

The Centre Democrat.



F. E. & G. P. BIBLE, Proprietors.

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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor

"ALEC," McClure, knocked May or Smith out in the first round and with such vigorous language and forcible argument that we feel like patting him on the back. "Go in Alec," we'll hold your clothes.

MARCH winds, April showers December snows and May sun, shine is the combination of weather, the fellow of the head of that department of the government is giving us. Why don't the president remove him for cause and put in a Democrat?

HON SAMUEL J. RANDALL is recovering from his late illness. Mr. Randall is the hardest worker in Congress and is killing himself by his incessant work. Few public men devoted their entire time and attention to the affairs of the people as Mr. Randall has, but there must be a limit even to his powers of endurance and he may reach it before he is aware of it.

We see the name of our genial friend, J. N. Casanova of Phillipsburg, mentioned for the Consulship at Havana, Mr. Casanova was consul under President Buchanan. Mr. Casanova, being a native of Cuba, and having large interest in the Queen of the Antilles it is quite natural that his preference should run in that direction. We hope he may get the position as he is well fitted to fill it with credit to himself and his adopted country. Success friend.

THERE are so many fellows standing around protesting that they "don't want anything" under the new administration that the thing is becoming monotonous. We "don't want" a five thousand dollar consulship or anything of that kind, but if the President is going to force it on us, for the good of the service and, because we are a patriot we will submit. A "marked" copy of this issue with the above declination has been forwarded to the President.

REV DR. HIGBEE has been re-appointed Supt. of Public schools by Gov. Pattison. We suppose that the Dr. has made a creditable head for the schools, or Gov. Pattison would not have re-appointed him. The office of State Superintendent is a very important and really burdensome position, the duties are very onerous. The reports from that department are as interesting in character and variety of contents as a patent office report. These books should be issued twice a year.

Two years ago, Attorney General Brewster recommended President Arthur to remove Postmaster Pearson of New York, for good cause. Now the Republicans want President Cleveland to retain him. We want no rejected stones of the corner.—*Doylestown Democrat.*

We got the "rejected" corner stone "Allee same" Less than six years ago John Sherman said Chester A. Arthur was not fit for collector of the Port of New York yet the Republicans elected him Vice President. Remember the scriptural corne stone, friend Davis.

FRANCE is just now undergoing a cabinet revolution at home and a sound drubbing in China, to the intense disgust of her people. The fall of the Ferry ministry is the result of the failures in Tonquin. There is nothing so successful as success to a Frenchman, and military success covers a multitude of governmental blunders and excesses. Since the days of Napoleon I. the successes of French Arms have been few and far between. The glory of a Republic is not in its conquests, but in preserving the liberties of its people at home, and in maintaining peaceful relations with all the world.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The capacity for self government displayed by the Spanish American people is simply wonderful, if one is to judge of it by the number of revolutions which occur daily; There is not a citizen of any one of the central American States who at some period of his life has not developed the latent talent of great statesmanship, and who has started a revolution on his own hook

By some this talent for governing a nation which seems to be inborn with Central Americans has been denominated their "incapacity for self government" and the term has been applied to all latin nations. This is a gross outrage on the descendants of the Spanish "Dons" who settled that section of the New world. In a country where the chief occupation of the male population is government and where each fellow takes his hand at a "revolution" at least once a year the capacity for government cannot be doubted: but the trouble with our republican sisters on the South is that they are too much governed. The crop of statesmen is too large for healthy homeconsumption, there are too many of them to the square acre. Barrios recognized this fact, and that he was growing too large for the confines of this territory and his natural desire to "spread himself" increased as he grew, annexation became an act of self preservation to him and he put his machinery to work to accomplish his object. The population of Guatemala is as great as that of all the Central American States and Barrios can put into the field at least forty or fifty thousands troops. The autonomy guaranteed the Spanish American Republic under the doctrine or principle of their not being subject for future conquest or colonization by foreign powers, which is familiarly known as the "Monroe doctrine" will perhaps not apply in this case, and any interference on the part of the United States with Barrio's plans would have to be under the provisions of some treaty or for the protection of the lives and property of American citizens. Mexico is interested in the preservation of the Autonomy of each of these little republics, and the curtailment of Barrio's power. With Central America united under Barrio's, she would be constantly menaced, a system of border warfare would be inaugurated by her restless neighbor that would be very demoralizing and expensive.

