

# 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, January 4, 1883.

THANKING our friends for their continued patronage and wishing them all a happy and prosperous New Year we present the first number of the fifth volume of the CENTRE DEMOCRAT. We intended making some improvement upon its mechanical make-up, as well as other satisfactory arrangements, but that will all come in good time.

A BED OF MICA has been discovered on the South Mountain, in Berks county. The metal, it is said, has been tested and found to be fire-proof. It is believed to be of great value.

FORTY Chinese women disguised themselves as Indians and slipped over to America to get married. This proves that the laws of Congress can be no obstruction to keep a woman out of this country who wants a husband.

SOME laborers in Lebanon county, the other day, undertook to dry a number of dynamite cartridges by the fire of a blacksmith shop. They succeeded but they also dried up the shop and severely injured the blacksmith by an explosion.

It is said that Mahone is intriguing for the Presidency of the Senate in place of Senator Davis whose term expires on the 4th of March. Mahone and Riddleberger hold the cards in their own hands, and can enforce the result from the high-toned Republican side of the Senate!

GAMBETTA, the distinguished French statesman and orator, as well as the great leader of the French Republic, died on Monday last. He has for many years occupied the most prominent rank of any other statesman in the affairs of his government and his death produced a profound sensation.

GOVERNOR CLEVELAND, of New York, was inaugurated at an early hour on the 1st inst. The ceremony was brief and simple, attended by no crowd, and was over, and he was quietly seated in the executive chamber when the mass of people assembled to witness the taking of the official oath.

BECAUSE Robert T. Lincoln is the son of his father, the Republicans are discussing him as a probable candidate for President. With the large number of able aspirants, it is not probable that the merits of the deceased will be available capital to compare with the absence of extraordinary merit in the son.

MOSBY, Minister to China, insists that he will return to his home in Virginia in time to take a hand in politics in the next campaign. He expresses great contempt for the boss system introduced by Mahone into that State and promises to make a vigorous fight to clear it of the reproach.

CHICAGO presents some figures which start the inquiry as to what she may become in the next quarter of a century. The new structures erected there aggregate \$17,500,000. The aggregate street frontage foots up a total of 74,000 feet, or fully fourteen lineal miles of frontage. The value of the buildings erected this year ranks the third highest since the fire.

KEIFER AND HUBBELL are the scoundrels of the Republican Congress. Keifer, of the worst elements of the House, and Hubbell of the meanest elements of a Committee made up of the members of both houses. These men were charged with the execution of the dirty business of both bodies, and have to bear the odium of acts of which others were as guilty, but in position to shirk responsibility.

## The Pennsylvania Legislature.

The Legislature met in their halls at the State Capitol at 12 o'clock on Tuesday last and was organized for business without much delay, and appointed the usual committees to wait upon the Governor and inform him they were ready to receive any communication he had to make.

In the Senate, Mr. Reyburn, of Philadelphia, the Cameron Machine candidate, was elected on the second ballot, President pro tem., over Mr. Hall, of Elk, the Democratic candidate, by a vote of 26 to 20; Thomas R. Cochran was re-elected chief clerk; Smiley, of Venango, Journal clerk and George Pearson, of Mercer, reading clerk. The election of the other officers and employes was on motion of Mr. Lee, postponed for the present with the view of weeding out supernumeraries, when that distinguished reformer (?) and purely sympathizing patriot, Senator Tom Cooper, presented a resolution providing for a final adjournment of the Legislature on the 22d of March.

In the House the election of officers resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen: For Speaker, the Hon. John E. Faunce, of Philadelphia, who on taking the chair briefly returned his thanks for the honor conferred. He promised to discharge the duties of the position fairly and impartially. The party now in control of the House was sent here to reform abuses, and so far as it is within their power, the evils complained of must be remedied. Public officers must be held to a strict accountability; useless offices abolished; officers to be paid by salary and the fees to go into the public treasury. A fair apportionment is demanded in the interest of the whole people. An important measure which would claim earnest attention was the readjustment of the revenue, so that the burdens of taxation may be lightened and fall equally upon all classes. To this and kindred measures he invited the careful attention of all the members, so that an early adjournment could be brought about. In conclusion he hoped the members would so conduct themselves that the encomium of "well done, good and faithful servants," would be bestowed on them.

