

# The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

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

## The Northern Pacific Job.

From time to time since the assembling of the present Congress there have been reports that under Keifer and Robeson we might expect to see the lobby thawed out again. That these reports have not been without foundation is shown by the action of the House Judiciary Committee in the matter of the Northern Pacific Land grants. It is now nearly five months since Mr. Teller in the Senate and Mr. Cassidy in the House began the campaign to recover from the Northern Pacific Railroad for the use of the people the millions of acres of land which it had appropriated without equitable right and solely through the connivance of a complainant and clumsy tool in the Department of the Interior. Congress originally bestowed a magnificent empire of the finest wheat-growing lands in the country upon the Northern Pacific upon the express condition that the whole road should be constructed and equipped by the 4th of July, 1877, a term which, under a subsequent decision, was extended two years. The act of Congress, unlike the generosity of land grant acts, did not provide that at the expiration of the time indicated the grants should revert to the United States, but declare that if the company should neglect to fulfill any of its conditions during the space of a twelve-month "then in such case, at any time hereafter, the United States, by its Congress, may do any and all acts and things which may be "needful and necessary to insure a "speedy completion of said road." The remarkable decision concocted in the interests of the Northern Pacific by Secretary Schurz and Assistant Attorney General Marble was published in full in these columns on the 14th of January last. By extending the rights and immunities of the company to the full period of a year after the final date set for the fulfillment of the company's part of the agreement, despite the fact that it had violated each and all of the conditions on which the lands were granted to it, the Northern Pacific escaped figuring in the list of defaulting roads reported to Congress by the then Land Commissioner as meriting forfeiture, unless the time allowed for the construction of the road should be extended. Time being thus gained to push forward the work of building the road on the credit of the land grants, which no longer belonged to it in law or equity, the foundation was laid for a further report, judiciously submitted at a time when it cannot be considered for some months, if at all during the present Congress, to the effect that the "old right of Congress in the premises is to do whatever is necessary to insure the completion of the line. This principle laid down, it is easy for the Judiciary Committee to deduce therefrom the conclusion that Congress should do nothing whatever, but leave the work to the corporation which has proved its capacity and anxiety to do the work by neglecting it. It is not contended—that would be too much even for the company's apologists to pretend—that the value of the land is not far in excess of the cost of constructing and equipping the railroad line. Were Congress to take the needful and necessary steps that would be taken by a private individual in similar circumstances, the result would be that the road would be built with a moiety of the lands, and the remaining millions upon millions of acres would be saved to the United States for the use of actual settlers. Such a course, however, the Judiciary Committee does not deem "advisable," and Congress is asked to help the company to profit by its own laches and torts.

It is not necessary to recall to the minds of our readers the different steps in this rascality—the reversing of Secretary Chandler's Florida decision of 1876, which furnished a precedent fatal to the ring; the turning and twisting of the route to take in a every desirable tract of land; the preparation of decisions which rested upon no principle of law or precedent, and the "restoration" to the conspirators of more land than they had ever claimed. But it may be well to note once for all the consistent jobbery and illegality with which this scheme has been identified from the date of its inception. The Northern Pacific was not like the transcendent lines which preceded it, which were built in accordance with a political necessity indicated during the war of secession. If the Union was to be bound firmly together in all its parts, a speedier and more intimate connection between the Atlantic and Pacific States was indispensable, to say nothing of the influence of a Pacific railroad in bringing about a solution of the Indian and Mormon problems, or of its commercial importance as a link in the trade system of the world. Whatever the extravagance and corruption may have been that sprang from the extension to those roads of Government aid, their construction was indispensable, and they could not have been constructed without that aid. There was, however, no plea of the sort to be entered in favor of the Northern Pacific. No political necessity dictated its construction to be linked together; no through trade awaited a channel. It was a project that should have been left severely to private enterprise, to be constructed as population and commerce demanded its facilities. There was no need to vote its lands, since it was to be built out of the proceeds of its bonds, and thus the grant of a territory as large as and much richer than a European empire was a bonus from the Treasury to its builders. Lobbies and land-grabbers have fattened upon it from the days of Cook to those of Villard, and the scandals that attend it should have aroused the Government to the indecency of the whole business. But, as the grants of land were gratuitous, it was fated that the Government should never take action concerning the company save to aid in the work of destroying its own title and abdicating its declared powers. There is little ground for anticipating any ac-

