

THE TIMES.

New Bloomfield, May 14, 1878.

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Civil Service Reform Nonsense.

What a vast amount of nonsense there is written about taking civil service out of politics—as if there could be any such thing as civil service without politics.—What is wanted is the nomination of honest men who will purify politics and reform civil service at the same time.—Reform must be begun in the caucus, by the people, and enforced at the ballot-box.

The Florida Count.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Representative Springer, of Illinois, is now carrying around in his pocket the resolution thunderbolt he purposes to hurl against the Florida count when the opportunity offers. He expected to get it up to-day, but the tariff bill left him out in the cold. Meanwhile it is learned that the Democrats of both Houses are anxious to have a joint caucus over the matter before any such resolution is offered. Senator Barnum, of Connecticut, has the thing under consideration, and is trying to bring the thumb-screws to bear on Springer and Finley, of Ohio, who feel determined to spring the resolution before the party magnates can deliberate and decide.

Convention of the "Nationals."

The "Nationals," held their State convention at Philadelphia on Wednesday last. They nominated a state ticket as follows: For Governor, S. R. Mason of Mercer county. For Lieutenant Gov. Christian Shearer, of Bucks. For Supreme Judge, E. S. Bentley of Lycoming. For Sec. of Internal affairs, Jas. L. Wright, of Philadelphia.

The platform is a long one, and covers over lots of ground. In the first place it is declared that the government should furnish aid to all who wish to settle on the public lands; that is, they should be carried out there free of charge and set up on farms at the government expense. Second, all money to be issued by the government, and plenty of it; the rate of interest in no case to exceed three per cent. Third, interest on government bonds to be paid in paper and no more to be issued. Fourth, no speculation in any of the necessities of life, money, bonds, food or land. Next an income tax, labor-saving machinery to be controlled by the government, and no property qualifications for voting.

An Outrageous Law.

The legislature has finally succeeded in passing a law which increases the pay of an office which many persons think not only overpaid, but actually useless. We refer to the Superintendent of Common Schools. If more of the public money is to be used in the cause of education it had better be given to the teachers who really do the labor, and who as a class are poorly paid, rather than to increase the pay of a supernumerary. The full text of the law is as follows:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, etc., That the salary of each county superintendent of common schools elected according to law in the year 1878, and thereafter, shall be four dollars and fifty cents for each school in his jurisdiction at the time of his election, to be paid out of the general fund appropriated for common schools. Provided, That the salary of a county superintendent shall in no case be less than eight hundred dollars per annum, and in counties with over one hundred schools, it shall not be less than one thousand dollars; and provided further, That conventions of school directors when assembled for the purpose of electing a county superintendent, may vote him a salary greater than the amount he would receive by this act; such increase in all cases to be taken from the school fund of the county thus voting. That in all counties having over two hundred and ninety schools, or twelve hundred square miles of territory, a school term exceeding seven and one-half months, the salaries of said superintendents shall not be less than fifteen hundred dollars.

SEC. 2. That so much of section thirty-nine of the act of May eighth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, as requires that a convention of school directors shall determine the compensation of a county superintendent is hereby repealed, except so far as provided for in this act.

Famine's Horrors in China.

Washington, May 2.—Minister Seward telegraphs that the famine in the northern provinces of China will continue for six months longer. He adds that money for the relief of sufferers, if transmitted by telegraph, can be disbursed by the foreign committee, or by the commission appointed at Peking. A Japanese correspondent writes:

"The famine in the north of China

rages with increasing severity, and the most dreadful reports come from the afflicted regions. In one town a man opened a shop for the sale of human flesh, and did a good business in cannibalistic joints and roast, until the local mandarin interfered by causing the shop-keeper to be beheaded."

Trouble Among the Illinois Miners.

A Belleville, Ill., special says: Serious apprehensions are felt that the trouble in the coal mines of this neighborhood, where nearly 4,000 miners are on a strike, will end in scenes of violence, and this feeling has been greatly aggravated by the discovery that communistic agents from St. Louis have been out among the miners, counseling them to remain firm and enforce their rights.—The strike has been in operation a little over three weeks, and extends to all the pits in St. Clair and Madison counties.

The strike originated in a demand for increased pay, or, as the men say, "for living wages." The coal operators have been paying the men from one cent to one and a half cents per bushel, and at this rate the miners assert they cannot live. Fair, ordinary miners should be able to dig sixty-five bushels of coal per day, but out of their earnings they have to find oil for their lamps, supply themselves with tools and keep them sharpened, and buy powder.

Then they charge that there was another imposition practised on them in measuring their work by the box. The box should hold sixteen bushels, but they say they were compelled to pile it up with coal that it contained eighteen or twenty bushels, and for these extra bushels they received no recompense.—The proper way for the men to be paid, they claim, is according to the freight receipts, and then they would get their money for all they did.

