

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, March 31, 1881.

THE thanks of the DEMOCRAT are tendered to Hon. William A. Wallace and Hon. Samuel J. Randall for kind favors from Washington, and also, to Hon. Cyrus T. Alexander for an early copy of Smull's Legislative Handbook.

READ the sprightly letter of our Harrisburg correspondent. It is a finely drawn and entertaining picture of the legislative bear garden at the State capitol.

A COMMISSION is now investigating the War Department to ascertain the manner of appointments in that department for the last year or two. The allegations are that improper considerations, including the payment of money, and other violations of law, have largely influenced many of the appointments.

MAHONE had his say in the Senate last Monday, and a sorry say it was. He bored the Senate and galleries for four mortal hours, with a dull, prosy speech in explanation of his course and utterly failed to convince any one of the purity of his motives or the honesty of his course. The corrupt bargain and sale which has led him into the Republican ranks cannot be explained away.

"THE Democrats do not extract much comfort from the New York appointments. They are able to see in them the ominous spectre of a solid Republican party in that State."—*Bellefonte Republican, Editorial.*

"THE nominations are generally satisfactory, with the exception of General Robertson and it is feared his nomination will stir up the Conkling men and cause a desperate opposition in the Senate."—*Bellefonte Republican, Washington Correspondence.*

The above extracts do present an "ominous spectre of a solid Republican party," in New York, with the Lordly Roscoe on his ear at Washington, out of which the Democrats can "extract" considerable "comfort."

THE United States Senate is at a dead lock. The Republican members refuse to hold Executive sessions for the confirmation of Presidential appointments, until the Democrats will agree to the passage of a resolution changing the officers of the Senate and thus ratifying the bargain with Mahone to provide for two of his personal friends, one of whom—his chief striker in the repudiation party of Virginia—is named for Sergeant-at-arms. The Democrats are masters of the situation and declare that they will make no opposition to the organization provided the name of the latter is stricken out, and a Republican offered in his place. The Democrats are opposed to any obstruction policy, but will not consent to place in the office of sergeant-at-arms a Virginia Repudiator, without merit, merely to consummate a disgraceful bargain.

THINGS CHANGE! In 1876, and again in 1880, Conkling prevented the nomination of Blaine for President and exulted in his power to do so. Now, Blaine is the right bower of the Administration, and the devoted friends of Conkling upon whom he relies to maintain his power of dictator, are ordered to the rear by Blaine, as the first step to extract the fangs of his imperious and malignant opponent. The fight is already assuming interesting significance, and we greatly overrate the ability and vim of Garfield's Premier if, with the hand he holds, he comes off second best in the encounter which is sure to come between these two great leaders of the Republican factions. The nomination of Robertson as Collector of Customs at New York is exceedingly distasteful to Conkling, and upon the question of his confirmation by the Senate, the hostile factions will come in active conflict.

The Legislature and its Duty.

It is to be hoped the Legislature will not be tumbled into dire confusion by the innocent petard thrown by Attorney General Palmer among its array of delicate shins, but on the contrary, will take the explosion as a harmless and gentle hint, and come down at once to hard pan of duty and begin to legislate. The opinion of the Attorney General, be it sound or unsound law, and although not binding on the legislature, is nevertheless a suggestion to "make hay whilst the sun shines." If that august body has seen fit and proper to waste three months in wind and vapor, the people must not suffer. The necessary legislation must be enacted though the present session be thereby protracted to the fourth of July. An adjournment now at the end of the one hundred days, without fulfilling this necessary work, would be to acknowledge that the pay was the load-stone that drew the members to Harrisburg—that the whole thing was a mere matter of individual business, a private speculation—and that a sufficient number of days might be counted up to secure a satisfactory recompense, the proper work was pushed aside and shelved to be run through at the end. Such an acknowledgment no legislature can afford to make. One thing is very certain, this present legislature must account for its time, and give a value for every cent of pay drawn.

