

# The Centre Reporter.

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## THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ, Editor and Prop'r.

The "Liberty Bell" has got back to Philadelphia again. It went down to take a hand in the New Orleans Exposition, several months ago, and no doubt had a good time and was right glad to have an airing.

It would be well if all duels ended like the one below—there would then be less duels:

Houghton, Mich., June 19.—Samuel Lawrence and Charles Barry, actors at Cole's circus, settled a dispute last night by shooting each other. Lawrence is dead, Barry cannot recover.

At Pittsburgh twenty-five mills have resumed operations since signing the scale, and, notwithstanding the rumors of opposition to conference committee's action, it is believed that three-fourths of the district will be running before the end of the week. The others will start up when repairs are completed, unless prevented by lack of orders.

The following temperance lecture is reported from Sharon, Pa.: Thomas O'day, aged 48, was shot and killed by his son John, aged 21. John had been drinking heavily and returning home with a shotgun killed a family cat. His father reprimanded him, when he picked up the gun and shot him in the abdomen. Death was almost instantaneous. John was arrested and lodged in jail. When he realized what he had done he tried to commit suicide but was frustrated in the attempt by his brother.

A prisoner with a remarkable criminal history has just been received from Wayne county, where he was a few days ago convicted of forgery. He is Colonel Meredith Workman, an ex-Confederate, who served through the war with John Morgan, Kirby, Smith, and other raiders, and who has probably had a larger experience in the State penitentiaries of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia than any other man in the United States. The present term makes the third he has been sentenced to from Wayne county alone. He is 54 years of age, and has passed thirty of them behind the bars. Workman comes from an old Virginia family, is remarkably well educated and intelligent, but since boyhood has been beyond the pale of the law.

The Hessian fly has made its appearance in Lehigh county and in part of Northampton, after an absence of several years. The flies are making sad havoc with the growing crops in several places, and the indications are that the wheat will be greatly damaged.

Last year the potato bugs appeared in such small numbers that the farmers congratulated themselves upon the prospect of the early total disappearance of the pest, but it now appears that this hope is not to be realized. The bugs have appeared in both counties this year in greater numbers than before, and, as a consequence, they are a scourge of potato growers. Many farmers are using spirits of ammonia instead of Paris green, and believe it is as effective as a destructive agency as the latter. The proportion of ammonia is two spoonfuls to a gallon of water.

Judge Biddle, of Philadelphia, says the Record of that city, has made many noteworthy addresses from the Bench, but his remarks in sentencing the defaulting treasurer of the Decatur Building Association deserves to be printed in letters of gold, for the perusal of judicial officers everywhere. His sweeping condemnation of the pernicious doctrine that education, social position and similar advantages should be taken in mitigation of punishment is as timely as it is truthful and vigorous. The most dangerous of all rascals is the man who disguises himself under a cloak of good character, and continues in crime the more easily because of his unmerited reputation. The proposition that justice should be largely tempered with mercy for such criminals is false in logic and hurtful in example. If leniency is to be exercised, it should be in behalf of the ignorant offender, not the cultivated rogue. The failure of the courts in many states to impose adequate punishment—or in many cases any punishment at all—upon high-toned embezzlers and magnificent thieves has too often made justice a byword and a mockery. We need more Judge Biddles on the Bench to send cultured thieves to their proper place. The fear of a long and certain imprisonment is for this class a more efficacious deterrent form crime than any other consideration. The judicial sentimentalism which often turns them loose upon a community, after a nominal expiration, is an affront to common sense as well as a menace to society.

## THE NEW MARRIAGE LAW.

Whether the new Marriage act passed by the legislature will diminish the number of divorces in the State or not remains to be seen, but it will certainly lessen the number of runaway marriages, if it does not entirely prevent them. This act provides that "from and after October 1, 1885, no person shall be joined in marriage until a license shall have been obtained for that purpose from the Clerk of the Orphans' Court in the county where the marriage is performed."

