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# The Centre Democrat.

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THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT  
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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1897.

VOL. 19. NO. 33.

## AUGUST TERM OF COURT

List of Cases Tried and Verdicts  
Rendered.

### ABUSE THEIR AGED FATHER

But Cannot be Punished—The Parent Denies  
Everything—Reprimanded by the Court  
—Proceedings to Wednesday Noon as Spec-  
ially Reported by S. D. Gettig, Esq., for our  
Readers.

The regular quarter sessions of the  
peace, in and for Centre county, convened  
on Monday morning, at nine o'clock,  
with Hon. John G. Love, president judge,  
on the bench.

The several members of the Bar pre-  
sented a number of petitions and motions,  
which were duly passed upon by the  
court.

The auditor appointed by the court to  
distribute the funds in the hands of the  
sheriff, arising from the sale of the real  
estate of Samuel Grove, a lunatic, in the  
hospital at Danville, filed his report  
with exceptions renewed.

The list of grand jurors was then called,  
and twenty, out of the twenty-four,  
answered to their names when called.  
J. M. Parker, merchant at Roland, in  
Boggs township, was chosen foreman,  
whereupon the court very ably defined  
the character of the several crimes,  
alleged in the several indictments likely  
to be laid before them in his charge,  
after which the jury retired to the grand-  
jury room to deliberate and pass upon  
the indictments to be laid before them by  
the District Attorney.

The constables of the several townships  
and boroughs of the county then made  
their quarterly reports to the court.

The following civil cases were then  
disposed of as follows:

Henry Kech vs. R. C. Gilliland, ad-  
ministrators et al., of Mathias Kech,  
late of Burnside township, deceased,  
plea scire facias sur judgment No. 133  
January term 1881. Verdict in favor of  
the plaintiff, for \$1666.70.

The Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce  
Creek R. Co., use of L. J. and H. H.  
Vandyke vs. John B. Musser, plea scire  
facias sur judgment No. 157 January  
term 1893. Settled.

Simon Sellers vs. Frank P. Blair, sole  
surviving heir of W. H. Blair, deceased,  
plea assumpsit. Continued.

Kern, Lauderbach & Co. vs. Louis  
Doll and George Doll, late trading as  
Louis Doll & Son, plea assumpsit.  
Settled.

At this juncture H. Y. Stitzer, Esq.,  
chairman of the committee on resolutions  
on the death of Ira C. Mitchell, a mem-  
ber of the Bar, presented the minutes  
and resolutions of the Centre County Bar  
Association. Remarks were made by  
Mr. Stitzer and Hon. A. O. Furst, and at  
eleven o'clock court adjourned until two  
o'clock in respect to the deceased.

At two o'clock court convened with  
Judges Love and Faulkner on the Bench,  
and the hearing of petitions and motions  
again taken up.

The sheriff gave notice of several re-  
turns to be read on Thursday afternoon  
at two o'clock.

The case of L. A. Schaeffer vs. J. H.  
Reifsnnyder, was continued at the costs  
of the defendant.

The list of commonwealth cases was  
then taken up.

Com. vs. John Guisewhite, charge: be-  
trayal, prosecutrix Mary Jane Hartman.  
The defendant pleaded guilty and the  
usual sentence at the hands of the court,  
in similar cases.

Com. vs. Allan Wagner, charge: be-  
trayal, prosecutrix Clara Shawley.  
Neither the defendant nor his bondsman  
R. S. Wagner appearing when this case  
was called, the recognizance was for-  
feited and directed to be sued out by the  
court.

Com. vs. Sarah Weaver, charge: as-  
sault and battery, prosecutor W. T.  
Patton. This prosecution grows out of  
M. T. Weaver and his family removing a  
temporary fence, the material of which  
was worth about fifteen cents, from a lot  
in the village of Port Matilda on the 22nd  
day of April last, used by the Weaver  
family by permission of the owner, but  
who sold it to J. H. Patton on the 21st  
day of April last. Verdict not guilty and  
W. T. Patton, J. H. Patton and R. A.  
Patton to pay the costs of prosecution.

Com. vs. George Haganamp, charge:  
two counts, first county larceny, second  
count receiving stolen goods knowing the  
same to have been stolen; prosecutor  
W. R. Haynes. This prosecution is for  
the taking of a case of Bartholomew Beer  
from the wholesale liquor store of the  
prosecutor, at Clarence, in Snow Shoe  
township, on the night of the 15th day of  
June last. Verdict on Tuesday morning  
of not guilty, and the prosecutor, W. R.  
Haynes, to pay the cost of prosecution.

