

The Centre Democrat.

BELLE FORT, PA.

The Largest, Cheapest and Best Paper
PUBLISHED IN CENTRE COUNTY.

DAVID AND GOLIAH.

THE STORY AS TOLD BY A LOCAL PREACHER
IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Last week, my brethren, as I was a-readin' my Bible, I found a story of a big fight (I Samuel, xvii.) It was powerful interestin', and I studied it almost all the week. There was two armies a campin' on two mountains right forenast each other, and a holler and, I reckon, some good bottom land and a medder lot lyin' between 'em. In one of the armies there was a big fellow—a whoopin' big fellow—and every day he went down into the medder lot and looked up the hill to t'other camp and just dared 'em. He told 'em to pick their best man and send him down and he'd fight him. And he just strutted around there in his soger close and waited for 'em to send on their man. And such soger close I never heard tell on afore.

He had a brass cap and brass trousers, and a coat made like mail bags where they are all ironed and riveted together. But the fellows in t'other camp just clean flunked. They daren't fight the big fellow, nary one on 'em. They just all sneaked away and the big fellow he went back to camp. But he didn't quit thar, the big fellow didn't. He was spilin' for a fight, and he was bound to have it. He just went down into the bottom land, into the medder lot, every day, mornin' and evenin', and dared 'em and dared 'em. I tell you he pestered 'em mightily. The old fellow, Saul, the Girel, he felt more chawed up and meaner than the sogers, and, when he couldn't stan' it no longer, he told the boys that if any on 'em would go down and lick the big fellow he'd give him his gal and a right smart chunk of plunder. But they was all so skeer'd that even that didn't start one of 'em. The big fellow went down and dared 'em and pestered 'em more'n a month—forty days, the Bible says.

I don't know what they'd a done if it hadn't a-been that a peart little feller had come down to camp one day to fetch some extra rations, to his three big brothers that their old dad sent to 'em from home. Kind old pap he was, and sharp, too, for he sent along a big present to the boys' Cap'ten. Well, jest as the little feller drove up, they was all gwine out to fight, and the little fellow left his traps with the driver, and legged it after the sogers, and told his big brothers how'd'y. Right thar the old big feller came out and dared 'em again, and they were all so skeer'd that they just run like mad. The little feller heered him, and then went back into camp and heered all the sogers talking about him, and what the old General would give to have him licked. He asked 'em a heap of questions about it all, and his big brother he got mad at him, and twitted him about keepin' sheep, and gave him a right smart sass. He was plucky, but you see he had to stan' it, 'cause 'twas his big brother. Big brothers are mighty mean sometimes.

But the little feller talked a heap with the other sogers, and they told the old General about him, and he told them to tell the little feller to come and see him. The little feller was mighty plucky, and he jest up and told the old General Saul that he'd fight the big feller! The General looked at the handsome little feller—he was real handsome—and ses he, kinder softly, "I reckon, 'n shakin' his head, 'it's too big a job; you're only a chunk of a boy, and he's an old fighter." The little feller spunked up and told the old General that he'd had one bar fight and he had killed the bar. He said there was an old lion and bar got among his dad's sheep, and was gwine off with a lamb. He broke for 'im, and as soon as he met up with the bar he lamm'd him till the bar turned on him for a hug; but he got one hand into the long bar under his jaw, and lamm'd him with the other'n till he was dead. He'd killed the lion and the bar, and he know'd he was enough for the old big feller.

Then the little fellow talked real religious to the old General. You see, he'd got religion afore that, and he knowed that the Lord would help a feller, if he was all right, and got into a tight place. He told General Saul that the Lord had made him mighty supple, and looked out for him when the old lion and bar tried to get their paws into him; and he knowed He'd ses him through the fight with the big feller, for he was just darin' 'em and pesterin' 'em to make game of religion. When the old General sed he was so plucky and religious, too, he knowed them's the kin' that fight powerful, and he told him to go in, and he made a little prayer for him. Then the old General put his own soger close on the little feller, and strapped his sword onto him. But they were a heap too big, and he shucked 'em off directly, and made for a dry branch down in the bottom. Then he hunted five little rocks, smooth as a hen egg, put 'em in a little bag where he carried his snack when he was a-tendin' the sheep, got his sling fixed all right, and hurried up to meet the old big feller in the medder lot. When he sed him comin' he was powerful mad they'd sent down

