

# 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, February 9, 1882.

The last great achievement of Mr. Edward McPherson, clerk of the House, was the removal of an old colored servant of President Polk to satisfy party pressure.

The New York Grand Jury have found indictments against the conductor and train hands in the recent "Sputen Duyvil" disaster, for murder in the fourth degree. But not a word of censure of the drunken legislator who tampered with the brakes, which, as alleged by the conductor, led to the disaster.

The Cincinnati Gazette says that Mr. Blaine has spent a large part of his life in defending himself. Well, who has a better right to defend him, or who can do it better than Blaine himself? No one can give harder blows. Conkling has felt them, as well as other stalwart bosses, and Arthur is in a fair way to estimate their ponderosity.

The interesting fight over the Wilkesbarre postoffice, which has been in progress for some time between Gov. Hoyt and Congressman Stanton, it is said has resulted in a victory for the Congressman. We believe Don Cameron was the second for the Congressman, and Independent Mitchell for the Governor. The result is not remarkable.

EX-SENATOR SARGENT, of California, has not yet hung up his hat in the Interior Department, although he has frequently announced that he intended to do so. President Arthur is a bitter Stalwart, and might be satisfied with most anything in that line, but he is too discreet to fill his cabinet with such material as this California Statesman.

The New York Legislature have at length effected an organization. Kelley's flunkies withdrew their opposition and voted with the Democrats. How much they made by the operation is of course known only to the contracting parties. But so long as John Kelley can control the parties by corrupt means, but little dependence is to be placed upon the party in New York, and less respect is due them.

The Readjuster war in Virginia is still developing and promises to reach very satisfactory proportions in a short time. Auditor Massey does not improve in temper for being set down upon by Mahone and intimates his intention to disclose some wholesome facts touching the manner in which the diminutive Rebel General attained his election to the United States Senate. Massey knows all about it, and we shall have some rich incidents yet before the readjuster war is at an end.

JUDGE HENDERSON, President Judge of the Dauphin county court, has resigned, ostensibly, because he is required by law to give up his residence in Lebanon county for a residence in Dauphin county. It is generally believed, however, that there are other controlling reasons in the case which the time has not yet arrived to be made public. The Judge is credited at present as not training actively with either faction of the Republican party, and is believed to hold a very formidable link, whether as a dark horse, or as an aggressive aspirant for the Republican nomination for Governor. He is a first-class man, and his accredited independence of character and undoubted ability will scarcely commend him very strongly to the bosses. He would probably think and act too wisely to need control or advice from any ring, whether stalwart or half-breed.

### Blaine to Arthur.

The letter addressed by ex-Secretary Blaine to President Arthur has very much the appearance that the two distinguished leaders representing the stalwart and liberal, or half-breed divisions of the Republican party are about to lock horns in a very interesting fight leading up to 1884, for adjustment. It appears from the letter of Mr. Blaine that President Garfield in his lifetime determined to call a Congress of the American Republics to meet at Washington, with a view of adopting a basis of arbitration for the peaceful settlement of any international trouble that may occur between governments on the American continent, as well as such measures of agreement as might tend to cement the friendly relations of these governments and prevent the necessity of a resort to arms in attaining a proper solution of any grievance that might arise. The project is one which Mr. Blaine alleges the late President had much at heart, and had directed invitations to be prepared and sent to the different governments of America, North and South, for the call of the Congress, but before these invitations were sent out, the President was assassinated. After the accession of Arthur to the Presidency, these facts were made known to him, and he directed Mr. Blaine, who was still Secretary of State, to issue the invitations in accordance with the views of the late President, which was accordingly done in November last. Now it seems that President Arthur whether to discredit the intervention of Mr. Blaine, has through the present Secretary, Mr. Frelinghuysen, indicated a determination to recall these invitations, alleging that the meeting of such a Congress might be offensive to European powers. On this point Mr. Blaine comments as follows:

This is certainly a new position for the United States to assume, and one which I earnestly beg you will not permit this government to occupy. The European powers assemble in congress whenever an object seems to them of sufficient importance to justify it. I have never heard of their consulting the government of the United States in regard to the propriety of their so assembling, nor have I ever known of their inviting an American representative to be present. Nor would there, in my judgment, be any good reason for their so doing. Two Presidents of the United States in the year 1881 adjudged it to be expedient that the American powers should meet in congress for the sole purpose of agreeing upon some basis for arbitration of differences that may arise between them and for the prevention, as far as possible, of war in the future. If that movement is now to be arrested for fear that it may give offense in Europe, the voluntary humiliation of this government could not more complete, unless we should press the European governments for the privilege of holding the congress. I cannot conceive how the United States could be placed in a less enviable position than would be secured by sending in November a cordial invitation to all the American governments to meet in Washington for the sole purpose of concerting measures of peace and in January recalling the invitation for fear that it might create "jealousy and ill will" on the part of monarchical governments in Europe. It would be difficult to devise a more effective mode for making enemies of the American Government and it would certainly not add to our prestige in the European world. Nor can I see, Mr. President, how European governments should feel "jealousy and ill will" towards the United States because of an effort on our part to assure lasting peace between the nations of America, unless indeed, it be to the interest of European powers that American nations should at intervals fall into war and bring reproach on republican government. But from that very circumstance I see an additional and powerful motive for the American Governments to be at peace among themselves.

