

THE RIVER PRESS

Wednesday, November 17, 1880.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

By the President of the United States of America, proclamation.

At no period in their history since the United States became a nation, has this people had so abundant and so universal reasons for joy and gratitude at the favor of Almighty God, or been subject to so profound an obligation to give thanks for His loving kindness and humbly to implore His continued care and protection. Health, wealth and prosperity throughout all our borders; peace, honor and friendship with all the world; a firm and faithful adherence by the great body of our population to the principles of liberty which have made our greatness as a nation; wise institutions and a strong frame of government and society which will perpetuate it—for all these let the thanks of a happy and united people, as with one voice, ascend in devout homage to the Giver of all good. I therefore recommend that on Thursday, the 28th day of November next, the people meet in their respective places of worship to make acknowledgment to Almighty God for His bounties and His protection, and to offer to Him prayer for their continuance. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fifth.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President.

In accordance with the Proclamation of the President of the United States, I hereby appoint Thursday, November 25, 1880, to be kept throughout the Territory as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer.

Let us keep it with the same devotion that our fathers did who instituted the custom. Let it be a day of rest to all; abstaining from all secular labor and devoting the day to joyful thanksgiving for the blessings that we as a people have enjoyed.

Let us pray that the blessings of the Father may still be on our Territory, our local institutions and our homes; and while we are giving thanks let us especially remember those who are desolate and oppressed, so that the words of the master may be said unto us: "I was an hungred and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Given at the Executive Department, Helena, Montana, this November 3d, A. D. 1880, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fifth.

B. F. POTTS.

JAMES H. MILLS, Secretary.

HANCOCK is not in sympathy with the agitation to throw out the vote of New York State.

It is fitting that Blinky Buck should ally himself with Freeman, whose name is a synonym for contempt throughout the entire Territory.

Will the Board of Trade carefully consider our suggestion: that steps should be taken to survey the country contiguous to Benton. The Marias, Belt, portions of the Highwood and Teton, which is not surveyed, is very thickly settled.

The true motive of the unscrupulous attack of the disappointed office-seeking editors upon Messrs. Senieur, Murphy and Adams is now fully exposed. These gentlemen were supporters of Judge Tattan at the Democratic Convention, and the d. o. s. editors thought they saw an opportunity to revenge themselves.

A PETITION should be circulated by the Board of Trade, for signatures, remonstrating against the land-grabbing resolution of Surveyor General Mason. That this resolution, having the endorsement of the several surveyors general, will have a decided effect upon Congress there can be no doubt. Let us endeavor to break the force of its effect.

If the treasurer of the democratic central committee receives two hundred and twenty-eight dollars from his party candidates, and pays out two hundred and forty dollars, expenses of same candidates, by what rule of arithmetic, outside of that lately discovered by the "hypotheetical" editors, could you figure into his treasury any sum of money to loan the impecunious Republican or any other man? Give it up.

AN aristocracy of usurers is not a wholesome class to govern any country. Is the power behind the throne in the Republican party of this class? Can the democratic element in that party and of the country overcome it? If the Democratic party is ever to get into power, or if the Republican party is to retain its hold indefinitely, it will be through the democratic elements of society, and not through the influence of aristocracy.

The people of Choteau county, believing that the resources of the Territory would prove sufficient inducement, have always persistently opposed granting subsidies to outside corporations to build railroads in Montana. The correctness of such a policy and the wisdom of such opposition is now about to be favorably demonstrated. The Northern Pacific will in a very short period be built across the Territory; the intention of pushing a road through on the north bank of the Missouri will in all probability soon assume permanent shape; and the completion of the Utah Northern will connect us with both Eastern and Western markets without one dollar of subsidy. A narrow gauge to Helena and to the Barker mines will then be in order to make Benton the metropolis of Montana.

