

# The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

"EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL MEN, OF WHATEVER STATE OR PERSUASION, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL."—Jefferson.

TERMS: \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

VOL. 3.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1881.

NO. 12.

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Terms \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

S. T. SHUGERT and R. H. FORSTER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, March 24, 1881.

### To our Patrons.

For the first time since the CENTRE DEMOCRAT has been in existence we are compelled to throw ourselves upon the indulgence of our patrons in the way of apology. We expected to be able to issue our paper as usual this week; but owing to the time and labor required to move our heavy machinery, and the innumerable and unavoidable delays incident to the arranging of our office in a new place, we have been forced to realize that our expectations were too sanguine. We do the best we can, however, by issuing a half sheet, and under the circumstances, do not hesitate to ask our friends to bear with us. Before our next issue appears, everything in connection with our new quarters will be in complete order, and we hope to get along without troubling any one with apologies in the future.

SENATOR EDMUNDS, of Vermont, has gone South in search of health. Perhaps in appealing to the South for renewed vigor he may acquire tolerance for a class of our citizens which he and his party are accustomed to denounce as outlaws and vagabonds.

CANNOT the more reputable of the members of the lower house of the Pennsylvania legislature devise some means to keep the Philadelphia and Allegheny roosters within the bounds of decency? If they are powerless in the hands of these disreputable and desperate associates, they should say so, and, for the sake of their own good names, beat a hasty retreat to their respective homes.

It is said Don Cameron has been appointed keeper of the illipituan curiosity recently purchased by President Garfield and added to his Senatorial menagerie. It is called Repudiation for want of a better name—is very frisky and requires adroit management. Hence its assignment to the astute Senator from Pennsylvania. It counts one and is utilized in taking the yeas and nays on the Republican side.

The conservatory of the White House furnished a handsome bouquet of flowers to adorn the desk of Mahone, and indicates the satisfaction of the President in the acquisition of a traitor and the Repudiation party of Virginia to the great Republican party. His glee will abate somewhat before many months have elapsed. The investment is not likely to yield a large per cent.

A RESOLUTION has been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature providing for an investigation of the alleged bribery which resulted in the election of Angus Cameron to the Senate. The Cameron clan is famous for the crooked means adopted to obtain senatorships. The Wisconsin branch of the clan appears to be no exception to the infamy which has so marked them for "ways that are dark" in Pennsylvania.

It seems to be pretty well settled in Washington that an extra session of Congress will be called to convene about the 15th of May. The necessity for it is laid principally upon the failure of the Funding bill to become a law, which was vetoed by the fraudulent President, and against the passage of which the Republicans filibustered in the interest of the banks, until they had completed arrangements with the Fraud to veto it. Who is responsible? Not the Democrats certainly.

### Six Years of Democratic Legislation.

When the Democratic party came into power in the lower house of Congress on the first Monday of December, 1875, the people were stricken with poverty and want from one end of the land to the other. All kinds and every class of our manufacturing industries were at a stand-still. Every branch of business of whatsoever kind felt the oppression and blight which had fallen upon the land. More than three millions of laboring men had been thrown out of employment, and they and their families left to eke out an existence as best they could in penury, suffering and want. In short, no man can draw the picture as dark nor as full as the evils that then rested upon the American people. How all this was brought about is not now our purpose to inquire, but rather by what means were the people relieved and to whom belongs the credit.

