

The Centre Democrat.

Thursday Morning, February 27, 1879.

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

Local Department.

—No more legal holidays until Good Friday.

—Miss Clare is the organist in the Episcopal church.

—The pale, silvery, crescent-like moon can again be seen.

—Every succeeding day brings more of the "beautiful snow."

—The musical convention at Millheim last week was a success.

—The elegant sleighing has been appreciated and much indulged in.

—Who is going to get married next? Don't be bashful, but speak out.

—Senator Alexander was among the welcome visitors at this office on Monday.

—The next meeting of the National Teachers' Association for this year will be held in Philadelphia in August.

—Sabbath-school teachers and scholars will find a valuable commentary on next Sunday's lesson on our 3d page.

—The Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran church will meet at Lewisburg next Thursday.

—On and after this date, overcoats will be sold at cost at Newman's Eagle Clothing Hall. Remember this. 2-tf

—Mr. Charles Ryan has returned from Philadelphia, with a fair prospect of having the sight of one eye fully restored.

—A social meeting of the Episcopal congregation was held in the lecture room of their church last Monday evening.

—The Young Men's Christian Association, of Tyrone, will hold its eighth anniversary on Friday evening, March 7th.

—Mr. James L. Sommerville superintended the Presbyterian Sabbath-school on Sunday last, in the absence of Gen. James A. Beaver.

—The Murphy Temperance meetings are still held every Thursday evening in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association.

—Miss Snowden, the sweet musician, is organist at the Baptist church, which church is said to have the best instrumental music in town.

—The "Reading and Orchestral Association," of Philipsburg, will give a dramatic entertainment in that place next Saturday evening.

—Dr. Calder will lecture at Centre Hall, on "China," for the benefit of the Progress Grange P. of H., on Tuesday evening, the 11th of March. All are invited to attend.

—A question asked by our correspondent of State College, signing himself "H.," has been submitted to our agricultural editor and will probably be answered in our next.

—Mr. John Fellenbaum has removed his blacksmith shop to Duncan's Machine shop, where he will hereafter be prepared to attend to the various departments of his business.

—Last Saturday the Lemont brass band made a trip to State College, and for nearly two hours entertained the people of that place with some very fine music, much to their delight.

—A number of young gentlemen reside in this town who often have two heads on their shoulders. But this is not thought strange as the extra head is generally that of his girl.

—Dr. E. I. Kirk has moved his drug store into the hitherto vacant room just opposite his former place of business. A tasteful new sign indicates the place where he can be found.

—There is only one place in the world where there is more fun than there was at the "Centre Minstrels" Thursday evening. That place is at the centre of the earth, where bodies are supposed to lose all gravity.

—Ten of the teachers in the Presbyterian Sabbath-school were absent from duty on Sunday last. Our worthy friend, the pastor, had better have an eye upon the delinquents. They may need re-construction, or at least admonition.

—Our Methodist friends of Howard had a musical convention, and concert, in their handsome church building, last week, but with what success we have not learned. They have good musical talent down there, and it should be cultivated.

—Yesterday was Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent. It was celebrated in the Episcopal church with appropriate services morning and evening. During the next forty days services may be expected in that church almost daily.

—At Penn Hall, on Monday of last week, Miss Lucy Musser, daughter of L. D. Musser, of that place, fell and broke her arm. This is said to be the second time Miss Lucy has met with a similar misfortune during the present winter.

—Even if Chinese immigration is restricted, we believe that Newman, Jr., will continue to undersell all the clothing stores in this vicinity, and furnish better men's and boys' clothing at lower prices than can be purchased outside of the large cities.

—On Friday last Mr. Jackson, of State College, moved to Osceola, Pa. He at one time kept a store at the latter place, and intends to open a new one on a larger scale. Mr. J. has been a resident of State College for several years, and leaves with the best wishes of the many friends to whom he has attached himself.

