

Country Correspondence

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

PINE GROVE MENTION.

Mrs. C. H. Struble is visiting relatives and old friends at Lewisburg. Mrs. A. F. Goss spent last week at the Philip Beizer home in Bellefonte. The farmers picnic held last Saturday at Pine Hall was fairly well attended. Miss Etha Ward, of State College, spent Sunday among friends in town. LeRoy Trostle and little family enjoyed a Sunday outing at Paw Paw park.

Our town was very quiet on Labor day, most of our people being at work.

D. W. Thomas and E. Shoemaker left last week on a trip to Niagara Falls and Canada.

Miss Maggie Reed, who recently suffered a partial stroke of paralysis, is somewhat improved.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ward, of Beaver, spent the early part of the week at the W. B. Ward home.

Charles Ward and wife, of Washington, Pa., spent last week among their numerous friends here.

Miss Mollie Hoffer, of State College, was an over Sunday visitor at the Prof. A. L. Bowersox home.

Dallas Morrison, who underwent an operation at the Bellefonte hospital last week, is convalescing nicely.

Mrs. Clair McAlmarney and daughter Ruth, of Altoona, spent Labor day with Rev. and Mrs. J. W. McAlmarney.

J. D. Neidigh, farmer, grain merchant, school director and road supervisor, is housed up with a bilious attack.

The venerable Daniel Kustaborder, of Warriorsburg, is spending some time with his son James, on the Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Shadrack S. Wilson, of Altoona, visited the M. E. Johnson family and other friends early in the week.

Almost one hundred members of the McBeth clan attended the family reunion held at Stevens park, Tyrone, last Saturday.

Miss Alice Bowersox, of Philadelphia, has been spending a portion of her vacation among relatives and friends in the valley.

Mrs. Mary Ard, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Pearl O'Brien, of Axe Mann, were callers at the C. M. Dale home on Monday afternoon.

John Keller and wife attended the funeral of Mrs. Keller's brother, Mr. Rudy, which was held at McAlevey's Port on Monday morning.

In the afternoon Pine Grove defeated the Baileyville ball team by the score of 10 to 9. A festival in the evening was also a success.

Ernest Johnson and wife and James Johnson motored up from Philadelphia last Friday and remained over Labor day at the Joe Johnson home.

Charles Smith and wife are at Milwaukee, Wis., attending the 5th annual encampment of the G. A. R., in session there from September 2nd to 7th.

John and Henry McWilliams and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Hess were in Bellefonte last Saturday visiting Mrs. N. E. Hess, a patient in the Bellefonte hospital.

Another ball game has been scheduled between the stick artists of Dudley and the Pine Grove ball team, to be played in the near future on Bailey field.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lytle, of Bellefonte, spent a portion of last week among relatives in the valley. Frank is an old Pine Grove Mills boy but is now a successful contractor in Bellefonte.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fleming, W. A. Collins and J. D. Tanyer, took a motor trip through the Kishacoquillas valley on Sunday, returning home by way of Huntingdon and Spruce Creek.

Capt. "Dick" Taylor was here last Saturday in the interest of his candidacy for sheriff, and met with much encouragement. John Searly was also here looking up his chances for county commissioner.

Dr. B. Franklin Bowersox and wife, of Millheim, motored up on Sunday and spent the day at the Prof. A. L. Bowersox home, bringing with them the latter's daughter Pearl, who was delighted with her visit in Millheim.

Squire James W. Swabb, of Linden

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

DAT 'AR COLLECTUH 'LOW SOME FOLKS KEEPS EVY-THING DEY GOT CEP'N THEY PROMISE 'EN DAT AIN' WUTH NOTHIN'!!



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Hall, spent Labor day in this vicinity canvassing his chances for the nomination for county commissioner on the Democratic ticket. Over half a century ago the writer boosted his father, George Swabb, for the same office and he was elected.

A seven passenger Hudson car was wrecked at the Strouse hill, near Pine Hall, on Monday evening. Speeding was the cause of the wreck, it is alleged. One young lady was badly injured and was sent to the Bellefonte hospital. The other occupants escaped with slight cuts and bruises. Another wreck occurred at the same place Monday night, as the badly damaged car was still there on Tuesday morning.

