

MOST NEWS.....
LEAST MONEY

The Centre Democrat.

A FREE
SCHOLARSHIP.
SEE PAGE 8

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop. BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1895. VOL. 17. NO. 42.

MR. MILLER HESITATES

To Answer a Few Simple Questions.

TAKEN FROM BATES' HISTORY

Marked as Having Deserted—What does that Mean—A Willing Witness in Libel Proceedings—Our Five Questions.

As was expected, last week, the republican organs almost went into hysterics to refute the CENTRE DEMOCRAT'S allusion to Abraham V. Miller's war record. They quibbled on technicalities, greatly magnified a few small and unimportant errors that did not change the point at issue; gave an extended account of Mr. Miller's experience on the battle field—all of which was conceded; called the CENTRE DEMOCRAT all kind of hard names. Yet in all this space, of about ten columns, there was a plain effort to evade and avoid the point we spoke of—why Mr. Miller did not receive the commission in Company E, 184th Regiment, of Captain.

Abraham V. Miller is a candidate for an important office and is making his claim on the fact that he was an old soldier. His incompetency for the position has been admitted by the Gazette, which promises that if Mr. Miller should be elected he will engage help, and that the republican attorneys will guarantee that the office will be properly conducted by someone. A man must have an unusually good war record to be elected in spite of incompetency, and for that reason it is fair, just and proper that in such a case a candidate's complete war record be known by the public. He should not hesitate to answer any questions, or withhold any information he can furnish in regard to the same.

When members of his own company, comrades of his own G. A. R. Post, openly, on the streets and in this office, make serious charges against a portion of Mr. Miller's conduct during the war, it is not malicious or dishonorable for this or any other paper to respectfully call his attention to it in a plain, unambiguous way and ask him to make an explanation to the public and offer the contents of the paper for the same. If that is not honorable we do not comprehend the meaning of the term. That is exactly what this paper has done towards Mr. Miller. He dodged the issue; in order to distract attention and gain sympathy he is accusing the editor of maliciously maligning his war record. As to this last statement, we are willing to leave this to the judgment of all fair-minded readers.

The Gazette, which never could fairly face an issue; a notorious dodger, that can only meet facts with poetical effusions, Dutch philosophy and ridicule, attempts an answer by calling our course a "malicious assault" but fails to show why it should be so, further on it makes this startling assertion.

"Mr. Miller has been appealed to by different parties to sue Mr. Kurtz, the editor of the Centre Democrat, for libel, but he says he never made any money in that way, and he had no money to invest in litigation, although he has been offered the best of counsel free of charge."

That is brag, bluff, political humbug. It don't take in this case. We think we know what we are doing and are ready at any time to meet their issue; but have some preference as to what court should hear this particular case.

By way of information, on last Friday a prominent and intelligent citizen of Milesburg called at this office. He said he saw an intimation in the Gazette that libel charges might be preferred in the courts, against us by Mr. Miller. He came of his own accord, to inform the writer that the CENTRE DEMOCRAT had told the truth and that in event of libel proceedings he would volunteer data and records, still in his possession, that would prove it to be the truth. He says he knows all about the investigation, was summoned by Gov. Curtin as a witness in the bounty stealing affair, at Harrisburg, when company E, and the 184th regiment had the investigation. He preferred not to have a statement made in print over his signature as he does not want to be in political a controversy. Further, he is no Democrat, but he believes in the truth being known. Unfortunately, as it would violate a confidence, we are unable to give the gentleman's name. So much for libel proceedings, and bluff.

Mr. Miller is so anxious to rush in and speak of how he was elected—sentiment to catch some and succeeded by all—why does he not make some effort to explain that episode at Harrisburg. That is what we want. The following five questions were asked Mr. Miller, last week and remain unanswered:

1. Did you know that an investigation was made in regard to recruiting officers retaining bounty money from soldiers?

2. Did you expect or have any assurance of being appointed captain of company E, or did the members of this company consider your appointment probable?

3. Why did you not regularly enlist as other members did?

4. Were any of the soldiers from Centre county, recruited by you, accredited to Lehigh or any other county, and if so, why?

He has had ample time, and the columns of this paper were extended him. We leave the public to draw their own conclusion why he dodges, avoids and hesitates.

