

The Columbian.

VOL 28 BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1893. NO 30

ANNIE KREIDER'S STORY.

How the Crime Was Committed.

THE FATHER MEETS DEATH FIRST—THE MOTHER PLEADS FOR MERCY, BUT THE HEART OF THE RUFFIAN COULD NOT BE TOUCHED—THE LITTLE CHILDREN MEET AN AWFUL FATE.

The story of the horrible crime, as told by the oldest surviving child, Annie, who is fifteen years of age, follows: "On the evening of last Thursday we all retired at the usual time to our rooms and went to sleep. The murderer, Albert Bomberger, who had been working for us, also retired. Early on Friday morning we were awakened by a gun shot and my mother who was peeling potatoes in the kitchen ran to the front of the house where my father was sleeping. She met Bomberger there with a smoking double-barreled gun in hand and going on further the horrible sight of her husband lying in bed dead, with many gun shot wounds in his face, met her gaze. She was immediately seized by the cold-blooded villain and shot through the head in the same manner as her husband had been killed a few moments before. The poor woman pleaded for mercy, but the heart of the ruffian could not be touched, and she was soon sent to join her husband. "The firing of the shots and the cries for mercy aroused the whole household, and the children ran crying down the stairs. They were met by Bomberger and driven back again. "My oldest sister in her fright crawled under the bed in her room, but subsequently jumped out the second-story window and ran to the field for the purpose of catching the pony and going to the town of Cando, about two miles distant, to give the alarm. My sister had often ridden the pony before without a bride, but this time, probably through her excitement, she ran after the bride. This delay cost her her life, as she was caught by the heartless man who had chased her from the house. She said to him, "Where is my father?" and he replied with a smile 'Gone to the happy land.' She asked about her mother and received the same reply. Frantic with grief and terror she demanded to see her parents. Bomberger then led her to the house where she was shown the heart-rending sight of her dead parents with gun shot wounds in their heads from which the warm blood was streaming. As the murderer showed the body of the mother to her frenzied daughter, he said, 'There she is lying like a dead cat.'

"After the girl had seen the lifeless bodies of her parents Bomberger took hold of her and used his murderous weapon again and shot her through the head.

SHE FELL LIFELESS TO THE FLOOR

and by this time she was surrounded by all the children. The villain then went to work with the coolness of a butcher and soon dispatched three more of the children. He shot them all, but two of the shots did not take immediate effect. He then went at them and cut their throats.

"After he had finished in the front part of the house he went in search of me. I was in the kitchen at the time. I, screaming and yelling at the top of my voice, asked him where my brothers and sisters were. 'There they are, lying just like stuck pigs,' he replied. He came for me, and I begged him not to kill me.

"He seemed to relent, but drew his gun and compelled me at the point of the barrel to prepare a breakfast for him. This I did, although it was nearly impossible, for I was constantly thinking of the harrowing sight in the front part of the house. After he had eaten the breakfast he led me out to the stable and tied me hand and foot with two ropes. Then he struck me in the face with his hands and beat me with ropes, causing me intense pain. After he had finished with me he pulled out his watch and said, 'It just took me twenty minutes to do this job.' He then mounted the pony and rode away.

"Soon after this my oldest brother Aaron, who escaped, and who was only five years old, came out of the house and contrived to loosen the ropes which bound me fast. After I was free I mounted a horse and rode to Cando, about two miles away, and went straight to the store of Samuel Brightbill, who was a cousin of Bomberger.

"I was only about half dressed, and I told him as well as I could of the terrible deed. He at once, with ten others of the townpeople, started in pursuit of the murderer. I, with some others from the town, went back to the house. "The men who started after Bomberger were well mounted and well armed, and they rode all day and all night. Finally on Saturday they came

up to him and captured him about sixty miles distant from my home. He was taken to Cando and then to Grand Forks, where he was placed in the county jail.

"The bodies of those who were murdered were tenderly cared for at home and on Saturday night Samuel Brightbill, myself and three children, who escaped, brought the bodies to Elizabethtown, whence they were taken directly to the home of John H. Kisser, my grandfather.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Regular meeting of the Town Council was held last Thursday evening in the Town Hall, all the members being present except Mr. Knorr.