The first act of the Democratic congress was to drive out and kill off the arrogant and powerful lobby, whose sole business it was to rob and plunder the people, under the care and protection of the former Republican congress. In making appropriations for the year 1876 it saved to the people \$30,000,000; it refused mail, steamship and railroad subsidies. A Democratic congress passed the silver bill and directed that the United States Treasury should coin and distribute silver dollars at the rate of \$2,000,000 per month until \$100,000,000 were coined. Republican legislation required that Greenbacks should be retired and destroyed. Democratic legislation required that they should be reissued and the policy of contraction and oppression stopped. When this was done intelligent men who possessed capital, said, "We will have no less value in commodities; we will commence to buy again." The manufacturer said, "I will kindle my fires, for the destruction of the values brought about by the Republican party are now checked. There will be no less value. I can go to work, for we are now at the bottom." The Greenback legal tenders are now par, and were brought to par by wise legislation on the part of the Democratic congress. During this period of six years there was saved to the people in cutting down the expenses of the government by their representatives reviving and putting in practice the true principles of wealth—economy—more than one hundred and forty millions of dollars in actual appropriations, beside stopping the immense steals carried on by, and under the Republican congress. During this same period many hundreds of millions of the public debt were refunded, bearing interest at the rate of four and four and a half per cent; but, mark it, not until both houses of Congress became Democratic was the government able to float her four per cent bonds. And to complete this magnificent record and make still brighter the crown of glory that belongs, alone, to the Democratic party, the last session of congress passed a bill to refund \$650,000,000 of the public debt falling due this year, which bill contained a section compelling the national banks to accept the three per cent bonds in exchange for the bonds bearing twice that much interest. And to fill out a career of infamy and fraud this bill was vetoed by R. B. Hayes. Why was it vetoed? The influences that caused it, and the effect of it, may more properly be considered hereafter.

The Greensburg Messenger has discovered that the Democrats have an unworthy and discreditable member of Congress from that district in the person of Morgan S. Wise, who is now credited for his second term. The Messenger is too innocent by half. The unworthiness of Wise was apparent before it supported him for Congress. His standing in the legislature was not such as to commend him for higher honors.

### Mahone's Bouquet.

This is what the New York Sun has to say of Mahone's bouquet from the White House:

First, it means that the president holds himself in readiness to reward votes in his favor—to pay for them. The gift of flowers cannot signify less than that they are to be followed by the bestowal of patronage.

Again, it is a direct affront. It is a declaration that the president believes that United States senators may be patronized by him.

Did the president ever live who would have dared to place upon the table of Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, John J. Crittenden, or Henry Clay, a bouquet as a token of white house approval of a vote?

It is a little thing in itself, but very significant. The flowers have no fragrance, but emit a hateful and offensive odor.

AFTER succeeding in getting their committees through with the aid of Mahone and the casting vote of the Vice President, the Republican members of the Senate are now determined upon an entire re-organization. At a caucus held on Tuesday evening, the following persons were selected to fill the principal offices: For secretary of senate, George C. Gorman; for sergeant-at-arms, Henry Riddleberger, of Virginia; for principal executive clerk, James R. Young, of Pennsylvania; for chief legislative clerk, Charles W. Johnson, of Minnesota; for chaplain, Rev. Dr. Byron Sunderland, of Washington city. Riddleberger is a warm personal and political friend of Senator Mahone. He was a colonel in the confederate service and is now one of the editors of the Stanton Valley Virginian. It will be in the power of the democratic members of the senate to prevent any change in the present personnel of the senate officers by uniting withholding their votes and thus breaking a quorum when the resolution is offered for adoption. Will they have back bone enough to do so?

The purchase of Mahone and the Repudiation party of Virginia by the administration, gives the Republicans three Senators from New York and a majority of one in the Senate. The minority is large enough and sufficiently brainy to hold them level against any outrageous partisan or plunder acts, even under the lead of the shot-gun hero and his aids from New York. But too much dignity on the part of Democratic Senators against such leadership will be equal to imbecility and ought to give place to a little more pluck.

THE proceedings of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, were signalized last week by the passage of a resolution to expel one Dr. Palmer, correspondent of the Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette, from the reporter's gallery. Dr. Palmer was guilty of the awful crime of speaking his mind too freely about Speaker Hewitt. It was a small business for the legislature to engage in, and smaller still for the Speaker to countenance it. It is to be hoped, however, he found a soothing balm for his wounded honor. He has succeeded, at least, in giving Palmer a great deal of notoriety he never would otherwise have gained.

THE new Emperor of Russia is likely to live in as much danger of assassination as his father did before him. Scarcely had his proclamation assuming the high duty that fell upon him by the untimely death of his predecessor been issued before a plot was discovered to take his life. A mine leading under the palace in which he lives was found by the police and the timely discovery has no doubt saved him for a time. The Nihilists appear to be active and determined, and it will keep the guardians of the crown on the alert to checkmate their devilish plots.

