

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

Lying to Get Out of Another Dirty Job.

Does any one suppose that if Sheriff COOKE had done his duty as a public official, honestly and honorably, during the time HOPKIN's was incarcerated, it would have been necessary for him to have a public statement made by the prisoner from the gallows, denying that he had been permitted to indulge in indecent conduct and immoral practices during his imprisonment?

Or does any one believe that if he had done his duty, or not lied, at the time of the ANDREWS trial, it would be necessary for him to have this poor wretch give him a certificate of character through the *Gazette* of last week?

Certain it is, that an official, whose moral conduct is so debased, and whose reputation for truth is so low, that he must rely upon the statements of condemned criminals for vindication, is not to be envied.

As to the manner in which he conducted the jail during the imprisonment of HOPKIN, it is not our intention now to speak. It was so shamefully outrageous, so out of all decency, and so notorious, that to refer to it even is enough to disgust decent citizens. It is to the statement that he has squeezed out of the degraded wretch now under sentence of death, and which was given to the public through the *Gazette*, that we refer at this time. In it ANDREWS is made to assert, "that Sheriff COOKE 'at no time before or during his trial knew of his guilt.'" This story is told by a man now within the shadow of the gallows, at the request of the Sheriff, in the hope that it will be believed and exonerate him from the charge that he held from the Court and the law officers of the Commonwealth, information that would have shortened the trial, lessened the bills of cost thrown upon the county, and aided in securing a speedy and righteous verdict in the case.

The facts are, that ANDREWS may not know that he is asserting what is untrue when he declares that COOKE "didn't know of his guilt," for the reason that COOKE got his information in a way that no honorable man would ever hear anything, and in a manner that all people despise—AS AN EAVES-DROPPER.

Some time after the arrest of ANDREWS, one of his attorneys, Mr. CHAMBERS, called to see him. He was admitted to ANDREWS's cell by Sheriff COOKE himself, who immediately withdrew, seemingly to avoid hearing the conversation that would occur between them. In place of getting out of hearing, he sneaked into the adjoining cell where he overheard a description of how he, (ANDREWS), had committed the crime, the distance the poor girl was from him when he fired the first shot, and other facts which, if known to the prosecuting officers and to the Court, would have saved days of time and hundreds of dollars of expense to the county. After the trial had dragged itself into the second week, and a short time before it was closed, he related what he had overheard to Commissioner HENDERSON, WM. HARTER, JAS. SWAB and others, by whom it was told around the town.

And now COOKE denies that he heard this story. We don't wonder that he does. He has possibly heard how the public censure him for failing to tell what he knew, when it would have assisted in fastening a most heinous crime upon the shoulders of the perpetrator; and to admit that he knew these facts would, under the circumstance of his obtaining them as he did, be an acknowledgment that his information was secured in a way in which no one but a sneak would learn anything. Is it any wonder that COOKE himself now lies, and gets ANDREWS to lie unknowingly, in order to get out of the disgraceful position he got himself into in this matter?

Wouldn't the course pursued in the CLARA KUNES case, of trying to ignore it by saying nothing about it, have been the better course to pursue in this instance, Sheriff?

CHAUNCEY BLACK may have had some particular candidate in view when he said in a recent letter that this is no time for candidates who think they see a chance of success, but "who are conveniently out of politics, and let the party stagger along without their valuable help when they happen to have no individual stake in the results." Some people may regard the expression of Mr. BLACK as having considerable pertinence in it.

Explanations That Verify Our Charges and Others That Don't Fit With the Figures.

If any one will take the trouble to read the attempted explanation made by the *Republican*, this week, of the charges that the Commissioners had suppressed items of indebtedness in the county statement, in order to make the balance in the treasury look larger than it is, and had failed to account for over \$1,500 of state taxes collected off the people, he will see at once that these allegations ARE TRUE, and that the WATCHMAN asserted the naked facts in the matter.