Sylvester Solleder appeared and made complaint of the condition of the privy on the property of Mrs. Rupert occupied by Jerre Saltzer. Upon motion Mrs. Rupert was given five days in which to remove the same and in default the President of the Council was authorized to contract with some party to have the same done.

The following petition was presented:

On behalf of the occupants of the Sanitarium I would respectfully ask that the sewer be extended on Sixth street eastward to the building occupied by Abel Deily so that connection may be made therewith from said building.

L. S. WINTERSTEEN.

On motion it was directed to extend the same on Sixth street.

It was ordered that the owner or agent of the Sanitarium building be required to connect the same and the pool of water near the building with the sewer so as to properly drain the same and the work to be done within 15 days, and in default the town to do it with 15 per cent. added to the cost.

The property of George Tittle estate, corner Catherine and Sixth streets was directed to be connected under the same terms. The same order was made in regard to the Exchange block, within five days.

A committee on the part of sundry citizens, subscribers to a loan to the H. C. Pease Machine Tool Manufacturing Company asked that the said Company be exonerated from payment of Town tax for a period of ten years. Request granted.

Mr. Waller requested an order for the balance due D. J. Waller Sr. for work on the 5th street culvert amounting to \$400. The Secretary was instructed to draw an order for the amount.

Upon motion the President was authorized to exchange the \$2,000 of Silk Mill bonds for six per cent special stock of the same Company.

Building permits were granted to C. B. Gunton for moving and enlarging his house on West Third street.

It was directed that Wesley and Smith be notified to relay their pavement on Third street east of Leonard within 30 days or 20 per cent. be added.

Upon motion E. R. Ikeler was requested to connect his property on West street with the sewer and the same order was made in the case of the property of George W. Sterner buildings along Ridge Alley, and Mrs. Heimiller's property on Catherine all to be done in 15 days, or Town to do the work with 20 per cent. added.

C. C. Long asked that the town engineer be notified to give approximate grade in Ralston's addition. Upon motion the matter was referred to the Solicitor and if in his opinion the same could be done without making the town liable for grading the same, then he should give it.

The following bills were read and ordered paid:

Phila. & Reading Railroad Company, freight.....	\$ 71 37
D. L. & W. R. Co., freight	39 69
Pennsylvania Supply Co., Terra Cotta pipes.....	188 50
M. C. Woodward, service..	23 17
Low Bros., spawls.....	68 52
Bloomsburg Water Company	86 67
Hess Manufacturing Co.....	2 00
A. V. Hower, watching town buildings 6 months.....	6 00
W. H. Gilmore, flag.....	7 50
Bloomsburg Car Co., iron...	99
Geo. E. Elwell, printing ordinances.....	10 50
R. H. Ringler, Sec. 1 month	20 00

The hay crop this year in Columbia county will be the poorest known for many years. One man has mown a field of twenty acres and only gathered about six tons. There are many farmers who will not gather enough hay to feed their own stock. However what is lacking in hay is made up in wheat, of which there is an abundance—the largest yield ever known—and a correspondingly low price, the lowest known for thirty years.

MINING COAL IN A RIVER BED.

THE CHANNEL OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RICH IN FUEL DEPOSITS.

The following appeared in last Monday's Press as a despatch from Northumberland.

"Although this quiet, old-fashioned town, which only lacked one vote of being chosen for the county seat cannot boast of coal deposits in their natural state, the digging of dusky diamonds and their subsequent sale has become an important industry here. This coal, of which several thousand tons are now marketed annually, is mined in a manner very similar to the gold placer operations in Western rivers and creeks.

To be more explicit it is taken from the bed of the Susquehanna River by the thrifty farm workers and is then delivered to customers at points along the river banks at prices slightly below the market rate for other regularly mined coal. The mining of the fuel in this manner is far more pleasant than the dangerous work of cutting it from its natural state in the bowels of the earth, and is more remunerative also as the unworked country youth can clear from \$4 to \$6, as the result of each day's labor.

These deposits have been washed to their present location in the north branch of the river, by the floods of the past twenty years, from the big coal operations situated on the river banks at Wilkes-Barre, Nanticoke, Plymouth, and Pittston. The big dam thrown across the river below Sunbury has acted as a most effective barrier and has prevented this valuable fuel from passing to points farther down the stream. Old river men maintain that layers of the choicest coal, several feet in thickness, cover the river bed for many miles above the breast of the dam, and their assertion seems to be verified by the large amounts of the products which are daily being removed.

Low water in the river means a rich harvest for the scores of toilers who pursue this new vocation, as they are then enabled to greatly increase their output. These workers are at times out in such numbers that the entire surface of the water is covered so thickly with their boats that the steamers plying on this part of the river find much difficulty in passing up or down the stream without running down the miner boatmen.

The workers start out early in the morning with two large flat-bottomed rowboats and casting anchor in from five to nine feet of water begin their labors. They are supplied with a long handled scoop netting, similar in shape to a round pointed shovel. Using one of the boats as a base of operations the miner pushes his scoop net into the accumulations of mud, sand and coal lying on the bed rock of the river. In raising it, by one or two dexterous movements he washes all of the mud and sand out of the net. The remainder of the haul, which is half a bushel of coal, is deposited in the second boat.

These maneuvers are repeated until a cargo has been secured, when the miner becomes a riverman and rows his treasure to some purchaser at Sunbury, Northumberland or other point. The coal is entirely free from slate. The water has worn it smooth and round like river boulders. In size it ranges from chestnut to small stove, thus adapting it admirably for household and steam purposes. Occasionally, however, lumps as large as egg and broken are brought to light.

One can harvest from two to three tons by working all day and he finds a ready market for his product at \$2.20 per ton. People who have used this fuel say that it retains its life and burns as well as newly mined coal. As the regular day's wages paid company miners is from \$2.00 to \$2.25, it can readily be seen that the Northumberland boatmen can double the farmer's earnings without undergoing any more risk than a very tired back, and no miner working in steep and narrow veins is exempt from that same penalty.

During the early years of coal mining the smaller sizes of coal were dumped on the culm banks without any attempt to prepare them for market. In the Luzerne regions many of these collieries bordered on the banks of the Susquehanna or tributary streams and hundreds of thousands of tons of what was then considered culm was dumped into the streams as the most convenient method of getting rid of it. The Spring floods gathered up the coal thus deposited in the river channel and laboriously carried it along until further progress was

prevented by the Sunbury Dam.

It is estimated that nearly 4,000 tons of first class coal were taken from the river bed in the vicinity of Northumberland during the past season, and this year's production promises to be far in excess of the above figures. Although retail dealers in this town and Sunbury charge \$2.80 per ton for the fresh mined fuel they cannot well compete with the river miners. Taking into consideration that the latter is not compelled to face the dangers incident to a treacherous top rock, faulty blasts, falls of coal, or the deadly mine gases, and enabled to work with the broad canopy of heaven over him, his lot is a far more desirable one than that of his poor brother who toils in the natural anthracite beds."

THE SCHOOLS.

On Monday August 28th, six weeks from next Monday, the public schools of Bloomsburg will again open. There is much work yet to be done, to carry out the provisions of the late act in reference to furnishing supplies for all the pupils. The difficulty that confronts the Board of Directors of this town is one that must be met in every district in the state. The mere purchasing of books, slates, tablets, etc., is a small consideration, but the difficulty is reached when rules governing their use are made. A record must be kept of the books purchased by each Board of Directors, and the pupils charged with the books and their safe keeping. There is nothing in the law to regulate punishment for misuse of the books, and hence the general law of punishment for destruction of property must be enforced. Books should not be gathered up, at the close of the day, and distributed promiscuously the next day; such a proceeding would scatter through the whole school any constitutional disorder that might be found in an individual scholar. Rules of the most rigid character should be adopted in every district and enforced; if this is not done, much mischief will be caused, and instead of the good the law is intended to accomplish, only evil will be the result.

MEMORIAL TO JAMES K. EYER.

The following was adopted by Bloomsburg Grange No. 322, P. of H: To the officers and members of Bloomsburg Grange No. 322, P. of H: Your committee appointed to prepare a memorial on the death of Brother Jas. K. Eyer, respectfully report:

Brother James K. Eyer died June 22, 1893, at Bloomsburg. He was a charter member of Grange No. 322, and since its organization has been active and earnest in the furtherance of the interests of the Patrons of Husbandry. He was a valuable counselor in all matters pertaining to the good of the order, and by his death we have sustained a great loss.

