

The Agitator.

WELLSBORO, PENN.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1866.

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as to those who stand with us, we are here to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.—A. LINCOLN—MARCH 4, 1865.

CIRCULATION 1,620.

FOR GOVERNOR
MAJ. GEN. JOHN W. GEARY,
OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

B. RUSH PETRIKIN, Esq., a prominent citizen of Lock Haven, died of Consumption last week. Mr. Petrikin was one of the most eccentric of men, and withal a man of fine mind.

Col. FRANK JORDAN, of Bedford, has been appointed Chairman of the Republican State Committee.
Judge WILLIAMS is the member of the State Republican Committee for this county.

The saddest commentary upon the social crime of intemperance, that ever came under our observation, was the spectacle of a young father and his little girl, promenading our streets one day last week. The child seemed to be not more than seven years of age, but was so overcome by whiskey, administered by the father, as to reel and stagger. The father was not so drunk as not to know better. That was a painful, but most effective temperance appeal.

NATURAL HISTORY OF POLITICS

Of "politicians," perhaps we should have said. The natural history of the Vestiges of Creation made a great stir; but whoever shall write the natural history of politicians will provoke a convulsion.
The Copperhead State Convention which nominated Hiester Clymer endorsed President Johnson's policy of reconstruction. President Johnson iterates and reiterates the assertion, that he stands now where he has stood from the beginning of the war down to the present time; and that his utterances during that period indicate his policy. We last week published his official utterance to Gov. Sharkey, of Mississippi, last August, in which the President recommends giving the ballot to the negro, under certain restrictions. We proceed with the record:
Last October, the President had a conversation with Maj. Geo. A. Stearns, which conversation was revised by the President, and published over his endorsement. In that conversation the President said:
"My position here is different from what it would be if I were in Tennessee. There, I should try to introduce negro suffrage gradually; first, those who had served in the army; those who could read and write; and perhaps a property qualification for others, say two hundred, or two hundred and fifty dollars."

We congratulate the "Democracy" upon progress made. We remember a time, not very long ago, when they revelled in the dogma that the negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect; now, they endorse a policy of reconstruction which makes negro suffrage a cardinal principle in the work. Then they objected to arming the negro; now, they endorse a policy of restoration which rewards the negro soldier by making him a voter! After this who shall say that the world does not move?
Fortunately for our purpose, the utterances of the President are many, and of record. In October, 1864, Andrew Johnson, then Governor of Tennessee, in a public speech in the State House in Nashville, said to a mass of freedmen:
"I, Andrew Johnson, hereby proclaim liberty—full, broad, unconditional liberty—to every man in Tennessee. I will be your Moses, and lead you through the Red Sea of servitude and struggle to a future of liberty and peace. Rebellion and slavery shall no more blot the name of the State. Let me hear you shout, 'GOD BLESS THE STATE!'"

That appears to be quite a positive utterance in favor of admitting the negro to a part in the great work of restoration. The President points to his record, and declares that his policy may be learned from his utterances on various occasions; and he says further, that he occupies the same position now that he has occupied from the beginning of the rebellion. We take him at his word, passing over his attempted dictation to Congress and his ill-judged harangue to a secession mob on the 22d of February, and by his utterances clearly show, that the Copperhead Convention which nominated Hiester Clymer, and endorsed the reconstruction policy of Andrew Johnson, unequivocally and fully committed that party to negro suffrage.
The force of this argument depends, of course, upon the President's veracity. He says that he has not changed one iota in his policy of reconstruction from the beginning of rebellion down to the present time. We have shown what his views on reconstruction were down to October last. No man can deny that his reconstruction policy contemplated negro suffrage as a cardinal principle. Indeed, in that respect, he is as radical as Sumner and Stevens. And we challenge his new-born glorifiers to produce any utterance of either Sumner or Stevens, more thoroughly radical than these utterances of Andrew Johnson, and which he declares to be foreshadow his policy.

A friend writes us acknowledging the facts as stated, but asks: "Do you believe Andrew Johnson will act in the spirit of those utterances?" We reply, that our confidence in Andrew Johnson is weakened, and will vanish utterly when he further assumes to dictate a policy to a Congress elected with special reference to the work of reconstruction. We are opposed to haste in prosecuting this difficult work. These Rebel States were thirty years in preparation to go out; it will not grieve many loyal people should they be half as long on probation. At all events, they should be admitted only when they give unmistakable evidence of having repented, and cast off their hatred of free institutions.

SCHOOL MATTERS.—The Department of Common Schools of Pennsylvania recently made the following decisions, which will be of interest to the people of every district in the State:
That the time for issuing the warrants for the State Appropriation to school districts has been changed by the act of April, 1866, until after the close of the Common School year.
It is not legal, in any case, to keep school open on Saturdays.
Scholars, whose parents have a legal residence in one district, cannot legally attend the school in another district, merely by going in that district to school for their board, with the intention of attending school, and returning to the residence of their parents when the school has closed.
Christmas Day, Washington's birthday, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving Day, are legal holidays, and what occurs on an ordinary school day, they are to be observed by closing school, and the teacher is to write on the roll book the name of the holiday, in the column under the proper date, and count the days of school closed as open. If the holidays are taken without the consent of proper board, the time is to be made up at the end of the term.
School directors elected this spring will not be entitled to vote at the coming election for County Supervisors, which takes place the first Monday in May, 1866. The terms of school directors commence on the first Monday in June, and therefore only those now in office can vote.
A receipt given by a Collector for State, County or school tax paid does not require a revenue stamp. An order drawn upon the treasurer of a board requires no stamp, but a receipt given by a person who holds such order, when it is cashed, if for \$20, must be stamped.

