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 TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS 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 $3.00 if payment be delayed beyond the year.

No paper discontinued, except at the option of the proprietors, until all arrearages are paid, but long continued credits after the expiration of the first year will not be given.

All papers sent out of the State or to distant post offices must be paid for in advance, unless a responsible person in Columbia county assumes to pay the subscription due on demand.

POSTAGE is no longer exacted from subscribers in the county.

JOB PRINTING.

The Job Printing Department of THE COLUMBIAN is very complete, and our Job Printing will compare favorably with that of the large cities. All work done on short notice, and at moderate prices.

The Columbian.

C. R. BROCKWAY, G. E. ELWELL, } Editors and Proprietors.

BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1877.

THE COLUMBIAN, VOL. XI, NO. 48
COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, VOL. XLII, NO. 36

Rates of Advertising.

SPACE.	1W.	2W.	3M.	6M.	1Y.
One inch	$2.00	$2.50	$3.00	$5.00	$8.00
Two inches	3.00	4.00	5.00	8.00	12.00
Three inches	4.00	4.50	7.00	12.00	18.00
Four inches	5.00	7.00	9.00	13.00	20.00
Quarter column	6.00	8.00	10.00	15.00	25.00
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One column	20.00	25.00	30.00	50.00	100.00

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Legal advertisements two dollars per inch for three insertions, and at that rate for additional insertions without reference to length.

Executor's, Administrator's and Auditor's notices three dollars. Must be paid for when inserted.

Transient or Local notices, twenty cents a line, regular advertisements half rates.

Cards in the "Business Directory" column, one dollar per year for each line.

Columbia County Official Directory.

President Judge—William Elwell.
Associate Judges—I. E. Brockway, F. J. Rhone.
Prothonotary—W. M. Frank Karr.
[illegible]
Sheriff—John W. Hartman.
Clerk of Courts—Isaac Hevirt.
Treasurer—Dr. H. W. Mordemaide.
Commissioners—John Derstler, S. W. Mellenry, Simon Sands.
Clerk to Commissioners—William Kricklemire.
Auditors—J. F. Ent, Geo. E. Brown, [illegible]
Jury Commissioners—Jacob H. Fritz, William H. [illegible]
Coroner—Benjamin Best.
County Superintendent—William H. Snyder.
Directors of the Poor—Directors—H. S. Ent, Scott, Vice, Yoder, Bloomsburg and Thomas Foore, Secretary.

Bloomsburg Official Directory.

President of Town Council—D. Lowenberg.
Clerk—W. Navy.
Chief of Police—[illegible]
Assessor—[illegible]
Assistant Assessor—[illegible]
Collector—[illegible]
Town Treasurer—John A. Funk.
Trustees—[illegible]
Bloomsburg Bank—Charles S. Paxson, President.
[illegible]
Columbia Co. Building and Saving Fund and Loan Association—R. H. Little, President, C. W. Miller, Secretary.
Bloomsburg Building and Saving Fund Association—[illegible]
Columbia Co. Mutual Saving Fund Association—[illegible]
Beaver President—[illegible], Barkley, Secretary.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. A. P. Cox, in charge.
Preaching Services—10½ a. m. and 6½ p. m.
Sunday School—9 a. m.
Prayer Meeting—Every Wednesday evening at 6½ o'clock.
Seats free. The middle aisle pews are not to be rented.

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Minister—Rev. J. Becron.
Sunday Services—10½ a. m. and 6½ p. m.
Sunday School—9 a. m.
Prayer Meeting—Every Wednesday evening at 6½ o'clock.
Seats free. No pews rented. All are welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Minister—Rev. Stuart Mitchell.
Sunday Services—10½ a. m. and 6½ p. m.
Sunday School—9 a. m.
Prayer Meeting—Every Wednesday evening at 6½ o'clock.
Seats free. No pews rented. Strangers welcome.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Presiding Elder—Rev. N. S. Buckingham.
Minister—Rev. M. L. Smyser.
Sunday Services—10½ and 6½ p. m.
Sunday School—2 p. m.
Bible Class—Every Monday evening at 8½ o'clock.
Young Men's Prayer Meeting—Every Tuesday evening at 8½ o'clock.
General Prayer Meeting—Every Thursday evening 7 o'clock.

REFORMED CHURCH.