—From the *Watchman*, we copy the notice of four deaths which occurred in a single family, at Beaver Mills, Rush township, this county, all of which occurred during the first two weeks of the present month, and show an almost unparalleled instance of fatality and a truly distressing dispensation of Providence. The family upon whom this great affliction has fallen is that of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smay, and the names of the four children who have been so suddenly called from earth to the future world are given in the quadruple death notice in another column. Diphteria, we are told, was the instrument which death used in these instances to accomplish its fearful work. We are sure that none can read this announcement without a pang of sorrow and a response of heartfelt sympathy. May it be truly said that they "are not dead, but gone before" to be four links binding the hearts and affections of those left behind yet closer to Heaven. The source from which we glean this sad bit of news does not say if there are any other children still remaining to comfort the grief-stricken parents. It is a sad circumstance, such as we hope it will never be necessary to record again.

—It is thought even by some liquor men that the Local Option law will be re-enacted this winter. Desperate efforts are being made to have it accomplished. There is more said on the subject of temperance just now than ever before, and every newspaper seems to be full of it. Henry Ward Beecher is said to have got off the following on Thursday night at a temperance meeting in Plymouth church: "The question of superstition is one which affects the man, the household, the neighborhood, the state, the whole country. The whole force of religion and society's full moral force must be exerted against an evil so vast that it fills our poor-houses, hospitals and jails. We will not let a man carry dynamite through the streets, and rum drinking is an evil which in its volume, vastness and misery overtops all other forms. It is the very devil among devils. It is a notorious fact that the existing laws in regard to the liquor traffic are shamefully broken, snubbed and trodden under foot. Every good citizen should see that they are enforced."

—The usual monthly gatherings which are held in the Young Men's Christian Association room the first Sunday in each month are always well attended, and often found quite interesting. Next Sunday afternoon, being the first Sunday in March, will be the occasion for another of these meetings. Everybody is invited to attend, and they cannot go any place where their presence will be more welcome. The exercises next Sunday will consist, during the first quarter of an hour, of music by the Temperance Orchestra.

—An antidote to the moisture occasioned by the affecting drama, Mr. Cope concluded with the recital of Mark Twain's humorous sketch entitled, "Uncle Daniel's Apparition."

—BELLEFONTE'S NEW PRODUCTION.—We always thought that the people of this county had more than their share of talent, but never knew until Thursday evening last that they could produce such a first-class minstrel troupe as at that time gave it's initiatory entertainment. The company consists of Charley Nolan, Al. Baney, Al. B. Haupt, Matt. Dolon, Chris. Nolan, J. S. Ryan, T. J. Newell and Sam. Dawson, and all who witnessed the performance were agreeably surprised to discover what excellent artists they are. Al. Baney and Chris. Nolan were the "end men," and succeeded in getting off some excellent jokes, many of which were new and were delivered with the most imperturbable gravity. Charley Nolan, Al. Haupt and Matt. Dolon each sang songs—both sentimental and comic—which evinced that they are possessors of sweet, melodious and powerful voices. Al. Baney, as the clog and jig dancer, is a success and was repeatedly encored, as was also Al. Haupt in a comic Dutch song. It is no disparagement to the others to say that Chris. Nolan was the "star" performer. He is certainly unsurpassed in the manner and skill in which he delineates the comic Irish character. All of his songs were vociferously applauded. The Temperance Orchestra furnished the music, which was fine.

—The alarm of fire which sounded early Monday morning was occasioned by a slight conflagration in the tailoring establishment of Mr. Henry Montgomery, in McCafferty's block, on High street. A wooden box which surrounded the stove caught fire, and brought the long hose carriage tearing down High street, and induced the Undine boys to bring their carriage as far as High and Spring. By this time the flames were subdued and everybody retired in disgust.

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—To-morrow will complete this month, which has but twenty-eight days. Next year is the favorite with the ladies, because this month having twenty-nine days gives them a chance to propose.

Gentlemen, however, unless they be of

the very modest kind, do not care for it,

as this is one of the rights which they

choose to guard with jealous care.

—An aged lady—Mrs. John Baney of Zion—had the misfortune to fall on the ice on Sunday morning of last week, breaking both bones of one arm at the wrist joint.

She was on her way at the time to visit a sick neighbor. The fracture was skilfully attended to by Dr. P. S. Fisher, and we are pleased to hear that the prospects of her recovery are good.