The *Republican* admits that the cost of erecting the Karthaus and Howard bridges is not included in the statement, and makes the silly excuse for this omission, that it is not customary to include "contracted indebtedness," in a county statement. If an exhibit of the financial condition of the county does not show the indebtedness all ready contracted for, as well as all other liabilities, then it is not a financial exhibit at all; it is an official, financial lie. A certified statement, such as the commissioners give, that the assets of the county amount to so much, and the liabilities to so much, when "contracted" indebtedness and liabilities are left out entirely, and not referred to, is a certified lie, intended to deceive the taxpayers and to cover up jobbery, or something else of the kind.

In February these officials, over their signature, and attested by their clerk, certified that the total liabilities of the county amounted to \$3,199.69, including commissions for collections yet to be made, and exonerations for uncollectable taxes, and that the assets all told were \$26,300.16, showing a balance in favor of the county of \$23,100.47. Within six weeks of the time when this certified showing of the county finances go out, one of the mouth-pieces of this board of Commissioners, admits that the indebtedness created by rebuilding two of its largest bridges in the county, and which runs into the thousands of dollars, is not included in the statement, thus admitting that the financial condition of the county is not as certified to by the commissioners, and that the balance in favor of the tax-payers is less by thousands upon thousands of dollars than the people were told it was.

As to the *Republican's* explanation of the unaccounted for \$1,566.60 of state taxes that was paid into the treasury, and is nowhere to be found now, it is on a par with the commissioners' financial exhibit—a false showing. This amount of money is not as stated by the *Republican*, "in uncollected taxes," nor does the financial exhibit fail to give the amount of outstanding taxes, as claimed by our neighbor. The very first items in that document is the uncollected or outstanding taxes for the year referred to.

The total amount assessed as state taxes for 1889 is given at \$9,126.32; of this amount but \$3,338.87 remains uncollected, showing that \$5,788.43 was collected, and of this but \$4,171.83 paid out, leaving unaccounted for \$1,566.60.

For this amount of money the people have a right to demand some showing. Where is it? Who has it? What has become of it? Was it used for Republican campaign purposes? Has some worthless partisan borrowed it for political work? Are the commissioners speculating with it, or what has become of it?

Will some one tell us?

Ought to Be Satisfied.

It is queer that with so many poor, anxious and willing Republicans, all over the county, who are just aching for office, one family should step in and occupy two official positions, while many larger and more deserving connections can't get one. Immediately after the inauguration of HARRISON, MR. JOHN DALEY, of Curtin township, who, by the way, is a big, broad shouldered, able-bodied fellow, healthy enough to do a good days work on his farm when inclined to do so, and to stay out half the night ranting about high tariffs, Republicanism and "rebels," and whose name was put upon the pension rolls some years since for disabilities that no one knew to disturb or disable him any, went to Washington and secured a place as messenger in one of the departments. Last week his son Jeremiah was appointed to a clerkship in the Census Bureau, and has already entered upon his duties. The family, we are told, will move to Washington on the first of April, but whether a good sized pension and two official positions will satisfy the paternal DALEY, we are not informed. Perhaps after the modest demands of the Curtin township statesman are satisfied, if there is anything left, some other hungry Republican may be able to get it.

A Mystery Explained.

Some attention has been attracted by a series of editorial articles in the *Bellefonte Republican*, pitching into Postmaster General WANAMAKER generally, but particularly on account of his scheme to bring the telegraph lines of the country under the control of the government. One of them was republished in the *New York Sun* to show what a good Pennsylvania Republican journal thought of WANAMAKER. How these articles got into its columns and what object inspired them, was a mystery to those who knew the character of the paper. The general impression hereabouts is that so far as the sentiments of its editor are concerned it would make very little difference to him whether WANAMAKER should succeed in making the telegraph business part of the post office service, or even in making the post office department an annex to his Bethany Sunday School. Hence the surprise that the *Republican* took a position hostile to any of his measures.