The central americans are as restless and eruptive as their volcanoes; and Barrios may be deposed when in the height of power by some counter revolutionist who calls for a new deal.

TEMPERANCE HYGIENE.

THE Legislature of Pennsylvania turned its attention to Temperance Hygiene, and in a fit of grotesque insanity passed Mrs. Hunts bill making Temperance Hygiene one of the branches of the common school studies. As a donation to Mrs Hunt this was very nice, but as the donation comes out of the pockets of the poor in shape of money for that lady's work on temperance, it is not the most pleasant thing for the latter to contemplate. The disposition to increase the number of studies in the common school course should be curbed, and a member of the Assembly with the intellectual capacity of a mule would vote against any increase in the number of studies. The idea of the common school was not to establish a college at every county cross roads. It was simply to lay the foundation of an intelligent citizenship by giving every child in the land the rudiments of an ordinary English education, and to fit him for every day life. With the foundation already laid by the common school he could build his superstructure by home study in after life

or in the colleges of the country. The constant increase of studies has almost destroyed the Common School idea and its usefulness is being seriously impaired. But there is another feature in the bill just passed that is worthy the attention of our people, and that is the neat little job that has just been engineered through, although it was exposed and vigorously attacked by Hon. John A. Woodward. Mrs. Hunt who by the way lectured in the Court House, not long since on the subject of temperance is the author of a book on Temperance Hygiene and we believe the only work of the kind published.

The passage of the bill puts thousands of dollars into her pocket. It is simply a gross outrage on the people of this State and the lady's temperance sentiments are not as pronounced as the mercenary motive which drives her to the rostrum. The W. C. T. U. have been duped by a clever business woman, into striking the common school system of this state, a blow from which it will be long in rallying. Anybody who has ever taught in the schools of this State knows that one of the greatest drawbacks to the public schools is the great number of studies. This bill adds another, and useless study to the list.

All the temperance works ever written, scientific or otherwise have not effected alcoholic drinkers in the least and Mrs. Hunt's Books, will not prove an exception. Perhaps if the W. C. T. U. would devote more attention to the home training of their children the necessity, if there is any, of Mrs. Hunts book, could be obviated. The first duty of a mother is to her own children, then if she has more leisure time than her household duties take up, she could devote a few hours to the care of her neighbors children. We speak thus plainly of the temperance ladies because they were the lobbyists that engineered the bill through, and because they have been duped. Of the members who voted for the bill, little can be said, some voted through ignorance of the wants and needs of the public schools, others to please the ladies, and others still as a joke. Hon. Jno. A. Woodward made a gallant fight against the bill and deserves the gratitude of every poor man in the state.

He fought against a measure which was to add the burden of another book to the poor man and another study to the already crowded list of common school studies.

A few more straws like Mrs Hunts book, and the back of the public school camel will break.

Two utterly erroneous ideas seem to have got hold of the large majority of the people who are pressing forward for office. One of these is that public positions exist only for the reward of party workers. Such a conceit is as demoralizing to party organization as it is prejudicial to a healthy public sentiment. It has been so assiduously fostered by the Republican party and so frequently practiced that a great many Democrats take it as a matter of course and are surprised that the administration should not first fill the offices and then inquire into the necessity for them. We trust to see it take the other course and lop off every superfluous place. As a mere matter of party policy it will give ten votes from right thinking people by such conduct where it loses one of the disappointed place hunters.

Another radically wrong view that prevails is the notion that a man establishes his claim to a public position and proves his fitness for it by bringing himself out as a candidate and dragging people into signing petitions in his behalf, and that no body is to be considered eligible for public station who has too much self respect to engage in this sort of business.—*Leicester Intelligencer.*

GENERAL GRANTS CONDITION.

There has been a change for the worse in Gen. Grant's condition, and the indications are that he will not survive many hours. He had a serious hemorrhage on Tuesday, which left him very weak. At 10.30 on Tuesday night he was resting easily. Before this paper reaches our subscribers he will in all probability be dead.

