

Democratic Watchman

BELLEVILLE, CENTRE COUNTY, PENN'A., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1858.

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ST. JOHN'S HOTEL,
606 & 608 Market Street, above Sixth, Harrisburg, Pa.

Original Poetry.

For the Watchman

Winter's Song.

I come, the storming winds me forth,
From my home in the dark "rolling waves" of the north,
Where my God-forsaken watch doth keep,
O'er streams that locked in eternal sleep.

Original Essay.

Stray leaves from a Country Girl's Diary

Tuesday.—How sadly the chill breath of Autumn wafts through the branches of the old trees. The sharp fingers of Jack Frost cut the foliage from the forest, and its members are whirling past my window, all stained by the tear drops of dying summer. The sweet flowers have all bowed their final adieu: except the late wild-ostino, which still blooms around our wild wood paths.

Wednesday.—How busy I have been today. To be a farmer's daughter is to fill a position with anxiety. Churn butter, bake bread, cook dinner, iron linen, and all a shadow of the regular routine of our daily duties. And if some of the *super-bleached* wash-women *feminae laudat* who exist in the town of B.— will condescend to take a two mile walk out here, and then prove themselves neither too proud to learn, nor too lazy to work, I will give them a short lesson in making buckwheat cakes for breakfast, and patting the cows, which I feel certain would do more for keeping them in perfect health, than remaining in the parlor while their venerable "ma's" prepare the repast.

Thursday.—Today back good-bye to my friends, and traveled through the romantic valley of E.—. Autumn here doing her work for the tinted leaves came rattling against the coach window; and the distant mountain was clad in her showy robe of varied blue. The silent yet measured tread of nature's decay, filled my mind with thoughts so sublime that my imperfect language cannot express them. However my pleasant feelings were exchanged for those of disgust upon arriving at my place of destination, where not less than a score of *gentlemen* were going to say, but I forbear the mockery *ourine* *averting* were standing at the door of the hotel watching to see who might alight from the coach. Some were puffing at cigars which were situated between foot and fire. Some showing the dirty contents of their polluted mouths upon the pavement. Others appeared as though a slight push would send them to repose side of their adopted brother in the gutter.

Friday.—This evening called to see Mr. S.— Upon leaving young Miss S.— accompanied me a part of the way to the house of my aunt. We had not previously met, but after a short conversation I judged that she possessed a mind of no inferior stamp; and though reared amid the scenes of a forest home on the Allegheny, she possessed in addition to great beauty, unquestionable manners. A sudden turn in the road brought the home of my friend in view, and Miss S.— returned leaving me alone to contemplate the beauties of an October sunset on the mountain. What a scene that would have been for the poet. The freckled chariot was silently rolling down into the flood, and old Sol's beauty, was mirrored in a thousand golden waves, which hung above him, and laved their brows in his mellow sunbeams. I heard footsteps behind me, and turned expecting to see my firm companion, but she was gone, and in a moment a large deer bounded out of the thicket and across the path. WILD ROSE.

To be continued.

A PICE OF NOAH'S ARK.—The Panola Star says that Mr. William W. Byars, who resides near Panola, left at the office of that paper a piece of petrified wood, with a screw perfectly formed in it which was taken from his well, now in process of digging, some hundred and twenty feet under ground. It is about two inches in length, and was imbedded in what appears to have been a block of hickory wood, some ten or fifteen inches square. It is supposed to be a piece of Noah's Ark.

Teaching the Alphabet.
The best method of teaching the Alphabet is what may be called the State method. Provide the child with a small slate and a pencil, then draw a letter on the blackboard and request the child to make one like it on the slate. Commence with a letter that is easily made, as O; next take X, and to the left of it tell the pupil to draw an O, and if it will have formed the word OX. Again at the proper time teach it to make the letter B, after which it can write O X, when it will have a new word—BOX. Thus, let every additional letter be one, which, when used with one or more of those already learned, will form a word a name of something familiar to the child.

