

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### THE PRESIDENT NERVE FAILS HIM ONCE MORE.

He Has Already Made a Change of Front in the Settlement of the Claim Against the Turks.—He's a Quitter Sure.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The broad streak of yellow down the backbone of the McKinley administration, the exhibition of which disgusted so many Americans during the weeks which immediately preceded the war with Spain, is again in full view of the world. The present exhibition is connected with our relations with Turkey. Only a few days ago, all of the well-known disseminators of semi-official news, in Washington, were singing a song of jingoism and filling the newspaper men with thrilling stories of the red hot demand the administration had made upon the Sultan of Turkey, to settle those long-standing missionary claims at once, and intimating that if the spondulix was not at once forthcoming, an American fleet would be sent into the Turkish waters to forcibly collect it. These stories were duly sent out, but they didn't fire the country even a little tiny bit, the people not being in a jingo humor. But they did something else. They brought an intimation from Russia, in the politest diplomatic language that there were reasons which made it incumbent upon Russia to object to any forcible collection of claims from the Sultan. That threw Secretary Hay into a blue funk, almost as bad as would have followed a snubbing by an English lord, and straightway the yellow streak in the administration backbone was uncovered, to add to the gaiety of nations and to the humiliation of Americans, and the official announcement made that this government had at no time intended to go beyond diplomatic insistence in trying to make the Sultan pay that claim. A famous American wit once commented upon an exhibition of a yellow streak by a public man by saying: "God Almighty hates a quitter," and it is well known to every observing man that the American people also hate a quitter.

The Senate seems to be pretty nearly unanimous in one thing at least—that the U. S. Senate has no authority to investigate a state legislature's qualification to elect a U. S. Senator. Although the temptation to go behind the action of the West Virginia legislature which elected Nathan B. Scott, to the Senate was great, there being plenty of evidence of crookedness, only three Senators—Pettus and Morgan, of Ala., and Turner, of Wash., voted for the motion of Senator Pettus to send the resolution declaring Scott entitled to his seat back to Committee with instructions to further investigate his election.

Senator Allen rebuked Senator Chandler for his apparent anxiety to railroad the resolution reported from the elections committee, declaring Senator Clark, of Montana, not entitled to his seat through the Senate when he said: "Every man must realize that it is asking a good deal of any one who occupies a place in this chamber to take the mere conclusions of a Committee, without an opportunity of reading the evidence upon which those conclusions are based. I am not interested in this case one way or the other, but the Senate cannot expect to dispose of it in two or three days when it has taken the Committee three months to hear witnesses and reach a judgment. That would be ridiculous in any tribunal."

It is strongly believed that the resignation of Senator Clark will make a vote unnecessary on this resolution, although he still declines to talk for publication.

Democratic Senators have decided that the army reorganization bill contains so many objectionable features that they will not allow it to go through the Senate, and notice to that effect has been served on the Republicans. Among the striking features of the army bill are provisions for making Gen. Miles lieutenant general (put in to catch Democratic votes) and Gen. Corbin major general; for the increase of the regular army and for doubling the number of cadets to West Point. Senator Jones, of Ark., the Democratic leader, who never minces words when he has anything to say, declared the army bill to be full of rascality.

The Republican leaders will allow the Nicaragua Canal bill to pass the House this week, simply because they saw that they could not prevent it, but their present program is to hang it up in the Senate, for fear that its passage would not be pleasing to England, which is already somewhat displeased because the Nicaragua Canal Treaty has not been ratified. Still, the country is expected to believe the repeated assertions of administration men that there is no secret understanding between the McKinley administration

and the English government. Whatever the administration may be able to do in the House with the ship-subsidy job, the scheme will not get through the senate at this session. The Democratic Senators who opposed this scheme have received unexpected support in their fight against it, from Quay's Republican friends, who intend to let Hanna, who is the most active pusher of the job, see that they resent the successful deal by which he kept Quay out of the Senate. These Republican Senators would probably not vote against the subsidy bill if put to the test, but they will probably quietly help the Democratic Senators to prevent its reaching a vote, which will be practically the same thing.