VICE PRESIDENT ARTHUR is getting even with John Sherman now for turning him out of the Custom House. It is said the ex-Collector can't see the ex-Secretary when he desires to speak or make a motion in the Senate.

THE investigation as to the authorship of the Morey Chinese letter seems to drag heavily. Marshall Jewell announces that he has no funds to pursue it. Mr. Hewitt sends him a check for one hundred dollars with a promise that he and other Democrats will furnish the needed funds; but still it drags. Why is this? The impression is again gathering strength that the train of evidence leads up to the White House, and becomes less interesting as it approaches.

OUR distinguished independent Senator Mitchell is making a faithful and sturdy lieutenant for Boss Cameron.

### LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21, 1881.

The Senate elected its committees yesterday, the Republicans securing control of all of them by the vote of Senator Mahone, of Virginia. If this Senator had simply abandoned a party his course would have been condemned, of course, but he would not have deserved the infamy—that is the exact word—which will be ever associated with his name. The State of Virginia and other States of the South, are slowly recovering from the effects of the most wasting of modern wars, they are becoming recognized as States with the right to regulate their internal affairs as other States do. A moderate Republican has just been elected President, though he was not the choice of those Republicans who believe in the everlasting vassalage of the South. It is at this auspicious time that Mahone throws his vote and influence with the most Radical of Republicans. His vote means an extra session of Congress this summer, and a dozen investigating committees of Congressmen going through the Southern States, and other evils, even if it does not have the effect of converting the kind, but not over firm President Garfield from a course of moderation to one of radicalism. There was never a more important and never a more injurious sale in our politics than that of Senator Mahone to the radical branch of the Republican party. It is believed the special session of the Senate will last not more than a week or ten days longer. The nominations will be sent in rapidly now that the Senate has reorganized.

Instead of there being, as there was a week ago, small apparent prospect of an extra session of Congress, there is now every indication of one. As intimated above, the struggle for it is made by the more stalwart Republicans, and though the ostensible reason for the call will be the necessity for the passing of a funding bill there is no doubt but committees of the House of Representatives will be sent into a dozen Congressional Districts of the South with instructions to report in favor of turning out the Democratic members elected. This is the prime object of the session.

The belief is general that all nominations that President Garfield may send in this spring will be confirmed by the Senate. The President is, as he always has been, popular with Congressmen. His wishes would be regarded more generally, I think, than those of any other Republican who might have become President. A pleasant part of the man himself is shown in his social attentions to Congressmen without regard to party. His first reception, the other evening, was the beginning of a new era in such matters. All the Democratic Senators were at the White House. I venture to say that for two years not five of them had been there unless a duty not to be evaded called them. It is certain that the era of good feeling has returned, so far as social affairs at the executive mansion are concerned. Don.

### Peril of the New Car.

DISCOVERY OF A MINE IN A STREET NEAR HIS RESIDENCE.

St. Petersburg, March 16.—The authorities were informed that a mine had been laid in a small street which enters the Newsky Prospect, nearly opposite the Annitckoff Palace, the residence of the new Emperor. A detachment of sappers accordingly began an exploration from a small shop, the owner of which disappeared three days ago. The street was barricaded at both ends to prevent the public from approaching. The sappers, on opening up the ground and searching cellars, discovered a mine

in the above mentioned shop. The mouth of the mine was in the shopkeeper's dwelling room, concealed under an ottoman. The mine passes under the street leading to the riding schools whence the Czar was returning on Sunday.

Eight more arrests have been made, and a quantity of explosives have been discovered.

The Agency Russe says the grief felt for the Emperor by the Russian nation is inconsolable; but if they require proofs of their loss it would be forthcoming in the evidences of condolence which pour in from sovereign Governments and national representatives of the whole world. The public are admitted to view the body without distinction of class.

A decree has been published granting to persons deported to Siberia, with the loss of civil rights, permission to engage in commercial or professional pursuits after three years good behavior; the same privilege to be accorded to political exiles, subject to the approval of the Minister of the Interior.

