

THE GREAT COMMISSION.

The first decision of the electoral tribunal has been given. After listening to lengthy and learned arguments by the very eminent counsel who have been employed to conduct the case on both sides, and spending several days in discussing the question among themselves, in regard to the admission of evidence, they finally decided that they would receive no other evidence than such as had already been submitted to them by the President of the Senate, with the several electoral certificates, except such as should tend to prove the eligibility of Humphries, one of the Hayes electors from Florida. This latter part of the decision, however, is regarded by the country as intended to relate to all cases in which the eligibility of electors is called in question. This is the sum total of the decision. A large amount of documentary evidence in regard to the several sets of electors from the disputed States is already in the hands of the commission, and they have refused to open the doors for the admission of more, not being able to see the end from the beginning, nor to make a reasonable guess where the taking of testimony would stop, or their labors be ended if they once opened the gates for it. Viewing the matter in this light the wonder is, not that the question received the decision it did, but that there should have been any opposition to it. For our own part, and we think the vast majority of the people of the country would agree with us, we are glad that the taking of testimony has been limited, for we would like to see the end of the matter some time or other, and either Tilden or Hayes, or both or neither, be made President and the matter settled. It is practically a decision that decides nothing so far as advantage to either party is concerned. There is just as much gained by one as the other, and both have a like chance for success. If, indeed, any advantage remains to either side, it is to the Democratic in the adoption of the resolution to question and decide the eligibility of electors. The most objectionable, feature of the decisions is that they were made by a strict party vote. The republicans voted solidly in favor of the first—to receive no further evidence; and the democrats against it. The justices of the Supreme Court displayed their party views in common with the congressional members, Judge Bradley, the fifth judge, giving the casting vote in each case. So that the decision was really made by one man, and we much fear that this will be the case all the way through. If so the grand object of the commission will be in great part frustrated, for instead of having the great dispute settled by the commission, we will only have an expression of the partisan views of the members, which could have been had just as well without the commission as with it. The question of the Florida electors is by no means settled by this decision. The dispute as to which votes shall be counted remains to be settled on the evidence submitted through the President of the Senate, and as the taking of evidence has been thus limited by the action of the tribunal, the Florida case may be expected to be settled in a few days.

RETURNING BOARD WELLS.

The man who can longer entertain a belief in the honesty of J. Madison Wells, the President of the Returning Board of Louisiana, in view of the developments recently made of the manner in which he performed the duties of his office and the means he took to accomplish the success of his party in Louisiana, is certainly gifted with an amount of blind credulity that would have done credit to the "dark ages." Exclusive of the mass of condemnatory evidence given against him by Littlefield, Maddox, and other witnesses who speak from personal knowledge of his acts, one has but to read the examination of Wells himself, as it is published in the daily papers, to be convinced of his guilt, and of the truth of the charges against him. When asked by the democratic counsel to explain his letter to Senator West—brought to light by Maddox—he made the most frivolous and flimsy answers; and as the questioning continued, he effected to grow angry and to complain of attempted injury to his character, by turns. He called upon the chairman "for protection" where no protection was needed and no harm threatened. He worked himself into a fury; refused to answer the questions of the counsel; shook his fist; pounded upon the table, and made other like demonstrations of baffled villainy and discovered rascality. He claimed that Hayes had received a majority of the votes on the face of the original returns, and admitted that he and his lovely colleagues had thrown out some ten thousand democratic votes. When asked by Mr. Field how he could explain his assertion that Gov. Hayes had a majority on the face of the returns with the fact that the Board had only given him 3,600 majority after they had thrown out 10,000 democratic votes, he stammered, stammered, and finally admitted that Gov. Tilden had received a majority of the original returns. All of which goes to prove that when Gen. Sheridan denounced Wells as a consummate scoundrel and a villain of the deepest dye, he knew what he was

talking about, and we are not altogether certain that he was not right in saying that Wells did not have a single honest friend.

