

Political.

WHILE Ohio was extending her hospitalities to the Legislature and Executive of Kentucky, a Pro-Slavery mob in Jackson County (Ky.) were driving out of the State for doubting the justice of Slavery!

How to Make One Penny do the Work of Three.

The other day Mr. Sumner, in the Senate of the United States, offered a resolution instructing the Postoffice Committee to inquire whether our present rates of postage are not exorbitant, and might not be reduced.

We have a suggestion to make, which our readers are sure, after a moment's consideration, will adopt and which, if the government would adopt it also, would entitle them to the thanks of the country.

The stamps and stamped envelopes issued by the Postoffice Department last year amounted in value to \$6,261,533—that is to say, a little more than six millions of dollars and a quarter.

Now, if we could save two millions of this sum to the persons who send letters by mail, and at the same time give the public treasury a clear revenue of two millions more, without subjecting the government to any expense, there is no man even the Postmaster-General himself, we hope who would not readily admit that an important service had been rendered to the country.

This might be done. We have taken pains to inquire into the matter, we have the deliberate opinions of intelligent persons concerned in the private express, and we are prepared to say that it might be done with the most perfect certainty.

The express at present organized would assume to do, for two cents, that service for which the government now demands three cents, and to pay half the compensation they received into the public treasury.

All that the government would need to do in the matter would be to set up a little shop for the manufacture of stamps, and deliver them in quantities to the express.

Instead of three cent stamps, which are now required for a single letter, they should be two cent stamps, and for every such stamp delivered them, the express would undertake to pay one cent to the government. Here is a revenue of two millions secured at once to the treasury, without any other outlay than the trifling one of procuring the dies and striking the stamps, while on every stamp the letter-writing public saves another cent, which leaves two millions more in the pockets of the citizens.

There is another advantage to be derived from surrendering the mails to the private express. The express would be responsible for every dollar of money, and every article of value committed to their charge. The Postoffice Department is not. If the government appoints a postmaster, who is a rogue, or makes a bargain with a dishonest mail contractor, and he steals the money enclosed in our letters, there is no redress.

Great as our loss may be, the government, whose agents we were compelled to trust, and who have robbed us, makes no restitution. Private expresses are subject to a different rule. The government is above the law and scoffs at the idea of making compensation to the injured person; public expresses are compelled by law to make good any losses we may suffer from the infidelity of their agents.

Then again, the express are more practical than the government mails. In a thousand instances the express outrun and distance the mails. The express depend for success on their reputation for arriving themselves of the most rapid means of communication, and delivering letters and parcels with the greatest exactness; the government has no such inducement to exertion and vigilance. Whether it perform its work well or ill, we must employ it to carry our letters.

monopoly of salt and tobacco, as some of those in this country whom we call statesmen can form an idea of a government without a Postoffice Department.

The Speaker.

The Republicans have at length triumphed, and elected a Speaker. Mr. Pennington of New Jersey, a well-tried Republican, who has voted unwaveringly for Mr. Sherman from the start, was elected yesterday on the first ballot by a clear majority.

This is just as perfect and complete a triumph for the Republicans as the election of any one of their number could have been. Mr. Sherman was originally nominated and sustained by them on the ground that he was the best and candidate, on the whole, that could be presented; and he has been faithfully adhered to on that ground alone.

But Mr. Sherman himself, and the entire Republican party with him, have always held themselves in readiness to unite on any other Republican, whenever one could be named, who stood a better chance of election than the original nominee.

During the progress of the long-protracted balloting, several conferences have been held to consider whether the emergency had come; but it never seemed to have arrived until within the last few days.

The last of the Republican conferences, held on Saturday last, determined that the time had at length arrived when more votes could probably be polled for Mr. Pennington than for Mr. Sherman.

When this conclusion was reached, the entire body of the Republicans, without a break and without hesitation, wheeled in solid column to his support, displaying the same unanimity and unclinging purpose that has actuated them from the beginning.

We congratulate the country and the Republican party upon this most satisfactory result. It ends the disorder that the Disunion Democracy have been creating and perpetuating, and which they have often declared they would make "eternal."

The House is organized, and public affairs may now receive the attention so long withheld by this audacious spirit of evil, that has so perseveringly baffled all efforts to elect a presiding officer.

Having done their worst, the factiousists could do no more. That their machinations have at last been thoroughly defeated, and their traitorous purposes, avowed in written contracts to prevent an organization, finally quelled, is a subject for sincere public rejoicing.

