

The Columbian.

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NO. 6

BENTON.

That we have been silent for some time past does not imply that we have been idle; our town is booming right along.

The Plaining Mill Co. are doing a hustling business, having attached a saw mill to their establishment, making a convenient and valuable addition.

Alfred Rantz expects to leave Benton this Spring.

The Shirt Factory was started last week and will soon be under full headway.

We see our commissioner B. F. Edgar in town occasionally looking after the county affairs. He says that his distillery is now in operation, but owing to the scarcity of rye, they have been compelled to use part corn.

The M. E. church has been handsomely refurnished and remodelled. Dedication services will be held Feb. 15th.

We have had good sleighing here the greater part of the winter. There are days when the town is nearly flooded with R. R. ties, lumber, shingles, &c. Benton is the largest shipping point along the line of the B. & S.

The latest is that "Ingalls has caught a peck of pickled peppers."

Rev. Boone held services in the school house last Sunday. He is meeting with great success in a protracted meeting at Waller.

The local institute held here last Saturday was a decided success, notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. These educational institutes are susceptible of a great deal of good if properly conducted and a due amount of interest be taken. Prof. Johnson's talk on "Reading and Thinking" was appropriate and well delivered; and it is but just to add we'll receive. After attending one of Supt. Johnson's educational meetings, there can no doubt exist as to his proficiency and ability to perform the duties incurred by his high position.

OCCASIONAL.

EAST BENTON.

Not long since Judge Krickbaum killed a hog that weighed 225 lbs.

It was currently reported last week that Judge Derr of Jackson died suddenly, falling from his chair dead. Judge Krickbaum went on last Friday to attend his funeral, but when he arrived it was the funeral of another person, which Judge Derr attended, well and hearty and in good spirits. It was an erroneous report. May Judge Derr live and enjoy many pleasant days in his old age is the wish of his many friends.

Many seem to boast and are elated over the rise in grain as an indication of better times. There is nothing in this to warrant such an assumption. Grain in these days is never high except when the farmers are obliged to buy, and that is another set back to the average farmer, but it will benefit the farmers of certain localities who experienced no failures. But how about the others?

The continual thawing has spoiled our sleighing.

Whoever has faith in "ground hog day" will now prognosticate the weather.

Alonzo Albertson runs his saw mill day and night at Cambra.

It is reported that Prof. Robbins advocated at the Benton Local Teachers Institute last Saturday, the carpeting of school houses, and ornamenting the walls with pictures, and the cultivation of flower beds. If Prof. Robbins will foot the bill the farmers have no objections. Farmers are neither fed nor salaried, and they are prepared to call a halt in the building of air castles, as heretofore promulgated by the fine spun theories of Professors at the expense of the farmers.

A BIG LAWSUIT.

Judge Ikeler was engaged in the trial of a very important lawsuit at Danville last week and part of this week. It was a fight between the Johnson Manufacturing Company, and the North Branch Iron & Steel Company.

For the Johnson Company the lawyers were James H. Heverin Philadelphia, Mayor William Rose, of Johnston, where the Johnson Company is located, and Henry M. Palmer, ex-Attorney General William J. Baldy and Mr. Savage, Sunbury.

The prosecution had District Attorney Graham, of Philadelphia and Judge Hinckley and James Scarlet, of Montour county.

The parties effected a settlement on Monday and the trial ended.

Several persons attending court have congratulated THE COLUMBIAN on the great improvements in its appearance and contents.

TEACHERS INSTITUTE.

The local institute for Benton, Jackson and Sugarloaf was called to order by Supt. Johnston in the Christian church, at Benton, at 10, A. M. on Saturday Jan. 31, after which Rev. S. P. Boone of the M. E. Church conducted the devotional exercises. The house was well filled and Supt. Johnston presided with the organization. A. S. Fritz was elected chairman and J. P. Yorks secretary.

The first period was taken up with a talk on Technical Grammar and Busy Work," by J. Preston Yorks.

W. B. Sutliff then gave an instructive address on Business Education on which he gave the teachers a great many good ideas that should be taught in all our schools.

Recitations by Carleton Cole and Jessie Richman of the Jamison city schools.

Prof. J. F. Harkins then gave an excellent talk on the Teachers work. The mind is indivisible, but has different powers called faculties of the mind and it is necessary to captivate the child's mind to get his attention. Restraint will not secure genuine attention.

