

# The Centre Democrat.



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## The Centre Democrat.

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### Editorial.

ON an inside page of this issue we give the full text of President Harrison's message to congress, last week.

BELLEVILLE people are anticipating a business boom this coming spring. There is promise of some of our idle industries starting up again.

It is said that there are fourteen applicants for the Belleville postmaster-ship. Mr. Fiedler's commission expires Feb. 1st, '94.

CLEVELAND will not make any more speeches until March 4, '93, when he will be inaugurated. Much talk available little.

THE will of the late Jay Gould was offered for probate Monday afternoon. The executors say in their petition that the property in this state consists of \$2,000,000 in realty and \$70,000,000 in personality.

THE annual session of the State Grange Patrons of Husbandry convened in the hall of the house of representatives on Wednesday. Senator Brown, of York, is a candidate for worthy master.

It is time that city, boro and township officials be looking ahead for the annual spring election. Changes in the manner of nominating candidates, etc., should be carefully studied so as to avoid mistakes.

GOVERNOR Russell, of Massachusetts, says that he did not spend a cent upon his re-election. He is very fortunate. There are plenty who spent all their hoard and got left. The Governor of Massachusetts is a genuine mascot.

The cost of the Homestead riot, according to the estimate of Adjutant General Greenland, for the pay, maintenance and transportation of troops will foot up \$450,000. Warrants have already been drawn for \$375,223.49. The bill of the Pennsylvania railroad company aggregates \$52,000.

By the changing of the state boundary line between Pennsylvania and Delaware several families find that they have been moved from Delaware into Pennsylvania. All their properties are recorded in Delaware and there is much excited discussion over the report of the boundary commission and many interesting complications are expected to arise.

The republicans are making desperate efforts to gain control of some of the western states in order to have republicans sent to the U. S. Senate to retain control of that branch of government. Should they be successful in this they could block all attempts of reform in tariff, pensions and other legislation, which the democratic party pledged itself to enact. They will not likely succeed, yet there is danger of such a course.

THE move on foot to chose presidents by the popular vote is again being agitated in Congress and by the papers. For a number of years, always after a presidential election, this form of agitation arose and then subsided. But each election the fact that the present electoral system is bad, is more strongly impressed upon the attention of thoughtful men. Of late years the evils due to this system have become more apparent than ever. We doubt if the present congress will attempt to inaugurate such a radical change; it would be useless as the republican senate and president would not be in sympathy with such a mode. The opportunity of buying enough votes in a pivotal state that would insure the election of a president by its electoral vote would be gone. Campaigning in a few states also would be gone. Every voter in the country would be of equal importance, no matter whether he resided in doubtful Indiana, democratic Texas or the republican strongholds of Pennsylvania. That would be fair, equitable and in harmony with our American institutions. The electoral system has outlived its usefulness and it remains for the democracy, under the next administration, to inaugurate this much needed reform.

### THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Bills Changing the Term to Six Years and Providing for a Popular Vote.

The House Committee on the Election of President and Vice-President held a meeting last week and considered several measures regarding the election of President and Vice-President. Mr. Belzhoover's resolution providing that the term of the President shall be for six years, and that he shall be ineligible for reelection, was referred to a subcommittee. A meeting to consider this measure will soon be held.

Representative Springer appeared before the committee and advocated his resolution providing that the people shall vote directly for President and Vice-President, and that the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice of the highest appellate court in the State are to constitute a Board to canvass the vote, dividing the votes among the several candidates in proportion to the vote cast for each; also that the term of Congressman shall, after 1896, be for three years and begin on Jan. 1. Col. McClure of the Philadelphia Times also appeared and advocated Mr. Springer's resolution.

The resolution most favored by the committee is one introduced by Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, which was the outcome of the consideration of a number of measures of this character. It provides for the election of the President and Vice President directly by the people; that the States shall have the same number of electoral votes as at present provided by law, and the electoral votes shall be distributed among the persons voted for in the State at large as President and Vice-President respectively in proportion to the number of votes cast for each. It is also provided that if two or more candidates have the same number of electoral votes the one having the highest number of popular votes shall be President or Vice President, as the case may be. In the event of the two Houses of Congress failing to agree on the result of the election according to the certificates from the various State officers, the House of Representatives shall determine who shall be President, and the Senate who shall be Vice-President. If there is no choice because two or more have the same number of electoral votes and popular votes, the choices shall be determined by the House as to the Presidency, and the Senate to the Vice-Presidency. While the resolution does not provide that a President may serve two terms, it contains a proviso that no person while serving as President shall be eligible to election to that office. If this amendment were in force it would not operate against Mr. Cleveland serving a second term, as he was not President when elected in November last.

