## HISTORICAL NOTES. By MR. J. D. MURRAY.

Dr. Wilson lived quite a number of years at Eurlytown, where he practiced his profession, and became very much endeared to the people of the plains. His practice extended from Spring Mills to Boalsburg, and from Nittany Mountain to the Seven Mountains. He was married to a Miss Potter, whose relatives lived at Potters Mills. After living at Eurlytown unyounger Potters, James and John, who were the leading spirits of the day, resided. They were the descendents of Gen. William Potter, who figured as a still existed in Pennsylvania; persons had a legal right to own and sell colored people. I have referred to this in the case of Samuel Huston, who traded two slaves, man and wife, and forty bundles of straw for a large tract of land. ands of young trees, and today, (Wed-Mr. Pennington lived in the same and return 200,000 majority in favor of the capital removal to the over-Slavery did not however, exist very long in Pennsylvania after this date; the State officials on the first of March, 1780, passed a law for the gradual abolition of slavery. How long a time it required to entirely eliminate the institution | did when the flames were only a few ance. of slavery from the state by this gradual process we are not prepared to say, but we do know that it was abolished. Many of my readers, I have no doubt, will at first be inclined to think that Gen. Potter made a very poor bargain for himself by taking the two slaves an I forty bundles of straw for so large and five a tract of land, and the way things turned out we are also inclined to who lives at E. M. Huyett's upper seph Parker, Stuart Ripka, John Roy- been since the State was founded. The Indiana capital was placed at think he did, but fortune has many freaks, and it was one of those deceitful stave mill, in Boal's Gap, back of Coler, Wm. Fry, Aifred Rickard, George Indianapolis in early times, because it was the geographical and popula-

Gen. Potter came to this valley shortly after the Revolutionary war, in | The workmen at once set to work to fer. 1773; he and his exploring party came up the West Branch, then up Bald Ea- extinguish the flames, but they soon gle Creek, and crossed over Nittany Mountain, south somewhere, not far above or below where Centre Hall is now located. When he came to the top of the portions that human efforts to extinmountain where he could see across the valley five miles in extent, in the ex- guish them were utterly useless. altation of his heart he exclaimed, "My God, what a be to of land lies there."

At that time all the land he had his eyes on the the govern- flames running down the "First Mounment, to the state of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Potter at once made arrangements tain," and the other down Treaster pentedly set fire to various portions of to have a survey made. Just how much land his warrant contained we are and Sand Mountains and White Oak not prepared to say, but it must have been a good many thousand acres. This Flat. In a little more than an hour's land cost him at government prices \$1.25 per acre, not including the fees, time the raging flames reached the which would not amount to much per acre on so large a tract. He gave Mr. Bellefonte and Lewistown pike, and Huston about five hundred acres of this land for forty bundles of straw and threatened the destruction of every the two negro slaves. In a few years the slaves were set free and he had noth- dwelling and all the improvements in ing; Mr. Huston had his land and improved it, and it is in the hands of his the settlement back of Potters Mills. descendents to this day and is very valuable. Had the slave law not been re- Mr. Huyett had about \$1000 worth of pealed in Pennsylvania in 1780, the good value would likely have fallen on Gen. staves at his mill at that point, and o'clock the house took fire. In the ception of the Senate Congressional apportionment measure, will be Potter's side. We were informed by Virginia slave holders when among them seeing that the flames would envelop absence of the occupants, its taken up in both bodies for final passage. ten years after the rebellion, that man and wife, slaves, if they were healthy, his entire plant, his men were put to contents were also all burned. There and had no bad habits, were worth a thousand dollars each, and their children work in advance of the fire to make was no insurance. often became very valuable to the owner of the parents.