The license fee is put at fifty cents and any minister, justice or other person who shall solemnize the marriage ceremony or be attesting witnesses to the same within this Commonwealth, without license having been first obtained, shall forfeit the sum of \$100, to be paid into the treasury of the county in which the marriage takes place. With a view to prevent the marriage of minors without the consent of their parents or guardians, all persons applying for a license must be examined under oath as to the ages and residences of the parties contemplating marriage and if any of them are under 21 the consent of their parents or guardians must be personally given before the license clerk, or certified in writing over the signature of the parent or guardian, which certificate must be acknowledged before a notary or other competent officer, and duly filed as part of the record in the case, for which an additional charge of fifty cents is made. So that on and after the first day of October next no man can take a wife in this State without paying at least 50 cents, and if he desires to marry a minor and the old folks are disinclined to go to court, he must pay \$1. After he has succeeded in obtaining a duly authenticated license under the seal of the Orphans' Court, then, and not till then, will the minister listen to his application to join him and his betrothed in marriage.

Twenty suits, in the progress of litigation growing out of the collapse of the Bedford County Bank at Everett, were entered in the Huntingdon county court, last week. These suits are brought by depositors against the parties who were stockholders at the time of failure or previously.

The defendants are Wm. P. Orbison, John Scott, Wm. Morris, Geo. M. Garrettson, David P. Givin, Horatio G. Fisher, John P. Glazier and H. G. Fisher and John M. Bailey, executors of Thomas Fisher, deceased, who are known as the Huntingdon county stockholders; also Samuel L. Russell, Jacob Williams, Jno. M. Barndollar, Simon Nycum, John Du Bois and Joseph Harris, known as the Bedford county stockholders.

There were withdrawals of Huntingdon county stockholders at various times, among the earliest being Wm. P. Orbison and Hon. John Scott. In 1881 the rest withdrew, returning their capital to the First National Bank at Huntingdon, of which they were all stockholders. No notice, it is alleged by the plaintiffs, was given of the withdrawal, and although the deposits, now sought to be recovered, were since made, it is claimed that the withdrawing stockholders are liable for them. The latter allege that their action was so well known to the public, that no deposit could have been after the withdrawal made upon the credit of their connection with the bank.

## REDUCED RATES TO NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT VIA PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The National Soldiers' Reunion and Encampment will be held in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, from June 28th to July 6th. The event will embrace an encampment of representative organizations of the citizen soldiery of the Union, and detachments of troops from the various arms of the United States service. The command will be in charge of a military committee composed of the most eminent soldiers of the land, and members of prominent leaders of the late war will be present as guests. The program embraces all the features of actual camp service, the most important of which is a series of competitive drills, in which the crack military organizations of the several States will contend for valuable prizes. There will be parades, reviews, and other interesting military manoeuvres. The Fourth of July will be a particularly interesting day, and the ceremonies are expected to be witnessed by the President and Cabinet and other distinguished people. The beauty of the camp ground and its accessibility adds no little to the general interest in the affair.

For the benefit of those desiring to attend, the Pennsylvania Railroad will sell excursion tickets from June 26th to July 6th, good to return until July 7th, from all stations on its system to Philadelphia, at greatly reduced rates.

## FOURTH OF JULY EXCURSIONS.

For the benefit of those who would enjoy the great national holiday in visiting friends or making short excursions to attractive points, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets at greatly reduced rates, on the 3d and 4th of July, good to return until the 6th, between all stations on its lines, comprising the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, Baltimore and Potomac, Alexandria and Fredericksburg, North Central, West Jersey, and Camden and Atlantic railroads.

## PREDICTS HIS OWN DEATH.

A Farmer Selects His Own Grave and Pays His Undertaker.

