

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, December 23, 1880.

A Word for Ourselves.

With this issue we close the second volume of the DEMOCRAT—having laid before our readers fifty-two numbers during the past year. We deem it proper to say at this time that when we entered upon our enterprise two years ago we were disturbed in mind by a few adverse surroundings that did not fail to arouse fears of our success in establishing a new paper, and cause us to look to the future with some distrust. Notwithstanding the disadvantages with which we were obliged to contend, we persevered in our work, and to-day it is a gratification to realize that our strongest fears were unfounded. Kind friends, and, we believe, appreciative readers, quickly and generously came to our support, and from the day on which our first issue appeared until the present time we have had a steadily growing list of subscribers. In the various departments that go to make up a useful, entertaining and instructive newspaper we have endeavored to meet the expectations of our subscribers, and if we have failed in any particular it has not been because of honest effort and labor on our part.

To the many kind friends throughout Centre county and elsewhere who have so generously aided us in the past two years—giving us support and encouragement—words fail to express our gratitude. We can only say, "accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks." The steady patronage accorded us, and the gradual increase to our list, encourage the belief that the effort to furnish a first-class country paper, at the lowest possible price for prompt advance payment, is received with a fair appreciation. We did not establish this paper with a view to rival our contemporaries or interfere with legitimate business, but to establish a living occupation for ourselves in a business to which we had devoted our early days. In adopting low rates we did it advisedly, to encourage prompt payment and prevent the accumulation of bills, as much for the benefit of the subscriber as for the publisher. We have thus far refrained from making any public demand upon our subscribers who are in arrears, but will be obliged to them—few though they are in number—if they will now favor us with a prompt payment of such amounts as are now due us.

With these words we will rely upon a generous public for a fair share of patronage in the future, and enter upon our third year with renewed hope and courage, and shall work with a determined purpose to make THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT a welcome visitor to its patrons. The first number of the third volume of the DEMOCRAT will appear on Thursday morning, January 6, 1881.

And now, at this happy and joyous time, as we are about to celebrate with praise, song and festivity the advent of Christianity to the World, and to bid adieu to the closing year and welcome the approach of the new, we will close this desultory talk about ourselves by extending to every one the greeting of "A merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

CONGRESS adjourned yesterday for the usual holiday recess, and will not convene again until Wednesday, the 6th of January. Several of the appropriation bills have already been disposed of by the house; and all the legislation necessary for the proper administration of the government can easily be passed between the 6th of January and the 4th of March, unless the Republicans continue to impede the transaction of business for the purpose of forcing an extra-session.

A Permanent Democratic Club.

There has been serious talk of forming a permanent Central Democratic Club in Bellefonte which shall embrace a membership taken from all parts of the county. We regard this proposition as one of great moment to the efficient and thorough organization of our party in Centre county. Now of all other times is it necessary for the young and active Democrats every where to reform our broken lines and nerve the rank and file of the party for the shock of future battle. The defiant and aggressive attitude of the Republican leaders, who, flushed with victory and gorged with power, boldly proclaim the coming of the Empire and the overthrow of free, elective government, should make the organization of Jeffersonian Democratic Associations in every portion of the county a necessity as well as a duty. The modern representative of the imperial ideas of Hamilton, will on the 4th of next March occupy his bribe-bought position of President of the United States. Every aid that can be given to the enemies of our institutions will be accorded by him in fulfillment of the treaty of Mentor. The whole machinery of government will be used to further the schemes of these men who seek to erect upon the ruins of the Republic a strong government after the cast off model of Hamilton. Now is the time, therefore, for Democrats to form permanent clubs and thus educate themselves to the supreme necessities which the future will impose upon them.

