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MISCELLANEOUS.

History of the West Branch.

[We copy the following incidents, which transpired in the early settlement of Union county, from a History of the West Branch Valley, recently published.]

Captain James Thompson was an early settler in Buffalo Valley, and, during a predatory incursion of savages, was taken and carried into captivity. Several incorrect publications of his sufferings have been made, but the following is believed to be correct, as it was taken down from his own lips, in 1832, by James F. Linn, Esq., of Lewisburg, and entered in his journal. Some time previous to his capture he had removed his wife and children to Penns Creek, for greater security against the Indians. In March, 1781, he was going from Lewisburg (then Derstown) to his farm, preparatory to moving down the country. On the road between the farms of John Linn and Col. John Kelly, he was suddenly surprised by four Indians, and compelled to go along with them. When they came to a hollow, half a mile from Kelly's house, they discovered a fresh track in the soft clay. One of the Indians exclaimed, "Squaw." Two of them immediately set off on a run, and two remained to guard him, one behind and one before. They soon heard a female scream, when the one behind struck him on the back with his gun and cried, "Waugh," (run.) They started off on a run, and on coming to the top of a hill, saw the other two with a woman, when they pushed off immediately for an Indian town on Towanda creek. They crossed the White Deer and other mountains, north of Buffalo Valley, and came to the river near the mouth of Locoming creek, which they crossed in canoes. During the night they tied his arms behind him, and fastened the cord to grubs in the ground.

One night, while encamped on Locoming creek, not being tied very securely, he succeeded in releasing his arms. Two of the Indians lay on one side of the fire with the girl--Mary Young, the daughter of Matthew Young, who lived on a farm adjoining Captain Thompson's--and two on the other side with him. He first endeavored to get one of their tomahawks, but discovered that they were all lying on their arms. He then got a stone, which they had used for crushing corn, raised on his knees, preparatory to giving one of them a mortal stroke on the temple, and securing a tomahawk. But on account of his heat being wrapped in a blanket, he struck too high to effect his object. The Indian gave a yell, which awoke the other. He now attempted to run, but the cord, with which he was tied, and stretched between the two grubs, intercepted him, and as he stepped back to get around it, one of the savages caught him by the collar of the coat, and in the struggle tore it to the bottom. He drew his tomahawk to strike him on the head, but desisted, and spoke to the one he had wounded in his own language, and then drew it again, desisted, and spoke to the wounded Indian, and then drew it the third time. He expected to receive it this time, and was resolved to try and catch it and wrest it from his hand. But they finally concluded not to kill him, reserving him for a more formal execution. They then tied a hollow gourd, containing shot, to his waist, telling him that was his death warrant.

After this they tied him so tight that he lost all feeling in his hands and arms. They continued on towards their place of destination. One day they shot a wild turkey, and taking out the entrails, rolled them round a stick without any cleaning, roasted them in the fire, and gave them to the prisoners to eat. Before this they had only a few grains of corn per day, and this change of diet, said Mr. Thompson, was quite a delicacy!

When they got to Towanda the Indians became less careful, thinking he would not attempt to run away again. In the evening they made him gather wood: he managed to go further away for each load, till he got as far as he thought it was prudent to try, and watching an opportunity when they were not observing him, darted off into the woods as fast as he could run, with twenty-two grains of corn in his pocket, for provision, to travel a journey of many miles through the wilderness.

He said he could have made his escape on several occasions before, but he could not think of leaving Mary Young a prisoner with them. She frequently told him to escape, and not try to rescue her, as it would defeat both. She was resigned to her fate.

He took a different route at first from that toward home, to deceive the Indians in pursuit. In running he stepped on a rotten stick, which broke and made a noise; at the same time he heard two trees rubbing together which he took to be the Indians in pursuit. Being terribly frightened he ran into a pond, and hid himself in the brush, with nothing out but his head, where he lay till he was satisfied they were not coming that way. He then proceeded on his journey, keeping along the mountains, lest he might meet Indians in the valleys. One night he ran almost into an Indian encampment before seeing it. He went a little higher up the hill, where he

could plainly see the Indians pass between him and the fire. At another time he came very near an encampment, when an Indian gave a yell. He supposed he was discovered, but squatted down immediately and remained quiet in the bushes; in a short time one of the Indians commenced chopping wood, when he knew they had not seen him, and carefully passed around them.

