

# The Centre Reporter.



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## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED. KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r.

Gardner, on trial for murder, in Huntington, has been found guilty in the second degree.

Russia and England are not likely to fight after all about Afghanistan. John Bull is slightly backing down.

We never knew a legislature sit so long doing nothing—this applies both when in session and to the numerous adjournments. Let a cry go up from the wilderness.

There is a proposition to have the Supreme Court's sessions fixed at Harrisburg. Such a law might as well be passed—why should the supreme court be trotting around the state like a tramp? The state capital is the proper place for it.

The *McVeytown Journal* is putting in big on "silverware" adv's. Golly, won't Cony be able to set a splendid table.

Nothing that Cleveland can do would cure the Lewistown *Gazette* from its constitutional growl.

Nevada has a law which forbids treating. Now you can't ask a fellow to "set 'em up," nor can a hungry office seeker make friends by asking 'em to step up and take 'em. Whether are we drifting, and where will the fellows roost who only sit in the bar-room to get their free drinks?

Throw away that cigar. Cancer cases are on the increase. Smoking brings on cancer. Gen. Grant finds his life ebbing out from cancer brought on by smoking. Don't smoke then, and preserve your system against one of the most loathsome diseases.

Throw away that cigar.

The chief of the bureau of statistics reports that during the month of March there arrived in the custom districts of the United States 31,726 passengers, of whom 23,250 were immigrants, 4,650 citizens of the United States returned from abroad, and 3,722 aliens not intending to remain in the United States.

The row in Central America is about over and peace reigns among the midge republics. The basis of peace was accepted, on 11th, by San Salvador and Guatemala. Hostilities have ceased. A general amnesty has been proclaimed, and awaits the approval of the allies. The plenipotentiaries will meet in a cajita to arrange a definite treaty of peace.

A copy of the "World's Wonders," published by the Historical Publishing Co., of St. Louis, Mo., has been received at this office, and we have no hesitancy in pronouncing it complete in every respect. Typographically it could not be better, it being printed on heavy fine paper, while its numerous illustrations are of high order. It will grace any library, and prove one of the most interesting books of the age.

Secretary Endicott has determined that all his clerks shall pay their debts. A man who don't pay his debts is not honest and should not be trusted to any responsible position, public or private. To swindle and cheat and get out of paying honest debts is getting to be the practice of many, and if Mr. Endicott's plan were followed by all there would be lawfulness. Any one about Mr. Endicott's department who does not pay his debts will be discharged.

Last week one day a young man dropped dead of heart disease at Parker's log cabin in Elk county. His friends got the corpse ready and sent one of their number with it to the logman's home. When the coffin was placed on the railroad car it was discovered that it was placed beside the coffin of the dead man's father who had died the same week. The wife and mother was on the train with her husband's corpse and never dreamed that son's corpse was also on the same train, as she had not yet learned of his death.

## LIABILITY OF A MARRIED WOMAN'S ESTATE.

A decision was rendered by the supreme court of the United States in the case of Francis Dodge et al., appellants against Thos. Knowles, which presents the question of the liability of a married woman for certain debts contracted by her husband nominally as her trustee. The court holds that neither the liability for provisions supplied at a dwelling house where a husband, wife and children are living together, nor a promissory note given by the husband, describing himself as trustee for the wife, in payment for such supplies, can be charged in equity upon the wife's separate estate without clear proof that she contracted the debt in her own behalf or intended to bind her separate estate for its payment.

