

The Potter Journal  
AND  
NEWS ITEM.  
COUDERSPORT, PA., Feb. 7, 1873.

OPPORTUNITY.

"In the glare and bustle of day how could we sleep? In the gloom of darkness how could we labor?"

—OLD ENGLISH READER.

Rushing onward in the busy world—hurried lest we be left behind in the general hurry, watching eagerly for the good to do that slips by us all unseen when it comes—we cry out that there is not time enough for the work of the day or the rest of the night. We meet each other and ask, "Do you find time to read, to think? for social intercourse, for searching out the wants of others and finding the right help for the needy? Can we take the necessary time and thought for any one thing without falling sadly behind in all others?" Yes, we all ask and no one seems to know the answer.

A year ago some paper published an article, saying to women that all the difficulty in accomplishing their various tasks—housekeeping, sewing, bringing up children, etc., and having time for mental cultivation, window-gardening, correspondence, etc., lay in want of proper order and system in the arrangement of their occupations.

The promise held out (the picture of ease and culture, with nothing neglected) was so charming that I went zealously to work to find some one who could show how to accomplish it; some one whose order and system had reached such beautiful fruition. So far the search has been vain, although certainly there are approaches to it.

We look back at our grandparents, and those who preceded them, and fancy they must have had some secret of adapting means to ends that has become one of the lost arts. But in looking backward through the ages we come at last to the Mary that sat down quietly to the enjoyment of the "better part," and who consequently left her sister "cumbered with much serving." What we need, what a great part of this American nation needs, now, is to know how to find and use the precious opportunities of gaining that better part without cumbering each other.

Not to evade but to do all the duties of life, from the lowest to the highest, is the great problem.

There are numberless little glimpses of light and knowledge, of beauty and delight, that we may and do seize upon in our way—glimpses that like sands of gold indicate mines of wealth could we but stop to explore them, and the question will force itself—"Ought we to go by and leave all this? Must all the knowledge and good we get be grains and snatterings?" And yet is our labor and our companionship needed elsewhere.

In thinking and dreaming over all these things and trying to find the right way one thing seems manifest, that the more profound life is not attainable in the present age of accelerated velocity; that we must be content with what fragments of golden opportunity we can seize. And this being an age of more abundant opportunities than any before it, trust the wealth of the times to atone, in part, for our poverty of time.

The Buffalo people have prepared with great zeal and vigor for their annual Old Settlers' Celebration. It seems to be very comprehensive, extending through four days and comprising a tea party of real old settlers, (such, probably, as remember when Buffalo was spelled with an "e,") a children's ball—for old settlers all have children, who will be old settlers by-and-by; a grand ball, concerts, dinners and various other entertainments. This annual festival brings very pleasant thoughts to many others beside citizens of Buffalo; in places where the whole population of the country has grown up within the memory of the present generation. There is a great charm in the talk of the "oldest inhabitant," and an old settlers' gathering would be an interesting and popular thing even here.

There is something interesting, too, in having this anniversary peculiar to Buffalo. Local customs, local habits and ideas have the charm of individuality and, in time, will come to be a sort of heirloom to that city as New Years' calls were in New York until within a few years. Within the memory of all old settlers they have been transplanted to many other places. But the feeling still remains that for genuine old-fashioned "New Years' calls" one must look in New York.

We wish great success and pleasure to the Buffalo festivals, and hope they may be continued until Buffalo itself is old and grey.

CONSTITUTION HALL,  
Philadelphia, Jan. 29, 1873.

DEAR JOURNAL: After a long debate the Convention has adopted, in committee of the whole, an amendment providing biennial elections. The following is the text of the section as adopted:

An election for members of the General Assembly shall be held on the day fixed for the general election next succeeding the adoption of the Constitution, and at the general election held every two years thereafter. Their term of office shall begin on the first day of December next succeeding their election.

The discussion on this section took a very wide range. The chief argument made in favor of biennial elections of members of the Legislature was that the Legislature was so corrupt that the people desire to have as little of it as possible. The changes were rung on this subject until it became offensive.

Mr. Mann obtained the floor and opposed the section as proposed and condemned the manner of advocating it.

I copy the following from the report of the proceedings in the Evening Telegraph, because I have no time to do justice to the subject, and his constituents have a right to know the position occupied by him.

Mr. Mann (Potter) having the floor, deprecated the efforts that had been made on this floor to belittle the Legislature of our State. He had been a member of that body in 1871, and despite what had been said, he had felt it to be an honor to occupy that office. He thought there should be no needless antagonism created by this Convention to the Legislature, as no good and much harm might come of it. He thought this Convention might do its work properly without disparaging another body that had been created like it was and was fully its equal.

