

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 5, 1923.

Country Correspondence

Items of Interest Dished Up for the Delectation of "Watchman" Readers by a Corps of Gifted Correspondents.

PLEASANT GAP.

It takes a smart man to rear a structure, but any fool can tear it down.

Does statesmanship consist in the representation of private and sectional interests? If so, our Congress seems to be equal for the occasion.

The Misses Miller, Elizabeth and Margaret, two very interesting daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Miller, of State College, spent a few days among their many friends here.

The Billy Hoover Sunday school class held a New Year's party at the home of Walter Dunkelbarger on Friday evening last. A most congenial time was indulged in. The happy event will long be remembered by all participants.

Among our sick people during the holidays were Mr. William Noll Jr., who was afflicted with a severe attack of rheumatism. Samuel Noll was housed up with an old-fashioned attack of la-grippe; Mrs. Belle Keen and Mrs. Viola Dunkelbarger were also indisposed, but happily all are recuperating and apparently out of danger.

It is not best to trifle with truth. When you repeat something which some one has told you, be careful to give it the same meaning as the one who imparted the information. Some people like to add just a little sensational touch to whatever they repeat. They imagine it gives "pep." Satisfy your vanity in some other way than perverting the truth.

James Tate, a progressive contractor, of New York, after an absence from home for thirteen years, agreeably surprised his mother, Mrs. Potter Tate, and her sister, Verda, by dropping into his former home a few days before Christmas, remaining here until Tuesday last when, on account of pressure of business, he was obliged to return to New York.

John Mulbarger, one of the White-rock employees, met with a very serious accident while at work in the quarries the other day. He was standing by the side of a large rock when another stone weighing several hundred pounds was loosened and caught the unfortunate man's leg, crushing it. He is suffering intense pain, but from last reports it is thought that amputation of the leg will not be necessary.

The Pleasant Gap sportsman's club held another shooting match adjacent to their hall on Christmas day, which proved a decided success. Two pigs, a flock of turkeys, geese, ducks, and chickens were contested for. Quite a number of outside parties from Bellefonte, State College and Centre Hall, participated, some excellent marksmen being among the number. The sharp-shooting of fifty years ago was in evidence.

Whenever a woman is found outside her sphere; whenever she assumes the place of man and makes him her complement, then she is abnormal. There is no special law against a woman being abnormal in character any more than there is in her being abnormal in appearance. It is abnormal for her to have whiskers, or masculine features. It is important that woman should be thoroughly acquainted with all the details of domestic life if she expects to be successful in it.

The Centre county delegation from Philadelphia were well well represented at the Gap during the holidays. Among the number were Paul Keller, wife and daughter, John Herman and wife, and Miss Emeline Noll. Among this number Paul Keller, Miss Emeline Noll and John Herman hold lucrative positions in the Broad Street offices of the P. R. R., in Philadelphia, and all are apparently making good; a pleasure and satisfaction to their many friends and admirers here.

The extensive McNitt lumbering company is showing signs of activity. Within the past three months the finished product of Mr. McNitt has found a ready market. Their railroad ties and mining props have about all been shipped and this week a number of workmen are beginning to demolish the forests, which is a God-send to the laboring community. Unfortunately the firm is at a loss to secure a sufficiency of men to supply the de-

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

DE OLE OMAN BIN HAD
ER PICTURE TAKEN
BUT DE LAWD HE'P ME -
-! TWANTY NO TROUBLE
FUH ME T' RICOLLEC'
WHUT SHE LOOK LAK,
NO-HOW!



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mand. The firm is a progressive one, and it is to be hoped that they will in time be able to secure sufficient help to fully carry out their extensive anticipations.

