THE
"CLEARFIELD REPUBLICAN,"
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY
GOODLANDER & LEE,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
ESTABLISHED IN 1827.

The largest Circulation of any Newspaper in North Central Pennsylvania.

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G. R. GOODLANDER,
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Publishers.

CLEARFIELD REPUBLICAN.

GEO. R. GOODLANDER, Proprietor. PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN. TERMS—$2 per annum in Advance.

VOL. 50—WHOLE NO. 2466. CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1876. NEW SERIES—VOL. 17, NO. 15.

Cards.

JOHN D. THOMPSON,
Justice of the Peace and Scrivener,
Curwensville, Pa.
Collections made and money promptly paid over. feb22'71tf

GEO. ALBERT.....HENRY ALBERT.....W. ALBERT
W. ALBERT & BROS.,
Manufacturers & extensive Dealers in
Sawed Lumber, Square Timber, &c.,
WOODLAND, PENN'A.
Orders solicited. Bills filled on short notice and reasonable terms.
Address Woodland P. O., Clearfield Co., Pa.
a25-1y W. ALBERT & BROS.

FRANCIS COUTRIET,
MERCHANT,
Frenchville, Clearfield County, Pa.
Keeps constantly on hand a full assortment of Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, and everything usually kept in a retail store, which will be sold, for cash, as cheap as elsewhere in the county.
Frenchville, June 27, 1867-1y.

THOMAS H. FORCEE,
DEALER IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.
GRAHAMTON, Pa.
Also, extensive manufacturer and dealer in Square Timber and Sawed Lumber of all kinds.
Orders solicited and all bills promptly filled. [My16'72

REUBEN HACKMAN,
House and Sign Painter and Paper Hanger,
Clearfield, Penn'a.
Will execute jobs in his line promptly and in a workmanlike manner. ap'r6,'67

G. H. HALL,
PRACTICAL PUMP MAKER,
NEAR CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.
Pumps always on hand and made to order on short notice. Pipe bored on reasonable terms All work warranted to render satisfaction, and delivered if desired. my31y1pd

E. A. BIGLER & CO.,
DEALERS IN
SQUARE TIMBER,
and manufacturers of
ALL KINDS OF SAWED LUMBER.
8.1'72 CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.

JAS. B. GRAHAM,
dealer in
Real Estate, Square Timber, Boards,
SHINGLES, LATH, & PICKETS,
9.19'73 Clearfield, Pa.

JAMES MITCHELL,
DEALER IN
Square Timber & Timber Lands,
jel1'73 CLEARFIELD, PA.

S. I. SNYDER,
PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER
AND DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry,
Graham's Row, Market Street,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
All kinds of repairing in my line promptly attended to. April 23, 1874.

REMOVAL.
REIZENSTEIN & BERLINER,
wholesale dealers in
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,
Have removed to 187 Church street, between Franklin and White sts., New York. [jy21'72

JAMES H. LYTLE,
In Kratzer's Building, Clearfield, Pa.
Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Vegetables, Fruits, Flour, Feed, etc., etc.
apr14'75-tf

JAMES E. WATSON & CO.,
REAL ESTATE BROKERS,
CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.
Houses and Offices to let, Collections promptly made, and first-class Coal and Fire-Clay Lands and Town property for sale. Office in Western Hotel Building (2d floor), Second St. my13'71y

Livery Stable.

THE undersigned begs leave to inform the public that he is now fully prepared to accommodate all in the way of furnishing Horses, Buggies, Saddles and Harness, on the shortest notice and on reasonable terms. Residence on Locust street, between Third and Fourth.
GEO. W. GEARHART.
Clearfield, Feb. 4, 1874.

LIME! LIME!
The undersigned is now prepared to furnish the public with an excellent quality of
Bellefonte Wood-Burned Lime,
for plastering purposes, by the large or small quantity. Can be found for the present at Pie's new building, on Market street.
oct1-tf L. K. McCULLOUGH.

MITCHELL WAGONS.
The Best is the Cheapest!
Thomas Reilly has received another large lot of "Mitchell Wagons," which are among the very best manufactured, and which he will sell at the most reasonable rates. His stock includes almost all descriptions of wagons—big and small, wide and narrow track. Call and see them.
apr'24 THOMAS REILLY.

JOHN A. STADLER,
BAKER, Market St., Clearfield, Pa.
Fresh Bread, Rusk, Rolls, Pies and Cakes on hand or made to order. A general assortment of Confectionaries, Fruit and Nuts in stock—Ice Cream and Oysters in season. Saloon nearly opposite the Postoffice. Prices moderate.
March 15, '75.

