

The Centre Democrat.

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

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

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

GEORGE PIERSON, chief clerk of the House, grows rich on the plunder of the orphans of the State.

THE letter of Ex-Senator Wright, published in the *Record*, shows the heartlessness of the syndicate controlling the Orphans' Schools.

THE "Phenomial" across the street is said to be General Beaver's "organ." We knew it was a "wind instrument" but took it for a tin whistle. We beg the "Phenomial's" pardon for taking it for a tin whistle. It's an "organ" or "nuthin'."

THE *Sunday Democrat*, of Toledo, O., has been suppressed and its editors languish in jail, poor fellows. Cause—indecent publication. Now that the work of suppressing indecent mail matter has commenced, it would be proper to suppress indecent female matter. The low cut dresses of "society."

THE Law and Order society of Philadelphia is getting along nicely, its members are getting rich by bribe taking and the society refuses to investigate members who are charged with crookedness. The next thing will be the society engaged in the beer business. No worse than taking "hush money" from the man who sells beer.

SUPR. HIGBEE found time to condemn the management of the State College, perhaps he may yet find something to condemn in the conduct of the Soldiers' Orphans' School. It is not enough for the people of the State to know that the orphans fare about as well at the schools as they would at home. They must be better fed and clothed, better taught and cared for or the schools are failures.

THE employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have rejected the relief plan of that company totally. There were many very objectionable features in the plan, and yet some that were very commendable. The trouble with the company is that they delayed their plan until their men had long adopted measures for their own relief within themselves, and the severance of these ties and affiliations which has been tried and proven beneficial, was a serious stumbling block in the way.

Two members of the Orphan School syndicate, George E. Wright and George L. Pearson, of Mercer, and Chairman Cooper, of the State Republican Committee, have been in California for several weeks. They were telegraphed regarding the exposure and are now hurrying east as fast as steam and free transportation will bring them. They are expected home tomorrow.

The recent exposures of abuses practiced in the management of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of Pennsylvania is causing widespread agitation throughout the State. The people with one voice are calling for a thorough sifting of the charges, and, with few exceptions, the old soldiers are demanding a thorough and painstaking investigation. Meetings are being held at various points, where citizens and soldiers join in a general demand for the searching inquiry which will certainly follow. They also seem to feel it a duty to see to it that the investigation be made at once, and thoroughly, too. Many are hopeful that the alleged outrages have no foundation in fact, but are burning with a desire to know the cold facts in the case. The gentlemen comprising the committee appointed to make the inquiry into the alleged outrages are capable, trustworthy and loyal. They are all well known throughout the State.—*Pittsburg Post*.

"A Great Project."

Gov. Curtin has introduced in the House "a bill for the encouragement of closer commercial relationship and in the interest and perpetuation of peace between the United States and the Republics of Mexico and Central and South America and the Empire of Brazil."—Take a long breath.—The preamble which precedes the title of the bill is still longer, and we cannot give it. The main feature of the bill is the construction of a railroad 4,500 miles long from a point on the extreme southern boundary of the United States through Mexico, Central America, Peru and Chili to the Argentine Republic. The *Harrisburg Patriot* styles this "A Great Project." It is not an impossibility. Of course immense benefits would accrue to the people of the United States from the construction of such a road. It is no objection to the project that the United States would have to build it. We have already more money than we know what to do with, and a few billions expended to develop the latent resources of our South American neighbors would be doing the handsome thing. We all appreciate the fact that the South American States could not build a mile of railroad without being bankrupted, but we could do it for them, and pay for the road in 80 cent dollars at their face value. We are heartily in favor of the measure. No people can be prosperous and happy until they have tasted the sweets of railroad discrimination and plunder. Just think of the "draw backs," "rebates," "combinations," "pools," "divvies," etc., with euphonious Spanish names. What Mexican greaser but will offer up an extra pater for the privilege of being fleeced by a Yankee railroad magnate? We hope our member has incorporated a clause in his bill prohibiting the construction of parallel or competing lines of railway. Competition breaks up monopoly, and "the Great North American, Mexican Gulf Coast, Central and South American railway in the interests of peace and commercial intercourse" should have no competitors, no rivals. While we are reaching out in the direction of Mexico and South America we should not be unmindful of our neighbors to the west, a line of railway from say Washington (air line) through the Dominion of Canada and Alaska, tunnelling Behring Strait at Cape Prince of Wales reaching Asia at East Cape, thence through Siberia to China would restore cordial relations between China and the United States, now somewhat strained. The ice fields of Siberia would then be tributary to the United States. A branch road running west along the northern coast of Siberia would reach Russia, thence west through Europe, crossing by tunnel under Dover Strait reach England. The advantages to be gained by this great system of railway would be equaled only by that of the road projected by our member. The railroad systems of the world are yet in their infancy. We wash our hands of any further connection with the Buffalo Run road and will devote our time and attention to reaching Europe and China via Behring's Strait. All we ask is "the old flag and an appropriation."