Talk about elaborate feasts and superlative good eats! Mrs. John Herman, our good neighbor, should be entitled to the belt in this particular. She had twenty-nine guests on Christmas day, and so delighted were the participants that they thought it advisable to remain at the Herman home for both dinner and supper. Of course the guests were not all grown ups; children and grand-children were among the happy aggregation. All agreed that Mrs. Herman had few equals in supplying the choicest of eats. On this glorious occasion the chicken population of the Gap was reduced ten head. It was declared to be one of the old-time layouts.

Orrie Mulbarger, the Noll Bros. tenant farmer, has purchased the late Daniel Schlotzman home. Consideration, \$1500. Mr. Mulbarger gets possession on April 1st, at which time he will leave the farm for good. He seems to think that any kind of work, even from the quarries to the mines, beats tenant farming. Some people seem to think differently. They say that half a dozen tenant farmers in the Nittany valley will quit April 1st. They allege it don't pay. At the same time they mostly began on a limited capital, and now on throwing up their hands, they will offer at public sale a fine line of horses, cattle and farm implements. They are all possessors of automobiles.

Some people are born mean, while others thrust themselves into mean ways. Shakespeare said that some men live with such volatility that you would think truth a fool. Isn't it rather strange that any one should be born a liar? Yet it is so. The literary world is full of falsehoods. Even nursery books, which are filled with admonitions against the sin of lying, abound in fairy stories, romance and tales, in none of which is there a particle of truth, except as they portray nature. There is no fact in fiction yet there may be a good deal of truth; and so there should be clear distinction drawn between romance and fiction, falsehood and lying. Some people's lives are lies from beginning to ending. One may make a false statement unintentionally; that is not a lie. It has been held by some very good people, such as bishops, prelates and standard moralists, that there may be occasions when men are justified in telling a falsehood. When the false statement would be of great advantage to the one making it, and of no disadvantage to others.

Our Junior club of the Methodist church has been very busy during the holiday season in entertaining the older class of the community, the ones who unfortunately were, through physical ailments, unable to attend church services—Mrs. Kepler, the mother of our efficient minister, engineered the worthy project. They set up a very handsome Christmas tree; two young ladies of the club led the procession, followed by sixteen of the club membership, then, after entering the home, they placed the tree on the table, after which this program was carried out: First, Mrs. Kepler, who by the way is a superb musician, joined by Miss Helen Schreffer, rendered a beautiful solo, after which Mrs. Kepler had the club chant the Lord's prayer; following the club sang the beautiful rendition of "Love Divine," and closed with the familiar hymn, "Silent Night." During the exercises Mrs. Kepler read selections from the scripture, first from Isaiah, next a paragraph from St. Luke, closing with the 5th chapter of Revelation, after which all repaired to their homes. These services were conducted at 4 p. m. each day; the tree was left at each house visited twenty-four hours, not removing same until 4 p. m. the following day. The entertainment was very commendable and enjoyed hugely by all interested.

LEMONT.

John Lee, who has built a new house near town, has moved his family there.

Mrs. M. A. Williams has been on the sick list of late, but is somewhat better now.

Prof. R. U. Wasson spent the Christmas vacation among friends in these parts.

The venerable Robert Jackson is quite ill at this writing, incident to his advanced age.

There will be some big changes among the farming people in these parts in the spring.

J. Ed Williams, who was hurt by a horse in the fall, is able to be around again, but still limps.

The Christmas entertainments are all over and every one has settled down to solid work again.

The Centre Furnace school, which has been closed on account of chicken pox, was opened again on Monday.

The fine rain Sunday night was certainly needed to raise the waters. The Oak Hall roller mills could be run but part time owing to low water in Spring creek.

The two young men who have taken over the Hoy garage are busy taking care of the work that is coming to them, and they are doing their best to please all patrons.

The United Brethren congregation of Houserville held an old-fashioned watch meeting Sunday night, which was well attended, and all could not help but get much good from the services.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

CASTORIA

Bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. In use for over thirty years, and The Kind You Have Always Bought.

INTERMARRIAGE.

By L. A. Miller.

"May I marry my cousin?"