### Hayes Inaugurated Twice.

Ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes says that when the 4th of March falls on Sunday the the President-elect should be inaugurated. His case was an instance in point. "I was at the White House on Sunday," he said, "with President Grant, Chief Justice Waite and Secretary of State Hamilton Fish. There was talk at that time of Mr. Tilden being inaugurated at New York, and as March 4 fell on Sunday and the inauguration ceremonies were fixed for Monday, it was thought that a question might be raised as to the legality of the inauguration on that day. So Chief Justice Waite administered the oath of office to me at the White House on Sunday."

### A Neat Trick.

For the benefit of our merchants who do not advertise, we give them the following pointer from a Clearfield exchange: A man entered one of the grocery stores in the town and ordered a good outfit of provisions, one of the items being a goodly supply of tobacco. The fellow represented that he was working in the stone quarries, the store having some trade with the quarrymen, the story was not doubted. The goods were put up. Before the man left he casually remarked that he had some other business to attend to and would come for the goods in an hour or so, but as he wanted some tobacco he would take that package, several pounds along. He took it and himself out of sight but not out of mind of the storekeeper. The balance of the goods were returned to the shelves. It was a neat trick well played.

### The Bridge Case Appealed.

The attorneys for the Lock Haven Bridge Company have taken an appeal to the Supreme Court from the verdict rendered at trial of the case in the Union county court. The case will be argued before the Supreme Court on March 13th.

### AMAZING FIGURES.

The following shows, at a glance, how pensions have been increased in the last twenty-seven years. Up to the end of the current fiscal year the sum paid out will aggregate over \$1,500,000,000!

Fiscal year ended June 30.	Number Pensioners.	Yearly Pensions.
1865	85,986	\$ 16,338,811
1866	126,722	15,665,322
1867	153,183	20,696,522
1868	169,643	23,782,387
1869	187,923	28,476,622
1870	198,686	28,240,202
1871	207,495	34,443,806
1872	232,229	28,533,409
1873	238,411	29,350,421
1874	236,341	29,038,415
1875	234,821	29,456,216
1876	232,137	28,257,396
1877	232,104	27,963,702
1878	223,598	27,137,091
1879	242,755	35,121,462
1880	259,802	36,777,174
1881	288,830	50,079,280
1882	285,097	61,245,194
1883	303,658	66,012,574
1884	323,756	55,429,228
1885	345,125	56,102,297
1886	355,783	63,405,804
1887	406,007	75,029,102
1888	492,557	80,298,599
1889	499,725	87,694,779
1890	537,944	105,096,855
1891	676,100	124,415,951
1892	876,603	130,055,613

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, an appropriation has been made of \$144,956,000. Commissioner Raum estimates that there will be a deficiency of \$10,508,621. For the next fiscal year he estimates an expenditure of \$165,000,000. The actual expenditure will probably not be less than \$200,000,000.

### Organ Recital.

For some months extensive repairs have been going on in the interior of the Presbyterian church at this place. Among the improvements will be a handsome pipe organ costing \$5,000 that will be a fine musical instrument as well. We cannot give a full list of everything being done, only say that the entire interior will be remodeled, refurnished and frescoed. It was announced that the building would be completed by Christmas time when a grand organ recital would be given at the opening. As customary with all building and such like, unavoidable delays have arisen and the building will not be opened before the 10th or 15th of January.

The organ recital for this occasion will be a rare musical treat in which a number of celebrities from Philadelphia and other cities will participate. It will be the musical treat of the season. Further particulars and programme will be given later.