TWENTY years ago to-day Lee gave up his sword to Grant on the field of Appomattox and the two great soldiers of modern times met after four years of blood, strife, the one as conqueror; the other as conquered. On the field of Appomattox was cemented a new the indissoluble Union of the States. Twenty years have elapsed since the surrender of Lee—twenty eventful years in the history of this Nation. Lee sleeps, beneath the sod of his loved Virginia and thousands of those who witnessed the surrender of brother to brother are no more. The central figure of that wondrous scene, the silent soldier of the north, for months has been fighting a more hopeless battle than any ever contested between the North and South.

Death long since fastened on his victim, but the stern strong willed, soldier contests every inch of ground hopelessly it is true, but with a cheerfulness that is almost miraculous. At this writing he may have joined his noble adversary of the South, or he may be dictating some cheerful greeting to the people of this great country. There is no hope for General Grant, nothing short of a miracle can save his life. The cancer still continues its ravages, and long ago got beyond the control of the Doctors. We can expect his death at any moment. He clings to life with the same tenacity and dogged perseverance that characterized his campaign over twenty years ago. There is not a heart in America that does not beat in sympathy for the great soldier. All the short-comings of his civil life are swallowed up in his intense sufferings; and the cheerful, "let us have peace" that he uttered years ago, has come back like the dove to the ark, and all the world is at peace with the victor of Appomattox.

JUST why we should grumble at the New York Post office appointment we dont know, as we get no mail at that office. However we are so accustomed to "fight the administration" that it has become "second nature" to us, and as this is our administration we have a right to say what we please about it; and we're going to do it. We wanted civil service reform, and we're getting it, but the old man should not pile it on so thick. A nastier lot of Democrats than those fellows in New York can not be found, but that was no reason why Cleveland should select a mugwump Republican. Bellefonte has post masters to spare, and we would gladly have furnished New York with a dozen on the half shell.

FOUR hundred marines embarked from New York for Panama last week to protect the property of non combatants and keep the revolutionists from plucking the tail feathers of the American Eagle.

A marine is a terraqueous biped who swears like a sailor, and fights like a soldier, he is a combination of old Tar and old soldier that is dangerous to fool with.

SULLIVAN was knocked out of time by a combination of public sentiment, law and order and the Times, of Phila. He can now go back to Boating and knock smithereens out of Mrs. Sullivan if he would only go to Texas, what a glorious funeral Boating could have in a short time.

THE Democrats carried Michigan at the late election, held for Justice of the Supreme Court, and Regents of the University. And also carried many cities and towns in Ohio.

PROTECT THE MINER.

AGAIN humanity is startled by a terrible mine disaster in the Schuylkill region, and ten lives are sacrificed to the cupidity or carelessness of mine owners. Ten women are made widows and children fatherless. There is something appalling in the frequency of these disasters, and each cries aloud for legislative action. Our law-makers should turn their attention from jobbery and devote their time to some legislation that will protect the lives of their fellow-beings that are compelled to delve in the earth for little or nothing and at the mercy of rich corporations without body, soul or mercy. Mine inspectors are either incompetent, criminally negligent, or the paid instruments of mine operators and companies.

The destruction of human life which results from the carelessness or indifference of those operating the mines is simply manslaughter. The total disregard for the safety of the miners, exhibited by many of these companies is well known to the public. There must be something radically wrong when the timbers in a mine, which is worked every day in the week, gives away and buries alive the unfortunates at work below.

There is either a deficiency in the law, or its provisions are not enforced. Let the responsibility for this sort of murder be placed where it belongs and justice meted out to the criminals and the lives of our minors will be held more sacred. It is an outrageous piece of villiany that allows men to work in mines which are in the condition of this Shenandoah mine.

It is time to call a halt somewhere and hold some body responsible. Where is the mine inspector of that district? Did he warn the company that their mine was unsafe? On whose head is the blood of the ten men at the bottom of the pit? Against whom does the cries of the widows and orphans ascend to Heaven?

There is a great wrong somewhere and its perpetrators should be discovered. Protect the miners.

TEMPERANCE CRANKS.