ANDREW HARWICK,
Market Street, Clearfield, Pa.,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
HARNESS, SADDLES, BRIDLES, COLLARS,
and all kinds of
HORSE FURNISHING GOODS.
A full stock of Saddlers' Hardware, Brushes, Combs, Blankets, Robes, etc., always on hand and for sale at the lowest cash prices. All kinds of repairing promptly attended to.
All kinds of hides taken in exchange for harness and repairing. All kinds of harness leather kept on hand, and for sale at a small profit.
The business will be under the immediate supervision of John C. Harwick.
Clearfield, Jan. 19, 1876

MAIZE & SCHWARTZ,
(late Geo. Evans & Co.)
MILITARY UNIFORMS
AND
EQUIPMENTS,
NO. 1108 MARKET STREET, PHILA.
Bands, Companies, &c., furnished. Samples, photographs and self measuring directions sent free.
MERCHANT TAILORS & CLOTHIERS,
1108 MARKET STREET,
July 14, '75-1y Phila.

UNDERTAKING.

The undersigned are now fully prepared to carry on the business of
UNDERTAKING,
AT REASONABLE RATES.
Church street, near Pine, Clearfield, Pa.
JOHN TROUTMAN,
JAMES L. GLAVY.
Clearfield, Pa., Feb. 18, 1874.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE.
The undersigned offers for sale his house and lot situated on Cherry street, Clearfield, Pa., being the lot formerly occupied by him as a tailor shop. The house is large, in good repair, containing nine rooms, &c. For terms and other information apply to the subscriber, at the Post Office.
P. A. GAULIN.

FORTY YEARS AGO.

How wondrous are the changes, Jim,
Since forty years ago,
When gals wore woolen dresses, Jim,
And boys wore pants of tow;
When shoes were made of calf skin,
And socks of home spun wool,
And children did a half day's work
Before the hour of school

The girls took music lessons, Jim,
Upon the spinning wheel,
And practiced late and early, Jim,
On the spindle, swift and reel;
The boys would ride bare-back to mill,
A dozen miles or so,
And hurry off before 'twas day,
Some forty years ago.

The people rode to meeting, Jim,
In sleds instead of sleighs,
And wagons rode as easy, Jim,
As buggies now-a-days;
And oxen answered well for teams,
Though new they'd be too slow,
For people lived not half so fast,
Some forty years ago,

O, well do I remember, Jim,
That Wilson's patent stove,
That father bought and paid for, Jim,
In cloth our gals had wove;
And how the neighbors wondered, Jim,
When we got the thing to go!
They said 'twould burst and kill us all,
Some forty years ago.

Yes, everything is different, Jim,
From what it used to was,
For men are always tampering, Jim,
With God's great natural laws;
But what on earth we're coming to—
Does anybody know?
For everything has changed so much,
Since forty years ago.

THE CAMP-MEETING POLICE BILL.

The following proceedings took place in the State Senate on Friday, March 3d, 1876:

Agreeably to order, the rule requiring bills to be considered in committee of the whole being in this case dispensed with, the Senate proceeded to the second reading and consideration of Senate bill No. 125, (House bill No. 20), an act empowering camp-meeting associations to employ a police force.

The first section was read, as follows:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That any association of persons owning or leasing ground for the purpose of holding camp-meetings for religious purposes in this State, may apply to any Judge of the court of common pleas of the county within which the said grounds or premises may be situated, to appoint such person as the said associations may designate to act as policeman for said association.

SEC. 2. The said Judge, upon such applications, may appoint such person, or so many of them as he may deem proper to be such policemen, and shall cause the fact of such appointment to be entered upon the records of the said court.

SEC. 3. Every policeman so appointed shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe the oath required by the seventh article of the Constitution, before the Justice of the Peace nearest to the grounds where the proposed meetings are to be held, and for which the said policemen are appointed, which oath shall be filed by the said Justice of the Peace, and a note made upon his docket of the fact of said oath having been taken.

SEC. 4. Such policemen so appointed shall severally possess and exercise all the powers of policemen of the city of Philadelphia, in and upon and in the vicinity of the camp-ground in which they shall be authorized to act as aforesaid, and the keepers of jails or lock-ups, or station houses, in any of said counties, are required to receive all persons arrested by such policemen, for the commission of any offense against the laws of this Commonwealth, upon or near the grounds occupied by the said association, to be dealt with according to law.

SEC. 5. The said associations shall have power to ordain and publish such regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the State, as shall be needful to maintain the peace, good government and order, well being and security of the association; and the policemen appointed under this act shal have, when on duty upon the camp-ground and premises of the association, power to enforce obedience on such grounds and premises to such regulations so ordained and published, and to detain offenders for a period not exceeding twelve hours, exclusive of Sunday, until they can be carried before the nearest Justice of the Peace, Alderman or Judge having jurisdiction thereof, there to be fined, bailed or committed, as the magistrate hearing the case may determine.

