

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFOONTE, PA., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1896.

VOL. 18. NO. 6.

DOWN IN "DIXIE LAND"

A Pleasant Trip of Two Weeks in Florida.

MANY INTERESTING SIGHTS.

A Brief Account of a Visit to the Sunny South—In the Land of Sunshine and Flowers—Balmey Breezes that Attract Northern Tourists—A Fine Climate—A Tropical Country—The People, Vegetation and Other Interesting Events.

On Thursday January 16th, a party of six from Bellefonte, comprising T. H. Harter and wife of the Gazette, George R. Meek and sister of the Watchman, Al. S. Garman and the editor of this paper left Bellefonte, en route for St. Augustine, Florida, to attend the National Editorial Association, which convened there January 21st and remained in session for several days. There were about twenty-four delegates from Pennsylvania and a proportionate number from every other state in the Union. The party included over four hundred newspaper men, with their wives or lady companions.

The eastern contingent rendezvoused at Washington, D. C., where they left by special Pullman train for the South on Friday evening, January 17th.

IN WINTER'S EMBRACE.
When we left home all nature was in the embrace of Winter's chill blasts. Our sparkling mountain streams were completely covered with a cloak of crystal ice, and the mercury stood near the zero point. Even at Washington, D. C., the north winds had frozen over the Potomac and thousands were out enjoying the rare sport of gliding over the glassy surface on skates and sleds. Soon after our start from the National Capital, our opportunity for sightseeing was cut short by the approach of dusk, and many interesting points were obscured by darkness. Richmond, Virginia, was reached late in the evening and but a short time was given for supper. Many of us longed to pay this historic spot a visit, which was the seat of the Confederate capital during the war, and around which many interesting scenes occurred during those perilous times. The call for "all aboard" deprived us of the opportunity.

DOWN IN "DIXIE LAND."
At early dawn, Saturday morning, every body was astir to get a glimpse of "Dixie Land." It found us several miles beyond the famous city of Charleston, on the Plant System railroad, heading for Savannah, Georgia. This line is located along the eastern section and not many miles from the coast. It passes through low, marshy, sandy soil covered with a dense growth of low ferns, marsh grass and pines. This was our first glimpse of "Dixie" and by no means inviting—but to the credit of the country it is their poorest territory, as fertile hills and rich soil are said to lie in the interior. The first thing to attract attention was the moss-like plant that seemed to cover the trunk, branches and foliage of most of the trees, and especially the pines. It hangs like drapery in folds, and festoons that at first sight is pleasing and gives an enchanted appearance to the forests. This growth was explained as a Spanish moss that thrives throughout the tropics, is an air plant gathering its entire sustenance from the atmosphere and grows more extensively as you go southward. For miles and miles it was the same—traveling through a vast strip of waste land, with here and there a fertile area on which rice is successfully cultivated, later in the season.

WOOD-BURNING LOCOMOTIVES.
Another interesting feature attracted attention and surprise to many of our party, at one of our stops. This entire railroad system, and it is one of the best in the South, uses wood-burning engines, as coal becomes too expensive and rich pine picas abound everywhere. Larger fire boxes are necessary and the firemen informed me that it required less labor to keep up steam than by shoveling coal. The only trouble being that the flues are frequently filled with the heavy, pitch soot, and must be cleaned oftener.

POVERTY AMONG THE NEGROES.
Traveling through this district one could not fail to become interested in another sad spectacle, at least to us, from the North. The wretched little hovels and pens, often less than ten by twelve feet, built out of old weather-beaten boards, a crude chimney at one end of the building or an old stove pipe protruding from the side, one-story high and the roof covered with old slabs, no windows, only a hole cut in the side with a shutter hanging on leather, and often not that to let in light or fresh air. These huts frequently appear in the forests, have an excuse of a fence enclosing a few feet of ground about it. There are hundreds of these scattered through this desolate district and therein lives a ne-

gro with wife and scores of pickaninies that defy enumeration, of all sizes and grotesque shapes, and have remnants of clothing on their bodies to hide their nakedness. This is a faithful description of the homes of hundreds of negroes in this country. They live in the midst of a vast desolate country, away from civilization, and yet equal in this miserable existence amid wretched and poverty they are apparently happy and content. In their hovels they have a home probably more dear to them than that of others who dwell in luxurious abodes enjoying the comforts that a higher civilization can furnish. These people secure employment in the woods, and work on farms and at very low wages. Their condition is indeed pitiable, and calls forth the sympathy of the more favored members of the human family. What can be done for them is a problem beyond the writers scope, and we pass on.

A TYPICAL SOUTHERN CITY.
A stop of several hours was made at Savannah. This is a typical Southern city originally founded by the Spaniards. It is filled with many quaint Spanish residences, and typical Southern buildings. It is a beautiful place, with fine drives, public fountains, waving palms, monuments, promiscuous among which is a large shaft erected to the memory of the Confederate dead. At this point we found a different climate. In contrast with the snow-capped mountains and ice-clad streams of our native state, we had so shortly left, here we found a balmy atmosphere. It was like a spring day. Magnolia and live oak trees were adorned in green foliage. In the public park the fountains played amidst a profusion of blooming Japonicas of choice colors and other flowers in great variety which lent a charm to the scene. It was Spring to them, in the middle of January. The graceful palmetto grows out doors here and adds to the picturesqueness of their streets and was a reminder that we were gradually entering a tropical country.

From this on, our trip during the afternoon was through waste districts, with an occasional town appearing along the route. Many of them partly deserted and now are the remnants of some shrewd real estate speculation. Saturday night we drew near to the "Suwanee River," down in Florida, made famous in verse and song. As the train passed over the stream all joined in singing the familiar air. This custom is generally observed. After a long and tedious journey all night and part of Sunday morning through mostly waste territory, we finally landed at our first destination, Tampa Bay hotel, on the south-west coast of Florida and a few miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

ON THE GULF COAST.
Tired of the long journey, more or less fatigued and covered with pine soot, we eagerly left our Pullman coaches for this famous hostelry, one of the finest in the land. Passing in the entrance, an attendant politely whispered in the men's ears "Cock fight this afternoon, for gentlemen only." This was awfully shocking to our good people, and especially on Sunday morning. In the hotel our feelings were somewhat allayed when another gentleman made it a point to present a card bearing an invitation to attend services in the Episcopal church that morning. This bit of rivalry in business was quite brisk, and it is not very hard to tell which drew the largest and most attentive audiences. You know you can attend services at any time in the North, but a cock fight is not so frequent. With this apology, the kind and indulgent reader must not take too much for granted.

AN ELABORATE HOTEL.
In regard to the Tampa Bay hotel a brief description is in order. The structure is designed in imitation of a Turkish Mosque or Mohammedan temple and is over 1200 feet in length. The glittering crescent tops the many domes and towers. The interior furnishings are gorgeous. Costly velvet carpets, rich tapestry, the finest walnut and mahogany furniture, rare bricabrac, pieces of furniture of great historic value gathered from the courts of Europe, master pieces of art in various forms are assembled in this vast structure, evidently regardless of expense and at a cost of over a million dollars. After traveling over miles of desolate country it seemed like a dream to be suddenly transported into a palace of such rare beauty. It was not expected and can not be appreciated until seen. The beautiful grounds, with many blooming flowers and rare tropical plants tastefully arranged, created a desire to remain permanently, but then the thought of having received a special rate of \$4 a day, quite a concession, had a necessary depressing effect. The wealthy classes from the North can afford these prices, desire the luxury of their own homes and are the ones who patronize such elaborate hotels and never care for the expense.

TAMPA, A PROSPEROUS CITY.
Tampa is an interesting town of re-

markable growth in the past ten years. It has the largest cigar factories in the country, employing many skilled workmen from Cuba. These men, it is said, contribute one-tenth of their earnings for the support of the Cuban insurrection. Interest in the struggle grows intense whenever a steamer arrives from that island.