### A PRISON TRAGEDY.

Murder and Suicide in a Conyict's Cell.

A DESPERATE CRIMINAL IN THE EASTERN PENITENTIARY MURDERS HIS CELL MATE AND THEN HANGS HIMSELF.

A terrible tragedy was enacted within the walls of the Eastern Penitentiary some time before daylight yesterday morning—the exact hour will probably remain a mystery forever. Upon its face the affair presents the appearance of a deliberate murder and the suicide of the murderer, both executed within earshot of a keeper and a score of prisoners, and yet with such cunning stealth that, if the statement of the keeper is to be relied on, not a sound broke the oppressive stillness which usually prevails at night in that living tomb. In fact it was not until the breakfast hour yesterday, when the bodies were cold and rigid in death, that the authorities were made aware of the awful deed.

Shortly after 7 o'clock, in accordance with the usual custom, Overseer McGuigan, proceeded to make the round of his particular corridors in order to see that the prisoners were up and stirring. All went well until he reached a cell in the second corridor occupied by two men, who in prison discipline were simply known as Nos. 728 and 925. Here his question: "All right here?" met no response. Peeping in through the grating of the inner door he saw what appeared to be the form of a man standing on a stool. The interrogatory: "What are you doing there?" was not replied to, and the keeper swung the door back on its hinges and made a step forward. As he did so he stumbled over a body, and at the same moment he became aware of the fact that another body was hanging to the gas bracket on the opposite side of the cell. He shouted for help, and a number of keepers were quickly on the scene. Then it was found that the man on the floor was prisoner 728. He was lying on his back, his legs bent in under him, a piece of linen tied tightly around the throat, the tongue protruding from his mouth, and the countenance disfigured by a large abrasion on the forehead. Meanwhile some of the keepers had cut down 925, who had hung himself to the bracket by a piece of the stout sheeting used on the beds. Blood was still flowing from a cut on the left wrist, and there was a pool of blood on the floor near his feet. Near by was the knife with which the wound had been inflicted. Dr. Comegys Paul, the resident physician of the institution, was at once summoned, but his appearance was of no avail, the bodies presenting every appearance that life had been extinct in both for several hours.

Both of the dead men were serving the first year of their imprisonment. 925 was John Pfeiffer, who was admitted last month, under a sentence of three years and a half, imposed by the Luzerne County Court for burglary. He was a coarse, brutal fellow, of tremendous strength, and such a hardened criminal that, although only 23 years of age, he had acquired the reputation of being one of the most daring house-breakers in the country. Previous to his last conviction he had served three terms in Sing Sing and one term at Blackwell's Island for crimes committed in New York State, of which he was a native. His companion—728—was John McBride, a Philadelphian, aged 49 years, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment in September last for aggravated assault and battery and indecent exposure. McBride, who bore the reputation of a quiet and orderly prisoner, was the sole occupant of the cell (which was on the ground floor) until Pfeiffer's arrival. The two men seemed to take to each other at the outset, and so far as the knowledge of the officers went they were on the best of terms up to the hour of retiring on Tuesday night. Occasionally it happens that two prisoners in a cell are unable to get along pleasantly, and in every case of this kind which has occurred a separation has at once been ordered. In this case, however, there was not the least ground for the suspicion that anything but the most cordial relations possible to men in their condition were maintained.

The mystery which surrounds the terrible affair was not dispelled by the rigid examination which Warden Townsend made yesterday morning. Overseer McGuigan said that when he went on duty at 2 a. m., the men were sleeping soundly in their beds, and that although he made several rounds of the corridor during the night not the slightest

sound attracted his attention. Neither was the occupant of the adjoining cell, who is a very light sleeper, awakened during the night. The theory was at first advanced that both men had committed suicide, but this did not tally with the position in which McBride's body was found. The more rational theory is that McBride was strangled by Pfeiffer in his sleep, then tumbled out of bed to the position in which the body was found, and that the murderer then committed suicide. How these deeds could have been possible, however, without a single tell tale noise being heard by the watchman whose duty it was to have been in the immediate vicinity is a question which Warden Townsend confessed yesterday he could not solve, while he was equally at a loss to fathom the motive of the deed.