## SENDING DESPATCHES FROM A TRAIN MOVING THIRTY MILES AN HOUR.

In a corner of the baggage-car on the Port Morris branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad a telegraph operator stood beside his key sending messages, and from the sounder beside him receiving them. Passengers on the train watched and wondered for the train was rushing at the rate of thirty miles per hour and it was manifest that the operator was talking to the rest of the world. Several of the passengers wrote out despatches and enjoyed the novelty of having them sent from the flying train. The invention which is on trial has been given a test of months on his short branch line, and has worked to the entire satisfaction of its inventors and negotiations are now about closed which will put it on several of the large through lines. The invention is a very simple one. On the car itself are iron tubes running along the bottom of the car carried a coiled copper wire which makes a complete circuit of the car length by being carried along the interior of the car. No attention was specially directed to it, it would be overlooked. The ends of the copper wire run to the operator's desk, where is the usual sounder, key and relay, or, if it is desired to use the more modern and economical "buzzard," there is a telephone connection. In this last the operator, in place of the rattling click of the sounder has only the soft whistling throbbing which comes from the ordinary telephone car-piece. There is no connection between the electric plant on the car and any outside plant, but along the centre of the tracks covered up securely in a long bit of scantling is an insulated copper wire. This is nothing more than one of the thick copper wires familiar to all. It is merely hidden from sight in the centre of the wooden strip and a small gang of men might have laid down this at the rate of two miles per day. Into this wire from the regular offices on the ends of the line or at any point the message is sent in the ordinary way, and by induction it is caught up by the wire of the iron tube below the car and thus reaches the operator's buzzer in the car. It matters not whether the car is standing on the track or moving at the highest rate of speed the induction goes on and the communication is continuous. On the branch in question, where the track wire is laid only on the outgoing track, there is difficulty in getting messages through with the train on the other track, though in this case the distance between the wires is about 11 feet. Over a short culvert the track wire is carried in a cable on the bottom of the water and across a drawbridge the wire is carried in the same way by cable. The induction is so strong and the system so perfect that when the train left the branch track where the ground wire was and went upon the main track this buzzer still kept up its story from the outside world, and not until the car had left the lower wire, fully a quarter mile away did the sound die out. This was explained by the operator by saying that the ground wire was using the air line fully 25 feet away to carry on the conversation. The application of the invention is first to the running of trains, for by it a division superintendent is in constant and uninterrupted communication with every train at rest or in motion, and whether fogs obscure the signals or not, whether it be night or day every train runs under the direct orders of one man. Passengers make use of the instrument for personal business and send despatches from the train in motion and receive answers by the same channel. A stock ticker could be placed in a car and on a long transcontinental run speculation be kept up from the start to the finish.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are now on a visit to Ireland and have thus far been well received except at Cork, on 15. While the Prince and Princess of Wales were being driven in procession, a nationalist threw a vegetable at the royal carriage. The vegetable struck one of the footmen with considerable force, and if it had not been by the progress of the carriage moved across its path the missile might have struck the Princess. Many stones were thrown by roughs at the people who followed and cheered the royal carriage, and the police several times fired at the roughs. No injuries are as yet reported. Immediately after the procession was over a meeting of the Cork national league was held. The meeting declared that the loyalist attempt to get up a fictitious demonstration of welcome in honor of royalty had proven a failure, and passed a resolution congratulating John O'Connor, the Tipperary member of parliament, who managed the hostile demonstrations, for the story he had achieved for the national cause. The prince and princess, after the conclusion of the procession, departed for Queenstown.

The missile thrown was a potato, the national meal of Erin.

The New York *Medical Record* gives some statistics regarding the increase in the number of annual deaths from cancer, which in view of Grant's illness, are especially interesting at this time. It appears that in this country the statistics of New York city show that the number of deaths from cancer in 1869 was 304 in every million of population, in 1875 was 415 and in 1883 was 678. The estimate was made ten years ago by the City Board of Health that the rate of deaths from cancer was a little over four hundred per million inhabitants. According to the last reports it is about 530 per million. These figures, however, include a large hospital majority. In Brooklyn the deaths from cancer in 1883 were only 262 in a population of 624,113, which gives about the same rate as that of New York ten years ago. It cannot be denied, in the face of statistics like above, that the death rate from cancer is increasing absolutely and relatively in some parts of the world. But that there is now a greater susceptibility to cancer than formerly has not yet been proved. Cancer is a disease of the degenerative period of life. It occurs between the ages of forty and sixty. Now, improved modes of living have increased the number of persons who reach these ages. Investigation would show, perhaps, that the number of persons reaching the age susceptible to cancer has increased in a greater ratio than the deaths from the disease.

