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A VISIT TO WOOD COUNTY, OHIO.

A vacation being given us at the recent meeting of the consistory, we, the parson and his wife, took our departure for the west on the morning of the 9 inst. We had three objective points, in view, the Heidelberg University, our alma mater, located at Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio; the World's Fair, and friends living in Wood County, Ohio.

We first stopped at Tiffin and were entertained here by our good brother, Rev. J. A. Peters D. D., who is president of the University, and was formerly pastor of the Shiloh Reformed Church at Danville, Pa. We will not soon forget the kind attention of this good brother and the pleasant interview with former teachers and students. As we spent our college and seminary days at this institution which now has first class buildings, we felt that we indeed were very much at home here amidst familiar scenes and associations.

Our visit to Chicago we will not now attempt to describe, but will confine our remarks to Wood County, Ohio. As we alighted from the cars at Deshler, where we expected to take a train to Weston, we were agreeably surprised to see Mr. J. Howard Kline and Mr. A. H. Kitchen who had driven there to meet us. We were soon seated in the new carriage of Mr. Kline and on our way to his home, a distance of nine miles. The latter part of our drive was very much accelerated on account of an approaching shower which overtook us when we were a few rods from home. As there had been no rain for weeks, it was natural to associate this rain with our coming. As there is so much that is of interest in Wood County, I shall be obliged to treat my subject somewhat historically.

Less than fifty years ago the whole of Ohio had been settled and occupied except a section in which Wood County is located, then familiarly known as the Black Swamp. The great question for legislative solution was, what will we do with the Black Swamp? Some portions were prolific in prairie grass, and other portions were heavily timbered, but the land being level and very wet, it could not be drained or inhabited. The perplexing question of utilizing the Black Swamp was finally solved by the proposition to dig several large and deep ditches through these lands. This proposition was accepted and effectually carried out. Some of these ditches are as wide and twice as deep as the common canal. Into these county ditches the township ditches flow; and into the township ditches the farmers run their surface and underdrains. Underdraining or tiling is necessary to successful farming in this county. The tile used here is from two and a half inches to five inches in diameter, and one foot long. The average size can be bought for nine dollars per thousand, and one thousand will drain about 60 rods. It costs about as much to lay the tiles as it does to purchase them. Using 500 tiles to an acre, it will cost \$3 to tile the same. When the tile is properly laid, it will last for years. As phosphates are not used on tiled lands, it is much cheaper in the end to tile in Wood County than to phosphate in the east. The soil in this county is a black loam with a clay subsoil. It is rich and will produce abundant crops if properly tilled, indeed not a few farmers burn their straw.

This county is a great place for raising cabbage. We have seen a number of large patches, some of which contained ten acres. To see a ten acre field of cabbage must be pleasing to the lover of saur-kraut. Agents buy up this cabbage at \$12 per ton in the field and ship it to distant points. Usually the cabbage field will average \$60 per acre.

Hay in new meadows averages three tons per acre, and oats about forty bushels per acre. The wheat crop was good here this year. The yield is from 17 bushels to 35 bushels per acre, and averages in the county 25 per acre. Mr. Howard Kline had eight acres out and received 193 bushels. On a neighbor's farm we saw a one acre patch which yielded this year 42 bushels.

The mammoth clover is raised here for the seed alone. All over the county we saw large fields of this product in process of being cut or threshed. The yield is from 3 to 9 bushels per acre, and sells at about \$5 per bushel. Corn, however, seems to be the principle cereal product of this county. Wherever you go or look, you can see corn fields. From Deshler to the home of Mr. Kline, a distance of nine miles, one half the fields on either side of the road are on an average corn fields. Sometimes the corn fields were so connected as to form one continuous stretch of corn

for two or three miles. The corn field of Howard Kline contains 25 acres and was planted by his son Walter, who is sixteen years old. In planting this field he used no marker, only a hand planter and four stakes by which he could see to walk straight. The rows are 90 rods long and without a crook. The corn in this field is about ten feet high and is considered among the best in the county. Three bushels in ears will produce two bushels shelled corn. In all our travels this year, we have nowhere found the corn as good as in Wood County. The corn which is produced so abundantly in Wood County is either manufactured at home into pork or sent to any convenient R. R. town where it is readily disposed of at the market price.

