

# The Columbian.

VOL. 31 BLOOMSBURG, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1896. NO. 50

## EARLY MORNING FIRE.

The residents of Bloomsburg were aroused from their slumbers about two o'clock on Monday morning by an alarm of fire, and in a short time people from all parts of the town were hurrying to the scene of the fire, which occurred on East Third Street, the barn, and carpenter shop, belonging to Eli Jones, being totally destroyed, and a frame dwelling house, belonging to the John Jones estate very badly damaged. How the fire originated is a mystery, as there had been no fire kept in the building, and there was nothing stored in the place that a fire could start from.

The fire must have been burning for some time before it was noticed as it had gained so much headway by the time the fire companies reached the scene, that the barn was entirely enveloped in flames and could not be saved. It looked for a time as though the surrounding houses would burn, but a stream of water was applied, and as there was no air stirring, it was soon gotten under control.

The house which was so badly burned was being occupied by Geo. Runyon and family, a florist in the employ of J. L. Dillon. He had no insurance on his household goods, which were all more or less damaged.

The barn and carpenter shop contained about twenty bushels of corn, a buggy, truckwagon, a couple sets of harness, ropes, pulleys and tackle for moving buildings, and a complete set of carpenter tools, all of which burned up. There was some insurance on the buildings.

Bloomsburg has been very fortunate as far as fires are concerned, as this was the only fire of any size that has occurred for some time.

The firemen complained about the condition the plugs were in, as they say it was fully five minutes after they had attached before they were able to get any water.

## Business Men Victimized.

### Post Office Inspectors Make an Important Arrest.

Charles Rubinsky, of the firm of Rubinsky & Freedman, of Shenandoah, Pa., was arrested last week by Deputy United States Marshal Myers and Hugh J. Gorman, Post Office Inspector attached to the Philadelphia division, charged with making illegal use of the United States mails.

### WORKED FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

He, with Harry, Charles and Abe Yarrowsky, have been charged for five or six years, the officers say, with defrauding merchants in Philadelphia, Chicago, Ill., New York, and Boston, Mass., out of many thousand dollars' worth of goods. Their method was to order goods through the mails, which upon arrival were stored in some out-of-the-way place and were disposed of at leisure, the shipper never being able to discover their whereabouts.

### PLENTY OF ALIASES.

They operated under the following firm names: "Conrad Herring, Catawissa, Pa.;" "Bernard Wilson, Lykens, Pa.;" "Harry Miller, Berwick, Pa.;" "John H. Schmidt, Bloomsburg, Pa.;" "Charles Sherman, Nanticoke, Pa.;" and "Bernard Wagner, Danville, Pa."

The first charge against the firm was made in May last, and ever since the post office officials have been working on the case. Rubinsky was brought before United States Commissioner Woltjen, who placed him under bail for a hearing on Dec. 10.

The above appeared in the Phila. Record on Thursday of last week.

## KILLED BY A CAT'S BITE.

### Victim Died Raving, Screaming and Frothing at the Mouth.

Edmund Paul, aged 37, died at Mahanoy City from hydrophobia Friday morning in horrible agony. He suffered from violent muscular contraction and frothed at the mouth. When a drink of water was offered him he raved and gave utterance to unnatural sounds, and the six men in attendance were hardly able to control him.

Once he tried to jump from his bed-room window and subsequently tried to smother his wife with a pillow.

Two years ago he was bitten by a pet cat but was never bothered by it until a short time ago, when he was taken ill. The deceased was a delegate to the last four conventions of the State Fireman's Association. He was assistant engineer of the Citizens' Steam Fire Company, of Mahanoy City, and a past grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

## PREFERRED MORPHINE TO HANGING.

Abram T. Eckert, who was to have been hanged in the county jail at Wilkes-Barre Tuesday morning between ten and twelve o'clock for the murder of Frederick Bittenbender, took a dose of morphine Tuesday morning and died shortly before noon.

Luzerne county has never known a sensation like that of Tuesday on the date of a hanging. Eckert seemed well buoyed up with hope and able to go through the ordeal without flinching.

The following is the history of the crime:

Eckert was janitor of the high school at Nanticoke and had an imaginary grievance against Frederick T. Bittenbender, who had but recently been elected a school director. For some time Eckert had been neglecting his work at the school house and Bittenbender spoke to him about it, and told Eckert he was in danger of losing his place unless he was more attentive to his duties as janitor. As Bittenbender and his father were driving up Main street, July 7, Eckert, who was standing in front of the First National Bank, called to Bittenbender that he wished to speak to him. The latter stopped his horse and Eckert approached the carriage, saying: "Fred, it seems to me you have a grudge against me."

Bittenbender denied this, saying that all he wanted of the janitor was for him to look after his duties at the school in a proper manner. Hardly was the last word out of his mouth when Eckert sprang backward from the carriage, drew a revolver and taking deliberate aim fired. The bullet entered Bittenbender's right eye, causing almost instant death. Eckert fired two more shots, one taking effect in the head and the other in the left breast. He was arrested and brought to Wilkes-Barre and placed in jail. He was tried at the January term of court and convicted of murder in the first degree. He was granted three respites in order that his case might be presented to the pardon board, but his attorneys never secured sufficient evidence to warrant them in going before the board on an application for a commutation of sentence.

