

The Berrien County Record.

D. A. WAGNER, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 2, 1871.

Republican State Convention.

A Republican State Convention to nominate a Justice of the Supreme Court, in place of James V. Campbell, and two Regents of the University, in place of James A. Sower and Cyrus M. Stockwell, will be held in the City of Lansing on

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23d, 1871.

The several counties will be entitled to two delegates for each Representative in the lower branch of the State Legislature; and every organized county having no representation will be entitled to one delegate.

By the resolution of 1868, no delegate will be entitled to a seat who does not reside in the county he represents. S. D. BINGHAM, Chairman.

J. K. ROES, W. W. MICHENER, J. H. JONES, R. G. GOODRICH, J. M. STODOLSKY, J. O. HARRISON, JAMES O'DONNELL, C. E. ROBERTSON, FREDERICK MITCHELL, CHAS. E. HOLLAND, Berrien County State Central Committee, January 17, 1871.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS.

There has been a bill introduced in Congress which prohibits, under a penalty, members of Congress from seeking appointments to office from any department of the general Government, for themselves or others.

There is little hope of the bill becoming a law, although it would doubtless be one step towards a much needed reform. The bill has a most excellent object in view, and if passed would result, in a short time, in making many of the offices which come into home contact with the people, elective.

It is very annoying and perplexing to the President to be continually compelled to listen to recommendations to office that come to him from a thousand different sources, and in many cases such a provision as proposed by the bill would grant great relief to him. Yet, while so many appointments to office are left to the President, it is necessary that he should have some assistance in the filling of them. The intimate relation that exists between the President and Congressmen, lead office seekers to resort to the latter to have their claims to office, and recommendations of ability and fitness presented to the President, and the tone in which this is done, and the extent to which the appointments are urged, too often, no doubt, depend upon the amount the Congressmen receives in case the applicant succeeds in obtaining the desired position.

It is right that the President should have his advisers, and that he should be influenced by proper parties, but his appointments to a vast majority of a certain class of offices are made at the suggestion or wish of parties who have some selfish motive to subvert in securing the favor of the President.

What reasons can there be for having certain offices filled by the appointment of the Executive? It is said by the friends of the system that to insure impartiality, and a fearless discharge of duty, certain offices should not feel any dependence, upon parties or factions, for a continuance in office. In regard to a few offices this argument might be considered a good one, and such persons ought to receive their appointments at the hands of the Executive.

But, in regard to Postmasters, United States Marshals, Clerks of the United States Courts, and similar officers, there is as much reason that they should be elected by the people, as that our Members to Congress should be thus chosen in the several Districts.

The people, as a general thing, put forward their most popular and acceptable men, and experience has taught us that those officers who are chosen by the people, who know them to be deserving of confidence, give better and more general satisfaction in the discharge of their duties than those who receive appointments at the hands of some Executive. The people, as competent to elect Marshals, Postmasters and Collectors, as they are Presidents, Governors and Congressmen.

It is also said that by this system we save the expense of an election to office. We already have to hold many elections, and the adding of a few names on the ballots would not materially increase the expense of elections, besides save the great tax upon the time of the Executive and Legislative Departments in making those numerous appointments. We see nothing that promises the desired change at a very early date. Congressmen will be reluctant to abolish a system that furnishes so much gratification and profit to the managers of party patronage. The system, however, is becoming so generally obnoxious, that, like the franking privilege, and other measures that were more tolerable when our government was newer and less complicated, it is destined to be sooner or later abandoned.

As there is not the least prospect that Congress will, soon, if ever, in any way, compromise the doctrine that, "to the victors belong the spoils of office," upon which all parties have so long acted, in our government, the next best plan to an election, by all the people, of many of the officers now filled by appointment, would be an election or recommendation by the party in power. This certainly would do away with the most objectionable feature of the present system of appointments, and would bring Congressmen under obligations to recommend only such of their party constituency at home had endorsed.

THE WAR.

The termination of the bloody Franco-German struggle is now evidently near at hand. In fact it is to be hoped that no more lives will be sacrificed. As the dispatches of last week indicated, that Paris must soon surrender, this indication has now become accomplished fact. Paris has surrendered to the Germans, and an armistice for three weeks proclaimed. The French will, during this armistice, elect a consistent assembly, which body will determine the future of peace or war. That it will be peace, on the best terms possible, there can be little doubt.