It is a little rough on the doctors that they should have been mistaken about General Grant's case, and that he has only an abscess and not a cancer, and is not going to die after all yet. On Thursday Senator Shaflee said in regard to Gen. Grant in his opinion the doctors were all mistaken about their patient, that Gen. Grant is not suffering at all with cancer, but from an ulcerated sore throat. When Senator Chaffee called in the morning the General was just about as comfortable apparently as any other person in the household. He had slept peacefully for seven hours and a half and awoke as fresh as a lark. No morphia had been used to bring on this sleep, nor had the patient partaken of stimulated foods. The bulletin which was issued shortly after the General awoke stated that he was taking his nourishment at longer intervals, and with greater relish. His pulse was full and regular and his temperature normal. Moreover his voice was clearer and stronger and the man whom the doctors did not give an hour to live a few days ago sat before his library fire, read the morning papers and discussed all manner of subjects with his family. These were the facts that Senator Chaffee based his opinion on that Gen. Grant was actually recovering from an ulcerated sore throat. Senator Chaffee said he had no doubt that the General would pull through and that the green and gold of summer time would find him either in California or in the Catskill Mountains.

Mr. Jesse Grant said also that his father was proving that he was possessed of a wonderful fund of vitality, and he believed that the General would live to laugh over the days when every one thought he was dying, and the disappointments he occasioned by surviving.

On behalf of the President, it is now said that he will soon be ready to make a number of important appointments and to move upon small postoffices throughout the land. In order to facilitate the filling of the four thousand offices now held by Republican incumbents, the Postmaster General is working the force of his office at night.

The President is not yet wholly free from the importunities of the office-seekers, but the number has so signally diminished that he gets more time to call his own.

The growers now are the hotel keepers. All of these admit that at this time four years ago when Garfield was President they did a better business.

The Philadelphia *Times* remarks: The Legislature reached the end of its hundred days on Wednesday last, with a record of thirteen bills passed finally, two of which have been vetoed and one recalled to prevent a veto. The session has cost the tax-payers in the neighborhood of three hundred thousand dollars. Pennsylvania tax-payers are a patient lot, it is true, but even they might be expected to question whether thirty thousand dollars apiece for very indifferent laws isn't more than the commodity is worth.

A bold theft was committed at Buffalo where the Church of the Messiah was robbed of a fine piano. Persons living near by remember seeing some men drive up in front of the church on Friday last, take the piano out, load it on the wagon, and drive away. The whereabouts of the piano are still a mystery.

The supreme court of the United States rendered a decision yesterday in the Virginia coupon tax case, which was in favor of the bondholders and against the state on the material points.

## GEN. GRANT'S GREAT ESCAPE.

The *Sun* says now that it is quite probable that Gen. Grant's trouble is not cancer, but something else, from which he is likely to recover, with what horror he himself and family must look back at what might have been the terrible consequences to him of a mistaken diagnosis of his disease.

About a month ago, when his attending physicians had fully made up their minds that a cancer was eating up his tongue and fauces, a consultation was held to discuss the advisability and expediency of resorting to a desperate measure of temporary relief. It was proposed to perform a surgical operation which Dr. Shraday thus described in giving a report of the consultation in the *Medical Record* of March 21:

"Such a measure would involve the division of the lower jaw in the median line, the extirpation of the entire tongue and the greater part of the soft palate, together with the removal of the ulcerated and inflamed fauces and the indurated glandular structures under the right angle of the lower jaw."

Dr. Shraday went on to say that all this was "considered mechanically possible," but that "in the best interests of the distinguished patient the surgeons did not feel inclined to recommend the procedure" for "even by such means there could be no guarantee, in view of extensive surrounding infiltration, that the limits of the disease could be reached without the immediate risk to life by the severe shock to a constitution already much enfeebled."

