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Clearfield Republican.

A WEEKLY PAPER: DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, AND FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INTELLIG ENCE.

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For the Clearfield Republican.

WORK FOR THE KNOCKERS.

Is it not strange, that almost every doctrine, no difference how absurd and full of sophistry it may be, always finds votaries, and those who are willing to sacrifice almost every interest in its support? We see this position established beyond dispute in the attachment the Mehometans and Pagans have to their false religions. But why need we go to those nations who have no gospel light, and who are sunken deep into idolatry and superstition for proof that men are more zealous in the propagation of false opinions, than they are in right ones? We have examples nearer home, with shame it must be confessed, which are worse in their nature than those found in the dark and benighted lands of heathenism. I mean the so called spiritual manifestations. Of all errors ever propagated by Voltaire, Hume, Gibbon, Paine, and the whole infidel host, with Lucifer at their head, these are the most direful, if fully carried out. All other systems of infidelity have been exploded, and their votaries put to shame and confusion. Religion has stood firm, against all the artillery that the regions of darkness could produce. The enemy has seen this, and in his rage, I had almost said has come himself in the name of the departed to deceive the world. But be this as it may, I consider this delusive phantom one of the most impious blasphemys ever invented. It has already drove many of its votaries raving maniacs to the Lunatic Asylum; and it is preparing many more for that doleful habitation. But if the evil stopped here, it would be corrigible; its dire effects would be alleviated by death; but this is not the case. It is a deadly bane, the effects of which will be felt beyond the shores of earth. It will inevitably plunge its votaries into the vortex of an endless ruin, for they have an opportunity of acquiring light and knowledge, but if they shut their eyes against the light, and follow after vain delusive phantoms, their punishment will be just.

Probably some may suppose that my assertions are uncharitable. But let me say to such, I am not like the man who saw his wife in the fire, but loved her so tenderly he could not help her out. The truth should always be spoken, although perhaps it may not be pleasing to some as falsehood. Again, every one knows that in desperate diseases, sometimes desperate means are necessary. Who is there that would remain silent, or rebuke another for speaking what every one should know to be the truth, when he sees the deleterious effects these false opinions have upon society? Reflect for one moment, parents taking their children to those circles until their minds become as it were completely subdued—then giving them into the power of Satan, to convey his news to earth, and propagate his diabolical principles among mankind, and probably the next place you hear of them, is in the mad house. This is too shocking an idea to dwell on. Say parents, why will you sacrifice your children on an altar worse than that of Molock? You not only become the destroyers of their bodies, but also of their souls. What do you expect to gain, by making mediums out of your children? or what have you gained by all the intelligence you have ever received through these mediums? Have they ever brought one soul to repentance? Have they revealed any thing which God had neglected to reveal in his holy word? Have they preached any other Gospel than that which is taught in the Scriptures? If they have that awful anathema, pronounced in the word of God, will fall upon them!

I intend to try to elucidate some of the features of this doctrine, as taught by its advocates. I firmly believe that all that is necessary to explode it, is to bring its features to the light, and see it as it really is. It is undoubtedly worthy the attention of abler pens than mine; but as no other one has, I presume to enter into an investigation of it, and hope the thinking part of community will not look upon it as out of place, if I give my opinions on this subject. I will for the present, at all events, waive the several hypothetical opinions that there are about this phenomena, for the pleasure of meeting them upon their own ground. Again, I will admit for the sake of argument, that there is something supernatural in those manifestations. But then, admitting this, there must be strong proof adduced than any I have ever seen to convince me that they are the spirits of departed saints. My reasons for this are, 1st. God has given us no authority to believe that ever he was going to employ their agency in the salvation of mankind; but on the contrary, we have positive evidence, in the case of the rich man and Lazarus, where they were refused the privilege of coming for that purpose. And again, I do not believe that their agency is necessary, in the strict sense of the word, for Christ exclaimed while hanging on the cross, that the work of redemption was finished! Man was then redeemed from the curse of a broken law, and in addition to this, God sent the comforter into the world, whose office it was to bring us to Christ. Is it possible that God has found out in the nineteenth century that all he has formerly done is inadequate for the end for which it was intended, and has been forced to apply to the more powerful means of human agency? Indeed!

