

## Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 22, 1881.

## The Bessemer Steel Impression.

While the iron furnaces and rolling mills of the country are working on a very near margin of profit, and many of them even at a loss, the Bessemer steel mills are making money very rapidly. Their stocks are selling at triple their par value and they all are paying heavy dividends, while each is accumulating a large surplus, and moreover is spending money like water in increasing its facilities of manufacture. The Pennsylvania steel works, near Harrisburg, with its stock selling at about \$300 per share and a treasury overflowing with a surplus of over two millions, has an army of men employed in enlarging its works. The Edgar Thomson, near Pittsburgh, which has just finished erecting three blast furnaces that turn out the largest product of any furnaces in the country, about three thousand tons a week, consumes it all in its steel works, together with the product of the Lucy furnaces, at Pittsburgh, owned by the Messrs. Carnegie, who are chief owners in the Edgar Thomson. With one pair of Bessemer converters, of seven tons capacity each, nearly thirty-five hundred tons of steel are produced every week, or a seventeen charge about every twenty minutes; and not content with this yield the company is about to put in three ton converters. All the other steel mills in the country are in like condition of activity and prosperity, and straining every energy to produce the largest possible yield.

Of course the foundation for this zeal is the great demand for steel rails, in the active railroad building that is now going on. But there is also a great consumption of iron in the country, which yet does not stimulate the iron production as that of steel is stimulated. The reason of this is that the use of Bessemer steel lessens the demand for iron, and leaves the capacity of the iron mills more than equal to the demand; while the steel mills are not yet equal in capacity to the present demand, and we are importing steel rails because of the inability of the home manufacturers to supply the home market.

The great demand enables the steel mill combination to keep the price of rails up to the figure at which they can be imported and yet secure all the orders they can fill. The duty on steel, which is twenty-eight dollars a ton, is for the most part a tax levied upon the railroads of the country, and finally upon the people, for the profit of the steel manufacturers and without securing any benefit to the country by its virtue in keeping the steel manufacturers running; for they could run anyhow, if there was no greater duty laid on steel than on the raw pig metal.

Here is the secret of the great stimulation of the steel industry. It is not only the demand for steel, but it is the immense profit of the manufacturer that is secured by the twenty-eight dollar duty; nearly all of which is the manufacturer's profit. Bessemer steel is really easier and cheaper to make than wrought iron; as anyone can easily see who reflects that a seven-ton Bessemer converter converts seven tons of pig iron into steel in twenty minutes, or five hundred tons in a day; whereas a puddling furnace converts only about two tons of cast iron into wrought iron in a day, with the skilled labor of four men. Of course the Bessemer plant uses vastly more capital and many more men than the puddling furnace; but not by any means two hundred and fifty times more. Taking only such a rough and ready view as this of the comparative cost of converting cast iron into steel and wrought iron, quite suffices to convince anyone, however unskilled in the iron manufacture, that Bessemer steel is much the least costly of the two to produce; and yet it costs the consumer a fourth more. Steel rails are selling now at sixty to sixty-two dollars a ton and iron rails at forty-five to fifty.

It is very apparent that if iron rails can be sold at forty-five dollars a ton, steel rails can be sold at a large profit at the same figure. They do not in fact cost forty dollars a ton to produce; and they are converted as cheaply in this country as in England, owing to the greater rapidity of the conversion in our mills. The English mills have not succeeded in securing the large product in a given time that is obtained here. Of course the English pig iron is cheaper and therefore the English steel is probably produced at a less total cost than our own; but certainly there is no twenty-eight dollars of a duty needed to protect the home manufacturer. Nothing is more clear than that this duty should be greatly reduced. The reduction is needed now especially, to protect us from the imposition of the extravagant prices demanded for rails. After a while, and no great while either, when the steel producing capacity of the country becomes greater than the steel consumption, the duty will be of less consequence; for the competition then between the steel producers for orders will serve to bring prices down to a reasonable profit over the cost; unless the combination now maintained among the Bessemer mills will suffice in that emergency to keep prices unduly high. But combinations such as these do not stand the strain well when there are not enough orders for the product to keep all the maws full. The selfish instincts of those who seem to be a lovely band of brothers when their bellies are full, make sad havoc with their lovely relations when they get very hungry and the food don't go around. There will be hard times for these fat Bessemer mills when the country fails to take their immense product and then there will be cheap rails for the railroads. Our ambitious friends who hanker to build new roads would do well to wait for the good time coming when they will be able to iron their roads for half the cost of to-day; and they won't have to wait very long, we think.

