

# The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 30.

## GROWING RESTLESS AT CHICKAMAUGA

Company B are Anxious to Leave That Camp

### WHAT THE BOYS ARE DOING

Some of the Sick are Improving—No Prospects of Being Called to the Front—Captain Taylor has Returned—Letter From S. D. Gettig, Esq.

CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS,  
CHICKAMAUGA PARK,

July 31, 1898.

Editor Kurtz:—We are here yet, and with no immediate prospects of getting away. Last week everything looked favorable to our leaving for Porto Rico, but here we are and possibly will be until the close of the war, since the Don has seen fit to sue for peace. We seem doomed to stay here for a while longer at least. It might not seem so fit some were we in a different part of the Park, but we are away from the railroad, nearly four miles, and very seldom see any of the numerous visitors. It is the humdrum daily camp life and drill, and nothing for a change, and then again the Fifth regiment is located, as has been frequently stated in the daily papers, in low ground and when it rains the water all comes down on us, and naturally makes the place unhealthy. The Colonel has several times asked for a different location in the Park, and we believe that the officers have done all they can to have the regiment moved to a more healthful location. When the prospects looked bright for going to the front, the expected movement was hailed with joy. But with all this, this regiment has had less typhoid and malaria fever cases than have the neighboring regiments, and should peace be declared, as it now looks, we will stand it and return home, perhaps the better for our military experience. But we want to go to the front, the purpose for which we enlisted, or be sent home.

Elmer C. Sheriff, who had been detailed to regimental hospital sometime ago, has been detailed to division hospital, but expects to be sent back to regimental again, and the possibilities are that he together with Thomas M. Sherlock will be appointed the additional hospital stewards as we have but one hospital steward now and are entitled to three. This would take two hospital stewards from Company B. Privates H. Linn Taylor and George W. Cadwalader have been detailed to the regimental hospital as nurses.

On Wednesday last the nine regiments composing the Third Division rifle range, which resulted in favor of the Eighth Massachusetts. The Fifth Pennsylvania secured fourth place in the list.

Each regiment had a team of twelve men. The following are from our company: Samuel P. Bathurst and Philip F. Garbrick.

On Thursday and Saturday afternoons the entire division was marched out to tower No. 2 where line of battle was formed, and on Saturday afternoon fought an imaginary enemy through the woods to the Alexander road. The round trip makes a march of about eight miles. On Wednesday the Fifth Illinois regiment was ordered to Ross-ville to board cars for the sea coast, and after having most of their accoutrements loaded, the orders came to move back to camp. A more disgusted lot of men you never saw, but they are trying to make the best out of it. I understand the Third Kentucky was ordered to the front instead.

Capt. Taylor came back to camp on Friday afternoon and is now in command of the company.

Company B's sick are getting along about as well as can be expected. Corporals Rothrock and Taylor, who have been in the division hospital with typhoid fever are getting along nicely and both are on light duty. Sergeant Garis and private Noll have both been taken to the division hospital since my last letter, both with typhoid symptoms, but Sergeant Garis I do not think has typhoid fever but more of an intermittent fever. Noll appears to have typhoid fever, but not fully developed. Private Rittenhouse is in the regimental hospital with malaria. All of the boys are receiving the best attention possible under the circumstances. Both the division and regimental hospitals are over crowded, but friends at home can rest assured that everything possible will be done for the men. First Sergeant Garbrick has been complaining for several days with a sprained ankle, but is on duty every day. Phil. would not give up. Privates Gardner, Heaton, Shoup and Ebock, who have been complaining the past week, are all on duty again. Private Meiss, who has a very sore arm from vaccination, is on light duty now, so are Privates Jackson and Poorman and Cor-

poral Ryan, and will all report for duty in a few days.

This morning (Sunday) was inspection review and muster of the regiment in the Kelly field, which took about two hours. The paymaster is expected to-morrow or Tuesday and he will have the necessary to make the boys happy for the month of July.

Private Curtin is raising a mustach and says his best girl will not know him when he returns.

S. D. GETTIG.

### Prisoners Released.

On June 25th Steve Pacorski, a Hungarian, was found dead along the road near Snow Shoe. A deep gash alongside the head indicated that he had been struck a severe blow that severed the vertebrae. That evening he had been to a picnic in company with his wife. On their way home she last saw her husband alive coming after, in company with four other of his countrymen—And. Podolok, John Podolok, Steve Ferok and Steve Menorik, who soon after were committed to prison on suspicion of having committed the crime.

On Monday they were given a hearing before Judge Love. A number of witnesses were present, but no testimony was adduced to implicate any of them in the deed and they were discharged. Very few of them could understand English and David Chambers acted as interpreter.