While Wood County has perhaps neither coal or iron, it has an abundance of natural gas and oil. We traveled from Bowling Green, the county seat, to Welker, a distance of 13 miles through the very heart of the gas and oil field of Wood County. At no time were we out of the sight of the towering derricks and very often we could count from one point of observation 25, 50, 75, and even 100 derricks. At Cuyget and Oil Centre, we saw large tank farms. A tank farm is land occupied by large tanks, on an average one tank to an acre. A single tank holds about 35,000 barrels of oil. It is not unusual to find fifty of these tanks in one field. This oil is conveyed to remote cities by R. R. but also through underground pipes to Cleveland, Toledo and Chicago. In this section is found also an abundance of natural gas. Some wells produce oil only, others gas only, while others produce both oil and gas. The gas is conducted in pipes to Tiffin, Toledo and other neighboring towns, and is used for fuel.

The smell of natural gas and oil to a man prospecting for either on his own land is pleasant, but to the man who is not particularly interested in either, its odor is like the fumes of a ruptured antiquated egg.

A picnic trip to the Maumee river was arranged by Mr. Kline and lady in the interests of their guests from Pennsylvania. A few of their neighbors were invited along. We had a delightful drive of seven miles to the river, and on the bank of that celebrated stream we pitched our tent and made our coffee. After dinner, some strolled along the river gathering beautiful shells, others engaged in boat riding, and Walter and the writer engaged in fishing. I was anxious to catch a few specimens of the fish that inhabit this river. The fish seemed to understand my desire, as I succeeded in catching only one of a kind. In this river I observed something that was amusing. Three men were fishing with a seine in the interest of science. As they were dragging their seine we observed a bass occasionally jump over the net, but as they turned their net toward the shore, there was a general jumping of the bass over the seine, and when it was finally drawn to shore, it seemed to contain every kind of fish except the bass—every bass escaped. Some of the bass would jump out of the net, and then make two or three more jumps toward deep water. They evidently wanted to be sure that they were out of the net. Toward evening we started for home, and after driving a few miles, we observed that a spindle of a wheel was smoking. I thought, now we are in a plight. But Howard, being equal to the emergency, called to his better half, "Maggie, is there any butter left?" The reply being "yes," the wheel was taken off, and was not greased but buttered, and we were soon on our way again.

During our stay in Wood County, we had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Abraham White and Mr. Joseph H. Sands, who formerly came from Columbia County, and all of whom we are happy to report are doing well. We appreciated very much the kindness of our Wood County friends, and will vouch for the hospitality of Messrs. Kline, White and Sands to any visitor from Columbia County. These gentlemen and their estimable wives know how to make it pleasant to any Pennsylvanian that may come that way. A. H.

Orangeville, Pa., Aug. 25.

Frank Chromis lost one of his big bay horses Friday of last week. He took several barrels of coal oil to Millville. When he left the town he noticed the horse was sick, but thought a light drive home would not hurt it. The horse died soon after reaching home.

Harvest Home services were held at the Reformed church last Sunday. There was a large attendance. The church was beautifully decorated with fruits and flowers.

SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS.

AN EFFORT MADE TO STOP THEIR SALE.

NEXT SUNDAY THE LAST DAY.

On Sunday last the patrons of Elmer Brugler, agent for the Sunday newspapers, were informed that after next Sunday no more papers would be sold. This action was in pursuance of a notice served upon him, a copy of which notice was printed in full in the COLUMBIAN a few weeks ago. It is an appeal to all business men to close their places of business on Sunday, and to abstain from secular work on that day. It contains a suggestion that the law may be enforced against all who violate the act of 1794. That law reads as follows:

"If any person shall do or perform any worldly employment or business whatsoever on the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday (works of necessity and charity only excepted), shall use or practice any unlawful game, hunting, shooting, sport or diversion whatsoever on the same day, and be convicted thereof, every such person so offending shall for every such offense forfeit and pay four dollars, to be levied by distress, or in case he or she shall refuse or neglect to pay the said sum, or goods and chattels cannot be found, whereof to levy the same by distress, he or she shall suffer six days' imprisonment in the house of correction of the proper county. Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the dressing of victuals in private families, bake houses, lodging houses, inns and other houses of entertainment for the use of sojourners, travelers, or strangers or to hinder watermen from landing their passengers, or ferrymen from carrying over water travelers, or persons removing with their families on the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, nor to the delivery of milk or the necessaries of life, before nine of the clock in the forenoon of the same day. Provided always, that every such prosecution shall be commenced within seventy-two hours after the offence is committed."

