

"Just Like Cameron."

Always Getting an Office for Some one.

Just around the corner (in Winchester, Va.) is where the dashing Sheridan had his headquarters...

CAPT. GRIEST: Give Miss Wright all the fresh beef she needs.

P. H. SHERIDAN.

After the war had ended Sheridan further expressed his gratitude by presenting her with a handsome gold watch...

Painlessness of Death.

The Opinion of a Scientific Man.

Dr. Thomas D. Spencer, in Popular Science Monthly.

At birth the babe undergoes an ordeal that, were he conscious, would be more trying than the most painful death...

"Painlessly we come, whence we know not; painlessly we go, whither we know not!"

From the earliest period of human history death has been considered as necessarily accompanied by pain.

Nothing could be more erroneous. The truth is, pain and death seldom go together; we mean the last moments of life.

So exaggerated has been this notion that it has been considered an act of humanity to anticipate the "death struggle" by violence.

Mr. Africa is, on the paternal side, of German ancestry, his great-grandfather, Christopher Africa having immigrated from near Hanover and settled at Germantown (now part of Philadelphia).

AFTER marriage the question as to who shall be speaker of the house is speedily settled.

How Long a Man May Live.

It was Professor's Huteland's opinion that the limit of possible human life might be set at two hundred years.

Col. J. Down to more recent times, the most notable authentic instance of great age is that of Henry Jenkins, of Yorksire, England, who died in 1870, one hundred and sixty-nine years old.

Professor Huteland's roll of centenarians includes many remarkable cases, among them that of Mittlestedt, a Prussian soldier, who served sixty-seven years under both Fredericks, fighting many battles and enduring much hard campaigning.

J. SIMPSON AFRICA.

Democratic Candidate for Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Hon. J. Simpson Africa, of Huntingdon, the Democratic nominee for Secretary of Internal Affairs, was the unanimous choice of the convention and of the Democratic party of the State for that position upon the ticket.

GENEALOGICAL.

Mr. Africa is, on the paternal side, of German ancestry, his great-grandfather, Christopher Africa having immigrated from near Hanover and settled at Germantown (now part of Philadelphia).

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.



J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Huntingdon.

thorough and extensive than that usually possessed by magistrates. He was familiar with many of the English and American decisions, especially with those of the Pennsylvania courts, and kept a book in which he noted a great number of important cases.

The great grandfather of our candidate on his mother's side was James Murray, a native of Scotland, who came to America about the year 1750, at a very early age, and settled in Paxton, Lancaster (now Dauphin) county, and who was a captain of one of the Lancaster companies in the Revolutionary war.

The latter was born in the town of Huntingdon, on the 15th day of September, 1832, and has therefore attained his fiftieth year. He was educated in the public schools and in the Huntingdon Academy, which afforded him all the opportunities that were necessary to fit him for his active and successful business life.

Mr. Africa's distinguishing characteristics in his business, professional and public life has been undeviating carefulness and accuracy. Combined with his conscientiousness in this respect is his long experience as a surveyor, his field extending over the State from New Jersey almost to the Ohio line.

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HIS POLITICAL POPULARITY.

The first office filled by Mr. Africa was that of County Surveyor, to which he was elected in October, 1853. When nominated by the Democratic county convention as a candidate for the office he had not attained his twenty-first year and had passed it but a few weeks when elected. The Whig majority in the county at that time was about 300, but Mr. Africa was elected by a majority of 165.

LITERARY LABORS.

In 1853 he became one of the founders of the Standing Stone Banner, a newspaper established at Huntingdon, and was one of the editors and proprietors until it was discontinued, two years later. He is well qualified for editorial work and would no doubt have been as successful at that as at everything else he has undertaken had he chosen to devote his efforts to it, being a correct writer and having command of a very pure English style.

have afforded him a vast fund of knowledge and which he has not failed to study to advantage.

IN BUSINESS.

Mr. Africa has been identified with the leading business enterprises of Huntingdon, and has given assistance and encouragement to every desirable public improvement. He has contributed his time and labor to the welfare and prosperity of the borough as a member of councils, having been elected Burgess in 1854, 1855 and 1860, becoming chief Burgess in 1871, his last election being for three years. During the sessions of 1858 and 1859 he was one of the clerks of the State Senate.

His next election by the people of Huntingdon county was as their representative in the Legislature in 1859. The majority in the county had changed from Whig to Republican, and it was against the candidate of the latter party that Mr. Africa was successful. He was among the ablest and most intelligent members of the body, serving on important committees, and both on the floor and in committee exerted a great influence upon its proceedings.

SERVICES RENDERED THE STATE.

