

# The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. M. KURTZ, Proprietor.

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## OUR HISTORICAL REVIEW

### Another Chapter On Peculiar Indian Beliefs.

#### CHRISTIANITY WAS REJECTED

A Strange Ceremony to Ward off Disease—They Paid Little Attention to the Efforts of Christian Missionaries.

XXXI.

This chapter concludes the diary of Rev. David Brainerd on his efforts as a missionary among the Indians of the central part of the state, of which the previous chapter was the first installment:

"*Lord's Day, Sept. 21 1744*—Spent the day with the Indians on the island,—Junia island (Duncan's in the Susquehanna.) As soon as they were well up in the morning I attempted to instruct them, and labored for that purpose to get them together; but soon found they had some thing else to do.

For near noon they gathered together all their powaws, or conjurers, and set about half a dozen of them playing their juggling tricks, and acting their frantic, distracted postures, in order to find out why they were then so sickly upon the island, numbers of them being at that time disordered with a fever and bloody flux. In this exercise they were engaged for several hours, making all the wild, ridiculous, and distracted motions imaginable, sometimes singing, sometimes howling, sometimes extending their hands to the utmost stretch, and spreading all their fingers; they seem to push with them as if they designed to push something away, or at least keep it off at arm's end; sometimes stroking their faces with their hands, then spouting water as fine as mist; sometimes sitting flat on the earth, then bowing down their faces to the ground; then wringing their sides as if in pain and anguish, twisting their faces, turning up their eyes, grunting, puffing, &c.

"Their monstrous actions tended to excite ideas of horror, and seemed to have something in them, as I thought, peculiarly suited to raise the devil, if he could be raised by anything odd, ridiculous, and frightful. Some of them, I could observe, were much more fervent and devout in the business than others, and seemed to chant, peep and mutter with a great degree of warmth and vigor, as if determined to awaken and engage the powers below. I sat at a small distance, not more than thirty feet from them, though undiscovered, with my bible in my hand, resolving, if possible, to spoil their sport, and prevent their receiving any answers from the infernal world, and there viewed the whole scene. They continued their horrid charms and incantations for more than three hours, until they had all wearied themselves out; although they had in that space of time taken several intervals of rest; and at length broke up, I apprehended, without receiving any answer at all.

"After they had done powawing, I attempted to discourse with them about Christianity; and they soon scattered, and gave me no opportunity for anything of that nature. A view of these things, while I was entirely alone in the wilderness, destitute of the society of any one who so much as "named the name of Christ," greatly sunk my spirits, and gave me the most gloomy turn of mind imaginable, almost stripped me of all resolution and hope respecting further attempts for propagating the gospel and converting the pagans, and rendered this the most burdensome and disagreeable Sabbath which I ever saw. But nothing, I can truly say, sunk and distressed me like the loss of my hope respecting their conversion.

"The Indians of this island can, many of them, understand the English language considerably well, having formerly lived in some part of Maryland, among or near the white people; but are very drunken, vicious and profane, although not so savage as those who have less acquaintance with the English. Their customs, in various respects, differ from those of the other Indians upon this river. They do not bury their dead in a common form, but let their flesh consume above the ground, in close cribs made for the purpose. At the end of a year, or sometimes a longer space of time, they take the bones, when the flesh is consumed, and wash and scrape them, and afterwards bury them with some ceremony. Their method of charming or conjuring /ver the sick, seems somewhat different from that of the other Indians, though in substance the same. The whole of it among these and others, perhaps, is an imitation of what seems by Naaman's expression, (2 King, v. 11) to have been the custom of the ancient heathen. It seems chiefly to consist in their "striking their hands over the diseased," and repeatedly stroking them, "and calling upon their god;" except the spouting of water like a mist, and

some other frantic ceremonies common to the other conjurers which I have already mentioned.

