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The Globe

WILLIAM LEWIS,

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Editor and Proprietor.

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HUNTINGDON, PA., SEPTEMBER 1, 1858.

NO. 10.

Report of the Poor House Visiting Committee.

To the Honorable, the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Huntingdon county.

The undersigned Board of Visitors, appointed upon the petition of the Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment of the county of Huntingdon, by your honorable Court...

As soon as possible, after notice of their appointment, the Board fixed upon and named Monday, the 21st of June last, as the day of meeting; and immediately gave to all the newspapers in the county a notice to that effect...

Several charges of misconduct were especially referred to by some of the tax-payers in attendance. Without any powers to compel the attendance of witnesses...

It was insisted that the Visitors should report whether any supplemental law had altered the pay of the Directors. By act of Assembly of 1851, page 29, the pay of the Directors is fixed at two dollars per day...

An important department in the political economy of our county, involving the annual expenditure of a large sum of the accumulated taxes of the county, and demanding in its administration the industry and experience of the successful farmer...

Your Visitors cannot leave this part of the subject without a strong expression of their opinion, that it is necessary to adopt some more efficient and more transparent system of accounts, in order that the tax-payers may know, at any time, what has been the disposition of their bounty.

all the several vouchers for those small sums. Where, also, one voucher contains two or more items, which appear in separate parts of the account, a special reference should be made to that voucher and item, applicable to each charge.

Such important improvements should have been so long neglected, when there was so great necessity for them. The Visitors were desired to inquire into the sum of the extra allowances paid to the contractor, who built the house, including the attic story and the cistern...

There is no question in the minds of your Visitors that the salary was, at the commencement, fixed too high. The establishment of a bad precedent did not warrant its continuance, and the salary was properly reduced in 1858...

A charge of more substantial importance than any and all others, was contained in the allegation that the annual expense of maintaining each pauper, in our county, was more than twice as much as it was in some other counties, and much larger than in any other.

What are the facts, in relation to a comparison between the expense in this and other counties, was not readily ascertained. A simple calculation of the costs for any one year, of another county, would be an unfair criterion from which to judge, unless the Visitors were familiar with the early history of the County Poor House...

Complaints were made that a case of surgical instruments had been purchased for the use of the House. This was admitted, and justified on the ground of necessity. The expense was not great, and while it is probable, that many years may pass over before it, or perhaps any, of these instruments are required, still your Visitors are satisfied that the purchase was not an imprudent one.

The attention of the Board was also called to bills for groceries &c., alleging that ale, raisins, and nutmegs, had been purchased for the House, and that they were such luxuries as ought not to be purchased. Two ten gallon kegs of ale, and half-box of raisins, and one pound of nutmegs, were admitted by the Steward to have been purchased...

An allegation was also made that some of the Directors, and others, had received groceries from the Steward of the Poor House, the groceries having been purchased with the supply for the House. The basis for this charge was in the following facts: On one occasion the Hon. John Brewster requested the Steward to send for and purchase, in Philadelphia, when the groceries for the House were purchased, a box of candles for his use.

A definite charge was made that the Board of Directors of 1857, had employed as the attending Physician, Dr. Baird at a salary of \$200 per annum, at the same time when Dr. McKinnon had proposed to perform all the duties for \$100. This charge was not denied by the Board of Directors, averring that they were governed by no improper motives, but acted with their best judgment.

It was alleged that the Directors, or the Steward, had received articles of value from paupers or their estates, and that the same had never been accounted for. In one case a land warrant had been obtained from William Bell; the published account shows that the money received from its sale was accounted for.

It was alleged that the Directors had sold articles to the Poor House, while they were Directors, in violation of the 5th section of the act of 1850.

The accounts, as published, and the vouchers, as well as the admission of such of the Directors as were present, who had done so, established the truth of this charge. Several of the Directors had done so, in ignorance of the provision in the law, as it was alleged. The provision in the law is eminently proper.

When a Director is both buyer and seller, the latter will have no one to dispute his price; and sales, on any terms, could be effected. The law is plain and imperative. The Directors should have known what was the law of their being; and obedience to its provisions would have avoided cause of suspicion and reproach.

It was alleged that a pair of oxen, the property of the county, had been let to hire, and subsequently sold to John Hicks, and that the amount thereof, by said Hicks, had never been collected, and was now a loss to the county. This appeared to be true, in the main. John Hicks had obtained the use, and ultimately the title, to a pair of oxen which were the property of the county; at the time, or subsequently, the said Hicks contracted to lay the pipes, to bring the water from the large spring, to the Poor House.

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secured too high at the time of the purchase. It should be borne in mind, that a large growing crop was also included in the purchase, which largely enhanced its then value, and \$500 was the added consideration for the growing crop.

Your Visitors have thus disposed of the subjects of inquiry in relation to the maladministration of the Poor House affairs. They cannot, however, close their labors, without offering some suggestions for the consideration of all interested.

The House, as it now stands, is exposed to the burning sun during the entire day. It should be protected by shade, or large fruit trees. These would add much to the appearance of the grounds, and to the comfort of the inmates.

The Office of the Board of Directors should be furnished with a letter copying-press. A large correspondence is continually kept up, involving, at times, important pecuniary interests of the Poor House, and, consequently, of the tax-payers of the county. A copy of every letter of this kind, in fact, of every business letter, should be preserved, so that, at any future time, its contents could be exhibited and proved, if necessary.

Every business man knows how very important the contents of letters frequently become, when any subject of difference or difficulty arises between the parties to the correspondence. The business of the people demands strict care and accountability in their agents.