CENTRE DEMOCRAT VINDICATED.

The statements made through this paper, in regard to a portion of Mr. Miller's war record can be briefly summed up: Mr. Miller helped to recruit soldiers for 184th regiment, and especially Company E, Centre county soldiers were credited to Lehigh county to get more bounty, part of which, it was charged, some recruiting officers would keep. An investigation followed before Gov. Curtin showing that \$9,690 were taken from soldiers; A. V. Miller, for recruiting soldiers was expected to be commissioned Captain of Company E, and other recruiting officers of Centre county to have commissions in the same company; after the exposure Mr. Miller and the other recruiting officers did not receive the commissions expected and we asked Mr. Miller to explain why it happened; and why John McKeage, of Hollidaysburg, was appointed instead. This is the issue boiled down and dodged by him in his statements.

ANOTHER QUESTION.

Mr. Miller's war record has often been questioned for another reason. It was spoken of when seeking the nomination. Last week an old soldier and a member of Gregg Post, came to this office with "Bates History of Penna. Volunteers," Volume 5. On page 160, it being in Company D, 184th regiment, the following record is found:

"Miller, Abraham V., private, mustered in March 2, 1864, Deserted March 1864."

Bates' history is the recognized standard authority, copied from the official records. We know nothing of this entry; make no accusations, but would respectfully ask Mr. Miller what that means? Is it an error?

One week still remains. Will he answer?

Merchant of Venice.

Apart from the finished acting, that will be witnessed in the presentation of that fine standard play, "The Merchant of Venice," Monday night, the scenery will attract most attention. It is the most beautiful and most massive lot of scenic pictures ever offered to Bellefonte. It was painted by these famous scenic artists: Milton C. Slemmer, Ernest Albert and Thomas G. Moses. Among other pictures this scenery illustrates the Grand Square in Venice, the Jewish quarter, the Grand canal, Portia's house at Belmont and a Venetian Court of Justice. This scenery is brand new. The players are led by three bright stars—Charles B. Hanford, Elihu R. Spencer and Nora O'Brien. They are helped by seventeen artful players, and even the smaller characters being interpreted in faultless fashion. In Williamsport, as well as other places, this company is regarded as well nigh matchless.

We want every democrat at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5th.

VOTES count. That is why you should come to the polls Tuesday, November 5th.

NOTHING seems to have escaped the last republican legislature and the approval of the present state executive in the increase of salaries or the creation of new offices.

TWELVE thousand dollars was heretofore a sufficient appropriation for the office of state reports, stationery and clerk hire, etc., but has been increased by the legislature of 1895, to \$16,000.

Every sincere democrat should stop arguing politics, the campaign is almost over and the most important duty remains—get out the vote. Bestir yourself and see that every democratic voter in the district will come and vote.

NEWSPAPER controversies over political questions may prove interesting, the appalling extravagance may disgust the average taxpayer, but the only remedy is to get to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, and bring your neighbor with you. Votes only count.

Help Wanted.

250 ladies to assist in taking home the great stock of coats, capes and wraps, now in the ladies department of the music store.

Hurry up! such beauties in coats—short and sweet. Capes, too pretty to leave here. Come and try them on—trial free. Prices to suit the times. All are invited to call.

11-14
AKENS MUSIC STORE.

A. V. MILLER AND W. F. SMITH.

Contrast of the Prothonotary Candidates.

PUBLIC INTERESTS AT STAKE.

Why Abraham V. Miller Should not be Elected—Asking for an Office that he can not Fill—A very Important Position—Why He is Incompetent.

Would any farmer, in Centre county, consider it a safe plan to put an inexperienced and incompetent man in charge of his farm? We think not. For the same reason it is the greatest folly to think of electing Abraham V. Miller prothonotary of Centre county.

