

# The Columbian.

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NO. 7

## THE McHENRY MYSTERY.

Practically nothing has been developed in the murder case of Thomas McHenry, who was shot down in cold blood a week ago last Sunday morning, near Rohrsburg. Last Thursday county Commissioners Fisher and Kitchen, Mr. Krickbaum not being present, offered a reward of \$800 for the arrest and conviction of the assassin. The commissioners were criticized for their apparent slowness of action, but as they believed that somebody who knew something about the tragedy was holding back the information for the purpose of claiming the reward, if any was offered, they acted wisely in not being too hasty.

Up to this time there have been no developments. The suspicion at first cast upon a discharged hired man has been entirely dissipated by his showing an unquestionable alibi before the coroner's jury. From him suspicion was turned to certain members of Mr. McHenry's family, but investigation seems to have shown that there was no foundation for such suspicions. We are informed that a representative of a Philadelphia paper, accompanied by a Pinkerton detective, spent the past week in the vicinity looking for clues, but with what results we cannot say. It is said that a man carrying a gun similar to the one with which the shooting is supposed to have been done, was seen walking near Huntingdon creek not very long after the deed was committed, but all traces of the man seem to have been lost.

All that is known surely is that Mr. McHenry was shot by some one concealed in the barn. The bullet passed through his body, coming out at the back, making a ragged wound where it came out. The bullet has not been found, but it is believed to have been fired from an old fashioned smooth bore rifle. The person who did it must have had a motive inspired by deep hatred or a desire for revenge, or he would never have taken the chances that he did. He took the chances of discovery, and he also took the chances of injury to himself in case McHenry came to the barn armed. Had the assassin's first shot missed its aim, and McHenry had had a gun or revolver, the chances of escape would have been small. That the gun used was a muzzle loader is shown by the piece of coat lining used as a wad, which was found on the ground near where McHenry fell.

It is reported that several detectives have visited the scene of the murder. It so, they are acting on their own responsibility, for no one has reported themselves to the commissioners in that capacity. It is to be hoped that some clue may soon be found that will lead to the discovery of the murderer. That "murder will out" is usually true, but a few more cases of unpunished crimes of this kind in Columbia county will make it appear that we are an exception to the rule. In case the offering of a reward does not bring any results soon, some arrangements should be made with a reliable detective agency to take the matter in hand.

## Mrs. J. S. Blue.

Harriet Edgar, wife of J. S. Blue, died at her home on East street last Friday morning at three o'clock. She had been ill for some time, and for the past month was confined to her bed. The disease which caused her death was catarrh of the stomach, liver and bowels.

Mrs. Blue was a daughter of the late J. K. Edgar, and was born in this town where her whole life was spent. She taught successfully in the public schools for several years, prior to her marriage. As a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, she was always a willing worker, ever ready to help in anything pertaining to the interest and welfare of the parish. For some years she was a member of the choir where she rendered faithful and acceptable service. She was a devoted wife and mother, and the family have the sympathy of many friends. Mrs. Blue was aged a little over forty-eight years, and leaves to survive, her husband and three children, Miss Mae and Horace, of this town, and Edgar of Philadelphia. Her mother and three brothers and two sisters also mourn her loss.

The funeral services were held at the house on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. D. N. Kirkby conducting the services. There was a profusion of beautiful flowers, and the attendance was large.

The post office and banks were closed on Tuesday, that being Lincoln's birthday, a legal holiday.

## THE BALLOTS.

The ballots for next Tuesday's election are being printed at this office. In most cases the papers are properly made out, and there was little trouble in making out the form of the ballot for printing. In two instances, however, considerable difficulty was encountered, because the papers were irregular. In Scott township there exists a feud between the east and west districts, and each always tries to get ahead of the other. The result is that there is often confusion in the papers filed for the spring election. This year the Democrats and Republicans of the east district held a joint caucus, and made nominations for the township officers, and for the east district election officers. At about the same time the two parties held a joint caucus at Light Street, and nominated other persons for township officers, and named election officers without designating for what district. Of course the Republican party cannot hold two separate caucuses and name two different sets of candidates for the same offices in one township. Neither can the Democrats. Their papers were irregular for that reason, and attention was called to it by the commissioners and their counsel, and the papers of the west district were taken out for correction. When they were refiled they had not been properly corrected, and so in printing the ballots for Scott township, the only set of nominations that were regular was used. This leaves the west Scotters out in the cold, and they will have to write in names in the last column of the ballot.

The only legal way to make caucus nominations is for each party to hold a caucus for the whole township, and make their nominations in accordance with law, and then there will be no trouble about the ballots. The commissioners would have been justified in this case in compelling the parties to take legal steps in court to determine who were the lawful nominees, and did in fact give them a chance to make corrections, but the corrections were not properly made.

