

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1866.

JOHN G. HALL, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR. J. F. MOORE, PUBLISHER.

FOR GOVERNOR, HIESTER CLYMER, OF BERKS COUNTY.

VOTERS READ!

We copy the following from the Erie Dispatch, the leading radical journal in this district. Every word of it is true, and we cannot but admire the candor and honesty with which the Dispatch expresses its opinion.

We publish the extract for the benefit of those Republicans who think Mr. Scofield one of the shining lights of the present Rump Congress.

"What we want the people to understand is the fact that, when a man who is acknowledged to be wealthy, failed to contribute as much toward the support of the arms of his country in its peril as many of his poor neighbors, or has, in almost all cases, even after making personal pledges to the contrary, favored lazy, pauper civilians for office instead of wounded soldiers, he is just as apt to carry out the same mean, narrow, contemptible policy in all the details belonging to the position of Congressman. In the first place no man who has not this spirit in him will practice it at all, and any one who will practice it at all cannot avoid practicing it at all times, and more especially when he hopes by so doing to favor a party of men who are more likely to criminal influence for him than those who fight in the ranks or have been wounded in the service. The principle is as old as the world, and as unalterable as eternity. These, and other reasons which we have given, and still others which we will give as sufficient for us to oppose Mr. Scofield."

HISTORY OF ELK COUNTY.

By a Northwestern Pennsylvanian.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF RIDGWAY AND VICINITY—CONTINUED.

Although the Clarion was viewed with rapture by Wilmarth, and the pine trees analyzed by the calculating shrewd mind of Dickinson, not a word, or even a thought indicated that the next summer would find them employing twenty to forty hands in the commencement of a lumber manufacturing establishment. It must have been the eloquence of "Sam" that worked as leaven upon their mind. Fair terms were offered the next winter by Messrs. made in the winter of '32 and '33, on their first visit before mentioned. The return of the party to Bunker Hill from Montmorency, commenced after dinner. It was a long ride for half a day—on horse back, over such a road. Mrs. J. L. Gillis went with them to visit her friends, and she had courage for the trip—her son Henry (now a distinguished "Lieut" commanding in the Navy and who is so well known at home and abroad, for his daring and heroic rescue of wrecked seamen, at Montevideo,) was a fat chubby boy, a little over a year old and he had to be carried; all took turns in the exercise. It was after dark before they reached Bunker Hill and the overhanging branches across the path, made it perilous for eyes and hats; they were in constant danger of becoming "Absalomites." If "Hank" should ever read this, let him refer to the tension of his sinews, when he was released from the "tiller" on his return from his rescue of the seamen, he will have an idea of the writers "unstrung withers" in carrying him through these woods.

The next winter—'32 and '33, Messrs. Wilmarth, Arthur Hughes and George Dickinson came in and negotiated a purchase of J. L. Gillis and Mr. Aylworth, for the land, and water power requisite for the lumbering establishment. The journey was made in a two-horse sleigh, the road having been partially kept open, (although a deep snow) by the teams of Col. Wilcox who had been hauling in flour and provisions as before alluded to; so that with a good pair of horses, by starting early from Judge Bishops and driving late, they could make the distance from Bishops to Montmorency and return in one day, a deed which they actually did accomplish. Their advent and intended soon return, and with such a good team and equipage, had well nigh proved a serious matter to Mrs. Enoch Gillis. She had with much trouble and expense, procured the services of a young woman from M'Kean county and from near the state line as "help," her family was large and labor scarce. Miss M— was a "helper" indeed (not such a helper as wrote the Republican Guide Book), she was actually worth two or three of usual assistants. She was a perfect specimen of ancient Roman and