Judge Carpenter, at Columbia, S. C., has filed his decision in the case of Wm. H. Wallace, Speaker of the democratic House of Representatives of South Carolina, versus the State depositors and F. L. Cardozo, claiming to be the republican State treasurer, asking for an injunction restraining those banks from paying any moneys upon checks drawn by Cardozo as treasurer. The judge decides that the treasurer enters upon his duties when the incoming Governor is duly and legally installed, and not till then, and the Mackey House, in which Chamberlain was inaugurated, was illegal and revolutionary, that its acts are null and void, and that therefore no lawful installation of Governor had taken place. The injunction was granted. The decision completely winds up the resources of the Chamberlain government. It is enjoined and restrained everywhere by the courts from collecting taxes or paying moneys. The tax-payers, besides, refuse to pay any money to its officials, and nothing remains to support its faltering fortunes but the company of United States troops in the State House. Even the colored special constables are deserting because they can get no pay.

The amendment to the Act in relation to the advertising of Sheriff's sales, recently passed by the Legislature, meets with general approval. Its good effects are already perceptible in the distribution of the Sheriff's advertisements in the several papers according to the selection of the debtors. This is just as it should be, and the law is better than it has ever been before. To allow the interested debtor no say whatever in the matter of the sale of his own property, was as unfair as to compel the sheriff to advertise all sales of property in one paper.

Mr. Senator Ray's dog bill, now pending before the Legislature, has a good many advocates in this community. Men engaged in raising stock, and especially sheep, will favor almost any good act that will provide for the destruction of the droves of worthless cur dogs which run over the country, belonging to nobody when the assessor is at hand, worrying their stock, killing poultry and often sheep. Although the bill has been laying upon our table for some days, we have not yet taken time to give it an examination.

Our reporter called on the officers of several banks this morning, and from them learned that the tax on the larger banks amounted to from \$800 to \$1,500 per day. This tax was so onerous that it completely walled in the efforts of the bank officers. If any large amount of the redundant currency should be deposited for safe-keeping on the part of the owners, the bank stockholders were compelled to pay a tax upon it, without having any opportunity of using it. Again, should a holder of a large quantity of gold place the precious metal in the bank on deposit, merely for safe-keeping, the bank was compelled to pay tax without realizing anything from it. Should the bank's officers be desirous of increasing a reserve for the purpose of resuming specie payments, their efforts were retarded by the enormous tax that was imposed upon them, and thus an obstacle was put in the way of effecting what is considered to be a desirable result. With the present tax on capital, amounting to about 5 per cent., several of the larger banks had contemplated a reduction of their capital from 40 to 50 per cent., as the only safeguard against serious injuries, if not bankruptcy. With the rate of discount fully two per cent. below the rate allowed by law, the banks had no opportunity of earning money sufficient to pay the taxes and current expenses. When the tax was first imposed it was willingly complied with as a war measure, but now so long after the war had ended, and business reduced in consequence to less volume, requiring the use of less money, some consideration was deemed necessary in order to save the banks from actual ruin, and this subject was to be brought fully before the meeting to-morrow—Commercial Advertiser, Dec. 12th, 1876.

HANDSOME COMPLIMENT TO A SENATOR ELECT.—Hon. A. H. Garland, democratic Senator elect from Arkansas, received not only the vote of his party but also a majority of those of the republican members. One of the latter, in congratulating him on his election, wrote:

It may not be out of place for me, a comradely republican, to state to you the reasons that have prompted a majority of the voters of a majority of that party who heretofore have been found opposing you on many a political field. You found the State government in confusion. You have restored peace. You found human life insecure and uncertain. You vouchsafed and gave protection to all, regardless of condition. You found financial prostration. You have built up the State's credit. You found the State looked upon with distrust. You have placed her name high on the roll of States for integrity and honor. In fact, you have fully shown as we believe, as Arkansas' favorite son, that you know her wants, and that you have as fully anticipated them in their fruition. With a firm and unyielding hand you have guided the ship of State until to-day she has become the peer of her proudest sister.

Gen. Miles, with about three hundred infantry, gained a signal victory over about 800 Cheyennes and Ogallalas, under Crazy Horse, on the 8th of January, on Tongue river, Montana. The battle lasted for five hours, a heavy snow storm prevailing during part of the time. The loss of the Indians was very severe, many of the positions from which they were driven being found covered with blood. Gen. Miles lost four men killed and six wounded.

