FOR 20 CENTS

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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. Mad Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1800.

the Centre Democrat.

RELIGIOUS

A New Sect Teaching the Mystery of Fire Baptism.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE OUTDONE

Call Themselves "The Fire Branders' -Causing Much Excitement in Franklin County this State-A Newspaper Reporter Among Them.

There are all kinds of religious fanatics, and some crazy ones quite handy, but the craziest lot of deluded mortals yet heard from are holding meetings near Chambersburg, Pa. The following account of their operations is from Sunday's Philad. Times :

"THE FIRE BRANDERS."

Chambersburg, Pa., September 16. The fair and peaceful Cumberland Valley, which has for years reposed in its pastoral beauty with no sound of strife since the conflict between the North and South, so far in the dim and misty past that it is now almost forgotten, is once more upon the verge of a conflict. This time it is a religious war, and the contending parties are members of those peculiar but absolutely passive and passionless sect known as the "River Brethren," and a new party that has come out of the West, and calls itself the "Fire Baptized Association."

The latter have been for several weeks holding their meetings in a most picturesque grove, situated between Shippensburg and Chambersburg. Their doctrines are new, their methods are peculiar and their language picturesque. Therefore, they have attracted many who came from curiosity rather than from a desire to be converted to a new belief to these gatherings in the woods. Converts a few they have made, and for from the time he entered the room these are largely from the "River the others made no remarks save to in-Brethren." who, as their name implies, terpolate once in a while a fervid base their belief upon immersion and the cleansing and purifying properties of water.

The new sect, virtually fire worshipers, argue that they are meek and lowly charmed by a snake. He probably with fire.

during his effort to copy the flight of some of the hawks that are so busy steal-FANATICISM ing his chickens. Mr. Musser, or "Brother Musser," as

I presume would be deemed the more correct appellation, is a young, meek- Why President Kruger Defies faced man, with soft brown eyes an innocent expression, with a beard which I was at a loss to make out, whether it had just begun to grow or was sadly in need of shaving. He greeted me courteously upon my arrival, and asked me into the house, from the gloom of which arose several figures that I later distinguished to be straight-up-and-down women, exact replicas of the ladies Noah's Ark has made us acquainted with in childhood. These women, in severely plain gowns and with their bair parted absolutely in the middle and Boers of South Africa, and England. savages. For all practical purposes drawn back into such a tight knot that it There are many people who have no only native Boers have full rights of made their eyes stare wildly, greeted me idea what all this talk of war is about franchise. They make the laws, levy with a "How-do-you-do, sister," and and just who the Boers are, or the the taxes and grip with jealous hands then relapsed into silence, while a lump famous President Kruger of the Trans- the reins of government. of humanity on the lounge which turned vaal Republic. It is an interesting con- Toward the uitlanders the Boer atout to be a man nearly made me jump troversy and it now looks as though the titude has been aggressive, autocratic

parent reference to anything, "Amen, glory be to God ?"

have been branded."

Here a voice broke in, which I discovered proceeded from the inner room which Brother Musser had been watching, "Branded with the grace of God, bless His name !"

Then appeared a tall, gaunt figure, who informed me that he was Brother Hansom, from Oklahoma, and evidently one of the big-bugs in the association, "Amen" or "Glory to God."

It was evident that Mr. Musser was much in the position of the bird that is followers of Jesus, and to them has been would not admit this himself, but it was revealed, through an actual baptism of absolutely pitiful to see him sit there and fire, the pentecostal promise that they allow this other man to run his house shall be cleansed by the Holy Ghost and and absolutely take the words from his month on the plea that he had been death. Though they admit that the "River sent from his far Western abode to preach this new doctrine to the unencertain fundamental truths, to them of hearty, healthy men and women alone has been given the true revelation, should be guided to the home of such an developed the mines and made you rich. a legacy of hatred among their descendinnocent minded party, there to revel in We built the cities. the fat of the land and talk in their unconventional but crudely eloquent way their legitimate pursuits. failed to accept it in this mundane the workings of the world and the calcu- Don,t we deserve a vote? The majority other, continuing farther eastward, lations that weigh motives-in fact, to a ought to rule. people who, never having had to deal with anything that was not on the sur- has become tyraunical. You rob us on face, are ready to receive as gospel truth every hand. new creeds that are presented with the plausibility and the flow of language that these wanderers from the West pos- You are only half civilized. You are sess. Though I had no desire to listen to the man, who evidently delighted in his own a discourse on church history, hoping soon to be enlightened as to this absolute The story of his conversion, which is the theme on which he harps at the sort of tale that I tried to look as though I believed, but failed dismally, I know, for later, when Sister Ann was called upon to pray for the visitor, she made it my sincerity. The conversion of Brother Hansom was accompanied, so he said, by rigors and spasms, and finally, when the bapson would declare to be emotional in-One of these-a Musser himself-(by sanity, but which he affirmed was an act-

THE TRANSVAAL CONTROVERSY

England's Demands. WHY BOER HATES BRITON

Statement of the Existing Difficulties-

With Interesting Information.

