

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT is published every Thursday morning, at Bellefonte, Centre county, Pa.

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Notes of Early History—By a Lady.

Alfred the Great.

Alfred the Great laid the foundation of the British Monarchy when he ascended the Throne of England A. D. 871. The Saxon nation had sunk into the grossest ignorance and barbarism by continual invasion of the Danes, who were an ignorant, superstitious race, they hated christianity and were hostile to all religious establishments. Eight years after his coronation he found himself unable to repel their numerous and strengthened incursions, his forces were discouraged and broken up, his chieftains and nobles sought safety in flight and he reduced to the last extreme of destitution, was obliged to follow their example. He assumed the dress of a peasant and found shelter in the hut of a herdsman far off among the most inaccessible mountain region. Here he attended the cows and once, when he was sitting before the fire, the wife of the peasant told him to watch the cakes that were baking; his mind wandering away from this menial employment, everything pertaining to his surroundings in forgotten and the cakes burned. The woman scolded him for his carelessness and reminded him that he could do his share of eating them.

Previous to his concealment he found measures for gathering together a few trusty friends, who whenever an opportunity offered harassed the enemy. Their success in this undertaking encouraged many more to join their band and when their forces were large enough they placed their king at its head and his presence animated and encouraged the scattered army. Again they met in 'battle array.' In one of these skirmishes the Saxons captured the sacred banner of the Danes, who believing the tide of fortune had turned against them, fled in dismay. King Alfred's forces were successful in the battles that followed and instead of the utter extirpation of the enemy, he expelled the armed forces, but extended the hand of friendship to the Danes, with permission to settle among his people, on condition of their being governed by his laws and embracing christianity. This generosity and kind treatment won for him the nobleness of character and associated with his memory.

He was but twenty-two years of age when he was called to the throne, his whole reign was disturbed by constant invasions; he fought fifty-six battles, but his wars were altogether on the defensive. There is no act of barbarity or inhumanity recorded against him. He did much to restore the wasted country he governed and encouraged learning and art. His ingenuity first gave us the idea of lanterns. At that time watches and clocks were unheard of and time was computed by lighted candles, to protect these from the rough wind, they were surrounded by pieces of semitransparent horn. He founded the University of Oxford and formed a system of jurisprudence which is supposed to be the foundation of English common law. He established a navy, which was the commencement of that marine power, whose sails whiten the waters of every kingdom on the globe. He was truly Great and of all English Kings, the best and most faultless, he died in the fifty-second year of his age and left a record that stands out clear in the dim light of history—blameless and above reproach.

M. A. J.

Communication.

In last week's issue of the DEMOCRAT you referred to the doings of our town council, which is a matter of very great interest to our tax payers in the borough of Bellefonte. Good municipal government is preferable to party success. What is true of municipal govern-

ments is also true of state and national governments. The true road to reform is to commence a reformation at the beginning. It has been the policy of the best men of our party to conduct their official duties in accordance with true reform principles, with those who make reform a secondary matter, it is quite different—party ascendancy is paramount with them; forgetting however, that fidelity to trust is a cardinal principle with the Democratic party. A case in point is in the person of Robert M'Knight, president of our town council.

