

The Columbian.

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NO. 39.

WHEN YOU WANT TO

Open a Bank Account Have a Check Cashed
Borrow Money, or Make an Investment

CALL ON THE OLD RELIABLE—

The Farmers National Bank
OF BLOOMSBURG.

Capital, \$60,000

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3 Per Cent. Interest Allowed on Time Deposits.

WM. H. HIDLAY, Cashier.

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GOOD ORDER AT COLUMBIA THEATRE.

The new management of the local theatre is determined that there shall be good order preserved in the house. The rowdyism that has prevailed in the gallery will no longer be tolerated. The following regulations have been adopted, and will be enforced:

Disorderly conduct of any kind whatsoever, such as stamping, whistling, etc., is strictly forbidden. The spitting of tobacco upon the floor of a public house is a filthy, indecent practice, and contrary to the law. Violation of these rules and the law will meet with immediate ejection from the theatre and prompt prosecution will follow.

Any incivility or inattention on the part of an attache of the theatre, may be confidentially communicated to the management, who will be glad to summarily correct the offense.

Physicians and others desirous of being in immediate telephone communication will kindly leave their seat numbers at the box office. They will be instantly notified upon receipt of any message for them.

Lost articles should be reported at once to the box office, or by letter to the manager. Articles found may be delivered at box office where a receipt will be given therefor.

NEW LAWS FOR CATHOLICS.

The fifth triennial synod of the Roman Catholic diocese of Harrisburg began its sessions in secret in St. Patrick's cathedral last Thursday morning, about eighty priests being present, Rev. J. R. Murphy of this town being among the number.

Previous to the private session the Mass of the Holy Ghost was celebrated. During the mass Bishop Shanahan, assisted by Monsignors Koch and Benton, presided at the throne. The music, beautifully rendered by the cathedral choir, was a feature of the ceremonies.

At the conclusion of the mass the auditorium was closed and the business session of the synod commenced with Bishop Shanahan in the presiding officer's chair.

The object of the meeting was to enact laws for the government and discipline of the diocese. The synod considers the relations of one pastor to another, enacts laws on diocesan morals and statutes relating to discipline in the diocese. These laws have all been previously submitted to the priests in caucus, and they will be officially promulgated to the different congregations by their pastors.

DIETRICK'S CASE.

The fourth trial of Peter Dietrick for the shooting of "Corky" Jones at Danville two years ago, was held in Wilkes-Barre last week, where it had been removed on a petition for a change of venue from Montour county.

It resulted in a verdict of voluntary manslaughter, the maximum penalty for which is imprisonment in the penitentiary for twelve years.

The Danville News says that the total cost to Montour county for the four trials will foot up \$5,000.

A WELCOME RAIN.

The long-hoped-for rain came at last on Monday, beginning early in the morning and lasting nearly all day at intervals. While it was a great blessing, and gave much relief, it will require considerable more water to soak the parched earth, and fill up the streams.

THE BAR.

The Bar of Columbia County may be said to consist of fifty-two members, but of that number there are twenty who never opened an office for practice, or who have since admission engaged in other business. This leaves thirty-two in active practice, and they are The Bar of Columbia County.

There has been no admission of a resident Attorney since April 1900, and it is believed there are no registered students in the county. The oldest present member was admitted April 1848; the two being just fifty-two years apart. There does not seem to be occasion for an increase in the number, and the Bar compares favorably with that of surrounding counties.

In regard to the kind of cases now coming before the Civil Court, there are, on the Trial List for the September term, thirty-nine cases, and it is notable that only seven of them are against individuals, the remaining thirty-two cases being against municipalities or corporations.

This shows how much the business and the clientele have changed within the last twenty years. The Criminal Court has over fifty cases to be disposed of during the sessions, to say nothing about motions and rules and arguments, and other multifarious business.

PAPER MILL SOLD.