The True Policy.
The true policy of a town is to support its own mechanics and business citizens. Perpetual prosperity can only be secured in this way. If our business men pay our taxes, pay license, and keep the machinery of business moving, are neglected, and purchase made at other places, we can never expect to have a home market worth anything. Too many of our citizens are in the habit of buying articles of merchandise and mechanics in the cities, which can be obtained fully as cheap at home. Our mechanics cannot be excited, and it would prosper in business and wealth, we should make it a point to "support our own," and by so doing give employment to our people, and keep our money in circulation at home, instead of sending it abroad, to life the pockets of city merchants, and manufacturers, who contribute nothing to advance the prosperity of the "country towns." By patronizing the mechanics and business men in our town, capitalists do but contribute to their own interests, as the prosperity of a place always embraces the value of property.

CHESHAM'S MURDER.—MURPHY TO PLAY REPERTORY. Young Murphy, whose chest has excited so much interest on the other side of the ocean, is expected home before the close of the present year, and will understand that the chess players of New York and Brooklyn intend to give him an appropriate reception. What its nature will be has not transpired, but it will no doubt be worthy of the metropolis. Recent advices from Paris state that the Emperor Napoleon has requested Murphy to give a specimen of his blindfold playing at the Tuilleries, before the ladies of the Imperial Court, and has also consented to be beaten at chess by the young American at the odds of a rook. There is no reason to believe that, before leaving Paris, Murphy will have a chance to contend with Herr Von der Lasa, the great chess analyst and player, who has recently left Rio Janeiro, where he has acted as Ambassador from one of the German courts for some years past. The meeting of these two chess masters will excite great interest among the lovers of the beautiful game.

An Eminent "Sportsman" Dead.

THE GREAT GAMBLING HOUSE IN WASHINGTON—A SENATOR BREAKING THE BANK.

WASHINGTON, October 25.—One of the most celebrated and successful sportsmen of this or any other country was buried in this city on Sunday week. The occasion of his death affords me an opportunity of giving your readers a sketch of the man and a description of his gaming house. Let it serve as a warning, not as an example.

He had been a resident of Washington some fifteen or twenty years, during which period he amassed great wealth by gambling, or, to use the mild and honest language of the average, he realized an ample fortune out of the successful operations of his house. His "house" being the most elegant, and his bank the most wealthy and substantial in the country, it has been for years the fashionable and fascinating resort of wealthy planters, fast congressmen, aspirant diplomats, and ambitious sportsmen from every part of the world. For many years past he has lived in the most luxurious style, having, like a certain other rich man, "been clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day." In person he was above the medium size, fat and sleek, pleasing address and a generous disposition, exhibiting in his general deportment to strangers, the characteristics of a well-fed, good-natured clergyman, rather than those of a heartless, unrelenting gambler.

His reputation for generosity was widely established. If a college was to be endowed, a church built, or private charities to be dispensed, his was sure to be among the most munificent of the donations. His wife, now a widow, was of good parentage; a woman of rare beauty and accomplishments, possessing social qualities which, combined with the dazzling attainments of wealth, rendered her a favorite of admirers and courtiers. Rolling along the avenue in his magnificent equipage, which far exceeded in richness and style that of the President of the United States, or that of any other gentleman in Washington, she looked a very queen, being quite undisturbed by any thought that her presence sent a dagger to scores of hearts, whose patrimony, unlawfully obtained had contributed to her enjoyment, in the same proportion that his loss had added to the woe and wretchedness of the beholder.

His establishment was upon Pennsylvania avenue, between the National Hotel and the Capitol. Let us approach and look at it.

