THE COLUMBIAN,
(COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, STAR OF THE NORTH AND COLUMBIAN CONSOLIDATED.)
Issued weekly, every Friday morning, at BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA.
TWO DOLLARS per year, payable in advance, or during the year. After the expiration of the year $2.50 will be charged. To subscribers out of the county the terms are $2 per year, strictly in advance and $2.50 if not paid in advance and $3 if payment be delayed beyond the year.
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The Columbian.

C. R. BROCKWAY, | Editors and Proprietors.
E. E. ELWELL,

BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1877.

THE COLUMBIAN, VOL. XI, NO. 39
COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, VOL. XLII, NO. 27

Rates of Advertising.

SPACE.	1M.	2M.	3M.	6M.	1Y.
One inch	$2.00	$2.50	$3.00	$5.00	$8.00
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aug. 10, 77-tf

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March 26,'77—y

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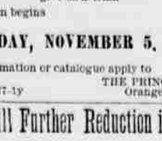

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April 27, '77-tf

Miscellaneous.

The Mule in History.

CONSIDERED FROM HISTORICAL AND OTHER STANDPOINTS—A HUMOROUS VIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHING TRAITS THAT HAVE MADE THIS UNIQUE ANIMAL FAMOUS.

The mule is the animal Noah didn't take into the ark with him. I have looked over the freight-list carefully, and could not see a mule way-billed for any place. So clear-headed a man as Noah did not dare to take one on board, as he knew he would kick a hole through the craft in less than a week. I don't know a man on whose head you could pour quicksilver and run less risk of its spilling off than Noah's. He was a dreadful level-headed man, and before the freshet was over everybody on earth realized the fact.

The origin of the mule is enveloped in a good deal of mystery. Tradition informs us that when the flood had subsided, and the ark had landed on Mount Ararat, Noah was very much surprised in one of his first observations to find a good healthy mule standing on an adjoining mountain. The same tradition informs us that the mule is the only animal that lived through the flood outside of the ark.

The mule can be considered in a good many ways, though the worst place from which to consider him is directly from behind, anywhere within a radius of ten feet. I never consider a mule from that point, unless I am looking through the flue of a boiler.

Sea captains and people who have to do with mules always pay an extra rate to life insurance companies. A mule and a belt of country where yellow fever is indigenous generally stand the same as regards the death rate.

The word mule comes from the Greek, and signifies "to stop," and the mule himself comes to a stop. Like multiplied by like produces like. Grasshoppers multiplied by grasshoppers produces famine, and potato bugs multiplied by potato bugs produce a rise in the price of yeast. But when you try to multiply mules by mules they don't multiply, and hence the word mule. You may study your arithmetic and read through all of Train's lectures, but you can't discover why this is so, any more than you can why a woman cannot put on a rubber without leaning up against something.

The mule has one more leg than a milking stool, and he can stand on one and wave the other three around in as many different directions. He has only three senses, hearing, seeing and smelling. He has no more sense of taste than a stone jug; and will eat anything that contains nutriment, and he don't care two cents whether it be one per cent. or ninety-nine. All he asks is to pass him along his plate, with whatever happens to be handy round the pantry, and he won't go away and blow how poor the steak is. He just eats whatever is set before him, and asks no questions.

Mules are naturally deaf, but that supreme wisdom that teaches a little boy to wipe his nose on his sleeve, has fitted the mule out with a pair of ears that counteracts its deafness, so he can hear as readily as a person when you don't want him to. These ears answer a double purpose, as tunnels to pour sound into his head, and also as fans to brush away the flies with and keep his head cool. They are hung by hinges to the side of his head, and flap backwards and forwards like a pair of wet trowsers round a boy's legs. In cold latitudes quite a tasty business is done in mule's ears. The ears are cut off and dried, and sold for snow shoes, and the snubs are trimmed up and the mules are sent South and sold for horses. In this way a great many fine horses were purchased for the army by the United States.

If I were to have a large picture of innocence to hang up in my parlor, and I did not wish to sit for myself, I should get a correct likeness of a mule. There is innocence enough depicted in a mule's countenance to fit out a Sunday-school class. It looks as guileless as an angle-worm.

A mule never grows old or dies. Once brought into existence, he continues on forever. The original mule is now alive somewhere in the South, and is named Robert Toombs, because he is so stubborn.

Mules are chiefly found in the South and West. They have been more abused than Judas Iscariot. A boy who would not throw a stone at a mule if he got a chance would be considered by his parents as too mean to raise.