The duties of this office are more exacting than any in the court house. Here a complete and correct record must be kept of all litigation in progress, and carefully noted until terminated. Here many other large interests are involved and the slightest error or oversight might cause an incalculable loss, delay and inconvenience to litigants. The entire practice before the courts is often hampered by an incompetent official. The members of the Centre County Bar Association recognize this fact and are anxious over the result of the coming election, as it means for them either confidence and assurance of the dockets and records being carefully kept, or constant annoyance and anxiety in case Abraham V. Miller is elected. Some one may ask: Why won't Mr. Miller be as acceptable as Wm. F. Smith? The following reasons will explain:

Mr. Smith is a comparatively young man, active and energetic. He is apt, ready and intelligent; besides he is of an agreeable disposition, and accommodating. He possesses a good education. When a young man he devoted his spare time in fitting himself for teaching school, and followed this avocation in various sections of the county for over fifteen years. Being a good penman and accustomed to system and method, he possesses the necessary clerical ability, coupled with a good education that enabled him, in a short time, to fully comprehend the duties and responsibilities of that office. His records are well kept and the public's interest are carefully served. If re-elected he, as in the past, would give the office his best services.

Abraham V. Miller, to be candid, does not have the advantage of educational training. His time and tastes were always in different directions. His penmanship is very faulty, heavy and awkward, which is not necessarily a disgrace, but would be very much out of place, if he were selected to keep the records of court proceedings and the dockets. Being a man of about 60 years of age his habits are fixed and it would be impossible to acquire that slight and dexterity with a pen, which is so necessary and desirable, in this position.

Then again, could he acquaint himself with the many and complicated forms of legal procedure? Not likely, for when a man has passed his three score years, it would be almost impossible. Owing to the defect in his speech caused by the wound received during the war, his work before court in calling witnesses, jurors and administering oaths, reading verdicts, would be so indistinct that scarcely anybody could understand what was said. For years Mr. Miller has born the utmost hatred for anything democratic. During the 60's he is accused of helping to stone democrats in this town. At every election he displays the same feeling at the polls; uncompromising, unrelentingly bitter. A man with such strong political prejudices would not likely change his method of thinking. Under his direction democrats would have very few favors to ask in that office, or even time to linger after transacting business.

The above are timely matters for the voters to consider. If they think there is any virtue in a "public office is a public trust," they now have the opportunity of taking a stand for public good.

We do not mean by the above article that Mr. Miller is incompetent to hold office. We do mean that for some offices he is totally unfit. He would not be competent as a Recorder, Register and especially Prothonotary. He could attend to the duties of a Sheriff, County Treasurer or County Commissioner, as these positions do not require so much clerical work. This is where Mr. Miller made his chief mistake at the start and should have consulted his friends. If some of the thoughtful members of his party hesitate about voting for him, on this account, he should not censure anyone but himself. He is on the wrong track—after something that he is not capable of filling.

We doubt if the people of Centre county will err with him. There has been timely warning.

JUDICIAL EXTRAVAGANCE.

Judges will soon be so plenty in the state, indeed are now, that the people are losing respect for them. They are becoming entirely too common. In many districts they have so little to do, that they get to meddling in politics and some times advise persons, who think they have been wronged by a newspaper, to commence proceedings for libel.

There are ninety-one judges of the Courts of Common Pleas, learned, or supposed to be, learned in the law, and nine Orphans Court judges learned in the law, in the service now in this commonwealth. To this army of judges, many of them small, must be added seven Supreme Court judges, and seven judges of the new Superior Court, making 114 in all. To support this horde of judges for two years the last legislature appropriated \$1,346,600. At least \$200,000 of this could have been saved to the people had they not been fastened upon the state. The seven Superior Court judges and six additional Common Pleas and one additional Orphans Court judge were places that had to be made for party favorites. Certain localities had to be worked in the interest of the combine.

What we would like to know, however, is how long the people are going to stand this? Every day we hear the wail coming up from the people all over the state, "we are overburdened with taxation," "taxes are eating out our substance and keeping us poor." Democrats and republicans, alike, make this complaint. There is just cause for the people to complain, especially in the enormous additions made to the appropriation bill in support of our judiciary by the late republican legislature. Fourteen new judges created; seven at a salary of \$4,000 each per year, with mileage and extra pay for holding court outside of their districts. Seven useless Superior Court judges at a salary of \$7,500 each per year with mileage, etc. Counting all allowances we have not overdrawn it when we say these extra and unnecessary judges cost the people \$100,000 per year, and made the appropriations for this one item \$200,000 greater than it has been heretofore.

The people have the remedy for these evils within themselves. It is short, sharp and conclusive. They can, they should, overthrow the republican party. Until this is done salaries will be increased, new and useless offices created for party followers; the judiciary disgraced, dragged in the dirt and appointments doled out as a consideration for delegates.