It is now announced apparently upon good authority that President Garfield will not call an extra-session of Congress—at least not before next October. The only member of the cabinet who earnestly favored an immediate extra-session was Secretary Blaine, and he seems to have been overruled. Besides a strong belief that it was absolutely necessary for the Republicans to do something to rectify the foolish blunder made by Hayes in vetoing the funding bill that passed in the closing days of the late session, it is intimated that Blaine had some ulterior political purposes personal to himself in view, which he thought might be advanced by an extra-session. He will, however, be obliged to bide his time. It is also understood that the influences that carried the most weight with the President in determining this question was that of the National bankers, who desire to retain the present rate of interest on their bonds and are consequently opposed to the passage of a new funding measure. This may be a satisfactory reason to the President why no extra session should be called; but a large portion of the public will regard it as another act of subserviency to the National banking institutions of the country. After failing to bulldoze Congress, the banks had reason to rejoice over the triumph that Hayes gave them through the use of the veto power. It would now appear that they have an equally obedient agent in Garfield.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD has removed Mrs. Van Lew, a brave Union woman during the war, from the Richmond post-office in order to reward one of Mahone's ex-Confederate repudiators. By this and other appointments, the President gives earnest that his part of the contract in the purchase of Mahone and the Repudiators, will be ratified. It was a bad bargain he made, discreditable to his sagacity, and will give him much trouble, if it does not result in political bankruptcy in Virginia, at least.

CONKLING and Cameron were the active agents in attaching the Repudiators of Virginia to the Republican party. Whether the vote of Mahone and the control of the committees will compensate for the disgraceful barter, is much in doubt. It has not yet secured them the control of the offices of the Senate, so far as to make Mahone's repudiating butty, Riddleberger, Sergeant-at-arms, and is not likely to do so.

Hanging By a Hair.

In Progress, of last week, Colonel Forney remarks with great force and pertinence, that "the Federal plutocracy hangs on to government by a very slender tendril. It is the fabled sword of Damocles, always ready rapidly to descend. It is the guillotine, ever threatening to cut off the head of the inventor. The hair that holds this load is the little repudiating rebel, Mahone, of Virginia. Ominous name! Och hone! Mahone! And it is by this putrid thread that the whole Republican party is held. What a pestilent accident! The destiny of this great country dependent upon the vote of a man who was elected by the State of Virginia to do the very thing which he refused to do, and who boasts of repudiation as a second religion. Upon this insignificant manikin the whole government depends. If he dies the Senate changes at once, as he can have no successor like himself. If he is ill all the officeholders elected by his vote would be thrown into convulsions. If he is absent even courtesy refuses to pair with a man powerful only in perfidy. It would not be safe to charge that this atom was bought to betray his own State; but nobody doubts what he himself shudders from. The slightest accident may obliterate him, and then the whole fabric held by his attenuated support falls to the ground like a dead corpse. This is a miserable spectacle. A breath made as a breath may unmake Mahone; and to secure his vote the whole administration strains every nerve; yet the double shame remains an undying infamy. When that was secured the President sent him flowers and the galleries applauded. Why should we hope for honesty or courage in others when our rulers set such a pattern?"

THE Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Star, Mr. J. R. Young, writing in a late letter of the business that is at present engaging the attention of the United States Senate, pays a handsome compliment to a number of the Democratic Senators who retired from that body on the 4th of March. His reference to the Hon. W. A. Wallace is especially complimentary, as will be seen by the following extract:

"This week's event in the Senate show how much that body misses such men as Thurman, Wallace, McDonald and Pinckney Whyte. One could easily see that Byard was disgusted, and so, too, was it the case with Lamar. These two are born leaders, and are conservative, both by nature and from training, but they will not lead, not caring, I suppose, to incur the petty annoyances that they would surely be subjected to were they to cross the purposes of the majority of their party. Pendleton shows good qualities for leadership when the seas are calm, but he is not the man for an emergency. He takes Wallace's place as chairman of the Democratic senatorial caucus. By the way, Wallace has not left the city. No man left the Senate with greater respect entertained for him as to his qualities as a gentleman, his attainments as a legislator, and his ability as a man. In his six years of service, while he took a prominent part in all of the important questions before the body, and was always positive in his party fealty, he made no enemies and constantly maintained the respect of all. And so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, he never had a man in the Senate truer to her interests."