tion at the hands of a Congress bought and sold by Keifer and Robeson, unless further to extend the company's time and more closely to fasten its grip upon the swag. It is, perhaps, the last great job in which the Republican party is to engage. It will always be reckoned among the most scandalous of the many rascally transactions in which the party of great moral ideas has lived and moved and had its congenial being during the last eighteen years. If the Democrats in Congress are true to their party it will be recorded as the most disastrous operation ever undertaken even by the blundering party of Grant and of Colfax.

## Mrs. Nellie Young.

Death of a Lady who Knew General Washington.

New York Herald.

A remarkable woman has just died at Richmond, Va. She was perhaps the last living human being who had seen and talked with Washington, notwithstanding the number of straggling pretenders who occasionally appear before the public as claimants for this honor. Mrs. Young, the person to whom reference is made, was the last surviving child of General Washington's steward, Anderson, the honest and frugal Scotchman who for so many years had control of his domestic affairs at Mount Vernon. Her maiden sister, Miss Nellie Anderson, died in Richmond more than fifteen years ago at the advanced age of ninety-five, and now the venerable survivor departs this life after having lived exactly the same length of time. She was born at Mount Vernon in 1787. For more than sixty years she had resided in Richmond, respected by the entire community and beloved by all whose privilege it was to enjoy her immediate acquaintance. Remarkable for strength of body as well as vigor of mind, she had perfectly retained, until within the past few days, recollections of the early part of her life at the home of Washington. To all who conversed with her on this subject and its interesting associations, she gave, without ostentation, satisfactory replies. To great dignity of bearing she united that true modesty so characteristic of the real woman. She died as she had lived—a devout Christian.

Mrs. Young always took great pleasure in dwelling upon the goodness and uniform kindness of General and Mrs. Washington to all connected with their establishment. It must be remembered that at that time the relative social positions of dependents, domestics and the great proprietors were strongly contrasted. The aristocratic sentiment prevailed, and about the "great house," as it was called, a more than ordinary sense of awe presided. With this were connected the strictest rules of decorum, against which it was more than treason to rebel. Notwithstanding this the children of all the adjoining households were free to go and come, and Mrs. Young and her sister often romped on the portico and through the hall of the stately mansion with the children of the Fairfax, Custis and Lewises, some of whom were cousins of General and Mrs. Washington. Indeed, she has told the writer that she and her sister were rarely permitted to retire from the presence of Mrs. Washington before having received some token of kindness in the way of fruit cake and such like, and that on no occasion did the General pass them without a kindly greeting. She took special pleasure in referring to an incident in which Washington's stepson, young Custis, and Rawlins, one of his managers, met with a sore discomfiture. The two were indulging their favorite pastime of dancing and fiddling. Custis being the dancer and Rawlins the fiddler, when to their surprise and dismay the General stepped suddenly upon the scene. We may well imagine the effect of so august a presence at such a moment.

The air of Mount Vernon must have been conducive to longevity. Washington's favorite negro hunter and body servant during the war, Will Lee, lived to be more than a hundred years old. Thomas Bishop, his English servant, who had been with Braddock in the same capacity on the Continent and in America, up to the time of the latter's death, and who at the dreadful day of Monongahela disengaged Washington from his slaughtered horse and lifted him, worn and weak, upon the back of another, also survived to nearly the same length of days, and so did old "Father Jack," the African fisherman, whose duty it was to supply the table at Mount Vernon with fish from the waters of the Potomac.