"When I was in this region in May last, I had an opportunity of learning many of the notions and customs of the Indians, as well as observing many of their practices. I then travelled more than 130 miles upon the river, above the English settlements; and in that journey met with individuals of seven or eight distinct tribes, speaking as many different languages. But of all the sights I ever saw among them, or indeed any where else, none appeared so frightful, or so near akin to what is usually imagined of "infernal powers," none ever excited such images of terror in my mind, as the appearance of one who was a devout and zealous reformer, or rather restorer of what he supposed was the ancient religion of the Indians. He made his appearance in his pontifical garb, which was a coat of bear-skins, dressed with the hair on, and hanging down to his toes; a pair of bear skin stockings, and a great wooden face painted, the one-half black, the other half tawny, about the color of the Indians' skin, with an extravagant mouth, cut very much awry; the face fastened to a bear-skin cap, which was drawn over his head. He advanced towards me with the instrument in his hand which he used for music in his idolatrous worship; which was a dry tortoise-shell with some corn in it, and the neck of it drawn on to a piece of wood, which made a very convenient handle. As he came forward he beat his tune with the rattle, and danced with all his might, but did not suffer any part of his body, not so much as his fingers, to be seen. No one would have imagined from his appearance or actions, that he could have been a human creature, if they had not had some intimation of it otherwise. When he came near me I could not but shrink away from him, although it was then noonday, and I knew who it was; his appearance and gestures were so prodigiously frightful. He had a house consecrated to religious uses, with divers images cut upon the several parts of it. I went in, and found the ground beat almost as hard as a rock, with their frequent dancing upon it. I discoursed with him about christianity. Some of my discourse he seemed to like, but some of it he disliked extremely. He told me that God had taught him his religion, and that he would never turn from it, but wanted to find some who would join heartily with him in it; for the Indians, he said, were grown very degenerate and corrupt. He had thoughts, he said, of leaving all his friends, and traveling abroad, in order to find some who would join with him; for he believed God had some good people somewhere, who felt as he did. He had not always, he said, felt as he now did; but had formerly been like the rest of the Indians, until about five years before that time. Then, he said, his heart was very much distressed, so that he could not live among the Indians, but got away into the woods, and lived alone for some months. At length, he said, God comforted his heart, and showed him what he should do; and since that time he had known God, and tried to serve him; and loved all men, he said, he would, so as he never did before. He treated me with uncommon courtesy, and seemed to be hearty in it. I was told by the Indians, that he opposed their drinking strong liquor with all his power; and that, if at any time he could not dissuade them from it by all he could say, he would leave them, and go crying into the woods. It was manifest that he had a set of religious notions which he had examined for himself, and not taken for granted upon bare tradition; and he relished or dis relished whatever was spoken of a religious nature, as if either agreed or disagreed with his standard. While I was sometimes discoursing, he would sometimes say, "Now that I like; so God has taught me," &c.; and some of his sentiments seemed very just. Yet he utterly denied the existence of a devil, and declared there was no such creature known among the Indians of old times, whose religion he supposed he was attempting to revive. He likewise told me that departed souls went southward, and that the difference between the good and bad was this: that the former were admitted into a beautiful town with spiritual walls, and that the latter would for ever hover around these walls in vain attempts to get in. He seemed to be sincere, honest and conscientious in his own way, and according to his own religious notions; which was more than I ever saw in any other pagan. I perceived that he was looked upon and derided among most of the Indians as a *precise zealot*, who made a needless noise about religious matters; but I must say that there was something in his temper and disposition, which looked more like true religion than any thing I ever observed among other heathens. But, alas! how deplorable is the state of the Indians upon this river! The brief representation which I have here given of their notions and manners is sufficient to show that they are led captive by Satan at his will, in the most eminent manner; and methinks might likewise be sufficient to excite the compassion and engage the prayers of God's children for these their fellow-men, who "sit in the region of the shadow of death."

## IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS

### Two Measures that Should be Fully Understood

#### MAY SECURE SECRET BALLOT

By the Use of Voting Machines—Personal Registration to be Required to Prevent Padding of Lists—The Two Amendments Explained.

Thus far in the campaign little has been said about the two amendments to the State constitution to be voted upon by the people this fall. Advertisements have been placed in two republican papers of local circulation and one democratic paper in this county announcing the fact. Not one half of the voters in the county have seen these advertisements doled out for political purposes, and hardly ten per cent. who have seen them really comprehend their import or have paid any attention to them.

This fall every voter, on a portion of his ticket, will find a blank space provided wherein he must make his mark indicating approval or disapproval of the amendments, providing for voting machines and personal registration. As the reading of the legal notice gives little light on the question we must depend on comment and discussion on this topic to inform the reader and voter.

