

# 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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AN explosion occurred in a coal mine at West Pocohontus, Va., last week, by which one hundred and fifty lives were lost.

In Huntingdon county the independent Republicans have squelched the boss ringsters, and will appear in the State convention with a Blaine delegation.

EX-SPEAKER KEIFER is credited with saying that he will retire from public life at the end of his present term. Shouldn't wonder, and indications are not wanting that the term may be shortened materially by the House.

It appears it was not Boss Don Cameron who returned from Europe the other day and created such a flutter in Republican political circles, now doing a little machine work on their own account, but another Cameron who is called Don.

KELLOGG and Pinchback head the Louisiana delegation to the Republican national convention. The delegation, composed chiefly of those who figured in the infamous frauds and transactions of 1876, will be appropriately led by this pair of beautiful ducks.

THE names of the private secretaries of the senators recently chosen under a resolution of the senate, allowing each member a clerk, have not yet been publicly announced. Why is this? Is it because the senators' wives and daughters have thus been put under pay from the public treasury?

THE Philadelphia Record sums up the star route business briefly, thus: "Two or three small contractors were fined and jailed; two or three influential politicians were tried and acquitted, and two or three lawyers were paid enormous fees. All the big fish found holes in the net spread for them, through which they escaped with their ill-gotten body."

SECRETARY LINCOLN'S boom for the Presidency will probably lose one very prominent element of its strength, when it becomes known that the other day he refused to appoint a colored clergyman, highly recommended, as a regimental chaplain. He preferred the "white trash" and chose a man with few backers instead of the "colored brother."

THE protective tariff advocates should recollect this is a bad year to rehash their old war cry to frighten and control the votes of working men. "Pauper labor" won't do to rally in, when they have filled every town in the country with importation of this kind of labor to compete with and depress the wages of labor of our own countrymen.

THE testimony in the contest between Ex-Speaker Keifer and correspondent Boynton, for championship as the greatest liar, is all in, and now only awaits the report of the congressional committee to determine the point at issue. From all that has transpired, the general belief is that the ex-Speaker has won by a large majority, and will be declared the champion.

AT LAST! Congress has at last removed the stigma, which to the disgrace of the country, was permitted to rest upon the name of Gen. Fitz Joan Porter. Logan's vindictive twaddle failed to control all the Republican members of the senate, and the bill which recently passed the house was outvoted on Thursday last by a vote of 36 yeas to 25 nays. Among those voting in the negative is Mitchell, the miserable nobody whom accident gave a seat in that body to represent Pennsylvania.

ARTHUR, it seems, has a big contract on hand to carry the delegation of New York to the National convention. It is said that the Independents are organizing to openly antagonize him, asserting that he could not possibly carry the state if nominated—that his candidacy in that state would be as disastrous to the party as was that of Folger, his candidate for Governor.

POOR QUAY! How sad he must be, when he announces that he will fight no more political battles. And who will work the ring machine for Don when Matthew steps down? Tom Cooper is bull-headed and an aspirant, Magee lacks experience, and John Stewart is only on probation, but promises efficiency after reasonable drilling.

THE Governor of California has called an extra session of the legislature. The object of this call is that the legislature may take such action upon the railroad corporations of the state as will secure obedience to the laws upon their part, in the payment of taxes and subject them to a more strict system of state supervision. The railroads have refused to bear their proportion of the tax burdens, and decline to pay the taxes assessed upon them.

It appears Gov. Pattison was chosen by the Philadelphia conference a lay delegate to the Methodist General conference which is to meet in Philadelphia in May next. A member who, of course, did not like to see the administration divided, proposed to make the Attorney-General the Governor's alternate. But, says the Record, "the good brethren would not consider the name of Attorney-General Cassidy as an alternate. This is making flesh of one end of the state administration and fish of the other, but as it is the season of Lent Mr. Cassidy can probably bear up under it."

PRESIDENT ARTHUR has not lived in vain in New York society, and of course knows how it is himself. According to the New York World, he proposes to deal with the Mormon question in a manner which cannot admit of failure. His plan is "to have Salt Lake City invaded by a score of milliners who will set up magnificent establishments filled with finery for women. His theory is that the Mormon wives will be attracted by the display, will go to running up bills, and in a short time will disgust their lords with the plurality of matrimony."