## Manners in School-Room.

BY JAMES A. SMITH.

Do you know, fellow-teacher, that your manners among your pupils has much to do with your success? Do you know that every word, every move, every facial expression, becomes a factor either for or against you? Of course this subject has presented itself many times before. The teacher affects the atmosphere of his school. On some days it will seem almost impossible to hold attention. On others all will be interested. One day the pupils will be restless and uneasy. The next, probably, brings about a change, and there is perfect tranquility. The teacher makes the atmosphere of the school room. He makes it pleasant and agreeable, or cheerless and depressive. If the state of weather out-doors influence the pupil's mental condition, how much more will that indoors affect it! If a clouded sky and gloomy landscape makes one melancholy, think of the poor pupil who must submit to six hours of dismal fog and lowering dolefulness.

Too Much Talk—It is possible to talk a school to death. Boys and girls, if they have learned their lessons, like to recite them, and it is manifestly impolitic for the teacher to tell what his pupils are eager to tell to him. It discourages them, and in time deprives them of their individuality.

Scolding—This is resorted to often with fewer good results than any other method of discipline known. There is a wide difference between simply pointing out a fault and scolding about it. The former is done quietly, and indicates a sense of wrong and injustice; the latter is manifested by sharp tones, severe aspects, and a general spirit of

reprimand. Scolding calls forth combativeness; it modifies without reforming; it is disagreeable; it blunts the sensibilities of many and discourages all. When a teacher finds that disorder is increasing, let him take a quick survey of the field and go to work in silence, silence. Let him say less and mean more.

Politeness.—Children are quick imitators. If good examples are placed before them, good copies may be expected. No word should be uttered that is not perfectly in keeping with the character of a gentleman. This should be the rule in the school-room and out of it. Boys and girls must be treated respectfully or they will resent it. Their sensibilities may be wounded by a careless word that the teacher has not properly weighed. Who has not seen the blush of mortification mantle the cheek, or the fire of indignation flash in the eye of an insulted child? Their rights should be respected. Not only that, but they should receive courteous treatment under all circumstances. Let them hear a cheery "Good morning!" when they enter the room. It costs but little effort, and will give the teacher an advantage not easily calculated. A distant nod or a gruff word is not sufficient. A pleasant smile will gladden a little fellow's heart all day long.—*Penna. School Journal.*

## Mrs. Gen. Sherman's Discovery.

From the Denver Tribune.

Apropos of Gen. Sherman's visit to Denver a story is told of the general's experience with Henry Clay Dean. The two had been friends for years, and when Sherman became general and Dean happened to be in Washington the latter naturally enough felt a desire to renew the old acquaintance. So he called at Sherman's house, and the general received him with open arms. They talked over old times, and nothing would do but Dean must remain to dinner. "But, general," remonstrated Mrs. Sherman in her husband's ear, "I can't have such a dirty-looking man at my table. Can't you spruce him up a little?" The general said he'd fix that, and so at an opportune moment he hustled Mr. Dean up-stairs, ransacked a bureau and produced a clean shirt for him to put on. Mrs. Sherman was mollified and the dinner was really a charming affair, for there is no more delightful, entertaining, and instructive conversationalist than Henry Clay Dean. One year after this event Gen. Sherman was at the Lindell hotel, St. Louis, with his family. A card was brought up bearing Henry Clay Dean's name. Mrs. Sherman was very much pleased. "He is such a charming talker, we must have him to dinner. Only, you must see that he looks presentable." These were madam's words to the warrior. So Sherman welcomed Dean, and just before going to dinner, slipped him into a side room and gave him a clean shirt to wear. Dean, doffed his coat and vest, and after a brief struggle divested himself of the shirt he had on—a soiled, grimy, black thing that looked as if it had seen long and hard service. Then they all went down to dinner, and Mr. Dean was more charming than ever, and Mrs. Sherman was in ecstasies. The next day, as Mrs. Sherman was getting her husband's duds and traps together, preparatory to packing them for the onward march, she gave a sort of wild, hunted scream. "What is it, my dear?" called the general from the next room. "Just come in here for a minute," replied Mrs. Sherman, holding in her left hand the begrimed shirt Henry Clay Dean had left. With her right hand she pointed to certain initials on the lower edge of the bosom. The initials read: "W. T. S." It was the identical shirt General Sherman had loaned Henry Clay Dean in Washington twelve months before.