For some time the public's attention has been called to what is known as the Boers has retained absolute sway in the "Transvaal Controversy," between the territory which was wrested from the out of my boots, exclaiming with no ap- two nations would end their difficulties and possibly oppressive. It depends on by war.

Turning to Mr. Musser, who had understanding of the difficulties, a con- privilege of taking out the treasures ushered me into the room, I inquired at cise review of the situation is published. which the Boers themselves neglected. once into the subject of branding by fire, You may be a little rusty in your geog. They have been heavily taxed. They as I had heard in Shippensburg that raphy, therefore it may be well to look have been bled by government monoonly the Sunday before he had under- up a recent map of the continent of polies. gone this painful operation. "Mr. Mus- Africa. You will find that Cape Colony True, they have prospered and grown ser, have you been branded ?" He look- covers the extreme southern portion of enormously rich in spite of it all. But ed at me with eyes like those of a dog that continent. Next to it on the eastern so have the Boers, and it is the English that does not quite understand the orders side of the continent and about 50 miles who have done the work. Year after of its master, and said, as he furtively in from the shores of the Indian Ocean year the taxes have become higher in glanced toward an inner room, "Yes, I lies the "Orange Free State," and next spite of the indignant protests sent to to it the "Transvaal Republic" the seat England. of the difficulty.

THE BOER SAYS: This is our country. We snatched it from the savages. We made farmland

of the wilderness. You want it because of the gold and

diamonds. You demand equal franchise. This would mean political extinction for us. By the conventions of 1884 you promised never to interfere in our internal government. Now you ignore those hand conventions.

We want no English among our citizens. You are immorial and vicious You would not make good burghers. If our laws please you not, you are free to go away.

If God wills it, we will fight to the

Germans and a few Americans. The Boers call them all uitlanders, or outlanders. It is an expressive name. Finally the uitlanders became more numerous than the Boers. There are Proceedings of the Veteran Asso now in the Transvaal about 245,000

countries came too. There were some

whites. Of this number more than 100,-000 are English. Besides these, there are 30,000 Germans, 10,000 Americans and a few hundred of almost every War Imminent in South Africa-A Brief other race on the globe. So the Boers The Veterans are Growing Impatient Over are actually in a minority in their own A Carefully Prepared Statement Filled land. The remainder of their 1,000,oco population is composed of blacks. chiefly Kaffirs.

But this little handful of, say, 90,000

the point of view. The British miners In order to give our readers a clear bave had to pay bandsomely for the

In the meantime the political relations The grievences of the two nations can of the two countries, the little republic be summed up in the following manner: and the great empire, have swung through several interesting stages.

The first time the Boers and the English clashed was when both were settled in what is now Cape Colony. There came up the question of slavery.

The Boers claimed a right to enslave the native tribes. The British contested the alleged right. In 1834 emancipation till then had been peopled by British and Dutch alike.

What added to the grievance of the Boer was that the slaveowners among them received as compensation orders on London which they were compelled to cash on the spot at ruinous rates.

The great exodus, or trek, of 1836 was the result. Some 6,000 Boers by a concerted movement abandoned Cape Colo-

MONUMENT RESOLUTIONS

ciation at Grange Park.

HASTINGS' OFFER ACCEPTED

the Delay-Politics Got Mixed Up With the Proceedings of the Association-Full Text of the Resolutions Adopted.

The Veteran Association of Centre county held their annual reunion at Grange Park on last Saturday, and the attendance was smaller than usual, although the weather was favorable and other accommodations all that could be desired for the gathering. The sessions were held in the Auditorium building, at the park, in the afternoon.

General James A. Beaver, as president of the association, presided. The address of welcome was delivered by Colonel court. James F. Weaver, lecturer of the county grange. The address of the day was delivered by Dr. George W. Atherton, of shelf. State College. Several more brief speeches were made by members of the club, and Miss Emma Brewer, of Trust?" Delaware county, recited the revised

ensuing year were : President, General at odds. James A. Beaver : secretary, W. H. Musser; treasurer, George Boal.

