

Mr. Stenger's Meeting in Graybill's Hall.

What Mr. Sharpe and Mr. Stenger said last Thursday evening.

Last Thursday evening Mr. Stenger's friends met in Graybill's Hall.

The Perryville Brass Band, having been engaged for the occasion, opened the entertainment by a lively tune, at 20 minutes past 7 o'clock, after which Mr. Jacob Wurster was chosen President of the meeting, and the organization completed by the election of a full set of subordinate officers.

Mr. J. McDowell Sharpe, of Chambersburg, was introduced as the first speaker. His introductory was a dissertation on civil and religious liberty, and something as to the size of this country thrown in to round off.

He gradually glided down to parties, and soon touching his hearers to forget all heartily as parties, try, of course he did not mean that the whole audience should vote the Republican ticket. Before the finishing of the ties, he wanted to know where he was drifting to. As no one answered the question, he drifted into the business of the country. The way he landed on that question caused all to stand on the tip-toe of expectation of a complete explanation of as to how the country is to get rid of the present business depression. The explanation was sharp, but it was a stinger on the face of the great break down and general depression that overtook the country under James Buchanan's administration in 1857, when there were no rebel war debts to settle. For a time all the banks closed, and the paper money that was in circulation was worth as much as the same sized pieces of blank paper. But the most startling feature of the business part of his speech was that he proposed no remedy. It is charitable to believe that he did not want to tell a story by saying that a Democratic administration could remedy the business ills of the country, in the face of the fact that greater business distress, under Democratic rule, oppressed the country in bygone days. However, he waded through the business slough and stumbled right over into political polemics, &c. He did handsomely on this subject. But the most important point under that head—that nearly all of the speculations and soul work that he complained of came through the work of the Rebellion—he left out. It was a nice glow against things that were hatched in the Democratic party. He did not, but it would have been so proper for him to have just introduced the robbery of the Indian Trust Fund and other frauds perpetrated in the peaceful days of James Buchanan's administration, and if he desired to draw a little nearer home on such matters, he might have stepped into Pennsylvania and looked at the management of the Commonwealth with an accumulated debt of forty millions of dollars, and still accumulating, with a canal commission that was robbing the State without parallel; and if he wished to draw the lines closer still, he might have gone along the "witch" and found men in every county who to-day are enjoying the gains of the peaceful days of Democracy.

He took a peep at the South, and then came majestically down on Congress and the Legislature and the third house, just as if the third house in days gone by was not the favorite stamping ground of Democrats. The most prominent lobbyists in this State are or have been Democrats. He left the lobby and dwelt on the third-term scheme, and then by an easy stride he put his foot on President Grant, and he put his hand down really forgot that it was only a Congressional and not a Presidential canvass that he was engaged in.

He next delivered an enigma on George Washington, with the hatchet out, and it must be returned to Mr. Sharpe's credit that he did not abuse George Washington.

From the subject of the Father of our country, he went to that of a fee and office

seekers, but unfortunately he omitted to state that he was seeking an office for his friend, Stenger.

His next point was the "richer and the poorer poor." Here again he faltered. He should have told that the Rebellion, to which men of his school lent their moral support, was made exclusively in the interest of the rich, and if it had been successful the poorer people would have been put in the condition of the slave—the poorest condition people can be placed in, according to Ameri—any way of thinking. He also forgot to tell that the Republican party has broken up all danger that existed of the poor white people, or any other people, from being made poorer or enslaved, and has so shaped the laws of the nation that any man who has health, and will work may secure a good living. He did not state that in this country the laws are such that a rich man may become poor and a poor man may become rich. It is difficult to explain why Mr. Sharpe left the rich and the poor man subject, and again took up Grant, and, astonishingly as yet, admitted that the President was not before the people in the canvass. Did he mean to say that Grant had worked on a farm, as he had his poor man's friend, because he was a hard worker man, while Sharpe and Stenger were both training as lawyers.

After cloaking around the President he flew off at a tangent; touched the abolition of slavery; the enforcement of equal rights, civil rights and political rights, and confessed that he had opposed them. The confession must have been a relief to him, for he announced that the Constitution conferring those rights on the negro had been adopted through fraud, but he guessed they would have to take it.

He became terribly exercised over the civil rights bill. He did not say that if he believed that the Republicans are kept in power, which they will be, they will legislate that Mr. Sharpe and his dear friends will have to sleep with negroes against their will, and, if possible, change a white man's skin to that of a colored man. He did not say that, but the next thing he said was that he was laughing when he talked that way? This was followed by another raid on Grant, and, presto, he turns in on Congressional elections, the pluck of the Democracy, and the Bible. His theological deductions were about on a par with his political ones. If he reaches the glory land of the next world through his biblical learning, "all right," but the people will see to it that the place he covets for his friend next November, is removed from his grasp. His last remarks were a shower of praise for Indiana and Ohio, after which he gave way for Mr. Stenger, the second speaker.

