

# 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, December 14, 1882.

The Altoona Times wants the navy sold, and the Philadelphia Times wants the Altoona Times to first catch the navy before putting it up at auction.

GOVERNOR-ELECT PATTISON, visited the State Capitol on Saturday, had an interview with Governor Hoyt and dined with him at Russ' Grand Hotel.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR'S reference to the Hayes administration when he speaks of it as "the four years preceding Mr. Garfield's accession," is the eloquence of sarcasm.

THE State of Georgia, it is said, has 3,593 manufacturing establishments with a capital of \$20,672,410, and gives employment to 25,000 persons, men, women and children.

THE National Bank of the State of N. Y. has decided to enter the State Banking System, and it is said it is likely to be followed by a number of other banking institutions.

THE post-office in Lewisburg was burglarized last week. The thieves blew open the safe and secured about nine hundred dollars in money and all the registered letters.

THE leading question now is, has Senator Cameron yet selected his next candidate for governor, or will he wait until the next National Convention? Field Marshal Cooper might answer.

MANY persons failed to see Madam Venus skipping over the sun the other day, but they may have better luck the next time she performs. It will only be 122 years until the next transit is to take place.

SENATOR LOGAN again reiterates his undying hostility to the restoration of General Fitz John Porter. Nothing better could be expected of a man incapable of a generous emotion that might possibly conflict with his political prejudice.

THE receipts into the State Treasury during the year ending the 30th of November, (including a new loan of \$9,360,120.45) is \$16,428,650.11. The payments for the same period, (including two loans redeemed \$9,826,104.77,) is \$14,850,871.18.

It is said Don Cameron has tried his digestive organs on the first dish of Crow by consenting to the confirmation of Marshall M'Michael. He has a good deal of that kind of dist to dispose of before his re-election, and it is well to accustom his stomach to the fare.

THERE seems to be a general concurrence among Senators and Representatives that a revision of the tariff laws is absolutely necessary at the present session. The same necessity has existed for some time but it has become more apparent to sluggish states men since the election.

THE President favors the reduction of letter postage to two cents. This proposition is favorably received throughout the country. But it is suggested that a turn might also be taken at newspaper postage. Newspaper readers, too, might be given a chance in the reduction with great propriety.

THE Clinton Republican and other stalwart papers, says that the Democratic State officials were committed to civil service reform, and they will be held responsible for their promises. That is right, let the people put them to a strict accountability. That is what is expected. But does not the Republican demand imply that reform is much needed, and the discharge of all corrupt persons in the public service who have had any agency in aiding the general debauchery of elections, is a very proper place to begin the desired reform?

## TARIFF REFORM.

In advance of the publication of the report of the Commission appointed to examine and report on the condition of our tariff, it may not be wise to declare what ought to be done by Congress. That report was made a few days ago, but neither the members nor the public have been able to read and digest its suggestions. Enough is known however, about the report, that very important changes are recommended by the Commission. This is right. Our tariff was made during the war for the purpose of securing as large a revenue as possible. To do this, Congress placed the tariff rates on those articles most extensively used throughout the country. These included mostly articles of necessity. In the distribution of this tariff, the articles of prime necessity, such as cheap blankets, bought by the poor, etc., were more heavily taxed than the better quality. The wool hat of the better manufacture paid less tariff than the cheap kind. For instance, diamonds pay ten per cent.; blankets pay 70 to 100 per cent.—highest priced ones 70 per cent., a low priced one 98 per cent.; balmorals 66 per cent., if high priced, 85 per cent. if low priced; flannels, worth not over 40 cents a pound, pay 95 per cent.; hats not over 80 cents, 66 per cent.; over, 69 per cent. So as to cotton and carpets and other woolen goods. Plows and all farming and mechanic tools of steel, are 45 per cent. Thus it will be seen that this War Tariff was made to produce large amounts of revenue that is no longer needed except for River and Harbor steals. The revenue is ample. It exceeds the expenditures of the government \$100,000,000. This being admitted, let the tariff be wholly removed on such articles as are not manufactured in the country. To tax an article for revenue when that revenue is not required, is simple robbery. As to articles manufactured here and used by our people let there be a general reduction in the interest of the people, at the same time having due respect for the interest of invested capital and employed labor. Such is the drift of public sentiment. The days of high protection are few. Tariff at best, is simply taxation, and when it is levied for any purpose other than to provide revenue to support the Government, may properly characterized a tax of the many for the benefit of the few. When the principle of discrimination on plea of encouragement to home industry was instituted, was not with a view that it was to reach out to perpetual oppression. But what was encouragement at first, came to be considered a matter of right. Whenever the business of special classes became dull, more tariff was asked from Congress. The steel men finally secured \$28 per ton on steel rails, and the profit became so high that manufacturers of steel rails multiplied at a rapid rate. The competition became so great that steel rails sold at \$40 per ton, some \$20 cheaper than the foreigner can sell the rails in our market with the tariff off. Let the whole tariff be revised in the interest of fair and honorable dealing between the manufacturers and the public. The Commission although strongly organized in behalf of protection, yield to the force of public sentiment and urge a general reduction along the entire line.

