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Miscellaneous.**Common School Decisions.**

We propose hereafter to give our readers the benefit of such decisions of general public interest as may be made by the superintendent of common schools.

Sub-districts cannot be required to pay for the erection, purchase or rent of school houses out of their share of school funds. That is in all cases the duty of the directors, who pay such expenses out of the general fund of the district. If sub-districts were required to erect, purchase or rent school houses, the whole amount of their funds would be consumed in that manner, and they would then be unable to keep their schools open "not less than three months," as is required by law, for they have no power to raise money, but must depend entirely upon the amount given them by the board of directors to keep their schools open for the term specified.

The board of directors must appropriate a sufficient sum of money to each sub-district to keep its schools in operation "not less than three months" in each school year.

The board of school directors can only "control" committees of sub-districts so far as to prevent them from exercising powers not expressly granted to them.

The school directors of every district are required by law to keep all the schools of their district in operation at least three months in each school year, (including the schools of sub-districts,) so as to give every scholar the opportunity to obtain three months schooling per year, and if they abuse their trust in this regard, they may be prosecuted by indictment for misdemeanor.

Directors have a right to make such distribution of the school funds between sub-districts as to them shall seem just and proper, appropriating sufficient to each to keep its schools in operation at least three months.

In order to create a third sub-district out of parts of two other sub-districts, it is necessary that a majority of the citizens of each of the two sub-districts give their assent to the proposed alteration of their lines.

The certificate of school teachers must be renewed annually, and as no certificate can be given except upon actual examination, it follows that all teachers must be examined annually. The changes in the directorship of the public schools, as well as the propriety of improvements and frequent tests of capacity, will suggest reasons for these repeated examinations.

Newly elected directors are held to be in office as soon as they receive their certificates of election, or claim their seats at a meeting of the board with proper evidence of their election. The directors supplanted have no authority to act after their successors are elected.

There never is a new board of directors where the law takes its regular course, except when new districts are formed. Debts legally contracted by a board of directors in any year and left unpaid, must be liquidated by the board in succeeding years.

Directors may in their discretion require the schools of their districts to be kept open every day of each calendar month, except Sundays. The most general rule is to keep them open 26 days per month, but some districts limit the school month to 24 days. A less number than 24 days would not be sanctioned by the department. Above that number the length of time to be taught within a calendar month is at the discretion of the directors.

The occupation of a farmer is not taxable for school purposes.

The correct mode of levying school taxes is, first to "assess upon all offices and posts of profit, professions, trades and occupations," except the occupation of farmers, "and upon all single freemen above the age of 21 years who do not follow any occupation, any sum which the school directors shall deem proper and sufficient, not exceeding the amount assessed on the

same for state and county purposes, except that the sum assessed on each shall in no case be less than fifty cents." After having done this the directors should ascertain how much additional tax it is necessary to raise to meet all the proper and legal demands of the current school year, and assess that amount upon the property of the district, without regard to whether the owner of such property had been before taxed for any office or post of profit, profession, trade or occupation, or as a single freeman.

Whatever money is due from tax collectors of preceding years can be collected from them by the directors by bringing suit upon the collector's bonds; or if they have given none, by an ordinary action of debt. Directors are instructed by the department to collect old duplicates promptly.

It is the specific duty of constables to receive the school duplicate from the treasurer, and it is also their duty to give bond, &c. The oath of office of every constable enjoins upon him to perform all duties required of him by law. If in violation of his duty and oath of office, he refuses to receive the duplicate and give the required bond, the treasurer may appoint some other person to collect the unpaid school tax. And here express provision on the subject ends. The failure of the constable to give the security required, and the refusal of all others to accept the collection of the unpaid school tax, is certainly a case not contemplated. The district treasurer cannot collect by levy and sale such taxes himself, but in his selection of another to collect the same he is not confined to the inhabitants of the district and may select one out of it.

The "three hundred dollar act" does not exempt property from levy and sale for taxes.

The foregoing decisions of the Superintendent are selected from a mass of similar ones, as being of an interesting character to the reader. A number of frivolous questions are daily decided with which it is unnecessary to encumber our columns.—*Keystone.*

LITTERED HORSES.—It is said that, in Sweden, horses are never littered. Plank floors are laid in their stables, perforated with holes, to enable the urine to flow off, so that no wet, and but little moisture, can remain on them; and these planks, kept clean, are the only covering supplied. This practice will appear strange to many, especially to ostlers in this country, but the Swedes attribute to it the soundness of their horses feet. Their animals are rarely lame in their feet or legs, and no other precautions are taken to prevent the evil than that above named.

