

Lancaster Intelligencer.

TUESDAY EVENING, JAN. 27, 1880.

O'Connor Answered. As an antidote to the gloomy prophecies of Charles O'Connor which we recently published, we direct the attention of our readers to a republication of the letter written to the INTELLIGENCER some months ago by Judge Black on the same theme that engaged Mr. O'Connor in his letter to the Newark club. Judge Black's letter was written of course without any controversial purpose and with no regard especially to anybody's contrary view of the question; but it will serve none the less completely to meet the points raised by Mr. O'Connor, and presents forcible reasons why his pessimistic view of the situation should not gain popular prevalence. Great reforms may move slowly, and though we see the uprooting of governmental evils and political wrongs with small-like—sometimes crab-like—pace, toward the victory of civil liberty, if we do but look back to the great advance made in our position within a dozen years it will be seen that the experience of the past has a hopeful lesson for the future. The clouds have been as dark and the situation as threatening as Mr. O'Connor pictured, but he does not seem to have seen the rifts of light that have since broken through and dispersed the gloom where Judge Black's clearer eye now reaches. Up to the time that his own magnificent protest was heard in the supreme court in the Milliken case, that the remnant of civil liberty left us should be spared by the judiciary into whose hands was then committed the destiny of the nation, there had been steady progress, unstayed by law, towards a subversion of our system. That case and his victory in it for constitutional law, personal liberty, and the overthrow of the infamous system of military commissions, was the vernal equinox in our history. The brooks were not unlocked from the ice fetters at once, nor the March winds tempered, nor did the trees all of a sudden burst into bloom and the birds set to singing. But the time was at hand when a change was sure to come and the events were happening that were big with the promise of better things. Mark the progress that Democracy has made since the time when Judge Black says the outlook for the republic was more hopeless than that of Prometheus. State after state has been wrested from Republican control until the opposition are not left in charge of more than half of them, and only intestine troubles can defeat the Democratic nominee for president. The lobby has been almost utterly scourged from the capitol, the carpet-baggers are scattered to the winds, and whatever the theory of the Republicans, surely we have compelled them to decenter practices. It remains for the Democracy to finish the work so auspiciously begun, and when the contest looks hopeless and ravens of ill omen croak despair, it is well for the voices of men who have seen the darker days, like Judge Black, and led us up from them, to remind the faltering of how far we have already come from Egypt on the way to the promised land.

The Presidency.

The Examiner has repeatedly insinuated late that the INTELLIGENCER's views on the presidency, or at least regarding a fit nominee to that office for the Democracy, had undergone some sort of change contemporaneous with a brief friendly and social visit of Speaker Randall to this city. We have not thought it worth while to notice the intimation, remembering the admonition, that "though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him." Moreover, the INTELLIGENCER has never withheld from its readers—of whom Mr. Randall is one—any of its opinions on any proper subject of public interest and of legitimate discussion; and those who read it need never be in doubt as to where it stands; and when, for any reason, it changes its opinions, its readers need not go elsewhere to find it out. The Examiner says: "After the November election last year it thought Mr. Tilden would not do for another contest." As nothing has transpired since then to make the INTELLIGENCER change that opinion, neither has there occurred anything to make it re-affirm it over and over again. It seems to be the universal concession of friends and foes that the only thing necessary to complete Democratic victory this year is to carry New York; and the events of last November make it highly probable that New York could be carried by Mr. Tilden with the Kelly people opposing him. On the other hand it is not at all likely that Mr. Tilden would give a cordial and effective support to a nominee of Kelly's dictation nor to anybody who went right-should over him. But both these contingencies can very easily be avoided by the party without doing itself discredit. There are scores of able and worthy men whose nomination will reconcile all dissatisfactions and compose all differences in New York. Any one of these can be elected, and nobody except the Republicans seems to be apprehensive lest the right man may not turn up at the right time.

No Star Chamber Practices.

