

# The Columbian.

VOL. 36.

BLOOMSBURG, PA. THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1901.

NO. 23

## MYSTERY

Surrounds Sudden Disappearance of Alfred Low.

It is Generally Believed That He Has Drowned Himself.

The neighborhood out in the vicinity of Shaffer's bridge, about one mile and a quarter distant from Bloomsburg is wildly excited, occasioned by the sudden disappearance of Alfred Low.

Mr. Low has been farming the Dr. E. W. M. Low property, the dwelling of which is located near the bridge, and Monday morning sometime, probably about seven o'clock, he and his hired hand, William Jones, went out into a field which forms the northwestern boundary of Fishingcreek, for the purpose of planting some corn. The two labored together until eight o'clock, or thereabouts, when Low after instructing his helper as to what to do while he was absent, started in the direction of the Company Dam. The two men had been talking about the damages recently done at a point a short distance below the dam, and when he started off William thought it was to view and form some idea of the injuries sustained.

The heavy rains of the past two weeks has had the effect of raising the creek and naturally increasing the strength of the current. The bank at this point and for several yards further down is without protection, and the water has washed out and undermined it to such an extent that a person attempting to walk on it would break through and be precipitated into the water. Many people entertain the belief that this is the fate that has befallen Low.

Others scout the accident theory and look at it as a pure case of deliberate suicide. Limitless stories are in circulation as to the man's object in making away with himself, chief among them being marital unhappiness. This rumor takes color from the fact that Low and his wife had, for a period been estranged from each other, but a little over a week previous to Monday she had returned to her husband, and with her own mouth on Tuesday informed the scribe that her husband had welcomed her home, and that a reconciliation had been perfected. In the light of the reunion this report appears to be without foundation.

His wife, being unable to account for his absence when the dinner hour arrived, a search was at once started. All the places where it is thought he might have gone, were visited, but none of the neighbors had seen him. Everyone who chanced to pass were notified of the man's disappearance, and they made inquiries from scores of people. Neighbors and friends were out all night Monday in quest of him. The nearby woods were searched and inquiry was made at various points along the B. & S. Railroad. His coat and vest, which he had left in the corn field Monday morning, were found, but no other trace of him can be discovered.

The creek has been dragged, but without success. The bottom of the stream for a hundred yards has been searched. It is quite evident that the body is not in that space, and the searchers have continued their labors further down stream. It appears to have a peculiar fascination for people. A good sized crowd lined the banks all day, watching the men in the boats trying to recover the body by means of a seine. There were no tidings of the man up to the time of going to press, and it is possible that the current of the stream has carried the body further down than the searchers have any idea.

If he has committed suicide, and there don't appear to be any doubt about it, six children are left fatherless.

Dynamite is now being used as a last resort. The great energy of the explosive it is believed, will bring the body to the surface. If this fails in its purpose, the search, in so far as the stream is concerned, will be abandoned.

### Men's Meeting.

The meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Building, next Sunday afternoon, at 2:30, will be addressed by Rev. F. M. Traub. A cordial invitation is extended to all men to be present.

## HOW PEOPLE LOSE THEIR MONEY.

By concealing it about their persons; by stowing it away in mugs, jugs and jars; by sewing it up in skirts and ticks; by tucking it under the couches and carpets, in cupboards, bureau drawers and trunks. These are some of the ways by which people lose their money, and sometimes, THEIR LIVES.

It is surely far better to deposit it in a good, reliable bank, having ample BURGLAR PROTECTION.

We offer you our services.

## THE Bloomsburg National Bank

A. Z. SCHOCH, PRESIDENT. WM. H. HIDLAY, CASHIER.

## 23 GRADUATES

From The Bloomsburg High School

Now Ready For Active Life—Who the Graduates Are.

The Tenth Annual Commencement Exercises of the Bloomsburg High School had their initial event in the Baccalaureate Sermon, which was delivered in the Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. W. M. Frysinger, Sunday evening. The class, consisting of twenty-three young ladies and gentlemen, together with the members of the School Board were present. In concluding Dr. Erysinger exhorted them to go forth and meet whatever danger that may lie in the path of duty fearlessly and with the resolve that with the help of Him who is omnipotent to bear witness to the truth in daily life, and by so doing to fulfill the real purpose of education. The choir, under the leadership of O. H. Yetter, rendered beautiful music. The Junior entertainment and second annual contest in oratory took place in the Opera House Monday evening. The faculty of the school, the Board of Directors and others at the head of School work were particularly gratified at the large attendance because it appeared to them as evidence that our people and particularly parents are not indifferent to child training and the matter of education. The participants performed their respective parts very acceptably, and the program, which was quite lengthy, was enjoyed throughout. The music was rendered by the High School Orchestra under the direction of Master Ralph Schwarz.