THE Democrats might possibly control the next House of Representatives at Washington by a trade with the Greenbackers such as was made by the Republicans of the United States Senate with the repudiator Mahone for the control of that body. But we hope nothing of the kind will be attempted. We fully agree with the Philadelphia Record that "an honest minority is always more tolerable and more respectable than a majority obtained by a dishonest coalition."

THE new Emperor of Russia, Alexander III, like a prudent ruler with the fear of sudden death constantly before him, has designated his brother, the Grand Duke Vladimir, to be regent of the empire in case an accident should happen before a son, the heir to the throne, becomes of age. The regent would rule during the minority of Alexander's son.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

A LEGISLATIVE BEAR GARDEN—ATTORNEY GENERAL PALMER'S OPINION ON THE SALARY QUESTION—INDIGNANT MEMBERS.

Special Correspondence of CENTRE DEMOCRAT.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 29, 1881.

The place of the Pennsylvania Legislature in history was assured years ago, and the present body has done nothing calculated to disturb the well earned contempt in which its predecessors are justly held. It is, perhaps, well that only an infinitesimal proportion of the people of this Commonwealth ever visit the State Capital while their representatives are engaged in the task of engraving upon the statute books the laws under which they live. Distance, in this case undoubtedly brings the gentlemen of the legislature under softer light and more subdued colors, but disenchantment, swift and sure follows personal observation of this august assembly. That a great State like Pennsylvania, with her wealth, her culture and intelligence should be cursed in her law making body with the incompetency, ignorance, immorality and wholesale debauchery which characterizes the present Legislature, is a biting satire upon popular elections and a discouraging guide-post to the student of our form of government. Not that there are not good men and true in both Houses, for there are many, but the disgraceful conduct of the rooster element casts its shade over the conscientious endeavors of those who are honestly enlisted in the interests of the people and who are jealous of the fair fame of the body of which they are members. The scenes enacted in the House last week were the most outrageous ever witnessed in a legislative body, even exceeding the riotous proceedings of previous sessions. Of course the Philadelphia members, with a few honorable exceptions, were the head and front of the offending and right nobly did they sustain their reputations as rounders, ward bumpers and shoulder litters. The only man in opposition to the tactics of the rioters who seemed to be perfectly happy, was Wolf of Union. He thrives in a tempest and rides a whirlwind as if he enjoyed it. The Democratic leaders on these trying occasions depicted themselves with great dignity, voting in a solid body with the reform element of the Republican majority. Even the accomplished statesman from the 6th Philadelphia district, the Hon. Hugh Mackin, voted steadily and consistently against the Recorder's bill. The Republicans in the House with their forty-five majority would be powerless to encompass the passage of a single reform bill, without the assistance of the Democratic members. Under the able lead of Faunce they have solidly supported Kneass, Law and Wolf in every effort they have made to reform existing abuses. Rudiman, of whom much was expected, has sadly disappointed his friends. Like the King of France, of whom you have doubtless heard, he marched up the hill and then marched down again. He is a complete failure and will only be remembered as the great vindicator, in memory of his gallant attack on an unprotected newspaper reporter, whom he demolished in order to "vindicate" Speaker Hewitt. This latter gentleman has been ignominiously toppled from the lofty pedestal he occupied so long. He showed himself in his true colors as the friend and tool of the ring, and he now enjoys a legacy of scorn that will last him the remainder of his natural life. Even Bierly, the ambitious Solon, from Lycoming, who gave the Speaker all the Democratic support he received, has soured on him and this is a little more than any one man can stand. It is interesting to note how such thorough gentlemen as Kneass and Law, of Philadelphia, Long, of Jefferson and other Republican members of like stamp conduct themselves toward the rag-tag and bob-tail which constitutes the majority of their party associates on the floor. They despise them heartily and when the House adjourns and their official intercourse ceases, they conveniently forget that such people exist. The exquisite and dove-like Souder of Philadelphia, who will be remembered as the projector of the Legislative Committee which was to have met Grant at San Francisco, on his return from abroad, announced his platform one day last week in terms too unmistakable to be misunderstood. He said that he would "kick in the ribs of the first reporter who would dare to