### A Decision on the Poor Law

An act was passed by the legislature of 1893, providing for the payment, by counties having no almshouse, of all costs incurred by the several poor districts in caring for paupers whose legal settlement is unknown. Judge Olmstead, of Potter county, declared this law to be unconstitutional, and under his decision the Potter authorities refused to pay assessments to poor districts. Now the supreme court has decided the act to be valid, in a case from Armstrong county, and the supreme court has virtually affirmed the decision. The law recognizes it is right that all needy, sick or injured indigent persons should be cared for without the delay necessary to determine their legal settlement and the county is expected to bear the expense rather than each township where such help may accidentally be required.

### A Month of Sundays.

A "month of Sundays" is an expression commonly used to signify a considerable length of time, but it does not last long as is usually supposed. In reality, a month of Sundays is exactly the same length as any other month, namely, thirty-one days, every day of the week being a Sunday with some nations.

The first day of the week, as every one knows, is a Christian Sunday; Monday is the day kept sacred by the Greeks; Tuesday is the Persian day of rest; on Wednesday the Assyrians worship; Thursday is a holy day among the Egyptians; the Turks keep Friday, and the Jews Saturday, as their Sabbath.

### A Good School Idea.

Superintendent Foote, of the Harrisburg public schools, many years ago principal of the Aaronsburg schools, proposes a plan that promises well. He asks for the establishment of a special school for incorrigible pupils and "chronic offenders." His idea is to have a separate place for those who have demonstrated that they are not amenable to ordinary discipline. A strong and competent teacher could be assigned to this charge, and it is calculated that the pupils generally would be intimidated from being relegated to the school of discipline.

In the smaller towns there would be too few of the incorrigible ones to warrant a separate school, but the plan might work well in the larger towns.

### A Wife as a Witness.

The old common law notion that a woman practically loses her identity as a separate individual when she marries, was again disabused in a case before the superior court this week at Pittsburg. The action was one appealed from Lackawanna county, and the point at issue was the competency of a wife as a witness in a suit against her husband and herself. Judge Orady delivered an opinion that the wife has at last attained a separate existence on the witness stand, and her testimony must henceforth be treated as if it came from a person with a mind and will of her own, and not from a mere automaton without will or conscience and wholly responsive to her husband's touch.

### Will Arrive Saturday.

Rev. Schuyler, D. D., of Shellburg, with his family, will arrive on Saturday and take possession of the Presbyterian parsonage, and in the future Rev. Schuyler will fill all the appointments on the charge. Dr. Schuyler comes highly recommended. We gladly welcome them to our town.

The ancients believed that rheumatism was the work of a demon within a man. Any one who has had an attack of sciatic or inflammatory rheumatism will agree that the infliction is demonic enough to warrant the belief. It has never been claimed that Chamberlain's Pain Balm would cast out demons, but it will cure rheumatism, and hundreds bear testimony to the truth of this statement. One application relieves the pain, and this quick relief which it affords is alone worth many times its cost. For sale by J. H. Ross, Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Pottery Mills; H. F. Rossmann, Spring Mills; J. F. Smith, Centre Hall.



NEWTON MOTZ.

A native of Woodward, this county, who was murdered on Saturday night of week before last by James Lenhart, at Lewisburg. Motz was stabbed in the neck with a pocket knife, and died in a few minutes.

### Those on the Sicklist.

The aged Wm. Emerick, of near this place, is quite feeble. The widow of John Rishel has been low the past ten days. The balmy spring weather has enabled our townsman, A. S. Kerlin, to stroll a square or two from home—may it soon be miles. Rev. Rhodes has recovered from his severe attack of lumbago and ventured to preach and thinks this week will see him fit for a mountain fishing trip. George Flory still keeps to the house, broken down physically.

The aged Mrs. Krebs, of Ferguson twp., mother of Judge Krebs, is seriously ill.

Edgar, a son of Ira Brungart, of Rebersburg, is ill of pneumonia. The aged widow of John Sholl, the mother of Mrs. G. W. Hosterman, has been ill for some time and her advanced age leaves scant hope for recovery.

Wm. Colyer is still troubled with a rheumatic affection.

### Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week: Mervin S. Betz and Alice Harter, both of Walker.

Wm. J. Howley and Christena Ceder, both of Bellefonte.

George Rapsock and Lizzie Federal, both of Gordon Heights.

John Morrison and Edna Campbell, both of Bellefonte.

H. A. Sowers, State College, and Rebecca Albright, Axemann.

Wm. Bradford and Lizzie J. Rishel, both of Farmers Mills.

