



H. B. MASSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE, MARKET STREET, OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to Politics, Literature, Morality, Foreign and Domestic News, Science and the Arts, Agriculture, Markets, Amusements, &c

NEW SERIES, VOL. 6, NO. 37.

SUNBURY, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1853.

OLD SERIES, VOL. 14, NO. 11.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN. THE AMERICAN is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum...

SELECT POETRY.

(From the American Union) WISHING. BY JOHN C. SARK. Of all amusements for the mind, From logic down to fishing...

E. B. MASSER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. Business attended to in the Counties of Northumberland, Union, Lycoming and Columbia.

HENRY DONNEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office opposite the Court House, Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pa.

WM. M. ROCKEFELLER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. Dec. 13, 1851.—1f.

M. L. SHINDEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SUNBURY, PA. December 4, 1852.—1f.

DOCTOR I. W. HUGHES. OFFICE on Broadway, near the Episcopal Church, Sunbury, Pa. Sunbury, May 14, 1853.—1f.

SLAYMAKER & HASLETT, Columbia House, PHILADELPHIA. Board \$1.50 per day. Phila., May 28, 1853.—

N. M. NEWHAM'S, Plumber Shop, HAS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A SUPPLY of all kinds of Lead Pipe, Sheet Lead, Block Tin, Bath Tubs, Shower Baths, Hydrants, Hose, Double and Single Acting Pumps and Water Cisterns...

I. W. TENER & CO'S STORE. Their stock is elegant and varied and well worth seeing: eye, and buying too at the prices they offer them; all are respectively invited to inspect and purchase. Sunbury, Sept. 10, 1853.

WM. MCARTY, BOOKSELLER, Market Street, SUNBURY, PA. JUST received and for sale, a fresh supply of EVANGELICAL MUSIC for Singing Schools. He is also opening at this time, a large assortment of Books, in every branch of Literature, consisting of...

THE DEAD BROUGHT TO LIFE! Old Sunbury rising out of her sleep of many years. The iron horse snorting and blowing has aroused her sleeping energies and infused new vigor into her prostrate system. One of its first effects is seen in the vast amount of new and fashionable goods, just now arrived at...

NOTICE. BANK OF NORTHUMBERLAND, Northumberland, June 25, 1853. The Directors of the Bank of Northumberland do hereby give notice that they intend to apply to the next Legislature of this Commonwealth, for a renewal of its charter with the same capital, and with present title, location and privileges. By order of the Board. JNO. TAGGART, Pres. June 25, 1853.—6m.

NOTICE. NOTICE is hereby given, that application will be made to the next Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a company, to discounting privileges, to be located in the town of Sunbury, in the county of Northumberland, and with a capital of One hundred thousand dollars, to be called the "Susquehanna Savings Bank." Sunbury, June 25, 1853.—6m.

LEATHER. FRITZ & HENDRY, Store, 29 N. 3d street, PHILADELPHIA. Wholesale and Retail. Manufacture 155 Market Street, Pa., August 20, 1853.—1y.

ESB Vanilla Bean of a superior quality just received and for sale by H. B. MASSER. #4, 1853.—

developed Spirits they know the present better than we can, and therefore can form a better judgement of the future; Spiritualism is making silent progress, both in this country and in the Old World; there are at least thirty thousand converts in this city, and there are a million in the country at large; it was revealed to me by the Spirits seven months beforehand that Spiritualism would break out in Europe as well as here, and now it is extended over England and other countries of Europe, and it has found its way even into Asia; the most intellectual and most learned men are believers in it.

Q.—Is that the case here? A.—Yes; if you only saw what letters I got from all parts of the country—from judges, clergymen, editors of newspapers, men of high position—you would be astonished; in this city the most respectable and intelligent classes have become converts.

Q.—I wish to sympathize with you, and every human passion that has its origin above, would come, and keep, in fashion; and that Scorn, and Jealousy, and hate, and every base emotion, were buried fifty fathoms deep beneath the waves of ocean!

