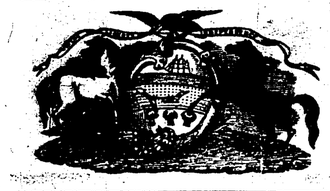
The Altoona Tribune.



ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1860.

Death of Wm. B. Foster.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Wm. B. Foster, Jr., Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which occurred in Philadelphia on Sunday morning last, of apoplexy. He was in the 54th year of his age, and leaves a family of two children, his wife having died three years since. Mr. Foster was a native of Pittsburgh. He commenced business life as civil engineer, was at one time Canal Commissioner of our State, and then Chief Civil Engineer of Pennsylvania in constructing her State Works. He was afterwards elected Vice President of the Central road, a position which he has ever since maintained with honor to himself, and satisfaction to the Company. He was an excellent and experienced business man, and his practical knowledge and administrative ability must be attributed much of the success, and superior reputation of the Central Road—the most secure and best conducted Railroad in the United States. It will require a good man to supply his place.

The Superintendent's Office, the Shop Office, Ticket Office, Despatcher's Office, and the Passenger Engines on the road have been heavily draped since Monday morning, out of respect for the deceased. His remains passed through this place on the Express train, yesterday morning, on their way to East Liberty, in the vicinity of which place they were buried.

THE NEW ARCTIC EXPLORATION.—Dr. I. I. Hayes, Surgeon of the Kane Arctic Exploration, hopes to be ready for a start in the month of May next, for another voyage to the North Pole. Dr. Hayes has already raised $10,000, one half of the necessary sum, from the generous contributions of his personal friends, and hopes to secure the rest from the liberal public at large. To assist him in this endeavor, the Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, have appointed a Committee of leading merchants and other well known citizens (among them Henry Grinnel), and there are reasons to hope that the appeal will not be made in vain. The special object of Dr. Hayes' proposed expedition is to determine at once and forever the question of an open Polar sea, which Lieut Morton saw, and the existence of which would seem to be established by a variety of circumstantial evidence. This sea Dr. Hayes hopes to reach by making the principal portion of the trip on dog-sledges—vehicles by which he and his associates rode over a thousand miles on the previous expedition.

FORTY-NINE CHILDREN DROWNED.—From the Quincy (Ill.) *Herald*, we learn that a terrible calamity, rivalling that of the Pemberton Mills, occurred on Thursday week, near the town of Hardin, Illinois, on the Illinois river, and about twenty-five miles above Alton. Fifty school children, in attendance at a university at that place, went out upon the ice to play. The ice gave way, and, with one exception all were lost. Our informant was unable to give further particulars, but he represents that the village was a scene of universal mourning, almost every family in it having lost one or more of its members.

☞ At Cincinnati, on Thursday morning last, thirteen men were crushed to death by the falling of the wall of St. Xaviers's Church (Roman Catholic.)—The unfortunate men were engaged in demolishing the building. To save expense, they were directed to undermine the wall, so that it might be thrown over. Whilst engaged in this work the wall, some thirty feet high and two feet thick, fell upon them. Nearly all the men were heads of families. This terrible disaster seems to have been the result of the meanest parsimony combined with the most culpable negligence.

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of the Tribune.

HARRISBURG, March 5, 1860.

Gentlemen:—Following the great moving mass on Tuesday of last week, the evening found me ensconsed in comfortable quarters at the house of a certain Dutch John, in the Diamond in Reading. The crowd, of course, was tremendous, and on a careful survey I found nearly every prominent Democrat in the State on hand, and as soon as I ascertained that the supply of lager was calculated for a three days' siege, I was satisfied that there would be a grand harmonization of the elements—but I must confess that I was unprepared to see the turn affairs took on Thursday morning. I would have staked a year's services to the State in the Western Penitentiary against a mess of pettage that Witte would be the nominee. Of course I always was a warm and ardent friend of Henry D. Foster, and was, therefore, not only suprised but delighted at the result. As you will no doubt give an abstract of the proceedings of the Convention, I refrain from going into particulars.

