

Local Department.

Soup is quoted at 5 cents a plate. Watch your hydrants and water pipes. The skating rink is being well patronized.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. No paper will be published from this office next week.

Skating on the Plating Mill dam was a rare treat to the boys on Saturday last. The hunting season is over and the number of deer killed was not as large as last year.

The wheel of time has almost completed another cycle and will have to write it '89. We give a full list of all the teachers and their addresses who are attending institute this week.

Our "devil" is brim full, not of tangle-ga-bob-a-la, but of merriment. Christmas is coming you know. G. R. Spigelmyer, purchased the Hoffer stock of goods and is busy disposing of same at auction and greatly reduced prices.

As a result of the High License act only 315 applications have been filed by Pottsville saloon keepers, against 800 last year. There are four hundred and thirty-seven applicants for deputy sheriff in Dauphin county, so says a Harrisburg paper.

Our "devil" says he will "galvanize" and wishes all the patrons of the DEMOCRAT a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The public schools of Portland, Northampton county, were closed last week owing to the many cases of diphtheria in the town.

A water main on High street opposite the Court House sprung a leak on Sunday afternoon and sent a pouring stream down the hill all day. J. Will Conley is smiling and happy, and everybody is offering congratulations—a little girl called on Sunday evening and has decided to stay.

In this issue we publish James Schofield's letter in reply to charges made against him during the recent campaign—it is interesting reading. The Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will meet at Shamokin, on March 20, 1889. Bishop Bowman will preside.

The smoke stack on the Kurtz roller flouring mills at Centre Hall, was blown down by the storm on Tuesday morning and will suspend operations for a few days. On Friday evening Dec. 21, the annual election of officers of the Son's of Veterans organization of Bellefonte will take place in their hall. The attendance of all members is requested.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

THE ATTENDANCE LARGER THAN FORMERLY.

The Forty Second Annual Gathering in Season.—Able Instructors Present.—What is Being Done.

The damp and misty atmosphere and threatening clouds were unpropitious on Monday morning for the opening exercises of the forty-second annual gathering of Centre county's army of teachers. Although the weather was unfavorable, at half past nine a. m., the trains came into Bellefonte packed and jammed with pedagogues.

That familiar and much spoken of character is also present—the school marm. They dropped in upon us like a besieging army and have taken the town by storm. Their smiling countenances, rosy cheeks and tawdry bewitching eyes are playing havoc with young and unsuspecting teachers, and the kid gloved "Dudes" of Bellefonte.

Monday forenoon was devoted to the preliminary work of institute. The registering of the members, collecting the regular assessments and issuing the certificates. County Superintendent D. M. Wolf was on hand early welcoming the teachers and arranging the programs.

On Monday afternoon at 1:30 institute was called to order; the Court House was completely filled. The Superintendent addressed the gathering in a short and appropriate talk to the teachers, welcoming them and inviting them to take an active part in the exercises.

The "Heart" was the subject of the next talk by Prof. Maltby, of Indiana Normal. He explained its structure, functions, circulation of the blood and other interesting data. "How to teach Arithmetic" was next taken up by Dr. Phillips, and he discussed his subject in such a clear and forcible manner that he held the attention of the large audience and every body was intensely interested.

At an early hour the room was packed to its utmost to hear Dr. Phillips' lecture entitled the "Story of the Heavens." This no doubt was one of the most interesting as well as instructive portions of institute. It would be useless to try to give an outline of the speaker's discourse in this brief sketch.

As a body, the Institute is composed of an intelligent class of teachers and are a credit to the county. Miss Minnie Hoy presides at the piano and is quite an accomplished musician. The attendance at the various sessions is unusually large.

One of the leading instructors at institute this week was Dr. G. M. Phillips, of West Chester State Normal. Dr. Phillips presides over one of the most flourishing normal schools in Pennsylvania, if not in the country. Over six hundred pupils are in attendance annually and it is increasing rapidly every year.

Dr. Wm. Frear, of State College attending institute on Monday and reports everything flourishing at that institution. (Continued on 4th page)

—Read the terms of subscription at the top of the page. —Spring Creek was on a tear this week on account of the heavy rains. —The report that John Sourbeck had rented the hotel at Coburn is without foundation.

