

CIRCULATION
OVER 1800.

The Centre Democrat.

WANTED
Correspondents to send
in the news—we will
publish it.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1897.

VOL. 19, NO. 19.

THOUSANDS ARE STARVING

Cubans are Pacified by Being Driven to Graves.

RAVAGES OF WEYLER'S TORCH

Terrible Picture of the Suffering of the Unfortunates on the Once Beautiful Isle—Peace is very Expensive.

The records of the State Department since McKinley became President bear witness to the awful condition to which a whole people, not 100 miles from our shores, has been reduced. American Consuls in various provinces of Cuba have reported the deaths of "concentrated" pacificos from hunger; they have appealed for food for these wretched folks; they have given accounts as officials far more startling than ever appeared in a newspaper. No notice so far has been taken of their reports. It is not alone on the broad ground of humanity that these Consuls appeal for aid. There are many American citizens among the starving concentrationists. There are at least 2000 of them among the 200,000 dying of want and misery.

Photographs taken of the wretchedness give a faint idea of the real suffering. It is only where the stories of the living skeletons come from their own lips that the condition to which Weyler's policy of concentration has reduced the farming population of the island can be realized. Pinar del Rio is the first Province that General Weyler announced pacified. That was five months ago. He has 30,000 soldiers in it to-day, and new forts are being built in various places.

There are only two industries left in the whole province—fort building and grave digging. The one occupies the wretched soldiers from Spain, the other keeps busy the fast-decreasing peasantry of the most fertile section of the ill-fated island. Its people were stunned, but not pacified. Their fighters are still in the hills and mountains. Their leader, Rivera, is a prisoner in the Cabanas, but the campfires of the rebels burn nightly from Guanajay to Cape San Antonio.

THE RAVAGE OF FIRE.

A stay of a few hours at any of the fortified towns stamps it on the memory forever. It is that the more complete the so-called pacification the greater the misery of the people. One picture of desolation follows another as station after station is passed, each one worse than the others as the train rolls further and further into the country. Not a house can be seen standing between stations. The walls are there, blackened by the fire that destroyed the once happy home of the pacifico.

His fields are laid waste—groves of banana trees cut by the machete to the ground, fields of sugar cane brown and rusty from the flames, acres of tobacco stamped into ruin by horse hoofs, potato patches dug up and trampled on—every living thing that could possibly give the agriculturist a mouthful of food or money to get it destroyed to the last leaf.

DESTROYING THE BREED.

This is the result of Weyler's policy of "destroying the breed." Having laid waste the fields and burned down the farmhouses, Weyler then ordered the farming population to go to the fortified towns to die.

It could still stay in the country and subsist, for it does not take long to build a serviceable hut of bark, and roots and vegetables grow quickly, with little cultivation. That would have defeated the object of the policy. The "breed" would live.

So the peaceful folks were driven to the towns. To their number were added hundreds of thousands of absolutely destitute men, women and children from the farms, from which no more food can be drawn.

And there they are, herded together in every city and village in Cuba, starving in huts, dying in the streets, naked, miserable and helpless. There are 200,000 of them actually famishing. Cowed by this last horror bestroven by their life-long oppressors these wretched people have no thought of fighting. They are faint, weak, crushed.

Weyler points to them and says: "There is no war here. These people are pacified."

CUBANS FIGHTING FOR VENGEANCE.

The fighting force of the Cubans in the hills and mountains is larger and more active than ever. It has been augmented by this policy of concentration. The Cuban has taken his machete and is with the army in the long grass, waiting to grasp a rifle as it slips from a dead companion's hands.

It may seem strange that the Cuban army or some resolute band does not attack these towns and blow up the forts. They do so when pressed to it by hunger. There is nothing to be gained otherwise. The Cubans could not hold a town for

any length of time. After they loot a few stores it would be folly to stay.

Weyler has control of all avenues of communication. He has not only put forts around all towns, but has dotted the country with them. Squads of guerrillas pass between towns daily and columns of regulars march occasionally from village to village. Large forces can be brought together if a fight is prolonged.

WHY NO BATTLES ARE FOUGHT.

It is only by ambushes, sudden dashes and short and sharp attacks that the Cubans can engage the foe with advantage. They are only 30,000 against 250,000. To fight a regular battle would be unwise. They might win it, but at great cost. It would be at best, however complete, a barren victory.

This explains why the rebels do no more brilliant fighting, why they seem to avoid the Spaniards, and on what the Spaniards base their contention that the Cuban army is only an aggregation of bandit bands, devoted to bushwhacking and afraid to meet them in a fair fight.