Address, Moral Culture, Rev. S. P. Boone. The work of teaching is so near like my work, I can hardly see the difference. Teachers are apt to put too much attention on one subject. Morals should be taught from other lessons by anecdotes etc., and the teacher should practice what he teaches. To make well rounded men they should be taught physically, mentally and morally.

After singing a hymn adjourned until 1:15 p. m.

When the chairman called the institute to order in the afternoon all the available space in the church was occupied. The seats were not only full but all the standing room was filled and remained densely crowded all the afternoon.

Supt. Johnston, pleased to see such a large attendance, occupied the first period in a talk on Educational work. We should make the local equal to the County institute. Teachers should take the lead in making improvements read more and think more, but should also have time for recitation. They should read at least, one educational book and carefully read one educational paper every year. Teachers should devote some time every day to reading and should not be content with the mere possession of books and papers. No small part of a teachers compensation is in knowing that he is doing some good. Reserve your individuality.

Music, "Harvest Time," choir. Recitations, Bennie McHenry and Ortis Chapin of the Benton Schools.

Essay, School Management, Alice Ruckle. Attention pertains to the mind, most children are reading in books far above where they are intended. Corporal punishment is better than scolding.

Prof. C. H. Albert gave an excellent talk on school management. He says teachers lack in discipline through lack of intelligence, not of book knowledge so much as individuality. Teachers cannot cowhide a boy into submission. Whenever we chastise children with a rod we show that we are weaker than they. We must have a keen insight into the child's nature before we attempt to govern him. If we would spend a little more of our money on school houses we would need less for court houses, jails and prisons.

Music, Beautiful Days, choir.

Position in the School-room and Hygiene" was the subject of Dr. T. C. McHenry's well chosen remarks. The position that a child assumes on the seat affects his health. Sit erect and you will keep in that position in walking. Poisonous air in the school house makes children drowsy, should be ventilated from the floor. Cleanliness is one of the most important hygienic principles. Attention to hygiene would give doctors less practice but I am willing to devote my time to teaching if need be.

Recitations Olga Clark and Jennie Ruckle.

Address, Dr. I. L. Edwards. This crowded house must mean an interest in our public schools. Nothing is so important as the teacher. Directors should be as careful in getting teachers as they are in their own office or business employ. Teachers should give their whole time to their schools and should take a Normal course to better fit them for the work. Although the taxes are high I would rather pay twice as much as I now do if it were necessary in order to have good schools.

Music, "Mountain Home" choir.

Penmanship was ably discussed by C. W. Young. He says it is much neglected and in some of our schools not taught at all as a separate branch. I prefer the Spencerian system and

think it should be taught the same as any other branch. A great mistake is made in not procuring the best paper, for even the best penman cannot write good on poor paper.

Recitations, Iva Kitchen, and Orville Savage.

The chairman next called on J. J. McHenry, but as he was absent, Lena Parks recited "Curfew must not ring to night."

Dialogue, The Widows mistake K. P. McHenry Estella Savage and Maud Savage

Recitation, "Nothing and Something," Mary E. McHenry.

Address, A. S. Fritz. The smaller children do not receive enough attention in our public schools. They should have more recitations and be kept doing something useful and then idleness and vice will have no place in their minds.

Music, Beautiful Dew Drops, choir. John Winley moved that a vote of thanks be given the choir for their excellent music and the trustees for the use of the church, which after being seconded was unanimously tendered by the large audience.

Supt. Johnston may well feel pleased with the educational sentiment he is arousing in this part of the county, for this institute is counted by all, the best ever held in this place.

J. P. Yorks Sec.

JERSEYTOWN.

Miss Kate B. Fruit who has been visiting friends at Hazleton returned home on Tuesday last.

Mrs. Elmer McBride returned home on Wednesday, after visiting friends here.

Mr. Robert Butler from Montgomery came home to attend the funeral of Nathaniel Brittain.

Miss Martha Girton who has been visiting John J. Kreamer for the past two weeks returned home on Sunday.

Dr. Y. L. Swisher who has been seriously ill. We learn is no better. Mrs. John J. Kreamer is visiting her father mathias Girton near Buckhorn this week.

