

# The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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## METHODIST CONFERENCE

Closing Events of the Session at Chicago.

### SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES

In the Term for Ministers—The Canteen Question Causes a Stir—Their Attitude Toward Amusements Unchanged.

The Methodist general conference took unexpected action in regard to the committee reports on card playing, dancing and other prohibited amusements. The official vote by which the minority report was accepted recommending no action was announced as 333 yeas and 290 nays. Then, to the surprise of the large audience, on motion of Dr. Buckley, the minority report was laid on the table by a vote of 256 to 253.

Bishop Fitzgerald then ruled, however, that the question was no longer before the house. It is extremely improbable that the matter will again be taken up for action, so the standing of the Methodist church for the next four years in regard to forbidden amusements will be unchanged.

Samuel Dickie, of Michigan, then presented the report of the committee on temperance, and for the first time the great Methodist body took on a strong political appearance. The majority report contained a strong arraignment of President McKinley and Attorney General Griggs for their attitude of the anticanteen law, and over this point the conference warmly debated. The majority report on that point read as follows:

"We are chagrined, humiliated and exasperated by the puerile and absurd construction placed on the anticanteen law by the attorney general of the United States, and with all due respect to the exalted station we record the fact that we are pained and disappointed at the course of the president in accepting as final and satisfactory an opinion without binding force. Such an abuse of power is nullification in its most dangerous form."

"Upon the president, as chief of our army, rests the responsibility for the existence of the canteen saloon, an evil which he has ample power to suppress; a more deadly foe to the soldiers than the bullet or the tropical heat."

The conference finally adopted the minority report, which excluded the paragraphs referring to the chief magistrate, but which, however, called upon him to use his influence to secure the passage of the new anticanteen law now pending before congress.

### Time Limit Abolished.

By a vote of 433 to 235 the Methodist general conference last week abolished the time limit of pastors, thus finally disposing of one of the most important questions before the great Methodist body and doing away with one of the fundamental features of the itinerant system of the denomination.

Hereafter preachers will be appointed annually by the bishops, with no limit on the years a pastor may serve one congregation except the limit imposed by his own ability and popularity.

The abolition of the itinerancy system by the Methodist General Conference is a noteworthy event. Practically it will have little effect—certainly none at all commensurate with its historical significance. It had been a distinction of Methodism that no preacher could remain with a particular congregation more than three years—later, five years. There is no doubt that this rule was an important aid to the great success of the denomination in stimulating its rapid growth. It placed the interests of the entire church above those of separate congregations. It prevented an influential society from having a monopoly of the service of the ablest or most popular preachers, and left the Bishop free to assign such pastors to weaker societies that needed building up. That a congregation was able to pay more than others to its pastor did not mean that it had its choice of preachers. A man of power, who could have held the pulpit of the strongest and richest society in any other denomination, was compelled by the Methodist policy to make as many changes as the interest of the church required. He had to take his share of the hardships of circuit riding.

As the population of the country increased and the number of preachers grew there was less need of the long journeys to fill different pulpits and of restricting the term of a preacher to one year, which was the rule in the first period. More and more often a popular pastor was retained for the full three years. Twelve years ago the limit was extended to five years. It was by that time apparent that the time limit had lost its importance, except that it was sometimes a disadvantage. The average stay of Methodist preachers in one pulpit was found to be about the same as that

of other preachers. By the abolishment of the old rule it has been made possible for a congregation to keep a pastor who meets its needs for an indefinite time. There are good preachers enough to fill all the important pulpits. Perhaps, too, the new system gives less opportunity for a Bishop to impose his arbitrary will on a congregation. The change (which was effected with virtually no opposition) from a system that was so vital a part of Methodism is a striking indication of the development of the country.

Another such indication is the report of the conference at Atlantic City recommending higher educational requirements on the part of preachers. It is urged that candidates for the ministry of the Methodist church should be made to pass the examination for admission into the freshman class of the denominational college. The demand is the result of the more general education of the people.

### CUBAN CENSUS RETURNS.

Large Proportion of People Live in Cities. Loss of Life During the Recent War.

The returns that have been lately tabulated from the Cuban census show that a large proportion of the people live in cities. Of the 1,572,797 people of the island, 741,283, or forty-seven per cent. live in cities. In the United States the urban population is but twenty-seven per cent. There are in Cuba 13 cities that have a population of over 100,000.

