

# The Centre Democrat.

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

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

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## The Centre Democrat.

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FRANK E. BIBLE, Editor.

GOOD reading for Americans—the President's message.

THE Gazette spoke out like a clam last week on "boodle" congressmen.

THE United States' rheumatism is better. It wasn't serious at any time.

THERE are some fellows who would refuse a County postoffice. Most of them live in Canada.

WE expect some mean sneaking Republican to say that Jim Blaine wrote the president's message.

FEIDLER is just now engaged in fixing Gov. Beaver's cabinet. He's getting awful tired—So is the Governor.

WON'T some body be disappointed if Gen. Beaver concludes to be governor himself? He's just contrary enough to do it too.

ADJUTANT GENERAL D. H. Hastings! oh, my! General Hastings, in the language of the Vermont ice-burg "shrike."

THE Jury fixer is abroad in the city of New York and the second McQuade Jury will have to run the gauntlet of the "fixers" during the entire progress of the trial.

JONES, of Pittsburgh, a member of multitudinous Jones family is recalling his experiences in the Blaine campaign. His pocket-book yearns doubtless for "cash" wasted. Poor Jones!

IF Tom Cooper don't get over any little "legal technicalities" or "constitutional prohibitions," or any other of the objections to his being Secretary of the Commonwealth, then there is no use for a Tom Cooper.

SENATOR Vorhees is said to have told President Cleveland that "silver could not be driven out of the markets of the world, as it had been the money of Abraham and Isaac and of Jacob." Vorhees may be right as to an historical fact, but the dollar of Abraham was worth a hundred cents every time.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says Mr. Hensel is in that city and will remain a few days. "There is some talk of a recognition of his services in the late campaign." Thank Heaven. Any recognition that will take him out of Pennsylvania politics will be balm to the wounds of the Democracy of the state. Give him "a recognition" with a big salary.

THERE is not substance enough in the American Navy to make a shadow, and Republican administrations have expended hundreds of millions of dollars to create a Navy that an oyster fleet could destroy with a mountain howitzer. The Robersons and Chandlers built vast fortunes for themselves and their friends at the expense of the "American Navy" and charged it to that account.

THE Philadelphia Times, is one of the best penny papers in the country, and the management took in the situation when it reduced the price. But many of its readers will remember how earnest Col. McClure fought the Record, as "a gift organ" and the Col's disgust for the penny Record, was expressed in forcible and elegant language. Times have changed and so has The Times.—"Price one cent."

THE W. C. T. U. of Missouri, has read Mrs. Cleveland a lecture on the evils of wine at State and Cabinet dinners. That is right, Mrs. Cleveland is a very young lady and should be lectured by all the disappointed old maids and meddlesome mothers in the country. But we will bet a nickel that Grover's socks are properly darned, his shirts have buttons on, and you can't see daylight through the rear wall of his pants.

If there are still any Republicans in office it is about time they "vamoosed the ranch." There are still some Democrats who didn't "get there all the same," and our term of office is getting beautifully short. There must be more vacancies or more offices, we don't care which. We are willing to sacrifice ourself on the altar at a good salary. Behold the victim! Bring on the altar and salary! Turn the rascals out!

WE forgot to note the fact that our neighbor, Hon. P. Gray Meek, is an applicant for the position of bank examiner and is likely to get the position. There is no position for which a country editor is better fitted than that of bank examiner unless it would be bank cashier. The financial resources and expedients to which an editor is compelled to resort, enlarge his capacity to take in the condition of a bank. Every country editor should have some position about a bank.

CONGRESS convened on Monday, and by the last of the week will have gotten down to business. The appropriation bills are well along, and will be first considered. Three subjects of national importance will engross the attention of the leaders of both political parties, they are: Tariff revision, the silver question and an inter state commerce bill, these are the important measures on which congress should act, and act speedily. There are a thousand other "pet" measures, private schemes and public steals that will take up the time of the "average member" and make him think he is serving his constituents. The member who has not "been returned" will hunt out a soft place for himself and proceed to bore the President for the appointment. Every body will be busy and the capital will wear its best clothes.