Mr. Pennington was elected to Congress by the People's party of New Jersey. His antecedents are Whig. He is a warm friend of protection to American industry, and holds with tenacity to the old-fashioned doctrines of Jefferson, Marshall, Tompkins, and Webster, upon the power and duty of Congress to inhibit Slavery in the Territories.

Though he has held high public positions, having been Chancellor and Governor of New Jersey for six years, yet, doubtless he has had less experience in legislative bodies than any man ever chosen to the Speaker's chair. Many years ago he was a member, for a single year, of the Lower House of the New Jersey Legislature; and, as Governor, he was ex-officio President of the Senate.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA. Thursday Morning, Feb. 9, 1860. T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Republican Meeting.

The Republicans of Potter County are requested to meet at the Court House in Coudersport, on Thursday evening of next February Court, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to appoint a County Executive Committee for the ensuing year, and transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

We ask attention to an article in this paper, from the N. Y. Evening Post, in relation to postage, and the Postoffice Department. The article is headed, "How to make one Penny do the work of Three," and it is an article that every body ought to read.

Our friend Cole, of the Wellsville Free Press, has, we are glad to learn, taken to a fat clerkship in the N. Y. Legislature. He sends us a pub. &c., to remind us of his whereabouts.

We would call the attention of the friends of Temperance and Human Freedom, to the fact that the Rev. Wm. C. Hosmer, of Auburn, is expected to lecture on those subjects, respectively, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Court week.

We are indebted to Mr. Benson of the State Senate, and Messrs. Mann and Williston of the House, for many legislative favors. We have read with much pleasure the remarks of the latter gentleman on the joint Congressional Resolutions. The speech is brief, but nevertheless we cannot find room for it, which we sincerely regret, as we believe it would be interesting to the friends of Freedom in this country.

We observe that the Centre Democrat has recently had an accession to its editorial corps, in the persons of J. S. & J. J. Brisbin, who have become editors and proprietors, with Col. W. W. Brown as associate editor. The Democrat has done good service in our cause, and we hope it may long continue in the good work. But we must earnestly protest against its wholesale appropriation, without credit, of our brain labor, as in the number of Jan. 26th, where we find two of our editorials copied entire, viz: "No longer Mud-Sills" and "The Extravagance of the Pro-Slavery Party." These articles cost us some labor, and we protest against such unflinching use of them by the Democrat.

On our fourth page will be found a summary of the operations at the Oil Mines in Crawford Co., taken from the Titusville Gazette, published at the centre of the great oil basin. It will be seen that prospecting for oil engages the attention of the speculative portion of that community, as well as a large number of strangers who are daily arriving at this new Eldorado.

The new developments of oil are still more astonishing in respect to quantity than were the first; and here we are reminded of a remark of a waggy and much esteemed friend of ours, who was experimenting with some of the oil in our office soon after our return from Titusville. He looked for a few moments at a burning rag which we had saturated with oil to exhibit its illuminating qualities, and suddenly turning and addressing us, said: "I have always believed, till now, that the world does not contain enough combustible matter to burn it up, if the Lord chose to set it on fire; but I am now convinced that it does."

Our friend is anti-orthodox in his religious opinions, which adds to the point of his remark. From a private letter lately received from Titusville, we learn that Jonathan Watson, Esq., of Titusville, Capt. Alden, late of the U. S. Army, and another gentleman whose name we forget, have recently concluded a treaty with the Chiefs of the Six Nations, by which they have purchased the exclusive rights to bore for oil on the Indian Reservation in the State of New York; for which privilege they agree to pay \$6,000 bonus, and one-third of the profits of the oil produced.

The amount of territory in the Reservation is, we believe, 40 square miles. The treaty was signed about a month ago. The "oil fever" has extended to Cuba, in Allegany Co., N. Y., where a number of prospectors are at work.

Election of a Speaker—Organization of Congress.

On Wednesday last, Hon. Wm. Pennington, of New Jersey, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington, which body has been occupying two months or more of the time of the people of the United States in trying to put itself in working condition.

The integrity of the House is at last re-deemed, and that, too, by the triumph of the great principles of Freedom and Justice. In another column we give an article from the N. Y. Tribune by which our readers can judge the importance of the victory to our party.

While we regret the causes which necessitated Mr. Sherman to withdraw his name as our standard-bearer, we are none the less gratified with the final triumph of our principles in the election of Mr. Pennington. We admire not only the magnanimous resignation of Mr. Sherman in withdrawing when he and his friends were fully convinced that there was a possibility of electing another, and at the same time we rejoice at the discipline of Republican members as exhibited in their adoption of the man whom Mr. Sherman nominated as his successor in bearing the party standard.