A young lady who is in love with her cousin propounded the above query to the writer recently.

One does not care to assume the grave responsibility of advising anyone to marry or not to marry, because there is a possibility of the union turning out badly. If it does, the blame is thrown entirely upon the advisor; but, if it pans out all right, the advisor gets no credit. It is better, therefore, to recite the facts bearing on the case, and leave each individual to draw his or her own conclusions, and act accordingly. This places the responsibility where it belongs, and where it will do the most good.

The history of marriage affords very interesting reading for all classes, but it leaves the reader rather mixed as to what is right, or why certain customs are held to be binding. Polygamy, polyandry and exogamy have each been practiced under the sanction of sacred laws. They each appear to have been necessary at the time they were in vogue, consequently must have been proper. In some ages of the world there were more women than men. Then polygamy—plurality of wives—was considered necessary. In other ages there were more men than women. Then polyandry—plurality of husbands—was held to be proper. Exogamy was practiced extensively in Asiatic countries, and among some Indian tribes in America. It simply means to marry outside of the family, or tribe.

The Arab tribes, who practiced it, required their men to capture their wives from other tribes. There was a motive behind this of which the people themselves were not aware. It may seem odd that one can have a motive and not know it. Of course it is not an individual motive, but the motive which prompts communities and nations to do that which is eventually for their great good. There was little sociability between tribes and clans in ancient days. They fought to gain the ground they occupied and fought to maintain it.

Every man's hand was against every other man's and there was little or no intercourse between tribes. Many of these clans were small, probably made up of one family. There was nothing left for them to do but to intermarry or steal their wives. They may not have known anything about the laws of consanguinity, yet in the observance of a savage custom they kept them. The scarcity of men, whereby polygamy was rendered necessary, is accounted for by the destruction of character of the wars between tribes and communities, but the scarcity of women, whereby polyandry became necessary, can only be accounted for by the habit of killing off female infants. This is practiced yet in portions of China and some of the Asiatic countries. They were considered burthensome and expensive, while men were useful to fight and hunt. The first form of marriage of which history gives any account was known among the Arabs as "Matt, a marriage," a temporary arrangement for a fixed time. Mahomed relates that he had great difficulty in doing away with this custom.

In many parts of China, Japan and India the custom still prevails, but somewhat modified. If the man does not like the woman at the end of a certain time he need not marry her, but, if he does, they are then formally married, whether she is suited or not. Next following "Matt's marriages," were "Beena marriages," in which the man went to live with his wife's people. In this form of marriage kinship was only counted through the mother, because it was a form of polyandry in which a woman might have several husbands, each from a different tribe. The effect of this was to unite the different tribes by establishing a blood relationship between them. The people may not have been aware of this, yet it did it, and it was the first step towards uniting these tribes into one nation with common blood.

The next step was "Baal marriage," or Tibetan polyandry, in which the wife was taken to the home of her lord and master, or masters, as it was not uncommon for all the brothers in a family to have one wife in common.

It was then that kinship began to be traced through the male side of the family. If there were no brothers, members of the same tribe were permitted to marry her.

In all these forms of early marriage there seems to have been an instinctive avoidance of marriage between relatives. The men made it a rule to secure wives from different tribes. Sometimes they were ostensibly prompted to this by the fame it gave them to capture women from distant or powerful tribes. At other times it was held to be chivalrous to steal a woman away from her home and people. When a tribe guarded a woman so closely as to prevent capture, other tribes would unite against it and take all of the unmarried ones for slaves, in order to prevent their daughters from being distinguished from the married women.

The Arabs established the custom of veiling all the women after the same fashion. This custom is continued to the present time. The result of it all, however, was to unite the tribes into nations, and to change patriarchal into monarchical government.

Thus it will be seen that marriage has been subject to evolution; and what a wonderful degree of the "eternal fitness" is shown in it. What to us would seem inhuman and brutal, proves to have been the most effective means of accomplishing ends great beyond the conception or even the wildest fancy of those who established and practiced them.

