

# The Centre Democrat.



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"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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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

KAISER WILLIAM was eighty eight years old on last Sunday. Billy is in good health and may live many years yet. We just went out and took "zwei glass larger" and had it charged up to the old man.

HON. EDWARD D. CLARK, of Miss. the newly appointed assistant secretary of the interior died of pneumonia on Monday. Mr. Clark was just convalescent, and took a relapse which terminated fatally.

SOME of Pennsylvania's soldiers were shot in the neck while in Washington, and as a matter of course, disgraced their uniforms. Col. Hastings settled any disposition towards blackguardism on the part of the 5th Regt. Let the affair be investigated and the guilty punished.

On March 6th the statement of the United States treasurer showed \$158,000,000 silver dollars and bullion and one hundred and twelve millions of silver certificates outstanding. The coinage of the eighty three cent dollar goes on at the rate of over two million dollars per month. The silver certificate which is a mere makeshift is the natural outcome of the legalized fraud committed by the government in coining a dollar which lacks 17 cents of being the dollar of the "daddies." The forty six million dollars in the treasury which are not represented by silver certificates, were the government to go into the markets to purchase bullion, would actually buy thirty eight million one hundred and eighty thousand dollars worth of bullion. When a government debases its own coin, and puts the impress of a dollar on eighty three cents of silver, it can have little ground of complaint if the private citizen brands as a dollar, fifty cents worth of silver. Under the law the government is compelled to purchase two millions of silver bullion each month and coin the same. This law was passed by the silver men in order to make a market for that product. As well might the iron men ask the government to purchase two million dollars worth of iron each month and store it away, or the farmer to insist that two million dollar's worth of wheat might be purchased each month in order to create a market for those products. A man having bullion worth a dollar in gold will not sell it, or give it in exchange for eighty-three cents worth of silver even if it bears the impress, or certificate of the United States that it is a hundred cent dollar. He can sell his bullion in the foreign markets and get one hundred cents for it. The legend "In God we trust" will not even pass current eighty three cents for a dollar, and *E Pluribus Unum* only stands for eighty three cents, with the gentle reminder that "In God We Trust" for the other seventeen. Every silver dollar coined at the mint now is a counterfeit, with a lie stamped on its face. There is eighty three cents worth of silver and seventeen cents worth of promise in it.

MALCOLM HAY.

To say that the appointment of Malcom Hay to be First Assistant Postmaster General was a surprise, is putting it mild. It is a thunder clap from the clear sky of reform that echoes and re-echoes through the valleys and among the hills of Pennsylvania and startles from his fancied security, the incompetent importuning office seeker with his "backing" of prominent party men. If Cleveland's policy was outlined in his Cabinet, the bold independence of his later appointments doubly emphasizes his design of filling subordinate positions with broad and liberal men. In every

appointment yet made the spoilsman has been left on the outside. No man in Pennsylvania stands higher with his party than Malcom Hay, and no man could fill the position more acceptably. If the expression of approval in our town is a criterion, then there is general rejoicing throughout the length and breadth of the state, not because one of her sons has been called to a high position but because of the eminent fitness of the one selected. Mr. Cleveland will take no step backward, civil service reform is now firmly established, and no man can survive who does not accept its provisions, as unalterable. Mr. Hay realizes this in its fullest measure. The test of party service applied to applicants for official position will give way to that of fitness and the official axe in his hands will hew to the line, though friends get hurt by the chips.

### LESSONS OF THE FIRE.

Friday night's fire will, no doubt, open the eyes of our borough "dads" to several important points over which they have control.

1st. There should be a fire marshal or chief of the fire department, some legal and acknowledged head to whom all will look for direction and whose authority all will recognize and obey.

2d. That the fire apparatus is entirely inadequate to the needs of our growing town and should be increased by the addition of a Hook and Ladder truck. There is no way of getting on top of a building from the outside, and the want of hooks and axes was felt by those engaged in fighting the flames.

3rd. The reservoir is entirely too small, the supply of water that should always be on hand for an emergency like that on Friday should be twice as large.

4th. Frame stables, paint shops and frame buildings in the business part of town, like those in the rear of the business houses on Allegheny street should not be erected. Some means of protection, should be adopted or we are liable to a repetition of Friday's fire at any time. There are many fire traps in town like that, which has just gone up in the flames, and no more should be built. Rates of insurance are so much higher on buildings of that class, that it is not even a matter of economy to build them, and the risk is much greater.

