

# The Centre Democrat.



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

TERMS: \$1.00 Per Annum.

VOL. 10.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1888.

NO. 49

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TERMS, \$1.00 Per Annum in Advance.

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### CARELESS OFFICIALS.

Last week the land case of the Tyrone Mining Company vs. James Cross was opened on Wednesday morning and continued to Saturday evening. The jury drawn on this case reached a verdict at nine o'clock Saturday evening and were discharged. They had been drawn Wed. and were on duty for six days and naturally were anxious to reach their homes. Imagine their surprise when they applied at the Commissioners office for their fees with which to pay up their hotel bills, etc., and found all the Commissioners gone and along with them the Commissioners clerk. The Treasurers office was likewise closed and no provision had been made for mileage and regular fees.

Under this condition of affairs Prothonotary Schaeffer came forward and at his own risk and from his own exchequer advanced the necessary amounts which aggregated over two hundred dollars.

This negligence on the part of a Republican board of Commissioners and Treasurer is another reminder of the manner in which these offices are being conducted by the present incumbents. The public suffers constantly from their negligence and inability—a thing never said of the former officials, Wolf and Greist.

Such gross negligence never occurred under Democratic control of these offices. When jurors were out late on Saturday evenings arrangements were always made beforehand by the Commissioners for prompt payment as soon as released, or they remained in their offices, as a public office should and is under obligations to do and see that every juror is paid who applies at a reasonable time.

In this case how different? every Commissioner, Clerk and Treasurer were gone and offices closed. No arrangements had been made, and the twelve jurymen, many of whom had hotel bills for the week and other necessary expenses standing unpaid, would have been unable to leave town under the circumstances and not the Prothonotary advanced the necessary amounts from his own pocket.

Twelve jurymen were inconvenienced for the sake of one man, the great financier of Centre county and high "cock-a-lorum" in the commissioners office. He might have remained at the office until 9 p. m. Saturday evening but that would have kept him in town over night and taken another "bowl of soup" at Blackford's in the morning.

This is another case of the high-handed "Reform" enacted by the unerring (?) Republican officers. It is the kind of "Reform" a little of which goes a great ways, and the public has more than it can stand.

### FINANCIAL SCHEME.

The following plan is suggested for the purpose of preserving the former reputation and financial standing of Centre county: Put Commissioners Henderson and Decker on the retired list with a pension equal to full pay during term of office, and hire a competent business man to take charge of that office for the rest of the term.

The Democrats see their mistake already in voting for Republican commissioners and discarding Jack Greist.

A TELEGRAM from New York says: Mrs. James G. Blaine, Jr., admitted yesterday that, being forced into a position where she must earn her own living and support her child, she intended to adopt the stage as a profession. Several offers have been made to her, but she has declined to state from whom, or in what capacity she expected to make her debut. No word from her husband has been received by her. She has been at least well advertised.

## DEMOCRATIC VETERANS.

NOT ANTAGONISTIC TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The New Organization Will in no Way Conflict With the Old Association but Will be Purely and Openly Political—What Is Said.

The movement at Indianapolis, Ind., started by Adjutant General Koontz and a few associate democratic veterans, looking to the withdrawal of the democratic members from the Grand Army of the Republic, and the formation of a new benevolent soldiers' organization or order, is given entirely different coloring by statements directly from Adjutant General Koontz, who seems to be the fountain-head of the movement. Very little information has heretofore been obtained from the Adjutant General by the local press correspondents. Mr. Koontz stated in an interview, that the new organization is not antagonistic to the G. A. R. He claims that all newspaper statements to the contrary are in error upon this point; nevertheless the point is a new one heretofore. The Adjutant General emphatically declares they are not fighting the G. A. R. The constitution and by-laws of the new organization are not yet forthcoming to the public. A meeting with some fifty democratic veterans was held presided over by Adjutant General Koontz, at which time an executive committee was appointed by the chair, with instructions to press to organization of subordinate posts throughout the state. The new clubs are to be purely and openly political.

Centre county has a Republican board of commissioners and everybody is sorry for it.

