

# 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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WE have received a communication in reply to "Fair Play" in the Centre Hall Reporter of last week, but it came too late for publication in this issue. It will appear in our next.

It is announced that Gen. Simon Cameron has benefited greatly in health by his visit to the Hot Springs of Arkansas, and will leave that on the 20th inst. on a visit to Mexico.

THE late severe freezing and heavy falls of snow and rain are almost certain to be followed by damaging floods and ice gorges. Proper caution should be taken to protect exposed points on our streams.

BISHOP SHARP, of the Mormon church, has been on a visit to Washington, and returns to his people fully satisfied that great trouble is in store for them and their peculiar institution which "no one but the Almighty" can avert.

THE New York Herald has undertaken to read the Hon. Samuel J. Randall out of the Democratic party. Sam is pretty solidly set and it will take a greater motive power than the Herald has ever used yet to move him from his moorings in the Democratic ranks.

THE trial of Mr. James Nutt for the killing of Dukes commenced in the Allegheny county court on Monday last. This case was removed from Fayette county, where the deed was committed, to avoid the excitement of the neighborhood and the difficulty of obtaining a jury.

THE American porker to be avenged Germany and France having determined to exclude the American hog from the food supplies of those countries, measures are being taken in congress to retaliate by excluding French and German wines from the drinks of this country. That is if the French and Dutch won't eat our pork, we won't drink their wines.

A COMMITTEE of Republican senators was appointed the other day to confer with Senator Anthony, the father of the senate, to convince the old statesman that he is unfit to be President *pro tem.* of that body. They were evidently successful, as Senator Anthony declines the honor on the ground that his physical strength would not be equal to the arduous duties of the position. The vigorous boss of the Virginia Republicans would have no objections.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BREWSTER'S department is now under fire. Mr. Springer, chairman of the House committee on expenditures, has served notice on Brewster Cameron, late general agent of the department, to appear before the committee with the papers and evidence to sustain charges of peculation and gross irregularities in the Marshall's offices of Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas. The ball has only commenced to roll. It will probably gather interest as it progresses.

THE municipal contest in Philadelphia is becoming lively and interesting. The bosses have been quite busy in setting up the machine pins, in which they have been successful in a very marked degree. An unusual amount of grumbling is the result with many of the prominent Republicans declaring for open war. Among these, ex-Mayor Stokely is outspoken and in very plain words expresses his determination, and that of his friends, to support Mayor King instead of Smith, the Republican candidate for Mayor. There is fun ahead in the Quaker city. The Democrats have not yet nominated.

## Tariff and Charcoal Iron.

MUCH anxiety seems to be felt as to the course the majority in the present House will take on the subject of tariff reform. The Republicans predict that great discord will prevail between the Democrats in considering the question, but such an impression is not warranted from anything that has yet transpired. Differences of opinion will, and doubtless do exist, as to the expediency of considering the subject in the present congress, but all agree upon one point, and that is that tariff reform or tariff amendment is absolutely necessary to equalize the duties and render them more acceptable to the great mass of the people. The cry of free trade raised is all bosh. With here and there an impracticable idiot in both parties, no person favors this dogma. This same may be said of protection for the sake of protection only, as insisted upon by other idiots, and both may be placed upon an equality to be avoided. A decent revenue tariff, under the immense duties now collected from imports properly and fairly adjusted, will give all the protection necessary to foster the industries of the country that needs it, and beyond this is oppression. The present tariff is undoubtedly unequal and works badly not only in rendering the tariff laws a subject of constant agitation and dissatisfaction, but unnecessarily ignores one class while it pampers another of no greater merit. For instance, the most expensive manufacture of iron and the very best produced in the state, is the one which receives the least fostering consideration of the tariff laws. We mean the charcoal iron, incomparably the superior article, and in direct competition with the cheap labor of the old world, and the most expensive of all to manufacture. And why? For the reason only that the manufacture of the inferior irons and the steel made by cheap processes, are in the hands of the large monopolists who have had the power to obtain the preference in the law, while the real meritorious class of manufacture are ignored. If the manufacturers of iron is to be protected by a fair adjustment of the revenue laws, as we all admit it should be, there is no justice in overlooking the expensive charcoal manufacture to lavish protection to the cheap processes, which really does not need it to any serious extent. When this question comes up we trust some of our competent statesmen will take the pains to inform themselves of the facts as to the merits of the one and the demerits of the other. We believe that the leading members of congress who are deeply impressed of the necessity of a reduction of the tariff are reasonable men, and are moved by patriotic motives, but when they handle this important subject, let them look at it in all its bearings as an act of justice and equality, and not merely to foster the interests of those who can afford to appropriate their tens of thousands to election campaigns, by the cheapness of their manufactures and the liberality of the laws which are supposed to protect weaker but more valuable interests in the same proportion.