Corner of Third and Iron streets.
Pastor—Rev. G. D. Gring.
Residence—Central Hotel.
Sunday Services—10½ a. m. and 7 p. m.
Sunday School—9 a. m.
Prayer Meeting—Saturday, 7 p. m.
All are invited. There is always room.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

Rector—Rev. I. Zahner.
Sunday Services—10½ a. m., 7½ p. m.
Sunday School—9 a. m.
First Sunday in the month, Holy Communion. Services preparatory to Communion on Friday evening before the 1st Sunday in each month.
Pews rented; but everybody welcome.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Presiding Elder—Rev. A. L. Reeser.
Minister—Rev. J. A. Irvine.
Sunday Service—3 p. m., in the Iron Street Church.
Prayer Meeting—Every Sabbath at 2 p. m.
All are invited. All are welcome.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Meets in "the little Brick Church on the hill,"—known as the Welsh Baptist Church—on Rock street east of Iron.
Regular meeting for worship, every Lord's day afternoon at 3½ o'clock.
Seats free; and the public are cordially invited to attend.

BLOOMSBURG DIRECTORY.

SCHOOL ORDERS, blank, just printed and neatly bound in small books, on hand and for sale at the COLUMBIAN Office.

BLANK DEEDS, on Parchment and Linen Paper, common and for Administrators, Executors and trustees, for sale cheap at the COLUMBIAN office.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES just printed and for sale at the COLUMBIAN Office. Ministers of the Gospel and Justices should supply themselves with these necessary articles.

JUSTICES and Constables' Fee-Bills for sale at the COLUMBIAN office. They contain the corrected fees as established by the last Act of the Legislature upon the subject. Every Justice and Constable should have one.

VENDUE NOTES just printed and for sale cheap at the COLUMBIAN office.

CLOCKS, WATCHES, &C.

C. E. SAVAGE, Dealer in Clocks, Watches and Jewelry, Main st., just below the Central Hotel.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

C. G. BARKLEY, Attorney-at-Law. Office in Brower's building, 2nd story, Rooms 4 & 5.

DR. WM. M. REBER, Surgeon and Physician. Office S. E. corner Rock and Market streets.

J. R. EVANS, M. D., Surgeon and Physician, Office and Residence on Third street, corner Jefferson.

J. B. McKELVY, M. D., Surgeon and Physician, north side Main street, below Market.

J. B. ROBISON, Attorney-at-Law. Office in Hartman's building, Main street.

H. ROSENSTOCK, Photographer, over Clark & Wolf's Store, Main street.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DAVID LOWENBERG, Merchant Tailor Main St., above Central Hotel.

I. S. KUHN, dealer in Meat, Tallow, etc., Centre street, between Second and Third.

CATAWISSA.

WM. H. ABBOTT, Attorney-at-Law, Main street.

WM. L. EYERLY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Catawissa, Pa.
Collections promptly made and remitted. Office opposite Catawissa Deposit Bank. 6m-28

AUG. L. SAYR. JNO. E. FRYMIER. CHAS. S. EDWARDS.

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Office at Market street, No. 6, Bloomsburg, Pa.
oct. 26, '77-1y*

BUSINESS CARDS.

DR. J. C. RUTTER,
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON,
Office, North Market street,
Mar.27, 74— Bloomsburg, Pa.

E. E. ORVIS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
OFFICE—Room No. 1, "Columbian" Building.

SAMUEL KNORR,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
BLOOMSBURG, PA.
Office Hartman's Block, corner Main and Market Streets

S. P. FUNK. I. E. WALLER.
FUNK & WALLER,
Attorneys-at-Law,
BLOOMSBURG, PA.
Office in COLUMBIAN BUILDING. Jan. 19, '77-1y

DR. I. L. BARB,
PRACTICAL DENTIST,
Main Street, opposite Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg, Pa.
All Teeth extracted without pain.
[illegible]

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Members of the United States Law Association.
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ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
Bloomsburg, Pa.
Office on Main Street, first door below Court House

R. F. & J. M. CLARK,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Bloomsburg, Pa.
Office in Exchange Building.

F. P. BILLMEYER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Office—Adjoining C. R. & W. J. Buckalew.
Bloomsburg, Pa.

E. L. LITTLE. BOA'T. R. LITTLE.
E. H. & R. R. LITTLE,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
Bloomsburg, Pa.
[illegible] Business before the U. S. Patent Office attended to. Office in the Columbian Building.

