



THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, -- EDITOR

The Sultan of Turkey has sent Gov. Beaver \$800 for the Johnstown sufferers.

The Bellefonte Republican has come out in favor of Gen. Hastings for governor. The question would be, can Dan make the rifle unless there's a flood.

Southern Republican congressmen are threatening to make war upon Harrison and organize the next House independent of the caucus. They say they have been badly treated in the distribution of patronage.

Not long ago one of the religious papers said the great need of temperance reform was a "substitute for the saloon". Well, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has discovered it; it is the bottling establishment.

The wheat crop of Dakota, it is now said, will fall short of the original estimate by 30,000,000 bushels, and will not exceed 20,000,000 bushels, owing to the drought. The abundant yield elsewhere in the country will more than make up for this shortage, however.

A large stable burned in New York on Sunday morning. In the burned building were stabled 128 horses, of which only three were rescued; of 120 vehicles of all descriptions 50 were entirely destroyed. The loss on vehicles is \$10,000. The horses were valued at \$15,000 and the building at \$20,000.

A New York florist has completed a large floral rooster to be presented to John L. Sullivan on his arrival in that city. There may be some association between a rooster and a cocktail, but John would prefer the latter every time, if it had enough brandy in it. A floral bulldog would be a more appropriate gift to the slugger.

So far Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson has been caught in appointing as postmasters a burglar, a convicted keeper of a disorderly house, a man who has been punished for sending obscene literature through the mails, and a man who does not live in the place where he is appointed (the law requiring him to be a resident). Now he has appointed at Delmar, Ala., a negro who can neither read nor write. This has raised a storm of indignation. There are only a few negro voters in the entire county in which Delmar is located. The whites are about evenly divided between the Democrats and Republicans.

The State Fair property at Philadelphia, is under the sheriff's hammer, the Philad. & Reading railroad company having a claim of \$25,000 against the concern. If Philadelphia cannot keep up the state fair, which was to be permanently located there, we think Centre Hall can furnish a good substitute in her annual agricultural gathering and farmers picnic. With wise management and unselfish purpose there is every reason why we should be able to have a gathering, exhibition and picnic here which would answer every purpose of a state fair. We have the best ground in the state, central location and railroad facilities adequate for all wants. Of course, there must be no foginess or idiosyncrasy about such a thing to make it a success with the people who will not take kindly to any thing that smells cranky. The state fair has evidently failed to pay, else the sheriff would not have a writ in his hands to force payment through a sale of the property of the society.

Two more "Jack the Ripper" are reported under arrest, in London.

One tried to kill a woman before midnight, and the other, it is said, succeeded in his plans early Saturday morning.

Towards midnight the life of another woman was attempted close by Castle alley. A woman and man were seen to approach a dark portion of the thoroughfare near the Aldgate East station.

The pair did not remain long in the corner before the woman was heard to cry, "No, I won't." The remark was addressed to a dark man, of medium height, with a slouch hat and of foreign appearance. The man seized her, dragged her a short distance, flung her upon the curbstone and produced a dagger.

Screams of "Jack the Ripper" and of "Murder" attracted crowds of men and women from all directions. Among the first arrivals at the scene were several members of the local Vigilance Association, which has just resumed its work. Before the man had time to get far he was seized and a dreadful struggle ensued. He had a long knife in his hand, and it was some time before he could be deprived of it. Eventually it was taken from him. Even then his fight for liberty was of a most determined nature.

The Oldest Persons Living.

Is human life really lengthening? Near Washington C. H., in Ohio, lives Margaret Arnold, a woman 112 years old. She was born near Richmond, Va., the year after the Declaration of Independence was signed. She smoked a pipe for seventy years and then gave it up, because she could not smoke any more, for some reason. She is a little old woman, five feet two inches in height and weighs 110 pounds. Mrs. Arnold eats whatever she likes and never was ill in her life. She has been a widow fifty years, which is a good while, certainly, and Mrs. Arnold would merit the sincere approbation of St. Paul. Her last work was done three years ago, when she knit a pair of stockings. The way to keep young is to keep working.

