

FREE PRESS.

MAAS E. JULIAN, Editor.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

SATURDAY.....FEB. 8.

Official Paper of Hays and Blanco Counties.

A BILL for a new local option law has been offered in the Legislature.

It is asserted that excessive beer-drinking caused Bayard Taylor's death.

For the services of Mrs. Jenks at Washington, Secretary Sherman gave her husband the position in the Mint that he still holds.

Robert Burns Hutchinson, a tea planter of Assam, India, is the only living male descendant of Scotland's greatest genius.

The recount of votes of Cook county, Ill., shows shocking Republican frauds. Votes cast for Democrats were counted for the other side.

THE San Antonio Express says the water crosses which grow luxuriantly on the head waters of the San Antonio river (and also on the San Marcos) make a pleasant salad, and are popular in Europe.

Judge White of the appellate court, whose home is in Guadalupe county, is the favorite with some of the people for Congress. His principal strength is located by the "guessers" in the neighborhood of San Marcos. We have many good men for the position and Judge White is doubtless among them.—San Antonio Herald.

The San Antonio Express says Governor Roberts could afford considerable relief to the excited minds of a considerable number of people in Western Texas by issuing his proclamation ordering a special election to fill the vacant seat in Congress.

It requires sixty days notice, and as Congress adjourns on the 4th of March, the election cannot be ordered for the present. The new Congress will not meet until December and the election may be ordered at the same time that a vote will be taken on constitutional amendments, which will not be less than ninety days after the adjournment of the Legislature.—Austin Gazette.

Where are You Going to Draw the Line?

[From the Boston Journal.]
We have always boasted that our country was open for all peaceable, law-abiding immigrants who chose to come. Ah Chin Le laboring tranquilly over his wash tubs is at least as desirable an element in the population as Dennis Kearney, stirring up riots on the sand lots. If we begin putting up the bars, there will be a wide difference of opinion as to where we should stop. If we curtail the privileges of Chinese here, we must look for a similar curtailment of American privileges in China, and we shall have no ground for complaint if we have to forfeit those features of the Burlingame treaty which have brought us so much advantage, and which we applauded with so much enthusiasm.

The dissatisfaction felt by the great body of our people at the manner in which many rich men enjoy all the advantages of our courts, our police, our fire and water departments, but evade payment of taxes on their property will yet make itself felt. It is a question whether the action of Congress expropriating the property of one set of men from taxation is not unconstitutional. However that may be, it is the duty of every man to contribute his portion to defray public expenses; and the man who don't do so, either under color of law or otherwise, keeps that which of right should be given to the community. The man who does so imposes a heavy tax on the widows and orphans and other tax-paying people. He may make great pretences of piety, but the man who by any dodge evades paying his fair share of taxes is a rogue, whatever country he lives in. How to reach such rogues is not easy to say. Possibly one mode would be to outlaw any personal property that don't pay taxes. Whether that is feasible is a question. Perhaps it would be better to make the evasion a punishable offense.—Baltimore Standard.

WASHINGTON LETTERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Jan. 29, '79.

The House yesterday added something like a million dollars to the Post Office appropriation bill, by agreeing to amendments of the radical Senate. The House has so far in the session submitted to the domination of the Senate on all matters of the kind, and the expenses of the Government will therefore be for the next year greatly in excess of what they should be and even of what the House Appropriation Committee reported. The direct result of this loose way of doing business, unless checked, will be that the coming Democratic Congress—the 46th—will find itself forced to restore the taxes on tea, coffee and other articles, establish an income tax, and in other ways make the people and the party suffer. There ought to be Democrats enough to resist the tendency to extravagance.

The House by a decisive vote yesterday passed a bill imposing penalties for the importation of more than fifteen Chinese to this country in any one vessel.

Senator Edmunds has at last succeeded in getting up his resolutions concerning the later or war amendments to the Constitution. They, with the substitute of Senator Morgan, which affirms that the whole Constitution is of binding force within its sphere, will have long discussion. Of course neither side will make any converts, but a great deal of campaign literature will be got ready for 1880.