C. M. Harter, Bellefonte, and Bessie May Harter, of Walker.

Claude P. Borden and Gertrude Markley, both of Snow Shoe.

James St. Clair, Karthaus, and Edith B. Zimmerman, Snow Shoe.

Maurice Lewis Monash, New York City, and Lena Baum, Bellefonte.

Reuben Miller, Yarnell and Hattie Ravoley, of Clarence.

Thomas O'Neil, Osceola Mills, and Bridget Sullivan, Powelton.

### LATE NEWS NOTES.

In a coal mine in Utah 90 men were killed by an explosion.

There were numerous strikes Tuesday among all classes of trades in many parts of the country, the strikers numbering thousands, men wanting better pay.

The British have been halted by the new Boer general, Botha, who suddenly checked the advance of General Hamilton. Roberts rushed French forward to the rescue, and is massing a heavy army to sweep away the Boers.

### Underwent an Operation.

Lowell Smith, brother of the Smith Bros., Spring Mills, underwent an operation at the Jefferson Medical hospital, Philadelphia, last week. Lowell was suffering from an enlargement of an artery. An operation was necessary. An incision was made by the specialists, and it was discovered that he had a tumor growing on the abdominal artery, and that any attempt to remove the tumor would necessarily prove fatal. Lowell will be home in a couple weeks, with but little hope of full recovery.

### Presbyterian Services.

Rev. Schuyler, D. D., will preach in the Presbyterian church at this place Sunday, May 6th, at 10:30 a. m.; Sabbath school at 9:30 a. m., and Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m. Preaching service at Spring Mills at 2:00 p. m.

### Infested by Thieves.

Union county is infested by a band of thieves and robbers, whose daring is causing much uneasiness. During this week a number of robberies occurred throughout the county, one country store being looted.

## FIERCE FOREST FIRES

### AWFUL DESTRUCTION OF OUR TIMBER LAND.

Thousands of Acres Burned Over in the County.—The Loss will be Over \$100,000.—Air Laden with Smoke.

The fiercest mountain fire known in many years have been raging in this part of the county for the past two weeks, doing almost incalculable damage to the timberland, burning over thousands of acres, and entailing a great expense to the county. For fully two weeks the mountains have been burning without abatement, and the air has been thick with smoke, obscuring the sun for days.

Brush mountain, east of Centre Hall was burning furiously last Friday obscuring that section of the valley with smoke. A high wind was blowing all day, and with dry brush and leaves on the ground, it spread rapidly and only rain would check its onwardrun.

These fires are a regular spring and fall occurrence, damaging thousands of acres of timber, and have entailed a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past. In some cases these mountain fires are the result of carelessness, while in the majority of cases they are attributed to spiteful and evil disposed persons.

There were fires also in the Tussey mountain section and in the mountains northwest of this place.

From Saturday to Tuesday the county was enveloped in a cloud of smoke, which was penetrated by the sun with a deeply bedimmed face, with far less brightness than the moon.

On the south side of the valley, in the Seven mountain region, the fire spread over the entire Underwood tract to the 'pike and crossing over swept down through Poe valley.

The white oak flat, in the same section, was burned over; it belongs to our neighbor, lumberman Huyett, of whose forests about 500 acres were covered by the fire.

The Tom Decker and John Decker tracts got a baptism of fire. At one time Tom Decker's buildings, the old Foust hotel stand, was surrounded by the fire.

The Adam Smith tract, between the Huyett and the Decker tracts, was burned over.

Mr. Huyett on Sunday had 25 men out fighting the fires. In districts where it was possible to engage men, there was battling against the fires on Sunday, and burning against the approaching flames.

In the Woodward narrows the fire was conquered by hard work of the battling men.

The north side of Nittany mountain was burned over a distance of four to five miles.

The west end of Nittany mountain, took fire at the foot, and spread to the top, extending from near State College east to near McBrides Gap, on the north side.

From the mountains this side of Milroy the fire spread into the Seven mountains up to near Pat Garrity's.

In the Narrows beyond Woodward the forests were on fire but a force of men succeeded in getting it extinguished.

The fire from the Nittany side crossed the mountain and overran Greens valley.

All the mountains around Bellefonte were scorched by fire.

The fire spread over the whole McBrides gap district.