My 2nd objection is, that their actions are too ridiculous for a man who has three grains of common sense. Let me inquire, what would you think of men who would go about rocking cradles, thumping on tables, &c! Would you not say they had better be in the mad house? And yet there are men even in this country who are silly enough to believe that this, and if it were possible, worse than this, is the employment of the immortal mind after it is liberated from earth.

Again, according to the doctrine of this system the soul cannot undergo any change; or in other words, it retains the same distinctive features after death as the different tribes did from which it sprung. They tell us of the wild and romantic deeds of individuals, while under the influence of Indian spirits, some of whom would strip themselves naked, and run wild to the woods, &c. But why dwell upon this point? The individual who believes this to be the employment of saints, is worse than an infidel.

Again, one more feature and I conclude. Let it not be counted *sacrilege*, says an advocate of this doctine, if *we* say that the commencement of the christian era, was not a greater event than the commencement of these spiritual manifestations in the *nineteenth century*. This is too bold a piece of blasphemy, to need any comment.

ALVA.

HORSE THIEF CAUGHT.

On last Friday a man named Robert Stoops, residing near Punxsutawney, Jefferson county, was apprehended in Georgeville, this county, on a charge of stealing a horse from Mr. Abraham Pierce, near Plumville, some 14 miles north of this borough. Stoops had taken the horse to Westmorland county and sold him to a Mr. Kull, an inn-keeper at Harvey's Five Points. He remained at Mr. K's several days when he left under pretence of visiting some relatives who resided near by.—This was on Monday last, 14th inst. On the same night of the same day a horse was stolen near New Alexandria and about 7 miles from Harvey's Five Points, Westmoreland county, belonging to Mr. John N. Canon. Hearing of a horse having been sold under price to Mr. Kull, Mr. Canon went thither but found that it was not his. The man however from his actions being suspected of stealing Mr. C's horse, a description of the man was obtained and a clue as to the direction he had taken. Mr. C. accompanied by Mr. Thos. M. Elder, tracked him into Georgeville, where Mr. E. fortunately discovered and arrested him on a warrant issued on information of Mr. Pierce. At the time of his arrest, Stoops was riding a horse, which Mr. Elder recognised as one that had been stolen from him some four years ago, near New Alexandria also. Stoops was brought before Esq., Reed of this Borough, and after a hearing committed to the jail of this county to await his trial, after which he will be taken on a habeas corpus to Westmorland to be tried there for the stealing of the other two horses.

The horse stolen from Mr. Canon had been sold to Richard Davis in our town who had given a watch and two notes, each for twenty dollars, for him. The watch is undoubtedly a loss to Davis, as Stoops had already disposed of it.

The thief was brought to town by Mr. Elder and Mr.———Brady. On the way he appeared to be very uneasy, and in conversation, gave them to understand that if they had given him time to make his arrest known in his neighborhood, they might had some difficulty in detaining him a prisoner.

Thus three stolen horses have been rather mysteriously discovered. This arrest may lead to the breaking up of a band of horse thieves that have for a number of years been committing depredations along the mountain district of Western Pennsylvania. Much credit is due to the gentlemen for the manner in which they conducted the affair throughout.—*Ind'a Reg.*

A YOUNG COMPOSITOR.—On one of the Ferry boats yesterday two gentlemen were talking about the trial trip of the *Ericsson*, when a little fellow who had been listening attentively, remarked that she had already been on two trial trips, and he supposed she had now gone on a voyage.—There was something so engaging in the manners of the child that one of the gentleman drew him out on the subject of the caloric engine, and found him not only to be familiar with its general construction, but capable of conveying to another a clear iden of its plan. His remarkable intelligence and diminutive stature led the gentleman to question him closely, and, it appeared that he was exactly eight years old, and supported himself by setting type. His task was 1600 *ems* a day, and he said that when he chose he could complete it by 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He showed himself to be perfectly familiar with all the technicalities of his trade;—and take him altogether he is one of the most extraordinary lilliputian typos we have ever seen.

