

### OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Speaking of the \$5,000,000 School appropriation the Superintendent of Public Instruction, N. C. Schaefer, in the "Annual Report," says in part; "Nor can the increased appropriation be said to have produced the effects which ardent friends of the public schools had expected. Reference to the statistical tables shows that the resulting increase in the monthly salary of male teachers was but \$1.79 and in that of female teachers only \$1.63. The average increase in the length of the school was but one third of a month. The total increase in the cost of tuition was \$701,779.83 and the decrease in the amount of tax levied for school purposes was \$321,795.95. Add to those amounts the increase in the cost of building, purchasing and renting (\$1,072,277.37), and there remains a balance unaccounted for in the three million increase of the \$126,559.12 which must have accumulated in the treasuries of the districts instead of being expended upon the improvements of the schools."

How could it be otherwise? Except there should be a lavish expenditure of money, even to prodigality by especially favored school districts; such a result is inevitable in consequence of the unjust basis for distribution of the school appropriation. In assuming full jurisdiction, and exercising all authority over our public schools, prescribing what branches of study shall be taught, what constitutes proper qualifications for teachers to take charge of the public schools, how long they be kept open, and directing all other matters pertaining thereto, even at a penalty of a forfeiture of the school appropriation if any of the prescribed provisions are violated, I hold that the Commonwealth is guilty of a misdemeanor, yea, a crime, when she distributes a sufficient sum of money to pay the teachers' salary of some districts for a period of 8 to 10 months at \$40 per month, when at the same time she distributes a sum sufficient only to pay the teachers' salary for a period of 4 to 6 months at \$20 per month to other districts. Will it be said that this statement is an exaggeration, an untruth, or a vain imagination? Consult the statistical tables of the school report for the year 1893. Had the distribution of the school appropriation (\$5,000,000) been made upon a just and equitable basis the "ardent friends of our public schools" would have realized their most sanguine expectations; and there would not have remained an unexpended balance of the three million increase of \$126,559.12 which must have accumulated in "favored treasuries, awaiting additional surplus in similar unequal and unjust distribution of school appropriations. This is the reason, and only reason why some school directors levy from 1 to 2 for school purposes and have the best schools in the state, while other districts are obliged to levy from 5 to 13 and yet have the poorest schools in the state. This is the reason why many schools are abundantly supplied with all the educational paraphernalia and school facilities, while others are barely sufficiently supplied to make the schools attractive, comfortable, or even profitable. The "ardent friends of our public schools" could perform no better, nor more acceptable mission than to besiege the Legislature to change the present unequal basis to a just and equitable basis, whereby all the children would share equal benefits from the bounty of an inexhaustible supply of our great Commonwealth. Such an achievement would gain for them countless blessings from all portions of the state, and crown them the greatest benefactors of the age. Not only would the majority of children receive from twenty to a hundred fold more benefit from our Public School system, but the majority of teachers would also receive a corresponding increase of compensation, and educational progression and school improvement would be marked and uniform all along the line. Parental love, and anxiety for the future welfare of the individual child is as affectionate, and deep in one part or locality of our Commonwealth, as it is possible for it to be in any other; notwithstanding the unequal condition in regard to school facilities in which the state has placed all the children of the Commonwealth, by, and through discriminating school appropriations.

JOHN C. WENNER,  
Benton, Pa.

William Chrisman, Esq., retires from the office of District Attorney after a service of six years. He has filled the position with fidelity and ability. The business of the criminal courts has been attended to promptly and impartially, and he has made a good record.

### CHRISTMAS EXERCISES AT THE REFORMED CHURCH.

Christmas was very much enjoyed by all who attended the exercises at the Reformed Church. The Church was filled and many were turned away for want of room. The subject of the exercises was the "Hope of Israel," and the entire program was rendered without a failure. The music rendered gave evidence of the fact that no pains were spared on the part of Mr. A. N. Yost, the choir master, in his selections. Mr. Lambert McHenry well rendered his part as cornetist, as also did Miss Jessie Ent, who presided at the organ.

