

Correspondence, containing important news, solicited from any part of the county. No communications inserted unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

Democratic County Committee—1879.

Table listing Democratic County Committee members for various townships including Bellefonte, Unionville, and others.

Local Department.

—The Y. M. C. A., of Centre Hall, is now in a flourishing condition. —A new house is being erected by Mr. Jacob Fredericks, of Spring Mills. —Centre Minstrels at Reynold's Opera House Thursday, 20th inst. Fun. —Senator Wallace will please except our thanks for Congressional documents. —Judge Mayer is presiding at the Holidays court this week, in the absence of Judge Dean. —The Central Pennsylvania conference of the Evangelical church will meet in Lewisburg on Thursday, March 6th. —On and after this date, overcoats will be sold at cost at Newman's Eagle Clothing Hall. Remember this. 2-1f —The State Sunday-school Association is to be invited to meet at Altoona during June, the exact date not being fixed. —The time for holding the West Branch Camp Meeting has been fixed this year to begin August 19th and to close on the 29th. —The meetings which have proved so interesting for several weeks in the M. E. church, of this place, have come to a close. —Col. Grabowski left State College on last Monday for New York on business for the Dramatic Club. He will return in a few days. —Duncan, Hale & Co., of Philipsburg, says the Journal, received 1,000 bushels of wheat during the month of January, from country teams. —Thirty persons were admitted on probation and thirteen by certificate to the M. E. church, of Philipsburg, during the month of January. —On Friday, January 28, Rev. I. W. Haughwout and family, of Port Matilda, were surprised with a rich and generous donation from their many and admiring friends. —The actors in the play of "Oliver Twist" returned to the College early Sunday morning, looking somewhat the worse for their trip, but withal pleased at their night's work. —Fifty-three car loads of wheat were shipped from Spring Mills during the month of January, twenty-eight loads being shipped by Krumrine & Son and twenty-three by I. J. Grenoble & Co. —The Philipsburg Journal says that on Sunday evening, February 2, five persons were admitted, on confession of faith and by the rite of immersion, to the Baptist church of that place. —Mr. James Thompson, only surviving brother of Mrs. M. N. Reed, of this place, and a relative of the Thompsons of this county, died at his home in Milroy, Mifflin county, on Tuesday of last week in the 79th year of his age. —Some unknown parties who had imbibed an unusual quantity of benzine, on Saturday night last, found it impossible to control themselves, and broke one of the large lights in the store of Sechler & Co., which entailed a loss of about four dollars. —Mercury is now a morning star, but so far south as to be almost invisible. Venus is one of the beauties that grace the evening, and will remain in the evening sky until September 23. Mars will be visible as a morning star for the first half of the year. —Miss Fannie E. Hamlin, who we believe is the lady that delivered a temperance lecture in our Court House some time since, has an able article in a recent number of the Conference News, entitled "Electricism in Religion." She is a sister of the Rev. B. B. Hamlin, D. D., of Altoona. —As the party next most susceptible to the charms of fine music to a newly married pair, that grand institution the Mountain City Band, on Friday evening last, serenaded our worthy Sheriff. They were most courteously and delightfully entertained, and received tokens of Mr. Spangler's munificence and liberality. —We regret to learn from the Philipsburg Journal that Burgess Casanova, of that place, received a telegram on Wednesday, the 5th, informing him of the death of his brother Emmanuel, who died in Cuba. Mr. E. Casanova, the deceased, resided for a short time in Philipsburg. While there he was injured by a run-a-way team of horses, and since the accident has never enjoyed perfect health.

