The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

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

'Just Like Cameron. '

Always Getting an Office for Some one. Just around the corner (in Winches-ter, Va.,) is where the dashing Sheridan had his headquarters, the building now being used for an Episcopal semi-nary; near by stands the house in which the Revolutionary General Morgan died in 1802, and his body rests in the citizens' cemetery beneath an unkept mound and a broken slab; and in this portion of the town, too, lived Miss Rebecca Wright, the Quarker girl, on information furnish ed by whom Sheridan fought and won the bloody battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864. Miss Wright's mother kept a boarding house in Winchester, and, hearing from rebel officers at her home that Early had dispatched a number of his troops to reinforce Lee in Eastern Virginia, she notified Sheridan who was encamped without the town. He acted promptly and Early was sent "whirling down the valley." Sheridan did not forget the valley. his fair benefactress, as the following order, which you, Mr. Editor, who were issuing commissary and a member of his staff at the time, have seen be fore, attests :

CAPT. GRIEST : Give Miss Wright all the fresh beef she needs. P. H. SHERIDAT,

Major General.

After the war had ended Sheridan further expressed his gratitude by presenting her with a handsome gold watch. This fact becoming known the Wright family were socially ostracised by the Winchesterians, the'r boarding house tabooed and their means of livelihood disappeared. Mr. Robert J. Houston, of Lancaster, hearing of Miss Wright's story through a friend, Mr. James N. Van Ormer, who, by the way is a brother-in-law of our hundred and thirty he could swing by the way is a brother-in-law of our hundred and thirty he could swing Clerk of Quarter Sessions, Mr. George the scythe with his fellow-laborers. In W. Eaby, laid the matter before Uni-General Cameron declared to Mr. Houston that "Sheridan ought to marry that girl and I'll tell him so, too, but evidently Sheridan or the girl, or both didn't think so, and not a great while afterwards she became the wife of a Mr. Bonsall from near the Rising son why he should not have lived long-Sun, Cecil county, Md., where they for er, save for his unfortunate taste of Washington and I understand yet holds a position under the government she so signally served.—Lancaster Intelligencer!

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; yet he feels it not. Born in an unconscious state, the brain incapable of receiving conscious impressions, his entrance into his hitherto unknown world is accomplished during a state of oblivion known as Nature's anæsthesia :

e come, whence we know not; o, whither we know not!"

From the earliest period of human Democratic Candidate for Secretary of Internal Affairs. history death has been considered as necessarily accompanied by pain. So general is this belief that the terms "death-agony," "last struggle," "pangs of death," etc., have been in

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. This is on the general principle that the life of a creature is eight times the years of its period of growth. That which is quickly formed quickly perish-es, and the earlier complete development is reached the sooner bodily de cay ensues. More women reach old age than men, but more men attain remarkable longevity than women. Some animals grow to be very old. Horned animals live shorter lives than those without horns, fierce long er than timid, and amphibious longer than those which inhabit the air. The voracious pike exist, it is said, to an age of one hundred and fifty years; the turtle is good for a hundred years or more; and among birds, the golden eagle is known to have lived nearly two hundred years, while the sly and somber cow reaches the venerable age of a century. Passing up in the scale of life to man, and skipping the patriarches, we find many recorded instanes of longevity among the classic Greeks and Romans. Pliny notes that in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, in the year 76, there were one hundred and twenty-four men living in the limited area between the Appenines and the Po of one hundred years and upwards, three of whom were one hundred and thirty-five. Cicero's wife lived to be the age of one hundred and three, and the Roman actress Luceja played in public as late as her one hundred and twelfth year.

Could ug down to more recent times, the most notable authentic instance of great age is that of Henry Jenkins, of Yorkshire, England, who died in 1870, one hundred ard sixty-nine years o'd. He was a fisherman, and at the age o ore hundred easily swam ecross rapid rivers. Another historic case is that of Thomas Parr, of Shropshire, a day laborer, who lived to the age of one hundred and fifty-two years. When more than one hundred and twenty he W. Eaby, laid the matter before the his one hundred and may second his ted States Senator Simon Cameron and within four weeks Miss Wright was appointed to a government clerkship. his one hundred and fifty second year mious habit of a century and a half, the old man feasted so freely on the royal victuals that he soon died, mere ly of plethora. On examination his internal organs proved to be in excellent condition, and there was no rea-son why he should not have lived long-

> sian soldier, who served sixty seven years under both Fredericks, fighting many battles and enduring much hard campaigning, and who, after all this, married successively three wives, the last when he was one hundred and ten. two years before his death.

