

The Columbian.

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JOSEPH GIRTON KILLED.

HE WAS TERRIBLY CRUSHED AND
MANGLED ON THE RAILROAD.

HE WAS A WANDERER FROM A
GOOD HOME.

Letters Found in His Pocket Help To
Tell A Pathetic Story—He Abandoned
His Mother And Went Forth To
See The World.

Cut in halves and disemboweled, the body of a young man of 18 or 20 years was found Friday evening by the crew of Central train drawn by engine 319, midway between the Catawissa and Lower Catawissa stations of the railroad.

The men came across the ghastly sight about 6:30 o'clock. The body was lying across the tracks near Bower's slaughtering house. The corpse had been cut in two by the wheels of the cars. The entrails lay scattered about. The body was still warm. It was supposed the young man had fallen off that same train and met his horrible death. The body was removed to Undertaker Stewart's morgue and Coroner Yost was notified.

The circumstances connected with the case are exceedingly sad. The youth, who was still a mere boy, was handsome and well dressed. He wore a blue suit, tan shoes, blue overcoat, and derby hat. From letters found in his pockets it was learned that he was Joseph Girton, of Bloomsburg. He was a silk worker. The story of the letters is that he had a widowed mother. A letter from his mother contains the usual affectionate terms. She talks about John and Bernard, evidently brothers, cracking nuts in the kitchen, and mentions two other children, Alex and Lizzie. The mother says that if he was determined to go off and see the world he should always be a man and a Christian and do right, for that was the only way to get along. The letter indicates that the boy left home against his mother's wishes.

One letter was addressed to "Joseph Girton, 420 Gordon Street, Allentown." No. 420 Gordon is the saloon of Anthony Ebertz, who says that Girton and three companions came to Allentown Nov. 7. He got work at the Gouvernaud Silk Mill. He boarded with Mr. Ebertz for several weeks, when he got a job at the Cutter Silk Mill in Bethlehem. He then changed his boarding place to the Lehigh Valley House, in South Bethlehem. It is believed he boarded the Central train out of mere bravado and boyish recklessness, and as he made fair wages and had enough money to pay his way.

In the boy's clothes Dr. Yost found a purse containing \$3.11, a silver watch, a razor, a big box of cigarettes, pair of scissors, time tables and half a dozen letters. A car wheel passed over the watch, which was completely smashed. The razor was broken and the scissors were bent. He also carried some odd little sticks which are used in silk weaving. On one of his fingers was a gold ring.

Dr. Yost empanelled a jury consisting of William Williams, John Howells, Leon Dolan, William Scott, William Morrow and John Hopkins. The jury rendered a verdict of accidental death. Dr. Yost telegraphed the sad fate of her son's death to Mrs. Girton at Bloomsburg, and is a waiting orders as to the disposition of the remains.

—Allentown Daily Leader.
Charles Stohner, an uncle, went down Saturday morning, and returned with the body Sunday evening. The funeral was held Monday morning from the residence of his mother, 60 Iron Street.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S STORM.

Saturday afternoon and evening this place was visited by one of the most peculiar storms that has ever happened here at this season of the year. It had all that goes to make up a blizzard, with the exception of low temperature and rain, instead of high temperature and snow. The wind blew a gale between five and nine o'clock, and the rain fell was heavy, with fits and starts like an April storm. Everyone stayed at home who could, and business was practically at a stand still. The storm started in the afternoon, but it was not until about five o'clock when the people were returning from their work that it gained its height. Umbrellas were useless, and those who attempted to carry them either had them blown from their hands or turned inside out. Reports from adjacent places indicate that the storm was general.

The Saturday Review of this place suspended publication with the issue of last Saturday.

CHRISTMAS TIDE.

As It Was Observed by the Different Churches. Interesting Exercises and Happy Children.

All of the Sunday Schools, except the Episcopal held their Christmas exercises on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. The different churches were well filled, and in each, an interesting program which had been especially prepared for this occasion was rendered. We give a synopsis of the exercises as given by the different Sunday Schools:

METHODIST CHURCH.

Owing to the size of the Sunday School, the entire audience room was reserved for the school, and it was filled with happy children, whose sparkling eyes, and beaming countenances expressed the joy in their hearts. There had not been much effort made along the line of decorations, a few evergreens were noticeable, but the proverbial chimney was there in which the children hung their stockings.