### LIBEL LAWS.

In a paper prepared for the National Editorial Association, Mr. W. H. Brearley, of the Detroit Journal carefully compares the libel laws of the several States and makes some suggestions of amendment. All the States of the Union punish libel as a crime and recognize it as an actionable offence in civil suits for damages. But the law of libel has made great progress since English Judges decided both the law and the facts in regard to a writing charged to be libelous, leaving to juries only to determine whether a defendant should be found guilty of the publication. Most of the States have constitutional provisions to protect the freedom of the press from prosecutions when publications are made from "good motives" or may be proper for public information; but a few of the States have neither constitutional nor statutory provisions on the subject, and punish the offence of libel under the common law.

If barratry, or the practice of inciting law-suits, should be punished as a crime in all the States, Mr. Brearley thinks one-half the evil which the newspapers suffer from libel prosecutions would be removed. He also suggests that a party libeled should give the publisher a written statement of his case at least three days before bringing suit, and that a retraction or explanation should be given weight in mitigation of damages. Wherever juries are judges of the law and the facts this and all other matters pleaded in mitigation of the offense of libel are taken into consideration.

It may be doubted whether any substantial improvement could be made in the libel laws of Pennsylvania for the protection of publishers or the public. The Constitution of Pennsylvania declares that there shall be no conviction for publications "relating to the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity;" and no conviction for publishing "any other matter proper for public investigation or information where the fact that such publication was maliciously or negligently made shall be established to the satisfaction of the jury." At the same time, in all indictments for libel the Constitution of the State gives the jury the right to determine the law and the facts.

What stronger guarantee against frivolous prosecutions for libel could a responsible publisher desire than this? The Constitution of Pennsylvania affords the amplest freedom of the press for the discussion not only of the conduct of public men, whether in or out of office, but of every other matter proper for public information. When newspapers publish matters about private citizens that are not proper for public information, but prove to be malicious libels, they must take the responsibility. Any relaxation of the liberal rule of the Pennsylvania Constitution would encourage negligence on the part of publishers, and would be likely to breed a swarm of libelers in the Commonwealth.—Record.

## WHAT THE DAKOTAS AMOUNT TO.

Now that Dakota is quite certain to be admitted to the Union as two States there is some interest taken even outside this wheat producing Territory as to what Dakota amounts to. The Dakotans assert, and back their assertions with big figures, that it amounts to a great deal.

First as to Territory. It contains 149,100 square miles, a greater area than the States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia together. It measures 430 miles from its northern to its southern border and 370 miles from east to west. Out of this immense area must be deducted 37,000 square miles devoted to Indian reservations and an unknown area of arid territory known as the "bad lands." The Territory contains 610 rivers and streams and 790 lakes and ponds, or about one acre of water to every hundred acres of land.

Next as to population. This is placed at not less than 600,000 and increasing rapidly. Then as to products. The wheat crop of last year was upwards of 30,000,000 bushels, or more than that of any State already in the Union, while the crop of corn and oats were nearly in the same proportion. On the strength of these figures the people of the Territory claim they have been defrauded of their just rights in not being admitted to Statehood years ago.

Just now the merriest war is over the names by which the two coming States shall be known. North and South Dakota, say the Dakotans, but outsiders object to any more North and South States, and suggest Dakota as the name of the Southern and Lincoln as that of Northern State. To this proposition the North Dakotans say no with emphasis. The name of Dakota when applied to wheat has a market value the world over, and the farmers of North Dakota are not sure that Lincoln wheat, though grown on Dakota soil, would sell as well as under the old name. Whether as North and South Dakota or under some other names, however, the two Dakotas are soon to be admitted to the sisterhood of States, and two right prosperous and progressive States they will be.

### DEFEATED DEMOCRACY'S DUTY.

In defeat, as in triumph, the Democratic party has a mission to fulfil. If to-day it succumbs, to-morrow it must renew the struggle to secure the vindication of its principles. A century's experience of the politics of our country has shown those principles to be immutable, and possessed of a vitality proof against all partisan vicissitudes. The political organization based upon the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson is so much a part of our nationality that while the one lives the other must survive.