The territory of the Nittany Rod and Gun Club was overrun by the fire up into Greens valley a mile opposite Centre Hall north, and their fine clubhouse near Hecla endangered, and no doubt many of the quail and pheasants with which the preserve was stocked perished or were driven away by the flames.

The Lindenhall lumber company's extensive territory in the mountains south of that village was severely damaged by the fire, and the whole force of about 40 men had several days of hot experience fighting the flames.

The mountains near Pleasant Gap were ablaze to alarm the citizens for the safety of the village and men and women turned out to ward off the danger that threatened the village.

Fortunately thus far the Reporter has learned of no lives being lost or buildings being burned although there were some narrow escapes of both.

The fences around the fields of Pat Garrity west of his buildings have all been burned. The sawmill of John Decker is in constant danger.

The county for nigh two weeks has been clouded with smoke. Only a rain will put out the flames.

The mountains around Snowshoe were overrun by the fire and; burning out have spread to distant districts.

Serious forest fires were raging in the mountains near Clearfield, last week. Many miles of fencing were destroyed.

Egg Hill mountain, the lonely sentinel right in the centre of Penns valley, was on fire, but fire fighters fought it out.

From Paddy mountain east to Tight End, on the south side of the railroad, the mountains are on fire.

In all the counties adjoining Centre mountain fires have been raging. It is singular that these forest fires happen in many counties about the same time, as a general thing.

Mountain fires raged in Schuylkill, Berks, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Wyoming, Columbia, Northumberland, and Pike, counties.

The forest fires in Mifflin county on Sunday were spreading in the mountains rapidly, despite efforts to check them. Along the Shade Mountains they had been slightly checked, but in the Seven Mountains the flames are advancing alarmingly fast, and there were reports that Hassinger's large saw mill and a lumber camp, belonging to Kulp & Thomas, of Milroy, had been destroyed. Three dollars a day was offered for men to fight the fire, with but few takers.

In Clinton county the Glen Union Lumber Company turned its large force of workmen to fighting the flames, which threatened their cut timber. Many men are at work back-firing the long line of fast-approaching flames. Representatives of the State Forestry Commission sent men over lands already purchased, and also over tracts about to be purchased, near Glen Union, to protect them.

Mountain fires are raging in Union county.

### Memorial Day Services.

The Samuel Shannon Post, G. A. R. at a recent meeting, made arrangements for the proper observance of Memorial day. Prof. John D. Meyer will deliver the address of the day at Centre Hall in the evening. For speakers at Georges valley, Farmers Mills, Sprucetown and Spring Mills, the appointments will be made later. The Memorial sermon will be preached at Farmers Mills to the Post, by Rev. G. W. Kerschner. The services at Centre Hall will be held in the evening at the usual hour.

### Jailed Under School Law.

Edward C. Hammer, of Reading, convicted of refusing to send his children to school, in compliance with the compulsory attendance law, was sentenced to a fine of two dollars and costs, amounting to \$51.95. Being unable to pay this he was taken to jail. This, it is declared, is the first imprisonment of this offence in eastern Pennsylvania.

### Sudden Death of an Aged Man.

Joshua D. Mitchell, one of Milesburg's most highly respected citizens, died very suddenly on Sunday afternoon of heart disease. He was aged over 84 years and was postmaster of Milesburg under President Garfield's administration. He leaves a wife and several children.

### A Large Egg.

Miss Martha Wilson, on Church street, can boast of a pullet which quite frequently furnishes her with an egg of an unusual and extraordinary size. She showed us a fair sample of the "fruit" this week. The egg measured four inches in length and six in circumference.

### A Pity to Settle so Soon.

A notable case was argued before the Superior court at Pittsburg this week, involving the division line between the counties of Huntingdon and Mifflin. The question has been in dispute since the formation of Mifflin county, nearly one hundred and twelve years ago.

### Married.

On Sunday evening, April 29, Mr. William Bradford, son of George Bradford, of the Old Fort, and Miss Lizzie J. Rishel, the accomplished daughter of M. L. Rishel, Esq., of Farmers Mills, were united in marriage at the Lutheran parsonage, Centre Hall, by Rev. J. M. Rearick.

On Sunday evening at the Reformed parsonage, Centre Hall, by the Rev. Geo. W. Kerschner, Mr. James Runkle to Miss Regina Royer, both of Tusseyville.

