

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, June 2, 1881.

Who wrote the Morey letter? Every one accused has been vindicated except President Garfield. If Conkling knows he ought to tell and definitely settle the question. The senior Senator should not prevent any pent up Utica from overflowing in the interest of truth.

The committee of one hundred in Philadelphia is now addressing itself to the question of reform in street car fares. Five cents is the ultimatum of the reformers and the car companies would do well to read the history of the past few months intelligently. If they do they will concede the reduction and save themselves infinite trouble. Its bound to come.

The President of the United States is popularly supposed to be James A. Garfield of Ohio. This is a mistake, James G. Blaine of Maine is the President, Secretary of State and jigger boss generally. He has the Mentor statesman by the throat and runs the present Administration in the interest of revenge. He has laid a heavy hand on Conkling and the end is not yet. Cincinnati and Chicago are two Waterloos that Mr. Blaine proposes to wipe out, and in pursuing this purpose he will not stop short of party disruption. Blaine is brilliant, audacious and unscrupulous and is potent now for much mischief.

The dignity of the United States Senate, if that body still possesses claim to the distinction since the admission of Don Cameron, Kellogg and Mahone, is sadly discounted by their presiding officer, who appears at Albany in the character of a ward huckster in the Republican fight. To be the second officer of the United States Government, and the presiding dignitary of its highest legislative assembly, was at one time believed to lend dignity and propriety to the incumbent, but all this influence seems to have been lost on Arthur. He takes to slum work naturally, and is now running a campaign in the interest of spoils-grabbers.

Some interesting developments are being made in the Treasury Department, at Washington, which are not calculated to inspire respect for the integrity and watchful care over the public finances that ought to be expected from men in high positions of trust. Looseness in the disbursements of the contingent fund, in which prominent officials have largely profited in personal wealth, will probably call for explanations from ex-Secretary Sherman to screen many of his trusted subordinates, if not himself, from very discreditable appropriations of the public means to private use. It begins to be apparent, that if the covering is stripped off the Hayes administration, its postal frauds and embezzlements will be quite up to the whiskey frauds and other irregularities and steals of the Grant regime.

The chances of Conkling and Platt for re-election to the Senate are variously estimated. Conkling is confident of success and has taken the personal management of the canvass at Albany. His known ability and power to command the New York Republicans, make him an opponent which the Federal Administration with all its patronage will find difficult to subdue or defeat. His opponents, however, are equally defiant and stern, and as yet, show no signs of weakening. The result will probably be a protracted struggle and dead-lock of factions, and may eventuate in dividing the Senatorial representation of the State between the Republicans and Democrats, as it was before the election of Platt, who only entered the Senate on the fourth of March last.

That Morey Letter.

There is something singular if not suspicious, remarks the Harrisburg Patriot, about the abandonment of the search for the author of the Morey letter. The boasted determination of the Republican National Committee under the injunction of Mr. Garfield, "to hunt the rascal down," has suddenly yielded to a "want of funds," as if the office-holders could not be assessed as readily for the small amount required for the prosecution of the search as for the immense sums collected from them for campaign purposes. There would be no trouble at all in raising the necessary sum to carry on the investigation if Mr. Jewell, the chairman of the Republican national committee, really meant to prosecute the matter in good faith. The acquittal of Philp, the writer of the article in *Truth* sustaining the genuineness of the letter, will go far toward convincing the public that the Republican national committee never had any good ground for pronouncing the article a forgery. Not a scintilla of testimony has been produced to show that the signature of Mr. Garfield to that letter is not in his own proper handwriting. His own assertion to the contrary made in the midst of a heated campaign and viewed in the light of his discredited statements in the *Credit Mobilier* matter goes for little. Experts in chirography differ as to whether the signature to the letter is the handwriting of Garfield, but not a few of them, after making careful microscope examination, have pronounced the autograph genuine. Still the letter may have been forged. It is due to the public that every effort should be made by the committees representing the two great political parties to discover the fact of the matter. The Democratic national committee circulated copies of the letter believing it to be genuine. The Republican national committee made capital of the Democratic committee's action by denouncing it as the basest of crimes. It is certainly the interest of one if not both of these committees to ascertain the truth and having ascertained it to give it to the public. Some time ago it was reported that Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, of the Democratic national committee, had proffered Mr. Jewell pecuniary assistance in his efforts to discover the author of the letter. Mr. Barnum would no doubt also lend a helping hand if he did not know that Mr. Jewell has given up the hunt. Legally considered the case now stands against the Republican committee. Their charge of forgery is unsupported by proof and they have not indicted nor even indicated the criminal. On the other hand the editor who libeled Garfield if the letter was not genuine has been acquitted on the charge of criminal libel instituted against him. There is a mystery connected with the matter which must be cleared up if public opinion is to settle down finally against the authenticity of the letter.