Com. vs. William Harkins, indicted  
first count larceny, second count entering  
dwelling house in day time to commit a  
felony; prosecutor Jonas Auman. This

prosecution is for the taking of a foot  
rule, pocket book, and a pipe, all of the  
value of about \$2, from the house of the  
prosecutor in Penn township. The de-  
fendant pleaded guilty to the first count,  
and the commonwealth entered a nolle  
prosequi as to the second count.

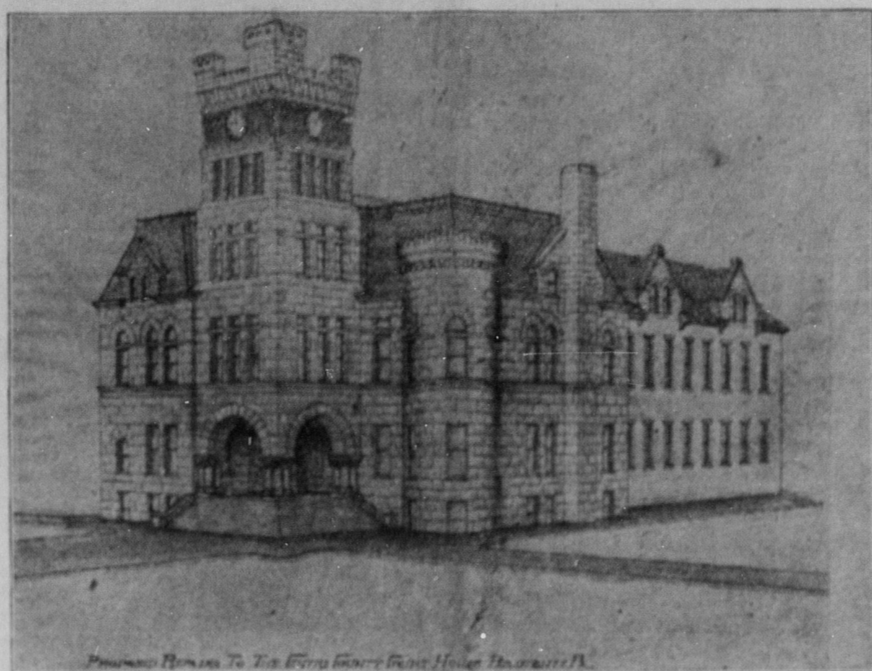
Com. vs. J. Lawrence Bathurst, indicted  
for malicious mischief, prosecutor H.  
R. Curtin. The defendant was prosecuted  
for cutting and removing timber  
trees from the Samuel Miles tract in  
Boggs township belonging to the Curtin  
estate. The question of title to the land  
arose, which question could not be tried  
in the Quarter Sessions. At the close of  
the evidence the Commonwealth suffered  
a voluntary nolle prosequi.

Com. vs. Amos Garbrick and Lawrence  
Gessner, indicted for cruelty to animals,  
prosecutor Frank Lockard. On Sunday  
afternoon the 25th day of July last,  
Mr. Garbrick was informed that there were  
some hogs in his corn, at or near the  
village of Coleville, a suburb of Belle-  
fonte, when he with several others pro-  
ceeded to put the hogs out, and by so  
doing, as the defendants allege, over-  
heated one of them, the property of Mr.  
Lockard, from the effects of which it  
died, but the Commonwealth alleges that  
the hog was abused by beating it with a  
stick and with stones. The hog was  
worth about \$5. Verdict, defendants not  
guilty and Amos Garbrick to pay three-  
fourths of the costs and the prosecutor,  
Frank Lockard, to pay one-fourth of the  
costs.

Com. vs. Joseph Sellers, indicted for  
malicious mischief, prosecutor Thomas  
Taylor. The defendant was prosecuted  
for cutting down the division fence be-  
tween the lots occupied by the prosecu-  
tor and the defendant, in the borough of  
Milesburg, on the 12th day of July last.  
Verdict, the defendant not guilty and  
divided the costs equally between the de-  
fendant and the prosecutor.