Referring to the unhappy conditions of some of the South American states, the necessity existing for the friendly intervention of the United States to restore peace and keep off war between her weaker neighbors as proof of the evidence and advisability of the proposed Congress, he says if you have not formally recalled the invitations to the Peace Congress, Mr. President, I beg you to consider well the effect of so doing. The invitation was not mine, it was yours. I performed only the part of the Secretary—to advise and to draft. You spoke in the name of

the United States to each of the independent nations of America. To revoke that invitation for any cause would be embarrassing; to revoke it for the avowed fear of "jealousy and ill will" on the part of European powers would appeal as little to American pride as to American hospitality. Those you have invited may decline, and having now cause to doubt their welcome will, perhaps, do so. This would break up the congress, but it would not touch our dignity.

MR. SHERMAN carries his Funding Bill through the Senate after amendments and modifications had been added, as to make it doubtful whether he can claim its paternity. The following is the text of the bill as it passed and now goes to the House of Representatives:

Be it enacted, etc., that the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to receive at the Treasury, and at the office of any Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and at any postal money order office, lawful money of the United States to the amount of fifty dollars, or any multiple of that sum, or any bonds of the United States bearing three and a half per cent. interest, which are here by declared valid, and to issue in exchange therefor an equal amount of registered or coupon bonds of the United States of the denomination of fifty, one hundred, five hundred, one thousand and ten thousand dollars, of such form as he may prescribe, bearing interest at the rate of three per centum per annum, payable either quarterly or semi-annually at the Treasury of the United States. Such bonds shall be exempt from all taxation by or under State authority and be payable at the pleasure of the United States, provided that the bonds herein authorized shall not be called in and paid so long as any bonds of the United States heretofore issued bearing a higher rate of interest than three per centum and which shall be redeemable at the pleasure of the United States shall be outstanding and uncalled. The last of the said bonds originally issued and their substitutes under this act shall be first called in and this order of payment shall be followed until all shall have been paid. The money deposited under this act shall be promptly applied solely to the redemption of the bonds of the United States bearing three and a half per centum interest, and the aggregate amount of deposits made and bonds issued under this act shall not exceed the sum of two hundred million dollars. The amount of lawful money so received on deposit as aforesaid shall not exceed at any time the sum of twenty-five million dollars. Before any deposits are received at any postal money office under this act the postmaster at such office shall file with the Secretary of the Treasury his bond, with satisfactory security, conditioned that he will promptly transmit to the Treasurer of the United States the money received by him in conformity with regulations to be prescribed by such Secretary; and the deposit with any postmaster shall not at any time exceed the amount of his bond.

Sec. 2. Any national banking association now organizing or hereafter organizing desiring to withdraw its circulating notes upon a deposit of lawful money with the Treasury of the United States, as provided in section four of the act of June 20, 1874, entitled "An act fixing the amount of United States notes, providing for a redistribution of national bank currency and for other purposes," shall be required to give thirty days' notice to the Comptroller of the Currency of its intention to deposit lawful money and withdraw its circulating notes; provided that not more than five millions of dollars of lawful money shall be deposited during any calendar month for this purpose, and provided further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to bonds called for redemption by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 3. That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize an increase of the public debt.

THE contest filed presented by Lanier for the seat of Congressman King, of Louisiana, in the face of a majority of 11,987, has been dismissed by the committee on Elections as presenting no case worthy of consideration. Lanier, one of Kellogg's revenue officers, is now adopting the bulldozing and intimidation dodge so successful in 1876, and propose to memorialize Congress to throw out King on that issue. These rascals, defeated by the votes of the people, go to Congress to draw the pay usually allowed to contestants, and for no other reason. There are a number of other contestants from the south of about equal merit, and it would inure more to the credit and interest of the Republican party, if they were treated in the same manner, and no allowance voted them.

My daughter's Paralysis stasis disappeared from the use of PAREXA. B. C. Hicks, Pittsburg, Pa.