The program in its entirety follows:  
Overture.....In the Swim.....Clauder High School Orchestra.  
Reading.....Aristarchus Studies Elocution.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Music.....Come and Row.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Reading.....When the Moon Rose.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Reading.....Aunt Elvora's Hero.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Music.....Those Evening Bells.....King High School Chorus.  
Reading.....Van Bibber's Rock.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Reading.....What William Henry Did.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Violin Solo.....Hungarian Fantasia.....Tobani Ralph Schwarz.  
Reading.....The Real Hero.....Parker High School Chorus.  
Waltz.....The Spider and the Fly.....Von Tilzer Orchestra.  
Tableau.....Vida Barton, Maud Howard, Louise Lazarus, Lillian Buckalew, Mary Lewis, Carrie Harman, Julia Richards, Vera Hemingway, Laura Kedecker.  
March.....The Proposal.....Seltzer Orchestra.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.  
The Commencement Exercises took place in the Opera House Tuesday evening, before a large audience. Preparations, quite extensive in extent, had been made for the occasion and when the curtain rolled up the pretty stage scene delighted nearly one thousand people. The stage setting was a very pretty one. The potted plants, which formed a prominent and bewitching part, had been placed with an artistic hand, imparted an added charm.

The music, as on the previous evening, was furnished by the School Orchestra, and added materially in making the affair a charming one throughout.

After a selection by the orchestra, Rev. G. H. Hemingway made the opening prayer. The opening oration

## DEATH, HIS CHOICE

Louenz Pflager Puts Bullet in His Head Friday Morning.

Tragedy Occurs at the Exchange Hotel.

Lorenzo Pflager, aged about fifty years, was found in a room on the second floor of the Exchange Hotel a little before 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, stiff and cold in death, due to a wound in his right temple. The hair, near the injury, was singed which would seem to indicate that the weapon was held close to the head when the fatal shot was fired. Mr. Pflager had come to Bloomsburg the day before and had been associating with friends. He displayed no signs of mental derangement. He retired Thursday night about twelve o'clock. At eight o'clock, or thereabouts, Friday morning he appeared at the door of his room and signed for a special delivery letter. This was the last seen of him alive.

The fact that he did not appear for either breakfast or dinner excited the curiosity of the proprietor. At the time above mentioned Mrs. Irvin Snyder took occasion to go to that part of the hotel. Standing on a table, which she secured from a room on the opposite side of the hall, and looking over the transom she was the first to discover the body. The body was lying on the bed, the right hand still clutching a 32 calibre revolver, with which the deed had been committed. The stiffened condition of the body indicated that the shooting had been done several hours before, and this too affirms the statement of one of the attaches of the hotel who had heard a report of a pistol some time in the morning, but paid no heed to it. A short time after the discovery, Acting Coroner, Guy Jacoby, was summoned. He empanelled a jury consisting of Eugene F. Carpenter, J. R. Townsend, Thomas E. Sands, J. M. Staver, C. B. Lutz, and W. L. Eyerly. The verdict was in accordance with the facts.

Mr. Pflager had been foreman of the Union Tanning Company, at Jamison City, for nearly ten years. He resigned his position with that corporation on March 1st, of this year, and moved to New Paltz, New York, where he secured a similar position. It is rumored that the loss of this latter position together with some financial reverses, goaded him on to commit the deed. The deceased was of a pleasant, cheerful disposition and appears to have been universally esteemed. A jolly, good fellow was the encomium of his many friends. He was connected with several of the Masonic bodies, and the remains were removed to H. G. Supplee's undertaking rooms, placed in a casket and prepared for shipment to his home, under the direction of members of that fraternity.

An investigation of his clothing was made. In one of the coats was found the registered letter, which had been delivered to him at his room in the morning. It contained a check for \$25.00 and a brief letter. The contents had absolutely no bearing on the crime whatever. After receiving the letter he had apparently gone back to bed, as he was clad in his night-robe.

The body was ready for shipment and would have been sent up on the morning train, but word was received

from Coroner Sharpless, at Catawissa, to hold it, that a second inquest was necessary. He finally concluded that it would not be necessary to have the body. He empanelled a jury, consisting of L. C. Mensch, of Catawissa, W. M. Robbins, of Lightstreet, and H. G. Supplee, J. W. Eyer and Harry Chamberlin, of Bloomsburg. The inquest was held Monday morning, at the office of Dr. Bruner, on Market street. The verdict was to the effect that death was caused by his own hand.