While motoring through the Glades on Sunday morning, on the way to fill his appointments on the western end of his charge, a big car passed Rev. McAlmarney and turned so short in front of him that it damaged one fender and an oil cup. Another car coming along right afterward rubbed fenders with the preacher's car. The driver of the car that caused the damage claimed that a loose stone in the road caused his car to swerve. He told Rev. McAlmarney to have repairs made and he would pay for them. The reverend gentleman had temporary repairs made at Rock Springs then proceeded on his way and filled three appointments.

PLEASANT GAP.

Our public schools will open on Monday next—a relief for weary mothers.

Mrs. John Tate, of the Gap, was stricken with paralysis a few days ago, and is seriously ill.

Mrs. Collins Baumgardner, who is tenting at the Grange picnic, suffered a stroke of paralysis on Monday.

Charles McCafferty, of Bradford, sold his tract of land adjacent to the old toll gate at Prossertown, a few days ago to ex-county commissioner D. A. Grove. The tract contained 32 acres, more or less.

Harry Corl, of Trafford City, accompanied by his wife, are spending a brief vacation with mother Elizabeth Bilger. Mr. Corl is making a re-visit of the properties recently acquired by him at the Gap.

Pleasant Gap was well represented at Altoona on Labor day. Among those who took in the sights were William H. Noll Jr., Ray Noll and Paul Keller. The postponement of the races was a great disappointment.

Little Miss Lois Crissman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Crissman, spent a two week's vacation visiting friends at State College. The youngster is unusually bright and intelligent for one of her age. She passed a very creditable examination for entrance into the High school. The young lady will proceed forthwith to enter the Bellefonte High school, and will unquestionably make good, which will be highly appreciated by her numerous friends here.

The politicians are growing more active from day to day. A strong effort is being made to get out as good a vote as possible for the coming primaries. Somehow, so many of the voters seem luke-warm and unconcerned. They regard the primaries as of little consequence, which is a serious mistake. Better go up to the primaries and vote, and stop growling after the result is announced. Our district has 316 registered men and 245 women, a total of 561. It is doubtful if twenty per cent. will report at the polls.

Raymond Melroy and wife, accompanied by Dr. Langly and wife, of Williamsport, have been enjoying the vacation of their lives the past fifteen days. They first took in the Elk's convention at Erie, from there going to Toronto, Canada, taking in an extensive boating trip. From there they went to the Thousand Islands, taking in the exposition, which is in full blast. Their next stop was Altoona, on Labor day, arriving home on Tuesday. Mr. Melroy is a commercial tourist, representing three extensive wholesale corporations. Owing to his unusual activities on the road he will no doubt be greatly benefited physically after this extensive swinging around the circle.

The arctic coal agitation seems to be worrying a multitude of the consumers of the country. So far as Pleasant Gap is concerned, the people look at the situation as of little magnitude from the fact that for the past five years not one load of marketable coal reached the Gap. We paid for more cinder than coal; were swindled outright. No reflection on our dealers. They did their best to accommodate their patrons. We can get good bituminous and cannel coal that burns besides we can get all the wood, good hard wood as Greensvalley can supply us for years to come; so there is no cause for alarm. No difference to us whether the mines are closed or not. We are through using anthracite, we have been imposed on long enough. If the miners and operators insist on cutting their own throats let them go to it. One thing that our people are sore over is his Excellency's course in proposing an increase to miners. They look upon the proposition as injudicious and idiotic; this is no time to increase wages. We are on the downward grade.

AARONSBURG.

Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Corman, of Cresona, who are spending their vacation with their parents and friends in this valley, spent Friday evening at the Reformed parsonage in Aaronsburg.

Rev. C. F. Catherman, who was successful in competing with Rev. C. B. Snyder, was the winner of the quiet pitching contest at the ministerial picnic last week, because the latter had eliminated the other ministers in the preceding games.

The following persons from Pennsylvania were present at the sesquicentennial of the founding of the old Buffalo Presbyterian church, at Buffalo Cross Roads, last Thursday: Miss Mazie and Mr. John Forster, and Rev. John S. Hollenbach, of Aaronsburg.

—For all the news you should read the "Watchman."

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE.

By L. A. Miller.