In financial circles of Wall street the result of the Presidential elections is regarded as foreshadowing the early repeal of the silver bill, and the total absorption of the greenback currency, and the substitution therefor of bonds, reducing all the circu-

ling medium to gold and national bank notes. It is premature to saddle the weight of such schemes as this upon the incoming administration, and we do not believe that, with all the power which has lately accrued to the Republican party, it would dare to take the responsibility for such a series of measures, which can only represent the interests of the bondholding class, and place borrowers of money in their absolute control, and which would be destructive to all enterprise from the poorer classes, and place all the business of the country into capitalists' hands. Yet this has been the policy of that party for several years past, and there is no disguising the fact that all the efforts of this powerful moneyed influence will be brought to bear upon the entire government to carry out this plan.

UNSUSTAINED.

The charges of corruption and venality preferred by certain gentlemen against the chairman and members of the Democratic central committee have not been sustained, on the contrary the very parties who preferred those charges have come before that body and disclaimed any knowledge of such corrupt practices, and admitted they were founded solely upon hearsay evidence, and that of the most trifling character. After making such acknowledgement they have not had the manliness to come out and make public the cause of their error, but with an assurance unequalled they attempt to cover their mistake with the cloak of independent journalism, and assume the hypocritical attitude of being actuated with the holy mission of defending the public morals in making the aspersions they did upon the characters of these gentlemen. They did not cover their charges with the charitable inference that there might be a mistake, or themselves be misinformed, but virtually branded the gentlemen of the committee as liars and thieves.

We will not go so far as these parties have done, and assume that the author or authors of these charges were actuated solely by malice when they accused the gentlemen of the committee with mal-administration of the funds intrusted to them for purposes of corruption. On the contrary, we have the charity to believe they might be actuated with the impulse of impartial journalists, and had the weal of the community only in view. But they did not know just how to go about it, and the graymen of their error has been, as might be expected, only the natural result of their inexperience as journalists, and a certain freshness and verandancy in their knowledge of men and affairs which is a result of their youth, and to a humble desire on their part to take a conspicuous part in affairs and capture the smiles of an admiring public by by unseemly attacks on the character of individuals, which they call journalistic enterprise, and in vulgar flings which they consider wit.

They did not consider, perhaps, that they were scattering wide the seeds of dishonor and public contempt to the aspersed gentlemen in places where no efforts on their part can prevent them from taking root and spreading, up-as-like, a deadly poison on their characters. They only thought how funny it would be to make a sensation in the community by calling a few men liars and thieves, and reap rewards as enterprising journalists.

That the public is not to be deceived, the editors of our local contemporary will soon learn, if they have not found out already. And when they also learn to set reasonable bounds to their own assumptions of pre-eminent ability, and place a higher estimate on the public common sense, they will make better newspapers and become more respected as individuals.

We are sorry that these gentlemanly editors, whose prospects here were so promising, have fallen under public disapproval, and we bespeak for them its indulgence, whether they remain in their present position or retire therefrom, and that it will consider, with their error, the youth and inexperience of the offending parties.

THE NEXT CONGRESS.

In the present House there are 149 Democrats, 130 Republicans, 7 Democratic and 5 Republican Nationals, and 2 Greenbackers, pure and simple. Total 293 members. Returns do not at this date give definite details of the next House, but they suffice to show that the Republicans have regained control of the House with a good working majority. They will probably have at least 155 members to 138 Democrats.

The present Senate has 42 Democrats, 33 Republicans and an Independent. Of the Democratic seats falling vacant next 4th of March those of Senator Eaton, of Connecticut; McDonald, of Indiana; Randolph, of New Jersey; Kernan, of New York; Thurman, of Ohio, and Wallace, of Pennsylvania, will be filled this winter with Republicans—six in all, which will give the Republicans 39 in the new Senate, and leave the Democrats but 36. The Republicans lose one Senator, Mr. Bruce, of Mississippi, but they have hopes of gaining one in Florida. The Republicans are sure, therefore, of a working majority in both branches of Congress from the 4th of next March, and the country may be congratulated on a homogeneous administration—a Congress in harmony with the President, and which will not be tempted to waste time in constant and sterile squabbles with the Executive. The Democrats will have the comfort of being in a

strong minority, where, if they use the ability they certainly possess, and agree on a policy they may be of great use to the country.