The great blunder of the French Republic has been in continuing the war after the capture of Napoleon. Better terms could then have been secured.

After the repudiation of Napoleon, and the declaration of a Republic, Napoleon's war would have been repudiated by the Republic, and then Germany would have been less exacting, and the world more sympathizing towards France.

The particulars of the surrender of Paris and the conditions of the armistice will be found fully presented in the war dispatches in another column. These dispatches are of peculiar interest, as they indicate the close of a great and bloody struggle.

WEST POINT.

After a careful study into the workings and management of this great National Military Academy, we express our opinion in regard to it without any qualification.

As an institution for disciplining and educating those on whom the Government is to depend in times of emergency, to control its armies and its navy, we think it has come far short of being a success. True, it gave us Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, and also gave the rebels Johnson, Lee, and Davis. There should be, perhaps, an academy for the accommodation of those who desire a knowledge of military tactics, and that such an institution, if properly conducted, would be liberally patronized, and furnish, without any expense to the Government, a sufficient number of educated Generals, we think, there is no doubt. It is not always safe to bestow unlimited honors upon the graduates of West Point, or to presume fitness and qualifications for positions in which they expect to be placed, from a mere attendance at this institution. Our experience has taught the fact that many of its best graduates, on account of the fine finish given them, are not acceptable, and fail to gain the good will and admiration of those placed under their command. Many of the most efficient and successful Generals are men found among that class of individuals who have received no other qualifications than a natural inclination and fitness for the positions.

The expense to the Government annually is no small amount, and we think it could be more wisely appropriated were this institution done away with. Besides it would save a vast amount of time that long consumes every session in endless legislation to settle plans for the government of the Academy, as well as controversies and difficulties, which, at present, of themselves, threaten an abolition of the institution.

It would be as wise and as consistent that the Government should sustain a College for the education of statesmen and politicians—men who, from their knowledge of the principles of government and political economy, could render at all times invaluable services to the country, as to keep into existence this institution for the manufacture of Generals who are needed only during a state of war, a large proportion of whom lead lives of idleness and profligacy, whose habits of indolence and aristocracy are contracted at the expense and through the encouragement of "Uncle Sam."

BILLS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR.

Up to the adjournment of the Legislature on Friday last for the recess, the Governor had approved the following bills and resolutions:

HOUSE BILLS.

To legalize the tax roll of the township of L'Anse, Houghton county. To legalize the tax roll of the township of Leonidas, St. Joseph county. To amend the charter of Flint city. To legalize the tax roll of the township of Geneva, Van Buren county. To organize the township of Pioneer, Missaukee county.

To organize the township of Manacelon, Otsego and Antrim counties. To organize the township of Round Lake, Kalamazoo and Crawford counties.

To amend the law relative to granting diplomas at the State Normal School.

To legalize the tax roll of the township of Lenawee county.

Concurrent resolution asking Congress to grant pensions to soldiers of the war of 1812.

Joint resolution asking Congress to make a suitable appropriation for the improvement of the harbor at the city of Monroe.

Transferring land grant of the Marquette and Ontonagon Railroad to a new company.

Authorizing the Governor to sell the State ordnance and ordnance stores.

Making an appropriation for the completion of the Michigan Roll of Honor.

SENATE BILLS.

To pay publishers of newspapers for publishing the general laws of Michigan.

To amend the law for the consolidation of railroad companies.

To legalize the tax rolls of the township of Kasson, Leelanaw county. For the reorganization of the laws.

To authorize the consolidation of mining companies.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS.

Concurrent resolution relative to compiling a new Legislative manual.

A joint resolution, authorizing the appointment of a compiler.

Requiring clerks of circuit courts to furnish information of the amount of business done by each court in the years 1869 and 1870, with the amount of subsidies paid the judges by counties.

All of which are now laws of the State. The Governor has still in his hands a large number of bills, resolutions, etc., which have passed both Houses of the Legislature, most of which will be approved by him, no doubt, and become laws in a short time.

Insurance Taxes.

The following named Insurance Companies paid their specific tax into the State Treasury during the past week. The first column shows the amount of tax paid, and the second the increase over last year:

St. Paul, Hartford	\$2,231.68	\$10,933
St. Paul, Hartford	93.87	40.46
St. Paul, Hartford	33.89	15.30
St. Paul, Hartford	24.58	15.30
Commerce Fire, New York	63.47	0.15
Great Western, Chicago	368.79	

*From Lansing Republican.