The most striking event of the week has been the eloquent speech of Senator Hill, of Ga., in which he declared against the payment of any of the so-called war claims, whether to what were known as "loyal" or "disloyal" Southern men. He contended not only that it was impossible for the Government to pay them, but that it was better for the South that they should not be paid.

There is already a quarrel as to the raising of the \$50,000,000 necessary for the payment of what is known as the arrears of pensions under the bill lately passed and approved. The regular pension appropriation bill for the year gives some \$30,000,000, but that money cannot be used for payment under the arrears bill. It is said there will be strong radical opposition to the appropriation. Radicals, in voting the bill through were working for popularity among the ex-soldiers, but when they came face to face with the \$50,000,000 they seem to doubt whether that much can be spared from the bondholders.

Much of interest has been developed in the last few days in the investigation of cipher and other telegrams. It is shown that Wm. E. Chandler furnished the telegrams published in the N. Y. Tribune, and also those which General Butler had. A Senate Committee clerk stole them from the Committee room and gave them to a radical Congressman, the Congressman gave them to a high official who turned them over to Chandler. The thieving clerk, in accordance with civil service reform as understood by Mr. Hayes, was given an important office abroad.

It was also shown that P. M. Gen'l Tyner, then in Indiana, telegraphed to Zack Chandler, then Sec'y of the Interior, that \$5,000 would be given for the Indian Agencies, and that Chandler agreed to make the appointments. The money was used in the Indiana campaign. This was in 1876. It was also shown that the management of the Western Union Telegraph Co., had delivered up to various radical politicians the originals of important and presumably compromising dispatches sent by them pending the Florida and Louisiana electoral bargains.

It is now authoritatively stated that Senator Christiancy, of Mich., will be made Minister to Peru. He will be succeeded in the Senate by Zack Chandler. Then the new Republican Senators will be Conkling, Platt, Cameron, Logan, Carpenter, Hill, of Nevada, Chandler, and probably Pomeroy, of Kansas, all Grant men. REX.

The saddle, leather breeches, whip and sombrero which Maximilian used in Mexico are religiously preserved in the saddlery annexed to the imperial stables at Vienna.

We have very materially lowered our scale of advertising rates, to suit the "hard times." See table on our first page.

Forced Sales.

Now that the Legislature is in session, one of the first subjects that should claim the attention of that body is the law regulating the publication of property subject to forced sale. Under the present law the only notice necessary is the posting in a public place of a written description of the property, terms and date of sale, etc. It does not matter how long the "notice" remains posted or how illegible the handwriting—even if it should require the services of an expert to decipher it—it is sufficient notice under the present law, upon which to alienate the property of the debtor at the speculator's own price. This mode is no doubt very satisfactory to land sharks, since it enables them to take advantage of sales of which the public is entirely ignorant, and buy property at a great sacrifice to the debtor, and frequently to the creditor also. Why not amend the law so as to require the publication of notices of forced sales, for a certain number of weeks, in some newspaper published in the county where such sales are to be made? Then the public would have an opportunity to attend these sales, and bid for property something near its value. Such a change in the law would relieve the most unfortunate class of citizens from a most unreasonable hardship.

[We clip the above from the Victoria Advocate, and earnestly commend it to the favorable consideration and action of our Senator and Representatives.—ED. FREE PRESS.]

MONTGOMERY BLAIR says the next presidential contest will be between Tilden and Grant, and "that no other candidate can defeat Grant." If these two enter the field the South will be much disposed to stand aloof, and many non-partisan free-thinkers, especially the great multitude of Northern immigrants and many old Whigs will declare for Grant, and many, believing that Grant will defeat Tilden, will prefer to conciliate, by supporting Grant. Grant's personal government, they say, would be tolerable if he were personally kindly disposed towards Southern people, and Southern support, we are told, would win him over. We would infinitely prefer Bayard, Thurman or Dan Voorhees, or almost anybody, to Tilden, and had hoped that the cipher dispatches had dispatched him, old Blair and the hungry brood of politicians that pander to Tilden's vanity to get his money; but if Tilden, unhappily, be nominated we must patiently grin and endure it, and become the antagonists of Grant in a contest promising nothing but defeat.