The decorations were exquisite, and consisted mostly of spruce trimmings, wreaths, festoons, and arches. Up above the pulpit, in a wreath, was a large star, and under this were the words, "Hope of Israel," in gilt letters, each letter in a separate wreath.

The program was rendered as follows: Anthem by choir, prayer by the pastor, singing by Sunday school, recitation by Anna Solleder, entitled, "Merry Christmas," responsive reading, singing by school, recitation, by Minnie Gross, entitled "Christmas," singing by infant class, responsive reading, selection by choir, recitation, by Kitty Cadow, entitled, the "Christ child," singing by school, recitation, by Grace Chromis, entitled, "Christmas in the Heart," singing, by infant school, recitation, "Hope of Israel," by infant class, singing, by a class of girls, address, by J. W. Buck, a student of the Theological Seminary, of Lancaster, which was very attentively listened to, Scripture reading, singing of hymn, recitation, by Martha Jones, entitled, "The True Christmas Spirit," lifting of offerings, singing of hymn, benediction by pastor.

A. N. Yost and Miss Jessie Ent, in token of their services so faithfully given, as Superintendent of Sunday School, and as Organist of the church, were each presented with a Christmas gift.

### BROWN-BROOKWAY.

On the evening of December 26th a number of guests gathered at the home of the Misses Brockway, on Market street, expecting to witness the marriage of Miss Laura Brockway to Mr. Ira J. Brown. The wedding march was played by Prof. I. W. Niles, and when the bridal party entered, instead of a wedding ceremony, Mr. M. P. Lutz, uncle of the bride, explained that Miss Laura was not yet 21 years old, and had neither parents nor a guardian, it was impossible to procure a license in this State, and that therefore, the marriage had taken place in Camden, N. J., on Friday last. Refreshments were served by Mrs. M. M. Phillips, and all the guests enjoyed themselves. Mrs. Brown is a daughter of the late Captain C. B. Brockway, at one time one of the editors of THE COLUMBIAN. She received many very handsome presents.

### EVERHART-DAVIS.

A pretty wedding took place at the Christian Church at Derr's, in Jackson township on Christmas at twelve o'clock noon, when Charles Everhart of Philadelphia, and Miss Jennie, daughter of Deemer Davis, were united in the bonds of matrimony by Rev. Mr. Maltman. The church was prettily decorated with evergreens and flowers, and was well filled with witnesses. At the appointed time the bridal party entered the church, the bride accompanied by her sister, Miss Sarah Davis, as maid of honor, and preceded by the bridesmaids, Misses Mary Davis, Eva Kline, Alverda Everhart and Laura Heacock. The bridegroom entered by the other aisle, accompanied by his best man, Abner Everhart, his brother. The bride and groom met at the pulpit, and the knot was soon tied. The bride was dressed in white. A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, and was largely attended. There were numerous useful and valuable gifts. Mr. and Mrs. Everhart will go to Philadelphia next Monday where they will reside.

### SENATOR HERRING WILL GET IT.

We have information, which is believed to be reliable, that Grant Herring will be appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for this district in a short time. The delay has been caused by the fight for Conniff, of Luzerne county, but his chances are no longer considered good.

H. A. McKillip, Esq., will go as a delegate from Columbia county to the Republican Convention, which meets next week in Harrisburg to nominate a Congressman at Large to succeed General Lilly.

### A BRILLIANT PARTY.

The elegant home of Hon. E. R. Ikeler on Market street was the scene of a charming party last week Thursday night, the occasion being a reception in honor of Fred Ikeler Esq. and his bride. As the guests entered the parlor they were received by Mrs. Ikeler, Judge Ikeler, Mrs. Fred Ikeler, Mr. Fred Ikeler, Miss Helen Harman and Mr. Frank Ikeler. The house was beautifully decorated with smilax, and roses and palms. After the guests had all arrived, they were entertained for an hour by Prof. Geo. B. Hynson, of the National School of Elocution and Oratory, of Philadelphia, who recited a number of selections. He has a very pleasant voice and knows how to use it. C. P. Elwell's orchestra provided excellent music, during the evening. A large room on the third floor was used for dancing, and no better evidence of how much it was enjoyed by the young people is needed than the fact that the dancing was kept up until after three o'clock in the morning.