such a little feller, and jawed awful. But the little feller jest talked back religious, and kept his eyes peeled. And I reckon the big feller couldn't a be'n a lookin'. I've studied a heap on it, and I just know the big feller couldn't a be'n a lookin'; for the little feller got out his sling and drew away and shied a little rock at him, and he popped him and down he tumbled. Then the little feller rushed up and mounted him, jest as an old hunter loves to get on a bar after he's shot him; and he out with the big fellow's long sword and off went his head. Then it was them Philistine sinners' turn to be skeer'd, and they broke for the brush; and all of them chil'n of Israel fellers jest shouted and chased 'em clean over the mountain into a valley, and then com'd back and got all their camp plunder. My brethren, that is the best story of a fight I ever read of, and you can buy no better story book nor this very Bible.—Dr. Pierson's Reminiscences.

A Word on Education.

We clip the following clear, comprehensive, common sense article on education from a recent number of the *National Baptist*. The article is from the pen of a cultured, clear-headed lady who has had ample opportunity of substantiating what she says, from the fact of her being personally engaged in the training of children in the higher, as well as the lower branches of studies.

"A gentleman of high educational and religious position recently said: 'Woman should not have the same course of study as man, because of her physical weakness. Study tends to produce nervous disorder in every one; and woman should not, therefore, be taxed on account of transmission.'

It appears to me that God did not intend that one part of the nature he has given should be developed in such manner as to sacrifice others equally essential to success and happiness. To me it is unaccountable that when the end of education may be as perfectly attained, may far more perfectly, by what may be termed a more practical course, and should be so blind to their own prejudices as to fight against it.

If education produces nervousness, then some physical law of God is transgressed. Have we any right to sin against our body? Why not the laws of the body be so fully studied, and the curriculum so arranged that these laws may be obeyed? Have we not to answer to God for breaking them?

Surely, we need not teach our children to sin habitually. There should be a chair of medical science in our colleges, and similar instructions should be given to our girls, and the course should be so arranged that physical laws shall not be broken, but observed with religious conscientiousness.

The education of the moral feelings should go hand in hand with every study, for there is a link binding all knowledge to the knowledge of God, and the Christian teacher never severs that link. All man needs to know may be best studied in such connection. The Bible directs our attention both to the teachings of nature and providence, or science and history, which would exhaust a large part of what we labor for years to look into. Education is the mind God has made, seeking to know as much as possible, be it more or less of itself and of his other works and of his nature. Education being the means of conveying to our minds a knowledge of God and of his loving kindness to mankind."

What will improve the taste for every kind of beauty? What will serve to brighten and enlarge the intellect equal to a knowledge of God and his works? Why, then, is most of the time in our schools occupied with the study of Greek and Latin or the study of man's works? Have we not living languages which contain all that is needed to be studied without the objectionable features of the dead? or, if these are so pure, will not a good translation do, and save our time for those branches which will yield both discipline and knowledge?

Our educational system is not practical. While much is said about education preparing our children for the duties of life, in many instances it unfits them for life's duties. Life, it appears to me, is made up of business, business in the house and business in the mart, business in the study and business in the pulpit and cottage. Is the preparation as practical as it needs to be for the transaction of these various works? Is there a chair for the study of elocution, for the benefit of ministerial students? Are they trained and encouraged to make human nature, with which they have to do, a practical study by mixing among business men and learning their modes and channels of thought and various experiences, that their instructions and encouraging words may not be lost upon them? The book human nature is one which should have attention and study next to God's own Word? Piety and talent being equal, that minister will be far more successful and useful in every sense (pecuniary and religious) who has best executive business knowledge.

Why do not social and political sciences occupy a large space in instruction. Girls now acquire a distaste for home duties through study, and this will continue until they are educated in the business of life; taught to put poetry and love into, and get poetry and love out of, daily duties; taught the relations to each brother

and sister in life; taught to lend a helping hand, especially to the poor of their own sex. They need a social science to teach them how to do this best. We need to have all school books written upon a religious basis. Is it not high time Christian parents took this matter into their own hands, and made preparation for life preparation for Heaven also. The ideal man and woman will be reached by giving attention practically to health and making moral attainment not theoretically but practically the highest, and reaching the intellect through these. Then our children will be prepared to meet and overcome every obstacle and discharge every duty in a spirit which will clothe with moral dignity the most trivial action and which will itself be strengthened by each outward act of life."