STATE COLLEGE BEFORE THE FOOT-LIGHTS.—A most glorious winter night, a hard, frozen ground, a clear sky from which the moon shone down in its fullest glory, and a sharp, stinging atmosphere, such as is calculated to refresh and heighten youthful spirits, conspired to make Saturday evening last peculiarly appropriate for the excellent rendition of "Oliver Twist," which was given on that occasion. And the professors and students of the College have great reason to feel complimented at the splendid audience by which they were greeted, as it is very seldom any entertainment is sufficiently attractive to call together so much of the brilliance and appreciativeness for true art as certainly characterized the audience of Saturday evening. When all the characters are so peculiarly excellent, it is difficult to individualize. We could not imagine anything to exceed the consummate art with which Prof. J. F. Downey gave the character of "Fagin." It seemed, indeed, that he had been a keeper of a thieves' den all his life, which we are willing to aver is not the case. Mrs. Stella Downey also gave a splendid rendition of "Nancy," seeming to be suffering all the troubles incident to the outcast's fate. Prof. Grabowski acted the rowdy, boisterous "Bill Sikes" to perfection. That hardened ruffian could not have exhibited more determined wickedness or more cowardly terror than Prof. Grabowski threw into the part, and when he leaped with the rope around his neck from the house-top, he not only came down himself, but brought the house down with him. Mr. J. M. Dale, made a very acceptable "Oliver." Miss Lucie Howe, as "Mrs. Corney," presided over the workhouse in a manner which would have delighted Charles Dickens had he lived to see it, and as "Mrs. Brownlow" not only made an impression on her husband's back, but left the impression on the minds of all the young men present that whoever married Miss Lucie will be sure to get a wife who will rule the house. Mr. A. R. Calder also deserves commendation for the dignified manner in which he comported himself as the "Parish Beadle." Perhaps he will not sell himself so cheaply in the character of Mr. Calder as he did in that of the "Parish Beadle." Miss Mary Calder, Miss Grabowski, Mr. Rishel and the several other characters did excellently in their respective parts. They composed a company much more skillful and perfect than the ordinary traveling troupes, and whenever in the future they shall choose to entertain an audience again in this place, we are quite sure they will meet with a warm reception. In a pretty little after-piece, in which only Mrs. Stella Downey and Col. A. Grabowski took part, they showed their talent in representing comedy. They imitated the French manners and accent to perfection. We would wish that this fine talent, when it applies itself to the dramatic art would select a drama somewhat more refined and pleasant than "Oliver Twist." The scenes being all laid in the midst of the most horrid vice, cannot be agreeable to those who represent the characters, and such a drama is neither elevating or pleasant to those who witness it. DEATH OF MRS. MCCREIGHT.—The Brookville Democrat in referring to the loss of one of the oldest and most respected citizens of that place says: "On Sunday last (January 26th), the sad announcement of the death of Mrs. McCreight, wife of Benjamin McCreight, Esq., of this place, although not unexpected, caused a shadow of gloom and sorrow to fall upon the whole community. She had won the respect of all by her genial and kind disposition, and her many social and Christian virtues. She, with her husband, were among the very first settlers in Brookville, and for over forty years has been looked up to as a mother by all who were fortunate enough to be numbered among her acquaintances. Mrs. McCreight's maiden name was Eliza H. Hunter. She was born in Centre county in 1809, from whence she, with her parents, removed to Indiana county, where, in 1831, she was married to Benjamin McCreight, and removed to Brookville, where she has resided ever since. On the 24th of July, 1877, she received a stroke of paralysis, since which time she has been a great sufferer. She was the mother of several children, four of whom are yet living and residing in Brookville (three daughters, viz: Mrs. W. D. J. Marlin, Mrs. Rachel Steek and Mrs. E. H. Clark, and one son, Craig McCreight), and who, with their aged father, have the deepest sympathy of the community in their sad and irreparable loss. MIDDLE PENITENTIARY.—The location of the Middle Penitentiary has been finally settled for Huntingdon and titles to the property donated by the citizens of that borough executed and delivered to the agents of the Commonwealth. The Monitor says: "The property purchased by our people and transferred to the State amounts to \$10,000, and the Commission purchased additional ground amounting to \$1,624." The number of acres in the site is thirty-three, and work will commence on the building as soon as practicable. —Miss Howe, sister of Lieut. W. Howe, commandant at State College, who acted the part of "Mrs. Corney," at the entertainment on Saturday evening, while on her way to the College from Bellefonte, contracted a severe cold. On Sunday following it settled on her chest, which has occasioned much anxiety among her friends.