You enter by a door of variegated stained glass, which, by gas light, reflects all the colors of the rainbow. Ascending a flight of stairs you reach a door, pull the bell, and instantly a small apartment opens, and you are greeted with a pair of red eyes and a double row of ivory, set in black, which normally belong to Samba, but which in fact, are the property of the proprietor. A glance suffices. You have filled Samba's eyes and are deemed passable. The door is at once opened and you are ushered into the ante-room—the vestibule of hell! This room is not large, but elegantly appointed—the chief attraction being the side board, which is of solid marble and white as Diana's breast. Here are arranged in long and glistening columns decanters of cut glass, sparkling like brilliant, filled with the choicest pector, and blushing to the very vesks with the glowing vintage of the olden time. If you pass this rubicon without tasting its sparkling but dangerous waters, it is not from any dearth of hospitality on the part of your persuasive host. The spacious "Sporting Hall" is now visible. The floor is covered with carpeting from the Orient of immense cost and marvellous beauty. The walls are adorned with superb paintings of the old masters and the new, and pendant from the windows hang curtains of embroidered lace, covered with golden tapestry of Oriental magnificence; with mirrors of mammoth size reflecting your form and features from a score of gleaming embrasures. Along the hall, at convenient distances, are ranged circular tables of polished rosewood, around which are seated numbers of thoughtful, anxious, dark-visaged men, who heed you not—their eyes having another and stronger attraction. One would naturally suppose this to be a theatre for jests, drollery and song, or bacchanalian revellings or pugilistic encounters. Far from it. On the contrary, all is hushed, silent, sepulchral.

Within those cheerless walls are found— You are opposed with the fearful stillness and awful silence which pervades the place. A laugh, a joke, or even a curse, would be a sensible relief. But you hear nothing of this. An occasional long breath or half subdued sigh is all that tells the ear that these mad devotees are possessed of lungs and life.

An hour's inspection satisfies your curiosity, and you are about taking your departure when a soft hand taps you on the shoulder, and a low voice: "Please don't leave, sir, supper will be ready in a few minutes." At precisely half-past ten o'clock the doors of the dining hall are thrown open and "supper's ready," proclaims an immediate herald between the combatants, and invites to a more healthy and rational duty. The long tables groan beneath their

burden of gold and silver plates, and the heaps of delicacies which surround and adorn them. Here are venison from the broad savannahs of the West, canvas backs from the placid Potomac trout from Superior, and salmon from the St. Johns; together with fruits, flowers and wines for every taste and from every clime.

The, repeat over, you are permitted, with a patronizing invitation, to "call again," to make your retreat to the open air, there to thank heaven that you are not a worshipper within this magnificent yet cheerless abode.

One night's work, a few days previous to the close of the last session, made and have among the coffers of his house. It is said that a distinguished senator was on that night one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, which broke the bank and caused a temporary suspension. A new house, however, was soon purchased by him, and was magnificently decorated, when the "king of terrors," the great unbroken and unchallenged, stepped in and closed the game of life forever.

Robber's Cave Near Clarion.
Our friends at Clarion have a "mystery" in their vicinity, which considerably agitates them. The *Clarion* says that about five miles from Clarion a singular discovery was made by Mr. Mason. While hunting bees, he noticed under some rocks a Buffalo robe and other evidences of the former presence of some animals less laborious and less honest than those he was in search of. Being somewhat frightened, he called others who, after some search, discovered jewelry of different kinds, worth in all about one hundred dollars. In addition to this, a pair of boots and pantaloons, a vest, cravat and fine coat, with the skirt considerably torn, pieces of which were found in different places, were picked up near the jewelry depot. The circumstances induced ten of the adjacent citizens to repair to the spot and be in wait that night for the return of the depositors but through the imprudence of kindling a fire in the after night, nothing was effected. In dispersing the next morning, a sack of flour, three freshly dressed chickens and a blanket, were found unaccounted, although they had been hastily left. Several other articles such as powder, caps, an old revolver, a bottle of chloroform, &c. were picked up.

Medical Quack and Impostors.
The Harrisburg Telegraph has the following in regard to these adventurers, which is as applicable here as it is at Harrisburg.

Treason.