The Cuban soldiers cannot be starved out in their mountain camps. Their policy may only smack of war, but it is successful from their standpoint.

WAR OF THE UNCONQUERABLE.

The Cubans know that Spain must be driven from Cuba. There are evidences that this time is approaching. Peace with the Spaniards in control in the island is now impossible. No Spanish general with ten times Weyler's troops can establish it. His deeds of cruelty have rendered the task by arms hopeless.

Neither can the Cubans hope to conquer by the sword without outside help. Until Spain's treasury is drained or she awakes to the useless cost of it all, will the starving of thousands of peaceful people cease to be ground to death between forces, neither of which can conquer the other.

A Fish Story

A special from Bellefonte to the Public Ledger says: The luck which has attended the anglers in this county the past week most effectually bears out the predictions made from here prior to the opening of the season and repeated in the various catches since. Not less than 1,000 trout have been taken from the streams in this locality in the past six days, and of such fair size were they that a safe estimate on the weight of the number would place the aggregate at not less than from 150 to 175 pounds of trout. Pretty good for Centre county streams, when reports from almost every other part of the state are very discouraging.

Death at Lemont.

On Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Rosetta Grove, wife of the late Wm. Grove, dec'd, died at her home at Lemont, of heart disease. Deceased was a member of the Evangelical church of Lemont, and was a good Christian. She was 64 years, 3 months and 17 days old. She was buried at the Shiloh cemetery on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Her husband and five children have preceded her to the grave. There are left to mourn her loss six sons and one daughter, of which are the following: William, Nathan, James, Calvin, John, Howard and Annie, all which live in Centre county.

Moved Away.

The presses and printing material of the defunct Howard Horner were sold recently to a party in Lycoming county for about one-third its original cost. The outfit was shipped to the Eagles Mere summer resort where it will be used in publishing a paper during the summer season. Thus the Horner has passed into history. It was quite an interesting sheet while it lived.

A Mistake.

Articles have been published to the effect that at the burning of a house in Stone valley last week, several children perished. The building destroyed was the home of Mr. Sanford Robinson, but none of his family were unfortunate enough to lose their lives in the flames. Such a rumor reached here last week, but as there was no one to verify it, we did not publish the same.

Child's Singular Death.

At Williamsport last Thursday the infant child of Harry Blair met death in a singular manner. The child had been asleep in a baby carriage and had crawled through the slats in the rear of the couch. Its head caught in the slats and it strangled to death.

Golden Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Eisenhuth, of Millheim, celebrated their golden wedding at their home, May 11th, in the afternoon, and invited numerous friends to participate in the event.

—Regular \$6.50 boys' suits, we sell for \$5.00, and all wool at that. Ask to see them. PHILA. BRANCH.

AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE

The Earth Caves in While Plowing.

A FARMERS NARROW ESCAPE

Team of Horses and Plow Disappears—Rescued After Much Difficulty—Occurred in the Eastern Portion of Pennsylvania—Many Subterranean Caverns in That Valley.

The following story appeared in the Times on Monday, and is an interesting narrative. At this writing we can not verify it, only give it as it appeared:

On Wednesday of last week, while John Gilbert, of near Poe Mills, in the extreme eastern end of the county, was plowing ground for corn in a low lying field, the earth suddenly gave way and the team sank out of sight, dragging the plow with them. Gilbert narrowly escaped the same fate by hastily jumping back just as the earth crumbled beneath his feet. It was just about sundown when the accident occurred, Gilbert being on the last round, when he was going to stop work for the night.

The neigh of one of the horses spurred Gilbert to action and realizing that what could be done must be done quickly, he at once went for help and soon had a half dozen or more neighbors come to his assistance. Owing to the continual crumbling of the ground near the hole, it was unsafe to go close, and the rigging up of a windlass by which to descend for an investigation was slow as well as perilous work. In fact, it was nearly midnight when the job was done and Gilbert ready to descend. Cautiously the men at the windlass lowered the farmer into the hole, but to his surprise it was not as deep as at first supposed, being but a little over twenty-five feet, and there on a wide ledge of rock were found the team of horses and the plow. The latter had been torn loose from the team in the fall and lay to one side. Both animals were alive, though considerably cut up and bruised. To rig up a derrick of sufficient strength to raise the horses out of the hole took until morning, and it was 9 o'clock the next day when both animals were taken out apparently little the worse for the adventure, with the exception of cuts and bruises, which will heal up in a few days.