From Kansas.

IRVING, KAN., Jan. 23, 1871.

ENTRONS RECORD.—More than a year has passed away, since I have contributed to your valuable paper. During this time, events have transpired in their usual routine, in this part of the growing State of Kansas.

Many people have come here, and are satisfied with the prospects that can be seen every day for making a home in this beautiful land, while others (as is the case in every country) have come, seen and gone away, carrying with them rather unfavorable impressions with regard to the "West."

The town of Irving is steadily increasing in size and importance, and persons coming to this part of the State to purchase homes will do well to visit this growing town, and see its beautiful situation, and important location before purchasing elsewhere. And while the town is making substantial improvements, the country in its vicinity is settling up very fast.

The weather in Spring-like, and the snow has nearly disappeared. If farmers, while they are improving their land, would plant groves of forest trees, orchards, and shrubbery, it would not only beautify their homes, but would shelter from the cutting winds of winter, and drawing assistance, it would give rise to a more general and equal distribution of rain, and the very prevent these long seasons of drought, which, in years past, have been the greatest serious disadvantages to this country.

The principal religious denominations in this immediate vicinity are Presbyterians and Methodists. Each have a church building in Irving. About three miles east of Irving is a society of Christian Brethren, who are, with the occasional aid of a minister, earnestly battling for the cause of Christianity in its primitive purity, and under such influences, they are increasing in strength.

Time, in his onward course, has dealt gently with us in our western home. But a short time ago, by the hand of death, he reminded us that his "fierce arrow" was not yet at end. A young girl died in Irving, a few days ago. This is the first visit the "grim messenger" has made in our midst for some time.

West E. Wilkinson, formerly of Buchanan, and lately connected with the Water-View Telegraph, has, with his partner, sold out and removed to Seneca, Nebraska, in this State, where they have taken charge of another paper.

There are some Government lands in this vicinity still open for entry under the Homestead and Pre-emption Laws. And good land can be bought, within three or four miles of the railroad, for four dollars per acre. More anon. REESE.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE—JAN. 24TH.

The House substitute for the bill for territorial government for the District of Columbia was referred to the Committee on Conference. The Vice-President presented the credentials of J. P. Blair, Senator elect from Missouri for the term ending March 4, 1873. The House joint resolution declaring the meaning of the twenty-sixth section of the act to reduce internal taxes, etc., approved July 14, 1870, was reported with amendments that had been made on a conference with the House.

The bill then passed. Its effect is to allow merchandise in port and not entered on Dec. 31, 1870, to be admitted under the old tariff.

HOUSE—JAN. 24TH.

The following bills were introduced and referred: In reference to district courts in Alabama; to amend the act of the 18th of August, 1866, regulating the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States; and to create a territorial Government for the Indians, came up as the regular business of the morning hour, and after discussion, was recommitted, with leave hereafter to extend the debate. The Committee on Elections, in the contested election case, reported the present member from North Carolina was entitled to his seat. Resolution adopted. The Committee on Military Affairs, reported a resolution authorizing a subcommittee with regard to the kidnapping and compulsory resignation of the three cadets, to proceed to West Point and take testimony. Adopted. The same committee reported a substitute for the Senate bill to reimburse the State of Arkansas for money expended in enrolling, equipping and provisioning militia for the suppression of the rebellion. The substitute was agreed to and the bill passed. On motion, the Conference Committee was ordered on the bill to create a government for the District of Columbia. A bill was introduced giving the Chicago and Ohio Southern Railroad Company the right to build across the Wabash river, and declaring it a post road. Passed. The House went into a Committee of the Whole, and after rejecting the amendment to the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill, providing that no part of the fund be used in connection with the annexation of San Domingo, passed the bill.

SENATE—JAN. 25TH.

A bill was introduced to enable the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw railroad to change the Northern terminus of the road from Traverse Bay to the Straights of Mackinac. Referred. Also a bill making a temporary appropriation for the prosecution of the work of improving the St. Mary canal. Referred. The bill to repeal the income tax was considered at length, and the subject was finally laid over.