RICHARD WAGNER is said to have slightly offended royalty during his recent visit to Berlin to see his *Nibelungen* performed. He rarely has an opportunity to hear his own works, and when in the course of one of the performances he was invited to the Crown Prince's box he immediately declined. "Tell the Crown Prince," he said to the horrified court official, "that I am too nervous and excited to converse."

GEN. GRANT has been informing the New York Times of his idea of senatorial courtesy. It seems to be that the presi-

dent of the United States should never fail to observe the wish of the senators of his party in the appointments to office in their states. He entered into an elaborate explanation as to how he had not done this in the appointment of Simmons to the Boston collectorship, the gist of which seems to be that he did it because Senator Sumner never personally asked him not to do it, though he knew it didn't want him appointed. "Ask ye shall receive," is apparently Grant's idea of the attitude of the senator to the president.

## MINOR TOPICS.

GOVERNOR CORNELL has vetoed the bill passed by the New York Legislature providing for the pensioning of school teachers after a certain term of service in the public schools of New York and Brooklyn. He does not think it is politic to create a new body of pensioners.

A COMMISSION has been appointed to inquire into the working of mills, factories and workshops in the Dominion of Canada, to ascertain how many children under the age of fourteen years are employed, what are the hours of labor, the means of escape in case of fire, the ventilation, etc.

ILLUSTRATIVE of the value of scientific and industrial education is the fact that the graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology seldom have to wait long for a job. Of the 23 young men who graduated last week, 20 were either engaged in advance or have since found lucrative positions.

In the eyes of the Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* it appears that the semi-humorous view which the British government takes of the Irish-American situation is based upon the semi-humorous resolution which the members of the House of Representatives adopted with the view of making themselves solid with the Irish voters. Funny—or perhaps we might say semi-funny—statesmanship all around; isn't it.

STRAWBERRY season is rapidly drawing to a close and in a few days more the toothsome berries will disappear from our tables. The season has been a most prolific one and the berries have been unusually large and fine, while prices have ruled low. In a few days more raspberries will make their appearance, they having already done so in the city markets. The growers report that the crop of raspberries will be large as will also be the black berry which succeeds them. Cherries made a prophecy of a fine yield when the snowy blossoms covered the trees in the early spring, but the heavy rains afterwards have caused most of the fruit to rot and drop off.

No apprehension need be had over the unusual appearance of comets during the present year, since the comforting assurance is given by the Warner Observatory of Rochester, N. Y., that they do not possess the power to work injury upon the earth or any other planet. This information is furnished in view of the discovery by Dr. Gould, director of the Cordova Observatory, Argentine Republic, South America, of a stellar vagrant which is supposed to be the great comet of 1807, and is located in the constellation of the Dove, right ascension 6 hours and declination 30 degrees. It is not visible from this latitude and not known yet that it will, although it is likely to be, as the comet of 1807 was distinctly seen.

## PERSONAL.

Attorney General MacVEIGH is in Philadelphia. He will be absent from Washington for several days.

It is said that OLIVE LOGAN fainted away the other day when she met an old lover. This gave the old lover an opportunity to escape—*Unkind N. O. P.*

Sir EDWARD THORNTON, with his wife and daughters, will sail for Europe on July 6th. Mr. Edward Thornton, his son, will remain in Washington as attaché to the British Legation.