Potatoes for Late Use.

Among the many inconveniences attending the keeping of potatoes for late use, it is to be enumerated, as perhaps the most troublesome, their tendency to sprout.—When vegetation has once commenced, a very rapid determination in the eating qualities of the vegetable is immediately apparent. The potato withers, becomes shriveled, and when boiled, or otherwise prepared for the table, is found to be clammy, devoid of its usual taste, and indigestible. In her operations, Nature requires the assistance of precisely the same principles to perfect the process of vegetation, which are essential to confer value on the root for eating purposes. Sprouting them, or rubbing out the eyes early in the spring, and keeping the roots perfectly secluded from light and warmth is perhaps the most effectual method of preserving them. But where this cannot be done, suffering them to remain immersed in a solution of ammonia and water—one ounce liquid ammonia to a pint of water—for four or five days, will effectually prevent the sprouting and add to the mealiness of the vegetable. Where roots are wanted for sea voyages, or for transportation, this method is perhaps preferable to all others, principally from its entire efficiency. Its cheapness is a consideration. After the immersion the potatoes require to be spread on a dry floor, and completely freed from all adhering moisture; they may then be placed in the cellar or stored in an out-house, and will keep perfectly sound and hard, and in the retention of all their more valuable eating qualities, for six, eight, or ten months. The same effect may also be produced by immersion in a solution of common salt and water, taking care to make the solution very strong, and to remove, by subsequent washing, the whole of the salt. This requires time, and repeated changes of water, and on the whole is more expensive than the other.

Some scald their potatoes. This, however, generally stops the sprouting propensity. If, indeed, the potatoes, be placed in a tub with many holes in the bottom, and the top covered over with a coarse rug, the effusion of boiling water will certainly destroy the germinative instinct without materially injuring the roots for keeping. The water passes off rapidly, and the hot steam intercepted by the covering cloth, soon robs the eyes of their life without cooking the potatoes. The cloth should remain on but a few minutes, and cold water should then be dashed over them until they are cool. They should then be dried, and put in a dark, cool place till wanted.

Germantown Telegraph.

THE HERMIT BURNT OUT.

Andrew Job, the hermit, who has lived in the forest on the borders of Chester and Cecil counties for fifty years past, was burnt out on Saturday night last; the old dilapidated building, in which he has so long resided, having been reduced to ashes. The fire originated in this wise:—The old man, who is now about 80 years of age, was unwell, for the first time within fifteen or twenty years. Thinking to be more comfortable through the night, he made up a larger fire than usual, and took up his position somewhat nearer to it. The sticks having burnt in two, fell over and scattered the fire, it is supposed, out upon the floor. When the old man awoke, the house was on fire, and the fire had communicated to his own clothes.—The house was speedily reduced to ashes. He has since taken up his residence with Mr. Daniel Job, his nephew, of this county, who resides a few miles from the Brick Meeting House.

The hermit is upwards of 80 years of age, of stout, muscular frame, and remarkable for his strength. His hair and beard descend to his waist, and neither have felt the comb nor razor for half a century.—His flesh is rough and husky, and a stranger to the purification of water. His clothing consists of a blanket thrown over his shoulders and tied round his waist, descending nearly to his feet. His feet in cold weather are wrapped in rags. His voice is hollow and sepulchral. He converses freely and cheerfully with visitors, when they deport themselves respectfully, otherwise he has very little to say, and seems to shun those who regard him as merely an object of curiosity. His neighbors send him many of the necessaries of life, and he receives their favors without manifesting any gratitude, or troubling himself to return thanks for their kindness. It is said, in the neighborhood, that the reason of his leading the life of a recluse, was, that he was crossed in love; since which time he has not beheld the face of woman with pleasure, and even sent from him his own sister, who formerly shared his domicil with him. His sister was older than himself, and lived to the advanced age of 92 years. She died a week or two ago. It is thought that the change in the old man's manner of living will shorten his days, as he seems much averse to society in his new home.