The mule is a good worker, but he cannot be depended on. He is liable to strike, and when a mule strikes, human calculation fails to find out any rule by which to reckon when he will go to work again. It is useless to pound him for he will stand more beating than a sitting-room carpet. He has been known to stand eleven days in one spot, apparently thinking of something and then start off again as though nothing had happened.

Down South, when they have a surplus of small darkeys on the plantation, they send them out into the barnyard to play where there is a loose mule. They always bid them good-bye when they start out, for they are sure the parting will be final. This is the most economical style of funeral now in the market.

To fully appreciate the mule one should listen to his voice. You never can really know whether you like a mule or not till you have heard him sing. I attended a mule concert at Fort Snelling. The programme opened with a soprano solo, then swung into a duett, and then pranced off into a trio, followed up by a quartette, and ending with a full chorus by 150 mules. I didn't hear the whole thing, for when I came to, the regimental surgeon was standing over me, giving me powerful restoratives, and I heard him say that I might possibly get out again though I would never be a well man. I have been through the New York Stock Exchange, have spent part of a day in a boiler factory, and have been on one or two Sunday-school excursions for children; but I never knew what noise was until I heard a lot of army mules bray.

One of the dead certainties of a mule is that he is sure-footed, especially with his hind feet. He never misplaces them. If he advertises that his feet will be on a certain spot at a certain time, with a sample of mule shoes to which he would call your attention, you will always find them there at the appointed time. He is as reliable as the Day of Judgment, and never cancels an engagement. Every man now living who drove a mule team during the war now draws a pension.

I never owned a mule. I came near buying one once. He was a fine-looking animal; his ears stood up like the side spires on an Episcopal church. His tail was trimmed down so that it looked like a tar brush leaning up against him. He was striped off like the American flag, and Raphael's cherubs never looked more angelic than did that mule. He looked all innocence though he was in no sense. The owner sat in his wagon with his chin resting on his hand and his elbow resting on his knee. In the other hand he held a stick with the brad on the end of it. I examined the mule and asked the man a few questions, and out of mere form inquired if the mule was kind or if he kicked. "Kind? Kick?" said the man, and those were the last words he ever uttered. He reached his stick over the front of the wagon and stuck the brad into that mule. It was awful to see a man snuffed out as quickly as he was. It almost took my breath he went so suddenly. I never saw the thread of life snap so abruptly as it did on that occasion. He didn't have time to leave a message for his family. That mule simply ducked his head, and then a pair of heels flew out behind; there was a crash, a flying of splinters, and that was all; and the next moment that mule and I stood alone, my face covered with astonishment two feet deep, and his covered with an old bridle. The next day I read an account in the telegraphic news of a shower of flesh in Kentucky. I was the only man that could explain that phenomenon, and I did not dare to lest I should be implicated in the affair with the other mule.

I have seen death in many forms, but don't recollect of ever seeing a funeral gotten up with less pomp and display that on that occasion. If I had my choice, to either work in a nitro-glycerine factory or take care of a mule, I should go to the factory, as in case of any explosion, there would be more possibility of my friends finding some little mementoes of me, with which to assuage their grief. A very small piece of me would lighten a very big sorrow.

I will hunt round and if I find any other facts that belong to the mule I will write them down and send them to you by express C. O. D.—*Ex.*

Outwitting a Tyrant.

It was in the year 1848 that the leading citizens of the chief towns of the Lombardo-Venetian kindom avowed openly their detestation of Austria, and they only awaited a favorable opportunity to throw off the yoke. At one of the theatres of Venice, on a certain evening, a magnificent boquet was thrown upon the stage at the feet of a beautiful *danseuse*. It was a rare piece of workmanship, was the boquet, and its three colors, of red, white and green, were so arranged that the symbol of Italian Independence could not be mistaken. The *danseuse* picked it up and kissed it repeatedly, and pressed it rapturously to her bosom, while the vast audience applauded vociferously.

On the following morning the actress was summoned before the police authorities, and was sharply questioned touching her absurd treatment of the boquet which had been thrown to her on the previous evening. She tremblingly answered that she had only done as she always did when such beautiful tributes were given to her.

"Very well," said the Austrian chief; "hereafter, when a boquet is thrown to you thus publicly, you will trample upon it with your foot. Do you understand?"

She said she understood, and she was suffered to depart. She went to some of her friends and told them what had happened.

"Ah," said the artist, Antonio Luigi, "and you will trample upon it?"

"I must."

"Then I will see that you have the right kind. Be brave, pretty one, and we will win applause again. Wait."

That evening, when the favorite *danseuse* had acquitted herself grandly, a hugh boquet was thrown upon the stage, Mercy! what a boquet it was! A broad field of strange flowers, the only colors yellow and black—the Imperial Standard of Austria! There was no mistaking it.