## A Cyclone Story From Virginia.

Petersburg, (Va.) Index-Appal.

A gentleman from Greensville County yesterday related to us an incident of the storm which was very remarkable. So far as known, the tornado struck at only one point in the county, and that was on the farm of Mrs. Leyburn Harrison, some few miles from Hicksford. All the houses on the place except the residence were blown down, and the timber scattered before the wind. The residence itself was slid along on the ground for a distance of 20 or 30 feet, and one of the gable ends blown out. None of the occupants of the buildings were injured, though they were very much startled, of course, at the movement of the house. The storm, in its sudden approach, caught most of the people on the farm out of doors, and to this fact their safety was probably due. In one of the small houses occupied by colored people a little child had been left alone. When search was made for it under the debris it was found unharmed and without even a scratch. The timbers had fallen over the child in such a way as thoroughly to protect it, though its shelter was covered with the bricks of the chimney. It is related that the first evidence of the tornado was the catching up by the wind of a flock of geese. Those who saw the geese in the air thought that they were flying, but as they were quickly dashed to the ground and killed, this opinion was soon changed. The most remarkable feat of the wind, however, as reported, was the lifting of a wagon and a pair of oxen from the ground, and throwing them over a gate, near which they were standing, the oxen were left with the broken tongue of the wagon when they fell, but it stated that the wagon was carried off, and lodged in a tree some distance away. We give the above as stated by our informant.

When two young people start out in life together with nothing but a determination to succeed, avoiding the invasion of each other's idiosyncrasies, not carrying the candle near the gunpowder, sympathetic with each other's employment, willing to live on small means until they get large facilities, paying as they go, taking life here as a discipline with four eyes watching its perils and four hands fighting its battles—whatever others may say or do, that is a royal marriage. It is so set down in the heavenly archives, and the orange-blossoms shall wither on neither side of the grave.

## The Sun's Corona.

Philadelphia Record.

The discoveries made by the astronomers who went to a station in Upper Egypt to observe the total eclipse of the sun on the 17th of May will not be made public for some little time; but the reasons for making the observations are worth knowing in advance. An eclipse of the sun is a not uncommon event, but an ordinary eclipse reveals little of value to the astronomer. In the course of the revolution of the earth and moon about the sun the moon reaches a point where a part of its circumference intercepts some of the sun's rays that would otherwise fall upon the earth; this is a partial eclipse. But when the position of the moon with reference to the sun is such that a line drawn from the centre of one through the centre of the other would strike any point on the earth's surface there is a total eclipse at that point, because the moon's disk is apparently imposed upon the sun's. The solar rays are wholly cut off from view. But the moon apparently covers the sun by so little excess of size that at the exact instant when one disk covers the other there is visible around the moon's edges a bright ring of apparently turbulent, shooting flames, extending from the sun far beyond the limits of its body. These flames, or the corona as they are called, are not visible (owing to the excessive brilliancy of the sun itself) except when the interposition of the moon cuts off the blinding rays direct from the sun's globe. It is this corona which is the cause of curiosity and scientific interest.

The London Pall Mall Gazette gives some interesting information about this phenomenon, showing how difficult it is to form a theory to account for it that will satisfy all its known variable conditions. The reason for knowing so little about it is the difficulty of observing it. A total eclipse occurs only every second year, and the time during which it lasts is not above three minutes. Frequently the place on the earth's surface where the eclipse is total is inaccessible, and even when it has been reached clouds have interfered. It is only within the last century that serious efforts have been made to learn what the corona is, and the study has been materially aided by observing its spectrum and by the use of photography. It is an important matter to determine whether the corona belongs to the sun or to the moon, or whether it is a mere optical illusion, due to the eye or to the medium through which we see it.

