THE CAMBRIA FREEMAN.

Ebensburg, Pa.,

FRIDAY, - - - JAN. 29, 1875.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Here, There, and the Other Place.

—Ground-hog day is next in order.

—Argument Court will convene on Tuesday, Feb. 9th.

—The Huntingdon *Globe* publishes correspondence from the "Lower End."

—"The History of the Weeping Willow" will find a place on our first page next week.

—A son of Henry Zimmerman's, of Johnstown, had one of his feet badly burned at the rolling mill a few days ago.

—Our correspondent "Scribe" gives full particulars of the burning of Mr. Samuel P. Paul's house, in Summerhill township.

—Lumbermen estimate that the amount of timber to be cut this season at only about two-thirds as much as was cut last year.

—A wild cat was shot, near what is known as the "Deep Cut," by Mr. Horner, of East Conemaugh, on Wednesday of last week.

—James Roberts, of Johnstown was arrested and brought to our county jail on Friday night last for threatening to kill his wife and family.

—It seems to be an easier matter to secure a passage-at-arms than to become a sergeant-at-arms. *Vide* that little editorial unpleasantness in Johnstown.

—The snow which is softening at present writing (Thursday evening) afforded the best sleighing that has been enjoyed in this region for several years.

—The Osceola *Reveille*, one of the handsomest papers on our exchange list, has recently donned a new head, which adds additional beauty to its make up.

—We believe that the Receipts and Expenditures of Cambria county have received the finishing touches at the hands of the Auditors, and will appear in our paper next week.

—A Tyrone woman recently told her husband that she would die between 11 and 12 o'clock on a certain day, and she fulfilled the contract to the very letter. Nothing like being punctual.

—In the case of D. B. Ream, of Altoona, charged with libel on oath of Patrick Drumgold, the Grand Jury on Wednesday found "not a true bill," and ordered the prosecutor to pay the costs.

—The "oldest inhabitant" is still being heard from occasionally. This time she is a resident of Greensburg, her name is Catharine Castermiller, and her age is put down at 112 years last birthday.

—Mrs. John Null was struck by an engine near Woodvale a few days ago, and made a very narrow escape from death. As it was, she was fortunately thrown from the track, and received only slight injuries.

—A diamond-shaped gold breast-pin was lost somewhere on either Centre or Main street, yesterday morning, by a little girl on her way to school. The finder will confer a great favor by calling at this office.

—Any person who takes up stray cattle and neglects to advertise the same in one paper in the county within ten days thereafter, subjects himself to a certain penalty prescribed by law. Our rural friends should make a note of this.

—We regret to learn that Mrs. Maria Lewis, late of this place, now a resident of Lebanon, Pa., had the misfortune to fracture one of her legs near the ankle, a couple of weeks ago, in consequence of slipping and falling upon the ice.

—People who have teeth to pull or any dental operation to be attended to, and who live in the vicinity of Loretto, should make it suit to consult Dr. Hoffman at that place on Monday next, as he will be there sure pop at the time appointed.

—Hon. Wm. A. Wallace, U. S. Senator elect, met with a warm welcome from his fellow citizens of Clearfield, on Friday evening last, and made such a speech in response as might be expected from so able and so eloquent an orator.

—The Altoona *Tribune* says: "Mr. Charlie B. Fink, of the Latrobe *Advance*, with the first ray of the morning sun peered in on us," etc. What Charlie was doing "with the first ray of the morning sun," or where he rayed it, the *Tribune* fails to tell.

—Mr. F. H. Barker, of this place, is acquiring considerable celebrity as a sharp shooter, his exploits in some instances even excelling those of professional marksmen. On Wednesday he made a string of three-eighths of an inch, in three shots, thirty-five yards, off hand.

—A young Johnstowner has been arrested on the charge of assault and battery with intent to commit a rape, and has given bail in the sum of $1,000 to appear at the District Court when wanted. The names of the alleged culprit and his intended victim have not been made public.

—Mr. D. A. Luther, of Carroll township, brought to town on Wednesday, with the aid of two horses and a stout sled, and without any one to help him over the rough places, 2,350 feet of pine lumber, which he hauled a distance of nine miles. Can any teamster do better?

—A number of Pittsburgh capitalists have made arrangements to embark in the charcoal business on an extensive scale at Millwood Station, on the Somerset and Mineral Point railroad. They have contracted for 80,000 brick to build ovens, and they expect to turn out at least two car loads a day.

—Mr. Gideon Kring, of Adams township, aged only about 37 years, died very suddenly and unexpectedly at midnight on last Wednesday week. The deceased had been hauling lumber to Wilmore during the day, and on his return home ate a hearty supper and retired to bed apparently as well as he ever was.

