



THURSDAY, A. D., 23, 1866.

W. H. G. HALL, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

J. E. MOORE, PUBLISHER.

FOR GOVERNOR.

HIESTER CLYMER, OF BERKS COUNTY.

FOR ASSEMBLY.

C. B. BARLEY, of Fox.

Subject to the decision of the Democratic Representative Conference.

FOR PROTHONOTARY, &c.

GEO. A. BATHUN, of Edinboro.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUDGES.

E. C. SCHULTZ, of St. Mary's.

JESSE KYLER, of Fox.

FOR COMMISSIONER.

LOUIS VOLLMER, of St. Mary's.

FOR AUDITOR.

R. J. JONES, of Beverside.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

GEO. WALMSLEY, of St. Mary's.

Philadelphia Convention.

We devote the outside of this issue to the proceedings of a Convention which will be held here.

A Convention of the noblest men of the country, North and South, rising above the trammels of party, burying the differences of the past, and uniting in one grand effort in favor of constitutional liberty.

For six years, our people had been estranged—six weary years of blood and suffering—in which there had been no national conventions. But the storm has ceased, the clouds have broken—the day seems but the brighter—the atmosphere but the clearer. We have met again as brothers, as children of a common country, under the same old flag with "not a stripe erased or a star obscured."

It is the auspicious beginning of a purer patriotism, a more glorious career.

The Philadelphia Convention was not the result of party machinery—it had no party. The Republicans as a party were opposed to it for fear it might injure their organization. The Democratic party was opposed to it, for fear they might be swallowed up by it. But alarmed by the danger in which a revolutionary Congress had placed the country, patriotism triumphed over party, and knit together the conservative men of the nation with hooks of steel. Democrats and Republicans consoling their prejudices, unite in harmonious effort to save the nation. The Major Generals of the Union armies and the officers of the late rebel armies joining in one grand rally around the old flag.

There is one feature much prated about by the radicals, which we count one of the greatest proofs of its success, and the best assurance of its good results; that is, that the convention contained officers of the rebel armies, rebel governors and congressmen. We are glad of it—it was a faithful representation of the Southern people—it is evidence of their desire to accept the results of the war in good faith. Mark it as a conclusive proof against the radicals, that in the address and resolutions which were adopted by the convention, with unbounded enthusiasm and without a dissenting voice, it is expressly declared that the war has settled now and forever, that no state has a right to secede, that the Union is indissoluble, that slavery shall never again exist in this land, that it is a duty recognized by the people of the South to make suitable provision for the comfort and happiness of the freedmen, that the rebel debt is void and unrecognized, that the national faith is pledged to the payment of the national debt—and that the people should hold in grateful remembrance the gallant soldiers and sailors whose prowess maintained the territorial integrity of the Union.

Here we have the broad and unreserved acquiescence of the Southern people to all that we have a right to ask as the result of the war. After such concessions to endeavor to keep up the prejudices and animosities engendered by the war, and fan to still higher flames the feelings of sectional hate, is worse than a folly—it is a crime.

CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE.—It is now notified that the Democratic Congressional Conference will meet in this place on Tuesday, the 4th day of September. Most of our Democratic exchanges in the district favor the selection of that day.

President Johnson has declared the paper blockade of Maximilian at the port of Matamoros, as not to be considered to respect by United States vessels.

Correspondence for the Advertiser.

HISTORY OF ELK COUNTY.

By a Northwestern Pennsylvanian.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF RIDGWAY AND VICINITY—CONTINUED.

It was a critical period in financial affairs. The bill ostensibly was for the benefit of the people of the State by the issue of \$2,500,000 of "Relief Notes," which would afford a safe circulating medium; but in fact, as would appear by its 17th section, for the real purpose of saving the charter of the U. S. bank. A "political expediency" in the words of Mr. Gillis to vote for the bill, which secured its passage by a two-third vote in the House. A strict party denunciation followed, and Gillis was expelled, as were the banks, until party success had subsided, and the propriety and utility of the measure manifested by experience. Whatever errors or corruptions may have existed in chartering or extending the charter, or the applying of its proceeds to the purchase of its stockholders by the purchase of its entire capital, still Ridgway, (of which we write) derived many advantages. The \$10,000 for the War, and \$10,000 for the county—Ridgway received \$94 towards her school house building, besides her share of the annual \$100,000 from the bank fund. The subscription by the bank to the Sunbury & Erie Road, and her participation in the early organization and surveys are well remembered—Indeed the bank furnished nearly all that was expended during the two first years' explorations and surveys.