HERVEY E. SMITH,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Office in A. J. EVAN'S NEW BUILDING,
BLOOMSBURG, PA.
Member of Commercial Law and Bank Collection Association. Oct. 14, '77-tf

WILLIAM BRYSON,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Centralia, Pa.
Feb 18, '76.

A. C. SMITH,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Office in "ENT BUILDING," Bloomsburg, Pa., near Court House.
aug. 10,'77-tf

C. W. MILLER,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Office in Brower's building, second floor, room No. 1. Bloomsburg, Pa.

MISCELLANEOUS.

W. HOWELL,
DENTIST.
Office in Hartman's Block, second floor, corner Main and Market Streets,
BLOOMSBURG, PA.
May 26—1y.

C. M. DRINKER, GUN and LOCKSMITH. Sewing Machines and Machinery of all kinds repaired. OPERA HOUSE Building, Bloomsburg, Pa.

EXECUTORS' NOTICE.
ESTATE OF JACOB BOMBOY, DECEASED.
Letters Testamentary on the estate of Jacob Bomboy, late of Centre township, Columbia Co. Pa., deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to Edward Hartman of the Centre twp., and P. E. Bomboy, to whom all persons indebted are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands against the said estate will make them known to the said executors without delay.
EDWARD HARTMAN,
P. E. BOMBOY,
Executors.
nov. 2 '77 6w*

WILLIAM Y. KESTER,
MERCHANT TAILOR
Corner of Main and West streets, three doors below J. K. Eyer's store, Bloomsburg, Pa.
All orders promptly attended to and satisfaction guaranteed.
April 27, '77-tf

FREAS BROWN'S INSURANCE AGENCY, Exchange Hotel, Bloomsburg, Pa.

	Capital.
Ætna, Ins Co., of Hartford, Connecticut	6,500,000
Liverpool, London and Globe	20,000,000
Royal of Liverpool	12,500,000
Lancashire	10,000,000
Fire Association, Philadelphia	2,500,000
Atlas of Hartford	5,000,000
Farmers Mutual of Danville	1,000,000
Danville Mutual	75,000
Home, New York	5,000,000
Commercial Union	17,000,000
	$178,075,000

March 26,'77—y

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If you want to patronize a
FIRST CLASS SCHOOL,
WHERE BOARD AND TUITION ARE LOW,
give us a trial.
Next term begins
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1878.
For information or catalogue apply to
THE PRINCIPAL,
July 27, '77-1y Orangeville, Pa.

EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION CO.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
HIGHGRAND STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, October 18th, 1877.
Notice is hereby given that the Empire Transportation Company has ceased to transact business, and is now entered on a liquidation of its affairs preparatory to its dissolution as a corporation.
JOS. D. POTTS, President.

The Empire Line, formerly owned and operated by the Empire Transportation Company, will continue to be operated as heretofore, but for account of its new owners.
F. J. FIRTH,
nov. 16, '77-1m Gen. Manager Empire Line.

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE CO.
NATIONAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
The assets of these old corporations are all invested in SOLID SECURITIES and are liable to the hazard of Fire only.
Moderate lines on the best risks are alone accepted.
Losses promptly and honestly adjusted and paid as soon as determined by CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP, special Agent and Adjuster, Bloomsburg, Penn'a.
The citizens of Columbia county should patronize the agency where losses, if any, are adjusted and paid by one of their own citizens. nov. 16,'77-1y

$777 is not easily earned in these times but it can be made in three months by any one of either sex, in any part of the country who is willing to work steadily at the employment that we furnish. $66 per week in your own town. You need not be away from home over night. You can give your whole time to the work, or only your spare moments. It costs nothing to try the business. Terms and $5 Outfit free. Address at once, H. HALLETT & Co., Portland, Maine. Feb. 16 '77 1yr.

BUSINESS CARDS,
VISITING CARDS,
LETTER HEADS,
BILL HEADS,
ENVELOPES, &C., &C.,
Neatly and promptly printed at the COLUMBIAN Office

BLANK DEEDS for sale at the COLUMBIAN Office.

VEGETINE
She Rests Well.

