

# 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, May 12, 1881.

THE dead-lock in the Senate had to succumb to the unflinching purpose of the Democrats to prevent a great wrong; but when is the Mahone-Republican treaty to be ratified? Gorham and Riddleberger would like to know.

BILLINGSLEY, of Washington county, and perhaps Myers, of Venango, are the mere echoes and rural agents of the Philadelphia roosters in the Legislature. They are relied upon to lead the country Republicans in any dirty business the roosters may have on hand. Billingsley's apportionment bill will show what kind of dirty job he is now required to favor.

GEN. GRANT has made a speech in the city of Mexico, in which he disclaims any intention of gobbling up that country or of converting it into an empire. He doubtless has a lively recollection of the fate of Maximilian, besides the restless ex-President's aspirations for empire may be in another direction. He has given cause for such belief to many of his countrymen.

POSTMASTER JAMES has created quite a consternation among the thieves since his connection with the Post-office Department. He uncovers the astounding fact that over \$2,000,000 have been stolen annually for four years by the Star route thieves. This in one department only, under the Christian statesman who administered the affairs of Government through successful fraud.

HENRY WARD BEECHER, in passing through Maryland the other day, was served with a writ at the suit of the Maryland Agricultural and Mechanical Society, who claim to have been damaged to the amount of \$10,000, by the eccentric divine. It appears that Mr. Beecher engaged to deliver a lecture at one of their fairs which was extensively advertised to draw a large crowd. He failed to fill his engagement, and the Society bring suit to recover damages.

SENATOR CONKLING on Monday last made his great effort in the Republican caucus, and announced some damaging statements reflecting upon the sincerity and reliable character of the President. He charges him with straight-out lying and deception in regard to the appointment of Judge Robertson to the collectorship of New York. The fight between the great Republican leaders promises rich developments of character that may prove interesting summer reading to the party of "great moral ideas." Let the funeral procession move on.

In Auburn, New York, a negro was appointed a policeman, and in consequence the chief of the force and one other resigned. They could not degrade their respectability by serving with "the man and brother." If this had occurred in the South, the bloody shirt would have waved and Dawes and others would howled themselves hoarse with indignation over the outrage against the rights of the colored citizen. But what is proper enough in the North, is criminally improper in the South.

GEO. C. GORHAM, the Mahone-Republican candidate for Secretary of the Senate, who is also the editor of the Washington National Republican, is defending the Star route thieves. In doing so, he bitterly attacks the President for permitting the investigation to be made, and threatens him with exposure. He intimates broadly that the President asked that a portion of the thieves swag should be applied to carrying the elections in Indiana and New York. Gorham ought to know all about it. He was there.

FOUR hundred citizens of Lackawanna county presented a petition in the House of Representatives asking proceedings to be instituted for the impeachment of Gov. Hoyt and Attorney General Palmer. They charge that the Governor and Attorney General conspired corruptly to shield Kemble and other criminals from the punishment due their crimes against the law; that they have confederated with politicians to impose upon the citizens of Lackawanna an unconstitutional judiciary, in defiance of the decision of the Supreme Court; that the said Attorney General, with the approval of the Governor, has disregarded the petition of the citizens to test through quo warranto proceedings the right of the associate judges of said county to exercise judicial functions. The petitioners express their readiness to present such facts as will prove that said Hoyt and Palmer have used their offices to carry out infractions of the Constitution and laws. And what if they did? It would form no exceptional case, and even if the petition were received as a meritorious case, which we doubt, it would not be one of sufficient mark to arrest the attention of the majority of the Legislature as now constituted. Official infractions of the Constitution and laws are too common to make them novel. The people of Pennsylvania seem satisfied with that kind of government, and would scarcely be happy under honest, conscientious officials who could make the Constitution and laws paramount to political or personal advantage. No, proceedings of this kind would be an unnecessary waste of time, even if they had merit as their base.

