

Terms, \$2.00 a Year, in Advance.

Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 24, 1897.

P. GRAY MEEK.

May You all be Happy and Prosperou

If the old saw that "if wishes were horses all beggars would ride" were only more than a saw what a fine time there would be on the earth, particularly at this festival season. If you can stretch your imagination far enough to comprehend the happiness that the gratification of every mortal wish would encompass then you can conceive our meaning that with the

at least for the day, so that the world may rejoice that its Saviour has been born. This is the last issue of the WATCHMAN for 1897, and with the closing of its fortysecond year it wishes all a gladsome holiday season and hopes that the New Year will bring forth something more material than

morrow we hope a great flood of joy will

weep over the land, blotting out sorrow,

Some Random Remarks About Christmas.

the ephemeral prosperity of the last.

The merry Christmas tide is again with us and we wish our readers and our fellow humans, generally, the fullest enjoyment of an event which should be the happiest of the year. Its religious associations should especially render it a happy period in the revolving seasons, as it was at Christmas greatly in need of redemption, giving all peoples great reason to rejoice in that crowning benefice of a Creator who allowed his justice to be tempered with mercy.

There are other reasons why Christmas tide should bring us joy. Its coming finds have the advantage of DINGLEY'S high most of us in health and in the possession of means sufficient to keep want from our doors. Some are better fixed than others in the way of worldly wealth, but the quiring trades unionists to quit the Nationnumber who have not enough to make al Guard service, because "the men cannot Christmas the happy event of the year which it is intended to be are comparatively few. This is particularly the case in the fellow tradesmen who are on strike for the country districts, where the extreme poverty of the great cities exists but in rare cases. Yet there is a percentage of poor in all localities, and it is in its endeavor to im- it is almost a license, granted its members, part to them some degree of cheer at to do such unlawful acts, while striking, as Christmas that benevolence exercises its necessitate the calling out of armed forces heaven-born function. It is at the merry to check them. Labor has the sympathy yuletide that the generous soul takes more of everyone, when peaceably striving for delight in giving than in receiving, though the liberal hand is never closed at any

But when we come to think of it the as any other infraction of the law. Christmas that is about to make its joyous advent should be a peculiarly merry one, and the incoming year should be attended with more than the usual amount of happi-

For some years past the country has not by Republican speakers and organs, who couldn't be persuaded to tell an untruth ministration, and that the business slump was directly chargeable to a Democratic tariff. So sure were they of the destructive effects of that tariff that they vouched for its having brought on a general prostration of business and destruction of prosperity at least a yeare befor it went gold conspirators of the GAGE stripe. into operation.

It was on account of the patriotic feeling they had for their suffering country, and their deep interest in the general welfare of the people, that the Republican leaders felt it to be an incumbent duty to rescue the government and the offices from the Democrats, and restore to power the grand old party whose devotion to the country was never known to falter as long as there was a dollar in the treasury. Their noble determination to carry out this high resolve was displayed in the liberal contributions of such patriotic organizations as the trusts and bank syndicates that a bill making the greenbacks into gold poured into the campaign fund the millions which MARK HANNA employed in the presidential election for the maintenance of the public credit and the defence of the national honor.

Nor was the interest of the working people overlooked in this noble effort to rescue the government from Democratic hands. They were rallied under the Republican banner by the promise of protection to their labor, and an alarming disclosure of the fact that the free silver Democracy deterest taken in the toiling masses by the campaign leaders of the highly honorable and moral party that those who could not were enlisted in defence of honest money and the government in subjection. and the national credit by arrangements that brought them to the poils in squads to be to bring the monetary system more comvote the Republican ticket for a pecuniary pletely under the control of a combination consideration, and as for the colored popu- of money dealers, and to invest the banks lation, they were made to see their duty so with a power vastly more dangerous than that which Jackson apprehended when he plainly that they voted en masse with the made the United States bank the object of party of lofty national aims and high moral his patriotic hostility.

that such noble and patriotic efforts should be crowned with success. The election of bears and government notes the exclusive paper a Republican President and Congress was the result; a Republican tariff has been passed to fulfill the promise of protection to the working people, and in addition to ury authorities.

this it may not be unreasonable to suppose that Republican influence was exerted in oringing about the failure of crops in Europe that has given such a boom to our agricultural interests. These are causes that should make everybody prosperous and contented, and for that reason we repeat that this should be more than a usually merry Christmas and that the New Year should come in with more than ordinary

The Wage Reduction in the Cotton Mills. The heavy cut in the wages of the cotton mill hands, in New England, which is to take place on the first of January next, having excited unfavorable comment as one of the fruits of DINGLEY's protection, the advocates of tariff taxation as a means of producing prosperity are greatly bothered in finding an explanation for this early effect of the DINGLEY bill. One excuse that is made for this reduction of wages is that the mill trouble in New England is due to the big cotton crop. This explanation attempts to make it appear that the cheaper raw material with which the mill owners have been supplied by an unusually big cotton crop has compelled them to pay their hands less wages. An answer to a conundrum by the end-man at a negro minstrel show could not be more laughable than this explanation of a wage cut.

But the excuse upon which the most reliance is placed in this case is that the New England mills are suffering so much from the competition of the southern cotton mills that they can't continue to be run with a profit unless the hands are allowed less pay. This is indeed a curious statement in view of the fact that no farther back than in the fall of last year, when the WILSON tariff was in operation, the Fall River mills, which are the ones that that a Saviour was vouchsafed to a world are going to cut wages on the 1st of January, declared 8 and 12 per cent dividends. Mills that declared such dividends a year ago, under the so-called Democratic hard times, ought to be able to keep up the wages of their working people when they protection.

> ----The Chicago federation of labor is reconsistently serve in the militia and run the risk of being called out to shoot down betterment of their economic condition." Such an action as this will go far toward discrediting federations of labor. In fact its own, but when it breaks the mandates of the law and endangers the property or the liberty of others it must be dealt with

Gage's Scheme.

Secretary GAGE's plot to establish a nonetary despotism by fixing the currency more thoroughly on a gold basis, and to been any too prosperous. We were assured strengthen the hold of the bankers on the money interests of the country by destroying the circulation of government notes, is under any circumstances, that the hard arousing a determined opposition, even times were caused by a Democratic ad- among prominent Republican leaders. There is evidence that speaker REED is opposed to handing the currency over to the control of a gold trust, and setting the banks up in the governing business as a tain the closest watchfulness. No suicidal substitute for the government being in the banking business, as it is alleged to be by

Furthermore so prominent a Republican Senator as CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, nated in constant watchfulness of the pasounds a note of warning against GAGE's design to contract the currency by the retirement of the greenbacks, which would thus bring the money of the country within the easy control of a gold trust that would have its centre in Wall street, with the earnestness of intelligent conviction on this subject Senator CHANDLER says:

backs ; there is more probability that a wrist with a pair of scissors. Feeling that bill will be sent to the President to increase their amount. It is not possible to secure the passage through either House of notes, or authorizing bonds payable in gold. The effort to do either thing will probably result in the passage of a bill for the redemption of the greenbacks in silver dollars and for the payment of all United States bonds in gold or silver coin, in the discretion of the President, who will be advantage of the government and not for

the advantage of the creditor. There is much truth in this view of what will be the result if secretary GAGE shall push his scheme to contract the currency during temporary insanity. As the facts by the retirement of the government's signed to reduce the value of their hard- paper circulation, and to make gold more earned dollar to 50 cents. Such was the in- exclusive and absolute than it now is in our monetary system. Neither House of Congress will agree to turning the greenbacks into gold notes, or authorizing be affected in any other way were brought the issue of gold bonds, upon which the to a sense of their duty as electors by people would have to pay interest, in order liberal payments of cash. Even the un- to furnish the basis for a system of national sophisticated Hun and Dago suffragists banks that would have both the currency

The effect of secretary GAGE's bill, if it were possible for it to become a law, would

An arrangement far safer and better for It could not have been otherwise than the people's interest than the secretary of the treasury would be the the people's interest than the scheme of passed to fulfill the promise of protection the law but is not the practice of the treas-

Wolcott Is Mad.

Senator Wolcott is the maddest man in Washington and he has good reason to be in an angry frame of mind. He is conscious of having been made to appear ridiculous by the administration that sent him to Europe on the pretense of entrusting him and his two colleagues with a mission to secure international bimetallism, while the treasury authorities were arranging, as secretary GAGE avows, to place the currency of the country more thoroughly on a gold

There could not have been a greater deception practiced upon public men like Wolcott and his colleagues, who sincerely believed that they had been delegated to perform a certain duty. It is easy to imagine the light in which the Senator regards the position he has been placed in by the double dealing of the administration in this matter. He went abroad with the firm conviction that he had been sent on an earnest errand. His instructions led him to believe that his government sincerely desired to accomplish the object that constituted the subject of his mission. His fellow commissioners had reason to entertain a similar belief. They entered upon the duty entrusted to them with the this earnest belief they represented to foreign governments that the United States wanted to secure their co-operation in establishing international bimetallism, and used every power of argument and persuasion to induce compliance with what they represented to be the desire of their government. Senator Wolcott and his colleagues were making all these exertions abroad to influence the governments of Europe to join the United States in restoring silver to its old monetary status, the American secretary of the treasury was arranging for a still lower degradation of silver by a more thorough establishment of the gold standard, it becomes evident to Senator Wol-COTT that he and his colleagues must appear either as having knowingly and willingly played a part in what was intended to be a fake, or were unwittingly sent abroad on a fool's errand to serve the deceptive purpose of the administration in regard to

Either of these views of the part he played in this matter must be disagreeable to a self-respecting man, and therefore it is not surprising that Senator Wolcott is decidedly out of humor.

Miss Leila Herbert, Daughter of the Ex-Secretary, Committed Suicide.

lumped from a Window—She Sustained Injuries Which Soon Caused Her Death,—Had Been III Some Time.-Had Also Severed An Artery.

WASHINGTON, December 21.-Social cireles in the capital were shocked to-day by news of the suicide of Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of the ex-secretary of the navy, She jumped from the third story window of her father's residence, 1313 New Hampalmost immediately caused death. This afternoon the following authorized statement was made by a gentleman familiar with all the facts of the suicide.

Miss Herbert at the time of the occurrence was suffering from acute melancholia. It developed several weeks ago as the final result of injuries received by being thrown from her horse in Virginia last September.

The melancholia was not insanity in the sense of being accompanied by delusions. At the same time there was profound depression and, as is always the case in this type of disease, there was great danger that suicidal tendencies would develop. For made an attempt to get out of the window, but was restrained by the nurse. This led to additional caution and two nurses altertient. She was at all times rational and gentle, and it was supposed the disease would vield to treatment

Early this morning the nurse on duty noticed a small spot of blood on the bed covering and she inquired what it meant, but the invalid endeavored to pass it by lightly. On making an investigation, how ever, the nurse found that the under bed clothes were saturated with blood and that "It is not feasible to retire the green- Miss Herbert had severed the artery of her the emergency was great, the nurse has-tened to the door and called an alarm.

In this momentary withdrawal from the bedside Miss Herbert leaped out and sprang from the window. The plunge was made headforemost, so that she alighted on the top of her head on the asphalt pavement. This injury alone was sufficient to have caused death from concussion, and it was doubtless the immediate cause. Aside from this a cursory examination indicated the commanded to exercise his option for the skull was fractured. The severance of the artery also would have resulted fatally. When the physician reached her Miss Herbert was still breathing, but died about an hour after the leap.

The coroner returned a verdict of suicide in the case were clear he decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

The Chestnut St. National Bank, of Philadelphia Closes Its Doors, with Liabilities of Nearly a Million

The business and financial circles of Philadelphia were thrown into a furor of excitement yesterday morning when the Chestnut street National bank of that city and the trust company connected with it closed their doors.

The greatest excitement prevailed and when the news of the suspension spread of the institution, all eager to learn something of the cause and anxious for their interests. Coming as it did, just two days before Christmas, it seriously affected business in Philadelphia, and may end disastrously to others.

Up to last evening no statement had been given out, but it was rumored that the liabilities will aggregate a million

William M. Singerly, editor of the Record, and late Democratic nominee for Governor, is the president of the corpora-

The suspension will probably not affect

A Runaway Freight Train Kills and Maims Many at Altoona.

Wreck at the Altoona Station Tuesday Evening.-Freight Beyond Control.-And the Impact When Three Trains Came in Collision was Disastrous O.e.-Many Narrow Escapes From

A terrible wreck, in which three men lost their lives and five were injured, occurred at 6.05 o'clock Tuesday evening just outside the shed of the passenger station at Altoona. Extra freight 604, ran away at Gallitzin, and, after whirling down the mountain at a rete of speed that sometimes exceeded sixty miles per hour, crashed into Pg 2 in front of the Logan house. About 63 freight and half a dozen passenger cars were wrecked, and eight persons were killed

The wreck was the most terrible that has occurred on the Pennsylvania railroad system for years. Spectators who saw the runaway train dash down through the yard say that it had reached a speed of more than sixty miles per hour. It was a remarkable spectacle. Engineer F. S. Burket had reversed the locomotive, but the fearful momentum attained since the start at Gallitzin rendered this procedure and the air brakes useless. Sparks from the wheels flew twenty feet in the air, but still the train dashed on, until finally the crew saw, dead ahead on the same track, the red gleam that warned them death was wait-

The runaway train was made up of fortythree cars, drawn by engine 604. Beside earnestness of men who were sincere in the performance of a delegated trust. With train equipped with air brakes. The remaining thirty-cars were equipped with the common hand brake, which is applied by the brakemen.

Shortly after leaving the tunnel, the icy rails caused the wheels to begin slipping. The engineer whistled for brakes and threw on the air, but still the speed of the train increased momentarily, and finally the big mogul No. 604 was reversed. But Now, when it is made to appear that while all in vain. Down past Allegrippus the train flew with gathering speed, rocking and swinging until the brakemen finally found it impossible to attempt to walk on

the slippery car tops.

By the time Horse Shoe curve reached the train hands estimated the speed at a mile a minute. When the engine struck the curve there was a moment of terrible apprehension lest the runaway plunge over the bank to the rocks below. But locomotive and cars clung to the rails and with augmented speed darted past Kittanning Point toward

There was simply nothing to do but wait. Eagerly the train crew watched for the signal blocks. The semaphores showed a clear track as far as McGarvey, but at that point the green light, which indicated danger, flashed out and the train hands thought, with a shudder, of the passenger (mail express) which was probably dead ahead.

THE TERRIBLE CRASH

The office was reached fifteen minutes after the train had left Gallitzin, thirteen miles distant. Few people caught more than a glimspe of the runaway as she darted through the yard to certain destruction. Extra 759, engineer Crawford, and conducstanding on an outside track

Into this mass of cars the runaway knowledge. plunged, and a scene of indescribable horror followed. The terrific impact of the train piled the cars of freight high in the air. The runaway engine, when it firewood, the cars of the Hollidaysburg assenger train were pushed upon an adoining track, and into this mass the west bound freight drawn by engine 176 hurled itself. For several minutes the awful grinding and crunching continued, then quiet settled over the scene. Locomotives, passenger and freight cars, to-gether with merchandise of all sorts, were heaped twenty feet in the air, and from the great mass of debris came the groans of the injured.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH. Engineer F. S. Burket and fireman William Levett, of the runaway train, came creeping out from under the battered remains of their engine after the grinding ceased. Both men clung to their engine with matchless bravery, the engineer never relinquishing his attempts to stop the train. Marvelous as it may appear, the two men suffered but slight though they remained on the engine while it plowed into the train ahead, until scarcely a stick of timber or a whole portion of the engine remained.

The number of cars destroyed, according to the latest official account, will reach sixty. Of these fifty-six were freight, and four passenger cars. Fifteen other cars were damaged and will have to go to the shop for repairs. The total monetary loss to the Pennsylvania railroad company will closely approximate \$100,000.

DISPOSITION OF THE BODIES. The body of Samuel Kuster, the unfortunate owner of the poultry which was on one of the wrecked trains was sent by express, to Hagerstown, Ind., where his

family resides. The body of Charles J. Numer, the brakeman who lost his life in the discharge of his duty, was shipped to Mapleton. Stephen G. Corbin, who was killed while sticking to his post of duty, resided on Eleventh avenue between Twenty-third and twenty-fourth street, Altoona.

Many of the friends of the dead brakemen visited the rooms of undertaker Lafferty to view the remains. The suddenness of their taking taking off added to the sadness of the visits. They were esteemed by all and many were the of sympathy and of sorrow which were much respected and their tragic death came as a blow to all their friends. The three men who were seriously in-

jured were tramps and are in the Altoona hospital. Wages to Be Reduced.

WORCESTER, Mass., December 21.-The Millbury cotton mills, following the lead of the Fall River mills, has posted a notice of a cut of 10 per cent., to take effect January 3. This was expected, and the owners say they were forced to make the cut by the condition of business.

When we see in the daily papers that a Philadelphia lawyer gave a dinner to twelve of his friends which cost him \$2,000 and a French actress sold a jeweled dog collar for \$1,000 we are sure that prosperity is floating over some parts of the

Leiter's Father Goes to Chicago.

ays His Millions are at the Young Wheat King's and.—Armour Forces Change of Plan. Three Million Bushels More are Expected to Arrive and Then Will Come the Final Test.

CHICAGO, December 20.—Interest in the oig December wheat deal was greatly increased to-day by the arrival from Washington of Levi Z. Leiter, the millionaire ex-merchant of Chicago, and the substan-tial admission by him that his millions were at his son's command in his struggle with other interests.

"My son has plenty of money to pay for what he has purchased," said Mr. Leiter, Sr. "About his wheat operations he has informed me fully. I have been a merchant a great part of my life and am much pleased that my son has broadened into a first-class merchant. Wheat is a first-class ommodity of universal use. The quality of wheat which he has purchased is of the highest, and I am sure will be in demand at a higher price than he has paid for it. I am well pleased with the situation."

George B. French, of the Leiter clique, stated to-day that the bull combination will have about six million bushels of wheat to take care of. The tactics of Armour in rushing millions of bushels to the Chicago market, he said, have caused the Leiter following to change some of their plans very materially.

WILL REMAIN IN THE FIELD.

"The impression that we are going out of the market as soon as we conclude this month's trading is hardly true," he con-"We propose to remain in the field. I am not prepared to say we will ship all our wheat abroad, but we will sell wounded. it the best we can.'

There was another big increase in the amount of contract wheat in store here today; over 5,000,000 bushels were added to the stocks. Friday and Saturday nearly 2,500,000 bushels were delivered here, all of which was taken by the Leiter people. At least 3,000,000 bushels more are expected to arrive and in the liquidation of this is expected to come the final test of strength for Leiter.

The 500,000 bushels delivered to-day had not the slightest weakening effect o December. On the contrary, it sold as high as \$1.02 shortly after the opening. It subsequently reacted to 99½, ½c above where it closed Saturday. The statement of Mr. French concerning the Leiter crowd's intention to stay in the market received some confirmation, as there was good buying of May all day credited to them.

There is a Santa Claus.

From the New York Sun.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author s numbered among the friends of the Sun :

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? VIRGINIA O'HANLON." 115 West Ninety-fifth Street.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong They have been affected by the skepticism tor Westley, was dropping down the yard at a rate of about ten miles per hour on the same track upon which the runaway was meeting. Mail express hed installed in the same track upon which the runaway was can be which is not comprehensible by set over him, severely scalding his face and rushing. Mail express had just cleared in- their little minds. All minds, Virginia, to the depot shed, and the Hollidaysburg whether they be men's or children's, are branch passenger train was standing on the little. In this great universe of ours man track just outside the shed. A west bound freight drawn by engine 176 was pulling up the yard, and another freight train was him, as measured by the intelligence cap-

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its struck, was lifted off the track like a toy, and hurled completely around, until the battered pilot faced westward. While the cars were being ground and crushed into there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be

extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not; but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unforseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory be-yond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Twelve Schooners Ashore Terrific Gale Sweeps Over Newfoundland, Doing

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 20.-A terrible gale swept this island yesterday and did immense damage to fishing establishments and vessels at the coast settlements. Twelve schooners went ashore in Green Bay and became total wrecks, and several others were badly damaged in collisions. It is feared that the fleet from Gloucester

and the herring fleet now loading in 'Placentia Bay have been seriously buffeted by the storm.

Work for 2,000 Men. Fires Were Started Under the Furnaces at Brigeton

BRIGETON, N. J., December 20.--Fires

were put under the furnaces to-day in the Cohansey, Cumberland, Moore-Jones window glass factories near here, and it is expected that the works will start up in a week or two, probably on January 2. It is expected that 2,000 persons now idle will be given employment.

The Chancellor Said to Be in a Rapid Declin Prince Bismarck, who braced up for the Emperor's visit, has relapsed to his former weakness, despondency and persistent insomnia. Mentally and physically Prince Bis-marck is rapidly declining.

Down in Cuba

Autonomy Will Not Bring Peace.—The Conservative Party Represented by 300 Delegates Met and Took Action.

HAVANA, December 21. - At to-day's meeting of the conservative party over 300 ites said to represent the commonwealth of the island, were present and all the speakers agreed that autonomy will not bring peace to the island, as proved by the protests of the members of the Cuban junta of New York and the recent death of Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz and five other Spanish mmissioners who have been kileld by the insurgents.