Is it not rather singular that none of these systems made intermarriage necessary? They were such as to more effectively prevent in them even the strictest law against it. The leading characters in Bible history ap-

pear to have followed the custom of getting their wives from a tribe other than the one to which they belonged, while the earliest history shows that the capture of women was one of the main objects of wars.

The law of Moses, as laid down in Leviticus, eighteenth chapter, is clear and explicit, and conforms closely to the laws of nature, is shown in the customs of more intelligent classes, who were largely controlled by that intangible and indescribable force known as instinct. Those who are curious on this subject can do no better than to read carefully and understandingly, the law of Moses in relation to other facts, that this law was observed, in the main, by tribes who probably knew nothing of Moses or his law. Also, that all nations, even savages, observe the same law now, but not strictly. Scientists of all schools acknowledge it to be a natural law which cannot be violated without suffering a penalty more or less severe. The only conclusion that we can draw from nature is that consanguineous marriages are violations of fixed laws. These laws not only apply to the human family, but to all conditions of animal and vegetable life.

The horticulturist has studied them until he is able to dwarf any species of trees or plants, and so weaken their vitality that they are utterly incapable of reproducing their kind. The Chinese, by long years of patient watching and care, have succeeded in growing oaks no taller than a man. Florists have reduced the larger flowering bushes to tiny sprigs; have changed the color and general appearance of various species of flowers until they can only be recognized by the more expert botanist. These results are all obtained by persistent violations of the fixed laws of nature.

The marriage problem is a peculiar one. It might be likened to a lottery; if it pans out all right, happiness prevails; if it proves a misfit or a failure the devil's to pay without resources to liquidate.

BOALSBURG.

Dr. Ham went to Boston last week.

Miss Maude Musser, of the Branch, was a caller in town on Friday.

Miss Ida Segner spent Saturday at the Tibbens home at Pleasant Gap.

Mrs. George Fisher is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism.

Miss Margaret Ferree, primary teacher, enjoyed a visit with friends in Harrisburg.

Messrs. Jerry Dunkelbarger and Fred Reitz left on New Year's day for a trip to Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Emma Stuart went to Pittsburgh on Saturday, expecting to spend the winter with her sons.

Miss Warwick, teacher in the grammar school, spent her vacation with a cousin, at Toronto, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Keller Snyder, newlyweds, of the Branch, recently visited at the home of D. M. Snyder.

Miss Flora Snyder visited her sister, Mrs. James Houtz, at Lemont, from Wednesday until Friday.

Mrs. William Reish and two children spent several days at the home of Mrs. Vera Homan, at State College.

Mrs. Charles Segner and daughters, Misses Ida and Mary, and Miss Beulah Fortney, spent Tuesday in Bellefonte.

William Stuart and family are occupying their new farm residence, although the interior is not yet completed.

Col. Theodore Davis Boal entertained his employees at a Christmas party and buffet supper on Christmas evening.

Prof. Kauffman returned Monday evening, after spending the Christmas vacation with his family at Trenton, N. J.

Miss Dorothy Odenkirk, of Centre Hall, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meyer from Saturday until Monday.

Mrs. John Harkins and sons, of State College, spent several days with Mrs. Harkins' parents, Rev. and Mrs. William Wagner.

Mr. and Mrs. George Garman enjoyed a week's visit with their parents and friends at Harrisburg and New Cumberland.

Miss Dolly Lonebarger, of Vienna, Va., returned to her home on Monday after a visit of ten days with her brother, P. B. Lonebarger.

Charles Hosterman, of Greensburg, and Albert Meyer, of Pittsburgh, enjoyed a few days' visit in their home town during the Christmas season.

Robert Reitz, forester at Charter Oak, with Mrs. Reitz and son Henry, are at the home of Henry Reitz Sr., where they expect to reside until spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Floray, of Colyer, have started housekeeping in the Lucas house, on west Main street. Mr. Floray is employed by F. M. Charles, the plumber.