One of the principal events of the gathering was the consideration of the Curtin talks were made on the subject by prominent members of the association and it was the general sentiment that a monument; as originally proposed, be the form of the memorial erected in honor of the soldiers of the county, and that it Governor, Andrew G. Curtin. In the adoption of the resolutions there

was a bit of spirited discussion that showed that some members of the association could not come to such a gather- dull care away." ing without bringing their politics along. was proclaimed in the Colony, which and their course was so apparent as to cause more or less comment that was hardly credible to them. There even was an attempt to postpone the action on the monument for another year, but this raised such a storm of protests from the rank and file of the organization that it had to be abandoned. The following are the resolutions as adopted :

WHEREAS, At a meeting of the Veteran Association held at Hunter's Park, September J. 1894, It was resolved that the funds of the association then on hand, amount-ing to \$511.02, be appropriated to the erection

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FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs-Selected and

Original. Good Cheer. Have you had a kindness shown. Pass it on Twas not given for you alone-Pass it on. Let it travel down the years, Let it wipe another's tears, Till in heaven the deed appears.

Pass it on.

A man is seldom any better than he actually has to be.

The best friendship is the one that makes the least noise.

Success shows off a man's good qualities and the lack of it his defects.

The man who does his fighting in his mind always comes out victorious. *

Some married men avoid restaurants where home-made bread is served.

Originality often consists of the ability to work old things off on a new audience. The tailor who can's get his pay is excusable for taking a dress suit case to

Some people are "spoony" because they are either in the soup or on the

Why not chauge the motto on the silver dollar to "In New Jersey We

People who are always trying to get "America." The officers elected for the even with each other are apt to remain

> It's poor policy for a business man to wait for the Sheriff to attend to his advertising.

No matter how worthless a man is he monument project. A number of short can always find some woman willing to marry him.

Some people have so much respect for the truth that they keep at a fair distance from it.

Some men are willing to run into debt, combine with it a statue of the War but they don't like to bunk up against their creditors.

Sometimes there's nothing like a horse and buggy and a pretty girl to "drive

Pluck is the quality which makes our failures as interesting and educational to us as our successes.

The individual who is too busy to listen to the woes of his neighbor misses a job lot of tribulations.

The average man spends less time in trying to do his duty than he does in inventing excuses for not doing it.

Got Caught Again. Sometime ago a young man by the name of Allison Woodring, of Port Matilda, was convicted of stealing cattle in that section, and was sent to the Huntingdon Reformatory. He was released on parole last January, but his experience in that institution seems to have benefitted him very little. For sometime the Philipsburg Beef Co., has been missing hides from their warehouse. Upon inquiry it was learned that a young man had sold the same to another firm at Osceola. The matter was investigated and the result is that Allison Woodring was detected, arresten and taken to the Clearfield jail on that charge, where he confessed to the theft, and also implicated William Potter, the watchman for the company.

Brethren" and other sects better known throughout the religious world possess lightened. It is strange that this band fire will leave this world for heaven; all others, undoubtedly, to receive a baptism of fire somewhere else because they to minds already so far removed from

Naturally, such a contrast of beliefs has created a feud, and now the meetings have an added interest to the worldly in the promise of a free fight between the sects, or at least a scrimmage of some sort in which the elders of the firebaptized are made the target. Amos Musser, who was formerly one of the shining lights in the church of the "River Brethren," has been converted to the ready command of the English language, new thought, and it is at his home, one I sat patiently while he waded through of the loveliest farm houses in all the Cumberland Valley, that fourtcen of the evangelists of the new creed have located baptism of fire which he claimed to have themselves and are evidently having a received and which the others in the very good time at his expense. As, room silently admitted that they also however, they preach the doctrine that revel in. no one man should be possessed of any greater earthly possessions than another. they apparently feel no hesitancy in ac- camp meeting, is a Rider Haggardish cepting the hospitality that stretches the capacity of the farm house to the utmost.