The duty of organizing the Department of Internal Affairs devolved upon the first incumbent elected after the adoption of the constitution of 1873, by which the office was created. It was in recognition of his eminent fitness for the place that Mr. Africa was appointed Deputy Secretary by General McCandless when the latter entered upon the duties of the office in 1875. Mr. Africa's knowledge and experience peculiarly qualified him above every other man in the Commonwealth for putting the new department into successful operation.

RUNS AHEAD OF HIS TICKET.

With a view not only of continuing him in the office, but of placing him at the head of it, the Democratic State Convention of 1878 nominated him as the candidate for Secretary of Internal Affairs. As it was the year of a most important general election, and as the Republicans thoroughly organized their party and made an active canvass for the success of their ticket and to retain control of the State, the election of Mr. Africa could not be regarded as among the probabilities, but it was evident from the day of his nomination that, even if defeated, the majority against him would be much less than that against any other candidate on the Democratic ticket, and there was reason to regard his chances as not entirely hopeless.

UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED.

Having developed such strength before the people his renomination this year was looked upon as a certainty long before the meeting of the convention. He was in no sense a candidate, never having indicated any desire for the nomination, but public sentiment having clearly pointed to him as the unanimous choice of the party, no other person was thought of as a candidate, and the action of the convention placing him upon the ticket without a dissenting voice was but the registering of what had already been decreed.

Mr. Africa has held but one office besides those that have been mentioned. In 1880 President Hayes appointed him Supervisor of the Census for the Seventh District of Pennsylvania, composed of fourteen counties in the central part of the State, and extending from Clearfield to York. It is unnecessary to say that he displayed the same fidelity in this position that he has always shown in public or private station in which he has been placed. Its duties were performed to the entire satisfaction of the department.

Mr. Africa's admirable character is the result of deep-seated moral and religious convictions. It has been stated that his ancestors were Lutherans. From his mother's side he comes naturally by his Presbyterian faith. He belongs to the latter church at Huntingdon, is a member of the board of trustees and treasurer of the congregation.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

"The common school is a production of modern thought. Ancient and Middle ages gave a certain kind and amount of education but it was left for modern times to conceive the thought of popular education, and provide for its instruction to the masses."

Communications and discussions solicited. Address Educational Editor, Democrat, Belleville, Pa.

QUESTIONS: What is Mark Twain's real name; Josh Billings'; Mrs. Partington's; Petroleum V. Nasby's; Artemus Ward's.

WE should be pleased to have short reports from any of our county teachers, treating of their schools.

WE will send the DEMOCRAT for one year to the person who forwards us before Oct. 1, '82, the best paper on "County Institutes." It must not exceed one thousand words.

A FULL font of Japanese type comprises 50,000 characters, of which 3,000 are in constant use. Each Japanese word having a distinct character, the telegraph has been useless to the nation, and the telephone is likely to prove a blessing to them.

WILL some one favor us with a solution of this problem: I have to make a lid for a box, which is to be twelve inches square. Now, the only board I have is nine inches by sixteen inches. The lid is not to have more than one joint, nor consist of more than two pieces.

RELATIVE SIZES OF VARIOUS CYCLOPEDIAS COMPARED WITH THE BIBLE.—Printed matter is measured by "M's" the letter M being a unit:

Table with 2 columns: Title and Size in M's. Includes Bible, Webster's Dictionary, Zeller's Cyclopaedia, Chambers' Cyclopaedia, Johnson's Cyclopaedia, Appleton's Cyclopaedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, Larousse (French).

These calculations have been furnished by Prof. A. P. Lyon, of New York, and are based on careful computations, which have been verified.

Examinations.

Public School Journal.

No more difficult task confronts the teacher than that of examination. As a test of attainment in any branch of study, it is necessary, and may be of great value, or almost worthless, depending upon the character and scholarship of the examiner. Especially is this true when the examiner has never taught the examined, and has had no knowledge of his power of thought, or general habit of study.

Questions may be so constructed, or topics so assigned, as to test the memory alone, bringing into notice merely the retention of facts and dates and verbal text-books answers,—a disorganized mass of material, neither digested, nor assimilated, and of but little use, in such form, to any one. Even in this case, an examiner of broad scholarship, by a careful survey of the answers, can detect, with difficulty however, the mental grasp of the examined.

But again, questions may be so constructed or topics so assigned as to test the knowledge of the examined, and show how far his thought has grasped the truth of things in the given subject of study. The examined is thrown upon his own resources, not by puzzles to test his ingenuity, but by questions that demand a knowledge of principles upon his part, and the answers of which must come from his own inner powers of thinking. Even in this case, it is difficult to form a correct estimate of scholarship in very many branches of study, unless the examiner takes into critical survey the whole character of the answers given, the structure of the sentences, the English used, and that almost invisible thought power, which the examiner, if a scholar, recognizes by a sort of intellectual affinity or mental sympathy.