The first fire was beyond doubt the work of an incendiary. Mrs. Brockerhoff's stable boy locked the stable up at six o'clock, after having fed and cared for the stock, and was not back after wards. It was not dark at six o'clock and he had no light in the stable. Two hours afterwards it was on fire.

Our police force should be uniformed and their presence would be more effective, and have a tendency to keep down growing disorders, not because of the uniform, but because the majesty of the people is represented in this distinctive mark of authority. Let our guardians of the peace be clothed not only with the legal powers vested in them but let their presence be visible in the distinctive uniform of an officer. Again let the origin of Friday's disastrous fire be determined if possible. There is a mystery connected therewith that should be solved. If we have "fire bugs" in town we are at their mercy. A hundred dollars appropriated to detective service might save thousands of dollars. Had the fire occurred two hours later there is no telling where it would have ended. There are some of the points that the experience of Friday night suggests as worthy the considerations of our borough fathers.

### NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, March 23—President Cleveland this morning sent the following nominations to the Senate. Minister to England, Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont; Minister to France, Gov. Robert McLane, of Maryland; Minister to Germany, Geo. H. Pendleton, of Ohio; Minister to Mexico, Henry J. Jackson, of Georgia.

### UNANIMOUS.

A resolution looking to the final adjournment of the legislature on the 23rd of April was introduced in the house yesterday. Its prompt passage would meet with the approval of the whole state.—*Hazleton Plain Speaker*.

The resolution above referred to, was introduced by Hon. Jno. A. Woodward of this county.

### THE DUTY OF DEMOCRATS.

In this year of grace, when civil service reform is an accomplished fact, and business methods are applied to the affairs of state, when individual responsibility for public trust is exacted from the office holder and personal honesty and fitness are made essential elements in the character of an appointee, it would be well to stop and consider what the duty of every Democrat is in the premises. Mr. Cleveland's administration can be materially assisted in minor details if the great body of the people will apply the same rules to applicants for office and their petitions that they apply to their private business, and that they expect the President to apply to his appointments. Every petition represents that the applicant is fit for the position he desires. When you sign that paper you certify to that fact and the department has *prima facie* evidence of the competency of the individual applying. If you think the man is unfit for the position you should refuse to sign, you have no right to shirk your duty, or to put on the administration the responsibility for failure. It is unfair to the people, an injury both to the service and to the individual and an injustice to yourself. The wayfaring man though a fool, can see the class of men that must come to the front in order to carry out the policy of the new administration. The ward "worker" and the gin mill politician are things of the past, and the sooner they are forgotten the better, for the party. Recommend no man for employment under the Government that you would not employ in equally responsible positions in your own private business. There is an individual responsibility resting on every Democrat in the land that it would be cowardly to shirk. We should stand up to the rack fodder or no fodder, our duty is plain. It is an honest hearty support of the president and his advisors in their efforts at reform, to this every man is pledged who endorsed the Democratic platform or voted for its candidate. Backed by the moral support of the people, with his clear cut ideas of government and his past executive experience, President Cleveland will make a record which will for all time, be a model of good government. We must size up to the new departure.

### AN UNFAIR APPORTIONMENT BILL.

The Harrisburg Patriot speaking of the apportionment bill, says: The senate yesterday passed finally the senatorial apportionment bill introduced by Mr. Longecker in January. The bill has been dragging along slowly until this week, and, as senator Biddis said during the debate, has been postponed three times at the request of the author. It was pressed yesterday with great zeal. Whether the precipitancy was caused by a desire to conceal from the public the fact that no bill is wanted, or in order to take advantage of the absence of Senators Wallace and Hall to force so outrageous a measure through the senate, is not known. In either event the act was discreditable.

The bill pretends to be based on the vote cast for Garfield in 1880, and those who are pressing it claim that it will create thirty-one republican and nineteen democratic districts. As a matter of fact, however, the democrats can hope to get no more than eighteen districts if the bill is passed and the probabilities are that less than that number could be secured. Politically, therefore, it is an unfair measure. But to accomplish the political results desired other elements of unfairness are introduced. For example, as Senator Henninger clearly demonstrated yesterday, the districts are not nearly as even in population as may be. On the contrary they are unjust in their unevenness.

Some districts contain populations of more than a hundred thousand while others are less than half that size.

