

The Centre Democrat.



SHUGERT & FORSTER, Editors.

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

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

Thursday Morning, January 19, 1882.

THE prizes in the "lottery of assassination" are still the centre of attraction at Washington. Republicans of the stalwart order are very earnest in their efforts to invest early and profitably.

EX-SECRETARY BLAINE says that Don Cameron is the most consummate liar that he ever knew. Blaine is an observing man, and generally speaks to the point of things whereof he is well informed.

THE dead-lock in the organization of the New York Legislature, still continues at Albany. Boss Kelley, holds the brakes and refuses to let the machinery move until the majority bend to his dictation.

THE Governor of Wisconsin announces that state as entirely out of debt, with a balance in the Treasury of \$117,000. Well, let it go head—it is entitled to the honor. But how lonely the poor state must feel!

GEN. STILES, a leading member of the Chicago Bar, following the example of the Philadelphia Times publishes a card offering "to pay \$500 for the conviction of any person guilty of bribery or attempting to bribe a jury." Let no quarter be given to the jury-fixer.

A NOBLE COMMENCEMENT. Postmaster General Howe commenced the noble and disinterested work of administering the affairs of the postoffice department, after the retirement of Mr. James, by appointing his son chief clerk. No Caesarism in this. Dad is only worth two millions and can be excused for providing for the impecunious members of his own household.

DR. NEWMAN who was pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist church in Washington, during the Grant administration, and distinguished himself somewhat as a politician of the period, is now the pastor of a new fashionable Congregationalist church in New York, which has just been opened for service. Gen. Grant, his former patron, still adheres to the Doctor's fortunes and at the sale the other day paid \$1,000 for a pew.

A COMPLIMENTARY banquet was given last week by the members of the Philadelphia Bar, to Attorney General Brewster, at which a large number of distinguished jurists and lawyers were present. In response to the usual toast on such occasions, "our guest," Mr. Brewster said he had entered upon his office with the applause of his brethren of the bar, and with the help of God he would leave it without a stain.

EARLY IN MOTION! The Republican State Committee has appointed the 10th of May as the time for holding their State Convention to nominate a candidate for Governor and other state officers. The ring will have made their selections by that time, as well as the agents to ratify in Convention the edicts of the Bosses, who have a strong hand to play, and will doubtless play it boldly, as they did last year.

THE Independent Republicans met in Convention in Philadelphia on the 23d inst., with a fair representation from different parts of the state, in which Wolfe of Union, Mapes of Venango and McKee of Philadelphia, were probably the central figures. The object of the meeting we believe was to effect a preliminary organization, preparatory to their approaching struggle with the party bosses in the fall. After disposing of various propositions and a good deal of talk, it was determined to hold the Independent Republican State Convention for the nomination of candidates on the 24th of May in the city of Philadelphia.

SPEAKER KEIFER'S election committee in the House, composed of eleven Stalwart Republicans and three Democrats, is getting fairly under way in the work for which they were selected, of excluding Southern members and seating Southern pretenders, without regard to the merit of the case, or the decency of the proceedings. The character of some of the cases before them is so outrageous that one would suppose that even a committee constituted to do dirty work, would hesitate. For instance, in the fifth district of Louisiana, Lanier, Republican, asks to be seated instead of King, Democrat, returned by the following vote: King, 15,305; Lanier, 3,318; majority for King 11,987. Now this miserable fraud contests the seat of Mr. King on the ground that if all the voters had gone to the polls who might have done so and voted for him, he would have been elected. Was it to encourage the presentation of such cases as this that this shamefully partisan committee was formed? In the third district of South Carolina Stalbrand, Republican, contests the seat of Aiken, Democrat, on the following returns, Aiken, 27,363; Stalbrand, 9,272, showing a Democratic majority of 18,588. Stalbrand's ground of contest is on a level with that of Lanier. If he had received votes enough he might have been elected. In the fifth South Carolina district, Smalls, negro Republican claims the seat of Tillman, Democrat, on the following returns: Tillman, 23,325; Smalls, 15,287; showing a Democratic majority of 8,038. In this case, Smalls claims the seat on the ground that he is a negro, and that all the negroes should have voted for him, which they did not do. This negro, since the days of reconstruction and carpet-bag rule, has made contesting a business with the view of drawing the usual allowances from the Treasury, whether successful or not. With such facts as these cases present, it is difficult to believe that even partisan recklessness can obtain for them anything but a disgusted hearing.