Senator Seward says: "Shall I tell you what this collusion means? They who think that it is accidental, unnecessary, the work of interested or fanatical agitators, and therefore ephemeral, mistake the case altogether. It is an irrepressible conflict between opposing and enduring forces, and it means that the United States must again be a slave-holding nation, or entirely a free-labor nation. Either the cotton and the rice fields of South Carolina and the sugar plantations of Louisiana will ultimately be filled by free labor, and Charleston and New Orleans become marts for legitimate merchandise alone, or else the rice fields and wheat fields of Massachusetts and New York must again be surrendered to the farmers to slave culture and to the production of slaves, and Boston and New York become once more markets for trade in the bodies and souls of men. It is the failure to apprehend the great truth, that induces so many unsuccessful attempts at final compromise between the slave and free States, and it is the existence of this great fact that renders all such pretended compromises, when made, vain and ephemeral."

These are the words of a Senator of the United States, gravely addressed to a popular assembly, in the great State of New York, on the eve of an election, which is believed by many will determine whether or not at the election in 1860 the power of the great country shall fall into the hands of the Republican party, of which he is the recognized leader, and of whose purpose words may be considered the undoubted exponent. Let every man read them and reflect on them, and know what they mean, and then ask himself the grave question, what will this Union be worth to the Southern people if the Black Republican government should come into power?

If the Constitution means anything, this protest against it. If the Southern people have any rights under it, they dare stand upon them. The antagonism of parties is a war of institutions. Life or death is the issue. With such a manifesto from the great Republican leader, who has nothing to say to the isolated question of sectional ascendancy—what say our friends who have urged a national Democracy? If this be Black Republicanism, do our opposition friends still think that nothing can be worse than the Democratic party? Do they still think the South as safe in Republican hands as in those of the Democracy? Do they still think all danger is past?

Do they still think that this Union ought to be maintained, though Seward should be President?

We speak for ourselves, alone. Valuing the Union as we do, and believing always that the talk of disunion has been heard too often, nay, that threats of dissolution, so recklessly and unnecessarily made, have had no small share in promoting the dangers we now meet, we cannot but think it is time to look about for means of security, and to calculate the value of the Union when in cold and uncompassionate moments such words as those above recorded fall from the lips of Senator Seward.

SHOCKING SCENE.—The New Orleans papers says the recent sale in that city of Prof. R. H. Chilton was the most detestable ever heard of. He had literally wounded himself from head to foot with his knife, in his desperate resolution to accomplish his purpose, and had at last pulled two ghastly wounds on the left side of the neck, a long the inner angle of the jaw, each dividing the integuments and all the vessels, and either of which was sufficient to produce death within a few seconds—so few, that it is remarkable that he should have had time to inflict the second. Previously to these he had made a very deep and severe one in the bend of the left arm, not sufficient, however, to consummate his desire. On the left side of the neck he inflicted no fewer than five wounds, one only, however, of any depth, and that still not calculated to cause death. On the anterior part of the neck, and still another beneath the posterior part of the inner angle of the left foot. He had also taken both strychnine and lead.

ROBBERY OF GEN. JACKMAN.—The Reading Gazette says Gen. D. K. Jackman, of Lock Haven, Pa., lost or had stolen from him in the cars at that place, on Saturday evening, a porte-manteau containing about \$175 in Philadelphia city money, a number of valuable papers, several railroad passes, and a fire-proof safe key. He writes to us that this occurred at Reading, and he has no doubt that his pocket was picked as he passed from the rear car to the one forward of it. He was pressed upon as he passed out of the door by a man who appeared to be coming into the car, and who he thought at the time, was an employee of the railroad company, coming in to give notice that the car was to be vacated. Gen. Jackman offers a liberal reward for the detection of the thief, and the return of the money and papers.

A family in New Bedford, Mass., consisting of seven persons, were recently poisoned by using dogwood for fuel. Dogwood is generally known to be poisonous.