—James J. Murphy is his name and Johnstown is his station, the cheapest clothing is his fame, at which he can beat all creation. No. 109 Clinton street, Star Clothing Hall is unexcelled for the variety of its stock, the beauty of its styles, the firmness of its fabrics, and the cheapness of its prices. Go there and buy.

—The U. S. District Court at Pittsburgh issued an order on Saturday last extending the time for the meeting of the creditors of Owen Cunningham, bankrupt, of this place, for the purpose of considering the debtor's proposition for a compromise, until the 23d of next month. The meeting will be held before Register Brotherline.

—Mr. Wm. Ivory, of Clearfield township, died yesterday after a somewhat protracted illness, aged about 58 years. She was an exemplary wife, a devout Catholic, and a kind-hearted neighbor, and many there are, relations and friends, who will hear with regret of her early demise. May she rest in peace. Funeral at St. Augustine to-morrow forenoon.

—Our friend M. D. Will, of Clearfield township, who had the misfortune to fall and break two of his ribs several weeks ago, has, we are glad to say, so far recovered as to be able to make his first semi-occasional trip to Ebensburg during the present year of grace. And that same didn't set the printer man back a bit, thanks to Mr. W.'s kindly consideration.

—Mr. D. B. Ream, editor of the *Living Age*, an Altoona temperance paper published on the high pressure system, was last week prosecuted for libel by Mr. Patrick Drumgold, whose name had been made use of in some doggerel verses relative to the sale of surreptitious whisky. Mr. Ream gave bail in the sum of $300 to appear at court and answer the charge preferred.

—We are much obliged to G. W. Childs, Esq., editor and proprietor of the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, probably the most successful newspaper financially on the continent, for a copy of the "Ledger Almanac" for the current year, a publication which is brimfull of useful information, and which is furnished to the hundreds of thousands of subscribers to that live journal free of charge.

—Miss Flora McFlimsey, with nothing to wear, had no doubt a great deal of trouble to *bare*, but a man in that fix has considerably less, for surely the store kept by the two brothers Hess is offering such bargains that none need despair of getting an abundance of good clothing to wear, of the very best styles and at figures so small that none can refuse to buy at Oak Hall, 241 and 243 Main street, Johnstown.

—Like the remains of Sir John Moore, the body of Samuel Beighley, the Westmoreland county murderer, was interred at the dead of night, and that too at a spot unknown to all but the father of the executed criminal.

—We learn from our good old friend, Mr. John Carney, of Munster township, that a log dwelling house, known as the Downey property, located in said township, was burned to the ground on Wednesday last, but how the fire originated or the extent of the loss he was not able to ascertain. The building was owned by Mr. John O'Hara and occupied by Mr. Thomas Roop.

—A Gallitzin correspondent writes to say that the 5,500 pound load mentioned by us last week has been outdone by Mr. Joseph Dodson, of Clearfield township, who recently hauled 6,000 pounds of coal from the Ashland coal bank with two horses, and is willing to bet $100 that he can go 1,000 pounds better with the roads in good sledding condition. How's that for a hefty haul?

—The Clearfield *Raftsman's* Journal says: "Our Pennsylvania lumbermen have at least some little hope for an increase in the spring trade, in the fact that there has been an advance in the freight on Western lumber, which went into effect on January 4th. It is hardly probable that the Michigan dealers can now ship their lumber into Pennsylvania by rail at a lower figure than our own dealers can furnish it."

—Messrs. Albert Boslet and Jacob Luther, of Carroll township, have seen Mr. D. A. Luther on the lumber hauling question and went some thousand of feet better, the first named having brought to town yesterday 3,420 feet of pine lumber and the latter 3,323 feet of poplar, each employing a pair of horses in the transportation of their respective loads, which they hauled a distance of ten miles. Who can beat Boslet?—that's the question.

—A large side lamp at the Mountain House saloon caught fire yesterday evening while the bar-keeper was at supper, and so great was the flame produced that it gave rise to a general alarm of fire, the ringing of the fire bell, and a general stampede of our citizens in the direction of the supposed burning building. In the meantime several parties near at hand broke in the door of the saloon and succeeded in suppressing the flames before any serious damage was done.

—Eugene McFadden, son of that well known gentleman, Mr. S. P. McFadden, and Moore Isett, two Hollidaysburg lads, were severely injured, on Saturday evening last, in consequence of the sled upon which they were coasting coming in contact with a cow, causing the bovine to fall upon them. They will both recover. A boy named Willie Carr, of the same place, had one of his ears badly demoralized by being run over by a sled about the same time.

—A young man named George Adams, whose home is in Clearfield, and who was employed as a flagman on a freight train, attempted to jump from the rear car near Houtzdale, on Tuesday morning last, for the purpose of closing a switch, when his overcoat caught in some manner and jerked him under the car, two wheels of the last truck of which passed over his body above the waist and injured him so terribly that he died almost instantly. He leaves a wife and four children.

