

# The Centre Democrat.

BELLEVILLE, PA.

The Largest, Cheapest and Best Paper  
PUBLISHED IN CENTRE COUNTY.

## Three Twenty-Nine.

From the New York Sun.

What was it that from Ames I took?  
Stowed singly in my pocket took,  
And then resumed my saintly look?

329.

What was it, when the tract was known,  
That made my pious spirit groan  
Till I would have it called a loan?

329.

What, when my case seemed very bad,  
Did I in solemn tones and sad  
Swear that I never, never had?

329.

What did Ames have in black and white  
That showed me up in my true light,  
And left me in a sorry plight?

329.

What were thus proved beyond a doubt  
The figures for which I sold out,  
And which I since have lied about?

329.

What more than any other thing—  
Than salary grab or paying thing—  
My downfall at the polls shall bring?

329.

## THOSE REBEL CLAIMS!

Governor Wiltz and Senator-Elect  
Randall Gibson, of Louisiana, on  
Southern Claims and Alms.

PEACE BETWEEN THE RACES—ORDER AND  
CIVIL SERVICE REFORM THE DESIRE OF  
THE SOUTH TO-DAY.

The following letter, written by Governor Wiltz, of Louisiana, to a gentleman in Illinois, has been handed for publication to the *World*. In connection with an interview, printed below, with Senator-elect Randall Gibson, of Louisiana, now in this city, it may be taken as the voice of Louisiana in regard to the bugaboo of the rebel claims, as well as sundry other matters of great immediate public interest:

STATE OF LOUISIANA, EXECUTIVE DE-  
PARTMENT, NEW ORLEANS,  
December 21, 1880.

Wm. Van Noris, Saybrook, McLean County,  
Illinois.

SIR: I have received and carefully considered your letter of September 14 and the inclosed extract from a printed interview with "Judge Southworth," originally from the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*. The words put into the mouth of the Judge are untrue from beginning to end in every particular—so absurdly false that I cannot see what good they can do to the Republicans in Illinois or elsewhere. Yet, from personal observation during a late prolonged tour in the West and Northwest, I am more than ever convinced that, on the part of many, deep and bitter prejudices are cherished against the people of our Southern States which time alone can cure. They may survive for a score of years longer among the bigoted and ignorant, although generous and intelligent Northern people are getting rid of sentiments so unworthy of them as citizens of a common country who should be at peace in fact as well as in name. I must say here that people who will believe one-half of what Judge Southworth is represented as having said are so grossly benighted that no denial, no facts, no argument can change their notions. All the current charges made against Southern white men by Republican speakers and writers are for the ignorant classes only. These charges are easily made and for the past dozen years Republican speakers and writers have shown great invention in framing them and remarkable perseverance in urging them. Rest assured, sir, that the supply will always be equal to the demand, and that there will not be lacking manufacturers to furnish or political hawkers to peddle out their slanders against the Southern people so long as they are known to influence ignorant voters. These reckless and grossly untruthful charges against us, although a thousand times proved false, will be ten thousand times repeated throughout the Northern States until the day of the election.

While willing to aid in dispelling those prejudices, I expect but little practical benefit from any denials we may make against political defamations; but as an evidence that I appreciate the spirit which prompts intelligent Northern men like yourself to defend us, I will briefly comment on some of the more common accusations.

First—The Southern people have never at any time asked for the payment of their debts, or of any portion of them, by the Federal Government. Each Southern State has now a Democratic Legislature, and most of them have had Democratic legislatures for several years, but no resolution has been adopted or proposed in any Southern Legislature asking from Congress remuneration for property destroyed by war or for slaves emancipated. No Southern journal has set up any such claim. For some years I have been in immediate intercourse with thousands of my fellow-citizens of this and other Southern States, but I am yet to hear the first man, old or young, urge this doctrine or express the hope that such debts will be paid by Congress at any future time. Nor do they murmur at bearing their share of the Federal debt, the interest of which, to a large extent, is paid out of revenues based upon Southern exports. They desire a peaceful, constitutional and economical administration, and this they hope soon to have; but they seek no bounty from the Federal Treasury and they will shrink from no burden which such a Government may impose.

As for Louisiana it was much damaged by the war, but our State was damaged quite as much by misrule under the carpet-baggers—to the extent of more than \$200,000,000. Under pacific administration of the Federal Government and honest and efficient home government our people hope to repair the injuries suffered from intruders after the war; but be assured that they will not seek this reparation from Congress.

Second—It is charged that Southern voters are kept from the polls by violence. In December, 1879, an election was held in Louisiana for State officers, members of the Legislature,

Sheriffs and local magistrates, and at the same time a new constitution was submitted for ratification. More than one hundred and fourteen thousand votes were polled, of which the Republican candidate for Governor received 41,000. Colored voters in great numbers supported the Democratic ticket, which was elected by a majority of more than thirty thousand, while the constitution was ratified by a vote of 85,555 against 26,483. The constitution, framed by a Democratic body, was thus supported by 13,000 Republicans or more. This fact alone is enough to show that the election was peaceful and orderly. I never knew of an election, here or anywhere, more entirely fair and quiet. There was no violence at or near the polls; there were no threats of violence made before, during or after the election; there were no arms shown at the polls; no laborers were discharged or threatened with discharge for exercising their free choice. Our system of legislation is thorough and fair. Our laws require polls to be located for the greatest convenience of voters. The votes of colored men are solicited by the candidates of all parties, and they vote, as do voters elsewhere, according to their personal or political preference. Note this: Our Constitutional Convention in 1879, over which I presided, was in daily session from April 21 to July 23, or over ninety days. Two-thirds of the delegates were Democrats. In all that time no measure, resolution or ordinance was proposed or thought of for taking away, abridging or modifying the right of suffrage of colored citizens. Without a dissenting vote the convention adopted an article (No. 188) declaring that "No qualification of any kind for suffrage or office, nor any restraint upon the same, on account of race, color or previous condition, shall be made by law." That declaration, made by a Democratic body, was ratified by eighty-five thousand voters, and it is now a part of our fundamental law.

Third—The charge is made that the negroes are cheated out of their wages and are made to work for the whites without pay. There is as little of truth as of common sense in this charge. When labor is plenty and the demand limited wages are low; but labor is in demand throughout the more productive regions of the South and fair wages are regularly paid for it. Taking the year through, colored laborers get more than twice the average wages paid in Europe and quite as much as are paid in the Northern States. They are adapted to the climate and familiar with Southern crops. Being unrestrained in their action, they go where they can get the best wages and where they are most needed. If ill-treated they do not return to the same employer, but that seldom happens, because few planters are so unwise as to drive away the laborers on whom they depend for making and securing crops. While perfectly at liberty to emigrate to Kansas or elsewhere, not one in every five hundred of them has gone. Those who were cheated into the "exodus" movement are either coming home or anxious to come. You know that they have the same natural attachment for the land of their birth as white people have. They are providing themselves with home comforts, and now that they are less misguided and deceived by mischievous political adventurers and agitators, they are contented, and steadily gaining ground. In a word their white neighbors are honest, and their relations with them are universally amicable. They have learned that they were greatly damaged by the bad government and high taxes of the carpet-bag dynasty, and they are fast finding out who their best friends are.

Fourth—It is charged that the people of Louisiana are neglecting the education of children—of white children to a great extent and of colored children altogether. We must admit that the enormous losses resulting from the war and the damages, equally as great, resulting from the intrusive radical State and local misrule and spoliation, have left the people of Louisiana too poor to compete with wealthy States in free public education. But what are the facts? Before carpet-bag State rule here we had a free school, seminary and university fund of about a million and a half of dollars, represented by bonds on which the State paid interest for the support of public schools and institutions of learning. Under the carpet baggers, the whole of this fund was embezzled, squandered, diverted to bad uses or frittered away. Yet our Constitutional Convention of 1879, a Democratic body, declared the original fund to be a debt due by the State and made the State Treasury perpetually chargeable thereon for the benefit of public schools, the seminary and university. The same convention appropriated the State poll tax, never less than \$1 per capita, exclusively to public schools. Our State tax is limited to six mills and of this one mill is for educational purposes. The interest on the proceeds of all public bonds granted by the United States, and all future grants, bequests and donations to the State, and all vacant estates falling to the State by escheat, are devoted by the constitution to the same purpose. In addition to these sources of support for schools each parish is authorized to levy a tax for the public schools therein. Funds from all sources are equally distributed according to the number of children of designated age and they are employed impartially for colored children as well as white. There is, moreover, an institution, the Southern University, provided for by constitution and statute exclusively for the education of colored students. Let these facts speak for the slandered white men of Louisiana! The foundation of a thorough school system has been laid again over the ruins of that which the carpet baggers destroyed. If left at peace and favored with prosperity our people will complete and perfect the edifice. The cause of universal education has many devoted supporters all over the state and it is universally encouraged by all classes. Schools for colored children are open every year in all sections for a period as long as the funds will permit, and their instruction is everywhere favored and nowhere opposed or discouraged.