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CONSIDERING the very modest amount of pay that those are to receive who are appointed to assist in taking the United States census, and the hard work involved in faithfully fulfilling the duties of the office, it is singular that so many persons can be found willing to undertake the business. One hundred and fifty census supervisors are to be appointed, and it is said that there are 9,000 applications for these positions, which will pay to those who receive them only \$500. As to the enumerators, who are to receive \$100 for about four weeks' work, their number might be made good many hundred times over out of the multitude that stand ready to volunteer their services. Commenting on this state of society, which it regards as an abnormal condition of its morals, an esteemed contemporary expresses the opinion that the mania for office-holding, even of the lowest order, is one which promises to make the lives of a great many thousands of our citizens miserable.

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Ex-Governor HUBBARD, of Texas, weighs 310 pounds. Yesterday was Mrs. GRANT's birthday and the event was duly observed by private social festivities in Havana. Senator HAMPTON, who is ill and greatly depressed over the death of his son, has gone to Natchez, Miss. Queen Victoria has sent her portrait and autograph to Mrs. WEBB, a British dame who has just celebrated her 101st birthday. The 125th anniversary of the birthday of ROBERT BURNS was celebrated by his admirers in this and other countries yesterday. The late ex-Senator WESTCOTT is described as always wearing the queue of his early manhood. He would never give it up, although of late years he concealed it beneath his coat collar. Mr. GILBERT and Mr. SULLIVAN have refused an offer of \$5,000 from the Boston theatre for the privilege of producing "The Pirates of Penzance." They intend to send a company themselves to the Athenian town.

MINOR TOPICS.

At the school board election at Portsmouth, England, a short time ago, a Jew headed the poll, an Episcopal clergyman was second and a Catholic priest third. PROBABLY it must be set down as merely a curious coincidence that the appearance in Maine politics of the bayonet and Gatling gun and the disappearance from Augusta of the Hon. James G. Blaine with a Boston railroad ticket in his hat-band were simultaneous events. WHILE the Baptist preachers are trying to make up their minds what to do with Baptist girls who dance, the girls will probably go on dancing, after the manner of light-hearted and light-footed youth, without puzzling their young brains too much over what seems to them the incomprehensible prejudice of their pastors against that amusement. It might be worth while for the preachers, before they resume the discussion, to consult the girls and hear what they have to say. JOHN BRIGHT makes a bold effort to deal with the Irish grievances in proposing that a government commission shall buy out such landlords as are willing to sell, and then dispose of the holdings on time to the tenant. He stops short at making the sale compulsory. This was deemed the fatal defect in the clauses which he had embodied in Mr. Gladstone's act to enable tenants to acquire the ownership of the land. At present, however, neither the Conservative nor Liberal party is ready to go as far as Mr. Bright. The landed interest recoils from a measure which might, at some day, be demanded in England and Scotland.

CONSIDERING the very modest amount of pay that those are to receive who are appointed to assist in taking the United States census, and the hard work involved in faithfully fulfilling the duties of the office, it is singular that so many persons can be found willing to undertake the business. One hundred and fifty census supervisors are to be appointed, and it is said that there are 9,000 applications for these positions, which will pay to those who receive them only \$500. As to the enumerators, who are to receive \$100 for about four weeks' work, their number might be made good many hundred times over out of the multitude that stand ready to volunteer their services. Commenting on this state of society, which it regards as an abnormal condition of its morals, an esteemed contemporary expresses the opinion that the mania for office-holding, even of the lowest order, is one which promises to make the lives of a great many thousands of our citizens miserable.

The subject which is now being freely discussed by the dramatic press of the country is that of "Dead-Heads."

The number of this class of people is increasing every year, and it will continue to do so as long as managers are foolish enough to accede to the demands made upon them by persons who have no more right to ask for free admittance to their theatres than they have to ask them for their pocket-books. Some of the managers are beginning to see the result of their foolishness and the time will soon come when the "free list" will be abolished, and all who desire to succeed will have to stop the practice of "papering" their houses. In the city of New York the dead-head system prevails to an alarming extent, and persons attending the least favor to a theatrical man look for several "passes" in return. Every one who owns a prominent window, where a lithograph can be displayed, looks for, and generally receives, tickets. Thousands of people gain free admittance to the theatre in that city every month in this manner, and some well known managers will no longer allow lithographs to go out from their theatres. A letter will be found on our outside page which was written by an agent who gives a description of his trials with "dead-heads."

Properly Denounced.

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