### The Apportionment Bill.

Congress has commenced the discussion of the Apportionment bill. This bill should have been passed a year ago, and there is no doubt but it would have passed, had there been a spark of honesty and integrity in the Republican members of the last Congress, and nerve and fearlessness on the part of the Democrats. True it is that a bill did pass the House fixing the number of members at 319. This bill was passed by the Republicans and a few small Democrats from New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, who were induced to vote for it on its passage through the House because it gave to each of these States an increase of one member, and it is well known that the Republicans voted for that number because it gave them more votes in the Electoral College, and would thus secure to them an additional advantage in the next Presidential election. The bill now before the House is framed on the same fashion. It is expected that the Democrats of Pennsylvania and New York will help the job through, because each of these States secure an increased representation by it. Of the kind of Representatives we now have, there are too many there already. An increase only swells the Republican majority. Take Curtin, Randall, Kelly, Bayne and Mutchler out of our present delegation in Congress, and the people of the State will never know they have any Representatives in there.

The present bill is a Republican job of the meanest kind, and it is to be hoped that no Democrat will so far forget the Republican meanness of the past, as to allow himself to be found voting for it simply because it gives one more Representative to our State.

Mr. Beltzhoover, who voted for the 319 bill last year, has gone far to redeem his error by introducing an amendment to the present bill, to prevent the gerrymandering of a State in making congressional districts by the Legislatures of the different States. Let the Democrats see that that feature of the bill is made so clear and strong that even Republican perverseness and ingenuity can not get around it. Then stand to it. Have the amendment incorporated in the bill or fight, and parley and delay in every conceivable manner. The Republicans know what they are at. The increase of membership in the large Republican States means an increase in the Electoral College and the election of another Republican President. For this, if for no other reason, the bill should be fought to the bitter end.

THE Washington Post thinks that the correspondent of the New York Times who went down to Georgia recently in search of facts that would bolster up the much vaunted independent movement, did not find anything to reward him for his pains. A close study of the political situation in that state shows that there is no real basis upon which an independent party can stand with any hope of success. The question cannot be projected into sufficient importance to build a party round about it or even to draw a strong faction away from the controlling organization. The conclusions concerning the movement are that it is almost exclusively a personal one, and Dr. Felton and Congressman Speer are given the credit of carrying about all the strength it possesses. The well-known characteristics of the former are dwelt upon, but the conclusion is reached that he has no generalship or organizing power, and that he cannot, therefore, make much headway against the leaders of the Democratic party. The commanding influence of Senator Brown in the politics of that State is recognized, and it is declared that "he commands with the strength of a Chandler, with more policy and finesse, and rules with the durability of a Cameron, but with more policy and precision." The correspondent frankly admits that "as

parties are at present drawn in Georgia, a vigorous campaign is imminent next fall, but Democracy seems likely to hold its own. For Governor Brown is in the lead, and 'while stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand.' This is not an encouraging indication that the Mahone scheme is likely to prove as brilliant a success in Georgia as it was in Virginia. The South has entered for the business phase of politics and is not to be turned aside for the petty ambitions of petty men, as the condition of Georgia, where this policy has been adopted with such encouraging results, fully demonstrates.

AMERICANS, or at least, that portion of them who entertain any respect for the cause of humanity, have again had cause to blush by a most flagrant violation of law, justice and order. The great prize fight in which Ryan, of Troy, and Sullivan, of Boston, were principals has been fought. The details are shocking. Mississippi City, a suburb of New Orleans, was chosen as the field, and at 1 o'clock p. m., on Tuesday, after all preliminaries had been satisfactorily agreed upon, the two men took their places in the ring. Nine rounds, occupying twenty-six minutes, were most pluckily fought, when Ryan failing to come to time, Sullivan was declared the victor, entitling him to the championship of the world, and a purse of \$10,000. Sportingmen from all parts of the Union were present and the money, that was lost and won, in the shape of bets, would render any man immensely wealthy. Is it possible, that men, sons of christian parents, and members of genteel society, will in this enlightened age, and in this the one country of the world that considers religion a fundamental principal in the government of its people, coolly stand by, look on, and by shouts of applause, encourage this most glaring heirloom of barbarous antiquity? This is the effect the broad-cast circulation of sensational books and periodicals is having. The morals of our people demand an immediate and summary disposition of the principal actors in this and all other disgraceful affairs of the same nature.

A WOMAN named Mrs. Howard, died in Boston the other day by starvation. In her room was found \$40 in cash and bank books representing deposits of \$4,600.

THE assaults made by the administration and its adherents upon the diplomacy of Mr. Blaine, and his defence, is quite dignified now, but quite sufficient to prove that there is fun ahead, and that the amusement will lead up to 1884.

DR. MARY WALKER, the woman in britches, who has so long favored the people of Washington with her beauty and eccentricity of dress, has at last obtained reward as an employe of the Government. She has been appointed clerk to Senator Lapham's "committee on women's suffrage."