The notice above referred to is signed by the "Sabbath Protection Committee of Bloomsburg" and the "American Sabbath Union." No individual names appear, neither of the officers of these organizations, nor of the members of the committee. If the efforts to stop the sale of newspapers on Sunday be laudable ones would it not be well to have the public know who are the active persons in this movement? THE COLUMBIAN will be glad to print the names of the committee whenever it can obtain the necessary information.

There are some laws that are more honored in the breach than in the observance, and the law of 1794, so far as it is applicable to the sale of papers on Sunday, is one of them. When that law was passed nearly a century ago, the puritanical notions of the Pilgrim fathers were prevalent. There were no Sunday newspapers in existence, and but very few dailies. There were no railroads, and the papers received a week after publication were looked upon as "news." The world has changed since then, and the ideas of progressive people have changed with it. All the great dailies now publish Sunday editions, which contain the news of Saturday, and unless business men and all others who wish to keep informed of the world's doings read the Sunday papers, they lose the news of a day. We cannot see what harm is done by the reading of Sunday papers, nor what great good is to be accomplished by their suppression. People will read on Sunday, and if they can't get good wholesome newspapers, they will buy the trash that is sold on Saturday as Sunday papers, full of sensational stuff, or devote their time to novels and yellow covered literature. No one not otherwise inclined, will be driven to church by shutting off his Sunday paper. We believe in Sunday laws, we believe in the proper observance of the Sabbath, but we also believe that more harm than good will result from the enforcement of the law so far as newspapers are concerned, and we believe that a large majority of the business men of this community feel the same way.

BE REGISTERED.

The last days for the registering of voters are Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th, between the hours of 10 and 3, and from 6 to 9 in the evening. Don't forget it.

EAGLE'S MERE STORM SWEEP.

WIND'S PECULIAR PRANKS.

The storm of Sunday evening assumed cyclonic proportions as it passed over Eagle's Mere, and the wind cut up some most peculiar pranks in the short space of time that it was with the popular mountain resort, says the *Gazette & Bulletin*.

Happily no lives were lost, but there were some very narrow escapes, and property was damaged a good deal.

The storm was accompanied by thunder and lightning that was most intense, while the wind blew a gale, and every one at the resort was more or less scared during its prevalence. The path of the cyclone was a most peculiar one, confining itself to the vicinity of the Hotel Raymond. The wind first struck the barn in the rear of the cottage of Dr. G. D. Nutt, of Williamsport and scattered the timbers and boards in all directions. Half of them cannot be found. Then the gale circled around the cottage of Frank Gould, of Philadelphia, located between Dr. Nutt's and the Raymond, chopping off Mr. Gould's porch, on the side next to the hotel, en route. The wind next sailed across the street and hit the cottage of Mrs. Spencer, of Philadelphia and which is opposite Dr. Nutt's. The cottage was almost completely wrecked.

The hurricane just seemed to knock the props out from under the Spencer cottage, as it were. The wind got into the first story and that collapsed in less time than it takes to tell it, letting the second story drop to the ground. On the first floor there were a lot of young people, including some Williamsporters, who had called, and they made some narrow escapes. Some of them were bruised, but all escaped serious injury. It is said that one young lady was blown out the door.

Judge Wilson, with his family occupies the Spencer cottage, and the Judge, who was also on the first floor, sustained a cut in the back of the head. Mrs. Wilson was on the second floor engaged in putting the children to bed when the cottage was wrecked, and when that portion of the structure dropped to the ground so suddenly the crash never woke the babies, who were sound asleep. The top of the cottage alighted in a slanting position, one edge resting on the porch of the cottage next door, and those up stairs were taken out the second story windows. Mrs. Wilson sustained a bruised nose.

After doing this damage the storm swept across the lake and was lost to view in the night, without doing any further work of destruction.