I wish—that friends were always true, and motives always pure; I wish that good were not so few, I wish the bad were fewer; I wish that persons never forgot to heed their pious teaching; I wish that preaching was not so different from preaching!

I wish—that modest worth might be appraised with truth and candor; I wish that innocence was free from treachery and slander; I wish that men their vows would mind; That woman never were covetous; I wish that wives were always kind. And husbands always lovers!

I wish—in fine—that joy and mirth, and every good I deal, may come, erewhile, throughout the earth, To be the glorious Real; Till God shall every creature bless With his supremest blessing, And hope be lost in happiness, And wishing be possessing!

Spiritualism.

INTERESTING INTERVIEW BETWEEN JUDGE EDMONDS AND A REVEALER OF THE NEW YORK HERALD. The New York Herald of the 3d ult., contains a long and interesting account of an interview between Judge Edmonds and one of the Reporters of the Herald, on the subject of Spiritualism.

Judge Edmonds is well known in New York as a distinguished Jurist. About a year since he became a convert to the doctrines of the "Spiritual Rappers," and has since written a book on the subject. The Reporter of the Herald having called on the Judge, and introduced himself, stated the object of his visit, when the following colloquy ensued:—

Reporter (logically).—Ever since I read your letter, published in the Herald in August last, on Spiritualism, I have taken a deep interest in the subject. I knew you were not an impostor, and the only question with me was whether you were deceived yourself, which is difficult to believe in the case of a gentleman of your education and ability, and particularly a judge, whose office it is to scrutinize the character of human testimony. On reading your book I feel still more embarrassed, and am wholly at a loss to account for the phenomena which it describes. Before you declared yourself a convert to Spiritualism, I regarded the matter as unworthy of serious attention; but your public admission to the new creed entirely alters the case.

Judge.—What then? Reporter.—I have come to get some further light upon the subject, and would like very much to witness some of the rappings and other phenomena. Judge.—But we cannot control the Spirits. They come and go when they please. As for rappings, they are the smallest part of it. Any one can rap. (Here the speaker suited the action to the word, and gave two distinct raps on the floor with his knuckles, and, unless the Reporter's imagination greatly deceived him, he heard these knocks responded to by fainter knocks, as if from the room underneath.) It is the presence of an intelligence that can reveal your secret thoughts, or communicate what is going on in the farthest parts of the earth, and even in the spheres millions of miles distant.

Q.—Mr. Bennett takes a great interest in your book, and the progress of the new faith. He would be glad to have the views of the Spirits upon the affairs of this country and of Europe—for instance, as to the result of the quarrel about the spoils in the democratic party, and the issue of the war between Turkey and Russia.

A.—The Spirits do not trouble themselves much about politics or worldly affairs. Q.—But if the Spirits would tell us what is now going on in Europe, or what would be the upshot of a series of events that are attracting the attention of mankind, would not that go a great length to spread Spiritualism all over the world?

A.—Not at all; people who don't want to believe will not believe from any amount of evidence; men every day witness in private stronger proofs than that, yet they do not believe; when Christ fed the five thousand with the five barley loaves and two fishes, the multitude did not believe; notwithstanding all the miracles of Christ and his apostles, the progress of Christianity was very slow at first; besides, with regard to future events, the Spirits have only the same means of judging of them that we have ourselves, unless if they are highly

accurately the character of any person whose handwriting is inclosed in an envelope, or as many envelopes as you please, without breaking the seal. In every instance she invariably succeeds in this.

Q.—All this is very wonderful, Judge, and I want to see it. A.—There are things more wonderful yet to be told. What would you think of a chair running up stairs? A gentleman a few days ago told me that a chair followed him through every part of the room in which he was, and he then went up stairs to see if it would follow him, and it did, step by step.