Mr. M'Knight was a man of economical and frugal habits, who enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors—was a pronounced reformer. Last year his Democratic neighbors nominated him a candidate for town council in the north ward. His republican neighbors contributed votes enough to elect him. Robert appreciated the compliment and soon became a man of enlarged ideas—he was the pivot upon which the political complexion of the council would soon revolve—but I am a reformer said Robert elected by the aid of republican reformers and I must drop politics for politics and reform don't mix very well. Robert was not very long however in allowing his political teachings to get the better of his reform ideas. It was essential to party success to aid a Democratic henchman out of the mire. A self constituted boss brought his influence to bear and pictured to the modern reformer that it would be much more honorable to him to be president of the council, than to take a forward step in the heresy of reform. This idea tickled his fancy and was soothing to his feelings, he little thought that honors would be showered upon him so thick and fast. He consented to be the boss man and a promotion of the henchman followed the dickering, thus reducing himself to the level of a sand lot deceiver and a rooster in politics whose management of our borough affairs has brought odium and censure upon the democratic party of our town. The profligate expenditure of money is the best evidence of incompetence in the council and should be a warning to all voters, not to select men to perform public trusts, who are incompetent to discharge ordinary business transactions with fidelity. The great indebtedness of our borough, the assessment and disbursement of the large amount of taxes annually, requires the best business interest of our town in the council and I trust the lesson of last year will not go unheeded at the ensuing election. It is said that some men cannot stand promotion. I think the head and tail of our council are living examples of the assertion. How would it be if we were to chop off the head and tail on Tuesday the 20th inst., and see if any good will come out of the carcass—"what man has done man may do" in the interest of REFORM.

Condition of New England Laborers.

WASHINGTON, February 8.—The Senate Committee on Education and Labor resumed its inquiries this morning and examined Frank K. Foster, of Cambridge, Mass., Secretary of the Massachusetts Federation of Trade and Labor Unions. The witness made a general statement as to the conditions of the laboring classes of New England in general and of Massachusetts in particular. The mill operatives of New England as a class are perhaps the worst off, and their present condition is sure to produce an enfeebled race of men and women in the next generation, as the same conditions have already done in England. The working people of Massachusetts are better off than those of the other New England States, on account of the enforcement of the ten hour law. The hours of work in Massachusetts are sixty per week, while in the weaving district of England they are but fifty six. The wages are about the same. Since 1878 the average of wages has increased 6.9-10 per cent., while the average cost of the necessities of life, including meats, breadstuffs, vegetables, dry goods, boots, board, etc., has increased 21.2-10 per cent. The examination of Mr. Foster will be continued to-morrow.

THE STATE COLLEGE.

The Old Board of Trustees censured for Neglect of Duties General Beaver Relieved of the Ouns Attaching to Official Dereliction.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.

One hundred and forty students now attend the State Agricultural college in Centre county. Quite a number are ladies. The institution has not been a success since its establishment and in order to ascertain the cause of failure, and also to investigate certain alleged abuses, the Legislature two years ago appointed a special committee to examine into the charges. On this committee are Messrs. Mylin, Newmeyer, Colburn, Norris and Alexander—Senators and ex-Senators, and ex-Representatives Milham, Bierly, McClure, McJesey, Findlay, Judge and Roberts, with Representative Hall. The report is ready

and will be brought before both branches of the Legislature to day. As it covers only 1122 pages it is not likely to be read. The special committee have signed the same with the exception of Mr. Bierly, late of Williamsport. He did not sign because he is now in Texas, interested in Cattle droves, and not in colleges in Pennsylvania.

The committee reports that they find all the vouchers of the trustees correct. This is the usual preliminary to a white wash. Yet they do not use this purifying political compound any further. They censure the old board of trustees for neglecting to give proper attention to the college concerns, and state in the report that neglects nipped the college's best interest in the bud. The censure of the agricultural societies of the State for never selecting or electing one of the thirteen trustees to which they are entitled. Action of that sort threw the government back upon the local management, and General Beaver, the report says, was compelled to take entire charge. Much credit is given him for his action in the premises. One of the recommendations calls for the abolition of the State experimental farms in Chester and Indiana counties, and the establishment of a central station similar to the 127 stations in Germany, which have been patterned after with much success in Ohio.