Coroner McKee was notified of his death and a post mortem examination was held. The stomach, liver, lungs and kidneys were removed by the prison physician and will be submitted to a chemical analysis. As soon as this can be accomplished the coroner's jury will reconvene, after which an investigation will be made in order to ascertain if possible where the poison came from.

Eckert's son called at the prison Tuesday afternoon for the remains of his father and took them to his late home in Nanticoke, from where his funeral took place Wednesday. Before young Eckert left the prison the warden said to him:

"Somebody has supplied your father with poison. Do you know anything about it?"

"I do not," he replied. "I never for a moment thought my father wanted to die in that way."

Where the poison came from will in all probability remain a mystery forever.

While driving on East Fifth street Friday morning, a team belonging to a Mr. Stine, who resides near Beach Haven became frightened at the train on the D. L. & W. R. R. and ran out the street, the driver, who was unable to hold them, was thrown out of the wagon, but fortunately escaped with only a slight scratch on his face. The wagon at the time was loaded with a few bushels of apples, which were all scattered over the ground. The horses were stopped before they had hurt themselves any.

Messrs. A. Z. Schoch, Dr. Wm. Reber, Jno. R. Townsend, R. R. Little, Esq., and C. C. Peacock, members of the Board of Health, appointed by the President of Council, met Friday morning at the office of A. Z. Schoch for the purpose of forming an organization. Matters relating to the health situation in town were discussed. The following officers were elected: A. Z. Schoch, president; Dr. Wm. Reber, secretary. The latter member is to serve as Health Officer until a regular officer is appointed.

H. Howard Bidleman, the Bookman of Scranton, formerly of this town, had a formal opening at his store on December 1st, when he exhibited in his large new quarters on Washington Avenue one of the finest collections of posters extant, including many rare and valuable ones.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

THE . . . . .

Buy Christmas PRESENTS Early—Absolute COST.

## J. M. GIBBING & CO. STOCK

Which is being closed out by the Trustee at ABSOLUTE COST, contains many rich and useful goods much appreciated as holiday presents, which were bought for this winter's trade. This list will help you select, but be on hand early to get the plums as they are all to be closed out at once without reserve and at ABSOLUTE COST.

### SUITS FOR MEN.

\$5.00, \$6.75, \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$13.00

ABSOLUTE COST.

### OVERCOATS.

\$4.00, \$5.00, \$7.50, \$9.00, \$10.00, \$12.00

ABSOLUTE COST.

### SUITS AND OVERCOATS FOR BOYS.

\$3.50, \$4.75, \$6.50, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$10.00.

ABSOLUTE COST.

### CHILDREN'S SUITS.

90c., \$1.25, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.50.

ABSOLUTE COST.

### CHILDREN'S REEFERS.

Plain or with brass or pearl buttons, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.75, \$3.25, \$4.00.

ABSOLUTE COST.

### EXTRA TROUSERS.

49c., \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50. Were 75c. to \$5.00. All at

ABSOLUTE COST.

### SINGLE VESTS.

50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25.

ABSOLUTE COST.

### UNDERWEAR.

Fleece lined, natural wool, camel's hair, Derby ribbed, white fine merino, all weights, all colors, 50 and 65c. grades, 39c. Extra fine medicated wools, fleece lined or wool Derby ribbed, 59 and 79c. "Luzerne" Hygenia, highly recommended by physicians everywhere, 79c.—or \$1.00 and \$1.25 for \$1.50 and \$2.00 grades.

### WORKING GLOVES.

Buckskin, hogskin, horsehide, asbestal, (fire and waterproof) muleskin—all the very best leathers lined or unlined, 19c., 39c., 50c. or 79c. All at absolute cost.

ABSOLUTE COST FOR ANYTHING IN STORE.

## JOSEPH GOLDSMITH, TRUSTEE.

### THE LEAP YEAR HOP.

One of the finest social events held in Bloomsburg for some time, was given by the young ladies, at Evans Hall last Friday night in the shape of a Leap year hop. The hall had been very nicely decorated by the young ladies, with flags, bunting, Japanese lanterns, and other decorations. There was about forty couples present, and all report having a delightful time. The music, which was furnished by the Normal School Orchestra was fine. The ladies had the affair all in their own hands, and they adopted the following rules, which they informed their gentlemen friends would be rigidly enforced:

1. Any feller what kung wid out a gal will be fined 13 cents.
2. Any feller katched walking a kross de hall wid out and opposite sex Dit O 6 cents.
3. Any feller katched applauding the orchester will be fined 25 cents.
4. All spooners will be taxel 3 cents a hed.—See?
5. Any feller katched dancing more than two times in succession wid any woman 12 cents.

