

# LEWISTOWN GAZETTE.

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Druggists and country merchants are requested to give them a call and examine their stock and prices, before making their purchases.

**GAS FIXTURES.**  
The subscriber has just received a splendid assortment of Gas Fixtures, among which are

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FLEXIBLE TUBES, GLOBES & SHADES  
of all descriptions, and a general assortment of  
LAMPERS, all which he will sell at Philadelphia prices (cut, fitted and put up free of charge.) Call and examine for yourself.  
Gas pipe put into houses, shops, stores, &c. at the shortest notice.  
G. W. STEWART.

**GAS! GAS!**  
B. SELHEIMER would respectfully inform the citizens of Lewistown that he is preparing to put up  
**Gas Fixtures of all kinds,**  
Churches, Stores, Dwellings, Public Buildings, Shops, &c., in the best manner. Having procured an experienced workman from the City, recommended to me to be one of the workmen in the State, I can safely warrant all work and feel confident of pleasing  
Lewistown, May 22, 1856.

**NEW FIRM.**  
The subscribers, trading as McWilliams & Sterrett, have leased the Lewistown Mill and are now prepared to buy all kinds of grain, for which they will pay the highest market price in cash.  
Grain will be taken in store on the same terms as heretofore by John Sterrett & Co. Farmers who wish to have grists ground, or grain chopped, will be accommodated on the most liberal terms.  
They will always have on hand for sale a full supply of

**Flour, Grain and Feed,**  
which will be delivered to any part of town by orders at the office in the Mill.  
Orders will be filled at all times by found at the office to give their personal attention to the business, and they hope to merit a continuance of patronage bestowed on the old firm.  
GEO. W. MCWILLIAMS,  
F. R. STERRETT,  
Lewistown, January, 17, 1856.

**GEO. W. ELDER,**  
Attorney at Law,  
OFFICE in West Market street, opposite Eisen's Hotel, will attend to any business in the county of Mifflin, Centre, or Huntingdon counties.  
Lewistown, July 1, 1855.

**E. B. BROWN,**  
SURGEON DENTIST.  
PROFESSIONAL business promptly attended to, and charges reasonable.  
OFFICE on North Main street, second door from the town Hall, and nearly opposite the Gazette office.  
Je 21, 1855-56.

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OFFICE in West Market street, second door from the town Hall, and nearly opposite the Gazette office. je5

**Hoffman's for Tubs**  
**Hoffman's for Churns**  
**Hoffman's for Buckets**  
**Hoffman's for Brooms**  
**Hoffman's for Baskets**  
dec 11

## Communications.

### PROSE POEMS.

#### A SERIES OF DAY DREAMS.

BY I. J. STINE.

No. III.

It was a beautiful thing—the castle I was building. The plain was wide and smooth, and a little knoll was the site of the castle. A rippling streamlet meandered by. Its banks were green, and beautified with flowers, sweet wild flowers.—The tall trees which threw their shadows around the castle, were fresh with the buds and blossoms of spring; and in their waving branches the sweet warblers of the grove sang merrily. The lambs sported o'er the green lawn, charmed with the loveliness of their first spring-time, while their more experienced dams looked on well-pleased with their innocent sports.—My little deer—my pet—with its romping and roving, its skipping and playing, was the pet of the household also, and beguiled the weary evening when the sun was going down.

But why was I building a castle? A cottage in the country is generally connected with scenes like these. I saw other castles rearing their massive pillars all around, and mine must be a castle, too. It arose "a thing of beauty," and I anticipated it, in its completion, as "a joy forever," never once dreaming that the poet had idly dreamed—

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."  
The future looked all bright before me, as the present looked all bright around me.

In the morning, when the sun arose and the flowers opened, and the green earth smiled, and the birds sang their hymns of morning praise; at noontime when the sun stood in the heaven, and the lambs sought the shade, and the birds were quiet among the branches; and in the evening, when the sun was setting, and the lambs were sporting, and the birds were chattering their low love notes, and the pretty flowers were blushing beneath the kisses of the sighing zephyrs—I was happy.