Some important alterations should be made in the interior structure of the House. Now, the insane or troublesome inmates, are kept in the cells or rooms of the basement story; this should not be so. It is difficult to imagine why the whole basement story was cut up into little cells, of little or no use whatever, when, at the same time, no room was made for a dining or eating room.

Your Visitors also examined the several rooms of the paupers, and were pleased to find them cleanly, and exhibiting care and attention by those entrusted with them; and, although your Visitors desired the inmates to speak frankly, no apparent cause of complaint was made.

In conclusion, your Visitors cannot neglect this opportunity to say to the tax-payers of the county that, to them is annually entrusted the duty of selecting from among their number, one to take charge of their interest at the Poor House, and the Visitors have endeavored to show, by this report, how very important it is, that the choice should fall upon an active, shrewd, honest and intelligent citizen, whose business associations have been such as to fit him in some measure, to manage such a complicated and peculiar household as is found in the Poor House.

All of which is respectfully submitted. THOMAS FISHER, JOHN S. ISETT, JOHN PORTER, WILLIAM DORRIS, JR., A. W. BENEDICT.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY, ss. At a Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Huntingdon, in and for the county of Huntingdon, on the 24th day of April, A. D. 1858, before the Hon. GEORGE TAYLOR, Esq., President, and BENJAMIN F. PATTON and JOHN BREWSTER, Esqs., his Associates, Judges of the said Court. The petition of the Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment, of the county of Huntingdon, by their attorney was read, praying the Court to appoint so many, and such Visitors, as to them may seem best, to examine the books, accounts, and all other matters and things of, in, and relating to the said Poor House, and the management of the same, by the Directors and Steward, of the same, from the organization or incorporation thereof, until this time, and to make report of such examination to the said Court and to the public. Whereupon it was considered by the Court, and ordered that Thomas Fisher, John S. Isett, John Porter, Wm. Dorris, Jr., and A. W. Benedict, Esq., be and they are hereby appointed Visitors, under the provisions of 5th sec. of the act of 6th of May, 1850. BY THE COURT. From the Record, 21st June, 1858. Certified by D. CALDWELL, Clerk.

Honesty. A spice merchant of Constantinople, carrying a piece of fine cloth to a tailor, desired to have a cloak and tunic made of it, and inquired if there was enough. The artist having measured the stuff, declared it sufficient, and then requested to know the cost of it. "Five sequins," replied the customer; "was the price; and, considering the quality, that is not at all dear." The tailor paused a moment. "I am but a beginner in the trade," said he to the spice dealer, at length, "and money is an object to me. Give me two sequins, and I will show you how you may save three in this affair." "I agree," said the other, and the money was produced and paid. "It is well!" said the man of the needle—"I am a person of my word. This cloth has cost five sequins, and I have promised to save you three. Take it some other tailor, and Allah direct you to one of more experience—for I have never made such a dress as you want, and if I attempt it, it will be spoiled." This reminds us of an anecdote related of Sheridan, who went to a hair-dresser's to order a wig. On being measured, the barber, who was a liberal soul, invited the orator to take some refreshments in an inner room. Here he showed him so much genuine hospitality that Sheridan's heart was touched. "When they rose from the table, and were about separating, the latter looking the barber full in the face, said, 'On reflection, I don't intend that you shall make my wig.'—'Astonished, and with a blank visage, the other exclaimed, 'Good Heaven! Mr. Sheridan, how can I have displeased you?'—'Why, look you,' said Sheridan, 'you are an honest fellow; and I repeat it, you shall make the wig; for I never intended to pay for it. I'll go to another less worthy son of the craft.'"

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D. P. GWIN has just returned from Philadelphia with the largest and most beautiful assortment of SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS...

D. P. GWIN.

NEW STORE! NEW GOODS!

FISHER & McMURTRIE having reopened the Mercantile, formerly known as "Sutton's," take pleasure in announcing to their many friends, that they have received a new and well selected stock of GOODS...

D. P. GWIN.

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TRY THE NEW STORE, On Hill Street opposite Miles & Dorris' Office. THE BEST SUGAR AND MOLASSES, FLOUR, FISH, SALT AND VINEGAR, CONFECTIONERIES, CIGARS AND TOBACCO, SPICES OF THE WEST AND ALL KINDS, and every other article usually found in a Grocery Store.

HUNTINGDON HOTEL.

The subscriber respectfully announces to his friends and the public generally, that he has leased that old and well established HOUSE, known as the HUNTINGDON HOUSE, on the corner of Hill and Charles Street, in the Borough of Huntingdon...

ATTENTION ALL!

A SLEND STOK OF BOOTS AND SHOES, FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND CHILDREN. For Men and Boys' Fine Boots, call at WESTBROOK'S Boot and Shoe Store. For Ladies and Misses Gaiters and Shoes, call at WESTBROOK'S. For Children's Shoes of all kinds, call at WESTBROOK'S. For Men and Boys' Coarse Boots and Shoes, call at WESTBROOK'S.

ALEXANDRIA FOUNDRY!

The Alexandria Foundry has been bought by R. C. MCGILL, and is in blast, and has all kinds of Castings, Stoves, Moulds, chimes, Pumps, Kettles, &c., which he will sell at the lowest prices. All kinds of Country Produce and old Metal taken in exchange for Castings, at market prices.

COUNTRY DEALERS can buy CLOTHING from me in Huntingdon at WHOLESALE as cheap as they can in the city, so I have a wholesale store in Philadelphia.

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ALL KINDS, warranted good, for sale at BROWN'S Hardware Store, Huntingdon, Pa.

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A Large Stock! Just received, and for sale at BRICKER'S MAMMOTH STORE.

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