

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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The Centre Democrat.

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

Thursday Morning, February 23, 1882.

Centre County Democratic Committee—1882.

DISTRICTS. NAME. P. O. ADDRESS.
Belleville, N. W. F. Reber, Belleville.
" S. W. Charles Smith, " "
" W. W. James Schofield, " "
Howard, " E. E. Emerson, Millburg.
Millburg, " A. Walters, Millburg.
Phillipsburg, " D. W. Holt, Phillipsburg.
Unionville, " J. O. Smith, Unionville.
Bender, " E. J. Stover, Bellefonte.
Boggs, " C. A. McLaughlin, Millburg.
Burnside, " William H. Hyle, Pine Gl.
College, " J. Frank Taylor, Lemont.
Curtis, " Fredk. Robt, Howard.
Ferguson, O. P., " A. J. Grendorf, Pine Grove Mills.
" N. P., " J. H. Haebling, Rock Springs.
Gregg, S. P., " M. L. Richeb, Spring Mills.
" S. P., " Benj. Lambert, " "
Haines, " Geo. M. Keister, Aaronsburg.
Halloworth, " A. T. Grey, " "
Harris, " James Gilliland, Half Moon.
Howard, " David Tanager, Howard.
Huston, " John Q. Miles, Julian.
Liberty, " W. B. Gardner, Blanchard.
Marion, " J. J. Hoy, Walker.
Miles, " George Haines, Wolf's Store.
Pattison, " B. L. Meek, Buffalo Run.
Peun, " H. E. Duck, Millheim.
Potters, N. P., " S. W. Spangler, Tusseyville.
" S. P., " J. W. Weller, Centre Hall.
Rush, " William Cullen, Sandy Ridge.
Snow Shoe, " William Haines, Snow Shoe.
Spring, " M. E. Barnhart, Bellefonte.
Taylor, " Vinton Beckwith, Fowler.
Union, " Christian Hoover, Fleming.
Walker, " Andrew Kramer, Halloworth.
Walters, " W. C. Morrison, Port Matilda.
" R. H. Forster, Chairman.
H. A. McKee, Secretary.

THE House Committee on Territories, have reported a bill favoring the admission of Dakota as a State.

THE Cleveland Plain-Dealer calls the attention of the Republicans to the act that an indicted thief is still Secretary of their National Committee.

A WOMAN named Mash in Lancaster, killed her mother on Friday last, in order that she might be hung. The people of Lancaster are not disposed to gratify her, and she is declared insane.

THE Pennsylvania military academy located at Chester, Delaware county, was consumed by fire on Thursday evening last. The effects of the cadets were saved, as also all the property of the State and government. The loss is estimated at \$200,000, upon which is an insurance of \$75,000.

SENATOR BEN HILL has again been under treatment in Philadelphia, for cancerous affection. An operation upon the gland of the neck was performed by Dr. Gross, since which he has improved, and his physicians believe his case is hopeful and that all trace of the disease is removed. This will be acceptable news to the numerous admirers of the eloquent and courageous Georgian.

REPRESENTATIVE HERR, from the committee on Civil Service Reform, made an adverse report upon the bill referred to them providing for a reduction of the salaries of heads of departments. "Civil Service Reform" will do to talk about, but when it comes to practical results, such as curtailing expenses or limiting the means of employes of the government to make contribution to campaign funds, it is not to be encouraged.

A YEAR ago the Legislature of Wisconsin passed an act in the interest of temperance, declaring that the practice of treating to the "ardent" was an unlawful social evil, and must be abandoned under penalty. The Judges of the Supreme Court, who doubtless loved their toddy and preferred to have it free, pronounced the law unconstitutional. The Legislature now in session, give notice that they have no objection to take a drink with a few friends, by repealing the act.

INDICTING THE THIEVES.—It is announced that the Grand Jury in Washington are now actively engaged in preparing work for a lively session of the criminal court. The leading figures in the meshes of the law are thestar route thieves, prominently represented by Gen. T. I. Brady, late Assistant Postmaster General, Ex-Senator, Ives, the Secretary of the Republican National Committee, and his brother and a dozen others whom it is said the Grand Jury have presented as peculiarly worthy the attention of the court.

The Commissioners Annual Statement.

The people of the county for some years have been under the impression that it is the report the County Auditors that must be published. This no doubt arises from the fact, that for years the Commissioners have published an abstract of the report instead of the statement required of them by law.