It cannot be disguised that the Republican party in Pennsylvania have on hand a very interesting fight, notwithstanding the boasted harmony which their journals proclaim is pervading the party. The people are for Blaine everywhere, but the machine works in the interest of Arthur, armed with the federal patronage. So accustomed are the people to yield to the mandates of the bosses, and so carefully have they been educated in obedience, that there is little doubt of the result. Arthur will be sustained by the convention when it meets, and the people's favorite will again step down and out because of their cowardice.

IN Robinson county, Texas, three fiendish negroes a few days ago, butchered a family of five persons named Martin, consisting of an old man and his wife, their little boy twelve years of age, and two grown up daughters, after the most brutal outrage of these persons. These were most revolting and brutal murders, but as the murderers were negroes in quest of plunder, of course it will not count in Sherman's history of southern outrages intended to discredit the civilization of the south. The fiends were captured and dealt with summarily by the people, after receiving their confession of the crime and the amount of money obtained by its commission, which was \$1200.

## Mr. Tilden out of the Race.

We publish elsewhere an interview with Mr. Howell, of the *Atlantic Constitution*, with Mr. Tilden, which establishes definitely the fact that this distinguished favorite of the people is not a candidate for the Presidency and will not permit his name to be used in that connection. Since that, during the last week, the Hon. William S. Stenger, our secretary of the commonwealth, who as a member of congress in 1876, and one of the committee charged with the investigation of the frauds which deprived the President-elect of the office and conferred it upon an usurper, made a friendly visit to Mr. Tilden and communicates the result of that visit, so far as the public are interested, to the *Harrisburg Patriot*, in which he confirms the statement of Mr. Howell in the main. He says: "I hadn't seen Mr. Tilden for several years, and was pained and shocked to see the great change that had come over him during that interval. Instead of the plump, vigorous and determined specimen of manhood, he is wasted away so that his skin seems to hang on his bones. So emaciated indeed has he become that all exertion seems painful to him. His hands shake so violently that he finds it necessary to rest them on a table before him. His voice is husky and weak and he enunciates only with the greatest effort. His tongue seems swollen and paralyzed to some extent and his whole appearance indicates suffering. He seems to realize his infirmity, too, for there is a noticeable absence of that confidence in his powers that once characterized his movements, and though he walks alone servants are always kept waiting within easy access, as if in preparation to answer a summons at an unexpected moment. This change came on me like an unpleasant revelation and compelled me to relinquish the hope I have long entertained that Samuel J. Tilden would again be elected President of the United States and then inaugurated in spite of fraud and force. I am reluctant to give up this hope, for I was long cherished, but after what I have seen with my own eyes and heard from his lips there is no alternative but to accept the inevitable."

In relation to Mr. Howell's statement about the acquiescence of Mr. Tilden in the electoral commission, Mr. Stinger thinks he was mistaken. "That is a subject that was not referred to between us; but my memory of the events incident to that great wrong are that he never gave his assent to it in any way. I am convinced therefore that in this matter Mr. Howell must be mistaken. While Mr. Tilden is weak and broken physically, he preserves all his well known mental faculties. His old custom of careful deliberation in speech is still noticeable, and it seems impossible, therefore, that he could have made such a statement regarding his attitude on the electoral commission. In speaking of the impracticability of his ever again becoming a candidate he used the very same figure to me that Mr. Howell gives in the other connection. I had alluded to the anxiety of the Democratic people of the country to right that great wrong, when he answered: 'Too late. It is past and is a wrong that cannot be righted.'"

## What They Will Do.

The Lancaster *Intelligencer*, referring to the very evident effort of the Republican journals to revise the old Randall and Wallace fight in the selection of delegates to the national convention, remarks: "There is, in fact, no evidence of any such contest, and its existence is exceedingly unlikely on the face of things. Pennsylvania has the most moderate expectation of being favored with the selection of the national candidate from her borders, and should she be surprised with the gift it is not likely that any of her delegates would de-

sire to refuse it no matter who may be the chosen anointed.

The aim of the delegation will be what should be the aim of the convention, the selection of the best and strongest candidate. If he exists in Pennsylvania, the delegates from other states will be left to point him out; our delegates will be wise and prudent enough to refrain from obtruding their own opinion as to their own men. This is dictated not only by good taste, but by good policy. Experience has repeatedly and clearly shown that if a state has a candidate, whom she sincerely desires nominated, the delegates do not best secure their aim by clamoring for him until they have found he is clamored for. Candidates themselves have been taught by a steady experience that proper modesty in the presentation of their names is as conducive to success as it is indicative of their worthiness of it. Mr. Blaine and Mr. Tilden, who are said to be again in the front of the candidacy of their respective parties, have both been striving very hard to keep in a safer back ground, and can hardly congratulate themselves on the circumstances which force them out of cover.