The school house to which reference has been made was built in 1834, and the school opened in the winter of 1835, with a fair number of scholars. Every "able inhabitant" will remember A. P. Barnaby, the first teacher. He was a quiet genius, well qualified for the situation; busy as a bee, when in or out of school; digging out stumps, cutting pine, (he was a good workman at that business), or digging a cellar—constantly employed. Every household at evening of All Souls' Day could be seen trying to light her candle without success—hardly had gone round to such kitchen, displacing the embers, and in their stead had put one made of a potato.

There were other teachers in succession that would have adorned the profession in any land; but the consequence was that better district schools did not exist in the State; not only were the first rudiments, but grammar, geography, arithmetic and natural philosophy were branches taught. Many grown up men and women can attest to the value of these Ridgway schools.

It must not be inferred, however, that all who presented themselves as teachers were qualified for the position, nor was it fully understood "in the outer world" that applicants were duly examined as to their qualifications. At that period, this portion of Pennsylvania was unsuspected of having need of teachers qualified beyond the Alphabet, or words of two to four syllables. Thus some, from motives of good to the settlement in teaching the "young idea how to shoot," or from a laudable desire to get rid of annual exercise, often found their way into Pennsylvania communities, to show themselves as "teachers from York State." One specimen will suffice as a sample of the rest of these itinerant applicants:

The school at Ridgway, the only one in that large township, had been suspended for want of a teacher during the summer months, and all were anxious for its opening; the blackberries had been nearly all gathered, and the children were becoming somewhat frantic in their impatience and pining; the treasurer of the school district, who was also one of the directors, had the funds actually in his possession to pay any teacher that should be employed, and was anxious to discharge it, as all good and faithful trustees are, in a legitimate way.

Just at this period, and while the attention of affairs was being directed, a young man of fair exterior presented himself as a teacher, and in such a calm, easy manner that the directors were handsomely impressed. So sudden an advent by an stranger was unusual. He had a quiet and friendly regard for himself as a teacher, because he had time to question him as to how under the canopy "he got there?" for it was a custom and a rule that no stranger could pass that way, into or through Ridgway, without fully enlightening the citizens, women and children, as to his business—from whence he came; where he was going; whether he was of "poor and honest parents," or never "born at all, at all?" His history must be understood—and if he did manage to slip through the town, without imparting all this information, he was set down as some vulgar fellow not worthy of notice.

This young man was kindly received, the wants of the district were candidly made known, and that they would cheerfully and promptly set him up in the school, provided he bore an examination. He was evidently embarrassed at the suggestion of examination—was not aware that such a procedure was required in Pennsylvania, although he knew it was the case in York State. He observed that he "had been haying and harvesting, and had not been attending to his books for a while; he would like to have the examination postponed a few days, so that he could brush himself up a little." This modest request could not be refused. Those gentlemanly directors and examiners fully appreciated the ordeal teachers had to under-

go, and answer questions impromptu that were likely to send their wits wool-gathering; questions to puzzle, questions to annoy, questions in spelling—perhaps as pronounced as to be unrecognizable, or questions in geography so profound that the examined loses his understanding entirely in his attempts to recollect where mermaids are found, where dolphins display their various hues, or in what latitude the Hottentots reside. So they concluded to give the young man a chance for a few days to prepare for examination.

"School commenced" next day; a few calls from the directors convinced them that it would be proper to give the teacher a formal examination, as well as a formal dismissal. He appeared in school so deficient in the first rudiments, so far behind the scholars, and so much of a laughing stock among them, that the idea of his teaching was abandoned. As originally he was examined, and so profoundly ignorant was he found in all that pertained to a school teacher, his rejection was immediate. To the inquiry "how come you to offer yourself as a teacher, when you cannot write a single sentence, nor spell the words that compose it?" he answered that he "had been three months at the Academy in Alfred, N. Y., and his teacher there told him that he did not think him qualified to bear examination in York State, but he could take a school in Pennsylvania, and would answer there." The young man, who came penniless, was furnished with money for expenses home, with the admonition that his advisers who had told him to come into Pennsylvania, had wronged him, and that it would be more reputable for him to chop logs than to chop logs. Ridgway was thereafter seldom troubled with such applicants.