By the adoption of Senator Hoar's resolution, the Senate of the United States have provided a standing committee of that body on "Female Suffrage." This concession on the part of grave Senators to the "strong minded" Phoebe-Janes, will be very encouraging and hopeful evidence that it is only a little matter of time when Susan and Elizabeth and Jane, may strip, no not strip for the contest, but enter the hustings and contend with Sam and Jim and Tom and other bosses for the control and mastery of the machinery of party politics. Well, why not?

STRONG influences, it is said, is now being brought to bear on President Arthur to prevent the appointment of Ex-Senator Sargent, of California, as the successor of Secretary Kirkwood of the Interior Department, with some hope that they may be successful. It is humiliating to see the question discussed of the discharge of a competent and deserving man like Kirkwood, for the purpose of giving place to a brawling demagogue without substantial character, like Sargent. Last week it seemed to be authoritatively announced that this change would certainly take place. This week the question is in doubt, and it is to be hoped that the doubt is well founded. Whatever may be thought of the parties controlling public affairs, the people still have an interest that the control shall not run into degradation, and will be well satisfied to be spared the disgrace of changing Kirkwood for Sargent in the management of that important department of the government.

W. M. EVERTS, the Secretary of State, under the late fraud administration, has been elected President of the Union League of New York, a society of whom Mr. Greeley was wont to speak of as a "band of blockheads."

'Mr. Arthur, the Acting President.'

Many of the Republican papers are as careful in speaking of President Arthur by his title, as the Democrats were in speaking of the man who occupied the office to which the people elected Mr. Tilden. They speak of the President as "Mr. Arthur, the acting President." This mode of address is significant, but not of harmony certainly, and as the President continues to develop the Stalwart policy of his administration forshadowed soon after he entered the White House, this feeling of discourtesy will continue to intensify and indicate more clearly the inevitable war brewing between the Stalwart's minority and the Garfield men as led and represented by Blaine. That these men are prescribed by the Stalwart administration, is too apparent to be disguised by the adroit caution of the President, and the fact will in due time bear its fruit. The revolution in the Republican party, which has been steady and marked since the death of President Garfield, is not played so quietly that the Garfield and Blaine Republicans are ignorant of its significance, and when they speak of their lawfully elected President as a plain "mister," holding the office as the fruit of assassination, it means something and is the precursor of war, silent perhaps, but aggressive against third-term and Boss machinery.

SENATOR DON CAMERON has made a speech!—a great speech of twenty minutes duration, which must reflect distinguished honor upon the great State he is supposed to honor by his presence in the Senate of the United States. He took for his text a resolution he offered declaring it "expedient to reduce the revenues by abolishing all existing internal revenue taxes, excepting those upon highwines and distilled spirits," in which he took occasion to exhaust his ideas of a revenue tariff and the great importance of the maintenance of the present tariff, which he alleged "was the prime cause of the improvement and comfort of the laboring classes." He said nothing of the fact that it was under the present tariff that all the lights of the furnaces went out in 1873, and brought untold suffering and misery upon the laboring classes from that period until 1880. But however crude and unsatisfactory the ideas of the speaker may be as to cause and effect, the fact is patent that the glory of the State is returning when her senior Senator gets off a speech upon important and far-reaching economic questions, and all in twenty minutes of passing time.

