

# 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.

TERMS: \$1.50 per Annum, in Advance.

VOL. 6.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1884.

NO. 8.

## The Centre Democrat.

Terms \$1.50 per Annum in Advance

Thursday Morning, February 21, 1884.

WE are indebted to Ex-Governor Curtin for a copy of his speech in the House of Representatives in defence of Gen. Fitz John Porter. If possible we will give this admirable speech to our readers next week.

It is said that Pittsburgh capitalists propose building a rolling mill and a woolen mill in Huntingdon, provided the citizens will assist liberally.

A BILL amending the postal laws was passed in the House of Representatives on Monday last, reducing postage on second class matter, including newspapers and periodicals. It increases the one cent weight mailable matter from two to four ounces.

EX-SENATOR EATON, of Connecticut, is being favorably mentioned as a probable candidate for President. He is undoubtedly an able man with a record that cannot be discounted. The fact of his refusal to accept the electoral count swindle will not tell against him if presented to the public.

THE commissioners of immigration in New York, report that in spite of the act of congress prohibiting the importation of paupers, they were compelled to return over 1,300 destitute emigrants to the ports from which they come. The commissioners are in favor of the enactment of a penalty sufficiently stringent to enforce the law.

MRS. GARFIELD, it is said, very much to her discredit, has written a letter to Mr. Horr, of Michigan, thanking him for his speech against the bill awarding justice to Gen. Fitz John Porter. The brutal opposition of Logan, Keifer, and such, were to be expected, but that the wife of the late murdered President desires to mix in it, is passing strange at least.

POLITICAL gossips assert with some confidence that a movement is on foot to fix up a Presidential slate for the Democratic party, which shall bear aloft the names of Senator Bayard, of Delaware, and Ex-Senator McDonald, of Indiana. Messrs. Bayard and McDonald have been seen together in conversation, and this, of course, is sufficient to start the press gossips. The Democracy could go further and fare worse than in taking these distinguished men for their standard bearers.

THE harmony now existing between President Arthur and Attorney-General Brewster, is said to be of the same sort that prevails with the stalwarts and half-breeds in New York. Brewster is determined that the Federal thieving marshals, district attorneys and judges in the south and elsewhere shall settle up their accounts. These are the fellows who control the Republican delegations of the south to the National convention, and just now when the Arthur tide is booming to the front, the time is not propitious to call upon his trusted partisans for honest ways.

THE Virginia legislature have passed a bill repealing an act of the re-adjuster legislature lodging in the county judges the power of appointing the election officers of the state, and placing it in an election board to be appointed by the legislature. This bill Governor Cameron, who is still legate of a moiety of the Mahone reign, vetoed, but it would not down, and was passed by a constitutional majority. It will be remembered that two or three years ago the Mahone legislature, after removing the county judge, supplied their places by re-adjusters, and then placed in their hands the power of appointing these election officers. The tables are now turned and things are slightly changed in old Virginia.

THE Reading company, it is announced, are preparing to mine six million tons of coal this year. To accommodate this immense coal tonnage, the company have contracted for 1,500 cars to carry fifteen tons each.

COMMITTEES from Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago are at Washington this week with the view to prevail upon the National Democratic committee to appoint their respective cities as the place of holding the National Convention. What city will be awarded the honor of entertaining the Democracy is not indicated, but if the convention goes west it is believed by some it will be to St. Louis.

JOHN SHERMAN's bloody shirt investigation of the Danville riots started out with perjury in the very beginning. His first witness is flatly contradicted by his own affidavit made at the investigation in Danville immediately after the disturbance, when the whole thing was fresh in memory and when he swore that the negroes were armed with pistols. The witness is a colored policeman at Danville. He now swears under the inspiration of Eliza Pinkerton's instructor, that "none of the colored men had pistols." The fact is material. The affair was a free fight, such as has often occurred north and south, and nothing else would have been thought of it, only for the necessity of Sherman and Mahone to get up something to excite fools and offset the contempt so generally accorded them by the people.