SOUTH POLAND, ME., Oct., 11, 1867.
MR. H. R. STEVENS:
Dear Sir—I have been sick two years with the liver complaint, and during that time have taken a great many different medicines but none of them did me any good. I was restless nights and had no appetite. Since taking the Vegetine I rest well and relish my food. Can recommend the Vegetine for what it has done for me.
Yours respectfully,
MRS. ALBERT RICKER.
Witness of the above,
MRS. GEORGE M. VATCHAN.

MEDFORD, Mass.

VEGETINE

Thousands will bear testimony (and do it voluntarily) that Vegetine is the best medical compound yet placed before the public for renovating and purifying the blood, eradicating all humors, impurities or poisonous secretions from the system, invigorating and strengthening the system, debilitated by disease; in fact, it is, as many have called it, "the great Health Restorer."

SAFE AND SURE.

MR. H. R. STEVENS:—
In 1872 your Vegetine was recommended to me, and yielding to the persuasions of a friend I consented to try it. At the time I was suffering from general debility and nervous prostration, superinduced by overwork and irregular habits. Its wonderful strengthening and curative properties seemed to affect my debilitated system from the first dose, and under its persistent use I rapidly recovered, gaining more than usual health and good feeling. Since then I have not hesitated to give Vegetine my most unqualified indorsement as being a safe, sure and powerful agent in promoting health and restoring the wasted system to new life and energy. Vegetine is the only medicine I use, and as long as I live I never expect to find a better. Yours truly,
W. H. CLARK,
120 Monterey street, Allegheny, Pa.

VEGETINE

Following letter from Rev. J. W. Mansfield, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, Hyde Park, and at present settled in Lowell, must convince every one who reads his letter of the wonderful curative qualities of Vegetine as a thorough cleanser and purifier of the blood:
HYDE PARK, Mass., Feb. 15, 1876.
MR. H. R. STEVENS:—
Dear Sir—About ten years ago my health failed through the depleting effects of dyspepsia. Nearly a year later I was attacked by typhoid fever in its worst form, it settled in my back and took the form of a large deep-seated abscess, which was fifteen months in gathering. I had two surgical operations by the best skill in the State, but received no permanent cure. I suffered great pain at times, and was constantly weakened by a profuse discharge. I also lost small pieces of bone at different times.
Matters ran on thus about seven years, till May, 1874, when a friend recommended me to go to your office and talk with you of the virtue of Vegetine.
By what I saw and heard I gained some confidence in Vegetine.
I commenced taking it soon after, but felt worse from its effects; still I persevered and soon felt it was benefitting me in other respects. Yet I did not see the results I desired till I had taken it faithfully for little more than a year, when the difficulty in the back was cured, and for nine months I have enjoyed the best of health.
I have in fact thus gained twenty-five pounds of flesh, being heavier than ever before in my life, and I was never more able to perform labor than now. During the past few weeks I had a scrofulous swelling on my neck, let gather on another part of my body. I took Vegetine internally, and it removed it level with the surface in a month. I think I should have been cured of my main trouble sooner if I had taken larger doses, after having become accustomed to its effect.
Let your readers troubled with scrofula or kidney disease understand that it takes time to cure chronic sicknesses, and if they will patiently take Vegetine it will, in my judgment, cure them.
With great obligations I am, yours very truly,
REV. J. W. MANSFIELD,
Pastor of the Methodist E. Church.

VEGETINE
Is Prepared by
H. R. STEVENS, Boston.
Vegetine is sold by all Druggists.
dec

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Spices of all kinds, Glass & Queensware,
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AND GENERAL LINE OF
Family Provisions
Russell's Old Stand,
RUPERT BLOCK,
4th door below Market street, Bloomsburg, Pa.
Goods delivered to all parts of the town
April 5, '77-tf

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Thirteenth and Filbert Sts.
PHILADELPHIA,
MANUFACTURERS OF PATENTED
Wrought-Iron Air-Tight Heaters
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FOR BITUMINOUS COAL,
Keystone
WROUGHT-IRON HEATERS,
Cooking Ranges, Low-down Grates, &c., &c.
Descriptive Circulars SENT FREE to any address.
EXAMINE BEFORE SELECTING.
April 27, '77-1y 4&8

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Eight large Pages; 48 Columns of Choice Miscellaneous Reading Matter every week, together with selections from the pens of such writers as NASBY, OLIVER OPTIC, SYLVANUS COBB, JR., MISS LOUISE ALCOTT, WILL CARLTON, J. T. TROWBRIDGE, MARK TWAIN, and MRS. MARY HOLMES.
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AS AN EXPERIMENT, and to induce you to give us a trial, we offer to send THE LEDGER to any address every week for three months on trial, on receipt of only 25 cents. We ask only a trial.
THE PEOPLE'S LEDGER is an old-established and reliable weekly paper published every Saturday.
H. K. CURTIS, Publisher,
oct. 26, '77-3m 713 Sansom St., Philadelphia, Pa.

