

Indiana American.

C. H. BINGHAM, Editor.

BROOKVILLE

Friday Morning, June 4, 1869.

Senator Morton's Argument on the Law of Quorums.

On the first page of this week's *American* will be found Senator Morton's masterly exposition of the law in regard to quorums of legislative bodies. It is time that the question be decided whether a minority of a State Legislature have the power to stop legislation by breaking up the Legislature whenever they take a motion to "bolt" by running away or resigning. Senator Morton goes over the entire ground, and the logical conclusion arrived at is, that a constitutional quorum is two-thirds of the actual membership. Congress will not doubt ratify the action of our recent Legislature on the 15th amendment. "Bolting," which is another name for "secession," has met its quietus by this convincing argument of our noble Senator.

Basis of Reunion of Presbyterians.

The Old and New School Presbyterian General Assemblies, recently convened in New York City, have adopted a basis of reunion, which is, that such reunion, under the style of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, shall be on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis that the Old and New Testaments be acknowledged as the inspired word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; the Confession of Faith, to be adopted as the system of doctrine and discipline of the church, shall be approved as containing the principles and rules of policy.

The basis of reunion is to be submitted to the General Presbyteries, and their votes thereupon shall be sent to the next meeting of the two General Assemblies, to be held in Pittsburgh the second Wednesday of next November. If two thirds then be found favorable, then the two Assemblies shall act accordingly, and consolidate the committees and take other necessary action for the interest of the church.

The second Sunday in September is recommended as a day of prayer for the whole denomination.

Decoration Day.

Although Sunday, the 30th, was designated as Decoration Day by General Logan, the day was changed, in many places, to Saturday, to suit the convenience of a certain portion of the community who were debared, by religious or other duties, from taking part in it on that day. Little business was done in Cincinnati until the ceremonies were over, and accounts from other cities show an unusual interest manifested by all classes of people. The ceremonies at Spring Grove Cemetery, where six hundred and sixty-five soldiers are buried, were witnessed by twenty thousand people. The procession occupied fifteen minutes in passing a given point. The programme commenced with the Lord's Prayer, and was followed by an invocation of Jehovah's blessing upon the Government and people, after which the ceremony of strewing the graves with flowers was performed by a band of young girls dressed in white. While this was being done, an original ode, written for the occasion, was sung. After the ceremony, followed the oration, by Lieutenant Governor Lee. The benediction was then pronounced. Among the gentlemen present were Lieutenant-General Sheridan, General J. C. Lee, General Noyes, Colonel Crosby, Major Torrence, and Judge Leavitt. In the afternoon Rabbi Lilienthal preached a commemorative sermon at the Broadway Synagogue. In the evening the Turners dedicated a monument to the members of their Order who died in the war. Among the commemorations elsewhere, that at Arlington takes first rank. It was attended by President Grant, the Cabinet heads of bureaus, foreign legations, officers of the army and navy, Senators, Representatives, and thousands of spectators. All the noted women of the Capital were present. The only person mentioned as not being present is General Deut. The number of spectators is said to be not less than twenty-five thousand. A large display was also made at the cemetery near Alexandria. Commemoration services were also held at Pittsburgh, Chicago, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Springfield, Detroit, Nashville, Providence, Louisville, Philadelphia, Wheeling, Richmond, Carlisle, Newark, and throughout New England. At Gloucester, Massachusetts, the orator was Benjamin F. Butler, who took advantage of the occasion to refer to the conduct of England toward this country, from Revolutionary times down to the late war.

Senator Morton's Health.

The editor of the *Kokomo Tribune*, having recently had the pleasure of meeting Senator Morton, says of his general appearance and prospects for a full recovery of his health:

"Now he is again the man he was four, five and six years ago. His old manner is back upon him. He laughs as he did ten years ago. In short, he is nearly well, his debility being all below his knees, and soon, we are sure, will go out at his toes. Our word for it, Governor Morton's voice will ring in the campaign of 1870 as it did in 1860 and 1864. And then there will be no little noise, contest inviting majority in Indiana, but ten, twenty or thirty thousand."