But my castle. It arose, beautiful in the morning light, beautiful beneath the rays of the noonday sun, beautiful in the mild gloaming of evening, and beautiful beneath the smiles of the moon. The vines began already to clamber up the walls on the East side, and a rose bush that stood by the South-east corner was beautiful with roses. My castle looked toward the south. The rich carved work of the massive pillars and the cornice was of a superior style. And within—I was furnishing it with the costliest materials. The richest carpets covered its floors, and the richest papers its walls; and the largest and richest mirrors, and the paintings of the masters ornamented its parlors.

The morning was bright and lovely, and I stood and viewed the beautiful castle. Suddenly a dark cloud appeared in the east, small—not larger than a man's hand at first. But it rapidly grew larger, and soon the whole heavens were covered with darkness, as if they were in mourning over nature's grave. The lambs ceased their sports, the flowers hung their heads, and the birds sought hiding places among the bushes. A storm passed over my head, a strong wind rushed by which laid me upon the ground. I arose, and looked again; but now there was nothing before me but the wide plain. I had built a castle in the air.

And now the storm was over and the clouds had disappeared, and the sun shone, but not for me; and the flowers bloomed and the green earth smiled, but not for me; and the birds sang more sweetly than ever, but not for me; and even the increased sweetness of their songs made my heart still more sad and thoughtful. Then I betook me back to my home in the mountains, to my "cottage in the wilderness," to my strong fortresses, among the rocks. Not long was I there, however, until all was bright and joyous again, and I was happy. My days were peaceful and full of pleasure, and when I lay down to sleep at night I thought I could hear the angels whisper. And as I lay one night in meditation, when all around was still, a sweet voice came to me and said, "arise; I have a work for thee to do. Go, speak to the castle builders around thee of the changeableness of all things earthly and their fleeting character, and of the only hope of man that changes not."

## THE MINSTREL.

### WOMAN'S LIFE.

I saw her first in halls of mirth,  
The fairest of the fair;  
And like the bird among the flowers  
She seemed to tread on air;  
Her eyes were like the young gazelle's,  
So beautiful and bright,  
And I have loved no other eye  
Since that remem'ring night.  
When once again I saw her form,  
Her bosom heaved a sigh,  
And the blight that oft on beauty falls  
Had dimm'd her bright pure eye;  
For he whom she had loved so well  
Had play'd a faithless part,  
And when I looked upon her then  
I read her broken heart.  
I stood and gaz'd upon her grave,  
And saw her borne along,  
Her love, her sorrow all forgot,  
And he who did her wrong  
Soon wiped the tear—if tear there fell—  
And took another bride;  
But I still weep for her I loved,  
Though none should weep beside.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO.

I've wandered through the village, Tom,  
And sat beneath the tree,  
Upon the old school-house play ground,  
That sheltered you and me,  
There's none there left to greet me, Tom,  
And few are left to know,  
That played with us upon the ground  
Some twenty years ago.  
The old school-house has altered some,  
The benches are replaced,  
With new ones very like the same  
Our pen-knives have defaced;  
The same old bench are in the wall,  
The bell swings to and fro,  
The master's just the same, dear Tom,  
'Twas twenty years ago.  
The grass is growing just as green,  
Bare-footed boys at play,  
Are sporting as they were, dear Tom,  
With spirits just as gay,  
But the master sleeps upon the hill,  
Now coated o'er with snow,  
That holds us a stilling place  
Some twenty years ago.  
The river's running just as still,  
The willows by its side  
Are larger than they were, dear Tom,  
The stream appears less wide,  
But the grape-vine swing's in ruin now,  
Where once we played the house,  
And swung our sweet hearts, pretty girls,  
Some twenty years ago.  
Close by the spring, upon an elm,  
You know I cut your name,  
Your sweet heart's just beneath it, Tom,  
As you did mine the same,  
Some heartless wretch has peeled the bark,  
'Twas dying sure but slow,  
Just as the ones whose names we cut  
Died twenty years ago.  
The spring that bubbled 'neath the hill,  
Close by the spreading beech,  
To now so high, 'twere scarce so low  
That I could almost reach,  
While kneeling down to get a drink,  
Dear Tom, I started so,  
To see how much that I had changed,  
Since twenty years ago.  
My lids they'd long been dry, Tom,  
But tears came to my eyes,  
I thought of them we loved so well,  
In early breakdawns.  
I visited the old church yard,  
And took some flowers to strew  
Upon the graves of those we loved  
Some twenty years ago.  
Some are in the church-yard left,  
Some sleep beneath the sea,  
But few are left of our old class  
Excepting you and me,  
And when our time shall come, dear Tom,  
And we are called to go,  
I hope they'll lay us where we played,  
Just twenty years ago.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