In the first place, the corona is very variable in its appearance. It never looks twice alike to the same observer; it even gives different impressions to observers at the same time and place. It consists in general of vast sheets or streamers of light, something like the corona of the aurora borealis. On close examination, however, it seems to be composed of a small inner ring of fire, broken here and there by still more dazzling jets of irregular flame, and of a large outer ring of less intense light, broken up at its edges into belts and streamers. Sometimes it looks very wide, and again very narrow in spots, and it has even seemed to take almost the shape of a cross. The streamers appear to be brightest between the sun's equator and its poles. Owing to the variable forms in which it appeared to different observers it was at first thought that the corona was non-existent in fact, but that the effect was produced by something in the human eye or in the earth's atmosphere. Professors Young and Harkness showed, however, that the spectrum of the corona light contained a bright line such as could have been produced only by an incandescent gas. This experiment proved that the corona was a reality, and moreover that it was a part of the solar action, since there is no incandescent gas in our atmosphere or in the moon's. This bright line was situated in the spectrum as to lead its discoverers to believe that it was characteristic of the presence of iron; but afterward it was found not to be due to iron, but to some other substance with whose qualities we are as yet unacquainted. It is known only that it is lighter even than hydrogen, and this would accord with its presence outside of and apparently floating upon the hydrogen of the chromosphere. Besides this unknown substance, the corona is found to contain a little hydrogen, and lines in the spectrum indicating other constituents have been doubtfully observed. Besides the incandescent gases, there appears to be a large quantity of non-luminous matter in the form of fine dust or cloud.

It is reasonably certain that the corona is directly connected with the sun, and is not merely a meteoric mass skimming around it. It bears a symmetrical relation to the sun's axis, and the streamers are most abundant in the zones where sun spots are largest. During the total eclipse of 1878, at which time there was a minimum supply of sun spots, the corona was less bright than usual. The main mass of the corona would seem to be made of incandescent gaseous matter, and there have been as many speculations about the streamers as there have been about the luminous tails of comets or the constituent parts of the aurora beams. It is probable that every observation of the corona will increase our knowledge of its characteristics, and for this reason the results of the English expedition will be awaited with great interest.

## The Recuperation of the South.

In his address before the Senior Class of Trinity College, (N. C.) Dr. Lafferty makes the following eloquent recital of the trials and triumphs of the people of the South:

If battle tested the prowess of the South, defeat tried them in the furnace. The social and political fabric tumbled to pieces. The African from the rice swamp was ordered to put his muddy foot on the neck of scholars and statesmen. It was as if a continent, with all the fair works of art and civilization, had suddenly sank below the sea level and the monsters and ooze of the ocean had flowed in over all. Judas at home and Barrabas from abroad joined hands and became the fiduciaries of the public purse and the protectors of private right!

When the war ended nothing survived in the way of property that was

not indestructible or unconvertible. The home necessities had glenned the field—the enemy had devastated even the stubble. The loss in personal property (leaving out the slaves) was two billion—twice the indemnity France paid Prussia. This was two-thirds of all the property in the South. In addition to this two billion there must be added the expense of the Confederate war (represented by Confederate bonds and Confederate Treasury notes), amounting to a hundred million. This was lost. In addition to this two billion and this hundred million the South was saddled with its part of the United States war debt of two billions and a half! And on the top of these vast sums must be piled fourteen millions of private obligations based on slave property.

And worse. The seed corn had been ground in dire need. The last ox had been eaten. The plough horse had fallen under the Confederate soldier in the fight. Mills and instruments of industry had been burned.