—Senator Alexander wants the jurisdiction of the Court of Common Pleas to extend over the granting of divorces. He has introduced a bill to that effect, which is limited to those cases in which the parties are married under the age of twenty-one without the consent of parents, and no issue follow their marriage.

—A new straight-out democratic paper

is to be started in Altoona. The present Daily Mirror will be merged therin and both daily and weekly issues made.

AN EXCELLENT DRAMA WELL PRODUCED.—It is not often the glowing descriptions which herald the advent of lecturers and actors are fully supported, but the expectations of all were more than realized in the grand rendition of that touching drama "Damon and Pythias," in the Court House, on Friday evening. The audience which assembled to hear was large and manifested their appreciation by a silence which could almost be felt. We did not expect so intensely interesting an entertainment, as we knew what a difficult task the gentleman had before him, and how impossible it is for one person to produce the expressions and intonations of voice belonging to so many persons in such a variety of situations. We also know that few persons, at best, appreciate the style of drama contained in "Damon and Pythias," and therefore we can compliment the audience for the perfect attention which prevailed.

Mr. Cope was introduced by R. M. Magee, Esq., and prefaced the first act by stating that it would not be of great interest as it was merely preliminary to the play.

In this the gentleman committed the only error which we think open to criticism.

He hurried through the first act, pronouncing the grave discussions of the Senators altogether too quickly, and threw very little expression into the imperious command, "On soldiers! hem him down!"

The gentleman seemed to have reserved his strength for the second act,

and produced the fiery indignation and afterwards the dignified yet humble supplications of mercy which Damon is forced to utter, with excellent effect.

In the audience, much of the effect which would otherwise have been produced by the exciting situations and earnest words fell apparently dead on the hearers.

The fourth act was the best of the evening, and throughout was rendered with dramatic effect.

From the exciting scenes between Damon and Pythias the actor carried his

hearers to the equally affecting one at the home of Damon, and in the passionate plea of Damon's wife for her husband to secure his liberty, and in the heroic replies of Damon, occurred one of the neatest bits of acting of the evening. The interest aroused here was successfully maintained throughout the fourth and concluding acts until the welcome news came from the tyrant Dionysius that the execution should be stopped. We do not hesitate to say that Mr. Cope showed greater talents as an elocutionist and dramatic reciter than any one who has visited this place for a long time.

After the table had been cleared and transformed into benches, Dr. Calder called the meeting to order, with the remark that "important business was impending."

The Dr. then called on Leonard Rhone, who

occupied the floor for half an hour with instructive remarks about Granges in general

and their great use in helping the farmer to become independent.

He touched lightly upon the "grinding monopolies," and showed that of all the men sent to govern

the nation very few farmers were among them.

Mr. R.'s remarks were well received

and seemed to be concurred in by the majority of those present.

After Mr. Rhone had ceased, the Pine Hall brass band

rendered some excellent music.

Mr. John Musser then addressed the

audience, opening his remarks with the

remark that "with Dr. Calder calling him

one way and his wife pulling his coat in

another" his remarks would be short.

Throughout his speech he kept the people in a happy frame of mind, at the same time working in some very sound arguments.

This speech was followed by a few practical remarks from Mr. George Dale, saying that we must always put into practice what we preach if we would accomplish any good.

The meeting was closed by the band playing "Caledon's Quickstep."

Washington Grange is in a flourishing condition. Last year the members made Dr. Calder, Master, and again this year he has been elected to the same position.

HOWARD'S LITERARY ENTERTAINMENT.—

The celebration of Washington's birth-day by the literary society of Howard, and its invited guests, on last Saturday evening, was quite a success.

The hall was more than crowded, it was literally packed, and dozens, if not scores, went away, unable to gain admittance.

Instrumental music, by the Howard String Band, and vocal music by the Howard Quartette club,

formed a very delightful part of the evening's entertainment.

The Quartette club, most of the members of which were personal

friends of the deceased, rendered in a

feeling manner, the beautiful "Tribute to Bradbury," in memory of Mr. John L. Lucas, the founder of the society, the news of whose death in Florida, on Tuesday evening last, had just reached them.