Responsible to the People.

The firmness with which President Cleveland resists the encroachments of the Republican majority in the Senate, on the prerogatives of the executive, will meet the approbation of all fair minded men. The object of the Senate majority is to make political capital for a party, bankrupt in character by a long series of official crimes, jobbery and plunder, and to do this at the expense of good government. The right of the Senate to access to all official information in the possession of the President relating to

removals or suspension from office the President concedes. But to unofficial and private information in the possession of the Executive the Senate has no right of access, except as the Executive may think proper to furnish. Nor has the Senate the power to determine what information is of an official and what is of a private character. As well might the President call for the private correspondence of a Senator. Nor would the President be able to furnish the information desired, conceding that body the right to it, for in many cases suspensions and removals have been made on verbal information. The equilibrium of the three departments of our government can only be preserved by each department confining itself to its prerogatives, and any encroachment of one on the other must be resisted. The manly and firm manner in which the President meets the absurd demands of the Republican Senate will be sustained by the people.

To the people alone is the President responsible for the conduct of the Executive department of the government. The Senate's duty is simply to confirm or reject appointments. But the whole scheme is to embarrass the administration and to cast odium on the President. Mr. Cleveland's arguments are unanswerable. Twice in the history of the Republican party has it attempted to subjugate the Executive to the legislative branch of the government. In 1867 it passed a law taking from President Johnson the right of removal from office and now it attempts the same thing by a roundabout way. When Grant became President Congress repealed the law of 1867, because the President was in political accord with the House and Senate. The efforts of Edmunds to rehabilitate himself in his party are pitiable in a man of his great ability.

When the Republicans of the Senate find that they cannot coerce the President they will likely get back the little sense they are credited with. In the meantime the grand march of reform will go on, and the American people will judge between an honest and fearless Executive and a narrow partisan Senate.

THE *Philadelphia Record*, speaking of President Cleveland's administration, says: There has now been a year in which the executive power has been in the hands of a Democratic President. No complaint is made that the law has not been properly enforced. The reputation of the nation has not suffered abroad or at home. None of the predicted calamities to grow out of Democratic administration have made their appearance. Remarkable care and deliberation have been exercised in the removal and appointment of public functionaries. The finances have been wisely managed. Sectional feeling has almost disappeared from our politics. The recommendations of the President to Congress are conceded to be prudent and conservative. As far as we have progressed there is no reason to regret the decision of the people at the polls in November, 1884. The session of Congress and the participation of the Executive in the business of legislation will put a final test upon President Cleveland's capacity; but there is much less reason to doubt of it to-day than there was March 4, 1885.

Wages Takes a Rise in Reading.

READING, March 1.—The two-hundred moulders in the two foundries of the Reading Hardware Works were advanced ten per cent, this morning. Notices were posted up to this effect. The moulders were reduced ten per cent in July, 1884, and this is now restored to them. Today the advance in the wages of all Philadelphia and Reading employes in the company's shops in this city went into effect. The employes number nearly two thousand and this increase amounts to eight per cent.

Railroad and Bank Directors in Congress.