Few have ever forgotten the ruin wrought on Prussia by the enemies of Frederick. Macaulay paints it as the most woful picture in modern times, yet Frederick lost only 117,000 out of a population of 4,500,000. The South lost 222,000 out of 5,000,000. The boys, the grandfathers and the cripples were left to redeem a land overwhelmed with industrial, political and financial desolation.

What race that ever lived could have risen? The Greek never rose to manhood after the Roman conquest. It was living Greece no more. The sons of the men of Marathon were slaves forever. The barbarian broke the proud spirit of the haughty Roman.

In a single decade the South rebuilt her burned altars, lustrated her temples of justice and turned the balance of trade by her exports, and made a United States bond as good as gold. In ten years she had regained political power in Congress and prosperity in her homes. It is a triumph of character, fortitude, patience, industry, statesmanship and prime manhood over adversity without a parallel in all history.

## A Romantic Episode.

A Long Lost one Found in the Pexum of a Wealthy Miner.

Boston Globe.

A romantic episode in every day life has just come to light in Dedham. John Finn resides with his wife and a portion of his family in a neat cottage of which he is the owner, located on or near the boundary line of Dedham and Boston. Here he has resided for at least twenty-five years. He has had three sons, one of whom, John, enlisted in the army during the "late unpleasantness" and was killed. The other two sons were named Cornelius and William. Cornelius was a lad of about seventeen years at the outbreak of the war. He suddenly left town, and his parents hearing nothing of his whereabouts concluded that he, too, had enlisted, especially as during the war they read of one Cornelius Finn, attached to a New York regiment, being killed. The family mourned for him as sincerely as they did the death of John.

Last September William went to Colorado to settle, hoping to better himself. While seated in a room in the western portion of the State one afternoon soon after his arrival there, a miner entered and announced to the company present that Cornelius Finn had opened a new mine. William, taken aback somewhat by the name, said that he had a brother once whose name was Cornelius Finn. To which the miner responded by looking at the stranger and declaring that he resembled Cornelius Finn, the miner, and might be his brother. Subsequently the miner met Cornelius and informed him of his encounter with William. Cornelius became greatly agitated upon learning the name of the stranger and that he came from Dedham, and immediately started for the town.

The meeting was decidedly affecting. Cornelius at once recognized William as his brother, although William, being younger, had not so strong a recollection of Cornelius. Mutual explanations followed, and Cornelius related his wanderings since leaving home. He had gone South in 1861, and entered the army. At the conclusion of the war he drifted to Colorado, where he had interested himself in mining and had become wealthy. Regarding his neglect to send a letter home, he explained that he had read in the papers of the death of his parents, and had also the report substantiated by John Finn, a former resident of Dedham, whom he met. He had abandoned all hope of ever seeing or hearing from his folks. He at once took William with him to his mining camp and gave him an important position. His father has received a check for \$1,000.

## A Family of 25,000 Persons.

John Sharpless came to this country in 1682, and landed on the 24th of August, of that year, at the mouth of Ridley creek. He was on hand two months earlier than William Penn, and proceeded up the creek to a point about one mile and a half northwest from the present site of the city of Chester, where he felled a large tree and made a house of the boughs. There he and his wife resided for six months, while they constructed a cabin against the side of a rock. There were seven children born to John Sharpless and his wife, and now after 200 years has elapsed it is estimated that there are not less than 25,000 descendants of this venturesome pioneer. The family are thickly settled in and around this city, in Delaware and Chester counties, and it is proposed to celebrate the bi-centennial of the landing of the original Sharpless in August next by a family reunion. Mr. J. Clemon Sharpless has the matter in charge. The programme for the event has not been mapped out as yet. He expects at least 1,000, if not more, of the descendants to be on hand. Mr. Gilbert Cope, of West Chester, the genealogist, has the history of the Sharpless family up to the year 1816, and he has been requested to complete it to date.—*Phila. Record.*

Tax prope-t of a very large wheat crop in the West and Northwest, are flattering.

## "BEE HIVE" Stores.

THE GREAT

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