A late tourist, in remarking on this subject, says:—"The founder I consider to be occasioned, in some degree, by the animals standing in soft straw, which is generally moist if not wet. The Swedish horse is never affected by it, as he stands on a dry, hard floor, without any bedding at all."—*Olive Branch.*

SALT AND WIRE WORMS AGAIN.—We and the following in the "Prairie Farmer" of a late date, which is another strong evidence of the efficacy of salt, even when but sparingly applied, to rid the soil of these vexatious and injurious pests:—

On taking possession of a piece of ground five years ago, for a garden—now in this city, but then out upon the prairie—we found it infested with wire worms. They were present by thousands in every part of the soil, and the question was how to get rid of them. Two years after, we procured some refuse salt, and sowed at the rate of 3½ bushels per acre, in the fall of the year. On working the ground the next summer these worms had nearly all gone away, and now there is scarcely a solitary remnant left. This would seem to say, salt them.

TO KEEP A STOVE BRIGHT BY TWO APPLICATIONS A YEAR.—Make a weak alum water, and mix British lustre with it, perhaps two tea-spoonsful to a gill of alum water; let the stove be cold, brush and rub it till it is perfectly dry. Should any part before polished, become so dry as to look gray, moisten with a wet brush and proceed as before.

AUNT HETTY'S ADVICE.—Oh, girls! set your affections on cats, poodles, parrots, or lap dogs—but let matrimony alone. It's the hardest way on earth of getting a living—you never know when your work is did up. Think of carrying eight or nine children through the measles, chicken-pox, rash, mumps, and scarlet fever, some of 'em twice over; it makes my sides ache to think of it—Oh, you may scribble and save, and twist and turn, and dig and delve, economize and die, and your husband will marry again, take what you've saved to dress his second wife with, and she'll take your portrait for a fire board, and—what's the use of talking! I warrant every one of you'll try it, the first chance you get; there is a sort of bewitchment about it somehow.

Why is an errand boy like an old horse put up at auction? Because he'll go for what he'll fetch.

A "Fast" Trout! and Learned Bobolink!

Dan Marble, in crossing the Allegheny mountains, one summer, fell in with a fishing party from Philadelphia, and they insisted on Dan's holding up and going out to fish with them.

"Well," says Dan, "we went, fished and fished and fished. We drank a barrel of mon-ga-haly, and carried about two pounds of fish back to the hotel in Hollidaysburgh. I got 'strayed off' one morning from the party, and, rod in hand, was overtaken by an old cock in a very ancient-built gig, high as a three story corn-crib. His sober face, broad-brimmed hat, and square-tailed coat, bespoke him a Quaker. The old fellow drew up, eyed me a moment, and coming to the conclusion that I was a *human*, he invited me to get in and ride down the mountain; and as I had some distance to go to overtake my friends, I mounted the cock'd up concern, and the old fellow gave his mare—a vixenish little *rip*—the string, and away we went.

"There's trouting, eh?"
"Slightly," says I.
"Has thee a fondness for fishing?"
"Not very strongly inclined that way," says I.

"The trout are a very cute sort of fish," says he. "I once had a tame trout in my pond. I put him in the pond when he was about as big as my finger. I fed him regularly, and he and I became very social. I frequently lifted him from the pond in my hand; and he grew on 'till, I reckon, he weight a matter of three pounds, good; and I thought, one day, as I had some city friends to dine with me, I'd take out my fish and have him cooked. Ha! ha! really I believe the critter guessed my intentions, for he never would come near me after that. I coaxed and tried to inveigle him for some time; but it was no use, Mr. Trout was shy, and avoided all further sociability. I baited a hook with a most tempting morsel; but no, plague the critter, he was done with me. I next borrowed a scoop net, and though I'd get it high under him, away he'd dart beneath a stone, and out of my reach!

"The trout grew bigger and bigger, and so fat and saucy that I made up my mind that he must be eat. Ha! ha! at last I made a snare. Now, my old friend, said I, thee's bound to come out; but—ha! ha!—plague take the fellow, the moment I put the noose over his body, he'd poke his nose down in the gravel at the bottom of the pond, wiggle his tail, and off would slip the wire, of course. The sleek rogue actually appeared to be laughing at me, and I went away declaring that he might live for ever, if he could."

"Well," says I, interested in the fish and story, "did he continue to live and flourish?"

"Not long; for my son said he'd bet most anything he could catch him, and he did."

"Ah, indeed," says I, "and how did he proceed?"