CONKLING set things up very nicely in the Republican caucus to handicap the President in the matter of appointments, but things wouldn't stay fixed. In agreeing to break the dead-lock and permit executive sessions to be held, the wily Senator had a rule adopted that the objection of a single Republican Senator from any State should prevent action upon any appointment of the President. This was to reach the case of Judge Robertson, and prevent his confirmation for the position of collector of customs at New York, and still leave the chances open for the confirmation of a number of Conkling's personal friends, who had also been nominated for various positions. But the President headed this little arrangement by withdrawing all the New York appointments, except that of Judge Robertson. This action on the part of the President has given him the advantage, but perhaps intensified the fight with his imperious antagonist. It is now victory or death.

THE President is now engaged in an effort to solve the conundrum as to who is President of the United States—whether James A. Garfield or Roscoe Conkling. The chances are in favor of the former now, but the final solution is not yet reached, and may depend upon the stiffness of Garfield's back-bone. If this weakens and fails him in his contest with the New York dictator, the Ohio statesman will fall to the level of a third-rate Buckeye politician.

MANY of our Republican friends begin to realize that they have a couple of Confederate elephants on hand in the persons of Mahone and Riddleberger—not as to the men particularly, but the manner of obtaining them by a trade that no Senate ever before was base enough to attempt. The stench will continue to be offensive, and no number of attempts at disinfection will remove it.

It appears from investigations that there are a number of Philadelphians connected with the Star route frauds in which one Congressman, at least seems to be implicated. Congressman Harmer will probably be called upon for explanations.

## Ex-Senator Wallace Refutes a Slander.

The silly slander that appeared last week in a number of newspapers alleging that a large sum of money had been contributed by the Star mail route contractors to aid in securing the nomination of Gen. Hancock for the Presidency meets with a prompt and decided refutation from ex-Senator Wallace. The following letter from Mr. Wallace in relation to the matter appeared in the Philadelphia Times of last Sunday:

To the Editor of the Philadelphia Times.

Certain Washington correspondents of the Philadelphia Press, New York Times, Boston Herald, and other newspapers give currency to statements "that money to a large amount, received from the Star route ring, was used to aid in nominating General Hancock at Cincinnati;" "that money from the same source was used in the Pennsylvania Democratic Convention of 1880," and that in my capacity as chairman of the sub-committee of the Senate appropriation committee on the Post Office appropriation bills I aided the Star route ring.

It is not my habit to contradict newspaper falsehoods, but the truth touches the purity of General Hancock's nomination, and therefore I write.

No money whatever came from any source to carry the delegation from his own State for General Hancock and none was used. His enemies and mine trumpeted the result of that convention as a victory over General Hancock and his friends. General William B. Franklin was in charge of Hancock's headquarters at Cincinnati and controlled the expenditure of all moneys used there. No such sum as \$30,000 was either raised to expend or was expended there. The whole sum expended did not exceed \$1,500, and this was for rent, music, banners, badges, etc. Those in charge of his interest there did not believe in securing either his nomination or his election by the use of money.

In the passage of the Post Office deficiency bill of 1880, as chairman of the sub-committee I was asked for a hearing by those interested in routes which would be cut off by failure of the appropriation. They complained that the House committee refused to hear them. The sub-committee—Senators Beck, Booth and myself—gave them a hearing. It was public and the statements made to us were printed. We reported the bill back to the full committee favorably. Our report was adopted and I was instructed to call it up and put it upon its passage. It passed the Senate without a call of the yeas and nays. I gave my views of the subject then, which are in the record. In our action upon that bill the guilt or innocence of no public official was passed upon, but we acted solely upon the conviction that it would be unwise public policy to break down the mail service west of the Mississippi by refusing to vote the money to carry it on.

Very respectfully yours,  
WILLIAM A. WALLACE.  
Clearfield, Pa., May, 1881.

