THE INTELLIGENCER.

Published daily (Sundays excepted).
FREW & CAMPBELL,.....PROPRIETORS.
At Nos. 23 and 25 Fourteenth Street.

TERMS OF DAILY:
One copy one year...$8 00 | Three months.....$2 00
Six months.....4 00 | One month.....75
Delivered by carriers in city, 15c per week.

TERMS OF SEMI-WEEKLY:
One year.....$3 00 | Six months.....$1 50

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Wheeling, W. Va.
[Entered at the Postoffice at Wheeling, W. Va., as second-class matter.]

WHEELING, W. VA., JULY 3, 1882.

The Sunday Leader states with circumstantiality that it has been decided by Baker, of the *Register*, and Messrs. Camden and Davis, as the result of a conference at Washington, that J. H. Good, Esq., of this city, is to be the Democratic candidate for Congress this time, and that Col. Ben Wilson is to be retired. Where and how the *Sunday Leader* obtained its information is not stated, but the statement is vouched for in the strongest terms by that paper as strictly reliable.

MR. DANA L. HUBBARD, who is editing the Erie (Pa.) *Dispatch*, is home on a Fourth of July visit. Mr. Hubbard speaks highly of Erie as a place of residence, and evidently enjoys his new field of occupation. Erie is about the size of Wheeling, is a handsome and progressive city, has a great deal of wealth and refinement, and is, altogether, one of the pleasantest towns on the Lake Shore. He gives a good account of our old friends Oxtoby & Duffield, and says that they are doing well and are highly respected in that city.

Civil Service Reform—The Political Assessment Business.

Mr. Webster was called to the office of Secretary of State by President Harrison in March, 1841, and one of his first official acts was to address by order of the President a circular letter to each chief of a Cabinet office, in which the levying of political assessments was prohibited, and the payment of such assessments was declared to be a cause for removal. Mr. Webster's letter read as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
March 20, 1841.

Hon. Thomas Ewing, Secretary of the Treasury:

SIR: The President is of opinion that it is a great abuse to bring the patronage of the general government into conflict with the freedom of elections, and that this abuse ought to be corrected wherever it may have been permitted to exist, and to be prevented for the future.

He therefore directs that information be given to all officers and agents in your department of the public service that partisan interference in the popular elections, whether of State officers or officers of the Federal Government, and for whomsoever and against whomsoever it may be exercised, *or the payment of any contribution or assessment on salaries or official compensation for party or election purposes*, will be regarded by him as cause for removal.

This was not the only deliverance of Webster on the same subject. Last week his centennial was celebrated at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, where he graduated. Senator Bayard, of Delaware, was the orator.

Mr. Bayard made a strong appeal for civil service reform from Webster's teaching. In 1832, the Massachusetts senator spoke as follows in a speech at Worcester, when President Jackson was first putting in operation the doctrine that to the victors belong the spoils:—

As far as I know, there is no civilized country on earth in which, on a change of rulers, there is such an inquisition for spoil as we have witnessed in this free republic. The inaugural of 1829 spoke of a searching operation of government. The most searching operation, sir, of the present administration has been its search for office and place. When, sir, did any English minister, Whig or Tory, ever make such an inquest? When did he ever go down to lowwater mark to make an ousting of tidewaiters? When did he ever take away the daily bread of weighers and gaugers and measurers? When did he ever go into the village to disturb the little postoffices, the mail contracts and everything else in the remotest degree connected with government? Sir, a British minister who should do this and should afterward show his head in a British House of Commons would be received by a universal hiss. And in my opinion, sir, this principle of claiming monopoly of office by the right of conquest, unless the public shall effectually rebuke and restrain it, will entirely change the character of our government. It elevates party above country; it forgets the common weal in the pursuit of personal emolument; it tends to form, it does form, we see that it has formed, a political combination, united by no common principles or opinions among its members, either upon the powers of the government or the true policy of the country, but held together simply as an association, under the charm of a popular head, seeking to maintain possession of the government by a vigorous exercise of a tyrannical party proscription. Sir, it this course of things cannot be checked, good men will grow tired of the exercise of political privileges. They will see that such elections are but a mere selfish contest for office, and they will abandon the government to the scramble of the bold, the daring and the desperate.

Speaking of the spoils system himself, Mr. Bayard said:

"Its fatal consequences I do not believe are overestimated or overstated; and speaking, not without practical knowledge of its effect upon the whole framework of our government in all of its three great departments, I aver my believe that unless an end shall soon be put to a system by which at every election, the offices of the country are, to use the words of Webster, "claimed by the right of party conquest," and have that claim allowed, we will lose even our form of government, of which long before the system will have disappeared. Statesmanship is impossible with men whose only thought and occupation is official brokerage, and who administer the powers of official patronage not by the measure of the applicant's character, ability or fitness to perform the duties of the place, but by his servility and unscrupulous devotion to to the objects of the political conspiracy into which he has been admitted. "Never forget," wrote Macauley to his constituents when leaving for India, "that the worst and most degrading species of corruption is the corruption which operates not by hopes but by fears." And once in office under the spoils system, the trembling possessor is induced to commit any act of unmanly servility in the fear that he will be dismissed. And for the same reasons he does not disclose abuses going on around him when to do so would subject him to dismissal "for the good of the party." The operation of such exciting hopes and fears upon the unprincipled and morbid mind has had lately a fearful illustration at which the nation still shudders; but who shall say that the utter demoralization and destruction of the better nature of men by politics under the spoils system did not find a natural outcome in the murder—under a confusion of hope and revenge concerning office—of a blameless and patriotic president?