—Through the kindness of our young friend Bob Thompson, he of mail celebrity and female proclivities, we have been made the recipient of several "complimentaries" to the concert of the Ebensburg Silver Cornet Band, which is to come off at the Court House this evening, and which we hope will prove a perfect ovation as to the number in attendance. The concert will be an enjoyable one, while the object is one which all can endorse—therefore a full house and lots of stamps should be the result.

—Coasting, otherwise known as sledding, an amusement in which boys of every age and of all sections in which snow prevails freely indulge, is a rather dangerous pastime, as two lads named Tesh and Gibson, residents respectively of Johnstown and Millville borough, have just found out to their sorrow. The former had a leg and arm fractured and his jaw dislocated, and the latter ran against an open gate and broke his nose and knocked one of his shoulder blades out of place, besides receiving other severe contusions.

—What is known in Spanish parlance as a "fandango," but what will be more readily recognized among our readers when spoken of as a dance, will be the order of the day—for it is to be a daylight affair—at the public house of Harry Marlett, in St. Augustine, on Monday, February 8th. When Harry fails to do justice to a merry-making of this kind, or when participants in such festive scenes find anything but the best of treatment in this famous hostelry, then indeed may it be set down as a fact that Harry Marlett is not himself at all any more.

—Mr. John D. Barckley, of the Crawford House, has been authorized to receive orders for any article of clothing from the mammoth establishment of Wanamaker & Brown, Philadelphia, and is prepared to exhibit samples of all desirable textures, take measures for full suits or parts of suits, and secure the forwarding of goods, no matter what the grade or price, in the shortest possible time. He has already sent off several orders, and in no instance has the clothing failed to give entire satisfaction in fit, quality and price. Here is an excellent chance to get the best of clothing at astonishing low rates from the largest clothing house in America.

—James F. Campbell, of the *Voice and Echo*, and L. D. Woodruff, junior editor of the Johnstown *Democrat*, met in mortal combat, without the mortal, on Saturday last, but in the language of the lamented Lincoln, "nobody was hurt," Hon. John Hannan's interposition having fortunately prevented bloodshed. As it was, the only things that suffered were their respective pocket-books, an existing ordinance having been violated to the extent of $6.50 each. And now they have both gone back to the old business of throwing dirt at each other editorially, "double-dyed, sneaking coward," "braggart," "poltroon," "miserable coward" and "gas-bag" being among the least harmless of the expletives with which they are giving vent to their "pent-up-utica." How pleasant it is to see brethern dwell together in unity.

ROLL OF HONOR.—Following are the names of those who have paid in full for the present volume of the *Freeman*. All who have a partial credit on the current year will find their names in our next issue:

St. Martinsville, La.—Capt. J. H. Gageby.
Milton, Pa.—Mrs. Mary C. Criste.
Confluence, Pa.—L. W. Weakland.
Bennington, Pa.—Edward Halloran.
Summit—J. W. Condon, Esq.
Loretto—Joseph Hogue, Joseph Cramer, Michael McGuire, F. O'Friel, Thos. Rosensteel, V. Sanker, John T. Storm, John Yahner, C. C. Eckenrode.
St. Augustine—David Ryan, Wm. Conrad, Dennis Cawley, Wm. Little.
Chest Springs—John Wagner, Thomas W. Adams.
Johnstown—H. P. Freidhoff, C. Canny.
Wilmore—Peter Burnheimer.
Gallitzin—John Myers.
Altoona—Andrew Dillon, D. & C. Moore.
Munster—Peter Parrish, Ignatius Biter, Wm. O'Hara.
Ebensburg—Edw'd Roberts, P. H. Jones, T. L. Edwards, H. Walters, John W. Griffith, John E. Scanlan, Edward Parrish.
Carrolltown—David Smith, Fred. Snyder, F. Bearer, H. Bender, D. A. Luther, J. W. Sharbaugh, Earhart Farabaugh, John Snyder, J. J. Sharbaugh.
St. Boniface—Nicholas Helfrich.

EAST CONEMAUGH FINANCES.—The following has been deemed of sufficient importance to telegraph us for publication:

EAST CONEMAUGH, Jan. 28, 1875.

H. A. MCPIKE, *Freeman*—Publish in this week's paper the following: Valuation of taxable property, $5,000; amount in treasury, $57.58; due from collector, $300.00; due from weighmaster, $7.00; no debt.

J. C. WALKINSHAW, Pres't Council.
H. W. STORY, Burgess.

EAST CONEMAUGH, Jan. 28, 1875.

H. A. MCPIKE, *Freeman*—Publish in this week's paper: East Conemaugh school District floating indebtedness, $314.00; amount in treasury, 97.47; due from collector, $134.72; amount of taxable property, $85,000.