"*Bestiaccia!*" (great ugly beast), said the actress, loud enough to be heard over the house. And then she jumped upon the yellow and black symbol, and trampled it heartily.

For a time it seemed as though the applause would shatter the building. The police saw, and took the hint, and did not venture to interfere further with the boquets of the bold and favorite *danseuse*.

An Old Sunday Law.

Very recently the District Commissioners at Washington, D.C., solicited proposals for the publication of the delinquent tax list. The *Sunday Herald* was the lowest bidder. Its competitors at once raised the issue that it being published exclusively on Sunday the work could not be legally given to it. Finally the matter was referred to the United States Solicitor General. He decided against the Sunday paper, basing his decision on an antiquated Maryland law, enacted in 1723, "in the ninth year of the Right Honorable Charles, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord of Baltimore." It is entitled "An Act to punish blasphemers, swearers, drunkards and Sabbath breakers," and among its penalties are the following:

A LEGAL RELIC OF LANG SYNE.

"If any person is found guilty, wittingly, maliciously, and advisedly of blaspheming or cursing God or of the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, or the Godhead or any of the three persons, or of the Unity of the Godhead, or shall utter any profane words concerning the Holy Trinity or any person thereof, either by verdict or conviction or confessing, shall for the first offense be bored through the tongue, and forfeit £20 sterling; for the second offense be branded with the letter "B," burned in the forehead, and forfeit £40 sterling, and for the third offense shall suffer death without the benefit of clergy."

It appears that this barbarous enactment is still in force in this District, or at least has never been paid. Its rigid enforcement would mutilate half the tongues in the District, and the other half would go about marked in the forehead like Cain, or a U. S. army deserter, and it is safe to predict that through the fines incurred we could entirely discharge the national indebtedness in one decade.

"Debt," says Billings, "is a trap which a man sets and bates himself, and then deliberately gets into."

Pompeii.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE EXCAVATIONS.

A correspondent of the London *Athenæum* writes from Naples as follows:

"A recent visit to Pompeii after a long interval enables me to give you new and interesting details of that remarkable locality. Let me caution, however, everyone against visiting it at midsummer, when the thermometer is at fever height, and the sun and Vesuvius unite their powers to scorch one. About two fifths of the city have already been disinterred, and the excavations are now being carried on by an average number of 100 men, toward the east and northeast. This part was my principal object, for with the other parts I was well acquainted, as are most of the of the readers of the *Athenæum*. Still, with a talkative guide by your side, some novelty en passant always presents itself. One must look in at the museum, where fresh bodies or their forms in plaster of Paris are constantly added. Years have passed since I was present at the first ingenious experiment which was made by the present senator Fiorelli to recover the forms at least of the dead, so that it is with no slight interest that I regard any progress, and considerable progress has been made in the mode of preservation. It often happens that from the superincumbent weight and other causes, the bones have been displaced—these are now removed from the debris as far as possible, so that the figure is not deformed by bones protruding from wrong places. This was first attempted in 1873, and has been continued ever since with great success. Perhaps the most beautiful figure in the collection is that of a young girl, exquisitely formed; she is lying on her face, while her hand was evidently attempting to cover her eyes. The folds of her dress, the very texture, and her hair, are all sharply defined. Near her lay, and lies, a man on his back, and by his side was, and is, an iron rod, four feet long, with which it is supposed he was forcing a rod. Close by is another female figure, with iron sandals attached to the feet, the bones of which are well preserved. Without lingering here any longer, however, let us pass on to the house in which an excavation was made in the spring, in honor of our princess. The objects found there and then, of no great value, were presented to her Royal Highness; they are an amphora, a necklace with eighty four pieces of coral, a mass of paint of yellow color, and a few other articles. In this house was a shop for 'warm drinks;' two or three good frescoes adorn the walls, and oil jars are sunk in marble slabs.

"That comparatively so little of the treasures of the Pompeiani is found is easily explained by the fact that the inhabitants, who escaped, and thieves broke into the houses, especially between the earthquake and the eruption, and carried off all articles of value. Most of the houses have indications of these visits in the modern masonwork which closes a hole. I am not aware that what are called the "water castles" have been sufficiently noted, perhaps for the reason that most have been carelessly destroyed. One however, has lately been discovered, and propped up and bound round with iron. They were buildings for supplying the neighboring houses with water. The top was a large vasca to which water was carried up by leaden pipes, a great number of which still lie under the level of the ground. By pipes the water was again distributed from house to house from the vasca. The Sarno, which supplied it, still runs underneath Pompeii, and its impurity is evident from the deposits which have been formed on the walls of the castle; its continual dropping has covered them with a king of stalactite. Further examination shows that these deposits correspond exactly with the stone with which a great part of Pompeii was built. The stone was brought from Sarno, on the river of the same name, which thus supplied the inhabitants with building material and drinking water.

