

The Columbian.

VOL. 1, NO. 71.

BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1867.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

HOTELS AND SALOONS.

LONDON HOTEL.

Is established in the best location, and is the most comfortable and convenient for the traveler. It is situated in the heart of the city, and is within easy reach of all the principal places of interest. The hotel is well furnished, and the service is of the highest quality. The price is very reasonable, and the food is excellent.

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THE YANKEE PEDDLER.

There is a sheriff residing in Illinois, who was "taken in and done for" on one occasion. He made it a prominent part of his business to ferret out and punish peddlers for travelling through the State without a license; but one morning he met his match in the person of a genuine Yankee peddler.

"What have you got to sell—anything?" asked the sheriff.

"Yas, sartin; what I've got? Got razors, fut! that's an article you need, squire, I should say by the looks of your beard. Got good blackin; 'twill make them old boots of yours shine so!"

"And so he rattled on. At length the sheriff bought a bottle of the balm of Columbia, and in reply to the question whether he wanted anything else, that functionary said he did—he wanted to see the Yankee's license for peddling in Illinois, that being his duty as sheriff."

The Yankee showed him a document fixed up good and strong, in black and white. The sheriff looked at it and pronounced it all right. Then handing back the bottle to the peddler, he said:

"I don't think, now that I've bought this stuff, I shall ever want it. I reckon I might as well sell it back to you. What will you give for it?"

"O, the darn stuff is no use to me, but seem' it's your, sheriff, I'll give you twenty-five cents for it, if you really don't want it."

The sheriff handed over the bottle at the large discount from his own purchase and received his change.

"Now," said the peddler, "I've got a question to ask you. Have you got any peddler's license about your trousers anywhere?"

"No; I hav'nt any use for the article, myself," replied the sheriff.

"Hain't eh? Wal, I guess we'll see about that, poaty darn soon. Ef I understand the law, it's a clear case that you've been tradin' with me—hawkin' and peddlin' balm of Columbia on the highway—I'll inform on you—darn'd if I don't now!"

The Yankee was as good as his word. When he reached the next village he made his complaint, and the sheriff was fined eight dollars for selling without a license.

He was heard afterwards to say, that "you might as well try to hold a greased eel as a live Yankee."

SLEEPING IN MEETING.

HERE is a picture that might have been painted by the pen of Dickens: "In what other painful event of life has a good man so little sympathy as when overcome with sleep in meeting time? Against the insidious deduction he arrays every conceivable resistance. He stands up awhile; he pinches himself; he pricks himself with pins. He looks up helplessly to the pulpit, as if some scorn might possibly come thence. He crosses his legs uncomfortably and attempts to recite catechism or the multiplication table. He seizes a handkerchief, which treacherously leaves him a calm. He tries to reason, to notice the phenomena. Oh, that one could carry his pew to bed with him! What tossing wakefulness there! In his lawful bed a man cannot sleep, and in his pew he cannot keep awake! Happy man who does not sleep in church! Deacon Trowbridge was not that man. Deacon Marble was!"

Deacon Marble witnessed the conflict we have sketched above, and when good Mr. Trowbridge gave his next lurch, recovered himself with a snort, and then drew out a red handkerchief and blew his nose with a loud imitation as if to let the boys know that he had not been asleep, poor Deacon Marble was brought to a sore strait. But he had reason to think that he would have weathered the stress if it had not been for a sweet-faced little boy in front of the gallery. The lad had been innocently watching the same scene, and at its climax laughed out loud with a frank and musical explosion, and then suddenly disappeared backward into his mother's lap. That laugh was just too much, and Deacon Marble could no more help laughing than could Deacon Trowbridge help sleeping. For he could not control it. Though he coughed, and put up his handkerchief and hunched—it was a laugh—Deacon! and everybody in the house knew it, and liked you better for it—so inexpressible were they?"

ON one occasion as the Rev. Matthew Wilks, a celebrated London preacher, was on his way to a meeting of ministers, he got caught in a shower in the place called Billingsgate, where there were a large number of women dealing in fish, who were using most profane and vulgar language. As he stepped under a shed in the midst of them, he fell called upon to give at least his testimony against their wickedness.

"Don't you think," said he, speaking with the