A BILL has been presented in the Senate by Senator Logan providing an annual pension of \$3,000 for Mrs. Lincoln, widow of the late President, for the term of five years. Mrs. Lincoln is in possession of an annual allowance of \$3,000 voted her after the death of her husband, but being in a helpless condition, requiring constant nursing and medical attendance, it is alleged to be inadequate for her comfortable support.

THE commission or returning board selected at the last session of the Legislature to count the vote of last November for the office of State Treasurer, met at Harrisburg yesterday. The board consists of Gov. Hoyt and other State officials, five Senators and seven members of the House.

It is announced that the Hon. Samuel J. Randall has declared himself unreservedly in favor of Controller Pattison, of Philadelphia, as the Democratic candidate for Governor. Well, no one can say that Mr. Randall's choice does not rest upon a most worthy and competent man.

THROUGH the efforts of Mr. Stilson Hutchins, of the Washington Post, the sum of \$10,000 has been raised toward the erection of an appropriate monument to Daniel Webster at the national capitol.

The Mormon Question.

The Harrisburg Patriot remarks that "a telegram from Washington, emanating from a republican source, vouchsafes the startling information that 'the republicans of this congress seem to be very much in earnest on the Mormon question.'" The republicans of 1856, twenty-six years ago, seemed to be very much in earnest on this same mormon question, for they denounced polygyny as a "relic of barbarism," in fact as a "twin relic" with slavery as its brother, or sister, according to the gender that the platform-makers intended. But they could not win the presidency on that issue, and when James Buchanan, who was then elected president, undertook to throttle the Utah "twin" the republican critics declared that the expense of maintaining an army for the enforcement of the laws against the rebellious Mormons would bankrupt the country and John Covode and Edward McPherson made the republican stump howl as they dilated upon the "extravagant expenditures of the Buchanan administration." In fact the republican party obstructed in every way Mr. Buchanan's attempt to enforce the declarations of their own platform against polygamy, and this they did out of pure "cussedness" and for the sole purpose of embarrassing and annoying a democratic administration. When we remember these facts it is very reassuring and gratifying to learn all of a sudden by telegraph that the republicans of this congress "seem to be very much in earnest on the Mormon question." But we are left in the dark as to the side of the question on which their earnestness is to be manifested. Suppose, for instance, that the Mormon leaders, who are noted for their cunning, were to propose to the stalwart managers at Washington to send two republican senators and a republican congressman, upon the admission of their territory into the Union as a state, would the tricksters, who did not hesitate to enter into a corrupt and disgraceful bargain with repudiation in Virginia, scruple to go into partnership with polygamy in Utah? Having tolerated the immoral institution during the quarter of a century of their power at Washington, would it appear to them a difficult thing to find a pretext for a further endurance of the evil? But let us be thankful that the republicans of this congress at least "seem to be in earnest on the Mormon question." A discussion of the subject will do no harm, and may lead to some practical solution of the matter.

AN exchange says with great force and pertinency that "Other prominent military men besides General Grant believed Fitz John Porter guilty until they examined the testimony in his case. Three of the members of the Schofield board of inquiry were of this class, but when convinced of their error by the evidence presented before them, like honest and just men and brave and true soldiers they did not hesitate to acquit the man they found to be innocent. General Terry, for instance, wrote General Porter as follows: "For years I did you wrong in thought and sometimes in speech. It is true that this was through ignorance but I had not the right to be so ignorant. I might have learned something at least of the truth had I diligently sought it. If you find anything in my action as a member of the board which you can accept as an atonement for the wrong which I did you, I shall be more than gratified." A frank and manly acknowledgment of error and an honest desire to repair a wrong bespeak a character too lofty to be appreciated by the mousing critics who are now attacking General Grant for having revised his judgment of the case of General Porter.

NEW YORK'S contributions to the sufferers by the Michigan fire, foot up over \$143,000. Such footing up is creditable to the humanity of a great and wealthy city.