The committee makes the report a complete history of the college. It gives the protest of the State Granger, which protest was made on the grounds that the neglect was in teaching the classics to the detriment of farming. Hon. Victor E. Piolet specially referring to that exception in his testimony. Another abuse referred to at length in the Westgrove farm in Chester county, where a state appropriation of \$8,000 made the total amount of insurging the experiment \$48,000. This farm, the report says, has been a great drain on the college and much help to the farmers of Chester when they wanted blooded cattle. The Chancellor Farmer's Club, of Chester county, have referred to this farm largely in their discussions. The committee, in closing its report, expresses the opinion that the trustees made honest mistakes of judgment, but the statement is made that the failure is largely due to the lack of interest taken by the agricultural classes in the State.—Harrisburg Patriot.

REFUSES THE FEES—The Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Sunday World furnishes the following:

"Mr Cassidy has had a chance to make a clear thousand outside of his salary since he became Attorney General, but he could not see how he was entitled to the money, and resisted the temptation which was set before him. Among the counsel of the Standard Oil Company in the recent suit of the Commonwealth against the corporation was Cassidy. He was considered an able lawyer, and as this great monopoly always employs eminent legal talent, they employed him and gave him a substantial fee. Soon after he took possession of the office he was surprised to be informed that a check had arrived for him amounting to over nine hundred dollars, and that was from the Standard Oil Company, and intended to pay the commission in the case, the Attorney General being entitled to five per cent. of the amount collected from companies which have appealed from the settlement of the Auditor General to the courts. Cassidy refused to take the money, stating that he had received a fee as counsel for the Standard and could not take money now from the same corporation in the same case as a law officer of the State, especially since he had earned none of it. The check was sent back with the instruction that he turned it into the State Treasury. In declining to accept the money Cassidy did not follow in the footsteps of his predecessors who appropriated commission earned by those whom they succeeded as Attorney General. Cassidy is free to say that he favors the abolition of the fee system so far as it relates to the officers of the State. He would rather have a fixed salary, even if it should not reach the amount now received by the Attorney General in fees and salary. Governor Pattison is said to be in accord with the Attorney General in his views of the fee system.

Making Pointers.

How Members of Congress do Business on the Fly.

A well known Washington broker says, in an interview: "I can always tell when anything has been done in committee that is liable to affect stocks. The orders to buy or sell come streaming in on us from the Capitol, from Senators, members of committees, clerks, lobbyists and correspondents who have been let in on the ground floor. "We have accounts on our books with persons whose names our confidential clerks do not know, as the slightest hint regarding their identity would mean political ruin and disgrace in many instances. Orders are given and

received under cover, and if our books should by any chance be brought before a court or an investigating committee, it would be discovered that we did business with Good Luck, Fairweather, Silver Lining, Gotham and other individuals equally distinguished. If these mysterious personages are Chairmen of Congressional Committees, high department officials, Senators or Congressmen, or newspaper correspondents, nobody will ever be the wiser.

"It is to my interest to keep my mouth shut, and I take it for granted that my customers are equally interested keeping their operations quiet, else they would not take such extraordinary precautions. The moment action on any railway bill or any matter which may influence mining stocks or the value of any line of merchantable property is taken orders begin to pour in, and although that action may not be publicly known for days or weeks, I am conscious that something has happened, and it does not take me long to find out what it is. You would be astonished beyond measure to know who dabbles in stock. Men you would think are as innocent of the knowledge of the ways of speculation as unborn babes give orders that would make your eyes bulge with surprise. They are awfully sly, and will never be found out. They do not go around asking for pointers; they make pointers; they never mix with stock gamblers, and do not hover about the ticker, although they may have \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$100,000, involved in a deal. I see many queer things, and have learned to distrust the honesty of the generality of statesmen of every degree. I would not trust the Goddess of Liberty if I thought she could feel her way to making an honest dollar by a clever turn on Wall Street."

At Home After Thirty Three Years.

Levi Farnsworth, of Jonesboro, who left Machias November 4, 1819, in the brig Agate, for the Pacific coast, arrived home January 9th, after an absence of thirty-three years. He stopped at the home of his son, Mr. J. E. Farnsworth, where his wife and children assembled in less than two hours after his arrival, one daughter, Mrs. Mary A., wife of Jason C. Drisko, absent on account of sickness. There were twenty friends at tea—his wife, children and some of his grandchildren and Mrs. H. C. Hall, a sister of Mrs. Farnsworth, and they had a very pleasant meeting.

