

The Centre Democrat.

THE SHARPLESS MURDER.

POTATOES are a drug in the market at Colfax, Wis., owing to the enormous crop raised in that section. The best price to be got is ten cents a bushel, and one farmer offered to give a friend a wagon load of choice ones if he would take the trouble to send for them.

'DUTCH GUS' CHOPAZ'S CONFESSION ABOUT THE CRIME.

Samuel Johnson, an Innocent Man in Jail Three Years—Sentenced to be Hanged and a Pardou Saves his Life.

THE Prohibition vote cast at the late election is estimated on full returns, official and otherwise, 268,726 for General Fisk as against 150,626 for St. John four years ago. The States in which there was a decline from the last vote are Vermont and Massachusetts. There was a gain of 11,326 in Minnesota, 12,000 in Ohio and 11,000 in Illinois. New York showed up a gain of but 3,525, Indiana of 6,911, Connecticut of 1,944 and New Jersey of 2,021.

"Dutch Gus" Chopaz, has, by affidavit below given, confessed participation in the SharpleSS murder, and Samuel Johnson's innocence is almost established. For more than three years Samuel Johnson has lain in Delaware county jail with the awful charge of murdering a fellow being hanging over him, and during that time the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on several occasions nearly committed the grave error of carrying out the death penalty which had been imposed upon him. In this confession Gustavus Chopaz admits being connected with the foul assassination of the inoffensive farmer. The affidavit was secured by Detective James Donaghy, who has given his time and money in the highly laudable effort to prevent the hanging of a man who it now appears, was entirely innocent of the charge upon which he was found guilty. The deponent was visited by Detective Donaghy, and of his own accord wrote what follows below. It covered two foolscap pages of closely written matter. The original manuscript and affidavit are in the possession of the detective and will be presented to the court to-day when the trial of the men implicated comes up.

DUTCH GUS' CONFESSION.

Joseph Lubberman was a cell mate in the penitentiary at Philadelphia in 1887 both serving a sentence for burglary. Gus made the entire confession to Lubberman and the latter makes this statement:

Then I mentioned about the Sharpless case and gave him my word I would never betray him, so he told all. That Charlie Wilson, came to him the Wednesday before it took place and asked him if he would take a hand in a big job and Gus said, "Yes, I am broke," and told Wilson, "I will do anything for money." Then Wilson told Gus that John Sharpless had a great deal of money in the house, that the girl at Sharpless' told a friend of his about it, so the first plan was to go and hang the family up for it.

HOW THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED.

This was Gus' plan but, Wilson said to Gus: it is better to get old Sharpless out of the way." Then Wilson got up the plan about the carriage and proposed to Gus to disguise as niggers. They both blackened up and Gus put a white handkerchief around his neck. He said he did this because his neck is half again as big as an ordinary man's and he and Gus went to the door and knocked. Wilson was down at the barn. Gus told Mr. Sharpless that he broke his carriage and had two ladies in it and asked for a piece of rope. Mr. Sharpless put his hat on and lit the lamp and his wife said he had better put on his coat. Gus said he was very nervous because Mrs. Sharpless kept looking at him.

"We then," continued Gus, "went towards the barn. As we got near it I caught him by the throat, and Sharpless said, 'My God, don't.' At this Wilson hit him with a lead pipe several times. Then Wilson went through his pockets. Gus said he had hardly the grit to go back to the house, but went and asked where the money was and said the girl knew, but Gus became frightened and ran out. They then went to Wilmington and got a room on Water street, but being frightened they came to Philadelphia and had a room on Third street and Gus got work, but, as he said, he soon got tired of it. He then went at odd jobs to keep the detectives off his track.

JOHNSON IS INNOCENT.

The reason I know it was the Sunday before the balloon ascension, Gus and myself were in the yard when it came over the Penn grounds, and I said to Gus, "How would you like to be in there?" He replied: "If I was in there, Joe, they would never get a rope around my neck in Delaware county, I said "Don't think of such nonsense," but he said, "I am afraid of Wilson." He told me never to mention what he (Gus) told me. I would not, but, as I said, an innocent man is condemned for this crime, and I cannot keep my promise which I made him. If there was no person arrested for it I never would have told it and would have kept my promise which I made him, as I know and feel that Johnson is as innocent as a unborn child. Gus' actions were enough for me. He came in one morning for his breakfast and looked all broken up. I said, "What's up with you?" He told me he could not sleep, as soon as he got into a doze he could hear these words, "My God, don't," and said, "If they would only hang the nigger I would feel safe, but as long as he is living I will be in hot water." "I wish Wilson was in—," was another expression he often made to me. He told me time and again "I wish I had not told you Joe." Gus also told me they went to

the barn first and put a candle underneath the basket and lit it, that it might set the barn on fire. They then went to the Sharpless house, and after the murder they went back to the barn kicked the basket over and set the barn on fire. Charlie Wilson, he said was acquainted with a girl in Media, that he knew the Sharpless girl told Wilson's girl that Sharpless had a big sum of money in the house, \$7,000, hid in the fire place. He said before Wilson found out about the Sharpless house they were both going to do up the Brooks and Allens, living in Media. "John Sharpless," said Gus, "carried the lantern in his left hand." He never named any person but Wilson and himself, and he told me Charlie Wilson was the person that was with him in the shoe robbery that they got settled for, and was now in Media jail; that he was afraid he would open his mouth in regard to the Sharpless case, and that if they would only hang the nigger, he said "I would feel safe."