If the Pennsylvania delegates have any hope of a Pennsylvania candidate, there are two things they will not do, if they are possessed of the good sense they ought to have. They will not suffer the exhibition of any rivalry between Pennsylvania as to who shall bear off that which is not yet assigned to their state; and they will not undertake to claim it until they are invited to do so."

THE proprietor of a cattle ranch in Colorado, who was one of the faithful 306 band at Chicago in 1876, has utilized his medal by making it the insignia brand for his cattle.

## A Remarkable Tribunal.

The republican supreme court of the United States, remarks the *Harrisburg Patriot*, has reversed and stultified itself on a question of the highest public importance.

That court was deliberately packed at one time to decide the legal tender act constitutional. Afterward, when it suited the republican leaders to denigrate on the subject of a resumption of specie payments, the court decided against the legal tender quality of the greenback. A few days since the same court reversed itself by declaring the greenback a legal tender.

It is a matter of general notoriety that judges of the supreme court have been appointed with the deliberate understanding that they should serve some certain special interests. The appointment of Stanley Matthews, for instance, was made with the intention of giving Jay Gould a representative on the supreme bench in repayment of his contribution to the Garfield electioneering fund. This is openly charged and the charge has never been refuted.

What is to be thought of a political party which lends its countenance to such prostitution of the highest judicial tribunal of the country? What is to be said of a political party which gives the people a supreme court that does not know its own mind from one year to another? Let the people answer at the ballot-box.

THE Mexican Central railroad just completed, will make the time between New York and the City of Mexico about six days. From El Paso, where the American railroads terminate, to the City of Mexico the distance is 1,224 miles. The Mexican Central Company is mainly a Boston enterprise, and the subsidy it will have earned from the Mexican government by its completion, is set down at about \$18,000,000 reckoned in Mexican currency. The subsidy, which is at the rate of \$15,200 per mile, is payable in certificates in which merchants are compelled to pay 3 per cent. of all duties at the frontier and maritime custom houses, which enables the com-

pany to collect its subsidy at the rate of from \$900,000 upwards per annum, according to the amount of duties paid annually by the increasing commerce of Mexico. The railroad runs through the centre of the great table land of Mexico, which, with its temperate climate, rich iron, tin, silver and gold deposits and large areas of farming and grazing lands, already supports a population of nearly 4,000,000 inhabitants. All the states through which the company's lines pass have a total population of 5,309,191. There are twenty-one cities on the railroad of 8,000 population and over, ranging from that figure to 160,000 in Leon and 241,000 in Mexico.

## The Panama Canal.

A very interesting report on the Panama Canal, by Lieutenant Raymond P. Rodgers, of the Navy, has just been transmitted to the senate by Secretary Chandler, in compliance with a resolution of that body. This is the second report of Lieutenant Rodgers on the Panama Canal, and it reviews the condition of the work at the close of the year 1883. The number of men employed in all sections of the canal is now at least 15,000, brought chiefly from Jamaica and Carthagena. It has been asserted by the enemies of this great enterprise that the bad climate of the Isthmus would prevent its completion, but Lieutenant Rodgers observes that the climate thus far has not proved as fatal as had been anticipated. As a rule, the employees of the company seem in fair health, but the Europeans have, of course, suffered more than the natives of the tropics. The most sickly section of the canal is in the neighborhood of Panama.

After reviewing the progress of the work by sections Lieutenant Rodgers refers to the prediction of M. de Lesseps that the canal will be opened by the year 1888. Considering the enormous excavations that are necessary, and allowing for the great energy with which the work is prosecuted, he does not think that it will be completed for some years later. As the Panama Canal approaches realization he regards the question as to whether this is a better route than that of Nicaragua as of no practical moment.