The other instance of "go-as-you-please" nominations comes from Conyngham township. Down there they hold no caucuses. Every voter is a statesman, and most of them want to hold office. Consequently each year there comes in a big batch of nomination papers. This year there is a certificate of nomination by the "citizens" party, whatever that may be. There are nomination papers by the Citizens, Independent Citizens, Peoples, and with no name. The commissioners have sifted the papers out and made the ballots as in their judgment they should be. Down there, too, if the two parties would hold regular party caucuses they would save a heap of trouble.

## Arrested in Danville.

C. B. Ent of the Central Hotel, Bloomsburg, accompanied by Constable Stroh, drove to this city about two o'clock yesterday morning to effect the arrest of Thomas Reese, a hostler, who until Thursday evening had been working in the Central Hotel stables. Reese had been in the employ of Mr. Ent but a week when he suddenly disappeared taking with him money that had been entrusted to him for the payment of a bill and a new overcoat belonging to a guest of the house. Mr. Ent learning that Reese had come to Danville at once started in pursuit. After a long hunt Reese was found, taken back to Bloomsburg, and turned over to the authorities. This is the second time within the past three months that Landlord Ent has been compelled to come to Danville for a delinquent. He says the town is his "Jonah."—*Danville News, Feb. 9th.*

## THIRTEEN MONTHS FOR GOSS.

Riter Goss was refused a new trial by Judge Little, and on Monday afternoon he was sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution, a fine of \$150 and undergo imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary for thirteen months. Goss ought to be glad that the court refused him a new trial. He would have been lucky indeed if he could have found a second jury that would have let him off as easily as did the first one. The sentence is looked upon as an exceedingly light one under all the circumstances. It will be remembered that Goss was convicted last December of voluntary manslaughter for running down John Cole who was riding a bicycle.

Adams Express Company will move into the Exchange Block next to Kemper & Evans, on April 1st.

## COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Court convened at 2 p. m. Feby. 5, with His Honor R. R. Little and Associate Judges Fox and Kurtz on the bench.

The case of the Com. vs. Charles Mase, assault and battery, with intent to kill, etc., was resumed.

The jury rendered a verdict of guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill.

Court sentenced defendant to pay costs of prosecution, a fine of \$200, undergo imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary for a period of one year and six months, stand committed, etc. Sheriff to conduct him there within ten days and be allowed one assistant.

Wm. C. Drake appointed guardian of Hattie and Charles D. Drake, minor children of Mary E. Drake.

Com. vs. Oliver Cope, Herbert Cope and John Trough, Jr. Charge malicious mischief. Not a true bill and county to pay the costs.

Deed of W. H. Henrie, clerk of the Orphans' Court, to Mary A. Rawlings, acknowledged in open court.

On motion of John G. Harman, Thos. C. Walsh was sworn and admitted as a member of Columbia County Bar.

Commonwealth vs. Harry Cole. Charge forgery, etc. Defendant pleads guilty to three separate indictments.

Court sentenced defendant Harry Cole to pay costs of prosecution, a fine to Commonwealth of \$100, restore to Bloomsburg National Bank the amount of money out of which they were defrauded, undergo imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary for a period of one year, Sheriff to conduct him there within ten days and be allowed one assistant. Sentence suspended on the other two indictments.

Commonwealth vs. Charles Adams. Charge forgery, etc. Defendant pleads guilty.

Sentence suspended and defendant discharged.

Commonwealth vs. John Chamberlain. Charge adultery. A true bill. Defendant pleads not guilty. Verdict not guilty.

Commonwealth vs. Lena Beck and Mary Wilder. Charge malicious mischief. A true bill. Defendants plead not guilty. Verdict not guilty, and prosecutor Reuben Reigle to pay one-half the costs of prosecution and defendants Lena Beck and Mary Wilder to pay one-half.

All jurors were discharged from further attendance at court and all jurors living outside the town limits of Bloomsburg to be allowed an extra day.

Court convened at 9 a. m. Wednesday, His Honor R. R. Little and Associate Judges Fox and Kurtz on the bench.

Petition presented to Court to print the name of Patrick J. Cain on election tickets instead of Patrick Kane for Conyngham S. W. district. So ordered.

Estate of Henry Creasy. Petition of administrator for discharge. Granted.

H. W. Kisner's use vs. Lloyd Yeager et al. Judgment in open court as of Dec. 15th, 1900, for \$106.86.

J. H. White appointed guardian of Grace, Elizabeth, May Crawford, Bertha and Odessa White, minor children of Mary White. Bonds approved.

Commonwealth vs. Lena Beck and Mary Wilder. Charge malicious mischief.

Court sentenced prosecutor Reuben Reigle to pay one-half the costs of prosecution and defendants Lena Beck and Mary Wilder to pay one-half the costs of prosecution. Stand committed, etc.