—Linden Hall and Madisonburg are to have musical conventions in the near future. —The days are beginning to be longer again, the shortest of the season was on last Friday Dec. 21. —It is not necessary to remark that the weather is unpleasant, the streets muddy and everybody growling.

—"Science of Home" will be the subject of Will Carleton's lecture in the Court House next Friday evening Dec. 21. —Our "devil" this week was all "discombobulated" on account of too many school marm's in attendance at the teachers institute.

—John Powers Jr., left Wednesday evening for Williamsport to accept a position in a large shoe store in the Academy of Music building on fourth street. We are sorry to see John leave Bellefonte as he was one of the most popular young men of the town.

—The regular price of the CENTRE DEMOCRAT is \$1.50 per year; when paid in advance, at the beginning of the year \$1.00; and if not at the end of four years two dollars per year. We will stick to these terms without an exception and if you want the paper at \$1.00 per year you must pay in advance.

—Henry Emerick, of near Farmers Mills, is suffering from the effects of a sore toe, which has caused his leg to become swollen and inflamed, with danger of blood poisoning resulting therefrom. What makes the affliction all the more distressing is the condition of Mrs. Emerick who is said to be helpless from rheumatism.

—Deschner the gunsmith has the toys this year that attracts little folks. The front of his shop windows are continually surrounded by little folks, often blocking the sidewalk. He seems to have gotten the American idea when he made his selections.

—For several days past agents have been canvassing Fayette county, alleging to represent a wire fence company of Cincinnati. Farmers were solicited to buy the right of their township to sell the fence, for which they were to give \$125, payable when they sold \$500 worth of the fence.

—It beats all says the Reporter, how plenty foxes are getting since there is no premium on them. Penn township is swarming with them, two and three can be seen together in the daytime close to buildings. The hunters won't shoot any, if they can they want them to increase in numbers for they know that something must be done before long to get them out of the way, and as soon as they get \$1 again to shoot them they will.

—One of the finest displays for the holiday season is to be found in Joseph Bros., window. The display is designed for a mountain scene and is quite a success. A high cliff rises before you, covered with a dense forest of spruce, evergreen, mosses and ferns.

Holiday Excursions on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In accordance with a time-honored custom the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will for the Christmas and New Year holidays sell excursion tickets between all principal stations on its system at reduced rates. Holiday excursion tickets will be sold December 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th, and 31st, and January 1st, valid for return trip until January 3d, 1889.

The second section of a freight train that left Williamsport about 1 o'clock last Thursday morning on the Reading railroad ran into the first section near West Milton. The engineer, Wallace Nattress, of Shamokin, who, it is said, was asleep, was killed. The corner jury gave the following verdict: "That the engineer failed to do his duty on account of want of sleep and that the flagman should have taken more precaution."

Monograms worked on stockings is the latest craze among the Philadelphia society bells. A Record reporter got the following information from one of them: "Monograms are worked in the stockings in all colors and all kinds of materials," said she. "Where are they placed?" "Why, what a silly question! They are worked on the instep, of course, where they may be seen. They certainly would not be put on at the upper end of the stocking, where they would be hid."

At a meeting of the State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at Harrisburg last week, Secretary Thomas reported that twenty-six new granges were organized during the year and the membership increased over 3,000. There is a surplus of \$7,000 in the treasury. Leonard Rhone was elected master. Dr. Warren, of Chester, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, that State Grange recommends the preparation of memories for presentation to the legislature asking that a bounty of 25 cents each to be paid on English sparrows.

Since the death of Frank Eckley at Milesburg by being crushed under the wheels of a freight train steps have been taken to avoid as much as possible similar accidents in the future. We are told that orders have been issued from the head office of the Bald Eagle Valley R. R. to all employees to keep boys off all engines and freight trains. They are also ordered to arrest every boy who jumps a train and the company will take extra pains to see that their prosecution will follow.

The Greensburg Argus of the 16th inst., says: "A Flobert rifle will kill anyone as far off as that," said Frank Barry, who had been remonstrated with for pointing a rifle of that kind at George Callahan, who was hewing timber several rods distance from where Barry was shooting at a mark. "I'll show you," he continued. Before anyone could stop him he raised his gun and fired toward Barry. Barry threw up his hands and fell to the ground. The bullet had entered his right temple, and killed him instantly.