The statement this year is the fullest and most complete we have had in many years. It gives the people a fair chance to see what is done with their money. The *Republican* just now is doing much to mislead the people in its attempt to pervert this report. There was a letter published the other day from some fellow in Snow Shoe, proposing to go back for ten years and investigate. Right in the face of this they make no charge that there is now, or has been anything wrong except with the Sheriff's account. The business man of the two boards of Commissioners preceding the present, was a Republican, and it does seem that there never is anything crooked in the management of the county finances, but that a Republican is in it head and heels. Twenty-one years ago there was trouble, then the county Commissioners and Treasurer were Republican. Now the effort is to make the Democratic party responsible for errors, if any there were, committed by the late Sheriff. Where was the Republican Commissioners when settlement was made? The minutes of the office show he was present and took part in the settlement. It was his business to examine the board account thoroughly to see whether the number of days charged for each prisoner was or was not correct. While we do not believe that the late Sheriff would wilfully do a wrong act, if such has been done, and the record seems to show it, we dare not, nor will we undertake to shield him one whit. If he has through inadvertence or otherwise drawn pay for boarding more prisoners than he was entitled to, he should be required to refund, and we have no doubt will do so at once. The Sheriff is not to be blamed that he received fifty cents a day for boarding prisoners. That responsibility belongs to the Commissioners, and according to Republican views that board was Republican.

Another charge against the Sheriff is his charge for removing fish baskets. Here the Sheriff acted clearly on a misunderstanding of the law, which did not require him to search the streams of the county for fish baskets. But whose fault is it that it was allowed? Whose business was it to stand guard over the public funds? We leave the public to draw the conclusion.

When we stand by the law we cannot go wrong, or if we do we cannot be blamed, for it is the law and we must obey. A brief examination of the acts of Assembly relating to the removal of fish baskets will show what the Sheriff ought to have done and what he ought to have left undone.

The Eleventh Section of the Act of Assembly of 24th of May, 1871, relating to the protection of fish provides that "the Sheriffs of the counties having jurisdiction of such reaches of the streams, whenever they shall discover or be informed of the existence of such contrivances for the catching of fish as are commonly known as fish-baskets, eel-wires, kiddles, brush or facine nets, or any other permanently set means of taking fish, in the nature of a sieve, which are known to be wasteful and extravagant modes of fishing, the said Sheriffs shall give ten days notice in two newspapers of their respective counties, that the contrivances are known to exist and are declared a common nuisance, ordering them to be dismantled by their owners or managers, so as to render them no longer capable of taking or injuring fishes of the streams of whatever kind; and if at the expiration of the said ten days the dismantling shall not have taken place, then the

said Sheriffs shall proceed, with such force (of) good men of the county as may be necessary for the purpose, and destroy or dismantle the said fish-baskets, &c., so that they may be no longer capable of taking or injuring fish; and the accounting officers of the counties shall make good the cost of the proceedings to said Sheriff or Sheriffs in the settlement of their accounts with the said Sheriffs." By Section 9th of the Act 28th April, 1873. "The provisions of the Eleventh Section (the one just quoted) of the Act 24th May, 1871, are made applicable to all the streams or parts of streams under the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth."

Under this law the Sheriff is only bound to give notice when he shall discover or is informed that fish-baskets, &c., exist, and after notice he is to destroy them, providing they are not destroyed by others on notice being given. The law does not, nor did it require him to travel up and down the valleys, or over our mountains to search for any fish-baskets, or any other contrivance in the streams. Whatever the Sheriff did more than this act requires and received pay for, was wrong and he should promptly refund to the county.

This act says the accounting officers shall make good the costs to said Sheriffs, &c. By accounting officers we understand County Auditors. They are to examine this bill and allow only his actual costs nothing more, and this only means for fish-baskets removed according to law, not according to the notions of the officers.

The other complaint made by the *Republican* and its numerous would-be correspondents, is that the Sheriff has received more per day for boarding prisoners than the law allows. No one of reasonable intelligence will pretend that prisoners can be kept for twenty-five cents a day. The Commissioners have allowed fifty cents a day. They were left the sole judges of the matter. The Act of Assembly says the Sheriffs shall "receive such allowance for boarding prisoners as may be fixed by the Court of Quarter sessions, not exceeding twenty-five cents per day for each prisoner." It is the duty of the Courts to fix such compensation, but if they do not the Commissioners can pay, without risk, more per day than that amount, and if they do it is right that it should be allowed by the Auditors. The Courts know that the amount allowed by the Act of Assembly is too small an allowance for board, and for this very reason have made no decree in the matter, beginning back as far as 1863 or 1864.

As Democrats we have nothing to cover and no one to shield. Let the Auditors go into this charge and all other charges thoroughly, allow what is lawful and proper and not one farthing more. The effort of the *Republican* to make the Democratic party responsible for the personal act of the late Sheriff, is as senseless as it would be to charge the Republican party with the murder of Garfield because Guiteau was a Republican.

THE Senators and Representatives from New Jersey have written a letter to the President, urging that he relieve Gen. Fitz John Porter of the penalties and forfeitures he has endured so long. With but few exceptions, it is universally conceded that this gallant and noble officer has suffered great injustice and wrong. This fact being brought to the attention of the President, by the report of the able officers who reviewed the case, by Gen. Grant and others who have taken the trouble to investigate it, every day's delay in doing justice to Porter is positively criminal and a disgrace to the Government.

We regret to see the announcement in the last *Clinton Democrat* that Mr. Dieffenbach, the able and accomplished editor of that paper, has retired.

Who slit Whittaker's ear? is still the difficult conundrum in official circles at Washington. The Court of Inquiry found that Whittaker did it; but the President, the Secretary of War and the Judge Advocate General seem to doubt whether to believe the negro, or the court of honorable officers who exhaustively investigated his mysterious performances.

A CASE of creditable, if not rare, honesty, and its prompt reward occurred the other day in Boston. A gentleman on a visit to that city, lost his pocketbook containing \$500. It was found by the conductor of a street car and returned to the owner, who took the amount to his credit and subject to his order in one year.

THE Tammany members of the New York Legislature, not being able to dicker with the Democrats, carried their wares to a party ever ready and open for a barter. They transferred themselves to the Republicans, body and britches. The Democracy may well be satisfied. They know now where to find John Kelley and his clan and need no longer be victims of their treachery.

THE special committee appointed to audit the expenses attending the sickness and funeral of the late President, agreed upon a bill allowing Mrs. Garfield an annual pension of \$5,000, which was subsequently reported and passed. They also allowed some minor bills, and intimate that the total amount of bills presented will not be much short of two hundred thousand dollars. Every person who furnished anything during the illness of the President demands payment of the Government, and even some members of Congress presented bills for their individual expenses incurred in attending the funeral.

DEADLOCKS BROKEN. In the New York Senate the existing deadlock in the organization of that body has been broken by a contract between the Tammany Bosses and the Republicans, and in Virginia it has been broken by the whips of Mahone and Arthur requiring a straightout Republican, who voted with the Democrats, to surrender his independence and sustain the coalition between the Repudiators and Republicans. The Democracy in a minority in both cases occupy a higher and more honorable position, standing alone unmixed with the base traffics which the Republicans do not hesitate to employ to maintain their power to obtain power and place. Kelley and Mahone will be congenial spirits in the Republican ranks.

THE Apportionment Bill has passed the House after agreeing upon a basis of 325 members. Mr. Beltzhoover's amendment designed to prevent gerrymandering in the formation of Congressional districts, providing that they shall be made up of contiguous Territory, is incorporated in the bill. The representation under this bill will be as follows:

Alabama	8	Mississippi	7
Arkansas	6	Minnesota	14
California	6	Nebraska	3
Colorado	3	Nevada	1
Connecticut	4	New Hampshire	1
Delaware	1	New Jersey	7
Florida	2	New York	34
Georgia	10	North Carolina	9
Illinois	20	Ohio	21
Indiana	12	Oregon	1
Iowa	11	Pennsylvania	28
Kansas	7	Rhode Island	2
Kentucky	11	South Carolina	7
Louisiana	6	Tennessee	10
Maine	4	Texas	11
Maryland	6	Vermont	2
Massachusetts	12	Virginia	10
Michigan	11	West Virginia	4
Minnesota	8	Wisconsin	9
	145		182

The increase of membership over the present, is thirty-two. Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont each lose one Representative; Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, each gain one member; California, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Carolina, each gain two members; Kansas four members and Texas five.

MRS. SCOVILLE, the sister of Guiteau, has written a letter to Mrs. Garfield urging her to use her influence to obtain a pardon for the culprit. Mrs. Garfield has very properly declined to interfere, and has authorized a reply stating, "that towards the slayer of her husband she cherishes no malice, he must answer only to his God and the American people. For the sister and all the members of his family, she feels only profound pity. Further than this, she asks to be left alone with her own sorrow and to be spared being dragged into useless and torturing publicity." This is just what might be expected from a noble Christian woman, such as Mrs. Garfield has proved herself, in the frightful scenes through which she has passed.

BOSS RULE EXTINGUISHED IN PHILADELPHIA!—Yesterday at the municipal elections the Bosses and rogues found the honest people fully equipped and earnestly determined to reform the corruptions and abuses which have for years been growing up under the boss political organization of that city. In proof of their earnestness that at least one election in that municipality should bear the impress of honesty, the Reform committee of "One Hundred" offered a reward of \$10,000 for the detection and conviction of those engaged in the perpetration of the usual election frauds. This gave notice to the bosses and their corps of ballot-stuffers, rounders and repeaters, that there was danger ahead in plying their usual method. The rascals to some extent, heeded the warning, and the result is a signal triumph of the ticket endorsed by the Reformers, which is pretty equally composed of Democrats and Republicans.