Congressman Mutchler, of Pennsylvania, in an interview with a Washington paper the other day, perhaps indicated the views of the Pennsylvania Democrats in congress when he said:

"While it is not of course impossible that a tariff measure may be brought in by the Committee of Ways and Means that some of us cannot support, we shall cast our votes as individual representatives, acting within the party, not in any sense as allies of the Republican minority. To give you an idea of how I stand on this question, I may say that in conversation recently with the chairman of Ways and Means, I told him that I supposed we might naturally expect to get some kind of a bill from his committee this session, and that I had this to say in regard to it. Let it be a moderate bill, that is, one making moderate and just reduction in duties,

and it should have my support. I said to him: 'We cannot afford to have any differences in the party on this question, and we must work together so that there shall be none. You, Mr. Chairman, cannot do without us, any more than you could when our votes made Mr. Carlisle speaker, and we cannot do without you. Only treat Pennsylvania as fairly in regard to her great business and labor interests as you have treated us in making up the committees, and there will be no cause for complaint, and I think this will be done.'

"What do you imply by a just, as well as a moderate, reduction of duties?" "I mean one that will not injure any particular branch of trade for the benefit of others, or reduce duties that are protective, leaving those that are not protective untouched. To illustrate the case: my district produces, perhaps, more pigiron than any other district in the Union. If a bill should be brought in taking the duty off scrap-iron and leaving it upon jute butts, I should be compelled to oppose and vote against such a bill. Such an action I consider altogether unlikely, and in case a tariff bill is passed at this session you may rest assured, from the character of all the gentlemen concerned, that it will not be one that will cripple our industries or result disastrously to trade."

JUST at this time the great dailies of New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Boston, are denouncing the nomination of Mr. Payne by the Democracy of Ohio as a candidate for senator, to succeed Mr. Pendleton, as a shameless sale to the monopolists. The Washington Post also expresses disapprobation and thinks Mr. Payne ought to decline the election or suffer defeat. If base means were used to obtain a nomination, it is not likely that the actors in it will stop half way. The election of senators, particularly in the west, have become a thing of purchase, to be determined by the weight of a man's barrel. It is disgraceful in the highest degree and it was to be hoped the Democracy would be slow to follow this example of their opponents. We hope, at least, the severe strictness of the press on the methods of the Ohio Democracy is unmerited. Of Mr. Payne, personally, no evil is spoken, but as a man of great wealth, connected with the Standard Oil Company suspicion is probably excusable to some extent.

REFERRING to the importance of congress adopting some more satisfactory method of obtaining a count of the electoral vote, than that now existing, the Washington Post appeals to the Republican senate and Democratic house, in this time of general tranquility, to remove the dangers confronting the country by a failure to do so. The Post says: "As the matter now stands it is full of danger. The Constitution treats the count only in vague and general terms. It says: 'The votes shall then be counted'—leaving for congress to decide how this counting shall be done, and how disputed points shall be settled.

"Have we not been sufficiently warned of the danger of leaving this business where it is?"

"If this people is fit for self-government, ought not its law-makers to be capable of settling upon questions on which a year hence the very existence of the Government may depend?"

"Is it too much to ask of the Democratic House and Republican Senate that they prepare some safe, reliable plan for determining where Presidential 'inability' begins and where it ends? A President is liable to be prostrated by disease or wounds, to be stricken with insanity; 'inability' may come on him at any time and in any one of a thousand ways. But who is to decide when the next in line shall step forward and assume the duties of the Presidential office? And who is to determine when the 'inability' has ceased and the President shall resume his place? Governments have fallen into chaos on smaller troubles than ours is exposed to by continual neglect

of this matter. "Cannot the Forty-eighth congress make itself immortal by rising up in the might of true patriotism and putting these great dangers out of the pathway of the Republic?"