The following article from the Pittsburgh Post on this subject is worthy of close attention:

**VOTING MACHINE AMENDMENT.**  
"Two constitutional amendments will be voted upon by the people of Pennsylvania at the election this fall—one authorizing legislation to require the personal registration of voters; the other permitting the use of voting machines at all elections. This latter amendment strikes out Section 4, Article VIII, of the constitution, providing that all elections shall be "by ballot," and substitutes this provision:

"All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot, or by such other method as may be prescribed by law, provided that secrecy in voting be preserved."  
"If the electorate reject the amendment, that will be the end of the matter at least for five years, inasmuch as the constitution provides that amendments cannot be submitted oftener than once in five years. If the amendment carry it does not follow necessarily that voting machines will be adopted. The new constitutional provision would require legislation to make it effective. It looks to the future and to the possible development of an effective and convenient system of machine voting. If the legislature should be opposed to the use of voting machines the adoption of that method may be postponed for many years."

"It is probable that much informing light may be thrown on the utility and value of these machines before the amendment is voted on. It is expected they will be introduced in Boston this fall under a Massachusetts statute. There is a state board of examiners on voting machines, who must first approve machines before they can be used at elections. The state board have approved certain machines, and samples of them have been set up in Boston for public examination and trial. The Boston board of election commissioners on voting machines will supplement the public exhibition of the contrivances by reporting on their operation in Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, etc. The board have just returned from their journey of inspection, but have not made public their report. The "Transcript" retains enthusiastic over the machines. Many witnesses, persons who were fully conversant with the results accomplished by the devices in the cities named, were examined by the Boston board, and great unanimity in favor of them is reported. The machines find favor, for the reason that they are accurate in recording votes and report the result of the poll correctly, in a wonderful short time, compared with old methods of canvassing and counting.

"As to the other amendment to be voted on, looking to personal registration, "The Post" has on many occasions spoken in its favor and demonstrated its necessity, if we are to have honest elections in Pennsylvania. It is the basis of ballot reform in the way of an honest vote and a true return. The simple proposition it embodies is that in the cities of the Commonwealth every citizen claiming the right of suffrage shall make personal application for the registration of his name as a legal voter. He cannot do it by deputy. The registering officials are not permitted to accept and enroll any name unless the voter applies in person. Personal registration is incumbent on all—high and low, rich and poor. This amendment is so meritorious and just, and such an important prerequisite to honest elections, that we expect to see the amendment providing for it adopted by an overwhelming majority."

Personal registration is required in New York and we believe it has proven satisfactory, and especially in the large cities where there is more need of precaution to insure honest elections. The Meyers voting machine was in use in some sections of New York state but was abandoned as impractical. Of course there are other devices, as mentioned in Massachusetts.

This question is a new one to us as well as most readers, but it will be our aim to keep on the lookout for further comment and by election time our readers will have had sufficient opportunity to study these amendments and vote intelligently upon them.

## AUGUST COURT NOTES.

Court convened on Friday morning at nine o'clock, when a large number of petitions and motions were heard by the Court, the returns by the sheriff read and sheriff's deeds acknowledged from properties sold and one in partition.

James Reed, who plead guilty to the taking of two gold watches at Hecla Park belonging to A. C. Mann, was sentenced to pay a fine of one dollar, costs of prosecution and undergo imprisonment in the penitentiary for one year and seven months.

A special week of court was fixed to begin on the third Monday of November, being the week before the regular term begins, to try certain ejection cases.

In the case of the Mill Hill Lime Company, Limited vs. the Bald Eagle, Nuttany and Brush Valley Turnpike road Company being an appeal from the judgment of a justice of the peace. The defendant company confessed judgment in favor of the plaintiff company for \$65.30.

On Saturday morning court again convened and Harry Miller, colored, convicted for larceny in taking money out of Irvin's book store, and Minnie Foulk, who plead guilty to stealing dresses out of Crider's Exchange, were called up for sentence. Sentence was suspended in both cases until November sessions next. Miller is a less than twelve years old and Miss Foulk about sixteen.

Other criminal cases filed to August sessions were:

Com. vs. L. M. Snyder, charged with adultery and bastardy and attempt to commit an abortion; prosecutor William Stetler. Settled.

Com. vs. Stanley Wharton and Bevin Bland, charged with larceny; prosecutor John A. Thompson. Bill ignored.

Com. vs. Michael Hayes and Fleming Pooman, charged with larceny; prosecutor John C. Siker. Bill ignored.

Com. vs. Thomas Love, charged with assault and battery; prosecutor D. W. McCloskey. Settled.

Com. vs. George Graham, charged with assault and battery, prosecutrices Minnie Freeman and Sarah Freeman. Settled.

Com. vs. Joseph Thomas and Isaac Thomas, charged assault and battery; prosecutor Frank Miller. Settled.

Gm. vs. Nathan Hosterman charged with none support, prosecutrix Maggie Hosterman. Continued.