No Relief Except from Congress. The subject of bank taxation is very ably presented in the report of the Comptroller. So much public interest has been excited by this topic that it demands a complete discussion. A petition to Congress is in preparation praying for the repeal of such bank taxes as are the most productive of evil, and as there is a growing conviction in favor of the repeal of these imposts, the petition, we suppose, will receive a large number of signatures in all parts of the country. * * * The recent decisions of the courts are regarded by many persons as conclusively settling the question, that the only immediate relief to be at present obtained by the banks from their oppressive fiscal burdens should be sought from Congress.—Financial Chronicle, Dec. 1876

DELAWARE MARRIAGES.—A bill has been introduced in the Delaware Legislature proposing a restriction on marriages. It enacts that where both parties, or the bride alone, are residents of that State they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if they leave the State for the purpose of being married beyond its limits. This remarkable prohibition may lead to serious embarrassments. Delaware is so small a State that May and Bennett could not find it when making a gory battle-field within its limits. Such may be the case with giddy young Delawarans inclined to matrimony. They may not know when they are outside the gallant little Commonwealth. But this difficulty might be remedied by fencing in the State. Yet in that case when the parties once escape the bounds and marry they may never return again. The Delawarean would lose present population and of course the outcome of those who depart.—Baltimore Sun.

IMPROVEMENTS ON THE DELAWARE.—The House Committee, on Monday, agreed to recommend the following appropriations for the Delaware river: Harbor at Wilmington, \$4,000 Delaware river below Petty's Island, 35,000 There still remains the following unexpended balances of river and harbor appropriations for the present fiscal year: Lewis Pier, \$28,000 New Castle Harbor, 12,000 Wilmington, 16,000 Chester Harbor, 2,600 Delaware river below Petty's Island, 5,000

GENERAL NEWS.

Guilford White, a Boston attorney, has been convicted of receiving two stolen United States bonds of \$10,000 each.

The First National Bank of Franklin, Indiana, has been compelled to suspend, by the flight of its Cashier, Richard S. Taylor, with \$100,000.

A mail bag containing \$25,000 in bank checks and private drafts, was stolen while on the way from Newport, Ky., to Cincinnati, a few days ago.

The New Senator, Judge David Davis, it is reported, worth the pleasant little sum of \$8,000,000. In one Illinois county alone he owns fourteen improved farms.

Over two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of powder for Russia have arrived at New York over the Erie Railway the past week. Eight more carloads are expected.

Gov. Hampton, of South Carolina, on Wednesday sent to Aiken a pardon for Benjamin Cato, white, confined in jail under a conviction for malicious mischief, and he was released immediately by the sheriff.

The Apaches are killing and plundering the settlers in Southeastern Arizona, and the Governor believes that military operations against the hostiles are more efficiently conducted.

The Grand Duke Alexis is to arrive at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on or about the 14th. His object is to personally inspect ice-yachting in all its particulars, and with a view of introducing Russian of American ice-yachts in Patteria rivers.

By the suspension of congressional work at the office of the public printer in Washington, Saturday, caused by exhaustion of the appropriation, about six hundred persons are thrown out of employment.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Congressional Proceedings.—Electoral Commission—District Police Board—True weakness of the Pension Office—Chandler's Bank Account—A Little Dodge of the Freedman's Bank People—Wells of Louisiana—Theatrical—Local Notes, etc.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1877.

The secret sessions of the Electoral Commission gives Congress its only chance to transact ordinary business. Yesterday the Senate and House had long legislative sessions and although little was accomplished such of that preliminary work always necessary in such bodies was done. The Senate refused the Commission to pass over to the bill abolishing the Police Board of this district. The resignation from the board of Murtagh, who was the most obnoxious of its members, and who has been shown to have used the police force to break down private character and prevent the execution of the law, saved the board from annihilation. In the Senate there was a discussion of the bill to amend the Pacific Railroad acts so as to create a sinking fund for the payment of their indebtedness to the government. No final action was taken. Senator Gordon speaks on the subject to-day. It is not thought that the bill will pass. The Union of this morning says, referring to the secret session of the Electoral Commission yesterday: "It is assumed from present indications that the majority of the Commission will decide that, in addition to the electoral certificates, no evidence can be received in regard to the Florida case, except such as relates merely to the action of the Florida State government subsequent to the presidential election. This includes the courts. Conceding this to be the determination of the Commission, their inquiries in regard to matters of fact will be restricted to a comparatively narrow range, and a final decision in the Florida case may be expected sooner than has been generally anticipated. There were rumors abroad last night as to the vote in commission by which this alleged decision was reached—some giving it to thirty-two to two, others eleven to four, but nothing definite is known at this writing. An ex-clerk of the secret service bureau of the Pension Office published a letter explaining how the money used which is voted by Congress for the detection of fraudulent pension

New Advertisements.

