

# BELLEFONTE

## PENNA'S GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRE.

THE FUTURE IRON MANUFACTURING CENTRE OF THE KEYSTONE STATE.

The Variety and Inexhaustible Quantity of her Mineral Wealth.

A RICH FIELD WHERE THE GOLDEN SEEDS OF EASTERN CAPITAL YIELD A PROLIFIC HARVEST OF WEALTH.

A Manufacturing Hub Where Weighty Iron Spokes Reach out in Every Direction.

A Paradise Where The Manufacturer Finds a Hearty Welcome.

A Graphic Description of her Many Advantages, Banking and Railroad Facilities and Mineral Wealth.

The age we live in is an age of revolutions. Each decade is crowned with the triumph of discovery in every field of enterprise, and improved machinery has multiplied beyond measure, the productive capacity of every civilized people.

In almost every revolution that has been brought about, Pennsylvania is found at the top. Each year new developments are made which give her increased facilities for manufacturing and destined her to be the great manufacturing region of the civilized world.

Much of this marvelous development owes its impetus to the opening of sections that heretofore have been inaccessible by railroads; the struggle brought about by competition in manufacturing and the discoveries of greater mineral wealth. The part of the old keystone that is receiving the most attention at the present time is the region of which Bellefonte is the centre. Nowhere within the bounds of the old commonwealth are there more advantages for manufacturing, greater mineral wealth and many other features that conspire to give it the preference as a manufacturing centre.

### LOCATION.

Centre county of which Bellefonte is the seat of justice, is the most central county in Pennsylvania; and in area embraces 1227 square miles, being the largest county in the state; and in population ranks about the twenty-fifth compared with the sixty-eight counties constituting the commonwealth. Of its 785,280 acres about one-half are rugged and mountainous, but there are many exceedingly fertile valleys noted for their productivity and beauty, most prominent of which are Penns and Nittany valleys. The former comprises a region running parallel with the seven mountains a distance of about thirty-five miles, with an average width of about five miles. The latter is separated by the Nittany mountain and is about thirty-five miles long and will average three miles in width. Each of these valleys is underlaid with the richest limestone in the state. Nestled within the spurs of the Alleghenies is the Bald Eagle valley, surrounded with natural scenery that is exceedingly beautiful, which is appreciated by those who admire the grandeur of mountain beauty. Bellefonte is located about the centre of the county on Spring Creek, about two miles south of its confluence with Bald Eagle Creek at Milesburg, and derives its name from a beautiful spring which rises within the borough, Belle signifying beautiful, and fonte a fountain. It was incorporated as a borough in 1846 and its population at present exceeds 7000 souls.

**RAILROAD FACILITIES.**  
The Bald Eagle Valley Railroad, connecting with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Lock Haven affords transportation facilities to all parts of the county. The Bellefonte and Lewisburg Railroad connects with the Pennsylvania Railroad at Lewisburg and the Erie and Montandon Railroad at Montandon. All points east and west of Bellefonte and Snow Shoar are open to our doors the coal and lumber of that region. The

Buffalo Run and Bellefonte Railroad traverse the rich farming and mining regions and gives an outlet to that section of the country. The Nittany Valley Railroad passing from Bellefonte through the rich farming and ore mining region of that part of the county is another of our railroads in operation. A projected line from Milton to Bellefonte will materialize soon as well as a branch to Beech Creek connecting with the Philadelphia and Reading system at that point, which will give us competing lines to all parts of the country and bring our borough into commercial relations with all the outside world. Bellefonte is one of the points that all the principal railroads of the State must tap, as the enormous amount of freight to handle will compel them to build roads to it. All the principal lines are at present within a radius of seventeen miles. We will soon become the mighty hub whose iron spokes branch out in every direction.

**WATER SUPPLY.**  
Nature, as if to show the extent of the attractions she was capable of bestowing, blessed Bellefonte with an inexhaustible spring of the purest water that ever gushed from a hillside. The locality known as the big Spring, is one of the sights of Bellefonte, and for scenic beauty is unrivalled. From the side of a hill a torrent of ice cold water perpetually issues, whose waters would wean the Gods from their nectar. Hence the name Bellefonte is not a misnomer as it certainly has a beautiful fountain. That the supply of water is exhaustless has been repeatedly tested. The capacity of this spring is 145000 gallons a minute or over twenty million gallons in 24 hours; allowing one hundred gallons to each inhabitant a day it would supply a population of 200,000 people. One of the remarkable features of this water is that it only varies in temperature two degrees in winter and summer.