Until last week, the miners maintained a peaceful attitude, but hearing that some men were laying tracks in Hendricks' mine, they went over there and threw 600 cords of wood which had been lying in the vicinity of the pit down the shaft. They also demolished an engine house attached to the Dudley mines, and it was in connection with these excesses that two of the strikers were locked up, although they strenuously deny any complicity in the riotous proceedings.

Another thing that causes a bitter feeling on the part of the men is the shipping of coal by the railroad companies. The miners have been idle so long that many are menaced by starvation, making them desperate and disposed to violence. A large number of them have thus far been sustained by the storekeepers, but they now decline to make further advances.

Row at Williams College.

BOSTON, May 8.—A special from North Adams, Mass., states that within the last forty-eight hours several members of the junior class of Williams college have been guilty of extreme disorder and rowdiness. Two members of that class have already been suspended and the probabilities are that the number will be speedily increased.

The origin of the difficulty is said to have been the refusal of a junior, who acted as the janitor of the chapel, to obey an order of President Chadbourne relating to the time for lighting the lamps, for which he was promptly suspended. He was placed in a carriage and escorted to the depot by his class, where inflammatory speeches were made and discourteous epithets applied to the president.

A Strange Accident.

On Sunday evening, says the *Altoona Mirror*, of Monday, as the Fast Line west was coming around the curve at Birmingham the rear parlor swung and struck the smoking car on Atlantic Express east which was passing and tore the side of the roof from end to end. The parlor car which did the damage, swung back again into place, whence it swung across to the other track in time to hit the rear sleeping car "Transit," of the Atlantic Express, but not injuring it much. No one was hurt, but by the first collision a brakeman was almost thrown from the train.

A Million Pounds of Lint.

A cable dispatch brings the grim announcement that England has ordered one million pounds of lint. This enormous preparation for the dressing of sabre, bayonet and gun-shot wounds suggests a fearful carnage. A pound of lint is enough to dress twenty ghastly wounds and the prudent forethought of Mr. Disraeli in thus preparing for twenty millions of wounded men cannot be too much admired.

Another Strike in London.

LONDON, May 7.—From six to seven thousand cloth workers in the Holmfirth district and Huddersfield have resolved to strike in consequence of a notice of a reduction of wages.

A meeting of master cotton spinners

and manufacturers held at Manchester has unanimously resolved to issue a circular to the mill owners throughout the strike district recommending that the mills open be closed to-morrow, and advising that no individual arrangements for opening the mills be made with workmen. The adoption of this resolution has caused great anxiety at Manchester, as it is believed it will render a general lockout inevitable and widen the gulf between the masters and employees.

A Long Journey in a Canoe.

Mr. Chas. Chase, of the New York Canoe Club, started at 6 o'clock yesterday morning from One Hundred and Tenth street and Harlem River on a long ride over the waters of New York and Canada. The craft is what is called a yacht or sailing-canoe, is 14 feet 4 inches long, 28 inches wide and weighs 65 pounds. When everything was ready and the tourist was comfortably seated in the canoe among his clothing, bedding and cooking utensils the word was given and the canoe was pushed off into the river. Mr. Chase was accompanied up the Harlem by several members of the club in their boats. Mr. Chase will paddle up the Harlem into the Hudson at Spuyten Duyvil, then up to Lake Champlain and through Sorrel River to the St. Lawrence. Then he will wander among the Thousand Islands. Returning, he will float down the St. Lawrence to Quebec, thence up the Chaudiere to Lake Megantic when the boat will be taken overland to the headwaters of the Connecticut River, and thence Mr. Chase will return by Long Island Sound. He will do his own cooking and will sleep in his canoe on shore.—*N. Y. World.*

A Man-Eating Stallion.

The Hambletonian stallion Risingham, owned by Dr. James A. Schultz, of Middletown, New York, was shot and killed on last Thursday, he being considered unsafe to keep. He was 21 years old, and for 19 years has been a confirmed man-eater. More than twenty keepers have been crippled by him, and he has killed three persons outright. No professional horse-trainer could subdue him, and all the systems of horse training and breaking have been tried in vain. He was a thoroughbred, old Hambletonian being his sire, and his dam being a mare of fine blood. He had been in harness but once in 14 years, and that was recently, when Dr. Schultz had him hitched up, it requiring several men to do it. The doctor then attempted to drive Risingham, but the horse became so furious and unmanageable that he was allowed to go at once to his stall, where he has remained ever since. The sum of \$7,000 was once offered for him, and refused by his owner, in the hope that he might be cured.—The last feat Risingham performed was to bite the right cheek of a negro keeper entirely off, the unfortunate groom's three immediate predecessor's having lost respectively an ear, three fingers and a thumb, and the muscles of the right forearm.—*N. Y. Times.*

Bad for the Girl.