SEC. 6. Such camp-ground police shall, when on duty, severally wear a metallic shield, with the words "camp police" and the name of the association for which appointed inscribed thereon, and such shield shall always be worn in plain view, except when employed as detectives.

SEC. 7. The compensation of such police shall be paid by the associations for which the policemen are respectively appointed, as may be agreed upon between them.

Ordered to be transcribed for a third reading.

Mr. Ermentrout. I rise to a question of privilege. I move to reconsider the vote by which the first section of House bill, No. 20 was agreed to for the purpose of introducing an amendment. It is an act empowering camp-meeting associations to employ a police force. I desire to have the privilege extended to societies for social, mechanical, agricultural or industrial associations also, and I now offer the following amendment:

Mr. Rockwell. I desire to add the word "political" also.

Mr. Allen. This is a very important bill to these camp-meeting associations, and I trust that no Senator——

Mr. Ermentrout. I would say to the gentleman that I am very much in earnest about the amendment that I propose.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Strang. I understand that the bill as now amended grants these extraordinary powers of appointing police officers and all that sort of thing to other than camp-meeting associations. Now, while I might be willing to grant this authority to camp-meeting associations, I do not see why it should be so extensive.

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the bill as amended?

It was not agreed to.

Mr. Bussey. I call for the yeas and nays. This is a very important bill. Our people are very much interested in it. We have large meetings of this kind in our country and they deserve particularly to be protected in their worship.

Mr. Anderson (Allegheny). I would like to ask the gentleman whether this protects Baptist camp-meetings as well as those of our Methodist brethren?

Mr. Bussey. Yes, sir; it does.

Mr. Ermentrout. It protects a church pic-nic as I have attempted it.

Mr. Strang. Mr. President, Q. Quibbil gives strange reasons to those who conduct camp-meeting associations to appoint police. The special and very extraordinary powers. While that might be justified in the case of disturbing religious meetings—a thing I entertain very much doubt about myself—it is certainly running the thing into the ground, that every agricultural and other association shall have power to establish courts and policemen for the purpose of regulating their internal affairs. I think that the associations of this State can be protected by existing laws.

Mr. Ermentrout. Mr. President, I certainly have every desire in the world to protect people in the enjoyment of their religious rights. But, I also desire that they shall have equal protection in all other respects. Now, camp-meeting associations for camp-meeting purposes have the same laws that other people have. They can appeal to the civil authorities, and there can be no trouble about this if they appeal to them. I do not object to giving them this power and authority. But, while I am asking it for them, I am asking it also for associations formed for other proper and legitimate purposes, and I cannot see why, if we are to give the authority that is given by this act, why other people should not have it who are gathered together for equally proper purposes.

Mr. Boyer. Mr. President, there are, perhaps, some other good reasons why these camp-meeting people should have this right. These meetings are usually held some two or three miles away, perhaps four to five miles from where they can get a magistrate or an officer to protect them. By the time they go to hunt up some officer the party making the disturbance gets away from them. There is perhaps a great deal of reason on that ground why they should have this power. Other associations usually hold their meetings in populated regions where officers can be obtained.

I admit that these powers are somewhat extraordinary, but those who are at all familiar with the doings, at these camp-meetings, of certain persons who seem only to visit these places for the purpose of rowdyism, will agree with me that the occasion sometimes demand extraordinary power, or at least prompt action. The Methodist brethren, in their annual meetings, invite all good people to join them in their simple but sincere open worship of God, and ask only that they be let alone and be permitted to worship God without being molested and made afraid by drunken ruffians, and they have a right to demand this. They molest nobody, and ask for nothing but what a decent regard for morals entitles them. The community at large is as much annoyed as are these good people in these exhibitions of drunken men, who are always a reproach when they come in contact with any assembly. I trust this simple protection will be granted them, and I feel satisfied that they will not abuse the trust, but use it for the good of society.

Mr. Allen. I move that the amendment of the gentleman from Berks [Mr. Ermentrout] be reconsidered.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Allen. Mr. President, I desire to say very briefly that I trust this amendment will not be adopted. It is very important to these camp-meeting associations to have police officers. They are increasing in importance from year to year. I know in my district they have regular places where they hold these camp-meetings, where they have grounds especially for that purpose, and people of all religious beliefs gather and stay from one to two weeks. They are out in the country distant from where ordinary police power can be exercised, under ordinary municipal law, and it is important that they should have this rather extraordinary power. Certainly where these powers are in the hands of religious associations, we have a right to assume that this rather extraordinary police power granted will not be abused, and I think we ought not to hesitate to grant this power, because I think it is necessary to preserve order at these summer meetings. I trust that this bill will be passed without any entangling amendments attached to it.

