The Somerset Herald.

Every Wednesday, Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at the Postoffice at Somerset, Pa., as second-class matter.

Just now Christmas shopping is the most popular occupation in the wide, wide world.

Cuba Libre is going to find the red, white and blue shedding very full of good things on Christmas morn.

In the matter of presidential enthusiasm there is both a North and a South, only the South seems a good deal the warmer.

The overwhelmingly averted expansion from a worse type of savages than any found in the Philippines. Risk not worth while to lend up the barbarian impulses to men of American descent.

A canvass of leading newspapers throughout the country gives 35 for expansion and 25 against it. Every section of the country is for it except the South, and that is nearly as the newspaper sentiment.

The Republican candidate for Congress in the 11th district has begun a contest to unseat the Democratic opponent. From all accounts he has a pretty good case, in which event he will get his seat. There must be no fraud in the election of Congressmen.

Patriotism and the slightest danger of the Republicans having any difficulty in organizing the Legislature. The Republicans who won the party nomination and were elected on the regular ticket, who will refuse to abide by the decision of their brethren, will be few and far between. The country is a time-honored and convenient means of determining the desire of the majority, and for it there is no substitute.

Tom Quigley says that the Spanish-American treaty will get more than the necessary two-thirds vote in the Senate now in short and brighter every day. The confidence of the opponents of ratification is visibly waning. They now profess to have some hope that the Senate will modify the treaty in some minor particulars, as it has done since it came in the case of treaties, but there is not the slightest chance that the will be done in the present case. A modification of the treaty would be more embarrassing to the country in the minor than it was in the other cases referred to. The opponents of expansion will discover this before the matter comes up in the Senate, and most of them are likely to be reconciled into acquiescence. Senator Hoar himself will probably be among the supporters of the treaty when the voting takes place.

Wayne Democratic State Chairman Cannon declares that 74 Democratic members of the House are ready to unite with 29 Republican members to organize the next House of Representatives as is talking through his hat, as usual, says the Harrisburg Telegraph. The seventy-four members of the House classified as Democrats will not all vote for a fusion candidate, as was very evident in this city this week, when only seventy-three of the seventy-four put in an appearance at the alleged conference held in the Supreme Court room. The other two-thirds of the membership the Democratic side of the House stayed away from the conference, and made light of it. And as for twenty-nine of the Republicans voting for a fusion candidate—that is all bosh. The man who makes such a declaration simply does not know what he is talking about, and the people know that. The Republicans will organize the next House and the Democrats and independents will not even have a look in.

Mr. Bryan's self-center finds himself in a talking mill of clothes that he could himself of a highly valued principle. He counties no organization are not as free from contradictions as might be desired, but this is characteristic of Democratic counties on this subject. Mr. Bryan does not advise a fight against the treaty. He would vote for it, $20,000,000 and all, and then manage to retire from the Philippines on some sort of conditions, retaining only a coaling station. He would turn over a Porto Rico into a republic if the inhabitants indicted on it. He desires it to be understood that this country can never, without self-destruction, hold territory on a colonial tenure. It may well be asked how Mr. Bryan, with such convictions, can be willing to allow the treaty to go through. The best time to slip national and constitutional rule in is the lull. The treaty is an expansion document. But when brought face to face with a practical question the Democratic plan frequently is to fall back to another line of works. Mr. Bryan knows that if he opposed the treaty he would be a most unpolitician.

It is Up to Wanny and Koontz.

It remains of his deal to assist Wannemaker to electing his man Koontz speaker, Col. J. M. Guffey, the Democratic boss of the State, speaks of the minority members of the next House as his property, and pledges himself to hand them bound and gagged to Wannemaker whenever the bargain counter statesman can produce 29 independents, the requisite number to consummate the deal. Boss Guffey says:

I see no insurmountable obstacles to a fusion organization of the House. I have undertaken to supply 74 Democratic votes—the full Democratic membership—and I am advised that the Independent Republicans can produce the 29 necessary to a majority. That they can do so I certainly proclaim, and it is my opinion that they will make good this promise. Where the 29 independent votes are to come from—that is, the names of the men—is something about which I have nothing to say. It is the duty of the party of the second part. My responsibility rests in holding the Democratic vote as a unit for fusion purposes, and I have not asked the independents to file a bill of particulars. I have their word, and that is sufficient.