beauty; no corset stays nor padding were required to make a shape. She was as square as a brick, stout as a Conestoga wagon, and active as a derv. In fact, she was a treasure to Mrs. Gillis. Dickinson and Hughes were both young and unmarried, and they were thought less of such endowments, but not so as to Wilmarth; he was instantly struck with the stalwart maiden; her strength, agility and handiness excited his admiration. It is more than probable that to his (i. e. himself) unconscious glances toward the maiden, she formed the opinion that he was the kindest gentleman of the whole party, and she did not hesitate to express it openly, and intimated to Mrs. Gillis that it was her intention to accompany the party in the sleigh to her home (some fifty miles distant,) and that if they should want her they could afterwards send for her. "But the sleigh is loaded, and they can't take you." "There is only three, and Mr. W— is a little man, and he and I can take one seat." "But how do you know they will take you?" "Oh, I know they will, and I'm going." Here was a quarrel for poor Mrs. Gillis; to be left at such a time, and on such short notice, was distressing. Polly's temper was well known; a resolve and an execution kept in the same wake with her. If she had made up her mind to go home in that sleigh, you might as well have tried to shake off the witch from the tail of Tam O'Shanter's mare; she would have hung on to the tail board all the way. What was to be done? Mrs. Gillis applied to "Jim." "It will be all O. K. says he." He calls Miss M— aside, and asks her, "What do you think Wilmarth says about you?" "What does he say?" said Miss M—, with sparkling eyes, anti-cipating a compliment. "He says you would make a good good hobsled to ride down hill upon, and wishes he had you to go through the woods to go down one of the long hills!" Fire and fagots! what a whalloping of pots and kettles there was. A crinoline of the most fashionable dimensions would require no more room than Pall did that day. The party left, and Mrs. Gillis' "help" was saved. It is proper and just to say that in after years Polly and Wilmarth made merry over this amusing plot of "Jim's" to detain her at her work.

At this period—1833—there were not exceeding seven families in Ridgway, to wit: Mr. Aylworth and Caleb Dill on the west side of the creek; Enoch Gillis, J. W. Gallagher, H. Kirus, (surtant-tendant) on the east side—James L. Gillis yet resided at Montmorency. The commencement of building mills, &c., by Hughes & Dickinson, and the settlement by Col. Wilcox this same year tended much to encourage these denizens of forest life, and matters began to wear a more lively aspect. Goods, wares and merchandise became tangible property—and so many teams as were required upon the road, kept up an intercourse with what was then termed the outer world. 'Tis true, the Gillis' had succeeded in having several mail routes established which central at Ridgway, as follows: from Kittanning via Brookville to Ridgway, from the south; from Bellefonte via Karthaus, to Ridgway, from the east; from Ridgway to Smithport and Olean, and from Ridgway to Warren, each weekly, and the writer is not sure but that upon all these routes the mails were carried under Gillis' contracts with the Postoffice Department, as there were but few contractors willing to take them. But with all these mail facilities, the teams carried the greater part of the local information, either in letters or orally; and their arrivals and departures were always attended with as much excitement as arrivals and departures of the steam boats to and from their wharves—or of railroad trains to and from their depots in other parts of the world.

The carrying of the mails through a long wilderness, or across illimitable prairies, through swamps and across swollen streams, sometimes in the hat or pocket of the carrier for miles and miles, without a single incident that would excite a thought in the general reader about its importance to individuals, or to its primary object in the settlement of this vast country under the jurisdiction of the United States, has always had the attention of the Postoffice Department; and those early carriers have stories of wild adventure, perils and fatigues equal to those of the soldier in his dangers in the field, or his entertainments in camp.

Caleb Dill, at this period quite a young man, was probably the first mail carrier to and from Ridgway. Charles and Isaac Horton, jr. were also among the first mail-boys on the weekly route from Kittanning to Ridgway. They were mere lads, and taking into consid-

eration the "long stretch" between houses, heavy snows, falling trees, but few bridges across the streams, and barriers of ice, it would seem appalling to one not accustomed to forest life. But these indefatigable boys always made time with old "Maj" or "d'Hot" under them, they were as fearless of the elements as they were of bears and other animals. The route from Bellefonte to Ridgway was harder still, owing to a longer distance of unbroken wilderness, and having the Susquehanna, Bennett's Branch and the Clarion to cross; but there were seldom failures in the mails, and then only when the streams were too much swollen. Who, among the settlers of that day, fails to recollect the indomitable "Coney," who for a long time was the mail carrier from Bellefonte via Ridgway to Smithport? He was "little but d—d old," and his remarkable physiognomy obtained for him the cognomen of "Judge Burnside." Had he been in charge of one hundred thousand dollars in bank notes he would not have been more careful than he was of his mail. That portion of the "Pike" which was finished, and over which he traveled, was his peculiar care. Every fallen tree that intercepted his riding was sure to be reported to the superintendent of the turnpike, with strict orders for its removal before his return on pain of forfeiture of charter, or the destruction of their gates. Poor fellow, he did not live to see a railroad in process of construction that was to annihilate those long, fatiguing and lonely rides he so patiently and cheerfully endured. Then there was the Warren mail—twenty two miles without a house, and merely a bridge path—part of the way not unbrushed. The writer once had occasion to ride on this path, about mid way he met "Dan" Hyatt, a youngster then, with the mail. It was a hot day arid from the shade; Dan was on foot, the mule ahead, his long ears were nearly covered with yellow jackets, and the vital fluid was dripping from the wounds they were making. The mule looked sorry, and did not appear to appreciate his precious burthen, neither did he seem to care as much for Uncle Sam's service as for a tuft of fresh grass. Dan appeared to be philosophizing thus, "This, though a lonesome service, has its reward; besides, who knows but these saddle bags contain precious or sad news, the former to the afflicted and the latter to curb too exuberant joys; something of peace or war; they may have had a slight in important documents may be wending their way to influence a score of votes; at all events, I am the harbinger of communication between the outer world and the wilderness, and for which I am bound." Perhaps the whole postage paid and to be collected in his mail bags would not have purchased a feed of oats for the mule—yet its importance in embryo could never be realized. It was the annual cry of those narrow minded, one idea, selfish close-fisted watch dogs of the Treasury to deery the usefulness of the Postoffice department. "Whenever it does not pay expenses abolish it. Why should we be taxed to furnish a revenue to establish mail routes and offices where every cent per cent is not returned? Cut off every appendage that does not pay."—The Postoffice Department, in its organization, was not intended as a revenue measure for the support of the Government, but more considered as one of its expenses to be borne equally by the people, and it may be regarded as one of the wisest measures of our government to extend its ramifications commensurate with the movements of the population in the redemption and settlement of so large a country as ours.