Mr. Ermentrout. I see there is some difficulty about this matter, and I am not at all persistent on this subject, but I ask the Senator from Lycoming [Mr. Allen] whether he does not think that Sunday schools ought to have equal protection with camp-meeting associations? In your county we have a great many Sunday school celebrations. Sunday schools meet for what they call Sunday school purposes. I do not see any reason for giving any more protection to one class of persons in this respect that another.

Mr. Newmyer. I would like to ask the gentlemen a question. How long do these Sunday school celebrations generally last?—is it not for one single day, while camp-meetings may last three or four weeks?

Mr. Ermentrout. Very well; what boots it? They are as much entitled to be protected for one day as camp-meetings for four weeks. There is no logic in that.

Mr. Rockwell. Mr. President, I would ask the gentleman if he does not consider the people sufficiently protected, in our State, at camp-meetings and every other kind of meeting?

Mr. Allen. They are not.

The question then being,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment of the gentleman from Berks [Mr. Ermentrout]?

It was not agreed to.

Mr. Ermentrout. Mr. President, now I propose another amendment, to insert after the words camp-meetings or Sunday school celebration.

Mr. Jones. Mr. President, I would like to say one word in relation to that. I think the remarks made by some gentlemen here, that there was no necessity of the law for the protection of Sunday school celebrations, is perfectly correct, because I have been at Sunday school celebrations ever since I was a lad, and I never saw the necessity of having police officers there. The teachers and parents of the children are there, and take an interest in the good order which ought to prevail upon such occasions. They are always on hand and are a special police, and there is no difficulty to be apprehended. I trust the gentleman will not burden this bill with the words Sunday school.

Mr. Ermentrout. I desire likewise to add to my amendment church picnics. I care not what the experience of the gentleman from Philadelphia [Mr. Jones] may have been upon the subject. I have experiences on this subject too, and I have opinions and conclusions derived from observation on this subject, and they are that this protection, if it be necessary at all—this extraordinary protection—is just as necessary in the case of a Sunday school as in the case of a camp-meeting. They are germane; they are more or less connected with each other, and I do not see why the gentleman pressed so strongly associations to appoint police, the special and very ex-

be protected, and that the church and Sunday school should be neglected.

Mr. Jones. I will give my reasons. I will state that I presume I have been at the largest camp-meeting ever held in America. I have seen these——

Mr. Ermentrout. I consider the propriety of protecting camp-meetings.

Mr. Jones. All right; there is no necessity for this protection in relation to Sunday school celebrations, so far as my experience goes. We do not have any booths erected outside of the grounds where Sunday schools have their celebrations, and there is no danger that people will be attracted there who are unruly.

Mr. Ermentrout. In our section of the country these celebrations are very common. During the summer months hardly a Saturday or Sunday comes but they have got their Sunday school celebration somewhere. We are a religious people, and we keep these things up.

Mr. Allen. My objection is that I think this amendment is unnecessary. They last for only a day or part of a day, but camp-meetings last some times for one or two weeks. People gather and they get their families there, and they ought to be protected.

Mr. Wood. I want to ask the Senator from Bucks why he is in his seat to-day, when Sunday schools are so prominent. [Laughter.]

Mr. Ermentrout. Because my constituency have respect for upright and pious men.

Mr. Wood. I was always taught in Sunday school that the good and pious youth all die and go to heaven——

Mr. Ermentrout. They are saved by special dispensation of Providence.

Mr. Wood. And that the evil disposed boys always got into the halls of the Legislature or Congress. [Laughter.]

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment of the gentleman from Berks [Mr. Ermentrout]?

It was not agreed to.

Mr. Bechtel. I desire to offer an amendment to the fifth section in the shape of a proviso, for the purpose of providing that in reference to parties who are in the custody of the police officers that they shall not be held for a longer period than two hours, without being taken before a Justice of the Peace. I have read the section over, and my attention was directed to it by what the gentleman from Tioga [Mr. Strang] said a few moments ago, and the fifth section gives very extraordinary powers to these police officers. They have first the power to make the rules and regulations to govern the conduct of those who come to the camp-meeting, which is perhaps entirely correct. Then the police officers have the power to arrest any person for violating these rules and regulations, which is also correct; but there is no limit in the section anywhere to the right to detain, and under this section it it don't happen to be convenient for a police officer to carry off to the Justice of the Peace the person so arrested, he might be detained from twelve to twenty or thirty-six hours without warrant, without oath and without a hearing.

Now, while I am willing to give to them every power that is necessary to preserve order and peace at these places, and will go as far, perhaps, as any other Senator would upon that proposition, yet I think that the liberty of the citizens should be guarded in that. It should be limited—the time of detention should be limited, so that if they do not see proper to carry away the party arrested, and bring him before the Justice of the Peace, they must release him, and therefore I move to re-consider the vote by which section five in the bill was adopted, for the purpose of offering such an amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Bechtel. I offer the following amendment: "Provided, Any person so arrested shall not be detained for a longer period than ten hours," following right after the section.

