

The Centre Democrat.

S. T. SHUGERT & E. L. ORVIS, Editors.

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

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The Centre Democrat.

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Thursday Morning, November 15, 1883.

THE Democratic majority in New York is 12,000, and in New Jersey from seven to eight thousand.

CITIZENS of Arkansas object to the building of a railroad, on the ground that it would scare all the game out of the country.

Gov. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, is defeated but not subdued. He announces that he will be a candidate for Governor next year.

THE inquiry of what has become of Senator John I. Mitchell has become about as familiar and frequent as that which demands "who struck Billy Porter?"

A CONGRESSIONAL investigation, it is intimated, will uncover some dark proceedings in the lease of 3,000,000 acres of Indian land to a syndicate of capitalists, in which some senators and members of congress may appear unpleasantly.

Gov. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, it is said, has lost the "Presidential Bee" that harbored in his hat for some time past. We always believed that the old Bay State could not afford to part with him, and now she has gone and stole his bee.

THE wheat crop in the United States is reported 100,000,000 bushels less than the crop of 1882, which was the largest ever produced in one year. The surplus for 1882 still on hand is estimated at 50,000,000 which will leave ample to send across the waters to feed European customers.

It is said the President has amended the eighth civil service rule to prohibit the appointing power in every case from making any discriminations in selections for appointments on account of political or religious opinions or affiliations, and makes violation of the rule cause for removal.

EX-SPEAKER Kiefer is on hand in Washington setting up pins for the complimentary nomination of his party for the Speakership. Well, he is a pretty thing to compliment, but his party is not choice in selection and his honored record in the last Congress may perhaps commend him.

THE Democratic Legislature of Virginia just elected, will have the apportionment of the State into Congressional Districts. We trust it will be fair and just, and not like Pennsylvania, gerrymandered in the interest of party. This course will eventually destroy any party that indulges in it, as it ought to do.

GERMANY, having banished the American hog, is now in hot pursuit of the American land speculators and the western prairies. All advertisements offering inducements to German farmers to emigrate to this country are seized and confiscated as mischievous missiles to depopulate the Kaiser's dominions.

THE result of the New York election will doubtless settle the question as to the candidacy of the Republican party for President. But how? Will the Republicans nominate Arthur as the prospective power to bring the State into the Republican fold, or look upon the present result as an indication that they must go. We incline to the opinion that he goeth.

IN Massachusetts, the Republicans, on the largest poll ever cast in the state, had only 10,000 majority. This is an ominous showing against their usual 60,000 to 70,000 majorities, and marks the downward grade of the "grand old party." The new industry of the old Bay State "in the manufacture of human leather, if a paying one, is not likely to be a harmonious one.

THE Committee of One Hundred, it is intimated, are disposed to close their accounts and dissolve. This would undoubtedly be a great calamity to that city, inasmuch as all the political decency it possessed for many years is due to the independence and sterling character of that organization. If this rumor be true, the Times read the future discreetly, when it made peace with the Bosses.

Judge Orvis's Resignation.

The senior editor of this paper is responsible exclusively for this article, and so states the fact in reference to the sensitive feeling of the junior on the subject of which it treats. This preface, we trust, will relieve our junior as well as his honored father of any embarrassment, and allow us to speak with freedom of one whom we have long claimed as a most esteemed personal friend, when we say that the announcement of the resignation of the Hon. John H. Orvis as President Judge of this (49th) judicial district, on Friday of last week, was like a thunderbolt in a clear sky. Although there had been rumors afloat for some time that the Judge contemplated such a step, very few expected it so soon. "Few die and none resign," was the language of the street, and the phrase that fit a congressman or a legislator was freely applied to a judge. The action of Judge Orvis is a matter of regret to the people of this judicial district, and particularly to the people of his own county of Centre. During the nearly ten years he has presided over our courts he has been reversed two or three times only, though many cases have been taken up. The criminal calendar has been reduced to a mere skeleton when compared with its giant proportions in the time preceding his elevation to the bench. His name had become a terror to evil doers and a strong bulwark, behind which the friends of law and order could rally.