OF all the cranks that have blighted the earth by their presence, the temperance crank is the most persistently annoying, and tireless in the pursuit of his absurd hobby. Last week when the prolongation of Gen. Grant's life depended alone on stimulants, and in such a manner as to effect the result in the shortest time, hypodermic injections of brandy were given and the patient rallied. The temperance crank became aware of the means used to prolong the great soldier's life, and his supple tongue wagged vigorously as he expressed his abhorrence of the intemperate use of alcoholic liquors. The business of the fool killer ought to be flourishing. A hypodermic injection of brains and a little common sense would be immensely beneficial to that class of people.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND speaks in no uncertain terms as to the qualifications and duties of Post Masters. They must conduct the business of their offices, themselves and not by proxy. The government pays them for attending to the office, and expects them to do so. The letter of the President to the Attorney General, is good reading for applicants for office.

JEFF DAVIS TO GENERAL GRANT.

NEW YORK, April 5.—Gen. Grant received on Saturday, a letter of sympathy from Jefferson Davis, in which Mr. Davis said: "If the prayers and good wishes of all those in the South who honor and respect General Grant could avail, he would conquer the dread antagonist with whom he is now contending just as triumphantly as he overcame the antagonists with whom he contended twenty years ago."

Twelve Good Maxims

THE ADVICE WHICH MR. PHELPS GAVE A REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN.

When the Hon. John W. Stewart, of Middlebury, Vermont had just taken his seat in the lower house of Congress as the representative of the First Vermont district, in December, 1883, he received a letter of satirical good advice from a distinguished Vermont Democrat, who had long been a personal and professional friend of the new Republican Congressman. The letter was passed around at the time among some of Mr. Stewart's friends in both houses of Congress and was received with much favor by these latter statesmen. The letter is of public interest now from the fact that the distinguished Vermont Democrat who was its author is no other than the Hon. Edward J. Phelps, of Burlington, who has been appointed Minister to England. The body of the letter consist of the following maxim:

1. "Always vote in favor of a motion to adjourn. And if the period of adjournment is in question vote for the longest time and the earliest day."
2. "Vote steadily against all other propositions whatsoever." (a) "There is already legislation enough for the next five hundred years." (b) "No honest man wants any more." (c) "Even unconstitutional bills for the further enlargement of the negro should form no exception to this rule."
3. "Make no speeches. Nobody attends to Congressional oratory when delivered. When printed nobody reads it and it is a nuisance to the mails. I have had more than 4,000,000 such speeches sent me and never read one in my life."
4. "Do not allow yourself to be drawn into aspersions upon the memory of Guy Fawkes. He has been much censured by shallow men. History will in the end do him justice. Before you have been long in Congress you will perceive that one such man nowadays with better luck might do the country more service than a hundred Presidential candidates or Christian statesmen."
5. "Do not be seen much in public in the company of Republicans. Outside of New England they are not, as a rule, savory. Some associations will be tolerated, though known to exist, when decently veiled. But there is no excuse for parading them in public."
6. "Practice rigid economy. The experience of the average Congressman shows that it is possible by judicious frugality to save about \$100,000 each session out of their salary. Thus the true patriot in standing by his country makes the country stand by him."
7. "Cultivate assiduously all newspaper correspondents. All there is of public life is what the papers say. And they will say any thing that is made worth their while."
8. "Do not become a candidate for President. The idea that the country is anxious to elect you to that office is chimerical. Nor has the country anything to do with it except to vote as it told."
9. "In case of doubt take the trick."
10. "Keep your nostrils open: your mouth shut, your head cool and your feet warm. Avoid Congressional whisky. Bob Ingersoll, the game of poker and the courts of the District of Columbia."
11. "Beware of statesmen with great moral ideas. You will find immoral ideas more honest as well as more interesting."
12. "Whatever happens do not relinquish hope. As Cicero observes, nihil desperandum—do not despair. You have once been a respected member of the Addison County Bar. Resolve to regain that position. Live for the future and live down the present."

Some individuals who didn't have the fear of the law before their eyes, and believed that preachers have no business to have chickens in their coo visited the lot of the First M. E. parish, age on Twelfth avenue and captured fourteen choice fowls, the property of Rev. Pennepacker, a few nights since. Better call and get the coop also.—*Altoona Tribune.*

FOR SALE—A store in good farming community will be sold on easy terms. For particulars address S. M. E., care this office.

—Brackets for decorating.—Germans.