Mr. Lamon. What will you do with a person arrested on Sunday morning?

Mr. Bechtel. You have a perfect right to go before a Justice of the Peace in a case of arrest for the commission of a crime on Sunday the same as any other day. But I am willing, if the Senator thinks there is any particular reason that Sunday should be excepted. I know that the liberty of the citizen of this country entitles him to a hearing, even upon Sunday, when he is arrested on a crime, and that they cannot deprive him of his liberty, even upon the Sabbath. I have no objections to excepting the Sabbath if he makes the amendment.

The question then being,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment of the Senator from Schuylkill [Mr. Bechtel]?

It was agreed to.

Mr. Yerkes. Mr. President, I move to re-consider the vote by which section four passed second reading. I do this for the purpose of inserting an amendment, so as to make this bill constitutional. I propose to move to amend in the section first re-considered as follows: Strike out the words "city of Philadelphia," and insert in place "constable of Commonwealth;" after the word "required," in sixth line, "upon lawful commitments."

The amendment was agreed to, and the section as amended was agreed to.

Ordered that the bill be transcribed for a third reading.

The hour of six o'clock having arrived, the President pro tem. adjourned the Senate.

THE KIND OF PREACHING BEECHER GETS $20,000 A YEAR FOR.—In a sermon on the atmosphere of the soul, preached by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, on Sunday last, he told how he ejected from his house a small puffy man who had insulted his wife and himself. "So long as he offered insult to me only," Mr. Beecher said, "it was of no account; but when he turned to my wife, it was unbearable. I caught him by the collar of his coat [Mr. Beecher then grasped an imaginary man considerably shorter than himself, and walking briskly to the end of the platform, seemed to throw him off], and marched him, kicking, struggling, and puffing—he was a pudgy little man, [laughter]—to the street door, and threw him into the street. After I had slammed the door, I saw him on the sidewalk, dancing and purplish with rage. I felt that the whole thing was comical—I don't know how he felt [laughter]—I laid down on the carpet and rolled in laughter, and laughed and laughed."

Then Mr. Beecher stood up before the congregation and held his sides and laughed, and the congregation all laughed. Is it any wonder that so many people become skeptics? One such sermon does more harm to the cause of Christ than the scoffings of a thousand infidels.

MRS. WILLIAMS.

THE HISTORY OF ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING WOMAN OF WASHINGTON.

[Keokuk Correspondence of St. Louis Republican.]

Many of the old steamboat men who have traded in the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers will remember the name of Capt. Ross B. Hughes. He once commanded the steamer Hindoo, a boat that plied on the Mississippi previous to 1850. Afterward Captain Hughes, in connection with others, built the famous steamboat Chouteau, which he ran for awhile in the Mississippi, and then took her around to the Missouri river, ascending as high as the site now occupied by Omaha. At the time of which we speak the "gold fever" was raging throughout the country. Hughes put his boat to good use at Council Bluffs by converting it into a ferry for transferring the "outfits" of the "golden pilgrims," who were then stringing the plains en route West in multitudes. He "made a good thing" out of the business. At that time, and for many years before, Hughes had his residence at Keokuk. His family consisted of three bright and beautiful girls and one son, who was physically deformed by curvature of the spine. Years ago, just what year your correspondent could not ascertain, Mrs. Hughes died. Her place was supplied in no long time by a second wife. Hughes continued on the river for some years, leaving his family at the home in Keokuk. The lady who is now known as Mrs. Williams was the eldest of the daughters. Mrs. Krum, wife of Daniel Krum, formerly of Keokuk, was next in age, and the youngest was a fair girl who answered to the name of Hettie. These girls as they grew to womanhood revealed remarkable personal charms. They were handsome in feature, symmetrical in form; sparkling and vivacious in conversation they did not fail to secure the admiration of the gallants about Keokuk. Their position in life was not such as to give them all the advantages of intellectual and moral training. Capt. Hughes is represented to have been a rough man, with little education, no aspirations for a higher social life, and his moral character was much under par. And yet adverse as were the circumstances surrounding them, they succeeded in establishing themselves if not in the first rank, at least in respectable social circles.

