PRESENT DAY ISSUES.

Political Parties, Their Uses and Occasional Abuses.

ORGANIZATION IS TOO PERFECT.

Party Welfare Sometimes Becomes Superior to That of Country.

NEED OF THE INDEPENDENT VOTER

LV.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Since the formation of the American Union there have existed powerful political parties aiming to control the administration of government for various ends and purposes which they profess to respect. These parties differ in many particulars from similar parties in England. They have not proceeded upon the idea that opposition is always a healthy restraint upon the party in power so much as upon the strength of popular movement to secure specific ends. We have no such thing as "Her Majesty's Opposition," but it is safe to say that, as there has been, so there will always be, opposition to the party in power for one cause or another.

There is no doubt, however, of the utility of that restraint upon those entrusted with the management of government which is derived merely from the knowledge that they are under the fiery criticism of an organized body of the people who have no more noble object than putting those in power out and themselves in. Frequently political contests amount to little more than this strife between the outs and ins, but on the other hand there have been many occasions in the history of the country when something better has been the issue.

If anything is done in political life whether for good or for ill, it must be accomplished through organization. Occasionally the enthusiasm of a large number of people is concentrated upon some particular object and a spontaneous movement takes place which requires very little organized effort to sustain. But more frequently particular measures and ends are developed only through lines of policy which must be pursued for a considerable period of time and the significance and value of which are only understood by organized agitation; hence in the creation of political parties the principle of co-operation is not only legitimate but it is always salutary and even necessary to political existence.

Platforms and Leaders.

We are not, however, able to judge of the value of particular organizations wholly by the ends they propose to themselves, for account must always be taken of the personal factors making up the means the society has for accomplishing its ends. This is almost always lost to the sight of those who are enthusiastic over co-operation as a method of achieving results. However admirable the platform of a party may be, its success and supremacy may be wholly vicious, and fraught with danger to the common weal, unless its controlling sentiments are those which the moral law approves. This means that the controlling sentiments of the individual members of the party who govern it shall be righteous.

One great trouble is, then, that those who compose the party are too often actuated by their own selfish purposes and are using the party only as a means for their unpatriotic ends. When this is the case principles are lost sight of and the party is very apt to become a body in which counter-interests are adjusted and balanced with each other, and the preservation of an equilibrium between those different interests becomes practically the main thing to be sought. In such case, however good the principles of the party may be, they are even ignored in practice or are not supported with that degree of force which is necessary for success. Everything is done timidly, and the platform is preserved for show purposes, while the activity of the organization is very little directed toward putting in practice the principles professed.

In close connection with this arises another evil, which is, that from the necessity of keeping the party compact for the purposes of victory, the ideal of the party as a means to a higher end is lost sight of and it becomes simply an end in itself; the success of the party takes precedence of the welfare of the country. This feeling is intensified by the competition of the opposing parties and it is found that the political army must be like the militant, thoroughly well trained, despotically governed and composed of the men who are willing to act without asking the reason why. This is a dangerous condition for the State. This is a case of excessive confidence in the co-operative idea; but in order to make the co-operation complete and effective men eliminate that which alone makes co-operative valuable. They take away that real unity of thought and feeling which creates an organic constructive force and get in place of it blind destructive force to be wielded by a few in modes that these few determine.

When Partisanship Is Bitter.

Both upon the leaders and upon the rank and file of the organization this sort of sentiment is thoroughly demoralizing. The latter come to regard loyalty to the party as the test of the full performance of the duties of the citizen. They allow their chiefs to do their thinking for them. They vote unblushingly against their own better judgment if they have ideas of their own. They believe indefinitely and without reflection that ruin will be wrought if the other party prevail. They decline to see the faults of their own side. Theirs to obey, to follow. The country, the State is their party; others are foreigners and strangers. Within is celestial beauty; without is darkness, howling and gnashing of teeth.

Upon the leaders there is the pressure of responsibility for the direction if they are personally honest. They plan to defeat the other side. That is the objective point, the chief end. They must govern their movements accordingly. They must say enough to satisfy the most, and as little as possible to offend. Generalities in principles, therefore, commend themselves, because they are easily evaded, and any one can put his own interpretation upon them. Personal favors must be shown to prevent desertion; the enemy must be watched, and every lapse taken advantage of; the idea of possible good to the whole from the success of the other side is absolutely excluded. To preserve the organization and win success for it is the prime consideration for the chiefs if they expect to maintain their rank as leaders and obtain the emoluments of party success.

Too Much Hypocrisy.