The Mahone Readjusters are working valiantly to effect a thorough coalition with the Republican party of Virginia before the meeting of their State convention which is to come off shortly. The Republicans of the State, however, do not take kindly to ratifying the bargains of Mahone. He is now appealing to the President for the influence of the Federal Administration to perfect the coalition in the State in order to raise the corrupt contracting parties from the slough of despond in which their failure in Washington has enveloped them. But Mahone, being now a dead dog, is of no value to Garfield and Blaine, and his appeals are received coldly. Amidst the discordant complications with members of their own party, these astute political chiefs are not disposed to burden themselves with the care of a putrid carcass. Mahone will have to stand alone and bear the consequences of his political treachery. It

is now said that as a last desperate struggle to maintain his piebald party and to secure an apparent endorsement from his State, Mahone will have himself placed at the head of his ticket as a candidate for Governor.

The absorbing question of pay which has so excited the members of the Legislature during the present session is to be settled by the passage of a section in the general Appropriation bill providing \$1500 for each member and directing the State Treasurer to pay the same. With the adoption of this section, Ruddiman will doubtless drop his wild hunt after the "motives" of the Attorney General and accept his \$1500 with thanks. The people may consider this very liberal pay for wasted time, and the amount and quality of the work performed. But as little was expected from a Republican Legislature, controlled and operated by the Philadelphia roosters, disappointment will not produce any serious sensation.

VIRGINIA READJUSTERS are growing desperate. Mahone appeals to Bob Ingersoll to use his influence with the Garfield administration to favor the coalition of the Republicans with the Readjuster party. Late events admonish them that some powerful influence is needed, and must be had, to save the piebald party from utter destruction under the well-directed and aggressive blows of the Democracy. The elections throughout the State have been carried by the Democrats, many of the straight-out Republicans voting with them, intent upon burying the dead and offensive carcass of Mahoneism and Repudiation out of sight.

THE Washington *National Republican* referring to the service of decorating the graves of our dead heroes, indulges in the following doleful strain over the failure to properly apply the results of their achievements:

"They preserved the Nation, but we have not preserved Liberty. We have elevated Cant, Hypocrisy, and Greed, over Patriotism, Truth and Liberty. Let us repent and do so no more."

If this is a dyspeptic view of the situation, it is also a truthful one, and repentance is not inappropriate. "Cant and hypocrisy and greed over patriotism," have ruled supreme under Republican domination, ever since the war. They were prominently represented in the administrations of Grant and Hayes, and, if Conkling is to be relied upon as a witness, we may expect no improvement under that of Garfield.

THE investigation of the Star route swindler is still progressing under the searching eyes of Postmaster James and Attorney General MacVeagh. They have already uncovered sufficient crookedness to know that stupendous frauds were committed against the Government, and will soon have the principal thieves under indictment, with evidence to show the amount stolen and to whom it was paid. Strong efforts it is said were made to induce the President to arrest the investigation and prevent prosecutions. Too late for this. The President has load enough to carry without bearing him down with the odium of protecting villains like Dorsey & Co.