Valley Cottage is a way station on the West Shore Railroad and is midway between Nyack and Rockland Lake. It takes its name from a hamlet, and the hamlet from the farm of John Ryder, who was long the most prominent man in the place. On June 11, Mr. Ryder died, and under circumstances that have caused widespread comment among the villagers. Mr. Ryder died after prophesying for three days that June 11 would be his last day on earth. Mr. Ryder was a wealthy farmer and a high official in the Methodist church at Rockland Lake. He was seventy-six years old, and his ruddy cheek and blue eye gave no indication of approaching dissolution. He used to boast that he had never been ill a day in his life. Up to a few weeks ago he worked his farm, going out to plow at daylight.

One day he returned to the farmhouse and seated himself in an arm chair. When asked if he was ill he replied that he was not, but said: "I have ploughed my last, I have sowed my last. Now, I feel that I have passed beyond the three-score-and-ten the good Lord allowed me, I shall not live to see this harvest. God's will be done."

His farm work fell into the hands of his hired men and mechanically received their reports. All day he walked up and down the verandah, his head sunk on his breast, deep in meditation. "I am tired" he would say when any of the neighbors or his relatives called him on his actions. "I shall not live long. Soon I shall tell you beforehand the day on which I shall breathe my last."

On Tuesday, June 9, he called his family around him and sent a servant after the farm hands, meanwhile preserving a calm demeanor. When all had assembled he said, in deep impressive tones: "My friends, my time is drawing nigh. My sands of life have nearly run out. But two days more and I shall not be with you. I have received a warning and it portends death. My friends, I leave you, with a life, I hope, clear of crime and with a hope and belief in the infinite tenderness and mercy of the true and living God."

Turning to a farm hand he said with surprising energy: "Harness up my horse and hitch him in the buggy. Do it quickly." When the vehicle was ready he sprang in unassisted and drove to the little burying ground near by owned by a few of the old families in the neighborhood. Arrived at the graveyard he looked around, and running to a mound where there was a pile of stakes he marked off the space in which he wanted to be buried.

Driving home he did not spare the horse, and when his house was reached he immediately dispatched a servant to Nyack for a lawyer, who had done legal business for him before. In the note he said he wanted to draw up his will. He also ordered the man to bring the undertaker back with him. The undertaker came and jokingly measured the old man.

"Now give me your bill, I want to pay it now," he said to the undertaker.

The surprised undertaker obeyed with reluctance, and the old gentleman paid the money down. The lawyer came after a second messenger had been sent for him. The will was duly drawn up, and after the instrument had been signed, giving the property in even proportions to his children and grand children, he invited the lawyer to come to his funeral, as he was an old friend of the family, and also act as a pall-bearer. The lawyer, thinking it was but a whim of his old client's, Mr. Ryder then named the three other men he wanted to act as pall-bearers. In the lawyer's presence he named all the other details about the funeral and made disposition of his personal effects and mentioned his friends.

On the following day Mr. Ryder sat in his old armchair on the veranda. The night following he got up several times and his family heard him walking through the house. He was in his usual place in the morning and appeared to be in his usual health. Towards noon he called his family around him, saying: "My friends, I am now going. Good-by all and God bless you."

He then lay back in his arm-chair and gazing tenderly at his family gently closed his eyes. His lips moved in prayer and once again he opened his eyes and smiled, and again the eyelids closed and all was still. Those around him thought he was sleeping, but when they called him he did not answer. He was dead.

Many prominent citizens of Nyack and vicinity vouch for the truth of the details of the old gentleman's demise. One of Mr. Ryder's sons, who is about forty years of age, is a prominent business man. Mr. Ryder died on Saturday, all his details and requests being religiously followed.

## SOLD HIS WIFE AND CHILD FOR A HUNDRED DOLLARS.

Cleveland, Ohio, June 19.—Henry Sauerbier, wife and baby, arrived here from Logan, Ohio, and put up at the Empire House. Yesterday a burly Irishman, also from Logan, put in an appearance and once again he opened his eyes and smiled. The result of the meeting was the sale of Sauerbier's wife and baby to M'Farland. The price paid was \$100. Sauerbier hung out at first and wanted more money, but M'Farland refused to raise the bid. To-night M'Farland, the woman and infant returned to Logan, while Sauerbier took a train for Chicago. The deal was a genuine one, and is vouched for by the landlord of the hotel, who heard the trade talked over and saw the written agreement.