JOSEPH LUBBERMAN.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 21 day of November, 1888.

GEORGE W. SELTZER, Notary Public.

CAUGHT A WILD WOMAN.

Roaming in Swamps and Woods in an Almost Nude Condition. A singular capture was made by some young men near Boonville, of a demented woman, whose history and surroundings are a mystery. She has been for several days roaming through the swamps and woods in an almost nude condition and would utter a shriek and dart away like a frightened deer at the approach of human beings. A party was organized for her capture and she was pursued to her hiding-place in an old cave. When she found her self surrounded she attempted to dash through the crowd, but she was caught and securely bound. She could not talk, but uttered a sort of moaning wail continuously. She is undoubtedly demented and has wandered away from some of the surrounding counties. She seems to be a woman of about 30 years of age, but her face and body had been frightfully lacerated with brambles and bushes. In her temporary hiding-place were found a quantity of nuts and herbs, and a piece of an old broken earthenware pitcher. She was carried to a neighboring farmer's house, where she became more docile, and efforts are on foot to find out who she is and from whence she came.

LOCK HAVEN NORMAL BURNED.

A Magnificent Building Destroyed by the Flames. The great Central State Normal School at Lock Haven is no more. Almost as if by magic the splendid building which overlooked the city and the beautiful river perished and only the blackened and crumbling walls remain. The fire was discovered about two o'clock p. m. Sunday when the alarm was sounded and the fire companies started with their carriages and the steamer. It was a long distance and it took hard work to get there, but the task was finally accomplished, the companies put into position and the hose laid. The best work that was possible was done, but with all their power they were unable to throw the water much over twelve feet. Meantime the fire continued to gain headway. Everything on the inside was as dry as punk, from the steam heat with which the building was warmed, and burned like so much kindling wood. Several barrels of coal oil in the cellar caught fire and made a splendid light for a few moments, blazing up to a great distance. It was thought that perhaps the north end could be saved, but towards evening that caught too, and the fire had things its own way, owing to the impossibility of getting water in sufficient force to enable the firemen to successfully attack the point of danger. This was presented the spectacle of a magnificent edifice dissolving before the eyes of the people who were powerless to stay the progress of the dreadful destroyer.

There are various stories as to how the fire first started and as to what caused it. Some say that it caught in the basement, others that it originated in the cellar and still others assert that it began in the third or fourth story. While they were working below the flames began to burst out in the third or fourth story and then the chief ordered them up there, where the only good could be done was in a manner stay the flames, thus enabling the occupants to secure some of their personal effects. The Normal was a six story and cost about \$150,000 originally. Only last summer an addition was completed at a cost of \$15,000, for which the State made an appropriation of that amount. There were 100 boarders in the building many of whom were ladies. There were 200 students all told, and many of them lost books' clothing and valuables. The students were taken care of by citizens, and the sudden change in their condition was matter of much worriment vexation and sorrow to them.

Ground was first broken for the foundation of the Central State Normal School in December, 1870, and in 1871 the foundation walls were erected. But it was not until the summer of 1872 that the real work was begun.

—Prof. Geo. P. Bible, had rooms in the Lock Haven Normal school which was destroyed by fire on Sunday.

INSTITUTE WEEK.

What Will be Done and Who Will be There.

Superintendent D. M. Wolf is deserving of much praise for the manner in which our county Institutes are conducted and the good results which naturally must arise therefrom. This year an exceptional treat is in store for our teachers and others who may have occasion to attend. Able instructors and famous lecturers have been secured and will be worth hearing.

The instruction during the day will be very attractive in addition to which there will be four evening lectures. The first one will be given on Monday evening and will be free. Dr. George L. Phillips, Principal of the State Normal School at West Chester, will tell "The Story of the Heavens." At least a slight knowledge of astronomy is possessed by almost everyone and the fact that "The Story of the Heavens" is about as interesting and remarkable as any that can be told will cause a desire to hear Dr. Phillips.