"Ha! ha! I'll tell you. Reuben caught a dozen large grasshoppers, and threw them into the pond; the fish was very fond of the grasshoppers, and having eaten them all, he became so *springy*, that, in jumping for a fly, he *actually sprang clean out of the pond, and Reuben caught the critter before he could jump back again!*

I told my Quaker friend I guess'd I'd get out! about then!

Dan Marble told rather a rich affair about himself and Durivage going out near New Orleans to shoot. They fell in with a few *bobolinks*, but Dan said neither he nor *Duriv* could fetch one to the ground.

"Frequently," says Dan, "we crept directly under a low ash or alder, upon the top of which one of these clatters was perched, taking deliberate aim, our muskets charged with about six inches of powder, and blazed away. Down the bird would come almost to the ground, and when we thought we had him secure, off he would fly. After performing divers fantastic gyrations, and flapping his wings to convince us that we had not wounded or hurt him, he would suddenly stop still in the air, peak knowingly and wickedly in our faces, and in the joyousness of his exuberant fancy, would open with a song of his own composition, the burden of which sounded to us something like the following:

"Ha! ha! ha!—don't you wish you could? Hink, bang! Wasn't I off in season? Hiti-ka-dink. Put in more—powder. Chickadee, de-kee. You had better shoot with a shovel. Ha! ha! ha! You can't come it. Did you think you had me? but you didn't, though. Call again to-morrow—always; and me at home.—Chickadee—tip, wheet. Never felt so like in my life. Don't you feel cheap? Ha! ha! ha! Ripsidaddy. Catch a bobolink asleep. Zittikawheet. you are the consarnedest fools I ever saw. Lieka-te-split. Give my respects to your aunt. How's your ma? Takesome. Hip! zip! rattle-band. Ha! ha! ha! Go to the devil. Skeet!"

After indulging in this bit of extemporaneous railery, and laughing all the while—we could fairly see him laugh—the bobolink would turn and fly off to the next bush, leaving us to load, creep up and bang away again or not, to suit our fancy.

DODGING THE RESPONSIBILITY.—Sir, said Fieryface, the lawyer, to an unwilling witness, "sir, do you say upon your oath, that Blimpkins is a dishonest man?"

"I didn't say he was ever accused of being an honest man, did I?"

"Does the court understand you to say, Mr. Pimpkins, that the plaintiff's reputation is bad?" inquired the Judge, merely putting the question to keep his eyes open.

"I didn't say it was good, I reckon."

"Sir," said Fieryface, "sir, upon your oath—mind upon your oath—you say that Blimpkins is a rogue, a villain and a thief?"

"You say so," was Pip's reply.

"Haven't you said so?"

"Why, you've said it," said Pimpkins, "what's the use of my repeating?"

"Sir!" thundered Fieryface, the Demosthenean thunderer of Thumbtown, "sir, I charge you upon your sworn oath, do you or do you not say, Blimpkins stole things?"

"No, sir," was the cautious reply of Pimpkins, "I never said Blimpkins stole things; but I do say—he's got a way of finding things, that nobody has lost!"

"Sir," said Fieryface, "you can retire;" and the court adjourned.

CONTRAST OF COLORS.—The Portland Eclectic says that an exquisite young lady wriggled into a dry good store on Middle street, one day last week, and addressing the clerk with the most execrable drawl she could affect, enquired if he had "any subdued mouse color silk." "No," replied he, with a sudden and expressive twirl of the yard stick, "but we have some *enraged rat color*."

READY WIT.—A person threw the head of a goose on the stage of the Belleville theatre. Corto, advancing to the front, said—Gentlemen, if any amongst you have lost your head, do not be uneasy, for I will restore it at the conclusion of the performance.

A country editor, describing a dance, at a village ball, said:—"The gorgeous strings of glass beads glistened on the heaving bosoms of the village belles, like polished rubies resting on the delicate surface of warm apple-dumplings."

An Irish girl hereabout in Gotham, who plumed herself upon being employed in a "genteel family," was asked a definition of the term. "When they have two or three kinds of wine, and the gentlemen swear!" was the satisfactory reply.

Mrs. Russell says it is not as much trouble for a "nuss" to take care of sick people as some folks imagine. The most of 'em don't want anything, she says, and when they do, they don't get it.

LEWISTOWN MILLS.

While subscribers have taken the Lewistown Mills and formed a partnership under the firm of JOHN STERRETT & CO. for carrying on a general **MILLING BUSINESS**, wish to buy a large quantity of all kinds of GRAIN, for which we will pay the highest prices the market will afford, according to the quality of the grain.