The election of Mr. Forney, of the Press, as Clerk, and Mr. Hoffman, of Maryland, as Sergeant-at-Arms, is further evidence of the good faith and magnanimity of the Republican members—and both pre-eminently just. The organization is an emphatic rebuke of the Administration, and of the blustering disunion threats of its Southern adherents and advisers.

We can understand why conservative papers see no objection to relieving the people from the trouble and responsibility of choosing delegates to the National Convention. But we are astonished at the tone and tendency of an article in the Erie True American of January 26, on this subject. We have heretofore had a high opinion of that paper. It professes to be more radical than ordinary Republican papers. But its statement of reasons for favoring the selecting of delegates by the State Convention are intensely conservative, and just such as Francis Joseph might give for relieving the people of Italy and Hungary from all care and trouble about governing themselves.

After denouncing as a sham the whole delegate system, that paper says: "The only feasible and the safest course is for the State Convention to appoint. This takes the whole thing out of the influence of the petty quarrels of county aspirants and places it in the hands of a body of responsible men, representing every County of the State, who are presumed to have the sagacity to ascertain and the honesty to carry out the true wishes of the people."

The same reasons would bear equally as strong against all elections by the people; and would take us back to the days when kings and emperors took the whole business of government out of the influence of the petty quarrels of county aspirants and placed it in such able and responsible hands as the ruler should select. If the people should elect their officers, then the more responsibility is put on them, the more likely are they to prove worthy of it; and as they keep all power to themselves, the better and truer will their representation be.

We should greatly prefer to dispense with all National Conventions, and we hope the Republicans will never call another one. But so long as we have them, let the delegates be chosen directly by the people.

"No Quarreling about Abstractions," and no Yielding up of Principles. The Cameron papers in this State are very anxious for a united delegation to the National Convention, and to that end propose to choose all the delegates at the State Convention. The Daily Telegraph devotes nearly half its space to pulling Cameron, and defending the proposed usurpation of the rights of the people by the State Convention. In its issue of January 30th, in reply to the Honorable Democrat, it closes an article in this innocent way:

"Let us have no quarreling about abstractions in this preliminary organization for the Campaign of 1860. As to the 'packing' of any Convention made up of delegates elected by the people of the districts respectively, that is not supposable. The delegates to the State Convention are just as well qualified to select delegates to the National Convention as they are to nominate a candidate for Governor."

If the right of the people to select their own delegates is abstraction, we should like to know what an essential is. And if anybody is creating a disunion in our ranks, we submit that it is those papers and politicians who advocate the scheme of trampling on the minority, by using the State Convention as an agency to choose Cameron delegates where the people prefer some other man.

If any body expects this scheme to work smoothly, they will be disappointed, that is all. The Telegraph says: "The State-Convention is just as well qualified to select delegates to the National Convention, as to nominate a candidate for Governor. It would be as true to say that the State Convention is as well qualified to select candidates for Congress as for Governor. But no sane man would think of proposing such a thing. For ourselves, we would about as soon the State-Convention should select the one as the other. We enter our protest against its selection of either, and we warn the advocates of this method of securing unity at Chicago, that it will fail."

The editor of the McKean Citizen, in his last letter from Harrisburg to his paper, thus blandly echoes the Telegraph—which, by-the-way, is Mr. Cameron's authorized mouth-piece—in laboring to take the voice of the people of this State out of the National Convention: "The question as to the selection of delegates to the National Convention by the State Convention is yet being agitated, but it is being pretty generally conceded that the old Democratic mode of selecting the delegates at the State Convention is the only way the question can be disposed of without creating disturbance in the ranks of the party. Mr. Buchanan could never have been nominated at Cincinnati had not the delegates from his own State been a unit for him. Is Gen. Cameron the favorite candidate of the people of the State? If so it is surprising to see a furor raised against the usual mode of selecting delegates to the National Convention, and no one but his enemies are engaged in it. If we had no candidate of our own it would make no difference whatever who were our delegates, but under the present circumstances it does make a difference, and the people of the State should stand by the old established rules of all parties on this question."

ing it, ask him to let you have it for circulation. Unless we petition, thoroughly and at once, we shall lose a golden opportunity to do good, that will not return. Don't let us say any more about fighting and drunken brawls, unless we make an effort worthy of the cause we pretend to love, to repeal the law that authorizes and legalizes the cause of these fights and brawls. J. S. M.