Capt. Ross B. Huges died in an humble boarding-house in St. Louis many years ago, if we credit the reports we hear, lamented by few. In course of time, the eldest of the girls, now Mrs. Williams, then regarded as surprisingly beautiful, was married to a man named Ivins, and the couple immediately left Keokuk, settling somewhere in Ohio. The least that can be said of this matrimonial union is, that it was very unfortunate, and the parties separated. Mrs. Ivins returned to Iowa. In due course Mrs. Ivins got a divorce of the marriage bonds, and next she contracted a marriage with a man by the name of George. It is said that this second matrimonial venture was not a happy one to the wife or the husband. At any rate they lived apart for a considerable time, George went West, fell into a decline, and husband and wife were again brought together. It is said that she tended him in his last illness with singular devotion. George having died, she was again a widow. The second sister having married Mr. Daniel Krum, had with him gone to Oregon, and Mrs. George made the journey to that far off country to join her sister. Here she met Williams, who had acted as her attorney in the divorce suit, and they were married. The subsequent career of her husband, her own efforts to rise in the social scale, the envy and opposition of other ladies at our republican court, and the final triumph of her enemies, are all incidents which have frequently been treated by Washington correspondents.

CHANGE IN CHINESE POLICY.

[From the New York Sun.]

Our commercial relations with China are at present next in importance to those of Great Britain. In view of the rapidly growing intercourse between the States on the Pacific slope and the countries of eastern Asia, it is more than likely that in a not distant future our interest in the concerns of China will fully equal that of England. Nearly two-thirds of the China trade is British; the larger portion of the other third is American, not European. The extent of the British trade at present amounts to about $200,000,000 (gold) of imports and exports. Hitherto the policy of the Chinese has been obstructive, jealous, and exclusive, tending steadily to isolation. They have kept aloof from outside nations, even on Asiatic soil, and have no ideas in common with foreign peoples of Western race. It is the prevailing idea of the Chinese that all other States are, or should be, submissive and tributary; they are ignorant of their language, unfamiliar with the writings of Confucius, and barbarians at the best.

Former wars of the English and French show by their results that the mere infliction of punishment makes no essential change in the demeanor of the Chinese and their relations with outside barbarians. The French may sack palaces and the English may capture fortresses; they both may levy contributions and exact indemnities; but as soon as they withdraw, the Chinese will hedge themselves in with almost the same exclusiveness, and return after a short interval to their old provocations. It is impossible for any combination of Western powers to permanently coerce an empire like China, which on the best estimate that can be formed, and in the absence of a trustworthy census, counts in population nearly one-third of the human race. But there have been for many years, more especially since the establishment of foreign embassies at Pekin, forces at work in China which promise to accomplish peacefully what never could have been achieved by force of arms.

The cable brings us news from Pekin, dated Feb. 4. It says: "Prince Kung received the New Year's visit of the diplomatic body on the 26th of January, attended by the Presidents and Vice Presidents of all the Pekin boards. Thirty of the highest officials of the empire were present. Next week all these dignitaries will visit each legation. This step constitutes the first departure for China, and promises improved relations in the future." Now that Prince Kung, the actual ruler of China, the six boards in Pekin, and the official representatives of the provincial hierarchy, have deliberately and of their own accord taken this step, we may venture to assume that the policy of exclusiveness will be abandoned, and that the future relations of China with nations of the West will be marked by an enlightened liberality. The wonderful strides of the Japanese in the arts of Western civilization have been closely watched by the higher class of Chinese officials, and much commented on in Pekin. The educated gentlemen of China form a most influential class, in which are included all candidates for office. The influence of these literati is very considerable. Among the people they do much to mould public opinion, performing some of the functions of the press with us. Great as is their influence, they cannot venture to adopt measures strongly opposed to the feelings and traditions of the masses. Hence we accept the recent news from Pekin as an evidence that the body of the people themselves are at present in favor of a more liberal policy and a freer intercourse with foreigners.

It may not be amiss here to inquire what influence those Chinamen, mostly of the humblest class, who have of late years emigrated to America, may have exercised in the way of liberalizing the views of their countrymen at home. There were in 1874 about fifty thousand Chinamen in the United States, principally in California. During the year 1874, China sent us 13,776 emigrants, Germany, Ireland and England alone exceeding her in numbers; and in 1875 we believe that the emigration from China was increased by some three or four thousand. The Chinese form an important part of the laboring class in San Francisco; they are uniformly industrious, patient and law-abiding. Those of the better class, who have achieved a position among merchants, are noted for their enterprise, integrity, sagacity, and success. Some of them control almost unlimited credit. These people are more or less in communication with their relatives or friends at home; and though they cannot conscientiously send very glowing accounts of the hospitalities offered them by the citizens of this republic, they do do not see, feel, and understand the great advantages which must accrue to China by the introduction of Western civilization—railroads, telegraphs, manufactories, steam machinery, and the like—throughout the empire. That they have written, do write, and will continue to write of these things, there can be no doubt. Such writings cannot have been barren of result.

It remains with us to promptly take advantage of any change in the policy of the Chinese Government which will enable us to extend our commercial relations in that direction. Free and unrestricted access to the empire of China—larger than Europe itself in area, four or five times the size of India, and with double the population—would open to foreigners a market exceeding in power of consumption the rest of the world.