### Stray Animals.

Inquiry is frequently made as to the law regarding stray animals. The law in relation to the matter directs about as follows: If you take up a stray animal you must, within ten days, give notice of it to your township clerk, who must make an entry of the same; then you advertise the animal in your local paper; and sixty days after such advertisement has appeared you apply to a justice of the peace to sell the animal; he issues a warrant to the constable, who gives ten days' notice by posters and then sells it, and you get it, or your expenses, according to the sale. The penalty for taking up a stray animal and not giving notice is \$5, and besides this the owner can come upon your place and take it away without saying anything.

### A Rich One.

Miss Helen Gould's inheritance makes her, probably with one exception, the richest young and unmarried woman in America. The fortune of Miss Garrett, daughter of the late president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, is larger than Miss Gould's, but a part of Miss Garrett's fortune has been made by her own business sagacity. Miss Gould is abundantly competent to take care of her interests, for she inherits some of her father's business quality, although in disposition she suggests her mother. She is now richer than any of the daughters of William H. Vanderbilt, and very much richer than any of the Astor girls.

### Filling the Wheel.

For the past two weeks jury commissioners Bower and Ailey have been at work filling the jury wheel with new names for the ensuing year. As many new names are put in as were drawn for jurors during the past year, so that when a name is put in the jury wheel it will remain there until it is drawn. The commissioners say there are a number of names in the wheel that were put there five years ago, and by pure chance failed to be drawn in that time.

To fill the wheel with men of good, sound judgment, honor and integrity and to select them from each township according to the pro rata vote, is not an easy task if it is to be well done.

LANE'S MEDICINE MOVES THE BOWELS EACH DAY. In order to be healthy this is necessary.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

Senator Vorhees, whose political wisdom teeth were cut some years ago, rightly characterizes the idea that the republicans really wish to see the democrats control the Senate of the Fifty-third Congress, as absurd. Said he: "The idea that the republicans will stand back or give in an inch is as ridiculous as the story that the democrats are afraid to meet the issue and organize the Senate, and the last is an insult to the intelligence of every democrat. We will assume all responsibility and we are ready to begin to-morrow if need be. The democratic party can be depended upon to do two things—remove the unjust burdens of taxation from the necessities of life and provide the necessary revenue for the government. The republicans are prone to talk of our mistakes. We may have made mistakes, but theirs have been crimes."

It is now certain that when Senator Hale made that public statement about his and other republicans wishing to see the democrats control the Senate his intention was to throw the democrats off their guard in order that a deep laid republican scheme might be carried out to defeat the will of the people by purchasing votes enough in certain state legislatures to retain control of the Senate and enable the protected millionaires to continue to pocket their exorbitant profits. The schemers, among whom are such experts as Clarkson, Manley and Estee, met in Washington and their meetings were attended by millionaires Alger and Pullman, who, it is supposed, are the purse holders for the ring which wants to buy some more protection.

Little things count up. The House committee on Appropriations in its work of preparing the sundry civil appropriation bill has discovered that the eight hour law passed at the last session will increase the expenditures of the government about 15 per cent.

Democratic printers who expect to stick type in the big Government printing office in the near future, whether Mr. Harrison extends the civil service rules to that establishment or not, will be interested in representative Scott's bill prohibiting the employment of apprentices in that office. Mr. Scott says only journeymen should be employed by the government; that boys who wish to learn to be printers and pressmen should do so in private establishments, and that his bill will pass.

It has been decided to hold a joint caucus of the democrats in the House and Senate in a few days for the purpose of mapping out just what business, exclusive of appropriation bills, shall be taken up at this session.

A poll of the House and Senate shows a majority in favor of the restriction of immigration in some way at this session, but an agreement has yet to be reached upon the best method of doing it, although the one year's suspension appears to be the favorite method.

Senator Teller says the silver men will oppose the repeal of the present silver law until a substitute that is better is proposed.

Representative Catchings, of Mississippi, who managed Speaker Crisp's last campaign is confident that Mr. Crisp will be Speaker of the next House. He says: "Of course there will be an opposing candidate or candidates; the Speakership of the House is too great an honor for any man to expect to get without opposition, but the opposition has not, in my opinion, the remotest chance of becoming strong enough to defeat Mr. Crisp."

### Important to Supervisors.

Judge Woodward, of the Luzerne courts, recently gave an important decision relating to a common abuse of road supervisors. He decided that a supervisor could not be paid for work done on the roads by the supervisor's minor children or for work of teams owned by themselves.