The action of Mr. Mason, Surveyor General of Montana, in introducing, at the convention of Surveyors General at Salt Lake, a land grabbing resolution must undoubtedly receive the condemnation of the well wishers of this Territory. Words cannot properly express the indignation which Mason's resolution created in this community. From his actions in connection with this section of Montana, we considered him a person of biased convictions—one whose judgment could be swayed by influence, not necessarily within the province of his office; but that he could become the open dupe of land grabbers we did not imagine, or what is just as bad, that he was himself a land grabber. That he is one or the other is now evident. We would prefer to think otherwise, but his recent action, taken in connection with the reports which he has written relative to this section, dispels all doubt that might charitably be entertained. What portion of Choteau county does Mr. Mason view with anxious eye; is it the valley of the Teton, of which he makes particular mention, or does he prefer the Marias; perhaps he covets the ranges of the Highwood and Belt, or will he extend his grab to cover the Bear's Paw and Milk river range? Arrow creek might suit him, but it is already grabbed. Following the favorable interpretation of desert lands by the Commissioner, the action of Mr. Mason admits of no explanation. He should be consistent and take his place among the land grabbers; in other words he should step down and out from a position where a man of his ideas can be of no possible service to the people at large.

TAILINGS.

BINKY'S SOLILOQUY.
"The anythet
I love the best,
Is gone;
I must have been
Most awful green—
I mean.
My weary course
Could be no worse
I fear;
Pull down your vest,
Give me a rest,
Leave me alone
With beer."

White's Tar Line has in contemplation four new steamers.

Sorry we wasn't in when that (c)lassical fellow called on us.

English has given up Indiana and the country has given up English.

Poor Ben. Butler has dropped on the wrong side of the fence, again.

Coffee-Pot Wallace is announced as the chairman of the Nat. Dem. Cen. Com.

The New York World is agitating Caesarism and Grant again. The weakness of its howl is its distinctive feature.

There is a proposition on foot to raise a perpetual fund for the oldest ex-President. Better give it to the latest defeated candidate.

At any rate, Hancock has harvested a fine crop of gold-headed canes. A free ballot and a church-fair count helped him to the spools.

It was prominently noticed in Democratic papers, before the election, that the candidate elected would take his seat. They have not changed their opinion yet, although they now say nothing about it.

"Minerva has revealed to me, through the popular vote, that agitation on the tariff issue is unwise," remarked Ajax, as the discussion on the wooden horse proceeded. "Jest so," replied Achilles, as he carefully adjusted his sandals.

Pachyderms—O yes, from the Greek, meaning thick skinned, thick headed,—an order of mammals which have hoofs, including the horse, ass, hog, and the like.—Webster. Gentlemen we congratulate you on your honesty if not on your sense.

One night the Rev. Mr. Beecher declared to a meeting over which he was presiding, that the North hailed carpetbagism from China with joy; and therein his reverence is mistaken. The northern manufacturer who desires to create a cheap labor market may gladly welcome John Chinaman, but there is no satisfaction among laboring men at his coming.

The Northern Pacific Greeting.

[Herald]

The extension of the North Pacific entered Montana November 10, at 2 o'clock. The occasion was celebrated by the driving of silver spikes presented by the citizens of Montana. About fifty invitations were given by General Manager Sargent to members of the press and others. The weather was fair and the whole proceedings a success. Appropriate speeches were made and a grand dinner given. There being no one present from Montana, Geo. P. Flannery, a lawyer of Bismarck, was chosen to represent the Territory. He hit the spike the first tap, and said: "The Territory of Montana welcomes to her borders the great modern agents of civilization—the locomotive and the railroad. Especially does she welcome the North Pacific Railroad, and to-day sends greeting to the Territory of Dakota and re-

joices with her in forming the links in a part of the great transcontinental railroad which in a few years will unite the North Pacific ocean with the unsalted seas, and bind together and cement more closely the common interest of the two great Territories of the Northwest—Dakota and Montana."

Col. Thompson, of Bismarck, represented Dakota, and in a neat speech turned the building of the road over to Montana, hoping she would encourage and advance it as Dakota had done.