We assure our readers, and we know they are interested to know about it, that

Governor Morton is himself again, or so nearly so that we confidently believe that he will live to see half a dozen or more Republican Presidents inaugurated, and will aid in the work of selecting all of them. May he be one of them himself!"

The Indian Commission.

The Indian Commission has adjourned. All the members were present at the sittings except Messrs. Dodge, of New York, and Tobey, of Boston, who were detained by sickness. After full organization the commission called on the President, with Secretary Cox, and told him they were ready to co-operate with him in all his plans for putting Indian affairs upon a better basis. The President replied that he would act with them cordially, listen to all their recommendations, and give due weight to such recommendations as they might make of changes in the present methods of dealing with the Indians. He said he would give them a letter to all the agencies, and direct that every facility should be extended them for ascertaining the workings of the present system, and that army officers and those acting as agents would give them transportation, and aid them in every way for purposes of visitation.

The Indian country was divided into three divisions. The northern embraces the country upon the Upper Missouri, including the Indians north of Kansas, and those of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The southern those of Kansas and the Indian Territory, and the Western, all west of these. The Northern division is assigned to Messrs. Welsh, Farwell and Tobey. The Western to Messrs. Campbell, Stuart and Lane, and the Southern to Messrs. Brunot, Bishop and Dodge. Each one of these divisions will be inspected by some of the gentlemen named, and a meeting will be held in Washington previous to the assembling of Congress to compare results of observations and prepare a formal report to be laid before the President and Congress.

No recommendations were made to the President at this meeting, as it was agreed to leave all questions till the commission had visited the West. All leading subjects connected with Indian affairs were discussed at length, though no formal decision was made regarding any. In the matter of treaties the commission was unanimously of opinion that great abuses had grown up with the present system, and about unanimous that the best interests of the Indians and of the country demanded that no more treaties should be made. It was the general opinion that the very first step in advance should be to gather all the tribes upon reservations, with the faith of the nation pledged to their protection there, and to their permanency in possession. The matter of citizenship was discussed, but as the question involved the construction of the fourteenth amendment and other grave political questions, especially that of the status of the Chinese, the commission thought best to take no action.

Some of the members are looking forward to the formation at some distant day of two or three Indian Territories as the final solution of the problem, with regular political organizations and representation.

Laurel Items.

Ed. American. — Presuming that the able reporter who heretofore favored you with a synopsis of the Laurel news, has "thrown up the sponge" and retired from the ring, I, in his stead, and in behalf of our flourishing town, propose to give the readers of the *American* a few of the more important events that have transpired in our midst. In looking over file of *Americans*, I see that there was a time, when T. A. Goodwin had charge of the paper, that one column each week was devoted to Laurel news. This should be the case again. But to proceed with the "Items."

At our regular Corporation Election, held about the 4th of May last, the following ticket was declared successful: For Councilmen—John Buky, S. J. Rice, J. A. Dertshire, Israel Burris and F. Shepard; Marshal—Thos. Anthony; Treasurer—Dr. Thomas Gifford; Clerk—J. Wallace. Soon after the election, they met in session and organized by making John Buky Esq. President. Almost the first business that received their attention was the Whisky Ordinance, which they amended by saying the vendors of "Common Disturbance" within the corporate limits should pay \$75, instead of \$50, for license. Every good citizen who delights in the promotion of peace and good order, cried "Well done; hooray for the new Board." They then made arrangements to complete the Jail building, erected on "Fountain Space." Israel Burris, Councilman in the 4th Ward, who is a No. 1 carpenter, immediately commenced the work of finishing the upper story for a Court room, and are this, Esq. J. C. Burgoyne has taken possession and is ready to deal out justice. The lower story, or Jail room, will soon be ready for the reception of a squad of "Young American Bloods" who frequently disturb the quiet of our town by making night hideous with their drunken yell. Let our citizens resolve that every offender against the law shall be punished, and the Marshal, backed by the Board, go forward and discharge his duty, without fear or favor, and our town will soon rejoice in the reformation that will surely follow.