The Beech Creek Railroad Suit.

HARRISBURG, December 5.—The Northern Central Railway yesterday afternoon filed in the Clerk's office of the Dauphin county court its answer to the allegations in the suit brought by the State to prevent the coalition of that company with the Beech Creek, Clearfield and Southwestern Railway Company.

The defendant denies and requires proof of the allegation that the Beech Creek road is a competing line, but admits that the company undertook purchase 60 per cent. of the capital stock of the Beech Creek Company at a meeting held in Baltimore on Feb. 26 last.

The defendant avers that no part of its line is parallel to that of the Beech Creek, and denies that it would permit itself to be used for the purpose of enabling the Rensselaer Railway Road or any other company to overcome any constitutional or legal objections to a consolidation such as that proposed. The respondent prays for the dismissal of the bill.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., December 1.—Justice Edward M. Paxson, of the supreme court, and Mrs. Mary Martha Stopp Bridges, widow of the late Congressman Samuel A. Bridges were married this evening at the residence of the bride, Rev. J. F. Pollock, of the Presbyterian church officiating. Many distinguished guests were present.

HARRISBURG, Pa., December 1.—The funeral of the late Mayor Wilson this afternoon was the largest ever seen in this city. Military and civic organizations and citizens united in doing honor to his memory. The memorial address was delivered by Rev. J. P. Moore in St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church.

If both sides in the Campbell divorce case are telling the truth there should be no trouble about a verdict, only it would be a pity to turn either or both of the parties loose to prey on their fellow creatures.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

It is Read Before the New Senate and House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The galleries of the Senate chamber were, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, filled with spectators when at 12 o'clock, noon, the second session of the Forty-ninth Congress was opened. In his prayer the Chaplain, Rev. J. G. Butler, feelingly alluded to the mourning draperies with which the chamber was hung, in memory of the late Senator Pike, of New Hampshire.

The presiding officer, Mr. Sherman, laid before the Senate several of the annual reports of the heads of the departments, which were ordered printed.

Resolutions were adopted fixing the daily hour of meeting at noon; informing the House that the Senate was ready to proceed to business; and for the appointment of a committee to wait on the President for the like purpose. Messrs. Edmunds and Saulsbury were appointed such committee.

The credentials of Senator Williams, of California, were presented and the oath of office was administered to him.

The House was called to order promptly at 12 o'clock, and, after the usual preliminaries, an adjournment was had until 2 o'clock, when the President's message was received and read.

After briefly referring to the constitutional duty incumbent upon him in the matter of submitting to Congress certain information concerning the state of the Union, followed by the usual congratulations to the country on the consistently maintained relations of friendship between our Government and all other powers, as well as our neighborly interest in the welfare of those whose possessions are contiguous to our own, the President expresses his regret at the continued outrages upon innocents in China and in some of the far Western States and Territories, and then proceeds to discuss at considerable length our relations with China, the Cuban Government, France, Germany, and more especially with Great Britain on the much mooted fishery question. This is followed by a brief review of the Northwest boundary question, a congratulatory reference to our pleasant relations with Mexico, and the denial of the right of any foreign sovereignty to punish a citizen of the United States for an offense committed on our soil, as in the case of Cutting. The issue with the Netherlands in relation to certain features of our tariff laws, and the trouble with Spain in regard to matters of a maritime nature are discussed fully. The President evidently thinks that Spain will amend its laws so that the commercial interests of the United States shall not suffer.

Regarding citizenship and naturalization the President says:

It is also desirable, in order to remove present uncertainties, that authority should be conferred on the Secretary of State to issue a certificate, in case of an arrest for the purpose of extradition, to the officer before whom the proceeding is pending, showing that a requisition for the surrender of the person charged has been duly made. Such a certificate, if required to be received before the prisoner's examination, would prevent a long and expensive judicial inquiry into a charge which the foreign government might not desire to press. I also recommend that express provision be made for the immediate discharge from custody of persons committed for extradition where the president is of opinion that surrender should not be made.