CONGRESSMAN HEWITT, of New York, who is also one of the most extensive manufacturers in the country, has written a letter to the Trenton Board of Trade, in which he says the industries of that place "are suffering from useless obstructions imposed by the existing tariff." He says "the removal of duty upon scrap iron would enable every idle train in Trenton to be run day and night. The money which is now paid for foreign rods would be largely distributed among the workmen in Trenton who are now condemned to idleness through no fault of their own and every business interest in the city would flourish in a corresponding degree. He asks if the protective system be a panacea for all the suffering for the workmen and the want of remuneration of capital, how comes it to pass that at no time in its history were the industries of Trenton so unpromising a condition as they are at the present time. He says that for the greater part of his life he was deceived as to the effect of the duties and reached the present conclusion after a disagreeable experience.

AN independent journal, remarks the Pittsburgh Post, sums up the vote of the nineteen states which went for Hancock in 1880, and assumes that these states are again certain for a Democratic candidate. The states thus set down cast in the last election 155 votes. Under the recent apportionment they will cast 172. This would leave 29 votes to be gained outside the states carried by the Democracy in 1880. The states which are regarded as good fighting ground for these votes are New York with 35 votes, Indiana with 15, Ohio with 23, Connecticut with 6, Colorado with 3 and Oregon with 3. There are several other states which are not to be yielded up to the Republicans without a tenacious struggle. The independent contemporary to which we have alluded declares the battle is to be settled in New York, as that state, with those set down as certain to the Democrats, would give the electoral college to the Democracy, with six votes to spare. But it is also true that Ohio and Indiana would be sufficient without New York and have eight votes to spare; and that Ohio, Oregon and Colorado would suffice, without the Empire state.

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## Tree Planting.

So small would be the money outlay, remarks the Scientific American, so inconsiderable the labor required, to insure for the next generation a wealth of timber land equal to that of which we have the benefit, and shade and shelter trees in even more adequate supply, that it is a great wonder to us amid all the forcible facts brought forward against the rate at which forest destruction is going on, there has been no more general movement in favor of tree planting. In Germany and Austria for upwards of half a century, the number of trees planted has borne a good proportion to those annually cut down, and it is certain that this is the case now year by year. In France, Italy and England, also, tree cultivation is now general, and is held to be a most important matter of public concern. But here with the characteristic improvidence which has come to be considered a marked feature of American character, we are destroying our great virgin forests with a rapidity never before equalled in any other country, and without taking any measures to insure their future growth.

THE Connecticut legislature is opposed to the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Mexico, as well as to any reform bill that would modify the war taxes still imposed upon the people.

## The Education Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—State Superintendent of Education Higbee, of Pennsylvania, who has been for some days here in attendance at the Educational Convention, said this evening that he was not very heartily in favor of the distribution scheme which the Convention is endeavoring to pass through Congress. He said:

I am not decidedly opposed to it, for there might be some merit in the bill if the money goes to the assistance of ignorant colored people in the Southern States. So far as Pennsylvania is concerned, however, I can see very little benefit from it. The state's share, which under the schedule of illiteracy is to decrease year by year, for twelve years, would amount at first to \$152,000, and grow less and less annually until the last yearly payment would be about \$35,000. We would take the amount, of course, if it were offered us, and could doubtless put it to some good use, but I don't see now where there is any need for it.

The common schools all over the State are fully supported by the tax for the purpose. The evening schools in Philadelphia and the mining and manufacturing districts might be improved in efficiency with more money or studies of practical value to mechanics continued under more favorable conditions. At present, however, it is not so much the want of appropriation for these schools as the lack of patronage for them that is operating against their efficiency.

Then as to the condition of the proposed distribution, I think some other plan should be adopted than that of proportion according to illiteracy. If the first year fund reduces the number of people who can not read or write, or, in other words, is successfully applied it reduces the State's appropriation. The temptation is offered, therefore, to keep a large proportion of the population in ignorance in order that the others may enjoy more of the Government's educational fund.