The refreshments were served at 11 o'clock, and were delicious, Mrs. Phillips being the caterer.

Among the guests from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Geyer of Catawissa; Mrs. W. Leverett, Wilkes Barre; Mrs. Judge Murphy and her two daughters, and Miss Gaylor of Centralia; Miss Tilden, daughter of Deputy Secretary of state, A. L. Tilden, of Le Boeuf, Pa.; Mr. Dayton of New York; John and Abbott Bucher, sons of Judge Bucher of Lewisburg. Miss Helen M. Harman, Norristown; W. L. Showers, editor of the Saturday Review, of Williamsport, the Misses Low and E. E. Low of Lime Ridge; Dr. J. C. Reinsnyder, Milton; William Burd of Northumberland.

It was a delightful occasion in every respect, one of the interesting features being the fact that the engagement of Mr. Frank Ikeler and Miss Helen Harman was the subject of congratulations.

Nothing was left undone by the host and hostess that could in any way add to the enjoyment of their guests, and everybody took advantage of the opportunity thus afforded, and had a thoroughly good time.

In the early part of the evening the Bloomsburg Band played several selections in front of Judge Ikeler's residence.

### A FAMILY GATHERING.

A happy family reunion was held at the Central Hotel when all the sons and daughters of Mr. Geo. Aurand, proprietor of the hotel, gathered around the paternal hearth stone to spend Christmas. There were present Mr. Geo. Aurand and wife, Mr. and Mrs. James Aurand of New York, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hopper and three children, of Williamsport; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Kennedy of Chester County, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hallman of Norristown, Frank Aurand of New York, and Harry and Miss Carrie of Bloomsburg, making seventeen in all, and including all the children and grand children of Mr. Aurand. The Christmas dinner was an elaborate and delicious one, and was served in the usual excellent style for which the Central is noted.

### LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Christmas exercises in the Lutheran church was held Tuesday evening at seven o'clock. The members of the school gathered in the Sunday School room at half past six o'clock and marched up stairs where seats were reserved for them. The exercises consisted of music by the choir, bible reading, prayer by the pastor, singing by seven little girls, recitations, Christmas mottoes by 13 little girls, recitation by Clara Gunton, singing by 4 little boys, recitation Ruth Heilman, recitation Laura Herring, music by 4 little girls, recitation by Mary Corell, recitation Callie Kashner, address by Superintendent W. H. Brooke, recitation Mabel Heist.

The presents consisting of a box of candy for each of the scholars, were then distributed as well also a number of personal gifts to teachers and members of the school.

On the first Monday in January the term of office of Charles H. Campbell, register and recorder for the past six years, will end. He has been a model officer, attentive to business, always gentlemanly, courteous and obliging, and he has added many new friends to his long list during his public service. He will retire to private life enjoying the respect and confidence of all good citizens, with many earnest wishes that success may attend him in whatever occupation he engages in the future.

### BRIEF MENTION.

#### About People You Know.

C. H. Reice is in Philadelphia this week.

Abijah Swisher will take possession of the Buck Horn hotel on April 1st.

Judge and Mrs. Elwell are both recovering from the effects of the gripe. James C. Sterner, of Mt. Carmel, spent Christmas in Bloomsburg.

Ed. H. Eyer is at home with his parents for the holidays.

Paul Tustin intends to take a course of study at the Chicago University.

F. M. Everett now occupies his fine new residence on West street.

John Beers, of Centralia, was in town Christmas on business.

Mr. J. J. Brower went to Bellefonte on Friday, and spent Christmas with his daughter, Mrs. Lingle.