I consider it not only a pleasure but a duty I owe to my neighbors to tell about the wonderful cure effected in my case by the timely use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I was taken very badly with flux and procured a bottle of this remedy. A few doses of it effected a permanent cure. I take pleasure in recommending it to others suffering from that dreadful disease.—J. W. Lynch, Dorr, W. Va. This remedy is sold by J. H. Ross, Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Pottery Mills; H. F. Rossmann, Spring Mills; J. F. Smith, Centre Hall.

### LOCAL ITEMS.

Callings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

### A School Idyl.

Ram it in, cram it in; Children's heads are hollow, Slam it in, jam it in; Still there's more to follow—Hygiene and history, Astronomic mystery, Algebra, histology, Latin, etymology, Botany, geometry, Greek and trigonometry, Ram it in, cram it in; Children's heads are hollow.

Rap it in, tap it in; What are teachers paid for? Bang it in, slam it in; What are children made for? Ancient archaeology, Aryan philology, Prosody, zoology, Physics, clinicology, Calculus and mathematics, Rhetoric and hydrostatics. Hoax it in, coax it in; Children's heads are hollow. —Echoboth S. Herald.

Leaves are out, and blossoms here, All around dame nature's cheer. The fields have living green, God's hand in all is seen.

Nothing but smoke! Pretty: A covy of chicks. Snake stories are getting ripe. Michael Stover, Phillipsburg, was allowed a pension, \$10.

Whew! at times the dust flies along our streets like a through freight. And the fires are still raging—in some mountain districts with a roar like thunder.

About 130 communed in the Lutheran church, Sunday, and 6 new members were added.

Elijah Coldren, one of the oldest men in Snyder county, died in Selinsgrove, aged 94 years.

Elias Motz, an old resident of near Woodward, died of paralysis on Thursday last, leaving a widow.

Examine your label, dear reader, and if it shows not paid up, kindly do the handsome by remitting.

The Centre County Centennial, at Bellefonte, July 25 and 26, 1900, will be equal to the greatness of the county.

Rebersburg's Sunday schools on last Sabbath raised the handsome sum of \$100 for the starving people in India. "That's the way Christ would do it." The Lutheran school contributed \$75.

Geo. W. Adams died at his home in the east end of Brush valley; he was a respected member of the Reformed church.

Every day during the mountain fires charred leaves and flakes of burned material were sailing in air and lodging in town.

Rev. Rarick's appointments, Sunday May 6: At Centre Hall, 7 p. m.; St. Johns, 2 p. m.; Georges valley, communion, 10 a. m.

A well 503 feet in depth, was drilled by Alf. Krape, for Samuel Musser, at Fairbrook, striking a stream of water. Al is now drilling a well for Frank Bowersox, in same locality.

A 250-acre tract of white pine and hemlock primeval forests, in eastern Brush valley, it is reported, has been sold by the Jonathan Walker heirs to D. E. Mishoe of Philadelphia, for \$20,000.

Farmer Glace, a Jeffersonian Democrat above town, filled his big fish-basket with all big trout one day last week from the stream that flows by Oakhall and Lemont. When Glace don't catch any it's because the fish are "not in it."

George Shaffer, a sage of 90 years, is Madisonburg's oldest inhabitant. He lived a useful and upright life, and is a direct descendant of the pioneers of Brush valley and in his boyhood saw and had a taste of early settler's life. The Shaffers have an honored record to look back upon.

A special meeting of West Susquehanna Reformed Classis was held on Friday at Jacksonville, to receive Rev. Harvey Crow, from Westmoreland Classis, and instal him as pastor of the Nittany Valley charges. Rev. T. Derr, pastor of St. Lukes Ref. Church, Lock Haven, preached the sermon.

Sunday afternoon, 22, during the heavy thunder storm, three cows grazing in a field near Beech Creek station were killed by lightning. They had their heads through the wire fence nibbling at the grass on the outside, and the lightning striking the fence ran along the wire and reached them with fatal results.

The Millheim knitting factory that was erected over ten years ago, but never knitted a stitch, has at length been leased to a party that will forthwith proceed to put it in operation. The investment, thus far, has been a loss to the enterprising citizens who put their money into the plant hoping to benefit their town, hence it is to be wished that the factory will at last be a success and a profit.