The bench and bar of Centre has ever been one of the strongest in the state, and in all the bright galaxy of legal and judicial minds, no star shines with brighter lustre as a judge than the one which has just set. The bench loses a Nestor, but the bar can welcome back an Achilles. There is nothing negative in the character of Judge Orvis, his positiveness asserts itself in every lineament of his face, in every gesture. Only a positive man can be a judge. With one of the brightest intellects, profoundly learned in the law, fearless in the discharge of his duties, he leaves the bench with a judicial reputation second to none. No man has been more maligned than Judge Orvis, yet he has never once raised his voice in his own defence, or suffered his friends to defend him. We once heard him say that he "did not intend that criminals should approve his administration of justice." Men, who a year ago could find a hundred reasons why he should not be on the bench, can now give five hundred reasons why he should be there. We do not appreciate a jewel until we lose it. The self-made man is always well made. He takes his time, works slowly and rounds off all the corners and angles. He does not labor merely for a fine polish, but there is a firmness and an individuality stamped upon the work that shows the hand of the master. Judge Orvis is emphatically a self-made man and indebted to no adventitious circumstances for his rise to excellence in his profession. Some imagine that there is a political significance in the resignation—something hidden and mysterious, and are torturing themselves to find out what it is. We are not authorized to speak for him. We were not consulted before nor have we been advised since as to the reasons. It is not difficult, however, to arrive at a correct solution. The judgeship, so far as its salary is concerned to a lawyer of his ability, is a small thing—it is absolutely nothing compared to what he can make practicing law and attending to his private business. He had reaped all the honor of the position long ago, and there was nothing to induce him to remain. Indeed he could not afford now to be bound hand and foot, when his own private business and his profession offered better inducements to obtain that competency which we all desire. Ten years more of retirement on the bench would have left Judge Orvis knocking gently at the door of old age. He would then have hesitated long about engaging in the turmoil of busy life. To-day he is fresh, vigorous and strong. The fire of youth is finely tempered by the wisdom, calmness and justice acquired on the bench, and while his retirement may be a matter of regret to the people of the 49th judicial district, they cannot but respect the personal considerations involved and the desire of the judge to be free to think and act on all questions of whatever character, untrammelled by the judicial error which he has upheld unsullied in his official career.

The Bed Rock Reason.

The *Pittsburg Post* inquired of a leading Boss why the Republicans refused to make an apportionment, Congressional and Legislative, in view of the recent election. He answered, we do not care about the Congressional apportionment; it makes no difference about one or two Congressmen; the Democracy have and will hold a majority of the House, quite sufficient for their purpose, but the Republican party cannot risk any change in the Representative apportionment without endangering the election of Cameron or some other Republican as United States Senator. What a humiliating confession to make. The constitution shall be ignored, the laws violated, the oaths of members disregarded, through fear of losing party supremacy. If the Democratic party is in a majority in the state, with the exception of Philadelphia, is it not an endorsement of the efforts of the Democrats to obtain a just apportionment and a rebuke to the Republicans? Has it relieved the Democratic administration from its obligations to see that the Constitution shall be observed and the people have their rights? If, after a fair apportionment, the Republican party shall triumph, so be it; no complaint can be made, but let them do it according to law and not sneak in by evading it.

GEN. GRANT, has written another most creditable letter, explaining the reasons which influenced him, after careful investigation, to change his views of the verdict of the Court martial against Gen. Fox John Porter, and expressing regret that the investigation had not been made at the time he had the power to correct the great wrong inflicted upon this gallant officer. There are many things in the character of General Grant to be admired, and in none more, perhaps, than the position he has taken and the effort he has made to have justice done to Porter. During his administration he was greatly prejudiced against him, and the weight of his influence was cast in the balance of Porter's enemies, but careful and calm consideration of the case since, having discovered to the ex-President that this prejudice was unwarranted, he had the manliness to acknowledge it and the courage to seek proper occasion to demand that reparation so long denied to a persecuted soldier, be made in the most ample manner.