Mr. Wm. S. Stenger was introduced, and said he would give the reason for the faith that he was in him, and straightway fell in where Sharpe fell out, and rejoiced tenderly over Indiana and Ohio. To him it was the movement of the dry goods that the prophet Ezekiel saw. From biblical prophecy he had his feet in the mire of the past and had his hands in a much worse hand of it than Sharpe had. He was eloquent on the stoppage of the boom and forge, but missed to make the point that if enough such goods as he got to Congress the free trade measures and gold and silver currency that they would force by legislation would stop every other kind of manufacturing, except those of the strictest want, and bankrupt two-thirds of the nation. If he had been a thorough antiquarian he might have asked if the ruins of any forge existed in this country, which would have been answered by an invitation to walk to Licking Creek, where the ruins of one may be seen any day. While there, his legal mind might have been further interested in the investigation as to whether the ruins were not caused by a Democratic administration long since.

From defunct loans and forges he advanced into the realm of patriotism, but the interesting part of telling where he was, and on what side he was giving his moral and political influence when the Rebels were in Pennsylvania, and General Wister was battling against them at Gettysburg, he left entirely out. He found no difficulty in tumbling from patriotism to corruption, from corruption to national expenses and debts, but lost the strong feature of this part of his speech by neglecting to state that in any other country than this, ruled by Napoleon, his rebel friends would have been made to pay every dollar of the expenses that he complained of.

The public grants was his next point in order, and thence into Credit Mobiliery, where he became so unfair as not to mention that it was a Republican Congress that investigated that whole trouble, and that the Republican party everywhere condemned the thing so that the men who were conspicuous in it have fallen from their former high places. It killed Oakes Ames. He also did not tell that the percentage of Democrats who were into Credit Mobiliery was as heavy as the percentage of Republicans. Such an investigation could never have been gotten up in a Democratic Congress. The country yet remembers that when John Cowde proposed to investigate certain acts of the last Democratic administration that this country has had, how he was vilified and abused, and Democrats of Rebel proclivities to-day yet curse John Cowde, though he has since fallen from his high place, and it is simply impossible, where two or three of those are colored, to say that black children shall not go to school with white children, is to say they shall not have any schooling whatever.

Mr. Stenger endorsed all that in 1872, and in editorial articles in his paper favored the Greeley movement. We quote the following as mere brief samples of what he then said:

"This political revolution means the complete overthrow of all existing abuses, by the substitution of a statesman for the Republican party who, with his headquarters at Long Beach, is constructively present at Washington."

"We enter the campaign with high hopes of success. Our duty will be to inaugurate a policy of assisting in the great work of reformation to the full extent of our humble ability."

It proves one of two things. Mr. Stenger is not consistent, or the elections in the West have so revived the hopes of his party that they expect to overthrow by legislation everything that has been done. He was for Greeley and "Civil Rights" in 1872, now he is loudly against it.

When the Republican party came into possession of the State Government, the Commonwealth was weighed down by a debt of \$40,000,000, and still accumulating. Fifteen years, including the draining times of war, have reduced the debt one-half.

If the people are wise they will maintain the men who have so wisely administered the affairs of State in Pennsylvania.

In a speech of Mr. Stenger in a meeting held at the meeting of the Republican county committee in Juniata county, where every taxpayer should stand.

From the consideration of office-holders he lunched into back pay, but here, as was his usual way, he left a great part untold. He did not tell that the percentage of Republicans that voted for "Back Pay" was not larger than the percentage of Democrats that voted for it. It was not a party measure; it was a combination of both parties, but Stenger carefully kept that back. It was a hard shot at Mr. Spear, his competitor for Congressional nomination. If he had stated the names of the Congressmen, Democrats and Republicans alternately, it would have been a fair statement, and the proportion of the two parties, which is nearly balanced, would have been clear to all. The Congressmen who represented our old district—Mr. Parker—voted against it, while the Congressmen who lived in the present district—Mr. Spear—voted for it, and thus almost evenly balanced the vote stands over the whole country.

President Grant was also handled for allowing his salary to be increased. Stenger did not complain of the Democratic Congressmen who at the same time permitted their salaries to be increased, neither did he breathe the faintest expression that he would work to reduce his own salary if he were a member of Congress. After speaking of the smaller number of representatives, he said that he had the names of the Congressmen, Democrats and Republicans alternately, it would have been a fair statement, and the proportion of the two parties, which is nearly balanced, would have been clear to all. The Congressmen who represented our old district—Mr. Parker—voted against it, while the Congressmen who lived in the present district—Mr. Spear—voted for it, and thus almost evenly balanced the vote stands over the whole country.

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