Gen. Potter was a very large land holder; his estate was immense. At ception and defeat. The flames were flight through Decker Valley, below that time there was an old English law in force in the colonies and state, that baffled only after the most desperate the pike. The buildings of Ex-Comwas called the entailment law. By this law all real estate came into the hands struggle. The fire about the mill and missioner John Decker were threatof the eldest son, but for some reason this entailment law regarding the Potter the settlement near by was the most ened, the outbuildings having taken estate, was broken in open court by heirs of the estate and in consequence of vicious ever experienced by those who fire and several of them burned. this they all inherited alike. J. & J. Potter was the name of the firm that did were accustomed to fight mountain John C. Ripka's buildings also narbusiness for many years at what was and is yet called Potters Mills. John and fires. The smoke was so dense at rowly escaped, the barn at one time James Potter were their names; they were men who did nearly all the business times that an object could not be dishaving been on fire. The same is true tinguished at a distance of ten feet and in the case of J. B. Lingle, who after the case of J. in the Potters; it was Potters in whom the farmers believed; they would ignore there was at all times great danger great effort saved his building. Some candidates under the respective offices. To hold that voters can mark their own judgment and yield to a higher if not so correct a judgment. Everythreatening the fire fighters themof the outbuildings on each of the itemized tickets made up on the group system at the primaries but canabove a scant living, was given to Potters; they were a savings bank for every person, but, the bank did not save. They were extravagant in their ways of living and had extravagant ideas; they were men who were very much over- doing their utmost to save the mill flames. The pasture during the forerated by the honest, hard working farmers. Many of the farmers of that day and adjoining properties, and think-part of the summer will amount to part of the summer will amount to in matters of business on their own judgment. Potters seemed to have the Frank Pennington were working like reputation of being fair dealers with their many customers and in that way demons to save the former's dwelling, in the vicinity of Colyer's farm, back

About the year 1830 there was an old farmer came from the eastern part of the state to visit some of his friends in Centre county, who had formerly lived in the east. That old gentleman had been a farmer in the east and was also engaged in other business, and had thereby gained quite a competency. The same of the Potters was not only great at home, it had gone out over the land. This old gentleman being of an inquisitive nature, no doubt began to against E. L. Irvin, which was before morning and the following case was feel like the Queen of Sheba, after hearing so much about King Solomon's the court when the last issue of the called for trial : greatness, she came to the conclusion she would visit the King in order to sat- Reporter went to press, the defendant R. J. Walker vs. Isaac Reese and isfy herself whether all those reports were true, but she found his greatness ex- was found guilty of the fifth count: us- sons and Geo. Merril. Replevin for ceeded anything she had ever heard and she returned to her own country say- ing unknown instruments to produce lot of railroad iron located in and about ing, "the half has never been told." We do not think this is, however, quite an abortion, the death of the woman the Black Diamond mines in Rush a parallel case with the Queen's visit. It differs in some respects; in the first ensuing. Reeder and Quigley, defend- township. In 1898 Reese & Sons place we are not told that this old gentleman did directly visit the Potters, but ant's counsel moved for a new trial, bought the Powelton tract in Rush place we are not told that this old gentleman did directly visit the Potters, but came more like a spy in the Potter's country, believing the information he reasons to be filed within ten days and township. At the time of the purchase Zeigler, editor.

The property of the purchase of t could ferret out by observation and hearsay would be more valuable informa- arguments to be heard at the June ar- Mr. Jackson was the lessor of said tion for him to form his verdict upon than he would be likely to get by a direct audience with Potters themselves, at any rate we do not believe he would held under \$4,000 bail surery approved the mine he attempted to dispose of ed friends from Mifflin county Sunday. say "the half has not been told," but are rather inclined to think he would by the court. say, "there has been too much told." From what he could hear and see and learn by close observation, was, that the Potters were the biggest fish in all court opened at 9.30 Monday morning seized the property and this suit rethe plains, puddles at that time, but before he left for his eastern home he with Hon. John G. Love on the bench. sulted. The plaintiff was represented L.—Carpenters are razing the Boal made known to his friends and relatives, with whom he had been sojourning and enjoying their hospitality for a half fortnight, his emphatic verdict, which to have been tried was that of Rose Hicks, of Tyrone. The defendants ing in Boalsburg.—John Bricker left was this, "these Potters will break up." Of course, this declaration met with Sternberg Lyon, were represented by John M. Dale and for Pittsburg Monday where he securmuch opposition; his friends, who were also Potters friends, tried to show him but on Saturday last satisfactory terms Orvis, Bower & Orvis. All of Wednes- ed their butcher shop. the impossibility of such a calamity; they showed him the amount of the best of settlement were agreed upon and day was occupied by the trial of this land they owned, two or three mills, a store, still house, a large interest in the the case fully settled, hence is not on case, much interest being shown in Lewistown Bank; that they were honorable men to deal with and were hold- the calendar for the week. ing all the custom of this part of the valley as well as from other districts. But the old gentleman was obdurate and went away chanting the same old song, "they will break up," with some variations in it such as, "in less than McCoy and J. Frank McCoy trading "West Precinct" will be the five or ten years."