TROUBLE for the Republican-Mahone treaty is thickening. The situation is not at all lovely for the Senatorial contractors. Gorham and Riddleberger are virtually laid out cold; war to the knife, is inaugurated between the administration and the stalwart Senator of New York and his lieutenants. The treaty is not ratified and there is no probability that it will be, while honest Republicans in Virginia repudiate the union with the Mahone faction and the conservative Readjusters denounce the effort to sell and transfer them to the Republican party for a few paltry offices. Indeed the Republican control of the Senate by an assumed majority disgracefully if not unlawfully attained by the casting vote of the Vice President does not pan out in the hopeful results expected.

RASCALLY and unfair as the apportionment of Senators and Representatives in this State has been for years past, it carries some show of decency—some regard for the official oath of the Representative under the Constitution, when compared with the infamous bill now before the Legislature for the approval of that body. And yet the men getting up this enormity profess to be friends of a free ballot and equal laws. Shame!

The evidence of the Star route ring steals of Brady, Dorsey & Co., under the last administration, must be very interesting reading to the retired Fraud. He did not need any of the swag thus floating around, as Tilden's salary provided him a handsome competence.

Why should the Republicans of Pennsylvania go South to discover whether a free ballot is strictly observed—whether the rights of citizens are properly respected? Let them investigate Philadelphia, Lancaster, or indeed any of the strong Republican districts for information of this character, but above all, let them examine the disgraceful gerrymandering of the Legislative apportionment bill recently introduced by the chairman of the Legislative Apportionment Committee in the House of Representatives. If this will not satisfy them, they need not go South or anywhere else to find evidence of the most abandoned villainy—the most reckless disregard of official morality as well as the absence of anything like a decent respect for the rights of citizens and of communities. This bill alone will furnish all the needed data, without traveling out of the State to seek it.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD appears to have more back-bone than he was given credit for. He sticks to his appointment of Robertson and defies the power of the imperious Senator from New York who demanded its withdrawal as a condition of his favor and support. Instead, he, the President withdraws the appointments of a number of Mr. Conkling's personal friends, and thus emphasizes his determination to assert his independence of threats and dictation in the dispensation of executive patronage. The issue between these chiefs of the Republican family is thus squarely joined. Neither can withdraw from the contest it involves without the exhibition of the most abject cowardice. It is a war for position only to be determined by the humiliation of one or the other. The President has taken the helm. Can he hold it?

THE authorities at Washington have caused the arrest of several persons in Philadelphia on the charge of fraud in connection with the Star route mail contracts now undergoing investigation. This may be all right. But why not tackle some of the corrupt officials who were in collusion with the contractors? We believe with the Philadelphia Record that merely "asking Brady and McGrew to resign, while beginning criminal suits against such small fry as Funk, Black, Blackman and Cason, seems to the outside public a very crab-like way of going at the Star route rascals. What kind of a net is it that enmeshes the little fish and lets the big ones resign?"

THE Philadelphia Times shows how the Star route plunderers thrived under Brady by giving a statement of five routes in which the contracts were raised from \$166,500.25 to \$744,135.15, when the entire postal receipts to the government from them were only \$63,718.57. The first route is in Texas, the second in New Mexico, the third in Dakota and Montana, the fourth in Wyoming and the fifth in Arizona. The following table exhibits the original bids, the increase made by Brady and the gross postal receipts:

No.	Original Bid	Increase	Total	Receipts
No. 31,454	\$134,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$334,000.00	\$38,104.34
No. 32,924	6,500.00	150,292.00	156,792.00	5,640.76
No. 33,651	2,500.00	70,000.00	72,500.00	6,243.77
No. 37,119	10,507.25	88,708.12	99,215.37	2,483.52
No. 40,101	13,113.00	135,973.00	149,086.00	10,844.18
Total	\$166,500.25	\$744,135.15	\$910,635.40	\$63,718.57

THE bogus life insurance companies, which are claimed to be founded upon the co-operative principle, are still in the active operation of their swindles in different parts of this State. They have recently placed policies of insurance upon the life of a feeble old colored woman in Harrisburg, eighty years of age, to the amount of \$110,000. With such proof of their work, can any sane person be deceived?