JOHN KELLY, President.
JOHN T. COONEY, Secretary.

If you want to purchase **LAND** Read the B. & M. Advertisement in another column.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOMESTEAD BILL.—An Altoona friend sends us the following Petition, with the request that we give it a place in our columns, and as it will no doubt prove of interest to some of our readers, we cheerfully accede to the wish of the gentleman from whom it was received:

All Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who served in the late War against the Rebellion are respectfully invited to co-operate with us in this movement. If you approve of the following resolutions, please get as many signatures as possible and send it to your Representative in Congress and also to the Member of Assembly after the introduction of the bill. For further particulars address with stamp to the Soldiers' Protective Union Herbig, Company No. 1, of College Point, L. I., State of New York. If you cannot attend to this, please hand it to some trustworthy veteran in your vicinity.

PETITION.

We, the subscribers, petition the Honorable Members of Congress of the United States for an Amendment to the Homestead Bill passed in 1872, so as to allow all Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, who have served in the late War against the Rebellion, to have the right to select their land now and have the same entered in their names and held for them, until they or their children are to settle upon it. An this we ask for the following reasons:

1. As the Homestead bill reads now, there is no actual benefit for those who went at the country's call as volunteers to fight for the Union, but any foreigner with little means has the same benefit and right the day after landing on our shores as we have.

2. Many of us have been wounded and have not been able to follow our former occupations; again the largest number after the end of the war or the expiration of their enlistments have gone to work at their trades, but have not been able to save money enough to take possession of that promised land, and by the time they shall be able to take it, those at the east will need a small fortune for traveling expenses to get where they may find Government land.

3. A great many have families of small children, who need their schooling, which we cannot give them in new settlements, and who also cannot stand the hardships of a settler's life, but if we could select our land now, we could form clubs and those having no trade or who are otherwise willing to settle immediately could be assisted by others owning their land in the neighborhood to settle and cultivate their own and some of their neighbors' land, and in a very few years hundreds of farms would be cultivated and homesteads provided for those now working hard in manufactories and unprofitable trades. This would bring capital to the west, which never can reach there under the present Homestead Bill.

4. After a certain number of acres of such land have been cultivated, whether by himself or a lessee, the owner or his legal heirs shall have the right to sell such land; but not before, as we are entirely against opening a road for speculation.

5. Those Volunteers having served three years or more and those who have only served one year or less, by careful examination we have come to the conclusion that they should be compensated in some way.

6. It would be a noble act on the part of the Government, if it would pursue the same course as it does in Railroad legislation, that is, to advance money, and take mortgages on the lands, accordingly as they were taken up by actual settlers, and give them a reasonable time to pay the amount back into the treasury with interest. This would give us an opportunity to take immediate possession without any risk to the Government.

In conclusion, they beg leave to draw the attention of the present administration to the Soldiers to settle on the homesteads, and by so duing the Government will confer a great favor upon those men who have always upheld and defend the welfare of our country.

—A gay and festive youth from Pittsburgh recently made love to one of the fair daughters of a certain township in this county, and had progressed so far with his suit that the wedding day was not only appointed, but had actually arrived and the wedding feast prepared, some ten turkeys being beheaded and goodthingswithout end procured for the occasion, when word came that the would-be bridegroom was already the husband of a woman and the father of one or two children living in Pittsburgh. This too almost at the very moment when the loving couple were about to be made flesh of one flesh and bone of one bone, the information, it is said, being conveyed by a woman from Pittsburgh who was in quest of the truant husband in order to collect a bill against him for furnishing board to his wife and family. This of course nipped the wedding in the bud, the clergyman refusing to perform the ceremony. Nothing daunted, however, the seekers after matrimony repaired to another town, where they sought to have the knot tied, but as the ugly story had preceded them, the second attempt proved as abortive as the first, and up to present writing their nuptial vows have not been consummated, although it is said that the feasting and the dancing went on just the same as if a wedding had actually taken place, and that the party of the first part is now some $2,500 better off than when he entered into the arrangement, part of that amount having been presented to the about to be but not yet happy couple as a wedding gift by the grandfather of the expectant bride, and the balance secured by the endorsement of notes by the father of the girl. The lucky adventurer is said to have gone to obtain proof of his being a single man, but whether he will ever find it, and if so, whether he will ever return to claim his bride, is one of those things which time alone can develop.

TREATING THE WRONG DISEASE.—Many times women call upon their family physicians, one with dyspepsia, another with palpitation, another with trouble of the breast, another with pain here and there, and in this way they all present alike to themselves and their easy-going and indifferent doctors, separate and distinct diseases, for which he prescribes his pills and potions, assuming them to be such, when, in reality, they are all symptoms caused by some uterine disorder; and while they are thus only able perhaps to palliate for a time, they are ignorant of the cause, and encourage their practice until large bills are made, when the suffering patients are no better in the end, but probably worse off for the delay, treatment, and other complications made, and which a proper medicine directed to the cause would have entirely removed, thereby instituting health and comfort instead of prolonged misery.