It is from this source that Bellefonte homes, streets and industries are fully supplied. Numerous other springs are near to supply larger demands for manufacturing purposes etc. There is probably no town in the state more abundantly supplied with pure water, nothing near to pollute it, there is no danger from zymotic diseases, which are in many cases the result of drinking impure water. The water works belong to the borough and on account of the abundant supply it is furnished to the people of the town at nominal rates.

**BANKING FACILITIES.**  
The banking facilities of Bellefonte are so well known in the large money centers that it seems useless to say anything of them in connection with Bellefonte's advantages. Our money facilities are not secondary advantages by any means. During the panic of 1873 Bellefonte Bank checks were received at par at the large trade centres, while those from almost all other banking towns in the interior of the State were received at a discount. In the way of banks we are not far from the head of the procession and in the way of stability, our banks are as firm as the rock on which Bellefonte is built. The First National Bank of Bellefonte with an existence of twenty-three years is one of the oldest and most reliable in the State. The old and firmly established Banking house of W. F. Reynolds & Co. is synonymous with soundness and success, and is recognized in commercial circles, as one of the most solid banking institutions in the State. The Centre County Banking Company with a long and well established reputation is one of our most popular Banking institutions and holds a high position in financial circles. In the several Banks of Bellefonte at the present time there are over one million dollars on deposit.

up to a higher grade of usefulness. Pennsylvania State College within nine miles of our town is within easy access, and moderate terms, agreeable surroundings and a learned faculty are the elements which contributed to its success, as it is recognized as among the first Colleges of the state. By way of explanation this is the State Agricultural College of Pennsylvania and beside the course in Agricultural science, both classical and scientific courses are afforded.

**POST OFFICE.**  
One of the best evidences of the growth of any town is the increase in the post office receipts, we find in examining the reports of the office here for the year 1886 and 1887:

Total receipts in 1887.....	\$7,964.65
" " " 1886.....	7,274.07
Increase.....	\$690.58
Showing an increase in the year 1887 over the year 1886 of \$690.58. The receipts of 1888 will show a much larger increase as it has been more perceptible since the beginning of the year.	

**OUR SURROUNDINGS.**  
Perched on an elevation that furnishes a water shed in every direction of approach, the location of Bellefonte could hardly be improved. As a place of residence our surroundings leave little to be desired. Every variety of scenery from the picturesque valleys to the towering grandeur of the Allegheny Mountains are ours to enjoy. The surrounding county alternates between fertile farming and rich mineral lands.

As a summer resort Bellefonte possesses all the inviting requisites to prove her features in this regard, unheralded health is stamped on every feature of our life. Lean cemeteries and struggling physicians unite in telling the flattering tale of Bellefonte's wealth of health. Old age is common as youth with us. Industry and peaceful consciousness, vie with superior climatic conditions as agencies of health more fruitful than any army of doctors and whole acres of drug stores. There is no place for the drone in this community. If ever there was an exotic transferred to the open field it is when indolence is transferred to Bellefonte. The tramp shares the glory of feeding our police energies with such of the few town characters who still love the historic conversational formula of the Carolina governors and seem to bring into golden relief the virtues of the rest of us. No endemic diseases are known at Bellefonte. No epidemic diseases ever visited us. Nor has malaria ever existed.