CONSIDERING the frequency with which the White House has to be repaired and re-furnished, the New York Star thinks the occupants of that mansion of late years know precious little about housekeeping and are anything but clean. It was done all over when Arthur took it, though it had only just been put in order when Garfield was wounded. Now it is in the agonies of another refurbishing. Perhaps the plethoric treasury and the necessity to furnish patronage to some impetuous stalwart workers and dealers, may account for the frequency complained of.

THE discussion of political propriety between the Philadelphia Times and Clearfield Republican is quite interesting, and perhaps instructive, but we doubt very much whether it is worth the powder for the purpose intended. If it is designed to influence Senator Wallace, either journal might know that the Senator is sharp enough and independent enough to take in the full measure of the situation, and perform his duty intelligently without the dictation of an organ or the menace of an Independent. If Mr. Wallace, as a minority member of the Senate, believes that the public interests can be best advanced, and a fair representation best attained by casting his vote for any particular Senator for President of the Senate, whether he be an Independent or a Democrat, we have no doubt his choice will fall upon that man without instruction from any quarter. The creditable record made by Mr. Stewart and the Independents generally in favor of reform measures and honest legislation, entitle them to very high respect, and from whom the Democracy have every reason to expect fair play, at least. If the Democratic members believe that by the election of Mr. Stewart these desirable ends can be best attained, we see no reason why his election should not have their concurrence. They neither forfeit their party respect nor their self respect by choosing the best they can obtain in the interest of fairness and justice. We doubt, however, whether Mr. Stewart, under the circumstances, craves the prominence it would give him and take the responsibility it would bring. His faction is largely in the minority—they are entirely independent of party trammels, and it may occur to them that they can more effectually subvert the ends of their independent organization by placing the Senate more directly in accord with the House and the administration, and let the responsibility of securing the reforms demanded and urged by both the Independents and Democrats, in precise words, rest upon the Democrats without diversion. But however this may be, to accomplish the desirable reforms demanded by the people and so urgently contended for by both, there should be no want of accord between the Democratic and Independent Senators on State issues. Who is to occupy the chair, whether a Democrat or an Independent, is a small matter if he is in full sympathy with the economy and reform so emphatically emphasized by the people in the late election.

SENATOR BECK has introduced a resolution in the Senate looking to the investigation of Jay Hubbellism. The resolution calls for light on the manner of assessments, the amount obtained, how disbursed and what sum still remains in the hands of the collecting thieves that ought to be returned to the robbed employes of the government. To offset this Senator Hale offers an amendment to go into a general search to ascertain where the Democracy got funds for campaign purposes; but as the Democracy did not go the pages, the scrub-women, the clerks and other employes of the Government with threats and intimidation, Mr. Hale's amendment is feeble. In the meantime, it appears Hubbell's Chief assistant has disappeared with the books and memoranda of the Committee as a precautionary measure in case the investigation is ordered.

THE Adjutant General of Pennsylvania receives an annual salary of twenty-five hundred dollars, with a train of subordinates under comparative pay. This is apparently a department organization of recent date, and in the inquiry which is likely to occur as to the propriety of weeding out sin-cures imposed upon the State resources, should not be overlooked. The expenditures of that Department look leaky. It may be all right, but judicious inquiry can do no harm.

THE President and the Tariff Commission are free-traders according to the interpretation put by the Republicans upon the utterances of the Democrats in the late campaign. They both favor a tariff for revenue with incidental protection in favor of rewarding labor, and not a tariff for protection only.

THE Washington Post, out of pure sympathy for disgruntled Republicans in their desperation to find an available candidate for President, now that Blaine decline to serve them, kindly suggests that they freeze to Ex-Governor Hayes. He being the only man capable of reaching the Presidency in spite of defeat at the polls, seems to be the only one available to meet the desperation of the situation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL PALMER has written an opinion to the effect that the Governor has no power to restore to citizenship a person who has lost the franchise by reason of conviction for violating the election laws. He is forever disfranchised, and it is just and proper that he should be. A man who will not respect the most sacred right of citizenship, is not fit to exercise that right.