The sudden death of William B. Foster was received here yesterday with deep regret. Few men living had more friends, and it seems to me that the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company will have some difficulty in finding a successor with the practicable ability Mr. Foster possessed.—The Depot here, and the locomotives on this end of the Road are draped in mourning.

The Appropriation bill has been reported in the House, and foots up as follows:—

Governor and heads of Department,	$18,000
Expenses State Dep't,	6,950
" Auditor Gen'l Dep't,	9,090
" Surveyor Gen'l Dep't,	9,550
" School Dep't,	6,460
" Treasury Department,	6,500
Attorney General's clerk,	800
Legislature,	150,000
Distributing the Laws,	700
Printing,	80,400
Water and Gas,	2,600
Contingent Fund,	3,000
Supreme Court,	21,200
District Court of Philadelphia,	16,800
Courts in Allegheny,	10,200
Courts of Com. Pleas in Commonw'lth,	55,000
Associate Judges,	25,000
Interest on Debt,	1,960,000
Guaranty Interest,	8,517
Common Schools,	280,000
Pensions,	108,000
Eastern Penitentiary,	12,806
Western Penitentiary,	10,150
Phila. House of Refuge,	25,000
Pittsburg House of Refuge,	15,000
State Lunatic Hospital,	20,000
Western Hospital, Pittsburg,	30,000
Hospital for the Blind,	22,000
Hospital for Deaf and Dumb,	23,000
School for Idiotic Children,	5,000
Miscellaneous,	5,000
	2,808 317

This is less than it was last year, but I presume that amendments to it in the House and Senate both, will swell it up to what it was last year.

The bill exempting from sale for debt the house of a man of family, providing it does not exceed in value $1,000, was discussed and postponed for two weeks, on Saturday last. I am not without hope that this bill will ultimately pass.

The following is the bill in relation to the taxation of Brokers, which has been discussed at great length, and is still pending in the House:—

"An Act to Increase the Sinking Fund.

SEC. 1. That any individual or co-partnership who are now, or may hereafter be, licensed to transact business as a bill and exchange broker or brokers shall furnish to the treasurer of the city or county wherein he, she or they reside or do business, every three months, beginning with April first, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, a statement setting forth the amount of cash capital upon which he, she or they are doing business as brokers, the name, place of residence, and place of business of such individual; or, if a co-partnership, the name of the firm, its place of business, and the names and places of residence of each of its members, and the amount actually paid in and on hand in money; for the use of said business, and the aggregate amount of business they do; which statement shall be verified by oath or affirmation before a judge, alderman, or justice of the peace; any change of membership of said co-partnership or firm which may take place shall be immediately communicated to said treasurer by a certificate signed by all the partners, which statement shall be filed and preserved in the office of the said city or county treasurer.

SEC. 2. That each individual or co-partnership, having a license to do business as a bill broker or brokers, under this act, shall pay to the treasurer of the proper city or county, for the use of the Commonwealth, two per centum per annum on each dollar of cash capital paid in, and five mills per dollar upon the aggregate of business which is exhibited in said statement, which shall be in addition to the sum now required for such license and the taxes now authorized to be levied for the use of the Commonwealth. *Provided*, That the said taxes, thus collected, shall be paid into the sinking fund, and be faithfully applied to the liquidation of the State debt."

Yesterday the supplement to the Mount Joy Savings Institution, passed the Senate finally, and is now in the hands of the Governor, who will no doubt veto it, to prove his consistency. The bill transforms the institution into a bank of issue—such as we have enough of at present for all practical purposes.

The Philadelphians are getting rampant upon the subject of removing the Capitol, and I have no doubt that such an object will be eventually accomplished, because the city is growing at a greater ratio than the country. Messrs. Ashmead, Baileau and others offer the State twelve acres of land whereon to erect the Capitol, in case of removal. The ground is in the 24th Ward, west of the Schuylkill, slightly out of the city, but then it must be remembered that the gentlemen own a City Passenger Railway from the proposed site to the heart of the city. A wheel within a wheel.

The revised Penal Code was taken up in the Senate to-day, and progressed to the 61st section. It will take some days to get through with it. The House was engaged on small private bills. The appropriation bill was re-committed to-day, and will no doubt come out considerably enlarged. Yours, LOGAN.