Cecil (Md.) Dem.

☞ Prosperity gains friends, adversity tries them.

The Parson and the Double Bass Viol.

Many years ago there was in the eastern part of Massachusetts, a worthy old D. D., and although he was an eminently benevolent man, and a good Christian, yet it must be confessed that he loved a joke much better than even the most inveterate joker. It was before church organs were much in use, it so happened that the choir of the church had recently purchased a double bass viol. Not far from the church was a large pasture, and in it a huge bull. One hot Sabbath in the summer he got out of the pasture and came bellowing up the street. About the church there was plenty of untrodden grass, green and good, and Mr. Bull stopped to try the quality, perchance to ascertain if its location had improved its flavor, at any rate the reverend doctor was in the midst of his sermon, when—

"Boo-woo-woo," went the bull.

The doctor paused, looked up at the singing seats and with a grave face, said:

"I would thank the musicians not to tune their instruments during service time, it annoys me very much."

The people stared, and the minister went on.

"Boo-woo-woo," went the bull again, as he passed another green spot.

The parson paused again, and addressed the choir:

"I really wish the singers would not tune their instruments while I am preaching, as I remarked before, for it annoys me very much.

The people tittered, for they knew as well as any one what the real state of the case was. The minister went on again with his discourse, but he had not proceeded far before another

"Boo-woo-woo," came from Mr. Bull.

The parson paused once more, and again exclaimed:

"I have twice already requsted the musicians in the gallery not to tune their instruments during sermon time. I now particularly request Mr. Lafeol that he will not tune his double bass viol while I am preaching."

This was too much. Lafeol got up too much agitated at the thought of speaking out in church, and stammered out:

"It isn't me, parson B———, Its that that d—d town bull.

☞ "Bob, where is the State of Matrimony?"

"It is one of the United States. It is bounded by hugging and kissing on one side, and cradles and babies on the other. Its chief products are population, broomsticks, and staying out late o'nights. It was discovered by Adam and Eve, while trying to find a northwest passage out of Paradise. The climate is sultry till you pass the tropics of housekeeping, when squally weather commonly sets in, with sufficient power to keep all hands as cool as cucumbers. For the principal roads leading to this interesting State, consult the first pair of blue eyes you run against.

BALM TO THE ORPHAN HEART.—The sweetest balm to the orphan heart, when contemplating the tomb of a departed parent, is to be able to lift the heart to God, and feel as in his presence, that the heart which now lies cold in death was never grieved by disobedience from the surviving child. On the contrary, how sad it is to feel that perhaps our unkindness may have hastened to bring down those grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

☞ The man is a dolt—an unmitigated fogie—who neglects to use the great fulcrum of power—the press—in giving publicity to his business, and in making known his wants. A judicious system of advertising will yield one hundred fold.

CHOLERA AMONG THE HOGS.—The Louisville *Courier* states that there is a great fatality among the hogs at Milton, Ky., and other points, and that it has been alarmingly destructive to the hogs at Carrollton, at the distillery of Root & Snyder.—They have lost upwards of 600 hogs in ten days, or about 60 per day, with but little abatement of the disease.

WAGES IN AUSTRALIA.—The wages of mechanics and laborers in cities in Australia range from $1 75 to 3 75 per day, and in many of the rural districts they are not so high. These prices are much lower than has been generally supposed, and on an averge do not much exceed the rates paid in the United States. The cost of living, however, is cheaper than in California.

DOATING MOTHER.—Oh you little posey dosey duckey honey, does you want to kiss your Mammaw—well, there, take a buss; I do love to kiss you, you look so much like your father.