Attracted by the rumors of the curious situation of affairs in this peaceful valley. very apparent that she had no belief in I drove out from Shippensburg to see for myself just how the land laid and to participate in the rights and ceremonies incident to this latter day form of fireworship. Several Dunkards along the tism of fire was made manifest, he lay way, from whom I inquired the way to limp for an hour, bathed, as he express-Amos Musser's house, showed plainly ed it, in a pool of liquid love. This by their manuer that they were not sounded all very nice, but I did not hear among the converts of the fire-baptized ; of any actual fire experience, until B. H. some of them evinced their antagonism Irwin, at the meeting in the afternoon, so plainly that it was with difficulty that told the following remarkable instance I could persuade them to tell me the of what almost any well-balanced perright road.

the way, this family appears to own ual and honest happening in his life. pretty much the whole Cumberland Valley) lost for a time his appearance of perience which had come to another docility and became quite wrathful over member of this peculiar sect, he said, "I the recent idiosyncrasics of his relative. will have the experience ;" and in the "Think of a man being fool enough to next breath, "I'll have it now," try to fly just because some elder told him that by faith he could do anything. in a sod house twenty miles west of I guess his sore shoulder will make him Emid. Okla. I felt sure that he was lya little more wary about what he at- ing in a certain farm house west of Shiptempts on faith the next time."

plain but ample homestead of the Dunk- a large cross of pure, transparent fire; ard in question, who had evidently not yet recovered from a fall which he had

It seems that, having heard of the ex.

At the time he was lying with a friend pensburg, but of course I didn't dare to This statement, strange as it may ap- make this remark. Continuing, he said: pear, was verified when I reached the "Suddenly I saw in the room above me

Continued on Page 8,

Remember Majuba Hill. WHAT BRITON SAVS:

We seek only to protect our subjects in

No nation has the right to isolate it. intrenched themselves in their present self in a land full of gold and diamonds. position in the Transvaal.

religious bigots.

We are here to stay. So will we. We do.

The quarrel beween the British and the Boers has its complications, but even at this distance it is possible to distinguish the main points of the controversy.

It is not the whole truth to say that this is merely another case of British land grabbing. Neither is it entirely fair to charge the blame wholly to Boer stubbornness. There are two sides to this as to every other question. Before you give your sympathy to either contestant there are a few facts which ought to be considered. Here they are:

The Boers were the original settlers of the country now known as the Transvaal republic if we leave out of question the savage African tribes whon, they subdued. Their ancestors went to South Africa from Holland. Boer is Dutch for farmer. That is what the word means, and that is what they are.

The first Boers settled in Cape Colony, Trouble with the English led them to move farther inland and farther north. They would build their kraals in one place and stay there until the encroachments of the English made it necessary for them to fight or trek. Sometimes they fought; sometimes they trekked.

When they finally moved beyond the Vaal river, they thought they were safe from the English. The country was a savage infested wilderness. But somebody discovered gold and diamonds in the Boer territory. Then the English moved in and began to work the mines. The Boers are not miners. The golden rocks of the Rand would remain uncrushed forever if they had their way. They wish only to till their farms, raise their stock and read their Bible.

But the glitter of the gold and the glint of diamonds attracted more and more sons of Britain. Men of other

ny and moved on to the unknown interior. The bitter memory of their sufferings from hunger and thirst and from We helped you fight the Kaffirs. We the attacks of savage natives remains as ants to this day.

At the Orange river the trekkets divided into two parties, one of which We pay nine-tenths of the taxes, founded the Orange Free State. The founded Natal. Both states were con-Conditions have changed. Your rule quered by the English. A majority of the Boers, once more flecing from Brit-ish thraldom, crossed the river Vaal and intrenched themselves in their present

Here four rival sovereignties were established whose internecine feuds were finally harmonized by a union into one republic. In 1848 the gronwet, or fundamental law, was passed by a special volksraad elected for the purpose, and it still remains as the nominal constitution of the country.

But the Boers found themselves unable to cope with the savage natives, who harassed them on every side and threatened the security not only of the Boers themselves, but of their British neighbors. Yielding partly to a desire for self protection, parily to a show of British force, the Boers consented to annexation with the British empire in spite of the protest of Oom Paul Kruger and other sturdy minded young patriots.

So for awhile the Boers and British fought the blacks side by side, but the Boers fretted under the British yoke, and under the plea that Britian had not performed her promises they rose in rebellion in 1880 and, after the bloody victory of Majuba Hill, succeeded in again establishing their independence "subject to the suzerainty of her majthese words was signed at Pretoria in August, 1881.

suzeranity. Gladstone was in power then, and under his leadership a new agreement was signed by which England gave up her rights of suzerainty except in regard to treaties with foreign powers and the Orange Free State. This was signed in London in 1884, and the documents are now known as the London conventions. The interpretation of this agreement was the subject of the discussion which has led up to assured to make this project a success the present state of affairs.

