

LOCAL OPTION.

After reading the luminous editorial in last week's Montrose Democrat on the Local Option Law, perhaps the temperance men of Susquehanna county will all feel compelled to vote "Yes," as the only mode of defeating the "Whisky Ring."

The above, from our non-committal contemporary, was undoubtedly intended for a very sharp sarcasm, but like putty it flattens out when it comes in contact with any resisting substance. In his attempt at wit he has blundered upon a fact. It is certainly better for the temperance men of this county to vote license and restrict the sale of liquor to a few persons than to vote for a bill, the provisions of which may be construed so as to place it in the hands of all who choose to engage in it.

We gave what we believe to be the fact, founded upon the text of the law, that there is no penalty denounced in the law, and that the power of the law to suppress the sale of liquor may be avoided. We deem it of the greatest importance to those who are honestly striving for reform in this matter to see it at this session of the legislature that a supplement declaring its true intent and meaning shall be passed, so that they may not be imposed upon by the political "Branges Temperance Whisky Ring." The very unbusiness of the political trickster of the Republican, because we referred to it, means, if it means anything, that the law now is just loose enough for their purposes to cry "Temperance Reform" upon, and he is fearful the political cloven-foot will appear. All we want is that the people shall know, if possible, what they are doing and not be hoodwinked into a trap. We claim—and such wit as the editor of the Republican has displayed will not confute it—that the license granted to persons for selling whisky or anything else is granted to them for a consideration, which is the money they pay for that license, and the penalties for selling without license is for their protection. To illustrate. There was a law that butchers and other vendors should pay a license. When that law was in force no man could retail beef or any kind of meat without license, unless subjected to heavy penalties, and the object of these penalties was to protect those who purchased their license. Now those licenses are abolished, and with that abolition, the penalties. Is there any one who will claim that the abolishing of the license did not abolish the penalties for its violation? This is not any one who chooses, a right to retail meat, without being subjected to the penalties of the former license? If our neighbor of the Republican will point out the error in our conclusion he will show more wit and wisdom than by such puerile attempts at sarcasm as in the above extract. The fluttering which he makes at our little random arrow shows conclusively that he is hit.—Such assumed righteous indignation at the point we have raised will not draw the attention of honest people from the low party tricks of the "Politician Whisky Ring," of which he has proved himself to be an apologist.

Stokes sentenced.

To the surprise of the public, the jury in the trial of Edward S. Stokes for the murder of Jas. Fisk Jr., at the conclusion of the trial on Saturday, after being out three hours, returned a verdict of "Guilty of murder in the first degree." The prisoner felt brave, but very indignant at the finding of the jury, and accused Messrs. Beach and Fullerton, the lawyers of the prosecution, with having been hired by Jay Gould. He also accused some of the opposite witnesses of perjury.

On Monday, Stokes was taken before Judge Boardman for sentence. The court room was densely crowded with persons who had obtained special permission from the sheriff to be present. The mother of the prisoner was also present, attired in deep mourning. His father and sister were absent.

Stokes was exceedingly pale but walked to the table in front of the bench with a firm step. After the court had been opened, Mr. Tremain counsel for Stokes, arose and briefly addressed the court announcing it as his determination to present a bill of exceptions, and closed by requesting the Judge to appoint an early day when the matter could be argued in the court room.

Stokes was then directed to stand up.—On being asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should be passed upon him, Stokes arose, and in measured tones proceeded to state that he had not deliberately violated any law, and that the testimony given against him was manufactured and perjured. The Judge then sentenced him to be hung on Friday, 28th day of February next, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

While standing at the bar the appearance of the prisoner was sadly in contrast with that presented by him on Saturday and during the trial. His face was haggard and the words he spoke were uttered in a low and incoherent manner. It seemed as if the man's heart was broken, his hopes gone, and his whole soul wrought up to intensity by the terrible and unexpected blow that had come upon him.

Immediately after the sentence the doomed man was removed. The crowd around the court, house while the exciting scene was being enacted within was immense.

COLONEL PROLET.