No wonder that Dr. Bliss and the other physicians and surgeons who attended the late assassinated President are somewhat disgruntled and disappointed. They claimed, for the three principles, the sum of \$25,000 each, for a few weeks' service. The Auditing committee appointed to distribute the appropriation, have awarded them sums averaging from \$6,000 to \$3,000 each, and public opinion and common honesty will approve its sufficiency.

THE last rumor has it that Secretary Folger is about to step down and out of the Treasury Department for Don Cameron to step in. Where this reliable programme comes from, we are not able to say, but we presume it is only a sensational feeler to find out how the squelched boss of the Pennsylvania Republicans would be received as a leading spirit in Arthur's cabinet.

SPEAKING of the assessments of the Government employes in making up the corruption election fund, the President says in his message that their "only motive in giving was fear of what might befall them if they refused." That's it, and yet the robbing was allowed in the Departments under his control, to greater extent, perhaps, than ever before, in the face of a law intended for their protection. Hubbell, Mahoue, Cameron and their satellites, had a free run in the late campaign.

WE see it stated that our excellent friend, Major E. McConkey, will be presented for resident clerk of the House of Representatives. He served in that office most acceptably in the session of 1875-76, and we trust he may be chosen now. His ability and experience, as well as his pleasant and gentlemanly bearing, will commend him as peculiarly the man for the place in a Democratic Legislature.

GEN. MANNING, who contested for re-election to Congress from Mississippi against Chalmers; was offered the certificate of election, on account of defective returns for the latter from one county where the vote was cast for "Chalmers," declines the certificate and will rest his claims to the seat on the evidence which may be developed in the contest before Congress. This evidence promises to be of a very positive character and is likely to implicate the Administration in very discreditable work, in which Hubbell's corruption committee also plays a part. The course of General Manning in declining the certificate is highly commendable and contrasts favorably with that of several Republicans who have received certificates and will claim seats on alleged defective returns of less merit.

THE revival of the "Whig" party is seriously spoken of now as a substitute for the one which succeeded it a few years ago, and now in turn is going out in disgrace. What's in a name? Whether Federalist, Anti-Masonic, Know Nothing, Whig or Republican, the same crew mans it—the same principles govern it—the same disgrace awaits it, and the same destiny follows. Antagonistic mainly to the Democratic principles of Republican government, it favors the concentration of power in the Federal Executive and thus teaches by precept and example the subordination of the masses to the personal mastery of the servant. Thus it has ever been under all the names assumed and thus it will be under whatever alias expediency may suggest. But the Democracy, the party of the people, the representative of the masses, founded as the defender of their sovereignty, and unchangeable in the assertion of the right of the people to govern and control, will ever come to the front to protect our Democratic government from the spoliation of the enemy at the right moment. It is here now, and the enemy, covered with fraud and shameless disregard of the most sacred safeguards of the constitution and laws of the government, are again seeking a change of name to cover the iniquities of the past and hide the disgrace and usurpations which have marked its progress under the present name. Under this name, among other wrongs, it has usurped the Presidential office by fraud and sought to corrupt and degrade our elections to mere mobs, controlled by rings and operated by executive patronage and fed by spoils forced from the slavish fears of the subordinate employes of the government. It is time to hide under a new name.

"Every intelligent, honest man," says the New York Sun in its remarks on the President's message, "must feel an instinctive hatred for the electoral fraud of 1876-7, by which the Presidency of the United States was stolen; and also an instinctive repugnance for the hypocrites and villains who committed and promoted the fraud, and who in various official places and distinctions enjoyed the direct usufruct thereof. The honorable feeling of hatred and repugnance is beautifully expressed by President Arthur when he describes the shameful period of fraud triumphant, as 'the four years immediately preceding Mr. Garfield's accession to the Presidency.' No one can allege that Chester A. Arthur has pardoned or condoned the blackest crime ever perpetrated by nefarious politicians. Honor to this true and manly President."

## A Proper Subject for Inquiry.

Why has not the country a right to know what use was made of money appropriated to carry on the executive departments, money that was gotten into the power of the Department of Corruption by means which no public man dares defend?

The President in his excellent message says that such contributions have "been obtained from persons whose only motive for giving has been the fear of what might befall them if they refused. It goes without saying that such contributions are not voluntary, and in my judgment their collection should be prohibited by law." It is the duty of Congress to find out and let the country know how much money has been thus dishonestly obtained; what use has been made of the "swag"; if any of it is still where it can be got at for return to the parties robbed, and how far the State elections have been interfered with or controlled by the use of funds dishonestly diverted from legitimate purposes.