Mr. Higbee thinks the bill has no chance of passage.

At the final session, the subject of "Handwork in Schools" was presented in a paper by Prof. J. M. Ordwan, of Boston. Mr. A. P. Marble, of Massachusetts, gave his views of public instruction in industrial education should be confined to technical schools, as so much of it was of an experimental nature that it was injurious, rather than beneficial, in public institutions. Dr. B. Joy Jeffries spoke of "Education of the Normal Color Sense, Color Blindness."

Eight hundred persons attended the funeral of Leander Lindemuth, a wealthy farmer, of West Donegal, Lancaster. There were 260 sleighs in line and 500 persons ate dinner at the church.

## The State Fair.

The State Agricultural Society, on April 1, will take possession of the ground recently purchased of William Weightman, at Philadelphia, and get ready for the erection of the buildings necessary for the success of the society in the future. The plans for the new structures have been prepared and now in the possession of Secretaries Seiler and McConkey, at the office in this city. The main building will be 300 feet long, 150 feet wide and 63 feet high surmounted by two lofty towers at each end. This, as well as all the other large buildings, will be built of iron and wood, and of handsome architectural design. The seed, fruit and vegetable display will have a special building 200 by 75 feet, and 50 feet high. "Floral Hall" will be 125 feet square and 30 feet high. There will be twenty-five approaches to this building which is to be one of the most attractive. The building for the display of poultry will be 150 by 53 feet, and fifty feet high. "Comfort Hall," in which the restaurant, retiring rooms and waiting rooms will be arranged, will be a perfect gem in its way. In addition to all these structures there will be erected 425 cattle stalls and 125 box stalls for horses. No netting exhibition will be held, but there will be an oval exercise track constructed after the most approved pattern, probably a half mile circuit. The entire cost of these buildings has not yet been fully determined upon. Over \$50,000 in premiums will be offered at the next exhibition.—Harrisburg Patriot.

## The Administration in Minority in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Administration is no longer commanding a majority in the Senate whenever Senators Sherman and Logan object, which they are doing very freely, especially concerning Southern appointments coming up for confirmation. It has never been so before. Each of these Senators has a distinct motive in defeating Gen. Arthur's use of power, all three being equally interested in the question of delegates involved therein. This is the explanation of the recent rejections. Others will follow. Persons familiar with the inside history of the falling appointments known how hard Arthur has been stuck. In this Hoar joins with spirit. The Administration strength in the Senate does not exceed twelve.

A PROMINENT politician in one of the Departments in Washington, being asked whether Arthur could carry Ohio, answered:

"Ohio! I'm sick of Ohio. I want to see the Republicans elect their ticket, but I declare it will give most of us pleasure to see that State go Democratic by 25,000. Why, sir, at every Ohio election Republicans all over the country have been called upon to put their hands in their pockets to help her out. Here at Washington the thing has been almost an extortion for the past twenty years, yet every political booby in the State is ready with a thousand things, aside from this, in the way of favors. If there is an appointment to be disposed of Ohio wants it, and their early election and general doubtfulness has been farmed by her politicians for years. So far as our people here are concerned, I think Ohio will be left to care for herself hereafter, left to the dogs, for that matter."

MADRID, Feb. 15.—The text of the new commercial convention with the United States, which has just been signed and goes into effect March 1, is identical with that made public Jan. 5. But the clauses relating to the abrogation of tonnage duties on vessels sailing from America to Cuba and Porto Rico, and to the abolition of the special duty on live fish imported into Cuba, are to be submitted to the Cortes.

WITH a view of showing what a dreadfully partisan man Governor Pattison is, the statement is telegraphed all over the state to-day that he has appointed four Democrats to take the places of four Republicans (whose terms had expired) in the Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg. It is admitted, however, that the Board will now stand five Democrats to four Republicans, so that before the Governor's appointments it must have stood eight Republicans to one Democrat. Comment is needless.—E. E.