Q.—But can you rely on his telling you the truth. A.—(rather indignantly).—What the deuce motive could he have in deceiving me? I have myself seen a chair shooting across the room like a rocket, in the presence of a large company. (Here the Judge took a chair, and putting it on its back on the floor, described the motion.) It would fly to the farthest end of the room, and then come back toward me, with the speed of a locomotive, and would inevitably have cut off my legs did it not stop suddenly within an inch of me. Then, when I put my foot upon it to hold it down, it darted away from me as if impelled by some irresistible power. (Here the Judge put his foot on the chair and showed how it slid from him, as if by magic.) Then, again, a short time ago, at one of our circles, in which we were in the habit of sitting in the dark, a box of lucifer matches was laid on the table to save the trouble of lighting the candles, but could not find them. One of the ladies felt on the table for an unsea called on the Spirits for a light, an unseen hand rapidly rubbed a match against the wall over the mantelpiece, when it ignited and lighted the candle. The whole circle then saw the box of matches stuck against the ceiling, with two or three of them dropping down. The medium then called down the whole box, when it immediately came upon the table, where it was originally placed.

Q.—Do the Spirits always tell truth? A.—No; for there are evil, lying Spirits, as well as good, and we must learn to distinguish between them by our own reason, just as we distinguish between the good and the evil in this life.

Q.—Then we are liable to be led astray by some of the Spirits? A.—Certainly; and some of these fellows cut extraordinary pranks, and do immense mischief; and the only way to defeat them is by bringing discredit on their teachings, by the agency of good Spirits. There is a great deal of fanaticism mixed up with Spiritualism. A man who was led astray by a fanatical medium was cured in this way: He was directed to dig into the earth six feet at a certain spot, when he would find a vast quantity of gold. He did so, but found none. He was then directed by the Spirits to dig two feet more; but still he found none. Again he was directed to dig another foot. He did, and found nothing; upon which he said to the Spirit, "You are humbugging me." The Spirit replied, "To be sure I am; go home, you fool, and attend to your business." There is another case of a man who is operating in stocks in Wall Street under the influence of a fanatic; Spiritualism, which is keeping him posted in advance of the mails about the operations of the Rothschilds in Europe. This man will probably be ruined. How absurd it is to consult the Spirits on such matters!

Q.—Do the Spirits always know what is going on in this world? A.—That depends upon the knowledge or ignorance of the particular Spirit. Some are highly informed and developed to a high state of perfection, while others remain comparatively ignorant and undeveloped. Some, again, have wandered so far away from their world that they have never found their way back, and some do not wish to come back. Though my wife died only a few years ago, I have had frequent visits from her. But my sister, who went to the Spirit World in 1837, has only come twice, and that recently. She had much trouble in this life, and she did not desire to return to it. Lately a distinguished historical character, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII, visited our circle, and was totally ignorant of Spiritualism, and of almost every thing else. I am very fond of reading "Pollock's Course of Time." Pollock is a very fine poet, who, like Milton, is only beginning now to be appreciated. I expressed a desire to have communication with Pollock's Spirit. He came and looked at me earnestly, and stalked all around the room.

Q.—Did you see his person? A.—No, he spoke through a medium, a woman, of whom he took possession.

Q.—Do you ever see the Spirits themselves? A.—Yes, sometimes; but it will not do to tell that to the vulgar, for they would not believe it. The Spirits of Bacon and Swedenborg generally communicate by writing through the hand of my associate, Dr. Dexter, as a medium; and what is so singular, he does not know what he writes till after, and has to read it to find out, and sometimes I have to decipher it for him. In the same way, when I was in Central America last winter, Dr. Dexter consulted the Spirits about the state of my health, and wrote the response in a book. He did not what he had written, or had forgotten it. On comparing my journal with his, I found that they exactly corresponded.

Q.—How do you know that the mediums are not imposing on you when they profess to be possessed by the Spirits? A.—Just as I know when any other person is not imposing on me. For instance, one

night, just as the clock on the mantle I struck, the medium possessed by the Spirit of my wife, exclaimed, "I know is awake in tones of the deceased, 'Oh, that old, familiar sound!' We know that the medium is not deceiving us by infallible tests."