Rev. A. W. Decker is holding protracted meeting this week and next.

Mrs. Sheep of Bloomsburg was seen on our streets Sunday last.

Quite a number of our young folks here expects to attend a hop in Welliver's Hall at Eyer's Grove on Thursday night.

Mr. H. H. Stout from Washingtonville. Spent Monday in town.

Mr. Chas. Creasy took a flying trip to Bloomsburg last week.

Mr. John Hendershot and Frank Derr from Mordansville was seen in our village on Sunday Eve.

FREAS BROWN.

About three weeks ago Mr. Freas Brown was seized with a chill, and was confined to the house most of the time, and continued to grow worse until last Friday at 1 o'clock when he died. The immediate cause of his death was neuralgia of the heart. He was born in Millin township, April 21, 1827, and was aged 63 years, 9 months and 9 days. He lived at different times at Millinville, New Columbus and Bloomsburg, coming here in 1860. For seventeen years past he has resided at the Exchange Hotel. He was married October 21, 1847, to Sarah John, of Main township, who survives him. He also leaves a half brother, H. H. Brown of Lightstreet, and two half sisters, Mrs. H. B. Freas who resides in Illinois, and Mrs. Wm. Hill of Berwick. He was an active and consistent member of the M. E. Church. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon, and was attended by a very large number of people. The services were conducted by Rev. J. Donahue, Rev. S. W. Sears, and Rev. D. S. Monroe, D. D. of Altoona. Rev. Dr. Frost, Rev. F. B. Riddle, Rev. W. R. Whitney, Rev. W. Moses, and Prof. Curran were also present. Mr. Brown has conducted a large insurance business here for many years, and enjoyed the confidence of all who had business relations with him. The remains were buried in Rosemont Cemetery.

Mrs. Wesley Ruckle of Espy, dropped dead on the street in front of Richard Edward's house on Wednesday morning. She was accompanied by her grandson Harvey Rice, and they came to town to take the Reading train for Williamsport, where they were going to attend a wedding.

The County Commissioners will offer at public sale at the County Jail on Saturday Feb. 7th, 1891 a lot of radiators, gas and steam pipe taken out of Jail. Also a lot of old Brick, and Iron fence taken down from Court house yard.

Jan. 29th, 1891.

Harvey Long and family have gone to California to reside.

THE HOMICIDE CASE.

The case of Michael McMenamin who was charged with the killing of John Currian at Centralia on September 29, 1890, began in court on Tuesday afternoon. District Attorney Chrisman and C. G. Barkley, Esq. represented the Commonwealth, and W. H. Rhawn, and J. H. Maize Esq., the defendant John McHugh was also indicted for the same offense, but as he did not appear, his recognizance was forfeited. Michael McMenamin being arraigned pleaded not guilty. Jurors were called one at the time and those who were accepted were sworn in. They were the following: H. J. Edwards, Louis Beishline, John Moore, Silas Young, Samuel H. Sittler, William Swartz, G. P. Hunsinger, E. B. Guie, Jonathan Loreman, John H. Wolf, E. W. Hess and Daniel Baylor.

Hon. J. J. Metzger of Williamsport presided on the bench. An hour was occupied in selecting the jury, and then Mr. Chrisman opened the case with a plain and concise statement of facts as alleged by the Commonwealth.

John Tigue was the first witness. He found Currian lying in the gutter on Locust Avenue, Centralia, on the night of September 29, 1890. His head was cut, and bloody. Witness assisted him home, and on the way Currian said that he had been fighting with McMenamin and McHugh. Currian lay with his head against the curbstone. Did not know that his head was cut until they reached home.

Dr. R. M. Lashell testified that he was called in to see Currian, made no examination, gave a prescription for neuralgia.

Dr. W. T. Hamilton of Ashland, was the next witness. He was called to see Currian. Found an indentation on the right side of head; could not see hole but could feel it. Skull was fractured. Was unconscious. Post mortem was held, and found skull fractured, and an abscess, which were the cause of death. It would require a violent blow on the head to produce the fracture. It is possible it might have been made by a fall.

Dr. J. M. Gwinner was next sworn. Saw Currian about two hours before he died. He was unconscious, high fever, rapid pulse. Found indentation on right side of head, and a slight abrasion of skin. Made post mortem with Dr. Hamilton, and found fracture extending down side of skull; fracture caused abscess, and abscess caused death. Fracture could have been caused by a blow or a fall.