☞ The man whose wife caught a package of $250 in money from him and threw it out of the railroad car window, thinking it tobacco which he intended to take out, was a lawyer of Boston and did not get his money again. Rather expensive—that "playful" toss.

WHOLESALE INFANTICIDE.—The London *Financial Reformer* publishes a communication from "a gentleman of station and high character," in relation to the treatment of infant paupers in one of the London workhouse, the statements of which are too horrible for belief. The writer says:

"I state as a fact, which I am prepared to prove by creditable witnesses before a Committee of the House of Commons, that in the united parishes of St. George, Bloomsbury and St. Giles, for which I am rated, that there is not one instance in living memory of an infant surviving the treatment in this workhouse. There are now in this workhouse between 80 and 90 infants; and, according to all experience, not one of these will be living by this time next year. Is this to be wondered at? Certainly not, by those who know the treatment to which these poor innocents are doomed. One wretched pauper woman has the charge of all the poor victims of this brutal system. Their food is the coarsest workhouse bread, soaked with boiling water, tinged with what is called milk. With this, as they lie in rows, they are stuffed until they die, as of course they very soon do; or very soon there would be no rooms to lay them out in. They are coming in every hour of the day and night, and as they come they go. Nobody knows—nobody cares. We are a small body in our parish, who have been trying a long time to be allowed to provide a paid and proper nurse for this awful duty. We have asked to provide only one paid nurse, but even this the board of guardians have refused, and still refuse. Can any one doubt that these infants are so treated to be made away with? It is a notorious fact, to be proved by undoubted evidence, that it is a common practice to give these infants the dregs of workhouse porter and the scraps of the workhouse salted pork. What can this be for but to hasten their departure? And what is this but murder?"

NEW POST OFFICE STAMPS.—A new Post Office Stamp has been invented by a gentleman in the city of Philadelphia, which is calculated to meet a public want that has long been felt. The peculiarity of the new patent stamp is this:—it leaves its impression not only on the envelope enclosing a letter, but upon every fold of the letter itself. This is effected by means of a steel die, the letters and figures upon which are formed by a series of fine points, which pierce the envelope and its contents in such a manner as to impart, ineffaceablp, the name of the post-office and date upon which the letter is mailed. Since the general introduction of envelopes, much inconvenience has been suffered from the want of such an invention.

In numerous instances, as every business man knows, letters containing orders are received in which the name of the post-town and the date are entirely omitted, and upon which the postmark has been so imperfectly impressed as to be unintelligible. For this reason post dates on envelopes are not received in court evidence and very properly so, from the fact that wrong envelopes could be easily substituted to make out a case. With the steel-pointed stamp, however, all these disadvantages are effectively obviated.

A NEW INSTITUTION.—The Detroit papers notice a new establishment just opened in that city for the purpose of enabling fugitive slaves in Canada to return to their masters. The agent who has undertaken this charitable enterprise is evidently in earnest. He states that he "has made such investigations in Canada, especially at Chatham and other places where Africans most congregate, as satisfy him that large numbers of them are anxious and ready to return to their masters at the South if they only had the means," and he proposes to furnish them with transportation tickets and to send them in company with an agent, looking to their masters for remuneration for his benevolence. His office is in Desnoyers' block in Detroit. The man's name is Brown, and his advertisement makes the following statements: "Arrangements entered into with parties will be guaranteed beyond question as strict fulfillment of all obligations. Parties desirous of returning can communicate with the undersigned, either personally or by letter."

CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP.—In Kittanning, a few nights since, three persons confined in the county jail, becoming tired of the sedentary life led by the inmates of the institution, determined to leave, to which end, as is usual in such cases, they dug a hole through the arch-work towards the cellar, through which two of them made their exit, but the third being more corpulent than the others, stuck in the hole, where he was found next morning, handsomely trapped in his own invention, and considerably fatigued from the position in which he had placed himself. He made no further effort to leave, that being a matter of small consequence, as he can dig out almost any night, the weather being favorable.

