

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, January 20, 1881.

A COMMITTEE of Congress is now investigating themselves for abuse of the franking privilege. Doubtless the developments will be fearful—sufficient to oust the whole body.

GEN'L HARRIS M. PLAISTED, the Fusion Governor-elect of Maine, was inaugurated last week, and delivered a creditable inaugural address, which is highly complimented by all parties.

MR. CONGER, who has been elected to the Senate from Michigan, comes from a minority representative district. Combining the Democratic and Greenback vote, at the last election, Conger was in a minority of 1500. In the election of Mr. Conger's successor, a fusion of the minority parties might bring a very important and inconvenient result to Republican supremacy.

JOHN SHERMAN has been elected Senator from Ohio. It is now rumored that he is to resign to take a position in the cabinet of Mr. Garfield, and that Gov. Foster is to supply the Senatorial vacancy. These events, which are certainly very improbable, are said to be the result of the bargain by which Gov. Foster stepped aside from the Senatorial contest.

It is said Conkling is mad! He claims the right, in virtue of his distinguished services in the campaign, to name the man for Secretary of the Treasury, who is Morton, his millionaire follower of New York. The President-elect, it seems, has different views, but will allow him to dictate who shall be Secretary of War, or of the Navy or Attorney-General. This is not satisfactory to the imperious Senator. He sulks as usual.

THE committee of the House military affairs, to whom was referred the bill of Mr. Cook to place Gen. Grant on the retired list of the army, with the pay of a Major-General for life, have reported adversely. Gen. Grant has already received more for a few years' service than any man ever before received in a lifetime for service of equal merit, and this constant demand for more is becoming disgusting in the extreme.

EARLY ON THE MOVE. The Hon. Eckley B. Cox, of Luzerne, and the Hon. William P. Schell, late Auditor General, are favorably mentioned as Democratic candidates for Governor. It is perhaps a little previous to agitate the question of candidates for 1882, but in a search for honest, capable men, whether now or hereafter, public attention cannot fail to light upon the distinguished men above named.

AN INSTITUTE has been organized in Boston which has for its object "to reorganize human society on its proper basis." Yankee ingenuity is equal almost to any emergency, and if the basis aimed at has reference to equality of rights between the rich and poor—between working men and capital tyranny, such a society is much needed in the "Puritan States," and ought to receive encouragement. By all means let a strong branch be located in Rhode Island.

It is reported that the ensuing Legislature of Texas will make provision for the creation of three new States, as stipulated in the terms of the joint resolution annexing Texas to the United States. It is claimed that only the consent of Texas is required for the admission of these States—the joint resolution having made specific provision for the admission of the new States of convenient size. It is more than likely there will be a large amount of talk and more filibustering before the terms of the joint resolution will have the effect which the Texans claim for it.

Corporate Power.

The recent thoughtful and able article in *Scribner's Magazine*, and Judge J. S. Black's scathing letter to the New York Chamber of Commerce, have done much to challenge intelligent consideration of the great danger which threatens the safety of our institutions from the increasing power and greatly augmented wealth of the railroad monopolies of the country. These two documents emanated from widely different sources but they reach the same disheartening conclusions. It is clearly demonstrated that we are to-day dominated in every branch of the Government by the incorporated capital of the land. The Goulds, Vanderbilts and Huntingdons are the real fountains of political power, and their abject dependents are found in every station, from the judge upon the bench to the insignificant member of the State legislature. Popular elections are popular farces and the will of the people is subverted at the bidding of the corporate interests of the country. The constitutions of States are ignored and their provisions ruthlessly disregarded. Subservient legislatures, by cunningly devised statutes, render the organic law abortive and powerless. Incorporated capital invades the Congress of the nation and endeavors to defeat legislation which may affect its interests. It lays its hand upon State legislatures and bids them reject men of known capacity and ability for United States Senators, and accept those whose only claim to such distinction is in the possession of great wealth. Thus while the people slept has a plutocracy arisen in their midst more powerful and despotic than kings or emperors. The Republican party is responsible for this. Its leaders first resorted to the use of money in carrying elections, in debauching courts and bribing legislators. The lobby was unknown in the days of Democratic ascendancy, but under the sway of the Republican party it was more powerful than the two Houses of Congress themselves. The great railroad magnates had sumptuous apartments in the capitol of the nation, and here came the unfaithful representatives of the people to bow before the god of gold. Subsidies, gifts and gigantic land grants burdened the statute books, while the people groaned beneath a constantly increasing load of indiscriminate taxation. The great banking institutions had but to command and they were obeyed. This was the state of affairs when the Democratic party came into power and place in the Congress of the United States. The lobby—that standing disgrace of national legislation—was routed horse and foot. Allen G. Thurman, the fearless Democratic Senator from Ohio, forced an arrogant and powerful railway company to disgorge a part of the money it owed the government. The era of subsidies was past, thanks to the benign influence of Democratic statesmanship. But incorporated capital bided its time. Every Senator and member of Congress who had the courage to place himself upon the side of the people against organized monopoly was marked, and one by one they have fallen. Thurman, McDonald, Eaton and Wallace with a score of members of the House have gone down before the onslaughts of wealth. Hancock, the peerless representative of all that was best and purest in our hopes of the future, fell transfixed by a lance from the hands of incorporated capital. The lower branch of Congress has been wrested from Democratic control and at once we hear that a powerful lobby is in Washington to prevent, if possible, the passage of Representative Reagan's inter-State commerce bill this session. The Republican members are to act as obstructionists to the end that the bill may go over to the next House where the railroad interests will be omnipotent. Thus is the line sharply drawn. The Republican party is the especial

champion of capital while the Democrats would be just to the whole people. On the one hand we have the fostering of wealth at the expense and at the sacrifice of a thousand smaller and less ambitious interests, while on the other we have the careful and conscientious care of all interests, building none up at the expense of the other, but giving to all the same statesmanlike supervision. Such a state of affairs will come when the masses properly appreciate the danger of a further increase of the almost limitless power of railway, steamship and telegraph monopolies. With such an awakening will come the restoration of the Democratic party to the control of the affairs of State.

The Car Works Sold.

We take great pleasure in conveying to the numerous readers of the DEMOCRAT the gratifying intelligence of the sale of the Bellefonte Car Works. How often this announcement has been made only to be contradicted, none but the oldest inhabitant can tell. This time, however, there is no mistake. Ex-Gov. Curtin, the owner of the works, has disposed of them to William Lawson, Esq., a wealthy English gentleman at present residing in New York. Mr. Lawson is a gentleman of large means and has likewise a thorough knowledge of all the details of the business. His abundant capital will enable him to conduct the business upon an extensive scale. We are informed that important alterations and repairs will be made on the buildings, thus transforming them into the most complete and convenient works in the State. In the meantime the purchase of necessary machinery is being made in New York and other eastern cities and will be shipped here as soon as the buildings can be prepared for its reception. Mr. W. H. Law, of Milton, it is said, will be the Superintendent, and if so it is fortunate for the proprietor of the works, as Mr. Law is known as a capable and thoroughly trained machinist who enjoys an enviable reputation as manager of a similar business in the central part of the State. We congratulate the people of Bellefonte both upon the sale of the Car Works and the character of the purchaser. Mr. Lawson is spoken of by those who have met him as a gentleman who will be a great acquisition to our city should he ever make Bellefonte his home. At all events we have no doubt he will develop in our midst an industry that will increase in consequence as time goes on, adding to his wealth, while it augments the prosperity and manufacturing importance of Bellefonte.

We bid Mr. Lawson a hearty welcome to our midst and believe he has projected an enterprise that will be prosperous beyond computation.