Mrs. Charles Mothersbaugh and son Charles, and Mrs. George Homan and daughter Marjorie, enjoyed a day's visit at the home of Earl Ross, near Linden Hall.

Mrs. Catherman and son, Charles Wesley, of Spring Mills, and Miss Geraldine Hackenberg, of Rebersburg, were visitors at the home of A. J. Hazel last week.

Prof. William Hoffman, wife and daughter Mary, spent a short time in Lancaster and on their return took rooms at State College, where they will remain until spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Kuhn and daughter, Miss Mildred, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kuhn and baby Margaret, of Williamsport, enjoyed a short Christmas visit with friends in town.

Prof. Cyril Zechman, of Avonlea; Fred Brouse, of Harrisburg; Fred Ishler, of Islen; Prof. Cyrus Wagner, of Altoona; W. R. Ishler, of Bellefonte; and John Wagner, of Gettysburg Theological Seminary, spent the Holiday season with their parents and friends in town.

AARONSBURG.

The Misses Laura Johnson and Ruth Winkleblech spent a few days in Lewisburg, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roth.

After a long silence the writer extends best wishes to the "Watchman" and all its readers for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Miss Lizzie Yarger, of State College, spent two weeks with her sisters, Mrs. A. S. Stover, in this village, and Mrs. Carrie Smith, of Millheim.

Miss Lois Cunningham, who is teaching in the public schools near Riverside, Pa., spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Cunningham.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Henry, of Milroy, (at the home of Mrs. Henry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. King), December 20th, a daughter, Pauline Mabel.

James H. Musser, who is employed in Burnham, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Musser. He returned to his employment Wednesday, the 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. George Weaver spent Saturday in Coburn, where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Meyer, who gave a family dinner. This is an annual occurrence among the family for one or the other to entertain, and this year Mrs. Meyer had the honor and pleasure to do so.

Fred Wolfe, of Akron, Ohio, spent Christmas with his father, C. W. Wolfe. Carl Stover, also of Akron, spent Christmas at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stover. Ammon Steffen, of Bellevue, Ohio, is also spending some time with his father, Henry Steffen, and sisters, Miss Sallie, and Mrs. Anna Gest.

Sunday night the inhabitants of our quiet and clean little village were pleased to hear the welcome patter of rain drops, which fell quite freely, in consequence of which the water supply has been greatly increased. A number of families living on 2nd street and above that street carried and hauled water for some time. We often hear the old saying "you never miss the water 'till the well runs dry," which has been proven here at this time. This is the first time known when water has been so scarce in this place.

Gallantry.

A young soldier from the backwoods section had been invited to a military dance and was frankly horrified at the up-to-date ways of the young women. His partner, after spending half of the dance in agony over his awkwardness, suggested that they sit out the other half of the dance, and led him to the veranda. There she drew out a gold cigarette case and remarked: "Of course, you don't mind girls smoking?"

The young soldier determined to be just as modern as she. "Lady," he retorted, "I don't give a hoot if you chew."—William W. Wendt in Judge.

MEDICAL.

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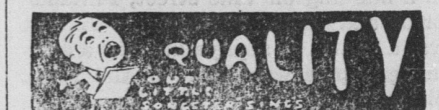
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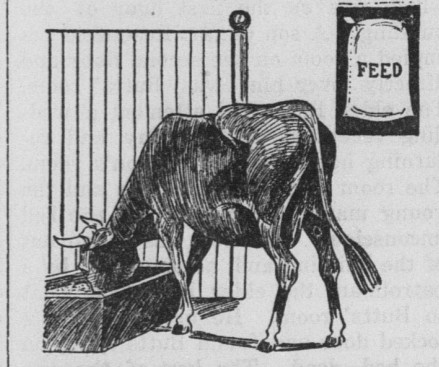
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