The tomb of Moses is unknown, but the traveler slakes his thirst at the well of Jacob. The gorgeous palace of the wisest of monarchs, with the cedar and gold and ivory, even the Temple of Jerusalem, are gone, but Solomon's reservoirs are perfect. Of the ancient architecture of the holy city not one stone is left upon another, but the pool of Bethesda commands the pilgrim's reverence to the present day. The columns of Persepolis are mouldering into dust; but the cisterns and aqueducts remain to challenge our admiration. The golden house of Nero is a mass of ruins; but Aqua Claudia still pours into Rome its limpid stream. The Temple of the Sun at Tadmor in the Wilderness, has fallen; but its fountains sparkle as freely in his rays as when thousands of his worshipers thronged its lofty colonades.

It may be that London will share the fate of Babylon, and nothing left to mark its site save the mounds of crumbling brick work, but still the Thames will continue to flow as it now does. And if any work should rise over the deep ocean of time, we may well believe that it will be neither palace, temple, nor monument, but some vast reservoir. And if the light of any one should flash through the midst of antiquity, it will probably be that of the man who, in his day, sought the happiness of his fellow men rather than the glory which outlives all others, and shines with undying lustre from generation to generation, imparting to its work something of its own immortality, and in some degree rescuing therefrom the ordinary monuments of historical tradition of more magnificence.

## ANAGRAMS.

An anagram is the dissolution of any word or sentence in letters as its elements, and then making some other word or sentence from it, applicable to persons or things named in such original word or sentence. There are words of this description, both of ancient and modern application which exhibit coincidences that are truly surprising, and afford a very peculiar fund of amusement. The following is a selection of some of the best transpositions:

Radical reform—Rare mad frolic.  
Astronomers—Moon stagers.  
Democratical—Conical trade.  
Encyclopedia—A nice cold pie.  
Gallantries—All great sins.  
Lawyers—Sly wares.  
Misanthropy—Spare him not.  
Monarch—March on.  
Old England—Golden land.  
Presbyterian—Best in prayers.  
Punishment—Nine thumps.  
Revolution—To love ruin.  
Telegraphs—Great helps.  
Penitentiary—Nay I repent.

### ELEVEN YEARS A SLAVE.

The following paragraph is from the *Westchester, Pa., Village Record*:  
"We mentioned in the last *Record* that James Henry, a colored man, born in Westchester, had been kidnapped, sold as a slave, and remained in bondage, in Virginia, until he made his escape, a period of eleven years. Since our publication Henry has called at our office, and detailed a considerable portion of his experience. He is a light complected negro, and his father being a preacher, he was taught to read and write. He has a good address, and is fluent of tongue. In 1833, at ten years of age, he entered the U. S. Navy, where he remained eight or ten years, and was discharged as a first class seaman, with a medal for good conduct. After being on shore for some time, he engaged as a seaman on board a vessel bound for the West Indies. The captain of this vessel, having sailed, anchored on the coast of Virginia, took him ashore in a boat, and telling him he would shortly be back, pushed off to the ship, and left him on shore. The captain did not return, and Henry soon found that he was claimed and treated as a slave; he was knocked down and ironed, and in company with various other negroes was marched off to the South and sold. They traveled during night, from station to station, being in day time confined in strong slave pens. He everywhere protested his freedom, but received no attention; no man was willing to befriend him, and he was doomed to bondage for years and years, until he could find the means of escape. How shall this man Henry obtain redress upon those who have enslaved him—beat and maulled him—and insulted the majesty of Pennsylvania, which was bound to protect him, or avenge his wrongs? How? Can any one answer?"