HOUSE—JAN. 25TH.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported back the Senate amendment to the House bill declaring the meaning of the act of July 14, 1870, to reduce internal taxation. The amendment was concurred in, and the bill now goes to the President for approval. The Committee on Military Affairs reported the bill extending the benefits of the act for the establishment of an asylum for disabled volunteer soldiers and sailors to the disabled soldiers of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war. Passed. A bill also passed to provide the provision in the sixth section of the act of July 27, 1868, relating to pensions. A resolution was offered and adopted calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for a table statement showing the pay and allowances of the different grades of army officers under the act of July 15, 1870, as compared with their pay and allowances before the passage of that act. Adopted. The Committee on Military Affairs reported back the Senate bill to turn over to the Secretary of the Interior, for disposal by sale, after appraisement, the United States Military reservations at Fort Lane and Walls, Walla, Oregon; Fort Zachary, Kan.; Camp McGarry, Nev.; Fort Sumner, New Mexico; Fort Jessup and Sabine, La.; Fort Wayne, Ark.; Fort Collins, Col.; Fort Dakota, in Dakota; and such portion of Fort Bridges, in Wyoming, as is no longer required for military purposes. Mr. Garfield moved to amend by adding Fort Smith, Ark. Agreed to. The bill then passed.

SENATE—JAN. 26TH.

The House bill authorizing the sale of a portion of the Fort Leavenworth Military reservation to the Kansas Agricultural and Mechanical Association for a fair ground was passed. Mr. Chandler, from Committee on Commerce, reported back the bill making a temporary loan of \$100,000 for the prosecution of the work on the Santa Fe canal and river. Passed. The Senate took up and passed the Pension Appropriation bill, which now goes to the President.

HOUSE—JAN. 26TH.

Specials this evening confirm the surrender of Paris. The surrender is on terms suggested by Bismarck, and is approved here by the press unanimously.

The general agreement in official circles is that the end is momentarily at hand, as far as the defense of Paris is concerned.

The Imperialists are active, and the English Government is known to favor a restoration of the Bonaparte dynasty under the Regency.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 25.—There is a tremendous excitement in this city at the West end, over the rumored treaty for the capitulation of Paris. Many doubt the truth of the report, and this disbelief is increased by the rumor that M. Favre is actually on his way to London to attend the conference. It is said that he is expected in London at 2:15, to day, but this is improbable. On "Change there is great excitement. Members are gathered in groups, talking eagerly, and the editions of the papers, as they are brought in are anxiously secured. Everything is rising, and yet very little is doing, as the market is too rigidly held.

Among the French residents general satisfaction is expressed. Their opinion in general is that the news of capitulation is well founded, and they accept the fact of Trochu's resignation as a proof that it is true. The neighborhoods most frequented by the French refugees, Leicester Square and New Bond Street, now show a singular appearance. The streets are filled with groups wildly gesticulating, and further information is eagerly sought for at the Foreign Office. At the Prussian embassy nothing was known of the capitulation at 1:30 o'clock.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 25.—1:30 P. M.—Dispatches are just received announcing the capitulation of Paris to the German army. The Belgian border, which has been besieged for a long time. Four thousand prisoners and 200 guns fell into the hands of the victors.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 26.—At the interview between M. Favre and Bismarck, yesterday, the latter insisted that the surrender should be signed by the whole Provisional Government.

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President. The Senate resumed consideration of the bill repealing the income tax of Dec. 31, 1870, and if the Republic rejects the terms, and the Empire accepts, you must choose between the acceptance and the restoration of the Empire.

M. Favre replied that it would be impossible to bind the Bismarck Government. The terms of the Republic reject the terms, and the Empire accepts, you must choose between the acceptance and the restoration of the Empire.

M. Favre has departed for London. Versailles, Jan. 25.—Jules Favre returned to Paris yesterday.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 25.—The Empress-to-day denied that she had signed the agreement which Bismarck claims to have. The Empress is depressed and distressed at to-day's news from Paris.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The Herald's cable special from Berlin, Jan. 25, says: The report of the arrival of the Empress-to-day, created great excitement, although at present it is not officially confirmed.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 26.—On inquiry at the German Legation here at noon to-day, it was ascertained that no information of the capitulation of Paris had been received there.

SENATE—JAN. 27TH.