In conclusion let me assure you, and through you all who are interested in our welfare, that the white people of Louisiana expect for themselves and their descendants to remote generations that the colored people and their descendants will be with them as fellow citizens and as joint occupants of the land, and that therefore we desire to see them improve in every respect calculated to make them intelligent, honest, peaceful, law-abiding, thrifty and prosperous. The foregoing statement may correct erroneous impressions elsewhere than in your town and county. You are therefore at liberty to give this letter any circulation or publicity you may deem proper. I have the honor to be your obedient servant,  
LOUIS A. WILTZ,  
Governor of Louisiana.

THE REBEL CLAIMS, REVENUE REFORMS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Senator-elect Randall Gibson, of Louisiana, who is at the New York Hotel, said last night in reply to a *World* reporter's question about Gen. Hancock's letter on the alleged "Southern claims": "I cannot commend that letter too highly. I endorse every word of it. Such an expression from General Hancock was called for and was properly made, but had the Republicans understood how absurd it was to make an add over 'rebel claims,' they would have chosen some other subject. There has never been any talk in any part of the South, so far as I know, certainly not in Louisiana, about making any claim of any kind against the Government. The mere idea would have been laughed to scorn. I do not suppose a single sane ex-slaveholder in the South has ever indulged a hope of compensation for the loss of his property by the war. It was the penalty of war. If the South to-day had the privilege to determine by vote whether or not payment should be made for the freed slaves there would be an overwhelming majority in the negative. The result would be not merely a matter of honor but of self-interest. There were only 350,000 slave-owners in the South before the war—a very small proportion of the total voters. Twenty years have since passed and the negroes also are voters. Of the slave-owners themselves few would vote for such an unjust payment. The men who have grown up and acquired property since slave times would not be taxed for such a purpose and the negroes would vote against it. Thus if the matter were left to the decision of the South no 'rebel claim' would be paid, and so those people at the North who pretend to be alarmed have even less cause for alarm than they thought they had. When it is added that the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution effectually bars such claims, that General Hancock, if elected President, would veto them if presented to him, and that no Southern Congressman who would vote for them would meet the approval of his constituents, I think the subject is disposed of. Really, the 'rebel claim' cry was so absurd that it is a sad commentary upon the degree of intelligence attributed by some Northern Republicans to the people that it had to be put down."

General Gibson further said that the South has no schemes of any kind on hand. She discovered by the result of the war that, as an enemy, the North is too strong for her, and she wants to be in the Union for her own safety and comfort and honor and glory, and under the protection of the Constitution her people wish simply to pursue the avocations of peace. Said General Gibson: "I have received as high honors as my State and city could possibly confer upon me. I am provided for in advance for nine years—in Congress until 1883, and then in the Senate until 1889—and I think that I may speak for Louisiana, if not for the whole South. My views have always been freely expressed and they were well known in my State before the honors referred to were conferred upon me. I am a hard money man and am opposed to repudiation in any form. I voted in 1876 against the repeal of the Resumption act and Louisiana approved my conduct. I am in favor of reforms in the tariff in the direction of free trade, but they should be made gradually and carefully, never to the destruction of interests that depend upon protection. In the matter of the civil service I think there should be a reform according to the Jeffersonian idea. Office-holders who have discharged their duties faithfully, without prostituting their positions to further political ends, should be retained in office whether they are in harmony with the victorious party or not. Every change in the fortunes of parties should not be made a signal for the change of all the holders of office. When General Hancock is President I shall vote in Congress in accordance with this view."