THE Ohio Republican State Convention will meet on Wednesday next to nominate a State ticket. The present Governor, Charles Foster, it is believed will be nominated for re-election. His treachery to John Sherman in the Chicago convention, may not prove a winning card in the campaign. It is said that "curses like chickens, come home to roost," and Charles may realize the truthfulness of the adage.

THE Lock Haven *Daily Journal*, reached us on Tuesday evening in an enlarged and otherwise improved condition. We like the *Journal*, and with great pleasure notice its present signs of prosperity.

The Legislature.

Both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature have agreed to the resolution fixing the time for a final adjournment on Thursday, the 9th instant, which is one week from to-day. Upon the whole, this long session has not been a very beneficial one to the people of the State. It is probable, however, that the benefits—if there be any—will be found to consist more in the prevention of bad legislation than in anything else. One of the crowning faults to be charged against the session has been the failure to effect the repeal of several bad laws passed at former sessions that are oppressive and obnoxious to the people of Philadelphia. They have appealed in vain to have these enactments, under the cover of which a venal and corrupt ring of politicians have been able to plunder them as audaciously and as ruthlessly as highway-men, stricken from the statute books, but their appeals have received as little attention as though an ordinary citizen had no rights which a Pennsylvania legislature was bound to respect. The corrupt roosters have thus far been able to prevent anything that savored of salutary legislation or reform measures from reaching final consideration. It is through the present system of public plunder in Philadelphia that they keep themselves in power and it is hard for them to give up their flesh-pots.

An end, however, is bound to come to this lamentable condition of public affairs in our State. An aroused public sentiment will compel a change, and in due time the voice of the people will be heeded. The responsibility for all that is vile and vicious in the present course of legislation at the State Capitol must rest with the preponderating political majority which controls the organization and dictates the action of both branches. The Democratic minority is helpless in the hands of that unscrupulous majority. It can be said to the credit of the minority—and in this connection we take special pride in pointing to the records of our Centre county representatives—that, with few exceptions, all measures looking to the reform of abuses; to a lessening of the burdens that rest upon the citizens of Philadelphia; to just and honest legislation for the benefit of all; to the breaking up of corrupt rings and the re-establishment of honest parliamentary methods, have received the earnest and unwavering support of that minority. This is a matter of just pride to the Democracy of Pennsylvania. Let us hope that it is the harbinger of better days in Pennsylvania legislation. Of days when a Democratic majority will give voice to the wishes of the people they represent; when purity, honesty and a just regard for the honor and dignity of our great Commonwealth will be the prevailing motives that actuate the representatives of our citizenship, instead of the sordid, groveling and loathsome rule that at present sways our destinies.

THAT able and reliable Democratic newspaper, the *Clinton Democrat*, came to us last week in a clean, new dress presenting a neat and artistic appearance. With an editor of large experience and eminent ability, the Democracy of Clinton county have an organ in which they may well feel an honest pride. We offer our sincere congratulations to our excellent neighbor.

THE Conkling vindication according to the latest reports does not present a promising aspect. A separate ballot was taken on Tuesday in both Houses of the New York Legislature for Senators. Mr. Conkling received thirty-five votes in the two houses, nine in the Senate and twenty-six in the House, and Platt had twenty-nine votes, eight in the Senate and twenty-one in the House. The Democratic vote was cast solidly for Francis J. Kernan and John C. Jacobs, and the

Republican vote scattered between Conkling, Platt and some fifteen half-breeds, as the opponents of Conkling are familiarly called. It is believed that the ex-Senators will improve their vote materially, but whether sufficient to overcome the patronage and power of the Administration brought to the aid of the opposing faction, is doubtful.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

SNOW SHOE.—We are under obligations to our friend, J. H. Holt, Esq., for a copy of Col. James Gilliland's "Historical Sketches of the Snow Shoe Region," recently published in pamphlet form. We have read this excellent little work with great pleasure and interest. It opens with an account of the "early surveys and owners of land" in the region of which it treats, in 1773. Then there is an exceedingly interesting sketch of the "first settlers," beginning with John Betchtol, who in the year 1818 became the first permanent resident. John Betchtol was followed in the same year by Samuel Askey, who was a famous woodsman and hunter. The anecdotes related by Col. Gilliland of Samuel Askey's hunting adventures are well told and interesting. Mr. Askey died in the year 1857 in his eighty-first year, leaving twelve children, forty-two grand children and five great grand children. Mrs. Austin Hinton, one of his daughters, and a number of his grand and great-grandchildren are at the present time residents of Snow Shoe.