Let those who are ready to pounce upon every administration for its expenses in supporting this part of our system ponder upon these things. The man who would begrudge the expense of carrying a mail at public charge to the pioneer who leaves the comforts of a more civilized life to extend our settlements and plant his family upon its confines, because it "does not pay" is fit for "treason, stratagem and spoil."

JACOB RIDGWAY.

The individual whose name heads this chapter, and from whence "Ridgway" derives its name, has been so often mentioned in this "History," that a brief sketch of him will not be out of place. He was emphatically a rich man, lived and died as such. His wealth was acquired by diligence, skill, economy in all the minor details of business. It was not acquired by sudden speculations, in "shoddy" contracts, or petroleum prizes, but by slow and sure accumulations. He was able peculiarly to own these large bodies of land, and pay its taxes. So long as the prospect of settlements on his lands arising from

his own expenditures, appeared probable to his mind; he was ardently engaged in their prevention and he valued his lands accordingly. He was a shrewd admirer of that quality of human character, called "self reliance" which dispensed with all appliances to greater wealth, in case of misfortune, or by an available necessities. His judgment may be safely averred was never at fault in discriminating safe men in the sale of his lands, who would improve and pay for them. But few cabins were ever built upon his lands, likely to be deserted by an unprofitable settler. Mules and harness were the qualities he admired. He was a physiologist of the true sense of the term, and a student of physiognomy. It was this discrimination of human character that enabled him to give such aid in the settlement of Ridgway and vicinity; and without losing a single debt. Business men and accountants have usually one or more open accounts on ledgers, in which to carry balances for a longer or shorter time, as "profit, loss and expense" and which perhaps remain forever unbalanced or closed. The civic, the jealous dislikers of rich men, the cavalier of good deeds might perhaps say: that the debt of gratitude never remained as unpaid upon Mr. R.'s books, as even carried in to that receptacle of profit and loss "acc. int. but such a saying would be regarded as a slander by the admirers of Mr. R. 'Tis true when the citizens of Ridgway applied for a public burial ground, Mr. R. had a valid and rational excuse against the application: it was valid because the land was his; it was rational, because it militated against his doctrine of self reliance among his settlers. This, the validity and the rationality was apparent to every one, when he declared, he "would not find land for the living and the dead." The Ridgwayites can congratulate themselves that the sin of ingratitude does not lie at their doors in the matter of adoration, for a receptacle of the dead.

Jacob Ridgway and Stephen Girard both resided in Philadelphia, and were contemporaries in the accumulation of wealth. The latter died first—distributing his immense fortune to objects worthy of a public character, the latter to his immediate descendants and legal heirs. He may have become displeased at what was termed an evasion by the city of Philadelphia in the disposal of Mr. Girard's legacy; probably the city of Philadelphia had no claim upon Mr. Ridgway, he was a native. Mr. Girard was a descendant by birth. The former lies buried in "Laurel Hill" Cemetery. The latter exists in marble within the vestibule of that far famed college which his wealth instituted and end-wed.