But there is now a strong suspicion that these anti-Wanamaker expressions have emanated from the accomplished and versatile pen of our friend and neighbor, JAMES MILLIKEN, Esq., who is a heavy stockholder in the Western Union telegraph company, and who, although an ardent Republican, would naturally object to having his interests gobbled up by even a Republican administration. A confirmation of the belief that it is Mr. MILLIKEN that is throwing these bombs into the post office department is furnished by the circumstance that the last of the Wanamaker exonerations is about his wanting to bring the mails into competition with the Adams Express Company. What stronger circumstantial evidence, pointing to the authorship of these articles, is needed than the fact that Mr. MILLIKEN is also one of that company's heaviest stock-holders?

When it is considered what an interest he took in bringing this administration into power, going even to New York State and supplementing Mr. QUAY's boodle with his eloquence on the stump, it must forcibly occur to Mr. MILLIKEN, who sees his interests thus endangered, that sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless administration.

It is said that Mexican capitalists are going to erect in the city of Mexico the largest and most complete hotel in the world, the cost of which will be millions of dollars. Since the opening of railroad communication with the United States, the city of the Aztecs is getting to be a popular winter resort with the Americans, no other tropical region presenting equal attractions. The intention of the Mexicans to supply their American visitors with the best of hotel accommodations, and thus maintain and increase the attraction of their city, is proof that they are wise in their generation.

The Government Building Extravaganza.

Considerable impatience has prevailed in Altoona over the delay in the passage of the bill that is intended to furnish that town with a government building. Other towns, of no more importance than the "Mountain City," are getting such bills passed in their favor, which has led the Altoona people to consider themselves unjustly slighted. Senator CAMERON, however, has encouraged them by the assurance that he will endeavor to expedite the passage of their bill by personally speaking to Senator SANFORD who is chairman of the committee which manages in the Senate the government building branch of the general raid on the federal treasury.

It is astonishing how public sentiment has become demoralized on the subject of government expenditures. It is not so much the fault of the representatives that these treasury raids are going on as it is the fault of their constituents, who sanction them—in fact, clamor for them—as a means of promoting personal or local advantage. It does not take the representative long to discover that the surest way to make himself "solid" with those whom he represents is to secure for their benefit as large a share as possible in the division of the treasury spoils.

None of the towns that are getting these expensive public buildings need them, as none of them are lacking in private structures capable of furnishing ample post office accommodations. But local pride and interest remove all scruples about the dangerous consequences of such squandering of the public means. The successful accomplishment of such a raid on the treasury is hailed as a great achievement of the representative who managed it, and a great triumph for the community that will be locally benefited by it.

Bismarck's Resignation.

If Prince BISMARCK is in earnest in resigning the chancellorship of the German empire, and if it be true that the young Emperor has accepted the resignation of the veteran statesman, the retiring of the great functionary who may be said to have created the empire, is a political event of much significance. The absence of entire cordiality between the Emperor and the Prince has been apparent from the time of the accession of the former to the throne, and it may be that on account of a further strain of the relations between the sovereign and his minister, the latter has finally determined to retire from the post in which he has done so much to place Germany at the head of European nationalities.

An Ugly Animal Jumps Out.

Congressman BAYNE, of the Allegheny district, the other day left a very ill-favored and repulsive looking cat out of the bag. Speaking of the new tariff bill, the metal schedule of which he prepared, he explained to a Pittsburgh Republican editor why the duty on steel rails will be fixed at about \$13 per ton. He said:

In a recent trip made to Pittsburgh in Mr. Carnegie's company he and I talked over the whole metal schedule, and his opinion, most emphatically expressed, was that under no circumstances should the duty on steel rails be reduced below \$10 or \$11 a ton, and that it really should be \$13 or \$14.