criticise his statesmanship." Souder, the statesman, Huhn, the reformer, Hazlet, the foe of corruption. These be all patriots, all for the old flag—and an appropriation.

Attorney General Palmer's opinion on the question of the members' salary, which immediately followed the passage of the general appropriation bill allowing the members \$1,500 for this session, has created the greatest excitement, and the law officer of the Commonwealth is being denounced in language which I am certain cannot be found in the shorter catechism. Stewart, of Franklin, made an exceedingly bitter speech in the Senate in which he handled Palmer in no gentle manner. There is deep indignation expressed on every side at what is termed the unwarranted action of the Attorney General. And indeed there is good reason to think that there is some ulterior motive hidden under this opinion. Latouche, the inquisitive member, whose letter to Treasurer Butler precipitated Mr. Palmer's manifesto, is a near neighbor of the Attorney General, and collusion between these worthies is openly charged. Palmer is simply a member of the Governor's cabinet, and his right to pass upon the constitutionality of an act of the Legislature before it has been reviewed by the Supreme Court is certainly an enormous stretch of authority. He can as easily demolish an edict of the College of Cardinals as thus strike a law from our statute books. This matter, however, all grows out of the factional fight of the Republicans over the Senatorship. The time thus wasted would have enabled the Legislature to dispose of all the business before it in the regular session. Thus the people are furnished with another beautiful exemplification of the great blessings conferred upon them by Republican ascendancy in our State.

By the way there is a curious story going the rounds of the politicians here to the effect that Don Cameron and Wayne MacVeagh have pooled their issues and will hereafter pull together in State politics. If this is true, and there is no good reason to doubt it, Don has shown a little of that craft which for so many years distinguished the rule of his venerable father. A little mixture of kid glove reform under the lead of MacVeagh will do much to polish up the general appearance of the short hairs of the ring under our Don. The Republicans say facetiously, that Pennsylvania now has three United States Senators alluding to the purchase of Mahone by our senior Senator. Cameron's friends claim that all the delicate negotiations which resulted in landing the repudiation Senator from Virginia in the Republican fold, were conducted by the blonde Senator from Pennsylvania. The dose is a little nauseating to a few Republicans who yet claim to have some self respect left out of the wreck, but they manage to swallow it under the perfume of Garfield's roses.

A neat steal was discovered in the appropriation bill, on last Thursday, but a vigorous application of the party lash brought the recalcitrants into the traces and the item passed. It gave a man who is styled "Keeper of Stationary," an entirely new office, \$1,000. The debate disclosed the fact that his duties consist of taking care of about three hundred dollars worth of paper and distributing it in the committee rooms, a matter which had heretofore been attended to by the chief clerk. You can readily see the fine Italian hand of the Hon. Sam. Huhn, in this raid upon the treasury. The disposition of these gentlemen for speculation and plunder is not changed. They are only more cautious as to the manner in which they reach for the dollar of the daddies.

It is a remarkable fact that although the Legislature has been in continuous session for over fifty days they have only spent about one hundred hours at their legitimate duties. All legislation is backward and but little is being done to clear the calendar. It is safe to assume that but few bills of actual importance will be passed before adjournment. The infamous Recorder's bill bids fair to be repealed, but it will require both nerve and endurance to accomplish this against the determined opposition of the ring, with the passive if not active support of Speaker Hewitt. The appropriation bills will of course be the first to be disposed of. Senate bill to prevent the consolidation of telegraph companies will hardly be reach-

ed in the House. It is a move in the right direction but comes rather late in the day. General Beaver was here again and appeared before committee to prevent the diverting of the appropriation to the State College from the purpose for which it was intended. There is a deep seated feeling of disgust among members of both branches, as to the management of that institution, and it is more than likely that its days are numbered. The proposition to convert it into an asylum for the insane meets with very general approbation. It is thought that a few first-class lunatics will do wonders on the experimental farm. They will be able to understand the plan upon which it is conducted.