Gen. Grant, therefore, escaped the operation; but now, when he is able to dine with his family, expects soon to drive out, even meditates a journey to California, and both he and those about him are looking forward hopefully to his recovery—now, when it is altogether probable that his disease is not cancer after all—it makes him shudder to think that only one month ago his physicians were seriously consulting about an operation on him which would have endangered his life, and even if he had lived through it would have left him without a tongue!

A dispatch from Fulton, Mo., states that the people of Colliway county are becoming greatly discouraged at the failure so far to stamp out pleuro-pneumonia among cattle in the county. They feel that the disease is constantly spreading, and that no adequate measures are being taken to prevent it, much less eradicate it. It is said that over one thousand cattle have either become diseased or have been exposed to the plague, and that it will not be long before this number will be doubled. Money is being raised to buy and kill exposed cattle, but it comes too slow to be effective, and every body is looking for more vigorous means to be adopted to stay the march of the disease.

General Grant is improving and able to ride out.

## BURNED TO DEATH.

Three Boys and a Young Man Lose Their Lives Near Reading.

Philadelphia, April 18.—A dispatch from Reading says that about 4 o'clock this morning a fire occurred in a 2-story frame building on the Adams truck farm owned by Augustus L. Wetzel, situated several miles from that city, in which four persons—Harry and Charles Wetzel, aged respectively 11 and 13 years, and Charles and Frederick Hutzinger, aged 16 and 26 years respectively—were burned to death. The building was but a short distance from the residence of Mr. Wetzel, and was occupied by the coal-hired boys, being heated by a stove on the lower floor. The cause of the fire was a mystery until some time afterwards when Dan Knoll, a half-witted vagabond about 40 years of age, who has been a subject of charity in the neighborhood, principally at the hands of Mr. Wetzel, appeared and related that he came to the place about 11 o'clock last night, and entering the building made a fire of coal-burned himself and fell asleep. About 8 o'clock this morning he awoke and found the fire nearly out. He put on some coal and then concluded to walk over to a neighbor's house a mile and a half distant. When he reached there he saw the fire. A ter telling his story in an innocent way he was arrested and locked up.

## SITUATION ON THE Isthmus.

Panama, April 17.—It is reported that Sproyan has again fallen into the hands of the rebels. Many radicals are being imprisoned at Buena Ventura, contrary to the conditions of surrender. The Government troops at Buena Ventura are numerous. Communication across the Isthmus is uninterrupted. The 5th of the American troops continues excellent. A rumor prevails here that a hundred rebels had been drowned at Colon. Ensign falls to confirm the report. The Colombian forces are not marching on the city of Panama, being without transportation at Buena Ventura, and Gen. Azaola is acting with great moderation, restraining his followers and trying to conciliate foreigners. The rumor spread that Panama was without foodstuffs. Mail and passengers are arriving from Carthagena. A large number of troops are marching on that city from the interior, but are making slow progress owing to bad roads.

## THE HYGIENE ACT.

The following act relating to the study of physiology and hygiene in the public schools of the commonwealth, and educational institutions, receiving aid from the commonwealth, has been passed by the legislature:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, and is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the physiology and hygiene, which shall, in each division of the subject so pursued, include special reference to the effect of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system, shall be included in the branches of study now required by law to be taught in the common schools, and shall be introduced and studied as regular branches by all pupils in all departments of the public schools of the commonwealth, and in all educational institutions supported wholly or in part by money from the commonwealth.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the county, city and borough superintendents and principals of all educational institutions, receiving aid from the commonwealth, to report to the superintendent of public instruction any failure of neglect on the part of boards of school directors, boards of school controllers, boards of education and boards of all educational institutions receiving aid from the commonwealth, to make proper provisions in any and all of the schools or districts under their jurisdiction, for instruction in physiology and hygiene, with each division of the subject so prescribed, and special reference to the effect of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system, as required by this act, and such failure of the part of directors, controllers, boards of education and boards of educational institutions receiving money from the commonwealth thus reported, or otherwise satisfactorily proven, shall be deemed sufficient cause for withholding the warrant for state appropriation of a bond to which such district or educational institution would otherwise be entitled.