We notice that many of the Hancock clubs throughout the State and Nation are continuing their organizations, and are appropriately calling themselves "Jeffersonian," in honor of the immortal author of the Declaration of Independence, the founder of the Democratic party and the apostle of free government, Thomas Jefferson. Judge J. S. Black, in a letter accepting membership in the Jeffersonian club, of York, Pa., enjoins in patriotic language the formation of these societies to the end that the party of constitutional liberty should be at all times armed and ready to meet the assaults of the enemy. Here, in Centre county, there is an opportunity of organizing a club that will become a power in the politics of the county. The material is all upon the ground. All that is necessary is to engage the interest of the young and aggressive men of the party in the project and it will at once spring into full fledged existence. Think of this Democrats, and don't allow the occasion to pass. Preserve your organization and be ready for the foe. "He is thrice armed who is armed for the right."

MR. HAYES has at last issued the order relieving Gen. John M. Schofield from the command of West Point and assigning Gen. O. O. Howard to that important position. In the eyes of the stalwarts, who will insist upon mixing the races in the military school, Gen. Schofield has been guilty of a crime that cannot be condoned. That accomplished soldier could not be persuaded that the colored cadet, Whittaker, did not slit his own ears—hence he must make way for another. Well, if Gen. Howard takes no better care of the interests of the "wards of the nation" at West Point than he did when he was at the head of the freedman's bureau and the swindling freedman's bureau bank, we greatly fear they will not fare any better in the future than they did under the superintendency of Gen. Schofield.

MRS. KATE CHASE SPRAGUE has filed a petition for divorce from her husband, Ex-Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island. Her petition presents a fearful indictment against him, which, if true, will certainly justify the course she has taken in escaping from his brutality. Sprague, however, denies and asserts that the charges are false in all particulars.

The Conkling-Bayard Dispute.

The four foolish men—Senator Conkling, ex-Secretary Boutwell, Vice President-elect Arthur and Judge Noah Davis—who have recently got in a wrangle with Senator Bayard over an allusion made in a campaign speech by the latter to the infamous extortion practised a few years ago upon the firm of Phelps, Dodge & Co., of New York, by the custom house officials of that city—are receiving more than they bargained for. The prominent statesmen first named, with the exception of Secretary Boutwell, were all parties to the compromise made with the firm. The transaction was at the time denounced as disgraceful to the government, and the honorable gentlemen will find before they are done with Mr. Bayard that they had better remained silent. The best statement of the facts in the case that we have yet seen appeared in the Philadelphia Times, Tuesday of last week. It reads as follows:

"The question between Mr. Conkling and Mr. Bayard appears to be one of parliamentary language, but the public at large is much less interested in the dispute whether Mr. Bayard used the precise language ascribed to him by the reporter, than in the larger question whether the statement which Mr. Bayard acknowledges having made was true. This we do not understand Mr. Conkling to deny, and indeed it would be impossible to deny it in the face of the testimony before the Congressional committee. Briefly stated the matter of Phelps, Dodge & Co., was this. A detective employed by the Treasury Department discovered a mistake of about \$1,600 in one of Phelps, Dodge & Co.'s invoices. It is not pretended that this mistake was intentional, but under the then existing laws it made the entire invoice, amounting to \$1,750,000, liable to confiscation. The District Attorney then goes to the importers and tells them he has engaged seven eminent lawyers to prosecute them, but that they may settle for \$271,000. After a great deal of terrorizing this sum is exacted from them; but it is not paid into the Treasury. The District Attorney, the Collector, Surveyor and Naval Officer and the informer divide it—for such was, in effect, the law which Mr. Bayard was largely instrumental in having repealed—and Mr. Noah Davis testified with great reluctance that Senator Conkling was one of those who were present and assisting when the 'settlement' was made. This is not a campaign allegation; it is a summary of the facts presented in the official testimony, and it will seem to most persons a waste of time to dispute about the precise language which Senator Bayard employed to characterize such a transaction. It had the sanction of a law enacted for the very purpose of plunder, so that it was not technically theft; but morally it was more iniquitous than many a crime that has consigned common folk to the penitentiary."