Commonwealth vs. Frank Zimmerman. Court sentenced prosecutor Mahala Stine to pay costs of prosecution, give bail to Sheriff. Stand committed.

Charles D. Hamlin vs. Norman E. Hamlin. Court fixed Monday at 10 a. m. for reading return of Sheriff in above case.

Wm. G. Yetter, Wm. Adams and Wm. Zaner appointed viewers to view site for public road in Franklin township.

Boyd Trescott, Pierce Hagenbuch and David T. Jones appointed viewers to view site for public road in Benton township, near Thomas Siegfried's.

H. H. Hulmes, R. F. Whitmoyer and G. W. Knouse appointed viewers to view site for public bridge over West Creek near Thomas Hartman's in Benton township.

Commonwealth vs. C. B. Kelchner. Charge assault and battery. A true bill. Verdict guilty.

Court sentenced the defendant C. B. Kelchner to the care of the trustees and managers of Huntingdon Re-

formatory and to remain in their care and custody until discharged from thence by their order or other due process of law, the Sheriff to conduct him there within ten days and be allowed one assistant.

Sheriff Daniel Knorr acknowledged the following deeds in open court:

Daniel Knorr, Sheriff, to Elmira B. & L. Association, lands in Bloomsburg. Lien creditor's receipt read in open court.

Same to Ella G. Turner, land in Orangeville.

Same to State Capitol B. & L. Association, land in Bloomsburg. Lien creditor receipt read in open court.

Same to State Capitol B. & L. Association. Land in Bloomsburg.

Same to State Capitol B. & L. Association. Land in Bloomsburg.

Same to State Capitol B. & L. Association. Land in Bloomsburg.

Same to State Capitol B. & L. Association. Land in Bloomsburg.

Same to Sarah Ann Kreisher. Land in Catawissa township.

Report of viewers in favor of a county bridge over Briarcreek in Briarcreek township, approved by Grand Jury.

Report of viewers in favor of county bridge over creek in Main township near M. E. Church, approved by Grand Jury.

Report of viewers in favor of county bridge over Little Hemlock creek in Hemlock township, approved by Grand Jury.

Report of viewers in favor of county bridge over creek near Bower's store in Centre township, approved by Grand Jury.

Report of viewers in favor of county bridge over river at Millinville, approved by the Grand Jury.

The following is the report of the Grand Jury:

That we have, pursuant to our required duties, investigated all bills of indictment presented for our consideration, and have passed upon them according to their respective merits. We have also examined the public buildings and find the County Jail to be in good condition, neat and clean. As to the jail, however, we recommend that the floor in kitchen be repaired; that window lights be put in where it is necessary; also that new zinc be placed in front of range and new linoleum be placed on floor of kitchen. We also recommend that an electric light be placed in front of jail and that it be wired for electric light where necessary.

As to the Court House, we find same in good condition, but recommend that the windows be glazed, and that the Janitor give attention to the pavement on the east side of the Court House; also to the cleaning of windows and water closets.

We also recommend that telephones be placed in the Jail and Court House. The reason we recommend electric light for Jail is because the gas piping is defective.

All of which we respectfully submit. T. H. EDGAR, Foreman.

## SECOND WEEK.

When court opened on Monday morning at nine o'clock. Hon. G. L. Halsey, of Wilkes-Barre assumed the bench, having been called in by Judge Little to hear the Krickbaum case. Associates Fox and Kurtz

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Successor to S. F. Peacock

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VERY CLOSE PRICES.

1 Bread Knife,  
1 House Knife,  
1 Kitchen Knife,  
Complete for 25c.

J. G. WELLS,

GENERAL HARDWARE.

All  
Winter Suits  
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Come in and see us—we'll treat you right.

## The Leader Department Store.

## After Inventory Bargains

In going through our inventory we found a lot of odds and ends. Quality first-class, but for a variety of reasons we want to turn them into cash.

## Children's Coats, Half Price, Ladies' Coats, Half Price, Some Lower.

FLANNELETTE WRAPPERS, a third off.  
BLANKETS, a full half off, and the cold weather all ahead of us.  
DRESS GOODS—A special lot from 25c. to 15c.  
FRENCH FLANNEL SHIRT WAISTS, from a third to a half off.  
Full lines of staple goods.

## Carpets and Furniture.

Rather early to talk of Carpets and Furniture—months before housecleaning—but our new goods are coming in, and they are beauties. You will think you are walking on rosebuds when you see them. The line of wool velvets, which we have been selling,

## Made, Laid and Lined, 90 Cents,

is larger in variety than ever before. They are equal to any velvet sold in the market for \$1.15. Durable? They are as much so as the velvets for which you will pay \$1.25 per yard.

Give us an early call and we will store the carpets until you need them.

## THE LEADER STORE CO., LTD.,

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