This completes the road 168 miles west of the Missouri river. The grading is nearly done to Glendive, and if the weather continues fair trains will run to that point this winter. One of the spikes will be sent back to Helena and the other to President Billings. The party returned and are now en route East.

THOSE CHARGES.

Meeting of the Democratic Central Committee to Investigate the Charges of Corruption.

Pursuant to call, the Democratic Central Committee of Choteau county met at the Court House on Thursday evening, the 11th inst. Mr. Gus. Senieur, chairman, called the committee to order, and the roll being called, the following members responded: W. S. Conway, John W. Tattan, John F. Murphy, secretary. The chairman asked the pleasure of the Committee, and Mr. Tattan proposed that, in view of the serious charges made against the secretary relative to the mismanagement of the finances of the committee, the accounts of Mr. Murphy be audited. The chairman appointed Messrs. Conway and Tattan to audit the accounts. Mr. Murphy, in a few pertinent explanatory remarks, presented his statement and accounts, which, after being closely examined, were found to be correct, and the expenditures therein were found to have been made solely and exclusively for the uses, purposes and benefit of the democratic candidates for office. A resolution was then proposed by Mr. Tattan, and unanimously adopted, to the effect, that having audited the accounts of the secretary, the Democratic Central Committee of Choteau county denounces the attempt to blast the reputation of John F. Murphy, secretary of the Committee, and pronounces the charge of mismanagement of the funds of the Committee to be absolutely false. Mr. Murphy then addressed the Committee, and in the course of his remarks stated that he was ready to answer all questions or charges, whatever they may term them, made against him, and that he was ready to answer them upon oath if necessary. The applause which greeted Mr. Murphy's remarks showed that, outside of the isolated few who propounded the questions and wrote the charges in the Record, there was not a man in that large assemblage who doubted the integrity of the secretary of the Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. John W. Tattan then took the floor, and addressing the Committee, and his fellow citizens in the body of the hall, said that the Record had used its columns ostensibly for the purpose of asking questions of the Committee and of its members, but virtually for the purpose of basing an attack upon Messrs. Senieur, Murphy, Adams, and the speaker himself. "All public men," he said, "should have no objection to having their actions criticised, and it was the privilege of the press and people to scrutinize the actions of public officers. The Democratic Central Committee, although being a partially public body, not only admitted the right of scrutiny of their actions, but courted the full light of investigation, not alone of their public actions but their acts as private citizens during the late election campaign. It is a fundamental principle of criminal law that a man should be considered innocent until he was proven guilty, but in Benton, only very recently, however, this principle is reversed, and the Record says that we are guilty of these charges published in its columns, notwithstanding the fact that they ask the question, are we innocent. The manner in which these charges have been made is more fitting the emanations of a blackguard of the slums of some great city, than of respectable journals. Of these charges," Mr. Tattan continued, "I have, through a card in the River Press, demanded proof."

H. R. Buck, of the Record, interrupted the speaker by stating that he was there to present proof of the charges.

"Yes, sir," replied Mr. Tattan, "I demanded you to come here, compelled you to come here. You shall have ample opportunity to present your proof, but it will not be of the Tom-told-Dick-to-tell-Healy-to-tell-Buck kind of proof we will have. Proof upon oath is what we require; upon oath are we prepared to meet your charges."

The applause which greeted this sally must have discomfited Mr. Buck, for from that moment until the investigation was completed he preserved a respectful silence. Mr. Tattan continued his speech, which throughout was taunting and full of invective, and, though the gentleman was laboring under a slight hemorrhage of the lungs, was well delivered. His reference to the returns from Carroll, to which precinct he had sent tickets, and which had just been heard from giving a large majority for Major Mauinnis, was a telling hit. His tilt with Mr. Healy was the bitter pill of the evening. Mr. Tattan, in a low but distinct voice, related how an opportunity was presented to him, as an attorney, to bring an action against Mr. Healy in his

official capacity of sheriff, which would have been joyously hailed by Healy's opponents as an electioneering card, but, said he, addressing Mr. Healy, "though I had been informed that you were working against me, and that some of your intimate friends were working against me, and though I wanted the identical cause of action, and you know it, to supply the missing link in the case against you and Mr. Keeler, I refused to take the case, knowing you had difficulties enough to surmount without having such opposition from me in this campaign."