Professor Eldon says that in case the Montour House should be converted into a Normal School building nearly or altogether as many students can be accommodated as in the great building on the hill. They will have no chapel or society rooms, it is true, but they will have an assembly room and class rooms and can comfortably keep about one hundred boarders. He has great hopes that in a few weeks the new school home will be ready for the reception of students and that once more the work of education will be proceeding as usual.

Old Chief, one of the biggest and probably the most vicious elephant in captivity, has been guilty of so many homicides that his owners, the Robinson Brothers, of Cincinnati, have decided that he shall suffer the death penalty. Old Chief is 25 years old, weight 10,000 pounds and is worth over \$1 a pound. In 1870, at Charlotte, N. C., he killed his first keeper, John King, as brave an elephant driver as ever carried a "prod" by crushing him against a railway car.

Two years later, in the same manner, he killed George Sullivan, his second keeper. Many times he has crippled keepers for life, and it was like signing one's own death warrant to take charge of him. It has been suggested that he be executed by an electrical current, and the Robinson brothers have signified their willingness to have the experiment tried on Old Chief.

THEY STRETCHED HEMP.

LEAVES OUT OF THE HISTORY OF CENTRE COUNTY.

Daniel Byers Hanged in 1802 After the Rope Had Broken and a Mob Was Ready to Rescue Him—Execution of James Monks on January 25, 1819.

The impending murder trial in this county has revived an interest in the present generation for a knowledge of the occurrence three score and ten years ago, when Centre county first avenged the blood of a murdered victim by the meting out of capital punishment.

The first case of capital punishment was that of a slave, Daniel Byers, as "Negro Dan." he was more popularly called, who, in cold blood, murdered James Barrows, in what is now known as Spring township on the night of Oct. 15, 1802. In November of the same year he was tried for the same crime and the jury returned a verdict of "guilty and valued at two hundred and fourteen dollars," which valuation was paid his owner out of the county treasury.

On the 13th of December, or two days less than two months from the time he committed the murder "Negro Dan" was executed by James Duncan, Esq., then high sheriff. A large crowd had assembled to witness the first execution and a company of horsemen, under the command of Captain James Potter (General Potter 2d) was drawn up near the scaffold. With the first swing the rope broke and Dan fell to the ground unhurt.

Several knock-downs followed and the riot might have terminated seriously but for the forethought of William Petriken, who stepped up to Dan and patting him on the shoulder said, "Come now Dan you have always been a good boy, now go up and be hung like a man," which he did.

The case which excited the most public attention and which was remarkable because of its many peculiarities was that of the conviction and execution of James Monks for the murder of Reuben Guild. Monks was born in Potter township and at the time of the murder was about 24 years old. He was in well-to-do circumstances, was married and had two children and lived with his family on Marsh creek, in Howard township, this county. He was much respected and well thought of by everybody, who knew him.

On Sunday, the 16th day of November, 1817, he was returning on foot from somewhere in Clearfield county, when, on a lonely piece of road, he met Reuben Guild on horseback. The two were strangers but, as was the prevailing custom in those days, where they passed on the road they bade each other the time of day. In Monks' confession, written while under the sentence of death in the Centre county jail, he said, "I know not what came over me, but after passing the man I was suddenly seized with an uncontrollable impulse to kill him. The feeling to do the act was so strong that I was utterly unable to resist it, and so I turned around, took my gun off my shoulder and fired, the ball taking effect in the right side of the back and, coursing diagonally through the body, it came out just a little below the left breast."

The man dropped from his horse and Monks then went up to him when the only and last words of the man were, "my friend you have killed me." Fearing that he might not be dead, Monks beat him on the head with his tomahawk and then after stripping the body of its clothing dragged him into the woods to an upturned tree and there buried it under old leaves. The watch and pocket book of the dead man Monks put in his own pocket, donned the tell-tale coat—marked with the bullet hole in it, and then taking his gun, mounted Guild's horse and proceeded on his way.