Hon. P. Gray Meek, editor of the Democratic *Watchman*, of this place, was then elected chief clerk and Maj. Elbridge McConkey, of Harrisburg, resident clerk, and we cannot allow the opportunity to pass to congratulate the Democracy of Pennsylvania for the excellence of the selection of speaker and clerks thus far, in the efficiency and ability it brings to the public service. They are all high-toned, courteous gentlemen deserving the mark of confidence bestowed upon them by the members of the Legislature. The other officers and employes have not yet been chosen, and we presume will not be, until the list is brought down to the requirements of the law and the absolute necessities of the House. Under the reform economical demand of the people of Pennsylvania, sinecures and supernumeraries and extravagance can no longer be received with commendation, and those members who fail to come up to this standard will also fail to comprehend his duty and violate the pledges of the party he is expected to represent in the struggle for honest government.

THE Rev. John E. Massey who contests the election of John S. Wise the Readjuster candidate for a seat in Congress as Congressman-at-large from Virginia, has published his notice of contest. He claims that he is elected over Mahone's candidate by 10,000 majority and is sanguine that he will be able to prove this when he gets a hearing before the house of Representatives. The notice of contest contains twenty printed pages, specifying illegal voting all over the State, and other acts of illegal character which, if proven, will make up a strong case in his favor.

THE Wabash railroad system of the west has earned \$2,280,000 more than for the same time in 1881.

## Mr. PENDLETON'S civil service bill

passed the Senate on Wednesday last. The amendments offered by Mr. Vest and Mr. Beck, prohibiting officers or employes of the Government to solicit or contribute any money for political purposes, and providing a penalty for offenders, was rejected. These amendments struck at the root of one of the greatest sources of Federal corruption complained of by the people, and we trust may yet be incorporated, or something similar in effect, in the bill before its final passage. The organization of an army of Federal officers and their dependents throughout the country to control and corrupt elections by means derived from the public treasury, liberally bestowed for services in the transaction of the public business, is a danger of such magnitude that any means proposed to arrest it would seem to demand the concurrence of honest Representatives. But it appears the Federal Republicans are unwilling to surrender any corrupting agency they may possess to maintain political control of the official patronage of the government, which they abuse so recklessly. There should be no restraint placed upon the citizen by reason of his official connection with the government for the exercise of all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws, but there should be no power by assessment or threats under lead of the Executive, or under lead of his henchmen, to combine official power corruptly in the interest of a particular political party as a means of enforcing their party mandates through fear. This was done in the last election indeed it has been one of the leading cards of Federal ascendancy for many years. This bill as it passed the Senate is some improvement over others, but it is weak and will be easily evaded as it provides no efficient means for its enforcement. It provides that removal shall only be made "for cause," but indicates no "cause" that should form the basis of removals. It makes no provision empowering the Commission provided for to weed out the army of incompetence and supernumeraries now in employ. And until this is done, no great improvement will result from the passage of the bill. So far as imposing restraint upon political assessments in the enforcement of contributions for party purposes, the bill is a blank and worthless. To this point public attention has been specially directed and the demand for restraining legislation most emphatically called for by the people. This demand has been recognized by the amendments offered by Mr. Beck and others, as well as by Senator Edmunds, who presents an evasive sham bill to meet the demand which amounts to nothing more than is already upon the statute books and evaded without stint.