GEN. SHERMAN, referring to the message of Mr. Hayes recommending Congress to provide a soft place for Gen. Grant, expresses the opinion in a letter to a friend, that there is already "too much rank" in the service for a small army. That he cannot discover "what a Captain-General would have to do." An old soldier like Gen. Sherman ought not to be in doubt as to the service that would devolve upon the "Captain-General." He would have to draw his salary from the National Treasury, and that is all that is contemplated for Mr. Grant. Since the close of the war, whether in public or private life, he has deservedly earned the title of "the National beggar," and this is only to give respectability to begging and require Uncle Samuel to be one of the contributors.

GROW's chances for the Senate seem to be *Growing*, and the probability now is that Boss Cameron will have to accept the situation and withdraw his light guns at least. He cannot expect to succeed with the artillery of such small calibre as they manufacture in Pittsburg. Hoyt, it appears, is hand-capped by previous pledges which his immediate constituents in Luzerne are not willing he shall ignore.

WE do not in the least object to our good friends of the Altoona Sun transferring editorial paragraphs from the DEMOCRAT to their own editorial columns, but when they do so, a spirit of courtesy might move them to give the customary credit.

It will be remembered that when Mr. Bicknell, of Indiana, called up the joint rule for counting the electoral vote which had passed the Senate and asked for its consideration in the House, he was met at every step by a most determined opposition from the Republican members under the lead of Geo. M. Robeson, of New Jersey. Filibustering of the worst kind was resorted to, the Republican members refusing to vote when their names were called, thus destroying a quorum. On Tuesday this same Robeson, with sublime effrontery, introduced a joint resolution to almost the same effect as Mr. Bicknell and submitted it as a question of privilege in order to delay action upon the funding bill of Mr. Fernando Wood, then pending. This is the most disgraceful piece of political chicanery yet resorted to, and could only have emanated from the man who is publicly charged before the world with dishonestly administering the affairs of the Navy Department while its Secretary. Secor Robeson is surely fit for "treason, stratagem and spoils."

WE call attention to the open letter of Col. John W. Forney to A. T. Goshorn to be found on the second page of this paper. It is a scathing review of the methods used by the Republicans to debauch the elections of the people. This exposure of John Welsh and his corruption fund should command the attention of all honest citizens, of whatever party affiliation, who desire a pure ballot. On our fourth page will also be found the paper of Senator Wallace, published in the January number of the *North American Review* on the "Past and Future of the Democracy" which also deserves a careful reading. It is a clear and terse presentation of the aims and purposes of the Democratic party, and, like everything that comes from this able and accomplished public man, will elicit favorable comment from Democrats.

SENATOR THOMPSON retired from the Navy Department on Monday last to occupy the presidency of M. de Lessep's Panama Company. Secretary Ramsey took formal charge of the Navy, to give Mr. Hayes an opportunity to search for a suitable Ohio man to occupy the vacant office. If a suitable man cannot be found in Ohio, our Harry White is not far from the Ohio line, and might be induced to accept.

THE Brooklyn, N. Y., people are again disturbed by the revival of the war among the Presbyterian clergymen. This time it is as to whether the Rev. Dr. Talmage is a liar. It might be worthy of inquiry in pious circles whether lying has not become respectable even when accompanied by an oath. Some of our goody-goody men seem to think and vote in that direction.

IN Texas, Hancock's majority over all the candidates is 85,000, which will give him a plurality over Garfield on the popular vote of the United States of about 15,000. It is useless for our friends of the Bellefonte *Republican* to exhibit any more concern about the fact of Garfield being a minority President.

THE Allegheny representatives in the State legislature have at last adopted a resolution to support Harry Oliver for United States Senator and Mr. Oliver has consented to the use of his name for the position. Grow or Oliver! Which? It makes little difference to the Democracy.

THE situation in Ireland becomes more critical every day. It will be very difficult to avoid a serious conflict between the peasantry and the military, unless a happy and unexpected change occurs in a few days.