The Post Office excitement that has been raging among the Republicans of this section for the last six weeks, is without a precedent. Not having either a Collectorship, Assessorship or Inspectorship, to contend for, they concluded to try it a few rounds for the P. O. Accordingly they divided into two parties; the first headed by J. Seares Esq., who is seeking the appointment of P. M.; the second by R. J. Day Esq., the present incumbent. By mutual consent they agreed to fight it out on the petition line, with the lion, G. W. Julian acting umpire. Each

buckled on the armor, marched up and down the Township enlisting every Republican voter who was willing to swear that he always had been, was yet, and ever expected to be a Radical of the first water. The conflict still rages, and will only cease when Mr. Julian can be brought to see what is best for this people. At last accounts "he couldn't see it."

A Mr. Walker, of Hamilton Co., Ohio, was here a few days ago for the purpose of buying the mill seat near the Depot, belonging to J. A. Derbyshire Esq. If he succeeds in making the purchase, he will at once commence building a Flouring Mill on the premises. It is very evident that another Mill would be a decided advantage to our town.

The latest thing out, is Caffey's New Sprinkler. It works like a charm, and, as a consequence, the dust will have to fly low. This is a move in the right direction, but does not move over enough territory. All the business part of town should be sprinkled.

Gib Pike and Tom McDaniel are in the Horse-farming business. They succeed well with balky horses, as they possess the power to charm, to a large degree, "tricks."

Another rare chance of visiting the city will soon transpire. The members of the M. E. Church at this place are going to have an excursion to Cincinnati on next Friday, June 4th. A sufficient number of coaches will be procured to enable the passengers to go without being crowded. Tickets for round trip, \$1.50; children half price.

Hubbard has New Goods.

Johnson R. Tatman, who has been a resident of this place for over twenty years, has lately removed to Shelbyville, Ind. We wish him and his family abundant success in their new home.

John M. King bought Tatman's Picture Gallery, and is giving his whole time to the art. He seems to be having good success. Those who want a photograph taken without having their teeth extracted, should call at King's room. *Novus Homo.*

Grand Army of the Republic.

BRAVO'S DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA,

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,

INDIANAPOLIS, May 24, 1869.

General Order No. 1—4th Series

1. The following Officers, chosen at the recent State Encampment, are here announced for the information of this Department:

For Commander—O. M. Wilson, Indianapolis.

For Senior Vice Comd'r—J. R. Hallows, Rockville.

For Junior Vice Comd'r—J. Turnock, South Bend.

For Ass't Inspector Gen'l—R. S. Robertson, Fort Wayne.

For Ass't Quartermaster Gen'l—W. M. Wiles, Indianapolis.

For Ass't Surgeon Gen'l—Samuel Davis, New Trenton.

For Grand Chaplain—N. S. Smith, Fort Wayne.

11. Private M. G. McLain is bereft with the loss of his Adj't Gen'l, and will be replaced accordingly.

111. It is gratifying to announce that the efforts made by your past officers, towards advancing the position of our Order to a closer brotherhood, have not been in vain; that at last a new work embracing an entire change of the unwritten work to three parts, and an elaborate Constitution, were adopted at the last National Encampment, held at Cincinnati, May 11th and 12th, and will soon be promulgated to this Order. When received at these Headquarters, notice will be made and full instructions issued, which will be given to Posts by an *Aid de camp*. All Posts retaining their organization are requested to report at once by letter to the Ass't Adj't General.

Posts are requested to carry out General Orders No. 21, of National Headquarters, designating the 29th or 30th day of May to decorate the graves of our deceased comrades, and promptly report their proceedings to these Headquarters.

IV. Though the spirit and letter of our Constitution makes the "Grand Army of the Republic" a "Soldier's Brotherhood," yet to successfully prove our sincerity, it must have that cordial unanimity and purity of purpose at every threshold to preserve intact its great principles, and perpetuate its richest blessings. Our opportunities are always, our duty eternal. In our Order, it is not the province of an officer to command, only execute what others may direct, and direct only in what may be given for guidance in the general interest and welfare of all. In this spirit, we are to conduct our affairs, and perpetuate its richest blessings. Our opportunities are always, our duty eternal. In our Order, it is not the province of an officer to command, only execute what others may direct, and direct only in what may be given for guidance in the general interest and welfare of all. In this spirit, we are to conduct our affairs, and perpetuate its richest blessings. 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