THE MIDDLETOWN DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION WILL GIVE THEIR First Entertainment Thursday, Evening, Feb. 13th, at Middletown Hall,

at which time will be presented Buckton's Comic Drama, in One Act, entitled the ROUGH DIAMOND;

on My Cousin Joe. After which the Laughable Domestic Drama, in Two Acts, of THE TOODLES.

For particulars see posters and small bills. Feb 13-11

HORSE COLLARS!

Just received direct from the factory of Langebrunner & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, a LARGE SUPPLY OF

Horse and Mule Collars, to which the special attention of all in need of a good article, at a moderate price, is invited.

ALSO, BRIDLES, BACK-BANDS, &c., for Spring plowing, and all other articles in our line.

Call and examine the stock, and be convinced that you can be suited both in price and quality, at the Harness Shop of

A. H. RUSSELL, 121 MAIN STREET, Opposite the Pennington Machine Shops. Feb 13-11 MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

PUBLIC SALE.

Will be sold at public sale on the farm of the late John Cochran, one and one-half miles from Middletown, on

THURSDAY, FEBY 22, 1877.

the following described property, to-wit: 11 HEAD OF SUPERIOR HORSES, YOUNG AND SOUND.

No. 1.—Lucy, a perfect family horse in every respect, 7 years old.

No. 2.—Butcher, a good horse for all purposes, 9 years old.

No. 3.—Henry, handsome bay mare fitted for either road or farm, 9 years old.

No. 4.—Dexter, bay horse of great endurance, handy every where, 7 years old.

No. 5.—Foxy, black Hackney mare, coming 4 years old, fine size and very gentle; her dam a Star mare.

No. 6.—Jenny, bay mare, fine size, very stylish, fearless of locomotive, and a No. 1 road mare, 7 years old.

No. 7.—Brown Horse Dan, coming 4 years old and worthy the attention of anyone.

No. 8.—Clara, thorough-bred mare of Messenger stock, fine size and a superior brood mare.

No. 9.—Carson, roan horse, 6 years old, a good driver, would learn to trot fast; very gentle.

No. 10.—Nina, bay mare, 6 years old. A No. 1 road mare.

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No. 12.—Foxy, black Hackney for children, very gentle and a good hack.

No. 13.—Three Hambletonian Colts, coming 3 years old. One yearling. All very fine and worthy the attention of anyone.

No. 14.—Two pair of large and well broken Mules, six and nine years old.

Also, a large interest in the Hambletonian Stallion Liberty.

8 HEAD OF DURHAM COWS, Large and Fine Milkers.

3 SUPERIOR HEIFERS, Of same stock; all with call by thorough-bred Bulls.

14 LARGE SHOATS, Jersey-Red Stock.

1 Family Carriage, in good order; 1 York Wagon, nearly new; Double and Single Harness; 1 Large Sleigh; 1 Trak Salky; 2 Iron-Axe Wagons; 1 Orchard Wagon, nearly new; 1 four-horse Pennington Reaper; 1 large lot of Household and Kitchen Furniture. Ten Shares of Agricultural & Pomological Association Stock. Thirteen Shares of Delaware Stock.

TERMS.—All sums of \$10 and under, cash; over that amount a credit of Eight Months will be given on note, with approved endorser. W. A. HERRL, Auctioneer, Feb 10-11

Large Public Sale!

THE SUBSCRIBER, INTENDING TO quit farming, will offer at Public Vendue, on the farm where he now resides, one mile South of the Village of St. Georges, New Castle county, Delaware, on

Monday, 19th day of Feb'y, 1877, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the following stock and farming implements:

13 HEAD OF HORSES AND COLTS, among which are some superior drivers, and four Mares, heavy with foal. Also, a very stylish Pony, suitable for a Pleasure.

