

The Watchman Still to Be Had for \$1.00 a Year.

Out of respect for the earnest solicitation of a number of the leading Democrats of Centre county and with the hope of making the WATCHMAN the family paper of every household in this section it has been determined to continue the present low rate of \$1 a year until July 1st, 1899.

The reduction in price made last December has resulted in an unprecedented increase of subscribers, but we know there are still more who will be anxious to take advantage of this low rate proposition.

There is one thing, however, that we desire to impress upon the minds of our old subscribers. This rate of \$1 per year is POSITIVELY only for those who pay in advance. All have an equal opportunity to take advantage of it and if you do not do it you need not expect to settle at any other than the rate of \$2 per year.

The WATCHMAN has never deviated from its rule of fair and impartial treatment to all, consequently the paper will be given to no one for a dollar who does not settle up all arrearages and pay one year in advance. Don't expect to have a reduction from the old price of \$2 made for you unless you are an advance subscriber, for you will be disappointed if you do.

The Meeting of the County Committee.

If an enthusiastic well attended meeting of political leaders from all over the county can be taken as a fair index of the interest that will be shown in the coming campaign in Centre county then the contest this fall will certainly be a vigorous one and a vigorous contest means a glorious victory for Democracy, for the meeting of the county committee held in Democratic headquarters, last Monday night, was both enthusiastic and well attended.

In response to chairman JOHNSTON'S call forty-two of the fifty-six precincts in the county were represented and the delegates manifested an interest and enthusiasm that betokens energy on their part.

The special business of the meeting was to re-apportion the delegate representation of the precincts in the next county convention. It was done on the basis of the vote cast for GEO. A. JENKS, for Governor, at the last general election and has already been published in the WATCHMAN. The vote for JENKS, last fall, having been only 4,241, there can be but 85 delegates in the convention to be held in June, a decrease of 4 in the number entitled to seats in the last convention. Some of the precincts gain while others lose votes. The North ward of Bellefonte, State College borough and Howard township each gain one vote and Harris township gains one-half a vote. There will be a loss of one vote in each of the following precincts: North Benner, west Boggs, west Gregg, west Haines, Liberty, south Potter and east Snow Shoe, while the south ward of Bellefonte loses one-half a vote.

With the new apportionment settled miscellaneous business was taken up and the following resolutions, presented by D. F. FORTNEY were adopted:

Resolved, by the Democratic committee of Centre county in regular session met, that we endorse the course of the Hon. William C. Heinle, and Hon. J. H. Wetzel and Hon. Robert M. Foster, Senator from the 34th Senatorial District of Pennsylvania, and Representatives from Centre county, respectively, in the late general Assembly of Pennsylvania, and congratulate each of them on their faithful and efficient service and their return home with clean records from an Assembly dominated by the "Boss" and covered with the stain and slime of corruption.

Resolved, that the Democratic committee of Centre county in regular session met, present to the Democratic party of the State the Hon. Calvin M. Bower as the candidate of the Democracy of Centre county for Judge of the Supreme court. A long and faithful service at the bar, engaged in a varied and extensive practice in every branch of the law has more than qualified him to grace, with dignity and honor, a seat in the highest court of the State. His devotion to pure political principles, his fealty to the Democratic party, his honesty and honor, his capacity and courage, his ability, integrity and faithful labors have merited and won for him the confidence and united support of the Democracy of the county and entitled him to the consideration and support of the entire party of the State.

After the adoption of the resolutions a number of speeches were made. Col. JACKSON L. SPANGLER started with one of his characteristically encouraging talks on the situation in the State. He was followed by Senator HEINLE, who spoke of the Democratic course at Harrisburg and gave the people some insight into the crooked work that Democrats were at least able to prevent there during the last session of the Legislature. Hon. J. H. WETZEL was next introduced and continued the line taken up by the previous speaker, showing how the State had gained by the bold stand taken by the Legislature to prevent the vicious legislation that would certainly have been imposed upon the people had they accepted any of the propositions by the stalwarts of the insurgent Republicans to combine with them. Col. FORTNEY, CHARLES R. KURTZ, Capt. HUGH S. TAYLOR and GEO. R. MEEK were the other speakers before chairman JOHNSTON took the floor to urge constant work on the part of his committee. He gave them an idea of the campaign that he hopes to conduct and earnestly asked their co-operation to make it a faithful one.