The people know full well the absolute truth of what we have here stated. They have within themselves the remedy. A vote for the democratic ticket is a protest against this policy and practice of the republican party of the state. It therefore is the duty of all good citizens to enter their protest at the coming election by voting a full, straight, democratic ticket.

Bogus Commission Firms.

Now that the harvest is over and crops of all kinds are gathered the shippers who are after the farmers' products begin to advertise under the title of commission dealers, and often reap a rich reward by obtaining much produce of which account sales are never rendered. Several of these bogus firms and dealers have been exposed in the past by the press and reports say that these would-be recipients of the farmers' consignments are trying a new scheme and soliciting the station agents on some lines of railroads to use their influence with the farmers in their neighborhood to ship their produce to them, offering the agent a commission for such influence. The railroads are sending instructions to their agents and cautioning them not to influence shippers in any manner and forbidding them to accept commissions from any one. The country press would be doing its readers a favor if it should take the same course in a measure and inform them of the responsibility of the consignees.

A married woman in Altoona has another lover in addition to her husband. By some means the husband learned that the lovers were writing letters to each other, and of course it was but natural that he should desired to get some of the letters. He soon captured a letter. It was one the wife wrote to the lover, and he raised a fuss over it, but was greatly surprised when a suit was brought by his wife's lover against him for unlawfully opening a letter addressed to another person. He is bound over to answer the charge in the United States court.

Relative to Voting.

A man who failed to be assessed can vote at the November election by calling two men who will swear that he has been a resident of the district 60 days. But if he fails to pay a state or county tax, assessed within two years, immediately preceding the election, there is no legal power that will secure a vote.

ISSUES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Clearly Defined by Chairman N. B. Spangler.

WHAT YOU ARE TAXED FOR.

The Extravagance of the Republicans Must be paid in Taxes—What Your Vote Should Be—Public Funds Squandered by Scheming Politicians.

INTRODUCTORY.

On the 5th of November, next, the people of the county, under the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, will be required to elect persons to fill two of the most important offices within their gift.

IN CENTRE COUNTY.

A Brief Statement of Democratic and Republican Rule.

From 1863 to the first Monday of January, 1888, all the offices in the county were filled by the candidates chosen by the Democratic party. At the election in November, 1887, for the first time since 1860, the control of the office of Sheriff, Treasurer, Recorder and of the Commissioners passed into the hands of the Republican party.

DEMOCRATIC SURPLUS.

The Democratic Board of Commissioners, on the first Monday of January, 1888, turned over the county to the Republican party, free from debt, and a balance over and above all liabilities, of \$24,096.00. The Sheriff's and Treasurer's office had been carefully conducted, and were clean in their standing before the people.

REPUBLICAN DEFICIT.

At the end of three years the Commissioner's office was again placed under the control of the Democratic party, but the large balance on hand at the end of 1887 had been squandered, and the county, as shown by statement for 1890, left in debt to the extent of \$5,267.63. The Sheriff's office had been disgraced by the then occupant; fees not allowed by law were collected, and the unfortunate debtor oppressed and plundered. In the Treasurer's office, commissions were taxed and charged and taken by the then Treasurer, on more than \$20,000 due to several townships for road, school and poor purposes, but which had not been paid over.

GOOD OFFICIALS AGAIN.

This, in brief words, was the situation when all the officers named were placed, by the people, into the hands of the Democratic party in January, 1891. At the end of five years, what is the record? The county out of debt, and a balance of assets over liabilities of \$9,440.11, as is shown by the last annual settlement. The Commissioner's office carefully, economically, honestly and intelligently administered. The offices of Sheriff, Prothonotary, Treasurer and District Attorney honorably conducted and competently filled, with no illegal fees taxed or collected.

DESERVE RE-ELECTION.

With this showing, the people of the county are surely satisfied, and should see to it that the important offices to be filled at the coming election are not turned over to the Republican party. Our candidates for Prothonotary and District Attorney are tried, experienced, competent and thoroughly honest. They have discharged their duties and administered their offices strictly for the "benefit of the public." Under our party rules, as well as the principles of civil service, declared by both the great political parties, they should be continued in office.