As to the pending amendment, he objected to it for the reason that it proposed a revolution in the machinery of the government of the State, which the people did not want nor ask for. The main arguments that are thus far advanced in favor of the change were to the effect that other states had adopted it. That was no substantial reason to his mind. He did not want this State to imitate others, because he believed it was capable of adopting a system of its own. He wanted no changes unless we were tolerably certain that they would work better, and he did not believe the system proposed would.

Mr. Mann argued in favor of annual sessions. He cited an instance to show the fallacy of biennial sessions. A U. S. Senator would have to be elected two years perhaps in advance of the commencement of his term, and might when he took his position not represent the sentiment of the people.

The Convention in committee of the whole has just adopted a section providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature.

I do not know how this will suit your readers, but to me it seems the reverse of reform—as does nearly all the work of the Convention up to this time. The exception is providing for holding the general election on the same day with the Presidential. That I hold to be an improvement.

The decision to hold the township elections on the same day throughout the State it seems to me is a mistake. Because it unnecessarily interferes with the comfort and convenience of the people. What harm comes of allowing the people of each county to elect their township officers on such day as is most convenient. Such has heretofore been the practice since the organization of the State.

The Democrats were solid for the change, because as the law now stands the municipal elections in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and some other cities are held on the same day of the general election, and they don't stand as good a chance to carry them as if the municipal elections were held on a different day, for the reason that the Democrats can be brought to the polls on any day more readily than Republicans. These last attend the general election more generally than the township; so that if both are on the same day the Republicans are more likely to elect the municipal officers than if these are elected on a different. Hence the Democrats were solid for inserting in the Constitution a clause fixing the third Tuesday in February as the days for holding the township elections.

I think the Republicans who voted for this arbitrary rule as to municipal elections committed a great blunder, which most of them will acknowledge before the Constitution is adopted by the people.

The true rule on this, as on every other purely local measure is to allow the people of each city and county to manage their own affairs as a majority of the people shall decide in their convenience and prosperity.

INDICATIONS are that the wishes of the people with regard to the new

county will be carried out. A reliable witness testifies that there is a petition for it in Ullyses signed by—  
THREE names.

Is investigating the circumstances under which the last will of Mr. Greeley was made, some very sensible remarks of his were brought out. Mr. Alvin Johnson testified that (Mr. G.) "did not want to read the papers \* \* he would take up the Tribune and throw it down in disgust, and say that it was ruined." "The paper is nothing but a fraud—there are no brains about it \* \* There's no brains in the Tribune—it is bankrupt and played out."

Not so very insane.

CENTENNIAL.

The necessity for immediate action on the part of our people to insure the success of the Centennial exhibition must be realized by every thinking man. Its failure will be our lasting shame—its success must redound to the honor and permanent benefit of the Commonwealth. Located in our metropolis, which is fast moving to the front of the manufacturing cities of the world, affording an opportunity to display the resources of our State and opening to foreigners new channels of information as to our character and enterprises, it certainly is the imperative duty of every citizen who loves his State to lend his countenance and support to this great exhibition. The dignity and good name of the Commonwealth are at stake. Let us not forfeit these by a lack of public spirit or by mistaken economy. Any proper plan the Legislature may see fit to adopt to aid this National undertaking shall receive the hearty concurrence of the Executive.

We hope Potter county will do its share toward the Centennial celebration. Let us show according to our means our joy and gratitude that Independence was declared, and from our State—from our chief city—and that we have been a living nation for one hundred years.

Folking Fun at America.

HAVANA, Jan. 25, via Key West.—The *Voz de Cuba* editorially says: "The defeat of the United States by the Modoc Indians is certainly a fact that does not honor the arms of the grand Republic. This war of extermination has been sustained more years between civilized Americans and Indians than our own war against those who wish to drive us from our country. This Indian war wounds humanity in its noblest sentiment, and is a real scandal to this century of humanitarian sensitiveness. Being so close to the frontiers of his Catholic Majesty, he ought, in his next speech to the Cortes, indicate to Mr. Grant how much the Spanish people is affected by the proceeding of the government against the poor Indians, and should tell the whole world that this fight is against a race who are the possessors of land when from they are to be exterminated. The long might also indicate to Mr. Grant the means he ought to employ to exterminate, instead of to exterminate the Indians, giving Mr. Grant's government as a guide the policy pursued by Spain against Indians when conquering them in America. The *Voz* also advises the principal European journals to send correspondents to find out the real state of what is passing in the Indian territory where has occurred a defeat so dishonorable to American arms."