A Williamsport gentleman who was at Eagle's Mere over Sunday and saw the storm, says that it was the most beautiful electrical display he ever witnessed.

"The storm struck Eagle's Mere between 9 and 10 o'clock," said the gentleman, "and I saw the funnel-shaped cloud that is said to come down on the earth and grab things. Then it sounded as though a train of cars was rushing through the place, but of course there were no cars. The wind blew a gale, and it was two hours after the storm before the population knew what had happened. It was a terrific storm, but was fortunately confined to a small space, and the escape of the people in the Spencer cottage was miraculous."

The cyclone missed Highland Lake entirely, and while there was some rain at that resort there was very little wind, no damage whatever being done. No reports of any damage in that region, other than at Eagle's Mere, have been received.

ATLANTIC CITY EXCURSION.

On Thursday morning last despite a pouring rain, a crowd of nearly one hundred excursionists left on the Reading Railroad for Atlantic City. The excursion train started from Jamison City, picking up passengers at Benton, Orangeville and Lightstreet. Bloomsburg was well represented. Precisely at 6.10 the train consisting of five coaches started from Bloomsburg. A good run was made to Tamqua where the party was joined by a special from Williamsport consisting of twelve coaches well filled. We arrived at the new depot at Philadelphia at about 2.30 when the party separated, some taking the train for New York, others strolled around the city. At four o'clock a portion of the crowd again met on the Ferry boat for Camden City; a few minutes more and all were aboard the cars for Atlantic City. After a delightful ride, we landed at Atlantic City, where accommodations were obtained at Hotels Ashburn and Osborne. After a little delay supper was ready, and the party sat down to a substantial meal. Blue fish was in great demand, and here let us inform our friends who like fish, if

they want to eat Blue fish go to Atlantic City, where they know how to cook them to perfection. After supper a stroll to the Beach was taken and many for the first time saw the great Atlantic Ocean. The roar of the surf was listened to with great interest while the rolling in of the white capped waves was a source of surprise to our friends from Fishingcreek. A promenade down the plank walk, which extends for six miles was taken, and visits made to the various places of amusement. No matter where you stopped you could see some of our party either on the Ferris Wheel or whirling around on the Carousel or flying down the toboggan slide—old and young seemed to be enjoying themselves to the musical strains of "After the Ball."

The attractions are too numerous to mention: if you want to see handsome women, elegantly costumed, in fact the typical American Summer Girl you should take a walk on the promenade at Atlantic City. I fear that some of the party became dazzled as I am sure they did not retire as early as they do when at home at their rustic homes up the creek. On Friday the party could be seen during bathing hours, some costumed in bathing suits, others looking on in surprise as they did not know their neighbors ever took a bath. The writer could enumerate many funny little adventures as some of our friends little thought there was a "chie!" among them taking notes, however every body seemed to enjoy themselves, and enjoyed the healthful ocean breeze. We understand the party are indebted to W. H. Smith of the Benton *Argus* for making the arrangements and looking to the comfort of the excursionists in general, and we feel satisfied that should another excursion be arranged to Atlantic City from this county, your correspondent and many others will certainly join the crowd.

E. RODMAN DRINKER.

It is with sorrow that we record the death of Edward Rodman Drinker, whose sufferings ended last week Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock. For several years his health has been failing, and his death was not unlooked for. His age was 62 years, 9 months, 19 days. Mr. Drinker was a son of Richard Drinker, and was born in Luzerne county, November 5, 1830. In 1846 he came to Bloomsburg with his parents, and was employed as office boy at the Irondale furnace. Subsequently he was made book-keeper and filled that position for nearly thirty years, when he was made superintendent and remained so until the Company sold out to Knorr & Winterstein. Since then he has had an interest in the Hess Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Drinker had been for many years a member of the St. Paul's Episcopal church, and for more than thirty years a vestryman. He had been the Senior Warden for many years, and held the position up to the time of his death. Until within a short time he was one of the most liberal contributors for the support of the church and was one of the leading spirits in the erection of the present church building which was completed in 1870. For a long time he was Superintendent of the Sunday School; and year after year he was chosen as a lay deputy to represent the parish in the Diocesan convention, and he was always in his place. For a few years he was a member of Town Council.