Com. vs. William Garner and Jeremiah  
Garner, charge surety of the peace,  
prosecutor Emmanuel Sunday, one of the  
Overseers of the Poor of Ferguson town-  
ship. The defendants are two bachelors,  
keeping "bachelors hall" at or near  
Rock Springs, and have living with them  
their father Henry Garner, and for some  
time that community was rife with  
rumors of the ill treatment that the sons  
were inflicting upon their father, and the  
father complained to a large number of  
the best citizens of the township of the  
abuse, neglect and ill-treatment he was  
receiving at the hands of his sons, when  
the citizens could no longer stand it and  
decided to take the matter in hands, and  
petitioned the Overseers of the township  
to cause an investigation by presenting to  
them a petition, bearing the names of  
fifty-three of the best citizens of the town-  
ship, when they consulted the proper  
officers of the county and this prosecution  
was instituted. The case was heard by  
the Court without a jury. John Gates  
testified that he saw Jeremiah Garner  
choke and kick his father in March last;  
Wesley Thomas heard Jeremiah cursing  
and swearing at his father in the house  
and heard him say that he would not  
stop much and blow his father's d-  
brains out. Mrs. Thomas was at the  
Garner house in June or July last and  
the father wanted to go to church and the  
boys objected to his going, and Jeremiah  
said, "don't go there" and "where I  
don't go, I don't want people that I  
board to go." John Dunlap, the constable  
who made the arrest, testified that  
Jeremiah said that they had "made a  
mistake in having the doctor called when  
he was sick." Claude B. Hess testified  
that these sons lived in the property be-  
longing to Henry Garner, and that Henry  
complained how his sons were abusing  
him, and that Jeremiah had choked him  
a number of times and hit him over the  
head with a board, and that the boys  
would wet his clothes and then make  
him put them on. Henry C. Campbell  
testified that Henry Garner was at his  
place during corn husking last year and  
that he was afraid to go home, and that  
he told him that the half had never been  
told of the abuse and neglect that the  
boys were inflicting upon him, and de-  
scribed how the boys would choke and  
kick him, and that Jeremiah would carry  
a revolver for a half a day at a time for  
him, and that he was afraid of them.  
The defendants denied all the charges of  
the commonwealth, and Henry Garner,  
the injured party, went upon the stand  
and denied all the charges in toto, and  
stated that he was not being abused was  
receiving all the attention from his sons  
that was required and that he was not  
afraid of them, and further stated that  
he had never complained to anyone about  
his sons, and if he had he couldn't remem-  
ber. This disposed of the case as the  
very party whom the citizens of that com-  
munity desired to protect, swore that he  
was not abused, which left nothing else  
for the Court to act upon, whereupon  
the Court discharged the defendants, af-  
ter reprimanding them and directed that  
the county pay the costs of prosecution.

The sentiment of those who heard the  
testimony was that these sons had been  
abusing their father shamefully.



The above is a fac simile of the proposed repairs for the present Court  
House, as prepared by Cole & Co., of Bellefonte. The portico and vestibule  
of the old building would be torn away and a white sandstone extension ad-  
ded to the front. This would be 35 feet to the round tower on the south corner  
and the clock tower in the centre would be 24 feet square and about 75 feet high.  
Estimate of cost, \$30,000. If the County Commissioners adopt these drawings,  
or any others for repairs, and same receive the approval of the Court, work  
on the building can be commenced at once.

## BEING TRIED FOR ARSON

The Trial of James Cornelly in  
Progress.

### SERIOUS CHARGES PREFERRED

Setting Fire to the Court House—Burning of  
the Electric Light Plant and Firing Rey-  
nolds Armory—An Interesting Case—The  
Public Greatly Interested—Is he Guilty?

Since the famous Andrew's murder  
trial there has not been as much in-  
terest shown in court over a trial  
as that which now centers on the trial  
of James Cornelly, charged with arson.  
For some time this community has suf-  
fered from the work of incendiarism,  
and the defendant was commonly accused  
by many as the offender. The frequency  
of fires caused prominent citizens, in  
conjunction with our county commissioners,  
to institute an investigation and Perkins  
detective agency of Pittsburg was em-  
ployed to assist in this work. The re-  
sult is James Cornelly was indicted for  
being the cause of the recent fires in the  
Court House, the burning of the Electric  
Light plant and the firing of the Armory.  
Owing to the defendant's irregular  
habits and intemperance, sentiment has  
been against him. He declares he is  
innocent and can prove the same. For



JAMES CORNELLY, the Defendant.

the trial probably no less than seventy  
witnesses have been summoned, many  
from a distance.

District Attorney Wm. J. Singer as-  
sisted by W. F. Reeder, the county solicitor,  
are conducting the prosecution. Ex-  
Judge A. O. Furst and H. S. Taylor are  
retained by Mr. Cornelly to defend him.