In referring to the charge made against him of doing, secretly, all in his power to defeat Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Tattan stated that he had never asked any person to vote against Mr. Hamilton or for Mr. Weatherwax, and explained the opinion held by him when Mr. Hamilton accepted the nomination. Here Mr. Healy put the question, "Did you not ask Tony Moseberger to vote for Weatherwax and Sanders?" The answer to that was quick and emphatic, "No! Never!" Mr. Healy then asked some one to go for Tony. Mr. Tattan said, "bring him along, and while you are looking for him I will tell you all that occurred between Tony and myself." He then related the conversation, which was in substance that Tony desired him to make up a ticket for him and nine others to vote on election day, but that he, Tattan, declined to do so. Tony has not yet refuted this statement, nor is it likely that he would be believed if he attempted to contradict it, for reasons not of proper mention in this report. The speaker continued for some time, and, in conclusion, declared "that the gentlemen against whom these charges were made by the Record desired a full investigation of all matters relating to the election, and were prepared to defend their conduct, not by hearsay but by sworn evidence."

The difficulty as to the manner in which this investigation should be held now presented itself. Judge Donnelly addressed the convention, and remarked that the Committee could not very well take charge of the matter, as a majority thereof were those charged and might consequently, by their verdict, stultify themselves. Mr. Charles Conrad proposed that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Healy, Buck and Donnelly be appointed to investigate the charges. It is to be charitably presumed that the gentleman did not think that Messrs. Buck and Healy were accusers. It did not escape Mr. Donnelly, however, who declined to serve, and suggested the formation of a committee of Democrats to be chosen by the chair. Mr. Murphy cut short all further argument by moving a resolution, which was seconded by Mr. W. S. Conway, "that the chairman of the Democratic Central Committee appoint a committee of Democrats to investigate the whole matter of questions and charges made by the Record." The chairman, upon the resolution being adopted, appointed Messrs. Collins, Dunne, Whalen, Evans, Harris, Aspling, Mee, Conrad, Strong and McDevitt, a committee of investigation. The committee then organized by electing Mr. Collins chairman, and Mr. Aspling secretary, and then adjourned.

It would be difficult to say to whom of the three gentlemen present, against whom the charges were made, were the sympathies of the large assemblage extended. The meeting, which was one of the largest ever held in the Court House, was represented by all classes of Democrats and Republicans, and the applause which greeted the remarks of Messrs. Murphy and Tattan expressed the feelings and sentiments of those assembled.

The charge against Mr. Senieur was passed over as being too contemptible of notice of any sensible person: It was well known that, were it not through respect to the other gentlemen accused, Mr. Tattan would have considered it beneath his notice to submit to any investigation of charges coming from the Record. And that any charge of the nature of that made against Mr. Murphy should be for a moment entertained against him, without absolute proof, was the subject of general condemnation. He is a gentleman holding a position of responsibility in one of the largest business houses in the Territory, and any person not blinded by malice or envy would have considered well ere they cast a reflection upon the honor and integrity of John F. Murphy.

As the committee of investigation have not yet completed their labors, we refrain from commenting upon their proceedings until their report and findings properly become subject for public comment.

Our Card Basket.

[Yellowstone Journal.]

The River Press, the new paper of Fort Benton is before us, its publishers and proprietors are Williams, Wright & Stevens. The River Press is a handsome 8 page quarto closely resembling the Weekly Herald. It is filled with choice selections and lots of local news and is a credit to any town or city. We hope the venture may be a paying institution.

[Avant Courier.]

The River Press, published by Messrs. Williams, Wright & Stevens, Fort Benton, is the latest candidate for public favor in the newspaper line. The new paper presents a decidedly handsome appearance, is ably edited, and starts out in life under favorable auspices. We welcome it to the journalistic field and trust it may wield a good and powerful influence in the development of Montana's wonderful resources.