

The Elk Advocate.

P. W. BARRETT Editor [INDEPENDENT] TERMS—\$1 50 per Annum if paid in Advance

Vol. 5 RIDGWAY ELK COUNTY PENNA. SATURDAY October, 14th 1865 NO 45

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.
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Apples, (dry) @ bushel \$ 4 00
Buckwheat " " " " 1 50
Beans, " " " " 4 00
Butter, " lb " 45
Beef, " " " " 5 00
Boards, " M. " 20 00
Corn " bushel " 1 50
Flour " bbl. " 10 00
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Hay " ton " 15 00
Oats " bu. " 80
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PHILADELPHIA & ERIE RAILROAD.

ROAD.—This great line traverses the Northern and Northwest counties of Pennsylvania to the city of Erie, on Lake Erie.

It has been leased by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and is operated by them.

Its entire length was opened for passenger and freight business, October 17th, 1864.

TIME OF PASSENGER TRAINS AT RIDGWAY.
Leave Eastward.
Erie Mail Train 7 25 a.m.
Erie Express Train 7 44 p.m.

Leave Westward.
Erie Mail Train 12 52 a.m.
Erie Express Train 10 15 p.m.

Passenger cars run through without change, both ways between Philadelphia and Erie.

NEW YORK CONNECTION.
Leave New York at 7:00 p. m. Arrive at Erie 3:40 a. m.
Leave Erie at 2:05 p. m. arrive at New York 11:00 a. m.

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NOTICE—All persons indebted to late Firm of C. Lutz & Co. and Fred Schenck & Co. are requested their accounts by the first of July next, either by note or otherwise, when the accounts will then be left for immediate collection. Persons indebted to Fred Schenck & Co. will find their accounts at Centerville until the above stated time.

CHAS. LUHR,
St. Mary's, May 15th 1865.

THE BLIND DUEL.

CHAPTER I.
In one of the departments of France remote from Paris, the diligence set down a passenger, an artist, a short distance from Belleville, a town to which he was traveling.

Michael Darlington, an architect from Paris, and the passenger in question, passed for a moment to admire and sketch the mills at Laysau. They belonged to a fair proprietress, Jacqueline Duseaux, a young girl in her nineteenth year, who was bullied and beset by a villain named Louspille. Louspille was determined, whether the fair girl wished it or no, that he would be her husband and control her property.

Two years before the time our story commences, he had killed in a duel her lover and cousin, Louis Firman, and by a systematic course of intimidations had kept her estranged from his best friends.

Darlington on his arrival at Belleville, was astonished to find the inhabitants of the place groaning under the terror which two ruffians had established. These two ruffians were Louspille, considered a dead shot, and his companion Beaurand. A short time spent in the town indicated Darlington of Louspille's aims and violent conduct.

Determined to put an end to this cowardly intimidation of peaceful people, as well as to avenge the fate of Louis Firman, he entered the Hotel Militaire at an hour which he had learned was best suited for his purpose, and seated himself at a particular table, and ordered a coffee and coffee.

The attending waiter wished him to take another seat. This he determinedly refused to do.

"It is the place always occupied by Messrs. Louspille and Beaurand," insisted the waiter; but to no purpose.

The lookers-on seemed evidently to think that something unusual was about to take place, and they were not kept long in suspense.

With the air of men expecting all the world to do them homage, Louspille and Beaurand entered the room. One glance at the table they usually occupied informed them it was occupied. Another sufficed to convey into the occupants' minds with astonishment, they gazed on Darlington.

"It is that phlegmatic from Paris," whispered Beaurand.

"Waiter, how is this?" exclaimed Louspille in a loud voice, "you have allowed our place to be taken?"

"I could not help it, Sir," replied the waiter. "I informed the gentlemen, and he would keep it."

"Ah! he would keep it, would he?" cried Louspille, advancing toward Darlington. The waiter has informed you, Sir, you have taken our table."

"It is possible you may so regard it, but I have yet to learn that they dispose of places at a cafe as at a theatre. Waiter, the coffee!" And Darlington coolly resumed his reading the journal.

Louspille drew Beaurand aside.

"Let us be cool, said he; 'this fellow must be attended to. Sit down and leave him to me. I'll give him a lesson he'll not forget in a hurry.'"

The two bullies sat down, chafing under the humiliation of being repulsed with such cool assurance. Louspille immediately began to twirl and twist a napkin he had taken up.