There is a story in circulation on the Heights, says the *Jersey City Journal*, to the effect that two young men, residents of that section, went to the West Side woods last Sunday afternoon, took off their coats and engaged in a boxing match for the purpose of deciding which should accompany a certain Highland lassie to church that evening. According to rumor the conflict lasted for half an hour, at the end of which time one of the contestants was discovered seated upon the prostrate form of his antagonist, puffing, as though he had been running a foot race, instead of fighting for the privilege of accompanying a girl to church.

After both had become thoroughly rested, the man who came out best asked the other if he was thoroughly satisfied, and upon being assured that such was the case, and that he would at once look for some new girl to accompany to church, the conqueror informed him that it was not necessary for him to do that, for he, the conqueror, had decided that he did not want anything to do with a girl for whom he had to fight during the daytime in order that he might spend a few hours of the evening in her society. The whipped man released from all feminine attachments by being thrashed, and the consequence was the lassie went to church alone.

Iowa's Latest Cyclone.

A Des Moines paper says:—"Mr. Booth has a valuable dog, with a large mixture of shepherd blood. As the storm drew near, the dog attempted to get into the house, but the doors and windows were barricaded. The dog hid himself in the barn, emerging from his retreat as soon as the tornado had passed. He sought the house and found nothing remaining. The dog swam a creek and ran panting to the house of a neighbor of Mr. Booth. Mr. Al. Jordan noticed

the conduct of the dog, and at once went out, led by the dog, to the ruins of Booth's home. Both dog and man instituted a search, and when Booth was found in the brush, the faithful dog leaped upon him, licked his face and his hands, and indulged in every manifestation of pleasure and delight."

So uniform is the course of the tornadoes from the southeast, that there is a field for observation to discover the cause. They have become established almost to a rule, and if there be any law governing them, the people would be very glad to know it, as it is a matter not only of dollars and cents, but of life and death.

A Real Case of Broken Heart, Caused by Excitement.

Major John F. Lacy, a leading member of the Mahaska county bar, whom we met on our trip south this week, reports a remarkable case that came under his observation. He was cross-examining a witness in court, one day last week, when suddenly the man, apparently stout and well, dropped his head on his breast, breathed stentoriously once or twice and was dead.

The body was carried off, another witness substituted in his place, and ten minutes after, the doctor came into court, bearing in his hand the heart of the man, who, a few minutes previous, was giving his testimony. The aorta was ruptured, and the suffusion of blood was so vast and sudden it inundated the lungs, and the man died instantly and without pain. Suppressed excitement did it—a real case of broken heart.—*Eldora (Ia.) Ledger.*

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9, 1878.

Our new silver dollars—which are getting common enough here now, but which only a month or so ago were being purchased and sent to distant friends as keepsakes or laid by as souvenirs—are being subjected to all sorts of criticisms. That funny Bob Burdette of the Burlington "Hawkeys," tells how it makes his blood boil to think of the man who has evidently chucked the Goddess of Liberty under the chin—as seen on the new dollars, and, far and wide, the press decries the design, which is in reality, very neat and pretty. A few days ago 20 of these coins were sent the U. S. Treasury from the Chicago Sub-Treasury, on the supposition that they were counterfeit. The dollars had the genuine look, ring and proper weight, but as 19 of them laid one above the other formed a pile as high as did 20 of those received direct from the Treasury here, they were suspected and sent here for examination. It was found, however, that the extra thickness was caused by slight irregularities in the working of the dies before they were properly adjusted for uniform pressure, these being among the very first dollars that were coined.

One of the families that are intimate at the White House is that of Mr. Andrews, the Ohio artist, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. Hayes' Private Secretary. Mr. Andrews has lately finished a full length portrait of Mrs. Hayes which is now on exhibition at the National Art Gallery here, and which is considered the reverse of flatterer to its original. One lady, who is no mean judge of portrait painting, remarked that nothing was natural or life like about the picture save the hair—smooth, shiny and purple black.

Mr. Andrews has also recently finished a most beautiful painting of Martha Washington, representing her in all the splendor of the high breeding and courtly grandeur that belonged to the wife of our first President. It is a rare production and very valuable. Where it shall be permanently placed is not decided.

A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives last week to appropriate \$25,000 for the erection of a monument to Gen. Custer in this city. The bill authorizes the Joint Committee on the Library to select a statuary group, the central figure of which shall be an equestrian statue of Custer, the entire group being such as to vividly commemorate his death. The bill also provides that the group shall be of bronze, at least one and one-fourth the size of life.