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian church is to meet at Buffalo, New York, on the 19th of May, and is expected to be in session two weeks. This is the general legislative body of the church, representing 5,000 churches and half a million communicants.

## The Party of Jefferson and Other Statesmen.

In a speech recently delivered in the United States Senate, Senator Pendleton gave the Republicans notice that their corrupt bargain with Mahone and the Virginia repudiationists cannot be carried out. In closing his eloquent speech Senator Pendleton said:

It was the Democratic party, not the outrages of the South, against which they (the Republicans) made war. It was not the Confederate Brigadiers; it was not the outrages upon the negro in the South. But it was the hatred for the Democratic party which inspired the fervor of the Republican philanthropy. The solution of the Southern question rested in harmony and good will between the races and against that solution the Republican party set its face. What was the Bourbon Democratic party? It was the party of Jefferson, of Madison, of Monroe and of Polk; the party that had given Texas, New Mexico and California to the Union. It was the party which had long ago made the Constitution and for sixty years administered it so that in the government there had been no law higher than the Constitution. It was the party that in the cycle of its years had drawn to itself every able and patriotic statesman, who was not willing to walk in the awkward ways of sectionalism. It was the party which in storm and tempest and winter's blast had stood like an ocean light-house unmoved and immovable, while other parties (including the boasted Republican party) had surged and swayed with uneven and inconstant motion, like the waves that obeyed the fickle bidding of the fickle moon. The spray might have washed its summit, but every reception of the storm had shown its light was unquenched and its lustre undimmed. The Republicans asked that party to help them in using the offices of the Senate to debauch the people of Virginia. He said in conclusion: "You forget what the Senate is. You forget what we are—one-half this Senate, the peers of you all; Representatives of States which, with slight limitations, are sovereign; you forget the character of the work in which you ask our cooperation. I tell you now, I tell you here, you will not have that co-operation for that purpose at any time."

A MASS MEETING of the citizens of Philadelphia who favor a reform in the manner of collecting delinquent taxes was held in the Academy of Music on Saturday evening. Among the officers of the meeting and speakers were gentlemen of prominence, representing the reform element in both political parties. There is a bill now pending in the Legislature for the repeal of the law of 1879 under which a separate department for the collection of delinquent taxes was created. The delinquent tax office is a regular bonanza for the "ring" politicians, and the mass meeting on Saturday was called mainly to give expression to the sentiment of the independent voters in favor of its abolition.

THE New York Times makes a loud call upon the Senate caucus to unload Gorham, the Republican-Mahone candidate for Secretary of the Senate. It says the Republican party can better afford to do without the aid of Mahone than they can afford to carry so prominent an apologist of the Star route ring frauds. The President appears to be in perfect accord with the Times, so far as Gorham is concerned, but they might probably both possess themselves in peace, as the Democratic Senators have already served notice of the unfitness of the caucus nominees. Their doom is certain in spite of Republican efforts in their favor.

TWO hundred Mormon proselytes from Europe lately landed in New York. Announcements of this kind are not uncommon. Why do not some of the missionary societies send out able men to antagonize the work of the Mormon recruiting agents? Or why not start colonization societies so that poor persons who desire to come to the United States to better their fortunes need not embrace a vulgar faith in order to secure transportation and get a home when they arrive?

STANLEY MATTHEWS is not to be an Associate Judge of the Supreme Court. The Judiciary Committee of the Senate have reported adversely to the confirmation. Mr. Lamar, it appears was the only member of the committee who favored an affirmative report.

THE Repudiation Senator from Virginia has been almost entirely obscured by recent events at Washington. The war between the Executive and the New York Senator—the break of the dead-lock, and the failure to ratify the contract and confer official position upon Gorham and Riddleberger, for which the Virginia Senator sacrificed his honor and independence, places him in a pitiable position. He is of no account now, a mere wreck to hang to the tail of the Republican kite, despised by all, in the first two months of his official life.