The statisticians of the Census bureau, computing by the gains hitherto made on the island, estimate that up to the outbreak of the recent war the population had undoubtedly increased to nearly 1,800,000. The difference between that number and the total of the recent census must be taken to represent the loss of life due to the war. It is known that the percentage of births was greatly diminished, that there was a large emigration from the island, and the loss of life was severe. In Havana province, in which most of the reconcentrados were collected, there was comparatively a small loss of population, practically about six per cent. In Matanzas the loss was twenty-two per cent., and the total loss was over a quarter of a million. The average number of inhabitants per square mile in Cuba is nearly what it is in Iowa—about 35. In Havana the average rises to 153, what it is in Connecticut; in Puerto Principe it is eight, the average in Texas. All the elections to be held in the municipal districts throughout the island hereafter will be based upon the returns of the recent census. All male citizens over 25 years of age who have lived two years in a municipality are permitted to vote.

### State College Commencement.

The graduation class speakers and junior class orators have had their subjects assigned for the forthcoming commencement as follows: Graduates, P. T. Cole, "Fact or Fancy;" A. W. Oakwood, "Gladstone;" G. K. Warn, "The Dawn of Day;" D. G. Wentzel, "Joseph Priestly;" L. E. Young, "American Nationality" and valedictory. The subjects for the Junior orators are "Restriction of Immigration," A. M. Arney; "Our Relation to the Indian," T. Crumley; "National Jealousy," G. A. Elder; "The Call for Engineers," T. H. Miller; "Character Building," C. F. Shoop; "Labor and Its Reward," G. Wise. The alternates: "Soldiers Three," B. L. Moore; "The Negro Problem in the South," H. C. Heaton; "Winning the Spurs," S. H. Kuhn.

### FLOPS TO BRYAN.

Republican State Committeeman, John C. Lower, of Gettysburg, has come out in a public statement that he is in favor of William Jennings Bryan for president, against William McKinley. Lower is a Quay man, a good bit of a leader in Adams county.

Lower says he is opposed to trusts, which are fostered by the administration. He was formerly a warm supporter of President McKinley, and as a national delegate voted for his nomination.

### TAYLOR WILL RUN.

W. S. Taylor, recent Republican claimant for the governorship of Kentucky, announced Tuesday that he will make the race again this fall on an anti-Goebel election law platform.

He will remain in Indiana until his health is recuperated.

### Timber Men Suffering.

Clearfield Republican: Clearfield county is today suffering greatly, that is, the business interests are suffering, because we have not yet had our usual spring floods and all the timber which goes to market by way of the river is yet in Clearfield county when it should be in the booms at Williamsport or in the yards of the big mills at Marietta, Columbia, York and Camden, New Jersey.

## PRETORIA FALLS WAR ENDED

Roberts Leads a Victorious Army to the Capitol

### KRUGER AWAITS HIS FATE

The British are Dictating Terms—President Kruger Likely to be Taken to St. Helena—Army to be Sent Home at Once

London, May 30.—The triumphant entry of Lord Roberts into Pretoria, which has doubtless already taken place, marks the ending of the war in South Africa.

President Kruger seems to have simply dismissed the Boer forces at Pretoria and then to have returned to Waterboeren, 10 miles away, to await whatever fate the victor has in mind for him.

He will probably be sent to St. Helena, an imprisonment which he greatly dreads, for to leave him in South Africa would be to leave a glowing spark in an inflammable mass.

### LAST FIGHT OF THE BOERS.

The last fight of the Boers took place at Wyck's Rust, west of Johannesburg. A Pretoria dispatch says that the Boers were forced to retire on Monday, but on Tuesday, under Commandant General Botha, they beat back the British with considerable loss.

### PRETORIA HAS FALLEN.

London, May 31, 3 A. M.—Pretoria has fallen and the Boer war is over.

It is stated that the War Office has asked Lord Roberts if he can land 100,000 of his troops in England by October 1. It is certain that the authorities are anxious to get back as many trained soldiers as possible by autumn, in view of the possible trend of European affairs.

### ANXIOUS ABOUT FRANCE AND CHINA.

The possibility of war with France is not talked about much just now, but French operations in Northern Africa make the situation dangerous, and should the Exposition fail, about the same time that the present British Government dissolves there is no telling what may happen.