Q.—The Spirits, then, have bodies? A.—Yes, Spiritual, sublimated bodies. Q.—You have mentioned that the Spirits are sometimes seen. Do all present see them? A.—No. For all have not the same development and the same acuteness of vision. Q.—This reminds me of what I used to hear of ghosts when I was a child—that when two or three persons were together, one saw the Spirit while the rest could see nothing.

A.—Exactly so. I know a lady who can see a flame issue from a magnet; and I have myself seen something like an electric flame proceed from the top of the head in a continued stream. Have you seen the work of Reichenbach on this subject—I mean his "Physico-Physiological Researches"? Q.—No, I have not; but I will take a note of it. All this is most extraordinary. But it is a revelation from Heaven, why are not the Spiritualists, who are so numerous, organized into a church? and why do they not come openly before the world? because, if these wonders were only seen by the multitude, converts would be made in thousands.

A.—You will see something of that kind very shortly. Before another month we will appear before the public, and I myself will take part in the matter. Q.—You regard the revelations made in your book as a following up of the New Testament, and a step in advance in the progress of man to perfection. A.—Exactly so. And I think it will be the means of reforming the world.

Q.—I have never attended any of the circles; but from what you have told me, I am determined to do so. Good-evening Judge. A.—Have faith, patience, and persevere, and you will see something of the truth at last.

The stars were now beginning to twinkle in the heavens, and I took my leave of the Judge, strongly impressed with his affability and good-nature in answering my questions so readily, and giving me so much information on the subject of my inquiry. It was also struck with the familiar way in which he spoke of the apparitions, just as if they were every-day acquaintances. The interview occupied from two to three hours, and was, to me, most interesting. Occasionally the Judge's eye would seem to rest on vacancy, and again his face would light up like that of a rapt prophet, a seer, or a pythonesse. As I returned home, I meditated on what I had heard, and made up my mind to carry my investigations to the utmost limits into this new phase of the science of psychology.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN MILLING.—The Harrisburg Union, referring to a new kind of mill highly praised in England, says—"Messrs. Wilson and McCollough have recently completed a new steam mill in our borough, in which they run 44 feet flat French burrs, two hundred revolutions a minute, that turn out flour faster than we ever saw it run from a mill spout. These gentlemen calculate to grind regularly from six to seven barrels of extra flour per hour on each run of stones, and they may be able to do more. As high as thirty bushels of wheat have been ground on one run of stones, in this mill, in an hour! We ask if this has ever been beaten any where? If any one has beaten it, he will please send us word. We have been using the flour made at these mills for the last two weeks, and find it superior to any we have ever had."

OUR NATIONAL FINANCES.—The Paris Constitutional, treating of the finances of the American Union, commences thus:—"The situation of M. Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury, is unique in the world; he not only has no money, but he foresees and dreads a considerable increase of his surplus. The other States of the world experience the utmost possible difficulty in making the two ends of the year meet."

NEW YORK ELECTION.—The fall vote, and mostly official, for Secretary of State, the highest candidate on the State Ticket, puts up as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Party and Votes. Whig, 160,671; Hard Democrat, 99,489; Soft Democrat, 94,187.

The Legislature will stand thus: Senate—22 Whigs, 8 Hard Democrats, 2 Soft Democrats; House—80 Whigs, 24 Hard Democrats, 22 Soft Democrats, 2 Free Soilers.

A BISHOP'S PALACE.—The following is given (in a new work, "Salad for the Sinner," just published in London,) as the epitaph of Samuel Butler, Bishop of Soles and Man, translated from the Latin inscription on his tomb:

In this house which I have borrowed from my brethren the worms, SAMUEL, by Divine permission Bishop of this Island, Sleep, reader: behold and smile at THE PALACE OF A BISHOP! who died May 30 in the year 1633.