COLONEL PROLET, who recently made such a gallant fight in the Thirtieth Congressional District of this State, but was defeated, has addressed the following letter to his friends and supporters. It is characteristic of its author, and will make him still stronger with the people:

WYBOSX, December 28, 1872. Editor Argus.—The gentlemen who braved the cold that will ever distinguish the 24th of December, 1872 for the purpose of casting their votes for me to be their representative in the National Legislature, for the period of fifty-eight days, I desire in this public manner to thank through the columns of your paper, and thence to other papers, of similar party affiliations, in the Thirtieth Congressional District. The nomination was tendered me unanimously through the instrumentality of gentlemen who have hitherto opposed my candidacy. I accepted (with very little hope of success beyond what was inspired by the almost unanimous wish of my immediate neighbors, who know most of me, and gave me nearly a unanimous support)—since to have refused would have been interpreted as a rejection of kindness that had come at last with the lapse of years. The unwearied efforts of mere party, and the office-holders who feared my election, have prevailed. Another has the sanction of the majority.—I hope he will convince the people engaged in the industrial interests, that he can speak for them, though engaged in a pursuit that makes its gain at the expense of labor. If he shall merge the mere Shylock in the open advocate of the business interests of our people, I will be the first to speak his praise.

On the other hand, should he be the willing voter for Cameron's French indemnity claim, now pending in Congress, and similar fraudulent preferences for getting the people's money out of the people's treasury, I shall, if living, remind the people that it would have been their interest to have instructed me to speak for them in Congress. I close by saying to friends that I am just as grateful for their support at the ballot-box, as though elected.

As true as ever to the right of the majority to rule. V. E. PROLET.

The Tribune this figures up "the value of Credit Mobilier stock, which members of Congress were allowed to buy at par (and pay for or not, as they pleased): Mr. Ames testified that in a period of thirty-two months, from April, 1866, to December, 1868, the Credit Mobilier declared twelve dividends, amounting in the aggregate to 1,505 per cent., and over 600 per cent. of this was divided after July 4, 1868. The thrifty legislators, therefore, who bought shares at 100 in the spring of 1868, got back six times as much as they put in before the close of the year."

The Republican Caucus.

The ring has finished up the Senatorial job with the utmost neatness and dispatch. So keen were their apprehensions that a combination for the overthrow of their plans would be effected that they dragged the faithful into a caucus for Senator at the Capitol last night. The result was sixty five votes for Simon Cameron, four for William D. Kelley, and two for J. P. Wickereham, superintendent of common schools. There were seven absentees.

Yesterday afternoon the Telegraph threw out the intimation that the caucus would not meet until Wednesday or Thursday. In the meantime notice was sent around among the Republican members, and the caucus was held with the result given above. This is an improvement on the programme of four years ago, when the combination was formed and John Scott was nominated for United States Senator and Robert W. Mackey for State treasurer.

The caucus was held on the evening of Wednesday, the second day of the legislature, giving the members a little time to deliberate and confer together as to the best manner of filling these two important offices. But now they are snatched up and dragged into caucus before they have been in the capital twenty-four hours. The fear that goes with such tactics must be very lively. To Colonel M. S. Quay is attributed the credit of the brilliant coup of four years ago. That was so successful that the ring have been emboldened to make a further reduction of the time for consultation among the members.

Up to yesterday Charlemagne Tower was a candidate for United States Senator. Whether the result of the caucus last night will cause him to beat a hasty retreat is not known. It will be observed, that Senator Cameron lacks two votes in caucus of a majority of the joint convention. He will need six-seventy votes to elect him. Should the absentees and members who voted for Kelley and Wickereham hold out against him the struggle might be severe and protracted. But this does not seem probable. Taking the result of the caucus it must be confessed that the prospect of a successful combination to accomplish Simon Cameron's desire is by no means brilliant.—Patriot, Jan. 8th.

MARK TWAIN is in favor of annexing the Sandwich Islands. He says: "We must annex those people. We can afflict them with our rice and beneficent government. We can introduce the novelty of thieves, all the way up from street car pickpockets to municipal robbers and government defaulter, and show them how amusing it is to arrest them and try them and then turn them loose—some for cash and some for 'political influence.'"

We can make them ashamed of their simple and primitive justice. We can do away with their occasional hangings for murder."