A Cheap Fire-Escape.

The Scientific American recently contained a suggestion which, if it had been carried out by the owners of the "World Building," might have prevented the loss of life by the fire.

The suggestion was to the effect that there should be a law compelling the owners of factories and of other high buildings in which large numbers of people are employed, to provide at each window a cheap and efficient fire-escape, in addition to the appliances and stairways required by existing laws.

This fire escape for each window should be one that would always be ready, easily understood, and usable by any person of ordinary intelligence, even under excitement. Such a one, it is said, could be made in the following manner: To a stake firmly driven in the wall over each window attach a rope or cord, say three-eighths of an inch in size, and long enough to reach to the ground. This cord should be well made and pliable, and might be knotted at intervals of twelve or fifteen inches. The cord should then be rolled into a coil or ball, and in a place by a small cord or strap, ready at a moment's notice to be untied and the end thrown out of the window. Men, and even women, could descend this rope with little difficulty; and the stronger and cooler-headed could tie it around the bodies of the weaker and quickly lower them to those ready to receive them below.

It would be a wise plan for those living in or occupying the upper stories of high dwelling-houses to have such a rope convenient, as it often happens that a fire gets such headway that escape is only effected by running through the flames. This is at the best dangerous, and the person who attempts it, if he escapes death, is liable to be seriously burned. With a rope handy, when escape by the stairways is cut off, one may easily let himself or herself down to the ground unharmed.

FIRE ESCAPES.

The Law of Pennsylvania.

An Act to Provide for the Better Security of Life and Limb in Cases of Fire in Hotels and other Buildings. Approved June 11, 1879.

WHEREAS, In consequence of fires breaking out in hotels, factories and other high buildings, many lives have been lost and great personal injuries suffered, through the want of efficient means of escape therefrom, independently of the ordinary internal stairways; therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it enacted &c., That all the following described buildings, within this commonwealth, to wit: Every building used as a seminary, college, academy, hospital, asylum or a hotel for the accommodation of the public, every storehouse, factory, manufactory, or work shop of any kind, in which employees or operatives are usually employed at work in the third or any higher-story, every tenement house or building in which rooms or floors are usually let to lodgers or families, and every public school building, when any of such buildings are three or more stories in height, shall be provided with a permanent safe external means of escape therefrom in case of fire; and it shall be the duty of the owners or keepers of such hotels, of the owners, superintendents or managers of such seminaries, colleges, academies, hospitals, asylums, storehouses, factories, manufactories or workshops, of the owners or landlords of such tenement houses, or their agents, and of the board of school directors of the proper school district, to provide and cause to be affixed to every such building such permanent fire escape.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the board of fire commissioners, in conjunction with the fire marshal of the district where such commissioners and fire marshal are elected or appointed, to first examine and test such fire escape, and after upon trial, said fire escape should prove satisfactory, then the said fire marshal, in connection with the fire commissioners, or a majority of them, shall grant a certificate approving said fire escape: Provided further, That in districts where no such fire marshal and fire commissioners exist, then the school directors in each said district shall be the board of examiners, and upon their certificate, or a majority of them, of approval of said fire escape, shall be sufficient authority for the erection of said fire escape in said district.

SECTION 3. Every person whose duty it is by the first section of this act to provide and cause to be affixed to any of said buildings such external

fire escape, and every such school district, shall also be liable in any action for damages, in case of death or personal injury sustained in consequence of fire breaking out in any such building and of the absence of such efficient fire escape; and such action may be maintained by any person now authorized by law to sue in other cases of similar injuries; all persons failing to comply with the provisions of this act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding (\$300) three hundred dollars, to be collected as fines and forfeitures are now by law collectible.

The Coming Transit of Venus.

Providence Journal.