The western contingent joined our party at Tampa, making in all over four hundred. On Monday, Mr. Plant placed the steamer Olivette at our disposal for an excursion down Tampa Bay to see the beach, gather shells and inspect one of the government's quarantine stations. An elaborate feast, including cigars, and other things, added to the enjoyment of the trip and to the latter part the Pennsylvanians devoted special attention.

ARRIVAL AT ST. AUGUSTINE.
The editorial party arrived at St. Augustine on the north-eastern coast of Florida on the 21st, after a long journey by night across the state. At this point the Editorial Convention held its sessions during three days, where many things of importance to the profession were discussed and other important matters acted upon. It was an interesting audience. Here were assembled from every state in the Union representatives of the press. Many men of note who are leaders in the world of thought and politics, some who with a drop of ink cause thousands to think. Then there was a fair sprinkling of rural journalists who maintain their dignity by appropriation—scissors and paste pot; and their existence by taking turnips and bacon on subscription, who also are worthy of notice.

Several long-haired individuals—freaks—from the wild-wooly West attracted due attention on account of their personal peculiarities and general unorthodox appearance. A few lady journalists of rather masculine bearing and manners were conspicuous. The howling silver advocates from the West were everywhere explaining how to pay a one-dollar debt with fifty cents—the gist and motive of their argument. To describe the body requires a more able and elaborate pen, sufficient to say, the convention was a notable assemblage in many respects.

A PENNSYLVANIAN HONORED.
At the conclusion of the convention honors were heaped upon Pennsylvania. There was a spirited contest from the start for the choice of President of the Association for the ensuing year. When the first ballot was taken it was our pleasure to find that Col. R. H. Thomas, Editor of the Farmers Friend, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and a prominent Granger, had a clear majority on first ballot over all, and was unanimously declared his choice. This is quite an honor conferred upon Mr. Thomas and one of which he is entirely worthy. Many of our readers in Centre county are personally acquainted with Mr. Thomas and join with us in extending congratulations.

A QUAIN OLD CITY.
It would be a mistake to pass by the city of St. Augustine without giving it special mention. This is a most interesting point and of rare historic value. It enjoys the reputation of being the oldest town in the United States. At this point Mendez landed in 1565. That deluded old Spanish cavalier Ponce De Leon also landed in 1512 with a large retinue in search of the Fountain of Youth that he might bathe in its limpid waters and be instantly endowed with immortal youth. The old fellow, after a long search, gave up the object of his journey and returned home sadder but the wiser, though still cherishing his visionary dreams. Among the points of historic interest are old Fort Marion, built by the Spaniards in 1756. It is a mammoth piece of masonry constructed out of coquina shell rock at a great cost. Many stories are told of this old structure, that are quite interesting but not authenticated. The old City Gates is all that remains of an extensive stone wall that had been constructed around the entire Spanish settlement to protect them from an invasion of the Indian or any other enemies. This remaining gateway is sacredly guarded by the authorities, and is visited by all tourists. St. Augustine has the claim of the oldest Catholic church and oldest residence in the United States. At least more than a half century before the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower and offered up their prayers for deliverance from oppression, devout priests passed through the old cathedrals and black-robed nuns dwelt within the convent walls at St. Augustine. In the public square are found the old Spanish slave market, Confederate monument, Spanish monument and a number of very old buildings of historic associations.

St. Augustine is a quaint old city. There are no industries about the place, except the gigantic hotels, for boarders during the winter months. The streets are narrow and without sidewalks or pavements. The old residences, with

overhanging balconies, usually surrounded by high walls enclosing beautiful flower gardens are in striking contrast with modern architecture and surroundings. Curio stores, with all forms of goods suitable for souvenirs prevail, and most of them are conducted by enterprising Yankies from the North. Most of the active business men in the city are from the North who get up and hustle.

A HOSPITABLE PEOPLE.
At this point you find the native population of Spanish decent. Often it is blended with the Caucasian and perchance occasionally with the Negro. At times you can not be sure what it is, or where it belongs. Our stay in this city was a very pleasant one. A formal reception and address of welcome were made before the opening session. A military ball, open air reception at Fort Marion by the ladies of the city, excursion to the ocean beach, an oyster roast, assembly by the citizens, banquet at the famous Ponce DeLeon, farewell reception on Thursday evening are mentioned to show the hospitality of these people. The city was ours. We enjoyed our stay and long to return.