The complaint to which the *Harrisburg Patriot* gives utterance in the subjoined paragraph, we have often heard, and it might probably not be amiss for the Governor, the Attorney General and Secretary of Internal Affairs to consider whether there are not men in the Democratic ranks of equal competency to serve the state faithfully. While we are not an advocate of making politics merely the test of official fitness, still, all things being equal, it is but fair that Democratic officials should discriminate in favor of Democrats against those of others who make themselves obnoxious as political partisans.

Certain Republicans have been retained in office by Governor Pattison and his head of departments whose affiliation with the bosses has been very offensive to Democrats. Their removal has been anxiously awaited, and if they had been retired from office before the election it is quite certain that there would not have been so vigorous an effort on the part of many Democrats to stay away from the polls. It is, however, never too late to do what is right and proper. The result of the late election shows that the people do not appreciate the liberality of the Democratic administration toward its political opponent. Civil service reform as illustrated in the retention of Republican office-holders by Governor Pattison has been condemned at the ballot box. The verdict of the people is that those office-holders must go.

"Thank God!"

It is the emphatic and appropriate exclamation of the Alexandria, Virginia, *Gazette* in announcing the release of the people of that commonwealth from the power and control of Mahone and Arthur.

All the candidates for Speakership will be on hand at Washington this week, and the campaign will commence in earnest. Randall's experience and ability as a presiding officer of matchless prudence and skill, puts him in the lead, with Carlisle and Cox in hot pursuit. The race will be a lively one, but Randall is in good condition, and we trust will win the stake.

KILBOURN has again obtained from a Washington jury a verdict of damages or false imprisonment against Thompson, who was Sergeant-at-Arms, citing under the instruction of Congress. This time the jury award him \$60,000 on his claim of \$350,000. His former verdict was \$100,000 upon which a new trial was granted. Of course this sum of \$60,000, if paid, must come out of the Treasury of the United States as Thompson only acted as the officer of the House, to obey its mandate. But why should he be paid? Kilbourn was called before the House as an important witness to testify in a case of fraud against the Government. Refusing to testify, he was ordered into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms as a contumacious witness, as others had been before him. No undue harshness was charged, and it appears that he fared sumptuously and entertained his friends royally during his confinement. If Congress has the right to investigate and summon witnesses, it certainly follows that it has the right to require obedience and to punish contempt of its authority. But, it takes a Washington jury to upset this right and clear the way for any amount of rials upon the public treasury, by speculating rings who may be ambitious to grasp some of the surplus revenue.

THE *Baltimore Sun* discussing the outlook for 1884, says: "There are utterances in various Republican journals which would seem to indicate that the idea has entered the minds of some of the more short-sighted Republican leaders that it would be a good thing for them to go back to the 'old issues' on which, up to 1876, the Republican party was so uniformly successful. According to these gentlemen 'the solid South' is something terrible, and the 'bloody shirt' is again to be waved at the head of the Republican column. The tariff, the silver question, &c., are to be laid aside, and sectional cries be made to take their place. They forget that many things have happened since the bloody shirt was in fashion. The country demands a more progressive spirit in the party to which it will entrust the next administration. To attempt in an era of peace and good feeling to reanimate the dead issues and brutal fictions of an era of violent party conflicts the country will regard as a Bourbon procedure of the most ultra and discredited kind. Should the campaign throned in the House of Representatives it will be the policy of the Democrats to keep cool and let their adversaries 'hoist down the wind.'

New York Dynamiters in England.

LONDON, Nov. 11.—It is rumored that the police have discovered proofs that the recent explosion on the underground railway were the work of New York dynamiters. The rumor has not, however, been confirmed. The police are reticent on the subject, but seem hopeful that the clues which they have already obtained will lead to the detection of the guilty persons.

