

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, May 11, 1882.

NEXT year or "some subsequent year," Boss Cameron thinks the Republican party may be capable of thinking and acting for themselves. At present they need a boss.

SECRETARY FOLGER, it is said, is gradually ridding the Treasury Department of all the special friends of Sherman. Investigation under his predecessors disclose the fact that the personnel of that department needed shaking up badly.

MATT QUAY is still the funny man of the times. He perpetrated one of his best jokes the other day when he appeared before McManes' committee claiming to be an opponent of "bossism and the unit rule." McManes did not appear to enjoy the joke hugely, or the company of the joker.

A CONTEMPORARY says the flat and phlegmatic Mitchell stands about as much chance in a game of political legerdemain with his colleague, Don Cameron, as Charles Francis Adams in a game of poker with General Bob Schenck. When Don has a hand he plays it, and when he hasn't he bluffs the chap who has. Mr. Mitchell should go to a nunnery.

PATIENT CHARLEY WOLFE is willing to wait for reform until "next year," or longer if necessary, and in the mean time will not object to take a free ride on the machine. He studied patience last year, and Don may now accept him as a lieutenant, with little risk of his again reaching beyond his depth for some time to come.

THE President having remitted the unexpired part of the sentence unjustly imposed upon Gen. Fitz John Porter, Senator Sewell on Monday introduced in the Senate a bill authorizing his appointment to the same rank and grade in the army he held at the time of dismissal. A similar bill was also presented in the House by Gen. Bragg.

It is announced in the *Bloomsburg Columbian* that the Hon. Charles R. Buckalew will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Eleventh District of this State. No political event in connection with the election of Representatives in Congress, would give more sincere pleasure to the Democracy of Pennsylvania than the return of this distinguished man to public life. We trust the Democracy of the Eleventh District will honor themselves by a unanimous nomination of the veteran Statesman.

It was a very small business, but quite characteristic of Mahone and Arthur's methods of bulldozing the people of Virginia. At Broadway, Va., the postoffice was discontinued by order of the Postmaster General, assigning as a reason therefor "political enmity to the recently appointed Re-adjuster postmaster," alleging that it lessened the patronage of the office. The people have petitioned Congress for its restoration declaring the reasons assigned for abolishing the office unwarranted and unlawful.

A RESOLUTION was offered in the Senate last week to purchase back numbers of the *Congressional Record*, when Senator Dawes made the serious charge and created considerable excitement, by stating that it was a practice in Congress for members to sell copies of books printed by the government to second hand dealers, and then by vote buy them back. No doubt Congressmen are some times guilty of very small meannesses, but we can scarcely believe any decent member could get down quite so low as this. The charge involves the honor of members and will doubtless be investigated.

SO FAR as imperishable history is concerned, says the *Philadelphia Record*, the vindication of the name and fame of General Fitz John Porter is complete. As the record is now made up no friend or descendant of General Porter can contemplate it without pride. A pardon by the President or a resolution of Congress restoring him to the army could add nothing to his vindication. Impartial historians will never recount the story of his trial and conviction without indignation. A Board composed of three of the most distinguished officers of the army, who have rendered the country great and brilliant service, has reported that the condemnation of General Porter was grossly unjust, as it was founded on alleged facts that had no existence except in the imagination of the witnesses against him. The Board declared that the witnesses made inconsistent and contradictory statements, and that one of them, on whose testimony great reliance was placed by the accusers, was so completely broken down that his testimony is "entitled to no weight whatever." With the aid of new and correct maps of the field of operations and intelligent and impartial witnesses the Board went over the ground and found that General Porter was blamed for not performing "a manifest physical impossibility," and that there was nothing in his conduct "subject to criticism, much less deserving of censure and condemnation." This Board further declared of an attack which General Porter was condemned for not making that "such an attack, under such circumstances, would have been not only a great blunder but, on the part of an intelligent officer, it would have been a great crime." Finally, this Board of distinguished officers officially reported on their solemn oaths that the conduct of General Porter was "obedient, subordinate, faithful, and judicious," and that "it saved the Union army from disaster."

Such is the imperishable record. Nothing can be added to the vindication of General Porter. The report of General Scofield, Terry and Getty, sustained by the testimony of General Grant, will be the verdict of history. It only remains for the American people to vindicate their own character by reversing the grossly unjust sentence of one of their bravest and best soldiers by a prevaricating Court-martial upon the testimony of lying witnesses.

WOLFE AND QUAY were the experts employed by the boss to play the game of "Reform next year," which came off finally in Philadelphia on the 1st instant. The game was played, and perhaps played out according to contract, but it does not seem to meet the approval of the party who were supposed to be directly represented in the game by Wolfe. They now seem to believe that the Union county Statesman was *enchanted* either from incompetency or by unworthy personal influences, and decline to ratify the transfer of the Independents to Don. They have accordingly issued a call for the Independent State Convention to meet at Philadelphia on the 24th of May, for the purpose of adopting reform measures, having in view an immediate application this year.