Any person wishing to store their wheat can do so, and a receipt will be given to be kept in store until the 1st of August, and after that until the 1st of December. In case of wheat left in store, the subscribers reserve the privilege of purchasing said wheat when the owners wish to sell, at from 13 to 15 cents off of Philadelphia prices, and if we do not buy at this rate, then we charge one cent per bushel for storage. No interest will be allowed on money not lifted for grain sold, as we are prepared to pay cash at all times.

FLOUR and all kinds of FEED kept and for sale for cash.

W. THOMPSON, AND McFARLANE, HUGH CONLEY, S. S. WOODS.

Lewistown, May 2, 1851.—tf

Wood Turning Establishment, Lewistown, Pa.

WOOD TURNING, in all its various branches, in city styles, at low prices, done to order on the shortest notice.

Bed Posts, Chair Spindles, Broom-handles, Hoe-handles, Rosettes, Newell Posts, Awning Posts, Pillars, Rods, Rounds, Balusters, Table Legs, Patterns, Wagon Hubs, Chisels and Auger Handles, Columns, &c.

WHIP SAW. Wagon Fellows, Columns, and all kinds of Carpenter and Cabinet work sawed to order.

CIRCULAR SAW. Plastering Lath, Roofing Lath, Paling, and all kinds of Ripping, also done on the shortest notice.

Plaster Mill. At all times on hand, Ground Plaster, and for sale at as low prices as can be obtained in this country.

All the above work done and articles furnished at the Turning Mill and Machine Shop of the subscribers, situated in WATER STREET, immediately above the Lewistown Mills, in the borough of Lewistown.

N. B. Mechanics, Farmers, and all others who desire anything in any of the above named branches of business are respectfully invited to favor us with their custom.

DANIEL ZEIGLER & CO.

June 13, 1851.—tf

SALT.—185 sacks ground alum SALT. 300 bags Dairy Salt—for sale by nov 25 JOHN KENNEDY.

Estate of John Hoffman, dec'd.

Late of Granville township, Mifflin county.

NOTICE is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the estate of JOHN HOFFMAN, late of Granville township, Mifflin county, deceased, have been granted by the Register of Wills of said county to the subscribers, residing in Fayette township, Juniata county. All persons indebted to said estate are hereby notified to call and make payment without delay, and those having claims to present them, duly authenticated, for settlement.

JOHN HOFFMAN, MICHAEL HOFFMAN, Executors.
February 20, 1852.—tf

Estate of Rachel Johnston,

Late of Granville township, Mifflin county, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the estate of RACHEL JOHNSTON, late of Granville township, Mifflin county, deceased, have been granted by the Register of Wills of said county to the subscribers, residing in said township. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present them, for settlement and payment, duly authenticated.

JOSEPH RHODES, GEORGE STRODE, Executors.
February 20, 1852.—tf

NOTICE.

To the Heirs and Legal Representatives of Arthur Bell, deceased.

AT a Special Court of Common Pleas of Mifflin county, held at Lewistown, in and for said county, by the Hon. James H. Graham and his associates, on the 10th day of February, A. D. 1852, the said court granted and made the following rule on the heirs and legal representatives of said Arthur Bell, deceased, namely:

Arthur Bell vs. Peter Snook, Henry Mick and Henry Middleworth. Summons in Ejectment.

And now to wit, February 10th, 1852, on motion of Mr. Candor, rule on the heirs and legal representatives of ARTHUR BELL to appear and become parties plaintiff to this suit by the first day of next term. Personal notice of this rule to be served on James Bell, of Huntingdon county. And as to the other parties in interest being out of the county, publication in one newspaper published in the county for six weeks to be sufficient notice.

By the Court.
Lewistown, February 20, 1852.—tf

Register's Notice.

THE following accounts have been examined and passed by me, and remain filed on record in this office for inspection of Heirs, Legatees, Creditors, and all others in any way interested, and will be presented to the next Opians' Court of the county of Mifflin, to be held at the Court House in Lewistown, on THURSDAY, the 5th day of April, 1852, for allowance and confirmation:

1. The account of John Purcell and Elijah Morrison, executors of Robert Fields, deceased.
2. The account of James Davis, administrator of John Martin, deceased.
3. The account of Samuel Barr, Guardian of William J. and Mary M. Bell, minor children of Arthur Bell, dec'd.
4. The account of David Jenkins, Guardian of Joseph C. McDowell, minor son of James McDowell, deceased.

JAMES McDOWELL, Reg.

Register's Office, Lewistown, March 5, 1852.

Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

STATEMENT OF THE ASSETS OF THE

Company, on January 1st 1852, published in conformity with the provisions of the 6th Section of the Act of Assembly, of April 5th, 1838.