Senor Santos Guzman, a former president of Congress, referring to President McKinley's recent message to Congress, protested against it, as offensive to Spain, to General Weyler and the Spanish army, and holding that it indicated probable early intervention, a "warning to a most haughty nation which will not permit such humiliation. A message was sent to General Weyler that at a mass meeting of the reunited union constitutional party the policy of his excellency was endorsed and the party assured the general that he had its support.

It was announced from the palace to-day that during the last ten days the Spanish troops have captured seventeen prisoners and sixty-nine armed insurgents have surrendered. Among the killed, the statement continues, are three insurgents leaders and three officers of the insurgent

The Spanish troops during the same pe iod, according to the official statistics, three officers and thirty-three soldiers killed and had 133 officers and 213 soldiers

Another Trust Organized.

The American woodworking machine company, which will embrace in a trust everal of the woodworking machinery establishments in Williamsport, and about nine-tenths of the shops in the United States, was organized at New York, Thursday, with a capital of \$8,560,000. Two of the directors are from Williamsport, A. D. Hermance and F. H. Sweet.

Hublersburg Items.

Miss Belle Webner is home for Christmas A. A. Miller is spending X mas at his home n Lock Haven.

Master Loyd Markle is the proud owner of watch, a premium for selling shoe polish. Rev. J. M. Runkle was called to Phila., this week, by the sickness of his brother, Dr. W. V. Runkle

Miss Gertie Bartholemew, who has been living at Mrs. James Carner's for the past six nonths, has left for her home in Arvona.

The Christmas entertainment in Trinity Reformed church promises to be of more than usual interest. The church is handsomely decorated with evergreen and all is ready for a fine time.

Little Harry Whiteman, the bright little baby in the home of David Whiteman, met with a painful accident last Saturday. His set over him, severely scalding his face and breast.

Pine Grove Mention.

To all a merry Christmas and a happy New

Mrs. Maggis Meek is spending the holidays

William Reed is visiting the old home east of town.

The I. O. O. F. banquet will take place on the evening of the 27th, inst.

Rev. Illingworth, Sec. of the Y. M. C. A. at Oil City, is at home on a ten day's leave. Rev. Asbury Guyer is conducting a protracted meeting that is fairly well attended.

Wesley, son of Mrs. Maggie Gates, is seriously ill with pneumonia and measles. Samuel McWilliams is home from the State

Normal, at Lock Haven, for the holidays. H. C. Campbell and wife are off to Philipsburg to visit justice Laport and wife over Christmas.

Baker Krebs and Frank Bailey, dental students at the University in Phila., are here for Christmas.

Misses Clara and Bessie Walker were among the bidden ones to the John Gray anniversary, on the 22nd. One of our threshers has ordered a new

French barr chopper and will soon be ready to do custom work for his Branch neighbors. H. C. Campbell is erecting a new home at

State College, where he expects to settle shortly. We are sorry, for Ferguson township is greatly in need of citizens like Henry and his family. Hall Bottorf, one of College township's leading Democrat and prosperous farmers,

with his wife and daughter Maggie, spent Sunday with his uncle, who is much better. Albert Blower, a civil engineer of Osceola, a jolly good fellow, is the guest of his cousin, J. W. Kepler. Albert has the Klondyke craze and is arranging to start by the 20th of February.

Charles Kustaborder, a prominent stock dealer of Chicago, is visiting his cousin Thomas, who thought him dead, as he had not heard of him since the war, where he served four years and bears that many wounds.

Misses Annie and Maria Elder, who are now connected with the home department of the Madina county infirmary, are spending their vacation with friends here. They are looking exceptionally well and are well pleased with their work.

Captain J. M. Kepler left, Tuesday, for Tionesta to look after his many interests there before starting on his annual visit to Hot Springs, Ark. In his absence his son, J. Wm., a chip out of the old block, will look after the plantation

Mrs. Maggie Hess came very near being cremated the other day when her clothing took fire as she was looking after a kettle of lard. Fortunately her husband was near and he caught her and doused her into the creek, else she would have been burned to death.

George McWilliams returned home from the University last week much improved by the treatment and loud in his praise of the surgeons and nurses who had charge of his case. His aunt, Mrs. Keichline, expects to eat her Christmas dinner at Mrs. Hoffer's, 2 relative living in the city, and hopes to be home by New Year's.