Representative Gibson, of West Virginia, has been stating some very plain but simple facts on the floor of the House, and handled Mr. Pulitzer, the fellow who runs a sham Democratic paper in New York called the *World*, in a merciless manner. Pulitzer represents the plunder element in New York and is engaged in fighting the administration. The columns of the *World* have been open to the Bell telephone monopoly and all the plunderers who through the lobbies of the capital, and its editor has allied himself with the lobbyists who are sailing Garland and Lamar. Mr. Gibson's speech was timely, and he has called the attention of the American people to a condition of affairs which they should proceed to remedy next fall. Anti-monopoly legislation with the House and Senate constituted as they are now, is simply out of the question. There is not a railroad under whose discrimination the industries of our country are languishing but has its representatives and senators as well as its lobby. National bank directors and stockholders control financial legislation. Silver kings compel the government to purchase annually twenty-four million dollars worth of silver that it does not need and coin it into a debased dollar. The Standard Oil Co. has its minions in both Senate and House. The Bell Telephone Co., the Hennepin syndicate, the Eads jobbers, the Union Pacific, the Northern Pacific, the Pennsylvania and a dozen other railroads have their representatives there. What is to be expected of a Congress so made up. What legislation for the people? Who is to blame? Not the corporations, for they are simply looking out for No. 1! There is certainly food for thought in the composition of the National House and Senate.

Gibson said: "I stood on the floor of this House and heard a member boast that he held hundreds of thousands of dollars of railroad stock and would combine with railroads to clog up the courts with business, but no outcry was raised against it. I see all around me men who hold railroad stock and national bank stock voting with the stock in their pockets, and no outcry is made against it. If I am not misinformed a late President of the Senate was himself counsel for one of these telephone companies. Who cried out against it? If I am correct I informed the present President of the Senate is a national bank stockholder."

We would not exclude a man from the Senate or House simply because he held bank or railroad stock, any more than we would exclude a man because he was a minister, a carpenter or a lawyer. But when your railroad congressman would try to break down railroad competition on which your home industries depend for life, or when your bank director would try to force legislation in the interest of banks and brokers and against the interests of the people we would say retire him. It is well enough that banks, railroads, telephone and telegraph companies should have men friendly to their interests in Congress, but the great mass of people who are not connected with these corporations except as the victims of their oppressions and greed, should have a voice there feeble though it be. What man in the House from Pennsylvania has ever proposed legislation, or identified himself with a legislative measure calculated to break up the discrimination that is driving our manufactures from the State?

Gillinder & Sons, glass manufacturers of Philadelphia, have leased the old East Liverpool glass factory, which is within the natural gas belt of Ohio. The glass house is one of the most complete in the United States. Gillinder & Son's find the cheap fuel a necessity. The concern employs 900 hands.

Get your sale bills and job work done at the DEMOCRAT office.

General Grant's Memoirs.

Charles L. Webster & Co., the publishers of General Grant's book, sent Mrs. Grant a check yesterday for \$200,000 as her proportion of the proceeds so far derived from the sale of the General's book. The check is drawn in favor of Mrs. Julia D. Grant on the United States National Bank of this city, and the receipt signed by Mrs. Grant specifies that the check is "to apply on account of profits accruing from the sale of Volume I of 'Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant.'" In a letter concerning the check written to Cyrus W. Field, Mr. Webster says: "The contract with General Grant for the publication of the 'Memoirs' was signed just a year ago to-day, since which time the book has been practically written, published, and the great bulk of money for the first volume collected. It seems fitting for me on the anniversary of the signing of that contract to pay to Mrs. Grant the check which you know about, and it will accordingly be handed her this morning. More is due her and will be paid as soon as collected. We expect to collect as much again when the second volume appears, so that Mrs. Grant's profits within a year from publication will not fall below \$400,000, and will probably reach \$500,000."

Both as regards the time and the amount involved this is the most extraordinary result of authorship in the history of English literature. Nor is it all, for on the day the contract was signed—February 27, 1885—Mr. Webster gave to General Grant a check for \$1000. The largest sum ever received before in one lump by an author for a book was a check for £20,000 (\$100,000) given by his publishers to Lord Macaulay as the first payment on his "History of England." Sir Walter Scott made about \$500,000 by his pen in something like ten years, but \$200,000 in one year and \$500,000 in less than two years is altogether unprecedented. Nor are these all the remarkable facts connected with the book. The first edition, 325,000 copies, is the largest first edition ever published. Of that great number only 11,000 copies now remain in the hands of the publishers.—*N. Y. Times*.

Telephone Decision.

Chief Justice Niblack, of Indiana, has taken the bull by the horns in his recent decision declaring that the State has a right to regulate the license of telephones. The Supreme Court judges were unanimous in the opinion rendered by the Chief Justice, who declares: "Property thus devoted for a public use becomes a legitimate subject of legislative regulation and control."