From Miss Lorinda E. St. Clair, Shade, Athens County, Ohio:

"*Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.*

"YOUR Favorite Prescription is working almost like a miracle on me. I am better already than I have been for over two years."

From Ella A. Schafer, Zanesville Ind:

"*Dr. Pierce.*

"I RECEIVED the medicine you sent me and began using it immediately. As a result of the treatment I feel better than I have for three years."

From Mrs. John K. Hamlin, Odell, Ill.:

"*Dr. Pierce.*

"The Favorite Prescription has done me good, which I am very thankful for."

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is sold by dealers in medicines.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—The attention of parties wishing to purchase any description of musical merchandise is invited to the advertisement of Knake & McGinn, No. 12 Sixth Street, Pittsburgh, who have on hand the largest and finest assortment to be found in Western Pennsylvania, embracing every description of Foreign and American articles. They are the manufacturers of the celebrated Knake & McGinn Pianos, and the Philharmonic Organs, sole agents for the well-known Patent Arion Pianos, and extensive publishers of sheet music. They are also prepared to furnish band instruments of the latest patterns, with all the modern improvements. Catalogue and Price List furnished free upon application. We cordially commend this popular house to the favorable consideration of our readers.

Communications.

Liberty versus "Patronus Redivivus" of the Hollidaysburg Standard on "Compulsory Education."

MR. EDITOR—A writer in the *Standard* who signs himself "Patronus," referring to the subject of compulsory education as introduced by the recent Institute held in Hollidaysburg, after giving a passing notice of the manner in which the speakers handled the subject, which to him seemed not very satisfactory, gives his own views in a clear, pointed manner. The writer seems to think that his own reasoning in behalf of compulsory education cannot be gainsayed. Such at least is the impression which the sharp interrogatories of "Patronus" would be calculated to make. I would respectfully suggest to the writer, however, not to jump too hastily at conclusions, especially with regard to forced education. The very word compulsory sounds rather harsh in the ears of free, independent people, who don't relish being compelled to do what might even be for their own good. It smacks a little of Imperial Despotism. Compulsion and Liberty do not seem to harmonize well. The theory of giving a free education to the children of the commonwealth is charming, education being such an extraordinary blessing; and then the generosity of the State in *forcing* this great boon on the blind, ignorant parents, who know not what is good for their children and themselves. Herein the State shows its magnificent liberality, its great wisdom, and more than a parent's love for his offspring! But, seriously speaking, has the State the right to take under its peculiar charge the education of the youth? I know it does it; but where is its right to do so? Because, forsooth, a majority of the citizens has so declared! The action of a majority is not always right, especially when prejudice predominates over good sense and common justice. May not this be the case with regard to State schools? Have parents no rights, no say so in the training of their children, neither natural or divine? God says to the child, "Honor and obey your parents!" If then a parent should, for certain reasons, say to the child, "You shall not go to school!" while, on the other hand, the State or its officers say, "Go to school!" what shall the child do? Must it obey the State and disobey its parents? Where has God given the State such an authority over a child as that given to the parent by an express commandment? Who has the stronger claim to the child, the parent or the State? Who is more attached to and interested in the well being and happiness of the child, the parent or the State? It may be that some parents are so devoid of feeling and so blind to the welfare of their offspring as to culpably neglect their proper education, but surely the great majority are not of this cations, indifferent class. And then must the rights of the great majority be trampled upon to secure the advantages—I do not say the blessings, for that is doubtful—for the neglected few?

In this matter of State education, if under special circumstances its expediency may be admitted, the rights of all the citizens should as far as practicable be regarded. There should be no interference with the conscientious convictions of any portion of the people. The provisions of the Constitution should be scrupulously observed. Many are of the opinion that education should be divorced from religion in the school-room; others hold that they should go hand in hand together. Some will have one kind of religion taught in school; others don't want that kind, and so on. How will the State harmonize these conflicting views? Will it, in the supremacy of its might, ignore all, and this with the view of promoting the good of all. The people truly must have some reserved rights, and I know of none more sacred than that of the parent over the training of his children in the manner which in his wisdom seems to him fit. Some may surrender this right for various causes, but it should not be forced from any one who is gifted with even a moderate share of common sense and prudence. The parent should not be treated as if devoid of the commonest instincts of nature—a very beast, without any interest in its offspring.