MAGNIFICENT HOTELS.
The gigantic hotels at St. Augustine, the Ponce De Leon, Alcazar and Cordova, owned by Mr. Flagler, the Standard Oil magnate of many millions, are veritable palaces of Spanish-moresque design and without a doubt the finest in the land. The Ponce De Leon is a conception of splendid magnificence and extravagant beauty costing almost \$2,000,000. The frescoing in the elaborate dining room was done by famous artists, and at fabulous prices. In every department the same rich furnishings are carried out. The parlors with onyx fireplaces, rare tapestry, costly paintings, ceilings executed by artists of note are a dream of beauty. I will not attempt a description of this palace. Here the rates are \$7 per day and upwards and it is well patronized. The bridal chamber, the finest apartments in the house, can be had for \$1,000 per week. These gigantic hotels can accommodate several thousand guests and are open only for the winter season from January to April. The splendid climate at this point soon wedded our party to this beautiful old city, and all were loath to leave.

ALONG FLORIDA'S COAST.
On Saturday our party started on its journey south along the east coast line of Florida. At Daytona a short stop was made. This is a beautiful town of homes, principally owned by Northerners spending the winter season. But several years old, it has had a marvelous growth; building lots averaging one and two thousand dollars. The entire population seemed to be awaiting our arrival. Carriages and wagons were placed at our disposal, also bicycles for those who could ride. Daytona is proud of her twenty miles of fine road, like our asphalt pavements. These roads are made of ground oyster shells, and marl, a substance from the swamps nearby that soon packs and becomes hard as stone. Nearly everybody rides bicycles here and all the ladies, of good proportions, have adopted bloomers, for wheeling. This is no joke, but a fact.

Sunday was spent at Ormond on the Halifax, at one of Mr. Flagler's elaborate hotels. Sunday morning only forty were in attendance at worship and seventeen were of our editorial party—and eight of these were Pennsylvanians. Of twelve persons in the barroom at the same time, seven were from our own state, which always leads the procession.

OUR STAY AT PALM BEACH.
A long journey along the coast finally brought us to Palm Beach, in the southern part of Florida, where we remained several days at the Royal Poincianna, another elaborate hotel with a dining room capable of seating 800 guests at one time. This was over crowded last season and an additional hotel to accommodate 400 more was built for the overflow and the rates were \$5 per day and upwards. To our party a liberal concession was made. Before the east coast line was extended to southern Florida by Mr. Flagler this country was comparatively unknown. In the past few years there has been remarkable activity in building homes, winter resorts, opening up farm land for growing vegetables, pineapples and other tropical fruits.

Down at Palm Beach we found a warm climate and a more pronounced form of tropical growth. Here the cocoa nut trees grow in great profusion. Also found bananas growing on stalks about ten feet high. Among other fruits seen were coffee trees, pepper plants, rubber trees which exude a white fluid like nuclage by cutting the bark. Orange trees bearing the golden fruit were first seen at this point. Lemon trees, lime fruit, and many other rare forms of tropical vegetation grow luxuriantly in this climate.

The Pennsylvania delegation became the guests of Dr. Harry Stites, formerly of Harrisburg, at this place, who char-

JANUARY COURT PROCEEDINGS

List of Cases Disposed in the Quarter Sessions.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY

A Number of Civil Cases Disposed—The Second week of Court in Session—Important Cases on trial, etc.

In our last issue a complete summary of doings in court was given up to Thursday morning. The following is from that date, as compiled especially for our readers by S. D. Gettig, Esq.:

Com. vs. J. P. Sherlock, charge first count, forgery, second count, publishing and uttering a forged paper, knowing the same to be forged. Verdict on Thursday afternoon of guilty of the second count in the indictment.

Com. vs. John Bordeau, charge betrayal, prosecutrix, Lizzie Smith. Defendant plead guilty and received the usual sentence in such cases.