The senate has in this report sufficient information to justify the conclusion that the Panama Canal before many years will be an accomplished fact. When the canal was undertaken attempts were made to frighten subscriptions from its stock by raising extravagant pretensions under a perverted theory of the Monroe doctrine. But these pretensions have been well nigh abandoned. The canal, when completed, will be under the management of the private company whose capital is risked in it, and, like the Suez Canal, it will be under the protection of all commercial nations. Since the senate is in possession of some definite information in regard to the canal, the first step of congress should be to make treaties of reciprocity with all the states of Central and South America, so as to take prompt advantage of the great impetus that will be given to trade by this junction of the two oceans. This will be much more to the purpose than heeding the snarls of demagogues at an enterprise which the whole civilized world welcomes. The treaty with Mexico is a small advance in the right direction. Before the canal is completed the whole western hemisphere should be embraced in a system of trade reciprocity. Although this country had comparatively a small financial share in the Panama Canal it is destined by exercising a liberal policy to reap its greatest commercial advantages.—*Phila. Record.*

## Additional Local.

—The following is from the *Clinton Democrat* of Lock Haven and will be interesting to many of our readers:

A few months ago, the question, "Who rang the Liberty Bell?" came up in the history class of the senior division of the 6d Ward grammar school, of this city, and all hands had more than they could do to answer it. It was there suggested that the question be sent to some of the Philadelphia papers for an answer, and Miss Desie C. Leisher is the first to report an answer, through the *Golden Days*, James Elverson Publisher. It is interesting and curious, and not in accord with our historians; here it is: "A prominent authority states that the

story about the ringing of the Liberty Bell on July 4th, 1776, by an old man, accompanied by a little boy, who cried out: 'ring, ring!' is a pure fiction, the outcome of a futile imagination of a well-known novelist. Excepting the members of Congress who were sitting in secret session, no one knew that the Declaration was being considered by that body. The resolution of July 21, 1776, was of the greatest importance, the paper setting forth the reasons for the act being considered a matter of but little moment by persons not in the Congress. There was a public celebration on the 8th of July, when all the bells in Philadelphia were rung. The name of the bell-ringer at that time was Harry."

All things considered, the above would be a more plausible account of this "bit of history" than the one found in our school histories, and has been excerpted by the above named class and their teacher.

## Rev. Penepacker Canned.

A number of citizens in view of the retirement of the Rev. George Penepacker from the pastor of the M. E. Church of this place for another sphere of duty, assembled at the law office of Messrs. Hastings & Reeder and inveighed the reverend gentleman into their presence, after which the ceremony of canning commenced under the lead of the inflexible strategist, Col. Hastings. We are indebted to the *News* for the following account:

Mr. Hastings proceeded to tell Rev. Mr. Penepacker that the gentlemen gathered around him regarded him with much respect and admiration; that they acknowledge the important services of the reverend gentleman while in Bellefonte. He had strengthened and cemented the church of which he was pastor in the face of great obstacles. He compared Rev. Penepacker's efforts to those of an Eastern General, the progress of whose army was obstructed with snow and ice, and progress seemed almost impossible until the General, in person, led the way in clearing a path, and his courage at length spread among his officers and then among the men, until finally the army went onward successfully. Reaching behind him at the proper moment, he grasped what seemed to be the weapon held in Mr. Mosse's hand and exhibited a very elegant gold-headed cane which he said those present desired him to give to Rev. Penepacker as a testimonial of esteem from them. He gracefully extended the cane and retired to the rear apartment.

Rev. Penepacker, although visibly affected and much surprised, nevertheless responded at some length, reviewing his pastorate here and testifying to the warm friendships he had formed as well as to some he had sacrificed because his desire was rather to do right than to seek popularity. He "courted no favor and feared no frown." Often-doubtless, he had erred, but his actions had been influenced by a strict sense of duty. He thanked them for the appropriate gift.

He was followed by D. F. Furney and S. D. Gray, Esqs., the latter gentleman saying that no member of the Methodist church had given anything towards the purchase of the cane, that it came entirely from those outside that church.

This called Rev. Penepacker to his feet again. He said that he did not at first understand that the members of his own congregation were not represented in the gift and that he consequently did not say what he would otherwise have said in response. In reference to his relation with other churches, he had always preached Methodism most earnestly, but had never in the course of his pastorate said a disrespectful word of other worshipping bodies, of what ever name or form. He loved Methodism and Methodists better than other denominations as he loved the Pennsylvania comrades with whom he went forth to war, better than New York soldiers or those of other states. But because he loved Methodists more was no reason why he should not do his entire duty toward other Christians.

With these remarks the formality of the gathering ended and after all had duly admired the elegant gift the company separated.

—Very latest style hats and caps at Lewin's.

—Four cabinets for less money than four card sizes would cost elsewhere, at Boyer's Bishop street.

—Everybody is invited to Searfoss & Mayer's to buy bread, pies, cakes and confections.

—Excellent gingham for five cents per yard—G. F. Mann's.