## COOKED AND ATE THEM FOR REVENGE.

London, June 18.—The native African Prince Alagobha, of the Brass River Territory, Upper Guinea, while trading at a native village, was shot and wounded by a native who escaped. The Prince took nine villagers as hostages, and, failing to produce the would-be assassin, he had them cooked and eaten. Missionaries say the Prince professed to be a Christian.

## The first indulgence is in some sense legitimate—almost enforced, either by acute pain (chronic insomnia). The latter is, perhaps the most dangerous.

The pain, it lasts for weeks, forbids recourse to a doctor before the habit has become curable. Sleeplessness is more persistent and to most people a much less alarming thing, and it is moreover or with which the doctors can seldom deal save through the very agents of mischief. Neuralgia, relieved for a time by chloroform or morphia, may be cured by quinine; sleeplessness admits of hally any cure but such complete change of life as is rarely possible, at least to itsoring victims. And the narcotist half once formed neither pain nor sleeplessness is all that its renunciation would involve. The drunkard, it must be remembered, gets drunk, as a rule, but occasionally. Save in the last stages of dromomania he can do, if not without drink, yet without intoxicating quantities (drink, for days together). The narcotist who attempts to go for a whole ay without his accustomed dose suffers in twenty-four hours far more cruelly than the drunkard deprived of alcohol as many days. The effect upon the stomach and organs, upon the nerves as well as on the brain, is one of indescribable, unspeakable discomfort amounting to torture; a disorder of the digestive system more trying than seasickness, a disorganization of the nerves which, after some hours of unspeakable misery, culminates in convulsive twitchings, in mental and physical distress simply indescribable to those who have not felt it. Where attempts have been made forcibly and suddenly to withhold the accustomed sedative they have not infrequently ended in a few days in madness or death. In other cases the victim has sought and obtained relief by efforts and hardships which in his or her best days would have seemed impossible or unendurable. One woman thus restrained escaped in December from her bedroom on a winter night of Arctic severity, ran for miles through the snow, and was fortunate enough to find a chemist who knew something of the fearful effect of such privation and had the sense and courage to give in adequate quantity the poison that had now become the first necessity of life. In a word, narcotics, one and all, are to those who have once fallen under their power tyrants whose hold can hardly ever be shaken off; which punish rebellion with the rack and with all those devices of torture which medieval and ecclesiastical cruelty found even more terrible than the rack itself, while the most absolute submission is rewarded with sufferings only less unendurable than the punishment of revolt.

## THE SEVENTH SON.

The powers of a seventh son were regarded as miraculous throughout Europe down to a very recent date, and it is not quite certain that the belief is entirely exploded to this day. A person of this sort was known in France as a "marcoo," and was supposed to possess the faculty of curing certain diseases by touch. We reserved our credulity in England for the seventh son of the seventh son; and in the early part of this century a Hampshire laborer, availing to this description, was regarded as endowed with extraordinary healing power, and was looked upon with little awe and wonder by the ignorant. Certain it is that he had a large collection of sticks and crutches said to have been presented to him by cripples whose infirmities he had relieved. A belief in similar powers also very generally prevailed in the west of England, in Wales, and in Ireland; while the Scotch female fortune teller constantly assumes the character of a seventh daughter in order to obtain credit of the gift of second sight. It is not eighty years since a Bristol tradesman was on this ground widely known as "the doctor," and in 1851 there was living in Plymouth a lady chiroprone on whose doorplate was inscribed "Mrs. —, the third seventh daughter, Doctress."