## Tardy Reformers.

Hon. William Mutchler, chairman of the house congressional committee on civil service reform, says the Harrisburg Patriot, is losing patience with the civil service commissioners. He wants to obtain from these gentlemen a report of their proceedings, but has not been able to do so. Mr. Dorman B. Eaton is valuable enough in private conversation on civil service and Judge Thoman is free of speech in commending the merits of the work performed, but nobody can get them to formulate a report on which the public may predicate an estimate of the success or failure of the scheme.

Mr. Mutchler is an able and practical man and that he is only now showing a spirit of restiveness is testimony that he is remarkably forbearing. Most people who have given the subject any consideration lost patience long ago. The blundering beginning of the commission was testimony that the work was committed to stupid or theorists, and the reports of their proceedings since gathered by the enterprise of the newspapers has confirmed this impression.

But the commissioners will do well to avoid the appearance of trifling with Mr. Mutchler. He is a civil service reformer of the right sort himself. He has a remarkable faculty of judging men. He would not select a professor of Greek to drive a baggage wagon nor an unlettered coal-heaver to serve as an interpreter. But he will choose with judgment and exact a full measure of service from all within his direction high and low. If the public estimate of the commissioners is discovered by inquiry to be the correct one Mr. Mutchler will say so, but the verdict will not be avoided by neglect to give him the facts. Mr. Eaton and his associates may as well look this matter in the face.

THE West Chester Republican nominates Gen. Beaver, of this place, as a candidate to succeed Don Cameron in the senate of the United States. The Republican is sensible, at least, in preferring brains and capacity to political chicane and trick.

Gov. HOADLY was quietly inaugurated at Columbus, Ohio, on Monday last. The absence of pomp and parade on such occasions is becoming popular for the reason, no doubt, that Democrats and sensible men are being called to these positions now.

JOHN SHERMAN now poses as a martyr. He was recently offered the office of President of the Northern Pacific railroad, and asked to assure the management at a salary of \$50,000. He signaled his martyrdom by declining. With a Democratic legislature in Ohio, he could not see his course clear to prevent the election of a Democratic successor to the senate. This would be awkward of course, in view of the small margin given to his party in the senate, but John was equal to the occasion. He let the \$50,000 go—all for the glory of the G. O. P.

THE bill presented by Senator Edmunds to provide relief for the survivors of the Jeannette expedition and crew, and of the heirs of the deceased members, was prepared at the Navy Department. It authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to pay to Chief Engineer Melville and Lieutenant Danenhouer each \$1,000; to Raymond S. Newcomb, naturalist, John Cole, acting boatsman, W. T. C. Ninderman, seaman, and Jos. H. Bartlett, seaman, each \$600; and to the remaining survivors, each \$300. It also authorizes the payment of a sum equal to one year's salary of the deceased members of the expedition and crew to their respective heirs.

THE Democrats in the eastern part of the state are bringing the Hon. Samuel J. Randall to the front as a favorite candidate for President. A Democratic meeting in Philadelphia leads off, and now Gen. Davis of the Doylestown Democrat, places his name at the head of his columns, and in an able article gives his reason "for the faith that is in him." Mr. Randall's distinction as a statesman of tried merit and uncorrupted integrity is well earned and universally acknowledged. The names of Gov. Curtin and Senator Wallace have also been favorably named for the Presidency. With such eminent statesmen—such unquestioned ability and purity to choose from, Pennsylvania, at least, can make no mistake in selection.

## Ohio's New Governor.

COLUMBUS, C., Jan. 14.—This afternoon the Democrats were given complete control of the state government, being the first time they have had entire charge of the public offices for over twenty-five years. The inaugural ceremonies were performed in the rotunda of the capitol. According to the wish of Judge Hoadly, no great demonstrations were made. On the platform erected for the occasion were the judges of the supreme court and commission, representatives of the press, the mayor and city council, state officers and state officers-elect, except the governor, the president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, members of the assembly and clergy. A committee appointed conducted the officers-elect to the front of the stand, where, after prayer was offered, Governor Foster presented the new Democratic governor-elect of Ohio to the people, who delivered his inaugural address, in which he urged graduated taxation as the best remedy for the evils of the liquor business, and holds that prohibition is out of the question as ineffective. Upon conclusion of the speech Chief Justice Johnson, of the supreme court, arose and administered the oath of office, when the government of Ohio was formally given to the Democracy. The lieutenant governor received the oath of office in the supreme court chamber, while the other executive officers were administered the oath in their respective departments.