In addition to this there is often afforded the very best opportunity for positive venality and corruption. It is important to retain the services of a good party worker, even if he be a thief, and enriching himself at the expense of the people. The temptation to blink at this vice is very powerful. And the closeness, compactness and discipline of the party present great inducements for venal persons of all sorts to enter in. They know how to make themselves of consequence, and as they rise in the ranks their chances of plunder or private profit, indirectly gained, are increased. As their power is enlarged they shape the whole policy of the party with a view to personal profit. It is difficult for those more honest to restrain them, because to do so will produce dissension and injure the party. And if a reign of terror exists, as is often the case, the one who raises his voice does so at great peril to his interests. He is branded as a malcontent, slandered, befouled, beaten, robbed and turned of doors naked.

The result of all this, and much more evil of the same nature, to detail which would require greater space than can be allowed—is to make party declarations too frequently mere hypocrisy and without significance; to make party action merely a contest of one organization within the body politic with another or others for success at all hazards; and to create a feeling that the only restraint upon such action, or upon the action of its individuals, in official station, should be fear of the opposition. Fortunate it is that this last restraint of competition exists.

The remedy for these things is not in the abolition of political parties, nor is it to be found in the triumph of any organization or in the overflow of any other. It is not in more perfect organization as such, but in less perfect. Or, perhaps better, as there must be some organization, it lies in entirely different ideas of the limitations of organization—a better understanding of where it is needed, how it is to be used, and when it must stop its work and disintegrate.

Parties Are a Necessity.

Organization must always be subordinated to organic growth; and to promote this last there must be opportunity for every part to grow. The co-operation must always proceed from within, never from outside constraint. Individual independence of thought and of action is what should be cultivated and encouraged. The sentiment of loyalty to party alone, or as final, should be discountenanced as a moral absurdity. It is of the greatest consequence to inculcate the notion that each man may and ought to give effect in his own way to his own ideas, formed by his own independent thought. Impatience of dictation on the one side and unwillingness to constrain upon the other, is the healthy condition.

It thus appears that we should do wrong to condemn all co-operative organizations in the form of political parties. It is only the selfishness of individuals that should be restrained, and the tendency to exaggerated notion of what co-operation can do that should be corrected. In this way the greatest abuse of political parties can be counteracted. That abuse is always making the society, its organization and its methods, the chief end, forgetting its original purpose. In the social and political worlds the same law prevails as governs the development of the individual character. When there is organized movement for a social end outside of its own preservation, it is in aid of progress with all its drawbacks. But when its movements become self-centered, and its ends its own power of advantage, it ceases to be of social value, and, on the contrary, becomes an obstacle in the way of the realization of the common good.

BY DANIEL GREENLEAF THOMPSON.

NEW YORK, November 2.

EDWARD TOWNSEND DEAD.

SUDDEN DEMISE OF THE CAMBRIA IRON CO.'S PRESIDENT.

He Never Recovered From the Shock of the Johnstown Flood—A Sketch of His Busy Life—How He Wiped Out the Company's Debt.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 5. — [*Special.*]—Edward Y. Townsend, President of the Cambria Iron Company, died of heart disease this morning, at his country home at Bryn Mawr. He had been in poor health for some time, and for nearly two months had been unable to attend to business. His relatives and friends felt he could not recover, and his death, therefore, although sudden, was not unexpected.

Mr. Townsend was born at West Chester, Pa., October, 1824. His father was John W. Townsend and his mother Siballa A. Price, daughter of Philip Price. Edward Y. Townsend was the fifth in lineal descent from Joseph Townsend, an intimate friend and associate of William Penn. Mr. Townsend's early education was acquired at the school of Anthony Bolmar, at West Chester. At the age of 18 he entered the firm of Wood, Abbott & Co., a wholesale drygoods house doing an extensive business in the South and West. When the firm of Wood, Abbott & Co. was dissolved and that of Wood, Bacon & Co. formed, he was made a partner.

He continued in this firm until the acquisition of large interests in the Cambria Iron Company by R. D. Wood and his brother, Charles S., and others, who organized the firm of Wood, Morrell & Co., of which Edward Y. Townsend was made a partner. The firm was reorganized in 1862, with Charles S. Wood as President and Mr. Townsend as Vice President. He filled this office until Mr. Wood's death, in 1873, when he was promoted to its Presidency. He held that position continously until his death, serving the stockholders with conspicuous fidelity, and displaying the highest executive ability and business skill.

