

The Centre



Democrat.

SHUGERT & VAN ORMER, Editors.

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

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S. T. SHUGERT & J. R. VAN ORMER, Editors.

Thursday Morning, April 20, 1882.

THE stalwarts of Huntingdon county have held a meeting and appointed a rump delegation to the Republican Convention in the interest of the Mahone ticket. The regulars appointed sometime ago, were instructed to support Wayne MacVeigh for Governor.

THE Democratic Congressional Committee has been fully organized, by the election of Gen. Rosecrans as permanent Chairman of the joint Committee of the Senate and House. A new Committee has also been raised, called the board of control, who will have the active management of the Congressional canvass.

FREDRICK A. CONKLING, is spoken of as the next Democratic candidate for Governor of New York. Although the brother of Roscoe Conkling, he is a thorough Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, talented and fearless in maintaining the true principles of Democracy against all encroachments upon local government. Mr. Conkling, is said to have the full confidence of Mr. Tilden and the best Democrats of the State.

SENATOR LOGAN, of Illinois, is in very precarious health, and has gone to the Hot Springs. Besides undergoing great suffering from rheumatism, he is said to be a victim of that terrible malady known as Bright's disease. One of these diseases is about as much as an ordinary constitution can endure for a time, but when combined, it is not difficult to predict that the Senator's public career is near its close.

THE House of Representatives on Thursday appropriated \$10,000 to build a monument over the grave of Thomas Jefferson. If the Senate concurs the long neglected grave of the author of the declaration of independence will be properly marked. The great life work of the eminent statesman, and the purity of his patriotism is, however, ample to perpetuate his memory without any artificial means, as long as Republican government and Democratic principles, find a place in human society.

Occasionally we hear of a verdant Republican, who talks of breaking Cameron's slate at the convention. The boss only laughs at their simplicity. He don't have slates that break at conventions. They are made of the best gummy material, and may bend a little, but break, never! He may enter the name of a dummy on the slate now and then to conceal his tracks from the simple, but when he wills to nominate, he nominates and gives notice to his party to ratify, and it is done.

SOME of the Republican journals, says the Philadelphia *Record*, are in an agony of apprehension over the prospect that the Committee of One Hundred will turn its attention to State politics. Their apprehension is well founded. The Committee of One Hundred has no choice in the matter. The work it has already done has the disadvantage of having been prosecuted at the mouth of the stream of public corruption. Unless it can reach the fountain head its task is like the task of Sisyphus. Ever since the year 1873 the crying want of the people of Pennsylvania has been for an honest and capable Legislature. The Reform that the people themselves began in that year in the changes made in the fundamental law must be followed up. The Legislature must be purified. A heavy share of the work of purification falls to the people of Philadelphia. If the Committee of One Hundred fails to render what assistance it may in this behalf it may as well dissolve its organization and go out of business.

THE HON. WAYNE MACVEIGH presided the other evening at the annual meeting of the Civil Service Reform Association in Philadelphia. In the course of discussion which took place Mr. MacVeigh had occasion to refer to President Arthur's civil service profession, as also incidentally to those of the Fraud President who made his administration ridiculous by the promulgation of orders which he had no intention or desire to enforce—a mere outcrop of the hypocrisy which distinguished him and the period of his fraudulent service. Mr. MacVeigh in remarking upon the position of both "His Accidency" and "His Fraudulence" said: "A man does not change his political opinions after he is 50 years old. What Mr. Arthur was in the New York Custom House a few years ago President Arthur is today in the White House. He is the same courteous, genial gentleman, ever ready with bland words. But he has practiced the boss rule in politics all his life, and will continue in that rut while he is President. Although in his letter accepting the nomination for Vice President he declared for civil service reform, he ignored this pledge when elected, and was engaged in the most disreputable work for bosses when the shot was fired that made him President. It required the echo of an assassin's pistol to remind him of his pledge, and when he again had occasion to write for the public he reaffirmed his position. I could have laughed in my sleeve had I been in the mood for amusement when I saw the delight certain good-hearted people extracted from President Arthur's soft words on civil-service reform in his inaugural address. Our cause has had some severe blows, and from least expected sources. I will say that President Hayes did me the honor to consult me in the preparation of his civil-service reform order, but when the time came for his crucial test he listened to the words of evil advisers and appointed dishonest men to positions of trust in reward for party work in Louisiana. The last days of his administration were worse than the first, for then we saw John Sherman using the Treasury Department to secure his own nomination to the Presidency in face of his civil-service professions. As I see the Republican party of today, it has but three animating principles. The first is the spoils system, of which I don't approve, the second is bossism, which is distasteful to me, and the third is the repudiation of the State debt of Virginia, which I like no better than the others. So you see I am a Republican under difficulties. My advice to the association is that its members make their influence felt by votes. In that way they will command attention, and their memorials will receive more respectful consideration than the one recently sent to the Executive Mansion."

The remarks of the ex-Attorney General is neither complimentary to his party or its representatives, and ought to elicit the sober reflection of honest men, whether he does not truly state the case when he says the Republican party, as now operated, has but three animating principles" which he designates "the Spoils system," the "Boss system" and the "Repudiation of state debt," as illustrated by its union with Mahone and his repudiation party in Virginia.

WORKINGMEN PROTESTING! The Workingmen's meeting held on Broad street, Philadelphia, on Saturday evening last, is spoken of by the press, as the most imposing demonstration of workingmen ever held in that city, and in which every trade was represented with appropriate banners. The object of the meeting was to protest against the importation of Chinese labor. Resolutions were adopted denouncing President Arthur for his veto of the Chinese bill, and setting forth that "industrial slavery" should never more exist in this country. If

our laboring men will remember this sentiment and carry its full significance into action when they come to exercise the most sacred right they possess in a Republican government—a free and untrammeled vote—the Republican stalwart party, will lose a very important element of strength obtained by the tyranny of associated and incorporated wealth. Let "industrial slavery cease" is a sentiment worthy of universal acceptance.

CAPT. HOWGATE, late of the Signal Service bureau at Washington, who was in jail under indictment for peculations and thefts to a very large amount, was allowed by Judge Wylie permission to visit his home in company with the Marshall, for the purpose of searching for some papers he alleged to be necessary to his defense. On reaching his home he made an excuse for entering a room adjoining the one in which the officer was stationed unconscious that the whole arrangement on the part of the prisoner and his friends was a job set up to elude the vigilance of the guard, and effect an escape, which he did very neatly on Friday last. Diligent search has been made by the police and detectives for the fugitive, but without effect. He is probably safely concealed in Washington, but the opinion prevails that his late associates in the signal service to avoid revelations, have spirited him away in a vessel, and is now out of harm's way. When arrested it is said, he was planning to go to the Sandwich Islands, and it is supposed that will be his destination now. At any rate, Howgate is gone and another government thief escapes with his plunder.

THE Arthur and Mahone gerrymander bill introduced in the Legislature of Virginia to divide the state into Congressional districts, so arranged as to give the coalition eight out of the ten Congressmen to be elected under the new apportionment, was defeated finally last week in the Senate. This was a measure of advanced scoundrelism worthy the combined genius of the stalwart Republican boss of New York and his treacherous repudiation associate in Virginia, but too outrageous to pass under the whip of administration patronage. Four members of the Readjuster party, and one straight-out Republican possessed sufficient self respect and independence to scorn the lash of the bosses, and vote with the Democrats to bury the iniquitous bill out of sight for the present session. Virginia will therefore vote for members of Congress on the present apportionment, and for one Congressman-at-large being the increase to which the State is entitled under the last census.

SENATOR MITCHELL AND THE BOSS. It seems that Senator Don has been gouging his "me too" in the dark, and finding it out, Mitchell, making a feint squeak of indignation, threatens to set up for himself and demand from the administration a share of the plunder patronage for those of his constituents who have not entitled themselves to a 306 medal for stalwart work. The late spasm of independence on the part of the junior Senator will however, soon subside. Don is entrenched in the administration, he has the dispensation of its patronage in Pennsylvania and will put it just where it will do the most good for boss supremacy in the Cameron ranch. The fact is, Mitchell was too tardy making a show of independence to startle the boss, or to obtain for it an atom of respect from others. He was made a senator by the boss to serve as a "me too," and heretofore has only developed fitness for that service.

A NEW Chinese bill has been introduced in the House. It differs from the vetoed bill in reducing the term suspending importation from 20 years to 10 years which is supposed to be the longest time the President and the Republican Congress will consent to do without cheap coolie labor.

A Raid Upon Mutual Insurance Companies.

We learn from the Harrisburg *Patriot*, that "the Attorney-General, upon information made by Insurance Commissioner Foster, recently returned to the Dauphin county court, a list of 213 mutual insurance companies doing business in Pennsylvania. At the same time he made an application for a rule compelling these same companies to show cause why their charters should not be forfeited, and they be prevented from hereafter doing any business in this State. The charters of 137 of the companies are asked to be revoked for reasons in each case as follows:

"It has issued policies for indefinite and contingent amounts.

"It has approved and recognized assignments of policies to persons having no insurable interest in the lines of the parties in whose names said policies were issued.

"The Attorney General further gives the court to understand and be informed that, he, the said insurance commissioner, has reason to believe that the said company is insolvent, and that its assets are not sufficient for carrying on the business of the same."

The charters of the remaining seventy-six companies are asked to be revoked for the following reasons:

"It has failed to exhibit an annual statement to the insurance department of the amount, if any, of its capital stock, guarantee capital or accumulated reserve in lieu of capital stock, and also of all assets, assessments and liabilities, and to answer such interrogatories as the insurance commissioner has required in order to ascertain its true character and condition, although notified to make such answers upon a blank form prescribed by the insurance commissioner for the year ending December 31, 1881, and forwarded to the address of said company during the month of December, 1881.

"The Attorney General further gives the court to understand and be informed that, he, the said insurance commissioner, has informed the Attorney General of the aforesaid non-compliance by said company with the requirements of law, and its non-compliance with the requirements of the act of 1st of April, 1873, in this particular, viz:

"It has refused or neglected to transmit to the insurance commissioner a statement of its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 1881, on the first day of January following, or within sixty days thereafter."

The court setting in chambers granted the rule asked for, which was made returnable on Thursday, May 11, 1882. Some of the companies, especially the Harrisburg corporations, have not been doing a great amount of business during the past six months, the proceedings against the other companies having caused their policy holders to leave them in the lurch.

Death of Judge Ross.

SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF A DISTINGUISHED YOUNG JURIST.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., April 13.—This community was deeply shocked this evening by the announcement of the death of Hon. Henry P. Ross, the President Judge of our county court, which occurred about 7 o'clock. His disease, inflammatory rheumatism and neuritis, manifested itself several years ago, but an active life and careful habits so resisted its encroachments upon his strong physical and mental constitution that he was seldom incapacitated for the duties of his office.

Judge Ross was born in Doylestown, Bucks county, December, 1836. He entered Princeton College in 1853, and graduated in 1857. He was admitted to the practice of law in the Bucks county courts in 1859, having prepared himself in the office of his father. In 1862 he was elected by the Democrats as District Attorney. From that period until the time of his death his life has been one of great usefulness and activity. He was prominent in the front rank of the Pennsylvania Democracy, and in this section of the State at least his name was as familiar as household words. He twice represented his party in the Presidential Conventions; was twice nominated as a candidate for Congress from his district; was a strong candidate for Governor before the Democratic State Convention of 1876, and was nominated for the Supreme Bench in 1878, after having been prominently before the convention four years previous.

Judge Ross had also held various appointive offices of honor and trust, among them that of Deputy Escheator General of Bucks county, in 1865. He was Additional Law Judge of Bucks and Montgomery for three years prior to the period when the two counties were made separate judicial districts, when he resigned his office and was elected President Judge of Montgomery county, to which office he was re-elected last fall by a majority of nearly 1400 over his competitor, Aaron Schwartz, the nominee on the Republican ticket.

Judge Ross was the elder of two sons of Thomas and Elizabeth Pawling Ross. His brother, George Ross, survives him. His mother died in March last, during a term of Quarter Sessions, which was presided over by Judge Myers of Easton, in the absence of Judge Ross. He was twice married. His first wife (nee Mary Clifton, of Princeton, N. J.) died in 1873. In 1875 he was married to Emily Genung, of Brooklyn, who survives him.

Judge Ross has ever been spoken of as an able jurist. Several of his opinions in important civil trials have been handed down to the profession as well-established criterions. Few of his many decisions were ever reversed by the Supreme Court.