The Chinese situation, too, is looming seriously before the Government and complications with Russia are almost certain to grow out of it.

### ROLAND GETS THE ORGAN.

At the Final Ballot an Immense Vote of Over 14000 is Polled.

This week the final ballot was cast for the Cornish Chapel Organ, which this paper is giving away, and considerable interest was attached to the outcome. It required several hours for the judges to compile the final vote which stands as follows:

The following is the result of the 20th, AND FINAL count of coupons, Wednesday evening, May 30:

### WEEKLY COUNT.

M. E. Church, Roland.....10957  
Lutheran Church, Pleasant Gap... 4038  
Total.....14995

### TOTAL VOTE.

M. E. Church, Roland.....19498  
Lutheran Church, Pleasant Gap... 1127  
Roland's Majority.....8371  
{ ROYD A. MEISSER.  
{ ARTHUR B. KIMFORT.

Belleville, Pa., May 30, 1900.

According to the above the Roland Methodist Church has 8,371 more votes than the next on the list, and a clean majority over all combined, and will receive the Cornish instrument. They naturally are pleased over the result and desire us to return their thanks to the many friends over the county who assisted them.

The people of Pleasant Gap certainly polled a large vote also, of over 11000, and are second. They no doubt have need for a good instrument, and when they decide to purchase one we hope they will give the Centre Democrat the opportunity of contributing towards the same.

### In a Bad Way.

Clayton Thomas, who had his leg broken near Loganton last week while holding a horse, is in a serious condition. The unfortunate man is subject to epileptic fits, several of which he has had since the accident. Several men are required to hold him, his quick motions during the spells being very much against the broken bones of his leg knitting.

### Severely Bruised.

Mrs. Joshua Potter, the lady who was attacked by the angry bull near Centre Hall, a few days ago, is improving, but is still confined to bed. She was severely cut and bruised by the animal, which tried to gore and trample her in a stall, but she crawled under the trough.

### HUMMEL AGAIN.

This Time He Is Practicing Hanging to be Ready.

A special from Williamsport to the Philadelphia Press says: "Say, if they don't hang me in three tries, will they let me go?"

The man that asked this question Friday was William Hummel, who is to be hanged on June 5 for the murder of his wife and three children. He is the remarkable prisoner who has learned boxing, performing on the bars, turning hand springs and calisthenics in order to keep him alive for the gallows. And now, strangest of all, he is practicing hanging in the hope that he can cheat the hangman's noose.

"I'll tell you my secret if you keep it quiet," whispered Hummel. "I've got a rope under my bed and I've been practicing on the dead quiet. I fasten the rope to that bar up there and then jump off the bed. Say, do you know I can jump two feet now and not get hurt a bit. You see, by exercising the muscles of my neck I've got it so that I can hold out all right. Just before jumping off I throw my head back as far as I can, and the rope slips up against my jawbone and the back of my head. If I don't tire out before the third time I think I can pull through all right."

Hummel has become impressed with the idea that it is illegal to hang a man more than three times, and he hopes to hold out that long.

### Fatal Accident.

Clearfield Raftsmen's Journal: In recording accidents occurring within the past four days none are more distressing than the one that occurred at Coalport on Saturday afternoon under the following circumstances: A 7-year-old boy named Wertz followed the usual custom of boys and jumped on the hind part of a wagon driven by Adam Spell. The driver did not notice the boy nor does he know what he was doing, but at any rate his foot is supposed to have caught in the spokes where they narrow towards the hub and as the wheel revolved the body of the boy was held fast by the bed of the wagon and his leg literally torn off. The member is said to have dropped to the street after being cut from the body. A second amputation was had and it is thought the little fellow may survive the shock.

### A Bad Fall.

Arthur Simler, who was attending dancing school on the fourth floor of a building in Johnstown, after finishing a dance, near midnight, one night last week, stepped out on the fire escape to cool off. He had hardly placed his foot upon the escape when he shot downward. His fall was broken by the roof of a shed upon which he struck in his descent and he was picked up in a bruised and stunned condition and carried to the office of Dr. W. B. Lowman, who made an examination of the young man and found that there were no bones broken, but the bruises all over the body were very severe as was the shock from the fall. There are no internal injuries. He was removed to the Memorial hospital. He is the son of George Simler, of Phillipsburg.