The biographies of rich men are seldom chronicled, only as they exist upon testamentary records, the books, and assessors duplicate, if we accept the means resorted to, for the accumulation of their wealth. In their day and generation, these two contemporaries, Mr. Ridgway and Girard may have been considered as the two richest men in Philadelphia. Both amassed their property by slow beginnings, accelerated in every turn like the rolling snow ball, proportion enlarges, until it becomes a ponderous mass, if hurried in its motion it is likely to break off in fragments, lessening its increase, if not its utter destruction as a compact body; thus these men never allowed the least unnecessary expenditure, and every detail, and every calculation of interest and value made to a mathematical exactness, it became a habit and a rule. "Take care of the pennies the pounds will take care of themselves," is an old adage and although true, as a general application, might be and is well questioned, whether it is laudable, or should be pertinaciously adhered to when the results are no longer necessary. One anecdote of each of these men will suffice. Mr. Girard in a business operation with a gentleman foreigner did not close as it afterwards appeared on Mr. G's books, leaving a balance due him of six cents, a few years after they met and Mr. Girard politely mentioned this balance. The gentleman as politely held out the spanish coin, six and a quarter cents (dimes and half dimes not then coined) observing as "he did not carry the cents and could not prefer any thing but silver and as there was no lesser currency in the U. S. than half cents, he did not see how he could get his change," the ludicrousness of the demand and difficulty of arithmetical balance so struck Mr. Girard as to cause a laugh on both sides, and the matter dropped.

Mr. Ridgway during one of his last visits to M'Kean and Jefferson in relation to his lands, had stopped for the transaction of business at a tavern at the lower end of the village of Smithport, expecting to meet other parties at

the tavern at the upper end, he paid his bill and in doing so change could be made exactly and their became due Mr. R. two cents. The following day, Mr. R. was ready to leave from this place for Ridgway, the team was at the door—roads were muddy and a hard journey before them. He desired them to wait 'till he could walk (or ride) down and get his change from the other house, one quarter of a mile, observing to the company, that "it was not the value of the two cents, but he could not break over a rule of his life" which was to square all accounts. The team in view of driving after dark over a bad road, would willingly have paid the two cents, but a principle! would have been violated.

TO BE CONTINUED.

MR. EDITOR—Your printer has made quite a number of blunders in publishing my last communication on the pig iron subject. In omitting the 770, he has cut out a whole period of three figures, reducing the amount to the one thousandth part of the number given in the question. He said 85 hundredths of a mile, when he should have said eighty-three, and if Philomath will reduce 15,782 inches to inches when he should have said, reduce 15,782 miles to inches and used the word debt in place of left H. W.

GENERAL NEWS.

The policy adopted by the Captain General of Cuba, under instructions from the home government, and the new and severe laws and decrees promulgated for the suppression of rebellion, gives additional color to the rumor that the people of that island are preparing to revolt against Spanish rule, and expect aid and assistance from the South American republics now at war with Spain.

The Radical Legislature of Connecticut is the first to ratify the Rump amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Not many weeks ago the people of the same State, by a decided majority, decided against amending their own constitution so as to give the elective franchise to negroes!

A destructive fire occurred at Portland Maine, on the 5th inst.

The fire commenced a little below the foot of High street. It next burnt Hollis flouring mills and then Brown's sugar houses with all its surrounding things; then Staple & Sons & Richardson's foundries and everything else on Commercial street. The fire then spread to a building called Graham's corner, composed of small wooden buildings, clean. Street then burned up as far as the old Lounnan House, on Pleasant street; one third way up Center street; half way up Colton street; completely up Cross and Union streets, Temple street and Exchange street. It swept down on the northern side of Pine street to India street, on the east while on the west it went along diagonally across Middle street and down to Cumberland, taking the Elm House, but sparing the First Parish Church. Then from Chestnut street to North street. It made a clean sweep on the southern side of Cumberland street, and the same was the case with Congress and everything else to Pine street as far east as India street. It is almost impossible to tell where the people live, the ruin and destruction is so complete.

It is a generally conceded fact that President Johnson will veto the tariff Bill.

Senator Lane, of Kansas, shot himself on the 1st inst., inflicting a wound which resulted fatally, at nine o'clock to day.

He had been acting strangely for several days, and a careful watch had been kept over him, but while riding last evening with a brother-in-law, Mr. McCall, and Capt. Adams, brother of his son-in-law, he got out of the wagon, which had stopped at the gate of the residence of Mr. McCall, and slipping to the rear drew a pistol and shot himself in the mouth, the ball passing out through the top of his skull. The act was undoubtedly the result of temporary mental derangement.

