

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA. FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1884.

THE REFORMER AT WORK.

Messrs Editors:

I see that X has either willfully or ignorantly perverted my former article. If he has done so willfully I should place him among the low politicians...

A man who makes a personal canvass is engaged in very low business, and is a "peep" as designating to respectable people as the frogs of Egypt.

People differ in regard to such things. Some say stealing is very bad, while others, who, perhaps, have stolen, or intend to steal, say it is all right.

Anyone who expects to elect himself to office cannot be trusted in office. He will not be honest. Perhaps the thing which distinguishes man from the brute more than any other thing is, that he is ambitious.

There is a law pending before the Legislature of Maryland to prevent "Ticket Scalping" and to confine the traffic in tickets to the authorized agents of the railroad companies.

No railroad company is secure from loss, no railroad conductor safe from temptation, and no passenger free from danger of buying fraudulent and delectable tickets so long as ticket scalping is legalized.

The trout season is almost at hand, and it used to be that the days from now on would be anxiously counted as it approached, by hosts of sturdy fishermen hungry for the exhilarating sport trout fishing affords.

In the last twenty years the Government has paid for interest on the public debt the enormous sum of \$2,089,000,000, a sum which would defray all the expenses of the Government, excepting interest on the public debt.

Reports of a reduction in wages on the Pennsylvania Railroad are emphatically denied at the office of the company. The officials admit that relations in force, wherever possible, have been made, but there is no intention of reducing wages.

Pensions for Everybody.

In the Senate the other day Mr. Hoar presented a petition "for \$300,000 for the pension of the Western States," asking that a pension of at least eight dollars a month be paid to every soldier and sailor who served in the civil war and received an honorable discharge.

It is no wonder that in this way soldiers and sailors of the Government are influenced to contribute to their support, though they are perfectly able to support themselves. It is no wonder that they should not see that it is hardly consistent with a proper self-respect for healthy men to have a pension in the army or navy to demand from the Government which is due only to men who are actually suffering from the effects of wounds or disease received in the army or navy.

Senator Logan ought to be indignant because these Western soldiers and citizens went to an Eastern Senator with their little petition. It is just the kind of petition you would like to have charge of. But Senator Logan wants to scatter the surplus with a smiling hand. His ample lungs dilate with the wind of emotion, and in the matter of pensions there is need of a little common sense.

There is a law pending before the Legislature of Maryland to prevent "Ticket Scalping" and to confine the traffic in tickets to the authorized agents of the railroad companies; and that which has been so effective in this State both in protecting passengers and the railroad companies from the loss arising from the purchase and sale of fraudulent tickets or of tickets improperly procured.

Every ticket fraudulently abstracted or withheld by them, it was proved on their trials, was subsequently sold to the scalpers at largely reduced rates and resold to travelers to be used a second time. Thus the railroad companies suffered severe losses, and in time the passengers holding the scalped tickets were subject to loss and inconvenience.

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SENSATIONAL LITERATURE.

WHAT AN OLD PUBLISHER HAS TO SAY BY HIS CAUSE AND EFFORTS TO BRING A MONTH NUMBER OF PAPERS CIRCULATED.

The constantly increasing number of boys of tender years who have been caught robbing their parents for the purpose of securing an outfit to start for the west to kill Indians or else have organized themselves in gangs for the purpose of becoming highwaymen and burglars has attracted public attention to the cause of so much youthful crime.

"How many of the weekly story papers are sold?" "Of all kinds not less than 500,000 copies a week. This, of course, includes the story papers, illustrated police papers and the boy papers."

"What is the comparative cost of such publications?" "With the exception of one or two of the weekly story papers, the prices paid for matter are very small. It is a long drop from Mrs. Southworth and Sylvanus Cobb to the poor Bohemians who write for the boy paper and the dime and half-dime libraries. The average price the latter scribblers get is not over \$50 a story, running anywhere from 100 to 200 pages of foolscap."

"The illustrations of these low periodicals cost about as little as the matter that goes into them. They are generally the most atrocious drawings, made more hideous by being cut in the wood by machinery. It is easily seen how large the profit must be on this class of publications, especially when we take into consideration the cheapness of white paper. The total average of any one of these papers is not over one cent a copy, and yet they wholesale at from three to four cents."

"How do you account for the present demand for sensational literature and cheap story papers?" "The first reason is their cheapness. Thirty years ago poor people could not read novels unless they bought them in book form at prices ranging all the way from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per volume. It was then that the New York Ledger began to supply the public with good serial novels at the rate of 20 a year for \$3, paid in weekly installments of six cents a number. This small sum quickly opened up the field of sensational romances to poor people of all classes, and in a very short while the Ledger ran up to a weekly circulation of nearly 500,000 copies. Such a profitable monopoly as this very soon attracted rivals to the field. Story papers after the style of the Ledger sprang up all over the country. Many of them failed, but a number of them were successful, and divided with the Ledger in various ratios its profitable business. In the meanwhile the dime and half-dime libraries were started, and soon became as successful business ventures as the story papers. It was then that the cheap libraries were started, and soon became as successful business ventures as the story papers.