### SUPERIOR ADVANTAGES AFFORDED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF GLASS.

The manufacture of glass has been one of the principal industries of Bellefonte for a number of years and at present on account of the excellent facilities that are afforded, such as superior quality of sand, cheap fuel, lime of the very best quality, offers superior advantages for the manufacture of glass. The sand which is found in enormous quantities, analyzes 97 per cent of silica, making it superior to most others that are obtained in this country. At present we have only one glass works and they give employment to over one hundred men. Their specialty is window glass. The capacity of their works is 300 fifty foot boxes a day. They have in use two ten ring blow furnaces, two four stone flattening ovens, with stone 60x100 inches allowing a capacity for furnishing the largest sizes cylindrical window glass manufactured in the United States. Flattening ovens are fitted up with bar lears and annealing ovens of the latest improved patterns, in fact they have all the facilities for carrying on successfully the manufacture of a superior article of glass. This glass ranks among the best of the American manufacture and commands from 11 to 7 per cent more than the ordinary glass manufactured in this country. On account of the high grade of silica they use their glass will never fade and has a lustre, beauty and polish that gives it the reputation of being the best made in the country. As an evidence of the great reputation this glass enjoys. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Pullman Palace Car Company use it almost entirely in their car windows. One customer in Chicago who bought a few years ago a few hundred dollars worth a year, the last year his orders aggregated over

one hundred and twenty three thousand dollars. The success of this demonstrates beyond a doubt that Bellefonte offers superior facilities for manufacturing all kinds of glass, inasmuch as the raw material is close by and does not have to be shipped as in many instances over 200 miles, hence it offers to those who wish to engage in its manufacture superior inducements from every stand point of consideration, and must claim the attention of the capitalist or manufacturer as one of the most suitable places to be found anywhere.

**LIME.**  
Bellefonte lime has such a wide reputation for its superior quality that it seems almost needless to mention it in this article. However it is due to the lime interests to repeat what is already familiar to the large majority of manufacturers of the state, that the very best lime for manufacturing purposes is manufactured at Bellefonte. The principal uses to which it is applied are in paper mills, tanneries, and it has a large use in the manufacture of acetate of lime.

We give below an analysis of lime manufactured by McCalmont & Co. analyzed by the chemists of the second geological survey of Pennsylvania. Carbonate of lime 93.322. Carbon, of magnesia 1.170. Carbonate of iron and aluminum .320. Insoluble residue .390. These are at present 13 kilns located that ship lime daily to different parts of the State. Among the largest manufacturers of lime is A. G. Morrison, who has in operation fifteen kilns here and on the Buffalo Run railroad besides two powerful steam crushers. He will be shipping by mid-summer daily from thirty to forty cars of lime and crushed limestone, and his industry is yet in its infancy.

### CENTRE COUNTY'S INEXHAUSTIBLE MINERAL WEALTH SHE LEADS THEM ALL.

Centre county has been recognized for many years as a most important section for the manufacture of a superior iron. It is scarcely within the scope of a newspaper article to trace its history. Many disadvantages have existed in the past to retard its growth. One of the most prominent obstacles that confronted the manufacturers was the lack of railroad facilities; but a brighter and better era has come and now railroads radiate from her seat of Justice to all points of the compass. A new order of things has been brought about in consequence and the mountains and hills and valleys are pouring their wealth of treasure throughout the State. Space will not permit us to trace the history of the iron industry farther than the ore section of works by Valentine & Thomas, Curtin Bros, and Linn & McCoy, who were among the pioneers in the iron business, in and around Bellefonte. These gentlemen for the disadvantages they labored under have accomplished wonderful results.

For many years they had no railroad to carry their iron to market, yet with this great disadvantage, they secured the reputation for making the best iron in the world. The specimens of pig and manufactured iron which at the centennial exhibition in 1876 took the premium as being the best in the world was awarded to the Valentines of Bellefonte and were made from ores taken from their mines near their works here. One of the most valuable features that is remarkable in regard to the iron made by them was its strength and durability. The Mess. Curtins whose works are located near Bellefonte were awarded the contract of supplying the U. S. Government with iron for its use in the manufacture of the best guns and rifles, during the war after experts had visited the different iron Centers of the north and thoroughly tested the different irons made, this contract was secured at a high figure as it was discovered they could not obtain iron of as good quality anywhere in the Union. These works are still in operation in the manufacture of a superior article of charcoal-iron. Mess. Linn and McCoy is another of the enterprising iron manufacturing firms which enjoys a national reputation for the manufacture of a superior iron. During the war with Russia the Turkish government bought iron from this firm for manufacturing guns. They also secured the contract to supply the Brooklyn Bridge with iron to take the place of steel rods for wire rope. The large screw companies of