Mortgages. Being first Mortgages, well secured, free of ground rent, in the city and county of Philadelphia, except \$26 50 in Montgomery, Bucks, Schuylkill and Allegheny counties, Pennsylvania.

\$307,513 64

Real Estate.

Purchased at Sheriff's sales, under mortgage claims, viz: Eight houses and lot, 70 by 150 feet, on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Schuylkill Sixth streets.

A house and lot, 27 by 71 feet, on North side of Spruce street, west of Eleventh.

A house and lot, 21½ by 100 feet, on west side Penn Square, south side High st.

Two houses and lots, each 15 by 50 feet, on south side of Spruce street, near Schuylkill Seventh.

Five houses and lots, each 17 by 90 feet. Nos. 121, 123, 125, 127, and 129 Duwayn street.

Three houses and lot, 49 by 51 feet, on east side of Schuylkill Sixth street, south of Pine.

A lot of ground, 17 by 57 feet, on the north east corner of Schuylkill Front and Spruce streets.

A house and lot, 18 by 105 feet, on south side of Filbert street, west of Schuylkill Seventh.

Hotel and lot, 50 by 81 feet, on the south east corner of Chestnut and Beach sts.

Five houses and lot, 75 by 85 feet, on the north side of George street, west of Ash.

Seven houses and lot, 20 by 117 feet, on the east side of Beach street, south of Chestnut.

A house and lot, 18 by 80 feet, No. 96 Fitzwater street, east of Ninth.

Cost \$1,377 78

Surveyed and valued at \$112,000.

Cost \$1,377 78

Valued at \$66,200

Cost \$6,057 81

1,303 25

103 84

46,481 30

\$1,284,330 94

By order of the Board, CHARLES N. BANCCKER, President.

Attest—CHARLES G. BANCCKER, Secretary.

Philadelphia, Feb. 20, 1852.

Agent for Mifflin county, Gen. R. C. HALE, Lewistown.

GOODYEAR'S celebrated metallic Gentle-

men's and Ladies' Gun Shoes, together with a general assortment of Misses' and Children's Gum Boots and Shoes for sale by jan10 MOSES MONTGOMERY.

FOR PUDDINGS.—Hecker's Farina, prepared expressly for families, hotels and eating houses. Corn Starch, a new article for the same purpose, similarly prepared, for sale at dec12 Banks' Variety Store.

Philadelphia Advertisements.**Spring Millinery Goods.**

JOHN STONE & SONS,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN FRENCH

MILLINERY GOODS,

No. 45 South Second street, Philadelphia.

ARE now prepared to offer to their customers and the trade a large and well selected assortment of

Silks, Ribbons and Millinery Goods.

Confining themselves exclusively to this branch of the trade, and importing the larger part of their stock, enable them to offer an assortment unsurpassed in extent and variety, which will be sold at the lowest prices and on the most favorable terms. mar12-2m

Window Blinds and Shades.

B. J. WILLIAMS,
MANUFACTURER,

No. 12 N. Sixth street, above Market, Philadelphia.

KEEPS a larger and better assortment of Venetian Blinds, of narrow slats, with fancy and plain trimmings, than any other establishment in the city. Paint and Plain Shades, Shade Trimmings and Fittings, &c. &c., which he will sell, wholesale and retail, at the lowest cash prices.

The citizens of Lewistown will find it to their interest to call, before purchasing, as they are assured they can buy a better article than at any other establishment, for the same price. My motto is, "A good article, quick sales, and small profits." **WE STUDY TO PLEASE.** Philadelphia, March 12, 1852.—3m

Straw Goods—Spring 1852.

THE Subscriber is now prepared to exhibit to Merchants and Milliners his usual heavy stock of Ladies' and Misses'

Straw and Silk Bonnets, Straw Trimmings and Artificial Flowers;

Palm-leaf, Panama and Every Variety of **SUMMER HATS**

for Gentlemen; which for Extent, Variety and beauty of manufacture, as well as uniformly close prices, will be found unrivaled.

THOMAS WHITE,

No. 41 South Second Street, Philadelphia.

February 13, 1852.—3m.

Front Street Wire Manufactory.

WATSON & COX,
SIEVE, RIDDLE, SCREEN AND WIRE CLOTH MANUFACTURERS,

No. 46 North Front Street, Corner of Conmick's Alley, between Market and Milberry (Arch) streets, Philadelphia.

WHERE they continue to manufacture, of superior quality, Brass and Iron Wire Sieves of all kinds; Brass and Copper Wire Cloth for Paper Makers, &c. &c. Cylinders and Dandy Rolls, covered in the best manner.