It is worth while, therefore, that the merchants of America should give the concerns of China their most serious attention. That England will do so, we may rest assured; she never neglects her interests. Each of the eighteen provinces of China, with a population varying from one to five millions, would furnish her with a new nation as an outlet for her manufactured goods, to say nothing of the increased trade in opium, which now yields $35,000,000 per annum, and forms from a sixth to a seventh of the whole annual income of British India.

A FEMALE FRIEND OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

[From the Cincinnati Commercial.]

Mrs. General Benton, referred to by Ben. Butler as a mysterious witness, and who will, in a few days, be snug in Mexico, was in her maiden days, Mildred White of Mobile. Gen. Benton was from Richmond, Ind. Mildred, when eighteen, is described as a glorious brunette, with a dash of the oriental in her tastes and temperament, as well as appearance. A trifle above the average height, her form was rather larger than the standard of beauty might ask, but so perfectly proportioned that a change would seem a defect; sparkling black eyes, dark, luxuriant hair, regular features, and a bright and winning face. Here beauty and symmetry ended, for her temperament conformed to no rules or standard. She was full of excentricities, and much of what might be called genius. For one of her excentricities, Mildred was a rebel—at all times and under all circumstances—she talked rebel and acted rebel, and would not be kept down."

The fair Mildred and General Benton became acquainted at Baton Rouge, and after their marriage she was not so interesting until she lost her husband. We quote again:

"After the General's death his wily and dashing widow began to figure in Washington society, all the time keeping up an elegant mansion in Lexington avenue, New York, and served by the same old colored help her father once owned in Pensacola. Gov. Warmoth was one of her most constant and fascinated guests. She used her powers as a sorceress on soft-hearted and wealthy Senators at the Capital. How she arched her pretty neck and pleased with her brilliant eyes and plump, white arms will be remembered by men who were in Congress when the old contract for the Government patent seal lock had expired, and she lobbied lavishly for the renewal. She spent about $60,000 to secure the contract, but then it was worth $100,000 a year. She understood the combination that would unlock any Senator's heart. She was a more wonderful piece of mechanism than the cunning patent seal. Her life has been a series of splendid victories over men, and her resources of coquetry are so boundless, her importunities so unrelenting, her energy so uncompromising, that for years she has been looked upon as a queenly diplomat of the lobby. She was implicated at the time an investigation was made into the sale of arms to France during the Franco-Prussian war, but as usual rode through the storm in safety.

About 20,000,000 tons of coal are mined yearly in Pennsylvania. A coal region exchange says in the mines unwrought, it is worth fifty cents a ton, or $10,000,000; mined and brought to the surface, it is worth $1.50 per ton, or $30,000,000; ground, broken and placed on the cars, it is worth $2.50 per ton or $50,000,000; delivered at the boundaries of the State or on shipboard, it is worth, on an average, $5.50 or $110,000,000, which is the sum annually paid to Pennsylvania for coal.

At a young ladies' seminary recently, during an examination in history, one of the pupils was interrogated thus: "Mary, did Martin Luther die a natural death?" "No," was the reply, "he was excommunicated by a bull."

Rector's wife (severely): "Tommy Robinson, how is it you don't take off your hat when you meet me?" Tommy: "Well, marm, if I take off my hat to you, what be I to do when I meet the parson himself?"

THE PROGRESSIVE AGGRAVATION OF SPRING FLOODS.

The inundation engendered by spring rains are fast becoming, in our more thickly settled States, an evil of grave moment. Such statistics as we possess respecting the Susquehanna and other eastern rivers reveal a notable increase in the frequency and intensity of their destructive overflows since the beginning of this century. Now, as the valleys of our larger water courses are rapidly gaining population, and thus the area of disaster is widening simultaneously with the aggravation of the scourge, it is plain that the question of causes and remedies requires serious and prompt attention.

It is true that the damage of property and loss of life occasioned by the floods of last year in Massachusetts and central Pennsylvania dwindle to insignificance when measured with the calamity which prostrated Languedoc during the same season, or with the havoc lately wrought in and about Pesth. The proportions of the former catastrophe were at first exaggerated; yet, according to the final official report, some six hundred persons were killed, and seven thousand buildings demolished, which, together with the crops destroyed, were valued at fifteen millions of dollars. Here, too, its steadily progressive violence is the appalling feature of phenomenon, the maximum height of water above the normal level during periods of cataclysm having risen to Toulouse from eighteen to thirty feet in thirty years. With such a record and outlook, the timely adoption of preventatives was seen to be a condition of existence. It is to be hoped that we may profit by French precautions and expedients before the valley of the Susquehanna has become so populous and perilous as that of the Geronne.