It appears from this that all that is necessary to fix the determination of a Republican Ways and Means committee about the rate of "protection" that should be maintained, is a hint from the rich beneficiaries of the protective system. The opinion of Mr. CARNEGIE, "most emphatically expressed," that the duty on steel rails "really should be \$13 or \$14," settled it. The wishes of ten thousand farmers or wage-earners, compared with the influence of this wealthy steel king, would have about as much effect upon this committee as the whispering of the idle wind; but then it should be remembered that they didn't contribute to the boodle fund of the Republican campaign as he did, and haven't the same claim on the party's gratitude.

Undiscriminating Censure.

The farmers of Kansas have been reduced to such distress that they have issued through the Farmers' Alliance an open letter to their members of Congress, representing the danger of their being utterly ruined by the foreclosure of the mortgages on their farms and calling upon Congress for legislation that may relieve them.

While they are to be pitied in their sad plight, they lay themselves open to censure for their disingenuousness in saying that they have been promised by each of the political parties that something would be done for their relief, but that "both parties have been tried and both have thus far failed to 'even attempt any measure contemplated by a betterment of the condition of the industrial classes.'"

This is positively false so far as the Democratic party is concerned. The farmers of Kansas never gave that party an opportunity to do any State legislation for them, and during the brief time in the last quarter of a century in which the Democrats were in control of the national government, both the Democratic House and the Democratic executive did their utmost to relieve the western farmers of the burden of tariff taxation which has had more to do with their impoverished condition than any other cause. But at the very first opportunity these blubbering Kansas grangers voted to restore the party which maintains war taxation on everything they use in their business and their living. There is no doubt abundant reason for their complaint, but they should put the blame where it belongs.

The Champion Mean Man.

The champion meanest man and the most heartless justice live in Sturgis, Dakota. The meanest man lost his pocketbook, containing \$250; and when the finder returned it to him after a month spent in discovering the owner, he demanded that the finder pay him interest for the use of the money. Naturally the finder refused this unreasonable demand, whereupon the meanest man brought suit for the interest, and the most heartless justice gave the meanest man judgment for \$1.45 and costs.

Three Tracks.

The Pennsylvania railroad is working hard to have a third track in operation between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. The track is now completed at all principal stations and there are a great many miles of siding which will be utilized when this work is completed. There are probably 200 miles of this third track, and the remainder will be laid as rapidly as possible. After this work is completed a fourth track will be started, and eventually the Pennsylvania road will have four main tracks between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

A Chase Around the World.

A Murderer Pursued Through Europe and Captured in New York.

PITTSBURG, Pa., March 18.—As the Western express on the Pennsylvania Railroad passed through here this morning, en route to the West, a couple of the passengers attracted general attention, partly on account of their appearance and partly because they were fastened together by a pair of steel handcuffs.

The larger of the two wore a badge bearing the words "United States Marshal." He was an officer of Silver Cliff, a little mining town in Colorado, about fifty miles from Denver. His companion was a gambler named Martin Cain. Nearly a year ago, while taking part in a poker game at Silver Cliff a dispute arose, hot words followed, weapons were drawn, and Cain shot and killed a prominent citizen of the town who was taking part in the game. Before he could be caught the murderer had grabbed the money on the table, nearly \$9000, and made his escape.

Marshal James Hall followed him through Europe, but was never able to come up with him. At last he learned that he had returned to America. Hall also returned and landed in New York last week. The day he arrived he met Cain on Broadway.

The murderer came up to him, and to the officer's surprise surrendered himself. He said his conscience had troubled him so that he had determined to return to Silver Cliff and stand the punishment for his crime. The pair are now en route there, and the officer says the man is sure to be hanged. The prisoner says he feels a great deal better since giving himself up.

The Grangers' Interstate Exhibition at Williams' Grove, August 25, 1890.

[Communicated.] There is not even the shadow of truth about the statements that have recently been making the rounds of newspapers that the Williams' Grove Grangers' Picnic is to be moved to Mt. Gretna.