The drift of sentiment in civilized communities toward full recognition of the rights of property in the creations of the human intellect has brought about the adoption, by many important nations, of an international copyright convention, which was signed at Bern on the 18th of September, 1885.

Inasmuch as the Constitution gives to Congress the power "to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries," this Government did not feel warranted in becoming a signatory pending the action of Congress upon measures of international copyright now before it, but the right of adhesion to the Bern convention hereafter, has been reserved. I trust the subject will receive at your hands the attention it deserves and that the just claims of authors so urgently pressed will be duly heeded. Representations continue to be made to me of injurious effect upon American artists studying abroad and having free access to the art collections of foreign countries of maintaining a discriminating duty against the introduction of the works of their brother artists of other countries, and I am induced to repeat my recommendation for the abolition of that tax.

The message then refers to the pay of officials in the Consular Service and re-

commends better pay for such officers in countries where the expense of living is far in excess of the amount provided by the Consular Appropriation act. The tariff question is referred to in the following resume of the report of the Secretary of the Treasury:

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury exhibits in detail the condition of the public finances of the several branches of the Government related to his department. I especially direct the attention of the Congress to the recommendations contained in this and the last preceding report of the Secretary touching the simplification and amendment of the laws relating to the collection of our revenues, and in the interest of economy and justice to the Government I hope they may be adopted by appropriate legislation. The ordinary receipts of the Government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, were \$3,354,727,000. Of this amount \$1,920,023,411 was received from customs and \$1,168,005,936.58 from internal revenue, with total receipts as here stated \$3,088,029,347.68 greater than for the previous year, but the increase from customs was \$11,434,084.10, and from internal revenue \$4,407,210.94, making a gain in these items for the last year of \$15,841,295.04; a falling off in other resources reducing the total increase to the smaller amount mentioned.

The expense at the different custom houses of collecting this increased customs revenue was less than the expense attending the collection of such revenue for the preceding year by \$490,608, and the increased receipts of internal revenue were collected at a cost to the Internal Revenue Bureau of \$155,944.99 less than the expense of such collection for the previous year. The total ordinary expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, were \$2,424,483,138.50, being less by \$17,788,797 than such expenditures for the year preceding, and leaving a surplus in the Treasury of \$93,956,588.56 as against \$2,463,771.27 at the close of the previous year, being an increase in such surplus of \$30,492,817.29.

One of the most important features in the message is the discussion of the revenues of the government and the labor question. We give it in full:

In my last annual message to the Congress attention was directed to the fact that the revenues of the Government exceeded its actual needs, and it was suggested that legislative action should be taken to relieve the people from the unnecessary burden of taxation thus made apparent. The income of the Government, by its increased volume and thorough economies in its collection, is now more than ever in excess of public necessities. The application of the surplus to the payment of such portion of the public debt as is now at our option subject to extinguishment, if continued at the rate which has lately prevailed, would retire that class of indebtedness within less than one year from this date. Thus a continuation of our present revenue system would soon result in the receipt of an annual income much greater than necessary to meet government expenses, with no indebtedness upon which it could be applied. We should then be confronted with a vast quantity of money, the circulating medium of the people, hoarded in the Treasury, when it should be in the hands of our people, and we should be drawn into wasteful and extravagant and all the corruption and national demoralization which follow in its train.

Good government, an especially the government of which every American citizen boasts, has for its objects the protection of every person within its care in the greatest liberty consistent with good order of society, his perfect security in the enjoyment of his earnings with the least possible diminution for public needs, when more of the people's substance is exacted through the form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of the Government and the expense of its economical administration, such exactation becomes ruthless extortion and a violation of the fundamental principles of a free government.

Those who toil for daily wages are beginning to understand that capital, though sometimes vaunting its importance and clamoring for the protection and care of the Government, is sluggish; still, touched by the magical hand of labor, it springs into activity, furnishing an accession for federal taxation and gaining the value which enables it to bear its burden—and the laboring man is thoughtfully inquiring whether in these circumstances and considering the tribute he constantly pays into the public treasury as he supplies his daily want, he receives his fair share of advantages.