## The Traditions of the Fathers.

Hon. Lyman Trumbull, the Democratic candidate for the Governorship of Illinois, is happier in his replies to interruptions than is John Sherman. In the midst of his recent speech at Duquoin a colored man in the crowd wanted the speaker to tell what he meant by the constitutional doctrines and traditions of the Democratic party. Mr. Trumbull took some pains to give the information, and closed by saying:

"Now then, what we mean by going back to the traditions of the fathers is going back to economy, to simplicity in the government, to an honest administration of its affairs to rescuing the government from the hands of the plunderers; and the traditions of the fathers means that honest, simple, plain government of equality which was announced by Jefferson which all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. [Loud and continued cheering.] And you, my colored friend, I drafted the constitutional amendment that made you free [renewed cheers and waving of hats], and more than that, after that constitutional amendment was adopted and you could not get your civil rights—there were laws in the Southern States that would not allow you to go where you pleased, and to make contracts and enforce them—this hand drew the civil rights bill that protected you in your civil rights. [Renewed cheers.] And

now I suppose you will allow some man to come along here to Duquoin and say: 'Oh! these Democrats want to enslave us.' Who made you free? Sumner and Chase and Greeley—were not we the men that did it? And every one of them you came out against, misled by the falsehoods and slanders and lies of parties that go through the community and charge upon the Democratic party that they want to re-establish slavery. Nobody but a fool would believe it."

## Garfield and the Tariff.

HIS RECORD IN CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF FREE TRADE AND PROTECTION.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

The Republican politicians have been most unfortunate in their selection of issues for the presidential canvass. In the first instance they undertook to make their campaign on a revival of the sectional question with the bloody shirt as their battle-flag. The defeat in Maine sent them to the right-about and they have chosen to fight with another battle-cry, the ancient slogan of the whigs, a "tariff for protection." But their inconsistency and insincerity in this attempt to revive an old issue are so evident that it is plain they have blundered again. They cannot ask nor expect the confidence of the people in their pretense of favoring a tariff for protection with a candidate for president whose whole record is but a testimony of his devotion to free trade principles. We reprint below the record of General Garfield in congress on the tariff question and challenge the Republican papers to deny its correctness:

## TEA AND COFFEE.

On the 7th of July, 1866, General Garfield delivered a speech in the house of representatives at Washington, in committee of the whole, in which he endorsed the tariff system of Great Britain as follows:

"Mr. Garfield. I desire to call the attention of the committee to two or three points which have a bearing on this subject and to give the reason why I hope we will not reduce the duty either on tea or coffee. In the first place it is the genius of our whole system, and the experience of the government has approved it, that the best way of raising revenue is to impose duties on the fewest possible articles. Twenty-five years ago in England there were more than 1,400 different articles on which duty was imposed and now they have been so reduced that upon five articles more than half the revenue of the country is collected. In England in 1862 \$354,000,000 of revenue were raised, and of that sum \$189,000,000 were derived from five articles, namely: fermented, malt and spirituous liquors, and tea, coffee and tobacco and sugar in their various forms."

"I say that these five articles afforded the government of Great Britain \$189,000,000 of its revenue, the total of which was \$354,000,000. Thus almost two-thirds of the revenues were raised from five articles, and two of the five were coffee and tea. Twenty-two millions five hundred thousand dollars were raised in Great Britain in the year 1865 on tea alone, and the consumption of that article is steadily increasing in that country. It is now two and seven-tenths pounds per capita of the population, whereas in this country the consumption, though increasing, has reached only one pound per capita. I say then that we have no article which the experience of all financial nations shows can better bear the duty without reducing the consumption than tea."

"Furthermore, this is one of the few articles on which we can levy a duty without duplication of taxation and without directly involving other interests. It is a simple and plain question of revenue. There is no other article into which it enters as an element."—*Congressional Globe*, Part IV, 1st session 39th Congress, pp. 3657-3658.