the east use their iron entirely for the manufacture of the highest grade of screws. Their iron has in several instances displaced Norway and Swedish iron for the different uses to which they are especially applied. The test of tensile strength required by the U. S. Government is 55000 pounds to the square inch. The iron made by this firm has stood a test of 70000 to the square inch and it also stood the elongation test of from 6 to 7.9-16 inches before it parted in fibre. The intelligent pioneers in the iron business around Bellefonte have shown to the world that the very best iron could be manufactured here and facilities were afforded for the manufacture of every grade of iron that is marketable any where. This is due to fact that many varieties of iron ores are in abundance and easily obtained as almost the entire county is underlaid with iron ore of most excellent quality. Owing to the new features that have developed within the past two years the iron interests here are assuming much greater proportions, superinduced by the building of a number of new railroads by which more ore is developed and better facilities are afforded to get it to the furnaces and all the latest improvements in the way of mining and manufacturing that iron can be made much cheaper and in greater quantity. The future therefore is brilliant with promise for this particular field.

In the summer of 1886 an organization was formed under the name of the Valentine Ore Land Association, which purchased the right title and interest in the properties of the Valentines, that were connected with their iron works except the farms, where they only secured the mineral right. This association has erected on this property which was formerly occupied by the old Valentine charcoal furnace, a new furnace for smelting ores with coke, and having a capacity of 100 tons of pig iron a day. The iron industry has again been creditably typified by the erection of another furnace by the Collins Bros. having also a capacity of 100 tons of pig iron a day and which has all the modern improvements to facilitate its manufacture. This furnace is in operation at the present time and is turning out daily a most excellent quality of pig iron. The output as soon as the Centre Furnace Company is in operation will be almost ten fold greater than it has ever been, and with all the advantages that are present, it is evident to all that Bellefonte offers advantages in the manufacture of a superior quality of iron and at cheaper rates than any other point in America.

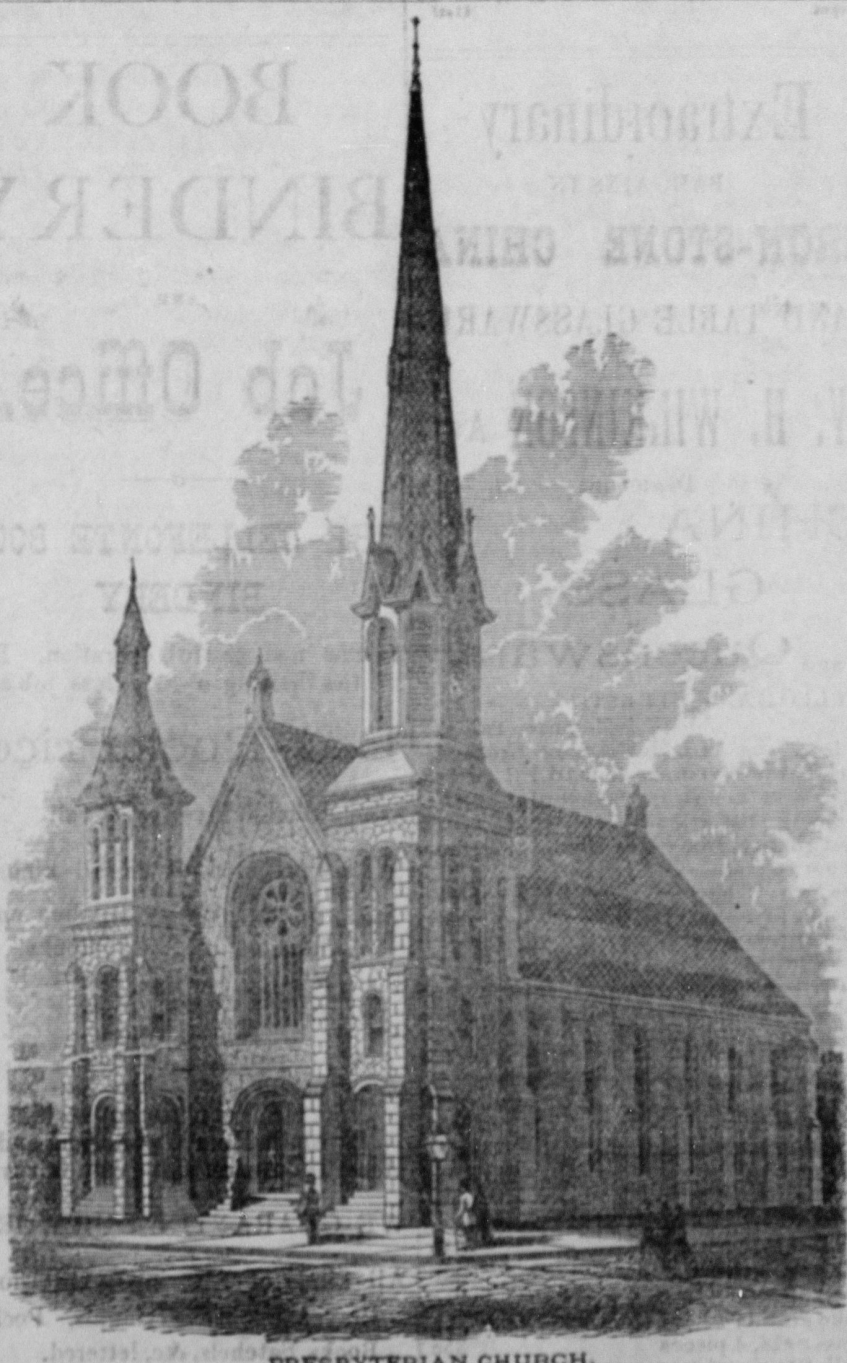
Advantages in the manufacture of iron from Coke.  
The great Bituminous Coal regions of the central part of the state are within 16 miles of Bellefonte and within 20 miles of us are several hundred large coke ovens where a most excellent quality of coke can be obtained that can be used for everything, that it can be applied to in manufacturing iron. Ore of superior quality in great variety and in large quantities all of which are on the lines of railroads. It remains to be seen that our facilities for manufacturing iron from coke are greater than can be offered anywhere.