ADAM HOY, Esq., of this place, has been appointed President Judge of the 49th judicial district, to supply the vacancy made by the resignation of the Hon. John H. Orvis. In this the Governor has chosen well. No better appointment could have been made. Mr. Hoy combines all the elements to make a good judge. Possessing a classical education, a large experience at the bar, well grounded in the law, honest, upright, fearless and independent, Mr. Hoy has the confidence of the entire bar and people of the county. It is a new experience for our friend Hoy, but we feel assured that the dignity and purity that has characterized our judges in the past, will be rigidly maintained by Judge Hoy. Here's our congratulations, your H-mor.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR is fairly in the field for nomination as a candidate for 1884. He has probably the advantage of the other candidates, inasmuch as he has the entire working force of his party in the South composed exclusively of office-holders, to boost him as a starting point, with thousands of bread and butter brigades, throughout the country, as a reserve.

MR. ROSS, the father of Charlie Ross, puts no faith in the story recently started, that his son was drowned by his captors. He believes it too absurd to require investigation.

Final Adjournment.

The house yesterday passed a concurrent resolution fixing the date of final adjournment on December 5.

Notwithstanding the clamor of the Republican press for adjournment the Republican side of the house was nearly unanimous in its opposition to the passage of this resolution.

The Republicans are not ready to fix the time of adjournment because, as some of their leaders declared on the floor of the house yesterday, they are afraid the governor will veto the appropriation bill and no time will remain to pass it over his veto.

After all it is the ten dollars a day that the Republican patriots are looking after with the greatest anxiety.

The date fixed for final adjournment by the house gives ample time for the passage of an appropriation bill and apportionment bills as well.

And now what does the Republican senate propose? Will it continue its semi-weekly do nothing sessions or will it for once get down to solid and earnest work?—*Harrisburg Patriot* of Wednesday.

IT now becomes President Arthur's duty, says the *Washington Post*, to solve the Mahone problem. What is to be the status of the Virginia Readjuster in the Republican National convention? Is he to be allowed to sit at the head of the Virginia delegation? or shall he be excluded altogether? The President was responsible for all the life that was in Mahone up to Tuesday last, and he must be held responsible for all that is left now. His fingers have been drawn in with the wedge that was to split the solid south. The wedge can be driven no farther—it has come in contact with an unyielding knot and can only be removed. Will Mr. Arthur need a wedge in 1884? Virginia will be entitled to twenty-four delegates in the Republican convention and somebody will control them. If not Mahone, Dezerford or Wickham. It will be a matter of twenty-four votes between Arthur and Blaine. Will the President choose first?

THE *New York Sun* remarks: "The Republicans think themselves happy in that they did not lose Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. They are happy because New York is not Democratic by 193,000 again, because New Jersey has increased her Democratic majority, and because Virginia's Electoral vote is now assured to the Democratic candidates. They are happy because they see the futility of their hopes of carrying North Carolina and Florida. They are happy because they didn't carry Maryland, as they hoped to do when they set up the eminent reformer, Mr. Hart B. Holton. They are happy because Minnesota is still Republican. Well, they are lucky to be happy. But reasoning from effect to cause, it is hard to understand what they have to be thankful for. It looks to us like a sign of weakness. Their minds seem to be clouded and they are not likely to be in good order for 1884."

Mahone Appealing for Help.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—A telegram from Richmond, Va., announces that a committee representing the Readjuster party will visit Washington in December during the session of the Republican National Committee and lay before that body a statement of the Virginia situation in expectation of receiving friendly assistance.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire occurred in the town of Suenadoosh, Schuykill county, on Monday last, by which two hundred and fifty families are rendered homeless and destitute. The high winds which prevailed carried the fire from house to house with such rapidity as to defy all efforts to arrest it, until several squares, including the business centre of the town and the best buildings were laid in ashes.