### Death of Joseph Page.

Joseph Page, son of Reuben Page, of Linden Hall, died at his home in that place Tuesday morning. He was twenty-eight years of age on the 3rd of last March. Deceased was a miller by trade and up until the time he was taken sick about two months ago worked for Gerberich, Hale & Co., of this place.

The following brothers and sisters survive him: John, of Rebersburg; George, of Eagleville; Joshua, at home; Mrs. Wireman T. Noll, of Coleville; Mrs. David Barlett, of Bellefonte; Mrs. Minnie Stover and Mrs. Linn Harshbarger both of Linden Hall. Interment at Linden Hall this Thursday.

### Bars Burned.

On Monday afternoon a large bank barn, on the Curtin farm, near the old forge at Roland, was destroyed by fire. When first discovered a great volume of smoke and fire burst from the roof and its entire destruction followed in short order. The contents of the building were owned by Andrew Glenn, the farmer. The mows were filled with hay and grain. One horse and several hogs were burned.

The building and contents were covered by \$3500 insurance. Cause of the fire unknown.

### Don't Patronize This Scheme.

If you read an advertisement to the effect that a certain firm in some distant city will sell you an elegant tinted engraving of the battleship Maine for one dollar—said engraving approved by the United States government—don't bite. They will send you a two-cent revenue stamp, and you'll have no one but yourself to blame for your stupidity.

### Aged Couple Wed.

Joseph Eckles, aged 76 years, of Woodward township, Clearfield county, grew tired of single loneliness last week, and, as the marriage license docket shows, has taken unto himself a wife in the person of Mrs. Margaret Davis, of Houtzdale, who has only seen the summers and winters of three score years.

### She Was Complimentary.

A. Boliver woman, after burying her seventh husband, erected a monument to the whole lot. It consisted of a marble band with the index finger pointing to the sky, and on the base, instead of names, dates etc., were the words "Seven Up"—Somerville Journal.

### One Third Goes to the Railroads.

The railroads receive eight cents per pound for carrying the mail, while the express companies get their shipment carried for one cent. One-third of the postal receipts, and more—\$30,000,000 go to the railroads for hauling the mails.

### Cannot be Used for Postage.

Many people are under the impression that a two-cent revenue stamp will carry a letter. This is a mistaken idea. A number of letters are now held at different postoffices because they are stamped with revenue stamps.

### Campmeeting Opened.

The campmeeting at Pine opened last evening. Presiding Elder Crumbling delivered the sermon. Over fifty tents are occupied, and judging by the interest manifested the meeting will be a success.

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## PORTO RICO ITS RESOURCES

The Island Which Will Become Our Possession.

### DENSELY POPULATED ISLAND

It is Smaller Than Connecticut—Exceedingly Fertile—Coffee, Tobacco, Cotton and Rice the Staple Products—Few Wild Animals or Birds—Value of Imports.

The island of Porto Rico, about to be occupied by United States troops, is one of Spain's fairest colonial possessions, and, notwithstanding the illiberal rule of Spain, it has enjoyed more tranquility and therefore more prosperity than Cuba or the Philippines. It includes one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The form of the island is described as an irregular parallelogram, 108 miles long and 38 miles broad. It contains 3,530 square miles. Its superficial area is greater than that of the state of Delaware, and less than that of the state of Connecticut. The population of Porto Rico is estimated at 1,100,000, or about 67,000 greater than that of Connecticut, at the last census.

The northern coast has a regular outline on the maps, but is said to be rugged and inhospitable, presenting few good harbors. Notwithstanding the fact that Porto Rico was one of the discoveries of Columbus, the surprising statement is made in a current descriptive publication, that the coasts of the island are not well known, and that the existing charts of Porto Rican waters are not complete. The picturesque features of the Porto Rican landscape are very numerous, the forest-clad mountain ranges, culminating in the peak of El Yunque, 5,700 feet high; the extremely fertile valleys and frequent villages and farmsteads.

Porto Rico has 470 miles of telegraph and 137 miles of railway, with 170 miles of railway under construction. The roads and bridges have been neglected, for the reason that the revenues have been used for the most part to assist in suppressing insurrections in Cuba. The government in recent years has given some attention to the improvements of internal communication, but in several of the departments primitive conditions still exist.

