the people, and James A. Garfield was prominent among the men who procured that result. He was one of those who visited the South and participated in procuring a false return of the election by fraud and perjury of the most bald and shameless character. With full knowledge of these frauds and the manner of their procurement, by selection of Republican members of Congress, he subsequently served on the 8 to 7 commission under an oath to investigate the alleged frauds and decide according to the facts. How did he perform this duty? Not by investigation, certainly, but merely by declaring that it was inexpedient "to go behind the returns," as fraudulently made for the occasion. This man Jas. A. Garfield, with elastic conscience, is now the Republican candidate for President, appealing to the people for their votes to justify his acts and condone the great crime. Can they do it without sharing the guilt which attaches to the acts of the conspirator?

J. M. KEPLER, Esq., a well known former citizen of Centre county, and present editor of the Forest National Democrat, pays the following compliment to ex-Gov. Curtin in his issue of last week:

"The Democracy of Clinton county have instructed for ex-Governor Curtin for Congress for the twentieth district. No doubt Centre and the other counties will go and do likewise, and thus place one of Pennsylvania's best heroes in the Halls of Congress. The great war Governor would be a tower of strength to the Democracy in Congress, and a man who would always have the best interests of his district and State at heart."

So far as Centre county is concerned, we are glad to assure our friend that it certainly "will go and do likewise."

READ the campaign circulars of John Cessna, Chairman of the Republican State Committee, to be found on the fourth page of the Democrat. They furnish interesting evidence of the tactics that Cessna expects to employ in the contest. Clap-trap, cash and the bloody shirt are the staples to be depended upon.

THE Western Union Telegraph Company, under the direction of William Orton, Esq., was run in the interest of the Republican party, and while there were no palpable attempts made to influence the employees there was an invisible pressure felt by them that caused many whose natural predilections were Democratic to act with the party in whose success their chief had great concern. Under the efficient and business like management of Mr. Green, the present president, things are somewhat different. Mr. Green is an active and hard working Democrat and is enthusiastic for Hancock. This is notice to his army of employees that they can vote as they please and need not fear official displeasure. Mr. Green runs his great corporation on business principles and believes in every one voting to suit himself without dread of feeling the executioner's axe for so doing.

THE returns from the State election held in Arkansas on Monday indicate a Democratic majority of 60,000, and the defeat of the amendment to the Constitution repudiating the payment of certain State bonds.

In the Vermont election held on Tuesday, the Republicans are successful by about their usual majority. Of course, for the purpose of influencing the Maine election, they will claim for a week or so, a greater majority than the actual returns will give them. This has been their usual course in the past and they will do the same thing now.

Gov. ENGLISH, of Connecticut, being interviewed by a correspondent a few days ago, in New York, expressed the opinion that Hancock will carry the State by a much larger majority than Tilden did in 1876, which was 2,900. He says the canvass is progressing satisfactorily, and he has no doubt of the election of the entire Democratic ticket.

"Don't forget the canal boat." So says that immaculate patriot, John Cessna, Chairman of the Republican State Committee. Well, our Republican friends didn't forget it. It appeared in their procession, mules and all, but we believe Garfield with "his trousers rolled up" was not visible.

LABORING men of Centre county! are you prepared to accept John Cessna's measure of your intelligence? He says you "vote through your eyes." See his letter of instructions in another part of this paper.

EX-GOV. CURTIN went to Clearfield on Monday evening. He was booked for a speech at a Democratic mass meeting at Dubois City, in that county, on Tuesday afternoon.

WORKING MEN! how do you like Cessna's insult to your intelligence?

BRIEF AND POINTED COMMUNICATION.—The following communication is so plain that it will not be misunderstood:

MESSENGERS. Editors: History informs us that Potter township is among the oldest townships in the county. The files of the first papers published in the county and those of the present time inform us that Potter township invariably gave the largest Democratic majorities, but neither history nor papers inform us of Centre county having ever made a selection from Potter township to represent the county in the Legislature. It is true Simon Wolf lived in the township a few years and was nominated and elected by the party, but did not live to take his seat. We are now asking the nomination for an old citizen—John Shannon, Esq. He was born, raised and educated in Potter township, and has been voting as a Democrat in the township of his birth for two score of years, and in every instance for the Democratic nominee. We have other reasons for asking the nomination of Mr. Shannon. He is eminently qualified, is possessed of legislative ability, is strictly honest, and a man worthy the confidence of the people.

POTTER.—The Hancock Cadets of Bellefonte, have been organized by Chairman Spangler. The following are the officers: President, E. M. Garman; Vice President, Charles McCartney; Secretary, E. J. Brown; Treasurer, George Schnell; Captain, George Fasig; Assistants, J. McCafferty and W. Gerrity; Executive Committee, W. Gerrity, O. Meyers and V. Koonitz. The cadets will meet Monday and Thursday evenings of each week.