The National Democracy, having endured its ordeal of twenty years of political inferiority, can again step into the background without loss of hope or courage. We must again be content to hide our time and await the hour of our second and, perhaps, then complete and lasting rehabilitation. If there is no rose color in the party's immediate prospect, there are glimpses of light and tokens of good promise in the not far distant future. Meanwhile, let the party itself to the task of indoctrinating the people with its principles.

Democracy is old enough in the politics of this country to have learned how to profit by the lessons of defeat. No doubt, with a supreme confidence in the justice of its cause, the party from the outset of the late Presidential campaign was too sanguine and neglected observance of some of those conditions of success that depend more upon good generalship than upon the strength of principles or even the superiority of numbers. There was Tuesday 6th a popular vote and there is to-day a preponderating popular sentiment in favor of Democratic supremacy in the conduct of National affairs.

That it is a sentiment not conclusively available under the formula of a Presidential election permits nevertheless the party's recognition that it has a strong hold upon the hearts and intelligence of the people. In the face of the political results of Tuesday 6th the fact remains that the nation, as a whole, and apart from its division into States having separate voices in the Electoral College, is soundly Democratic.

Now that the election is over, let us dismiss that convenient electioneering theory that the winning party will maintain its grasp upon the Federal Government for the next quarter of a century, and entertain the more reasonable idea that there is a sweeping Democratic victory attainable for 1892.

## WILL CONTEST THE JUDGESHIP.

Last week Hon. S. J. McCormick and Addison Candor, of Williamsport, presented a petition to Attorney General Kirkpatrick asking for a commission to investigate alleged frauds in the election of John G. Metzger, who was declared elected president judge of the Twenty-ninth judicial district at the recent election by forty-four majority. The attorney general will present the petition to the governor who is required by law to appoint three nearest judges to conduct the contest. The commission will consist of John Rockefeller, of Northumberland county; Bucher, of Union and Mayer, of Clinton.

### DON'T DO IT YOUNG MEN!

From the Pittsburgh Times we learn what we might safely suppose was the fact, to wit: that persons in great numbers are preparing to apply for office under the new administration. This is not good news. Unquestionably there will be many changes, but these are very few offices that are worth as much as some other employment would be. It is not as it used to be. The pay of a few offices are equal to what most of the incumbents could earn at other employment. Few men ever came out of office as well as when they went in. Virtually their years have been thrown away, for long continuance in office unites one for other employment. In certain important respects office holding is demoralizing and unfits men for business pursuits when the days of office holding are over, as over they surely will be, and sooner than some expect.

To those who intend to apply for office especially young men, we say don't do it! Stick to the business you are in. If you have none seek one instead of office. The offices must be filled, it is true, and they will be; but the majority of those who get into them, when their time is up or before, will say it was a mistake to have accepted them. There is neither special honor, nor any profit as a rule in officeholding. The young man who goes into the business of office hunting takes a downward step. It is a poor business at the very best.

A dozen jurymen discharged after serving for one week, and no one on hand to try them is the way Centre county commissioners attend to business. It is a little like offering a reward of \$100 for the capture of a murderer, a week after the crime.

### SUED FOR DENYING BY MEANS OF A POSTAL CARD.

A singular suit was brought before United States Commissioner McClelland at Pittsburgh. It is the first action under the new act of Congress forbidding the use of postal cards as means of notifying creditors of their debts. C. R. Bushfield, a grocer sent postal cards to Frank Small, asking him to pay his grocery bill or the bill would be put in the hands of the bad-debt collector. The suit was brought by Government Inspector W. W. Caraway, at the instance of Small, and charges Bushfield with using the mails to injure the character of the respondent.