On Tuesday evening, the 18th, Rev. Madison C. Peters, pastor of the Northern Liberties church, Philadelphia, will lecture. The admission will be 25 cents to this and the two succeeding lectures. His subject will be "Whom to Marry." The gentleman is unmarried and is, of course, well qualified to advise anyone "Whom to Marry." He has the largest Sunday evening congregation in the city and gives three or four public lectures, to which an admission is charged, in his own city, every year—a record quite unparalleled. The *Inquirer* says he is "young, learned, quick, wiry and full of fiery eloquence." The *News* describes him as "spicy, original, remarkable and progressive."

On Wednesday evening, the 19th, J. Freeman Hendricks, A. M., of Doylestown, Pa., will make his debut before a Bellefonte lecture audience. His subject will be "A True Man." When he lectured in Philadelphia, the *Times* described his lecture as "full of bright sayings and wholesome advice."

The lecture on Thursday evening, the 20th, will be an illustrated one. Prof. Aubrey M. Hammar, has traveled extensively and has four illustrated lectures, the general title which is "Realistic Rambles." The one he will deliver here is entitled "Our Old Home Beyond the Seas" including a tour of "The Emerald Isle," "Merrie Old England" and "Bonnie Scotland." The lecture is illustrated by one hundred photographic reproductions of its interesting features. One of the instructors will be Prof. Albert E. Maltby, of Indiana, Pa. He will discuss the natural sciences in a clear, original and forcible style. Our former citizen, Prof. George Bible, will be in Institute Thursday afternoon. George has acquired a name and a fame which places him way up on the ladder of progress. Dr. George Atherton and Prof. John Heston, of the State College, are billed for addresses and always agreeably entertain as well as impart information.

SPECIAL RATES.

Teachers, school directors and others who expect to attend Institute can secure special rates over the Penna. R. R. by applying to the county Supt. D. M. Wolf for blanks which when presented at the regular station will entitle the holder to excursion rates to and from Bellefonte. Persons traveling over Bellefonte and Buffalo Run road must make application to the conductor of the passenger train.

G. Albert Hiller of Lock Haven Hangs Himself with a Rope.

Albert Hiller, a well known citizen of Lock Haven, committed suicide by hanging at his residence on East Water street last Thursday night. Mr. Hiller's dead body was discovered by John Demas, who resides in part of the same house in which Mr. Hiller lived. The body was found hanging in the closet, and suspended by a small rope one end of which was tied to the rafter of the closet roof and the other end looped about the dead man's neck. His feet touched the floor and his knees were slightly bent forward. Mr. Demas, visited the closet and saw the body hanging but did not recognize it as that of any one he knew. He went to Hiller's door and rapped, but getting no answer opened the door and found that the lamp was burning, but Hiller's bed was vacant. He then aroused the neighbors who upon examination found the body to be that of Albert Hiller. Coroner Mader was notified at once who empanelled a jury to inquire into the cause of his death. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts that the deceased came to his death by hanging with his own hands. The deceased was a veteran soldier in the late war, having served in Company I, 47th Regiment Pa. Vols. He was also a member of John S. Bitter Post, G. A. R. No cause is known why he should have committed the rash act.

The Welsh choral societies of the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania have decided to form one immense choir of five hundred voices to sing on the day of Harrison's inauguration as President.

Everybody reads the DEMOCRAT, the cheapest paper in Centre co.

Business Notices.

S. & A. Loeb's General Store.

OUR SHELVES ARE ALWAYS FULL.—We Keep a Full Line of Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Carpets, &c.

Rochester Clothing

A Specialty.

S. & A. Loeb,

Allegheny, Street.

Prof. J. E. Hadley VETERINARY SURGEON,

HORSEMANSHIP in all its branches successfully taught to the most timid lady or gent. Horses Broken and Handled for the Saddle, Road or Track. Office and Laboratory at the Fountain House, Bellefonte, Pa.

SPASMODIC COLIC, in its worst form, relieved in thirty minutes.

I have cured the following disease by operating on the teeth, such as

Coughing, Frothing at the Mouth, Discharge at the Nose, Hide-Bound Scouring, Running at Eyes, Tossing Head, Driving on One Line, Cribbing, Balking, Shying.

Horses Having Diseased teeth, all being hard to keep in condition, produce Indigestion, Cribbing, Colic, &c. After having undergone my treatment they become good drivers and keep in good condition.

Achenbach's Bakery.

10 WEST BISHOP STREET. LADIES' LUNCH AND OYSTER PARLOR. Shell Oysters a Specialty.

It is the best way to obtain the delicious hvalve in all its native richness and excellence They will be opened for you and delivered at your door.

FRESH TAFFY OF ALL KINDS EACH DAY. BREAD, CAKES AND PIES ALWAYS ON HAND. Call and see me.

B. C. AUCHENBACH PATENTS

FRANKLIN H. HOUGH, SOLICITOR OF AMERICAN & FOREIGN PATENTS, 925 E. St., Near U. S. Patent Office WASHINGTON, D. C.