This makes us think of Indians, and of those who are here. All the tribes inhabiting the Indian Territory have sent delegates here, so great is the interest felt among them regarding the effort now on foot for the establishment of a Territorial form of government among them. During past years the Creeks and Cherokees have maintained a delegation here at an annual expense of \$15,000, and these tribes only; but at present there are also Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole delegates in this city. They are all educated, intelligent, and gentlemanly half-breeds, and they hold secret-councils nightly. One of their number told a reporter the other day that the Indian Delegates all prefer remaining at home, but are obliged to come here to work against unfriendly legislation of Congress, at considerable cost to their tribes. It costs the Creeks \$5,000 and the Cherokees \$10,000 every year, and this year this expense to the Chickasaws will be \$5,000, to the Choctaws \$3,000, and to the Seminoles \$1,500, making in all \$23,-

500; and this as Pleasant Potter, one of the delegates from the Creek tribes and a member of the Upper House of their Council, said: "To pay in defending their homes and property from the attacks of speculators and schemers." The money goes for hotel bills, for printing documents and legal papers for distribution among Congressmen, and for Attorney's fees.

OLIVE.

Miscellaneous News Items.

A fire at Linton, Ohio, Thursday, destroyed \$30,000 worth of property, consisting principally of machinery and stock of the Grafton Furnace Company and freight cars. Insured for \$15,000.

LEWISBURG, Pa., May 8.—M. Halpeny & Co.'s woolen mill was totally destroyed by fire last night, the flames having been kindled by lightning. Loss, \$43,000; insurance, \$26,000.

PITTSBURGH, May 6.—A skiff containing three women and two children was struck by a raft on the Allegheny river a few miles above this city this afternoon and capsized. Two of the women were drowned.

The will of the late W. S. O'Brien, of San Francisco, shows the value of his estate to be less than \$6,000,000. He leaves to the Catholic Orphan Asylum, San Rafael and Catholic and Protestant Orphan Asylums, in that city, \$50,000, \$30,000 and \$20,000, respectively.

The Columbia National Bank has sent a claim to Congress for \$120,000 for the loss of the Columbia bridge in 1863. The structure was destroyed by order of General Couch to prevent the rebels from crossing the Susquehanna and marching to Harrisburg or Philadelphia.

A few nights since, a valuable horse, the property of Miss Bricker, of Mechanicsburg, was poisoned by some villain by placing pounded glass mixed with some other compound in the feed. Fortunately the dastardly attempt was discovered before the animal had eaten a sufficient quantity to destroy its life.

Charles Tuttle, a resident of Katonah, Westchester county, was instantly killed by the Chatham express on Monday a week, at a point half way between Katonah and Bedford. He was walking on the track directly towards the coming train, but being very deaf and having the setting sun in his eyes, did not perceive his danger.

A mine wagon containing eight men jumped the track while descending into the slope of the Gate Vein colliery, near Pottsville, last week, and was thrown to the bottom. Frederick Botzel, of Yorkville, was horribly mangled and instantly killed, and George Schodt, of Pottsville, seriously injured. The remaining six men escaped with slight bruises.

LANCASTER, May 7.—The county convention of school directors was held in the court house to-day, and B. F. Shaub was unanimously re-elected superintendent for the ensuing three years. He is in every respect a good and competent man, and well deserves the rare compliment of such a unanimous endorsement.

Timothy Sweeney, an axe inspector in the employ of William Mann, Jr., & Co., of the axe factory in Derry township, Mifflin county, met a shocking death about 10 o'clock on last Wednesday morning. In company with a carpenter named Bell he had gone below to the grinding shop to fix some portion of the belting that seemed to be disarranged. In reaching forward to adjust it Mr. Sweeney's clothing was caught by a screw in the shafting that was flying around at the rate of 106 revolutions per minute. He was inextricably entangled, and was whirled in a circle for probably 150 times. His feet and body struck the floor overhead with every turn of the screw, and they were frightfully mangled.

DETROIT, May 2.—Jonathan Walker, the noted abolitionist hero of Whittier's poem "The Man with the Branded Hand," died yesterday in Muskegon in great poverty. For attempting to free slaves he was captured in Florida, imprisoned, pilloried, and branded on the right hand with the letters, S. S., or Slave Stealer. He was born in 1799, and was long noted as one of the most vehement of abolition and anti-slavery lecturers.

A man named Fraser is in custody at Glasgow on the charge of having, while in a state of somnambulism, killed his infant son. About 7 A. M. he got up in bed under the impression that there was a wild beast moving about, and seizing his child, dashed it against the wall with such force that it died shortly afterwards. He had on a previous occasion, while asleep, assaulted his wife.

Doctors Gave Him Up.

"Is it possible that Mr. Godfrey is up and at work, and cured by so simple a remedy?"

"I assure you it is entirely true that he is entirely cured, and with nothing but Hop Bitters, and only ten days ago his doctors gave him up and said he must die!"

"Well-a-day! If that is so, I will go this minute and get some for my poor George. I know hops are good."