The bill is deceptive in another particular. For instance, in order to make it appear that concessions have been made to the democrats, Dauphin and Lebanon counties are made into one district. But that concession is delusive. The first section of the bill ends its force after the next decennial census. In both Dauphin and Lebanon counties new senators were elected last fall whose terms of office will continue until within two years of the time that the bill expires by limitation. Neither of these men can be legislated out of office and therefore the seeming advantage to the democrats from this concession is made so remote as to be almost valueless. Notwithstanding the obvious violation of the constitution and the evident unfairness of the bill, it will no doubt be passed. But the governor can dispose of it in the end and it may be confidently asserted that he will not submit to such an outrage on the organic law of the state as this bill contemplates.

NOTWITHSTANDING the low prices of steerage passage across the ocean—lower than ever before known—instead of there being an increase in the arrivals of immigrants at New York, the number since the first of the year has been more than a third less than in the corresponding period of 1884, which showed a considerable falling off as compared with 1883. The decrease is most marked in German immigration, and the prospects is that it will continue during the ordinarily busy season for the steamships bringing emigrants, which is now beginning. The continental steamship lines are engaged in a war over rates for emigrants which has resulted in bringing the charge down to an extraordinarily low figure. The small price of seven dollars is charged for passage in some cases. Meantime land travel here is very cheap, and the Pennsylvania Railroad has reduced its rate from New York to Chicago for immigrants to one dollar. It is plain enough why the foreigners refuse to take advantage of the exceptionally low rates, which enable them to cross the ocean and get as far west as Chicago for a sum so small that even the very poor can raise the money. They are warned not to come by the reports sent back by their countrymen already here, who tell their friends in Europe that the labor market is over supplied that trade is dull, and that at present prices for grain the profits of agriculture are small. It will make little difference therefore that the steamship companies have reached an agreement to discontinue their low rates within a month.—*Pittsburg Post*.

### ADVICE TO AN OFFICE SEEKER.

A Washington correspondent heard a discourse from Isaac Hill, one of the Assistant Sergeants at Arms of House. He is a roaring Democrat, and has a great following in Ohio. All of these men look up to Isaac as the children of Israel did to Moses. After the 4th of March Isaac Hill had fully five thousand people who wrote to him that they were ready to come to Washington. Said Hill to his hopeful Ohio friend:—"You don't seem to understand this new deal. You have come on here with enough papers to stretch from the Treasury to the Capitol in a straight string, you want me to present those papers for you, you fool. Do you think I am going to ruin you? Didn't you know that papers don't count with this administration? The more a man puts in one of them the worse he is off. And you want me to get up a delegation for you, too. Well, you are from the backwoods. If I just wanted to lay you out completely, I would go out to the White House with a delegation. You ask me what you shall

do. Well, I will tell you. You just go home by the first train. Take your papers with you. Then, if you want an office, really you might send your name and your post office address to the President. Then wait to see if lightning doesn't strike you. You stand a better chance that way than you would in Washington with the biggest delegation and the longest string of papers that was ever made."

### A Warning To Winter.

TREES TO BE PLANTED ON THE 16 OF NEXT MONTH, FROST OR NO FROST

HARRISBURG, March 23.—Governor Pattison this afternoon, in response to the joint resolution of the legislature that he appoint a day to be known as "Arbor Day" in Pennsylvania and recommend by proclamation the planting of trees and shrubbery in public school grounds and along public highways, designated Thursday, April 16th, as a day to be observed, and issued a proclamation relative thereto. In it he says: To aid in the systematic encouragement of tree planting throughout our various communities, to awaken and cultivate among the young a taste for the study of nature and some knowledge of the necessity, profit and delight of agricultural pursuits; to arouse public attention to the necessity of preserving and perpetuating to a proper degree the forests of the state, that we may escape the threatening peril of their wanton destruction, and to carry out the concurrent resolution of the general assembly I recommend that the people of the commonwealth do on the day named, plant trees along the streets, by the roadsides, in parks and commons, around public buildings and in waste places; that they distribute information in regard to trees, shrubbery and forests and that they encourage tree planting in every way possible."

### Hundreds of People Starving.

AWFUL SUFFERING IN THE BACK COUNTIES OF WEST VIRGINIA.