THE large and increasing number of private claims presented for the action of Congress, involving special legislation and any amount of lobby jobs of questionable character, as the result of pressure, is attracting attention to the necessity of providing other means for the consideration and proper adjustment of this class of cases, than is in the power of Congress to give them, without neglect of the important public business of the country. As a matter of relief, Mr. Springer proposes an amendment of the federal constitution which provides that "the legislative power of the United States shall be limited to the enactment of laws general in their application and

effect to all sections and persons within the jurisdiction of the constitution; that all local, private, or special enactments hereby prohibited, shall be adjudicated and determined by such tribunal or tribunals as Congress may establish for that purpose. Such a provision would undoubtedly be in the interest, not only of economy, but would rule the lobby out of Congress to face the courts, where these claims can be adjudicated in accordance with the principles of law and right, and not log-rolled through without investigation as is too often the case now.

THE Staff-route cases are progressing very slowly. Dorsey, Brady and their associates some time ago professed to be very anxious for early and prompt trial, but now it seems they have adopted an obstruction policy and fight the cases on mere technicalities, as if they only relied upon this as their hope of safety. John W. Dorsey, one of the principle defendants, has spirited himself to parts unknown, and the court has taken a recess of ten days for an effort to find him. His absence was the occasion of quite a spirited and angry episode between the attorneys the other day. Mr. Bliss of the prosecution stated that Col. Ingersoll, the attorney for Dorsey, had assured him that his client would be present when wanted, and had told him (Bliss) to give himself no uneasiness on the subject, and charged him with perpetrating a trick. To which Ingersoll replied, "You are a liar, a liar, sir." Of course the court mildly reprimanded the counsel. Col. Ingersoll, however, subsequently said he did not deny what was imputed to him, but was indignant at it being called a trick. He probably objected to the mild terms in which Bliss put it. But Dorsey is absent perhaps on his travels with Capt. Howgate, another sweet-scented Government thief lately escaped from the hands of justice.

THE result of Attorney General Brewster's explorations in South Carolina after election frauds, is now fully developed and amounted to just nothing at all. Compared with the flourish he made when starting out on this raid upon the Democrats of that State, his failure is humiliating. One verdict of guilty, wrung by force from an unwilling jury, has been recorded to be overturned by an appellate court. This, says the *Washington Post*, "and a technical plea of guilty in one other case relieve the monotony of acquittals and mistrials. The District Attorney has worked faithfully. He has exhausted all methods ever heard of to empanel a jury from which every Democrat should be stricken, but without success. Ten and eleven Republicans he could gather together in one box, but in spite of him, one or two jurors, obnoxious only as they were white men and Democrats, would obtrude themselves into the presence of an unwilling court and prosecutor. For a safe deliverance from penitentiary confinement to which perjured testimony was so swift to confine them, the Democrats of South Carolina must acknowledge indebtedness to a non-partisan jury law passed by a Democratic Congress and forced upon Hayes against his will and over his protest."

If this distinguished counsellor of the President is to make a reputation in this line, worthy of his greatness, his friends should insist that he turn his attention to Philadelphia, New York, and other northern precincts where election frauds are to be picked up by the score.

SPEAKER HEWITT, of Hollidaysburg, is an applicant, it is said, for Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Philadelphia. Capt. Geo. Eyster is the present officer and his time expires in June. Mitchell and Attorney-General Brewster is said to favor his re-nomination. Cameron is for Hewitt, and will doubtless carry the prize as the reward for a faithful henchman.

The Clan Cameron

Met at Harrisburg yesterday in convention, and as foreshadowed by an early decree of the Machine Boss, our neighbor and townsman, Gen. James A. Beaver, has received the official certificate of a State convention, in clan assembled, as the nominee of the Republican party for Governor of Pennsylvania, and we take the liberty to congratulate him as well as the party upon the event. We have not now, nor do we expect to have in the future, an unkind word to say of Gen. Beaver personally. Apart from all political considerations, he is a reputable citizen of unsullied character, of light experience in public affairs, and so far as such virtues are allowable in the political association in which he drills, a man of honest impulses and good purposes. When we say this, we say all that we need say at present. Don Cameron knew his man in making the selection, and if anybody expects that the Republican candidate by his own intellectual ability can rise superior to the control of the master spirits who move and manage the great party of fraud, they may as well deceive themselves. Cameron is a stalwart and a boss, and Beaver trains in harness.