### INSANITY FROM SPIRITUALISM.

In the Allegheny Court of Quarter Sessions last week, J. H. Hampton, Esq., made an application for a jury *de lunatico inquirendo* in the case of Frank McCracken, a young man who had recently been employed at the freight depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, but who had become insane from reading newspapers devoted to spiritualism and giving his attention to the subject of spiritual rappings. McCracken's mind had become so much impaired that it was unsafe for him to be at large, and he was, some week or two since, committed to prison on a charge of surety of the peace made by Mr. W. C. Connolly, of the St. Clair Hotel. The Court ordered the application to be filed, and after the transaction of some other business, McCracken was brought into Court, and his insanity, as above stated, fully made out by the testimony of several witnesses. He was head receiving clerk at the Point Depot, and was considered one of the best clerks in the city. He had previously been in the Western Pa. Hospital, and was discharged, supposed to be cured. He labored under the impression that the persons about him carried magnets, by which both his mind and body were influenced. He appeared sane enough except on this subject of spiritualism and magnetism. He is an Irishman by birth, and has no friends in this part of the country. The jury, without going out, found that the prisoner was insane,

and had been for several months, that his last place of residence was the Fourth Ward, Pittsburgh, that he was unsafe to be at large, and had no property to the knowledge of the jury. The Court ordered that the unfortunate young man should be taken to the Western Pa. Hospital.

### ELECTION OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

This may be the last No. of our *Journal* that will meet the eyes of Directors before they assemble to elect County Superintendents for the next three school years. The proper performance of that duty, so as to effect the original design of the liberal and far-seeing Legislature which established the office, will be of incalculable benefit to the State; and the contrary will be equally injurious. It is, therefore, our design, as one amongst the thousands of Pennsylvanians who are watching the workings of this new feature in our educational system with intense interest, frankly to state the conclusions to which our observations have led.

Three years ago, few Directors or others had any clear view of the necessity, nature, mode of operation, or probable results of this office. The natural consequences were, in the first instance, numerous mistakes in selection and compensation. These have been, we think erroneously, attributed, in and out of the State, to a settled purpose to defeat the office, out of general hostility to the system itself. In a few cases, this feeling may have had its influence; but in most, the action complained of really grew out of mere want of knowledge of the nature of the office itself, and an honest belief that such an addition to the expense and the working machinery of the system was wholly unnecessary. Whatever may have been the cause, it is certain that the duty of selecting County Superintendents was so performed as to produce one of the three following results: Either,

1. An incompetent person was chosen, who failed, no matter what the salary.
2. A competent was chosen, who failed, or was crippled in his operations, by total inadequacy of salary.
3. A competent person was selected, with adequate salary, who fulfilled the just expectations of the friends of the law.

From this it would appear that fitness in the person and adequacy of compensation are the elements—the essential conditions—of success. Of course, as in all other complex affairs, there are instances that appear to conflict with this conclusion; but on close inspection they will be found rather to confirm it. For example: one Superintendent may have been so well qualified for his station, and so devoted to the system, that he discharged its duties at a most shamefully inadequate salary. But who will argue from this, that it is the right of the public to impose such a burden on private means or individual patriotism? Or it may have been that all the conditions appeared to be secured—both adequacy of salary and "skill and experience in the art of teaching"—yet failure ensued. But who will condemn the office, because, here and there, a good teacher may have made a poor Superintendent? Many an able lawyer makes a miserable Judge; few of the most successful practicing physicians are qualified for the Professor's chair; so a capital teacher of boys may not succeed as Teacher of Teachers and administrative officer of a complicated school system.