The men who are circulating these reports are not patrons, as they represent themselves, but are now, as they always have been, the enemies of the Grange, and intriguers against the farmer's organization.

There is no division among the Patrons as to their great annual gatherings at Williams' Grove. Patrons who were present at the meetings of the National Grange, the State Granges of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and many other State meetings, know that all these bodies are united by a practically unanimous vote, endorsed the Williams' Grove meeting and its management, and that this unanimous action throughout the United States has practically caused Williams' Grove to be the Mecca of the Order. In view of this fact the Grangers' Interstate Picnic Exhibition will continue to convene at Williams' Grove from year to year, without regard to the meetings of any other organization until the Patrons of Husbandry themselves determine otherwise.

The meeting for 1890 will open on Monday, August 25th, and continue for six days. Patrons desiring to occupy their tents a few days previous to the opening day—and many did this last year—will be so accommodated.

The most perfect railroad arrangements, more satisfactory than those of any preceding year, have already been fully completed with railroad companies all over the country.

The exhibitors of machinery and farm implements will not fall short of that of any previous year.

The old exhibitors have already applied for all the space that will be vacated by the exhibitors who propose leaving Williams' Grove and going to Mt. Gretna, and new exhibitors are daily applying for space.

Very important and extensive improvements will be commenced at Williams' Grove as soon as the Spring opens, and whatever objectionable features or inconveniences there may have been in the past will be amended. In short there can be no such thing as failure, in any particular, in our Williams' Grove meeting, except from causes such as might occur through adverse elements of nature, which it is not possible for human agencies to provide against. Within the past week letters have been received from Col. J. H. Brigham, Worthy Master of the National Grange, the Worthy Secretary, Worthy Lecturer and other officers of the National Grange, and from the officers of twenty State Granges, commending the management of the Williams' Grove meeting, and pledging their unqualified support in the exertions being put forth to make the Williams' Grove meetings greater than ever heretofore.

Age at the Altar.

A Novel Wedding at Wilkesbarre of Very Old People.

WILKESBARRE, March 12.—A novel wedding took place at the Court House this city yesterday. The combined ages of the bridal party was 269 years, as follows: Bridegroom, Shadrack Gregory, 81; bride, Mrs. Mary C. Marr, 61; groom's best man, R. V. Vanhorn, 63; bridesmaid, 64. Justice of the Peace Colon, of Union township, tied the knot. The bride was dressed in her first wedding trousseau, made 42 years ago. She was as frisky as a young girl of 17, and the bridegroom climbed three flights of stairs on a time bet. He performed the task with the agility of a youth.

Addressing the "Squire" before the ceremony, he said: "Now, Justice, don't imagine that because I am four-score that I am a fool. I don't know how much love there is in this match, but there is enough to make Mame and me happy until we are parted in death. There will be no divorce in our case. I am lonely; so is the woman. We want to enjoy each other's company in our old age, and that is what we are here for. Proceed with the ceremony."

A New Jersey inventor proposes to use the dynamo in warfare to make artificial lightning. He claims to be able to produce a flash of lightning which he can direct against a body of men a mile.

The Decline in Farms.

The Philadelphia Times, in continuing its forcible comments on the portentous subject of the decline in the value of farm property, says:

The decline in the value of farm lands not only immediately around Philadelphia, but generally in the Eastern States, has become a grave problem for the consideration of the largest and most important class of our industrial people. It is conceded that farms in Delaware, Chester and Montgomery not specially appreciated in value by local improvements, have declined fully one-third in value during the last decade, and there is no reasonable prospect of any advance in the value of purely farm lands in the future.

Of course, this unpromising outlook for our farmers is creating very general unrest among them, and it is evident that there is a strong tendency to realize on farms at the reduced prices and engage in other pursuits or move to more promising regions in the South or West.