The idea of those who favor a protective tariff is to levy duties on such products of foreign countries as are also produced in this country rather than on products like tea and coffee which have no place in American industry. The British system is exactly the opposite and for that system Gen. Garfield contended in the speech from which the foregoing quotation has been made.

In 1869 General Garfield was elected an honorary member of the Cobden Club of England, an association organized for the purpose of disseminating free trade doctrines throughout the world.

On February 19, 1872, the proposition to place tea and coffee on the free list was again made in Congress. The protectionists favored the proposition because tea and coffee are not produced in this country and because they desired to raise revenues from articles in the production of which our people compete with those of foreign countries. Therefore all the members of congress from Pennsylvania, including Hon. W. D. Kelley, voted for the repeal of the duties on tea and coffee. General Garfield voted against the repeal.—*See Congressional Globe*, 2d session, 42d Congress, part II, p. 1118.

## FOREIGN COAL.

On the 13th of March, 1871, the following joint resolution was passed by the House of Representatives:

"Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the passage of this joint resolution no tax or duty shall be levied or collected on foreign coal."

On the passage of this resolution General Garfield voted aye.—*See Congressional Globe*, Part I, 42d Congress, p. 83.

During the debate in the House on the above bill, March 10, 1871, Gen. Garfield said:

"But I desire to ask gentlemen whether, considering the odium that the whole tariff has to bear in consequence of this duty on coal, they think it wise to perpetuate this tax, which is of so little value either to the whole country or the treasury. I think it unwise to continue this duty on coal and I am therefore in favor of its repeal."—*Congressional Globe*, Part I, 1st session 42d Congress.

The Hon. W. D. Kelley and all other members of Congress in favor of protection voted against this joint resolution repealing the duty on coal.

## FOREIGN IRON, ETC.

During the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress the tariff on pig iron was raised from \$6 to \$9 per ton. On page 3312, part IV, of the *Congressional Globe* of 1864, June 27, we find James A. Garfield voting to reduce the proposed tariff on railroad iron from eighty down to sixty cents per hundred pounds, and on the final vote on raising the tariff his vote is not recorded. On the reduction of the duty on railroad iron he voted in opposition to every protective tariff man in the House, including such men as Judge Kelley, Thaddeus Stevens and General J. K. Moorhead. In 1870 the duty of \$9 per ton on pig iron was reduced to \$7 per ton. General Garfield voted for the reduction. In 1872 a bill making a reduction of ten per cent. in the duties on wools, iron and steel passed Congress. This bill provided:

"That on and after the 1st day of August, 1872, in lieu of the duties imposed by law on the articles in this section enumerated, there shall be levied, collected and paid on goods, wares and merchandise in this section enumerated and provided for imported from foreign countries, ninety per centum of the several duties and rates of duty now imposed by law upon said articles severally, it being the intent of this section to reduce existing duties on said articles ten per centum of such duties, that is to say:

"On all wools.  
"On all iron and steel, and on all manufactures of iron and steel, of which metals, or either of them, shall be the component part of chief value, excepting cotton machinery."

The vote of General Garfield on the passage of this tariff bill on June 6, 1872, will be found in the *Congressional Globe*, Part V., 2d session 42d Congress, p. 3,652. It is recorded aye.

Thus it will be seen that General Garfield voted in favor of every reduction of the tariff on foreign iron during the last sixteen years.

## VIEWSON FREE TRADE.

In a debate on the tariff question in the House of Representatives, on July 10, 1866, 39th Congress, General Garfield said:

"I am willing as a compromise to favor the reduction of the proposed duty on railroad iron, and I presume the committee on railroads will agree with me in this. I think we should also reduce the proposed duty on salt and I have no doubt in several other particulars we will reduce the rate of duty."

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens replied with this question:

"Why not come out honestly and accept the proposition of the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. Wilson, who favored a tariff for revenue only] which is a much more ingenious one?"

To which General Garfield responded that

"Against the abstract doctrine of free trade as such very little can be said. As a theory there is much to commend it. But it can never be applied to values except in time of peace."