MR. JUSTICE HUNT has finally resigned from the Supreme Court, and the President will now have an opportunity to appoint a successor who is qualified for his duties. It is of little moment now that Judge Hunt was bought off; as the country may congratulate itself upon its cheap deliverance, even from the few months remaining until he would be retired under law.

### Claims for Rebel Raids.

Half a Million Dollars Asked by Pennsylvanians by Way of Compensation. WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The committee on war claims gave a hearing to the Chambersburg delegation yesterday on the subject of the celebrated border claims. Ex-Congressman Stenger explained the character of these claims and of the gentlemen appointed by act of the Pennsylvania legislature to adjudicate upon the cases, and their action thereon. The total amount claimed was in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000, and this was reduced to about \$500,000. The witnesses were now mostly dead and evidence upon which the decisions res-

ted was no longer obtainable. The cases were proved while the witnesses were alive, in the same manner as the claims adjudicated by the southern claims commission. The delegation now asked the committee on war claims to report a bill empowering the quartermaster general to accept these decisions as final.

There is a good deal of question as to whether such a bill will get through the house, even if favorably reported from the committee. Southern members say that Pennsylvania Union men are 'no more entitled to reimbursement for the ravages of war than Union in the south. If Pennsylvania men are to be paid those south of Mason and Dixon's line will come in and burst the door of the treasury wide open.

### How to Elect a President.

From the Philadelphia Times.

A number of our ablest statesmen have devoted much of their time to the production of essays and the preparation of measures intended to simplify the election of Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States; but all of them have grappled with the subject as if it was so abstruse that only some complicated machinery could reduce it to practical and just results. This has been the common error of all our statesmen who have attempted to provide against the defeat of the popular will in the choice of a President, either by the legitimate use or by the perversion of the Electoral College system. The boldest and boldest fraud used the Electoral College to defeat a popular majority of over a quarter of a million in 1876, and that has taught all parties the supreme necessity of providing some method of choosing Presidents that will make elections certainly and honestly elect.

The Electoral College system is a cumbersome machine that is liable to defeat the expression of the people even with honest direction, and opens the way for the successful employment of chicanery or fraud. The Jefferson Barr contest of 1801, the Jackson Adams Crawford contest of 1825 and the Tilden-Hayes contest of 1877 all stand as finger-boards to admonish the American people of the absolute failure of the Electoral College system and the possibility of perverting it to the meanest aims of mean ambition. It is not pretended that any of the purposes which were intended by the fathers of the Republic in creating the Electoral College, have been fulfilled. Instead of Presidential Electors exercising a sound and patriotic discretion in the choice of a President and Vice President, our Presidential Electors are the mere puppets of party, and it would now cost any one his life if he were to exercise his own discretion, however just and patriotic, and thereby elect a President against the wishes of his party. The Electoral College system is, therefore, a useless and dangerous circulo-actio, and it is the duty of the best statesmanship of all parties to unite for its overthrow.

There is a simple and just method by which the people could elect Presidents without more than a tithe of the debauchery and demoralization which are now common in such contests, and that is for the people of the whole Union to vote directly for President and Vice President, with judicious safeguards for the determination of the legal vote of each State, and declare the men elected who receive the largest number of votes. There is no reason why a "government of the people, by the people and for the people" should have cumbersome electoral machinery that can accomplish nothing beyond the possibility of defeating the popular choice; and there can be reason, outside of the exploded dogma of States Rights, to forbid a direct vote for our highest offices or the commission of those who receive the largest popular support from the people of the entire nation. Such a system of electing Presidents and Vice Presidents would end the corruption and demoralization which run riot in Ohio, Indiana and other pivotal States in Presidential contests, and it would make a Democratic vote in Vermont or a Republican vote in Mississippi as important as any vote in any other State. The very best system of electing Presidents is the simplest, and the simplest system is a direct vote for the candidates and the highest popular vote to elect.

### Some Conundrums for Farmer Butler.

Williamson Sun and Bowser.

By the State Treasurer's report for 1881 it appears that Treasurer Butler has paid members of the Legislature \$36,876 over and above the amount which the Attorney-General claims they are entitled to. This amount is claimed as "advances" on account of salary. At \$500 each \$30,855 would just pay about seventy three members, the number who stood by the Cameron cause nobly to the end. It will be observed that the "honest Treasurer Butler" does not state in his report to whom he paid the excess. He carefully gives the names of all the Senators and members with their \$1,000 and mileage, but he does not explain the "advances." The public want to know something about this; and particularly are those members and Senators who received no advances interested in this subject. Who are the favored "seventy three, Mr. Farmer Butler?" And why do you "advance" this money to "seventy three" when you were advised not to pay more than \$1,000, and that you wouldn't pay more? Let us have the names of the gang by all means.