

The season of Lent commences to-day, Wednesday.

WILLIAM L. SCOTT is being talked of for Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

There are at present twenty-one fugitives in the anthracite region on account of the coal strike.

The Personal Liberty League throughout the State promise to take an active part in the coming campaign.

The climate of Ohio and Indiana does not agree with election conspirators. It's been a rough and open winter for them.

The contest for the Republican nomination for Supreme Judge in this State gives promise of being an exceptionally lively one.

The State of Texas is lathered with a surplus in the Treasury and there is talk of calling an extra session of the Legislature to reduce it.

ELECTION OFFICERS ARE to be elected next Tuesday. There will be a long electoral ticket to count in the fall.

JAMES G. BLAINE was 50 years old on January 21st, and hundreds of celebrators bearing the congratulations of friends from all the States were forwarded to him at Rome, Italy.

G. GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, is something of an athlete, and practices with Indian clubs and gloves every day that he may be able to knock out President Cleveland in the next Democratic convention.

The Louisiana delegates to the next National Republican Convention—twelve in number—have been elected. They are said to be divided in the presence of Blaine and Sherman for the nomination.

SAMUEL J. RANDALL is not saying much these days, but he is said to be doing a mighty sight of thinking.

THE SENATORS, GEORGE CAMERON, THOMAS F. HILL, and other distinguished Republicans will attend the celebration of the organization of the party to be held in Pittsburgh February 22.

The High License law closed one hundred and fifty saloons in Allegheny county on the 1st of February, and the opportunities for getting drunk were reduced just that much.

The Government reports for January have averaged about \$1,000,000 a day, and already exceed the expenditures during the same period by more than \$100,000, which millions have been added to the surplus in the Treasury.

It is Cleveland is given the first place on the Democratic ticket, why should not the Hon. Frank Hurd of Ohio have the second?

CINCINNATI CONVENTION: The candidacy of Hill for the Presidency buries that of Cleveland heartily, but the Mugwump leaders who are in the lead, and whose of honor seems to be solid.

PHILADELPHIA: If Governor Hill, of New York, is at all vain man he has abundant cause for feeling elated over the fact that his friends have given the supporters of the President in the Democratic party.

CHICAGO: It is reported that the Democratic party will have a large majority in the coming campaign, and that the Republican party will be reduced to a minority.

MONDAY MORNING'S New York Tribune contains the following editorial on the subject of Mr. Blaine's declaration to be a candidate for the Republican nomination for President:

A letter from Mr. Blaine, published this morning, withdraws his name so far as it is in his power to do so from the consideration of Republicans for the nomination at the Cincinnati National Convention.

The report that the South Penn Road is to be pushed to completion has come from Pittsburgh with such regularity and frequency, ever since work on its construction was abandoned some three years ago, that one people have commenced to wonder at the fact that it has not yet been completed.

The South Penn has been laid off more than any other great work in the country on paper. The latest report, a full account of which is found in our local columns, states that the project has come to an understanding and has agreed upon a plan of operations that will expedite the completion of the road. The Herald has always been decidedly of the opinion that the enterprise would eventually be carried through.

The large amount of money already expended on the Pennsylvania Pennsylvania interest at stake and the prospect that the road would yield a satisfactory return, were all arguments in favor of its ultimate completion. The outlook at present for the road is certainly more favorable than ever before since work on it was stopped. There are many who will refuse to bank very largely on the enterprise until the labor of construction has once more been actually resumed.

The opposition to the re-nomination of President Cleveland is beginning to take its head above ground all over the country, and the free trade enthusiasts of his party who hailed the message with a shout are now being heard from.

The active promoters of this scheme include men who are prominent in Democratic politics, and there is a strong organization extending from New York to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,

NR. BLAINE WITHDRAWS.

His Name Not to be Presented to the Chicago Convention.

Chairman D. F. Jones, of the Republican National Committee, Sunday received the following letter:

"D. F. Jones Esq., Chairman of the Republican National Committee:

"Sir—With, through you, to state to the members of the Republican party, that my name will not be presented to the National Convention called to assemble in Chicago in June next, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

"I am constrained to this decision by considerations entirely personal to myself, of which you were advised more than a year ago.

"The Kansas Democrat calls upon President Cleveland as a good Democrat to retire as his candidacy will endanger the success of the party.

"I cannot make the announcement without giving expression to my deep sense of gratitude to the many thousands of my countrymen who have sustained me so long and so cordially that their feeling has seemed to go beyond the ordinary political adhesion of fellow partisans and into the realm of what the nature of personal attachment.

"For the most generous loyalty of friendship I can make no adequate return, but I shall carry the memory of it with me to the grave.

"Nor can I refrain from congratulating the Republican party upon its clearing prospects which distinguish the opening of the national contest for 1888 as compared with that of 1884. In 1884 the Republican party throughout the United States with disastrous defeat. The States that had supported Garfield and Arthur in the election of 1880 were carried by the Democrats either by majorities or pluralities. The Republican has in the Northern States, elected half a million votes, and the electoral votes of the Union divided in the last year of the result, 1882, gave to the Democrats over 300 electors out of a total of 491. There was a partial reaction in favor of the Republicans in the elections of 1885, but the Democrats still held possession of seven Northern States.