HERR MOST is a European Socialist now lecturing in this country to the crazy fools who hold socialistic sentiments, with uproarious applause. At Chicago the other night, in his speech, he said, "that when the people get the upper hand they stopped killing; the only thing to be done was to keep on killing; people here must kill, must open banks and stores and help themselves to whatever they wanted, and bankers and capitalists must be set to work on the streets." But why should this fellow be permitted to travel through our cities counselling the ignorant rabble who harbor him, to murder and rob. He is a lunatic or a villain of deep dye, and should be provided for in the institutions appropriated to his case. If one of our own citizens were to go around counselling murder, assassination and robbery, it would not be tolerated.

THE Independents of the Senate were entirely subdued by the conversion of Senator Tom Cooper to reform and early adjournment. His lead of the "grand old party" to defeat, and adherence to the principal boss, do not count. It is all harmony now!

## WILLIAM BALDWIN, the chief of the Highway Department of Philadelphia, died on Tuesday last, very suddenly of heart disease, while on his way to a meeting of citizens. He was deservedly a popular man and although his administration of the office has been under investigation for some time past, his sudden taking off produced much excitement and sincere regret.

MR. GEORGE L. HUSTON is building an iron dwelling house at Parkersburg, Chester county. It rests on a foundation of solid rock. It is wholly of iron, including the floors, windowsills, sash, etc. The floors are made to represent tiling, and the walls are hollow, the space between them is used instead of chimneys. Hot smoke and hot air passing from furnaces between the walls it is thought will be sufficient to warm the building in the severest weather.

THE action of the members of Congress in relation to the holiday vacation was childish and inconsistent, and exhibited a cowardice discreditable to them as men. They sought to deceive the public by voting and speaking against the usual recess on account of the pressing business of the session and then packed their sacks and repaired to their homes, leaving a sub-speaker to note a daily adjournment.

In the year 1780 Congress adopted a resolution to erect a monument at Annapolis, Maryland, to the memory of Baron De Kalb, but made no appropriation to carry the resolution into effect. It has been sleeping over a hundred years, and the other day was called up by Senator Groome of Maryland and an appropriation of \$10,000 passed to carry into effect the tardy recognition of the brave volunteer patriot as contemplated by the resolution of 1780.

THE case of General Fitz John Porter is now being considered by the Senate, with Senator Logan, of Illinois leading the opposition to the demand for justice to the gallant and wronged officer. Logan has made a three days' speech in an effort to overcome the testimony of General Grant and the three distinguished officers of the army who investigated the charges established their falacy against General Porter, and recommended his restoration to the rank in the army of which he was improperly deprived.

THE Republicans having stolen a President successfully, propose to steal a Governor. The people at the late election in Connecticut, elected a Democratic Governor. Some of the tickets, it appears, were printed on white paper from electotypes heavily inked leaving the names of candidates in white. These have been decided by a judge to be illegal and if thrown out changes the result, and overturns a democratic majority of over four thousand. There is no evidence that any fraud was committed in the election and the attempt of the Republicans to ignore the expressed will of the majority on a technical objection, when their own tickets were equally objectionable, having a black border printed around them, is discreditable to them and adds force to the accumulated evidence of many years that they do not hesitate to obtain and retain power by any means however dishonorable and wrong. The defeated candidate, Mr. Bulkeley, however, could not afford to take the office under such circumstances and place himself upon an equality with Rutherford B. Hayes, the Presidential thief, with the same chances of respect accorded to that despised individual, has written a manly letter in which he says: "I do not entertain and have not for one moment entertained the idea that it would be possible for me to hold the office of Governor under the existing circumstances, no matter what the General Assembly may do or declare, and any action they may take must be with the knowledge that in no event will I serve or take the position which I believe it was the intent of the electors to give to another."

## The Work Before Congress.

NO GREAT AMOUNT OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION PROBABLE.

Practically speaking only two months of the present session of Congress remain. In this time there is much important business to be disposed of, but it does not appear that all which ought to be done will be done. The most important measures to be pressed for passage before the session expires, besides the appropriation bills are bills providing for tariff revision, the reduction of the internal revenue, civil service reform, the admission of Dakota and a bankruptcy system. The bankruptcy bill is now before both houses, and provides for a modification of the Lowell scheme, but it is hardly probable that it will become a law.