In some five or six years the sad news was heralded over the country ued on account of the illness of one of Potter township if the report of Comthat the Potters, wi'h the Lewistown bank, had failed. This Lewistown bank the principals. was a bank of issue and the news of its failure caused profound consternation among the people. This happened about the year 1846 or 1847 (we have no tled. correct data.) The most of the money that was in circulation in this county was the Lewistown, some Lancaster Bank money also some Middletown, but continued. principally Lewistown. Many a man who had any money would search his pockets to ascertain whether he had any of the then much despised Lewistown | Way, et al.; settled. money. It was reported at that time that one man when he heard the news of the failure thrust his hands into his pockets only to find that he had no money of any kind.

It was undoubtedly a great misfortune; many of our forefathers lost largely of their hard earned money; some old persons who were living on a meagre income had their deposits there. Old "uncle Sammy Huston" (as he was familiarly called,) lost twelve thousand dollars through Potters, but it Mining Co.; continued. was not so hard on him, he still had enough left. Francis Alexander, father of James Alexander, was more fortunate than some others; he had been a tenant farmer for some time under them and had accumulated money, but left it day morning it was found that the whelmingly Democratic and the in their hands, and we don't know whether it was Mr. Alexander's native caution that prompted him to buy from the Potters quite a large tract of land, still in the hands of his son and daughters, but by doing so he saved his money and the transaction was honest, even though he was prompted to do so by until 2 p. m. In the afternoon a jury the verdict rendered by our old eastern friend, as we have quoted so often.

When the dark clouds of dispondency had partly passed away and the ley Coal Co. vs. Samuel Marsh, et al. Democratic Editorial Association was in Linden Hall and vicinity; she has neld Wednesday of last week at Harsky became more serene, many of the good people expre-sed their opinion that they believed it was a blessing in disguise that the Potters failed and left the country. They were not bad people to live among, but they seemed to have her, et. al., was called on Tuesday Meek: vice presidents, J. Irvin Steele the people should have had in themselves during their reign. It was almost an impossibility for one farmer to borrow a hundred dollars from his neighbor, Potters had all the money the farmers or any other person had to put out at interest; the farmers did not trust each other, there was in their estimation rule to strike off non suit. Court ad-

[Continued on page Mg.]

VICIOUS MOUNTAIN FIRE. . . . . THE PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION in the Legislature, on a Two Homes Entirely Destroyed.

hours old.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

yer. This was at about two o'clock. Klineleller, John Shunk, Ezra Coe- tion center. Aside from this and the case of Massachusetts, State capibegan to spread and grew to such pro- farm and comfortable buildings in

The fire divided, one branch of the every possible preparation for its re-

DWELLING AND STABLE BURNED.

While Mr. Huyett's mill hands were

and destroyed thousands and thous- fully \$1000, besides the furniture, etc. it would be easy for the Republican machine in that city to count up nesday) the fire is going merrily on, house, and in consequence lost all his grown village on the Delaware. performing the same escapades that it property. Neither party had insur-

OTHERS IN DANGER.

ing his home. The flames destroyed the buildings. The flying embers re- question will be taken this week by both houses.

Wednesday morning the dwelling house of Mrs. Mary Long, occupied by John Confer, located along the mountain, back of A. McCoy's was also totally destroyed by the flames. right of way. A large slab pile near by had been