He struck the West Branch a few rods above where they had crossed it going out, and found one of the canoes on the bank, the river having fallen. Being so weak, he was unable to push it in, but getting two round sticks under it for rollers, with the aid of a handspike, succeeded in launching it. On getting in, he discovered the other canoe sunk, when he worked and bailed it out, and lashing the two together, started with two paddles on his voyage. He rowed to the middle of the river, so that if the Indians did pursue him and shoot, they would not be so likely to hit him. One of his paddles accidentally dropped out and floated off, which he regretted very much, but, on getting into an eddy, it came floating up to his canoe, and was recovered.

When his craft got opposite to where Watsons now stands, he was discovered, and relieved by some friends. He was so weak that he lay in the canoe, and waved his hand to them on shore, which attracted their attention. When taken out, he was so weak that he could not relate his adventures, for several days, having to be nourished with sweet milk till he gained strength sufficient to talk. After getting able to walk, he went to his family, and removed to Chester county, where they remained till the close of the war.

The Indians took Mary to their towns, and set her to hoeing corn. An old negro, who was also a prisoner, told her to dig up the beans that were planted with the corn, and they would think her too dumb to learn agriculture, and sell her to the English. She took his advice, and was eventually sold to an English Captain, with whom she remained several years, when she was liberated and returned home. Having been so much exposed during her captivity, her constitution was so shattered that she survived her return but a short time. On their way out, she was obliged to wade through deep creeks, and, as the weather was very cold, her clothes were often frozen into a solid mass of ice.

She informed Captain Thompson that two of the Indians pursued him part of two days, but returned without success. They regretted his escape very much, as they intended to torture him. The wounded Indian left them soon after his escape, and she never heard of him after, but supposed he died, as he was badly injured.

At that time he saw a woman, a cousin to James Cornelius, who resided in Buffalo township, that had been taken prisoner by the Indians during the French war. When they had taken her a great distance from home she managed to effect her escape, and made her way through the woods alone. The first day she came up with a mare and colt, and getting on her rode all day. When night came she turned her out to pasture, laid herself down by a log for the night, and never expected to see her again. When she awoke in the morning the mare and colt stood by her side! She rode her all that day, and turned her out to graze whilst she slept, but the next morning the faithful animal was there, as before, to receive her rider. She rode her each day till she arrived at the fort. By some, this particular circumstance would be termed an interposition of Divine Providence, to preserve the life of the woman. It is also stated that when she came to the fort the mare would allow no other person to approach, and when she was turned out to graze that night, made her escape, and was never heard of again.

About this time there lived near where the town of New Berlin now stands, a family named Klinesmith. A small party of Indians coming upon their dwelling, whilst the males of the family were busy in the harvest field of a neighbor, plundered the house and carried away two of Klinesmith's daughters, one sixteen, the other fourteen years old. The party retreated to a spring north of New Berlin--now called the Still House Spring--where they halted, and, not satisfied with the trifling mischief they had done, left their prisoners and booty in the care of the oldest man of the party, whilst the main body proceeded to the harvest field, in the hope of getting some scalps to carry home as trophies of their success.

The old man lighted his pipe and sat down at the foot of a tree, keeping an eye upon his prisoners. After some time the rain began to fall, when Betsey, the eldest girl, intimated to the sentinel that she meant to cut down some branches from the trees, and cover a small bag of flour which the Indians had brought from her father's house. The Indian, little suspecting her real intention, assented, and permitted her to take one of the axes or tomahawks. She pretended to be very busily occupied with her task, but contrived to get behind the old man, and buried the axe in his head!