HUSBAND.—Stop that nonsense—I hate the dirty brat, he looks like Jones across the way, and I do detest Jones.

☞ The population of the City of Cincinnati, in 1850, was 116,350. On the 1st of January, 1853, it was 160,120.

☞ The new Empress of France is less than half the age of her husband—she being but 23 years old, and he 47.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

HARRISBURG, March 1, 1853.

The Democratic State Convention of Pennsylvania to nominate candidates for the office of Canal Commissioner, Auditor General, and Surveyor General of the State, assembled to-day at 12 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, pursuant to the call of the State Committee.

The attendance of delegates was very full, and the strong interests felt by the friends of the rival candidates, especially for the office of Canal Commissioner, caused much excitement to prevail.

The Convention was called to order at 12 o'clock, amid much noise and tumult, by Mr. Wise, who moved that Mr. Arnold Plumer, of Venango, take the Chair.

Mr. Wise put the question amid cries of "order," "order," and great confusion.

Mr. Farley, of Schuylkill, moved to amend the motion, and that the Hon. J. Cessna, of Bedford take the Chair.

The utmost confusion prevailed for some time, and both Mr. Plumer and Mr. Cessna were conducted by their friends to the Speaker's Chair.

Mr. Cessna, after a time, and when order had in some measure been restored, expressed his regret at the scene which had been enacted, and besought all to act with calmness and decorum. To settle the difficulty as to the choice of a Chairman, he proposed the appointment of tellers to count the votes.

This motion was put and agreed to, and tellers then having been appointed, the vote for a temporary chairman was again taken, and resulted in Mr. Plumer receiving 66 votes, and Mr. Cessna 64 votes.

Mr. Plumer thereupon took the chair, and, in a brief speech, thanked the delegates for the compliment conferred, at the same time alluding to the important duties the Convention had assembled to perform, and trusting that no excited feelings might be aroused to mar their harmonious action.

A committee of one from each Congressional district was then on motion appointed to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention.

The Convention then adjourned until three o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The Convention re-assembled at 3 o'clock, when the Hon. J. M. Porter, of Northampton co., chairman of the committee appointed to select officers for the permanent organization of the convention reported that they had selected Wm. L. Hirst of Philadelphia as President. The committee also reported the names of some twenty gentlemen as Vice Presidents, and five Secretaries.

The officers appointed by the committee were then unanimously approved by the convention, and the President (Mr. Hirst) being conducted to the chair, addressed the convention in a brief speech of thanks, alluding also to the many happy and gratifying circumstances under which they had assembled, and which had in a great measure resulted from the bold and independent position taken and maintained by the Democracy of the country in the late National contest.

The list of delegates was then called, and the credentials of the delegations from the several counties submitted. In a number of cases substitutes appeared and were admitted.

The matter of the contested seats was then taken up, but one only—that of the contesting delegates from Montour and Columbia counties—occupied any considerable time.

The question of the admission of the Representative delegate from the counties of Montour and Columbia being before the convention.

Mr. Valentine Best, of Montour, advocated his right to his seat, and discussed with much minuteness the circumstances attending his appointment, and the shadow of a claim, only, that was set up by his contestant.

Mr. John Dean, of Columbia, [the contesting delegate] replied at length.

Some further discussion followed, and the Convention finally decided to admit neither, first by rejecting by a large vote the claim of Mr. Best, and then refusing the seat to Mr. Dean.

The Convention being then fully organized, it was moved to proceed to the nomination of candidates for the offices of Canal Commissioner, Auditor General, and Surveyor General, taking first the office of Canal Commissioner.

The motion was agreed to, and the names of some ten or twelve gentlemen were then placed on general nomination for the office of Canal Commissioner.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and the votes being counted, the result of the first ballot was announced as follows:—

Thomas Forsyth, of Philadelphia,	31
Henry S. Mott, of Pike county,	22
W. S. Morrisson, of Montgomery,	22
——Feather,——	11
Joel B. Danner, of York,	8

and the remaining votes scattered among some seven or eight candidates.