The decision establishes the maximum rental at \$3 yearly. The telephone monopolists can blame themselves for a decision so radical. Had the license not been so excessive the courts would not have intervened.

The law may be good as it relates to telephone charges, but if its application was widened, there would be serious cause for alarm in other departments of enterprise. The interference of states in fixing and regulating prices is fraught with danger, and if carried out to only a partial degree would subvert the laws of trade.

The license tax for telephones has become so onerous that the people will not cry out against the decision of a state court which regulates the price within its limits, but they would be heard from if there was interference outside of what is termed the "common carrier" obligations to the public. The telephone monopoly has overreached itself in the matter of excessive license rates and there is a reaction which will break it down.

Public opinion will sustain the above decision, but does not want too much of it.—*Dry Goods Chronicle*.

John Dougherty, a coachman in Chester was thrown from the seat of a carriage Saturday by runaway horses and killed.

News in Brief.

Three masked men entered Cameron & Co's office on Friday night at Brownwood, Texas, made the clerks hold up their hands and then secured \$1500. The robbers left as suddenly as they had come. As they departed they were fired upon by one of the clerks. One of the robbers was killed, who proved to be a painter well known around town.

Mrs. Grant received a check for \$200,000 from Charles L. Webster & Co., the publishers of General Grant's memoirs, as the amount due her on the first volume of the publication.

The banking house of the Rothschilds has issued a Brazilian loan of £6,000,000. The interest is placed at 5 per cent, and the price at 55.

A pasteboard box, containing twelve smaller boxes of matches, was mailed at the Philadelphia Post Office the other day. The matches were confiscated, as they might ignite and consume all the mail.

Few industries in the State have had so long and successful a run as the Plymouth Furnace at Conshohocken. It was built in 1847 and from that time to the present has never been out of blast except to make repairs. Changes and reorganization have taken place, but the furnace was never idle a day. It is now a rolling-mill and one of the most prosperous in the country.

ERIC, February 27.—Intelligence reached here to-night that John and George Rogers, two young men who went to Greeley county, Kansas, last fall, had been frozen to death. They had gone to Coolidge for supplies and were overtaken by a blizzard on their way home.

SALEM, Mass., February 27.—A Frenchman named Maximi Bouillier was in a Congress street saloon last night, when a bet was made as to the amount of whisky he could drink. He drank sixteen glasses and fell to the floor. He was taken home and died soon after.

Alexander Fitzhugh, of Hartford Ky. fatally stabbed Deputy Town Marshal George Bangers on Friday evening. The Marshal had leaved on a horse belonging to Fitzhugh.

At Collinsville, Ky., John Thompson shot and killed Amos Flight on Friday night in a dispute about politics. Thompson, who has killed two men, escaped. Flight was a peaceable man.

During a drunken row at Glasgow Junction, Ky., on Saturday night, Will Cooke fractured the skull of James Denison with a two pound weight. The row was the culmination of an old grudge. Denison was dying yesterday afternoon.

While several cars of coke were being run down the siding of the Blair Iron and Coal Company, in Gaysport, last Wednesday, the track spread and the cars left it. One of the cars continued its course across the street and topped over on its side just in time to prevent from going through the bar room door of the Blair House.—*Holidaysburg Standard*.

The knit goods manufacturers of Cohoes, New York, have restored wages to the scale that obtained prior to January 1, 1885.

Miss Cleveland gave the second of her lunch parties to the ladies of the families of members of congress on Saturday, fifty guests being seated at the table.

The Ohio State Grange, State Dairymen's Association and other agricultural organizations have adopted resolutions affiliating with the Trades Assembly, and will shortly be represented in that body.

A street car on the Metropolitan Railroad in Washington was run into, Saturday at the corner of Virgin avenue and Four-and-a-half street by a train on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. The street car was badly wrecked and five persons were injured, but none seriously.

There was no excitement around McCormick's Reaper Works Saturday, not more than 100 men congregated there. It is claimed that not more than 200 and probably not 50 men, will be on hand to go to work at Mr. McCormick's terms when the works reopen to-day.

At Pottsville to-morrow the Philadelphia and Reading Company's colliery repair shops, employing about 600 men and which have been working three quarters time, will resume full time, and 8 per cent, reduction in the wages made in January of last year will be restored.

The several great store foundries at Troy, N. Y., are idle in consequence of a strike of the moulders on Saturday for an advance of 25 per cent in wages.