A Remarkable Criminal Trial.
The Clayton (Ala.) Banner has a report of a remarkable criminal trial, just concluded in Henry county, Alabama. Some three fourteen year ago, in February, 1844, in Barbour county, John, a slave of Dr. Alexander P. Crawford, was most brutally whipped to death. The prisoner, who was then Dr. Crawford's overseer, being immediately after the whipping, and while John was yet alive, charged with it and threatened with a prosecution, fled from the neighborhood. Two years after he was arrested by Mr. Thomas Cagle in the city of Montgomery, passing under the name of Lord; and being brought back to Barbour county, the Grand Jury, at the Spring Term, 1846, found a true bill against him for murder. The case was then changed to Henry county, where the prisoner had formerly lived, and where he had some relatives and many friends, and a trial being held at the Spring Term in 1849, before the Hon. Samuel Chapman, he was found guilty of murder and sentenced to the Penitentiary for ten years—the jury, however, omitting in their verdict to state the degree of murder. On appeal of this conviction, the judgment was reversed by the Supreme Court, and the prisoner remanded for another trial. Various circumstances were had, sometimes at the instance of the State and sometimes at that of the prisoner. In the meantime the defendant, having obtained bail, married in a respectable family, and had several children. The protracted ordeal through which he had passed, the interest felt in the family to whose fate he had singularly linked his own, and the influence of a prudent and upright attorney on his part, excited a sympathy in his behalf so strong as apparently to act at a distance, and, in the opinion of every body, to put a conviction out of length, however, rolled around, on Tuesday morning, in the presence of an immense crowd the trial commenced. The jury, about 4 o'clock on Saturday evening, returned a verdict of manslaughter in the first degree, with a recommendation of the prisoner to mercy.

"I did as the Rest Did."
This time going south, this being "as the rest did," has run the gamut. A young man is invited by vicious companions to visit the theatre, or gambling room, or other haunts of licentiousness. He becomes dissipated, spends his time, loses his credit, squanders his property, and at last sinks into an untimely grave. What ruined him? Simply doing as the rest did.

A father has a family of sons. He is wealthy. Other children in the same situation, his wife and he indulges his own in the same way. They grow up idle, triflers and dissipated. The father wonders why his children do not succeed better. He has spent so much money on their education—but alas! they are only a source of vexation to all around. Poor man! he is just paying the penalty of doing as the rest did.

This poor man has striven hard to bring up his children as gentlemen. They learn what others do to get to sing, to play, to dance, and to get into mischief. In time they marry, their husbands are unable to support them, they have a wife, and they are soon reduced to poverty and wretchedness. The poor woman is justified. "Truly," says the Lord, "I did as the rest did."

The Detroit Free Press says that a negro boy, only nine years of age, just out of jail, who had served six days for larceny, stole a pocket watch from a boy about his own age, and coming across a little child of three years, in Mr. William Drey, on the street in front of his parents' house, caught the little fellow by the hair, pulled his head over to the side, and deliberately proceeded to cut his throat. The gash was four inches long, extending from the wind-pipe around, to a point just back of the ear. The knife was dull, and did not cut, but actually do its work before the father of the child came to the rescue.

Mail Robberies.

Mail robberies have recently been committed in Maine. A bag, lost on the 21st ult., was found on the 1st inst., concealed under a log and moss in the woods, about three-quarters of a mile from Miller's house. All the letters had been broken open, and rifled of their valuable contents. The papers had been but little disturbed.

SAVING DRUGGIST.—The Norfolk Day Book states that a severe fire threatened that section of the State that the citizens of Norfolk are forced to send three miles to the coast for water to drink—an event that has never before known by the oldest inhabitants of that town. At Norfolk, Mass., citizens have become exhausted.

MAJOR SWANN is endeavoring to introduce some police reforms in Baltimore, for the better security of life and property. We hope he will succeed, for Baltimore is in a state of anarchy, especially about election time.

THE WHEAT MIDGE.—George S. Woodhull, of Ponton, Mich., asserts that the midge does not leave the wheat until it is thrashed, and then it goes to the chaff and straw, and probably lies dormant till Spring, when it hatches into a fly and deposits its eggs. He thinks this troublesome pest might be destroyed by burning straw and chaff affected wheat for a few years.

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