All business before the United States Patent Office attended to for moderate fees. Patents procured in the United States and all foreign countries. Trade marks and labels registered. Rejected applications revived and prosecuted. Information and advice as to obtaining Patents cheerfully furnished with charges. Send sketch or model for free opinion as to patentability. No Agency in the United States possesses superior facilities for obtaining Patents or ascertaining the patentability of inventions. Copies of patents furnished for 25 cents each. Correspondence invited.

ROBERT COLE, ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

Plans and estimates furnished at reasonable figures. Office in Bush Arcade upstairs.

Railroads.

PENNSYLVANIA R. R. TIME TABLE.

In effect August 5th, 1888. Pennsylvania Railroad Division. EASTWARD. Daily except Sunday. Seashore Express leaves Johnstown..... 5:30 a m " " Altoona..... 7:00 a m " " Tyrone..... 8:30 a m " " arrives at Harrisburg..... 11:50 a m " " Philadelphia..... 3:15 p m

A local train. Daily. Day Express leaves Pittsburgh..... 5:00 a m " " Altoona..... 11:50 a m " " Tyrone..... 12:15 p m " " Harrisburg..... 2:40 p m " " arrives at Harrisburg..... 5:40 p m " " Washington..... 7:45 p m " " Philadelphia..... 10:50 p m " " New York..... 12:45 p m

A through train. Daily. Mail leaves Pittsburgh..... 6:55 a m " " Altoona..... 11:25 p m " " arrives at Tyrone..... 1:30 p m " " Harrisburg..... 4:00 p m A local train. Daily.

Mail Express leaves Pittsburgh..... 1:00 p m " " Altoona..... 3:25 p m " " arrives at Tyrone..... 5:30 p m " " Harrisburg..... 8:05 p m A local train. Daily.

Phila. Express leaves Pittsburgh..... 4:30 p m " " Altoona..... 6:55 p m " " Tyrone..... 8:25 p m " " arrives at Philadelphia..... 11:25 a m " " New York..... 12:45 p m

Connects with branches at Greensburg, Latrobe, Blairsville Intersection. An Express train making a few local stops. WESTWARD. Daily.

Pacific Express leaves New York..... 8:00 p m " " Philadelphia..... 11:25 p m " " Washington..... 10:01 p m " " Baltimore..... 12:20 p m " " arrives at Harrisburg..... 2:55 a m " " Tyrone..... 5:40 p m " " Altoona..... 8:05 a m " " Pittsburgh..... 12:45 p m

Connects with branches at Tyrone, Blairsville Intersection, Latrobe, Greensburg. A local and through train. Daily.

Accommoda'n leaves Philadelphia..... 4:30 a m " " Harrisburg..... 8:15 a m " " arrives at Altoona..... 10:00 a m " " Pittsburgh..... 12:45 p m

Mail leaves Philadelphia..... 7:00 a m " " Harrisburg..... 11:20 a m " " Tyrone..... 12:50 p m " " arrives Altoona..... 3:30 p m " " Pittsburgh..... 8:20 p m

Connects with branches at Lewistown, Huntingdon, Belle Mills, Altoona, Cresson, Blairsville Intersection, (for Indiana Branch only) Latrobe. A local train. Daily.

Fast Line leaves New York..... 9:00 a m " " Philadelphia..... 11:50 a m " " Washington..... 10:50 a m " " Baltimore..... 12:45 a m " " arrives Harrisburg..... 7:10 p m " " Altoona..... 9:50 p m " " Pittsburgh..... 11:55 p m

Connects with branches at Lewistown, Huntingdon, Tyrone, Belle Mills, Altoona. A through train. BALD EAGLE VALLEY — PENNSYLVANIA Railroad Division, daily except Sunday.

Table with 4 columns: WESTWARD, EASTWARD, and time slots (p m a m). Lists routes like Lock Haven, Mill Hall, Altoona, etc.

LEWISBURG & TYRONE RAILROAD.

Bellefonte, Nittany & Lemont—Daily except Sunday. WESTWARD. EASTWARD. am pm am pm

LEWISBURG & TYRONE RAILROAD.

Additional trains leave Lewisburg at Montandon at 4:20 a.m., 9:58 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. turning leave Montandon for Lewisburg at 9:21 a.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

BELLEFONTE & BUFFALO RUN RAILROAD.

On and after Wednesday, August 1, 1888, trains will run as follows, leaving the Pennsylvania Railroad station.

JAS. SCOFIELD, HARNESSEY.

I have always on hand a fine stock of Whips, Lap and Buffalo Robes, Blankets, Fly-nets, and everything needed about horses. Spring Street, South of Allegheny E. GRAHAM & SON'S Shoe Store. A large stock of Boots, Shoes and Rubbers always on hand, and at surprisingly low prices. CUSTOM WORK TO ORDER. Allegheny Street.