"How they multiplied." About this time Munro's Seaside Libraries began pirating foreign stories and giving to story readers the best class of English fiction at a nominal price. Munro thus drew away from the story papers their best class of readers, and left them to compete with each other for what were left, and to sharp competition resulting in the sensational blood-and-thunder-pirate cowboy-Indian-scalper-miraculous-escape and to-be-continued stories, illustrated in the wildest style of the art, of the captive maiden, shrieking Indian, scowling villain, the young detective, persecuted and pursued, the haunted house, mysterious ghost, the dead shot and the thousand and one perils of life as it never exists save in the beer-muddled brain of a midnight scribbler.

"Nor is this all in the way of pandering to a vitiated public taste that makes a sensational story so marketable. It has another and worse element which the more emphasized the more profitable it becomes, namely, its pictures of vice and its lurid suggestions. One need but read the titles of some of these stories and glance for a moment at their illustrations to fully appreciate what is indicated by this remark."

"The question is now seriously asked how the sale of this literature, which is weekly poisoning the minds of the youth of the land, can be stopped. Certainly not by any appeal to the publishers themselves. But can be done toward curtailing it by parents constantly supervising the reading of their children and by the increase of circulating libraries."

A Lady Deputy Sheriff. The youngest daughter of the Franklin county sheriff, Miss Ada Kurtz, was recently sworn in as deputy sheriff of Franklin county. Her first work was the serving of some writs in Greencastle which, it is said, she did well as any man. She passed through Harrisburg recently with a handcuffed prisoner for the Eastern penitentiary.

The Lock Haven Democrat says that five cases in which Lock Haven has a vital interest have recently been decided against it. The cases were those of Clinton county vs. the City of Lock Haven, and the claims were for maintaining insane asylums of the state. Some of these cases have been in litigation for a number of years, but judgments were not given against the city until now. The first judgment was for \$2,000 the second for \$793.51; the third for \$2,742.26; the fourth for \$1,264.40, and the fifth for \$1,366.81; total, \$8,166.98.

There were 4 persons killed at Danville Virginia, in the negro riot, and 52 in the Cincinnati uprising. Can it be possible that John Sherman will allow this matter to rest without having a Senate Committee appointed to investigate into the causes which brought about such a terrible demonstration against the majesty of the law?



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EXECUTOR'S SALE OF VALUABLE Real Estate.

By virtue of the last will and testament of Geo. Suman, late of Milton township, deceased, the undersigned executor of said estate will expose to public sale on Wednesday, April 30, 1884, at 10 o'clock a. m., upon the premises, a valuable tract of land, containing 50 acres more or less, situated in Catawissa township, Columbia county, Pa., bounded north by lands of heirs of Isaac Suman, deceased, east by lands of Harman John, south by lands of Isaac Suman, deceased, and west by lands of Samuel Suman, deceased. The tract is heavily timbered with good rock oak and white oak timber, and is located near the Bloomery, and line of the North & West Branch Railroad, and is convenient to good market. Terms will be made known on day of sale.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

ESTATE OF SAMUEL HAGENRECH DECEASED. Letters of administration on the estate of Samuel Hagenrech, deceased, late of Catawissa township, Columbia county, Pennsylvania, deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned administrator. All persons having claims against the estate of the deceased are requested to present them for settlement to the undersigned administrator without delay.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the North and West Branch Railway company is called for Thursday, April 25, 1884, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Catawissa Hotel, Philadelphia, for the election of a President and Directors for the year ending May 31, 1884.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

ESTATE OF PHILIP F. EYER, DECEASED. Letters testamentary on the estate of Philip F. Eyer, deceased, late of Bloomsburg, Columbia county, Pa., deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned executor. All persons having claims against the estate of the deceased are requested to present them for settlement to the undersigned executor without delay.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

ESTATE OF GEORGE FEDDER, DECEASED. Letters testamentary on the estate of George Fedder, late of Milton township, Columbia county, Pa., deceased, have been granted by the Register of said county to the undersigned executor. All persons having claims against the estate of the deceased are requested to present them for settlement to the undersigned executor without delay.

DISCHARGE OF ASSIGNEE.

Notice is hereby given that a rule has been granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia county, Pa., to show cause why S. C. Jaffe, assignee of A. W. Jackson shall not be discharged, having performed the duties of his trust, his return on the first Monday of May, 1884.

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3. Any one not a subscriber sending us three new names besides his own, with \$4.50 will receive the paper one year free.

4. Any one sending us six new names, with nine dollars, will receive the paper one year free and a History of Columbia county, worth two dollars and a half.

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