After Betchtol and Askey, came John Holt. The sketch of the Holt family is so interesting that we cannot forbear to give it in full. We therefore take the following extract from the chapter upon the "first settlers":

"There was no further settlement until the spring of 1822, when John Holt, Esq., from Bald Eagle Valley, located about a mile distant from Betchtol and Askey. He made a judicious selection of land. The situation is beautiful, commanding a pleasant and extensive view of the surrounding country; land smooth and easily cultivated, producing good crops, with a desirable home. He was a useful and highly respected citizen. For many years he filled the office of justice of the peace, and discharged the duties of other offices of the township, to which he was frequently called by the people. He died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Hugby, in the State of Illinois, while on a visit, on the 23rd day of November, 1869. His remains were brought home and deposited in Snow Shoe Cemetery.

His great-grandfather was a son of Sir John Holt, of England, and emigrated to America and settled in the Cumberland Valley before the Revolution. He left home to go on business to Philadelphia, and never was heard of afterwards. It was supposed that he was killed by the Indians. He left one son, Thomas, and two daughters, who, with the Buchanans, were the first settlers at Lewistown, Pennsylvania. Thomas Holt had four sons and three daughters. William, the ancestor of Judge Holt, Postmaster-General during Mr. Buchanan's administration, emigrated to Kentucky; James was killed by the Indians; Thomas went to Ohio; and Col. John Holt, the father of John Holt, Esq., of Snow Shoe, settled in the Bald Eagle Valley, near Curtin's iron works, in 1782. He was a colonel in the Revolution, and was at the battle of Germantown and in several others. He was fond of hunting, and it is said was the first white man that followed the Indian trail to Snow Shoe to hunt game. It was his custom to spend a few weeks during every fall season hunting. Samuel Askey, Joseph and Charles Lucas, and his son John, when a boy, generally accompanied him. He raised a family of four sons—Thomas, James, John, and Robert—and four daughters: Mary, married to Jacob Barnhart; Elizabeth, to Henry Barnhart; Jane, to Frederick Antis; and Nancy, to James Patter-son. Colonel Holt died in the summer of 1831, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Mrs. Mary Holt, wife of John Holt, died on the 9th of July, 1867, aged seventy-two years. She was a woman of more than ordinary intelligence, highly esteemed by her neighbors and by all who knew her; a devoted Christian, following the example of her Divine Master, "going abroad doing good"; in cases of sickness attending upon the humble and the lowly as well as the more favored. Mrs. Holt was the daughter of John Harbison, an Englishman, and one of the first settlers of Milesburg, whose descendants are numerous, including the Bairds, Holts, Swanzys, McKibbenses, and others.

John Holt's family consisted of two sons and three daughters. William, his oldest son, was killed at the breaking down of the trestle across Miller's Hollow, when in the cars, on his way to a political meeting. He was one of the most enterprising men of the country, a skillful and successful farmer, and also engaged extensively in lumber operations. His death was a great loss to his family, and was much lamented by the community. His brother, J. H. Holt, is also a prominent and useful citizen of Snow Shoe, extensively engaged in the square-timber business and in farming. Mrs. Hugby, the only daughter living, resides in the State of Illinois.

These old settlers attracted others and in a short time came John Mayes, from Madisonburg, in Miles township, Perry John Lucas and others mentioned by Col. Gilliland. The succeeding parts are devoted to the growth, development and improvement of the region. The work should be in the hands of every one interested in Snow Shoe and Barnside township.