"Waiter," he cried, "the journal."

"The gentleman has it," said the waiter.

"Demand it from him, then, you fool!"

The waiter, approaching Darlington, said:

"A gentleman wishes to have the journal you are reading, Sir."

"After I have done with it, certainly," replied Darlington.

Louspille bounced up, and striding over to Darlington, said:

"Sir, you seem to be amused with the journal."

"Yes; I am reading a very amusing story."

"Not more amusing than Monsieur himself. Have you finished?"

"Not yet; besides the journal is too spoken."

"Yes, for me, I want it."

"Well, you can wait, I have not yet done with it."

"I am sorry, but you see I cannot do so," said Louspille. Quickly raising the napkin he had knotted, he attempted to strike Darlington in the face. Anticipating the movement, Darlington caught it as it descended, dragged it out of the ruffian's hands and threw it on the floor.

They then for some moments stood looking at each other, without saying a word, amid the great excitement of the bystanders.

"You have insulted me, Sir," said Darlington.

"Ah! you understand that do you?"

"Distinctly, and also my right to the choice of arms and combat."

"Ah! you seek an advantage, I see."

"I seek no advantage. I would only equalize the chances."

"I am at your service. Arrange the affair as suits yourself. Mr. Beaurand will act for me. We will fight at five paces if you wish, or with one pistol, loaded and draw for it, or in a dark room with long knives. Make your bed as you like, or duel to the death, and you must die. The sauce is all the same to me which I eat you. Only do not keep me waiting too long, the undertaker may get uneasy. Come Beaurand, let us see if our champion from Paris will honor us with an invitation to his funeral. Ha! ha! ha!"

With a mocking bow, Louspille retired with Beaurand. Darlington quickly seated himself as they left the room, and resumed the reading of the journal.

CHAPTER II.
Darlington left the Hotel Militaire and proceeded to the Mills at Laysau that he might find Jacques Grammont, the miller. Jacques was much pleased to be visited by Darlington, and was profuse in his wishes to serve him.

"My good friend," said Darlington, "you are truly hospitable, but I have come to ask from you a great service. I have had some dealings with M. Louspille. He attempted to strike me in the face yesterday at the Hotel Militaire. He did this to provoke me to fight him. Now I want your assistance, as I do intend to fight him."

"Certainly, I would like nothing better than to get at him. But then you know Mademoiselle Jacqueline—"

"Oh! I will keep you safe from harm with her. Unwilling to fight him myself, and wish you to be my second."

"What! fight a duel with him? You are too polite with a mad dog, my dear Sir."

"No; we must be quite polite and conquer this bully if at all, with his own weapons," replied Darlington.

"Let me have pen, ink, and paper." Jacques supplied these articles. Darlington then told him to get ready to take the written message he would write to M. Beaurand at Belleville. While Darlington was employed in writing, Jacques put on his holiday suit, and waited for the commands with which he was intrusted, truly proud of his position as ambassador on such an important occasion.

Darlington then gave him his instructions.

"You will go to the house of M. Beaurand. You will hand to him one of those writings, and require from him that it be read and understood by M. Louspille. They are the conditions of our duel. If he makes any objection you will declare in my name my right to dictate the terms of the combat. If he accepts, you will require from M. Louspille to sign, with his second M. Beaurand, the two papers. You will sign after them. The papers are copies of each other. I give to them the choice of the hour, which you will get them to name, for this afternoon or to-morrow morning, as pleases them best."

Jacques proceeded on his mission with a proud heart, cherishing a secret determination to have Louspille sign the papers, accepting the terms of the duel, or he would break every bone in his body. He felt too well convinced of the success of Darlington to feel any apprehension on his account.

When he arrived at the house of M. Beaurand in Belleville, he made known his purpose by requiring Beaurand and Louspille to read the papers and inform him of their intention to sign, or refuse to sign them.

Louspille read the conditions of the duel proposed by Darlington as follows:

"Michael Darlington gravely and publicly insulted by M. Louspille proposes and the two seconds undersigned accept, the conditions of a combat as follows:

"The arms shall be pistols, and the place the wall of Jacques Grammont."

"The adversaries shall be placed back to back, with eyes bandaged, and pistols in hand loaded with two balls at a point close to the base of the hill."