By this time the scalping party, finding the harvesters too numerous and well armed for their purposes, were on their return, and already approached near enough to hear the groan or cry of the old Indian as he fell. The girls fled--the savages pursued and fired. The younger girl, just as she was in the act of springing over a fallen tree, was pierced with a bullet, which entered below the shoulder blade, and came out at the breast. She fell and immediately rolled herself under the log, which at that point was raised a little from the ground. The savages sprang over the log in chase of her sister, without observing that any one lay under it. Betsey being a strong and active lass, gave them a hard run, so that the harvesters, alarmed by the firing, came to the rescue in time to save her, and change the pursuers into fugitives. They found the little girl under the fallen tree, much terrified and weakened by loss of blood, but fortunately not dangerously wounded, the ball having passed through her body without touching any vital organ. She recovered, and afterwards married a man named Campbell. Becoming a widow she married again. Her last husband's name was Chambers. Betsy also married, and, with her husband, removed to one of the Western States.

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"FLORA McFLIMSEY" IN BANKRUPTCY.

[From the London Morning Post.]

We have never been more forcibly struck by the prevalence of the abuse of the credit system than while perusing the report of a case brought on Monday last before the Insolvent Debtors' Court. The circumstances are doubtless common-place enough, though but seldom brought into such prominence. Miss Kate Elizabeth Verity, described as "fashionable young lady," has been living with her mother in Rifle-terrace, Bayswater. Her mother enjoys an income of £200 a year, and the young lady receives annually from her friends a sum of about £50. In August, 1852, however, when only three-and-twenty years of age, she appeared before the Insolvent Court indebted to the amount of £238. On this occasion she was discharged. This circumstance, as was well observed by Commissioner Phillips, should have been enough to restrain her extravagance. But Miss Kate Elizabeth Verity did not profit by the lesson. Once more she appears before the Insolvent Court; this time, however, with less good fortune. The case was adjourned *sine die*, and the protection of the Court ceased for Miss Verity. The career of this young lady, though really marvellous, is only an additional instance of the carelessness with which credit is allowed by London tradesmen. During the examination of the insolvent it was proved that by the mention of a lady's name to Mrs. States, "a milliner to the aristocracy," Miss Verity received credit to the amount of £84. One ball dress was charged eight guineas. Fifteen guineas was the price of another garment. In fact, Mr. Commissioner Phillips, with that jocularly which sits so well on a judge, "afforded some amusement to the spectators, by reading the items, including a emolument slip." With another tradesman a cash payment and a promise to pay quarterly was considered a sufficient guarantee. The security was enhanced by the young lady's appearance in a Brougham, and she obtained credit to the amount of £26 9s 6d. "No money," gloomily observed Mr. Buck, the creditor; "no money had been paid since he gave credit." Mr. Commissioner Phillips thought Mr. Buck should have stopped his hand when the first quarter was not paid. But Mr. Buck propounds a different theory. "If he adopted such a system with ladies who appeared respectable he could not, nor could other tradesmen, go on." Thus, young ladies with £60 a year for an income may "go on" as long as they choose, and tradesmen are bound to abet them under the penalty of forfeiting a similar privilege.

Such is the morality of a system of credit. A young lady--first at three-and-twenty, then at eight-and-twenty--undergoes an ordeal which is generally considered in a man as a disqualification from the society of his equals. Ever since she has arrived at the age of discretion she has obtained articles of dress beyond the reach of many persons with respectable revenues, without capital, without any income beyond a pittance allowed by her friends, and apparently without expectations. A good marriage must have been for the young lady, though vague, the only possible prospect of relief. A brougham and the mention of a lady's name were sufficient with the tradesmen to vouch for respectability, solvency and profits.

Why Not Successful?--The young mechanic or clerk marries and takes a house, which he proceeds to furnish twice as expensively as he can afford. And then his wife, instead of taking care to help him to earn a livelihood, by doing her own work, must have a hired servant to help her spend her limited earnings.

Ten years afterwards you will find him struggling under a double load of debts and children, wondering why the luck was always against him, while his friends regret his unhappy destitution of financial ability. Had they from the first been frank and honest, he need not have been so unlucky.

The world is full of people who can't imagine why they don't prosper like their neighbors, when the real obstacle is in their own extravagance and heedless ostentation.