Bernard J. Darrah assisted to take Currian home; does not remember seeing any blood. Found him lying in the gutter. Couldn't get up and they lifted him up.

H. J. Hughes testified that he saw McMenamin and McHugh, were walking down the street and Currian met them and there was a scuffle between them. Currian fell down in the gutter, and told me to go for a doctor as he had broke his head on the curb stone. Currian put his arm around McMenamin's neck and struck him. After they got loose Currian went towards fence and fell down. McMenamin went and kicked him two or three times about the legs, then Currian got up, and went over and fell in the gutter. After McMenamin kicked him Patrick McKean came up and said that was enough, and McMenamin stopped and Currian got up and said he would kill him. (The testimony of this witness was evidently unexpected by the Commonwealth.)

Joseph McGuire on his way home he saw Currian put his arm around McMenamin's neck and strike him; when he got loose he went towards fence, and defendant went up and kicked him. After McMenamin went away, Currian got up and said he would kill defendant, he went to middle of street, staggered and fell back in the gutter. Went up to him but didn't see anything wrong with his head; took him home. Currian was drunk. A stone was found near the fence, don't know how it got there. Currian told him he fell in the gutter and hurt his head, wanted a doctor.

Patrick McHale saw Currian the night he was hurt; was with him when he met McMenamin and McHugh, he wanted a drink and asked McMenamin for a bottle; they had a wrangle. Saw defendant kick Currian, told him to stop, and led him away. They went down the street.

Patrick Murphy went to see Currian after he was hurt. He said he got in a fight with McMenamin and McHugh, and they had hold of each other, and he (Currian) didn't know anything else.

Daniel Michael saw part of the fight. Was up stairs at home; heard noise and went to window and saw McMenamin striking somebody. Then

the man lay there a little while, then got up and fell down again, laid there a bit, got up and came down to my place and fell in the gutter.

John Currian said he was the father of the dead man. He died a week from the day he was struck. I talked with him after he was hurt. He said "my work is done, McMenamin and McHugh has killed me."

At six o'clock court adjourned. On Wednesday morning court commenced at 9 o'clock and Honora Currian, the mother of the deceased was the first witness. The substance of her testimony was that the deceased told her that he was going to die, and that the defendant and McHugh had done him up.

Mary Ellen Currian, widow of the deceased, swore that she had conversation with her husband after he was hurt. On Sunday he was conscious, and he said he was going to die, and McMenamin and McHugh had killed him. His mother said she would send for the priest, and he said, "I don't care, he will read an office for me anyhow."

Owen Cain was called, and counsel stated that the witness could not understand English very well, and an effort was made to secure an interpreter of the Irish language, but no one in the audience could do it. The witness became excited and was dismissed without being examined.

William Dunlevy took charge of the body after death. Found a black mark on his left side. Had seen the same kind of spots on other corpses of persons who did not die violent deaths. The prosecution closed, and Mr. Rhawn stated that as the evidence of the Commonwealth would not sustain a verdict of guilty, he would not offer any testimony on behalf of the defendant, and claimed the right to the closing argument. Speeches were made by Mr. Barkley and Mr. Rhawn and Judge Metzger charged the jury. At 4:20 on Wednesday afternoon the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty.

JACOB H. FRITZ DEAD.

Columbia county loses a valued citizen in the person of Jacob H. Fritz of Sugarloaf township who died on Sunday January 25th 1891. Funeral services were held at St. Gabriel's church on the following Thursday.

Mr. Fritz had for some time been a great sufferer from Brights disease. His illness was long and severe and it has been known for some time that death was near. He was seventy one years of age. Enjoying the confidence of his fellow citizen in the highest degree his township always kept him in some position of honor and trust and he was more or less connected with public affairs during his whole life. At the age of twenty one he received his first office and with the exception of a very few years the voters of his township never allowed him to be without some position. He was school director for more than twenty years nearly all of which time he acted as secretary of the Board. He was when young lieutenant of militia, coroner and jury commissioner of the county. For half a century he has been an active member of the Episcopal church and for thirty five years has guided the destinies of the church Sunday school as its superintendent. He has been the leading active spirit of St. Gabriel's church and to his efforts that church owes much of its prosperity.