MILLS BURNED.—We learn from the Phillipsburg *Journal* that the saw mills recently erected at North Houtzdale by the enterprising firm of Hoover, Hughes & Co., were entirely destroyed by fire on last Friday morning. The fire occurred about 3 o'clock in the morning. The *Journal* says:

"These mills in addition to the regular machinery required for the manufacture of lumber and shingles, also had a complete outfit to manufacture boxes of all kinds and nail kegs, being all completed in the most thorough manner, at a cost of \$18,000. An insurance of \$13,250 covers the loss partially, but the delay caused by the interruption of the business is much more serious than the deficit on the cost of the buildings and machinery. Just thirteen months ago, a new mill just completed and ready for operation on the same foundation on which the present mill was located, was destroyed by fire and now the present loss makes it doubly severe and discouraging to these enterprising lumber operations. As we go to press on Friday afternoon at one o'clock we are unable to give a full account of the fire."

READ AND CONSIDER.—The business boom has caused so many manufacturing to start into full operations that hands are becoming scarce. Men are striking for higher wages at business centres; this will make harvest hands scarce. Farmers should consider the situation in time. Those who have much wheat to harvest should provide themselves with self-binding Harvesters. The Osborne is the best—binds with either twine or wire, the cost of which is twenty-five to thirty cents per acre. It is the only Harvester made that the twine and wire attachments go with the same machine. They are the only self-binding Harvesters that have been sold in Centre county this year. There is a twine binder in working order at the Farmer's Supply Store, of Alexander & Co., Bellefonte, Pa.

—We were greatly grieved to hear of the death of Samuel Thompson, Esq., an old and respected citizen of Walker township. His death occurred on Sunday and his funeral took place on Tuesday. Mr. Thompson was 78 years of age. He filled the office of Justice of the Peace for some years; was a most estimable and useful citizen, held in the highest esteem by all who knew him, and a general sorrow was felt in the neighborhood when his death was announced. Of him it may be said that a good man, at a ripe age, has gone to his reward.

FROM THE HUB.—There is perhaps no tonic offered to the people that possesses as much real intrinsic value as the Hop Bitters. Just at this season of the year, when the stomach needs an appetizer, or the blood needs purifying, the cheapest and best remedy is Hop Bitters. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, don't wait until you are prostrated by a disease that may take months for you to recover in.—*Boston Globe*.

—The Philadelphia Branch still leads all other Bellefonte houses in extra quality and styles of clothing.

Book Notices.

FLOWERS AT EIGHT TIMES THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.

THE cut-flower business, another phase of horticulture, is perhaps greater in the United States than in any other part of the world. Certainly the use of cut-flowers in New York, for bouquets, baskets, and other designs, is far greater than in either London or Paris, and the taste shown in their arrangement here is vastly superior. It is estimated that three millions of dollars were paid for cut-flowers in New York in 1880, one-third of which was for rose-buds. Immense glass structures are erected in the suburbs for the special purpose of growing cut-flowers to supply the bouquet-makers of the city. Not less than twenty acres of glass surface is devoted to the purpose of forcing roses alone, during the winter months. At some seasons the prices paid for these forced rosebuds are perfectly astounding. One grower, of Madison, New Jersey, took into New York three hundred buds of the crimson rose known as "General Jacqueminot," for which he received, at wholesale, three hundred dollars, and which, no doubt, were retailed at a dollar and fifty cents to two dollars each. A flower-dealer in Fourteenth street, a few days before Christmas, received the only four of this same variety of rose that were offered in the city, and found a customer for them at sixty dollars, or fifteen dollars apiece, or eight times the value of their weight in gold.—*Peter Henderson, in "Practical Floriculture," SCRIBNER for June.*

THE Supreme Court of New York has granted the order to change the name of the corporation of "Scriven & Co." to "THE CENTURY CO."—the order to take effect on the 21st of June. The July issues of SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY and ST. NICHOLAS will have the new corporate imprint.