In a conversation Mr. Townsend, of Illinois, said he judged from talks with members generally that it was very doubtful whether anything would be done with the tariff and internal revenue this session. He said there was such a diversity of opinion on these subjects that it would be impossible for the various elements to harmonize upon any measure sufficiently to carry them. The inference is that none of the great measures proposed except, perhaps, the civil service bill, will become laws. It is believed that about all that can be accomplished in the brief period remaining of this Congress will be the passage of the appropriation bills, possibly the civil service bills and some other measures of minor importance. It is hardly expected by any one that the Dakota bill can be passed, as it is so obstructed in the Senate by the Yankton county complication and so turned in the calendar of the House that with the opposition of the Democrats, nothing can come of it.

The pending order in the House is the army appropriation bill according to the condition of matters at the adjournment. The proposition by General Browne, of Indiana, to abolish the pay department of the army has caused much excitement in circles which contain those who would be affected. There are now fifty-five officers in the department, costing about half a million dollars to maintain. They disburse only about \$10,000,000 to the 17,651 men in line at a cost of about four per cent. of the sum. It is proposed, not to abolish the bureau suddenly, but to leave vacancies unoccupied and have force sufficient to carry on the work in the meantime detailed from the Quartermaster's department.

## What Shall be Done With Them?

The auditor general's reports show that among the officials of the house of representatives there are five sergeants at arms, two postmasters, two firemen, seven janitors, eleven pasters and folders, four messengers, five door keepers, and fifteen page boys. At least one-third of them can be dispensed with, and if the *Legislative Record* should be abolished the number of pasters and folders need not be over three or four. There is no necessity for more than a half dozen pages and two or three janitors are entirely sufficient. The Democratic members of the house should at once consider the question of a reduction of this army of officials and adopt a policy in regard to it in thorough agreement with the pledges of retrenchment and reform given by the party during the recent canvass.

It is claimed that under existing laws no reduction of the number of officers and employes of the two houses of the legislature can be made, and that if any reduction is to be made it must be done by the passage of a new law. The officers of the last legislature hold over until their successors are qualified and this being the case it is argued that if the house of the present legislature fails to fill the several offices created by law the officers of the former body will hold their places until the end of the session. If this be true a bill on the subject should be speedily passed so that the proposed reform may take effect at once. At the end of ten days the officers holding over who prove to be supernumerary and unnecessary should have notice to quit, so that if they should persist in retaining their places they will do so at the risk of losing their pay. A concurrent resolution might be passed by the two houses declaring certain offices unnecessary and therefore vacant, or either house could by resolution create such vacancies.

The whole subject should be carefully and thoroughly considered by both houses of the legislature and the Democratic majority in the house of representatives will make a good beginning by giving it attention at the earliest possible moment.—*Harrisburg Patriot*.

## Treatment of Immigrants.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Representative Guenther, of Wisconsin, who has been to New York to investigate the treatment of immigrants at Castle Garden has returned. He reports that the treatment is simply horrible; that men, women and children are huddled together in filth; that the dead remained for days in a pile; in fact his account of the management of the place and condition of those who are so unfortunate as to be there baffles description. It will be remembered that at the first session of the present congress a bill was passed putting a tax of fifty cents per head on each immigrant. This ought to keep the place in good order and provide amply for the comfort of all. Mr. Guenther proposes that Congress shall remedy these evils.