14 HEAD OF CATTLE, Nine head of Fine Milch Cows, coming into milk, 1 Fine Durham Bull, 2 Vokes of well-broken Oxen, 14 head of Shoats and Pigs.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS, 2 Farm Wagons, 2 Peach Beds, 1 Horse Rake, 1 Shovel Grain Drill, 1 Corn Shelter, 1 Van Winkle Fan, Peach Ladders, 1 long Land-Plow, 1 four-horse Pennington Reaper—been used but one season, 1 Kirby Mower—also in use but one season, 1 York Carriage, 1 set of Single Harness, 1 set of Double Harness, 1 set of Double Harness, 4 sets of Wagon Harness, Plows, Cultivators, Harrows, Shovels, Spades, Forks, Geats, and all the articles to be found on a well-stocked farm.

3,000 lbs of Pork—Hams & Shoulders, (the latter Sugar-Cured.) Household and Kitchen Furniture. Also, a lot of Prime Clover Hay.

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The pigs are sired by my celebrated hog SAUCON LAD, Jr. Figs, six weeks old, \$5; two months, \$6. Older stock for sale. Also, a lot of Good Sheep for sale, or to let out on shares. R. L. NAIDAN, Feb 13-11 Two miles South of Middletown, Del.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1877, the following stock and farming implements, to-wit:

5 HEAD OF HORSES AND MULES. No. 1.—Lady, a good driver, 8 years old. No. 2.—Jerry, a fine black gelding, 2 years old. No. 3.—Dolly, another of Jerry, 9 years old. No. 4.—1 pair of Hales, good workers, 10 years old.

8 Head of GOOD MILCH COWS. Several are now fresh.

30 HEAD OF HOGS. Among them are my herd of thorough-bred and 1 have a pair of hand sows. A good chance to get in a good stock of hogs. The above stock is in good order and is sold for want of pasture.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS. Two Wagons, One Horse Cart, One Good Reel Mower and Reaper, Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, 1 Hand Corn-Sheller and 1 Dear-bone, &c., and many other articles. Also, \$200 worth of Pork.

TERMS.—All sums of \$30 cash; all sums of \$20 and over a credit of Eight Months will be given, the purchaser giving his note with approved endorser, interest added, from date of sale. No stock or implement to be removed until these conditions are complied with.

P. S.—No postponement unless the weather be extremely bad. R. L. NAIDAN, S. M. EXOR, Auctioneer Feb 10-11

Sheriff's Sale. By virtue of sundry writs of Venditioni Exponas and Fi. Fas. to me directed, will be exposed to Public Sale, on the premises of Thomas J. Ford, lot St. Georges Hundred, in New Castle County, Delaware, on

Tuesday, 20th of February, 1877, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the following described personal property, viz: 9 head of horses, 5 three-year-old colts, 2 one-year-old colts, 7 milch cows, 5 yearling calves, 4 six-month-old calves, 4 yoke of oxen, 11 shoats, 1 steam engine and thresher, 3 farm wagons, 3 ox carts, 1 reaper, 1 drill, plows, harrows, cultivators and other farming utensils, 1 carriage and harness, 500 posts, lot of pork, household goods, &c., lot of hay, &c., about 1,500 bushels, lot of oats, &c.

Sized and taken in execution as the property of Thomas J. Ford, and to be sold by J. S. A. GRIFFIN, Sheriff.

N. B.—It is the request of Mr. Ford that his friends and the public should attend the sale. Sheriff's Office, New Castle, Feb. 10, 1877. feb10-11

Notice. The Firm of Townsend & Rose are no longer my agents for the purchase of grain. January 31st, 1877—31 S. P. TRUSS.

PUBLIC SALE. The Old School House, in District No. 60, with all land belonging (includes lake) will be offered at public sale, on

Saturday, Feb. 10, 1877, at 12 o'clock, M., at Maxwell's Hotel.

Terms: Ten per cent. cash; half of balance in six months; the rest in eighteen months. Sale subject to approval by the Board.

BY ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS. January 20, 1877.—3w

"THE BEST IS CHEAPEST."

THE DAVIS VERTICAL FEED SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE