

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

Reasons Why Certain Pardons Have Been Granted.

The Governor's Course Will Receive the Approval of All Fair-Minded Men.

In consequence of the effort of the republican press and politicians of Indiana to bring the executive of the state into disrepute on account of the granting of certain pardons, the Sentinel herewith publishes the following. No further explanation is necessary:

THE ABRAMS CASE.

THE STATE OF INDIANA.
EXECUTIVE DEPT., GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
INDIANAPOLIS, July 3, 1878.

No. 400. Ex parte William J. Abrams.

Application for pardon.

After due consideration, the governor decided as follows:

William J. Abrams, who was convicted in the Marion criminal circuit court of the crime of grand larceny and sentenced on the 1st day of June, 1877, to be imprisoned for the term of two years, pardoned July 29, 1878, and released from confinement in the state prison north.

Decision: By the Governor. The petition for the prisoner's pardon included the charge of the crime of grand larceny and sentence imposed on the 18th day of September, 1877, to be imprisoned for the term of his natural life, pardoned July 3, 1878, and released from confinement in the state prison north.

Decision: By the Governor. The petition before the court on which application were received June 26, 1875. A certified transcript contains the following: "We, the jury, find the defendant, William J. Abrams, guilty of murder in the first degree, as charged in the indictment, and that he is confined in the state prison for life." James H. Turner, foreman. Accompanying said verdict is the following recommendation, to-wit: "We, the undersigned jurymen in the case of the State vs. William J. Abrams, have on the 24th day of June, 1875, recommended to the court, two of the judges of the superior court of Marion county, my immediate predecessor in office, and other members of the bar and citizens of the county, say: 'We are informed that the defendant, William J. Abrams, has been vindicated, and defendant has heretofore borne a good character, executive clemency will not be misplaced. The prisoner has served nearly twenty years. The prayer of the officers who recommended the conviction and entered the judgment is entitled to respect. The pardon is granted.'

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SAMUEL R. DOWNEY, Secretary.

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INDIANA INTELLIGENCE.

Owing to the cheapness of oats there is a general demand that horses should be hitched in the streets of Lafayette.

Ballooning is at a discount in Evansville, although there is a hope necks may be broken. The coroner also has an interest.

A Floyd county deputy sheriff always smiles when he makes an arrest, and very frequently between times. His name is Myers.

Edinburg Courier: F. G. White, the favorite and venerable comedian, is to dedicate the Sullivan opera house as soon as completed.

General Grose is after renegade republicans, but there seems to be a doubt lest they get after him, especially where his escapade is so well known.

The old settlers of eastern Indiana will hold their annual grand basket reunion at the fair grounds in Centerville, Wayne county, on Saturday, August 3, 1878.

Anna Dows, a well known negro woman of New Albany, died Saturday morning at 4 o'clock, at her home on Lower Fifth street, near Elm, from the effects of a dose of arsenic.

Columbus Republican: The elevator received about 100 loads of grain Saturday. There were about 75 loads of wheat, amounting to near 4,000 bushels, and 25 loads of corn. This is the biggest day's work ever done at the elevator.

Greencastle Star: The elevations and ground plans for the proposed new church edifice of the Roberts chapel congregation are on exhibition at D. L. Sonthorst's store. The structure can be finished for \$10,000, and Mr. Frank Nelson proposes to furnish one quarter of the necessary amount there is hope that it will be erected in short order.

Perth Republican: The time lock of the first national bank safe was taken out to be cleaned one week ago last Thursday, and when the door of the safe was closed the bolt held it so securely that it could not be opened for more than a week. It was necessary to bring experts from Cincinnati, with the best tools, and drill through the door before the bolt could be moved.

THE BRIDGES CASE.

William C. Bridges was convicted in the Marion criminal circuit court of the crime of grand larceny and sentenced to the penitentiary to kill and murder, and sentenced on the 5th day of June, 1867, to be imprisoned for the term of fourteen years; pardoned July 3, 1878, and released from confinement in the state prison north.