GEN. LEE'S Allington estate belongs to the Government. It was purchased at a sale for the non-payment of taxes. All talk, therefore, of restoring Uncle Sam has a title to the farm, which holds good against all litigation.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL, about which so much anxiety is felt by the friends of human progress, contains 11 sections. The gist of the measure, however, is contained in the first section, as follows:
"That all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens, of every race and color, without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue and to be sued, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subjected to like punishment, pains and penalties, and to none other, any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

The remaining sections are penal and directory. It is now confidently given out by the rebel sympathizers that the President will veto the bill. As the President has often declared himself in favor of making all loyal men equal before the law, we hope he will remember his pledges and approve the bill.

The Columbia Republican has been enlarged to eight columns, and dressed in new type. It now makes an appearance second to none in the State, and deserves the united support of the Union men of Columbia county. Its one of the spiciest and most energetic journals printed. Dr. John is a live man, and as plucky as the pluckiest.

The New Hampshire election is a thorn in the side of the "new party," so-called. One week before it took place, the Copperhead sheets declared that the success of the Republicans would be an endorsement of Congress. Some of them now declare that it was a "radical" defeat. Suit yourselves, gentlemen. The fact that the party which quoted Andrew Johnson's 22d of February speech, was whipped out of its boots, is one which cannot be denied. You see the "impending doom" of treason, and therefore kick and prevaricate, as usual.

The Clinton Democrat opens the campaign with a column of most puerile abuse of Gen. Geary. It pronounces him a coward and a skulker, and even attacks his record in the Mexican war. We hope our friends will encourage him to proceed. The soldiers, who have so often followed where Geary led, will at once see which party is desirous of regarding those who fought the battles of freedom.

We last week congratulated our readers upon the veto of the bill giving the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company a monopoly of Northern Pennsylvania. Since that publication, a bill not less objectionable has passed both Houses, and awaits the Governor's signature.

We forgot to mention last week, that the most forcible speech against the other twindle, was made by our worthy Senator, Capt. COWLES. We shall endeavor to find room for it soon, as it is short, pointed, and singularly clear.

We join in the call upon Gov. Curtin to interpose his veto between monopoly and the people for the second time.
And we agree with the Lewisburg Chronicle, that it will be better to abolish the Legislature, and permit the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to make all the laws, without recourse to the heavy and expensive machinery of annual elections. Abolish it.

Some wag enquires why the President is under more obligations to the Copperheads than to the Union men; and answers thus: Because the Copperheads made him President, while the Union men only made him Vice President. That is very sharp.

The Republicans have carried the town elections in Maine, most overwhelmingly. The Copperheads did not try.

So in New York State: The Republicans have made great gains in the election of Supervisors, notwithstanding the active opposition of the Copperheads.
So far, the Opposition have not carried a single local election where they have not had a majority from "time immemorial."

We see that abuse of Col. FORNEY is becoming quite the rage with semi-rebel sheets. They forgot that Mr. Buchanan sought, and succeeded, in getting up a quarrel with him some years ago. The result of that quarrel is, that there is not a dog in Tioga county who is not in better repute than James Buchanan; while Col. Forney is one of the representative journalists of the times, wielding more influence throughout the country than any single man in official position, not excepting Andrew Johnson. John W. Forney is not a pleasant foe to stir up, gentlemen.

The Committee on Elections in Congress have decided to oust James Brooks and give his seat to Wm. E. Dodge. From a cursory reading of some of the evidence, we judge that Brooks did not receive a respectable legal vote. Mr. Dodge will do credit to the position which Brooks disgraced by his demagoguery.

Connecticut votes for State officers next Monday. The Republicans have nominated Gen. Hawley for Governor, and ought to elect him triumphantly. Gen. Hawley is one of the bravest of Union soldiers.

The CENTRAL PRESS, Bellefonte, Center County, comes to us in a new and elegant suit of type, and enlarged to the size of THE AGITATOR. We congratulate friend KURTZ upon this evidence of prosperity and progress, and hope the Republicans of Center will show their appreciation of his effort to furnish them with a first-class paper by increased patronage.

The papers are having a warm time over the attitude of the President toward the Republicans in Connecticut. We cannot comprehend why there should be any dispute. If Mr. Johnson wants Gen. Hawley defeated, he only agrees with Jeff Davis so much. And if he does desire Hawley's defeat, that is no reason why he should be defeated.

The Republicans of Rhode Island have nominated Gen. Burnside as their candidate for Governor. He is one of the manliest men alive, and will be elected by an overwhelming majority.

XXXIXth Congress—1st Session.

MARCH 16, SENATE.—Various petitions, for equal rights, and the election of President by popular vote, were presented. A new basis of reconstruction was proposed, by Senator Stewart, of Nevada, (a thorough supporter of the President) as follows:
"WHEREAS, in the present distracted condition of the country it is eminently proper to suspend all just constitutional means should be employed for the quieting of popular excitement, and the obliteration of all hostile feeling growing out of the late unhappy civil war; and to expect one of the most prolific sources of unfriendly sentiment is the conflict of opinion existing on the subject of negro suffrage; and whereas, it is now most evident that there is no probability whatever that Senators and Representatives in Congress from the States whose people were not in rebellion will be allowed to occupy the seats to which they have been elected, until said States shall have complied with certain fundamental principles a portion of which are hereinafter recited; and whereas, it is unreasonable to expect one of the most prolific sources of unfriendly sentiment is the conflict of opinion existing on the subject of negro suffrage; and whereas, it is now most evident that there is no probability whatever that Senators and Representatives in Congress from the States whose people were not in rebellion will be allowed to occupy the seats to which they have been elected, until said States shall have complied with certain fundamental principles a portion of which are hereinafter recited; 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