"The spot on which excavations are actually carried on now is called the bathing establishment. It is an immense hall, and is still half full of pumice stone; but in the very centre of the mass, after many feet of soil had been removed, there were found, last month, four human skeletons, 'one of a woman, and by them were the following precious objects, which they were evidently carrying off. In gold, two necklaces, consisting of ninety four pieces, representing ivy leaves, two earrings, a chain with an emerald. In silver, two casseroles, a large looking glass, three vases, a ladle, six large spoons, sixteen smaller spoons, two forms for making pastry, like scallop shells, all are well preserved and highly decorated. They have been sent to the museum, but are not yet exhibited to the public.

"H. W."

A New Swindle.

A swindle was perpetrated in this vicinity last week which certainly has the mark of originality and newness, and as it was so successful, we give it publicity sh that other localities may be on their guard, as this one will no doubt be in the future. A couple of well dressed young men, with assumed business airs, had shipped to this place a lot of what they represented to be No. 1 mackrel, and with harse and wagon circulated throughout the town and county for the purpose of selling. Hard times, quick sales and small prefits was their motto, and $4.50 to $5 for ½ barrel kegs of mackerel No. 1 which they open for inspection, did not seem high. The bait took, and for a time the fish business was lively, the strangers having no difficulty in disposing of their cargo. So well pleased were they that they told their customers they intended coming back this week with a lot of beef, etc. They won't come. There was a good sized—frican in the wood pile, and he made his appearance after a few days.

We giue the experience of one of the victims, which we understand is that of all, so far as we have heard: "I opened dem fish and used dree messes, and dey was first rate. De next time dey tasted like straw; dem fish was bad and I wants no more; anybodies can hev dem, and dere was in dat keg a store bucketful of salt." A few fisd on top were first class, the balance of each keg composed of oil tainted mackerel well hidden in salt. To sum up, this victim had two kegs and a pile of salt in which he had invested $4, thinking he had about a half dollar's worth of good fish. There is a moral in this, viz: Patronize your own town merchants and leave strangers severely alone. —*Chambersburg Reporter.*

Playing Pedro for the Drinks.

A JUSTICE WHO WAS POSTED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SANCHO AND PLAIN.

A complicated pedro arbitration was settled in Justice Moses's Court the day before yesterday. Henry Krause was charged with having assaulted Patrick McGinlay in a saloon on B. street. The quarrel grew out of a game of pedro, for the drinks, and when the Judge saw what was coming he braced himself with a Revised Hoyle and Schenck's Commentaries, and prepared to wrestle with the entanglements of the case.

The prosecuting witness first took the stand, and said:

"Ye see, yer worship, we wor playin' pedhro for the drinks—"

The Court—Sancho or plain?

Witness—Just only plain pedhro, yer worship; the ould kind. I hed four to go, d'ye see?—and I gev him three, and he tuck wan exthra on the sly, and out I pitches a diamond for the trump—d'ye see, now Judge? Well, he lays down a shpade, and thin I plays a club—the tin spot it was, I belave—and him a shpade, and thin I threw away a four uv clubs, and he clappin on a five shpot o'clubs, mind ye, says: "Pedhro!" "Pedhro be damned!" (wid all respect to you Judge,) says I: "diamonds is the only thrump, and if it isn't you didn't folly suit," says I.

Attorney Stephens—Does the Court understand the game?

The Court (sharply)—When the Court desires any information of counsel it will ask for it.

Witness—Then he grabbed me and began shlammin' me on the flure—he tuk me be surprise, d'ye see, or I cud bate the head uv him, I cud. [In corroboration of this statement the witness spat on his hands, and rubbed them together ominously.]

The next witness was George Peters, who started off quite fluently to tell what he knew:

Witness—They was a playing seven-up for the drinks and McGinlay turned the jack, and as soon as Krause passed the pack he drew to ace high and got a pair of kings.

The Court—Hold on, sir. It seems to me you are getting this thing a little mixed. Shuffle up your ideas and give us a new deal.

Witness—Hearts was trumps—and then Krause turned a queen——

The Court—Step down, sir. You are evidently not a competent witness. [General laughter.]

Henry Krause was called for, and said:

I yoost tole you how it vas, Shutge. Ve vas blaying pedro—dot I