The Duke of Sutherland told a *Times* reporter in Philadelphia yesterday that he had not seen the newest ROGER TICHENOR in California, and he believed the man was an impostor.

Assistant Secretary UPTON, of the treasury department, sails from New York for London to-day. He goes on business connected with the continuance of the five per cent. bonds at the London agency.

WALTER Q. SCOTT, of Easton, Pa., was yesterday elected president of the Ohio state university, to succeed Edward Orton who has resigned in order to devote his whole time to the chair of geology.

The U. S. steamer Trenton, flagship of the European squadron, will sail for America on the 10th of September, bringing the descendants of General LAPAYETTE, who are to come as guests of the government, to take part in the Yorktown celebration.

"I saw more intoxicated women at the Derby than on any former occasion," says EDMUND YATES, "and not merely the females with whom inebriety is normal, but decent-looking women, apparently the wives and the sweethearts of artisans and small shopkeepers."

SAMUEL MERRY, a fashionable London saddler, has for several years prophesied the result of the Derby. This season he hung in his window at 9 o'clock in the morning Iroquois' colors cherry and black. There are many betters who always wait to see Merry's colors displayed before laying anything on the great event.

Prince NAPOLEON, observing that the orators and statesmen of France are considering the manner of choosing a new president, and are urging the claims of Gambetta as a candidate, desires them to remember "Pion-Pion," too. He would like to be a candidate, and, therefore, he proposes that the nominations shall be made by a plebiscitum, at a sort of informal primary election.

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## THE IRON TRADE.

Cause of the Present Depression in Prices. Secretary Swank, of the Iron and Steel association, does not believe there will be a panic, neither does he believe that the present depression in prices is due to a mere temporary flurry. He thinks prices have settled to a low level, forced down by the competition of English iron, and that they will remain there until raised again by the slow reaction of natural causes. England, he says, is able to produce iron much more cheaply than this country, because here ore must be hauled over hundreds of miles of expensive railroad transportation to the furnace, coal likewise must generally be brought from a distance, and the iron when made has another long journey to reach Great Britain or other coal mines and furnaces are often together and all are near the sea. Labor is cheaper here and the price of ore and coal are much lower. All these points enable the British furnaces to produce so much more cheaply than their American competitors that it is no wonder they are able to sell their iron in this country, especially since all their other markets are overstocked, and they are willing to take a very low profit, or no profit at all, for the sake of getting the iron off their hands. A great deal of English iron is coming to this country, and will continue to come, but not nearly so much as was imported during the "boom" in the latter part of 1879 and early part of 1880. There is just about enough coming now to make too much, in addition to the produce of American furnaces, and so to keep prices down all round. The blowing out of a few furnaces least advantageously situated for their business will relieve the market and enable the others to make a living profit. The depression in pig iron, however, is no indication of a stagnation in the iron business generally. The mills and factories of all kinds throughout the country are as busy as they can be, and most of them are hard pushed to keep up with their orders. Only in the steel rail mills is there any symptom of slackness, and there it is only by comparison. All these mills are busy, but most of them would be able to take more work, which it was especially desirable to fill at once. In manufacturing iron orders have to take their turn and in some cases their turn will not come for a year or even eighteen months.

## FAITHFUL EVEN UNTO DEATH.

A Dog Guards the Body of His Master, Who Committed Suicide.

A gentleman was crossing a field adjoining Johnson's woods, near Mill Creek station, Montgomery county, Sunday morning, when a half-finished dog came running up to him and barked as though overjoyed to see him. The man thought the dog's actions were very queer, and, his curiosity being excited, he followed it into the woods. He did not walk far, though, before he saw the dog take his master, by the side of a dead body of a man greatly decomposed.

When found, a double-barrel gun was lying diagonally across his body, with the trigger had been pressed and the gun discharged, and by the man's side lay an open knife, with which he had doubtless cut the twig. The charge was evidently a very heavy one, for it took the entire upper part of his head away, disfiguring him past recognition and making a big round hole in the top of his straw hat, lodged in the trunk of a tree. The deed was performed by placing the muzzle of the gun in his mouth. That the weapon lay across the body when found is due to the concussion at its discharge.

No one has as yet been able to identify the man. He is about 45 or 50 years of age, has slightly gray hair, and was dressed in a neat, dark suit of clothes. His gun is a good one, as are also the shot gun and powder flask. In the man's pocket were found 70 cents in money, a comb, two glass syringes, a pipe, some matches and other trifles. It was last seen at Mill Creek station on Wednesday.

The horrible condition of the stranger, the fact of his clothing being water-soaked, and his gun covered with rust, lead to the supposition that the rash deed was committed on Wednesday, and that the man lay in the woods during the several violent storms between that time and Saturday. His dog is a playful spayed, and, together with the man's body and his few personal effects, is in charge of Undertaker Radach. The dog appears to be sensible of what has occurred, and seems to be bowed down in grief. He prefers lying by the side of his master's gun or the ice box containing the dead body.

VICTIM OF A SQUALL.

Three Lives Lost by the Upsetting of a Yawl boat on Long Island sound. The family of Theodore Hoffman, living near Portchester, on Long Island Sound, invited a number of friends to spend last Sunday with them at their house, which stands almost in the woods near Fox's Island. Hoffman and his eldest son, Wm. J., were carpenters by trade, but for some time had been working in Den's foundry at Portchester. They owned an old yawl boat fourteen feet long, which had been rigged with a sail much too large for it, and in which the Hoffman frequently went for a Sunday sail. John Brask and Hain Jensen, fellow workmen with the Hoffman in the foundry, were two of Hoffman's guests on Sunday, and with the two Hoffmans and a younger son, Frederick Arthur Hoffman, ten years old, got the yawl ready for a sail. They left Fox's Island at about 10 a. m. and crossed safely to Frost's creek, nine miles away. On the return up the afternoon they had almost reached the northern shore when the western sky became suddenly black with a thunder cloud. A few minutes later a heavy squall struck them, upsetting the boat. The elder Hoffman and his son William were good swimmers, and succeeded in getting all the others upon the bottom of the boat. Dr. William Hoffman got his feet caught in the rigging, and was carried down and drowned by a lurch of the capsized vessel. Mr. Hoffman seized his younger son and started to swim for the shore, but Brask lost his hold on the boat and clutched the boy desperately. In order to shake him off, Mr. Hoffman had to let go his son and Brask and the boy went down together. Hoffman was picked up by a boat that put out from the shore of Manners Island, and Jensen was taken from the capsized boat more dead than alive. The bodies of all the three drowned persons have been recovered, and at the inquest held by Coronor Hyler yesterday a verdict of accidental drowning was rendered.

Adams and Arthur.

John Adams complained of the vice presidency, which he held twice, however, in spite of this, that it was the one position where a man could do nothing and must make a mere figure head of himself, to hold it, honorably. It almost put a man into contempt, from the Adams stand point, to keep up the proper dignity of the office. Unlike other heirs-apparent, he couldn't take the opposition line with a proper sense of what was owing to the administration of which he was a silent part. It was of all devices, in the opinion of the late Adams, the chief for reducing its incumbency to silence and inaction, becoming the chair. Vice President Arthur does not share these views of the elder statesman. He seems to be able to make the vice presidency quite active, but holds the office as a personal obligation, ap-