The court room was crowded to over-  
flowing at the beginning of the trial.  
Among them are many ladies of the town  
who are apparently much concerned in  
the case, and quite a number are wit-  
nesses. The following brief notes of the  
trial are furnished by S. D. Gettig, Esq.:

At 10.30 the case of Com. vs. James  
Cornelly, indicted for arson, prosecutor  
W. Fred Reynolds, was taken up. There  
is but one information, covering the fir-  
ing of the court house, Electric Light  
plant and the armory of Co. "B," and  
the District Attorney presented three dif-  
ferent indictments to the grand jury,  
which were passed upon by them, where-  
upon counsel for the defendant moved  
to compel the commonwealth to try all  
three of the indictments together, which  
question was deferred by the court until  
afternoon, and directed counsel to chal-  
lenge the jury, which was accordingly  
done, but were not sworn until after  
dinner. The following is the jury to de-  
cide the case:

B. D. Brisbin, huckster, Centre Hall;  
J. A. Confer, farmer, Boggs twp.; Dan-  
iel Drebelbis, farmer, Ferguson twp.;  
Alfred Jones, merchant, Phillipsburg;  
Thomas Moore, jeweler, Bellefonte;  
A. C. Musser, marble cutter, Millheim;  
William Robb, merchant, Curtin twp.;  
G. F. Small, agent, Miles twp.; P. D.  
Womelsdorf, civil engineer, Phillipsburg;  
William C. Wantz, farmer, Haines twp.;  
James Weiser, farmer, Worth twp.; A.  
P. Zerby, farmer, Penn twp.

The District Attorney elected to go to  
trial on the indictment for burning the  
Electric Light plant on the morning of  
April 7, and the indictment for attempt-  
ing to burn the armory on the night of  
the 21st day of May last, in the case  
against James Cornelly. At 2.20 opened  
the case to the jury in a sixteen minute  
address. The first witness called was  
P. C. Williams, superintendent, who  
testified as to the plan of the Electric  
Light station, contents of the building  
and where the fire seemed to have started.  
S. D. Ray, attorney and surveyor,  
testified as to certain distances from the  
Electric Light station and submitted his  
draft. Joseph Lose and Thomas Faxon,  
repairer and engineer, testified to prac-  
tically the same as Mr. Williams. Mr.  
Faxon said that the fire occurred shortly  
after twelve o'clock and Mr. Cornelly  
met Mr. Cornelly between the  
Humes house and the Spring street  
crossing, when they ran back to the fire  
and then back to the Steam Heat works;  
they heard the ladies talking, and that  
Mr. Cornelly had been with him in the  
Steam Heat works not over nine minutes  
before the whistle blew, then he was  
in his shirt sleeves and had on a pair of  
shoes and a cap. When he met Cornelly  
going to the fire he was in his shirt  
sleeves, and had on a cap and gum boots.  
That Mr. Cornelly and Paddy Toner oc-  
cupied the McKnight house. William  
Clark testified to practically the same as  
Mr. Cowher, and that he helped put out  
the fire at the armory on the 21st  
day of May, and that he did not see Mr.  
Cornelly at the armory fire, until he  
came with the second bucket of water,  
when Mr. Cornelly was there with a great  
many others. He found the glass broken  
in the door and some waste which  
had been ignited. William Barnes tes-  
tified as to the fire at the Electric Light  
plant. Court adjourned at six o'clock.

The above is an account of the trial,  
up to Thursday morning, the hour of  
going to press. Next issue will con-  
tain remainder of the trial.

### ADDITIONAL COURT NOTES.

Wednesday afternoon the first business  
of the Court was hearing motions and  
petitions.

Seven foreigners were naturalized.  
The Register offered the several ac-  
counts filed in his office in estates of  
wards and decedents for confirmation  
nisi.

The Prothonotary offered several ac-  
counts of trustees and committees in lu-  
nacy for confirmation.

Wednesday morning taken up in hear-  
ing petitions and motions.

J. M. Davis and John Parks, trading  
as Davis & Parks vs. G. W. Emigh, plea  
assumpsit. Suit brought to recover for  
boarding for two horses from August to  
November 1895. Verdict in favor of  
plaintiff for \$79.56.