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Upon the history of the finances of the State he says:

The construction of the improvements resulted in a public debt, which, in 1852, reached its maximum, \$41,524,875 37.—The interest, premiums and other expenses that have been paid upon the debt, from its incurrence to November 30, 1872, sum up \$76,875,744 99; and make the entire expenditure on account of the public works, \$118,370,620 36.

In pursuance of law the State canal and railroads were sold in 1857, for eleven millions dollars in bonds; upon which the State has received \$1,700,000 00 in cash, and \$3,300,000 00 remain in the hands of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, as follows, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, secured by lien on the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad; Bonds of the Pennsylvania Valley Railroad Company, secured by lien on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company; Bonds of the Pennsylvania Northern Central Railroad Company, and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company, payable \$100,000 annually, beginning January, 1871, and ending on the 1st of January, 1873.

Amount of assets, \$9,200,000 00. Different charitable purposes during the past six years, and government expenses, schools, &c., full seven millions dollars. He doubts the policy of exempting more benevolent enterprises, schools, churches, &c., from taxation.

He recommends more liberal legislation in behalf of their citizens engaged in industrial enterprises, and illustrates his views by showing that companies for manufacturing purposes are taxed in various ways, while the rich capitalist are not taxed to any such extent.

The governor favors a repeal of all tax on loans, although it would reduce the revenue to the State nearly half a million dollars annually. He also recommends a continuation of the general survey of the State, because numerous persons have urged him to do it.

He asks that liberal appropriations be made to promote the "Bureau of Labor Statistics of Agriculture," as contemplated by the Act of April, 1872. The coal product for 1870 was only 365 tons, for 1871 it was 19,351,585 tons, and for 1872 it still increased to 24,000 tons.—The oil product for 1859 to 1864 was 21,000,000 gallons, worth about \$29,820,000 and to 1865 it had increased about one-third more.

He calls attention to the fact that he did not approve the Congressional appropriation bill passed on the night prior to the adjournment for reasons that are not to our mind important, and that a law shall be enacted for passing another bill this session.

The State Treasurer is to be elected next October, but from May next, (the end of his term of office) until this office can be filled by an officer, there is no law providing for that effect, and he would recommend that one be passed in due time.

The Constitutional Convention, he tells the legislature has adjourned to Philadelphia. Was this official information necessary?

He also recommends more stringent laws to prevent frauds at the ballot box. He again calls the attention of the legislature to the necessity of writs of error in criminal cases.

He comes out finally on a compulsory system of education, and refers to the salutary effects of that system in Norway, Sweden and Prussia.

That Austria, France and England have resolved to adopt that system.

The amount of the State debt in 1867—1872 amounts to \$21,578,258, being an increase of 5 cents preceding 1867 of \$8,433,196. The State appropriates about \$600,000 annually for the schools. [He falls into the same error of many others, that there should be a Bureau of National Education, thus giving another arm of Federal Office throughout the length and breadth of the land to eat out the substance of the people, and destroy local governments. This idea or plan of sending to Washington for appointees and rules to govern the schools, is too anti-democratic for the people. Wait until a King is crowned in the White House before such laws are passed.—Ed.]

The Board of Trustees of the State should be liberal in appropriations for their expenses, &c. The third volume of report will soon be printed.

He favors a law to diminish the inmates in the penitentiaries by sending many offenders to county prisons, to work the same as in the State prisons. It will less disgrace them and answer the ends of justice as well. He also favors separate confinement, and reports that the Eastern prison is too full and the Western one not yet full.

Sanitary matters are enlarged upon by the Governor, and the good results of compulsory vaccination in the army, is believed to be a reason for its enforcement in society, and that every citizen who wants a State Board of Health provided for.

The battle flags of the rebellion have been cared for in the office of the State Historian.

He asks the Legislature to make the salary of the Governor ten thousand dollars, to take effect on the 30th of January one day before the new government is sworn in. [This should not be done. It is high enough now. The idea of doubling up the salary of Presidents and Governors is wrong and enoblish.—Ed.]

The Governor mentions the death of ex-Gov. Johnson, but eulogizes the life, &c., of General Meade, and has a portrait of him, and suggests a monument to his memory at the expense of the State.