Mr. Scott presented twenty remonstrances from 1,000 citizens from Western Pennsylvania against the interference with the navigation of the Ohio river by the construction of the Newport and Cincinnati bridge. Referred. Mr. Hamilton introduced a joint resolution appointing Gen. Sherman, Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, vice Gen. Delaford, resigned. Adopted. The Committee on Public Lands reported, without amendment, the joint resolution to confirm the sale of Slave Indian lands in Kansas, made with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Also, without amendment, the bill confirming the title of the State of Iowa to the lands granted by the act of July 13, 1862. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to confirm the title of certain lands in Iowa, and the same was referred to the Committee on Land.

HOUSE—JAN. 27TH.

A bill was introduced to provide for the admission, free of duty, of the cattle and horses imported from the Dominion of Canada for breeding purposes. Referred. The Committee on Ways and Means, reported a joint resolution to relieve J. L. Thomas, Collector of Customs at Baltimore, from responsibility for the sum of \$27,000, stolen by two Deputy Collectors. Re-recommended. The Committee on Ways and Means, reported a joint resolution to relieve J. L. Thomas, Collector of Customs at Baltimore, from responsibility for the sum of \$27,000, stolen by two Deputy Collectors. Re-recommended. The Committee on Ways and Means, reported a joint resolution to relieve J. L. Thomas, Collector of Customs at Baltimore, from responsibility for the sum of \$27,000, stolen by two Deputy Collectors. Re-recommended.

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Sunday Readings

50. GOES THE WORLD.

Our varied days pass on and on,
Our hopes fade unfulfilled away,
And things which seem to be our life,
Are taken from us day by day,
And yet through all the busy streets
The crowd of pleasure-seekers throng,
The gambler plays the shoveller along,
And gossips talk the whole day long,
And so the world goes on!

Our little dreams come to naught;
Our lives may fall, our darling plan
May crumble into nothingness,
Our dream-battle fall to naught,
And yet the children sing and dance,
The money-makers laugh and shout,
The stars, unclouded, still shine bright,
Tossing clouds that our life is out,
And so the world goes on!

The house grows old and once was gay;
The dear ones seek their blessed home,
And we may watch and wait in vain
To hear their wail-words from the tomb;
And yet the sunlight gleams the floor,
And makes the summer shadows long,
The rosebuds at the casement bloom,
The bird pours forth their cheerful song,
And so the world goes on!

And God goes on, and with our woes,
Our golden days of life and peace,
God gives us His light of day,
Our days of pain and ease—
He makes them all the same, these lives,
The dancer's smile, the mother's tears,
And keeps them all—His children all—
Through all the eternal years,
And so, thank God, the world moves on!

He Bore It All For Me.

"When I was a boy at school," said a distinguished speaker to a deeply-sympathetic audience, "I saw a man who I never can forget—a man tied to a gallows, and dragged through the streets of my native town, his back torn and bleeding from the lash. It was a shameful punishment. For many offences? No! For one offence. Did any of the townsmen offer to divide the lashes with me? No! He who committed the offence bore the penalty of a changing human law; for it was the last instance of his infidelity."

"When I was a student at the university," I saw another sight I can never forget—a man brought out to die. His arms were pinioned, his face already pale as death. Thousands of eager eyes were on him as he came up from the jail in sight. Did any man ask to die in his room? Did any friend loose the rope, and say, 'Put it around my neck; I die instead?' No! He underwent the sentence of the law. For many offences? No! For one offence. He broke the law of one point, and died for it. It was the penalty of changing human law; in this case also it was the last instance of capital punishment being inflicted for that offence."

"I saw another sight—it matters not when—myself a sinner, standing on the brink of ruin, deserving nought but hell. For one sin? No! For many, many sins committed against the unchanging laws of God. But again I looked, and saw Jesus, my substitute, scourged in my stead, and dying on the cross for me. I looked, and cried, and was forgiven. And it seemed to me my duty to come here and tell you of that Savior, to see if you will not also look and live."

An Honorable Request.

Alexander the Great had a famous, but indigent philosopher in his court. This adept in science was once particularly conspicuous in his eccentricities. In this country, blessed with freedom and plenty, the word of God and the liberties of true religion, I charge it as the duty—whatever be the source elsewhere—of almost all the poverty, and almost all the crime, and almost all the ignorance, and almost all the irreligion that disgrace and afflict the land. I am not mad, most noble Ptolemy! I speak the words of truth and soberness. I do, in my conscience, believe that these intoxicating stimulants have sunk into wretchedness more men and women than found a grave in that deluge that swept over the highest hills, engulfing a world of which but eight were saved."