A GREAT DAY FOR ODD FELLOWS.

THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER IN AMERICA CELEBRATED IN SPLENDID STYLE IN BELLEFONTE.

Even a Hail Storm Couldn't Spoil It.

Bellefonte Thronged with Thousands of Strangers to Witness the Parade of the Central Pennsylvania Odd Fellows—Encampments, Lodges and Cantons from Many Counties Here to Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Order in America—Bellefonte Never Looked Gay—A Good Natured, Well Ordered Crowd and a Grand Parade.

Not since the days of her centennial celebration in June, 1895, has Bellefonte looked more gorgeous under the touch of professional decorators or been visited by more people than she was on Wednesday. The Odd Fellows of Central Pennsylvania districts, embracing nineteen counties, were here to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the establishment of their order in America and they did it by such an outpouring of people and a parade of such splendor as could not but impress on the minds of everyone the strength of the society and the reputable character of its membership.

Bellefonte had been preparing for weeks for the event and when the anniversary day dawned nearly every business block in the town and all of the public buildings were resplendent in holiday draperies. The Bush house, the WATCHMAN office, the Arcade, Odd Fellows hall, the Exchange, First National bank, the Jackson, Hastings & Co. bank, the Garman house, the court house, the Brockerhoff house, Temple court, the Lyon block and Nagney's building had all been dressed by professional decorators, while nearly all of the other principal places in the town were effectively draped with bunting and appropriate insignia.

Two imposing arches, emblematical of Odd Fellowship and in imitation of white marble spanned High street. One at the intersection of Water and the other just at the entrance to the Diamond from east High. By many the decorations were believed to have been far more elaborate than they were for the centennial celebration.

THE CROWDED TRAINS ARRIVING.

The crowds began to arrive early from the surrounding country, but it was not until the morning train came in that the guests of honor and the bands were in evidence. The first to arrive was over the Bellefonte Central, bringing seven coaches crowded with the Odd Fellows from State College and Pine Grove and the State College band. Next came the morning train over the L. and T., with Lemont, Boalsburg, Centre Hall, Millheim and Hebersburg lodges; five coaches full. Following the train east on the E. E. V. brought six coaches of representatives from Stormstown, Tyrone, Bellwood and Altoona and the Bellwood band. Then the train west arrived soon after with the Blanchard, Lick Run, Howard, Milesburg and Renovo lodges. The crowds already arrived had scarcely been escorted to quarters at the first section over the Central R. R. of Pa. came in. It was two hours late, owing to a freight wreck that had delayed it at Jersey Shore. It was a special through from Williamsport of eight coaches carrying the grand lodge officers and cantons and lodges from that city, Jersey Shore and Lock Haven. Ten minutes later the regular train pulled into the station at the foot of the street packed with Nittany valley's turnout.

A STORM DELAYED PARADE.

The parade had been scheduled for 2 o'clock and had almost been marshalled into order for movement when a terrific thunder storm sent the assembling marchers skurrying for shelter. It seemed as though all the hose in the firmament had burst for a few moments and hail-stones pelted down violently to add to the discomfort of those who couldn't find cover. It was scarcely an instant after the storm broke that High street, previously a sea of people, became a regular torrent of running water. The Odd Fellows took it good naturedly and some of them became more odd than ever by the ducking they got.

The Repas band that had been escorting the Williamsport Patriarchs Militant, took shelter under the awnings at the Bush house and gave their feelings vent in such selections as "How Dry I Am" and "Wait 'Till the Clouds Roll by Jennie." The third division, that was resting on north Water street, climbed into the cars on the Central sidings and were as dry as punk, while the first and second divisions took to the porches on north and south Thomas streets.

The storm lasted about half an hour, then it cleared up and looked as though a bright afternoon was to follow, but grand marshal Taylor had scarcely called the men into line again, ere another shower floated along; this time catching the gayly uniformed 4th regiment and wetting it considerably before Col. Long decided to send his men to cover the street.

Col. M. 21st Reg. N. G. P., the military escort of the parade, stuck to its position 'til the last, but as the drops began to get larger and the clouds blacker Capt. Mullen double quicked his men into the Pennsylvania passenger station. The streets were again deserted and remained so for twenty minutes more, then a streak of sunshine gleamed forth and before any more clouds had a chance to obscure it the parade was off.

The line moved east on High street in the following order:

- 1st Division. Capt. Hugh S. Mayor, Chief Marshal. Mounted Aids: J. Sweisfort, Danville; R. K. Hoy, Altoona; John L. Miller, Sunbury; F. E. Nagney, J. W. Conley, S. D. Getting, R. A. Beck bagler. Undine Band, Bellefonte. Co. M. 21st Reg. N. G. P. Patriarchs Militant, Williamsport. Repas band, Williamsport. Fourth Regiment, Patriarchs Militant. Canton Ridley, Williamsport; Canton, Altoona; Canton Renovo; Canton Jersey Shore. Grand Lodge Officers in carriage. 2nd Division. Marshal, W. M. Cronister; Aids, H. A. Moore, Howard; S. S. McCormick, Hubersburg. Coleville Band. Altoona Encampment. Renovo Encampment. Bellwood Band. Bellwood Lodge, No. 819. 3rd Division. John G. Dubbs, Marshal. State College Band. State College Lodge. Pine Grove Mills Lodge. State College Encampment, No. 74. Centre Hall Lodge. Lemont Band. Zion Band. Nittany Valley Lodge. Milesburg R. G. E. Band. Milesburg Lodge. Blanchard Lodge. Renovo Band. Lick Run Lodge, No. 311. Half Moon Lodge, No. 345. Renovo Lodge. Exeter Encampment, of Renovo. Hebersburg Lodge. Officers of Grand Lodge and Visitors in Carriages.

The parade moved east on High to Spring, to Curtin, to Armor, to Linn, to Allegheny, to Bishop, to Ridge and countermarch to Spring, to High to the Diamond, making a route 2 1/2 miles long. After the line had been thoroughly formed it moved in good order, the streets had dried fairly well and the spectacle was really imposing. The bright regalia of the grand lodge officers and the plumed chaplains of the Patriarchs Militant, their gilt lace ornaments and glittering swords brought forth rounds of applause as they executed all sorts of difficult evolutions while on the march. Then the less pretentious paraphernalia of the lodges lent a variety to the appearance of the parades that added to its interest. There were about a thousand men in line, but there were nearly as many more on the streets who had either not intended to join or lost their places during the storm.

On the whole it was certainly a creditable turnout, the like of which has not been equalled by any secret society demonstration in Bellefonte since the masonic convulse here years ago.

The parade was dismissed in the Diamond and an open session was held there immediately after. From the speaker's stand the visitors were welcomed to Bellefonte, then addresses on Odd Fellowship and suggestions for the good of the order were made by Wm. H. Keiss, president of Pa. Odd Fellows anniversary Assn; Samuel



THE PARADE MOVING OFF ON WEST HIGH STREET.

From a Photograph for the WATCHMAN by Mallory & Taylor.

McKeever, grand master of the grand lodge; Egan Loomis, deputy grand master; C. H. Coon, grand chaplain; James S. Montgomery, grand marshal; major general. Ed. C. Deans, grand representative to the sovereign grand lodge; John L. Miller, president of the orphans' home at Sunbury.

This concluded the public exercises and the crowds scattered to all parts of the town to see and do as they pleased.

MEETING OF THE ANNIVERSARY ASSOCIATION.

In the evening the anniversary association met in the hall of No. 153 for the regular annual business meeting that had been postponed from the morning, owing to the late arrival of the Central train carrying the officers. All that they would make public was re-elected president of the association; Jos. H. Mackey, of Williamsport, vice president; and H. C. Kramer, of Williamsport, treasurer. It was decided to meet at Renovo next year.

After the meeting of the anniversary association there was a special session of the grand lodge with a school of instruction for Odd Fellows. With this concluded the most of the visitors left on the night trains en route for their homes. All were impressed with the effort that Bellefonte had made to receive and entertain them in a fitting manner and spoke enthusiastically of their enjoyment of the day here.