## IN THE WRONG BED.

The Unhappy Position of a Williamsport Juror—Too Much Beer.

The *Pittsburg Post* tells this funny little event: One of the Williamsport jurors in attendance at the United States District Court, now in session in this city, made an amusing blunder the other night that might have terminated more seriously than it did. He occupied a room with another juror, containing two beds, in one of the houses near the depot. Being out late the night in question, trying to see as much of the "elephant" as possible, and having a partiality for Pittsburg lager, it is presumed he was a little befuddled when he reached the hotel. Telling his own story, he says he awoke quite early the next morning, feeling thirsty he got out of bed and began to search for the water pitcher. The room seemed sort of changed, and not being able to find the pitcher where he thought it ought to be, he finally got possession of his clothes, found a match and struck a light. The first thing that met his gaze was a lot of female apparel on the floor near the other bed, and a gentleman's habiliments on a chair close by. To say that he was astonished wouldn't express the feelings of the juror. He was dumfounded. A few moments reflection, during which his aim ran back to the night before with impaired memory, and he came to the conclusion that he had blundered into the wrong room. Then he proceeded to dress himself very quietly, so as not to disturb the occupants of the other bed. When about ready to vacate the room, a female voice apparently smothered, issued from beneath the bed covers, exclaiming:

"What are you doing there?" The frightened juror quickly bolted out of the door without going to make an answer to the question propounded, and went down stairs to the bar to quench his thirst. He told the joke on himself to his friends at the breakfast table. The blunder was made by going to bed on the second floor instead of the third floor.

## A HORRIBLE OUIRAGE.

Baltimore, April 12.—A special from Snow Hill, Worcester county, Md., states that about dusk last evening Mrs. Geo. Hill, the wife of a farmer living about 4 miles from that village, was assaulted by Robert Collins, a negro. Meeting her in a lonely spot near her home the brut beat her into insensibility and then ordered her person in the most horrible manner. Mrs. Hill regained consciousness shortly after and gave the alarm. A large party of armed men started in pursuit and in a short time tracked the accused to his home, which they surrounded. It was first agreed to resort to lynch law, but wiser council prevailed and a deputy sheriff took possession of the prisoner and conveyed him to jail awaiting trial.

While David Roth was returning from Paxinos to Shamokin his horse became unmanageable, throwing his rider entirely upon the track of the Pennsylvania railroad. At the moment a freight train was scattered along the line for a hundred yards, and two hours were required to gather them to a point. Roth's horse, who was ill at the time, was placed at the point of death by the terrible occurrence. Roth was a wealthy horse owner and lived in Shamokin.

## JOHN GARDNER'S TRIAL.

At Huntington, for the Brutal Murder of George Warfield.

Huntington, Pa., April 16.—The trial of John Gardner for the brutal murder of old George Warfield, on January 14, was begun here yesterday. In the afternoon of the above date Warfield sent Gardner with a horse to get some corn at a neighbor's, requesting him to return early, that he might see to put the horse away. Late in the evening Gardner returned, and the old man complained of his delay. Gardner grew angry. The old man continued his complaints, when Gardner drew into a rage and struck him a terrible blow on the head with a club. Death ensued in a few hours. The cause of the death was concealed until the following Saturday, through Gardner's threats to the family, but the facts came to light and Gardner was arrested.