MISTAKEN VENGEANCE OF A MOB.—At Keokuk, Iowa, about ten days since, a disgraceful outrage was perpetrated upon a Mrs. Tier. A company of self constituted Regulators went to the house disguised, broke into it, took the woman out, marched her off in her night clothes, through the snow for a half a mile, and beat her until what covering she had on was stained with blood, in order to make her confess that she knew who set fire to a neighbor's barn, and left her to crawl home with frozen feet in the best way she could to her helpless children, and afterwards sent her and them out of the county. It afterwards transpired that she knew nothing about the matter.

A DISSOLUTE CONGRESSMAN.—The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* says that a member of Congress from one of the Northwestern States, who the other day drew pay and mileage to the amount of $2,800, went in the evening to a gambling hell. Here he drank, and as he drank he played. "Luck" was against him, and when the grey dawn stole through the windows, his $2,800 had gone into the man of the "tiger." He was so drunk too, that he could be got home only by stratagem.—He was made to believe that he had been challenged, and was led away to prepare for the meeting at Blandesburg.

A POWERFUL TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Mrs. Rush, of Champaign county Ohio, has recovered $5,000 of Peter Dawson for the loss of her foot. In brief the case is this: Dawson sold liquor to the husband of the plaintiff; and the husband under its influence made an assault upon his wife, and so injured her foot that amputation was necessary. She brought suit, under "An act to provide against the evils resulting from the sale of intoxicating liquors in the State of Ohio;" and the jury rendered said verdict.

☞ John Short, the burglar, who broke out of the Newport Jail, R. I., about a week since, has written a letter to the Mayor of that city.—The letter is dated at Newport, and says that "he has taken the job of rebuilding the Pemberton mills, at Lawrence, and will be obliged to absent himself from that city for some time in consequence. On his return he will take a contract for repairing the Newport Jail, as, in his opinion, it is not of sufficient security for the incarceration of prisoners."

☞ Judge Leonard, of the New Jersey Supreme Court, on Friday, granted an attachment against such property as Col. John C. Fremont may have in that State, which will be levied on for the rent of a house in East Twenty-Fourth street, at the suit of Daniel M'Canley.

Democratic State Convention.

This Convention met last Wednesday at Reading. There was a full representation of Delegates, and an immense crowd of outsiders. At 11 o'clock the Convention was temporarily organized by electing Geo. R. Smith, of Cambria, chairman, with a number of secretaries. The list of Delegates was called over; several districts were represented by two sets of Delegates, whose seates were disputed, and created considerable confusion. After they had got through with the disputed seats, Wm. H. Welsh, of York county, was elected President of the Convention.

On taking the chair, Mr. Welsh addressed the Convention in a speech of some length. He thanked the Convention for the honor conferred upon him, and pledged himself to perform the duties of the office with fairness, strictness and impartiality. He invoked concord, harmony and union in their deliberations—without which the proceedings would be marked with discord and disaster. The fate of the Democratic party is in the hands of the Convention—on its actions depends the fate of the party for weal or for wo. Let all personal asperities be forgotten—all party differences banished. Let the dead bury the dead—let all keep step to the Union and the Constitution—if we fall, let us fall with the flag of the country around us, and our last expiring cry be for the Union and the Constitution!

Mr. Welsh concluded his remarks amid deafening shouts of applause, which were long continued.

The Convention went into nomination for Governor. The Convention then proceeded to a vote, which resulted as follows:

FIRST BALLOT.

Whole number of votes,	135
Necessary to a choice,	68
Wittie,	49
Sanderson,	11
Fry,	30
Shindel,	4
Strickland,	8
Hopkins,	13
Wright,	12
Cresswell,	4
Foster,	4

Messrs. Cresswell and Shindel were withdrawn.

SECOND BALLOT.

Necessary to a choice,	69
Wm. H. Wittie,	56
Jacob Fry, Jr.,	35
Sanderson,	11
Hopkins,	10
Wright,	5
Strickland,	5
Foster,	11

There being no election, a third ballot was taken.

Mr. Johnston re-nominated Henry D. Foster, and advocated his nomination.