The program, which consisted of music and recitations, was called "A Merry Christmas," the words of which were by Palmer Hartsough, and the music by J. H. Fillmore. It was a beautiful composition, and the manner in which it was rendered indicated that considerable time had been spent in its preparation. It commenced with a song, "The Lord has come," by the school. The little folks acquitted themselves very creditably, and from the first number to the end, had the attention of all present. The songs as well as the recitations, all contained a moral and were appropriate to the occasion. At the conclusion of these exercises, the children were all given a package of candy, and six hundred were distributed.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

The exercises in this church were of a similar character to those just above mentioned. The singing was extraordinarily good, in fact excellent. It was in charge of Mr. Ward and Mrs. Mulford, both of whom are musicians of more than ordinary ability, and the result of their teaching was apparent. Indeed it is seldom that we hear singing like that given in this church Christmas evening. The singing was interspersed with recitations, after which each scholar was given a package of fine candy. The decorations, which consisted of trailing pine, were tastefully arranged, and in the recess usually occupied by the minister, there was an immense Christmas tree which was bending beneath the load of pretty ornaments.

METHODIST MISSION.

Whilst they had no regular exercises at the Mission, still the children who attend Sunday School there were not forgotten. The teachers personally invited their scholars and presented them with a package of candy. We are not sure but that this is the most effective way, as it brings the teacher in touch with the parents. They become acquainted, and there is no question but that good results will follow. The school is in a prosperous condition, and scores of children there receive religious instruction, who otherwise would be without it.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The annual Christmas entertainment of the Presbyterian Sunday School was held Tuesday evening, in the auditorium of their church on Market street. It was held in the auditorium on account of the size of the Sunday School and the large audience that was expected to be present. Promptly at seven-thirty the Sunday School scholars marched from their meeting room into the seats that had been reserved for them in the auditorium, and after an overture had been played by the Sunday School orchestra, the members of the infant class marched in, singing a marching song as they came and took seats arranged on the platform. The entertainment proper then commenced with an address of welcome by the superintendent, the pastor having been detained. This was followed by recitations and songs by the little ones. Especially noteworthy was the acting song sung by little Miss Sherwood, in which she acted to perfection a mother soothing her baby. Great credit is also due to the Sunday School orchestra, under the efficient leadership of Prof. Turner, for the admirable way in which they furnished music for the evening. After the programme was completed a box of candy was presented to each scholar present. A large crowd was present, chairs even being placed in the aisles, and all admired the beautiful decorations in trailing pine and holly all about the auditorium. Everyone went home feeling that they had spent a pleasant evening.

TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH.

On Wednesday eve this church was

crowded from the pulpit to the entrance, with people who were anxious to witness the exercises, hundreds being turned away for want of room. This church is noted for its fine entertainments and beautiful decorations on festal occasions and they sustained their reputation Wednesday evening. The auditorium was tastefully trimmed with arches and festoons of evergreens, and a huge star bearing the words "Wondrous Story" gave the key word to the entertainment.

Truly it was a wondrous story the children told and sang and it was done in such a manner as to make a deep impression upon the minds of all present. The singing, the recitations and responsive reading of the word, was done in a manner known only to the children of this school. It would be almost impossible to make special mention of the different members, but the Motion Song by several little girls, the recitation by the little daughter of C. H. Fornwald, and the cornet solo by Mr. McHenry is deserving of more than a passing notice.

At the conclusion, an offering was made by the congregation for the Orphan's home which netted a snug sum. Mr. Brandt said that the committee had made no arrangement for an address by him, but he had something to say at any rate. He called Mrs. Dawson and presented to her on behalf of her Sunday School a handsome picture. A. N. Yost, Esq., Superintendent of the school, was also greatly surprised by receiving from Mr. Brandt on behalf of the school a purse of money. In presenting it, he dwelt upon the sterling worth of Mr. Yost in the Church and Sunday School. The people were about ready to retire when a little girl came forward and presented Mr. Brandt in behalf of the congregation with a purse of money. He was completely surprised, and thanked the donors for their generosity. The benediction was pronounced and all departed to their homes with happy hearts.

SANTA CLAUS AT THE LUTHERAN S. S.

This venerable and always welcome guest made his annual visit to the Lutheran Sunday School the night before Christmas. The people were all there to see him, little and big as many as the church would hold and he treated everybody well. The children welcomed him in a very interesting way set to music which all heartily enjoyed. The theme of the Cantata was a rebuke to Stinginess. Before leaving Santa Claus gave gifts of sweet meats to all the boys and girls—a whole church full of candy, besides many nice little things from teachers to scholars and from scholars to teachers.

He put it into the hearts of the ladies of the congregation to remember the choir. So all of the singers and players were handsomely surprised with elegant pictures and books for their sweet singing all the year. To Mrs. Hall the soprano, two gold pieces that were gotten from the treasury before old England gets all our gold. These would be worth in any bank \$25.00 in greenbacks. Everybody went home happy, the givers more so than the receivers, and the little ones hurried off to bed to find Christmas trees heavily laden waiting them next morning.