It is now up to Wanny and Koontz. Guffey has his 74 Democrats in hand. They are ready to vote for Koontz. Now let Wanny and Koontz produce their 29 votes from the Republican ranks if they can. We venture the prediction that they can not produce three, including Koontz's own vote. We are assured that he can not get the vote of a Republican member from this Congressional or Senatorial district. As a fusion candidate Koontz can not command the support of his colleague from his own county—who is a Republican, and does not measure his politics with a yardstick. A pretty spectacle, Representative Koontz—elected as a Republican—the Democratic candidate for Speaker, and wholly without Republican support.

A Fitful Meeting.

Harrisburg Telegraph.

A handful of Democratic members of the next Legislature, who gathered in Harrisburg on Wednesday to arrange to form a fusion with the alleged Independent Democrats with a view to organizing the House, presented a pitiful appearance as they sat around the Supreme Court Room. They received that in the interest of good legislation they would form a fusion party, but for good legislation please read the spoils of office, for that is what they are after, and they are willing to strike Independent Republicans have the Speakership if they are given the clerkships and the minor offices. The entire game is very thin—so thin, in fact, that it is not fooling anybody. The other two-thirds of the Democratic members of the House refused to go into the conference, even refused to answer the call, for they know very well that fusion can never be consummated at the next session, that there will not be found sufficient Republicans or persons in the room opposed to them as to bring their consummation. It was a most pitiful showing of hands, and even those present realized it when they sought to apologize by saying that there were many who could not come, but had written letters endorsing any action taken. Why even the letters did not? For a good reason. They are not in existence. The remarkable gathering, however, served one good purpose—it showed the alleged Republicans who are trying to make mischief in the party that they can rely on only a beggarly one-third of the Democratic members of the House in all their mischievous schemes. The Republicans of the House will organize the House finding a deaf, and the end of it came when that alleged gathering of Democratic adjourned on Wednesday. That fizzle killed fusion.

Future Set of the Election.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

Fusion between the Democratic and the so-called Republicans who were the chief cause of the Westmoreland bargain counter, is out of the question. The Van Valkenburgs and bargain counter agents of their ilk are obliged to make some showing for their money, but the plot to defeat the Republican party upon the eve of the meeting of the Legislature is odious upon which the certain line has been drawn.

There will be no fusion for the very good reason that the Republicans are in the majority and have been sent to the Legislature for the sole reason that they are Republicans. They are expected to organize the House and to shoulder the responsibilities for all legislation. Any negligence of the duties entrusted to them would be resented. They will follow the custom of all sessions and agree among themselves as to organization and to govern-ment by the decision of the majority.

Objection rife in the country, and the Republican party, which represents the majority, can not and will not quarrel with majority sentiment.

Showing its Gratitude.

Louisiana Advocate of Saturday.

The Philadelphia Press of yesterday copies an article from the Somerset Herald, reading it "Gen. Koontz at Home; How a Leading Legislator is Regarded by His Neighbors," and adds not by very complimentary. As Gen. Koontz is generally the gentlemanly, credited with putting some money into the plant to locate it, and spending more to keep it going, it would be the height of ingratitude if the Standard didn't "stick up" for Koontz now, when the General has for years "come down" for it.

As to Fusion.

Uniontown Genealogist.

The "statesmen" who failed to fund the governorship of Pennsylvania over to the Democrats at the recent election now have another scheme which promises to be equally successful. It is to organize the lower House of the Legislature on the fusion basis. The Democrats and Quay members were elected on the fusion ticket, and the Quay members got upon the face of the meeting of the Legislature a caucus