The old gentleman said: "This is the happiest hour of my life." Mr. Farnsworth is well known in Vancouver, Washington Territory, Ellisburg and many other towns on the Pacific coast, and is respected wherever known. He has held many prominent positions in Vancouver; has been Mayor of the city; also Sheriff for several years. He was elected several times member of the Territorial Legislature. He is seventy-eight years of age. The journey home was about 5,000 miles, yet he was but little fatigued, and is looking younger and smarter than his friends expected. When Mr. Farnsworth left home he parted with wife and six children. On his return all were alive to greet him but one daughter, who died about twenty years ago.

Most Wonderful.

Very seldom do we read of an actual case of recovery, where hope had altogether been lost, to equal that which was on Monday investigated by a Dispatch reporter who had heard, in various quarters, persons talking to their friends of a cure, seemingly little short of miraculous, that had been performed. Wm. Lincoln Curtis is the name of the young man in question. He is now employed at H. K. Porter & Co.'s Locomotive Works, Pittsburgh. His disease was Chronic Rheumatism. The enormous swelling and pain in the joints of his arm soon produced paralysis of his left arm. He gradually grew worse, his ankles and knees were soon even worse than his arms, his cheek bones began to enlarge, spreading his face out of all resemblance to his former self. Two physicians pronounced him hopeless. Pains cured him. Page 26 Dr. Hartman's "His of Life." 67 2t

Hard Puzzle!

A great many have gone crazy over the 15 puzzle but parties who don't go to the Boston Clothing House, at Bellefonte Pa., for their clothing boots and shoes are crazy enough, to pay double the price for them in other places, and is the hardest puzzle we ever heard of. We told you many times, that we are closing out our entire stock of Fall and Winter goods, at and below cost. We therefore advise you to strike, while the iron is hot, as you'll never have this chance off-red again. n5 8t.

"There is no arguing a coward into courage." But even the coward may be brave after trying Kidney-Wort, that medicine of wonderful efficacy in all diseases of the liver and kidneys. It is prepared in both dry and liquid form and can always be relied on as an effective cathartic and diuretic. Try it.

Fixed Stars and Nebulae.

The Last of Professor Young's Series of Lectures on Astronomy.

Professor Young, of Princeton College, closed his course of astronomical lectures at the Church of the Strangers last evening. His subject was the "Fixed Stars and Nebulae." He said the first impression in looking upon the sky on a clear night was that the stars are countless, but it will be found that, on bringing the eye to bear on a particular part of the heavens the stars can be counted. There are about 6,000 stars visible to the naked eye from New York. Add to these 1,000 which never rise above our horizon and there are 7,000 visible to the naked eye. With a little opera glass 300,000 stars can be counted, and with the largest telescope it is found that a number of the stars is about equal to the population of the United States. About 600,000 stars have been catalogued and their positions fixed. It is found that the stars differ in brilliancy. This is because some are larger than others, because some are more distant than others and because some are greater intrinsic brightness than others. There are twenty stars of the first magnitude, thirty five of the second, 140 of the third, 327 of the fourth, 900 of the fifth, 4,400 of the sixth, and about 14,000 of the seventh. It is discovered that many of the stars change in brightness; indeed, there are very few that do not. Some of the old stars are young and growing brighter; others are old and growing dimmer. After describing the stars that have shown extraordinary changes in brilliancy, of which there are nine instances, and the variable stars, Professor Young took up the motions of the stars. Taking the stars by the thousands it is found that the sun and its planets are moving towards a certain point in the universe. The stars are separating ahead of us and closing up behind us.