The State says to the parent, I'll take your child from you, whether you like it or not, and give it the kind of education *I wish*, not what *you* may desire or *wish*. Truly the State must have a clear charter for thus acting. I have never seen any conclusive proofs of such a power being invested in the State. Did it not lead me too far from my present purpose, I might enter somewhat minutely into the powers and duties of the State. That theme may come up again. I am now addressing myself more directly to the arguments of "Patronus," who I admit is a close reasoner. "No man," says "Patronus," "has any liberty to do wrong." I deny that proposition. I presume he means the *right* to do wrong. Liberty and right are not synonomous terms—they are not convertible. And again: "If a parent, using his *liberty*, does wish to educate, or not, his children, does he not do what is morally wrong?" He may or may not—that depends upon what kind of education he neglects to give him and the degree of it. Education is a very comprehensive term. With how many good and virtuous men and women do we still meet, who are enjoying a considerable share of this world's happiness, with a fair prospect of being happy in the next world, who can scarcely either read or write. They were educated by their parents in virtue and moral rectitude, and taught how to make an honest living by their industry in the performance of their respective duties in life. Where does the moral wrong come in in such a case, which is by no means an isolated one either? "Patronus's" assertion is too broad. It supposes not alone the benefits but the absolute necessity of a moral, literary, and perhaps high order of education, which can be found only in the State schools. But let me for a moment suppose there is a moral wrong. What then? Is the State bound to prevent or punish all moral wrong? I deny it, and until the contrary is shown, "Patronus" makes a slight mistake when he declares that if the State does not punish what he calls a moral wrong, viz., non-educating the child, then it ought not hold him responsible or punish him for any moral wrong. That is a false conclusion. It is drawn from a general conclusion from particular premises, which sound logic will not permit. To neglect to educate a child is, says "Patronus," "to surrender him to a life of indolence, vagrancy and crime." I deny the assertion. Like some others made by Mr. "Patronus," it is too vague and general. All the illiterate are not of the class described. Many of them—the great bulk of them—are industrious, thrifty and pure. It is very questionable whether the State education is promotive of solid industry, healthy thriftiness, or good morality. We had good, industrious, moral people before the State began to act the part of the pedagogue, although no doubt there were many unlettered citizens.

And now, sir, to the test. You may refer me to the poor house as a proof of at least a part of your assertion, viz., the poverty of its inmates. I do not allow, however, that all the inmates of our poor houses are unlettered, nor that those who are so are or became poor on that account. There will always be a vast number of poor in all nations, no matter what the facilities of education may be. Let us glance at our jails and penitentiaries. Are their occupants the illiterate? It seems to me that you will find crime attaching itself to the skirts of many a smart person in said institutions. Hence do not consider education as a panacea for the evils you mention.

"Patronus" says that "not to educate a child is to do him a wrong and to inflict an injury on the State, and that therefore to protect itself the State ought to compel the education of children." How is the State injured by an unlettered person? But admit that he may commit a crime, or, if you will, a great many of them against the State, even because of his ignorance, certainly "Patronus" will not deny but some highly educated persons can be found who commit crimes, many equally if not more heinous than those of the ignorant person, and that *their education* enables them to do so, and that very often with impunity. Therefore, according to "Patronus" education ought not to be allowed by the State.

See, Mr. "Patronus," to what absurdities your arguments would lead when pushed to their logical conclusions. Before the State schools existed education was pretty thorough. Witness our statesmen. In what does the present generation, with all its boasted advantages of education, excel former ones? At the time of the Revolution the people on the whole were not ignorant. They had private schools, at which they gained a solid education. And who will say that if there have been changes in the mode of education it would be as good, if not better, than our present system? And then there was no "compulsion" used.

By the present system of education the sacred rights of many are trampled upon, the claims of conscience disregarded, and the child receives his mental pabulum at the hands of a stranger, whose interests and views may be entirely foreign to those of the child and its parents. If the combination of circumstances compels the State to lend a hand in the education of the children, most assuredly the rights of the citizens at large could be better cared for by some other than the plan now in operation. The denominational system, with a pro rata of the taxes, would be more just and satisfactory. The present system is faulty in many respects, but especially in this, that it imposes a heavy tax. This is wrong, especially when it could be avoided by the plan suggested.

Compulsory education I am opposed to, because it is opposed to that liberty, which every American citizen cherishes. Methinks I hear the crack of the whip in the very sound of the word "compulsion." The memorable words of the immortal Patrick Henry ring in my ears to the sweet music of the declaration, "Give me Liberty, or give me death!" Yes, liberty to bring up my dear offspring as to me seems best. Let no official of the State drag them under my very roof the child of my affection, or the pretext of giving him an education of which I cannot approve. Too much legislation, especially when it trenches too closely on our liberties, is calculated to bring law into disrepute. The people are not puppets, to be led in every direction by legislative enactments. Ignorance is not actually a crime and therefore should not be punished either in the parent or child. And moreover, many a person has received considerable culture without the aid of schools. In theory, an educated nation presents a grand idea, but you can never reduce it to practice, and even if you did, would the people be happier and better than they are or have been? The character and motives of those clamoring for universal education may form the matter for another communication. In the meantime I must say that the term "compulsory," when applied to the liberty-loving American people, has a harsh, grating sound, and would seem to me like ignoring their sovereignty.