THAT able journal, the *American Register*, draws a terse and vivid distinction between five characters who figure before the people at all times—the statesman, the jurist, the politician, the partisan, and the demagogue. The following are the definitions:

The statesman is a man of eminent ability and integrity versed in the science of government, and the art of governing. A truly great statesman is guided by elevated and enlarged views, and devoted to the interest and welfare of his country, regardless of selfish, sectional and partisan considerations.

The jurist is a man of eminent ability, learning and integrity, who is versed in the science of the law, especially the civil and municipal law and the law of nations.

The politician is one devoted to political affairs, and who dabbles in politics for a living.

The partisan is the adherent of a party or faction, who devotes his time to its advancement, and serves his party instead of his country.

The demagogue is one who employs specious and deceitful arts to deceive and control the people, panders to popular prejudices, and engages in nefarious and corrupt practices to gull and mislead the multitude.

MR. ROBESON'S resolution, reported from the Committee on Rules of the House, to increase the membership of certain committees, is probably an attempt on the part of Speaker Keifer to repair the damage done by his unskillful work in their original appointment. He perhaps thinks he may conciliate the men in his own party who were treated so contemptuously, or hope to cover up the bargains which gained him his place by assigning a multitude of members to certain positions. It is not a proceeding which will commend itself to thoughtful people as either wise or necessary. But if it will relieve Mr. Keifer from a dilemma and if the House will take care that a seeming necessity does not drift into a precedent, no alarming danger will have come to the country.

THE production and consumption of pig-iron in this country for the year 1881, is given at large figures. It is stated that there were over four and three-quarter million tons produced, nearly four hundred thousand tons imported, and nearly five millions nine hundred thousand tons consumed. This is largely in excess of the product and consumption of 1880.

THE case of Giteau the assassin, has not yet been submitted to the jury. The arguments of the attorneys are still progressing and will probably not be completed until sometime next week. The country will be glad when the end comes.

Mrs. Lincoln Interviewed.

A STATEMENT OF HER CONDITION.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Press recently visited the widow of Abraham Lincoln in New York. The only reference she made to her financial condition was to express her extreme regret that the matter had become the subject of discussion in the public prints. She talked much of the past, but said she could read but little now because of her weak eyes, though they are getting better. Drs. Sayre, Clymer, Knapp and Hancock have furnished Hon. Wm. M. Springer, of Illinois, with the following special statement of Mrs. Lincoln's condition: "We find Mrs. Lincoln suffering from chronic inflammation of the spinal cord, chronic disease of the kidneys and commencing cataract of both eyes. The disorder of the spinal cord is the result of an injury received some time since, and has resulted in considerable loss of power of both lower limbs, so as to lessen their use and render walking without assistance impossible. The nature of the spinal trouble is progressive and will end in paralysis of the lower extremities. Connected with the spinal disease, and one of its evidences, is the reflex paralysis of the iris of the eye and the reduction of the sight to one-tenth the natural standard, together with much narrowing of the field of vision. The sight will gradually grow worse. There is no probability that there will be any permanent improvement in Mrs. Lincoln's condition, considering the nature of her disease and her age. She is now quite helpless and unable to walk with safety without the aid of an attendant, or, indeed, to help herself to any extent. She requires the continued services of a nurse, and also constant medical attendance."

A marriage ceremony was celebrated in the Pottsville jail on Saturday. The happy couple were Henry Weber and Johanna Williams, the groom having been previously committed to the bastille for trifling with the affections of the bride.

SPUYTEN DUYVIL'S HORROR.

The Bodies of Eight Victims Recovered.

NEW YORK, January 15.—Eight bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the cars that were burned after the collision on the New York Central and Hudson River railroad near Spuyten Duyvil station on Friday evening. Seven of these have been identified positively, but there is still doubt as to the identity of the other body. The wreck was cleared away early yesterday, and little was left to mark the scene of the catastrophe. The dead were brought to this city, permits for their removal were granted by the coroner, and the identified bodies were turned over to the charge of friends. It is said that the stoppage of the express train resulted in the mischievous pulling of a cord that ran through the cars, which put on the brake and brought the train to a standstill. The blame for the collision seems, according to his own admissions, to rest on brakeman Melius, who is under arrest. The list of the dead is as follows:

Brown, Mrs. Mary L., 35 years old, of 455 West Fifty-third street, New York.