At receiver's sale Tuesday morning, the New York and Pennsylvania Paper Mills company, which operates mills at Lock Haven and Johnsonburg bought the property of the Penna. Paper mill at Catawissa, free of incumbrances for \$35,600. The bid was made by M. M. Armstrong, one of the members of the firm.

If the property is found in good shape after a thorough examination next week, it is quite probable that this company will operate it. In this event, there is no doubt but that the mill will run steadily.

Several properties of Charles Chalfant of Danville are advertised to be sold at sheriff's sale. Mr. Chalfant is a son of the late Thomas Chalfant, and formerly the editor of the Danville *Intelligencer*.

Soon after this Mrs. Benfield heard the welcome sound of Mr. Vognetz's approaching wagon. Welliver heard it also and it disconcerted him for a moment. Mrs. Benfield managed to escape to the door and ran down to the front gate. Her assailant, still carrying the iron weapon in his hand, ran out of another door and, by a circuitous route and leaping over the fence, caught Mrs. Benfield in front of the house and renewed the assault. It was at this juncture that Mr. Vognetz appeared in sight and Welliver leaped over the fence and ran away.

Chief Mincemoyer of Danville was summoned, and a posse started out to find the would-be assassin. Welliver was found working in a field, and disclaimed all knowledge of the affair, but after a rigid examination by Chief Mincemoyer he became badly tangled, and finally confessed. He was taken to the house and fully identified by Mrs. Benfield.

A warrant was issued and Welliver was taken to Danville where he was given a hearing before a justice. He waived a hearing and bail was fixed at \$2000. Not being able to procure bail he was committed to jail, to await trial at court which begins October 18th.

Mrs. Benfield will probably recover.

A Murderous Assault

Mrs. John Benfield Attacked
by Arthur Welliver and
Nearly Killed.

THE PRISONER CONFESSES

Valley township, Montour county, was the scene of a murderous assault last Saturday morning, Mrs. John Benfield, widow of a former associate judge of that county being the victim.

Mrs. Benfield, who is 72 years of age, lives with her son and daughter, Hurley and Miss Emma Benfield, on the homestead farm. On Saturday morning Hurley and Miss Benfield drove into Danville on business, leaving their mother at home alone.

About 8 o'clock J. D. Vognetz, the Strawberry Ridge merchant, came driving along on his way to Danville. As he approached the house he perceived a man, or rather a boy in appearance, leap over the fence that surrounds the house. Casting a hasty look over his shoulder as soon as he struck the ground he took off his hat and dashed off across the field as fast as he could run.

Mr. Vognetz was startled by the cry of "murder." Looking in the direction of the sound he beheld Mrs. Benfield standing near her door and clinging to the fence for support. Her hair was hanging down while her head was covered with blood, which was also streaming down over her clothing. In a moment Mr. Vognetz was at her side. She was barely able to tell her story. Arthur Welliver, she said, had attempted to murder her.

He assisted her into the house, and summoned help by telephone, and word was sent to her son and daughter in Danville, who hurried home. Physicians were summoned who dressed her wounds.

Mrs. Benfield was able to tell of the occurrence as follows: It appears that the boy, Arthur Welliver, who is about seventeen years of age, is an object of especial dread to the Benfield family. While she was entirely alone to her dismay Mrs. Benfield saw the fellow walk by the house.

Owing to an alleged offense of a very serious nature committed in the past the boy had orders never to place his foot on the Benfield farm. As he approached the door of the house Mrs. Benfield asked him what he wanted and told him to leave.

The boy told her that he would show her what he wanted and springing upon her he seized her by the throat and threw her upon the floor. At this juncture his eyes fell upon a steel tube as thick as a man's wrist and about two feet long, belonging to a cream separator, which lay in the kitchen sink. Seizing this as a weapon he began to deliver blow after blow upon the defenseless woman's head.

She fought heroically and thus managed to avert the full force of many of the blows, but the blood each time the iron descended upon her skull flowed from a fresh wound and not only covered her own body but left its tell tale stains on the would-be murderer's clothes. The floor of the room where the struggle took place, with its pools of blood, presented a horrible sight, attesting to the desperate nature of the struggle.