He is the third member of the family who has destroyed himself.

The occurrence created universal sadness here.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the Senator is improving, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Hostilities have commenced in Europe between Austria and Prussia in good earnest. The Prussians have entered Saxony, and the Italian government have declared war against Austria. France has declared herself neutral as long as the belligerents do not endanger her interests. The Berlin correspondent of the London Times says the Russian force concentrated in

Southern Poland is now slowly advancing in the direction of the Silesian frontier, and it is surmised in Austria Poland, that they will take up such a position as to eventually be at the disposal of the King of Austria, on the least interference by France.

The Italian army crossed the Mineio without meeting opposition from the Austrians. It then pushed on towards Peschiera and Verona where a great battle was fought, the Italian army, under Victor Emanuel, were defeated. Garibaldi had embarked from Como with volunteers to join the Italians.

The New York Herald's Mexican correspondence says that the Mexicans are becoming more and more united in the cause of independence. The Imperial forces have lately met with a number of defeats, some of which are important.

By last week's Clearfield Republican we see that Maj. WILHELM is a candidate for the nomination of Associate Judge in that county. The Major was one of the victims to the Reign of Terror inaugurated by the Incompetents in that county, and bore his persecutions manfully.

The People's Candidate for Congress.

COL. DAN RICE: DEAR SIR.—We, the undersigned citizens of Girard and Erie County, in view of the patriotic services rendered by the Government, and the many thousands of hard earned dollars you have expended to sustain and carry on the war against rebellion; having proved yourself the true friend and supporter of Andrew Johnson and his Administration in their efforts to restore the Union, and having confidence in your integrity and ability to discharge the duties of Representative of the 19th District in Congress, we therefore request that you allow your name to be used as the People's Candidate for that office at the ensuing election.

- Geo. Senyard, John H. Gulliford, E. J. Kenyon, A. G. Ely, J. Gulliford, E. K. Smith, J. Martin, Frank McCree, W. L. Traut, Wm. H. Edson, Wm. Platt, F. C. Coats, H. Benham, John Robertson, James Brawley, D. Olin, Henry Ball, John Kessel, B. C. Ely, E. S. Belknap, A. M. Osborn, W. D. Webber, Chas. B. Grant, H. L. Carr, Louis Yeager, W. D. Martin, S. D. Coakett, J. T. Simmons, John Brecht, A. White, Hiram Daggett, S. F. Mason, J. W. Awater, L. B. Chevalier, E. Jewel, Jas. L. Thayer, E. W. Clark, Geo. C. Martin, William Tyler, G. S. Gulliford, John Hay, Jr., J. E. Hart, G. W. Stines, C. W. Noyes, G. W. Stines, D. Nason, A. Martin, H. Kiteberger, Jr., Robt. Wilcox, Heinrich Kiteberger, J. E. Pettibone, Robert Calder, A. Stone, L. D. Hart, James O'Leary, J. M. Murphy, C. L. Phelps, J. Bender.

ALTOONA, PA., June 26th 1866.

TO THE CITIZENS OF GIRARD AND ERIE COUNTY, PENN'A.

Your letter, proposing to run me for Congress, is received. I would indeed be insensible to the commonest impulses of humanity were I not filled with the warmest sentiment of gratitude for the friendly expressions and personal regard that your letter contains, signed as it is by Republicans and Democrats, whom I know to be staunch supporters of the Government, and many who have risked their lives for the preservation of the Union. Such distinguished consideration overcomes every natural objection I may have for political honors, consequently I do accept of your kind invitation to allow my name to be used, but with the understanding that I am not to be the standard bearer of either political party (Republicans or Democrats) but if nominated it must be by a People's Convention, as I belong to the people. They are my friends and patrons, and in justice to them, composed as they are of all shades of political opinions, I must continue to live in their esteem, and labor to promote their happiness and interests which has been the height of my ambition for twenty five years.

Respectfully, Yours, DAN RICE.

July, 12-1866.

THE MARKETS.

RIDGWAY, July 12, 1866.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes FLOUR, WHEAT, RYE, CORN, OATS, BUCKWHEAT, DRIED APPLES, BEANS, BUTTER, LARD, CHEESE, MACKEREL, WHITE FISH, EGGS.

ERIE, PA., July 12, 1866.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes FLOUR, WHEAT, BEEF, WHITE FISH, MACKEREL, BUTTER, EGGS, LARD, CHEESE.