

Job Printing

ADVERTISER OFFICE, LEBANON, PENN'A

Lebanon Advertiser

VOL. 13--NO. 41. LEBANON, PA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1862. WHOLE NO. 667.

The Advertiser is printed and published weekly by Wm. E. BRESLIN

Miscellaneous

WHO RANG THAT BELL.

Some years ago I attended school at an academy in one of our New England villages, which contained, at that time, about two hundred students of both sexes.

ing paper in his commendable zeal to repair the damage he had done. As soon as I could stop laughing long enough to speak, I begged him to explain.

around the edge of the trap, and I followed him with the screws, driving them down firmly into the casing beneath, so that when we had finished, the trap was immovable as if it had always been a part of the solid bell-deck.

agreed that each of us should toss a handful of coppers, and whoever should get the least number of heads, should be the pioneer in the descent.

Take a lantern and mark well who they are, before you let them out. 'Yes, sir,' was the answer, and I heard him unlock the front door of the academy.

Among the rules to which Eaton conformably endeavored to make us conform, was that for the keeping of study hours.

Upon hearing this unexpected and unwelcome intelligence, we all crowded as near as possible to the edge of the roof, and strained our eyes towards the spot where we had left the ladder standing against the gutter.

When I saw the ladder, and saw that it was in a pretty fix, for a while silence reigned upon the roof; we were all too much surprised and perplexed to speak; but soon we heard complaints and muttered maledictions upon the head or heads of whoever had played us this trick.

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Now there were many among us who reasoned in this way: If we remain in our rooms long enough to learn our allotted lessons, and have perfect recitations, there is no necessity for keeping the regular study hours; and if we choose to work a little harder and do all our studying in the daytime, there is no good reason why we should have the evening to ourselves.

As soon as our watches told the hour at which the students were required to extinguish their lights and seek the embracing arms of Somnus, we threw down our cards, and having first reconnoitered the house in which we were, to see if the passage to the outer world was clear, we silently left the house, Adams taking with him a bundle enveloped in brown paper, which he had procured while I was collecting the boys.

After a sufficient time, as we calculated, had elapsed for them to reach home, Adams gave a strong pull upon the line, which was answered by a heavy and sonorous dong! which rang loud and clear through the midnight air; for so much time had been consumed in preparation, that it was now nearly twelve o'clock.

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It is barely possible that, on such occasions, the reaction of youthful spirits sometimes carried us beyond the bounds of strict propriety, and there were probably some grounds for the numerous complaints made by the village people to the principal, of depredations upon their property, which were invariably laid to the academy boys.

There was no moon and but few stars visible, being concealed by the drifting clouds, making it quite dark enough for our purpose. We had no difficulty in finding the ladder, and as the lights in most of the houses disappeared, we at once proceeded to raise it. We found it just long enough to reach the eaves of the building, and as soon as we had planted it securely against the roof and the gutter, Adams began to ascend with his bundle, telling some of us to remain on the ground, and give timely notice if any one approached.

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Among the students there happened to be five or six who were often detected in transgressing the rules than any of the others--not because they were often engaged in mischief, but because they were reckless, dare-devil chaps, they were not so shy in their movements. So well convinced was the professor that these boys were the most desperate characters in school, that he singled them out for the special care of his spies; and from being repeatedly annoyed by the persecution of the sometimes tyrannical Eaton, they did at length unite in the common cause of revenging themselves on the faculty.

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Alliance with the Negro.

Speech of Hon. Charles J. Biddle, of Pennsylvania, delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, March 6, 1850.

The House being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. BIDDLE addressed the Committee as follows:

Mr. Chairman—I thank you for giving me the floor. I would not willingly let pass the sentiments which have just been uttered by my colleague, Mr. Biddle, in relation to the subject of the alliance with the negro.

As a citizen of the border State of Pennsylvania, the views in which I have been bred in relation to the institution of slavery have been temperate and judicious. It has not been to me an exciting subject, as it is to many with whom I am associated in this House; for to some gentlemen, very calm in their judgment on all other matters, the subject of the alliance with the negro has the effect that a red rag has on a bull.

I have never been blind to the disadvantages and evils of slavery; I have not been indifferent to their alleviation. I have, however, been a moderate and a temperate man; yet I have ever regarded the intemperate and aggressive policy of the political and slavery party to be a sterile benefit to the negro as it has been a curse to the white man.

From the earliest times, Pennsylvania has had the policy of treating these questions. Originally, the policy was one of gradual emancipation; but, however, only to the future born children of the slaves then living; these children were to receive their freedom at the age of twenty-eight years.

Our State has, however, the negro had never been a citizen; no our highest court decided, and when the point was controverted, the people settled it definitely by the rejection of the constitution, so that to be a "white" man is one of the necessary constitutional qualifications of the elector.

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