Q.—How do you know that the mediums are not imposing on you when they profess to be possessed by the Spirits? A.—Just as I know when any other person is not imposing on me. For instance, one

DEATH OF A CONSCIENTIOUS RISER. An old Dutchman named Shumm, who lived in one of the wretched hovels that stand in the rear of Sheriff street, and whose apparent poverty and manifest sufferings from a dreadful case of hernia had long excited the sympathy of his human neighbors, died of an aneurism and a complication of other diseases. He was well known to be of a very obstinate and eccentric disposition; and although he had been confined to his bed for some weeks, he not only rejected all medical aid, but persisted to the last in his habit of sleeping in the whole of his wardrobe, which consisted chiefly of a pair of breeches, that some remote era had been constructed of blue velvet, and a sailor's jacket, and a frieze overcoat; all of which exhibited accumulated proofs of the old man's attachment. He sent for Mr. Van Duersen, a respectable countryman of his residing in the neighborhood, who had given him charitable relief, and privately requested him to make his will. To this gentleman's great surprise, he bequeathed various sums of money, amounting altogether to \$3700, to children and grandchildren, residing in New York and Albany, and confidentially informed him where his property was deposited. He then related to Mr. Van Duersen the following remarkable facts in his history:

He stated that about twenty-five years ago, he was a porter to a mercantile house in Hamburg, and having been long in its employ, was frequently entrusted with considerable sums of money for conveyance to other establishments. In an hour of evil influence he was induced to violate his trust, and absconded to this country with a large sum. Having arrived, he invested the greater part of it in the purchase of two houses, which he had effected an insurance on them, before he burnt to the ground. Considering this a judgement of heaven upon his dishonesty, he determined to devote the remainder of his life to a severe course of industry and parsimony, with the single object in view of making full restitution of the persons whom he had injured, or to their descendants.

He adopted another name, and with the means he had left, commenced business in this city, as tobaccoist; and although his trade was a retail one, and had suffered a heavy loss by fire, he had succeeded five years since in acquiring sufficient property to accomplish his just and elevated purpose. He then, accordingly, sold his stock in trade, and was preparing to transmit the necessary amount to Hamburg, where the mercantile firm he had defrauded still continued, when he ascertained that it had a branch establishment or agency countinghouse at Philadelphia. Thither he went and paid the amount of \$14,000, being equivalent to the original sum he had embezzled, with a certain rate of interest. The latter, however, was generously returned to him by the same one of the partners, and this, together with some surplus money, he has bequeathed, as above stated.

For the last five years he has lived in utter obscurity, and in severe accordance with his long-formed habits of parsimony. His executor, Mr. Van Duersen, found the above named sum of \$3700, principally in dog-blooms, curiously concealed in a certain private department of the tenacious breeches before specified; and it was ascertained that the old man's case of hernia was a case of something far less objectionable. The remainder of his money was found under the patches of his jacket, with the exception of a small sum in shillings and pence, discovered in an old snuff jar, which seems to have been the depository of his current funds.—Albany paper.

IMPORTANT TO INVENTORS. In consequence of the want of room in the Patent office, the Commissioner has issued a circular in reference to the size of models, as follows:—"The model should be of durable materials, and be firmly constructed, so as to bear the frequent handling to which it is necessarily exposed. If of any soft wood it should be painted, stained or varnished. Its external dimensions should not, if practicable, exceed one cubic foot in measure. The name of the inventor, and that of the assignee, if the patent issue to him, should be permanently affixed to it, either by engraving or otherwise.

When the models or specimens come unaccompanied with a name, so much difficulty has been felt in assigning them to their proper destination, that the office cannot answer for them if they are mislaid or even lost."

A CANDID WITNESS.—In the examination of an Irish case before the Court of Magistrates, in Providence, for assault and battery, counsel, on cross-examining one of the witnesses, asked him what they had at the first place they stopped? He answered, "four glasses of ale." "What next?" "Two glasses of wine." "What next?" "A glass of brandy." "What next?" "A fight of course."

THE Canal Commissioners have re-appointed Major John Cummings, Cargo Inspector at Columbia—and D. Shafer, Esq., Inspector of Cars on the Columbia Railroad.

A SYLLOGISM.—David was a Jew—hence, "The Harp of David" was a Jewish harp. Question—How the deuce did he sing his psalms and play on it at the same time?

There are four hundred and thirty licensed omnibuses, hacks and cabs in Boston.