The old lady has three sisters and a brother, all over 100. One sister is 115. Their ages are as follows:

Elizabeth Hillard 115
Margaret Arnold 112
Susan Bailey 109
William Kiser 104
Total number of years 440
Average age 110

But the oldest person now living is probably a mulatto man in Lynn, Mass. Of course there are no documents to back up his claim, but as nearly as can be judged by circumstances he is as old as he represents himself to be—125 years. His name is William Roach, and he was born in Nova Scotia. He remembers the Boston tea party, he says. He heard the people of Annapolis, N. S., talking of it. Roach spent many years of his life on the sea. He bought a little cottage in Lynn with his earnings. This he promised to deed to Robert Brown, a hale colored man of 35, if Brown would take care of him the rest of his life. That was twenty-two years ago. Brown is now 60 years old himself and shows signs of getting old, but old Roach is still as spry as a cricket and does not weaken in the least. Mentally and physically he is in as good condition as ordinary men at seventy. His hair hangs in long black ringlets to his shoulders. Roach can neither read nor write, therefore has no need for spectacles. Since he was 15 he has been a tobacco chever. How much older he might have been if he had never used tobacco Mrs. Partington alone would be able to tell.

The most interesting aged person now living, however, is probably Nagy Ferencz, a soldier of the wars of Napoleon, 121 years old. He is a Hungarian peasant, resident at Bares, and his birth is duly recorded and certified.

Like old Roach, Nagy Ferencz cannot read or write, but his memory is, therefore, all the keener, his tongue all the glibber. He can tell personal anecdotes of many distinguished people who lived 100 years ago. The event of which he speaks with the deepest reverence was the burial of his beloved sovereign, the great empress-queen, Maria Theresa. He was present in person at her funeral, which occurred in 1780. He has all his wits about him, and is constantly on his feet, visiting a round of friends.

Nagy is certainly the oldest old bachelor now living, never having been married. How much experience he has missed, to be sure!

The old, reliable Evening Post has been stirring up several of its New York neighbors on the amount of space they devoted to the prize fight. It has counted up out of its own head and found that during a period covering two weeks before the fight and two days after it The World gave 48 columns all told, The Sun 45 and The Herald 25 to the affair.

The Post then asks the said papers why they continue to treat the winning bully as a popular hero, instead of the low, drunken bully he is. The fact is, perhaps on athletic grounds, but fact anyhow, that a good many more people took an interest in that prize fight than were willing to own it. For instance, it is said that the editor of a well known evening paper in New York editorially hoped that the "wild beasts would get the full extent of the law," the evening before the fight, and next morning was down town early, asking eagerly and excitedly whether Sullivan was whipping the other fellow.

Early in the days of the present administration a colored man was appointed stenographer in one of the departments at Washington. Immediately thereupon the whole army of colored messengers at the capital began to study stenography. They are diving deeply and intently into the science of dots and pot hooks. Each hopes that in time he, too, may be an official stenographer. Colored employes in the Pennsylvania Railroad company are studying so hard that it is said the officers whose messengers they are do errands themselves rather than disturb these earnest seekers after shorthand knowledge. An usher in the Pennsylvania general offices has made an invention which, he says, will allow cable street cars to cross other cable car tracks at intersecting streets.

Legally, therefore, he is dead to all intents and purposes, and should be reposing under several feet of ground. Really he is alive—as much alive as any man on the face of the earth, and is, probably, decidedly opposed to being thus interred.

Has the law got any farther claim upon his life?

The Salt Trust Formed.

Articles were taken out at Albany on Friday for the incorporation of the North American Salt Company, which promises a gigantic combination equaling the sugar trust. In fact, many of those engaged in the sugar trust are members of this salt trust. The object of the company is stated by its prospectus to unify and systematize the salt interests of the United States and Canada by acquiring and operating the principal works. The capital is stated to be \$11,000,000 and the principal men of the English salt trust are included in the list of incorporators. The properties under option to the company, as we learn from the New York Evening Post, and which it is intended to acquire, embrace 130 different works, producing now about seven eighths of the annual production of salt on the North American Continent. These have been acquired either by direct purchase where it was desirable or by securing at a fixed price per barrel the entire production, in no one year to exceed the production of the past year. In order to pay outright for the properties, which embrace nearly all the salt producing properties on the North American continent, and to furnish capital with which to do the business, the amount of money required is \$15,000,000.

Now look out for a rise in the poor man's salt equal to that on sugar. Blaine says trusts are private affairs—we guess they must be as they reach right down into the private purse of every man in the country.

Johnstown Despondents.

The total of registered losses in the Conemaugh Valley is between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000, not including that of the Cambria Iron and Pennsylvania Railroad Companies, nor such others as did not register.