This circumstance has been dwelt upon more lengthily than perhaps is necessary; but when taking into consideration, the importance of conducting the public schools in the country—the circumstances that should be exercised in the employment of teachers, to whom are entrusted the early education of the children, it is worthy of comment.

There is no truer in life than correct impressions as to language, spelling, reading, pronunciation, &c., than in the first steps of education. Errors in spelling, uncorrect accent in pronunciation, a drawing manner of reading in the pupil's first advent into school, will cling to them in after life, and is seldom entirely eradicated after years of study and application in the higher institutions of learning.

Since the establishment of the Common School System in Pennsylvania, the law provides for, and it strictly adhered to, prevents in a great measure, the employment of incompetent teachers. The school law of Pennsylvania has been so often amended since its first establishment, that its first founders can hardly recognize their parentage.

Our Common Schools have become in fact, free schools, founded upon a system of taxation and direction that exempts all volition, judgment, or active participation by the parents of the children. It may be urged that as this is a free country, the right of suffrage enjoyed by every man in the selection of school directors is in their hands, and they are not under the necessity of electing such officers as will disregard their duties. But experience is constantly demonstrating the fact that the office of director of Common Schools is more often sought after, and election, entered for, for the purpose of giving patronage to some teacher, to the location and style of a schoolhouse in close proximity to their property or a friend's convenience, than to the necessity and advantages of schools in a public point of view. Thus we are as likely to choose unqualified directors as previously to select unqualified teachers. An apathy is engendered among parents by shifting all the responsibilities upon the directors; an article cheaply procured is always cheaply valued, and the select proprietor of many children, whose education is fully provided for by the laws of the State, deems it unnecessary to bestow any attention upon a subject so fraught with consequence to his offspring. To place a man in a situation takes from him all action in public affairs, takes from him the responsibility as father to his children in their education, he soon relapses into carelessness in the matter, and finally into indifference. But let it be understood that there is something direct for him to pay, however small the amount may be, and he becomes indubitably—he is a person, and will feel as having a right to question and criticize the directors, and the teachers of his children. It is not the wealthy taxpayer, nor the politician who raise the greater number of children. Since it has become unfeasible and Methusian to rear a family offering its duties have been left to the poorer and unappreciated class, who are not likely to engross the management of schools by official directors, even if well qualified for the position. There is nothing in the history of Ridgway in its early days, of so much importance as its school arrangements; of its success in later times the writer's knowledge is insufficient to praise or detract.

Due attention was paid to preaching of the Gospel, and for one year the preacher and tutor were combined, and regular preaching and Sunday school organization were the Sunday work.—Methodist circuit preachers, at stated intervals, held divine service, and an occasional sermon by Mr. Alyworth; who was a very able preacher—was regarded as an intellectual treat. There were some queer specimens of orthodoxy who came flitting along, whose doctrines were as unintelligible to their

hearers as metaphysics to the Scotchman. Baptists, who could preach on the "bar of a thousand strings" the spirits of just men made perfect. But there was one zealous, old local preacher, or hunter he might be called, who will long be remembered.

"Father Rowley" resided somewhere in the woods in the vicinity of Ridgway and would occasionally make his appearance, either for a supply of provisions or to sell his martin or muskrat skins—invariably selecting his quarters with Judge Dickinson, to the great annoyance of his worthy lady, and he would "preach" whenever there was a vacancy in the pulpit and any one to attend and listen. It may well be supposed; that due seriousness was not always manifested by his younger auditors. Whenever he wished to impress upon his hearers the immediate necessity of repentance and turn from the evil of their ways and seek refuge at the throne of grace, it was in the emphatic language peculiar to himself "put to the laurel bay leaguers ye." To those in any wise acquainted with forest idiom, no language can convey a more earnest admonition to sinners to "flee the wrath to come."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NEW MARKET CAR.—We are pleased to inform our readers that Messrs. Every & McCullough, of Harrisburg, are now running a car over the P. & E. road, every Wednesday and Saturday loaded with the choicest fruit and vegetables the market affords.

We are this week forced to omit the publication of some important matter, among which is an "Address to the Democrats of Elk County," and a communication on the pigeon subject.

Mr. Clymer's Appointments.

A notice from Hon. Wm. A. Wallace, Chairman of the State Central Committee, informs us that Hon. Hiestor Clymer, Democratic candidate for Governor, has made appointments to speak as follows:

Newcastle, Saturday, September 1.

Erie, Monday, September 2.

Meadville, Tuesday, September 4.