"The Republican party's contest could show more than one hundred majority in the Electoral College of the whole country.

"But against the discouragement naturally following the adverse election of these years, the spirit of the Republican party in the National contest of 1884 rose high, and the Republican masses entered into the campaign with such energy that the final result depended on the vote of a single state, and that state was carried by the Democratic party by a plurality of only one elector.

"The change of a single vote in every two thousand of the total poll would have given the state to the Republicans, though only one year before the Democratic plurality exceeded one hundred and ninety-two electors.

"The elections of 1884 and 1887 have demonstrated growth in the Republican ranks. Sold in our political history, upon the basis of the fact that the Republican party is now in a position to carry the Nation, and to carry such a victory as have the Republican masses in 1884. No comparison is possible between the spirit of the party in 1883-4 and its spirit in 1887-7. The two periods present simply a contrast—the one of general depression and the other of enthusiastic revival. Should the party gain in the results of 1888 over those of 1884-7 in anything like the proportion of the gain of 1884 over 1882, it would secure one of the most remarkable victories of its entire career. It would give to the party a large majority in the electoral college, and would give to the party a large majority in the electoral college, and would give to the party a large majority in the electoral college.

"Another feature of the political situation should inspire Republicans with irresistible strength. The present National Administration was elected with, if not upon, the repeated assurances of the leading organs of the party that no issue on the tariff was involved. However earnestly Republicans urged that question as one of the controlling importance in the campaign, they were met by the Democratic leaders and journal with a consistent evasion, protest and denial. That resource the issue has fortunately removed. The issue which the Republicans maintained and the Democrats avoided in 1884 has been prominently and specifically brought forward by the Democratic President and cannot be hidden out of sight in 1888. The country is now in the enjoyment of an industrial system which in a quarter of a century has assured a larger national growth, a more rapid accumulation and a broader distribution of wealth than ever before known in the history of the American people. The American people will now be obliged to formally decide whether this system shall be recklessly abandoned and a new trial be made of an experiment which has uniformly led to national embarrassment and widespread individual distress. On the result of such an issue fairly presented to the popular judgment, there is no room to doubt.

"The time has now arrived when success, complete harmony and cordial co-operation on the part of all Republicans. On the part of those who aspire to lead, and of those who are eager to follow. The duty is not one merely of honorable devotion to the party, but of a personal and wholehearted devotion to the cause of the people. The duty is not one merely of honorable devotion to the party, but of a personal and wholehearted devotion to the cause of the people.

"A closer observation of the conditions of the people, and a more intimate acquaintance with the intense desire that the American people shall make no mistake in choosing the policy which inspires hope and courage and crowns it with dignity, which gives stability to capital and protects its increase; that secure political power to every citizen comfort and culture to every home.

"To this end, and to no other, and more directly as a private citizen than as a public candidate, I shall devote myself, with the confidence that the administration of the Government will be restored to the policy which has demonstrated the purpose of the people to wield it for the unity and honor of the Republic, for the property and progress of the people.

"I am very sincerely yours,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Jones, when asked whether Mr. Blaine's declaration would prevent his friends from nominating him anyway, said: "As I am Chairman of the National Committee, I do not think it proper for me to have anything to say on that subject."

"Do you think Mr. Blaine would accept the nomination if he were to be nominated?"

"I have no authority to speak for Mr. Blaine and have no opportunity to offer on the subject. The letter speaks for itself and I must decline to be interviewed on this question."

Natural Gas in Texas.

Fort Worth, Feb. 11.—Northern capitalists, prospecting here, struck gas yesterday at a depth of 300 feet. Great columns of gas, accompanied by a strong wind, radiating from the well with a roar that could be heard a mile distant. James Galbraith, a workman, lit his pipe thirty feet from the well, lighting the gas, burning off his whiskers and hair, and throwing him fifteen feet. The flames passed over his head, and he was blown to the distance of thirty feet. Two horses, thirty-five feet distant, had to be torn down to save them. Stone and gravel, sand and water were thrown up upon the gushing well. The flames were extinguished, but could not be extinguished. A barrel of gas was next emptied on the well. Ground was forced into the well and cement laid over it. The gas will press itself through and burn rapidly.

Wholesale Daking of Murderers.

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Lincoln's Memory Honored.

New York, Feb. 11.—The second annual dinner of the Republican club, of the city of New York, was held to-night, at the Waldorf Hotel, at 8 o'clock.

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Murdered in His Own House.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—Amos J. Snell, owner of the tall roof running down Jefferson street, was found murdered in his residence this morning at No. 425 Washington Boulevard.

Mr. Snell owned a great number of houses, which he rented, and his last business was the management of the tall roof on Jefferson street, which had been fitted up as an office. The windows and doors were heavily barred. The only occupants of the house last night were his wife, 64 years old, two servants and two little girls, granddaughters of Mr. Snell, who were spending a few days there. Mrs. Snell and one of her daughters, Mrs. Frank Coffin, were on duty last night. The administration at Washington is spoken of as a reform administration and yet it has changed the name of the tall roof on Jefferson street to the name of the tall roof on Jefferson street.

Mr. Snell was a man of high standing in the community, and his death is a great loss to the community. The police are now searching for the murderer, and it is believed that the murderer is still in the city.

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SOMERSET MARKET.

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330 ANNUAL STATEMENT

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