When he was placed at the head of the company the capital stock outstanding amounted to $2,000,000, and there was a large floating debt. Mr. Townsend accepted the office on condition that the company extinguish the debt as rapidly as possible. The condition was accepted by the directors, and with their aid Mr. Townsend soon succeeded in wiping out the debt. The great Johnstown flood gave Mr. Townsend a shock from which he never fully recovered. The terrible loss of life completely unnerved him, and as the accounts came to his office he expressed his deepest sympathy for the families of the victims.

In addition to being President of the Cambria Iron Company, he was a director of the Philadelphia National Bank and the Philadelphia Trust and Safe Deposit Company. He leaves a widow, a daughter of Henry Troth, and two sons, Henry T., President of the Logan Iron Company, and J. W., Second Vice President of the Cambria Iron Company.

Death Record for the Past Week.

The mortuary report of the Bureau of Health for the week ending October 31 shows a total of 100 deaths, or an annual death rate of 21 per 1,000 as compared with a total of 77 deaths during the corresponding week of 1890. There were 27 deaths in the old city, 38 in the East End, 27 on the Southside and 8 at the institutions. Of the deaths 18 were those of infants under 1 year of age, 20 of children between ages of 1 year and 5 years and 30 of persons between ages of 5 years and 30 years, 22 of persons between ages of 30 years and 70 years and 8 of people over 70 years of age. Diphtheria caused 18 deaths; scarlatina, 2; typhoid fever, 10; consumption, 7; paralysis, 4; convulsions, 6; respiratory troubles, 16; digestive diseases, 13; old age, 3, and violent causes, 2.

Lawrenceville Ladies Bunkoed.

Two unknown men have been working a scheme through Lawrenceville that has been quite profitable. They have been representing that they are agents for *Harper's Weekly*, and carried sample copies of that paper, also satchels with samples of decorated chinaware. They represented that for a subscription for the paper at $4 per annum, in addition subscribers would receive a set of chinaware of 144 pieces, the same as the sample exhibited. Several ladies were induced to purchase, but up to date have not received either the paper or the chinaware. The matter has been turned over to the police, who will make an effort to locate the slick gentlemen.

The Farmers' Deposit National Bank

Invite the public to call and examine their new safe deposit vaults. Information concerning the renting of boxes and deposit of valuables cheerfully given. MWF

TO-DAY—We open a choice new assortment of hemstitched stamped linens—scarfs, squares, tray covers and doylies. Low prices. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

B. & B.

Alaska seal capes, the new shapes, $55, $75 to $250. BOGGS & BUHL.

Did You Get One

Of the fine frames given with every dozen of cabinets at Hendricks & Co.'s, 68 Federal street, Allegheny? See them every day this week. Cabinets $1 00.

TO-DAY—Extra fine trimmed felt sailor hats at 75c each. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

STILL ON THE JUMP.

The Production of the McDonald Field Is Still Increasing.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE WELL NO GOOD.

Surprising Developments in All Parts of the Field Yesterday.

GOOD PRODUCERS EXPECTED TO-DAY

The top notch, the high rung and the pinacle of production was reached yesterday in the McDonald oil field. Conservative estimates placed it at 84,000 which is more than it has ever been here before. This almost equals the wonderful Bradford field which at one time went as high as 110,000 barrels a day. There seems to be no limit to the McDonald-McCurdy field, as big wells are found in all parts of it and in the most unexpected places. Unless there is a wonderful falling off in the big wells and a change in the new wells the production of this little but profitable field may yet go to 100,000 barrels a day. There is an immense amount of territory to the southwest which has yet to be developed, and also a great scope of elegantly looking ground between the Elliott and the Mathews well, which has never been drilled. The well on the slaughter-house lot at Oakdale is probably the most important in the field. It is farther to the east of a 45° line than any of the others and consequently receiving more attention than any of its neighbors, as it is now drilling in the fifth sand. It is not, however, showing for much of a well in the fifth sand formation.

No Change Was Noted.

There was little change yesterday in the Guffey & Queen well on the H. H. Wetmore farm, located a mile and a half northwest of Oakdale. This well is not surrounded by gassers and small producers as was at first supposed. An investigation of the wells shows that they are only drilled in the third and fourth sands. There is not a well between the Wetmore and the Mathews, which is about a mile to the southwest on 922½° line. When this territory is opened up it will without a doubt swell the production and more than offset the decline from the wells which are now regarded as the gushers of field.

Work in the Field.