## PERFUMES AND DISINFECTION.

Prof. Mantegazzi found that nearly all the essences used in perfumery, and many others not appropriated by the perfumer, when exposed to air and light, develop ozone. He says that "the oxidation of these essences is one of the most convenient means of producing ozone, since, even when in every minute quantity of oxygen, while their action is very persistent; that in the greater number of cases the essences, in order to develop ozone, require the direct rays of the sun; in a small number of cases they effect the change with diffused light; in few or none in darkness." Even a vessel that has been perfumed with an essence and afterwards washed and dried, still develops ozone, provided a slight odor remains. The most effective essences are those of cherry, laurel, palma rosa, cloves, lavender, mint, juniper, lemons, fennel, and bergamot; the less effective are unise, nutmeg, cajuput, and thyme. Mantegazzi adds that "camphor, as an ozonogenic agent, is inferior to any of the above-named essences." These facts should be better known than they are. Our grandmothers used perfumes as disinfectants, and ozone being the most effective of oxidizing disinfectants, it appears they were right. In the East, where there is much need for atmospheric purification, the old faith in perfumes still remains. With us it is now generally supposed that such perfumes merely hide the maldour and deceive us, but if Mantegazzi and Dr. Anders are right his modern notion is a fallacy.

## The Spanish masters of Cuba maintain an iron rule. Every man, it is said who expresses sentiment not strictly loyal to the Spanish authority, is arrested and imprisoned. Conspiracy is punished by dungeon confinement or death, and this practice has gone very far to encourage people not to talk politics. Of frequent notices in cafes and other public places in a conspicuous playcard bearing the significant legend: "Please do not talk politics here" and wherever you meet him, whether at home or abroad, the prudent Cuban, if he values his life and liberty, or is possessed of considerable property, keeps his political opinions to himself. The newspapers are all subjected to censorship, the telegraph offices are under surveillance of the police, and it is even said that the mails are often examined for treasonable documents.

## Mary Kleman, in prison in Chicago for administering poison to the family of Mrs. Michael Frene, her sister, has confessed that she is guilty, and also that she caused the deaths of her father, mother and a sister, in Debuque, Iowa.

Her 49 cent three-button kid gloves take the cake—see 'em.

## EPIDEMICS AND ALCOHOL.

If I have not a very intimate acquaintance with cholera, I cannot say the same of yellow fever, for of this last I have witnessed the ravages in different parts of the world; I have also felt its grip. It is a question not yet, as I think, decided, whether yellow fever is conveyed by infection or not. Certain it is that some persons believe it to be so; and I remember a diabolical attempt to introduce it into a healthy region by means of infected clothing. It happened at Bermuda during the period when North and South were flying at each other's throats in the American States, and when, by reason of the blockade-running, a good many Southerners were collected in the Bermuda group. There had been a bad outbreak of yellow fever while the war was being waged; and before the disease had quite subsided, a discovery was made of a box, the passage of which had been provided for to the Northern States so that it might arrive in the hottest part of Summer. It was found to contain the bedclothes and body linen (as was evident from the condition of the articles) of persons who had been afflicted with the epidemic. The intention, no doubt, was to introduce and spread the pestilence in the Northern towns and districts. I quite forgot how the attempt was first brought to light; but very little doubt was at the time entertained that it was deliberately planned, and was to have been mercifully carried out. It is a not uncommon belief that the free use of intoxicating liquors, so common in warm climates, renders one very susceptible of the fever, and takes largely from the chances of recovery if the disease be once induced. In its general, unmodified form this belief is certainly incorrect; conditionally, it is probably true. As facts in support of my assertions I adduce: First, that in the visitation at Bermuda several men known to be steady and hard drinkers enjoyed complete immunity from the attacks of fever; second, that in the same epidemic occasional inebriates—men who every now and then went in for a "burst up" and then returned to steady habits for a while—hardly ever escaped, and hardly ever recovered. The habitual toppers not only did not take the fever, but they seemed to have an instinctive knowledge that they were quite safe from it. Not one of them evinced the least apprehension when every one else was panic-stricken; not one of them condescended to make the slightest alteration in his copious and fiery potations. They fearlessly performed for the sick and dead officers which sober men were not very eager about undertaking, and they seemed rather proud that a time had arrived when they became of some importance, for ordinarily they were reputed and treated as besotted, useless rascals. It is an unpleasant truth for the blue ribbons, but it seems to be the truth nevertheless, that to keep well saturated with alcohol is a safeguard against yellow fever.