Decision: By the Governor. The prisoner has now served more than eleven years of his term of sentence. The warden reports that "his conduct for the last six and a half years has been good, and that he is a very bad." In August last the prison physician reported as follows: "William Bridges, an inmate of the Indiana state prison north, has been examined by me and found under treatment in my office. He is a man of about 50 years of age, and has a very bad prosthesis of the bowels, the rectum extending six to eight inches beyond the anus whenever he strains hard. For months he has been unable to have a passage without the use of a cathartics injected into the rectum. There is a constant inflammation of the catarrhal form in the lower bowel, causing him to pass blood and water, which inflammation from slight provocation extends to the intestines above. He suffers from indigestion at the time, and his bowels are very constipated. This, with his general trouble, impairs general nutrition, leaving him in a weakened, debilitated condition and liable to contract other diseases and little able to work. He has also a chronic pain in the left side, and from the palpitations of the heart, caused doubtless by his enfeebled health, there being no organic disease of the heart or lungs at present. He has frequent attacks of asthma, and is not able to work, and is quite anemic, that is, his blood is impoverished by the loss of red corpuscles. The Hon. George H. Chapman writes: 'About the 5th day of June, 1867, one William Bridges, alias Bridges, was tried before me in the criminal court of Marion county, on a charge of robbery, and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. At the same time he pleaded guilty to a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill. The court, after a great deal of trouble over the same transaction—and a like sentence was imposed to run parallel with the sentence in the robbery case. A letter is now shown me dated August 2, 1877, from the then physician of the prison, regarding to said man's health. I also inform you that his conduct has been such during a number of years past that, under the rules of the prison, so much of a diminution of sentence has been worked that he is now but two years from his release. If this information is correct, and if his health is now similar to what it was when the letter referred to was written, I have no hesitation in recommending the interposition of executive clemency to relieve him of his punishment. The present judge and prosecuting attorney of the court join in the recommendation because of the prisoner's reported health. Two of the principal commissioners of Marion county, the gentleman who was sheriff in 1867 and the present and a former chief of police of Indianapolis request a pardon. The pardon is granted.'

The foregoing is a full copy of the decision entered in the official record in my custody, and is furnished for publication by the governor's permission.

SAMUEL R. DOWNEY, Secretary.

JULY 9, 1878.

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THE DEVING CASE.

William L. Irving, who was convicted in the Marion criminal circuit court of the crime of bigamy, and sentenced on the 1st day of May, 1878, to be imprisoned for the term of nine years, pardoned June 29, 1878, and released from imprisonment in the jail of Marion county.

DECISION BY THE GOVERNOR.

The judge and the clerk of the court, the sheriff and auditor of Marion county, and others, have signed a petition reciting the facts, and

in a brief note to the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, declining some invitation, Governor Vance, of North Carolina, emphatically expresses his opinion of "independents."

He says: "The great and only duty to our party (the democratic) arises from so called independents. If we can not maintain discipline the party will go to pieces, and we

should begin by punishing the offenders in high places, not the aspirants for minor offices. The general should be dealt with before the private."

Dr. Carver, the glass ball rifle shot, spent a thrilling and thoroughly dime novel youth. His father, mother, brothers and sister were massacred by the Sioux in Minnesota and he taken captive, to be brought up in the tribe. A life of nineteen years as a nomad with the rifle, his most loved companion, gave him the wonderful skill respectively exhibited.

The prosecuting attorney writes:

"I recommend the pardon of William L. Irving upon the ground that his offense was not of such a character as to call for vindictive punishment, yet it was clear violation of the criminal law. It was upon that ground that the punishment was imposed by law, and as the law has been vindicated, and defendant has heretofore borne a good character, executive clemency will not be misplaced. The prisoner has served nearly seventy days. The prayer of the officers who recommended the conviction and entered the judgment is entitled to respect. The pardon is granted."

J. D. W.

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Decision: By the Governor. The petition for the prisoner's pardon included the charge of the crime of grand larceny and sentence imposed on the 18th day of September, 1877, to be imprisoned for the term of his natural life, pardoned July 3, 1878, and released from confinement in the state prison north.

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Accompanying said verdict is the following recommendation, to-wit: "We, the undersigned jurymen in the case of the State vs. William J. Abrams, have on the 24th day of June, 1875, recommended to the court, two of the judges of the superior court of Marion county, my immediate predecessor in office, and other members of the bar and citizens of the county, say: 'We are informed that the defendant, William J. Abrams, has been vindicated, and defendant has heretofore borne a good character, executive clemency will not be misplaced. The prisoner has served nearly twenty years. The prayer of the officers who recommended the conviction and entered the judgment is entitled to respect. The pardon is granted.'

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