THE STRUGGLE AT WILLIAMSPORT.—The following correspondence of the Philadelphia Record is suggestive of the intense struggle for dominance between the Producers' Pipe Line and Standard Oil Company now enlivening Williamsport: "The struggle now going on between the Tide-water Producers' Pipe Line and the Standard monopoly is beginning to assume formidable proportions. Rendered desperate by the apparent success of the Producers, the Standard is now moving heaven and earth, as it were, to circumvent them. When it became a fixed fact that the Producers were going to build a line from Williamsport to Frisbee, the Standard at once set a corps of engineers at work to survey a rival line, and they have been busy in the mountains during the intensely cold weather that has prevailed. By hurrying up for the purpose of getting possession of the line the Producers had a road cut through at once, and a heavy force was set to work to build a telegraph line. It is now completed to the village of Waterville, on Pine creek, twenty-six miles northwest of this place, and offices opened at both ends of the route. The poles are set through the entire distance of 104 miles, and it is expected that the wire will be strung through to Coudersport in three or four days, and an office opened there. Several car loads of pipe from the manufactory at Reading have been received here, and heavy consignments are expected next week. The pipe is made of rolled iron, is six inches in diameter, and will be jointed on the screw-principle. From this time forth it will be hurried out on the line and laid as rapidly as possible, with a view of having the line completed early in April if possible. In the meantime, the Standard engineers are hard at work surveying the rival line a short distance south of the Producers' line, and obtaining the right of way. They are charged with resorting to all manner of subterfuges to obtain the right of way, and all manner of prices are paid. It is alleged that in several instances advantages have been taken of land owners through misrepresentation. Here in Williamsport a rich property holder has been paid \$100 per lot for the privilege of passing through several of his lots. One instance of the desperation of the Standard has just come to light. The Commissioners of Lycoming county advertised a few weeks ago for proposals to build a bridge over Pine creek, near the route of the pipe line. The Producers, learning of this fact, authorized their agents to offer \$400 for the privilege of laying their pipe over the bridge. The Commissioners virtually accepted the proposition. To-day a rule was granted by the Court, at the instance of a tax-payer, on the Commissioners, to show cause why an injunction should not be issued restraining them from building the bridge. This move is secretly instigated by the agents of the Standard, with the hope that it will retard the work of laying the Producers' line. If the bridge is not built they will be compelled to lay their pipe in the creek, and it always will be subjected to great danger of being broken by high water or injured by the ice in winter time. It is suspected that the object of the Standard is to get a rival line through as soon as possible to tap the Pennsylvania Railroad, when freights will be put down below what the Reading Railroad has contracted to carry oil for, and every effort made to ruin the business of the Producers. It is also suspected that the Standard contemplates the erection of rival refineries here." —Mr. Homer D. Cope will give a rendition of "Damon and Pythias," at Reynold's Hall, on Friday evening, the 21st, for the benefit of the order of Knights of Pythias in this place. It is saying but little to claim that Mr. Cope's recitation of the entire five-act tragedy is remarkable. It is a surprise to all who are so fortunate as to hear him. Every word written for the full cast of fourteen characters will be uttered, and the individuality of each actor in the difficult play will be perfectly maintained by variation of accent, gesture and action. Mr. Cope is an artist in the highest sense of the term, and as an elocutionist and dramatic reader he has probably never been excelled. If the encomiums of the press are in the least correct, he merits a large audience. —The democrats of Boggs township have placed in nomination the following gentlemen to be voted for at the election on Tuesday next: Justice of the Peace—P. W. Barnhart. Judge of Election—George Hall. Assessor—A. C. Iddings. School Directors—William Shawley, Jno. S. Prondfoot. Inspector—George Taylor. Supervisors—William Marks, Jacob Shultz. Overseers of Poor—J. C. Walker, J. L. Neff. Constable—Emanuel Noll. Auditor—Constance Curtin. Township Clerk—Jno. A. Whitehill. —The Howard people are going to have a fine time on the evening of Washington's Birthday. The literary societies of Howard, Nittany Hall, Marsh Creek and Mt. Eagle will give a select and brilliant entertainment, consisting of orations, recitations, declamations, music and the discussion of the "Woman Suffrage" question. The music will be given by a quartette from each society and the Howard band. A sensational recitation by Miss Dornblazer, the "Maud Muller" of Clintondale, is also promised. The programme is very attractive, and a large attendance and excellent time is anticipated.