On April 1, 1870, the following debate took place in the House of Representatives between General Garfield and Hon. W. D. Kelley of Philadelphia:

"Mr. Garfield: As an abstract theory of political economy free trade has many advocates and much can be said in its favor; nor will it be denied that the scholarship of modern times is largely on that side; that a large majority of the great thinkers of the present day are leading in the direction of what is called free trade."

"Mr. Kelley: The gentleman says that no man will deny that the tendency of opinion among scholars is toward free trade. I beg leave to deny it, and do most positively. The tendency of opinion among the scholars of the continent is very decidedly towards protection. This is strikingly illustrated by the recent publication in six of the languages of the continent of the voluminous writings of Henry C. Carey, and their adoption as text books in the schools of Prussia. I think the gentleman's proposition is true of the English speaking people of the world, but that the preponderant tendency is the other way."—*See Appendix to Congressional Globe*, 2d session, 41st Congress, p. 268.

## A Democratic Methuselah.

BENJ. BROWNFIELD, AGED 101 YEARS, MAKES A HANCOCK SPEECH.

From the Philadelphia Times.

An interesting meeting was held by the Democrats of Monroe, Fayette county, on Saturday night last. Col. Benjamin Brownfield, a wealthy farmer, aged 101 years, presided. There were six vice presidents on the platform with him, whose united ages reach 509 years. Colonel Brownfield, in opening the meeting, said:

"Providence has been very kind to me in prolonging my life and blessing me with health and strength. I have lived to be 101 years old. This is a great age. In my earlier days I took an active part in politics. I have mingled with your fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers on occasions like this in days long gone in the past. I voted for Thomas Jefferson for president in 1800. We had the same question up

then that we have now, whether this was a Government of unlimited power or a government of a few simple functions expressly granted by the constitution. Mr. Jefferson contended that the great mass of the powers of our government remained with the states, while Mr. Adams and his party contended for a strong central government to override the State governments. I never missed a presidential election. I voted twice for Jefferson, twice for Madison, twice for Monroe and three times for General Jackson. I voted for Van Buren and also for Polk, Cass, Pierce, Buchanan, Douglass, McClellan, Seymour, Greeley and Tilden, and I hope to live to vote for General Hancock, and as the result of my long experience I would advise you to vote for him too."

The vice presidents were: John Trautman, 94 years; Colonel James Gardner, 86; James Snyder, 85; L. M. Clawson, 82; Geo. Morrison, 81, and Thomas Semans, 81.

## \$329.

"I never owned, received or agreed to receive any stock of the Credit Mobilier or of the Union Pacific Railroad nor any dividends or profits arising from either of them." So swore James A. Garfield, January 11, 1873, before the Poland investigating committee.

The Committee, a majority of them Republicans, unanimously reported that he did receive ten shares of Credit Mobilier stock—that he received \$329 balance of dividends after paying for his stock.

"This sum was paid over to Mr. Garfield by check on the Sergeant at arms and Mr. Garfield then understood this sum was the balance of dividends after paying for his stock."

## That Letter.

Judge Black says that General Garfield agreed to take the Credit Mobilier stock, "and did actually take dividends upon it." This was the statement which General Garfield himself made to him. "Fearing that his political friends might influence him to depart from it, I wrote him, beseeching him to stand fast upon the defense he had made to me, but his party would not let him." The Republicans have been fond of quoting Judge Black. Will they now produce the letter alluded to above? It is in General Garfield's personal possession, and if it does not prove that he confessed privately facts which he publicly denied under oath, he will not be slow in publishing it.

GRANT is now doing what no other ex-President ever did before, acting as chairman of political meetings. He did this at Warren, Ohio, last week, and in one of his flashes of wisdom said in his speech: "There is not a precinct in this vast nation where a Democrat cannot cast his ballot and have it counted as cast." This was said by a man who, in November, 1876, sent a lot of partisan scoundrels to Louisiana, where they fraudulently fixed up the election returns so that the Democrats in that State were not permitted to have their ballots "counted as cast," but were shamelessly robbed of that right, and who, as President, took care to concentrate in and about Washington enough soldiers to enforce the outrage of the Returning Board at the point of the bayonet, and to put a man into the Presidential chair who had never been elected. Could brazen impudence surpass Grant's present professed devotion to the sacredness of the American ballot?—*Camden Freeman*.

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