Foolish as well as Dishonorable.

There are some men in every party who will go into Convention with the associates, and simply because they do not control the nominations to suit themselves, oppose so much of it as they do not control. We submit that this conduct is not only very foolish, but essentially dishonorable. We had a specimen of this snaky Republicanism at the Borough election; but it is chiefly the test against such action in County Conventions that we call attention to the subject now. Every man attending the delegate meetings, and especially every delegate attending a Convention, implicitly pledges himself as an honorable man to the support of the whole ticket put in nomination, unless there is fraud or deceit in the proceedings of the Convention. Whoever attends as a delegate, a Convention honestly conducted, and then goes home and opposes part of the ticket put in nomination, must be able to give some thing more than personal reasons for doing, or the public, without regard to party, will look upon the act as dishonorable. We hope therefore, that hereafter, those persons who do not intend to support the ticket, unless it is made up to suit themselves, will act like good citizens and honorable men,—keep out of Convention, and take no part in the election of delegates. There is no other way to retain your own respect or that of the public. J. S. M.

The editor of the Citizen is, or ought to be, aware that very few of his readers will read that paragraph without feeling insulted; and furthermore, that the sentiment it expresses exposes him to the charge of having bartered his editorial independence for "place" at the hands of his favorite. The example of the Cincinnati Convention is not very flattering to the good sense of the friends of Gen. Cameron, and is unfortunate in view of the results growing out of that nomination. Mr. Buchanan and his friends deceived the people to gain the nomination, and have grossly abused their rights ever since. And yet he was apparently the unanimous choice of the people of Pennsylvania. If Mr. Cameron and his friends desire to inaugurate the Buchanan party's system of smothering the popular voice in party action, they have commenced at the wrong time and in the wrong place. The Republican masses of Pennsylvania having been driven out of the Buchanan party because of its despotism, will not submit to that despotism under the banner of the American-Republican party; and as a Republican we warn the friends of Mr. Cameron to desist from the scheme they are working at.

The fight noticed in the local column of the last JOURNAL, in which a Mr. Churchill was so dangerously stabbed that his life was in great peril, was the legitimate fruit of the liquor law of 1856, which was intended to facilitate the sale of intoxicating drinks, and has accomplished that result. There have been a good many fights and other disgraceful outrages committed in this county in consequence of the passage of that law. Temperance men of Potter county, you can repeal this law so far as you are concerned, if you will it; that is, if you will act, at once, earnestly and energetically, in accordance with such will. On the strength of a few petitions already presented from this county, we find some action has been taken at Harrisburg. In the proceedings of the House, January 30th, under the head of "Bills read in place," we find the following:

Mr. MANN, An Act to repeal the Act of April, 20th, 1856, regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors so far as said Act relates to the county of Potter."

A similar act passed the House last winter, but failed in the Senate. It will go through both Houses this winter, if you will do your duty. Let every person in this county, man or woman, who desires the above bill to become a law, take immediate steps to have that desire made known at Harrisburg. If there is a petition in your neighborhood, see that it is presented to every person to sign, and then send it to either your Representative or Senator. If there is no petition, write one. If there is a petition, and the person who has it in charge is not circulating it, ask him to let you have it for circulation. Unless we petition, thoroughly and at once, we shall lose a golden opportunity to do good, that will not return. Don't let us say any more about fighting and drunken brawls, unless we make an effort worthy of the cause we pretend to love, to repeal the law that authorizes and legalizes the cause of these fights and brawls. J. S. M.

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PRICE CURRENT.

Table listing prices for various goods such as Apples, Beans, Butter, Corn, Flour, Hams, Lard, Maple Sugar, Potatoes, Peaches, Pork, Raisins, Salt, Tallow, Wheat, and Wool.

THE AGITATOR: A Live Republican County Paper, Wellsboro, Tioga County, Pa.

HUGH YOUNG, Editor. THE AGITATOR for 1860 will be quite interesting to the citizens of this Representative District. It will give each week a summary of the Local News in Tioga, Potter, Bradford, Susquehanna, McKean, and Lycoming Counties, and will contain Reports of the Conventions, Mass Meetings, Clubs and Causes of both parties in the above counties. It will contain, also, reports of Institutes, Agricultural Fairs, Temperance Meetings, all Coventions, &c., &c., and Letters from Harrisburg and Washington, during the sessions of Congress and the Assembly.

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