E. Barton John is at home from Lehigh University on his holiday vacation.

Mont. Smith came home from Dickinson College to spend Christmas with his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Neal and sons, Robert and Harold, of Harrisburg, spent Christmas at Mrs. M. H. Clark's.

William Kase West Esq. one of the prominent lawyers of Danville, was in town on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Clark of Harrisburg spent Christmas with Bloomsburg relatives.

Mrs. R. W. Oswald and children have been visiting in Berwick the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Unangst of New York, are visiting their parents Mr. and Mrs. Unangst.

H. J. Edwards, an old-time Democrat, of Berwick, was a visitor to the county seat on Friday.

Harry Houck and Frank Colley went to Philadelphia on Wednesday and will return on Saturday.

Casper Kressler was sick two weeks with the gripe, but is able to be out again.

Mrs. Jacob Blosser went to Millersburg to spend Christmas with her brother and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Brice McHenry, of Benton, spent Christmas in town with W. Solleder.

H. Fornwald and son, C. H. Fornwald, took a trip to Shamokin on Christmas.

Mrs. Howard Jury went to Norristown to spend Christmas with her parents.

J. W. Buck, of Rupert, who is now a student at the Theological Seminary, at Lancaster, was in town on Christmas.

District Attorney elect Thos. B. Hanly returned from Arkansas last Saturday. He says that game is very plentiful out there.

Miss Lizzie Girton spent Christmas at home with her parents in Greenwood township, and attended the Everhart wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gilbert, of Philadelphia, came up on Christmas. Mr. Gilbert returned on Wednesday, but Mrs. Gilbert is still here.

Mrs. Nettie Grassler, who was visiting Mrs. Jacob Blosser, was called to Williamsport on account of the illness of her aunt.

J. W. Harman has purchased the half interest in the tin shop of Wm. Hartman, and the firm will now be known as Hartman & Harman.

The wedding of Mr. J. M. Gidding, of the firm of Gidding & Salsburg, to Miss Flo Goldsmith, will take place at the bride's home in Danville next week.

Master Josiah Little entertained fifteen of his juvenile friends on Wednesday afternoon from four to six o'clock. The little folks had a delightful time.

P. S. Harman has been sick with the gripe for the past two weeks. He was able to be out on Monday, but was seized with a chill and has not been as well since.

Among the former Bloomsburg people who came back to spend the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Perrin of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Voris of Scranton; Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Townsend of Berwick; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weigand, of Wilkesbarre; Mr. and Mrs. William Leverett, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Andreas of Wilkesbarre; W. Clark Sloan, Philadelphia; Morris Sloan, Scranton; Frank Aurand, New York.

## A GRAND BOON!!

### —TO— CLOTHING BUYERS.

## More Reductions! Greater Sacrifices!

In spite of the dullness of the season the steady outflow of Clothing from the Lowenberg Clothing Store has been marvelous.

—But there still remains—

## Thousands of Dollars'

Worth of the most desirable Goods. This seasons' most Stylish

## STORM COATS, OVERCOATS AND SUITS.

They must be sold, in a short time no matter what they bring.

—A GREAT MANY—

## Elegant Mens' Suits

that cost us 14 and 15 dollars go for 10 dollars.

—ELEGANT—

## Long Storm Overcoats

Worth 12 dollars go for 10 dollars. Some worth 18 dollars go for \$11.75.

A great many Overcoats go for about Fifty cents on the Dollar of the Market Value of the Goods.

Such enormous Reductions in Elegant

## Clothing, Hats and Furnishings

never before heard of in this or any other section of the country.

## MUFFLERS

—AND—

## SILK HANDKERCHIEFS

the nicest line of goods at half the original prices.

Elegant Childrens' Suits and Overcoats, the nicest kind of goods to be sold, no matter what they cost.

Come and see for yourself just how much money you can save by buying at

## LOWENBERG'S CLOSING OUT SALE.