When officials of the government are compelled to hand over to a party committee a portion of the salaries voted them for performance of public duties, and dare not decline for "the fear of what might befall them if they refused," it is high time for Congress to come to the relief of such intimidated officials.

The "road agent" or the bold highwayman, who collects his assessments at the muzzle of a cocked revolver, relies on precisely the same motive that is described by the Stalwart President in his official capacity.

When the passengers of a car or mail coach, or benighted travelers on a lonely road, hand over their pocket books to a robber, "their only motive for giving is the fear of what may befall them if they refused."

When a lady or gentleman, terrified by threats in an anonymous letter, encloses the money demanded to a fictitious address, "the only motive for giving is the fear of what may befall the giver in case of refusal."

How much more honorable is it to practice on the fears of poor men or needy women in the Departments, as has been done by the Department of Corruption, than to collect assessments at the revolver's muzzle or levy blackmail by threatening letters?

And when we consider that the money contributed by clerks and other employes of the government, "whose only motive for giving is the fear of what may befall them if they refuse," is corruptly used to prevent a fair choice of local officers, the advantage is on the side of the robber who uses his ill gotten gains for the personal benefit of himself and his friends.—Washington Post.

## Partisan Leadership.

General Davis, of the Doylestown Democrat, has some sensible advice to offer in this week's leader on the leadership, advice which should be considered by the Democratic party just as it is gaining ascendancy in State and National politics. He says: "Political parties, like armies, require leaders. Without them, and able ones, too, they have little, or no, fighting strength. Numbers and individual prowess go for naught. Good leadership brings organization; inspires courage; a confident feeling of success; and other qualities necessary to win. Politicians do not always realize this, but when they do not they are apt to come to grief. The Democratic party in Pennsylvania was never in greater want of such a leader; in fact we have needed one for twenty years. We have just achieved a great victory, and the political power of the Commonwealth is about to be turned over to us. With it comes the period of great trial. Parties like individuals, find their sorest trial in prosperity. The outside pressure of adversity binds their ranks together, but with victory there is a natural inclination among the rank and file to throw off discipline. It is then a party needs a good leader. To able leadership alone, is the Republican party indebted for its quarter of a century of victory and power; for it has been led with almost unsurpassed ability and steadiness. Shall we learn wisdom of our enemy? The continuance of the Democratic party in power in this State depends, largely upon its leadership." These words are words of wisdom, and should have great weight. When the representatives of the party meet at Harrisburg in January, there should be a free and general interchange of opinions, and the men best suited selected to take the lead, not to serve as bosses, but as leaders. There has been enough boss rule in this State the past fifteen years to satisfy all classes except those directly interested, and the moment Democratic leaders attempt to ply the lash, or assume dictatorial powers that moment they or the party will go to the wall. The Democracy need leaders, but not political managers and time-servers.

## How to Obtain a Needed Amendment.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, has introduced a joint resolution providing for an amendment to the Constitution empowering the President to veto separate items in an appropriation bill while approving a portion of the same. This provision exists in the Constitution of this State, and indeed of several others including New York. It has been found to work well. If engrafted into the Federal Constitution it would afford the best possible safeguard against log-rolling schemes of plunder.

But as it will require a two-third vote of the very members of Congress who usually profit by log-rolling to pass Senator Morgan's resolution and allow the State Legislatures to act upon it, there does not appear to be brightest prospect in the world of its success. It is probably expecting too much of average Congressional human nature to suppose that two-thirds of the members will deliberately vote to deprive themselves of what many of them are inclined to look upon as their chief prerogative. An amendment to the Constitution which proposes to curtail the powers Congress will hardly be looked upon with favor by that body, however necessary to the public interests such an amendment may be. Congress ought to pass the amendment promptly, as that is the shortest way of effecting the proposed reform. But Congress isn't obliged to do it and quite likely will decide not to do it.

The framers of the Constitution, doubtless anticipating just such a contingency, however, provided a way by which such an amendment might be made, whether Congress desires it or not. The Constitution itself provides that in the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the States, Congress shall call a convention for that purpose. Should the Legislatures of the States which are in session during the coming winter promptly pass resolutions demanding such a convention, that will accomplish the object. This is a good thing for the statesmen to think over.—Phila. Times.

AN HONEST election will be an indispensable element of a title, to a seat in the Forty-eighth Congress. It will save time and vexation if all aspirants for seats will bear this in mind.