The decision is in complete harmony with both the letter and spirit of our laws which forbid public officials from contracting with themselves and profiting by their own delegated authority, and there is little reason to doubt that every judge in the state would affirm Judge Woodward's decision, if such an issue came into their courts.

### Postal Fees Reduced.

The United States Postoffice Department has issued an order reducing the fee for registering mail matter from ten to eight cents per ounce or fraction thereof. The change is directed to take effect January 1, 1893. And yet, notwithstanding this new order, the system of money order and postal notes is the quickest as well as cheapest for small sums.

### IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BIBLE.

It may serve to mitigate the intensity of feeling over Professor Briggs' trial in New York city and that of Professor Smith at Cincinnati if the excellent people who fear lest modern scholarship is undermining faith in the infallibility of the Bible will bear in mind these few salient facts:

The doctrine that the Bible is the word of God and a perfect rule of religion and practice does not necessarily include any claim that the book which is known by that name contains no mixture of human error. This will be easily seen by a few instances. In the first place, the only Bible that most church members ever read or could read is a translation from the original Hebrew and Greek languages, in which the several portions were first written. There are two sorts of translations in common use among Protestants, known as the old and new versions. They differ from each other in thousands of particulars, none of them of fundamental importance, to be sure, but the least of them sufficient to prove that both versions cannot be perfect.

In the second place, each of those versions was based upon what biblical scholars call a "text," i. e., a Greek and Hebrew Bible made up by comparison of thousands upon thousands of "various readings" found in the hundreds of ancient manuscripts and fragments of manuscripts of various portions of the original Scriptures that have been preserved and handed down to our time. No man living knows, no reputable scholar of any theological schools pretend to know, to a certainty just what the original Greek New Testament and Hebrew Old Testament were. There are unquestionably human errors in the "texts" as well as the translations.

In the third place, the original Hebrew had no "vowel points," only the consonant skeletons of words; while the original Greek had neither punctuation marks nor discrimination between capitals and small letters. Yet in many instances the precise meaning of Scripture passages depends on these very things, that have been supplied from time to time according to fallible human judgment.

It would be easy to extend this list, but the above will amply suffice to show that in teaching that there are elements of human imperfection to be found in the Bible, the men now being tried for heresy are not advancing any strange and terrible doctrine, or doing anything that is in the slightest degree, of necessity, destructive to faith in Holy Scripture as a sufficient rule of religious faith and practice. They are merely employing the well recognized methods of biblical learning to certain hitherto neglected departments of the subject, and calling attention to evidences which tend to show that the elements of human imperfection, long and universally acknowledged to exist in certain features of the Bible, are presented also in certain other features.—Pres.

### A Treat.

Mr. Henry M. Hickley, of Danville, Pa., will lecture in the court house Monday evening, Dec. 19th, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, subject of lecture, "Saul—Paul, or The Manliness of Christianity." He is the author of this lecture and is a man of broad intellect and deep thought, his oratory is sublime and his flights of eloquence carry his audience by storm and never fails to hold them intensely interested during his discourses. Mr. Hickley spoke here some weeks ago for the Young Men's Christian Association and those who heard him will, no doubt, be glad of another opportunity to hear him, and those who missed his talk on the former occasion will no doubt be glad of this chance to hear him. The lecture is one which always brings forth the most flattering press notices and never fails to benefit those who hear it. It is a masterly effort on the exposition of christian character and especially as it is found in "Saul of Tarsus" whose conversion made him such a wonderful man as was "Paul the Apostle" for Jesus Christ. Those who come will not only be well repaid by the lecture but will also help on the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, in Belleville, which is seeking to broaden its facility for the comfort and welfare of our young men. There are many things needed to do this—money is one thing. Will you help us and better yourself by hearing Mr. Hickley at the court house, Monday evening, Dec. 19th? Admission 25 cents. X

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We have organized a Mail Order Department. Send for samples of new dress goods, we have an immense line.

Look at our line of low priced goods. Say you want something cheap for common wear, a man's suit at \$3.50—a winter coat for \$1.50 and \$1.75.

We have suits for little, wee toddlers. Ye fond mothers come and see our Jersey suits in navy blue, bottle green, brown, trimmed in braids, and embroidered—2.50, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00 and \$6. All sizes, 3 years up.

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