Doctor, He Has Done it.--A physician tells the following story, not without some regret on his part for the advice given:--"A hard working woman had a drunken husband, who, when partly sober, would get the blues and endeavor to destroy himself by taking laudanum. Twice did the wife ascertain that he had swallowed the destructive drug, and twice did the Doctor restore him. Upon the second restoration the Doctor addressed him as follows: 'You good-for-nothing scoundrel, you don't want to kill yourself, you merely want to annoy your wife and me. If you want to kill yourself, why don't you cut your throat and put an end to the matter?' Well, away went the Doctor, and thought no more of his patient until, some two weeks after, he was awakened from a sound nap by the tinkling of his night bell. He put his head out of the window and inquired, 'What is the matter?' 'Doctor, he has done it,' was the reply. 'Done what?' 'John has taken your advice.' 'What advice?' 'Why, you told him to cut his throat, and he has done it, and he is uncommon dead this time.' Imagine the Doctor's feelings. He has since ceased giving such cutting advice.

Not Bad.--First class in Oriental Philosophy, stand up. Thibbetts, what is life? 'Life consists of money, a horse, and a fashionable wife.' 'Next. What is death?' 'A paymaster, who settles everybody's debts, and gives the tombstones as receipts in full of all demands.' 'What is poverty?' 'A reward of merit genius generally receives from a discriminating public.' 'What is religion?' 'Doing unto others as you please, without allowing a return of the compliment.' 'What is fame?' 'A six line puff in a newspaper while living, and your fortune to your enemies when dead.'

An action for debt by a wife against her husband, to recover money loaned by her husband, being properly acquired after marriage, was tried in the Common Pleas of Perry county, Pa., a short time since, Judge Graham presiding. The question was whether a wife could maintain a suit against her husband. The court decided that she could, and delivered a verdict for the plaintiff of \$2,508.

A Family not Acquainted.--The Journal of Commerce tells the following reply of a boy to his mother:--The father was of the 'keep your children at a distance' class, and the boy wanting a new suit, very naturally asked his mother to intercede for him. 'Why don't you ask your father yourself, my son?' said the mother. 'Why mother, I would ask him, only I don't feel well enough acquainted with him,' was the reply.

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- 1000 Gold Pencil Cases & Gold Pens, 5 00 "
- 1000 Extra Gold Pens, with cases, 10 50 "
- 2500 Gold Pencils, (Ladies'), 2 50 "
- 2500 Gold Pens, with Silver Pencils, 2 50 "
- 2500 Ladies' Gold Rings, with cases, 1 50 "
- 5000 Ladies' Gold Rings, 2 75 "
- 2000 Ladies' Gold Breast Pins, 2 50 "
- 3000 Misses do do 1 50 "
- 3000 Pocket Knives, 75 "
- 2000 Sets Gent's Gold Bosom Studs, 3 00 "
- 3000 do do Sleeve Buttons, 3 00 "
- 3000 Ladies' Pearl Card Cases, 2 50 "
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Principal Events of General and Local Interest During the Year 1857.