No agent of our people must forget *that the people are sovereign.* LIBERTY.

SALINA, Kansas, Jan. 8, 1875.

EDITOR CAMBRIA FREEMAN—Permit me thro' the columns of your valuable journal to say a few words in regard to the performance of my duty as a member of the Board of Poor House Directors in Cambria county and the compensation I received for the same. My apology for taking up the valuable space in your paper is this: I have lived in Cambria county some thirty-five years, during which time I believe I had the reputation of being a hard-working, industrious man, and endeavored to earn for myself and family an honest living; and as I removed from the Alleghenies to the plains of Kansas, I desire to say a few words on the subject alluded to. As is pretty well known, when I entered on my official duties as Director, the state of affairs and the general taking care of the paupers at the poor house by the steward then in charge was anything but what it should have been, and I think I need not particularize anything as regards that. I believe any one who had occasion to visit the place then will fully agree with me on that point. If the then Directors saw fit to make a change under the existing circumstances, and which was done in justice to the inmates as well as the people who saw fit to elect us, we think we should not be censured for our actions, although we were by some of the friends of the outgoing steward, which was of course quite natural.

The matter I desire to allude to specially, however, is this: As will be remembered, during the small pox epidemic in Johnstown, Henry P. Freidhoff, Burgess of Conemaugh borough, made application for a family afflicted with the disease to have the county provide for the expense of keeping this family, when I believe—at least I was so informed by Mr. Bloch, one of the Directors,—that a resolution had been adopted by Conemaugh borough to take care of its own sick during that time; and as Mr. Bloch was acquainted with the circumstances, and was of the opinion, in which we agreed with him, that the county should not bear the expense of keeping the family alluded to, Mr. Freidhoff took offense and a little retaliation spite work ensued. When the members of our Board presented their respective bills for outdoor setvices rendered, the bills were refused from time to time, until they eventually went to the Court and were approved of finally by Judge Dean.

Now the fact that the Auditors, of whom Mr. Freidhoff was one, had refused to allow these bills, I thought might reflect on my good name, and hence this communication or explanation. I do not wish any friends in Cambria county to think that I have done any act which would reflect on my good name or reputation.

Believe me ever your friend, P. H. BERG.

ALLEGHENY TWP., Jan. 17, 1875.

EDITOR FREEMAN—I wish to ask, through the columns of your widely circulated journal, whether the road between Loretto and Ebensburg has been condemned. If not surely that eye-sore, "Bradley's Bridge," should be attended to. For months it has been deemed unsafe, and yet there have been no steps taken towards repairing it. Why is this thus? See to it, ye County Fathers. Or is it the duty of the Township supervisors? In any event, it should no longer be suffered to remain as it is—a dangerous trap wherein life may be sacrificed at any moment. CIT.

Local Correspondence.

SUSQUEHANNA TWP., Jan. 25, 1875.

DEAR FREEMAN—My last letter having been received too late for publication, I will endeavor to be on time this week.

The fourth meeting of the "Teachers' District Institute of Susquehanna Township" was held at the Bearer school house on Saturday last. Contrary to expectation, the attendance was small, only three of the teachers of the township being present, namely, Miss Claudia Litzinger, Mr. E. Steuver and Jas. Farabaugh. Miss Lizzie Litzinger, teacher of Nicktown school, Mr. R. Maucher, a teacher of Carroll township, as well as Rev. A. Heubner, of Carrolltown, and a number of citizens, were also present.

Institute was called to order by the President. The Secretary, Mr. G. W. Gettys, being absent, Miss Litzinger was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

Mr. Stuver opened a discussion on teaching Geography. He claimed that it should be taught in a systematic order, and presented an outline of his method as follows: 1st. Boundaries. 2d. Extent and Division. 3d. Character of the Surface. 4th. Internal Waters. 5th. Productions. 6th. Inhabitants. 7th. Government, Religion, &c. 8th. Miscellaneous Facts. He gives its his opinion that the above order of topics should be pursued in teaching Geography. Jos. Farabaugh then spoke, urging the importance of thoroughness and the drawing out of original thought by judicious questions and ample illustration.

Adjourned to meet at one o'clock

Afternoon.—The Institute having been called to order, the question "How to Teach Fractions," was taken up and discussed by Messrs. Stuver and Farabaugh and Miss Lizzie Litzinger.

