

The Columbia.

ESTABLISHED 1866.  
The Columbia Democrat,  
ESTABLISHED 1887. CONSOLIDATED 1890.  
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING  
in Bloomsburg, the County seat of Columbia  
County, Pennsylvania.  
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GEO. C. ROAN, FOREMAN.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1900.

Some of England's imagined invincibles have been given lessons in generalship, by the crafty Boers in the present war between the two countries. We refer particularly to the superior tactics employed by Gen. Joubert, a native of Louisiana, and who went through a showering baptism of fire under "Stonewall" Jackson, in Virginia.

Roland Reed, the well known actor, was taken seriously ill in New York last week, and his engagements had to be cancelled. Mr. Reed's leading lady, Miss Isadore Rush, is originally from Berwick, and he has been in the habit of showing in that town once every season. His affliction is appendicitis. The physicians are hopeful for his recovery.

SEA MYSTERY SOLVED.

Divers Find Lost Schooners Hanscom and Pace.

Government divers who have been at work on the bottom of the sea, at Montauk Point, have returned with the story that the skeletons of the crews of the schooners Howard H. Hanscom and James B. Pace were found lashed to the rigging of the vessels.

The divers will be sent back to release the skeletons and to bring them ashore for burial. Identification, of course, will be impossible.

The vessels fouled each other while scudding before the great November storm a year ago. The shock and sinking of the vessels must have followed so suddenly as to leave the men no time for loosening the ropes that held the unfortunate sailors to the vessels' rigging.

The divers will make a more thorough investigation of the condition of the vessels and if practicable, steps to raise them will be taken.

The loss of the Hanscom and Pace and their discovery at the bottom of the Atlantic solves an ocean mystery that has puzzled sailors for a year. The two vessels were about the best known of their class on the entire Atlantic seaboard.

The Hanscom was built at and hailed from New Haven, and her master, Captain Mark Holmes, belonged there. She sailed from Philadelphia on November 23, 1898, for Providence with 1,100 tons of bituminous coal. The Pace left Philadelphia on November 25 for Boston, with 1,200 tons of coal. She was commanded by Captain Garfield, of West Dennis, Mass. The two captains were bosom friends.

DOMESTIC MAIL SERVICE.

Length of Mail Routes, 396,498 Miles.  
207,089 Tons of Newspapers Carried.

The annual report of Second Assistant Postmaster General Shellenbarger says that there were in operation under the domestic mail service, on June 30 last, 34,298 mail routes of all descriptions having total length of 396,498 miles. Included in the report are communications from the Postmasters at New York, Brooklyn, Boston and Philadelphia, noting the successful operation of the pneumatic tube service in those cities, and recommending its extension to other stations. Judge Shellenbarger recommends an appropriation of \$500,000 for this purpose.

The amount of second-class matter (newspapers) carried during the year aggregated 207,089 tons. Many of the publishers, says the report, have, on request, rendered the department valuable assistance by making up their papers in such shape as to render unnecessary a rehandling of the matter at the office of origin, but other publishers decline to comply. He recommends the enactment of legislation making this service compulsory.

Judge Shellenbarger appends to his report one by Superintendent Bradley, of the Railway Mail Service, on the results of an inspection of the railway mail service in Great Britain, Germany and France. Mr. Bradley compares the service in these countries with that in operation here, and is of the opinion that the service in this country is not only more efficient, but that it required only one-half to one-third as many employees for the same work. He could not find any mechanical devices in use in the three countries that he would recommend for adoption by the service in this country.

STATE NEWS.

The Pennsylvania Oil and Gas company which struck natural gas at Ansonia recently, has asked the Williamsport Councils for permission to lay pipes there. It is their intention to pipe gas from Ansonia to Williamsport, a distance of sixty miles for industrial and commercial purposes.

It was learned Monday that the Philadelphia & Reading railway had put engineers in the field to make surveys for a new line of railroad from Shippensburg, which is now the southwestern terminus of its railroad system, to Cherry Run, on the line of the B. & O. R. R. The Western Maryland railroad has hitherto furnished the connecting link between these two railroads.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lucas, an aged woman, residing along Marsh Creek, Clinton County, was burned to death, her clothes igniting from a grate.

Snow has been drifting almost constantly for the past ten days in the northwestern part of the State, and railroad traffic is almost at a standstill.

THE PRESS ALMANAC.

The Most Valuable Compendium of Happenings, Facts and Figures Published in Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia Press Almanac for 1900 is now ready for distribution. To those acquainted with previous volumes it is only necessary to say that it embodies improvements suggested by the past, together with much entirely new and exclusive material. For those not familiar with the work there is awaiting a great treat. It is a volume of over five hundred pages filled with information which makes it related to the world's doings as an encyclopedia is related to all knowledge; it contains maps and diagrams, charts and tables by the aid of which, the Boer war, the political situation nationally, the diplomatic relations with other countries, the industrial and agricultural and agricultural questions before the country for solution, in brief, all current affairs can be understood in all completeness and clearness. No question based on the doings of men or the march of events can remain unanswered to those who possess the Press Almanac for 1900. For sale by all newsdealers or sent by mail, postage prepaid, on receipt of 25 cents.

OLD MEXICO.

Twenty-three Days' Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for a special personally-conducted tour through Old Mexico by special Pullman train of parlor-smoking, dining, sleeping, compartment, and observation cars, to leave New York and Philadelphia February 12, visiting all the principal points of interest in the "Land of Montezuma," and spending five days in the City of Mexico.

Round-trip tickets, covering all necessary expenses, \$300 from all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

For further information apply to ticket agents; Tourist Agent, 1196 Broadway, New York; 4 Court Street, Brooklyn; 789 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.; B. Courlaender, Jr., Passenger Agent, Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md.; Colin Studts, Passenger Agent, Southeastern District, Washington, D. C.; Thos. E. Watt, Passenger Agent, Western District, Pittsburg, Pa.; or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Phila. 1-4-41.

FLORIDA.

Two Weeks' Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The first Pennsylvania Railroad tour of the season to Jacksonville, allowing two weeks in Florida, will leave New York and Philadelphia February 6.

Excursion tickets, including railway transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth), and meals en route in both directions while traveling on the special train, will be sold at the following rates: New York, \$50.00; Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Baltimore and Washington, \$48.00; Pittsburg, \$53.00 and at proportionate rates from other points.

For tickets, itineraries, and other information apply to ticket agents, Tourist Agent at 1196 Broadway, New York; 4 Court Street, Brooklyn; 789 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.; B. Courlaender, Jr., Passenger Agent, Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md.; Colin Studts, Passenger Agent Southeastern District, Washington, D. C.; Thos. E. Watt, Passenger Agent Western District, Pittsburg, Pa.; or to Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. 2-4-41.

Millions of men and women join in a petition against allowing a man with three wives to sit in congress, yet not one of them think it worth while to protest against slaughtering a harmless, inoffensive people, or making treaties in which protection is guaranteed to slavery as well as polygamy. Popular sentiment is today as inconsistent and erratic as when hosannas were sung to the Saviour one day and the clamor made to crucify Him the next.

"Honest Labor Bears a Lovely Face."

There is nothing more pleasing to look upon than a hearty, ruddy face, gained by honest toil. They are the saving of the nation, these toilers of both sexes, struggling for daily bread.

Pure blood makes them able to keep up the daily round of duty at home, shop or store. If the blood has a taint or impurity, or a run down feeling comes on, the one remedy is Hood's Sarsaparilla, America's Greatest Medicine for the blood. Poor Blood—"My blood was so poor that in hottest weather I felt cold. Hood's Sarsaparilla made me warm. It is the right thing in the right place." Hattie J. Taylor, Woodstown, N. J.

Hood's Sarsaparilla  
Never Disappoints

Hood's Pills cure liver ills; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

FEATS WITH FIGURES.

Boy Calculator Performs Miracles In Mathematics.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 30.—Probably the most interesting thing brought out at the congress of scientists now in session here is the discovery by the American Psychological society of Arthur F. Griffith, a mathematical prodigy. That the young man is a prodigy is beyond dispute, and his wonderful performances have amazed the learned men of the congress.

Two Yale savants of mathematics, Professors Andrew Phillips and W. H. Beebe, have put the youthful wonder to the severest tests known to science, but never once thus far has he failed.

Arthur F. Griffith is 19 years old, and while a marvel in a strictly mathematical sense he is an infant in all other matters. As a starter Griffith was asked to give the product of 47 and 225. Before the question was fairly asked he had given the answer, 10,575. Multiplying 676 by 241, he gave the answer, 162,916, quicker than an ordinary writer could have placed the original numbers one beneath the other on a slate.

Young Griffith is not a college student. In fact, he could not pass the entrance examinations. Neither does he know anything of the higher mathematics, such as logarithms, calculus, geometry, algebra and the like. His forte is numbers only.

Griffith is a typical country lad, with an ungainly body and big feet and hands. He has a splendidly shaped head, however, with a bright face and very keen eyes.

KENTUCKY POLITICS.

Governor Taylor's Message—Blackburn Elected to the Senate.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 3.—Governor W. S. Taylor submitted a message of over 7,000 words, covering state affairs and presenting elaborate reasons for the repeal of the Goebel election law, which he called the "infamy of 1898 that had demoralized, disturbed and disgraced the state."

After four years of retirement former Senator Joseph Clay Styles Blackburn was chosen by the joint caucuses of the Democratic members of the legislature here in the United States senate. Notwithstanding Blackburn's nomination was a foregone conclusion and his election morally certain, the proceedings of the caucus were enacted in the presence of a galaxy of Kentucky beauty and a dense throng of admirers.

Banker Cole Arrested.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30.—The warrant for the arrest of Charles H. Cole, formerly of the Globe bank of Boston, on a charge of embezzling \$900,000 has arrived. The United States marshal also received a telegram from the attorney general of the United States directing him to conduct Cole to Boston under guard. Cole waived a preliminary examination, and the start for Boston was made today. The warrant contains four counts. The first charges Cole with receiving \$900,000 on Aug. 7 last and embezzling it, and the second accuses him of embezzling \$300,000 on Aug. 17. The other two counts simply refer to these transactions.

American Shipbuilding.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The total number of vessels built and officially numbered by the bureau of navigation during the calendar year just ended was 954, of 267,642 gross tons, compared with 955, of 237,000 gross tons, for the year 1898. Steam vessels built during 1899 numbered 421, of 169,132 gross tons, compared with 550, of 169,602 gross tons, for 1898. Sailing vessels numbered 533, of 107,510 gross tons; compared with 405, of 67,498 gross tons, for 1898. The increase is almost wholly on the Atlantic and gulf coasts.

Big Gas Well on Fire.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 3.—The big Painter gas well, belonging to the Mountain State Gas company of this city, located in Ritchie county, has accidentally caught fire, and all efforts to extinguish the flames have been futile. Millions upon millions of feet of gas is going to waste, and the financial loss will be enormous. The roar from the burning gas can be heard 12 miles, and the fire illuminates the whole surrounding country.

The Molineux Trial.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The eighth week and the forty-seventh day of the trial of Roland B. Molineux for the murder of Mrs. Katharine J. Adams opened with Harry S. Cornish again on the stand. The cross examination of Cornish by Attorney Weeks was the feature of the day's proceedings. The witness' private life was shown up in a not very enviable light.

Production of Print Cloth.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Jan. 2.—The entire production of the print cloth mills of this city for the year just passed was 12,000,000 pieces, with sales fully equal to that amount. Business has been exceedingly good during the year, and many contracts were made which extend through the entire year 1900.

Do not forget that Mercer's Drug and Book Store is a good place to buy your holiday presents.

**STAR CLOTHING HOUSE.**  
**Mid-Winter Sale of Clothing!**  
PREVIOUS TO STOCK TAKING.  
During this month we will offer  
**BIG BARGAINS IN WINTER CLOTHING!**  
Must be sold to make room for spring goods.  
**COME EARLY for BARGAINS AT TOWNSEND'S STAR CLOTHING HOUSE.**

**Dr. Purves Accepts.**  
PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 1.—Rev. Dr. George T. Purves preached yesterday to a large congregation at the First Presbyterian church. At the close of the services he told his people that he felt it to be his duty to accept the call which had been extended to him by the Fifth Avenue church of New York.

**No Will Left by Moody.**  
GREENFIELD, Mass., Jan. 2.—A petition has been presented in the probate court here by W. R. Moody, eldest son of the late evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, asking that he be appointed administrator of his father's estate. It is expected that the request will be granted. Mr. Moody left no will.

**A Feast For Lions.**  
VIENNA, Jan. 2.—One of the animal keepers at the Vienna Zoological gardens entered the cage of lions in a spirit of bravado, and six lions rushed upon him and tore him to pieces. The attendants sought in vain with flaming torches and streams of water to drive the wild beasts from their victim.

**Customs Receipts at Havana.**  
HAVANA, Dec. 30.—The total customs receipts for the year exceed \$11,000,000, whereas the highest estimate made by the war department for the year's returns was \$9,000,000.

**Large Seal Catch.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The total catch of seals by Canadian sealing vessels during the past season was 53,344 as compared with a total for the preceding year of 28,532.

**FILIPINO PLOT FAILS.**  
An Insurrection, Aided by Bombs, Hatched in Manila.

MANILA, Jan. 1.—Four explosive bombs, a few firearms and 500 rounds of ammunition were discovered in a house in the center of Manila while the police were seeking Recarte, the insurgent leader, who was said to have come to Manila in the hope of effecting an outbreak by taking advantage of the mobilization of the American troops at General Lawton's funeral.

It has developed that the plot included the throwing of bombs among the foreign consuls attending the ceremony in order to bring about international complications. These, it seems, were to have been thrown from the Escolta's high buildings, but the avoidance of the Escolta by the funeral procession spoiled the plan.

The populace, it is thought, had been prepared for the attempt by a rumor circulated widely among the natives that Aguinaldo was in Manila and would personally lead the outbreak. The American authorities, having been advised of what was brewing, prepared for all contingencies.

**McCoy Defeats Maher.**  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—"Kid" McCoy defeated Peter Maher at Coney Island yesterday afternoon in five rounds of a 25 round bout. It was a knock out. The battle did not begin till nearly 5:30. There was first a long delay, as no purse had been posted. Finally the entire receipts, \$16,000, were put in the hands of the stakeholder, Jimmy Wakely, and the men agreed to fight for that. Then there was another long squabble over gloves, McCoy insisting on wearing a pair of his own and Maher insisting that the rule that the club furnish gloves be followed. McCoy yielded at last, and the fight began.

**Ice Bridge at Niagara.**  
BUFFALO, Jan. 3.—An ice bridge has formed in the gorge at Niagara Falls just above the upper steel arch bridge, but it is doubtful whether it will develop strength enough to bear any considerable weight. Superintendent Welch says it is the earliest bridge that has formed with his recollection, although bridges have formed between Jan. 8 and 10. The ice scenery in the park is the finest in years.

**Fatal Waterback Explosion.**  
BRIDGETON, N. J., Jan. 3.—The waterback in the home of Samuel Cosaboon exploded yesterday, blowing the range to atoms and wrecking the kitchen. A baby asleep in a cradle was instantly killed. Tilly Hogate, who was terribly injured by the explosion of a waterback in the home of William Bennett, is dying.

**Whole Family Cremated.**  
BARBOURSVILLE, W. Va., Jan. 2.—William Ellis, wife and two children were burned to death in their home near here. No one knows the origin of the fire.

Cart loads of perfumery, in 35 different odors, at Mercer's Drug and Book Store.

F. P. PURSEL.

A Natural Sequel To the Holiday Sale.

Large movements of merchandise are not always clean movements of merchandise. Our big sale, just ended, has left us with many odd lots of desirable goods—remnants, broken sizes, assortments, and what not. With this flotsam we shall have material enough for another sale, more interesting in its money saving importance than the big sale itself. These remnants clog the stock and we want a clean house in which to receive our new spring purchases when they begin to arrive. All this means some exceptional bargain giving.

Dress Goods.

Some are waist lengths, some are skirt lengths, some broken colors, assortments in part pieces, but price on any of them lean very much your way. We call special attention to a lot of half pieces that were 45 and 50c. We will close at 29c the yard.

Domestics.

These goods are all much higher, but we have a lot at the old price that we have carried awhile, that we will put out at this sale.

A lot of the best indigo blue calico at 5c the yard. 10 yards of good, fine muslin, unbleached, at 50c for 10 yards. Bleached muslin, just as good as Hill's, at 69c.

Ladies' Jackets.

We have some of these left and they must be closed, so we cut the price again.  
\$12.00 & \$10.00 jackets at \$7.49  
8.50 " 7.50 " " 5.49  
5.00 " " " 3.79

The Yearly Sale Of Snowy Under Muslins.

The success of this muslin underwear sale now depends on you. We've done our part—done it honestly—most thoroughly. These goods will all be higher. Anyone will tell you that. We have a lot of nice, clean goods we will sell for the next ten days lower than we have ever offered them.  
25c drawers at 19c. 35c drawers at 29c, and a lot of 50c drawers at 42c.  
A lot of night robes that we sold at \$1.10, 75c and 65c. All go at 59c at this sale.  
A lot of robes that sold at \$1.75, \$1.40 and \$1.25, we will sell at 98c.

China Reduced.

We will sell all China dishes at a discount of 20 per cent.

Flour.

We sell one grade of the best blended flour. 90c for 50 lbs., or \$3.50 the barrel.

F. P. PURSEL  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!

Thanking you for helping to make 1899 one of the biggest and most prosperous years in the history of this store. We start the New Year to make you happy, by giving you from this day

Cut Prices on all Coats, Capes, Col- larettes, Tailor-Made Suits, &c.

Give us a call before the bargains are all. It will pay you to get what you need in this line now, as you will pay much more for goods of this kind one year from now.

**Bloomsburg Store Co., Limited.**  
Corner Main and Centre. ALFRED MCHENRY, Manager