There being no choice, the Convention proceeded to a second ballot, which, as also the third, fourth and fifth invariably following—was unsuccessful The votes on these several ballots stood as follows:

	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.
Forsyth,	38	41	50	55
Mott,	33	33	36	40
Morrisson,	25	30	31	22
Danner,	11	10	—	—
Feather,	8	6	8	9

After third ballot, the name of Mr. Danner, was withdrawn from the list of candidates.

After the 4th ballot an adjournment was moved and very strongly urged, but was disagreed to,

The result of the 5th ballot being announced, and there still being no choice, an adjournment was again moved.

Some debate arose upon the motion and it was finally agreed to adjourn until 7 o'clock.

The Convention then adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.—The Convention again re-assembled at 7 o'clock, when the balloting for a candidate for Canal Commissioner was resumed, and the sixth ballot being taken, resulted as follows:

Thomas Forsyth, of Phil'a.,	81
Henry S. Mott, of Pike,	46
——— Nicholson,	3

Mr. Forsyth was thereupon declared duly nominated as the candidate of the Democratic party for the office of Canal Commissioner.

The nomination of Mr. Forsyth was then unanimously ratified by the convention.

The nomination of a candidate for Auditor General being next in order.

Mr. Long nominated the Hon. Ephraim Banks, the present incumbent, and moved that the nomination be made unanimously.

The motion was agreed to by acclamation, and Mr Banks was announced as the nominee of the convention for the office of Auditor General.

The Convention then proceeded to the nomination of candidates for Surveyor General.

Several gentlemen were placed on nomination.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot, when two ballots were had as follows:

	1st.	2d.
J. P. Brawley,	59	67
Wm. S. Garvin,	17	23
——— Klets,	16	13
G. F. Mason,	13	13

The Hon. J. Porter Brawley, the present incumbent of the office of Surveyor General, having, on the second ballot, received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly nominated for that office, and the nomination was ratified by a unanimous vote.

The President then, in pursuance of a motion by the Hon. A. H. Reeder, of Northampton, appointed a committee of seventeen, of which Mr. Reeder is chairman, to report a series of resolutions expressive of the views and sentiments of the Convention.

The convention then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

HARRISBURG, March 2, 1853.

RESOLUTIONS.—Mr. Reeder, from the Committee on Resolutions, made the following report.

Resolved, That the great and wonderful progress of our Republic in wealth, in power, in political and civil enlightenment, in population, in territory, in all that can develop the energies and promote the happiness of man—exceeding as it does all parallel in the history of the world—establishing, by mountains of evidence, man's ability to govern himself—alarming the absolutionists of the world and menacing to overthrow and destroy, by the mere moral power of this grand display, institutions which have withstood all the vicissitudes of centuries, and shadowing forth a national destiny, which the wildest imagination can scarcely conceive, is calculated in its grand sublimity to fill us with pride and confidence in the permanency of our institutions, and in the Democratic principles which have given them all their value and their power.

Resolved, That the late victories achieved by the Democratic party of the State and the Union, resulting as they did, not only in the defeat but also in the annihilation of the political organization opposed to us, have given the most cheering and encouraging conviction of the fundamental truth and purity of the principles which form at once the basis and strength of our creed; and fill us with glad assurance that the nominations here made, will be received and treated with the same fidelity and support as those which were made the rallying point in the contest which produced so glorious a result.

Resolved, That the power and position of our government in relation to the nations of Europe, and the exercise of a becoming vigilance and care over our own safety, require at our hands a prohibition of all future European colonization upon the American continent.

Resolved, That we take pleasure in expressing the gratification we feel in the high abilities and qualifications of our President elect, and congratulate ourselves that his whole deportment and bearing, from the time of his nomination to this day, has