The President ruled that he could not be re-nominated, but that he could be voted for.

THIRD BALLOT.

Wittie,	54
Fry,	30
Strickland,	4
Sanderson,	7
Hopkins,	8
Wright,	6
Foster,	24

There being no election, Dietrich, of Lycoming, now rose and in a loud emphatic voice moved that Henry D. Foster, of Westmoreland, be nominated by acclamation.

The motion was responded to by tremendous cheering

The wildest confusion prevailed. Every man was on his feet bellowing to the full extent of his lungs.

After a long interval some little order was restored and the President put the motion.

It was responded to by a unanimous "yell." The confusion was wilder, if possible, than ever.

The President declared Mr. Foster as having been nominated for Governor, by acclamation.

This announcement was received with great applause.

The confusion still continued, notwithstanding the efforts of the Chairman to preserve order.

When order was somewhat restored, a delegate moved that a vote be taken *viva voce*, in order to re-affirm and thus permanently secure Mr. Foster's nomination. This was agreed to.

On the vote being taken, every delegate answered the name of "Henry D. Foster."

The President again declared Mr. Foster as unanimously nominated.

This announcement was responded to with the wildest acclamation.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.—A terrible affair occurred in Franklin County, Va., on the 25th ult., resulting in the death of three brothers, and mortally wounding another person. The parties met at a store to take depositions to be used in a suit now pending for a divorce. A question propounded by Captain Witcher, so exasperated Mr. James Clement, the defendant in the suit, that he resorted to the use of his pistol for an answer, but fired to quickly to make sure of his aim. Capt. Witcher returned the fire, and killed the husband of his grand-daughter on the spot, the ball striking in the forehead.—Ralph Clement, rushing to his brother's aid, shared the same fate, from the discharge of a pistol in the same hands which had sped the messenger of death with such unerring certainty to the brain of his brother James. Johnson Clement, another brother, fired at Mr. John Archer Smith, a grand-son of Mr. Witcher, who was present, and brother to Mrs. Victoria Clement, severely wounding him in the shoulder. The wounded man then rushed upon Johnson Clement with a bowie knife, and made a fatal thrust into his bowels, the unfortunate victim falling dead on the spot. The other party to the affray, engaged on the Witcher side, was a Mr. Samuel Swanson, Jr., also a devoted grandson of Mr. Witcher. Mr. S. was wounded, but will recover. Mr. Smith, the brother of Mrs. Clement, it is thought will die of the severe wound received in the shoulder.

BADLY SOLD.—A little affair happened the other day which is too good to be lost. Mr. A. called on one of our farmers, and asked him the price of oats, and was informed that they were worth 35 cents per bushel. He agreed to pay 40 cents on condition that he should be permitted to *tramp* them in the half bushel. To secure the bargain he paid for twelve bushels, and the next day took his wagon and went after them. The farmer filled the half bushel, after which Mr. A. got in and gave them a most vigorous tramping, contracting their proportions considerably. The farmer thereupon emptied the oats into the bag without filling up the measure. Mr. A. raved, but it was no use, the farmer had complied with his part of the agreement, and as an evidence, told Mr. A. after he had measured the oats, he might tramp them all day.—*Jersey Shore Republican.*

A BURGLAR'S TOOL CHEST.—An important arrest and seizure of burglar's tools, has lately occurred in Baltimore, Md., and is said to be one of the largest assortments of "cracksmen's" implements ever secured. The inventory of articles names small vices, dark lanterns, a frame used for drilling purposes, bits and wards of keys of all sizes, patterns of wards and keys, wrenches, nippers, pryers, three boxes of black wax for impressions, two hundred keys of all sizes and descriptions, various pipes for the use of powder to blow open safes, saws, jimmies, billies, and a variety of other articles the use of which is known to the initiated. A number of keys were labeled with the names of the owners of stores to which they had been fitted.

The Wrong Negro.