## Walking.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

One of the most remarkable peculiarities of the average American is his aversion to walking. Men as well as women seem to regard their legs with profound contempt as means of locomotion. It is not an unusual thing to see a young man or woman mount a dirty, crowded street car for the sake of an eight-pence ride, even though the day be sunny and cool. As for country folks, who have ever seen husband and wife or young man and sweetheart saunter out to Forest park or Tower Grove park on foot? In nine cases out of ten the young man who should dare propose such a piece of pedestrianism to his girl would get the mitten for his pains. And yet a walk to either of those parks would be only a stretch of four or five miles. Even boys of all ages, from the youngster of ten upwards, seem to share that unnatural aversion to walking which is so general in the way of physical enjoyment as to be regarded as a good walk. To man and woman, to the old and the young, a stroll in the country is a luxury; and even to those who live in the country, a daily walk is almost a necessity. A young lady does not wait until her beau can afford to take her out in a carriage. A walk of five or ten miles by his side or on his arm is even much pleasanter than a buggy-ride or carriage drive. They can ramble in whatever direction or at whatever gait they please. They can stray from the high-road to by paths, stop here to admire a beautiful view and rest there to listen to the murmuring of a brook or watch an open expanse of water. No flowers are so pretty as those that are plucked by the roadside, no pebbles so wondrous as those that you pick up by the meadow-brook. The best-trained mocking-birds warble forth no music like the wild birds of the woods, their sweet songs accompanied by the mysterious rustling of the trees, or the wonderful gush of rhythmic pulsations that are wafted from a neighboring corn-field over which the breezes blow lovingly. The berries and nuts of the city taste indeed good compared with those you find in your walk in the country.

Admitted to Bail.

Conrad Sauer, who was in prison, awaiting trial on a charge of stealing hides, was admitted to bail.

## Comics of the East.

A coal train was wrecked by striking a cow on the edge of an iron bridge, near Iowa City, Iowa, on Monday night. The first section of the bridge was thrown into the river, and part of the train rolled down a steep embankment. Job Morton, engineer, and Patrick Malone, fireman, were killed, and another man was badly injured. By the collision of a freight train with a cow, a bridge near Freeport, Pennsylvania, the bridge, the engine, and ten cars were precipitated into the river. James E. Heppe, engineer, James Detrich, fireman, and Major Snowden, of Freeport, passenger, were killed.

April 7. Leavitt's Burlesque Opera Company. Good house.

April 9. Haverly's New Mastodon Minstrels. Crowded house.

April 11. "Hearts of Oak." Good house.

April 12. "Hearts of Oak." Fair house.

April 14. Hyers Sisters—"Out of Bondage." Small house.

April 15. Hyers Sisters—"Out of Bondage." Small house.

April 18 to 23. Herzog's World's Wonder. Crowded house.

April 25. Maggie Mitchell in "Franchise." Large house.

April 26. Gen. Weaver's Lecture. Small house.

April 27. Buffalo Bill in the "Prairie War." Good house.

April 28. Miles' Juvenile Company in "Pinafore." Small house.

April 29. Abercrombie Ideal "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Large house.

May 6. Carneors' Minstrels. Crowded house.

May 25. Tony Pastor's Company. Large house.

June 18. Jay Rial's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Large house.

## MAYTOWN AND MARIETTA.

Items of Interest Picked up by the "Intelligencer's" Traveling Correspondent.

It seems to be Landlord John Finn's (of the Hermitage hotel, Marietta,) purpose to keep a quiet house, and so when Thos. McPherson came there with the intention of "raising a row" he was accommodated. In the future Tommy will steer clear of the Hermitage.

Notice has appeared in these columns of the sale of logs which came down the river by the breaking of the Williamsport dam. They lie all along the and York county's shore. The catching of them has proved profitable work to many Mariettaans. One man caught nearly 300, and several from 10 to 100. As the law allows for each log caught, the recompense will be large.

The Marietta band got their pictures taken as a whole in "full dress" on Sunday evening.

Elliot Haldeman and John Meyers, the two men injured in the runaway on Sunday last, are much improved. The former is suffering from loss of blood from the wound on his head.

Burglars attempted to effect an entrance into the residence of Christ. Brandt, Maytown, last night, by prying open a side shutter and cutting the glass, but were heard and scared off by Mr. B.

Miss Nannie Henderson, of Huntingdon