The fire played havoe in its hurried

Wednesday the fire raged furiously

the removal of the State capital by a vote of the people, as provided by A vicious mountain fire raged in the the flames on one or the other build- the constitution, to Philadelphia. This has been agitated in other Seven Mountains Tuesday afternoon, lugs, flames simultaneously struck up years, and never attracted much support. Even the Philadelphians were and resulted in the destruction of the on the house and stable, and the two indifferent and throughout the State the opposition was decided and house and stable of John Harper, near men were unable to baffle them. The overwhelming. It will be the same again. The Philadelphia deltil his family was pretty well grown up, he moved to Potters Mills, where the Potters Mills, set fire to nearly every dwelling house, stable and outbuild- egation, which is opposed to ballot reform and an honest vote, propose dwelling in the settlement at Huyett's ings, furniture and household goods of that the people of the State shall vote directly on the question at the mill along the pike, badly scorched all descriptions were totally destroyed. election next fall or a year later, but the Legislature would be foolish Revolutionary soldier and came to this valley in 1787. At that time slavery Huyett's stave mill, Perry Krise's The improvements were the best along and short-sighted to authorize such a vote. With Philadelphia's wellbuildings, licked up the latter's fences the pike, and the loss to Mr. Harper is known and frequently used resources in the way of fraudulent voting

very flimsy basis, is endeavoring to work up a sentiment in favor of

Should a bill be pressed to remove the capital the Legislature should make short work of it. The capital is too near the malign poli-Among others who were in immitical and legislative influence of Philadelphia as matters stand. No nent danger of losing all their posses- good reason can be assigned for removal, for none exist. In only one The fire originated by a spark from sions were Messrs. Dan. Slutman, at State of the Union is the capital located at the chief commercial city of the chimney of E. Klinefelter's house, the toil gate; Malachi Summers, Jo- a State, and that is the Massachusetts capital at Boston, where it has

Perry Krise, who has a nice little tals wisely seek the seclusion of small cities and towns.

date has been practically agreed upon by the leaders of the many of the fences, which led up to Senate and House. It is expected that some definite action on the

The Legislature has now been in session almost four months and in his home, but each time the flames that time it has passed and sent to Governor Stone eighty-seven bills. Of these seventy-seven have been signed, three vetoed, one recalled and six are under the Governor's consideration. The Senate has practically cleared its calendar and hereafter the bulk of its time will be given up to the consideration of House bills. In the House, Senate bills have the

The various apportionment bills are slumbering on the calendars

THE BALLOT REFORM COMMITTEE of Philadelphia have

sent out a brief address meeting the objection to the Guffey bill that under the grouping system it becomes difficult to vote a straight ticket, and therefore the party column should be retained. The address in part says: "The contention that the voters of the State three named premises were destroyed. not do it at the general election is to utter an absurdity." This meets The pasture lot of E. M. Huyett the criticism so persistently and foolishly urged by the opponents of was almost entirely run over by the ballot reform, who are bent on retaining the party column.

having a gold reserve of \$500,000,000 are simply mistakenthey gained the confidence of the well meaning yeomanry of the plains. There were some, however, who had less opportunity to know about the Potters proved more than they could accomthere is more gold in the treasury to-day than there ever was before, and more than there ever was in any other institution, except the Imperial Bank of Russia which under Russia's extraordinary efforts to accumulate gold held \$590,000,000 three years ago. Compared with the more than \$500,000,000 gold now in the treasury there was only \$96,-000,000 there in the early part of 1897, when President Cleveland was embarrassed by the endless chain.

## SECOND WEEK OF COURT....

In the case of the Commonwealth | Court called at 830 Wednesday

The six cases on the week's list in which A. D. Potts is plaintiff and A. as A. McCoy & Son, were all contin- name of the new voting district in

S. M. Staneliff & Co. vs. Thomas B.

S. M. Stancliff & Co. vs. Huston township; settled. Lehigh Valley Coal Co. vs. Jacob

Falmer, adm'r; continued.

J. B. Ard vs. J. N. Everts; settled, twenty-five. After the list had been called Moncases intended to be tried had been South precinct Democratic majority been quite ill with tonsilitis, is imsettled and consequently there was will be reduced to a very narrow who had been quite ill with fever is him states that he is improving. nothing for trial and court adjourned margin. was called in the case of Lehigh Val-

morning. After the close of the testi- and Jere Zeamer; secretary-treasurer, mony the court ordered a compulsory journed at 1.30 p. m.

the railroad iron which rightfully be-The second week of April term of longed to Reese & Sons. Reese & Sons The most important case that was by Messrs, Reeder & Quigley and Mr. barn,-Miss Sallie McClenahan is visitthe many nice legal questions involved.

The West Precinct.

missioners S. D. Ray, C. W. Patter- Grove Mills, spent Sunday with J. H. W. I. Henry vs. Flora I. Lucas; set- son and George Keller is finally con- Ross and family. firmed by the court.