Intemperance.

Dr. Guthrie says:—"Before God and man, before the Church and the world, I impeach intemperance. I charge it with the murder of thousands of souls. In this country, blessed with freedom and plenty, the word of God and the liberties of true religion, I charge it as the duty—whatever be the source elsewhere—of almost all the poverty, and almost all the crime, and almost all the ignorance, and almost all the irreligion that disgrace and afflict the land. I am not mad, most noble Ptolemy! I speak the words of truth and soberness. I do, in my conscience, believe that these intoxicating stimulants have sunk into wretchedness more men and women than found a grave in that deluge that swept over the highest hills, engulfing a world of which but eight were saved."

Our Hearts.

Our hearts resemble the world of nature, and require change of season. All prosperity, like saprophyte light of summer, soon burns them up; all sorrow, like ceaseless rain in autumn, prevents the ripening of the choicest fruit of the Spirit. Vegetable and animal life would soon decay if there was nothing but the storms and snows of winter. The man to whom prosperity is denied gets satirical and bitter; as though an east wind were constantly emanating from him; or else he is bowed down by despair, and finally becomes a trouble to himself and all he meets with. We need the beautiful varieties of the seasons in our lives, if we are to become worthy servants of the eternal Master.

Bengel's Prayer.

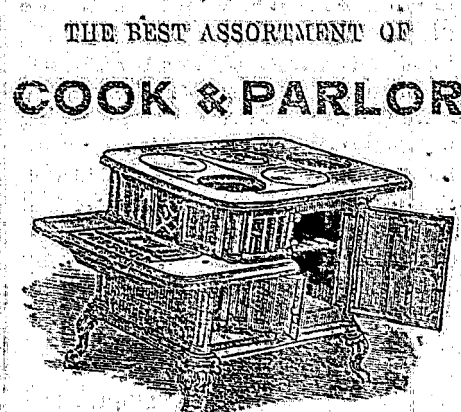
It is recorded of Bengel, that he was much given to intercessory prayer, and that he had power with God and prevailed. One who was anxious to find out his secrets, watched him, unobserved, in his hours of retirement. "Now," said he, "I shall hear Bengel pray." The aged saint sat long before his open Bible, and while perusing its sacred pages, and while comparing Scripture with Scripture, he would at midnight be heard. He folded his arms over the open word, and looking up gave utterance to these words: "Lord Jesus, thou knowest me; we are on the same old terms." A few moments more, and Bengel's weary frame was resting in sweet slumber.

A Great Savior Needed.

It is said that once a company of literary gentlemen, Mr. Webster was asked if he could comprehend how Jesus Christ could be both God and man. "No," he replied; and added, "I should be ashamed to acknowledge him, or to be able to comprehend him. If I could comprehend him, he could be no greater than myself. Such is my sense of sin and consciousness of my inability to save myself, that I feel I need a superhuman Savior, one so great and glorious that I cannot comprehend him."

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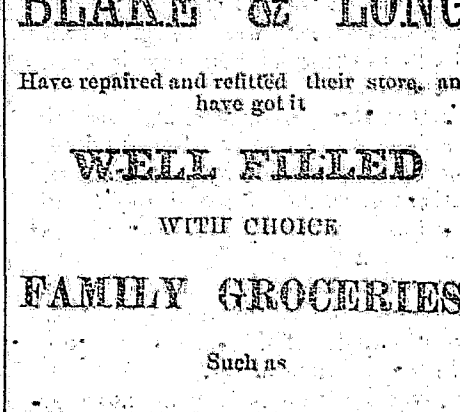
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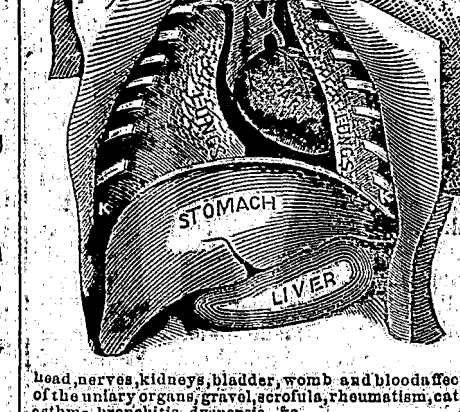
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