## Steel and Iron Rails.

Secretary Swank, of the Iron and Steel Association, has just obtained from the manufacturers complete returns of the production of iron and steel rails for the year 1880. The figures show that the production of all kinds of rails throughout the United States last year far surpassed the production of any previous year. It reached the enormous quantity of 1,461,837 tons. This is 31 per cent. more than the production of 1879, in which year 1,113,273 net tons of Bessemer steel rails were made. The rail production of 1880 was composed of 954,460 net tons of Bessemer steel rails, 493,762 net tons of iron rails and 13,615 tons of open Bessemer steel rails. The total production of Bessemer steel rails was 270,496 tons or 40 per cent. more than that of 1879; that of iron rails, 73,602 tons, or 18 per cent. more, and that of open Bessemer steel rails, 4466 tons, or 49 per cent. more. The Bessemer steel rail production includes 36,868 net tons of rails rolled by rolling mills, mainly from imported blooms. The production of steel rails in 1880, included in the total production for the year, amounted to 16,844 net tons, of which 8055 tons were Bessemer and open-Bessemer steel rails and the remainder were iron rails. Of the total production of rails Pennsylvania contributed 46 per cent., or 670,198 net tons.

Some of the Kittanning iron workers are on a strike. They complain that they are obliged to work twelve hours out of the twenty-four for from \$1.25 to \$1.80 a day and demand an increase of twenty-five cents or eight hour turns.

An odd contest took place at a West Pittston mine a few days ago. Bets for considerable sums were offered and taken that Patrick Ruane could load a coal car more quickly than Patrick Kirby. Ruane is a man of middle age; Kirby is twenty-two years old and thirty pounds less in weight than his competitor. The car to be loaded was capable of holding 8,000 pounds avoirdupois. In the presence of a large crowd Ruane loaded the car in eighteen minutes; Kirby loaded in eleven minutes, which is considered in the mining districts a wonderful and unprecedented feat.

The latest commercial sensation is the report that some 16,000,000 bushels of wheat, now on the Pacific slope, is about to be moved overland for shipment via the Gulf of Mexico, instead of around Cape Horn. The rumor was started some weeks ago, but was revived to-day and came up to the front as "good as new." There is not much reason for the fear that the rumor will be verified now, whatever may be the future course of wheat shipments from California to Europe. The wheat referred to is really in "a straight betwixt two"—or three.

Mr. Frederick A. Potts who was the Republican candidate for Governor of New Jersey last November, recently sent two of his three sons on a pleasure trip to Europe. News came that both the young men were dangerously ill in Naples, and the third son left on the next steamer. Shortly after the steamer had sailed a report of the death of one of the young men, Harvey Potts, was received. Thereupon Mr. and Mrs. Potts sailed for Europe and they are now on the passage. On Sunday a cable dispatch announced the death in Paris of George H. Potts, the one who went to the assistance of his brothers.

Mrs. Garfield is reported as seriously ill. She is prostrated with a sort of bilious intermittent fever and the President is alarmed about her. Mrs. Garfield has not been of robust health for some time and the duties of her new position as mistress of the Executive Mansion have weighed heavily upon her. She was sent to New York a few days ago, but the social pressure there was even worse than at the White House and she returned to Washington to take to her bed. Mrs. Garfield is literally a martyr to society. Her ambition to do honor to her husband's friends is beyond her physical endurance and she is now suffering the penalty.

The Pacific States have long been at enmity with the small coin, but hard times have made an improvement. Formerly everything was sold by the bit's worth. A bit was supposed to mean twelve and a half cents. You bought a bit's worth of your grocer and handed him a quarter. He gave you back ten cents. The next time you paid him only ten cents. If you frequently paid him only the dime he probably spoke to you about it. Two bits are a quarter of a dollar. It was cheapest to buy two bits' or four bits' worth of anything. Hard times brought the five cent piece. A child who wanted a cent's worth of peanuts was put to great distress. The Pacific coast is rapidly approaching the time when a rich man will find five cents in his vest pocket.