After his team had been rescued Gilbert explored the hole and found it to be a cavern about twenty feet across by fifteen wide. There were walls of silica and limestone rock on all sides as straight as if built up by a stonemason. The bottom also was a solid bed of stone, and at one side was a narrow drift or opening leading off in a westerly direction, the full length or extent of which could not be ascertained, but which probably led into another similar hole or cavern. From the small amount of earth and stone found in the hole, the covering of earth and rock could not have been more than two feet thick and this has been farmed over for the past twenty-five years.

This is the third accident of this kind which has happened in Centre county in the past six months. The first occurred just about eight miles east of Bellefonte last fall, when the horse of a farmer near Zion sank out of sight. The hole in this case was only about fifteen feet in depth and the animal was easily rescued. Just one week later, while G. B. Campbell, of Ferguson township, was plowing fallows, the ground gave way and one of his team of horses sank out of sight. In this case the horse fell thirty-five feet and was found dead on a bed of rocks at the bottom. The frequency of such accidents has set geologists to studying more closely the formation of the earth in this section of the State, and opinions hastily formed and expressed are in effect that the entire scope of valleys just west and adjacent to the Allegheny Mountains, and known to geologists as the limestone range, are literally honeycombed with holes and caverns of various size and depth. This condition has been occasioned by the numerous underground streams washing away the soft calcareous limestone and silica rock.

WAYS AND METHODS.

We do a strictly one-price business. Its the only honest way. Every article is marked at the lowest price consistent with honest quality. We guarantee everything we sell, as represented by our salesman. If you find any defect in what you buy from the Philadelphia Branch bring it back, and we'll refund your money cheerfully; ours is a permanent business. We want your confidence and your future patronage. We have adopted the principles of modern liberality, courtesy and absolute fairness in all our dealings. S. LEWIS.

—N. B.—A first class organ for \$55. Bring your cash. Prices to suit the times. Pianos \$200. ATKINS MUSIC STORE.

REPORT OF STATE COLLEGE.

A Schedule of State Appropriations Received.

Dr. George W. Atherton, president of the college, has addressed a lengthy letter to State Senator Perry A. Gibson, in a reply to a communication asking for information relative to the bearing of the State college and the state, the work of the institution and amount of appropriations received in the aggregate. Dr. Atherton defines very minutely the relations existing between the college and the state; the reasons and demands for a reorganization of the board of trustees, and gives as the total appropriations ever received from the state the following:

"Prior to 1857 the state appropriated \$30,000. In the past ten years the aggregate has been \$690,481.03, an average of \$69,000 a year of which sum \$553,000 has gone into permanent buildings and equipment, and \$56,000 into repairs and improvements, leaving a balance of \$83,000, or an average for the ten years of \$8,300 which had been appropriated for the maintenance of such branches not sufficiently provided for by the United States funds."

Death of Mrs. Eliza I. Curtin.

Mrs. Eliza I. Curtin, widow of the late Roland Curtin, a prominent iron manufacturer of his time, died at her home, corner of Allegheny and Howard streets, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. She suffered from a complication of diseases and has been confined to her bed for the past two years. Her extreme old age made her recovery an impossibility, and although she suffered much during her sickness she ended her life peacefully, and she breathed her last just as the church bells began to ring.

Deceased was born in Linden Hill, October 6th, 1814, and was therefore 82 years, 7 months and 3 days old. She was a daughter of John Irvin, one of the largest land owners in Penns Valley and a successful merchant.

She was married June 17th, 1834, to Roland Curtin, a member of the firm which operated the Eagle Iron Works at Roland, Centre county.

Andrew G. Curtin was also a member of this firm.

Mrs. Curtin was a sincere Christian lady, a member of the Presbyterian church for many years. By her kind patient ways she endeared herself to all who knew her and will be greatly missed by them.

She leaves to mourn her loss the following named children: Col. Austin Curtin, Superintendent of the Soldiers, Orphan's School at Chester Springs, Chester County, Pa., Gen. John Irvin, Jr., of Philadelphia, and James C. Curtin, of Bellefonte.

Mrs. Curtin was a sister of Gen. James Irvin, deceased, who during his life held a high position in country and state, and ran for Governor in 1844.

The only surviving member of her family is Mrs. Sarah Potter, widow of Capt. W. W. Potter, and mother of Geo. L. and John I. Potter, of Bellefonte.

The funeral will take place Thursday, May 11, at 3 p. m., from her late residence. Dr. Wm. Laurie will conduct the services. Interment in Union cemetery.—News.

Wanted Boys to Fire a Store.

Robert B. Hutchinson, proprietor of a large dry good establishment at Kipple, was fined \$50 and sent to jail for six months by the Blair county courts Tuesday for solicitation to commit arson.