ALL kinds of speculation are indulged in just now as to the tactics the managing Boss of the Republicans will adopt to control and demoralize the Independent convention of the 24th of May, so far as to render their opposition to boss rule harmless, and assure a probable success to the machine ticket just placed in the balance. Some of these speculations even venture to intimate that Senator Cameron in manipulating the Independents, will also include the Democratic party in his programme of management. Don is certainly an adroit and bold master, and always equal to the occasion when he has nothing but the slaves of his own party to manage, but when he takes in the Democracy in the hope of cutting their throats with the protesting members of his own party, he will probably find a larger contract than his capabilities will warrant. This is not a year for Democratic fools or Democratic blundering, and with the able and distinguished men of the party interested in the success of true Democratic principles, we have no idea that the machine politicians of the Republican persuasion can walk off with an easy victory. We are united as a party—with no candidates specially or unduly contending for position. With a majority of the people anxious to rescue the State from spoliation and the degradation of machine politics, and with candidates judiciously selected for their ability and merit pledged to the reform of public abuse, they need have no cause to despair of success. Prudence and discretion at the Democratic State convention will assure it.

SECRETARY FOLGER, of the Treasury Department, is certainly not very particular as to the record of his appointees, when he removes a Treasury agent for the purpose of making a vacancy for James M. Scoville of New Jersey, one of Robeson's constituents. He is a stalwart it is true, and it may be that officials in that department are so carefully watched that honesty is not a needed qualification for a valuable and proper officer to look after the interests of the National Treasury. Still, when Robeson's constituents are about, a slight increase of the police force might not be inappropriate.

It is reported that the Georgia Senators, Hill and Brown, are about to or have resigned on account of feeble health, and that ex-Senator Gordon will consent to fill one of the vacancies during the balance of the session.

THE bill acknowledging the incompetency of the present Republican Congress, commonly known as the Tariff commission bill, has passed the House.

Mahone and the Page.

Of all mean acts which have yet come to light in the treacherous career of Mahone, the last is the meanest. A young doctor of Virginia named Tebbs, who desired to enter the service of the United States in the line of his profession, applied to have his disabilities removed. When a small boy, about twenty years ago, he was employed as a page in the confederate Senate, and for this infantile service he was declared by the great Edmunds, the Senator from Vermont, ineligible without the healing process of the Congress of the United States. To meet this objection he made the application for the removal of a disability thus acquired in his boyhood, and it is here the ineffable meanness the confederate ex-Major General with his own crimes condoned, is conspicuously asserted. He refuses by his casting vote the pardon to the ex-page of the confederate Senate, and joins his present Republican allies to vote down the application. Is it possible to conceive of a meaner act than this? For Edmunds and his party of implacables some excuse may lie in their prejudices, but for this servile wretch there is no excuse. Party fealty to his present associations did not require such degradation from a pardoned confederate general who occupied a seat and the casting vote in the Senate of the United States.

THE HON. HORACE MAYNARD, late Postmaster General under the Hayes administration, died suddenly of heart disease a few days ago, at his residence in Knoxville, Tenn. He was a native of Massachusetts, and served many years as a member of Congress from Tennessee, and was minister to Turkey by appointment of Gen. Grant.

The Judiciary Committee and the Land Grants.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—The House Judiciary Committee has not yet reported to the House their action of Tuesday with reference to Mr. Cobb's Land Grant bill. The delay is unexplained except upon the ground that there being no need to hurry about it, it has not been thought worth while to break in upon the tariff debate even to make a report. This would ordinarily be plausible enough, but it is now nearly three months since Mr. Cobb introduced his bill and about half that time since the committee were supplied with full papers upon which to work. They now intend, as announced the other day in these despatches, to ask permission of the House to make separate reports in their discretion upon the various cases, and at the same time submit the list of seven roads upon which construction was never attempted and whose grants they propose shall be forfeited. Pending action, however, upon the request to make separate supplemental reports the committee will probably not overwork themselves, so that the longer the report is delayed the better will be the chance that the large roads will not be reached at this session. The bill has been assured large support if it can be brought from committee. Its friends, in view of the various delays, are accordingly beginning to suspect that the committee's disinclination to hurry may be construed into a deliberate purpose to retard action. Opinions in this line are freely expressed that among so many investigations attention might be turned not unprofitably towards the committee.

The Condition of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—The Speaker laid before the House to-day a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, in response to the House resolution calling for information relative to the condition of the navy. It gives a tabulated statement showing the estimated time and cost which would be required to make each vessel in the navy efficient to engage in battle with an enemy of the same general classification, omitting those whose hulls are considered unfit for repairing. There are sixty-three vessels included in the list, of which thirty-three are reported as "offered for immediate use."