To his widow and family this Grange extends its sincere sympathy in their loss of husband and father. The consolation will be found with that God in whom he trusted and whose ways, though mysterious, are always for good to them that love Him.

The committee recommends that the next meeting be set apart for memorial services to the memory of our deceased brother, and that a copy of this report be furnished the widow and be forwarded to the Farmers' Friend and the local newspapers for publication. They also recommend that the Grange hall be draped in crape for 30 days.

Respectfully submitted,
J. B. ROBISON,
M. K. APPELMAN, } Com.
EMMA LAZARUS,

At the request of President H. H. Ballard of the Agassiz Association of the United States, the Bloomsburg chapter of that association in forms visitors to the World's Fair in Chicago of the excellent exhibit which is to be seen in the Anthropological Building. It occupies one thousand, five hundred and four square feet in the North-west corner up stairs. The reception rooms are always open and a cordial invitation is extended to the public to visit them. Among the many articles of interest will be found a collection of mounted flowers from Tangarog, Russia, fine specimens of ferns from New Zealand, choice crystals including some huge garnets from Salida, Colorado, and a rare collection of Wisconsin pearls three hundred in number. This is but a brief allusion, as the exhibit includes beautiful specimens too numerous to mention.

Landlord Hill, of the Proctor Inn at Jamison City has his house in better shape than ever for the accommodation of guests. It is a charming place to spend a day or a week or a month. Write to him for terms.

SCHOOL BOARD.

There was a meeting of the Directors of the Bloomsburg School District Monday evening, July 10th, with all the members present. Committee on Supplies, through their chairman, reported having received bids for the supply of coal. H. G. Supplee, Superintendent of the Farmer's Produce Exchange, being the lowest bidder, the contract of two hundred tons was awarded to him. The question of repainting the tower and replacing the broken slate on the High School building was discussed and referred to the committee on buildings and grounds with power to make contract and attend to having the work completed. The question of supplies and text books, in conformity with the late act was referred to the respective Committees to report at the next meeting when, in conjunction with the Principal and teachers a selection will be made and secured in time for the opening of the schools on Monday, August 28th. A letter was read from Prof. Sterner announcing his intention of returning from his vacation in about a week.

The fence surrounding the yard at the Third street building being in a dilapidated condition, the building committee reported having ordered new material and the work of repairing it will soon be commenced.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Friday, July 28, at 2 o'clock.

The Forget-Me-Not.

From the New York Telegram.

Everybody knows the pretty little forget-me not and likes the flower more perhaps because of its name than its beauty. How was it so called. The Germans account for it by quite a pathetic romance. It seems that once upon a time a knight and a lady were walking by the banks of the Danube when the latter asked her "gallant gay" to pluck for her a tiny blue flower which she saw growing in the stream. No sooner said than done, but the knight, overbalancing, fell into the river, and owing to the slippery nature of the bank and the weight of his own armor was carried away by the current. As he threw the flowers ashore to his lady he cried out with his last breath, "Vergis mein nicht!" ("Forget me not!") And ever since the flower has been looked on as an emblem of fidelity.

The Evangelical Camp Meeting near Guava, in Sugarloaf township, Columbia county, Pa., on the line of the B. & S. R. R., will commence on the second of August and continue 9 days. The meeting will be under the superintendency of Rev. A. H. Irvine P. E. of Lewisburg district. Bishop Dubbs D. D., A. E. Gable D. D., President of the Central Pa. college, and other distinguished ministers will be in attendance. A large boarding tent will be erected on the ground, where boarding and horse feed can be obtained at reasonable rates. Persons desiring to rent tents can do so. For information write to Rev. W. Minsker, Waller, Pa., as A. M. Harvey, Guava, Pa.

The hard times that all are complaining of just now might be in a great measure avoided if everyone would pay their small bills promptly, instead of hoarding every cent they can get their fingers on. There are piles of money in the country, but it does no one any good while under double lock and key. Pay your small debts.

If everybody would do this, THE COLUMBIAN would have several thousand dollars that is now scattered all over the county, here, there, and every where.