### Physician and His Wife Shot At.

While Dr. J. L. R. Reichhold and wife, of Clearfield, were driving home from Curwensville Wednesday night a man leaped from behind a tree to the side upon which the doctor was driving and fired a shot from a revolver at a range of two feet. The conveyance was going fast and the ball sped to the doctor's knee and crashed through the dashboard of the phaeton. Both driver and horse were missed by only a few inches. Dr. Reichhold did not stop to investigate. He is a prominent capitalist and real estate owner in Clearfield, besides being a social leader, and no reason can be given for the attempted assassination.

### Costs Money to Resign.

The work of taking the census will commence June 1st, and will be laborious and particular. No appointed census enumerator can resign without subjecting himself to a fine and imprisonment. In 1891, 5,000 appointees resigned, which caused the government much inconvenience, and to prevent a recurrence of the trouble the new regulations have been made.

### Getting Pledges.

The Rev. W. E. Detweiler, financial agent of the Central Pennsylvania College at New Berlin, makes a gratifying report, that he has already been pledged more than the one-half of the \$100,000 endowment fund that he started to raise for the institution only one month ago, just after the conference of the Evangelical church. This college educates for the ministry of that faith.

Why isn't a wealthy actor a fixed star?

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Bellefonte High School Program for 1900

### LIST OF THE GRADUATES

Baccalaureate Sermon, Junior Contest and Other Events—Evening Exercises and the Topics on the Program at Each Session

The annual commencement exercises of the Bellefonte High School will take place in the opera house on Thursday, June 7th, 1900. The exercises of the week will be embraced in the following calendar:

Sunday, June 3, 7:30 p. m.—Baccalaureate Sermon by Rev. Thomas Levan Bickle, St. John's Reformed Church.

Wednesday, June 6, 8 p. m.—Junior Oratorical Contest.

Thursday, June 7, 2:30 p. m.—Commencement.

Thursday, June 7, 8 p. m.—Commencement Address—Hon. Emerson Collins, Williamsport, Pa.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The following programme is arranged for the afternoon in the opera house:

Music: "Invocation. Salutory and Essay—'Not the End but the Beginning,' Madge A. Orris. Oration—'Centre County's Centennial,' Arthur Harper. Essay—'Ruin in Disguise,' Cora R. Sholl. Class History, Lillian M. Gehret. Music. Oration—'Unknown Heroes,' Albert E. Rumberger. Essay—'The Art of Life,' Helen E. Womeldorf. Oration—'The Man for the Occasion,' William R. Rees. Music. Essay—'The Boer Girl,' Helen J. Harper. Oration—'The Death of Nations,' Clarence F. Longacre. Class Prophecy, Sallie G. Fitzgerald. Music. Essay—'Our Noblest Heritage,' Blanche F. Jacobs. Oration—'The Doomed Republic,' Maurice Baum. Eulogy—'Nathaniel Hawthorne, Effie M. Womeldorf. Oration—'The Decline of the Crescent' and Valedictory, James A. Shook.

### EVENING EXERCISES.

Music. Commencement Address, Hon. Emerson Collins. Presentation of Diplomas and Awarding of Prizes, by D. F. Fortney, Esq., President of School Board. Music. Benediction.

### THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Twenty-three names appear on Gen. MacArthur's latest list of American soldiers killed in the Philippines. Following is the official report of casualties since July 1, 1899, to May 24, 1900:

Killed.....	498
Died of wounds, disease and accident.....	1,372
Total deaths.....	1,870
Wounded.....	2,126
Total loss.....	3,996

Despite the bland optimism of Generals Otis and Schwan all reports from the front show that there has been no abatement in the resistance of the natives since the return of these great pacifists to the United States.

### The Fool and the Copperhead.

Lewistown Free Press: Sunday Chas. Bechdel and Samuel McCullough went to Jacks creek to spend the afternoon and saw an unusually large number of snakes. Mr. Bechdel, who thought he was a snake charmer, picked up two and played with them but they were not large enough to show his companion his real powers so he started to hunt a bigger one and found it, a four and a half foot copperhead. He caught it back of the neck and picked it up, but his hold was too far back, and the snake buried his fangs in his finger. He made wild efforts to shake the reptile loose and finally succeeded but it went for him again and struck him on the leg. McCullough came to his assistance and killed the snake before it would loose its hold. Bechdel was brought up to town in a hurry and Dr. Parcel's cauterized and dressed his wounds.