The sad news was telegraphed to his wife, and it was expected that she would come on and take charge of the body, but a telegram from her requested that it be sent home at once. The body was accordingly placed on the 2:36 D. L. & W. train Saturday afternoon and expressed to New Paltz, N. Y.

The only survivors are Mrs. Pflager and an adopted son, aged about ten years.

Everyone had a good word for the deceased. Why he ended his life is a mystery which will probably never be solved. The sad event has cast a gloom over the spirit of his many friends in this vicinity.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES.

Memorial day was appropriately celebrated on Thursday with services, under the auspices of Ent Post of the G. A. R. The parade, the route of which was considerably changed from that of former years, was participated in by the Veterans who wore the blue in the days of the immortal Lincoln, several secret societies and the Bloomsburg Band. A number of the Spanish-American War Soldiers also paid tribute to their departed brethren by joining the procession.

The graves of the heroes who are resting from their struggles in Rosemont Cemetery were strewn with flowers and marked with old glory.

Rev. W. M. Frysinger opened the services with a fervent prayer, after which A. B. Black recited Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg. The Band rendered a becoming selection while the members of the G. A. R. made disposition of the flowers. The exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. Frysinger.

The exercises at the Market Street Tabernacle in the evening were very impressive. The audience filled the spacious area. The program consisted of several selections by the Y. M. C. A. Quartette, prayer by Rev. J. W. Bentz, of the Evangelical Church, a recitation by Miss Martha Brugler, a brief address by Elmer Wilbur. The principal speaker of the evening was Rev. G. H. Hemingway. He spoke in a clear, distinct voice, and his tribute to the old soldiers was most eloquent. We would like to give it to our readers verbatim, but lack of space forbids. Maj. I. H. Seesholtz was the last speaker. His address was greatly enjoyed.

Fred, a little son of dairyman Millard McBride, who lives below town, was attacked by a large swarm of bees while playing about the yard Saturday afternoon. The little fellow's cries brought Mrs. McBride to the scene, but her strength failed and she was overcome. As soon as she recovered she carried her son into the house. His face, head and hands were terribly swollen by reason of the stings. For several hours the little fellow suffered intense pain.

**J. G. WELLS,**  
Successor to S. F. Peacock & Co., Market Square.



The Strafford and Independent Bicycles for \$16.20, guaranteed for one year.

Just received—Fine new line of Penna. Lawn Mowers, Hammocks, Fishing Tackle, Base Ball supplies, &c.

**J. G. WELLS,**  
GENERAL HARDWARE.



**A BLACK SUIT.**

A Black Suit is always a necessity.

Whether you are preaching or being preached to.

Whether you go out calling or expect callers.

Whether you entertain or are entertained.

Whether it's your funeral or someone else's last rites.

You can't be "it" without a Black Suit. The Black Suits we sell will make you look dignified and they look as though they cost twice our price.

We have Black Suits in Clays, Unfinished Worsteds and Dress Worsteds.

**\$8.50, \$10, \$12 and \$15,**

are a few of the prices for these suits, and when you see them you'll say, "Cheap enough. I'll try one on."

**BEN GIDDING,**  
THE CLOTHIER.

The Leader Department Store.

It Won't Cost You a Cent to Prove What We Say.

We tell you we have the finest line of Wash Goods, Shirt Waists and other seasonable goods there is shown in this city. Our customers tell us so, and tell their friends so. Here is a point or two to consider. We don't buy in car load lots, but we do buy in quantities large enough to give us control of one of the best known makes in the country. Then our buyer selects with an eye single to what will look tasteful and fashionable.

Here are a Few of Our Offerings.

**TWO PIECE SUITS**—Madras, white ground with neat stripes of blue or black, fitted skirt with deep flounces. Waist with tucked vest. Revers trimmed with embroidery and insertion. \$2.75, and \$3.00.

**TWO PIECE SUIT**—Chambray, solid colors, waist trimmed with embroidery and insertion. Fitted skirt with two ruffles, \$2.35 and \$2.50.

**TWO PIECE SUIT**—Blue and White, Pink and White, and Black and White Lawn. Fitted skirt two ruffles, waist full front with buttons \$2.00.

**HOUSE DRESSES**—Fine lawn, full ruffled skirt, lace trimmed, \$3.25.

**SHIRT WAISTS FOR \$1.00**—White lawn, tucked front and embroidery and insertion.

**SHIRT WAISTS FOR \$1.30**—White lawn, front all over embroidery. Bishop sleeves, soft collar.

**SHIRT WAIST FOR \$1.50 to \$2.75**—Fine white lawn, tucked front and lace and insertion. Bishop sleeves.

**SHIRT WAISTS 50c. to \$1.75**—Percale Madras and lawns.

**The Leader Store Co., Ltd.,**  
Fourth and Market Sts.