Franklin, Wednesday, September 5.

Clarion, Thursday, September 6.

Tioga, Friday evening, Sept. 7.

Warren, Saturday, Sept. 8.

ST. MARY'S, (Elk County), Monday evening, Sept. 10.

Emporium, (Cameron County), Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Lock Haven, Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Arrangements will be made to give our distinguished candidate an appropriate reception upon his visit to St. Mary's, Mercantile, let the people in all parts of the county prepare to turn out, and give him a cordial greeting.

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 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. Sengard, John H. Gulliford, A. G. Ely, James Braxley, Henry Ball, E. K. Smith, B. C. Ely, Frank McCreary, Wm. H. Elson, Wm. Flint, F. M. Coats, John Robertson, D. Olin, John Kessell, John Kessell, E. S. Belknap, W. D. Webber, H. L. Carr, W. D. Martin, J. T. Simmons, A. Wilcox, S. F. Mason, I. B. Chevalier, Jas. L. Thayer, S. T. Williams, Geo. G. Martin, C. W. Noyes, D. Nason, Miron Godfrey, H. Kittelberger, Jr., Michl Schumaker, Jr., Heinrich Kittelberger, Robert Calder, L. D. Hart, J. M. Murphy, J. Ender.

ALTOONA, PA., June 20th 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 inexcusable to the commonest impulses of humanity were I not filled with the warmest sentimental 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.

J. Powell's Column.

THE LARGEST STOCK OF

THE MOST DESIRABLE ASSORTMENT.

THE UNDERSIGNED offers to the public at his commodious Sales Rooms in Ridgway, the largest and best general assortment of Merchandise that can be found at any Store between

WILLIAMSPORT AND ERIE, and at more favorable prices than can be bought at either of these points.

His stock comprises a splendid variety of

PRINTS, DELANES, SHEETINGS, DRESS GOODS, CLOTHS, READY MADE CLOTHING, BOOTS AND SHOES, TINWARE, HARDWARE, CROCKERY, STONWARE,

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS &c. &c.

The proprietor, thankful for the very generous patronage thus far extended to his establishment by the citizens of Elk and adjoining counties, hopes to merit and receive a continuance of the same.

J. POWELL, Aug-16/66-1y.

STRAY.—Came to the premises of the subscriber in Spring Creek township on the 1st of July last, a BORELL MALE, with one white hind foot. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take her away, otherwise she will be disposed of as the law directs. DORWIN WILSON, Aug-16/66-3t. Portland, Elk Co., Pa.

SOMETHING NEW!

HOUSE, SIGN & ORNAMENTAL PAINTING.

THE SUBSCRIBER WOULD RESPECTFULLY inform the citizens of Elk county that he has just started in the above business in Ridgway, and feel confident that he can please all who may favor him with their custom. PAINTING, PAPER HANGING AND CALCIMING DONE ON SHORT NOTICE AND IN THE most fashionable and improved manner and style. Orders left at the office or at the Banking House of Southern Wills & Southern will be promptly attended to.

W. P. WILLIAMS, May-17/66-1y.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

W. P. WILLIAMS, H. O. McCONNELL, August 1st, '66-3t.

OLIVER & BACON, Manufacturers and Wholesale & Retail Dealers in Flour, Feed and Grain, CANAL MILLS, ERIE, PA.

Orders solicited and promptly filled at market rates. aug9/66-1y

H. O. McCONNELL, House, Sign and Ornamental Painter. All orders promptly attended to with neatness and dispatch. Inquire at this office, or of the subscriber at Kane Station, aug9/66-1y

CARVER HOUSE, Warren, Pa., Hill & Hall, Proprietors, aug9/66-1y

ALPINE HOUSE, St. Mary's Pa., Herman Kretz, Proprietor, aug9/66-1y

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the estate of John Rothenhoefer, late of the borough of St. Mary's, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to, or having claims against said estate are requested to call and settle.

T. ROTHENHOEFER, aug9/66-1y. Executrix.

GENERAL ELECTION PROCLAMATION

PURSUANT to an Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act relating to the Elections of the Commonwealth," approved the 2d day of July A. D., 1839, I, JAS. A. MALONE, High Sheriff of the County of Elk, Pennsylvania, do hereby make known and give notice to the Electors of the County of Elk, that a GENERAL ELECTION, will be held in said county of Elk on the SECOND TUESDAY, 9th day of October, 1865, at which time the following officers are to be elected:

One person for Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

One person for Congress, to represent the counties of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, and Warren.

One person for Assembly, to represent the counties of Clearfield, Elk and Forest, in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg.

One person for Prothonotary, &c., of Elk county.

Two persons for Associate Judges of Elk county.

One person for County Commissioner of Elk county.

One person for County Auditor of Elk county.

One person for County Surveyor of Elk county.

And the qualified electors of the county of Elk, will hold their elections in the several districts, as follows:

Benevento township, at the house of Thomas Overturf.

Aug-16/66-tae.

Benzinger township, at school house No. 1, near the Elk creek bridge.

Fox township, at the Grave Yard schoolhouse.

Highland township, at the house of Levi Ellithorpe.

Ridgway township, at the Court House, St. Mary's borough, at the house of Ignatius Garner.

Spring Creek township, at the house of Stockdale, Downer & Co.

Jay township, at the house of Alfred Pearson.

Jones township, at the schoolhouse in Wilcox.

I also make known and give notice, as in and by the 13th section of the aforesaid act, I am directed, "that every person, excepting Justices of the Peace, who shall hold any office or appointment to profit or trust under the Government of the United States or of this State, or any city or incorporated District, whether a commissioned officer or otherwise, a subordinate officer, or agent, who is or shall be employed under the legislative, judiciary, or executive department of this State, or United States, or any city or incorporated district; and also, that every member of Congress, and the State Legislature, and the select or common council of any city, commissioners of any incorporated districts, is by law incapable of holding or exercising at the same time, the office or appointment of Judge, Inspector, or Clerk of any election of this Commonwealth, and that no Inspector, or judge, or other officer of any such election shall be eligible to any office then to be voted for.

Also, That in the fourth section of the act of Assembly entitled "An Act relating to Elections and for other Purposes," approved April 16, 1849, it is enacted that the 13th section, "shall not be construed as to prevent any Militia officer or borough officer from serving as Judge, inspector or clerk at any general or special election in this Commonwealth."

Also, That in the 61 section of said act it is enacted that "every general and special election shall be opened between the hours of eight and ten in the forenoon, and shall continue without interruption or adjournment, until seven o'clock in the evening when the polls shall be closed."

The general, special, city, incorporated districts and township elections, and all elections, for electors of President and Vice President of the United States shall be held and conducted by the Inspectors and Judges elected as aforesaid, and by clerks appointed as in heretofore provided.

"No person shall be permitted to vote at any election, as aforesaid, but a white free man of the age of twenty one years or more, who shall have resided in this State at least one year, and in the election district where he offers to vote at least ten days immediately preceding such election, and within two years paid a State or County tax, which shall have been assessed at least ten days before the election. But a citizen of the United States who have previously been a qualified voter of this State and who moved therefrom and returned, and who shall have resided in the election district and paid taxes as aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote after residing in this state six months. Provided, That the white freeman, citizens of the United States are between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-two years, and have resided in the election district ten days as aforesaid, shall not have paid taxes.

Pursuant to the provisions contained in the 4th Section of the Act aforesaid, the Judges of the aforesaid districts shall respectively take charge of their respective districts, and produce them at a meeting of one Judge from each district, at the Court House in Ridgway on the third day after the election, being for the present year, on FRIDAY, the 12th day of October next, and then and there to perform the duties required by law of said Judges, also, where a Judge by sickness or unavoidable accident, is unable to attend said meeting of Judges, then the certificate or return aforesaid shall be taken in charge by one of the Inspectors or Clerks of the election of said district, who shall do and perform the duties required of said Judge unable to attend.

AN ACT regulating the mode of voting at all elections, in the several counties of this Commonwealth:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the qualified voters of the several counties of this commonwealth, at all general township, borough and special elections, are hereby, hereafter, authorized and required to vote, by tickets, printed or written, severally classified as follows: One ticket shall embrace the names of all judges of courts voted for, and to be labelled, outside, "judiciary;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all state officers voted for, and be labelled "State;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all county officers voted for, including office of senator, member, and members of assembly, if voted for, and members of congress, if voted for, and be labelled, "county;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all township officers voted for, and be labelled, "township;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all borough officers voted for, and be labelled, "borough;" and each class shall be deposited in separate ballot boxes.

Given under my hand at my office, in Ridgway, the sixteenth day of August, 1866. JAS. A. MALONE, Sheriff of Elk County.

Aug-16/66-tae.