CHARLESTON, W. VA. March 23.—Reports of great suffering in several of the back counties among the people and stock, for a want of food have come to your correspondent, but not until to day were the reports confirmed. A gentleman who has traveled through Baxton, Gilmer and Calhoun counties says a few day's travel in the counties named has proven that the destitution and suffering are indescribable. In many localities people are on the verge of death by starvation. The stock is no better off than the people, animals dying for want of food. The suffering is great in Rean and Jackson counties. In some sections of the strikers' district people are subsisting on beans and gruel made of wheat ground in coffee mills. The greatest suffering exists in parts isolated from towns and railroads where supplies cannot be gotten. For miles a store cannot be found, and those that are kept have scarcely enough on hand for the use of the proprietors' families. The low state of the wells and springs during the drouth last summer and fall sowed the seeds of disease, and many people are sick. The difficulty of getting medical aid adds terror to the situation. All through the section named the crops were cut short last year, and the suffering is beyond the comprehension of those who have not traveled through the mountain region. The wheat crop is short and the farmers in the stricken section are unable to procure seed corn.

—A colored tramp in Elk county ran away from the poor house at Ridgeway and was found in a dense woods near by where he had lived for a month without shelter and lived upon roasted potatoes and skunk. His feet and hands were badly frozen. Our tramps here take better care of themselves.

### The Cabinet Ladies.

HOW THEY APPEAR IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

Mrs. Manning is so far the queen bee in the new Cabinet. She is a bride although not a very young woman, and brought to Mr. Manning some wealth and a special position. She is tall, with a slender, graceful figure, has good features, light brown hair and a great animation and grace of manner. As a thorough society woman and wholly equal to the demands of her position Mrs. Manning will soon be the best known and most popular of the new coterie. Mrs. Vilas received with Mrs. Manning at the Arlington yesterday, and this quiet, graceful little woman, who made the acquaintance of society last week while the guest of Mrs. Leiter, has won great favor already. Mrs. Vilas goes back to Wisconsin in a few days and will not bring her children on and regularly establish herself in a house until fall. Mrs. Endicott, wife of the new war secretary, was also at home at the Arlington, and the visitors found her to be a typical Massachusetts woman; a cool, clear-headed energetic Yankee, whose blood is the bluest of any in the great Commonwealth. Mrs. Endicott is tall and sparely built. Her features are clear cut and decided, and with her dark eyes she has a crown of gray hair, that was wound high and laid in smooth coils on the top of her head. She had a pleasant welcome and a vigorous hand shake for all yesterday and a fund of quickly spoken small talk at command. All Massachusetts gathered in her parlors and were proud to tell one in sides how the Endicott family tree ran generations beyond that of the Adams family including the "haughty Endicott" British Governor of the early colony, and known to the younger generation through the "Ballad of Cassandra Southwick," a favorite declamation at school exercises.

A special dispatch from McVey town, Mifflin county, is as follows: James Harris, of this place; about ten years ago swallowed a plate containing four artificial teeth, which lodged in his throat. A physician, to whom he applied for relief, forced them into his stomach, which subsequently produced injuries from which he has been suffering ever since. On Friday last, not being able to swallow and in using a stricture dilator, sixteen inches in length, it broke in the center, the lower portion of which passed into his stomach. Dr. R. M. Johnson, who was called in, made an effort to extract the instrument, but failed. He then took Mr. Harris to Philadelphia the same evening to secure for him the best surgical treatment. After consulting with the physicians at Jefferson medical college and failing to get the instrument out of the patient, Dr. Johnson procured what he thought would be the best instrument to meet any emergency that might arise in the case, and returned home with Mr. Harris the following evening. On Monday night the instrument Mr. Harris had swallowed commenced to give him great pain, and on Tuesday morning his condition became very alarming. Dr. Johnson was immediately summoned and after laboring three hours with the twelve inch forceps, was successful in extracting the broken dilator from his patient's stomach. Mr. Harris was afforded instant relief, and it is thought he will recover, notwithstanding the fact that the false teeth still remain in his stomach.—*Altoona Tribune*.

### IMPOSING RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

POTTSVILLE March 22.—A religious demonstration of unusual interest occurred here to day. Archbishop Ryan administered the rite of confirmation to some 800 persons in the Catholic churches of this city. The occasion was signalized by a large procession of uniformed Catholic societies, headed by the Third brigade band, escorting the archbishop who rode in a barouche drawn by four horses. His grace will spend several days in visiting the various parishes of this portion of the arch-diocese.