The climate of the country is warm, but not so enervating as that of the other Antilles. The temperature rarely rises above 97 degrees Fahrenheit, in the shade, while the temperature at night is not above 70 degrees. Along the coast the climate resembles that of Cuba, but at certain places in the interior the climate is as cool as that of much higher latitudes. The island, like all other tropical regions, is subjected to hurricanes, some of which have been very destructive. All the valuable woods and tropical fruits grow here luxuriantly, as well as the staple products of tropical agriculture, sugarcane, coffee, tobacco, cotton and rice. It is said that the yield of sugar per acre is greater than in any other West India island. It is noted as circumstance that very few wild animals, birds or flowers are to be found in Porto Rico. Agricultural operations are conducted by the natives, but by far the greater portion of the commerce and business of the country is in the hands of foreigners and natives of Spain.

In 1896 the value of the importations from all foreign countries into Porto Rico was \$18,945,793, and the total exports of the island were valued at \$17,295,525. It is estimated that about one-eighth of the imports into the island come from the United States. Porto Rican importations into the United States last year were of the value of \$2,181,024. In 1893 they were of the value of \$4,008,623. In 1897 the United States exported to Porto Rico \$1,964,850 worth of goods. The exhibit of the trade between Philadelphia and the island for five years past, reported by Collector of the Port Thomas, shows that the importations into Philadelphia from that quarter have fallen from the value of \$159,156 in 1895, to \$70,089 in 1897. But the exports from Philadelphia to Porto Rico have been increasing every year since 1893. In that year the value was \$16,058. In 1897 it was \$75,518. The leading articles of export from Philadelphia to Porto Rico in 1897 were bituminous coal, crude petroleum and locomotives.

### Tyrene Booming.

James C. Watts, of New York, and his partner are making arrangements to operate a corn-cob pipe factory in Tyrene. Machinery capable of turning out ten thousand pipes a day will be placed in the building. The only concession asked for the town is that the rent of the building for the first year be paid.

### Married.

Married at Rebersburg, Pa., on July 28, 1898, by W. J. Carlin, J. P., Wm. C. Wolfe, of Loganton, Clinton county, and Sadie S. Ziegler, of Wolfs Store, Centre county.

### BIG FIRE AT MILL HALL.

The borough of Mill Hall had another big fire last Thursday night, and but for the assistance rendered by the fire department of Lock Haven, the greater portion of the town would be in ashes to-day.

The fire started at the hardware store of Mann & Company shortly before ten o'clock in the evening, and the flames spread so rapidly that the adjoining buildings were soon on fire.

The bucket brigade worked heroically, but it soon became evident that the fire was beyond control and Lock Haven was asked to send assistance. The firemen from Lock Haven began operations as quickly as possible, and in half an hour from the time the first stream was turned on the fire was under control.

The buildings burned were the store room occupied by Mann & Co., hardware dealers, and Pleasant Valley Castle, K. G. E. No. 307, owned by Mrs. Laura M. Cole, of Washington, D. C.; frame tenement flat occupied by S. A. Wilt, C. E. Greninger, John Hall, John Peters and John Crispin, also owned by Mrs. Cole; stone building occupied by Wesley Crispin and L. S. Frazier, owned by Robert Mann; stone building occupied by George Barrett and John Murray.

The loss will be from \$20,000 to \$25,000. None of the territory burned over by the great conflagration of July 10th, 1894, was embraced in the burned district of Thursday night's fire. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

Among the buildings destroyed were two stone houses which were among the oldest buildings in that town. The one owned by George Barrett was erected in 1806 by Nathan Harvey. The stone house on the west side of the street owned by Robert Mann was built about the same time for a dwelling house. The Barrett house was erected as a store house for the grist mill which was built in 1894.

In reference to the origin of the fire the theory is advanced that it was due to spontaneous combustion in the oil room of the hardware store.

### The New Bankruptcy Law.

The new bankruptcy law is causing a stir among the attorneys in various parts of the state. Copies of the law are greatly in demand, and it is estimated that there are 500,000 people in this country who have failed since the old law was repealed in 1878 that now propose seeking the privileges of the recent enactment.

An insolvent man may file his petition in bankruptcy in the United States District court after August 2, and one month later he can apply for his discharge. The judge will then have a hearing in court and the bankrupt will be released unless exception shall be filed to his discharge, either on the ground that he has committed some offense punishable by imprisonment under the act, or has destroyed or failed to keep his book accounts.

### Death at State College.

On Saturday morning, July 30th, Chas. J. Rothrock, of Philipsburg, died at State College while on a visit to friends in that place. He had been ill for over a year with diabetes and was being treated by Dr. Glenn, of State College.

Deceased was born in Philipsburg and was 43 years old. He was a carpenter and contractor by trade. He is survived by his wife who is a daughter of Wm. Hess, of Philipsburg, and by one daughter, Eva. The remains were taken to Philipsburg last Saturday by Mr. Frank Hess.