By special request I will endeavor to give my view on an unsolved topic, "The Mystery of Life." A devoted, energetic Methodist minister, who is now retired after a continuous service of fifty years in the pulpit, and who asserts that he has made the subject of the "Mystery of Life" a thorough study, from the time he entered the ministry until his retirement, admits that he is today no nearer an intelligent solution than when he first tackled this perplexing proposition, so I fear I will be unable to enlighten him perceptibly on the subject. One thing is certain, I would rather write a column on any one word in Webster's Unabridged dictionary than to write on this subject. However, I will do the best I can on this embarrassing subject. So here I go.

There are mysteries and mysteries, but the greatest of these is life. Were it traced to its source the mysteries of the universe would all disappear. So subtle is this mystery that it defies the wisdom of the philosopher, the skill of the alchemist and the acumen of the naturalist. So subtle, indeed, that not even one of its elements has been discovered.

The only clue we have to it is that given by God Himself, when making a covenant with Noah: "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat."

The scientist has sought, with the aid of the most powerful microscope and most subtle chemical agents, to discover the elements of life in the blood. When it was found that the blood was composed of innumerable cells or corpuscles, it was thought that possibly a lead had been struck, which if closely followed, would reveal the mystery.

More powerful lenses were brought to bear, but they only rendered the mystery more mysterious still. Each cell was found to be composed of other cells and infinitum. The scientist abandoned the search in this direction, amazed and more deeply puzzled than when he was only able to see the red globules, or discs, in close contact with each other, moving along in thread-like lines.

The most that has been revealed in scientific research is that under certain conditions the continuity of these lines is broken, the discs become flattened and lose their color. When this is the case there is an appreciable lack of vitality in the body, the functions of the mind are weakened or disturbed, and death may result, as if from starvation. When color and form have been restored to the discs vitality is renewed, and health again returns. Even the phenomena of life is a puzzle. Its phases are endless, and what man calls the laws of life are far from being as the laws of the Medes and Persians. That which apparently suits one is entirely unsuited to another.

These are laws of health, that are well established, but laws of life, beyond simply calling into existence the material body which it inhabits, are mere theories. There seems to be, somewhere, a great source of life from which all animal matter draws its supply. The theory that the sun is this source is strongly maintained by some scientists. They hold that life is nothing more than a form of radiant energy, similar to light and heat. It is generally conceded that the manifestations of solar energy depend entirely upon the elements with which it comes in contact. Passing through dense, dry atmosphere it produces heat and light; being absorbed by certain earthy elements it provides different colors and qualities of animal matter.

This theory of life is not well founded. In fact not founded at all. It is simply the result of efforts to explain the mystery of life, nothing more. The reasoning is from effect to cause, which, in a majority of instances, is not reliable. Life, it seems, therefore there is a cause for it, seems to have been considered sufficient for all human purposes to know that it exists. It was a reality and was no doubt given for a purpose.

Man was entrusted with its control to a certain extent. If he tires of it he can shut it off, and it ceases as far as he is concerned. In so doing does he simply shut off the flow from the great reservoir or does he destroy the portion given him? When he shuts off the sun's energy, as manifested in light, he is blind; as manifested in heat, he becomes insensible from cold. He does not destroy a particle of the sun's energy, however, so it may be with life, or vital energy.

Our life is but a winter day. Some only breakfast and away; Others to dinner stay And are full fed; The oldest man but sips And goes to bed. Large is his debt that lingers out the day; He that goeth soonest Has the least to pay. —An Old Epitaph.

Why the course of life should be likened unto a winter day rather than a summer day, is not clear, unless those who so liken have spent their lives to no purpose. Or why should man bemoan his existence and cry out "O! Why was I born." Such men are usually suffering from the effects of their wrong doings. Those who have easy consciences are not inclined to despondency. Why should man be unhappy? Is not the earth at his command?

Has not the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, the fishes of the sea been placed in subjection to him, and given him as servants? Has he not the privilege of digging down into the bowels of the earth, if they contain ought that he wants? Do not the rains come in season and the sun shine to make the land yield him comfort? The winds and lightning are at his command, and yet he wants more.