### ADVANTAGES AFFORDED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF A SUPERIOR IRON FROM CHARCOAL.

As we have said before we have all the material at hand such as ores and limestone, and the vast area of country lying north & west of Bellefonte which is covered with timber suitable for the best quality of charcoal and railroads passing through it many directions; another feature that is also remarkable, and will afford facilities for the manufacture of charcoal for all time, is the fact that about every twenty years a new crop takes the place of that which has been taken away leaving always in sight a large amount of timber for charcoal purposes. This valuable feature speaks trumpet toned in support of these premises.

### IRON ORE SUPPLY.

The new railroads that have been built from Bellefonte in the past two years, have opened up mines of iron ore that in quality and extent are without a parallel. At present there are sixteen openings and in capacity they range from 300 to 2500 tons a week each. New developments are being made almost every week which warrant us in saying the supply is unlimited. This seems to be written over every



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

### RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

Bellefonte people, while they may appear to be entirely infatuated with the coquetish Goddess Dame Fortune, are not unmindful of their spiritual welfare and not only attend church with remarkable regularity, but give liberally to the cause of religion and its attendant charities. There are nine churches, several of them imposing structures, that in beauty and size would grace a city. The different denominations represented are Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Roman Catholic, German Reformed, Quaker, Lutheran, United Brethren, Christian, and Colored Methodist. The Rev. gentlemen who preside over their respective congregations, as ministers, rectors or priests, are among the highest of their denominations. Zeal is a characteristic of all our divines and the flourishing religious condition of our town shows the fruits of their labor in the vineyard.

We are above all pardonably proud of our graded school system. Education has kept pace with the progress of our borough. There are two large school buildings, one of which contains the latest improved heating and ventilating system. Our school buildings are well ventilated, lighted and heated. The apparatus in our schools are excellent and very few towns are better equipped in school advantages. Fifteen teachers are employed and the schools are open 8 months in the year. The high school prepares pupils for College. In the past few years a number have passed the examinations of Lehigh University and Dickinson College who were graduates of our high school. Bellefonte Academy for the higher intellectual training of both sexes, is another of our educational institutions. It is a venerable one and has made fruitful contribution to divinity, law, medicine, and journalism, and under the Principalship of the Rev. James P. Hughes it is rapidly coming