Mr. Chamberlain, not being so kindly disposed as was Mr. Gladstone, declares that the alien laws of the Trans- work.

Continued on page 4.

the soldiers of Centre co overnor of the Commonwealth pression of the rebeilion, provided that a fund of \$11,000 be subscribed for that purpose, and that in the judgment of the Veteran Club the monument should embody as one of its pent features a statue of Andrew G. (the War Governor of the Commonwealth, so that his services to the state may be perpeta-ated in connection with the monument of our dead herces, and, WHEHEAS, since the adoption of the fore-

going recited resolution the Legislature an act authorizing the County Commissioners an act authorizing the County Commissioners of the several counties of this Commonwealth to erect or complete and maintain a suitable monument at the county seat of each county in memory of the soldiers and sailors of the war of the solution. war of the rebellion ; therefore

the county aid in support of the crecti the moument to the memory of the soldiers and sallors of the war of the rebellion, it is the sense of this meeting that a monument such as was contemplated by the former action of the association be errected at the county seat in memory of the soldiers and sallors of the war: hat under the provisions of the act of A say ove recited and under its authority. duty of the County Commissioners to appropriate from the funds of the county for such surpose at least the sum of \$).000, and we here pledge ourselves to make all reasona orts to have them do so.

In considering the matter of the recent offer of Ex-Governor Hastings to contribute dollar for dollar raised for the crection of the monument, the following was passed :

WHEREAS. For the purpose of aiding the weterans of Centre county in erecting a monu-ment to the memory of the late Governor Curtin, as well as to the memory of the men from Centre county who gave their lives and service for the preservation and perpetuation of the Union in the war of the rebellion, Kx-Governor D. H. Hastings has voluntarily offered to contribute as puch covering dollar. follar, as is contributed from the funds

for dollar, as is contributed from the funds of the Veleran Association, as an organization, for such laudable purpose : therefore. *Resolved.* That the Veteran Association of Centre county accepts the offer of Governor Hastings, and in doing so we hereby express to him our thanks for his generous offer of a contribution. made solely for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a fitting mon-ment to the memory of our great war governor and the many noble men from our county who suffered and died to preserve and perpetuate the glory and unity of our country.

Now the association has taken action, and the matter stands in about the same condition as heretofore. The same committee, that for about five years was inactive, is still in charge. It is to be esty." The treaty which contained hoped that after this meeting, and seeing the expression of sentiment on this sub ject, they will begin active work to secure the monument. The first thing to be In 1883 the Boers sent a deputation to done is to circulate petitions throughout London to secure the abolition of the the county, one to contain exclusively the names of old soldiers and the other the names of all other citizens, and these petitions be presented to the next November Grand Jury, asking them to approve the appropriation of \$5,000, as provided by an act of assembly, from the tunds of Centre county, for the erection of a Soldier's Monument at the county seat. affords. this should be done at once, so as to secure a large petition. which would receive favorable consideration from that body.

> The county appropriation must be and they individual subscriptions can be secured when something definite is accomplished. Now if this committee is sincere in this matter, they will begin If they do nothing, as heretofore, the public can easily infer their Lynch's bid is backed up by a \$1,000 motive

this way. Coal Busicess Good.

About \$200 worth of hides were taken in

The Snow Shoe coal regions are now experiencing a boom. The Snow Shoe Mining company composed of Thomas B. Buddinger and the Kelley Brothers, has opened a new mine near Raiston, which promises to develope into one of the best in the region. The vein is already three feet eleven inches thick, and the coal of a superior quality. The company will operate the mine to its full capacity, employing from 20 to 30 men. The Lehigh Valley Coal company has begun preparations for the opening of three new mines on the farms of Edward Poorman and William Jacob, near Sugar Camp, three miles from Snow Shoe.

Harvest Home Picnic.

The good people of the upper Bald Eagle valley are contemplating holding a Harvest Home Picnic, in John Q. Miles' grove, east of Martha, on Saturday, September 30th, 1899. The Scotia band will be engaged to furnish the music and some prominent speakers have been engaged to attend the gathering and discuss timely subjects. It will be a day's outing to which all people are cordially invited to enjoy themselves, and bring their dinner baskets with them filled with the best things the season

Cheap Light.

Williamsport asked for bids last week to furnish the city with electric lights. Thos, Lynch, of Philadelphia, submitted a bid to furnish arc lights of 2,000 candle power, at \$50 per lamp per year. The Edison Co.'s bid was \$68 on a five year contract or \$63 on a ten year contract. check.