The place at which the farmers' picnic is to be held on Saturday, July 29, is on an island just above Coles Creek station on the B. & S. R. R., and directly opposite the mouth of Coles Creek. There is a noted spring here which was much visited by Indians and concerning which are many traditions. One of the oldest citizens who will attend the picnic will point out the Indian paths and talk about traditions and incidents of the earlier days.

A Teacher's examination will be held in Conyngham township at the Logan School House, near Centralia, on Tuesday, August 1st, commencing at 8 o'clock A. M.

Directors are respectfully invited to be present.

WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON,
County Supt.

A number of members of Theta Castle K. G. E. went to Berwick on Monday night to visit the Berwick Castle. They went up in A. M. Derr's rig, and had a very pleasant time.

BRIEF MENTION.

About People You Know.

Mr. Glisson of Philadelphia, is the guest of Mr. L. Paxton at Rupert.

Mr. M. K. Watkins and wife of Mt. Carmel were in town Sunday.

Mrs. Pierce Foulk is visiting her sister in New York state.

Henry M. Rupert spent a couple of days in town this week.

Mrs. W. S. Rishton went to Philadelphia on Monday to visit her mother.

Mrs. R. C. Neal and sons of Harrisburg are making a visit at Mrs. M. H. Clark's.

John Sterling returned from Montreal on Tuesday. He had a delightful trip.

A. H. Bloom is assisting in the First National Bank during the absence of Miss Mary Tustin.

C. B. Jackson Esq., and S. C. Jayne of Berwick had business in Bloom on Monday.

L. M. Creveling of Fishingcreek was in town on Monday calling on his friends.

Miss Jessie Ent went to Dagus Mines, Elk county, on Tuesday, to visit her brother Alonzo.

Mr. Gidding of the firm of Gidding & Salsburg, is an expert on the mouth organ, and during the lulls in trade, discourses sweet music.

John Beers of Centralia was in town on Tuesday, and took steps for the restraint of his brother Jacob who is suffering from mental aberration.

Prof. W. H. Butts has charge of the organ at St. Paul's church during the summer. He expects to go to Cambridge in the fall.

Hon. I. K. Krickbaum and Abram Hartman returned from Chicago last Saturday. They had a pleasant trip and report the World's Fair as the greatest thing on earth.

Senator Herring and family drove out of town on Wednesday morning with a full supply of fishing tackle and lunch, for a day out along the creek.

Joseph P. Dewitt, candidate for county Treasurer, was in town on Monday, looking up his interests. He is spending all his time on the road now.

President Drinker and councilmen Gorrey, Housel and Holmes visited Williamsport on Tuesday to get some information concerning municipal grants to electric railways.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Z. Schock, Mrs. C. W. McKelvey, Mrs. R. W. Oswald, Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Waller and three children formed a party that started for the World's Fair on Monday.

Master Robbie Dodson, George and Fred Harder, three Girard College boys, dined at the St. Elmo Tuesday. They came here last Friday, and expect to return the 1st of September.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lingle of Bellefonte and Mrs. Jas. Brugler of Port Jervis, New York, are in town, having been called here by the serious illness of their mother, Mrs. J. J. Brower.

Mrs. M. E. Ent has purchased a handsome and convenient vehicle, known as a trap, which is capable of being made into a conveyance of one seat, two seats, or with two seats back to back. Mrs. Petriken, Mrs. Ent, and Miss Annie now occupy a portion of the dwelling of N. U. Funk Esq., on the Espy road.

The people of Mordansville and vicinity are invited to meet in the church on Sunday evening next, 16th inst. to talk over the question of organizing a Sunday School. Speakers will be in attendance.

Mr. John Laubach has purchased the bakery and confectionery of Cummings & Verdy and may be found at the old stand. Mrs. Ent who has been conducting the business for the firm has returned to Light Street.—*Shickshinny Echo.*

Geo. W. Poust, an old resident of Benton township, fell from a load of hay one day last week, and was so seriously injured that he died on Monday. His funeral took place on Wednesday morning. The remains were buried at Waller. He leaves a family to mourn his loss.

Many summer resorts are suffering for lack of patronage this season. Everybody who can afford it is going to the World's Fair, and this will be all the outing they will indulge in. Some of the hotels that are usually filled up at this time of the year, have done but little business thus far.