The Democratic orator also referred as follows to what he deems the danger of the money power:

When I hear intelligent men, who by the very aid of free institutions have expanded their energies in such directions as their own free will and consciousness of power and adaption dictated, and have obtained wealth and the influence that wealth and success ever bring in their train; and when I hear such men criticise contemptuously political duties and occupations, and affect to sneer at those who zealously and to the best of their ability, however imperfectly, are carrying out the duties of legislation, or the adjudication of the laws, I am filled with mingled sorrow and resentment. And when an interest in political contests is indicated, not by a study of the merits of such controversies, not by an attempt carefully to discover on which side lies the balance of right and public interest, but by a pecuniary contribution to the "party fund" to strengthen the power of the bribe-givers and office-brokers, and debauch and further degrade the bribe-taker and unfaithful citizen, and this possibly to gratify a personal or party prejudice, or to fasten the chains of some unequal or unjust law upon the great tax-paying body of our fellow-country-men. All this I denounce as plutocracy, and not Republicanism.

The Democratic Contest in this District.

Wheeling Correspondence of the Parkersburg Sentinel.

Wheeling has only one prominent Democratic candidate—the Hon. J. Hanson Good. The readers of the *Sentinel* will remember Mr. Good; he was before the Conventions of Ellenboro, Parkersburg, Clarksburg, New Martinsville and Wheeling. Mr. Good has deserved better luck at the hands of his party; he is probably the ablest candidate that will be before the Convention of his district. Mr. Good is about forty-five and clean shaven, which gives him a boyish expression. He is possessed of superior abilities, is a pleasing and eloquent speaker, and ranks amongst the foremost attorneys at the bar.

His at present sole competitor is Col. Ben Wilson. We give the Col. the last chair in the list of candidates, in order that he may, according to Bible instructions, gracefully amble up and take the first when called upon.

Talking to a politician I asked him if Ohio would be solid for Good. "It will not," he answered," but I don't think he will lose any more votes in Ohio than he will gain in Harrison."

"Where is Col. Ben's strength in Ohio county?"

"Well, in the first place his church friends will support him and that is a power; then he has many warm friends amongst the wealthy men of the city, it is said that he assisted them in expediting some Government claims; and lastly the *Register* leans towards him."

"Then outside of Wheeling he is working up a railroad, and has got a new custom house for Clarksburg, both of which have their weight. And besides, though he may not have the gold mine hinted at by Morris of the Ritchie *Gazette* still he has lots of the ready, and that counts."

"Howsoever," said he, "I have no fears of Good's nomination and election."

There are, as you see, many candidates, but there can be but one Congressman, the writing is on the wall and it cannot be effaced: My young reader, I would confidentially advise you, if you have credit for a hat, bet it on Col. Ben., and your head will be cheaply covered against the wintry blasts.

CAPTAIN BARRY, of Kingston, Can., owner of several lake vessels and himself sailing master of one, says: "I, too, have been cured of the rheumatism by St. Jacobs Oil, the Great German Remedy; and I know of several others beside myself who have been cured of that dreadful ailment in the same manner; it is known upon the water just as well as on the land, and is considered an invaluable remedy."

THE *Art Amateur* for July contains a numerous array of floral and figure designs, especially valuable to the decorative artist, besides a page of Salon pictures, and two pages of sketches by the famous French battle painter, Detaille. Articles on illuminations, Wedgwood ware and curious shoes are finely illustrated. William Astor's art gallery is described, directions for "Pastel Painting" are given, the "Perishability of Artists' Materials" is considered, and some "Vexed Questions of Furnishing" are ably discussed. "Conventional Treatment in Design," "Darned Work" and "Painting Sunshades" are among the other topics practically treated. "Montezuma's Note Book" overflows with spicy paragraphs on the reigning art sensations in London, and nothing is lacking to maintain the well-earned reputation of this magazine as an indispensable aid to all amateurs interested in practical art. The public, by the way, is specially warned against pretended traveling agents of the *Art Amateur*, who have been swindling the people in various parts of the country, especially the West. Subscriptions should be paid to established agents known to be personally responsible or else sent direct to the publisher, Montague Marks, 23 Union Square, New York.

DIED.

MOISE.—At Covington, Ky., on Thursday evening, June 29, 1882, CHARLES BONNYCASTLE, infant son of J. R. and Theresa C. Moise.