A Tale of the Last Administration.

Detroit Free Press.

When Conkling went to Mentor to see Garfield he asked him how Folger would do for Secretary of the Treasury. Conkling thought that he had just been chosen to the bench in New York for fourteen years, it wouldn't be the thing to lay it aside. When Garfield sent for Folger he told him that he had a talk with Conkling about him, from which Folger understood that Conkling had recommended him for the place. Folger didn't like Garfield's manner. So he went to work to make himself ineligible, as he termed it. "I'm not in sympathy with your end of our party," he said to Gen. Garfield, "I'm in sympathy with all the party—both ends—Judge," was the response. "But I'm an old free trade Democrat in my views," persisted the judge. "I don't believe the present tariff can stand or ought to stand." "I am something of a free trader myself, Judge," said Gen. Garfield. "I'm on record on that. I'm one of the few members in America of the Cobden Club, I realize that the war tariff will have to be greatly modified."

"Then, too, I'm not much of a national bank man," despairingly put in the judge. "Neither am I. My views on those subjects are very determined," said Gen. Garfield. "Besides," interposed Mr. Folger, "I'm not a strict party man. I'm given to having my own way. My old Democratic temper has boiled over more than once because of the extent to which the central Government has interfered with the States; and as to civil service reform—" "Why, you and I agree on those things exactly," broke in Gen. Garfield, slapping Judge Folger on the knee, and nearing him as if he was going to kiss him. The judge is reported to have said that Gen. Garfield was the most "agreeing man" he ever met in his life. But when Folger got back to Albany and found that Conkling disapproved of his going into Garfield's Cabinet, he declined the appointment. And verily he had his reward. For Arthur was made President and Folger was made Secretary of the Treasury without displeasing Conkling and probably with his full approval. Virtue always, or at least, not unfrequently, has its reward.

"Dickens's Dutchman."

THE PRISONER WHOM THE NOVELIST IMMORTALIZED TO BE SET FREE AGAIN.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.—The incorrigible and aged scamp, Charles Langheimer, who has spent about one half of his four-score years of existence behind prison bars, will shortly be released from the Eastern penitentiary. The old man has attained a notoriety under the soubriquet of "Dickens's Dutchman," the great novelist having employed his pen, in his American sketches, to inveigh against the solitary confinement system followed in the penitentiary and selecting Langheimer, who was undergoing a four years' sentence when the romancer visited the jail, as a special case to illustrate the misery of the prisoners. Langheimer was first sentenced to the penitentiary on May 13, 1840, having been arrested for some thieving operations. He served his term and was released, but was soon sent back again. His history since that time has been a series of repetitions. A release from prison, a short freedom, and an other long term of imprisonment made up his life. In March, 1877, he was caught in the act of stealing a silver watch, and was sent back to his old quarters at Cherry Hill. Soon after his release in 1879 he again went back to his old habits, and for the theft of some money from the office of Messrs. Adams & Story, Ninth and Girard avenue, was taken back to prison. It is this last term which he is now about completing. During his long confinement Langheimer painted the walls of his cell quite beautifully, using colors extracted from the yarn with which he was obliged to work.

On being released from prison in 1877 the old man went to Michigan to work on a farm, but shortly after the inspector of the penitentiary received a note from him asking that they send him some money to return and receive him back into the jail. No attention was paid to the letter, but shortly after Langheimer turned up in the city and found his way into the House of Correction. After his release he committed a crime and was sent back to his quarters in Cherry Hill.

William Matteson, a colored farmer living near Abbeville, S. C., recently attended a sale of real estate at the court house, and bought in a valuable property at \$5,500, which he had the money in his pocket to pay for. When Matteson was emancipated all he had in the world was the ragged clothes in which he stood, but he turned his attention to hard work, instead of idleness, saved what he made instead of squandering it, and is now an independent land owner, with the respect of his neighbors, the respect of himself, and a good credit.

In the U. S. Court on Monday, at Charleston, S. C., the jury rendered a verdict of "Guilty as to first count, and not guilty as to all others," in case of Bates and others charged with election frauds. Two jurors announced that they had been bulldozed into signing the verdict. The court held that the avowal came too late. The defendants gave notice of application for new trial.