It must be evident to all intelligent farmers that the present depression in purely farm lands in Pennsylvania is certain to continue and increase as long as farmers are compelled to bear the bulk of the oppressive taxes now imposed upon the people. They are the most unjustly taxed people in the country and they do more to maintain crushing taxes upon themselves than all others combined. There is practically nothing used on a farm, in home, barn or field, that is not taxed from one-third or two-thirds its actual cost, and the farmer is steadily getting less price for his products and paying increased taxes on what he consumes. There is not been a monopoly combine formed in the country that did not increase the farmers taxes, and yet the majority of the farmers have steadily voted to sustain the policy that seems to study only how to tax them to the uttermost.

And what have they in return for these destructive taxes? They have the veriest mockery of protection on a very few things they raise, and nearly all of these only increase taxes upon themselves. They are told that they are protected in wool, but there is not a farmer in Delaware, Chester or Montgomery county who does not pay double or treble in taxes on wools as he received on taxed wool, and thus it is in nearly every instance. It is taxation, as a rule, from the beginning to the end of the chapter, and the farmer is steadily impoverished and his lands reduced in value.

This oppressive taxation on farmers and this continued reduction of their property will be halted just when the farmers decide to stop it; no sooner, no later. As long as they will vote to tax themselves to death, just so long will they be taxed to the uttermost; and whenever they decide to dissent from themselves from party things and demand the abolition of all needless taxes on the necessities of life and industry they will win. They have the power to rescue themselves from this wanton oppression whenever they choose to do so. They are the majority of the industrial people of the land, and they can make and unmake the tax policy of the government at will; but ever since the war taxes \$2 per bushel for wheat and prices for all their other products in proportion, they have been the stoutest champions of overtaxing themselves. They are now reaping the logical fruits of their suicidal theories, and their farms will diminish in profits and decrease in value just as long as they insist that everything they use and wear shall be largely taxed for the benefit of others. Don't sacrifice farms; rather sacrifice the mad policy that has made farming profligate and farms of little value.

A Man Cut to Pieces on the Railroad Near Huntingdon.

Last Friday night a terrible accident occurred to a man walking on the railroad track about three miles west of Huntingdon, the unfortunate man being probably Absalom Henry, who was engaged at one of the numerous lumber camps in Diamond valley, near Barree. The body was observed lying along the railroad track by a brakeman on an east bound train, and an engine was sent up from here at once to recover the remains. When brought to the company's hospital here none of the many persons who viewed the body could identify it. An inspection by Coroner Harmon disclosed the fact that the man had not been a professional tramp and that he probably met his death while walking in a bewildered condition on the railroad.

The body presented a horrible appearance. The head was dismembered from the trunk, the right arm cut off close to the shoulder and the abdomen punctured so deeply that the entrails protruded. Both feet were also badly smashed. The man was comfortably dressed, wearing a new coat and hat and new underclothes. On his person were found seven dollars in money, a razor, a life and other trifling articles. The coroner impaneled a jury and an inquest on Saturday.

A. M. Shawley, who arrived before the jury retired, stated that the deceased was one Absalom Henry, a man who had employed in a lumber camp in Diamond Valley. Owing to the dismembered head it was difficult to completely identify the body, but Mr. Shawley gave it as his opinion that it was the body of Henry. It was stated that Henry had left Barree this morning for Tyrone. The body was given over to the county authorities for burial. The unfortunate man leaves a widow and three children.

Fatally Caught by a Shaft.

A lad named Daniel Taylor met a horrible death in a picture frame factory at Williamsport on Thursday. The boy's clothing caught on a shaft which was revolving at the rate of 300 revolutions a minute, and he was whirled around, his body striking against the timber above until he was almost lifeless. The machinery was stopped and the boy removed from the shaft as quickly as possible, and doctors called to his aid, but his death resulted one hour later. The body was terribly mangled and bruised, the limbs broken in several places, and the right arm almost torn off. Young Taylor was about 15 years old.