### Clinton County Democrats.

The Clinton county Democratic con-  
vention, on Tuesday, nominated H. T.  
Jarrett, of Lock Haven for register and  
recorder; W. H. Bridgens, of Allison  
township, for jury commissioner; J. W.  
Smith, of Renovo, for county chairman;  
W. L. Allen, of Lock Haven; P. Kane,  
of Renovo, and H. G. Hanna, of Wood-  
ward township, delegates to the state  
convention. Resolutions endorsing the  
Chicago platform and eulogizing Bryan  
were adopted.

## IN A DEN OF RATTLESNAKES

Thrilling Experience Among Ven-  
omous Reptiles.

### FORTY SNAKES WERE KILLED

A Den of Rattlesnakes Found Near Snow Shoe  
—How they were Killed—An Experience  
that will not soon be Forgotten.

Snake stories, at this season of the  
year, are a common thing. It seems  
that some ambitious scribes take pride in  
constructing startling and unusual tales,  
in which there are no pretensions to fact  
or truth. Such is not our intention to  
write on this occasion. We only wish to  
relate one of the most thrilling adventures  
in a rattlesnake den, that has ever come  
to our attention. This week Messrs.  
Wm. R. Haynes and David Chambers,  
both of Snow Shoe, are in attendance at  
court, and while here they called and re-  
lated one of the most thrilling adventures  
among rattlers that can be imagined;  
and we give it as told:

John Oleson, a sweede, is a foreman  
on the Beech Creek railroad, at South  
Fork, four miles east of Snow Shoe.  
One day, last week, Mr. Oleson went out  
on the mountains to look about for black-  
berries. When about a half-mile from  
his place, he came to an abrupt rocky  
ledge, and standing on the point he looked  
down and there, basking in the sun-  
shine, on the loose flat rocks, lay seven  
large, sleek, shiny venomous reptiles, the  
bite of any one of which would mean  
sure death. They were genuine rattle  
snakes, sure. The sight startled him at  
first, but he collected himself and, by  
natural instinct, started down to kill  
them. At the first stroke he dispatched  
the largest. The noise startled the  
others and in a few seconds they disap-  
peared. But he became horrified again  
when from almost every nook and crevice  
there came the shrill piercing warn-  
ing that made the air ring—serpents  
seemed to be all around him, and under-  
neath every large stone. Then he real-  
ized that he was in a perilous situation—  
alone and in a den of deadly and most  
venomous reptiles. Cautiously he re-  
treated, and without any further danger.  
Mr. Oleson hastily returned home, and  
went to Snow Shoe and informed Mr.  
Haynes of his experience on the moun-  
tain. Haynes is an expert hunter and  
fisher, and the story naturally created  
in him a desire to have a rattlesnake  
hunt.

On Saturday Mr. Haynes and David  
Chambers started for South Fork. Here  
they were accompanied by Mr. Oleson  
and Geo. Harnish, of Clarence. They  
carried with them a gun and two crow-  
bars, also the usual rattle snake remedy  
in case any misfortune should befall  
them on the perilous expedition. Oleson  
led the way towards the stony point.  
Before they had advanced very far in  
their course they suddenly came to a  
halt, by the presence of rattlers about  
them. It was so sudden and unexpected  
that some of their hats raised on their  
heads from fright. By the use of the  
gun and the crow bars they quickly dis-  
patched nine large snakes, without mov-  
ing far from their tracks. No more to  
be found, they advanced to the rocky  
ledge. When they arrived there Mr.  
Oleson was surprised, for not a snake  
was to be seen where he had the thrill-  
ing experience the day previous. One  
of the party then threw a stone down  
on the loose shelving rocks below. The  
response came—there was music in the  
air. It was a din of high and low notes,  
that sounded as if hundreds of reptiles  
were in the ledge below. Having started  
out for a rattlesnake hunt they were not  
to be frightened. Cautiously they went  
down towards the den. Mr. Haynes  
went first and soon found work for his  
gun. The shiny skins of the reptiles  
were visible at different points in the  
loose shelving rock. Here and there he  
would pick them off with his unerring  
aim, while with every report of the gun  
the reptiles would keep up the serenade  
with increasing fury.

Among the loose flat stones many more  
were found. The men would turn them  
up with their iron bars and often two  
and three would dart out, and sometimes es-  
cape. After an hour's hard work and in-  
tense excitement the men concluded that  
they had had enough fun for a day. All  
about them lay the writhing bodies of the  
venomous reptiles, from which an odor  
arose that was indescribable, and truly  
was sickening.