The next subject taken up was "Spelling." Jos. Farabaugh made the opening remarks, in the course of which he stated that teachers should adhere less to spelling from sound than is usually done, and pay more attention to spelling the words that occured in the reading exercises and the words in common use.

The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Maucher and Stuver, Rev. A. Huebner, Miss Claudia Litzinger and Miss Lizzie Litzinger. The speakers generally agreed with the opinion first stated, but all differed somewhat as to the mode of conducting recitations; yet all seem to agree that they should be "written."

Writing was then discussed, the principal point of difference being whether should be taught by presenting first the element, or practically by imitation.

The last topic of discussion was "The propriety of giving 'recess' in our country schools." Opened by John Bearer, Esq., a director. He spoke in the negative. Rev. Huebner spoke in the affirmative, saying that three hours at a time is too long for children to sit, there growing limbs needing recreation. A number of the teachers also spoke in favor of "recess" as necessary to the health and comfort of the children.

On motion, the Institute adjourned to meet at the Garman school house on Saturday, February 6th.

Yours, &c., A.

WHITE TWP., Jan. 22, 1875.

DEAR FREEMAN—Although nothing of an exciting character is in progress in our section of mountainous county, yet as you have not heard from us for some time, I though perhaps it would be considered but a slight intrusion to urge upon your columns these few lines, in order to let you know that we still occupy our lofty perch in the "land of the living," likewise in Cambria county, yet.

The sleighing hereabouts is excellent, and affords much pleasure, especially to those who are fortunate enough, "these hard times," to possess a horse, and one of these modern conveniences termed by mankind a sleigh. Indeed I think they are placed in no unenviable position. We meet them "flying fast" almost every hour during the day, the music of the merry bells, sometimes accompanied by peals of merry laughter, issuing forth from the throats of the occupants, and conveying more forcibly the truth of the lines of the well known song by WILL S. HAYES:

"Hip, hurrah! hold your horses,
They'll pay as we go:
Ain't it pleasant with your sweetheart
Riding in a sleigh."

The schools in our township are all progressing finely, and I think both patrons and directors, are fully satisfied with the labors of those employed to teach the "young idea how to shoot." May success ever attend them while in the discharge of the duties of so trying and responsible a position.

David Hollas, one of our most respected citizens, lost a valuable horse a few weeks since while engaged in hauling logs. It appears that by some means or other the animal's foot became entangled between two roots, which he knew nothing of, while falling up alog, he sustained injuries which resulted in his death. 'Tis rather a hard stroke on Mr. Hollas and he has the heartfelt sympathy of his numerous friends.

But I forbear further, having intruded perhaps too much already; so, with best wishes for the future welfare of the *Freeman*, I am

Yours, respectfully, IGNORAMUS.

WILMORE, Jan. 26, 1874.

DEAR FREEMAN—The house on the farm of Rev. P. Sahm, near this place, and occupied by Mr. Sam'l P. Paul, was burned to the ground yesterday (Monday) morning about 3 o'clock. Mr. Paul and family were asleep when the fire broke out, and barely got time to escape from the house, taking with them the bedding from one bed and a couple bureau drawers containing some articles of clothing and dry goods. Mrs. Paul's attention was first directed to the fire by a cat which, when the fire became too hot, jumred against the door of the bedroom several times with great violence. Had it not been for this fortunate circumstance the entire family might have perished. As it was Mrs. P. escaped without her shoes and with very little clothing, and had her shoulders and the back of her head considerable burned. Mr. P.'s loss will aggregate in the neighborhood of $1,000. This is so much the more distressing as Mr. P.'s is a one armed man, having lost his right arm about twenty-five years ago on the A. P. R. R. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Paul raised his family by his own exertions, and it is a fact well known in this neighborhood that he performs as much work as any man in Summerhill township and raises as large crops as any farmer in our midst. He can hold a plow, chop wood make rails and build fence or pitch hay with any ordinary man. With such a man in his misfortune the sympathy of our people is sure, and as an earnest of this a few hours after the fire about $100 were tendered him by several citizens of this vicinity, and the good work is only begun. Mr. Sahm's loss I do not know. The buildings on the farm were insured, but whether or not the policy has expired is not known. The origin of the fire is a mystery. Mr. Paul was up at 1 o'clock and there was no sign of fire about the stoves at that time, besides which the flues were cleaned on Saturday last. The house was a log one, weather-boarded, with a frame kitchen attached.

Yours, &c., SCRIBO.

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I HAVE NO FATHER NOW.

BY LOVINE H. BURKHART.

I have no father now! he's cold in death's embrace,
The winding-sheet has hid from view that dear old smiling face;
The coffin lid now holds him fast, the clods down on it fell;
He's left us all to mourn his loss; yet God doth all things well.

I have no father now! tears will unbidden flow,
To think that one I loved so well has left me here below:
That never more on earth can I his dear old body see,
It fills