Of his father's family there remain Francis P. and M. C. Drinker of the town, and two sisters who reside in Scranton.

He was married in 1859 to Martha Mendenhall who survives him, with three children, namely Edward W. Division freight agent of the Lehigh Valley R. R. at Wilkes-Barre; Richard C. residing at Bethlehem, and Lydia W. who resides with her mother.

Mr. Drinker was a warm friend, a good citizen, and affectionate and indulgent husband and father.

The funeral took place at the house on Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, and in the absence of the rector where a telegram failed to reach him, the services were conducted by Rev. John Rockwell of St. Gabriel's, Sugarloaf.

About thirty people went from Bloomsburg on the excursion to Atlantic City last week Thursday, and returned on Monday. They report having a good time. James Cadman who was in the party says that he came near being drowned in his efforts to rescue four ladies who got in the undertow. No lives were lost.

Elmer E. Mears' new house on Fifth street is completed, and he has moved into it.

BRIEF MENTION.

About People You Know.

J. G. Wells went to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

William C. Dentler returned from the west last week.

C. P. Yorks Esq., of Central spent Tuesday in town.

J. Lee Harman returned from his western trip on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Drinker are visited at Mrs. E. R. Drinker's.

George Hart of Bellefonte is spending this week in town.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Buckalew have gone to Chicago to attend the World's Fair.

Hon. E. R. Keeler and wife started for the World's Fair Monday. They will be absent two weeks.

Chas. P. Elwell came home from Chicago on Monday. He was much pleased with the Fair.

Charles Evans is seriously ill with inflammatory rheumatism, at the home of his parents, A. J. Evans, on Third street.

H. A. McKillip and W. D. Beckley Esqs. and J. C. Brown attended the Republican state convention at Harrisburg last Wednesday.

Edward Moyer returned home on Monday after an absence of six months in the west. He recently visited the World's Fair.

Boyd Trescott of the Millville *Tablet* and Mr. Eckman were in town on Tuesday on business connected with the new Lutheran church at Millville.

Moses Hower, a staunch old democrat of Catawissa and a long time reader of this paper, was in town on Thursday.

Miss Maggie Tubbs, lately employed in the store of McHenry Bros. at Benton has accepted a position with H. J. Clark & Son at Bloomsburg.

J. G. Wells has contracted with Mr. J. W. Peacock for the erection of a handsome residence on his Fifth street lot adjoining S. F. Peacock's.

P. V. Weaver Esq. and other friends of Hazleton, have chartered a car for a trip to the World's Fair. They will start in a few days.

J. R. Townsend was one of the excursionists who took in the trip to Atlantic City last week. He stopped at Philadelphia on his return, and reached home at midnight Saturday.

Thomas Trench and grand daughter Nellie started for Florida, Monday. Mr. Trench is now past 80 years of age, and is enjoying excellent health. He bids fair to be a centenarian.

Wesley M. Cleaver of Cleveland township, was in town Monday. He has been assisting his father on the farm during the past year, but expects to again enter the lecture field sometime in December.

Miss Rebecca Armstrong who is visiting Mrs. E. W. Elwell in Towanda, is suffering from an attack of erysipelas in her right hand.

Miss Margery Thayer of Portland, Oregon, niece of Mrs. William Elwell, is visiting her Bloomsburg relatives. On her way east she went to the World's Fair.

C. B. Robbins returned last Thursday from his visit to the World's Fair. He was six days taking in the wonderful sights. During the three weeks of his absence he visited friends, and places of interest in ten different states, besides Canada.

Dr. D. J. Waller Jr. and family left here on Thursday, except his son David, who in company with John Shultz, started on horse back for Indiana county last Monday. David rode the white pony, and Shultz was mounted on Dr. Waller's horse.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Henderson of Montgomery, spent Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Wells. They started for the World's Fair Tuesday, and will be absent about two weeks.

Drs. F. W. Redeker, J. C. Rutter, and H. W. McReynolds, have received notice of their appointment as members of the pension board. They begin work at once, the old board having sat for the last, Wednesday of last week.

Mrs. Lizzie Coulter of Vunango county, who has been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Creasy, of Mifflin, and been confined to her bed by sickness for some time, has sufficiently recovered to be about again. She expects to return to her home in a few weeks.