## Ex-Speaker Keifer's Appointments

WASHINGTON, February 14.—Representative Dockery has just finished his report on the investigation of appointments made under the late Speaker Keifer in the House. Dockery's report is very voluminous. It has not yet been submitted to the full committee. Mr. Brewer, of the sub-committee, New Jersey and the manuscript of the report has been sent to him. Mr. Dockery declines to give the substance of his report, but it is understood that it is not very complimentary to the ex-Speaker. The report of the committee deals with the evidence in the case and reaches conclusions, but does not make any recommendations. When it is presented in the House there will be a lively racket and Keifer will be hauled over the coals again. It is very damaging to him, if anything can be said to damage him now.

## Additional Local.

THE HOP LAST THURSDAY.—The assembly of the Gentleman's Dancing Class last Thursday night at the Brockert House, was of the pleasantest character and the music good. The well known Billie Young, whose violin notes are strains from dreamland when the day is young, leading the orchestra of four pieces. The dancing, to say the least, was lively and trippingly fantastic in the beautiful and new variations of the waltz principle, the glide, the hop, the balance and the side step hop, each having its rehearsal in the moving couples and each bespeaking for its adaptation the foremost place among the most admirable and beautiful. No one could tell which and whose dancing was the best, the truth could only be read in the expression on the faces of the chaperones who smiled approbation on all. From 9 p. m. until after two o'clock a. m., the dancing was continued.

Lunch was served on tables in the adjoining room. Any one who has eaten at the Brockert House since the arrival of its new cook, can vouch for the quality of the viands. But a word must be said of his oyster stew a la something very spicy, with good cream in the mixture, beyond doubt. There was not much time spent in the eating room because the guests were served at once, and they had scarce a moment to take in the artistic arrangement of the napkins till they were needed. After the lunch the dancing was renewed under the invigorating effect of the edibles. With appetite appeased one had time to look about without the obstruction to enjoyment which hunger naturally enjoins.

In one part of the room a distinguished looking party of ladies and gentlemen were congregated and among these were the chaperones, not without their beaux either, for some gentlemen, non-dancing ones, were playing the agreeable to those who had daughters to look after or to whose care other's daughters were consigned for the evening.

Mrs. T. R. Reynolds wore a black silk dress trimmed with black lace, and white Duchess lace cape. Mrs. D. G. Bush dressed in black silk skirt, brocade overdress and lace cape. Mrs. J. V. Thomas wore black silk. Mrs. George W. Jackson in black velvet and lace, flowers at waist. Mrs. Daniel Rhodes, black silk. Miss Bigler, of Clearfield, appeared in blue silk and brocade. Miss Witmer, of Sunbury, wore white cashmere and satin. Miss Thomas, of Hockendauqua, shone in lavender cashmere and purple, with natural flowers on which her chin could almost rest. Mrs. Welshon, of Pittsburgh, was charming in black silk with lace sashu. Miss Reynolds wore the ethereal blue in cashmere and silk with natural flowers in great profusion clustered on her breast. Miss Mary Thomas very elaborate toilet of blue satin with white lace overdress. Miss Wilkinson pure cream white nun's veiling, relieved by a plume of red feathers on shoulder. Miss Jackson artistically devised toilet of pink silk and garnet, peasant waist and trimmings, natural flowers. Miss Larimer, superb white moire dress with white beaded lace overskirt. Miss Butts was piquant in black silk. Miss McClain and Miss Schnell wore black. Mrs. Cameron Burnside, of Howard, train dress of white cashmere and satin. Mrs. Jas. Lane, becoming blue ottoman, white lace. Miss Gephart, bewitching red cashmere of renaissance. Mrs. C.