George Spangler, and W. F. Rockey, land. from which point it runs north on the work on Robert McClellan's barn wall for that point, thence west on the south erect this summer. side of the John Cummings and Bit- Furnace this week attending to the K. Swigart, Jno. Ulrich, Mr. R. J. Wolf, Lock ner farms to the Harris township line. loading of several cars of hay and oats Box 270. Persons calling for above letters please Laura H. Mull, et. al. vs. Coaldale This bit of territory taken from Potter which he is shipping from there. North will reduce its\_vote by about

The West precinct will be over- Tuesday.

State Democratic Editorial Association. risburg, at which the following officers her time to give each one a lesson once were elected; President, P. Grey a week. W. P. Hastings; executive committee, Sipes and W. P. Hastings.

Boalsburg.

mother this week .- Dr. Kidder is reed work .- The Reitz Bros. have open-

Linden Hall.

Wm. Worrel, of Cambria county, expects to move into Fergus Potter's enement house as soon as his goods arrive; he was formerly of this place, but the age of fifty-five years. He had

in the above county. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goss, of Pine

Robert Kinkead vs. Rose L. Pierce; The line beginning at county line were, James Kimport, Mrs. Perry Cole, Perkins, Altoona; Jesse, Erie; Harry runs west of Samuel Slack, east of Miss Freda Hess, and Mrs. F. E. Wie- and Lot, Philadelphia; Cora and

> east side of Dr. Lee's farm, crossing and have begun work on the wall for the North precinct line a little west of the new mill which J. H. Ross will

> > Irvin Burris, formerly of this place, but now of Centre Hall, spent a short time looking up old friends here on

Little Bertha Bradford, who has now able to sit up.
Oscar Goodlander spent Sunday

with his farmily at Pardee.

A gang of gypsies have pitched their to remain several weeks.

to bed with bronchial pneumonia.

Resolutions of Respect.

The normal school organized a literary society with D. L. Mothersbaugh, president; Miss Rebie Jodon, vice president; Charles Fisher, secretary; Irvin Zeigler, editor.

Fred W. Weber and J. Henry Meyer drove to Bellefonte Saturday.—Frank and Janet McFarlane entertained friends from Mifflin county Sunday.—Will Fisher, of Sunbury, visited his Resolutions of Respect.

At a meeting of the S. S. class consisting of Misses Maybell Keiler. Lizzie Snyder, Jennie Thomas, Edith Riter, Estelle Acker, Carrie Spicher, and Mrs. Della Reiber, the following resolutions were drafted:

Since it has pleased Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in His all wise Providence, to remove our friend and classmate. Lizzie Keller, from among us by death, we desire to place on record our sense of her true worth and of the great loss and sfliction the school, and we our sustained, and we accordingly Resolve. That we unanimously join in the ex-

Resolve. That we unanimously join in the expression of our affectionate regard for one who while in our midst led a blameless life, was pure to heart, amiable in disposition and correct in

That we thank God for the Christian examp she set before us, and pray that we may have grace to follow it, and that we may reach the same happy reach the same happy rest which we believe she has now entered. And institler, that we extend to the betreaved family our most sincere condolence and invoke upon them and us the consolation of Divine grace.

John McClenahan Dead.

John McClenahan, of Potters Mills, died Wednesday night at 11 o'clock at or the last two years has been living been ill all winter from consumption. Funeral will take place Saturday morning; interment at Milroy.

The deceased leaves a widow and Among the visitors to the county five children, namely: Mrs. Mollie Sallie at home.

> Unclaimed Letters. The following letters remain at the Centre Hall postoffice unclaimed: Mrs. Katie C. Brhm.

state they are advertised. G. M. BOAL, P. M.

Dr. Alexander is being treated at the German Hospital, Philadelphia, by Dr. Deamer. The last news from

The bill appropriating \$1,000,000 to the public schools to make up the cut made by the Governor two years ago, passed finally Wednesday.

Secretary Long has appointed a board of naval officers, headed by Captent in Curtin's woods, south of town. tain Converse, to consider the desirability of having the torpedo boats rendezvoused at some central point, J. W. Wolf, of Ardmore, is confined where they may be taken out of water during periods of inactivity.