All examinations in our judgment, if to be relied upon, should be conducted by an examiner of broad, sound scholarship, such as will dictate a series of questions calculated to test scholarship, and which will detect in every answer given the more hidden element of self-possession, thinking, rather than the most ostentatious power of memory involved.

But in an examination to test the qualification of one desiring to become a teacher, how can an examiner assure himself of those ethical qualities, which, to say the least, are as necessary as are the intellectual? What list of questions can he form which will be of any service here? The most that he can do is to detect in the personal presence of the examined, as well as in the general tone of his answers, that self-humiliation and reverence without which all moral life is dwarfed and blighted.

But fortunately our schools are all under the personal and continued inspection of our superintendents; and this, added to their examinations, should be sufficient to guard us against any serious immorality or great incompetence or waste of time in our educational work. Let us labor to keep among our examiners men of the broadest and soundest scholarship possible, and men whose manners and morals are above reproach.

Valuable Woods.

There is a large number of valuable woods and timbers grown in this country that are used for commercial purposes. Among others the following are common; namely, ash for furniture and wagon work; birch, for bobbins and for furniture; beech, for carpenters' planes, tools and furniture; chestnut, for furniture and ornamental work; catalpa, for the same; elm, for wagon-making and ship-building; hickory, for wagons, buggies, handles, etc.; maple, for ornamental work and frames for machines; osage-orange, for wagons and buggies; pine, for timber; oak, for ship-building; yellow pine, for the same and for building furniture and ornamental work; spruce, for dairy packages; bass-wood, for light pleasure-sleighs and chair-bottoms; willow, for charcoal, for powder, and for woodenware; walnut, for gunstocks, furniture and cabinet work; cherry, for the same; apple and pear wood, for coarse engravers' blocks, for tools and mallets, also for imitating ebony for ornamental work; poplar, for furniture; red cedar, for pencils and moth-proof trunks. Poplar, spruce, and butternut are also used for wood paper-pulp. Indeed, there is scarcely one of our native trees that is not useful for some commercial or industrial purpose. Sumac twigs and leaves are used for dyeing and tanning and are worth \$70 a ton. Yellow locust is used for pins and treenails; white locust differs from it in the color of the wood and in its toughness and strength.

SONG of the cheese—"will you love me when I mold?"

A PISTOL is not half so dangerous when the owner is not loaded.

The secret of the Keely motor has been divulged. It is money.

A DULL is quickly managed—it only takes two seconds to arrange it.

A KENTUCKY woman has married a Mr. Calico—has wedded a prints, as it were.

THE palmy days of a boy's life are those in which he gets properly spanked by his mother.

DANDIES and poodles are first cousins; they should take turns leading each other with a pink ribbon for the edification of the people.

THE German immigrant must have recollections of his fatherland whenever he drinks his beer, because it is then that he is reminded of foam.

IN London, a man, has recently been sentenced to eighteen months' hard labor for stealing an umbrella. Nobody is safe in this world.

THE daughter of J. W. Mackey, who is heirless to many millions, is said to be "nineteen, pretty and reserved." Wonder who she is reserved for?

"THE late Jim Fisk's \$10,000 opera glass, set with five hundred diamonds," is the first prize in a lottery in the Orthodox Hebrew Fair in Boston.

AMERICANS are great scribblers. Even the lunatics on Blackwell's Island edit and publish a newspaper; and they are not the only lunatics engaged in the business.

THE editor of a Mississippi paper wrote: "Our fair, last week, exhibited among other things, collection of insects," but the type setter substituted "hair" for "fair."

A NORRISTOWN young man who to Atlantic City, last week, says he lost a dollar dinner the first day he was there. He probably dropped it overboard while out sailing.

"OLD age is coming upon me rapidly," said an urchin who was stealing apples from an old man's garden, as he saw the owner coming furiously towards him with a stick in his hand.

A SUBSCRIBER writes to an editor in the West: "I don't want your paper any longer." To which the editor replied: "I would not make it any longer even if you did; its present length just suits me."

THE Paper World says that the consumption of paper for newspaper purposes is 25 per cent. more in Philadelphia than in New York, figured on a pro rata basis of the proportionate population of the two cities.

AN editor, in response to a subscriber, who grumbled that his paper was intolerably damp, says, "That is because there is so much due on it." We have some of those subscribers, and it is a wonder their paper is not soaking wet.

THE Boston Herald recently preached a sermon on the "Power of the Press," and an extract taken therefrom is as follows: "The press rebuke sin morning, noon and night, also Sunday and holidays. By the press men are kept in wholesome fear of public opinion. Men who would otherwise go home to-night and beat their wives for the truth telling reporter. Men who are itching for a safe chance to steal their employers' cash are restrained by a dread of being pilloried in the public prints."