## A Republican Picture.

The country has been for twenty-three years under Republican rule. For eighteen years including the last two years, the Republicans held full control of both houses of Congress and the Executive. They have been in a position to perfect just such legislation as they desired. They could make any laws they wished. Nothing stood in their way.

Into what condition has Republican so-called statesmanship led the country? Let one of the leading Republicans answer. The Tribune, in reviewing the past year, draws the following pictures: 1883 has not been regarded as a good year. From the outset it has had a bad reputation. It has been a year of universal distrust and apprehension. Business men in the United States have plodded or staggered along from month to month, oppressed with the haunting thought that a panic was impending. They have been over cautious and unduly suspicious, and have passed the year fighting shadows. \* \* \* Bradstreet reports 10,187 failures this year—about one-third more than in 1882, about 66 per cent. more than in 1881 and 130 per cent. more than in 1880 \* \* \* There is complaint of dullness in the iron trade in this country, and reduction of wages in that and the cotton and woolen branches of manufacture is in some quarters proposed. \* \* \* The shrinkage in volume of business here, other than in stocks, will be close to 20 per cent. For the whole year 1883, in comparison with 1882, of which a part is due to decline in prices, but probably more than half to comparative inactivity in trade.

What a revelation does this admission present of the result of Republican rule!—New York World.

The reported engagement of Mary Anderson the actress, and Lieut. Dukes, of Portland, Oregon, must be a canard, as no such person as Dukes is known to be in existence.

## All Sorts.

Watterson, of the Courier Journal, is after the printers: "There are two men who ought to have gone out with the old year. One is the type-setter who throws in a comma after every two words, and the other is a type-setter who will not put in a comma anywhere. When these men die they will both go to the same climate that dead proof-readers get into."

KINGSTON, Ont., Jan. 9.—On Thursday last, William and John Sperecock, of Home Island, left Clayton, N. Y., for home. A snow storm came on and losing their way they were separated, John becoming exhausted dug a hole in the snow and crept into it. He was found the next day by some fisherman almost unconscious. He was terribly frost-bitten and when taken home his feet and hands dropped off. William's body was found yesterday buried in the snow.

ST. LOUIS, JAN. 13.—To-morrow is the day set for the trial of Frank James for what is known in the bandit history as the Blue Cut robbery. There is no certainty, however, that he will ever be tried for this or any other crime, for since his release on bail, some three weeks ago, his health has steadily failed, and on Thursday last it was announced that he was past recovery. He is at the home of his father-in-law, Col. Sam Ralston, near Independence, where he is attended by his wife and members of her family.

CAIRO, Jan. 13.—El Mahdi demands two thousand pounds ransom for five nuns and four priests whom he holds in captivity. The Austrian consul is asking the merchants to subscribe the amount.

The board of directors of the Philadelphia Zoological Society have decided not to accept the gift of \$50,000 offered by Mr. Joseph E. Temple on condition that the garden should be open free to the public one day in each week.

Hon. W. P. Rathbun, president of the First National Bank of Chattanooga, Tenn., died yesterday. Mr. Rathbun is well-known throughout the country as the leading capitalist in his section.

The roof of the round-house of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at Hoboken, N. J., was crushed in yesterday by the weight of the accumulated snow and ice. John Jordan, an employe, was fatally injured. Two engines were badly wrecked.

A gentleman in Greensboro has offered to donate two acres of ground and all the stone necessary to build a factory if the striking glassblowers of Pittsburgh will move to that town.

At least 40,000 men are employed in the iron interests of Pittsburgh, while perhaps double that number are dependent on the product of their labor in the mills. Of the mills now idle only two have not determined when they will resume. All the nail factories now idle will begin operations again on the 11th of February.

Somebody says that "ignorance" may sometimes be "bliss," but that "bliss" was certainly "ignorance," and very gross ignorance, all the time in the star route trial. That is one of the New York World's smart sayings.

Every man has 240 bones except the minstrel end-man, who has 244.

The lungs contain 175,000,000 cells. This is what makes man a practical joker.

Last year 110 unknown dead persons were found in Philadelphia, and the coroner held 1,775 inquests. There were 20 murders and 100 suicides, and the death rate of the city reached 20,000.

The heart in its normal condition beats seventy-five times a minute, but when a young man meets a pretty girl at a party and stops tremblingly to proffer an escort home, the number of heart-beats—heart beats—instantly mounts up to 102 in the shade.