Any feller what takes any gal home must by the sarsapharrilly water." Dancing was kept up until 12 o'clock, when refreshments, consisting of ice cream, cake, and other nice things were served.

Among the number present from other places were the Misses Stella Gross, Clara Hoffman, Edith Hunt, Messrs Joe Heim and Herbert Wile, of Danville; Miss Mary Gruver, of Nanticoke; Misses Gussie Good and Mary Furman of Hazleton; Miss Josie O'Brien, Benton; Miss Margaret Elder and Joe Sands, Mordansville; C. F. Randolph and A. Z. Zaner, of Philadelphia, and W. Willhide, of Hagerstown.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company announces that for 1897 it will issue clerical orders to regularly ordained clergymen in charge of churches located on or near its line east of Pittsburg and Erie. To secure these orders clergymen should make application to the nearest ticket agent as soon as possible, as it is desired that all applications reach the General Office by December 15th.

The town was left in darkness on Friday night, owing to an accident to one of the engines at the electric light plant. Supt. West and a force of hands were kept very busy for several days getting the machinery in running order.

The Telephone Company have completed their line to Benton, and communication can now be had with that place, or any of the towns between here and there. They are also running a wire to Rohrsburg, which will be ready for use in a short time.

The press throughout the country speak very highly of "McFadden's Reception," which is booked to appear at the Opera House to-night. It is a successful farce comedy, and is being greeted with big houses everywhere. Good singing and musical specialties. Three hours of fun. Popular prices.

The reunion of the 131st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, is to be held December 15th at Selingsgrove. Everything is being made ready at that place by the old soldiers and citizens, and the veterans who attend can expect a warm reception.

A. V. Bower's stereopticon lecture on "The Buried City," at the Methodist Tabernacle on Saturday night was well attended. He is a very eloquent talker, and the large views were fine. He remained in town and on Sunday night delivered a beautifully illustrated address on "The Life of Christ," at which the Tabernacle was packed, to overflowing. The scenes which were taken from the birth of Christ to His Crucifixion, could have been no better.

A special meeting of the Town council was held on Tuesday evening to complete the organization of the Board of Health.

A motion was unanimously adopted requesting all persons knowing of any nuisance, drain, sewerage, or any thing likely to breed disease, to report the same at once to the Board of Health. The members of the Board were sworn in, and Isaiah Hagenbuch was appointed Health Officer.

The President's message to Congress was presented on Monday. It is a lengthy document.

### HOLIDAY PRESENTS. Interesting and useful—all at cost.

#### MACKINTOSH COATS.

Blue, black and light covert, with cape, fine sweep, reg. \$4.00 grade, \$2.50.

Elegant box coats, blue, black and light covert cloths, very long, double breasted, velvet collar, regular \$7.50 grade, \$4.50. Extra good grades cape mackintoshes, \$4.00.

#### UMBRELLAS.

Plain or silver mounted, enameled steel rod, tassel and cover, \$1.10, or \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$3.75.

#### SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.

Plain or fancy border, Pongee, 19c. Finer grades, 39c and 75c. Initial silk, fine quality, 39c.

#### SILK MUFLERS,

39c, 75c, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.25.

#### WALKING STICKS.

Plain or silver mounted, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25, from 75c to \$2.

#### DRESS GLOVES.

Fine kid, 69c, or 79c, \$1.00 and \$1.25. Mocha, reindeer, astrakan, lined or unlined same prices.

#### SMOKING JACKETS,

\$4.50 and \$8.50, from \$7.50 and \$12.00.

Night robes, plain or embroidered front, 45c, 59c, and 79c.

Sweaters, plain, with large sailor collar, or turtle, maroon with lemon stripe, black with orange stripe, blue with white stripe, or all the plain colors, men or boys, 79c, \$1.20, \$1.50. Golf hose, 39c, 59c, all sizes and colors. Neckwear—bows, ties, imperials, four-in-hands, 19c, 39c. Children's tams or skating toques, 19c or 39c. Fine suspenders, plain or fancy, 19c, 39c and 59c. Trunks, valises, traveling bags, 75c to \$20.00. White and fancy shirts, 39c, 69c, 79c.

50c. Holiday Neckwear for 25c. White Silk Handkerchiefs 19c., 25c. and 49c. BIGGEST BARGAINS ON EARTH!

### SELLING OUR GOOD CLOTHES

At Lower Prices Than You Pay for Cheap Goods.

You will recognize the saving when you see

Our Splendid Overcoat for \$3.98. Well Made Suits for \$3.75. Dressy Overcoats for \$5.00. Elegant Cheviot Suits for \$5.00.

Sold in some stores for double the money. Bought at less than the cost to make is the reason.

Long Warm Storm Coats, Solid Comfort From Chin to Heel, \$5.00.

Our elegant Rochester Overcoats are selling as usual in great numbers. No wonder. They are non-comparable for beauty of workmanship, elegance of fit and fineness of finish. Dollars off of our low prices in these fine goods makes truth stronger than fiction.

## D. Lowenberg Clothing Store

Bloom's Best Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers.