

# The Columbian.

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## LEAPED TO HIS DEATH.

John Lazarus, a Wealthy Resident of Mt. Carmel Ends His Life by Jumping From Goat Island Bridge.

Reverses in Business Believed to be the Cause.

John Lazarus, a wealthy and influential resident of Mt. Carmel committed suicide Thursday afternoon last, at Niagara Falls, by jumping from Goat Island Bridge.

He left Mt. Carmel on Wednesday for Elmira, New York, for the purpose of securing a loan from a saving fund at that place. His visit there, it is said, was unsuccessful, or it may have been that the trip was only intended for a ruse, as he did not stop there, but went on to Niagara Falls. Immediately after his arrival he went to the United States Express Office, from where he sent his pocket books, containing upwards of one hundred dollars in money, his gold watch and a lot of valuable papers to his brother Dr. J. S. Lazarus at this place. While at the Express office he remarked that he was going farther west. He then wrote a letter and sent it to his brother here, after which he left the office and was driven down the Canadian side of the gorge to the whirlpool. He also made the trip to the whirlpool over the gorge railway on the American side. On returning he left his overcoat and a grip at the Gorge Railway ticket office and walked hurriedly to the Goat Island Bridge and without any hesitation whatever he plunged into the rapids below. Two reservation officers and a boy witnessed the fatal leap.

In his grip was found a flask half full of whiskey and a pair of stockings. On a tag on the grip was printed "John Lazarus, Mt. Carmel, Pa." Those who saw him before the suicide said he appeared perfectly sane and acted like a man without a care or distress. He appeared to have plenty of money with him and remarked that the money he was sending home amounted to about \$140.

Mr. Lazarus met with a serious accident two months ago, when his horse ran away. The conveyance was upset and its occupant was hurled to the ground, his head being badly cut and bruised. During his convalescence, it is believed, debts accumulated. He at once grew melancholy over the fact that he could not be about to maintain his good financial standing. This appears to be the only cause advanced for his committing the rash act.

Mr. Lazarus was born in 1833 on the old Lazarus homestead, a few miles above Orangeville, and was therefore 63 years of age. He was one of Mt. Carmel's heaviest property owners, and was widely known. His wife, formerly a Miss Kinney, died several years ago. His survivors are Dr. J. S. Lazarus and three sisters, Mrs. J. S. Woods, of East Fifth Street; Mrs. John Brown, of Catharine Street; and Mrs. Katharine Blodgett, residing at the home of G. P. Frymire, on East Street.

## Golden Wedding.

Monday 26th of February Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Hartman celebrated their fiftieth anniversary, with a dinner to their children, grand-children and great-grand children. Mr. Hartman is now in his seventy fifth year, and Mrs. Hartman only a few days ago passed her seventy second. They have lived in their present home over thirty-four years, six children have been born to them, three have gone before them, three remain to enjoy this occasion, namely, Edwin V., now living in Philadelphia; Ada M., also living in West Philadelphia, her husband is pastor of Calvary Lutheran church, and Robert E., who is partner with his father in the dry goods business Bloomsburg. I. W. Hartman is conceded to be the oldest continued merchant in Columbia county, began his career as a business man Oct. 1st 1848, in the old "Arcade" building, owned by Elisha H. Biggs, located where the J. K. Lockard building is, and now occupied by the Bloomsburg Store Company. These occasions fall only to a few families, which make them worthy of note to the public.

## Hotel For Rent.

The Park Hotel, at Towanda, Pa., is for rent. Possession given April 1st, 1900. Located in the heart of the town, opposite Court House. For terms, apply to Geo. E. Elwell, Bloomsburg, Pa., or E. W. Elwell, Towanda, Pa.

## IN CUPID'S REALM.

Two of Bloomsburg's Fair Daughters Plight Their Troth on Tuesday.

### PURSEL—MILLER.

Rev. G. H. Hemingway, of the Presbyterian Church, officiated at the wedding of Miss Vida Miller to Mr. Frank Pursel, which occurred at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Miller, on Centre street, Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock. The affair was kept very quiet and the ceremony was witnessed by only the families of the principals and a few intimate friends. Following the ceremony a wedding dinner was partaken of and the young couple were conveyed to the Penna. station, where they took the south-bound train for a tour of some of the principal cities. Mr. Pursel is one of the town's foremost young business men, and his bride is an accomplished lady and a potent social factor. They begin life with the good wishes of all their friends.

### VAN HORN—HARMAN.

Miss Mary, daughter of Mrs. P. S. Harman of Iron street, and Dr. C. S. Van Horn, were united in holy matrimony in St. Paul's Episcopal church by the Rector, the Rev. David N. Kirkby, at one o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Only the relatives of the bride and groom and a limited number of guests were present. The bride is an estimable young lady and enjoys the esteem of all while the groom is a successful dentist. He established himself here several years ago and his business has been continually increasing. The bride was the recipient of many handsome and useful gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn took the 2:36 train on the D. L. & W. Railroad, for a bridal tour. May happiness and prosperity attend them through life.

### Bloomsburg's Need.

The Philadelphia Press last week, requested the Mayors of the various cities and towns of this state, through its special correspondents, to express themselves as to the legislation, which in their opinion, would result in the moral improvement of their respective cities or towns. In answer to the query, the Press on Sunday contained Mayor-elect Frank Ikeler's views, concerning Bloomsburg's need:

"The morals of Bloomsburg are, in the broad sense of the word, good. There are few towns of its size in the State where you will find the order on the streets to be so well maintained. Probably the most notable offense against the moral sentiment of the community is the action and conduct of the young men and girls upon the streets after 7 o'clock in the evening.

"While nothing criminally wrong is ever done, nor anything which could be prevented by police interference, still there is a noticeable looseness and vulgarity in their conduct upon certain occasions.

"If this could be remedied by the passage of a just law, I am sure the morals of this town would be greatly benefited."

### Banquet at Wilkes-Barre.

The Annual Banquet of the Lafayette Alumni Association of North-eastern Pennsylvania was held at Hotel Sterling, Wilkes-Barre, Friday evening last. In an article on the affair the Record of that city says:

"Dr. J. P. Welsh, principal of the Bloomsburg State Normal School, in the absence of Robert Peck, took the toast 'Happy Days.' As an after dinner speaker Dr. Welsh always has something entertaining to say, and last evening he was up to his standard. His reference to what he deemed the happy days at Lafayette were replete with humor and unusually interesting to his fellow alumni. The things he said, that need to be looked after in colleges are the social matters, which so much embarrass the collegian fresh from school when brought face to face with the real battle of life. He was pleased to see some attention being given to this side of Lafayette."

In a dispatch from the Philippines, containing a list of the dead, which appeared in the papers on Wednesday is the name of William G. Samuels. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Samuels of Iron street this town and was aged nearly twenty years. He left home about one year ago against his parents' wishes, and after passing a successful examination enlisted in the regular army. He was a member of Company F, Twelfth Infantry, and died in the hospital from an attack of dysentery.

## CARS PILED HIGH IN THE AIR.

Trains Come Together in a Head-on Collision at Nescopeck.

### Engineer Joe Keefer Killed.

A frightful head-on collision, resulting in the death of one and the injuring of many others, occurred at Nescopeck, on the Pennsylvania railroad, Tuesday evening at seven o'clock. The west-bound passenger train, due at East Bloomsburg at 7:23, crashed into an east-bound freight train while going at a high rate of speed. Both engines were badly wrecked and Joseph Keefer, the engineer of the passenger train instantly killed.

The passenger coaches left the track but were not damaged to any great extent. All the passengers escaped uninjured. One of the train crew was badly hurt. Both the injured man and the body of Engineer Keefer were removed to Wapwallopen. The accident is said to have been the result of the freight being mistaken for another train, while another report says it was caused by a misunderstanding of orders. Engineer Joe Keefer resided in Sunbury, was one of the most careful and best liked engineers on this division of the Pennsylvania railroad. He was well known all along the line, having been in the employ of the railroad company many years.