Much credit is due Governor Curtin in connection with the disposal of the Car Works. He has made a great pecuniary sacrifice in the sale in order that they may be put in operation and thus aid and benefit the business prospects of his native town. He is known as being incapable of pursuing an illiberal or narrow minded policy in anything, and his generous action in this matter but emphasizes his established reputation as an enterprising, liberal-minded citizen. The transfer of the Bellefonte and Snow Shoe Railroad to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is another auspicious event for Bellefonte. It insures the building of at least one other railway line to our town, and promises great good in the opening up of the boundless coal fields, in part located in our county. Edmund Blanchard, Esq., secretary and treasurer of the Bald Eagle Valley Company, is entitled to unstinted praise for his efforts in effecting this transfer. With his accustomed energy, he pushed the matter at every point, and success has at last crowned his exertions. The thanks of

the entire community are due these two public spirited gentlemen for their successful efforts to increase the business facilities of Bellefonte.

The Situation at Harrisburg.

For the first time in many years the Republican machine in Pennsylvania has to face a revolt so formidable in its proportions as to threaten swift and certain destruction to its political omnipotence. The sullen roar of discontent has disturbed the air on frequent occasions but never before has the defiant shout of battle been heard from the anti-Cameron camp. The attitude of the supporters of Grow is revolutionary, but it has been assumed without excitement and with a full knowledge of the responsibility it entails. There is, as yet, no sign of wavering in the lines of the malcontents. On the contrary they have strengthened their position by signing a paper pledging themselves never to vote for Oliver. In the meantime the constituents of many of the bolters are nerving them up by calling public meetings and endorsing the course of their representatives. The Oliver leaders are not the men to surrender without a desperate struggle. They are used to blind and slavish submission to their will and they will ply the party whip until it is worn to the handle. Quay and Magee will exhaust all the devices known to modern politics to preserve the supremacy of the machine and make Oliver Senator. Well they know that if this break is successful the power of the ring is broken forever and their occupation gone. Senator Cameron is on the ground, but even his awe inspiring presence has as yet failed to recall even one recalcitrant from his allegiance to Grow. It looks at this writing as if the long reign of the House of Cameron was about to come to an ignominious close. The Democrats have nominated Senator Wallace and show no disposition to take any part in the fight, other than to say with *Mercurio*, "A plague on both your houses." The duty of the Democrats is plain. Every combination we have made with the Republicans has been to our disadvantage. Let the Democratic members stand by their caucus nominee, unless in a protracted struggle, they may be able to secure some practical advantage. How this is to be done is not apparent at present. The balloting yesterday shows every Democrat in his place, while there was considerable dodging upon the part of the Republicans. Whatever may be the outcome, the result cannot but be beneficial to the general politics of the State. It will be remembered by the ring and not forgotten by its enemies, and it may be the cause of insuring better nominations in the future. The struggle may be long and bitter or a decision may be reached in a few days. All is doubt and uncertainty except the uncompromising position of the Democratic members.

SOMETHING FOR GRANT AT LAST.

Appeals to the country for a third term of the Presidency failed; the proposition of the Fraudulent President to create a sinecure title and pay of Captain-General of the Army fell prostrate by its own absurdity, and the no less preposterous attempt to promote him from civil life to the retired list of the Army with the pay of Major-General for life, having little better chance of success, it is gratifying to learn that the outraged feelings of our "National mendicant" are to be soothed by an office! The great and magnanimous General Grant has been chosen President of the New York World's Fair to come off in 1883. The salary attached to this new sphere of duty, his annual income of \$7,000, and numerous contributions of liberal admirers will, we trust, place the great ex-President above the reach of absolute want. Now let the flunkies rest, and permit the indignant patriot to reap glory and happiness in the show!

Written for the CENTRE DEMOCRAT.

The Fisherman's Daughter.