—On Monday a party of Pennsylvanians started for North Carolina, to examine the country with a view to locate there. We know of no part of our country that offers more inducements to the farmer, mechanic and poor man of whatever calling than does the state of North Carolina. If our people of small means would once direct their attention to the sunny south instead of the land of deep snows and terrible cyclones, they would have no cause for regret. It is the land for men of small means to settle in. The people are chivalrous, hospitable, moral and law-abiding. The land is rich in minerals and extremely fertile, and the homestead laws broad and liberal. Go, each young man with a family. For a thousand dollars you can secure yourself a nice little farm in a delightful climate and country.

All Sorts.

It is estimated that 1000 women are practicing medicine in England.

Governor Stoneman, of California, will probably be the next United States Senator from that state, should the Legislature be Democratic.

Barnum's circus made a clear million last year, of which Barnum gets one-third for the use of his name and Bailey & Hutchinson gets the rest.

A cheese three feet eight inches thick five feet four inches in diameter, circumference sixteen feet nine inches and weighing 5233 pounds, is on exhibition in Boston.

Says the *Atlanta Constitution*: "Senator Eaton, of Connecticut, was the only Democrat who voted against the Electoral commission. Some day a grateful country will erect a monument to his memory."

Says the *Philadelphia Press*: "Virginia appears to have grown rather too large to be worn any longer by William Mahone as a charm on his watch-guard."

According to a census of Southern editors taken by the *Memphis Avalanche*, the roll comprises two captains, seven generals, seventeen majors and 1,826 colonels.

General Hancock's physicians think he will have regained his usual health in a few days. He went out too soon after the operation on his leg.

A huge python, twenty-five feet in length and weighing 243 pounds, is on exhibition in a Boston museum. It has not eaten anything for five months past and persistently refuses food.

Travelers in Africa assert that the most certain cure for malarial fever is strong coffee, and that sufferers from the prevalent malaria here would experience immediate relief from its use.

ERIC, Nov. 12.—A movement is on foot to raise the man-of-war Niagara, in which Commodore Perry completed his victory over the British, sixty seven years ago, and transfer it to Cleveland for preservation.

In the Supreme Court the judgment of the lower Court has been affirmed in the suit of *Gardner vs. the Pullman Palace Car Company*. Mr. Gardner was robbed while asleep in a berth and the company is held responsible.

The *Chicago Herald* think that at the present writing the pyramid of Republican States look like a "hunk of dough with the yeast powder omitted.

An attempt was made Saturday night to wreck a train on the Northern Central Railroad near Lock Haven, Pa., by fastening a rail across the track. They only were damaged.

Three boys, one a son of Congressman Brumm of Minersville, started for the wilderness prairies to hunt Indians on Saturday morning. They were arrested at Harrisburg and sent home.

A sad proof of the political demoralization brought about in Virginia by the Mahone regime is the degradation of the judiciary. During the late contest some of the Readjuster Judges were among the most active and malignant tools of the defeated coalition.

In the case of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company vs. the Pittsburg, Youngstown and Chicago Railroad Company a special writ of certiorari has been allowed by the Supreme Court as prayed for, returnable the first Monday of December.

Chief Johnstone, of the Canadian Mohawks, lives in a costly mansion on a bank of the Grand River. His estate is called "Chiefswood." His wife is an English woman of refinement, and his daughters have been educated abroad.

A Chicago commercial traveler says that in a small village in Northern Michigan he found a notice pinned on the door of a store which read: "Gone to bury my wife; will be back in thirty minutes."

The *London Telegraph* thinks the time is not far distant when every night trapper will carry his own ray of electricity about with him enclosed within the compass of a machine not larger than the watch now ticking in his pocket.

The corner-stone of the new capitol building of Iowa was laid at Des Moines November 23 1871, and the structure will probably be completed within another year. It is one of the best edifices of the kind in the country and will cost, when completed, about \$3,000,000.