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

The S. S. of the U. E. Church held its annual Christmas exercises on Tuesday evening. The church was comfortably filled with an interested audience who listened with strict attention to all that was rendered.

The exercise was opened with a selection by the choir followed by prayer by the pastor, Rev. G. W. Currin after which there was recitations, dialogues, tableaux and music. The program was well rendered, but being too long to mention in full, but a few are worthy of special mention.

A recitation "Writing to Santa Claus" by Master John Stetler. If little John had gotten all the nice things he had written for he would have exhausted the good old Saint's supply.

"Ready for Santa Claus" by Jerry Evans, a very small boy who had a large stocking to receive his presents in.

"Christmas at the Poor House" was well rendered by Miss Grace Krum. A recitation "Hush" by Goldie Adams who was afraid that the noise and commotion would scare Santa off. "Grand-mamma's doll" was spoken grandly by Belya Fahringer, but the honors was carried off by little Sarah Strohm a mite of two years, who spoke "Two little hands."

A good collection was received which goes into the missionary treasury, and last but not least the presents and candies were distributed, and made all the little ones happy.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

St. Paul's Church Chancel was beautifully decorated with trailing

pine and palms. A new set of coverings for the altar, pulpit and lectern, were used for the first time. They were exquisitely embroidered, and were presented by the Ladies' Chancel Committee. Service was held at 10:30 with sermon and Holy Communion. The music was well rendered. It will be repeated next Sunday morning.

AN ESTIMABLE LADY DEAD.

We are called upon this week to chronicle the death of one of the most respected ladies of this place. Mrs. Mary Gruver died at her residence on Third Street Wednesday morning at 12:20 o'clock. She has been a patient sufferer for years, and since last June has been confined to her room. Her death whilst it was not unexpected, yet the family realize that they have suffered a great loss. She was a loving and affectionate mother, and a kind sympathetic neighbor.

Her maiden name was Obitz, and she was born July 22, 1839 at Wanamie, Luzerne County where she resided until January 6th, 1856 when she married Mr. John Gruver. Her married life up to March 1886 when she moved to Bloomsburg was spent in Luzerne County. She left to survive her children, as follows: (her husband having died at this place September 17th 1887). Alice, intermarried with John K. Lockard, Geo. Gruver who resides at Nanticoke, Florence A., intermarried with S. S. Hoff of Reading, Elizabeth R., intermarried with L. J. Townsend of Berwick, Harry C., and Mary who reside at home. The arrangements for the funeral services had not been completed when we went to press, but in all probability will be on Saturday, and the interment at Nanticoke.

MAUST-MERICLE.

At the residence of the bride, by Rev. C. H. Brandt, in Madison township, on Thursday, December 19, at 12 o'clock noon, Mr. Neal Maust, and Miss Sadie Mericle. The contracting parties are held in high esteem by their many friends who wish them long and happy life. The gifts were numerous and costly, and the wedding ceremony was witnessed by about fifty guests.

A BEAUTIFUL HOME.

What money judiciously used, together with cultivated taste, can do in the way of beautifying premises, is fully shown in the beautiful home of Mr. Cohen at the corner of Third West Streets. It is now one of the handsomest and most convenient houses in this Town of beautiful residences. It is a transformation that is both wonderful and beautiful.

At a meeting of the Columbia County Medical Society, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year. President—Dr. J. W. Bruner; 1st Vice President, Dr. Shuman, Mainville; 2nd Vice President, Dr. H. S. Christian; Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. W. M. Reber.

After the election of officers, the delegates to the Penn'a State Medical Society were elected, viz.: Christian, Robbins, Steck and Shuman. Bruner and Wintersteen were elected as delegates to American Medical Association which meets at Atlanta, Georgia, next May.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Union Church of Orangeville will render the drama, "Ma Sweet and Her Family" in the Academy Hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 31st, 1895. The drama will be supplemented with music and artistic club swinging by Mr. J. Bruce Patterson of the B. S. N. S. The entertainment will close with a sociable, at which all patrons will be served, gratuitously, with refreshments. Admission to all 20 cts. Doors open at 7 P. M. Exercises begin at 7:30 P. M.

There is an effort being made to form a base ball league next season comprising the following named places: Shamokin, Sunbury, Danville, Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Renova. The friends of the game in this place are enthusiastic over the prospects, and hope that Mr. Spence, of Williamsport, who has the matter in charge will be successful.

Mr. W. C. Richart arranged a surprise for his wife last Saturday evening. It was her birthday, and he had a number of her friends and neighbors come in, and assist him in celebrating the event. The time which wasn't consumed in getting away with the refreshments provided, was spent in pleasant conversation.

A Farmer's Institute will be held at Catawissa, Jan. 15 and 16, 1896.

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