Mrs. Benfield pleaded with her assailant. Once she said: "Why you'll kill me." The reply, she says, that Welliver made to this was: "That's what I intend to do."

TOWNSEND'S FALL SHOWINGS

IN ALL LINES OF

CLOTHING.

There are some of the Most Beautiful styles and patterns this season that we have ever seen.

Come in and look over the models.

This store is full of the season's styles and you will be surprised how cheap you can buy here.



TOWNSEND'S CORNER.

appraisement so as to perfect the title. The petition was granted.

E. J. Flynn, Esq., presented the return of the widow's exemption in the estate of James McHale, deceased, and a petition for the sale of real estate for the payment of debts in the estate of Wm. Burke, deceased.

A. L. Fritz, Esq., presented the petition of John Belles, guardian of Isaac Gould, for the allowance of \$80 to pay expenses incurred during illness of ward, which was granted.

James L. Evans, Esq., presented the report of viewers on a bridge and a road in Briarcreek township which were confirmed absolute. He also presented a petition for a subpoena in divorce on the grounds of desertion in case of Wm. R. Lutz vs. Florence M. Lutz.

Clinton Herring, Esq., presented the report of viewers in favor of a bridge over Spring Run in Madison township which was confirmed nisi. He also presented a petition of B. F. Battin which represented that P. K. Patterson, his son-in-law, had been absent from his home for years and it was supposed he was dead. The petition was for permission of Mr. Battin to take out letters of administration in the estate of Patterson. A rule was granted returnable the first Monday in December.

The trial list for next week was called over. Out of the forty cases on the list only ten were marked for trial.

W. C. Johnston, Esq., presented a petition for the discharge of Mertus E. Edwards, guardian of Bruce Edwards, Cora Edwards and others. A rule was granted to show cause why he should not be discharged, returnable at next term.

In the case of Ellis Eves and Bros., vs. James L. Whitmire, Mr. Johnston presented a petition that the sheriff proceed and make the money on the writ. The prayer of the petitioner was granted.

In the estate of Jonas Rantz the time of the filing of the auditor's report was continued until next term.

Mr. Johnston presented a petition asking that a subpoena in divorce be awarded in the case of Guernsey Lyons vs. Ida Lyons on the ground of desertion.

Register of Wills and the Prothonotary presented the accounts

and widows' appraisements which had been filed in their offices and they were confirmed nisi.

A petition was also presented asking for the sale of the real estate of Christiana Shuman, deceased, situated in Main township, which was allowed by the Court.

Upon petition presented Agnes R. Shuman was appointed guardian of Robert, Howard and Florence Gunter.

Wm. Chrisman, Esq., presented a petition to declare Chas. Esterbrook sane and discharge his committee. After hearing the petition Court fixed the first Monday in November for the hearing of the matter.

OPENING OF THE NEW THEATRE.

A refined audience, not as large as it should have been, was present at the Columbia Theatre last Friday night, when the popular play entitled "The Devil" was presented by an excellent company. The stage was beautifully set, and the gowns of the ladies in the play were exquisite.

The leading part was enacted by Joseph Kilgour, and he fulfilled every expectation.

The management have planned to give Bloomsburg a better class of attractions than have been given heretofore, and it remains to be seen to what extent their efforts are appreciated.

HOSPITAL BUYS LOT.

A lot of ground adjoining the Joseph Ratti Hospital has been purchased from Mrs. J. L. Dillon by the managers of the hospital. The demands upon the institution are such that an enlargement of the building is very much needed. This additional land will provide for the addition, as soon as funds are available.

DIED FROM INJURY.

William Smith who was injured while riding on a freight train at Rupert on September 15th, died at the hospital last Saturday. He was riding on the top of a car and his head struck the bridge, fracturing his skull. He never entirely regained consciousness. His wife and five children survive.