

# Somerset Herald.

VOL. XXIX. NO. 28.

SOMERSET, PA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1880.

WHOLE NO. 1536.

**WET CARPETS**  
AT PRIVATE SALE,  
77 FIFTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PENN.  
**6,000 Yds. INGRAIN,**  
**2,000 Yds. OIL CLOTH & LINOLEUM,**  
**1,000 Yds. COCOA and CHINA MATTING.**  
**STAIR and HALL CARPETS,**  
Etc., Etc., Etc.,  
**H. McCALLUM,**  
77 FIFTH AVENUE,  
PITTSBURGH, PA.  
ESTABLISHED 1832.

**WOOLLEN MILLS**  
ESTABLISHED 1832.  
NEW AND IMPROVED MACHINERY  
SPECIALTY OF THE MILL.  
Woolen goods, shawl, blanket, flannel, cloth, etc., made to order.  
Agents for Wire and Life Insurance,  
**W. H. MILLER & CO.,**  
SOMERSET, PA.

**CHARLES HOFFMAN,**  
**MERCHANT TAILOR,**  
SOMERSET, PA.  
LATEST CUTS AND LATEST COLORS.  
**WALTER ANDERSON,**  
**MERCHANT TAILOR,**  
SOMERSET, PA.  
Agents for Wire and Life Insurance,  
**W. H. MILLER & CO.,**  
SOMERSET, PA.

**NEW BANK.**  
**Somerset County Bank,**  
CHARLES J. HARRISON,  
President.  
C. W. HARRISON,  
Cashier.  
SOMERSET, PA.

## President's Message.

Editor, *Citizen of the Senate and House of Representatives.*

I congratulate you on the reaffirmation and increased prosperity of our country. By the favor of Divine Providence we have been blessed, during the past year, with health, with abundant harvests, with profitable employment for all our people, and with contentment at home, and peace and friendship with other Nations.

The attendance of the twenty-fourth election of Chief Magistrate has afforded another opportunity to the people of the United States to exhibit to the world a significant example of the stability and permanency of the power and authority of government from the public servants whose terms of office are about to expire to their newly chosen successors. The example cannot fail to impress profoundly the minds of all other countries, and to show that the Republic is not a transient and unstable experiment, but a permanent and enduring government, and that the people possess elements of strength, stability, and permanency not found in other forms of government.

### THE SOUTHERN QUESTION.

Continued opposition to the full and free enjoyment of the rights of citizenship conferred upon the colored people by the recent amendments to the Constitution, still persists in several of the late slaveholding States. It has, perhaps, not been manifested in the recent election to any large extent in acts of violence or intimidation. It has, however, by fraudulent practices in connection with the ballot, with the registration of voters, with the number of votes and with counting, tampering and canvassing the polls, been successful in defeating the exercise of the rights of citizenship of a large number of colored people. It is the desire of the good people of the whole country that sectionalism as a factor in our politics should disappear. They prefer that no section of the country should be regarded as a hostile or alien section. The disposition to refuse prompt and hearty obedience to the equal rights amendments to the Constitution is all that now stands in the way of a complete unification of sectional bias in our political life. Such opposition to the amendments is flagrantly unjust and should be regarded as a stain upon the honor of the people who placed them in the Constitution, as embodying the legitimate results of the war for the Union, and who believe them to be wise and necessary, will continue to be a source of weakness and dishonor to the Nation. The paramount question still is, as to the enjoyment of the right by every American citizen who has the requisite qualifications, to freely cast his vote and have it honestly counted. This right should be secured, and the country will be relieved of the contentions of the past; bygone wrongs will be forgotten, and political party issues with respect to economy and efficiency of administration, internal improvements, the tariff, domestic taxation, and other important subjects, will then receive their full share of attention, but resistance to the nullification of the results of war, will unite together in resolute purpose for their support all who maintain the authority and integrity of the Union, and who adequately appreciate the value of the victory achieved. This determination proceeds from no hostile sentiment of feeling to any part of the people of our country, or to any other interest, but rests upon the fundamental principle of our government. They are the solemn expression of the will of the people of the United States.

The sentiment that the constitutional rights of all our citizens should be maintained, does not grow weaker. It will continue to constrain the government of the country. Happily, the history of the late election shows that in many parts of the country where opposition to the Fifteenth amendment has been professed, and is persisting, and is likely to cease altogether, if firm and well considered action is taken by Congress. I trust the House of Representatives and the Senate, who has the right to judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of their own members, will see to it that every case of violation of the letter of the spirit of the Fifteenth amendment is thoroughly investigated, and that no benefit from such violation shall accrue to any person or party. It will be the duty of the Executive, with suitable suggestions from the Senate, to see that the rights of the colored people in depriving citizens of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution.

It is not, however, to be forgotten that the best and surest guarantee of the primary rights of citizenship is to be found in the education of a people who can belong only to a people whose right to universal suffrage is supported by universal education. The means at the command of the local and State authorities are, in many cases, wholly inadequate to furnish the instruction to all who need it. This is especially true where, before emancipation, the education of the people was neglected or prevented, in the interests of slavery. Firmly convinced that the subject of popular education deserves the earnest attention of the people of the whole country, with a view to wise and comprehensive action by the government of the United States, I re-

spectfully recommended that Congress, by suitable legislation and with proper safeguards, should fund the local educational funds in the several States where the grave duties and responsibilities of citizenship have been devolved on uneducated people, by devoting to the purpose grants of the public lands, and, if necessary, by appropriations from the Treasury of the United States. Whether or not the Government can fairly do this, I leave to the consideration of the Congress, and to the wisdom of the people, when they shall be called upon to act.

My attention has been directed to the fact that the States of Maryland and Virginia have been divided on uneducated people, by devoting to the purpose grants of the public lands, and, if necessary, by appropriations from the Treasury of the United States. Whether or not the Government can fairly do this, I leave to the consideration of the Congress, and to the wisdom of the people, when they shall be called upon to act.

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