### Important Ruling.

The supreme court in a recent decision sustains Judge Bell in his rulings in the case of Miss Bessie A. Kocher, now Mrs. Harry Davis, against Snyder township, wherein on the 17th of December, 1898, she was awarded \$2,000 for injuries sustained November 17, 1897, along the Juniata river at Honestown. Her horse frightened, backed, and threw the occupants out of the buggy, together with the horse itself, over a fifteen foot embankment and into the river at a dangerous point, where proper guard rails had not been provided. Since the accident substantial guard rails have been placed along this river roadway from Tyrone to Birmingham. Other townships having dangerous roadways within their limits should profit by the example, as the supreme court is strongly of the opinion that guard rails are a necessity along public highways.

### FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

#### That Typewriter

I have a new type writer,  
And it is my delight  
To patter on it gaily  
And write, and write and writes  
It adds me in my labors  
When I'm in working vein  
It makes a GREAT improvement  
I write so very plain.  
It o'Perates so very  
that when you find you're stuck  
and cannot find the letter  
Just jab—and trust I to luck  
It's easy—VERY easy—  
To operate it then:—  
Now where on earth's that color?  
x x x x x  
Give me my ink and pen!  
—Baltimore American.

Running expenses—water rents.  
A public gathering—the census.  
Why is it that fast colors never run?  
News from the front—on the first page.

Why isn't finding a diamond hard luck?  
It's because of their livers that some men die.

Why isn't a medicine glass a sanitary measure?

Why can't one tan the hide of a dog with his bark?

Why can't a man save time by stopping his watch?

Why isn't a man a thief when he hooks his wife's dress?

A through car—the open one when there's a breeze.

Why isn't the book-keeper's lunch the bite of an adder?

Why is the hired girl of foreign birth called a domestic?

Why should the doctor who takes life easy escape arrest?

Why isn't a false bang on a lady's forehead a dead-lock?

Why don't the people on the other side of the earth fall off?

Why does a ball come to a head when it is located elsewhere?

A merchant who sells you a fish line can easily guarantee it to be "the real thing."

We have had an eclipse of the sun, but it is impossible to eclipse some of the daughters we know.

### "DE SUN DO MOVE."

Rev. John Jasper Not Worried by the Eclipse.

Rev. John Jasper, now in his eighty-eighth year, who was made famous by his dictum that "the sun do move," was sought out by a reporter in his humble home in Richmond, Va., to get his views on the eclipse.

"You still believe the sun moves?" he was asked.

"Yes," answered the dusky preacher; "I believe it as much as I believe that I am sitting here, and no man will ever be able to make me believe that it don't move until he can convince me that the Word of God is wrong."

### ONLY STOPPED ONCE.

"The sun has been moving ever since the Lord put him in his habitation, and he has never stopped but once, and that was when Joshua commanded him to stand still."

"When Herkiah was laying on his couch, sick, and asked the Lord to spare his life, the Lord turned the sun back 10 degrees, but the sun never stopped."

"Well, what do you think of the eclipse?"  
"I have never interested myself about it," was the answer. "I know that it occurs annually, but God attends to all those matters. Some things he has revealed to his children and some things he has kept secret from them."

### THE FOLLY OF MAN.

"The heavens declare the glory of God and He has arranged all these things to suit Himself. The sun and the moon and the stars obey God but man don't."

"That's the trouble. I never thought any man was fool enough to believe that the sun did not move. Everybody can see with his eyes that the sun do move, for he rises in the East in the morning and goes over his circuit like a strong man to run a race, and sets in the West."

"But the newspapers and the philosophers tried to make me out a liar, and so I just took down the Word of God and proved out of God's words that they were the liars, and not me."

### Purchased a Whole Town.

The interests of the Frugality Coal and Coke company has been sold to a syndicate, of which J. Henry Cochrane, of Williamsport, is president. Involved in the sale is the town of Frugality, Cambria county, with a population of 800,150 houses, three schools and two churches, which are turned over outright to the new syndicate. The new corporation announces it will extend its present holdings in coal land 10,000 acres and build a number of new tipples along its territory.