D. L. Dunham, Esq., the newly-elected

Supreme Judge of Howard township,

wielded the gavel, and bore his honors with blushing modesty.

While Mitchell Gardner made an efficient Secretary.

An original oration by Mr. John Smith, which evidenced considerable thought and care in its preparation, opened the exercises, and after music, was followed by "The Last Hours of Mozart," excellently rendered by Mr. Strickland. Miss Dornblazer, of Hamburg, who had been advertised as an essayist, failed to put in an appearance, much to the disappointment of some who had turned out especially to hear her. The question for debate,—"Resolved, That women should have the right of suffrage," was ably and eloquently discussed by Messrs. David Fletcher, Dunham, Neff, of Boggs, Roving, of Marion, Reuben Fletcher, "Squire" Barnhart and others. Miss Gardner, and Messrs. Brickle and Henderson, who had been selected as judges, gave a decision in favor of the affirmative, but when the audience was appealed to for an opinion, it thundered out a negative which must have sent dismay to the hearts of all woman suffragists present, and so the evening passed pleasantly and we trust profitably, and we congratulate our friends of the ancient burg. upon the success of their celebration.

"Man wants but little here below,

Nor wants that little long."

This "little" means, as men well know,

A suit of clothes from head to toe;

And if before the grasses grow

To Newman's shop they'll only go,

They can get it for a "song."

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED BY THE WASHINGTON GRANGE.—A correspondent from State College writes us a witty communication regarding the meeting of the Washington Grange, on Saturday last, which was the first Grange meeting he ever had the pleasure of attending. We would like to publish his letter *in toto*, but want of space compels us to be satisfied with producing a few extracts. After saying that the first sound which saluted him on approaching the meeting was "music from a brass band softly floating on the midnight air," and "having had a rapid glance at things in general," he heard the party with him "were introduced to the Master, Dr. Calder, President of State College, who made us acquainted with several interesting facts concerning Granges in general and their benefits to the farmer. We next met Mr. Leonard Rhone, Deputy of Centre county, who seemed to be devoted to the work of the Grange, and added facts to our already well-filled memory." Mr. Rhone is an enthusiastic Granger and few escape him without also becoming Grangers.

Among those in attendance were Messrs. John Musser and George Dale. One of the most acceptable acquaintances which our correspondent made was the well-filled table.

To describe the contents of this table our correspondent felt himself incapable, and despaired lost in a "labyrinth of turkey bones, pies and creams." All that the busy mind of man could devise was spread before those who sat at the table, great in quantity and excellent in quality. At 12 o'clock all were invited by Dr. Calder, of State College, to partake of this abundant repast. The order was quickly and willingly obeyed, and by the time the meal was over each one had eaten so much that it was found necessary to allow a short time for recovery.

After the table had been cleared and transformed into benches, Dr. Calder called the meeting to order, with the remark that "important business was impending." The Dr. then called on Leonard Rhone, who occupied the floor for half an hour with instructive remarks about Granges in general and their great use in helping the farmer to become independent. He touched lightly upon the "grinding monopolies," and showed that of all the men sent to govern the nation very few farmers were among them.

The ancient Polish superstition, which gave particular power to certain gems on the different months, very appropriately set apart the "Bloodstone" for this one—to symbolize that "courage and bravery" would be in requisition to enable poor mortals to withstand the changes and storms of this variable season.

—In two days more March, the cold, stormy month will be here. Its days of sleet and blustering winds are anything but attractive to look forward to, but while we breast them, we can console ourselves with the thought that spring, with its refreshing showers and gentle gale, is not far off. The ancient Polish superstition, which gave particular power to certain gems on the different months, very appropriately set apart the "Bloodstone" for this one—to symbolize that "courage and bravery" would be in requisition to enable poor mortals to withstand the changes and storms of this variable season.

—On Friday morning of last week Anna B. Riddle, a lady who only lacked one year of reaching her three-quarters of a century, died at the residence of Mr. John Cook,