He persuaded Frank Bowden and Frank Moore, two boys, to attempt to burn the store of Phesant & Wagner, his competitors. The boys were sent to the Huntingdon Reformatory. Hutchinson's case will be appealed to the Supreme court. His attorneys claim that solicitation is not an indictable offense in Pennsylvania.

Fire at Loganton.

The citizens of Loganton last Friday evening were startled by fire in the substantial log dwelling owned and occupied by Daniel Marks. The flames originated from a defective flue. A bucket brigade was formed, but before the flames were extinguished the upper portion of the house was destroyed and the lower story was so badly damaged as to be uninhabitable. Mr. Marks succeeded in getting all his household goods out. The loss is placed at \$700 or \$800; no insurance.

Special Election.

Next Saturday, May 15th, a special election will be held at State College to vote on two questions. The first is whether the citizens favor a bonded indebtedness of \$8000 to make improvements. For the erection of a public school building there will be a choice of two locations—Foster and Hamilton properties. Postmaster Kennedy was in town on Saturday to order ballots and arrange for the regular election outfit.

—Just unpacked new stock of spring and summer goods. Largest line ever opened by us. PHILA. BRANCH.

CONCLUSION OF COURT

Continued in Session Until Saturday Evening

IMPORTANT CASES TRIED

A Number of Cases Settled and Continued—A Verdict for Dr. Bright—His Case Attracted Much Attention—Expert Testimony.

In the case of G. W. McDonald vs. G. W. Hoover the jury retired at nine o'clock on Thursday morning after having been charged by the court, and returned with their verdict at 5:35 on Thursday afternoon, in favor of the plaintiff for \$1800.

Michael Nicklas vs. A. M. McClain and Isaac Thomas, trading and doing business as A. M. McClain & Co., plea assumpsit. Continued, special.

Luther Gaisewite, now for the use of A. Walter, cashier of the Millheim Banking Co., of Millheim, Pa., vs. The Iron City Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Pittsburg, Pa., plea assumpsit. Continued generally.

Alice Garbrick vs. J. B. Gentzell, plea trespass. Continued generally.

S. R. Shumacker vs. A. M. McClain and Isaac Thomas, trading and doing business as A. M. McClain & Co., plea assumpsit. Defendants confessed judgment in favor of the plaintiff for \$562.22, with stay of execution for one year.

John A. Logue and W. A. Hartscock, administrators, of etc., of Josephine Williams, deceased vs. William J. Kline, J. C. Henderson and George Kline, plea judgment opened. By agreement of counsel the jury were sworn only as to J. C. Henderson. This action is brought on a note executed and delivered to Mrs. Williams on February 21st, 1889 for \$200, which Mr. Henderson alleges he never signed. After hearing a portion of plaintiff's testimony it was discovered that the case was not ready for trial, whereupon the plaintiffs counsel moved the court to withdraw a jury and continue at the cost of the plaintiffs.

William J. Thompson vs. William Parker, W. I. Treaster and Roland Fye, plea ejectment. The jury was sworn only as to William Parker, and by agreement a verdict was rendered in favor of the plaintiff for ten acres and nine perches the land described in draft filed, subject to the defendants paying the plaintiff the sum of \$50 within two years and docket costs, when deed is to be delivered to the defendants for the land described.

John I. Thompson vs. The Graysdale Mining Co., Limited, plea assumpsit. Settled.

George E. French vs. D. M. Bilger, Charles Bilger, Allport Bilger, Mrs. C. E. Labord, Mrs. C. J. Calhoun, Mrs. F. C. Parker, Mrs. Irene McDermott, Mrs. A. G. Anderson and Mrs. Georgiana Parker, plea ejectment. The jury were sworn only as to D. M. Bilger, William Bilger, Charles Bilger, Allport Bilger and Georgiana Parker, the defendant's name not having been. This action is brought to eject defendants from a portion of a tract of land containing about 433 acres patented to Henry Witmer in 1793 by the Commonwealth located in Upper Bald Eagle Twp. in Mifflin county, but now in Rush township Centre county, and by successive conveyances the title is now in this plaintiff. The defendants claim title to a tract of land containing one hundred acres, a portion of which is on the aforementioned tract by prescriptive title, having the undisputed, open, and notorious possession of it for over twenty-one years. Verdict on Friday morning in favor of the defendants.