"Ring out merrily,
Loudly, cheerily,
Blithe old bells from the steeple tower,
So sang a child with voice soft and sweet,
As she strayed on the beach in search of shells,
While the waves of the ocean kissed her feet,
And her quick ear caught the sound of bells
That swayed to an fro in the morning breeze,
How oft they had followed their tones from afar
To the village church embowered in trees,
As the Magi followed "the guiding star."
Her heart was light as the mountain air,
Her thoughts soared free as the wild bee's flight,
Her days passed by unmarked by care,
A gladness sang from dawn till night,
The noise of the ocean was melody rare,
As she mingled her voice with its sounding roar,
And gathered in heaps its treasures there,
On the long bare stretch of sandy shore.
"Psalms out evermore,
Psalms as ye psalms of yore,
Brave old bells, on each Sabbath day,"
"Twas from a cottage the voice came now,
As the maiden paced the well-worn floor,
And cheerfully sang with unclouded brow,
As the sound floated in, through the open door
Of the old church chimes, with their notes of praise,
But they rang out now in a different tone
From the merry one of her childish days—
Life has its duties, not pleasures alone.
"Till at the hour of prime,
Matin and vesper chime,
Loved old bells from the steeple high,
Once again, her voice keeps time with the bells,
As she steadily sits at her spinning-wheel,
Her fingers go in and out by spells,
As she winds the thread on its wooden reel.
From her busy task she raised her head,
Her eyes, through the casement, the waters sweep,
She stopped in her song and sadly said,
"The voice of the wind is hoarse and deep—
The "White Caps" crest the top of the waves,
As they thunder in on the spray-dashed shore,
There is danger, I trow, to the ships and their crews,
I like not the sound of the breaker's roar.
The voice of the bells has died away—
Soon night comes down o'er land and sea—
The whirr of the wheel stops for the day—
And the fisherman's daughter sleeps peacefully.
As the first gray streak of the early dawn,
Is tinging the earth with its sombre light,
A ship in distress—yes—almost gone,
Struggling 'gainst the wind is revealed to sight,
From its side comes the sullen voice of a gun,
Bearing shoreward its tale of need and grief,
On the beach, back and forth, the fishermen run,
Brave of heart, but powerless to afford relief.
"Knell out drearily,
Measure out wearily,
Sad old bells from the steeple gray."
These words filled the spinner's mind as she heard
The alarm being rung from the old church tower,
And watched the ship, like a wounded bird,
A try for the waves, wholly in their power.
"Men, why stand ye idle?" her voice rang out clear,
"Will none to the rescue? must those beings die?"
For answer, she heard, "No boat could steer
In this boiling sea, 'twould be death to try."
"I will go myself—help me loose my boat—
There is one above who is able to save,
If He will it so, on the waves I'll float,
Or find with those yonder a watery grave."
She stepped in the boat and pushed from shore,
While the bells kept up their mournful strain,
And there were heard 'bove the water's roar,
From the drowning crew, as they hoped again.
Long the fishermen looked with eager eyes,
At that shell-like barge on its dangerous way,
Breasting the billows, 'twould sink and rise,
And their lips with fear grew ashen gray
As they waited and watched, a cruel wave
Clasped the brave girl close in tight embrace,
Awe-struck they shuddered, but could not save,
The waters swept over her lovely face.
They can see no longer the doomed ship roll,
It has gone from the sight of those on shore.
Ring out, sad bells—now a requiem toll—
For the maiden and crew will be seen no more.
The waters dash on in staccato gleam,
They are stronger than men—and they will not tell
Where they hurried their victims, so ruthlessly,
That is one of the secrets they keep so well.
F. A. S.