He has received 1,437 applications for pardon and only granted 60. He says he may have made some mistakes, but has endeavored to be just and careful.

The system of commutation under the act of May 21, 1865 continues to work well in the prisons, and has produced a decidedly salutary effect upon the discipline of the prisoners and the character of the prisoners.

The death penalty has been twice carried into effect during the year, once in Cambria county and once in Chester.

The improving the navigation of the Ohio river and its tributaries has long been urged by leading business men of this and other States, and they have several times solicited Congressional action in its behalf. A convention met in Cincinnati on the twentieth of last February, which led to the adoption of a resolution requesting the Governors of the States of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, to appoint each a committee of five members to act as a commission to take charge of and promote by all legitimate means

The desired improvement.

I responded to the request, and appointed James K. Morhead, Thomas J. Powers, George H. Dinsmore, Joseph Wilton and Edward Blanchard. The Governor of the other States made similar appointments, and the commission met at Cincinnati on the eighteenth of September. It continued in session two days, and its proceedings indicate that its members were actuated by earnestness of spirit, and by just, comprehensive and statesmanlike views.

He recommends that each State appropriate \$3,000 for this great Centennial celebration at Philadelphia in 1876, and recommends that the State make a special donation to inspire popular confidence in the movement and excite the emulation of other states and secure the prompt commencement of the work. He says:

A popular manifestation of this kind should correspond to the character of the event to be celebrated. It is of the first Centennial celebration of our national existence—the greatest event that can possibly occur in the life-time of any living American; it will be the first international exhibition ever given in honor of republican Government, and will exhibit the effect of our institutions in "promoting wealth, intelligence and happiness. The ceremonies of this unprecedented occasion should be noted for spontaneous enthusiasm, universal enlistment of popular sentiment and a more impressive grandeur than has ever heretofore been witnessed.

[Not being enough filled with modern pocket patriotism to see the necessity or advantage to the country of expending ten millions of dollars to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of our independence, we have not gone off in ecstasies over this huge celebration.—Ed.] The Governor closes as he commenced by boasting of the success of his party in the last election, and does not forget to remind the protectionists of his efforts in their behalf. Of himself he says:

All the circumstances considered, I may in this connection be excused for the indulgence of some brief personal allusions. In the administration of the Chief Magistracy, I have, with only good intentions, and unconscious of intentional error, discharged the various duties that have devolved upon me in such manner as to advance public welfare, by condemning waste and extravagance, practicing economy, reducing taxation, paying the State debt, promoting the public health, advancing the cause of general education, cultivation humanity and charity, tempering justice for the fountain of mercy, maintaining the principles of the Constitution, and defending the honor and sovereignty of the State, and the rights and the interests of her citizens.

During my administration the Legislature has been in session 387 days; in that time 3,342 bills, and 114 resolutions, were passed, of which 8,442 bills and 113 resolutions received my approval; six bills were vetoed without my objection, and 330 were vetoed. The votes average a little more than one per diem during the sessions, and all of which, with the exception of four, were sustained by the Legislature. In addition to my six annual messages, I have also transmitted to the Legislature one hundred and five special communications.

He then thanks his cabinet by name for their accord and support of his administration, and closes his message by extolling the military glory of his successor.

The Avalanche in Utah.

ALTA, Utah, December 27.—There was a fearful snow slide near the old smelter, below Central City, yesterday, in which from six to ten teams and teamsters were buried. Three of the teamsters dug themselves out. Some of the teams were dug out, but none of the men were rescued except the three above mentioned.

Mr. Wallace, who was a passenger on the down coach, says that the coach was in the rear of some forty or fifty teams, and that the avalanche of snow came down the ridge of the mountain side about a half mile below the old Brano furnaces.

The stage was in waiting to pass the long line of teams in front, when all at once the slide, with a width of 200 yards, and having a depth of about 100 feet, came down with terrific violence, carrying men, mules, and wagons entirely across the creek some fifty yards distant, and burying them on the opposite shore. The news of the tragedy was immediately sent to Central and Alta cities, and a large force of men, armed with all the shovels procurable in both towns, went to the rescue.

While a large force was engaged endeavoring to rescue men, mules, and horses, others made a speedy track across the route of the slide, in order that the mail coach and team might pass.—Everybody went to work with a will. Animals with broken limbs that were disentangled were shot, and others were left standing in snow pits, there being at the time the stage left no means of extricating them.

On Friday the body of Peter Kahn, or Dutch Pete, was recovered and brought to this place. Yesterday afternoon the body of Derry Dilble, formerly of Angolia, Erie county, New York, was found and brought to this city by the evening train.

There are now missing Peter Elliott, from near San Joe, Missouri, who was driving for W. H. Langford; Francis Brown, from South Cottonwood; Arthur Rogers, from Pike Town, Ohio; and T. Triplett, from Indiana. These are the men now known to be under the snow. In addition, there are four or five travelers also buried, as two are known to have left Alta coming down and two or three left Granite going up.

On Friday night a numerously attended meeting was held in Alta, at which resolutions were adopted requiring every house to furnish a man for work on the avalanche with a view to recovering the bodies, and calling upon the various mining companies for men to assist in the like labor. About fifteen men were at work yesterday under the superintendence of Mr. M. Dramer, and their efforts were well and systematically directed. They cut a channel down the bed of the creek, which was completely covered, and by this means much loose snow was carried down the cannon, while the work of presenting the search was proportionally expedited.

A party of men also began at the lower end of the slide with long iron probes, and gradually worked their way up, not leaving a foot of superficial snow as they passed onward, unsearched; so that if

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Dry Goods, Groceries,

Hardware, Rubbers, Paints and Oils, Undertakers' Ware, Dr. Jayne's Family Medicines, &c., &c.

Montrose, Jan. 15, 1873.

SHERIFF'S SALES—BY VIRTUE OF

writs issued by the Court of Common Pleas of Susquehanna County and do directed, I will expose to sale by public vendition, at the Court House in Montrose, on Friday, Jan. 17, 1873, at 2 o'clock, p. m., the following pieces of parcels of land, to wit:

All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Lenox, in the County of Susquehanna and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit: On the north by lands of Timothy McCarty, on the east by lands of John Buck, on the south by lands of James Knight, and on the west by lands contracted for by John C. Allen to Perry Rosecrant, containing about 80 acres, more or less together with the appurtenances, one small frame house, one log barn, one shop, one orchard, and about 50 acres improved. (Seized and taken in execution at the suit of Taylor, Walker & Co. vs. John C. Allen, and B. Taylor vs. John C. Allen, and Perry Rosecrant.)

ALSO, All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Silver Lake in the county of Susquehanna and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit: On the north by lands of Timothy McCarty, on the east by lands of John Buck, on the south by lands of James Knight, and on the west by lands contracted for by John C. Allen to Perry Rosecrant, containing about 80 acres, more or less together with the appurtenances, one small frame house, one log barn, one shop, one orchard, and about 50 acres improved. (Seized and taken in execution at the suit of Taylor, Walker & Co. vs. John C. Allen, and B. Taylor vs. John C. Allen, and Perry Rosecrant.)

ALSO, All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Silver Lake in the county of Susquehanna and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit: On the north by the York State Line, on the west by lands of Thomas Staley, on the south by lands of Martin Branch, and on the east by the line of C. H. Luck's land, thence along said line north one hundred and thirty-eight perches to a post, thence by lands of Thomas Staley north eighty perches to a post, thence along same and land of C. McGary south seventy perches to a post in public road, thence by road south sixty-six degrees west 94 perches to the place of beginning, containing 47 acres of land be the same more or less, with the appurtenances, and all improved. (Taken in execution at the suit of Silas Perkins vs. John Laffy.)

ALSO, All that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Bush in the county of Susquehanna and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit: On the north by lands of Philip Swackhammer, on the east by lands of Eliza Kinney, on the south by lands of Martin Branch, containing 84 acres of land, be the same more or less, with the appurtenances, one barn, one shop, one orchard, and about 40 acres improved. (Taken in execution at the suit of Philip Swackhammer vs. D. D. Searle vs. Joseph G. Kinney, Austin Sloan and Philip Swackhammer.)

Notice is hereby given that all bids must be paid in cash on the day of sale.

M. B. HELME, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, Montrose, Dec. 31, 1872.

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