January. 1st. Gen. W. Walker at Rivas, Nicaragua San Juan river in possession of the allies, who hold San Carlos--Twenty buildings burned at Halifax, N. S. Loss \$100,000. 5th. Neapolitan frigate Charles III. blew up, killing crew and contingent of troops on board, bound for Sicily. 6th. Battle between Mexican Government and Revolutionists under Gen. Garcia; Government victorious, with heavy loss--Vermont State Capitol, with splendid library and cabinet, burned. 8th. Gen. Henningsen besieged in a church at Granada, breaks through lines of allies, and makes his way to Rivas. Loss 200 men; allies lost severely. 9th. Severe earthquake in California; houses thrown down, at San Diego and Fort Tejon; two persons killed. 12th. Suburbs of Canton destroyed by English fleet; steamer Samson fought largest fleet of junks in Canton river. 13th. Gen. Simon Cameron, of Pa. elected U. S. Senator from March 4, 1857. 15th. Foreign residents in China discover plot to murder them with poisoned bread and oranges; 5000 poisoned oranges discovered at Hong Kong. 16th. Cold weather. At Philadelphia, 2° above zero; Woodstock, Me., 25° below zero. Riot at Albion, N. Y., between American and Irish canallers; two killed, six wounded. Heavy shocks of an earthquake at Panama. S. T. Norcross, of Mass., killed by D. S. McKim near Altoona, Blair county, Pa. 17th. Verger, a French priest, sentenced to death for attempted assassination of Archbishop of Paris--Royalist prisoners, on whose account the Neuchatel difficulties were caused, released and sent from Switzerland. 18th. Great snow storms and obstruction to travel about Philadelphia; Taber Methodist Episcopal Church burned. Cold weather over Middle and Southern with gale at sea; steamer Black W. drifted before it fifty-two hours. 20th. Bombardment of Canton by 1 Admiral Seymour ceased; having cost, since October 28th, during which time 70,000 lives reported lost. 22d. Dwellings belonging to Washington Manufacturing Company, at Gloucester, New Jersey, burned; twenty families rendered homeless. 24th. Dr. Harvey Burdell found murdered in his office. 31 Bond street, New York, having received fifteen stab wounds. Intense excitement created by mystery surrounding murder of J. Eckel and Mrs. E. A. Cunningham, ed on suspicion.--Gen. Henningsen retires from Oubrage by Costa Rica; loss on both sides. 25th. Hon. Andrew Stevenson, an Minister to England, died, aged 82, in Albemarle county, Virginia. 26th. Captain and fourteen crew of British barque Sir C. Campbell, and other their sinking vessel by Am. The vessel pole and brought to Cape Tynher, casual 27th. Preston S. Brooks, by following Carolina, died, at Washington. 28th. Fire at Girard hotel. Chestnut street, Philadelphia. \$100,000.--Battle of San Geo are the engines made an unsuccessful, when drive off Costa Ricans. Gen. II. case of Walker at Rivas.

February. 2d. Nathaniel West sentenced to death, murder of Arabella, his wife, at Philadelphia. Saw mill and fifteen dwellings on Peg and other streets, Philadelphia, burned down. 6th. Col. Lockridge defeated on San Juan river by Costa Ricans.--Block of houses on Chestnut street, St. Louis, Mo., fell, killing three persons; the ruins caught fire. 8th. Great freshet in Delaware, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Ohio, Hudson, Oswego and other rivers; much property destroyed; about Albany, New York, loss estimated at \$200,000. English Gen. Outram obtained signal victory over Persians, at Koozash. Persian loss 700; English loss 70. 9th. 120,000 bales of cotton in warehouse Mobile, Ala., burned; loss \$730,000. 10th. Perceptible earthquake at Philadelphia and in New Jersey.--Booth's dwelling and cabinet warehouse, New York, burnt down; Mr. B. and wife burned to death. Twelve Mexican robbers hung by California at San Diego. 11th. Freshet in Delaware river; so damage done on Jersey side, above Philadelphia--\$50,000 worth of property destroyed by fire in Broad street, Newark, N. J. 13th. Inquest on Dr. Burdell finishes New York; bills brought against Mrs. ningham and Eckel. 14th. Serious riot among laborers at gen tunnel; two killed, twenty-five wounded and seventy captured by military. 16th. Dr. E. K. Kane died at Havana; his remains were brought home via Neleans, honors being paid by principal along the route. 17th. Freshet, with destruction of property, in New England rivers.--Massa Europeans by Chinese in Sarawak and neo; Sir J. Brooke (Rajah) narrowly escaped. 18th. Ship Cathedral, from Philadelphia for San Francisco, lost off Cape Horn, nine lives. 19th. Print Works in Dutchess county, Y., burned; 2500 men thrown out of loss \$125,000.--Report brought into at Washington in favor of the expulsion Representatives for bribery and election. Man named Sherwood shot dead at a meeting of Gov. Walker's friends Leavenworth, Kansas. 21st. Steamers Belfast and Humboldt at Napoleon, Ark.; 25 lives lost; sunk and became a total loss. 24th. Fire at Erie, Pa., destroyed stores and offices. 25th. Grand opening performance Philadelphia Academy of Music--II. The opera. 26th. Hon. James Buchanan at mysterious National Hotel epidemic. 27th. Exciting scene in House; two members resigned, (Gibberson) declaring their innocence.

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