So far the people have received the \$10 a head fund, which amounted to \$160,000, and the first distribution of the general relief now to be made involves \$500,000, so that the sufferers have been paid \$660,000. In the average case this amounts to about 1 per cent. of the actual loss, and if, as the commission says, only about \$1,000,000 remains to be paid, there will be 3 per cent. of their losses made good to the sufferers.

This state of affairs has depressed many, and the result is that hundreds have left the town. Probably for the first time in its history the Cambria Iron Company finds itself wanting men, several hundred positions being vacant. This may in some measure be accounted for by the fact that a reduction has been made and another is contemplated, but many are known to have gone away that they may the sooner banish from their minds the terrible ordeal through which they have passed and the impression it left on their minds. Hundreds have left because nothing but ruin meets the eye wherever they turn. Indeed, the work yet to be done in clearing up the town is so great, and the force of workmen employed so small, that men of judgement predict it will not be completed for next Summer.

The strike at the Homestead street plant of Carnegie, Phlipps & Co., was definitely settled on Saturday and work will be resumed just as soon as the furnaces are heated.

The terms of the settlement are not positively known, but it is understood that concessions were made on both sides. The workmen, it is said, have agreed to accept a 20 per cent. reduction instead of 25 per cent., as proposed by the firm. The scale will remain in force for three years, ending in 1892, and instead of the scale year beginning with January, as proposed by Carnegie, it will commence upon July 1, the same as the Amalgamated Iron scale. Here we have another example of "Protection to American Industry." Carnegie protects himself and workmen with only a 20 per cent. reduction in wages.

A very interesting question has been raised anent a recent incident in Georgia.

John Pickett was accused of murder, tried, condemned, and executed. After his body had been hanging a certain time life was declared extinct, and the sheriff turned the body over to friends of Pickett. But life was not extinct, and the feeble spark yet lingering was carefully nursed into full flame again, and Pickett is, physically speaking, worth several dead men yet.

But what shall be done with him? Under the law he was condemned to death, underwent all the pains incident to execution by hanging, and was pronounced dead by the physician in attendance at the instance of the officers of the law.

Legally, therefore, he is dead to all intents and purposes, and should be reposing under several feet of ground. Really he is alive—as much alive as any man on the face of the earth, and is, probably, decidedly opposed to being thus interred.

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The New Catholic University.

March 7 Pope Leo XIII gave definite authority for the establishing of a great Roman Catholic university in the United States. It will be called the University of Washington. The ancient Catholic college at Georgetown will be supplemented by a course of higher studies, particularly in theology and kindred topics.

The new university will be open to students next November. The archbishop of Baltimore will be ex-officio chancellor. Students who have finished the course of instruction in other Catholic colleges in good standing in the country will be permitted to enter the institution at Washington without examination.

Bishop Keane is rector of the new university. A spacious building for its accommodation is now nearly completed. Bishop Keane made a careful inspection of the universities of Europe, getting ideas for the American one. It is his judgment that the German rather than the English model for a great seat of learning should be followed. The German model embraces the gymnasium and the school.

There will be special departments for professional careers, and it will be permitted to take up a particular study and pursue it. But, especially, there will be afforded to the priesthood, young and old, opportunity for a wide post-graduate course. The fosterers of the university wish to aid in giving to the world distinguished American scholars, by offering a field of "deeper study, of broader, higher learning."

A Worthy American Work.

The first three numbers have appeared of the new "Century Dictionary, an Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language." This magnificent work has been in progress a number of years. No one person could make a dictionary in our time. The learning required would be too vast to be attained in one life, such is the differentiation of knowledge in our age. The work of preparing the words in the Century Dictionary has been given out to experts in all the special departments, as law, theology, etc. The scientific terms have been put into the hands of Professor Elliott Cones, of Washington. The principal editor is Professor William Dwight Whitney.

The most important feature of these volumes is that they will be not only a mere dictionary defining terms, but an encyclopedia describing and explaining etymologically, historically and otherwise.

There are now in the English language 200,000 words. It grows at the rate of several thousand a year. Certainly the person does not live who knows the meaning of all the words in the English language. Besides new words, new meanings and changed meanings are continually being added to the same word. Take the word "cable." Webster or Worcester would not have known what was meant if one had spoken to them of a submarine cable or a cablegram, or of cabling a message. Simply the application of electricity to the industries, and that chiefly in the last twenty years, has added several chapters to encyclopedic lexicography.