Pfeiffer, when first admitted, acted in a somewhat peculiar manner, but the officials, believing that he was merely hamming insanity (which is a common habit with many prisoners, who believe that by so doing they can be relieved of hard labor), paid no attention to his actions, and placed him with McBride. No peculiarities in his conduct were noticed after the first few days.

In the course of yesterday afternoon the bodies were removed to the Morgue, where a post mortem examination was made by Dr. J. G. Lee. The Coroner's investigation will open to-day.

### Shot Dead by a Burglar.

GRAPPLING WITH THE THIEF BEFORE RECEIVING THE FATAL SHOT—THE VICTIM'S SON RENEWING THE STRUGGLE AND THE TWO TUMBLING DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS—THE THIEF FLIPS AWAY AND ESCAPES.

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., March 18.—This historical village was thrown into a high fever of excitement at an early hour this morning, when it became known that William Clugston, one of its leading and most respected citizens, had been murdered by an unknown burglar. The story of the tragedy is best told by the eldest son, Samuel Clugston, who was in the house at the time, and who says that he took an active part in the conflict with the burglar. At about three o'clock, Mr. Clugston was awakened by a noise in his bedroom. He saw a hatless and coatless man moving about the room with a cat like tread, and he at once demanded to know who was there. The stranger replied, "keep still, old fellow, or you're a dead man." Mr. Clugston arose from his bed and gave the alarm. The thief instantly grappled with him and a terrible conflict ensued. The aged wife screamed for her son who slept in another room. Thomas Clugston, aged 22, says that he at once responded, but before he had time to enter the room he heard two shots in rapid succession. Those shots were fired by the burglar, who was still grappling with Mr. Clugston. The son says: "Just as I entered the room my father reeled and fell, and I at once knew that he had been shot. My mother was nearly frantic. I saw the strange man while he was attempting to leave the room, and I at once attacked him. He was a strong and determined man, and our violent struggle we fell to the floor. The door leading to the head of the stairs was open, and we tumbled to the bottom of a steep flight. I retained my hold of him in the darkness, and called for help. I managed to get the pistol from him, and when I thought I had mastered him he mysteriously unbuttoned his vest without my knowing it, and thus slipped out of my grasp, ran to the front window, and escaped as he had entered. I followed as best I could, and fired two shots at him, but did not hit him."

The man escaped in the darkness, hatless, coatless and shoeless, leaving his apparel behind him. By this time the neighbors were aroused and began to assemble, and when they reached the house they found Mr. Clugston lying at the foot of the stairs in the hallway, having reached the landing at the head of the stairs after his son and the burglar had plunged down headlong and his strength deserting him, he fell. When found life was extinct, he having lived just twenty minutes after being shot. Only one shot took effect, the ball entering the right side of the neck above the clavicle and passing direct into the spinal column, severing in its course the jugular vein and carotid artery. Death was caused by internal hemorrhage.

Among the effects left behind by the burglar was a pocketbook containing a pawn ticket issued by the National Loan office of Baltimore, number 23,826, and bearing the name of E. A. Abbott; a card upon which was written, "Edwin H. Johnson, inquire at Nineteenth and Poplar streets, 841 Mattock. (Signed) a friend;" a photograph of a little girl, probably 8 or 9 years of age; several hotel cards, three dollars and ten cents in currency, and a ten dollar note of 1864, issue of the Allegheny county State bank. The clothes left behind consisted of a brown overcoat, a light sack undercoat, black diagonal vest, and black Derby hat. There was only one thief in the house, but he had an accomplice outside. The hat has the initials "G. S." inside.

When the son and the thief tumbled down stairs, locked in each other's arms, the son says that he held his man about ten minutes in the dark. The county officials have the case in hand, but up to a late hour no arrests had been reported. Mr. Clugston was superintendent and principal owner of the Valley Forge Palmfibre paper company. He recently took Joseph Jordan as a partner. He leaves a wife and eleven children.