Venus is a morning star until the 20th, when she comes into superior conjunction with the sun, and is then evening star for the rest of the month. She easily wins the place of honor among the planets, for when, after conjunction, she passes, to the eastern side of the sun, she enters upon a career which, at its close, will culminate in the greatest astronomical event of the year, and perhaps the greatest event of the century. This event of transcendent importance is the transit of Venus on the 6th of December, 1882. She then reaches her inferior conjunction, passing directly between us and the sun, and is projected on the sun's disk like a round black spot. The transit will be visible throughout the Western hemisphere, so that our side of the globe is the fortunate one this time in regard to locality; and the transit in this locality will continue for six hours. It seems like announcing an event a great while before its occurrence, but astronomers all over the globe have long sounded the busy notes of preparation. It is said that some of them have been twenty-five years getting ready for this long anticipated transit. American astronomers will bring all their scientific apparatus into the field, the best telescopes, transit instruments, photographic methods, and everything else that can be made available on the occasion. European astronomers will come over the sea by the hundreds, and choose the most eligible localities for utilizing their fine instruments and finer brains. Intelligent observers who are not scientifically trained, and who care nothing for contracts and mathematical niceties, will bring into use every accessible telescope and spyglass. Observers who have keen eyesight will view the great luminary, deprived of his glare by smoked glass, and perhaps discern with the naked eye a tiny black dot making its slow way over his face.

Waiting Almost a Year Before Claiming His Bride.

New York World.

On the 23d of March, 1881, a gentleman, accompanied by a lady and some witnesses, called upon the Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Rylance, of St. Mark's Church. He introduced himself as Mr. Washington Irving, and the young lady as Miss Susan Rhea Bayard, and stated that they wished to be married. The necessary blanks being filled and signed, Dr. Rylance performed the ceremony and thought no more about it. On Wednesday last a gentleman called upon him, and saying that he was Mr. Bayard, asked, if his sister had been married to Mr. Irving in March last. Dr. Rylance referred him to the church books, kept by the sexton in the safe. There the record of the marriage was found, and then Mr. Bayard told a curious story. For some time prior to the marriage Mr. Irving had been engaged to Miss Bayard, the consent to the engagement being somewhat unwillingly given by the parents of the young lady. It was not supposed that the young couple were in a hurry to marry, nor at that time did Mr. Irving's circumstances justify any such step, as he was only a clerk in an insurance company on a small salary. Nothing was said about the marriage at the time it took place to any of Miss Bayard's relations, nor was the fact that the ceremony had been performed even suspected. After the marriage Mrs. Irving returned to her mother's house and lived there as usual. A few days ago Mr. Irving's salary was raised and he, thinking that he could support a wife, applied to the astonished relations of the lady for his bride. As might have been expected the statement made by both of them that they had been married was warmly disputed, and Mrs. Irving's brother at once took steps to ascertain if the story was true. Convinced that his sister was really Mrs. Irving, he at once gave publicity to the fact by advertising the marriage and surrendered the wife to her husband, with whom she now is.

OUT ON THE NEXT DEAL.—"But I pass," said a minister recently in dismissing one theme of his subject to take up another. "Then I make it spades," yelled a man from the gallery, who was dreaming the happy hours away in an imaginary game of euchre. It is needless to say that he went out on the next deal, assisted by one of the deacons.

A LOWELL firm recently sent a lot of bills west for collection. The list came back with the result noted against each name, one being marked dead. Three months after the same bill got into a lot that was forwarded, and when the list came back the name was marked, "still dead."

Pictures of Ancient Extravagance.

Cassius, when a candidate for the consulship, gave a feast of 10,000 tables, to which all the citizens of Rome were indiscriminately invited. Caesar, to celebrate the funeral of a daughter, gave one of 22,000 tables, with accommodation for three guests of each. This entertainment was repeated and exceeded more gladiators and wild beasts than were produced on any former occasion in an amphitheatre, but his exhibitions of this kind were so completely outshone that it was a waste of time to dwell upon them. In a document annexed to his testament, Augustus states as a title to public gratitude that he had exhibited 8,000 gladiators and brought more than 3,500 wild beasts to be killed in the circus. In the course of the festivities instituted by Titus to celebrate the opening of the Colosseum, 5,000 wild beasts were let loose and killed by gladiators. The Emperor Probus collected for a single show 100 lions, 100 lionesses, 100 Libyan and 100 Syrian leopards, 300 bears and 600 gladiators. Having caused the circus to be planted with trees to resemble a forest, he let loose 100 ostriches, 1,000 stags, 1,000 does and 1,000 bears, to be hunted by the populace, who were to keep whatever they could catch or kill. The fiercer animals were encountered by the gladiators. It does not appear how long this show lasted.