—To-morrow is the day set apart to the memory of St. Valentine, and from the manner it is celebrated we should judge he was quite a funny fellow. There are a large number of Valentines in and around Bellefonte, who are supposed to be descendants of the Saint's forty-second cousin. The day is celebrated by the youth of America in sending missives through the mails to each other containing some sentiment complimentary, endearing or otherwise, (very often otherwise). This custom is a very ancient one, but has only been generally observed in America since the year 1834. The style known as the "cameo valentine" is the most fashionable at present and is very pretty. The prices of valentines range all the way from one cent to five hundred dollars. These last are of course gotten up on a most elaborate scale and are only within the reach of the most wealthy. We will be quite content if those that reach us cost half that sum. The post-office will be more than usually crowded with expectant looking maidens, and it will be the most difficult thing the postmaster has done for a year to say "No," if he finds there is nothing for them. The custom of sending horribly grotesque affairs, intended for caricatures of the person receiving them, is growing too frequent. Some of the recipients of such are inclined to be angry, but the most sensible will laugh and think nothing more of it, and this will be the speediest way to stop the practice. We hope the valentines received this year may all be pleasant, and the sentiments expressed may be genuine, and that these Cupid's darts may prove effective missiles. —The merchants of Philipsburg are enjoying a tide of business prosperity. The Journal says that Messrs. Jones, Mull & Co., finding their rapidly increasing business required more room, have purchased the large hall, known as the Democratic headquarters, on Presqueville street, and Jacob Jones is now engaged in extending the same out to the line of the street, some twenty feet, and otherwise remodeling the building to prepare it for their business. When completed, the building will be 40x80 feet, and will enable the firm to have their sales and warerooms on the first floor, which will be a great convenience to their customers as well as themselves, and also give them room for extending their already large and rapidly growing trade. They expect to occupy the new store room by the 1st of April. —The dissolution of the firm of Armstrong & Linn, the strongest law firm in Williamsport, we announced last week. The dissolution took place on the 1st day of February. Judge Linn, who is so well known and popular in this county, has opened an office on Third street, of that city, opposite the First National Bank. The unfinished business now in charge of the late firm, will be attended to and finished out by the members of the late firm, jointly, in the same manner as though no dissolution had taken place. The papers relating thereto, will remain in the office formerly occupied by the firm, but Mr. Linn will have free access to them at all times for the purpose of attending to the business to which they relate. He will be thankful for any patronage that may be bestowed upon him. —From the last issue of the Reporter we learn that an attempt was made on Saturday evening, the 1st instant, to rob Mr. Leitzel, of Potter's Mills. He had placed a lamp in the hall, and going out a little while after, the lamp could not be found. In searching a little while for it he came to a room in which he kept his clothes and valuables. This door was locked, and, suspecting that all was not right, he tried to force the door open when some one inside raised the window and jumped to the ground, a distance of fifteen feet, and made his escape. —"We are informed," says the Reporter, "that the Gregg township Independent School District has been abolished, by a decree of court on a petition of citizen of the township. The abolition of the district was strongly opposed by the Independent people. We do the people of the Independent district but simple justice by saying that their's was one of the best schools districts in the county. It had existed for a long time; none but good teachers, with a living salary, were employed." —Manufacturers report that an average stock of lumber with former years is cut this winter. Owing to the snow which has covered the ground for a month past operations in the woods have been rendered comparatively easy, and when the spring freshets set in nearly all jobbers will be ready to dump their logs into the streams and float them down to the booms at Lock Haven and Williamsport. It is reported that about the same number of timber and spar rafts last year will be prepared and ready to be floated to Marietta and Columbia this week. —Sunday next is known in the church calendar as Sexagesima Sunday. It is not exactly sixty days before Easter, as the name implies, but the beginning of the Lenten season being forty days previous to that event, and counting back week by week, expressing the day in round numbers, makes the coming Sunday Sexagesima, as last Sunday was Septuagesima and the Sabbath following Octaves will be Quinquagesima.