The first case on Thursday morning was, Com. vs. John Bowers, charge, first count, burglary; second count, larceny; third count receiving stolen goods knowing the same to be stolen; prosecutrix, A. R. Barr. This case was tried in the Oyer and Terminer, and was for robbing the Pa. R. R. station at Julian. Verdict guilty on first and second counts.

Com. vs. Calvin Fravel, Edward Fravel and Mary Wolf, charge, malicious mischief. Prosecutrix, N. W. Ream. These parties are being prosecuted for burning on Nov. 19th, the sawmill and stove mill belonging to Mr. Ream which he was then operating near Hublersburg, this county. Mrs. Wolf is a married woman, but was at the time of the fire, living with these two boys in a shanty near the burned mill and circumstances pointed to these defendants as the probable incendiaries.

The first case on Friday morning was Com. vs. Fravel et al., continued. The Com. entered a Nolle Proas as to Mrs. Wolf. Verdict not guilty and the county to pay the costs.

The next case called was H. A. Moore vs. Hannah Stull, plea assumpsit. The suit was brought to recover on a book account for medicine furnished to the defendant's husband and, for which the defendant had promised to pay. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$21.93.

J. W. Showalter vs. D. R. Thomas, plea assumpsit. This case was heard at a night session on Friday evening, and is brought to recover on an order for \$10. Verdict on Saturday morning, in favor of the defendant.

E. R. Holmes vs. T. Raymond Beyer, Edmund J. Haley, Robert D. Grier, Jacob E. Hall, John L. Harris, Nelson J. Kiefer, George B. Snyder, John E. Snyder, Milton E. McDonald, James G. Dunsmore and Charles Atherton, trading as the Manhattan Boarding Club, plea assumpsit. The case was continued on Saturday morning on the application of the plaintiff, at the cost of the plaintiff.

Hanover Shoe Company, use of D. R. Foreman vs. Jacob Smith, administrator of Jacob Miess, deceased, plea scire facias sur judgment No. 6 January 7, 1891. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$367.82.

P. B. Jordan, use of Henry Stover, vs. Jacob Smith administrators and etc., of Jacob Miess, plea scire facias sur judgment No. 187 April term 1893. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$217.97.

Jason Underwood vs. J. Willis Hoover and John C. Rumberger, plea assumpsit. Settled.

G. W. Campell vs. William Wolf plea assumpsit. Settled.

Elias Walk vs. Vinton Beckwith, plea assumpsit. Plaintiff suffered a voluntary non-suit.

Isaac M. Bernheim and Bernard Bernheim, trading as Bernheim Bros. vs. William Parker. The defendant confessed judgment in favor of the plaintiff's for \$204.58.

Overseers of the Poor of Bellefonte boro, vs. Overseers of the Poor of Spring twp., plea assumpsit. The defendants confessed judgment in favor of the plaintiff's for \$115.41.

Joseph Shaffer vs. Central R. R. Co., of Penna., plea assumpsit. Settled.

The boro of Millheim vs. J. H. Reif-snyder, plea assumpsit. Settled.

T. B. Buddinger vs. John Gunsalus, plea assumpsit. Settled.

Hannah E. Grove administratrix of etc., W. C. Grove, deceased, vs. D. P. Shope, who survives J. B. Shope, deceased. Plea assumpsit. Continued.

Harry Rupert vs. Samuel Hagan, plea assumpsit. Settled.

Paul Wursthoff, William Dewalt, and Walker Wursthoff, trading as Dewalt & Co., vs. William Parker, plea assumpsit. Defendant confessed judgment in favor of the plaintiff's for \$33.61.

Mary V. Hale and Ellen H. An-

draws, vs. W. R. Jenkin and Howard Lingle, trading as Jenkins & Lingle, plea assumpsit. Continued at the cost of the defendants.

The Grand Jury were discharged on Thursday noon after having made their report.

Other criminal cases on this weeks list and not already mentioned were disposed of as follows:

Com. vs. Lewis Plowman, charge betrayal, prosecutrix, Emma Davis. Recognizance forfeited and respited till next term.