It is matter of pride and pleasure to Americans that we have in our own country the necessary ability and scholarship to carry through to the end a work of such importance as the Century Dictionary.

The late Mrs. John Tyler was a very brilliant and beautiful woman, charming to her latest day. She was a New York girl, not yet 30, and the president was thirty-five years older when he fell in love with her. She would not marry him at first, and must therefore go on record as one woman who refused the hand of a president. She thought better of it afterwards, however, and took him.

The magnetizing of watches by the numerous electric currents in cities is becoming a serious nuisance. Inventive genius is at work devising methods to obviate the trouble. One set of inventors are striving for methods to demagnetize a watch. This can be done by the same agency, electricity. Others are endeavoring to construct a watch which shall be non-magnetic.

The National Retail Shoe Dealers' association discussed at its last meeting, among other things, the question of how best to promote the honesty of employes. They reached at last the admirable conclusion that employes could best be made honest "by adequate wages and a good example of honesty and diligence in business." Nothing could be better.

An Awful Disaster in Japan.

The steamer Begbie has arrived at Hong Kong. Its officers report a recent fire at Port Luchaw which burned twenty-three hours destroying 27,000 dwellings. Twelve hundred persons perished in the flames and 400 others were killed. Nearly 170,000 people were obliged to camp out without shelter and were dying at the rate of 100 a day from want and exposure. The authorities are providing for their necessities.

A Philadelphia electrician gave his experience under the effects of an electric current, a few days ago before the commission in New York appointed to ascertain whether death by electricity under the new law was punishment cruel and unusual.

Lawyer Cockran's second witness was T. Carpenter Smith, a Philadelphia electrician. He said he had never known personally of any case where a man has been killed by electricity, but he has had personal experience with the currents, which led him to believe that the shocks, while painful, might not necessarily be fatal. He said he had been getting shocks ever since he had gone into that business, fourteen years ago. The first serious one was at the establishment of the Keystone Light and Power Company in Philadelphia. He came into contact with the wires of a dynamo of the Westinghouse make, catalogued as a "No. 1," and exactly like that which will be used in the state prisons in case the Gerry law is pronounced constitutional. Mr. Smith's contact was through the hands—perfectly unintended, he said, but nevertheless quite as perfect as it could be—and he got the full strength of the current.

It was a dynamo whose ordinary capacity was between 1000 and 1500 volts. At the time of contact its voltage, he thought, was possibly 1500. First he couldn't let go, couldn't do anything in fact, except stay there and let the current sweep through him. He says he remembers feeling as if he had been hit by a pile of bricks, then as if all the fillings in his teeth had been jerked out without ceremony, then as if he had been suddenly tied up in a knot, scoured all over with a bundle of loose steel rods and finally thrown with extreme force to the ground. Consciousness did not leave him, but he became stupid. When his grip on the wires relaxed he didn't appreciate what had occurred and mechanically went to work on what he had been thinking of before the accident.

The Pittsburg Post says: One of the most gigantic schemes ever manipulated in this community is at present being operated sub rosa. Its magnitude and scope are simply monumental and would radically affect a most important Pittsburg industry. It is nothing less than a plan of a syndicate of English capitalists who are making strenuous efforts to purchase all the steel works of this city. Their representative, it is understood, is now here sounding the various firms who would be solicited to sell out their plants.

Naturally this movement has created a prodigious sensation among the few gentlemen who have as yet been admitted to the conference of prospective buyers and sellers. Such a scheme would, if carried out, shake local industrial affairs to their very center. It would place the English capitalistic syndicate in the very heart of the iron and coal region of the United States. By well posted people it is looked upon as the entering wedge of an immense foreign corporation with endless funds at its disposal, but owing to lack of opportunity in Europe comes to this country to spread its tentacles all over the great industrial section of the United States.

Crops in Bad Shape. Crops in the Canadian northwest and along the Dakota line are in bad shape. Farmers are almost destitute, and some instances are reported where they are subsisting on field mice and gophers. In the Canadian Northwest proper the crops are nil. A party of emigrants from the South country were met on Thursday at the boundary line. They had travelled 300 miles through well settled country on the Canadian side without seeing a fair crop, and say a great many settlers are leaving their land to drive their cattle to timbered country on this side.