The field, as usual, presents many interesting features, and as it grows older it affords the most scientific geologist ample room to ply his vocation. The spotted character of the territory is becoming more apparent every day, while the surprises are daily growing more numerous. The Slaughterhouse well at Oakdale is from 15 to 20 feet in the fifth sand to-night, with but little indications of it making a well. Yet there is a possibility that the bottom of the rock may yield up the stuff, but the chances are against a theory of this kind. Outside of the Slaughterhouse well the venture of Gartland & Feely, on the McKee property, is the most interesting and important well in this section of the field. It is located only 800 feet west of the Slaughterhouse, and a special from the field at 10 o'clock last night was to the effect that it was just on top the sand, spraying lively and had all the ear marks of a big well. Should this turn out to be the case it will lend a new impetus to developments around Oakdale, besides stimulating many industrial enterprises in the town. The owners thought they would have matters in shape to-day to drill the well in, the result of which is being looked forward to with great interest. Guffey, Murphy, Jennings & Gaily drilled their No. 4 Herron a little while today, increasing its production to 375 barrels an hour.

The Oakdale Oil Company also deepened their Sturgeon heirs No. 2, which had the same effect, and its record to-night by an actual gauge is 350 barrels an hour. One esteemed morning contemporary is still lost in deep wonder where all the production comes from, but if an account of this phenomenal increase was taken it might throw considerable light on the question so little understood. There is the Forest Oil Company's No. 1, Etta Glenn, too, which from the same source of profound reasoning has been said to be greatly overestimated, but an actual gauge of the well to-day by an impartial party makes its production for the past 24 hours over 4,000 barrels, or about 170 barrels an hour. It is a corker, to be sure, but the sooner the plain facts are proclaimed to the trade, the better it will be for everyone engaged in the industry. Kennedy, Fitzgibbon, Bott & Co., on the Moore farm, in the McCurdy end of the field, found the fifth sand to-day. The shell is only broken and to-night the well has a record of 45 barrels an hour. To-morrow, barring drawbacks, they will drill in, and judging from present indications it will make a well of the first magnitude. Andy Gartland and W. L. Mell's well on the Taylor, which has been erroneously reported by our morning contemporary, is also in the fifth sand to-night and flowing 15 barrels an hour. They expect to open it up to-day. At least that was the intention of its owners last night when THE DISPATCH scout met them. Pat Galligan, on the Connell lot, between a quarter and a half mile northeast from the big Mathews well, is in the fifth sand tonight with his venture, which is doing at the rate of 100 barrels a day. Mr. Galligan said to THE DISPATCH scout that if everything went well he would know by night what it was good for. The Wallace Oil Company's well on the lumber yard lot in McDonald town is far enough into the fifth sand to demonstrate that it will never amount to much as a producer—or, in other words, it is practically dry. Jennings, Guffy & Co.'s No. 4 Bell, about 700 feet north of No. 2, is making 175 barrels a day from the Gordon sand. Greenlee & Forst are drilling in the Gordon in No. 5 Mevey, which is flowing 150 barrels a day from this stratum. If they have good luck this well will reach the fifth Monday or Tuesday, and, being located only 400 feet south from their Jumbo, the end is awaited with some interest. The Guffy & Queene well on the H. H. Wetmore farm is still the center of attraction. There was nothing done at the well yesterday on account of tankage, but this necessity will be provided for to-day, and the drill will make the much looked for revelation.

Gauges of the Wells.

The following is an accurate gauge of the big wells of the field yesterday per hour: Guffey, Jennings, Murphy & Co.'s No. 1 Matthews, 225; Herron No. 1, 120; Herron No. 2, 75; Herron No. 4, 275; Bell No. 1, 50; Bell No. 2, 115. Guffey, Murphy & Galey's No. 1 Elliott, 75; No. 3 Elliott, 115; No. 1 Sam Sturgeon, 60; No. 2 Sam Sturgeon, 180. Oakdale Oil Company's No. 1 Wallace, 250; No. 1 Baldwin, 100; No. 1 Morgan heirs, 120; No. 1 Sturgeon heirs, 20; No. 2 same farm, 70; Hays & Gartland's No. 1 Miller, 40; No. 5 Miller, 55; No. 4 Miller, 30; Royal Gas Company's No. 1 Mary Robb, 20; Devonian Oil Company's No. 1 Elliott, 200. Hoffman & Co.'s No. 2 Moore, 30; Woodand Oil Company's No. 1 Gamble, 35; W. P. Rend's No. 1, 15; Conklin & Ferigs, No. 1 Christy, 15. Black & Co.'s No. 1, 30. Miller, Mover & Co.'s No. 1 McDonald, 30. Forest Oil Company's No. 1 Etta Glenn, 200; Shaffer, No. 1, 30; Shaffer No. 3, 20; Shaffer No. 5, 70. Patterson & Co.'s No. 1, 60. Wheeling Gas Company's No. 1, Cook lot, 20. Guckert & Steele's No. 3 Merry, 130. Patterson & Co.'s No. 2 Kelso, 195; Mertz No. 1, 20. Forst & Greenlee's No. 1 Mevey, 125; No. 3 Mevey, 30; No. 4 Mevey, 140. The runs of the Southwest Pipe Line Company from the McDonald field yesterday were 60,705.14 barrels. Outside of McDonald they were 15,149.06, making a total of 75,854. The National Transit Company's runs were 38,852.06; and their shipments 59,013.31 barrels. The Macksburg runs were 346.11. Buckeye runs, 33,212.55, and shipments, 48,565.14 barrels. Eureka runs were 6,301.74, and shipments, 1,868.25. The Southern Pipe Line Company's shipments were 6,321.94.