We clip the above from the Austin Statesman, and confess our inability to understand it, as coming from a Democratic paper. Why this expressed hope that Tilden had received his quietus from the cipher dispatches, guilty or not guilty? Why this ill-concealed hatred of perhaps the foremost Democratic statesman of the country—one who has gone through a most trying ordeal, unimpeached and unimpeachable? and why this manifest sympathy with Grant, the scourge of the South and incubus of the North, who could no more change his brutal, despotic nature than the Ethiopian could change his skin or the leopard his spots?

We wonder what is the matter with the "Democratic Statesmen" of our seven-hilled capital city?

THE Austin Statesman has for some time been "running a-muck" against the free school system, the foundations of which were laid on so broad and liberal a basis by the fathers of our State. It is pitiable to see a prominent public journal thus pandering to vulgar prejudice and ignorance, instead of leading public sentiment to a higher plane. And so far as its influence may extend, its course must be a serious injury to the State. The Fort Wayne Indiana Enterprise, for instance, says:

The State of Texas allows every family a homestead exempt from execution of mortgage, and has laws providing for public schools; yet the education of the Democratic Statesman is so limited it would abolish the latter. He regards the public school system as a burden to the people of the State and a curse to the country, for the reason that they injure private schools.

What must be thought abroad of such representations? If believed, their effect cannot but be most damaging.

The idea that our free school system is necessarily damaging to private schools is fallacious. On the contrary the general education of the mass of the people in the elementary branches of learning must be in favor of the greater success of the more select and higher institutions of learning. This is too obvious for argument.

The Indian Massacre.

It is to be hoped that Congress will not delay its proposed inquiry into the recent massacre of Cheyenne Indians at Camp Robinson, in Nebraska. To permit so monstrous a butchery to pass unchallenged would be a reproach to the humanity of both the Government and people. These Cheyennes, driven to desperation by unfair treatment, refused to go to the wretched reservation, a thousand miles away, to which they were assigned and from which they had once escaped. Rather than quit the scene where "their parents are buried and their children were born," they determined to die together. Breaking from the fort, they overpowered the guard, and sought to get free. The troops rallied from the barracks, and making no attempt to capture the fugitives peacefully, shot down thirty of them in the frozen snow—the victims including eight squaws and two children. Those who escaped were pursued by the cavalry, and killed remorselessly as opportunity offered, the pursuit being abandoned only when it was found impossible to capture or slaughter any more of the flying "savages." Fifty-two warriors in all were taken, and at last accounts were confined in the fort prison.

At the time of the outbreak the Indians were almost naked and suffering intensely. Clothing had been promised, but the promise had not been kept. Government promises to the red men seldom are. And because, freezing and starving, these poor unfortunates made a struggle for liberty, they were deliberately butchered by the soldiers of the Government which had first practically expelled them from their lands, and then broken the pledges which it had given them to induce a peaceable acquiescence in the ejection. By all means, let Congress probe this shameful affair to the very bottom.—[Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.]

Some time ago called attention to the fact that the Republicans of the South would dictate the nomination of the Republican candidate for the Presidency, but would be unable to give the slightest assistance towards electing him. This fact is beginning to attract attention in Republican papers and some of them are denouncing it. The Indianapolis Journal says: "This is not right. The present basis of representation is wrong. Instead of being based on the electoral vote it should be based on the number of Republican votes cast at the preceding election. This would give Republican States their proper preponderance in convention, and prevent the anomaly of a Republican candidate being nominated by Democratic States."

TEXAS NEWS.

The Mexican Circus is reorganizing at San Antonio.

Judge Sabin is retained as the postmaster at Galveston.

The Rusk county tramway has been sold at auction for \$1,000.

The Sabine is choked with saw mill logs many miles above Orange.