Com. vs. Frank Miller, William Green and John Delige, charged with assault and battery; prosecutor Harry Grimes. Settled.

Com. vs. Steve Yonchurock and George Shisko, charged with aggravated assault and battery; prosecutor James Duck. Settled by the permission of the Court.

Com. vs. John T. Smith, Stephen Smith and Lloyd Smith, charged with cutting and carrying away timber; prosecutor William Colyer. Settled.

Com. vs. William R. Noll, charged with desertion; prosecutor J. B. Gentzel. Continued.

Com. vs. William Harkins, charged with fornication; prosecutrix Annie M. Reiter. Continued.

Com. vs. H. Montgomery and Agnes Montgomery, charged with assault and battery; prosecutors Calvin and Jessie Green, two cases. Bill ignored and the county to pay the costs.

Com. vs. William Gray, charged with desertion; prosecutrix Edna Spears. Settled.

Com. vs. Frank Garfinkle, charged with assault and battery; prosecutor William Benner. Bill ignored and the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. Robert Moore, charged with betrayal; prosecutrix Thomas Askey. Continued.

Com. vs. Samuel I. McCloskey, charged with betrayal; prosecutrix Gertrude E. Cox. Continued.

Com. vs. William Benner and Duncan Benner, charged with assault and battery; prosecutor Isaac Garfinkle. Bill ignored and the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Com. vs. H. E. Harper, charged with betrayal; prosecutrix Lizzie Mitchell. Settled.

Com. vs. William Nail, charged with betrayal; prosecutrix Laura Allen. Settled.

Com. vs. John Baylets, charged with malicious mischief; prosecutor J. J. Kelley. Continued.

## VARIETY OF COUNTY NEWS

### Items of Interest Gathered From All Sections.

#### SHORT AND TO THE POINT

What Transpired Worthy of Brief Mention, the Past Week—News From Over the County—For Hasty Readers—A New Department.

The sale of the A. E. Mever's, dec'd, farm, located in Potter township east of Centre Hill, has been continued to Saturday September 21st.

Tuesday September 10th the household goods, implements, etc., of Wm. Meyers, deceased, will be offered at public sale at the residence of Wm. Tressler, in Benner township.

A festival will be held at Snow Shoe intersection on Saturday September 14th by the members of the United Evangelical church. The Bellefonte band will be in attendance. All the delicacies of the season will be served.

Not one of the State Administration men has been invited to be present at the Grangers' picnic Centre Hill, not even Secretary of Agriculture John Hamilton, although Hamilton is a Centre county man, and for years was one of the leading speakers at the encampment.

A specially equipped car went into service last week on the Bellefonte Central. The middle part has been cleared of regular seats, and the space has been given to nice individual cane chairs. The windows in this portion of the car have been widened to about twice the ordinary space.

Best Grape, a young man of Spring Mills, made a futile attempt at suicide last week. On pretense of his mother's illness he brought two ounces of laudanum from Dr. Braught, went to his home and drank it. He was found on the couch in a stupor. Antidotes were given at once, which restored consciousness.

A. V. Hamilton, who lives on the old Hamilton homestead farm, near Pleasant Gap, had the misfortune last week to break two ribs on his right side. In driving a wagon down a hill in the rear of the barn, the spring seat on the wagon jolted off—the road being extremely rough and washed out as a result of the recent heavy rains—throwing Mr. Hamilton to the ground.

From the breast of what is intended to be the lower dam of the Paddy mountain power plant to the western end of the dam, there has been ascertained to be an 18 feet fall which ensures a most magnificent water power, while the second, or upper storage dam has nearly the same advantages—upon the whole the scheme has one of the finest water powers in the county back of it, as we are informed by one of the parties interested.

#### IN ADJOINING COUNTIES.

A great cloudburst, two miles north of Penfield, carried away a large field belonging to Samuel Lee, and, taking it across the road, spread it over the farm of P. W. Rudolph.

Messrs. T. B. and J. B. Shuman, of Tyrone, have leased the College Hotel from S. S. Grieb, the present proprietor, and will take charge of it about Sept 9th. Mr. Grieb is going to live in the Roup house on Beaver avenue.

Two farmers' institutes will be held in Clinton county this winter, one at Flemington and one at McElhattan. At Flemington the institute will be held in the Disciple church on January 3d and 4th and at McElhattan in the Methodist church on January 6th and 7th.