If this is "Folking Fun at America," it is plainly "twitting on facts," but we do not see why it should apply to President Grant in particular, he having made some efforts to "civilize" instead of exterminating the Indians," and with fair measure of success, in so short a time; though this Modoc war seems to be an unchanged remnant of the old system. It is good cause not only to the *Voz de Cuba*, but for every other person and people to reproach it. Recent revelations show that it was not originally caused by speculators who wish to get money out of the United States, it is helped along and continued by them, as most of our Indian troubles have been. The following is from a letter to the *Missouri Democrat*:

MONEY THE CAUSE OF THE WAR.—Money is the cry here. If the United States Government want any thing done in Jackson County it must pay for it. This is why we got up our Indian war, and that is why we propose to keep it up until the last penny is killed.

The same letter states that the Modoc chief drills his soldiers every day under direction of renegade white men in his camp. So it seems that the war is a game by which renegade whites on both sides use the government and the Indians for their own benefit.

Governor Herbrandt, in his Inaugural address, speaks thus of the School System, and the Soldier's Orphans:

"It will be my pleasure, as it is my duty, to have a watchful care over the school system of our State. No part of our governmental policy should command the employment of more wisdom than that which is to promote the instruction of our youth. It is a source of pride and satisfaction that our people contribute so freely to an object so worthy as our schools, and the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools must convince every reader of the happy results accruing from the judicious management of our educational system. But while the doors of our schools are opened wide to every one, it is sad to think that there are 75,000 children in the State, who do not, whether prevented by the necessities of their parents, or otherwise, attend and receive the blessed privileges of these schools. This is a matter of grave import, and exacts of

us all, people and Legislature alike, earnest and thoughtful consideration.

In this connection, let me say a word in regard to a subject that has often engaged my thoughts, and to which I invoke the attention of our law makers. No part of our system of education has secured so universal commendation as that which is embraced in the circle of instruction of those who were made orphans by the casualties of war. The helpless condition of these little ones touchingly appealed to the hearts of our people, and the response was the establishment of the orphans' schools that are now the pride of our State. But in rescuing these children from destitution, and providing for their education until they have attained the age of sixteen years, have we filled the measure or our duty to them?

Thrown out into the world to do battle with life's trials at an age peculiarly dangerous to youth, does not common humanity require that the State should maintain its guardianship of these children until their habits are somewhat settled, and they have acquired the ability to earn their own livelihood? The establishment of industrial schools, wherein useful trades may be taught, seems to promise the easiest and best solution of this problem.

THE House of Representatives, at Harrisburg has done a grand, good work. On the 29th January, Mr. Myer offered the following:

Resolved, That no spirituous, vinous or malt liquors shall be kept or drunk in the hall of the House or in any of the rooms connected therewith, and that it be made the duty of the sergeant-at-arms and his assistants to see that the provisions of the above resolution be strictly enforced.

Mr. MYER.—Mr. Speaker, this resolution was handed me this morning and I offer it not only as a matter of courtesy, but because the practice of smuggling into the cloak room, and other places about this hall, refreshments of the kind referred to, is to my mind disreputable. I therefore heartily endorse this resolution, and trust it may have the effect to discontinue a practice which is so discreditable to this legislative body, and I am satisfied that it is only necessary to call the attention of this House to the subject alluded to, to have the practice unanimously disapproved. Besides, sir, there are a sufficient number of members and others can obtain such stimulants, if they are needed, without discrediting this body by their introduction here. No man can be blind to the fact of the great and favorable change in public sentiment as to the general use of stimulating drinks, and that alone should be a sufficient check to their use in public assemblies like this. And certainly this body of legislation, to whom is entrusted the most sacred and responsible duties which can be imposed by the people of this Commonwealth, ought at least to be able and willing to set examples, while in the discharge of their duties, which should receive the approbation of those for whom they are here acting. I trust, therefore, that this House will so far respect its own character and dignity as to pass this resolution unhesitatingly.

Mr. MAHON.—I have no objection to gentlemen enjoying themselves here or otherwise. But I desire to narrate a fact that transpired in the other evening in the cloak room. Spirituous liquor was there and it came into the possession of some of the pages, who used it indiscriminately, not only dealing it out to the members, but tampering with it themselves. Now, as I said before, I do not object to gentlemen enjoying themselves, and I am also in favor of all times of placing this temptation beyond the reach of boys, and especially of those who are employed here.

I know young lads of this House acting in the capacity of pages who have had this temptation placed before them, and I believe that there is not one gentleman on this floor, whether he be a drinker or a teetotaler, but who would do all he could to take such a temptation away from them. I do not want to make any extended remarks, and I urge the prompt passage of this resolution.