### The Canal to be Abandoned.

Last week we printed a special from Danville, which was to the effect that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company would abandon the canal along the Susquehanna river and utilize the towpath for a railroad track. The report was only a rumor, and many people, who not being able to comprehend what the Penna. Company wanted in such a move, were induced to discredit it. The appended story is taken from the Sunbury News:

"All shippers have been officially notified that the North branch canal from Northumberland to Nanticoke has been abandoned and will therefore not be opened to navigation this year. The cause for this action has not been made public, but there seems to be much back of the statement. Nothing comes from an official source, but there is a possibility that within the next six months the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will commence to lay a track on the towpath between the points named. Within the past six weeks the Railroad Company has purchased the three-cornered piece of land opposite the old D. L. & W. round-house, in Northumberland, on which stood the Valley House. The building has been torn down, the land cleared, and it is said the purpose of the Railroad Company is to make a yard of the canal basin. If this course is to be pursued by the Company it would give them direct communication with Shickshinny, Berwick, Bloomsburg and Danville and practically the advantage of a double track between Sunbury and Nanticoke. The use of the towpath gives them a solid road-bed, already graded and ready for the track. With this line in operation the greatly congested condition of the Sunbury Division could be relieved to a great extent, and at the same time the traveling public would be accommodated as they would then be able to avoid the change of cars at Northumberland, or the inconvenience of crossing the river at the towns named, making direct connection from Sunbury with all the towns on the left bank of the river. It has been estimated by competent engineers that by utilizing the towpath the road could be built at one-half the cost of double-tracking the Sunbury division between this city and Nanticoke, while the Company would gain the great advantage of direct freight and passenger communication with the towns named."

### Reduction in Telephone Tolls.

A new toll line tariff scheduled on a "3 minute basis" has been adopted by the Central Pennsylvania Telephone and Supply Company for business, both terminals of which are within its telephone territory. Both Day and Night rates are provided: The Night rates applying between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m. Great reductions in cost of telephoning between its distant stations will be found. Apply to Local Manager or Chief Operator for details. The new schedule takes effect March 1st, 1900.

The Philadelphia North American will open a branch office at Williamsport and start a 16 page morning paper.

## FATAL WRECK.

An Open Switch Causes a Wreck in Which One Life is Lost.

A point on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad, near Locust Summit was the scene of an accident early Thursday morning last which resulted in the death of brakeman Harry Schuler and the damaging of two engines and several cars. The disaster is directly attributed to negligence. A switch was left open and when the north bound passenger train came thundering along it was thrown into the siding, colliding with terrible force with a freight train, which was awaiting its arrival. The young man whose life went out with the accident was a brakeman on the freight train and stood on the engine watching the approach of the passenger train. In an instant there was a crash and his body was hurled over an embankment. There were no other fatalities. Mr. Schuler is survived by a wife and several children. He was a brother-in-law to Miss Bessie and Guy Jacoby, Esq., of this town. Both were in attendance at the funeral which occurred at Catawissa on Sunday.

### Burglars Took Only Solid Silver.

Burglars effected an entrance to the residence of J. V. Brown at Williamsport, Sunday night and made a rich haul, carrying away over \$1,000 worth of solid silverware and hundreds of dollars worth of furs. Mr. Brown and his wife are in the South where the former is traveling for the benefit of his health. During their absence the house is kept open and a full corps of servants are employed.

The house was shut up as usual Sunday night, all the doors and windows being fastened by the domestics. The robbers gained an entrance, however, by turning the key in the kitchen door with a pair of pinchers. They touched nothing that was not solid silver, as some heavily plated articles that were on the sideboard were not disturbed. The stolen silverware was taken from within the sideboard, the doors of which were opened easily after being bored with holes. The occupants of the house were not disturbed by the work of the burglars, and the astounding discovery was made by a domestic when she came down stairs to prepare breakfast.

Mr. Brown is the controlling stockholder of the Williamsport Water Company and is reputed to be the wealthiest man in that city. This is the second time that his residence has been robbed.

Mr. Brown is a brother of Mrs. H. H. Grotz, of this town.