MR. CHARLES E. MORRIS DEAD.—We learn with feelings of surprise and grief of the sudden death in Philadelphia of the brilliant and talented gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article. He was well and familiarly known in Centre county, and the tidings of his decease will be received with profound sorrow by his friends. The Philadelphia Times, of Tuesday, gives the following brief sketch of his life: "Charles Ellis Morris, the lawyer, died yesterday, at his late residence, 1225 Spruce street, in the thirty-third year of his age. For the last three months Mr. Morris has been declining in health, but not so much as to cause his friends to regard his case as serious. On Sunday last, however, Mr. Morris was confined to bed, although on Saturday he had been around his office as usual. The announcement of his death was a surprise to his friends, by many of whom it was first doubted. He died from congestion of the brain, brought on by overwork. Mr. Morris was the grandson of the Hon. Thomas Burnside, formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and the son of William E. Morris, the engineer, who was largely engaged in laying out and perfecting the present system of railroads in this State. Charles E. Morris was educated at Williams College, Massachusetts, from which he graduated. In 1865 he entered the law office of Judge William H. Porter, who speaks of Mr. Morris as "a diligent and accurate student." In December, 1867, he was admitted to the bar, and immediately began the practice of law in this city. "Mr. Morris," said Judge Porter, yesterday, "was an able lawyer, and would have greatly distinguished himself had God spared his life. He was a clear, concise and pointed speaker, and was esteemed by all for his manly virtues." Several large trusts were committed to him, among them being the Southwark Foundry, conducted by Henry G. Morris, of which he was assigned for the benefit of the creditors. Mr. Morris was a hard working member of the Young Men's Christian Association and was rarely absent from its meetings. He belonged to several religious societies also, and for the last four years he had been superintendent of the Sunday-school in the Holland Memorial Chapel. Mr. Morris married a daughter of Gustavus S. Benson, a retired banker of this city, and he leaves one child. —Do not forget that on Thursday, the 20th, one week from to-day, the "Centre Minstrels," whose many merits we set forth last week, will give a grand, inimitable and mirth-provoking entertainment in Reynold's Hall. The Temperance Orchestra, consisting of those skilled musicians, Messrs. E. A. Smith, W. E. Burchfield, R. A. Laird, and others, will furnish suitable music. The Mountain City band will also give a balcony serenade. Tickets may be procured from the jewelry store of Frank P. Blair, at the following prices: Reserved seats, 35 cents; admission, 25 and 25 cents. Buy your tickets early and secure a good seat. Gentlemenly ushers will be in attendance. —The "Bee Hive" is the name of the new dry-goods store to be opened during next March by Mr. J. H. Bauland, of Chicago. Mr. Bauland, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. J. Newman, Jr., is now in town and is superintending the arrangement of his store room, which is at present occupied by Bunnell and Aikens. He will leave shortly for New York, where he anticipates laying in the most extensive stock of dry-goods ever brought to this town. It will be an excellent chance for our ladies to select new spring dress patterns. —"Uncle Tom's Cabin," as presented at Reynold's Hall, Thursday evening last, was, to comment in brief, comic, and possessed no particular merit. When these third-class actors attempt the sentimental they become disgusting, and as this version of "Uncle Tom" includes all the comic parts of the original and some funny portions introduced in addition, it was laughable, and afforded two hours of innocent amusement. —Mr. Thomas S. Bally, the enterprising blacksmith at the State College, who was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Lizzie Glenn during the holidays (Christmas), removed his bride to the above place on last Tuesday, where they will make their first attempt at house-keeping. They located in the house of Mr. N. C. Huey, who has recently had it remodeled and painted. We wish the young couple a long, prosperous and very happy journey through life. —On Tuesday, the 25th of this month, at one o'clock P. M., Mr. Henry H. Sharer, who lives one mile south of Zion, will dispose of a large amount of property, among which are four horses, three colts, six milch cows, eight head of young cattle, one brood sow, and nine shoats, one threshing machine and power, and a large number of agricultural implements; also, household furniture. J. L. Neff will act as auctioneer. Terms will be made known on day of sale. It is an excellent opportunity to purchase. —The Arrears of Pension Bill is the most interesting one to the people passed during the present Congress. It will aid many in our own county; but the fact that J. Newman, Jr., Allegheny street, offers the best of gentlemen's and boys' clothing at the lowest possible price should be of equal interest, as it annually saves large amounts to the people of Centre county.