BLANK MORTGAGES for sale cheap at the COLUMBIAN Office.

Select Story.

PYCOTT HALL.

AN

English Story of the Last Century.

Hinckley, in Leicestershire. England, is a very ancient town, and has remains of some very fine old dwellings. Of these a large mansion standing on the outskirts of the town is one of the best known. It is built of red brick, in the Elizabethian style, and considering the time that has elapsed since its erection, is in fair condition. It is now occupied as a farm-house, but a large part of it has been removed, as the walls were considered unsafe.

This place, known as Pycott Hall, was formerly the seat of a family of that name, who rose into favor in the time of Henry the Eighth, John Pycott having been a tanner of Middlesex, who did good service for the King in some way by aiding him to get rid of one of his wives. In Mary's reign the Pycotts had to flee into Lincolnshire, and find safety there among the fens and morasses; but soon after Elizabeth's accession to the throne the family came again into notice and Richard Pycott, the son of John, was enriched with a fine estate in Leicestershire. Then it was that Pycott Hall was erected, and it long had the reputation of being one of the most elegantly adorned mansions of the midland counties.

The daughters of the house wedded with some of the wealthiest and best known families in England, but the Pycotts lost caste by uniting their fortunes with Cromwell during the great revolutionary struggle. On the restoration of Charles the Second the family was allowed to retain its lands, but it had become considerably impoverished, and never recovered the high position it occupied during the first century of its existence.

The head of the family ranked among the country gentry, and the younger members married in their own station and became naval and military officers, and gentlemen farmers.

When George the Third ascended the throne in 1760, John Pycott was the possessor of the estates. He had been in the navy but retired before he passed the grade of Lieutenant, and settled down as plain country Squire. He married a Miss Braunton by whom he had a numerous family, all of whom died in infancy except one son and daughter—the son being named George and the daughter Ann. Ann was courted by one Sileby, whose father had amassed a considerable fortune as a vintner, and purchased an estate a few miles from Hinckley, known as the Red Gates. Young Sileby, his only child came into possession at the age of twenty-one, and soon afterward made the acquaintance of the Pycotts. A friendship sprung up between George Pycott and Sileby, and through that Sileby was attracted to the Hall and became enamored of Ann, who was very lovely. In the Spring of 1761 the two young men went to London together. George returned within a month, but Sileby remained, under pretense that some business matters required his attention. George, how ever communicated to his father the secret of his own quick return and of his companion's remaining behind.

Sileby had been brought up chiefly in the metropolis, and had many acquaintances there. These, George soon discovered, were not of a very reputable kind, consisting of fast young men, gamblers and free lancers, who would not hesitate to take a man's pocket-book if they had a chance. Moreover, Sileby had female acquaintances of no doubtful character, and on these he spent his money freely. It was a discovery of these facts which induced George to hasten home, for he was a young man of good principles, and was, moreover in love with a very beautiful girl, whom he expected shortly to wed. When the elder Pycott learned how Sileby was occupied in London, he spoke to his daughter on the subject, and she at once agreed with him that her lover was not the kind of man who was calculated to make a desirable husband. Consequently, on receiving Sileby's first letter from London, she gave him to understand that she knew the course he was pursuing, and that she desired no further communication with him.

Months passed, and Sileby still remained in town. Presently it was reported and correctly turned out that he had executed a mortgage for a large sum on his estate, and had actually sold all the timber upon it. After an absence of nine months he returned to Red Gates, but Pycott saw nothing of him for a long time.

Early in 1762 'Squire Pycott met Sileby on the stairs leading to the Grand Jury room in Leicester. Neither spoke or made any sign of recognition. Sileby stood and blocked the passage, and the 'Squire endeavored to move him to one side with his hand. Sileby drew his sword, whereupon the 'Squire stepped back to the landing. Sileby passed the 'Squire leisurely and with an offensive air, and the 'Squire said:

"You will hear from me again, sir."