Mr. WOLFE.—I heartily agree with the remarks of the gentleman who has just taken his seat [Mr. Mahon]. It seems to me in addition to that, that the hall in which the Representatives of the people assemble for the purpose of making the laws to govern these people, the place in which these Representatives have and will have to enact laws for the prevention of vice and immorality, is certainly the place where a proper example should be shown to these lads and the people generally, who may congregate in it. No one would think of desecrating the house of God by the use of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors; no one would think of going into a court of justice and using them there. It seems to me that a proper respect for the place should induce us to pass such a resolution as this. It is certainly an eminently proper one, and it is certainly, on the other hand, improper for any one to indulge their appetites in a place like this. I think the people of the Commonwealth, without regarding what may be their habits, without regarding what may be their professions, whether they be or whether they be not addicted to the use of strong drink—every man who has not lost his reason or his sense of propriety—would certainly say that every member of this House should at least restrain his appetite and not indulge in the use of strong drink in this place.

Now, my friends, will not these young lads whom I have seen going about this

hall smoking segars and using profane language, and whom I and others have seen in the cloak room handling the bottle, have, as indeed many of the people of the State will have and have a right to have, a very low opinion of the men who help to make laws? I call upon all the members here, not only with regard to the influence it will have upon the pages, but also for the purpose of preserving a proper decency in the hall of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, even if they are addicted to the use of drink, and I hope they will so far regard the place and the proprieties of the place as to vote for this resolution, and do it promptly.

The resolution passed with only three dissenting votes, after which Mr. Lawshe offered the following, which was twice read:

Resolved, That the sergeant-at-arms be requested to remove from the cloak room all the bottles except those that contain ink.

Which resolution also passed, only eight voting against it.

Mr. Myer is from Bradford County; Mr. Mahon from Franklin; Mr. Lawshe from Clearfield, while Mr. Wolfe represents Snyder and Union.

NOTICES.

The *Album* for February is received containing many fine pictures and much good reading matter.

*Harper's Magazine* is always welcome, and the good old story of Old Kensington by Miss Thackeray is continued. "One Quiet Episode" is very natural.

Among the book notices is one of a little volume "How and where to find those who are engaged in practical mineralogy in many of its branches." It gives a series of very simple tests for determining the character of stones which in appearance resemble gold, silver, diamonds, etc. The scientific department is valuable. This is getting to be one of the most interesting features of magazine literature.

The *Galaxy* is very fortunate in this particular. Its scientific intelligence being generally more within the comprehension of unscientific persons, and so, much more interesting to a larger class of readers than most other magazines.

The *Ladies' Friend*, is also received. It has fashions, fancy work, household recipes, etc., beside the literary matter.

*Harper's Bazar* and *Harper's Weekly* are always readable and interesting, especially the editorials and personals, and the always suggestive "Manners upon the Road." We should think there was hardly any body who does not find some hint in these articles whereby he may amend his own manners. "Middlemarch" by Mrs. Lewes, is continued in the *Weekly* and *London's Heart*, in the *Bazar*. We wish the continued stories were all of as good a kind. The fashions and patterns and particularly much of the fancy work seem little adapted to this locality or to working people anywhere, yet even among these there are often useful suggestions that even plain people can avail themselves of.

*Bretzner's Musical World*, for January, Cleveland, Ohio, has considerable reading matter and some fine music though nothing very different, of this a song—Maggie Darling—is worthy of note.

There is a good deal of musical information, and many advertisements that music loving people will be interested in.

The *Independent* comes to us in so novel a guise that we have hard work to recognize our old friend. Probably it is improved but we cannot see it so.

Some papers could be improved by almost any change but the *Independent* always came with such a clean wholesome, inviting look that we are sorry to see its old face no more. A friend says she had always associated its ample size with its broad and liberal views, so that now it seems as though the latter were to be narrowed and put into a cover.

Pen and Scissors.

It is a significant fact that ninety-nine out of every one hundred mechanics in the large cities of the United States are foreigners, whose earnings now average from four to five dollars per day, while any quantity of "gentlemanly" young American men, the product of "business" colleges and high schools, can be got to keep books or do any kind of "genteel" writing from six to ten dollars per week.

ENGLISH women have excellent educational opportunities on the whole, and they improve them. The regular winter course of Lectures in London for the instruction of women in science and art was recently opened. The course consists of three series. First comes Prof. Duncan on "Cosmogony and the World as a Planet;" then Prof. Carey Foster on "Physics;" and lastly, Prof. Rutherford on "Physiology." A large number of ladies attend these lectures.