### Ancient Fruit.

Dr. Hubler and wife, of Tylersville, have a number of apples which they have kept in a perfect state of preservation from one to two years. One variety was picked from the tree in the fall of 1896, and the other a larger variety, in 1897, all of which are in as perfect a state of preservation as though picked from the tree yesterday.

### Must Refund.

The borough of Lansford has for several years been collecting a tax from farmers who sell their produce in that town. In a test case Judge Craig, of Mauch Chunk, has decided that the collections were without warrant, and many hundreds of dollars will have to be refunded to the farmers from whom the money was taken.

### For What They Will Fight.

An authority says: A Russian will fight for empire, a Turk for faith, a Dutchman for pay, a Spaniard for jealousy, an Italian for revenge, a German for home, a Frenchman for glory, a Swiss for liberty, a Scotchman for kin, an Englishman for trade, an Irishman for a Yankee for peace, and—a fool for nothing.

## SPAIN IS HESITATING

She Has Enough, But Don't Like The Terms.

### THE WAR PRACTICALLY OVER

The Spanish Authorities are Hesitating on the Terms While Miles is on a Triumphant March Through Porto Rico—Royally Received Everywhere—Spanish Honor Satisfied at Last.

It is safe to say that the Spanish war is practically ended. Spain is suing for peace, but does not like the terms.

During the past week very little has been done by either the army or navy. Gen. Miles and his army, in Porto Rico, have been attracting some attention. Their arrival upon the island has been hailed with rejoicing by the natives, who see the day of deliverance at hand from their cruel oppressor. Many cities in Porto Rico have taken down the Spanish flag and hoisted the stars and stripes without any resistance. All the Spanish soldiers have centered at San Juan, and it is not likely that any engagement will take place, as peace may be declared before Gen. Miles' invading army reaches that point.

Active negotiations are now in progress. Our terms of peace seem severe to the Don, but they sooner or later will come to time.

The royal receptions extended to Gen. Miles' invading army in Porto Rico plainly shows the temper of her colonies. She now is reaping her just rewards.

The war news of the past week will be found on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.

### SPAIN DISPOSED TO HAGGLE

Her French Representative Seeks Another Conference.

Washington, D. C., August 3.—Spain's acceptance of the terms of peace laid down by President McKinley has not yet been officially communicated although it is said that President McKinley feels confident that he will receive such communication.

Secretary of State Day, in emerging from the White House, simply said that to-day's conference was inconclusive.

From this it is gathered that the long-expected answer of the Spanish Government to the President's note, upon being received, had turned out to be just as it was expected, either a counter-proposition or a request for a fuller statement in detail upon some of the heads of the President's note.

Meantime, in consonance with the declared purpose of the President at the beginning of the overtures, this conference is not operating to restrain military operations in any degree.

### THREE MONTHS BEFORE PEACE.

On the assumption that peace is, near at hand, some attention is being given to the steps by which this may be brought about formally, and the measures necessary. Three months may pass before peace is formally declared.

It does not follow from this that an actual state of war will prevail during this interval, as hostilities will terminate within a very few days after Spain has notified the United States Government of her acceptance of the terms laid down in the President's note of last Saturday. The military establishment, however, must be maintained during that time and many acts performed that are incident to actual warfare.

### ENSIGN ROLAND CURTIN.

A Belleville Boy Orders the Surrender of Ponce.

Roland I. Curtin, Ensign on the Wasp, who, according to Monday's dispatches, received the surrender of Ponce, and whose actions on that occasion were highly commended, is a resident of Belleville and a son of General John I. Curtin, and a great nephew to ex-Governor Curtin. Mr. and Mrs. Curtin received many congratulations all day yesterday and the greatest interest is being taken by the community at large in the brave actions of their son on this occasion. The father, General John I. Curtin, was in nearly all of the great battles of the late civil war, and saw a great deal of active service. Ensign Curtin after being thoroughly educated in the schools of Belleville, followed in the footsteps of his father and entered the Civil Academy at Annapolis. He was graduated in 1896, and after a long cruise on the Newark he attended the Queen's Jubilee as a cadet on the Brooklyn. At the end of a two years' cruise he was promoted to Ensign and transferred to the Wasp. He is twenty-four years of age and about five feet six inches in height. While no congratulatory dispatch has been sent to Ensign Curtin by the town, a suitable demonstration will no doubt be made upon his first home.