Warfield was an humble but highly respected farmer, 77 years of age, and lived in Diamond valley, West twp., a lonely and barren district, notorious for the poverty and deprivation of its inhabitants. His family consisted of his aged wife, with her two daughters by a previous marriage, and Gardner, who, after marrying one of the daughters, took up his residence with him, without permission. Gardner was quick tempered and quarrelsome, and rendered the old man's life wretched. In February of last year he was tried and imprisoned for outrageously abusing the old man. Previously to the murder he had frequently threatened to kill Warfield. Gardner is a man of medium height, 55 years old, with auburn hair and mustache, florid complexion, deep set eyes, prominent cheek bones and heavy wrinkles across his forehead. His sister, wife and infant child sit beside him within the bar. He is represented by R. M. Speer, esq.

The first witness was Mrs. Warfield, widow of the deceased. She is altogether illiterate, and gave her pathetic testimony in a rather nervous and incoherent way.

"When John came home that night pappy was shaving shingles in the kitchen by candle light. He said, 'John why didn't you come sooner? You know I can't see how to bed that mare.' John said, 'You shut up, or I'll break your old gourd.' Then Gardner walked across the floor 25 feet to closet in the adjoining room, and took out a thick piece of stove wood, four feet long, with a knot on the end as large as a cocoon, and with this in both hands he struck Warfield on the side of the head. He struck him hard enough to kill a beef. It stuck cracked like as if you would strike a board. Then Gardner said, 'Don't give me away. You had better not tell how he was killed. Tell he went around the hill for a load of wood, and slipped on the ice and hurt his head.' He told me and Lizzie that."

## PRESIDENT CLEVELAND TO JOIN THE VETERANS AT GETTYSBURG.

In pursuance of the plan adopted by the veterans of the late war to visit, each spring, some of the celebrated battlefields of the Union, the pilgrimage with this season he made to Gettysburg. The time fixed for the visit is May 4th and 5th.

The great success attending the previous visits of the veterans to Fredericksburg and elsewhere, and the wide interest manifested by the old soldiers of both armies, indicates that the Gettysburg meeting will not only be largely attended, but highly valuable from an official point of view, and full of interest to the participants in the scenes enacted here 22 years ago. The meeting will bring together numbers of the most distinguished men of the land. The President, with his Cabinet; the "War Governors" and present Governors of the States, distinguished officers and soldiers of both armies, and men prominent in the councils of the nation, will be on the occasion with their presence. Not only from the vicinity of the field will the veterans come, but from States North, East, South and West, soldiers and civilians are sending assurances of their attendance.

The Pilgrimage is made under the auspices of the first and other Corps of the Potomac, but the invitation covers every officer and soldier in the late war. In order to accommodate the visitors the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from all points on its lines to Gettysburg, on May 2, 3 and 4, good to return until the 6th inclusive, at greatly reduced rates.

## THE COMING CATTLE QUEEN.

Arrival in Chicago of a Dashing Celebrity from Washington Territory.

Chicago, April 16.—Among the drovers who alighted from a cattle train caboose at the stock yards to-night was a tall, majestic-looking woman of about thirty years. Though not a beauty she would have commanded attention in a metropolitan thoroughfare.

"Men are all frauds," she said, with a laugh. "I wouldn't marry the best one I meet that ever lived. I prefer to be their superior by remaining in such circumstances that I can always buy their lab' and esteem." Miss Mearner was the name to which the lady alluded. In Washington Territory she is known as the coming cattle queen, the companion celebrity to Miss Hill of Denver. In the train she had ten car loads of cattle which had endured the experiment of a 2500-mile ride. Miss Mearner values the stock at \$10,000, and says if her trip is financially successful she will be as soon as practicable from Walla Walla with 400 additional head. She employs a number of cow-boys and is the owner of a large herd of cattle, to be raised, of which she gives her personal attention.

## ONE HUNDRED HORSES PERISH.

Red Bluff, Cal. Apr. 16.—Some 8000 horses perished yesterday at the ranch of Senator Stanford at Vina, and were driven away. At daylight this morning the stables were discovered to be on fire. They contained 115 horses and mules, all of which, except four, were burned to death.