A MEETING of colored Republicans,

held at Nashville, Tenn., on the 15th instant, adopted resolutions demanding their full share of official patronage, and appointed a delegation of eighteen to visit Gen. Garfield to urge the appointment of Jno. M. Langston to a position in the cabinet. The men who hold the balance of political power in the Republican ranks and secured the election of Garfield, begin to appreciate their importance in the Republican party, as they have a right to do. Their votes save it from dissolution, and they are undoubtedly entitled to more consideration than to be assigned to mere positions of scavengers at elections. The South does not hesitate to elect colored men to responsible official positions. Why should the North? But in what Northern State do you find one colored man thus honored? We have in all our cities and towns colored men of intelligence and respectability equal to those who monopolize official positions in State, county or municipal service, but in the dispensation of party favors they are ostracized and put off with cold lunch on the door steps. Why is this? Because they submit to the injustice of party drill instead of asserting their manhood and demanding a fair division as they have the power to do.

David F. Fortney.

This gentleman, after successfully and ably performing the duties of district attorney for Centre county, has returned to the walks of his profession and quietly resumed the practice of the law. Mr. Fortney, in the three years in which he prosecuted the pleas of the Commonwealth, won golden opinions from all sides for the zeal, fidelity and marked ability in which he prepared and tried his cases. Mr. Fortney before being called to the district attorney's office had attained an enviable reputation as a defender of criminals. Some of his efforts for the defense previous to his election were considered as among the most creditable ever made at this bar. His experience of the past three years still better fits him for the delicate task of defending those charged with crime, and we have no doubt he will soon have resumed his position as one of the ablest criminal lawyers at the bar.

The unjustifiable action of Gov. Murray, of Utah, in counting out Cannon, the Delegate-elect to Congress, and giving a certificate to Campbell, his competitor, who was defeated by a very large majority, is universally condemned. If a Governor may thus elect representatives of the people at will, elections might as well be dispensed with. It is a dangerous assumption of power and ought not to be accepted under any circumstances.

SOME person, certainly not of African descent, induced a few negroes of Cleveland to meet and resolve that it is inexpedient to urge the appointment of a colored representative in the cabinet of Gen. Garfield. That is no doubt the sentiment of the white Republicans whose idea of expediency will not reach further than the ballot, which they place in the hands of the colored man to deposit as directed.

THERE have been no licenses issued in Potter county for the sale of liquor since 1852. The boys must be dry up there, or obtain the stimulant on the sly, as they did in the days of local option hereabouts.

Mysterious Mahone.

WHY HE CANNOT AFFORD TO JOIN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
From the Washington Post.
"What do you really know about Mahone?" asked a Post reporter yesterday of one of the prominent Headquarters of Virginia, who always supports that gentleman when the debt issue is up.
"Well," he replied, "to tell the truth, I think the country is losing too much sleep over this question altogether. Mahone has been magnified into excessive importance. If he had been less talked about, and less given to understand that he was a sort of Senatorial Warwick, he would have announced himself long ago. But he is just shrewd enough to relish this thing of balance of power in one of the branches of Congress, and thus he preserves the mystery."
"Do you think he will join the Republicans?"
"I have no means of knowing precisely, but if he wants to commit suicide, and I am speaking now as his friend, he'll do just that thing. Such an act would at once solidify the entire Democracy of Virginia. He could not hold his own forces, nor one-third of them in line on any ticket for State control by a Fusion with the Radical colored vote, and he knows that perfectly well, because he saw how they scattered last campaign when 'regular Democracy' was held over them as a menace. His strength as a leader, and all of it there can be, must come from his position as an independent Democrat. Another thing. The negroes can't vote without paying their poll tax. This item amounts to \$50,000, and the campaign expense will make another \$50,000, the total to come out of the Republican party of the North, as an experiment, and this with the moral certainty that his own white Democratic troops would break if he hoisted the enemy's flag."
"Will he vote for Gorham?"
"I don't know. They are personal friends, and Gorham seems to be coaching him three times a day before each meal. But Gorham has said he would not consent to accept any favors on personal grounds, unless his entire party came into power."
"Do you think he will vote to retain the Democratic committee organization?"
"I say he's too much of a tactician to do anything else, and I've known him intimately for years. He can't afford to estrange his own friends in his own State."