Tiberius, whose life at Capri was a disgrace to human nature, fonder of saving money than of spending it, left an immense sum in the treasury, which his successor, Caligula, managed to dissipate in two years by extravagance of the most senseless kind. As if in rivalry of Cleopatra, he swallowed precious stones dissolved in vinegar, and caused his guests to be helped to gold (which they carried away) instead of bread and meat. One of his favorite amusements was showing money among the populace from the Basilica of Julius Caesar. He built galleries of cedar, covered with jewelry, and large enough to contain vines and fruit trees, and had canals cut for them along the coast. The stable of his favorite horse, which he talked of naming Consul, was of marble, the trough of ivory, the harness of purple and the collar of pearls. The ears of emeralds and pearls worn by one of his wives, Lollia Paulina, was valued at \$400,000 sterling.

The principal extravagance of Claudius was in the public games. One of the shows organized for him was a naval combat on a lake, in which the galleys were manned by 19,000 men. He was fond of good cheer, and was in the habit of inviting himself to the tables of the rich. He came on one occasion with 600 persons in his train.

It was to Nero that Tacitus applied the expression *incredulitas*. What he not only desired but achieved in the way of cruelty and vice would be declared incredible if Roman history had not already shown what revolting atrocities may be conceived by a diseased imagination and executed by irresponsible power. After burning the city he gratified his taste, in entire disregard of the proprietors, in rebuilding it. He at once appropriated a number of the sites and a large portion of the public grounds for his new palace. The porticoes, with their ranks of columns, were a mile long. The vestibule was large enough to contain the colossal statue of him in silver and gold, 120 feet high, from which the Colosseum got its name. The interior was gilded throughout and adorned with ivory and mother-of-pearl. The ceilings of the dining rooms were formed of movable tables of ivory, which shed flowers and perfumes on the company; the principal saloon had a dome which, turning day and night, imitated the movements of the terrestrial bodies. When this place was finished he exclaimed: "At last I am lodged like a man." His diadem was valued at half a million. His dresses, which he never wore twice, were stiff with purple lines and hooks of gold. He never traveled with less than a thousand carriages. The mules were shod with silver, and the muleteers clothed with the finest wool and the attendants wore bracelets and necklaces of gold. Five hundred sea asses followed his wife Poppaea in her progresses, to supply milk for her babies. He was fond of figuring in the circus as a charioteer and in the theatre as a singer and actor.

He prided himself on being an artist, and when his possible deposition was hinted to him he said that an artist could never be in want. There was not a vice to which he was not given, nor a crime which he did not commit. Yet the world, exclaims Suetonius, endured this monster for fourteen years; and he was popular with the multitude, who were dazzled by his magnificence and mistook his senseless profusion for liberality. On the anniversary of his death, during many years, they crowded to cover his tomb with flowers.

The utmost excess in gluttony was reached by Vitellius, who gave feasts at which 2,000 fishes and 7,000 birds were served up. He prided himself on his culinary genius, and laid every quarter of the empire under contribution to supply materials for a dish, which contained livers of mullet, brains of pheasants, roe of lampreys, etc. Tacitus states that he spent what would be tantamount to several millions sterling in less than eight months in eating and giving to eat.

A Discovery in Marble.

The Knoxville (Tenn.) Tribune says a quarry of remarkable marble has been discovered three miles from that city. The Tribune declares that "to speak of the color of the marble is to mention the rainbow. It shows every color in the list, with the most beautiful tints that can be conceived of. The prevailing color is salmon or pink. The markings in this ground are pieces of India, running into all shades of red and pink. A small bit of the most brilliant orange also appears which seems to be a small mollusk of some description. Then said to this spots of blue running into shades of green, with white and a thousand nameless compound colors, and try to conceive of the splendor the composition gives. The stone polishes like glass, and is of the soundest crystalline structure."