A SENSIBLE girl will not keep a lot of cosmetics and drugs on her toilet table, but there are a few articles she should always have in a convenient place. She should have an array of glass-stopped bottles containing alcohol, alum, camphor, borax, ammonia and glycerine or vaseline. A little camphor and water may be used as a wash for the mouth and throat if the breath is not sweet. Powdered alum applied to a fever sore will prevent it from becoming very unsightly or noticeable, insect stings or eruptions on the skin are relieved by alcohol. A few grains of alum in tepid water will relieve people whose hands perspire very freely, rendering them unpleasantly moist. A few drops of sulphuric acid in the water are also beneficial for this purpose and are also desirable for those whose feet perspire freely. We should always recommend care in the use of scented soap; in many cases the perfume is simply a disguise for poor quality. A good glycerine or honey soap is always preferable, of course one may rely on scented soap from a high class manufacturer, but it usually costs more than it is worth. In addition to the soap for bathing, white castile should be kept for washing the hair. Occasionally a little borax or ammonia may be used for this purpose, but it is usually too harsh in its effects.

The biggest man in the world lives in Iowa and he weighs 792 pounds, measuring 6 feet 4 inches in height. This car load of flesh and bones was born 32 years ago, and when he goes to Church he puts \$1 into the collection basket and takes a whole seat to himself.

## A CENTURY AGO.

THE FIRST INAUGURATION AND THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

Harrison's Inauguration Will be an Interesting Event—100 Years After Washington—Other Facts.

Within the next five months the people of this country will have opportunities to witness two ceremonial occurrences of national interest and importance. Each of these observances will arouse widespread enthusiasm and draw together an immense concourse of people from all parts of the Union.

Although the first of them—the inauguration of President elect Harrison will be apt to awaken regret in the minds of many who had hoped for a continuance of administrative rule based on the principles which they considered the best fitted to advance the material interest of the country, yet this will not prevent them from cheerfully acquiescing in the will of the majority and uniting in support of all commendable measures. In this particular the Republic every four years presents a spectacle that arouses the respectful wonder of all the nations of the globe.

But in the second of the coming events—that which is to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States—no possible element of regret can enter. As a little more than a year ago the whole people participated in the celebration of the centenary of the Constitution, so, likewise, will the whole people take part in spirit if not in person, in celebrating the centenary of its fitting sequel—the elevation of General Washington to the Chief Magistracy of the young nation.

Even as marking the marvelous changes accomplished in the course of the century the coming celebration will have about it a deep significance. The day fixed for putting the machinery of the new Government into operation was the 4th of March, 1789. On that day, however, but twenty members of the House and Senate had come together. Letters were sent out imploring the members who were delaying business by their absence to present themselves, but it was not until April that the House succeeded in getting a quorum. The Senate's quorum was secured on April 6th, and on that day Congress counted the electoral votes.

General Washington's journey from his home at Mount Vernon to New York was necessarily slow, considering the modes of travel then in vogue, and the time was lengthened by the character of the ovations on his way. It was, consequently, the 23d of April when he embarked from Elizabethtown, N. J., in a barge and crossed to the lower part of New York; and a week later, April 30th, when he stood in front of the Senate Chamber, on Wall street, and, after taking the oath of office, heard Chancellor Livingston's proclamation, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States!" re-echoed from the cheering throng below. Of all the centennial observances we have had since 1876 this will, in the eyes of many, hold a strong place; and every State will undoubtedly help to swell the pomp and enthusiasm with which it promises to be celebrated.—Record.

### GOVERNOR BEAVER ACCEPTS.

Chairman Britton, of the Inaugural Committee, received a letter from Governor Beaver of Pennsylvania accepting the committee's invitation to act as marshal of the inaugural parade. In this letter the Governor says:

"I appreciate the compliment conveyed in this invitation, particularly in view of the manner in which you have linked my name with that of the greatest living soldier of our country in your communication. I had expected to be present at the inauguration of General Harrison in any event and would have been pleased and proud to accompany our division of the National Guard of Pennsylvania as I have had the honor of doing on former like occasions. The call of the committee to assume the greater care, labor and responsibility is not to be disregarded, and I therefore accept the invitation, relying on the cordial co-operation of your committee in the discharge of the duties which the position carries with it."