To prevent the recurrence of inundations in southern France, and arrest at the proper moment the surplus waters of the Garonne and its affluents, it is proposed to construct in the foot hills of the Pyrenees a vast system of reservoirs, equipped with sluices and locks, for the double function of protection and irrigation. Although it will be possible to take advantage of those contiguous ravines and abrupt depressions of the soil which constitute a sort of natural cisterns, it is not denied that this undertaking will involve a tremendous outlay. That it is practicable, however, is demonstrated by the familiar precedent of Lake Moeris, which performed the same office for the Nile, and whose circuit exceeded 350 miles, or the entire coast length of Egypt. It is reasonable enough that French engineers who have reproduced in this century one great achievement of the Pharaohs, should engage to emulate another.

Reservoirs, however, are only palliatives. Another projected remedy exacts time for its effective application, but goes directly to the root of the difficulty. It is generally conceded that the awful suddenness and vehemence of modern inundations compared with those of former times, are due to the wholesale destruction of forests, and the consequent multiplication of naked slopes and gradients. Not that the aggregate rain-fall is less in a densely wooded country; on the contrary it is greater, but it is equably distributed. And although a forest may operate to discharge a cloud, it measurably absorbs the contents through its sponge system of foliage, roots and turf, while its undergrowth and debris of fallen timber compose a natural breakwater. To fortify anew the spurs and sides of the Pyrenees with that rampart of trees which avarice and ignorance had levelled, has been made the settled policy of the government. A scheme of planting on an extended scale has lately been inaugurated which, in spite of checks experienced from the habits and prejudices of a grazing population, is thought to promise the most salutary results.

The hills and uplands which cradle the headwaters of our eastern rivers have not yet been wholly denuded of their native woods. The process of stripping, however, goes on apace, regulated only by the temporary interest, or caprice, of reckless owners. Is it not high time that public opinion should recognize the untoward bearing of such improvidence on the question of inundations, and set bounds to that uprooting of American forests, whose sequel may one day duplicate the disasters experienced in Hungary and France?—*New York Sun.*

Last year, as early as March 10, the city markets were well supplied with Southern strawberries, which were sold at reasonable rates for the season.—The unprecedented snow storm which lately literally "came down" upon the southern as well as the northern section of the country is said to have completely killed the strawberry plants and to have greatly injured all the budded fruit trees.

The Philadelphia *Press* says: Capt. Paul Boyton, the American whom the editor of the Philadelphia *Press* saw coming into Boulogne after he had swam the stormy British Channel, is preparing for a series of entertainments of his peculiar powers in the Delaware, off the old Navy Yard, and he proposes to contribute the net results of his experiments to the Centennial Fund.

A scholar in a country school was asked, "How do you parse 'Mary milks the cow?' The last word was disposed of as follows: "Cow, a noun, feminine gender, third person, and stands for Mary." "Stands for Mary! How do you make that out?" "Because," added the intelligent pupil, "if the cow didn't stand for Mary, how could she milk her?"

There is a story told of a certain Duke of Florence who, being sick and evidently in the article of death, was consoled by the eminent ecclesiastic who bent over his couch by the assurance that His Highness would soon be in Paradise. "I would rather," answered the dying prince, "I would rather be in the Boboli Gardens."

POOR HOUSE RATES.—The Northampton county alms house last year averaged over 300 inmates and spent for their maintenance $14,083.19, an average of less than $47. The Lancaster county alms house averaged 361 inmates and spent $38,699.20, or an average of over $105 apiece.

"What are you in jail for?" said a prison visitor to a negro in a New Orleans jail.

"For bor'win money, sah!"

"Why, they don't put men in jail for borrowing money."

"Yes! But you see, I had to knock de man down tree or four times afore he'd lend it to me?"

Men who fish for compliments don't care how dirty the water is.

ELI PERKINS IN THE OIL REGION.

My engagement in Millerstown, Pa., took me into the very centre of Butler county gas-producing region. After the lecture I went up on the hill above Millerstown and counted forty-nine small burning wells. The whole heavens were aglow with light. The clouds were silver lined and reflected back the lurid glare from the wells. I could stand anywhere and read a newspaper. The boilers of fifty oil-well engines heated with gas line the valley. Away to the south a glare like a city on fire lighted up the heavens. From toward the lighted horizon came a rumbling roar that drowned the hubbub on the street.

"What is it?" I asked Mr. Warmcastle.

"That's the great Delemater gas well, Mr. Perkins, four miles away," he answered.

"I thought it was four hundred trains of cars passing over a bridge," I said.

All night long I listened to the roar of that Delemater well, and the next morning I rode four miles over scrub oak hills through muddy gulches, and past, I suppose, fifty pumping oil wells, to see the startling wonder.

The noise grew louder and