The local organization did itself proud by the manner in which so large an event was handled and the generally successful result of the day. The following are the committees that arranged all but those inopportune showers: John G. Dubbs, Chairman. Finance—A. C. Mingle, chairman; John Olewine, J. C. Meyer. Deputation—J. W. Conley, chairman; W. G. Derstine, W. H. Miller, W. H. Koehler, C. K. Hicklen. Entertainment—J. C. Meyer, chairman; H. B. Pontius, C. T. Gerberich, Harry Eberhart. Reception—W. B. Rankin, chairman; Geo. L. VanTries, J. H. Eberhart, J. S. Carson, D. O. Eiders, James Schofield, J. P. Smith, J. F. Harrison, A. Lukenbach, B. H. Shaffer, W. H. Koehler, J. M. Keichline, Thomas W. Moore, John L. Olewine, J. D. Seibert, J. R. Cole, W. Harrison Walker, W. G. Rankle, George H. Kniesly, John G. Dubbs. Music—H. B. Pontius, chairman; A. Lukenbach, J. F. Sins. Printing—J. M. Keichline, chairman, W. Harrison Walker.

A PROUD DAY FOR CENTRE LODGE.

Centre lodge No. 153, I. O. O. F. has reason to felicitate itself over the exceptional success of its big undertaking. The local order has a membership that includes many of our most representative business men and, in consequence, it is not to be wondered at that their plans were so thoroughly laid and every detail so faithfully executed when the eventful day came.

From an historical point of view No. 153 is one of the most interesting of the many secret fraternal organizations in Bellefonte. It was instituted Feb. 23rd, 1816, in the old building at the corner of High and Penn streets, once known as the Masonic temple. The early days of the order here were fraught with varied successes and vicissitudes. In 1856 the lodge had become so weakened that the charter was surrendered, rather than to keep it alive by initiating undesirable brothers. The spark of fidelity, love and truth did not flicker out, however, and the zealous efforts of those who remained true to their principles were rewarded by a reorganization, which was effected in the hall at the east end of the old Arcade on the night of August 17th, 1867. The lodge seemed alive with new life and grew amazingly until more sumptuous quarters were needed and the rooms were moved to the McClain block, in 1870. There they remained until January, 1888, when they were removed into the present handsome quarters in I. O. O. F. building, on the Diamond.

The charter members and a few who joined soon after were: Instituted Feb. 23rd, 1816, by Henry Baker, N. G.; Charles H. Bressler, V. G.; P. Benner Wilson, Sec.; Wm. A. Baker, Ass't. Sec.; Sam. Welsh, treasurer; Edmund Graham, Geo. W. Tate, Daniel Leyden, B. Rush Petriken, James Welsh, Robt. Durham, Wm. Wallace Hayes, Roland Curtin, John T. Hoover, A. G. Curtin, John M. McCoy, John H. Morrison, Bartram Galbraith, Mord. Dandle, John D. Lieb, Daniel McGinley, Daniel Irvin, Wm. S. Triplem, W. P. Harris, D. K. Tate, Jacob Schrom, Henry Twitmore, Adam Hoy, J. Smith Barnhart, Huey Miller, H. H. Benner.

Only two of the foregoing are still members of Centre lodge. They are H. H. Benner, of Atlantic City, and Henry Twitmore, of Curwensville. The lodge to-day has a membership of 125 men, representing the town's very best types. Their fine appearance in the parade since 1870 they have paid more than \$10,000 in relief, so that you will see that the benefits of being a secret society man must amount to something.

those trodden by the lowly Nazarene, from whose Divine heart was emitted those rays of civilization and enlightenment which now illuminate the surface of the world. The question was asked during Hissojour on this earth: "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" The reply was: "Come and see." And to-day the nations not only see the marvelous effects of His example and teachings, but they revel in the enjoyment of the fruits of the seeds of eternal life which he sowed broadcast indiscriminately for the salvation of friend and foe.