The following humorous illustration of the Ethiopian characteristic of Sanford, we copy from a Georgia paper, but originally appeared in one of the Richmond papers:—During the recent successful engagement of Sanford's great Philadelphia Nigger Opera Troupe, at Richmond, Va., the city was full of strangers from the country, and among the rest, was one Mr. Charles Loxley, from one of the central counties of the State. Mr. L. belonged, of course, to one of the "F. F. V.," and was a very sensible man at home, and much thought of by his neighbors. He was, however, much set in his way, and when he once took a notion, however wrong, it was next to impossible to set him right. He owned quite a number of slaves, one of whom had recently absconded to parts unknown. The lost darkie was one of great value, not only on account of his intelligence, but also for his honesty.

It so happened that while in Richmond on the occasion referred to, Mr. Loxley went with a friend to while away an hour at Sanford's exhibition. They reached the place, paid their fare, and were quietly seated awaiting the appearance of the troupe—which at length came out, took their places and the performance began.—In looking around, his friend saw Loxley apparently under much excitement, in the act of rising, with an earnest look towards the stage. On asking what was the matter, L. replied, "That fellow with the tamborine is my Josh." His friend thought he was mistaken, and tried to convince him of his error—but no, nothing would do; he was certain that the nigger was his Josh, and have him he would before he slept. The most his friend could do was to prevail upon him to allow the performance to go on till its close. Just before the termination, however, Loxley went out and returned with a warrant and proper officers to execute it, and when the curtain fell the posse rushed upon the stage, seized Sanford, and before he had time to wash off the burnt cork, had him properly handcuffed and secured. Sanford did not show the least alarm, confident that he could soon wash out the dark insinuation that he was "my Josh." When Loxley called him "Josh," Sanford, for his own reason, always answered "massa," and in the peculiar way of doing which made L. yet more sure that he had found his boy. After Sanford had asked permission to bring his "other clothes" in a bundle, they went to the Alderman's office, where Mr. Loxley made a solemn oath that the man was his slave "Josh." He knew him by his general appearance, and he knew him by his voice.—Upon such positive evidence, and considering the respectable character of the claimant, the Alderman had but one course, and poor Sanford was handed over to "durance vile."

Of course those acquainted with the renowned performer, richly enjoyed each turn the farce took, and were on tip-toe awaiting the denouement, and of course they followed him as he demurely walked handcuffed aside of his master, to the hotel. Arriving there, Sanford said, "Massa Charles, please let me wash de dust out out of my eyes, and take off dese good close." Loxley agreed to this, but would not permit him to go out of his sight. Water was procured, and Sanford had scarcely commenced his ablutions, ere the bystanders raised such a shout of laughter at Loxley's expense, as was never heard before in the "Old Dominion." Sanford was metamorphosed in an instant. His color, voice, gait and demeanor were all changed in a twinkle, and from an old greasy negro he came out a finished gentleman, as everybody knows him to be.

But poor Loxley, perjured, disappointed, mortified, the laughing stock of the whole company, he retired amid the jeers of the spectators, and in the morning left before day for home, to be laughed at till the end of his days.

Sandford having had the handcuffs removed, was compelled to treat all around for having been the hero of so good a joke. He was immediately surrounded by a host of friends, and the transaction becoming quickly known through the city, the next evening, and as long as he remained there, the rush to his performances was of the most gratifying and satisfactory character. It might be truly said, those handcuffs were to him bracelets of gold, and he left the city with several good reason for being satisfied with his experience in Virginia, and the peculiar institution of the sunny South.

BEAUTY BY WEIGHT.—Among the Hottentots, a woman is beautiful in proportion to her weight. A man takes a wife there as we take a pig here—by her proportions. A girl of some two hundred weight is a fair creature. One of two and a half is lovely. One of three hundred weight is perfectly adorable. We guess some such idea must also prevail down in Maine, or they would not grow such enormous females as we see advertise for husbands in the *Belfast Journal*. Miss Euphemia, 19 years, weighing 238 pounds; Miss Rose, 18 years, weighing 243 pounds, are in quest of purchasers. Whoever gets them will get enough for his money. But, as Sidney Smith used to say of a stout lady of his acquaintance, no man could expect to marry such a creature all at once. He would have to marry her by installments a little at a time. It would be the only way to get around such a beauty!