## Garfield and Dorsey

Yesterday's issue of the *New York Herald* contains some interesting letters from President Garfield and other prominent Republicans during the contest of 1880. Garfield's letters to Dorsey run through the campaign down to the 4th March, 1871, when the correspondence was suddenly interrupted by the Star Route prosecutions. Dorsey's purpose in publishing these letters is to repel the assertion, made by some of Garfield's indiscreet friends, that he "thrust" upon the late President his unsought advice, and also to show how constantly Garfield leaned upon him for support. In making these letters public there is also an evident desire upon the part of Dorsey to awaken the sympathies of the Republican party for a man who has performed such great service in their cause and who is now undergoing prosecution for an "innocent" crime. In response to a letter from Garfield defining the political situation in Indiana, Dorsey went to that State to take the direction of the campaign. In his letter, in which Garfield revealed himself as a pretty shrewd campaign manager, he insisted that large sums of money would be needed to carry Indiana, and intimated that the denomination of Disciples might be "worked up" in his interest. When the Indiana campaign was over he hastened to send Dorsey grateful acknowledgments of his "masterly management." After the election was over Garfield frequently sought Dorsey's advice, which was freely given, in regard to the construction of his cabinet. Late in December, when the cabinet intrigues were going on, Garfield sent to Dorsey an extract from a letter of President Hayes in regard to the new cabinet, asking an early opinion as to what ought to be done about that and other matters. It is doubtful whether any one of Garfield's intimate friends enjoyed in as great a degree his confidence as Stephen W. Dorsey.

All this correspondence as given in the *Herald* was not necessary to inform the public in regard to the intimacy between Garfield and Dorsey. The character of their relations has been pretty well understood in spite of the recent efforts of friends of Garfield to deny them. Concerning the manner in which this more than Pythian friendship was dissolved there are, of course, different opinions. Admirers of Garfield extol the Roman virtue which inspired him to sacrifice such a friend as Dorsey without stretching forth a hand to save him. Dorsey's friends, on the other hand, of whom he appears to have many, notwithstanding his position, condemn Garfield's readiness to deliver him up to a free persecution on the first summons. They say that Garfield showed altogether too much slattery to shake off the heavy weight of his personal and political obligations to Dorsey. Much as Dorsey's services during the campaign in Indiana were needed and sought after, it is just possible that his long and exceedingly free letters of advice had become irksome to Garfield before the day of inauguration, and that this Star route prosecution was rather welcome than otherwise. At all events, there remains no sign that Garfield ever betrayed any great degree of grief over the calamity of his friend.—*Philadelphia Record*.

## The Legislative Record.

There is a very general feeling of disgust among the people and their representatives-elect in the new legislature over the *Legislative Record* and its past manner of publication. The great preponderance of feeling is for its abolition and the saving of the state of about \$40,000 which it now costs to print, paste, fold and distribute it. Besides the *Record* it seems that there is kept and printed at the close of every session a condensed journal of the legislative proceedings, showing the measures adopted, the votes on them, the progress of business without the speeches and padding that makes the publication of the *Record* a pudding for the printer, and an offense to the public. To many clear minds this journal is deemed enough of a publication of legislative proceedings to meet the requirements of the case, and a strong move will be made to abolish the *Record*. A difficulty in the way, however, is the fact that under the law a contract has already been made for the printing of the *Record* for the two sessions of the next four years, involving the state in about \$45,000 expenses for printing it alone. It is understood that while the contractor feels that he has some profit in the job, and has made some outlay and contracts in anticipation of it, he is ready to make or entertain a proposition to release the commonwealth from its bargain, and it is for the assemblymen to consider whether the expense shall continue, or be curtailed if it is not possible entirely to relieve the state from it. In any event it is practicable to do away with the horde of pasters and folders who have hitherto been employed to get up this publication. From fifteen to twenty place-men, at an expense of about \$17,000, are hired for this. The entire work can be done by contract for \$1,500, and the *Record* can be promptly mailed for this sum from the place of its publication. If the *Record* is discontinued of course there will be no excuse for electing a pasters' and folders' brigade this year; and if it is continued the pasting and folding can easily be let for ten per cent. of its present cost.—*Lancaster Intelligencer*.

At Long Branch the high tide is causing irreparable damage to the bluff on which the summer settlement is located.