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THE meanest man living is in Craw-fordsville, Indiana. He stole all the wood his neighbor's wife had sawed and split during the day, and then invited her husband over to spend the evening.

J. SIMPSON AFRICA.

Hon. J. Simpson Africa, of Hunting-don, the Democratic nominee for Secre-tary of Internal Affairs, was the unani-" death-agony," " last struggle," " pangs of death," etc., have been in almost universal use in every age and under all conditions of society. Nothing could be more erroneous. The truth is, pain and death seldom go together ; we mean the last recomend.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.



J. SIMPSON AFRICA, of Huntingdon.

thorough and extensive than that usual- , have afforded him a vast fund of knowl-American decisions, especially with those of the Pennsylvania courts, and kept a book in which he noted a great number of important cases. Many of these related to the land laws. His son was his constat student and com-

panion. 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 1730, at a to America about the year rise, at a very early age, and settled in Paxton, Lancaster (now Dauphin) county, and who was a captain of one of the Lancas-ter companies in the levelutionary war. A daughter married John Simpson, of Daughter married John Simpson, or Bucks county, who also saw service in the war for our independence. This couple where the parents of the wife of Daniel and mother of J. Simpson Afri-

SURVEYOR AND CIVIL ENGINEER

The latter was been in the town of Huntingdon, on the 15th day of Sep-tember, 1832, and has therefore attain-ed his fittieth year. He was relucated in the public schools and in the Huntingdon Academy, which atforded him all the opportunities that were necessa-ry to fit him for his active and success ful business life. He has, however, continued to be a student, as all must d who are engaged in practical profession al pursuits. After leaving school he commenced the practice of surveying and civil engineering with his father and civil engineering with his father and with his uncle. James Simpson, the latter having been his principal instruc-tor. His first work, after completing his studies, was with Samuel W. Mifflin, esq., Chief Engineer on the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad, in 1853. The locating of the road was commenced in January, but Mr. Africa was called away by other duties before the close of the year. The intimate friendship then the year. The intimate friendship formed between himself and Mr. Mifflin remains uninterrupted until this day. Mr. Africa's distinguishing character

istic in his business, professional and public life has been undeviating careful-ness and accuracy. Combined with his conscientiousness in this respect is his long experience as a surveyor, his field extending over the State from New Jer-car almost to the Ohio line. So perfect almost to the Ohio line. So perfect his familiarity with the land titles Pennsylvania, that no suits are tried in Huntingdon, and but few in neighboring counties, involving questions of title, in which his knowledge is not required to unrayel the mysteries and aid in the administration of justice. This knowledge would be of inestimable value in the head of the important department of head of the important department of Internal Affairs, including, as it now does, the former duties of the Surveyor General. Mr. Africa has been pronounc ed, by competent authority, the best ed, by competent authority. the surveyor in Central Pennsylvania,

Mr. Africa has been identified with Ar. Africa has been identified with the leading business enterprises of Hun-tingdon, and has given assistance and encouragement to every desirable public improvement. He has contributed his time and labor to the welfare and pros-perity of the borough as a member of councils, having been elected burgess in perity of the borough as a member of councils, having been elected burgess in 1854, 1855 and 1869, becoming chief bur-gess 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 repre-sentative in the Legislature in 1859. The sentative in the Legislature in 1859. The majority in the courty had changed from Whig to Republican, and it was against the candidate of the latter par-ty that Mr. Africa was successful. He was among the ablest and most intelli-gent members of the body, serving on the courtient committees and both on the tant committees, and both on the r and in committee exerted a great influence upon its proceedings.

SERVICES RENDERED THE STATE.

ment of internal Affairs devolved upon the first incumbent elected after the adoption of the constitution of 1873, by h the office was created. It was which the other was created. It was in recognition of his eminent fitness for the place that Mr. Africa was appointed Deputy Secretary by General McCand-less 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 quained him above every other man in the Commonwealth for putting the new department into successful operation. The entire labor responsibility of doing so devolved upon him, and it is well known to the people of the State how faithfully the duty was performed and how creditably and honorably he scout. how creditably and honorably he acquit-ted himself in the important trust. The department owes its efficiency to-day to the thorough and practical manner in which it was organized by Mr. Africa.