The dispatches which appeared in the New York Sun and the Washington Times of July 31st, described this incident as a thrilling event. Ensign Curtin, with four men, was sent ashore bearing a flag of truce. Treachery was suspected on the part of the Spaniards and the gunners on the Wasp stood ready to fire at a second's warning. The boat with a white handkerchief fastened to an oar as a flag of truce put for the beach as though there was no treachery. As they reached the shore people crowded down to the water's edge with their hands filled with cigars, tobacco, cigarettes, bananas and other articles which they threw at the Americans when the boat came within range. The whole affair was undoubtedly very thrilling as Ensign Curtin introduced himself and said he had come to demand the surrender of the port and the city. In half an hour's time his demand was complied with.

### DECKER REUNION.

The Decker families and relatives represent a large connection in the western part of this county. On July 21, 1898, the Decker Reunion Association held a large meeting and the following minutes are furnished by the secretary for publication:

Decker Home, July 21, '98.

Decker Reunion Association was called to order by Rev. G. W. Leisher, of Boalsburg charge, after which they sang the hymn "Blest be the tie." Then the Rev. offered prayer in behalf of family, friends and neighbors of the hereafter perennial gathering. Rev. Leisher then made a few remarks as to what was the intention of the assemblage and then proceeded to the electing of officers for the year, to wit: Adam Ripka, president; Frederick Decker, vice president; Miffin D. Snyder, secretary; Charles E. Decker, historian. An invitation was then extended to the members of the association, of Canton, Ohio, to meet with their associations on the 2nd Wednesday of August, and also that hereafter we hold ours on same date, as recommended by Mrs. Edith Bell and Mrs. Celia Decker, of Canton, Ohio, members of that place.

The following is a list of persons at the reunion:

PARENTS.—Frederick Decker, Mrs. Elizabeth Decker.

CHILDREN.—1, Lydia R. Houser and husband John Houser, and children: Edward and wife Minnie, Jacob and Thomas; 2, Mrs. Ellen Resides and children: George, Frederick, Harry, Ida, Susie and Edward; 3, Thomas Decker and wife Emma, and son Claude; 4, Priscilla E. Decker and husband Wesley Decker, and children: Mabel, George, Mary and Jacob; 5, Mrs. Anna S. Reifsnnyder and son Frederick D.; 6, Charles E. Decker and wife Elizabeth E. and son Ray Glenn; 7, Susie E. O'Bryon and husband Pearsall O'Bryon, and daughter Charlotte E.

RELATIVES.—Adam Krumrine and wife Rebecca, and daughters Katie and Mary; Joseph Strouse and wife Annie; Adam Ripka and wife Amelia; Mrs. Sarah Ettie; Conrad Auman and son Charles; Fred L. Decker and wife Carrie; Jonas Decker; Thomas D. Decker; John D. Decker and daughters Alice, Ellie and Martha; Mrs. Edith Bell and Mrs. Celia Decker, of Canton, O.; Charles Yearick and wife Catharine, and daughter Esther; Miffin D. Snyder and children: Annie, Minnie and John; S. S. Grieb and wife Margaret, and daughters Maud and Ethel; Miss Chrissie Krumrine; W. B. Kemmerer and wife Kate, and daughter Lucy; John M. Krumrine and wife Lizzie, and son Ralph.

FRIENDS.—Samuel Glenn and wife Priscilla, and children: Ella, Margaret and Samuel; Samuel Garner and wife Julia, and daughter Mildred; Henry Hartwig and wife Margaret, and grandson Milfred; Belle Lytle and son Jared; Mrs. Winona Eyer and son Forrest; Mrs. Susie Herman, Mrs. Anna Evers, Benson Keatley, Edith Barnes, Geo. Campbell, Rena Schindler, G. W. Leisher and wife Kate R.; Fred Krumrine and wife Anna; Mrs. Emma Overpeck and Mrs. Emma Hurtz, of Milton; Guy Wise of State College.

Neighbors and friends present, 28; total present, 100; at dinner, 86; at supper, 76. Adjourned to meet at Second reunion, at the old homestead, on the second Wednesday of August, 1899.

M. D. SNYDER,  
Secretary.

### Off for Porto Rico.

Sheridan Troop, of Tyrene, has been put aboard a large vessel, the Manitoba, at New Port News, and by the close of the week will be on its way to Porto Rico, to assist Gen. Miles in the invasion of that island.

### Furniture Company Assigns.

The Philipsburg Furniture Manufacturing Co., has been obliged to make an assignment, with H. K. Grant as assignee. The real difficulty seems to be a lack of capital. The plant is a good one.

### Next Demonstration.

When Gen. Miles takes the island of Porto Rico, Young America, in Belleville, will have to celebrate the event again in an appropriate manner. This should be a hummer.