He was a son of Henry H. Fritz who lived on Chestnut street Philadelphia and came to northern Columbia county when quite young. He was a brother of Jessie Fritz a notice of whose death appeared in these columns in November last. One brother Rev. George Fritz and three sisters survive him. The deceased was married to Amanda Laubach. Eleven children and their mother are left to mourn his loss, eight sons and three daughters. Four of the sons and one daughter are living in Michigan and the others are residents of this state. Five of his sons were for some time teachers in our public schools.

Vicinity of Taurus.

Daniel Lutz has been on the sick list for a few days past.

K. Laubach is busy cutting logs which he will saw on his own mill.

David Bogart of Register, who lately broke his leg, is gradually gaining strength.

The Methodists of Harveyville Circuit, held their fourth quarterly conference on last Saturday. The people on this circuit seem to be very energetic. They have built two new churches this year.

The ice and snow is fast disappearing on the sunny side of the hills, which makes the sleighing very thin in places.

G. A. Kline has been holding stereopticon exhibitions in this neighborhood.

PERSONAL.

A. K. Smith, the genial landlord of Jerseytown, was in town on last Monday.

Dr. J. M. Gwinner of Centralia, was in attendance at court as a witness on the homicide case.

Miss Annie Hagenbuch of Atlantic Heights, New Jersey, is the guest of Mrs. Geo. W. Bertsch.

Rev. J. V. Bodine of Tallman's, N. Y. has been visiting relatives in this section during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wells returned home last Friday. They visited Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore.

Mrs. C. C. Evans, of Berwick, spent several days in town this week, while Mr. Evans was in attendance at court.

Mr. Frank Ikeler and Miss May Kuhn attended a party at the home of Senator Wolvert on Tuesday evening of last week.

Senator Herring is on the following committees: Mines and mining, Municipal Affairs, Canals and Inland Navigation, Judicial Apportionments, accounts.

H. P. Chamberlain has moved to Reading, where he will go to house-keeping. He has the agency for the Fidelity Mutual Insurance Company, and will continue to visit Bloomsburg on business.

J. Simpson Kline was sworn in as an attorney at law on Monday morning, the Board of Examiners having reported that he had passed a thorough examination. He pursued his studies in the office of Charles G. Barkley Esq. Mr. Kline is a young man of ability, and his first case in court resulted in the acquittal of the parties whom he was appointed to defend.

H. A. McKillip was admitted to the bar on Monday morning, having completed his course and passed a highly creditable examination. He read law in the office of L. S. Wintersteen, Esq. Mr. McKillip is a gentleman of more than ordinary attainments, of keen intellect and a ready speaker. He will practice law in this county, and will be an ornament to the profession. We wish him abundant success.

Lent begins next Wednesday.

Five o'clock teas are growing popular among the ladies.

A decided fall in the thermometer took place on Tuesday night.

Two hundred dollars were taken in by the ladies of the Reformed church at their suppers last week.

Last Monday was coon day. He saw his shadow. This means six weeks of cold weather yet.

Hon. E. M. Tewksbury will please accept our thanks for copies of the Legislative Record.

J. L. Girton has placed a fine nickel cash register in the office of the St. Elmo.

The election by the stockholders of the School Furnishing Co. last Friday resulted in the selection of the old board.

Col. A. D. Seeley of Berwick has been appointed an aide on the staff of Gov. Pattison. The Governor could not have made a better selection.

The property of Clotworthy Fisher deceased, was purchased by H. W. and M. J. Hess last Saturday for \$2300.

I. W. McKelvy has sold the property on Seventh street now occupied by the family of the late U. H. Ent, to Thomas Sullivan.

John Chamberlain died at his home in Dunmore last Friday. He was a son of the late J. M. Chamberlain, Esq.

We begin a new feature this week. A series of articles from the writings of Artemus Ward, the great humorist, have been secured and will appear weekly.

The Board of Directors of the Farmers' National Bank have elected Frank A. Ikeler as Cashier. Mr. Ikeler is in every way fitted for the position, being a graduate of Lafayette and a young man of excellent ability.

Traffic, both passenger and freight, is increasing on the B. & S. Last Saturday, though it was a stormy day, the cars were full almost to the end of the line. Heavy freight trains are hauled every day.