RUNS AHEAD OF HIS TICKET.

With a view not only of continuing him in the effice, 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 Affairs. As it was the year of a 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 oth-er candidate on the Democratic ticket, the *whole* character of the auswers nd there was reason to regard his chances as not entirely hopeless. The result was highly flattering to Mr Afri-ca, the majority against him being but 12 159, while that for Hoyt, the Repubcan candidate for governor, was about 2,500. His popularity in Huntingdon county was again attested by a majori-ty for him of 541, while Hoyt's was 337.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

"The common school is a production of modern thought. Ancient and Middle agass 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 ducational Editor, DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte' 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 "County Institutes," It must not exceed one thousand words.

A FULL fonte of Japanese type comprises 50,000 characters, of which 3,000 are in constant use. Each Japanese word having a distinct charac-ter, the telegraf has been useless to the lar, spruce, and buttonwood are also prove a blessing to them.

WILL some one favor us with a solution of this problem : I have to twigs and leaves are used for dyeing make a lid for a box, which is to be and tanning and are worth \$70 a tor twelve inches square. Now, the only board I have is nine inches by sixteen in the color of the wood and in its ly possessed by magistrates. He was edge and which he has not failed to the inches. The lid is not to have more toughness and strength. than one joint, nor consist of more than two pieces.

> RELATIVE SIZES OF VARIOUS CY-CLOPEDIAS COMPARED WITH THE BIBLE -- Printed matter is measured by "M's" the letter M being a unit :

| Chalabers Cyclopiedia | - 4.5 | , (M N), | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|-----|
| Johnson's Cyclopedia | 56. | 0.0 | 100 |
| Appleton's Cyclopedia | 60 | 006 | 10 |
| Encyclopedia Britannica | 123 | 0.0 | (K |
| Larousse (French) | 456 | 000 | (96 |
| | | | |

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

Examinations.

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 The duty of organizing the Depart- 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 disorga-nized 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 ex-

amined.

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 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

Valuable Woods.

There is a large number of valuable woods and timbers grown in this coun-try that are used for commercial puroses. Among others the following are common; namely, ash for furni-ture and wagon work; birch, for bobbins and for furniture; beech, for carpenters' planes, tools and furniture ; chestnut, for furniture and ornamentalwork ; 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, us before Oct. 1, '82, the best paper on for light pleasure-sleighs and chairbottoms; 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 ebeny for ornamental work : 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 Yellow locust is used for pins and treenails; white locust differs from it

> 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 DUEL 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.

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

DANDIES and poolles are first cou-sins; they should take turns leading each other with a pink ribbon for the edification of the people.

THE German immigrrnt 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 heiress 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 dimonds," is the first prize in a lottery in the Orthodox Hebrew Fair in Boston.

AMERICANS are great scribblers. Even the lunatics on Blackwell's 1s-land edit and publish a newspaper; and they are not the only lunatics engaged in the business.

THE editor of a Missi sippi 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 very many branches of study, unless the examiner takes into critical survey overboard while out sailing,

of Europe to hasten death by suddenly jerking the pillow from beneath the head of the dying, thus throwing the head backward, straining the pharyngeal and thoracic muscles, rendering the respiration, already difficult, shortly impossible. A Venetian ambassador, in the time of Queen Mary, asserted that it was a common custom among the country people to smother the dying by means of a pillow placed over the face, upon which leaned or sat the nearest relative. This was founded upon the pious belief that a short road was the best one. The custom was handed down from generation to generation, parents performing it for their children, and vice versa. But perhaps the saddest privilege ever al-lowed the near friends of a dying man occasionally occurred during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when, through executive clemency in executions by hanging, they were permitted to grasp the feet of the suspended criminal and, by clinging to the extremities, precipitate their additional weight on the body, thereby hastening strangulation. needless tojsay that these theories are false in both conception and prac-tice. Death is a physiological process, and, like all other animal functions, should be painless.