A duel was arranged and the 'Squire disarmed his antagonist. Pointing his sword to Sileby's heart, he said:

"Dog, if your life was worth anything, I would not hesitate."

Another long interval passed without Sileby's coming across any of the Pycotts, but they had heard often of his doings, and knew that it would be but a brief space before his career of riot and perhaps crime was ended. One day in the autumn of 1762 'Squire Pycott received a message from a Dr. Grayton, a physician whose character was bad, and who was a pet companion of Sileby, that the latter was dying, and desired to make peace with the 'squire before he passed away. The 'Squire was a generous, warm-hearted man, and his kindly nature responded once to the request. As he was starting for the Red Gates, Ann Pycott said:

"Father it is to be feared that the unfortunate man has no Bible or good book near him in his illness. Carry this prayer-book and leave it with him, and bid him read and act upon it."

'Squire Pycott put the book in the left inside pocket of his riding-coat and departed. On reaching Sileby's house he was met by Dr. Grayton, at whose suggestion he unbuckled his sword and left it in the hall, lest the sight of it should awaken unpleasant recollections.

The 'Squire found Sileby in a darkened room on a curtained bed, with medicine bottles arranged around. On a small table near the bed lay a prayer-book and Bible, as though handy for the sick man. Sileby expressed regret for his conduct, and the 'Squire softened off things, and at a late hour departed for home, taking a bridle path which led down three or four fields to the main road, which, though it ran close to Sileby's house, curved around it almost in the shape of the letter S. As the 'Squire rode along the path he heard the sound of horses' hoofs on the road, but they apparently soon passed out of hearing. As the 'Squire turned from the path to the main road, he found himself suddenly confronted with two mounted men. One of them seized his bridle rein, and the 'Squire instantly drew his sword. To his surprise, however, he found that the blade was broken off within six inches of the handle. Before he could recover from his amazement the other horseman made a thrust at his breast with his sword, which came in contact with the prayer-book that was still in his pocket, as he had found Sileby already supplied with one. His assailant's weapon was broken with the force of the blow, and he fell forward against the 'Squire. The 'Squire's horse started, and the man at the rein released his hold. At the same instant the 'Squire struck spurs, and his horse bounded away and carried his rider home in safety.

Who the 'Squire's assailants were was a mystery but as highwayman infested the country, and it was no uncommon thing for wayfarers to be robbed and sometimes murdered in broad day-light, the occurrence created little surprise.

Less than a week after this the 'Squire received a letter from Sileby stating that he had happily recovered, and that he was about to quit the neighborhood, and to lead a new life.

It has already been said that George Pycott was engaged to be married to a young lady. She was his second cousin, and resided a few miles from the Hall with her mother. Her father had recently died, and it was so arranged that George should wed her as soon as possible, and manage the small estate on which she dwelt. On November 15, 1762, the wedding took place, and in the evening there was a supper at the bride's house, where the couple were to reside thenceforth.

After the guests had departed and 'Squire Pycott and his daughter were about to take leave, three men, with blackened faces, and otherwise disguised, suddenly entered the dwelling by the main entrance, and with drawn swords rushed on the 'Squire and his son, as they stood with the bride and groom in the vestibule. Both drew and gallantly defended themselves, and the women, by their directions, took refuge in an adjoining room.

The 'Squire fell, run through the breast. George was seriously wounded, and the ruffians were about to force an entrance into the room where the women were, when the sound of approaching wheels was heard on the graveled walks outside. The three men hastily decamped, and when the newcomers reached the hallway they found the 'Squire and son weltering in blood. The two gentlemen who had thus unexpectedly come on the scene had been guests at the wedding and had started homeward, but on reaching the river had found the waters out and the ford unsurpassable. They were therefore compelled to return and seek shelter until daylight.

The 'Squire's wound which was through the right lung, had already proved fatal, and he was a corpse. George's injuries were severe, but not necessarily dangerous, and a surgeon was at once sent for.

As soon as the wounded were attended to, two mounted constables started in pursuit of the three assassins. As the river was down it was thought unlikely that they would attempt to cross, and therefore the pursuers took the only other road of escape—that which led to Birmingham. Before they had come far they found that they were on the right track. By daylight they reached Birmingham, and they tracked the three men to the Wheat Sheaf Inn, where they had baited their horses and taken refreshment, and whence they had departed only half an hour ahead of their pursuers. Here the latter communicated with the authorities of the town, and three officers properly mounted and equipped took up the chase. After four hours hard riding they found themselves close on the heels of the fugitives, who were evidently taking it leisurely, supposing that their pursuers, if they had any, were either far enough behind, or tired out before that time. When they discovered three mounted men a mile in their rear, they suspected their true character and pushed on briskly. As the pursuers quickened their gait the pursued did the same, but the former gained rapidly on the fugitives, and it was clear that they must either be overtaken or escape by strategy.

As the two parties of horsemen tore down a long hill, the London stage coach came in sight. The driver and passengers soon took in the situation, for it was no uncommon thing in those days, when there were no railroads or telegraphs, for the officers of the law to pursue fugitives from justice for days along the highways of England, the pursuers and pursued often stopping for refreshments within a few miles of each other, and changing horses as often as the jaded beasts gave out.

The driver of the coach on the present occasion was a plucky man, and had had more than one rencontre with gentlemen of the road. Taking in the situation at once, the driver, with the hearty consent of his passengers, drew his coach across the road and blocked the path. Within twenty yards of the obstacle two of the fugitives leaped the ditch and made across the fields to a cross-road beyond the coach. The third, however, who rode a splendid beast, dashed forwards and putting spurs to his steed, the noble animal rose at the touch like a bird, and went clean over the horses as they stood across the road. So astonished were the occupants of the coach at his daring feat that though a dozen of them held pistols in their grasp not a weapon was discharged until the bold rider was out of range.

At the cross-roads he was rejoined by his two companions, and all three disappeared over the brow of a hill.

When the pursuers reached its summit the fugitives were nowhere to be seen. The officers pushed on but on reaching Oxford they were tired out, and they resolved to rest, confident that the men they were after were by that time on their way to London.

On the officers reaching London, the authorities were informed of the circumstances attending the brutal outrage at Hinckley, but in the absence of any clew which would lead to the perpetrators they were unable to do anything.

In the course of a month, however, George Pycott was sufficiently restored to undertake a journey to the metropolis, and thither he went, confident that he possessed a clew to the murderers of his father.

The elder Pycott had one brother, who had been degraded from the army, and who had become in every way so vile and reckless that he had been utterly discarded by the murdered man. He had been heard to make threats against his brother's life. George Pycott's theory was that this renegade uncle was the leader of the assassins of his father.

This man, Richard Pycott, was therefore looked for in London, but could not be found. After three weeks' search, George Pycott was almost hopeless of discovering the murderers of his father and of bringing them to justice. One day he and a Bow street runner, as the detectives in those days were called, took a wherry at Westminster, with a view to have a quiet row on the water, a private conversation in relation to the crime and its supposed perpetrators. As they floated past Rotherlithe a man suddenly thrust his head out of the scuttle of a coal barge that lay alongside the wharf. Quick as was the movement, George saw the face, and recognized it in an instant as Sileby's. Then, for the first time, a suspicion broke in upon young Pycott's mind that the unfortunate man might have been implicated in the dreadful crime. He hastily communicated his thoughts to the officer, and in a moment the wherry was alongside the barge and the two men were aboard. In the mean and filthy cabin, if such it might be called, they found the man whom they sought. He was dressed in the commonest garments, and was unshaven and unkempt. He steadily denied his identity as Sileby, but George was confident, and he was manacled and placed on board the wherry.

A second thought induced the officer to lie under cover of the barge for a minute or more, and the delay was amply rewarded, for a man came along the wharf toward the barge carrying a basket, and him George identified as the person spoken of as Dr. Grayton. As he stepped on board the barge George sprang to her deck and collared the miserable wretch, who cowered like a hound.

Sileby stoutly denied his identity and participation in the murder of Squire Pycott, but Grayton turned king's evidence, and revealed the diabolical plot.

From the day that Squire Pycott disarmed him in a duel, and spurned him as too worthless to slay, Sileby had vowed vegeance. His sickness was a mere sham to decoy the Squire to the house, and at the same time to avert the suspicion from his real assailants. Grayton's anxiety that the Squire should not carry his sword up-stairs lest the sick man should be aroused to unpleasant memories at the sight of it, was part of the plot, for while Squire Pycott was up-stairs, Grayton snapped the sword off near the hilt on purpose to deprive the Squire of a weapon of defence during the premeditated attack. The horses were already saddled in the stable, and as soon as the Squire quitted the house Sileby and Grayton mounted and started by the turnpike to intercept him.

The attack on the night of the wedding was planned by Sileby with Grayton and one of his London companions, and the design was to murder both the Squire and his son and to perpetrate other nameless crimes, while as the same time they plundered the dwelling. When they were put to flight by the return of the guests they made for Birmingham, as already known. Their disappearance after Sileby's astonishing leap over the backs of the stage coach horses was easily accounted for. One of the number at least was intimately acquainted with the road, for he had plied his calling as highwayman on it for years, and they were then enabled to take a private path skirting a wood, and so keep out of sight and earshot until they reached a cross road by which they made for a town off the London turnpike, and waited there until the way was clear.

Sileby and Grayton were taken back to Leicester, where they were tried, convicted and executed in 1763. Their accomplice escaped to Holland, but he was subsequently captured and ended his life on the gallows at Newgate for highway robbery a few years later.

A Marvel of Engineering.

A work equal in difficulty and magnitude to the projected draining of the Zuyder Zee has been accomplished in Italy, only some auxilliary operations of minor consequence still awaiting completion. We refer to the draining of the Fucine lake, executed by the Prince Torlonia, an undertaking which has exacted the labor of twenty-five years and an outlay of ten million dollars. By this achievement forty thousand acres of rich land have been opened to tillage, and a scheme which had vainly taxed the resources of the ancient Roman empire translated into fact.

The Fucino lake, and the mountain-locked basin of which until lately it engrossed the larger part, is better known to the student than to the traveller. The region is singularly difficult of access, lying as it does in the exact heart of the Italian peninsula, and embedded in the Appenine chain. No modern railway has replaced the Valerian road which traversed the district eighteen centuries ago. When this great highway was built across the mountains by Cladius Cæsar, the edge of the lake was dotted with thriving towns, and its fruitful slopes formed one of the granaries of Rome. It was in the reign of the same Emperor that the design of sluicing off the waters of the Fucine cistern was adopted, and the notorious freedman, Narcissus, was charged with the conduct of the enterprise. Inasmuch as the main outlines of the plan conceived and brought to the verge of fulfillment by the Roman engineers have been followed in the modern works it may be well to mark the physical conditions of the problem.

The Fucine lake was a vast reservoir, replenished by the rainfall and a number of mountain streams, but without any natural outlet. Evacuation, therefore, by dredging and deepening an existing channel was plainly out of the question. Some three miles, however, to the northwest runs the river Liri, at an attitude much lower than that of the basin. It is true that the high mountain of Salviano rears its bulk between the river and the lake, but this obstacle the engineers of Cladius proposed to surmount by piercing the hill at a depth of some three hundred yards. Accordingly, the head of the sluice on the northwest rim of the cistern was fixed at a point twenty-two yards above the bottom of the Liri, while the mouth being opened about thirteen yards above the river bed, there resulted a total incline of nine yards in a course of three and a half miles. Thirty thousand workmen are said to have been employed for eleven years in the undertaking, and the tunnel was actually constructed, but so imperfectly that an attempt to draw off the waters of the reservoir entailed a catastrophe which went near to ruin the imperial favorite. It would seem that Narcissus had nothing to learn from public servants of our day, for he was accused of embezzling gigantic sums through collusion with the contractors. It appears, however, that at a later period, under the Emperor Hadrian, the sluice was so far turned to account as to considerably lower the level of the lake.

Neglected in the middle ages, the Roman works lost even this measure of efficiency, the waters of the basin recovered their ancient area, and the periodical inundations wrought widespread destruction. It was one of these calamities, the terrible flood of 1816, which roused the Neapolitan Government to attempt the repair of the old culvert. But the task was onerous and the outlay stinted, and the sluice was scarcely opened when the freshet of 1851 burst the locks and blocked up a large section of the channel under an avalanche of earth and stones. When, therefore, a company was organized with a view of draining the basin, it soon appeared that the scheme presented difficulties far exceeding their expectations or their resources. Accordingly, the Prince Torlonia, who had subscribed for one-half of the stock, now purchased the remainder, and, obtaining a formal concession of all land to be recovered, undertook the work at his own expense.

The French engineers who were successively charged with the management of the operations, did not confine themselves to a reconstruction of the old t