### Created a Favorable Impression.

The Male Choir of the local Young Men's Christian Association, attended the Y. M. C. A. State Convention, at Williamsport on Saturday and Sunday. The organization made a very favorable impression in that city, as can be seen from the following very complimentary notice which we clip from the Williamsport Sun:

The Y. M. C. A. Male Choir, of Bloomsburg, which was in attendance at the Y. M. C. A. State Convention here, won everlasting praise for its splendid music. The numbers on the program taken by these singers were among the most delightful features of the convention. At the several churches in which they appeared yesterday the townspeople were afforded excellent opportunity for judging the merits of the organization, and the unanimous verdict of approval expressed is a pronouncedly strong testimonial for these vocalists. The choir is finely balanced, and the volume of song produced is tremendous. For convention or concert work this choir is especially strong, as was advantageously shown at the big meeting in the Opera House yesterday afternoon. Bloomsburg should be proud of these singers. They are C. C. Yetter, R. F. Colley, R. F. Vanderslice, C. D. Lynn, A. N. Yost, F. B. Hartman, H. S. Barton, E. H. Ent, F. P. Eyer, W. H. Brower, S. R. Bidleman, O. H. Yetter. They left for home on the 1 o'clock train, on the "Penny," Monday morning.

Jonas Bittenbender, an old and respected resident of Mifflinville, died at Berwick, where he had gone, something over a week previous to visit, on Monday. We are without any particulars as to the cause of death. The funeral will occur from the home of his sister Mrs. Aaron W. Hess, at Mifflinville today.

The county statement will appear in next week's issue of this paper.

We Have About 50  
**Storm Coats!**  
which we will sell  
**At Half Price,**  
FOR 10 DAYS,  
**ENDING MARCH 3rd.**

If you are thinking of a coat, don't let this opportunity slip by.  
**OUR SPRING GOODS!**  
are coming in daily. We now have advance  
**Spring Hats and Neckwear.**

**Ben Gidding**  
BLOOMSBURG, PENNA.  
Come in and see us—we'll treat you right.

**Bishop (Chaplain) McCabe's Lecture.**



Just as we expected and predicted, the people of Bloomsburg and vicinity are becoming wonderfully interested in Bishop (Chaplain) McCabe's great lecture on "The Bright Side of Life in Libby Prison," to be given in the Methodist Church Saturday evening, March 3d. Admission, only 25c. It is the talk of the town, and the tickets are going like hot cakes. It is predicted that he will have the largest lecture audience ever assembled in Bloomsburg. He is to preach in the Methodist Church Sunday, March 4th, both morning and evening, and many living outside of Bloomsburg are arranging to hear the lecture on Saturday night and then stay over Sunday to hear the sermons. The Methodists will throw open their great church building and welcome all who come. It is a rare privilege to hear one of the greatest living men sing, lecture and preach, and our readers may rest assured that hundreds, if not thousands, will avail themselves of the opportunity. We advise all who can to go.

**Hotel Proprietor Dead.**  
George Hutchins, who, for nearly five years, conducted that well-known hostelry, the Susquehanna House, at Catawissa, died from an attack of what the attending physician diagnosed as cramps, Tuesday morning. It was about half-past ten the night before that he complained of feeling unwell, and at times suffered pains in different parts of his body. Before he retired, however, the pains left him, and he was apparently in his usual good health. When morning arrived he felt indisposed and did not arise at his customary time. About ten o'clock his condition assumed a serious phase, and medical skill failed to revive him. He died shortly afterward. Mr. Hutchins conducted a good house and was popular with the traveling public. He was thirty-seven years old and leaves to survive him a wife and two children.

After a stubborn fight for the postmastership of Wilkes-Barre, President McKinley ended the suspense and contest by appointing Byron G. Hahn, republican chairman of Luzerne county. Hahn's strongest rival for the plum was Charles B. Metzgar, an old war veteran. Those to whom the nomination is distasteful, say it will be the means of defeating the Quay candidate for the Legislature.

Typhoid fever is reported to be raging to an alarming degree at Milton. According to rumors there are upwards of forty cases in the town.