The fact that he wants more is evidence that he is higher than the mere animal; that he is possessed of a nature that cannot be satisfied with material food. The insect world serves as food for a higher order, and that order for a still higher, and so on until the highest orders are reached. They yield food, raiment, and service to man. Is that the end? Was the world created merely that he might have a place in which to live and die? Were it so, man, like the animals,

would be satisfied with his lot, and like them, live an aimless life and have no care for the future. The physical life of man is much the same as that of animals, but to it is added the elements of intelligence and reason.

These elements have an origin as well as the lower elements. Being immaterial their origin is enshrouded in the same mystery that hides from view the source of life. The view of these mysteries is not shut off as a veil, but like the stars beyond the boundaries of sight, are invisible because of their distance from the material world. Is it not possible that these higher elements of man pass on to a higher state and finally culminate in a perfect intelligence, just as all vegetable and animal life culminate in man; the first in the line of reasoning beings. Clouds change to drops of rain and thus find their way through rivulets, creeks and rivers to the ocean, and back to the cloud again. Thus from ocean to cloud, and cloud to ocean, in one ceaseless, endless round do moisture move. The vegetable world repeats itself from day to day year by year or age by age. The animal lives its few days and dies. Its body goes back to earth and feeds vegetation which in turn feeds other animals. Thus does the animal world follow round and round in course commensurate with the cycles of time. Does man move thus?

As far as his material parts are concerned, he does. What of man's intelligence? Does it, like the ocean, return to formless ether to be again distilled and sent back to earth to vitalize another form? Such was the notion of ancient sages, and even yet there are adherents to the doctrine of metempsychosis.

Is it not more probable that, having passed the chrysalis stage, leaving to decay the mortal coil in which it has been nurtured and developed, the intellectual nature will enter a higher sphere? Some such impression is common to man in all stages of his life on earth. On, from sphere to sphere he may go until the source of life is reached or its mystery revealed. The passing away of a man, no matter how great in the estimation of the world, no more disturbs the even tenor of nature, than the falling of a leaf. In the social world the death of a good man is lamented. His personal influence is missed during his succeeding generations is to leave his name, the mention of which will recall deeds of virtue. It is not the death of a man that yields the good results, but his life.

BOALSBURG.

Miss Vera Brungard, of Washington, D. C. is visiting her aunt, Mrs. William Meyer.

Miss Gladys Hazel went to Petersburg to engage in teaching in the vocational school.

Dr. Ham and A. E. Gingrich returned Tuesday from an enjoyable motor trip to Maine.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Meyer are enjoying the comforts of home, having returned Tuesday evening from their trip to the coast.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Stuart and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. David Stuart returned to their homes in Crafton on Tuesday morning.

Prof. and Mrs. E. H. Meyer and daughters, Misses Elizabeth and Loraine, started early Monday morning for their return drive to their home in Newark, N. J.

Prof. Hoffman and family moved to State College on Saturday. Prof. Hoffman has been appointed registrar and thought it advisable to reside in the college town.

Boalsburg was well represented at the auto races at Tipton park, and at Grange encampment, at Centre Hall. A number of families are spending the week at Grange park.

Postmaster and Mrs. Jacob Meyer are entertaining their son, Christ Meyer, wife, daughter and son, who

motored from Medina, N. Y., on Sunday. Mr. Berry was also a member of the party.

JACKSONVILLE.

Guyert Ertley was a business visitor in Bellefonte the early part of the week.

Miss Pearl Weaver spent Sunday with her friend, Miss Kathryn Swoope.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Weill were Sunday visitors at the William Weaver home.

Lester and Lewis Garbrick, of Centre Hall, were callers with friends in the valley on Sunday.

Mrs. Joseph Neff returned home last week after a delightful visit with friends at State College.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Daily, of Altoona, were over Sunday visitors at the George Ertley home.

Mrs. Leon Monteith and two children were guests at the Clyde Yearick home, at Hublersburg, last week.

So many people from hereabouts are attending the Grange encampment and fair that church services were poorly attended on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beatty, of Blanchard, were callers at the William Weaver home on Sunday evening.

The festival at this place on Saturday evening did not draw as large a crowd as usual, owing no doubt, to the fact that it had not been widely advertised, but at that the sum of ninety dollars was realized.

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