DISGRACEFUL RECORD.

Democratic Economy at Harrisburg and Republican Misrule.

The experience of the people of the state with the Republican party is, if any thing worse, if that were possible, than that of the people of the county has been. The Democratic administration of the state, which closed in January, 1895, left the treasury of the state full to overflowing; abundance to meet every obligation of the Commonwealth; millions for our public schools and great institutions of learning; thousands for our hospitals and charitable institutions. The Constitution and laws of the state were enforced; public officers derelict in duty called to a stern and speedy account; the dishonest driven from place and the embezzler imprisoned. The government of the state was administered on the principles of rigid honesty and economy; useless and burdensome offices abolished.

REPUBLICAN PROFLIGACY.
This was the condition of our state government when in January, 1885, the

Republican party came into power in the executive and legislative branches (more than two-thirds of the members of the legislature being republicans) and the profligacy which followed it, is APPALLING IN THE EXTREME.

New and useless offices were created for the heelers and rounders, fat places with large salaries and luxurious surroundings were made for the party favorites; the Judiciary largely increased; a new Court, foreign to the provisions of our state constitution and contrary to the custom and practice of our people from the beginning of the Commonwealth to the present, with seven Judges, is created, and the Judgeship peddled out to aid a rotten and corrupt combine to obtain control of our great state, in order that it might have enlarged opportunities to plunder the people.

GOV. HASTINGS' DUPLICITY.

While the Executive was sending special messages to the legislature urging that body to be sparing in its appropriations so that the expense of the state might be kept within its revenues, he signed every bill passed increasing a salary or creating a new office, with a salary attached. The duplicity of the Executive, and the extravagance of the legislature is best shown by a brief exhibit of the appropriations made by the legislature of 1895, for the next two years.

The very first item in the general appropriation bill is:

An appropriation of... \$1,369,816 48 to pay the salaries of the state officers, the clerks in the several departments of the state government and for the incidental expenses of said departments.

To this very same item and for the very same purpose the legislature of 1893 appropriated to cover exactly the same time, two years,..... \$ 552,659 26 Clearly showing that the increase, made in 1895, exceeds that of 1893 to the extent of..... \$ 817,130 22

NEW OFFICES CREATED.

A great portion of this tremendous increase in the appropriations of 1895, over those of 1893, was made necessary to pay the increased salaries of state officials, new and useless offices created and the new ones established.

A few instances will serve to demonstrate more clearly the extravagance of the last legislature and the present state administration:

The Board of Public Grounds and Buildings to which was appropriated in 1893, for two years, the sum of \$30,000 has been extended by the increase of salaries and clerks and employees to need an appropriation for the next two years of \$53,340.56 and DeLaney, a dealer and trader in politics, a man without fitness or qualification, noted for crooked ways, not only in politics but in every public position he has ever held, is made superintendent of this department at an annual salary of \$3,000.

In 1893, \$28,600 was appropriated and was ample to run the department of banking for two years. This department was extended by the last legislature. A fat place was created with a salary of \$6,000 a year for Chairman Gilkison, as a reward for party services and \$134,000 appropriated to this department for the next two years, being an increase of \$105,400.

The salary of the Adjutant General was increased from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per year and \$8,000 appropriated by the legislature for the next year, notwithstanding the constitution prohibits the increase of the salary of any official during the term for which he may be elected or appointed.

The bill teems with the increase of employees, especially stenographers and type-writers. The number of Factory Inspectors are increased from twelve to twenty and the item for their salaries from \$28,000 to \$48,000.

The appropriation to the legislature, which is not included in the amount above stated, is \$601,871, an increase over 1893 of \$57,512.10. Most of the amount of this great increase was made necessary by the additional places created for party adherents in the Senate and House.

UNNECESSARY JUDICIARY.

To the iniquities above stated must be added the creation of six new judges of the courts of Common Pleas; one Orphan Court Judge in the state and seven judges for the Superior Court, adding annually to the burdens of an already over-taxed people more than \$100,000.

AN INCREASE OF \$1,000,000.

To obtain the whole sum of increase, in the burdens of the people added by the last legislature with the sanction of the Executive, this sum after being doubled to make it for two years, must be added to the \$817,130.22 of increase in

(Continued on page four.)