A GIRL who went to service for the first time, wrote to her mother that her master and mistress were very dirty, for they washed their hands ever so many times a day. This is on a par with the lad who was visiting friends and who said that he could not understand how it was that they liked to comb their hair so frequently, he only combed his once a week and then it was a trouble to him. So we think.

## IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

The Juniata county jail has not a single prisoner.

Baker's Summit, Bedford county, has 22 voters and 19 dogs.

Croyle is the name of a new post office in Snake Spring township, Bedford county, with J. F. Snyder postmaster.

A Saxton, Bedford county, man presented fourteen plump turkeys to fourteen plump widows Thanksgiving Day.

The Wharton school house, near Mifflin county, was destroyed by fire on the 3d inst. Defective fire. Loss, \$450.

Mrs. Bratton, mother of Mrs. D. M. Dull and Mrs. Ida McClelland, of Oliver township, Mifflin county, died on the 1st inst.

Mrs. John Hoffman, of Clay township, Huntingdon county, was found dead in bed on the 27th ult. She was in her 27th year.

A young man who shot off a revolver in the city limits of Altoona on Sunday was fined \$20 and costs yesterday by the mayor.

Mrs. John Horning, of Mifflintown, died on Thursday night. She had been suffering from mental affliction for some time.

George B. A. Mick, of St. Clairsville, Bedford county, is going to wear his 1840 hat at the inauguration of President Harrison.

On the 27th ult. James Nolan was knocked off the railroad track at the curve near Longfellow, Mifflin county, and almost instantly killed.

Dogs tore up several sheep belonging to Reuben Kauffman, of Union township, Mifflin county, the other night. The dogs were detected and killed.

John Sankey and John S. King, who were so badly scalded by a boiler explosion near Allensville, Mifflin county, some time ago, are rapidly improving.

The stock stable of the McClure Cattle company at Donnelly, Westmoreland county, with nineteen mules and two horses, were burned Saturday. Loss, \$3,500.

J. P. Metzler, of Somerset county, recently shot a wild goose that measured seven feet from tip to tip, and four feet from the end of the tail to the end of its bill.

Thirty chickens were stolen from Amos Arnold, of Ferguson Valley, Mifflin county, recently, and in pay the thief left his cane in the henry. By his cane he is known.

A 3-year-old son of John Sasarum, of Jersey Shore, was burned to death Friday evening. The child amused itself by igniting articles at the stove and when found its clothing was in flames.

Charles Selsor, of McConnellburg, Fulton county, fell off a chair the other day and split his nose and blacked both his eyes. Miss Lizzie Hohman, of the same town, fell off a ladder and broke a bone in her forearm and fractured a rib.

Typhoid fever is epidemic in Tuscarora valley, Juniata county—one physician having thirty patients, four of which have proved fatal. Two of these were Aaron K. and John P. Swartz, sons of Jonathan Swartz, aged respectively 24 and 22 years.

While Rob Hench of Elliottsburg, Perry county, was sawing shingles, on the 1st inst. a piece of lumber caught on the circular saw and was hurled with great force toward Mr. Hench striking him over the left eye, cutting a leg gash and otherwise bruising him.

At an early hour Tuesday morning the post office at South Fork was broken into by burglars, who blew open the safe and carried off postage stamps to the value of about \$75. The post office is in the store of the Argyle Coal Company. Mr. D. W. Luke is the postmaster.

A scaffold gave way at the Bedford Springs 4th inst, with two workmen, and one, Matthew Diehl, of Bedford, was struck on the leg by a heavy piece of timber, causing a fracture and mashing of the bones above the ankle. The other escaped with a few cuts and bruises.

A sentimental young lady asks, "Why is it that two souls mated in the imperceptible mystery of their nativity, meet by each other on the ocean currents of existence without being instinctively drawn together, blended and beautified in the assimilated alchemy of eternal love? It is because butter is thirty cents a pound, and a good sealskin moccasin costs as high as \$120."

JAKE KILLRAIN has challenged Sullivan to fight with "bare knuckles to a finish" for \$5,000 a side, the fight to take place in five weeks or more if Sullivan needs it to recover his health.