The Eagleville Young Men's Christian Association was permanently organized. Officers were elected as follows: Rev. George Stanley West, general secretary; Clarence Johnson, librarian; Wilson Kunes, assistant librarian; directors Captain James A. Quigley, C. W. Page, Samuel Kunes, Mr. Harter, W. T. Fowler and Samuel Spangler.

The Rev. Walter Lowrie, son of the late J. R. Lowrie, Esq., of Warriorsmark, was drowned Thursday 29, while in bathing at Newport, Rhode Island, with the Rev. Richard Greene, whom he was visiting. It is believed that Mr. Lowrie was seized with cramps and got caught in eel grass. Rev. Walter Lowrie was about 31 years old and unmarried.

Mrs. William Riber, her daughter, Mrs. Clara Wilkinson, and her grandson, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, have been visiting relatives in Centre county for some time. This is the first time that Mrs. Riber has been here since she and the Doctor went west over thirty years ago, having resided at Pine Grove. He died in Berrien Springs several years ago.

Charles Smith, of Beech Creek township, Clinton county, has received word

## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

### Bright Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

Half a loaf is better than no holiday.

Not enough to go round—the semicircle.

Tombstone poetry is what we call hard lines.

There's more in a clock than appears on the face of it.

The sea is awfully stylish; even the waves have crests.

As a rule, tramps shun the town of Bath on wash day.

Are sixteen and a half sheep's feet equal to one ram-rod?

The world is wide, of course, or how could people go abroad?

Brass band music never comes out of the little end of the horn.

It doesn't take many whisky-straightts to make a man walk crooked.

Too much perfume on a person denotes a lack of real good sense.

The grocer doesn't want a peppery wife just because he is a salt seller.

The merchant tailor may not sell clothespins, but he keeps a good clothes line.

#### Burglars at Unionville.

The safe in Buck & Wagner's mill was blown open Tuesday morning about 3 o'clock by some unknown miscreants. A hole was blown through floor, the box on which the flue was built was shattered and knocked into splinters, pieces of the debris knocked a hole in the stove pipe, knocked the top off a large oil can, broke several panes of glass in the window and played havoc generally.

The burglars secured only about fifteen dollars. Mr. Buck, fortunately deposited what funds they had on hand the day before. Two checks and a note amounting to about \$300 were laid out on the bunk and a pass book laid on top of them. Mrs. Wagner, the miller's wife, heard the report and awakened her husband who at once went over but the birds had flown.

The report was also heard by Geo. W. Morrison, who lives quite a distance from the mill. The villagers used powder instead of dynamite. For the last three or four week the mill had been running all night until Tuesday night. The room in which the safe was destroyed is a perfect wreck—no clue to the burglars.

#### A Large Estate.

On Tuesday William Tressler, of Pilemore, had occasion to call at our office to have bills printed for the sale of the personal effects of the late Thomas Meyers, deceased, of Benner township, which will take place September 10th, at the Tressler residence in Benner twp. The estate is a large one and of which Mr. Tressler has been made the executor. From him we learned that Mr. Meyers' personal property such as money on deposit and in various loans aggregates over \$66,000. His real estate holdings will exceed that amount consisting of three farms, three properties in Bellefonte, one in Milesburg and another at Unionville, and coal lands. The coal lands are the most valuable being two tracts in Clearfield county that are being operated.

A conservative estimate of the entire estate is that it will reach about \$175,000. When it is remembered that Mr. Meyers came to this country a poor boy and for many years worked industriously at his trade as a blacksmith, he must have been a man of rare judgment and business sagacity. He made the most of his money purchasing valuable land covered with timber and underlaid with coal.

#### Opera House Attractions.

Next week there will be a series of attractions in the opera house and will give an opportunity for visitors here in attendance at the County Fair to see something good. Tuesday evening the ever popular "Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be presented by the Stetson Company, one of the best on the road. Their monster parade will give some idea of the show.

Wednesday evening "Puddin'head Wilson," a play that has had a long run in all the leading cities, will be here.

Thursday and Friday evenings "Franciscus" the famous magician, will give one of his novel entertainments. He is a very clever man in his line and has a fine equipment.

All of the above attractions are good.

#### Veteran Club Picnic.

The Centre County Veteran Club picnic will be held at Pine Grove Mills, on Saturday of this week. Special rates for same will be given over the Bellefonte Central; round trip, from Bellefonte 50 cents, from Waddies 25 cents; no tickets issued for less. Trains leave Bellefonte at 6:30, 9:30, and 10:30 a.m.; 1:05 and 4:15 p.m. Returning trains leave Pine Grove Mills: 10:30 a.m.; 1:00, 2:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

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