A VERY pleasant remedy for emotional insanity is proposed by Henry L. Clinton, in the *New York Times*. After writing at length concerning the uncertainty of conviction of murderers under the present laws, he suggests that the law should be amended so that a

"homicide committed without deliberation and premeditation, although with intent to kill formed on the instant, would be murder in the second degree," the punishment to imprisonment for life. This is certainly worthy of attention, and his proposition to confine in a lunatic asylum for twenty years the persons acquitted on the plea of insanity seems the surest check to such persons as are tempted to give way to the insane desire to take life. He says: "If a person is so insane as to take human life he should be confined for a sufficiently long time to protect the community against any return of such violence."

THE Presidential electors of New Hampshire, at their meeting last fall, were astonished to find that not one of their number was a user of tobacco in any form. Ex-Gov. Hale, the oldest member, had never even been "treated" to a glass of liquor.

A MACHINE is now in operation in Philadelphia which turns out 3,000 complete paper match-boxes per hour.

A LOUISVILLE editor alludes to himself as an "unfailing reservoir." He probably has water on the brain.

CALIFORNIA has raised wheat enough to furnish the flour to put a griddle cake ten rods wide around the earth in forty minutes, if any spry cook could be found to boss the job.

THE *New York Star* says it is a severe tax on a fat judge to look grave.

THE *Boston Investigator* thinks that if Adam is accountable for "consequential damages" he will have a rough time of it.

THE *Duluth Herald* says that there is no longer a doubt that a blast furnace will be put in operation in Duluth next summer. Some of its rivals are already beginning to call Duluth a "blasted" city.

THE success hitherto achieved in almost circling the world with telegraph wires has resulted in establishing telegraphic communication from Australia to California, a length of wire of no less than 20,000 miles, enabling messages to be sent between those places in four hours and a half.

Prof. Tyndall sails for England Wednesday next. Prof. Arossiz will preside at the dinner to be given by Prof. Tyndall Tuesday evening.

EDUCATION is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army. If we retrench the wages of the school-master, we must raise those of the recruiting sergeant.

REPROVE thy friend privately! commend him publicly.

FRANCE presents a strange spectacle at present. Regarded as the most loose in morals of all nations, and accepting no rule which presumed to restrain their enjoyment of all pleasures, we yet see the French Chamber sternly enacting the most stringent laws against drunkenness, and restricting the free use of intoxicating liquors. We refer to this fact as an evidence of the great moral revolution which is about to sweep over the world to do away with the traffic in liquor.

By a vote cast in Bradford county, Pa., last Friday, it was decided by a majority of between three and four thousand, that no licenses would be given in that county for the next three years.

IN THE Assembly yesterday a resolution was adopted by a large vote providing that no intoxicating liquors shall be kept or drunk in the House. Afterwards, thinking this provision insufficient to effect the object desired, a Mr. Lawhe presented a resolution, which was also passed, that all bottles except those containing ink should be removed from the cloak-room. If, after this, the Capitol does not become a temple of temperance, there is no virtue in legislative enactments.

AVOID governing too much.

COLORADO has doubled in population and wealth since 1870.

A NEW TRIBE.—A California paper describes the discovery of three villages of Zuni Indians, supposed to be the survivors of the ancient Aztecs. They dwell on the great trail from Fort Mojave on the Colorado, to Albuquerque, on the Rio Grande, and are about a day's journey from the diamond field. They number about six thousand, and are very different from other tribes, being in looks, bearing and pride of dress a manifestly superior race. The women are comely and modest in dress, their houses are clean and their cooking good. Certain kinds of cloth are made by them. These people have fields of corn, wheat and vegetables, flocks of sheep and goats, and they keep all the domestic animals. They are friendly to the whites; never fight aggressively, but are stubborn in defense. Their houses are of stone; three stories high, and are built in terrace form. They worship the Great Spirit, and believe He dwells in the sun.

If Mrs. Wharton's jury had brought in a verdict of guilty we should have made a note of it as a curious phenomenon in the history of modern juries. As they have disagreed in the most conventional manner, however, there is nothing to be said, unless it is that juries generally are getting to be a disagreeable "lot." The trial by jury, as a palladium of liberty, is not so much of a success as it used to be. Yet the Hon. Win. M. Tweed is said to have remark-

ed, recently, that it was sacrilege to even suggest any change in that glorious institution handed down to us by our fathers. But great men are so eccentric.

A NUMBER of "buffalo hunters" have frozen to death on the plains. That is called "sport" out West.

A MAN who went to Idaho because he thought the climate proof against ague has had the idea shaken out of him.

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AND

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