As a trophy of the hunt, Mr. Harnish  
proceeded to pull a fine string of rattles  
from one of the largest snakes, that he  
supposed was dead. As he touched the  
tail the head of the serpent flew around  
and it almost succeeded in sinking its  
deadly fangs in his wrist. That was the  
only narrow escape any of the party had  
from being bitten. This serpent was  
about five feet long and had thirteen rat-

ties. In all they killed over forty snakes  
in this den, and many were large ones.

It is their opinion that many more are  
left there, as they would crawl away in  
the deep crevices, and underneath large  
stones, beyond reach.

About two years ago a party came  
across a den of snakes, in that vicinity,  
and succeeded in decapitating some thirty,  
and it likely was at this same point.  
Snakes are known to congregate in large  
numbers like this, and the man who ac-  
cidentally wanders into such a den will  
ever remember the warm reception given.

### STATE COLLEGE BARN BURNED.

The Large Building Was Destroyed Six  
Years Ago.

On Friday evening State College had  
another big fire. The large barn stand-  
ing on the western portion of the ground  
was burned to the ground with all its  
contents. At about 7 in the evening, one  
of the employees about the building dis-  
covered smoke coming from the hay  
mow. He at once closed the door to  
prevent a draft from increasing the  
flames. The alarm was quickly given for  
help and in a few moments all the im-  
plements were removed from the lower  
story; the floors of the large mow gave  
way, the timbers having been burned off,  
and revealed a great mass of fire. In a  
few minutes the entire building was  
doomed.

The building contained a large quanti-  
ty of hay and grain all of which was  
burned. This structure was compara-  
tively new, and equipped throughout in  
the latest and most improved manner.  
About six years ago the former building  
was destroyed by fire that started in the  
hay mow from spontaneous combustion.  
Since then this same building was afire  
from the same cause and its destruction  
was only prevented by the heroic work  
of the students. It is generally believed  
that spontaneous combustion was the  
origin of the last fire. The barn contain-  
ed an immense mow filled with hay, and  
the fire appears to have started in the  
bottom. The building was well insured.

### Death of Rev. John Dotterer.

Rev. John Dotterer, a member of West  
Susquehanna classis of the Reformed  
church, died Friday forenoon at his home  
near Clintondale, in Nittany valley,  
aged about 50 years. He is survived by  
his wife and six children. The funeral  
took place on Monday. Rev. J. M. Run-  
kel pastor of the Nittany Valley charge  
conducted the services, assisted by other  
ministers of West Susquehanna classes.  
Interment made in Mt. Bethel cemeter-  
y.

Rev. Dotterer was a graduate of Frank-  
lin and Marshall and afterwards was a  
student at the Theological Seminary, at  
Lancaster. He was an able scholar and  
was successful in the work of the minis-  
try. About six years ago he was com-  
pelled by ill health to retire from active  
work, to private life, and has since lived  
on a farm near Clintondale. His last  
active ministerial work was on the Reb-  
ersburg charge in Brush Valley.

### Prospecting for Gold.

For several weeks some of our citizens,  
together with parties from the valley,  
have been prospecting for gold in the  
Sugar Valley mountains and have met with  
considerable success, having found a great  
deal of metal bearing rich gold quartz.  
The exact place where the prospecting is  
going on is not known, and the men in-  
terested refuse to talk much, but aver  
that there is gold in abundance in the  
mountains roundabout.

This is not the first time that quartz has  
been found at this place, but whether the  
gentlemen now engaged in the work will  
find it in paying quantities is yet to be  
learned. It is hoped, however, that they  
will be rewarded for their labors.—Mill-  
hall Times.

### One of the Best.

The Phillipsburg Journal has the fol-  
lowing to say of the Undine band: The  
band is one of the very best in Central  
Pennsylvania, being composed of very  
clever young men, and their music was  
very greatly appreciated. The band is  
composed exclusively of members of the  
Undine Fire Co., and with the additional  
members of the latter organization, num-  
bered about fifty.

### Philip Flory.

Philip Flory, a resident on the moun-  
tain west of Centre Hall, died on last  
Friday night 11th at his home rather un-  
expectedly, and had been in that place  
the day previous to his death, but had  
not been in the best of health for some  
time. His age was about 65 years.

### Death of a Child.

Mr. and Mrs. William Mitterling, of  
Tusseyville, are mourning the death of  
their little daughter, the baby. The  
funeral will be at ten o'clock Friday  
morning.

—Boy's suits for school or dress wear.  
New goods just opened at Faubles. It  
will pay you to see them.