A Cyclone.

In examining cyclones, phenomena occasionally present themselves which strongly suggest the idea that they include within their circuit, as an independent meteor, the whirlwind or the tornado, the phenomena in question being most frequently met with in those cyclones which present, in close continuity, masses of air differing very widely from each other in temperature and humidity. Of such cyclones the great storm of October 14th last appears to be one. On that occasion the changes of temperature and humidity were sharp and sudden, particularly from the Grampians to the Cheviots, the great fall occurring when the wind changed to northward. Off the Berwickshire coast the darkness accompanying the changes of wind, temperature, and humidity was denser and more threatening than elsewhere, and almost simultaneously with the approach of these changes, a hurricane, or rather tornado broke out with a devouring energy which bore everything before it. The tornado character of the storm off Eyemouth is shown by the accounts of some of the survivors, who describe the wind as blowing straight down from the sky with an impetuosity so vehement and overmastering that the sea for some extent was beaten down flat into a stretch of seething foam, in which many boats sank as if driven down beneath the foam by the wind, while outside this tract the waves seemed to be driven up to a height absolutely appalling, which in their turn engulfed many of the boats yet remaining. Similar seas, with level wastes of seething foam, bounded immediately by waves of a height and threatening aspect never before witnessed, were encountered by several well-appointed steamers out in the middle of the North Sea during this storm, thus confirming the observations of the Eyemouth fishermen. These facts seem to point to one or perhaps more tornadoes of no inconsiderable dimensions, with slanting columns, the terrific force of the gyrations of whose lower extremities played no inconspicuous part in the devastation wrought during the continuance of this memorable storm.

Of Course, Revive It.

From Fulton Republican.

Would it not be advisable to revive the old law still carried on our statute books against profanity, and enforce it? If there was ever a necessity for such a law, surely that period exists at the present time. Of all modern vices it seems to be the one that grows fastest; even the thirst for strong drink cannot equal it in gaining proselytes. It makes victims even earlier than intemperance, and seldom relaxes its hold after it has once been fixed on a man. The citizens of the town of Erie have been so often outraged by one of these professional blasphemers that the ancient law has been evoked against the offender, and much to his surprise he was compelled to pay \$6.70 for divesting himself of ten oaths, or at the legal rate of sixty-seven cents for every oath. Not having the money necessary to liquidate the fine, he was sent to jail, where he still remains. What would be the effect if this law was enforced in this county? The county treasury would be filled to overflowing or the county jail be inadequate to accommodate one-tenth of the profane offenders who would be sent there. There are organizations for the suppression of cruelty to animals and men, for the suppression of vice in nearly every form. Why is it, therefore, that some of these organizations that look after the morals of the community do not take the chronic swearer in hand?

"YOUR arguments are sound my son, and delivered with force," said the clergyman to his boy, who had been banging away at his drum for an hour or more; "but we have heard quite enough on that head."

A CURE for whooping cough, according to a superstition, is "Get a piece of bread baked by a lady who didn't change her name in marrying and eat it."

It is now asserted that a few pots of flowers in a sleeping room are not injurious to health. Neither is a barrel of flower in the kitchen.

At Cambridgeport, Mass., the barrel factory of Jones & Co. was burned, with fifty car loads of headings and staves, worth \$11,000; \$2000 worth of hoops, 8000 flour barrels, 500 sugar barrels, 500 syrup barrels, valued at \$7,750. In addition, about \$1,000 worth of rough lumber and six box cars loaded with hoops, staves and headings, worth \$6000, were consumed.

A bickering pair of Quakers were lately heard in high controversy, the husband claiming: "I am determined to have one quiet week with thee!" "But how wilt thou be able to get it?" said the taunting spouse, in that sort of reiteration which married ladies so provokingly indulge in. "I will keep thee a week after thou art dead," was the Quaker's rejoinder.

The editor of a Texas exchange says he does not like turkey; that if he can't have 'possum to celebrate with he don't want any at all; but his neighbors still continue to lock up their turkeys after dark. Some people don't believe everything they read in a newspaper. The editor can't play "possum" on them that way.