MOST of the Republican Senators indicate a desire for a special session of Congress. This is the only fair explanation of their dilatory motions and votes.

THE Hon. Schuyler Colfax smiles himself out of the ring of candidates for the Indiana Senatorship which he was apprehensive the Garfield Republicans might thrust upon him. But why should he? Garfield's connection with the Credit Mobilier swindle has been condoned and why should not the same measure of mercy be meted out to Colfax? Let smiling Schuyler come to the front. It is true they both told barefaced lies; but the one is no worse than the other.

PROPOSITIONS for a new bankrupt law are now pending in both houses of Congress. The pressure for a new bankrupt act is very strong from all the business centres. It is looked upon as probable that some effort may be made to pass a law at this session, but it is scarcely expected that it will succeed. The next Congress, however, will, it is believed, take hold of the matter in earnest and enact some proper legislation on the subject.

IT having been discovered that Boss Cameron could not provide seats in the Senate for all the distinguished Republicans of Pittsburg, a meeting of the Representatives-elect was held and decided to give him his trusty lieutenant, Harry Oliver. Kennedy Moorehead, George Shiras and Judge Agnew will probably step over the line into Ohio and qualify themselves for members of the Cabinet or Foreign Missions. As Ohio men they will be invincible.

MARSHAL KERNS, of Philadelphia, has filed accounts in the Department of Justice, at Washington, for the pay of his shoulder-hitters, cycled deputy marshals and supervisors of the last election, for the sum of \$62,470.00, of which \$55,120.00 is for supervisors. These valuable aids to Republican success are an expensive luxury to be added to the ordinary expenses of Philadelphia elections, which could be dispensed with without injury to the public service.

MORMON enterprise is not favorably received in Idaho. The governor of that territory, in his message to the legislature, complains that polygamy is being rapidly introduced into the territory from Utah, and calls for stringent measures to crush out the practice.

MR. HAYES has found room for another Ohio man. Judge Wood appointed to succeed Judge Strong upon the bench of the supreme court of the United States is appointed ostensibly from Alabama, but he is a native of the Buckeye State and a carpet bagger.

GOV. CHARLES FOSTER has retired from the Senatorial contest in Ohio. This renders the election of John Sherman certain beyond any reasonable doubt. Foster will no doubt be given a position in Garfield's Cabinet as a reward for his retirement from the Ohio muddle.

GEN. GRANT, after smiling at the flunkies in Washington and receiving their adulations for a few days, has gone back to New York to attend to Roscoe's senatorial business.

The census authorities are having considerable trouble in completing their count of the population of the States. There are yet twelve counties to be heard from in Pennsylvania, including such large districts as Chester, Delaware and Lancaster. In one of the oil district counties a new count will have to be made, because the enumerator sent in a list in which he neglected to designate whether the persons were male or female, white or black. In New Jersey, Burlington city was not separated from the county of the same name, and the town of Bordentown was not separated from the township. In Philadelphia Moyamensing Prison and the Eastern Penitentiary were not canvassed, so far as known, and a couple of other institutions were left out. Twelve districts are missing in New York and twenty-four in Ohio. These oversights or carelessness will keep the report back for a couple of weeks yet.

The peanut crop of Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina this year is over two million bushels, worth about \$2,000,000. Peanut shells are largely used to adulterate ground coffee.

Church Statistics.

OF REFORMED AND LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Reformed church almanac for 1881 contains a statistical summary of the Reformed church in the United States, as follows: Synod of United States, 9 classes, 208 ministers, 437 congregations, 64,687 communicant, and 38,878 unconfirmed members. Synod of Ohio, 11 classes, 148 ministers, 298 congregations, 21,250 communicants and 11,014 unconfirmed members. Synod of the Northwest, 11 classes, 162 ministers, 244 congregations, 22,080 communicant and 16,200 unconfirmed members. Synod of Pittsburg, 5 classes, 26 ministers, 121 congregations, 11,027 communicant and 7,983 unconfirmed members. Synod of Potomac, 7 classes, 138 ministers, 266 congregations, 27,264 communicant and 15,692 unconfirmed members. German synod of the East, 5 classes, 44 ministers, 39 congregations, 9,503 communicant and 5,695 unconfirmed members. Total—6 synods, 48 classes, 748 ministers, 1,405 congregations, 155,857 communicant and 96,463 unconfirmed members.

LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Lutheran almanac for 1881 has been issued and gives the following statistics: General synod, 24 district synods, 83 ministers, 1,359 congregations and 132,418 communicants. General synod south, 5 synods, 102 ministers, 162 congregations and 13,800 communicants. General council, 10 synods, 623 ministers, 1,174 congregations and 175,770 communicants. Synodical conference, 5 synods, 1,205 ministers, 2,072 congregations and 291,916 communicants. Independent, 12 synods, 363 ministers, 916 congregations and 80,478 communicants.

A Remedy for Diphtheria.

At a meeting of the Brooklyn board of aldermen, on Monday the 15th inst., a communication was received from a lady in Williamsport, which the *Herald* printed on Tuesday. She said that she was the mother of six children, all of whom had been afflicted with the dreaded disease and were cured by the following remedy: "Take a slice of fat bacon—side meat—the older the better; sew it on a soft piece of flannel; then saturate it with cold (petroleum) oil. Place it on the neck, having the meat reach from ear to ear. After pounding several raw onions into a poultice, place enough of the same into the patient's stockings to cover the soles of the feet, and have the patient put the stockings on. The poultice must be warm in order not to chill the patient. The throat should then be gargled with some tomato catsup, strong with red pepper, salt and vinegar, or pepper, salt and vinegar shaken well together will do. If the patient is too young to gargle, wet the throat with a few drops. If vomiting occurs lime water rebased at a drug store with direct should be given. Be sure to cause irritation on the neck."

The communication was referred to the board of health.

Cure for Scarlet Fever.

Recently there appeared in the *Altoona Tribune*, from the pen of its Hollidaysburg correspondent, a cure for scarlet fever, which is as follows: "Take one fourth pound each of sulphur, gunpowder and saltpetre, pulverize fine and mix well. A teaspoon even full makes two doses for a grown person; four doses for a child 9 years; six doses for 6 years old, etc. Repeat every half hour until the patient is better. If fever rises the next day, give powders as before, day after day until the fever is broken. If the throat is sore take one pod of red pepper, put in a pint of good vinegar; boil it a little, put the decoction in a coffee pot and let the patient suck the spout and swallow the steam. Wet a flannel in the hot vinegar and pepper and put it around the neck. When dry, wet again. Keep the bowels right with castor oil."

The same, by request, was published in the same paper at another time and in addition the correspondent says: "Thirty five years ago Dr. Samuel Gast treated sixty three cases in Frankstown township in this way without losing a single patient, and not one case has proved fatal the present season that has been treated in the same way."

The following is the substance of a bill for the repeal of the tax on bank checks, bank capital in excess of the amount held in Government bonds and bank deposits, which has been introduced in the House by Representative Levi P. Morton: First, That the first subdivision of section 3408 of the Revised Statutes be repealed. Second, That section 3418 of the Revised Statutes be repealed. Third, That section 5214 of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows: Section 5214. In lieu of all existing taxes every association shall pay to the Treasurer of the United States in the months of January and July a duty of one-half of one per centum each half year upon the average amount of its notes in circulation, and a duty of one-quarter of one per centum each half year on the average amount of its capital stock beyond the amount invested in United States bonds.

Mrs. Charles H. Byer, wife of a farmer living ten miles from Bloomington, Ill., was a few days ago accidentally knocked into a well by a pet cow which she was watering suddenly turning its head and striking her. The lady kept her head above the water for three hours until her situation was discovered and she was rescued; but she died from exhaustion and exposure.