It would be no difficult task to run over the whole State and show the correctness of the conclusions just stated. But it is neither proper or necessary.

Taking for granted, that experience has fully justified the wisdom of the Legislature in requiring the selection of a fit person and the payment of a sufficient salary, for this office, two questions arise:

1. Who is a fit person for the office?
2. What is a sufficient salary?

In answer to the first question, it may, in the words of the school law, be replied that fitness consists in

1. "Literary and scientific acquirements." These are both indispensable, and the degree of them should be considerable. In every county, schools of every rank and grade—from the lowest primary to the high school, with its full round of branches—are or must soon come into ex-

istence; and to discharge the office properly, the Superintendent must be qualified "to examine" all the Teachers, "to visit" them, and to "give such instructions in the art of teaching and the method thereof in each school" as the condition and grade of each shall require. How can this be done, except by one who is scholar enough to teach the Teacher of the highest branch taught in the highest school in his county?

2. "Skill and Experience in the Art of Teaching," is another requisite—not only skill to know, but practice to do. It is no doubt true, that, in some instances, the office has been well filled by persons of no great actual experience in the art. This is owing to the known fact that some men have naturally in them so much of the elements of the Teacher, and such a love for the work and the cause, as to supply, to a great degree, all other defects. But the exception only proves the rule, for the instances of failure for want of this element have been too numerous to leave the question doubtful. But mere learning and professional skill are not sufficient, unless, as the law and the necessity of the case everywhere intimate, they are accompanied with power to make them efficient.—Hence,

3. "Ability to impart knowledge, and give information, publicly as well as privately," is indispensable. Since the passage of the act of 1854—in addition to the public meetings for the examination of Teachers, and the visitation of schools in the presence of directors and parents thereby prescribed—the holding of district and county Institutes, Associations and Meetings, for the improvement of Teachers, and the delivery of public lectures and addresses for the furtherance of the system and the explanation of the law, have become so general, and are found to be so beneficial, that they may now be regarded as an integral part of the Superintendent's duties. All these occasions impose the duty of addressing the public; and the officer who does not do it, fails in his duty. Some ability therefore to speak in public should be embraced among the requisites of fitness for the office.

4. Energy of character and love for the work, are the last essentials that need be specified. Without these, the highest degree of scholastic attainment, of professional skill, and of power of expression, will fail, for the great moving forces of the required character will be wanting. With these present in a large degree, even a medium of qualification in other respects may succeed.

Amongst the qualifications necessary to this most important office, it is, of course, not deemed requisite to speak of temperance, honesty or industry, nor of common sense, savvy of manners, or knowledge of human nature. These are requisites to the safe and efficient discharge of every public trust; the one in question being no exception to the general rule, but rather demanding them in a greater degree than most others. In a word, and aside from special requisites, the nearer the character of a County Superintendent approaches to that of the Christian gentleman, the greater will be his acceptance and success.

The answer to the question, What is an adequate salary? will depend mainly on the locality; and the experience of the past three years will, in many cases, modify past action on this point. Many of the Conventions fixed the salary in 1854, under a total or very material misapprehension of the nature of the office, the amount of service required and the degree of good to be effected. Now, in many parts of the State, all these points are clearly comprehended, and the action of the directors will no doubt be different. No one who knows the people of Pennsylvania will, for a moment, suppose that injustice will be done in regulating the compensation of those who are found to be amongst the most useful, most laborious and most important of our public agents. The salary must, as just remarked, depend on the circumstances of each case; still, certain general principles are indicated by the nature of the office and the wants of the schools, which it may be useful to elicit.

The first point to be determined is, whether the whole, or only a portion, of the officer's time will be required for the full discharge of the office. This will wholly depend on the number of schools in the county. If they are materially over 100 and should be increased, then the best