Some families looked panic-stricken and had eaten nothing but potatoes and turnips for some months. They were afflicted with scurvy and were sacrificing themselves to save their cattle. At one place northwest of Turtle mountain a family of English emigrants had killed and were eating a young colt. The suffering in that isolated region will be awful and those who have means will leave in such numbers as to depopulate that section.

A representative for the Vanderbilts on Monday purchased the interest of the heavy stockholders in the Beech Creek coal company. Over \$3,000,000 were involved in the transaction. The Vanderbilts are now the sole owners of the Beech Creek railroad.

In New York, Charles Giblen and Ferdinand Carolin were sentenced to be hanged August 23. This will make five men who are to be executed in the Tombs on the same day. The other three are James Nolan, John Lewis and Packerman.

Tax Liens.

The system of taxation in Pennsylvania has never been very satisfactory, and a decision just rendered in a Huntingdon County Court is likely to produce a still greater muddle.

It has always been held under the tax law of 1881 that tax assessments are a first lien on real estate.

Judge McPherson, of Lebanon County, who recently presided in the Huntingdon County Court. In the absence of Judge Furst, has handed down an opinion in a case heard there that upsets this doctrine completely.

Judge McPherson holds that the provision of the law of 1881 making tax assessments a first lien on the property taxed is unconstitutional, and therefore no longer operative. The act has been in full operation in all the counties of the State since its adoption, and this decision is likely to cause no little confusion, and perhaps considerable litigation.

No question had ever been raised as to the constitutionality of the law until now, but lawyers who have read Judge McPherson's opinion concede that his reasoning is correct, and unanimously endorse the conclusions reached.

This matter is of no little importance to every county in the State, and every municipality as well, as likely to derange our tax system throughout. It is a pity, therefore, the next session of the Legislature is so far off, as the matter ought to be attended to at once, if such a thing were possible.

The Johnstown Tribune says: If all or half the stories are true that one hears about the amount of stolen money, jewelry, and other valuables in the possession of parties in this city and vicinity and down the river on both sides as far as New Florence, some systematic effort ought to be made to recover them. A prominent doctor of this city says that a relative of his at Nineveh saw a young man with a box containing \$1,000 in gold which he had found on the river bank. Another prominent resident of this city said yesterday that for five per cent. of all valuables he would recover he could unearth \$40,000 worth of stolen valuables. The statement has been made that parties living down along the river in Indiana and Westmoreland counties have their houses full of goods and valuables of all kinds gathered from the river and taken from the bodies in the flood.

In some quarters they are objecting to Gen. Hastings being nominated for governor, on the ground that Centre county is having more than her share. When we consider the number in this county fit for the position, Centre county is behind her proportion.

Announcements.

PROTHONOTARY. We are authorized to announce that M. I. Gardner, of Howard Boro, will be a candidate for Prothonotary, subject to Democratic caucus.

We are authorized to announce that L. A. Shaf for will be a candidate for Prothonotary, subject to Democratic caucus.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE. We are authorized to announce that Thomas F. Riley, of Harris Township, will be a candidate for Associate Judge, subject to Democratic caucus.

Penn Township.

This is the most mixed up year we have had since my recollection. Last week some were cutting wheat, some making hay, cutting barley hauling in wheat, plowing, working corn, and some picking huckleberries.

J. M. Adams, of Williamsport, is visiting friends and relatives in this section, at the same time insuring persons against accidents. A few years ago he was insured and was working in a planing mill, slipped and fell with his arm over a splinter knife, cut it off at the elbow, he got \$500. A Mr. Oile of Williamsport, a life insurance agent is canvassing this valley and meets with some success.

Thursday was very warm.

C. W. Hoesterman is the new mail carrier between Woodward and Coburn.

John Anman of Miles killed a 5 foot rattlesnake in his field a few days ago.

Wm. Witter's new saw mill 3 miles east of Spring Mills is now in operation.

By an accidental discharge of a gun, George Waite, of Miles twp., had one of his big toes torn off.

D. C. Keller while on the road yesterday buying cattle was prostrated by sunstroke, and had to be taken to his home.

Desperate and characterless Rada went to drag them alive up to good company by urging Prof. Wolf for associate judge. The Prof. will be wise enough not to bite at such bait.

Mrs. Kister, widow of Jerry Kister, of Aaronsburg who was killed in the army, died on 17, aged 71 years and 8 months. She died at Millheim at the home of her son B. F. Kister.

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