Com. vs. Jonas From charge assault and threats, prosecutor, Henry Felmy. True bill.

Com. vs. Steward Decker, charge betrayal, prosecutrix, Ella M. Broom. True bill.

Com. vs. William Poorman, charge betrayal, prosecutrix, Mary M. McKinley. True bill.

Com. vs. James Dolan, charge betrayal, prosecutrix, Emma Wian. True bill.

Com. vs. E. G. Matts, charge false pretences, prosecutor, Levi Reese. True bill, and the case continued.

Com. vs. Jesse Dawson, charge assault and battery, prosecutor, Thomas Greeninger. Settled.

Com. vs. Harry Brown, charge malicious mischief, prosecutrix, Mary Brown. Settled.

Com. vs. George Davis, charge larceny, prosecutrix John Bowers. Bill ignored.

Com. vs. Harrison Ingram, charge larceny, prosecutor, J. P. Sebring. Bill ignored.

Com. vs. George Davis and John Bowers, charge larceny, prosecutor, A. R. Barr. Bill ignored.

All traverse jurors were discharged on Saturday noon.

On Saturday afternoon court convened at 1:30 and John Bowers convicted of robbing the P. R. R. station at Julian, was sentenced to the Reformatory at Huntingdon and to restore the stolen goods and pay costs of prosecution.

J. S. Bennett, who plead guilty to the charge of adultery was sentenced to pay the costs of prosecution, a fine of \$100 and undergo imprisonment in the county jail for nine months.

Court adjourned till Monday morning.

REPORT OF GRAND JURY.
To the Honorable, the Judges of the court Quarter Sessions in and for Centre County.

The grand inquest for the January sessions 1896, respectfully submit the following report of their deliberations: We have acted upon seventeen bills of indictment presented by the district attorney for our consideration. In fourteen of the indictments we have found true bills and the remaining three we have ignored. We have also acted on the petition from citizens of College township for a county bridge across Spring creek at Housers factory in above named township; said bridge was recommended by a divided jury.

At the request of the Court, we have visited the public buildings of the county and beg to say with reference thereto: The Court House offices and the jail were found in a neat condition, want of repairs are noticeable in several places and we recommend the following: Improved wash-bowls, closets and sewerage in jail and the removal of the fence around the jail park. We recommend a new roof for the Court House and repairs to the District Attorneys office, Arbitration room, Grand and Traverse Jury rooms.

We respectfully tender our thanks to the County, District Attorney, and other county officials for their courtesy and assistance during our deliberations. Bellefonte, Pa. S. E. TROV, Foreman, January 25th, 1896. Grand Jury discharged with the thanks of the Court.

SECOND WEEK.

Court convened on Monday morning.

W. F. Reeder, executor of etc., of Mary Gordon vs. Joseph Muffley, plea of assumpsit. Verdict for plaintiff of \$664.34.

Hezekiah Ewing vs. G. W. McWilliams, plea trespass. Settled.

Michael Canavan vs. O. L. Schoonover and Jacob Sanicroft, trespass; continued at cost of defendants.

Michael Canavan vs. O. L. Schoonover, trespass; continued at cost of def't.

W. J. McGowan, admr. of Martin McGowan, vs. Mary Donovan, assumpsit; continued.

W. S. Bigelow vs. the Overseers of the Poor of Philipsburg boro, plea assumpsit. Continued.

William P. Rishel and Rachie C. Ocker vs. the American Fire Insurance Co., of Philadelphia, plea assumpsit. This suit is brought to recover from the Insurance Co., for a house known as the toll house on the turnpike leading from Millheim to Brush Valley, which said house was insured by the defendant company. After the plaintiff's counsel their case defendants counsel made a motion for a compulsory non suit which was sustained by the court.

The first case on Tuesday morning was William A. Hartsock vs. W. F. Reeder, Anna Meyers, Joseph Meyers, John Meyers and James Meyers, plea ejectment. Mr. Reeder disclaimed ownership and the jury were sworn as against the other defendants. The suit is for a tract of land in Huston twp.

(Continued on 5th page.)