## Admiral F. S. Tremlett writes that on the sculptured dolphins of the Department of Forbihan, France, about 80 sculptures had been found, invariably on the interior surfaces of the capstones and their supports. It is remarkable that they are confined within a distance of about 12 miles, and are situated near the sea coast, beyond which, although the megaliths are numerous, there is a complete absence of sculptures. The sculptures vary in intricacy, from simple wave lines and cup markings to some that have been compared to the tattooing of the New Zealanders.

## Mr. Woodall, speaking at the Wedgwood Institute, Stoke-on-Trent, England, said that there was a leveling process in many things relating to industry going on all over Europe. The long hours of Continental workmen were being reduced, and their wages were being raised; their diet was steadily becoming more generous, while the cost of animal food had increased in the same degree as in Great Britain. The competition of the future would consequently be a matter of skill, and the race would be won by the country which devoted itself most intelligently to the cultivation of its people, and especially of its youth.

## Dr. A. T. Rochebrune has written an interesting paper on the *Bos tricornis* and the method of preventing epizootic peripneumonia practiced by the Moors, and Fellahs of Senegambia. The variety of domestic ox peculiar to Senegambia is characterized by a third horn growing from the nasal process and identical in its constitution and development with the two frontal horns. Its origin is uncertain, but the variety is thoroughly established. Epizootic peripneumonia is very prevalent in the country, and from time immemorial this animal has been subjected to preventive inoculation with the virus by the natives.

## Prof. Ivison Macadam has completed a comparison of the chemical composition of some samples of Scottish ensilage with that of forage grasses. The result has shown that the oil or ether extract and the ash were higher in the ensilage, while the albuminous compounds were lower. It seemed that during the process of converting grass into ensilage there was a decomposition of the albuminoids, which led to the loss of feeding power and the formation of ammonia. The feeding power of the ensilage was impaired, and, according to his calculations, the flesh-forming power was only about three-fifths that of meadow hay.

The Prussian Diet has been asked for grants for the extension and completion of the network of State railroads to the extent of 60,700,000 marks. Of this sum 49,484,000 marks are required for the construction of 14 new lines of a total length of 385 miles, and the balance is needed for the completion of existing railroads.

One of the latest specimens of the work of the Messrs. Henry of the Paris Observatory is a fine photograph of the cluster in Perseus, showing stars down to the thirteenth magnitude. The negative was obtained in 50 minutes with a 6.3-inch object glass of 83-inch focal length; it has been enlarged four times, and reproduced by helio engraving.

Balfour Stewart and William Lant Carpenter have made a preliminary comparison between the dates of cyclonic storms in Great Britain and those of magnetic disturbances at the Kew Observatory. Finding that in 30 cases compared 23 presented a distinct magnetic disturbance preceding the storm, for the most part, by somewhat more than a day, the investigators consequently intended to pursue the subject exhaustively.

At a meeting of the Geographical Society of Paris, M. Schrader read a paper on the masses of snow moved about by the wind among the mountains. These masses are not moved about by chance—they obey very simple laws which cause them to be deposited at spots where the wind is diminished in intensity, and gave them forms which may be easily analyzed if the quality of the snow, the force and direction of the wind, and the contour of the mountain be taken into account.

M. Gaston Trouve is said to have constructed a portable electric glow lamp, intended for use where there is an explosive atmosphere. The lamp is intended to be for service in mines, caliche factories, flour mills, spinning mills, etc. It is automatic in action, and it is stated to be very simple in construction. There are two varieties of the lamp made; one of which will only light itself when taken up in the hand; the other when it is hung up or put down. The current is produced by a battery contained in the lamp.

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