Keeler, Oliver B., 36 years old, of Spring City, Pa.

Marcehal, the Rev. Francis, 35 years old, of the Jesuit order.

Ransom, Darwin L., 30 years old of the Hoffman house, New York.

Valentine, Park, 21 years old, of Bennington, Vt.

Valentine, M. Louise, 19 years old, wife of Park Valentine.

Wagner, Senator Webster, 64 years old, of 14 East Forty-fourth street, New York.

An unidentified body of a man in Merritt's undertaking rooms, believed to be that of a Mr. Richards of Troy.

The only person who is seriously injured is Miss Mary Daniels, of Fifth avenue and Forty-fourth street. Her physician expresses fear that she may not recover.

The list of those who suffered slight bruises would include many of those who were passengers in the second and third cars from the rear of the express train.

Parts of all the remains were charred to a crisp, and in several cases the clothing and personal property were all that was left to insure recognition. The dead were placed in coffins furnished by order of Mr. Vanderbilt. As day broke, crowds from the neighborhood visited the scene, and each train that arrived brought new visitors, some from curiosity and others anxiously inquiring for missing friends. Many carried away mementoes in the shape of small pieces of debris. One of the railroad men named John Welsh was injured while working at the wreck, but not fatally. Early in the afternoon every vestige of the collision had been removed.

The bodies of Park Valentine and his young bride of a day were found together in the burned debris. Their right hands were both untouched by the fire, but their left hands were burned to the bone. Immediately after the collision the two were seen through a broken window by the conductor of the Tarrytown special. Mrs. Valentine was imprisoned by the broken seats and timbers of the car, and was reaching out her hands for aid in a heartrending appeal. Her husband lay on his side and was held so that he could not move. She wore considerable jewelry, and her fur-lined-circular was found afterward in the ruins. By their side in the burned car was a new valise one end of which was burned a little. In it were a number of toilet articles, all uninjured, and a number of cards of "Mr. and Mrs. Park Valentine."

Senator Wagner's mutilated remains were sent down to the city first and arrived at 8:15 a. m. in one of the dead Senator's own palace cars, at the Grand Central depot. The family took the body in charge. Two hours later, at 10:30 o'clock, the remaining seven bodies were brought down in an ordinary baggage-car. Six of the bodies were packed in ice-boxes and the charred remains of the seventh were borne on a stretcher covered by the fur-lined cloak of Mrs. Valentine, the young bride whose wedding tour ended in such a horrible death. The car was switched off upon a side-track where it arrived and run east of the depot to the old freight station at Forty-third street. There the coffins were ranged on the floor, and upon tables were spread the drugged and buried garments and articles recovered from the wreck to serve as a means of identifying the yet unrecognized dead. Detective Dakin told of the death of Oliver B. Keeler, of Spring City, Pa., in the Kilcullen Hotel after terrible suffering. Keeler's one arm was burned off at the elbow and his body fairly roasted. He was conscious nevertheless up to the last moments of life. Detectives Dakin, who came to his bedside, recognized a fellow-mason. He made himself known as a brother in distress and told the officer that he was a member of Spring City Lodge No. 553 at his home. "Write to my wife," he said grasping the officer's hand "and give her my love." With these words on his lips he expired.

R. G. Dun & Co., of the Mercantile Agency, report the failures throughout the country for last week as 208, the largest number in any week for more than twelve months.

At Wilmington, Ohio, a child died a few days ago from what was supposed at the time to be chicken pox, and the funeral was largely attended. As a consequence there are over fifty cases of virulent smallpox in the town.