G. McMillen, dark blue silk, very handsome, with white feathers. Miss Hoffer, white cashmere, white satin ribbon, very pretty. Miss Brockerhoff black silk and lace basque, chaste and becoming. Mrs. A. G. Curtin, Jr., in becoming blue silk. Mrs. Lem Munson, pink brocade and lace, court train, nonpareil. Mrs. Pearson black silk. Miss Morris red cashmere, very becoming toilet. All dancing gentlemen wore full dress without gloves. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brown dropped in on the company a short while, but the dance not being the German, Mr. Brown did not participate. Major W. F. Reynolds and Mr. Thomas H. Reynolds were present and lent their aid to the enjoyment of the occasion. Would there were more who can take joy with others.

ENTERTAINMENT AT BUFFALO RUN.—On Tuesday evening February 12th, a grand entertainment was given in the Buffalo Run Presbyterian church. The entertainment consisted of a presentation of over one hundred beautifully colored sclip-tion views, interspersed with elegant and well rendered music. Though the evening was very uninviting, and it was thought by many that few would be in attendance, at 7:30 o'clock the house was densely filled. The entertainment was opened with music by the choir, followed by a duet on the organ and flute, by Mr. Samuel Green and Miss Annie Bible. The music was highly appreciated. Capt. Austin Curtin was then introduced to the audience. His pleasing manner and skill in the presentation of the different scenes kept the audience wholly at his command during the evening. He stated in his address "that it was out of his regular line of business, but that he had given several exhibitions for the benefit of the G. A. R. Post at Milesburg, and a few for benevolent purposes."

The views were presented under three distinct heads, viz: Statuary, Bible and War Scenes, after each of which a piece of music was rendered. The ode to the American flag is deserving of special mention. The stars and stripes were pictured so vividly as to cause a patriotic thrill to be sent to the hearts of the entire audience.

The statuary presentations were very correct. One especially striking was the "Serpent and Horse." After the finishing of the statuary the audience was treated to an anthem by the choir. This was followed by Bible scenery. These consisted of many pictures portrayed by the inspired writers of the New Testament, picturing graphically upon the mind many of the passages contained therein. Such, for example, as "The Angel at the Sepulcher," "The Resurrection," etc. Following this was a duet on the flute and organ, "Heather Rose."

The third and last division of scenery presented was war scenes. Under this head was pictured the body of men who drew up and signed the Declaration of Independence; also the body of men who drew up and signed the Constitution of the United States. The soldier in his garland of blue, in many hand to hand conflicts with the foe, was made prominent; also the terrible scene of the surrender of Fort Sumpter was beautifully pictured. The Captain lectured briefly and appropriately upon each scene as the audience viewed it. The entertainment closed with music by the choir, "Land of Home." The music was furnished by home talent, and is deserving of special praise.

Among the persons present from a distance were, Mrs. Austin Curtin, of Roland, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Green and daughter Mary, of Bellefonte.

Mr. G. Dorsey Green also deserves a share of the glory, for it was at his suggestion, and through his earnest efforts, that the affair was gotten up.

After the closing "Good Night," all went home rejoicing, and feeling that they had been rewarded ten-fold for the money spent.

AN OBSERVER.

A free entertainment was given in the Presbyterian church at Jackson-ville on Saturday evening last. The string band was present, we believe.

—Lovett's illustrated catalogue of trees and plants for Spring of 1884 has just come to our table and is beyond question the most interesting and instructive Nursery catalogue we have yet seen. It is richly illustrated, elegantly printed, and replete with valuable information on the care and treatment of trees and plants. By honesty and enterprise Mr. Lovett has established an enormous business, shipping plants to every State and Territory in the Union, and even to other lands. He makes a specialty of small fruits, and is widely known as the introducer of the Cuthbert Raspberry and Manchester Strawberry, and is now disseminating the celebrated Hansell Raspberry, Early Harvest Blackberry and Jessica Grape, (the earliest varieties of their respective classes), and advancing the culture of edible nuts; all of which are fully described and illustrated in his elegant catalogue, which will be mailed free of charge and for four cents will also include beautiful colored plates (which price is not half their cost). Address, J. T. Lovett, Little Silver, New Jersey.