—Mr. Samuel M. Rhule, a brother of Mrs. Christian Derr, of this place, is one of the wanderers who has returned from Brazil to his home in Milesburg. He does not bring a flattering account to us from that Empire, nor of the treatment offered to the Americans now at work on the new railroad in process of construction. He has with him many relics which are decidedly interesting, as are also his vivid descriptions of the country. —Mr. John Stuart, who formerly kept the hotel at State College, has just had a fine residence and store completed. He has received a stock of new goods and persons in College township wishing to purchase will there find a large assortment of goods. Now that there are three stores at State College it will be necessary for the proprietors to advertise in the DEMOCRAT so that people will be able to choose between them. —Thursday evidently is considered a fortunate day to be married on. To-day, we hear that Miss Mattie Morrison, one of Bellefonte's beautiful maidens, is going to offer herself at the altar matrimonial, and be spirited away to Williamsport by Mr. Oliver Rhen, of that place. We wish them much joy. —As we expected, Charley Cromley put in an appearance yesterday from Huntingdon. We know what he came for, too, and we hope it will be a pleasant affair; but we really think he and the fair one he came after might have celebrated their nuptials on the day previous, as we would have liked to offer our congratulations this week. —We had a call this week from our genial friend Cyrus Brumgard and also one from the Hon. Samuel Franck, two of Miles township's most worthy citizens. We will shortly have more comfortable quarters above the printing office in which to receive and entertain our friends, and we hope they will repeat the visit often. —Mr. John Mitchell, who has been a student at State College for several terms, has been suffering from inflammatory rheumatism for the past week. He was visited several times by Dr. Dale, of Leont, under whose skillful directions he was sent to his home at Riddleburg, Pa., on last Monday. —Samuel J. Tilden will address the students of the Southern Trinity College at their next commencement; and J. Newman, Jr., will (ad) dress all the boys and men of this county, who will favor him with a call, in the most durable of clothing and in the quickest possible manner. —They say John C. Miller was away from town last week. His absence from town are becoming frequent. But some day he will come home, bringing with him another partner, when we hope he will be content to make Bellefonte his permanent residence. House Naval Committee. WASHINGTON, February 9.—The majority report of the house naval committee relative to the late administration of the navy is signed by all the democratic members. In regard to the inquiry whether the laws enacted for the government of naval service and the protection of government interests have been observed, the committee say they are constrained by facts and sense of duty to the house and the country to answer that these laws have not been observed or obeyed, but on the contrary have been disregarded and violated, and they further answer that large sums of public money and large quantities of public property have been in the administration of the naval service illegally disposed of, for which the committee find Geo. M. Robeson, late secretary of navy, W. W. Wood, late chief of bureau of steam engineering, Isaiah Bacon, late chief of bureau of construction and repair, and chiefs of bureaus of provisions and clothing from 1872 to March, 1877, are chiefly responsible. HAVANA, February 11.—Advices from Porto Rico, and Santo Domingo report that the election was quiet. The election in Haiti for deputies passed off peacefully. Advices from Venezuela confirm the reports that Puerto Cabello is in full possession of the Revolutionists. Maracaibo has also proclaimed Don Guzman Blanco President. The latter is momentarily expected at St. Thomas. Jerry Black on Blaine: "Never you fear Blaine; he is like the wild rider of the table who rode before a great multitude at full gallop towards the brink of a precipice, and when the people raised a shriek as his horse reared himself to spring over, he wheeled him short about and rode back, doffing his hat and smiling. That's the kind of a man Blaine is. You can trust him every time on a thing of this kind." The good news for the passenger train and depot men along the line of the Pennsylvania railroad in the announcement that the issuing of the new overcoats, for which they were lately measured, has commenced at the eastern end of the line. They will be issued along the Philadelphia division to-day and it will not be long before their issuance here will take place. They are better late than never. A man with a harder cheek than a book agent, a drummer, or sewing machine peddler has been developed. He arises in the shape of a New York excise commissioner who, having absconded with a nice little pile of money and been caught, now brings suit for the salary due him during the time occupied in catching him! The strike of the chimney glassblowers in Pittsburg, after lasting over a year, has come to an end, and all the factories will be at work in a week. Hard times in England, small pox in Ireland, plague in Russia, rinderpest in Prussia and prosperity in France.