The grading of the Texas and Pacific to Weatherford will be finished in May.

Master Lang's salary, of the State Grange, has been reduced to \$600 per annum.

An exchange estimates the sugar crop of Texas this year at 12,000 hog-heads.

The authorities of Canton have for-

bidden the use of the court-house for parties or balls.

Gov. Roberts wears homespun clothes, made in Texas. Religiously he is a Methodist.

The Denison News learns that there are not less than twenty families in that place suffering for the necessities of life.

Henrietta Journal: But very few buffalo hides are coming in, less than ever before. Hunters say there are no buffalo on the range, and that the herds have principally gone south.

It is estimated that fully one-fourth of the sheep in Western Texas have died during the last cold snap. Some cattle have also died, and it is feared that 1879 will prove a hard year on stockmen.

Printing Outfit For Sale!

The subscriber has for sale the greater portion of A NEWSPAPER AND JOB PRINTING OUTFIT (except Press.) It consists of 156lbs of BRAND NEW LONG PRIMER; about 100lbs of Nonpareil and 50lbs of Brevier; (second-hand but good); some FIFTY FONTS—more or less, as might be wanted—of GOOD, HANDSOME DISPLAY AND JOB TYPE, of all sorts and sizes; a pair of Chases for a seven or eight column paper, with Column and Head Rules, all complete and good; Brass Galleys; Cases; Job Chases; Composing Sticks, &c., &c. All of which will be sold AT A BARGAIN FOR CASH, being entirely surplus to my office. Impressions of type and other particulars will be sent on application.

Address
I. H. JULIAN,
Proprietor FREE PRESS,
San Marcos, Texas.

FOR SALE!

240 acres of land, embracing the head of San Marcos River, and adjoining the corporate line of the town of San Marcos, in Hays county. Price low. Terms very easy. Apply on the premises to F. M. MORLEY.
Dec. 14-1f

WOOTTON HOTEL!

I. O. WOOTTON, Proprietor.
On the Austin road, one block East of the Public Square.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

This old-established House has just been thoroughly renovated and refurnished. It will be conducted in a

NEW STYLE

(New here, though not generally elsewhere) of serving each guest at table with the standard articles of food, and what else he or she may require, independently of all others. The price of single meals will remain as heretofore, twenty-five cents.

One of the principal new features is a

STABLE

on the premises, where shelter and feed for horses, &c., may always be had, at as low rates as can be obtained elsewhere.
Nov. 6-1f

PHOTOGRAPHS!

We would respectfully inform the citizens of San Marcos and vicinity that we have rented the room recently occupied by A. Fitch, and are now prepared to make photographs and portraits of every style and size, in a neat and artistic manner and guarantee satisfaction.

GENERAL REPAIRING.

We are also prepared to make Gold and Silver Rings, and do general repairing, including sewing Machines of all kinds, Clocks, Watches and Jewelry, Razors, Scissors, Locks, Pistols, &c.

All work warranted. A share of public patronage solicited. As references, we offer the following named gentlemen:
Rev. Robt. E. Wall, Carthage, Mo.; Rev. Mr. Fales, Carthage, Mo.; Geo. Rader, P. M., Carthage, Mo.; Geo. Blakely, Clerk of the County Court, Carthage, Mo.; T. B. Tuttle, Justice of the Peace, Carthage, Mo.; S. D. McBride, City Attorney, San Marcos.

W. S. & C. W. JUDD.
Dec. 21-3m.

New Goods!

New Goods!

WM. GIESEN,

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS,

—Is in Receipt of his Large and Well-Selected Stock of—

GENER'L MERCHANDISE!

Bought at LOW PRICES, and invites his friends and customers to call and EXAMINE PRICES.

I AM DETERMINED NOT TO BE UNDERSOLD BY ANYBODY!

—SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS GIVEN IN—

NOTIONS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES, AND HATS.

I am just in receipt of the celebrated MOLINE WAGON, which I will sell at Austin prices. A complete stock of "DEERE PLOWS."
Sept. 14-1f