MR. EDMUND'S anti-Polygamy bill has passed the Senate. It declares all polygamous marriages in Territories of which the United States has exclusive jurisdiction unlawful, and after the passage of this act, punishable by fine not exceeding \$500 and imprisonment not exceeding five years, and authorizes the President to grant amnesty to offenders guilty of bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation before the passage of the act on such conditions and under such limitations as he shall think proper. The bill also declares that no polygamist, bigamist or any person cohabiting with more than one woman, in any Territory or place where the United States have exclusive jurisdiction, shall be entitled to vote at any election or be eligible for election or, appointment to any office or place of public trust, honor or emolument in, under or for such Territory. It also declares vacant existing registrations and election officers, until supplied under the provision of the bill. This bill is sweeping in its provisions, and some thought unconstitutional, but it is to abate a shameless blot which has been suffered to exist, almost unchallenged, until it has reached alarming proportions, and it is to be hoped may be successful in rooting it out.

THE STATE COLLEGE located in this county, is being handled pretty roughly in different parts of the State, induced probably, because its President happens to be a candidate for Governor. We cannot see the justice of this. An able committee was appointed by the last Legislature to make an exhaustive investigation and report on the condition of this institution, which we presume has also in view its efficiency and adaptability to promote the interests for which it was organized and endowed. Until that committee has made their report, it seems but fair that clamor against the college and its administration might rest in obedience, and the President allowed to stand upon his own record and that of the political faction with whom he is identified as an aspirant for political favor. We have no interest in the college—owe them no favors

in any form whatever, and if the institution is a useless and unnecessary expense to the Commonwealth and a fraud upon the public, as is alleged by its enemies, we would utter no word to sustain it, but let facts be submitted intelligently through the legal channel designated by the Legislature, and not seek to prejudice the investigation by ignorant clamor or false declarations with the view to its partisan effects in deciding whether Farmer Butler or Gen. Beaver should be the Radical candidate for Governor.

SOME one of the speculative correspondents at Washington has discovered or invented a political "marces-nest" and sent it broadcast, as the latest political news from the National Metropolis. It is that Jere Black, Senator Voorhees, Senator Morgan and a number of influential Representatives of the Southern Democracy, have conspired to spring upon the country in 1884, a new political combination of which Mr. Blaine is to be the head and Senator Voorhees or some other prominent Democrat the vice or ornamental attachment. Such foolish twaddle may do to excite curiosity and alarm a stalwart, but the correspondent is unfortunate in selecting the conspirators. To those, at least, who know Jere Black, the very idea of identifying him with an arrangement to place Blaine at the head and a Democrat at the tail of a Presidential ticket, can only excite a smile. This uncompromising war horse of honest Democracy never surrenders the first honor, or compromises a Democratic principle, which is as dear to his heart as the Gospel of Truth itself. This alone is sufficient to stamp the roor-back.

THE members of the Legislature got the \$500 extra pay to which they were entitled for the prolonged session of last winter over one hundred days, under the act of 1874. The question was raised by the Attorney General as to the constitutionality of the law, and under his advice the State Treasurer refused payment. It was then brought before Judge Pearson who affirmed the views of the Attorney General, and decided that the extra allowance claimed over the \$1000 salary for a session of one hundred days, could not be legally paid. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, who have reversed the decision of Judge Pearson and settled the question as to the constitutionality of the law of 1874. Hereafter the length and cost of a session of the Legislature, whether one hundred days and \$1000 salary, or one hundred and fifty days and \$1500 salary, can only be influenced by public sentiment and the integrity and decent propriety of the members themselves. They are, however, still answerable to the people for the waste of the public funds and should be held to strict accountability, whether for the last session or those to follow.

THE Nashville American, referring to the bill giving a pension to the wives of ex-Presidents, relates a fact not generally known that Mrs. Jas. K. Polk has lived out all the means left her by her husband and adds: "On the score of necessity, therefore, there is not among the surviving widows of deceased Presidents of the United States of America, one whose claims are more deserving the consideration of the American people or their representatives in the American Congress. The wealth-producing State of Texas and California were acquired under the Polk Administration, and millions to the revenues of this country and to the private wealth of its citizens. The name of James K. Polk should be revered by the American people and the comfort and care of his widow be the willing charge of her countrymen. She is now well stricken in years and approaching the end of a life which has been an ornament to American womanhood and an honor to the social life of the capitals of her State and of the nation. Proper provision for the few years left to her would not bankrupt the Government, and Congress could not do a more graceful thing, than to make it.