To repair and put in condition the remaining thirty, it is estimated, will cost \$3,173,000; and the time necessary for that purpose is variously estimated at from two to eighteen months. The communication also states that the most powerful gun in actual service is the eight-inch, muzzle-loading rifle (converted), which at 1,000 yards will perforate a plate of solid wrought iron eight and one-half inches thick. Its range is 10,280 yards at thirty-nine degrees elevation. It carries a ball weighing 180 pounds. There are fifty-one such guns actually available for service. The communication also embodies a detailed statement of the cost of repairs on vessels since 1865, the total being \$23,075,000, and the total cost of vessels in the navy is given at \$72,345,778.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Boston *Herald* thinks that as the whipping-post has been abolished in Virginia, the whip of Boss Mahone should be similarly dealt with.

The Pope is not only a "fisher of men," but he has an immense eel farm in the vicinity of Rome, which during the Lenten season yields prodigiously.

The new fast train between Boston and New York, over the Boston and Albany and New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, makes the trips in six hours, the average speed being, allowing for stops, forty-five miles an hour.

A number of Dutch cattle raisers have just arrived in New York, with an average capital of \$800 each, and will proceed at once to Texas as permanent colonists. Among them there are several millionaires, and, no doubt, a Congressman or two.

The President has granted a respite till July 7th next, in the case of Crow Dog, the Sioux Indian under sentence of death at Deadwood, May 11th, for the murder of Spotted Tail in order to allow him time for the case to be heard before the Supreme Court of Dakota on writ of error.

Col. Forsyth reports to Gen. McKenzie that the hostile Indians, of whom he has been in pursuit, are almost annihilated. The part that Col. Forsyth took in their annihilation is quite inconsiderable, however. He simply beat up the game and the Mexican Colonel captured it.

Secretary Folger has written a letter of thanks to Messrs. James F. Welton, John Walker and Wallace Hill, who composed the Treasury Committee which investigated the contingent fund of that department which resulted in the Senate investigation. He commends the committee highly for their independence, fidelity and faithful discharge of the duty assigned them.

Mrs. Anna Hagan recovered a verdict of \$400 in the Supreme Court at New York against John Carroll and Aaron Hershfield, liquor store keepers on Third avenue. The suit was brought under the Civil Damages act by Mrs. Hagan for \$5000 damages for selling liquor to her husband and getting him drunk, after repeated warnings not to do so.

Mr. Murat Halstead never knew of Carlyle and never read Emerson, but he has his opinion of both men now that they are dead. He says: There was little in common between Carlyle and Emerson. The latter was a man of peace; the former a man of war. Emerson never spoke disrespectfully or critically of any one; Carlyle could hardly mention a cotemporary without a sneer.

It is estimated that the production of coke in the Connellsville region during the present year will amount to 178,300,000 bushels. If this quantity of coke was loaded on one train of cars, it would require 238,000 cars of the usual size, and make a train nearly 2,000 miles long, or six trains reaching from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. The production of coke is at present greater than the demand, and consequently there is more or less difficulty on the part of the coke operators to find a destination for their coke. The cause of this lull in trade is attributed to the banking up of a number of furnaces, and a diminished demand for manufactured materials of all kinds.

A Dreadful Deed.

FORSTER'S SUCCESSOR AND UNDER SECRETARY BURKE MURDERED. Terrible Fate of the Man Whom Gladstone Selected to Carry Out His New Policy of Peace and Good Will to Ireland and her Unhappy People.

DUBLIN, May 6.—Lord Frederick Cavendish and Under Secretary Burke were assassinated this evening in Phoenix park. Lord Frederick Cavendish and Earl Spencer had remained at Dublin castle engaged in the transaction of official business until 6 o'clock this evening when each drove to his respective residence. After dinner Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Thomas Henry Burke, under secretary for Ireland, went for a walk in Phoenix park. They were murdered close to the chief secretary's lodge. No arrests have been made.

A later telegram from Dublin says it now appears that Lord Frederick Cavendish and Under Secretary Burke were killed by stabbing. They were both strolling in the park about half a mile from the city gate and a quarter of a mile from the chief secretary's lodge when a car drove up containing four men, two of whom jumped down from the car and attacked Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke, stabbing them both several times in the throat and breast. The victims struggled hard for life and in the struggle became separated, their bodies being found about ten paces apart.

This dastardly assassination, the heaviest blow given to Ireland for many years, is received with horror by every body, and by none with more vigorous denunciation than by Parnell, Davitt, and other friends of Ireland—who demand of the people of Ireland to adopt the most vigorous means to detect the assassins.

Great effort is being made to detect the assassins and a number of arrests made. Two suspicious characters named Bally and Arman have been arrested, and one other supposed to be the cabman who drove the assassins, is in custody. Orders have been given to arrest all strangers and tramps who are unable to account for their movements.