An analogous question might have been propounded when Wildey and his four compeers were laboring to construct a plan for the betterment of man's temporal condition. Can a secret fraternal organization accomplish any good for suffering humanity? The answer rolls up from every city, town, hamlet, hill, valley, plain and mountain-top on this broad continent and re-echoes over the islands and the seas and through foreign lands: "Come and see!" and it will be observed that there are now 11,000 Odd Fellows' Lodges, with 850,000 brothers, and 4,000 Rebekah Lodges, with 130,000 sisters, devoted to the work begun in the City of Baltimore, Md., on the twenty-sixth day of April, 1819. The fruits of the work, in which this great army is engaged, are reaped and enjoyed by the widowed, the fatherless, the aged and indigent, tenderly cared for in the homes and asylums erected by and maintained under the auspices of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Besides making ample provision for those, the duty of caring for whom is imposed by the laws of the Order in commanding the brethren to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan, this great fraternity has never failed to respond with unstinted liberality to every appeal for the relief of communities when they were suffering from the devastating effects of fire and flood, or when afflicted with famine or plague.

The title, "Odd Fellow," is now in use by various organizations in many different corners of the world. Where and when it originated is not known. The most authentic records indicate that it was used in England some time in the early part of the eighteenth century. Certain it is that

there was an Order of Odd Fellows in England as far back as the year 1745, because the Odd Fellows' Lodge is mentioned in the Gentlemen's Magazine for that year as "a place where very pleasant recreative evenings are spent."

It is also certain that these Odd Fellows' Lodges were first instituted for social purposes, and aiding the brethren when out of work and assisting them to obtain employment, and that the first Order of Odd Fellows was composed of workmen. These men had been in the habit of assembling together at public houses for social enjoyment periodically, and the organization—originally chaotic in character—gradually drifted into form and substance and then lodges were organized, which, in turn, banded themselves together, and so came to form various societies.

The first of these of which any record remains was known as "The Ancient Order of Odd Fellows," and another was formed soon after called "The Union Order of Odd Fellows." These two branches came together in the early part of the present century and organized "The Manchester Unity," which soon became a flourishing condition in Great Britain, and which still continues to exist at the present day, with a membership of about 750,000 and a well-filled treasury.

Thomas Wildey, the father of the I. O. O. F., was born in London on the fifteenth day of January, 1782, and on attaining his majority was initiated into an Odd Fellows' Lodge. At that time all the various lodges had united in any one organization, and the lodge to which Wildey belonged, existed and worked according to the early mode of self-institution—that is to say, the lodge had been organized by Odd Fellows who had withdrawn from some other lodge solely upon their own motion and without the authority of any previously formed body or organization.

Shortly after, Wildey, with others, started a new lodge, known as "Morningstar Lodge, No. 38," located in London, and in this and in other ways continued to work actively for the interests of Odd Fellowship, until the year 1817, when influenced by the reports received by him from his fellow countrymen who had come to the United States, he decided to seek his fortune here. On arriving in this country, he located in the City of Baltimore, and naturally sought to make the acquaintance of his fellow countrymen who had preceded him to that city. Thus he met and became acquainted with John Welch, an Odd Fellow, and their acquaintanceship grew and they spent much time in each others company. Naturally, they missed the pleasant associations which had surrounded them while attending the lodges in England, and a desire grew upon them to institute something of the kind here. The result was that they took measures to establish a lodge of Odd Fellows. According to the traditions, five members were

necessary in order to institute a lodge. Themselves making two of the number, it became necessary to find the other three, and for that purpose they advertised in the Baltimore American. In the issue of that paper of the 27th of March, 1819, appeared the following: "Notice to Odd Fellows—A few members of the society of Odd Fellows will be glad to meet their brethren for the purpose of forming a lodge on Friday evening, 7th of April, at the 'Seven Stars,' Second street, at hour of 7 p. m."

It was natural that they should select an inn for their place of meeting, because it had in the main been the place where they had held their meetings in England. The result of this advertising was that they became acquainted with Richard Rushworth, John Duncan and John Cheatham, all Odd Fellows, thus completing the necessary number of five. All had been initiated in the Order in England, and so far their qualifications were correct, and, therefore, in accordance with ancient custom, they self-initiated themselves into a lodge, which they named "Washington Lodge of Odd Fellows," on the twenty-sixth day of April, 1819. This date has come to be recognized as the birthday of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the "Washington Lodge of Odd Fellows" to be the first-born member of that fraternity. This "Washington Lodge" was solemnly instituted with all the forms of which the five men possessed any knowledge. Thomas Wildey was installed noble grand and John Welch as vice grand.