When the murder was discovered Monks was at once suspected and arrested on suspicion, but by this time (several days after the murder) he had made away with all the articles taken from the dead man, and his conviction which followed was only upon strong circumstantial evidence. He was tried in the November term of court, 1818, before Hon. Charles Huston, president judge. The commonwealth was represented by Messrs. Etting, Bradford and Blanchard. Monks was defended by Messrs. Norris, Burnside and Potter, one of the ablest trios at the Centre county bar. During the trial, which was one of the most exciting then on record and which lasted almost three weeks, more than fifty witnesses were called. After the commonwealth had woven a chain of circumstantial evidence so close that escape for the prisoner seemed impossible, the defense suddenly changed their fighting front and put in a plea of insanity. At this late day that would probably have saved Monks, but in those times no such travesty of justice was to be tolerated, and that only hastened the verdict of the jury, which was "guilty," and on

the first day of December Judge Huston pronounced sentence: Saturday, January 23, 1819, was fixed as the day of execution. When the day arrived Bellefonte was filled with a crowd, who then looked upon a public execution very much as the average citizen would now look upon a panic. Monks was escorted to the gallows from the jail by a military company, the fife of which, by his request, played the plaintive air, "Mary's Dream," instead of the customary march, and there, at twenty-nine minutes past 1 o'clock, the last act in that terrible tragedy had been played. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," blood had been avenged by blood and the citizens, if not happy at the result, were at least satisfied and content.

But even to this day among the rural localities of this county "Mary's Dream" is a popular tune because it was played on that occasion, and "Monk's Confession," penned by himself, in verse, is recited at more than one fireside as a memento of the sad ending of that peculiar man as well as a warning to the young to shun his footsteps.

It may not be known, yet it is a fact, that the baby daughter, that then was, of the unfortunate man, is still living, now an old and decrepit woman, near the old homestead at Marsh Creek, where the little family lived in peace and happiness, when a home was blighted by a father's uncontrollable temper.

Typographical errors are made by the most careful of printers and when you occasionally find them in a paper don't be in a hurry to condemn the sheet. In some cases newspapers become famous for the scarcity of them while others gain a reputation for the great number. "About one hundred years ago a number of professors of the Edinburgh University attempted to publish a work which should be a perfect specimen of typographical accuracy. Every precaution was taken to secure the desired result. Six experienced proof readers were employed, who devoted hours to the reading of each page; and, after, it was posted up in the hall of the University with a notification that a reward of £50 would be paid to any person who would discover an error. Each page was suffered to remain two weeks in the place where it had been posted before the work was printed and the professors thought they had attained the object for which they had been striving. When the work was issued it was discovered that several errors had been committed, one of which was on the first line of the first page."

According to the time honored custom no paper will be issued from this office next week as all from the "scribe" on up to his satanic majesty, our devil, want the week off to enjoy ourselves like other mortals.

Doc. Geissinger, Arthur Taylor and Al. Dale, Esq., returned last Saturday from an extended deer hunt in the northern part of the county. They brought home as the result of the chase a fine doe knocked down by Arthur Taylor's unerring rifle. The boys were in the best of health from their sojourn in the woods.

BELLEFONTE MARKET.

Table listing market prices for various goods including wheat, corn, flour, and other commodities, with columns for item name and price.

A GOOD CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY THIS WINTER.—We want reliable men to sell our nursery stock (guaranteed first-class, true to name as ordered, and delivered in good, healthy condition. Salary a expenses—no commission, if preferred. Apply, (stating age) to W. L. McKAY, Geneva, N.Y.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.—Letters of administration on the estate of Robert Mann, late of Centre township, Centre county, Pa., having been duly granted by the county court to the undersigned, request all persons indebted to said estate to request all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same will present them duly authenticated, for settlement, to MICHAEL CHIFFER, Administrator, P. O. Address Romack, Pa.

CHARTER APPLICATION.—There is hereby given notice under the Act of Assembly of April 25th, 1874 and its supplement, an application to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be made on the 25th day of December, 1888 for the incorporation of the Pennsylvania Land and Iron Improvement Company to be organized, incorporated and chartered to explore, mine, improve, and sell the iron ore, coal, limestone and other minerals owned or to be acquired by the said company, with its principal offices at Bellefonte in the county of Centre.