John A. Mann vs. George Dietz, Robert J. Mann, and James R. Fye, plea trespass. This plaintiff lived in the house of Mr. Dietz in Curtin township from sometime in August 1894 until the 8th day of April, 1895, when the defendants entered the house and set the goods of the plaintiff on the public road and in a shed, and this plaintiff now claims damages to his goods and the loss of the house to live in. These defendants were convicted at August sessions 1895 for forcible entry and detainer and shortly afterwards the defendant sued before Justice of the Peace Jonathan Schenck which suit was afterwards discontinued. Verdict in favor of the defendants.

Bridget Canavan, by her next friend Andrew Campbell vs. Michael Canavan, plea subpoena in divorce, stricken from the list and not to be put on again without leave of the court.

C. C. Bell vs. Emil Joseph, Sigmond Joseph and Herman Holtz, owners and contractors, plea scire facias sur mechanici lien. Continued generally.

C. L. Beck vs. Dr. J. W. Bright, plea trespass. This action was brought to recover damages from the defendant for negligence in removing plaintiff's right eye sometime during the month of May

1892. The plaintiff alleges that by reason of defendant's unskillfulness he is unable to get a glass eye to fit. From the evidence adduced it appears that this plaintiff had trouble with his right eye from the time that he was a boy three years old by pain and a gradual growing weaker, and finally in 1882 the eye became totally blind and it became necessary in 1892 to remove this eye to save the other eye, which was accordingly done. This case created more than usual interest, especially among physicians. Verdict for defendant on Saturday evening at 9:15, after the jury had been out about ten or fifteen minutes.

On Friday afternoon, after the jury in Beck-Bright were empanelled, all the other jurors for the second week of April court were discharged.

Court adjourned at 9:15 on Saturday evening.

Musical Normal.

The Spring Mills Musical Normal will open Monday May 17th and will continue six weeks. The latest developments and advanced ideas in methods of teaching piano, organ, violin, mandolin guitar and all stringed instruments, including voice culture, harmony and chorus drill, will be given. In addition to this there will be a singing class three evenings each week, when instructions will be given by note. The instructors are Prof. F. A. Newcomer, Milton Pa., a graduate of the American Normal, Napoleon Ohio, who has had years of experience in conducting Normals, musical conventions and singing classes and C. E. Zeigler, of Penn Hall, who is also an experienced teacher of music and thoroughly up-to-date in this work.

The Musical Normal at Spring Mills already promises to be largely attended. The Normal will be held in the Grange hall. For additional information, which is very cheerfully given by request, address John Smith, Spring Mills, Pa.

Sad Accident.

A little child named Sprout was drowned under very painful circumstances at Houtzdale last week. A large kettle filled with water was standing on the back porch, when the little toddler wandered out there alone, the rest of the family being in the house. Picking up a piece of soap the child began playing with it in the water. The soap soon slipped from its grasp to the bottom of the kettle and in reaching over to get it the little one's face was immersed in the water and a few minutes later it was discovered there dead. It had not lost its footing nor made any demonstration whatever to give warning of its impending fate. The grief of the bereaved parents over this distressing accident may well be imagined.

Happily Wedded.

A very pretty wedding took place at Lima, Ohio, Wednesday May 5, in which the contracting parties were Miss A. Rosamond McKibben, one of Bellefonte's model young ladies and Mr. F. Ainsworth Kale, a promising and well to do young lawyer, of the above place.

The ceremony took place at the home of the brides brother, Mr. C. W. McKibben, at Lima, Ohio. Immediately following the ceremony a splendid supper was served in five courses, after which the happy couple were driven to their future home.

Workmen Protest.

Word comes from Altoona that there is trouble among the Pennsylvania railroad track foremen. In conforming to the general rule for reducing expenses, orders have been issued that each track foreman shall dispense with one man and take up the pick and shovel himself. All along the line a vigorous kick has been accorded. A circular letter has been sent to the general manager of the company, signed by nearly every foreman, protesting against the order.

Another Grand Rally.

On Tuesday, May 25th, Messrs. Weaver, Weedon and Vandeventer will have another big rally at Hecla Park, similar to the one they held there last year. This will also be the opening of the park. Don't forget the date May 25th. All are cordially invited to attend.

Mr. C. E. Hurlburt Goes to Africa.

Mr. Chas. E. Hurlburt, of Philadelphia formerly of this place and at one time State Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Pennsylvania, has gone to Africa in the interest of a missionary work there.

—The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church will hold their monthly sociable at the residence of L. A. Shaeffer, East, Curtin street this Thursday evening. Ice cream, cake and coffee will be served. Music by the Imperial Mandolin and Guitar Club. All are cordially invited to be present. The coffee furnished for this occasion will be the Premium Java, a high grade article, sold at Meese's store, in Bellefonte.