Our farmers and those engaged directly and indirectly in supplying the products of agriculture, see that day by day and as often as the daily work of their households recur, they are forced to pay excessive and needless taxation while their products struggle for foreign markets with the competition of nations which by allowing a freer exchange of productions than we permit, enable their people to sell for prices which distress the American farmer. As every patriotic citizen rejoices in the constantly increasing pride of our people in American citizenship and in the glory of our national achievement and progress a sentiment prevails that the leading strings usually to a nation in its infancy may well be to a great extent discarded in the present stage of American ingenuity, courage and a fearless self-reliance, and for the privilege of indulging this sentiment with true American enthusiasm our citizens are quite willing to forego an idle surplus in the public treasury, and all the people know that the average rate of Federal taxation upon imports is to-day in time of peace, but little less than upon some articles of necessary consumption it is actually more than was imposed by the grievous

burden willingly borne at a time when the government needed millions to maintain by war the safety and integrity of the Union. It has been the policy of the government to collect the principal part of its revenues by a tax upon imports, and no change in this policy is desirable. But the present condition of affairs constrains our people to demand that by a revision of our revenue laws the receipts of the government shall be reduced to the necessary expense of its economic administration, and this demand should be recognized and obeyed by the people's representatives in the legislative branch of the Government.

Due regard should be also accorded in any proposed readjustment to the interest of American labor so far as they are involved. We congratulate ourselves that there is among us no laboring class fixed within unyielding bounds and doomed under all conditions to the inexorable fate of daily toil. We recognize in labor the chief factor in the wealth of the Republic, and we trust those who have it in their keeping as citizens entitled to most careful regard and thoughtful attention. This regard and attention should be rewarded them not only because labor is the capital of our workmen justly entitled to its share of government favor but for the further and not less important reason that the laboring man surrounded by his family in his humble home as a consumer is vitally interested in all cheapening the cost of living and enables him to bring within his domestic circle additional comforts and advantages. This relation of the workingman to the revenue laws of the country and the manner in which it palpably influences the question of wages should not be forgotten in the justifiable prominence given to the proper maintenance of the supply and protection of well paid labor, and these considerations suggest such an arrangement of Government revenues as shall reduce the expense of living, while it does not curtail the opportunity for work nor reduce the compensation of American labor and injuriously affect its condition and the dignified place it holds in the estimation of our people.

The remainder of the document is devoted to a discussion of the relations of the Indians to the Government the necessity of improving the navy by the building of heavy and fast-going ironclads, a resume of the history of the postal service, railroads and reservations, the homestead law and the Pacific Railroad. The civil service law is referred to as follows:

The continued operation of the law relating to our Civil Service has added the most convincing proofs of its necessity and usefulness. It is a fact worthy of note that every public officer who has a just idea of his duty to the people testifies to the value of this reform. Its staunchest friends are found among those who understand it best and its warmest supporters are those restrained and protected by its requirements. The meaning of such restraint and protection is not appreciated by those wanting places under the Government, regardless of merit and efficiency, nor by those who insist that the selection for such places should rest upon a proper credential showing active partisan work. They mean to public officers' the only opportunity afforded them to attend public business, and they mean to the good people of the country the better performance of the work of their Government. It is exceedingly strange that the scope and nature of this reform are so little understood, and that so many things not included within its plan are called by its name. When civil fields more fully to examination the system will have large additions to the number of its faithful. Our civil service reform may be imperfect in some of its details, it may be misunderstood and opposed, it may not always be faithfully applied, its designs may sometime miscarry, through mistake or willful intent; it may sometimes tremble under the assault of its enemies or languish under misguided zeal of impracticable friends, but if by the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of their government, they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions. I invoke for this reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of the Congress. I renew my recommendation made last year that the salaries of the Commissioners of the government having like duties and responsibilities, and I hope that such reasonable appropriations may be made as will enable them to increase the usefulness of the cause they have in charge.

Upon the conclusion of the reading of the message to the Senate it was ordered printed.