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

The truth is, pain and death seldom go together; we mean the last moments of life. Of course death may be pre-ceded by weeks or even months of ex-treme suffering, as occurs during cer-tain incurable diseases. So exaggerated has been this notion that it has been considered an act of humanity to anticipate the "death struggle" by violence. For ages it was customary among the lower classes of Europe to hasten death by suddenly tion of the State where he resides, but are co- ϵ xtensive with the Common-wealth, and are not confined to its lim-its. The truth of this with its. The truth of this will be manifest when it is remembered that when elec-ted to office by the people, as has sever-al times occurred in his native county, it has been against an adverse political majority, which it was necessary for him to oparound Alwars when a condito overcome. Always, when a candi-date, has he run largely ahead of his ticket, and always, when they have had the opportunity, have the people ex-pressed their unreserved and unbound-ed confidence in him.

GENEALOGICAL.

Mr. Africa is, on the paternal side, of German ancestry, his great-granfather, Christopher Africa having immigrated from near Hanover and settled at Ger-mantown (now part of Philadelphia). Subsequently he removed to Hanover, in York county. He and his family were Lutherans, as is shown by the re-cords of that church at the latter place. He had two sons. Michael and Jacob He had two sons, Michael and Jacob, the former of whom, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, married Miss Cathering Gail Catharine Griffin at York, removed to Huntingdon in 1791, and purchased the property now owned and occupied by his grandson, He was one of the founders of, and an elder in, the Lutheran church at that place. There Daniel Africa, our candidate's father, was born in 1894. He was a man of prominence and influence in the community, was deputy surveyor for Huntingdon coun-ty from 1824 till 1830, and was for twen-ty-two years a justice of the peace. His knowledge of the law was much more

and has not his superior in the State, if any

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 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 majori-ty of 165. His Whig opponent was tak-on entirely by surprise and could scarce. n entirely by surprise and could scarce y believe the figures that told the result Mr. Africa was a candidate for re-elec tion in 1856, and again ran so far ahead of his ticket that the result was a tie yote between him and his opponant and a failure to elect. He held over until the following year, when he insisted that the court should make an appoint. ment, and they appointed the W candidate who last ran against him. Whir

LITERARY LABORS.

In 1853 he became one of the founders of the Standing Stone Banner, a newspaper established at Huntingdon, and was one 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 un-dertaken had he chosen to devote his efforts to it, being a correct writer and having command of a very pure Eng-lish style. He is also well posted on local history, and is often consulted as local history, and is often consulted as an authority upon the subject. The sketch of Hundingdon county in Egle's History of Pennavleania" was pro-"History of Pennsylvania" was pre-pared by him, and, Milton S. Lytle, in his "History of Huntingdon County," gives him credit in various places for in-formation furnished. In the practice of his profession he has had access to and has obtained possession of records which UNANIMOUSLY RENOMINATED.

Having developed such strength b fore 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 oth-er person was thought of as a candidate, and the action of the convention plac-ing him upon the ticket without a dis-He was in no sense a candidate. tion. ing him upon the ticket without a dis-senting voice was but the registering of what had already been decreed. Mr. Africa has held but one office be-

ides 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 sh in public or private station in which he has been placed. Its duties were per-formed to the entire satisfaction of the

formed to the call department, Mr. Africa's admirable character is the result of deep seated moral and re-ligious convictions. It has been stated ligious convictions. It has been stated that his ancestors were Lutherans. From his mothers's side he comes natu rally by his Presbytarian faith. He be-longs to the latter church at Hunting-don, is a member of the board of trustees and treasurer for the congregation. morals are above reproach.

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-possessed thinking,

rather than the most ostentatious power of memory involved.

But in an examination to test the qualification of one desiring to become 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 be form which will be of intolerably damp, says, "That is be-any service here? The most that he cause there is so much due on it." any service here? The most that he can do is to detéct 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 in-competence or waste of time in our educational work. Let us labor to keep among our examiners men of the broadest and soundest scholarship pos-sible, and men whose manners and

"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 SUBCRIBER writes to an editor in the West: "I don't wan't 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 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 there-Press," and an extract taken there-from is as follows: "The press re-buke sin morning, noon and night, al-so Sunday and holidays. By the press men are kept in wholesome fear of public opinion. Men who would other-wise go home to night and beat their wise go the to night and beat their wives fear the truth telling reporter. Men who are itching for a safe chance to steal their employers's cash are re-strained by a dread of being pilloried in the public prints."