About the time Wildey came to America the different lodges in Great Britain had organized themselves into one society, viz.: "The Manchester Union," as above mentioned, and this organization was engaged in evolving order out of chaos and in constructing a suitable ritual and a code of laws for its own regulation. But Wildey and his brethren were unaware of this fact, and as a consequence the work begun by them was not in harmony with that of the "Unity," as they learned from a member who arrived in Baltimore shortly after the institution of the Washington Lodge. This member was a Henry M. Jackson, who had come to the United States with the object of introducing Odd Fellowship. He did not know that the Order already existed here, but finding Washington Lodge at the "Seven Stars" he gave the brethren such instructions as were necessary to set them aright, and placed them in possession of all the information which he had. In September, 1819, the Lodge numbered nineteen members. They felt a desire to have more formal connection with the Manchester Unity, and this desire was strengthened by the visit to Baltimore of P. G. Crowder, of Preston, England. They laid their wishes before Brother Crowder, and he promised that on his return he would present to the proper authorities their petition for a charter and for future fellowship, which he did, with the result that "Duke of York Lodge," held at Preston, England, granted to Washington Lodge a charter, which was received on the 23rd of October, 1819, when it was accepted, and the lodge was then considered to be legally established.

Under this charter Washington Lodge claimed the sole right and authority to authorize the formation of lodges of the Order of Odd Fellows in any state of the Union. Apparently, Thomas Wildey and his confederates were far-sighted. Whether or not they looked far enough into the future to see the possibilities which have since come to be established facts, it is impossible now to say, but certain it is that they immediately commenced to carry out their plan of organization which has remained a solid foundation sufficient to uphold to this present time the entire fabric of American Odd Fellowship, immense as its proportions have grown to be. To illustrate this, these men, in 1820, in about a year after Washington Lodge had been originally organized, and before they had any others to act with them, formed a "Committee of Past Grands," which, in February 1821, constituted themselves into a Grand Lodge known as "The Grand Lodge of Maryland and the United States," and Washington Lodge surrendered to said Grand Lodge the charter which it had received from the Duke of York Lodge, and thus surrendered to said Grand Lodge all the powers which Washington Lodge had exercised under it, and in return the newly organized Grand Lodge presented a charter issued by itself to said Washington Lodge. While all this had been going on, and even prior to the 26th of April, 1819, other Odd Fellows' lodges had been organized in some of the other States. As far back as the year 1806 a lodge known as "Shakespeare Lodge of Odd Fellows" had been organized in the city of New York. It ceased active work in the year 1813, but was revived and reconstituted on the 23rd of December 1818. Among the members of this Lodge was the poet George P. Morris. On the 27th of January, 1821, another lodge known as "Franklin Lodge, No. 2," was instituted. As in the Baltimore case, a Committee of Past Grands was organized, who took upon themselves the powers of a Grand Lodge. To them application was made to organize a lodge to be known as "Washington Lodge, No. 3."

Later on, on a similar application, a dispensation was issued for "Columbia Lodge, No. 4," which was instituted in the city of Brooklyn on the 3rd of January, 1822. This Lodge, apparently not satisfied with the authority of the body which had given it its dispensation, applied to and received from an English lodge known as the "Loyal Beneficent Duke of Sussex Lodge" a charter. Under this, Columbia Lodge claimed superiority over the other lodges in New York, with the result that dissensions which had before that existed on other subjects were revived and strengthened. In Massachusetts the first lodge was organized on the self-institution principle on the 23th of March, 1820, and was known as "Massachusetts Lodge No. 1." It continued to work under the impression that it was the only lodge in America, until in February, 1822, when it learned of the existence of the organization in Baltimore. Massachusetts Lodge immediately made application to the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the United States, acknowledging it to be the supreme authority, and asking for a charter for a Grand Lodge, with authority to control all the lodges in Massachusetts. This request was complied with and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was instituted on the 11th of June, 1823. The first information we have of a lodge forming in Pennsylvania was in December 21st, 1821. A few individuals, who had been members of the Order in England, assembled at the house of John Upton, No. 66, Dock street, in Philadelphia, then a prominent hotel in the busy centre of business, and formed themselves into a Lodge. John B. Robinson, then a member of Franklin Lodge, No. 2 of New York, being in the city on business, in company with John Upton, invited a meeting of Odd Fel-