BOSTON, December 3.—The jury in the United States circuit court in the case of the National Soldier's Home vs. General B. F. Butler, at 1 o'clock this afternoon decided that general was guilty of misappropriating funds of the institution while treasurer. The verdict was for \$16,537.50. Judge Carpenter gave Ben a terrible hauling over the coals in his charge. General Butler appeals from the decision.

FATHER Higgins, of New Haven, Conn., a priest of the Dominican Order has received the degree of Doctor of Theology from Pope Leo. He is the first ecclesiastic in this country to be so honored.

## Rules of the Democratic Party in Pennsylvania.

I. The central state committee shall consist of one member from each county, and in addition any county that is entitled to more than one state senate shall have an additional member for each additional senator—the members of the committee to be appointed in such manner as the local regulations of the respective county organizations may determine.

2. The committee shall meet annually in the city of Harrisburg, at 4 p. m., on Wednesday after the 31st Monday of January at such place as may be designated by the chairman of the central committee, and shall at this annual meeting elect a chairman and permanent secretary (from within or without its own membership), and state executive committee (from within or without its membership), and transact such other business as the committee may determine. It may at its or subsequent meetings fix the time for the state convention and arrange therefor.

3. Members of the committee unable to attend may, for any meeting, deputize substitutes to act pro tem. for them but they must be voters in the county and senatorial districts which their principals represent.

4. The chairman of the state central committee, its permanent secretary and seven Democrats (from within or without the state central committee, and no two to be elected from the same county), to be elected annually at the January meeting, shall constitute the same executive committee to conduct the state campaign subject to the control of the state committee, and the officers of the state central committee shall be the officers of the executive committee.

5. The representation in the state convention shall consist of representative delegates, one for each 1,000 Democratic votes cast at the last preceding gubernatorial election, or for a fraction of 1,000 such votes amounting to 500 or more in the respective representative districts, provided that each representative district shall have at least one delegate.

6. The rules may be amended, altered or abrogated at any time upon the recommendation of the state central committee, or a state convention and by the approval of the subsequent state convention.

SCHEDULE.—These rules shall take effect on the third Monday of January, A. D., 1887.

## Condensed Telegrams.

Colonel George Noble, General manager for the Receivers of the Texas Pacific Railway, died in Dallas, Texas, at 11:30 o'clock on Saturday night after an illness of nine days.

Patrick Graves, the man who was arrested at Cleveland, Ohio; for the murder of old Mrs. Wheller on complaint of her husband, has entered a suit for \$125,000 against Wheller.

Among the passengers on the steamship Fulda, which arrived at New York yesterday, was a Russian family of forty men, women and children. They were Gustave Pleth, his wife, and five sons and their wives and twenty-eight grandchildren. This consanguineous colony will populate Knife River, Dakota, whither they are now journeying.

The Mississippi steamboat St. John dropped her guards last night about forty miles below Monroe, La., precipitating about 1000 bales of cotton out of a cargo of 2300 into the river. She careened so badly afterward that she was run into the bank to prevent her from going over and sinking. Every bale of cotton was subsequently recovered.

Late on Saturday night Jacob Nagely, a farmer, near Wabash, Ind., was awakened by some one battering down his front door. Grabbing a revolver Nagely met the intruder on the doorstep and fired at him. The two clinched and in the struggle Nagely's face was disfigured for life, his nose being broken and his right eye being gouged out. The intruder proved to be Bill Hoose, a well-known Columbus city character. Hoose is fatally hurt.

Ambrose McConomy, a retired banker, died yesterday at Lancaster, aged 53 years.

A natural gas tank exploded at Hickory Sunday morning, instantly killing Albert Crocker, a workman.

Mrs. Mary Geary, of Reading, aged 71 years died suddenly in an omnibus while being conveyed from the depot to her residence in the upper part of the city.

James Frutzman, a division foreman on the Reading Railroad at Harrisburg for nearly thirty years, has been notified of his suspension from further duty. P. A. Taylor, of Pottsville, has been appointed division supervisor, with Joseph Erb, of Cressona, as assistant, and headquarters to be at Pottsville.