Professor Young's account of the experiments made to determine the distance of the stars was particularly interesting. It was not until 1838 that the distance of a star was successfully measured. But astronomers, Professor Young said, were still at their wit's end concerning distances. The distances of some were determined pretty accurately, but there was much doubt about most of the others. Probably in the next century great advances would be made in this branch of the subject. Until the distances are fixed no theories as to the structure of the universe can be properly formed. The Rev. Dr. Deems, in introducing the lecture, intimated that Professor Young would continue his lectures on astronomy next season. At the close of his lecture last evening he was heartily applauded.

Two Kinds of Ladies.

New Haven Register.
As a young lady walked hurriedly down State street upon a bleak November day her attention was attracted to a deformed boy coming toward her carrying several bundles. He was thinly clad, twisted his limbs most strangely as he walked, and looked before him with a vacant stare. Just before the cripple reached the brick pedestrian he stumbled, thus dropping one bundle, which broke and emptied a string of sausages on the sidewalk. The richly dressed ladies (?) near by held back their skirts and whispered quite audibly "How horrid!" while several passed by amused by the boy's look of blank dismay, gave vent to their feelings in a half suppressed laugh, and then went on without taking further interest. All this increased the boy's embarrassment. He stooped to pick up the sausages only to let fall another parcel, when, in despair, he stood and looked at his lost spoils. In an instant the bright faced stranger stepped to the boy's side, and said in a tone of thorough kindness: "Let me hold these other bundles while you pick up what you have lost." In dumb astonishment the cripple handed all he held to the young Samaritan, and devoted himself to securing his cherished sausages. When these were again strongly tied in the coarse, torn paper, her skillful hands replaced the parcels on his scrawny arms, as she bestowed on him a smile of encouragement, and said: "I hope you haven't far to go." The poor fellow seemed scarcely to hear the girl's pleasant words; but looking at her with the same vacant stare, asked, "Be you a lady?" "I hope so; I try to be," was the surprised response. "I was kind of hoping you wasn't." "Why?" asked the listener, with curiosity quite aroused, "cause I've seen such as called themselves ladies, but they never spoke kind at all pleasant like 'cepting grand uns. I guess there's two kinds; them as thinks they's ladies and isn't aud, them as what tries to be and is."

It is not the governor of North Carolina to the Governor of South Carolina this time but the Senator from North Carolina to the Governor of Pennsylvania. Both were in Yorktown celebrating the centennial of the capitulation. One was Vance, the other Hoyt. Both had been in the war, but on opposite sides. Said Vance to Hoyt as they stood in a convenient place of refreshment: "What church do you belong to?" "Presbyterian." "I don't believe it," said Vance. "Sound me," said Hoyt. "What is the chief end of man?" asked Vance: "To glorify God," replied Hoyt. "Right." It was Hoyt's turn then, and he asked Vance:

"How many questions are there in the catechism?" "One hundred and thirty eight." "Right," and Hoyt: "What is sin?" asked Vance. Hoyt answered so satisfactorily that Vance said: "Right again. Now let's take a drink." And they did, in orthodox fashion.

THE COURT OF PARIS'S HOPES.—I see that a correspondent who has had an interview with the Count of Paris says that General Mottellan's ex-aidé cherishes a hope of being one day the constitutional monarch of France, but it is added that the Prince steadily deprecates any plots or underhand intrigues—anything, in short, to interfere with the free choice of the French people.

All the Princes of the Orleans family alike feel it hard that they should be made to suffer for Prince Napoleon's crazy manifesto.

Will the Tariff Bill Pass this Session.

WASHINGTON, February 3.—An evening paper credits Mr. Carlisle with having said today that he did not believe it possible for a tariff bill to pass at this session. He is further reported as of the opinion with regard to an extra session, in case of failure of tariff legislation, that the President will hardly appeal to a Democratic Congress to carry out the views of tariff reform, as expressed in his annual message, after a Republican Congress had failed to carry them out.

New Advertisement.