"After the signal has been given, the parties are at liberty to go forward or stand still, but not to go backward a single step. Whether they advance or stand still each is required not to depart from the circle of the mill."

"The combatants are permitted to fire at any moment after the signal has been given. When one party has fired his pistols, and only then, is he permitted to withdraw his bandage; but he is prohibited from moving from the spot where he stands, until his adversary shall have fired."

"M. Darlington accepts for the combat the pistols of M. Louspille."

"All that is not forbidden by the present conditions is to be considered as permitted."

"You have insulted me, Sir," said Darlington.

"Ah! you understand that do you?"

"Distinctly, and also my right to the choice of arms and combat."

"Ah! you seek an advantage, I see."

gratified with the result of his mission. The hour fixed for the rencontre was five o'clock that afternoon.

"What do you think of our duel, a blind man's buff?" asked Louspille of Beaurand after Jacques had departed.

"I do not like it at all," said Beaurand; "it is an unheard-of proceeding; besides, I think it contains some snare."

"Bah! no, the fool thinks himself very clever. He thinks he can equalize the chances and destroy my resource. Imbecile, he may cover my eyes, but he leaves free, what I can use to the best advantage."

"What is that?"

"My ears I have the hearing of a lizard, of a hare, of a Carib. He will not make a step, a motion, that I will not plainly understand."

"But he may have a ear as fine as your own."

"I will give him little chance of using it, then, by putting on felt slippers. All that is not forbidden is permitted. I will manage to have him fire first, then I will put two balls in his stomach. Only take care to place me with my right shoulder to the wall, I shall then have my pistol hand near his heart."

CHAPTER III.
Darlington had but time to close certain letters to friends, in the event of the duel being fatal to him, when the appointed time had elapsed, and Louspille and Beaurand made their appearance.

But little time was lost in preparations. Louspille produced his pistols. They were loaded by the second.

Beaurand produced a silk handkerchief, and Jacques a large bundle of cotton material to blindfold the combatants. The terms of the duel were distinctly read over by Jacques and Beaurand, and each step of the affair taken in accordance therewith.

"If in this duel in the dark we miss each other on the circle of the mill," remarked Louspille, "do we we begin again? you say nothing about it in the conditions."

"That I understand, without saying it."

"Very well then, I am ready."

A this point Louspille coolly proceeded to take off his boots, and put on his felt slippers. Jacques declared this should not be allowed. Beaurand pointed to the written conditions, saying:

"All that is not forbidden is considered permitted."

"That is right—quite right," said Darlington. "We can make no objection, it has not been forbidden. Come, bandage our eyes and put in our places."

Beaurand blindfolded the eyes of Darlington with the folds of the large handkerchief he had provided, while Jacques did the same thing effectually for Louspille. Beaurand conducted Darlington and placed him so that Louspille could have the privilege of using his pistol hand, as he desired. Jacques having stationed Louspille, the combatants stood back to back.

Beaurand having won the giving of the word, then gave it. One, two, three, fire! and the struggle commenced.

Louspille moved forward slowly and cautiously, following the turn of the mill. Darlington did not move at all, but applied himself to listen to the slightest indication that would inform him of the moment when his adversary, having made the circuit, and emerging on his side of the mill, they would inevitably meet.

It was a moment of intense anxiety. The ears of the combatants were on the alert to catch the slightest sound by which they could win an advantage. The felt slippers of Louspille permitted him to move over the ground without producing the least sound. It was the knowledge of this advantage of Louspille that kept Darlington immovable, as the creaking of his boots would betray him.

Louspille had come to within a few feet of Darlington. He felt certain he must be approaching Darlington, and he moved forward with the greatest caution. All his powers were exerted, every nerve on the stretch to gain, if only by a breath of wind, some knowledge of his antagonist's position.

It was at this moment that the ear of Darlington caught the sound of the creaking of Louspille's coat against the wall of the mill. As he heard the sound, he dropped slowly on one knee, with his head inclined and pistol projected.

Beaurand who saw and comprehended the effect of this movement, made a convulsive start, as if about to caution Louspille of his danger; but Jacques, seizing hold of him with his powerful arm, said nothing, but pointed to the clause in the paper, "All that is not forbidden is considered permitted. Beaurand remained quiet.

Louspille caught the sound of the movement of Darlington as he went down on his knee. The sound was but at an arm's length from him. Convinced that his pistol covered the spot from whence the sound had come, he drew trigger and

fred.

The ball passed harmlessly over Darlington's head. Louspille immediately removed his hands from the pistol of Darlington, giving his body. With a convulsive movement in front of Darlington's bandage, as if a subtle intelligence taught him that he stood a better chance with Darlington when he was fully conscious, he was deliberately to blow out his brains.

Seeing Darlington on his knees, he exclaimed:

"That was not permitted."

"Yes it was, for it was not forbidden. Do not stir," said Darlington, rising to "go down on your knees, your life belongs to me."

Louspille, pale and trembling, obeyed the request.

"Do not kill him!" cried Beaurand, in the most piteous manner.

"Why not?" exclaimed Darlington, "he has fully forfeited his life. The blood of Jules Firman calls for vengeance. His persecution of Jacqueline Duseux must be avenged. He has been a tyrant and a bully too long."

"Oh, do not kill me," cried the creaking wretch, when thus in the presence of death.

"If I do not kill you, will you obey the conditions which alone will save your life?"

"Yes, yes; I most willingly."

"Quit this country, never to return to it, and never, far or near, never by word or deed, molest Jacqueline Duseux."

"Never, never. I promise, I swear, while I live."

"G then and live, man of blood and brutality. If the lesson you have received to-day is not sufficient to tame your ferocity, recollect that Heaven, sooner or later, will crush you as it has crushed me."

Louspille retired from the spot, followed by Beaurand, the crossfallen and humiliated victims of their well-merited punishment, leaving the town of Belleville thereafter to uninterrupted peace, and Darlington and the fair girl defended to marriage and happiness.

There are now nearly three hundred Chinese living in New York, but probably not a half dozen women from that country. There are two to three Chinese families. About fifty of the Chinese are married—most of them to Irish women. They are generally industrious, but somewhat inclined to drinking and not cleanly in their habits. Many of them use at work as porters in stores, and they are faithful to their employers.

A man in Cleveland was arrested for stealing a guitar from a young woman—She called upon him, and he so convinced her of his changed character, she intends to marry him as soon as he gets out of prison.

A son of the Emerald Isle, on being told that a friend of his had out his money into the stocks replied: "Oh, an' it's always bad. Youth, an' I never had a fortune in the stocks, but I've had me drooghs there oftener than I liked, sure."

The Chinese Republicans says Mrs. Lincoln is living in perfect seclusion at the Hyde Park Hotel, on the shore of the lake, seven or eight miles from that city. Both her sons, recently with her, Captain Robert Lincoln is working law in Illinois, and goes there, and the Illinois Central Railroad to attend to his duties.

PAINFUL BUT LAUGHABLE.—In "Notes of an Army" we find the following:—"I remember one day in my hospital rounds, a patient just arrived presented an amputated forearm, and in doing so he could hardly restrain a broad laugh; the doctor was constantly on his face. "What is the matter? This does not strike me as a subject of laughter." "It is not, Doctor; but excuse me; I lost my arm in so funny a way that I still laugh when I look at it."

"What way?" "Our first sergeant wanted shaving, and got me to attend to it, as I am a corporal. We went together in front of his tent; I had lathered him, held his nose, and was just about applying the razor when a cannon ball came, and that was the last I saw of his head and my arm. Excuse me for laughing so, Doctor, but I never saw such a thing before."

A woman who had not seen her husband for three long years, caught sight of him in the ranks of one of the returning regiments, in Portland, last week, as it was marching through the street. Affection got the better of strict decorum and the overjoyed woman rushed to the ranks, embraced her husband, and marched along by his side until the cheers of the spectators. Though not according to etiquette, this was undoubtedly more satisfactory to the returning hero than to have found her wedded to another man, as many a poor soldier boy has done.

The following is perhaps the most laughable incident that has occurred in reference to a lock up jury, since the case in which a Galway bailiff, having been questioned as to whether he had spoken to any of the jury during the night, gravely answered: "No, my lord; they kept calling out for me to bring them whiskey, but I always said, Gentleman of the jury, it's my duty to tell you that I'm sworn not to speak to you."

An ex army sutler who resides in Indianapolis, made two hundred thousand dollars in fourteen months, which he invested in United States bonds, the escaping taxation?

A negro student has been admitted into Harvard College, and a negro has been sitting as a jurymen in the Boston city court. Oward and appear.