It is very gratifying to note the esteem in which the immediate representatives of Centre county are held by their fellow members. Senator Alexander is credited with being one of the ablest men in the Senate. He is an accomplished parliamentarian and ready debater, while his fine abilities as a lawyer make him invaluable in committee. The Senate is a dignified, deliberate body, and the turmoil and confusion of the House is never seen within the walls of the Senate chamber. Squire Gephart, in the words of John Faunce, is one of the safest men in the House, his judgment clear and calm and his industry prodigious. Mr. Murray is also well thought of, and he ranks among the men who do the real work of legislation.

The struggle will now commence again and with redoubled energy, between the mulhooles and the reformers. Whether these latter are sincere, or are only goaded on their course by a healthy fear of an aroused public conscience, matters little. The reverberating thunder of the February elections in Philadelphia and Pittsburg, is still heard at the Capital, and it bodes good for healthy legislation and the neglected interests of the people. BERWICK.

GENERAL NEWS.

Father A. J. Ryan, the "poet-priest," is lecturing through the South for the benefit of the Land League.

Michael Musser died at the York County Almshouse on Thursday last week. He was insured for \$15,000 the day before.

A child named Koons, living in Centre township, Snyder county, was so badly frozen last month that both of its legs and arms had to be amputated.

Mrs. Beals, an old lady living near Ebensburg, was found alone in her house a few days ago and nearly starved to death. She had had nothing to eat but hard corn for a week.

Ex-Senator Gordon, of Georgia, it is said, is getting ready to build a railroad from Columbus, Miss., through the great coal fields of Northern Alabama, to Atlanta. That is better than politics.

Governor Jackson, of West Virginia, took strong ground in his recent inaugural address against the National Government meddling in popular education, and thought that each State ought to be left to educate its people in its own way.

Ida Lewis, of the Lime Rock Light-house, Newport, R. I., whose many heroic and successful efforts to save human lives are known throughout the land, was presented a few days ago with the silver medal of the Massachusetts Humane Society.

Ex-Representative John F. Chamberlain, of Bradford county, died a few days ago. He was for many years prominent in the business and political affairs of the county. He was elected to the Legislature three times, twice without opposition.

Mr. Wendell Phillips, in an address on Ireland, in Boston, on Sunday evening, said: "The cause of Ireland has been advocated with free speech, with argument, with precedents and statistics, but to-day Gladstone sits down on the safety-valve, and it will be his own fault if he goes sky way."

Jacob Schaefer, Daniel Zeigler and Mrs. Wm. Linderthum, all of them aged persons and residing in Myers-town, Lebanon county, have died within two weeks. They were heavily insured in the interests of outside parties. The Easton Argus says that an investigation is spoken of.

Col. E. A. L. Roberts died suddenly at Titusville yesterday. He had amassed a large fortune by the manufacture of torpedoes to be exploded in oil wells. He was born in the State of New York, and came into the oil regions immediately after the war. The enterprises he had begun will be continued by his brother, Senator W. A. Roberts.

Miss Bernhardt went to see Niagara on Sunday of last week. She was spell-bound, but the falls were not. The falls roared; the Misses shuddered. Then the latter went to her hotel and wrote in the hotel album: "How good God is to have created such beautiful things—with enthusiasm signed, Sarah Bernhardt, 1881."

Mr. Archibald Forbes, who is in Chicago, suffering considerably from what he would receive at Ulundi, Zululand, says that "the outcome of Nihilism be a Russian constitution in doubt." He had a high opinion of murdered Czar, whom he called as "the only honest Russian."