News From Greene County.

WAYNESBURG—A meeting of the stockholders of the Keystone Oil and Gas Company took place at the Downey House, this place, today, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, with much other business, which was attended to. The newly elected officers were: D. H. Courtney, President; D. L. Donley, Vice President; A. J. Yoke, Secretary and General Manager; R. L. Crawford, Treasurer. The directors elected were: D. H. Courtney, D. L. Donley, Dr. Z. K. Brown, Jacob South and A. J. Yoke.

The Keystone Oil and Gas Company is now operating in Ritchie county, West Va., and has one of the largest gassers in the State, with a pressure of 665 pounds to the square inch, from which they are now supplying the town of Harrisville. The company expects to start a new well in the near future in the same territory, when they will proceed to pipe the gas a distance of 25 miles to Parkersburg, on the Ohio river.

Yesterday's Features.

The market was again dull and weak. The field and apathy among outsiders were the impediments. December opened at 59⅝c, which was the highest point. The lowest and close was 58⅝c. Refined was lower at 6.20@6.35c; London, 5½d; Antwerp, 15¼f; Bremen, 6d; Liverpool, 6d. Daily average runs, 113,794 barrels; daily average shipments, 83,836 barrels; clearances, 12 000 barrels.

OIL CITY, Nov. 5.—National Transit certificates opened at 59⅛c; highest, 59⅝c; lowest, 58⅝c; closed, 58⅝c; sales, 164,000 bbls.; clearances, 206,000 bbls.; shipments, 70,143 bbls.; runs, 129,453 bbls.

BRADFORD, Nov. 5.—National Transit certificates opened at 59⅛c; closed at 58⅝c; highest, 59⅝c; lowest, 58⅝c; clearances, 156,000 bbls.

NEW YORK, Nov. 5.—Petroleum opened steady and advanced ⅛c in the early trading, then declined 1⅛c on pressure to sell by local holders, afterward rallied ⅝c and closed steady. Pennsylvania oil, spot, no sales; December option opened at 59¼c; highest, 59¾c; lowest, 58c; closing, 58⅝c. Lima oil, no sales; total sales, 145,000 bbls.

A TREASURE HUNTER'S TRAGEDY.

How a Diver at a Wreck in Lake Michigan Met His Death.

ALPENA, MICH., Nov. 5.—About two weeks ago the wrecking tug Emerald came to this port to discover, if possible, the wreck of the Rewabic, which went down several years ago, and secure her treasure. After considerable trouble the wreck was found. The place was at once buoyed, and the boat started for this port to coal up. On Tuesday everything was in readiness and they headed for the wreck again, having on board Oliver Pelkey and Michael McCarty, two of the most expert divers in the United States. Pelkey insisted on going down first. He was let down the side of the boat and soon found his way to the wreck. In about 20 minutes the signals stopped.

This caused considerable uneasiness, and after waiting a few moments more without hearing from him, they loosened the connecting lines in hopes that he might free himself, but of no avail. He was fast in the wreck. Six stalwart men were unable to pull him up, and as a last resort the Captain ordered the lines made fast to the tow post and the tug started ahead. It required considerable of a pull to free him, but something finally parted and it was found that his body was yet attached to the lines. A hole in his armor near the hips indicated that water had rushed in and smothered him. Life was not quite extinct when he was drawn on board, but he soon gasped several times and passed away. His remains were sent to West Superior, Wis., where a widow and one child mourn his untimely end.

WILL HAVE A SPECIAL TRAIN.

Delegates to the Press Club League Will Leave January 14.

The second annual session of the League of Press Clubs will be held in San Francisco in the latter part of January, 1892. The Committee on Transportation has about completed arrangements for a special train to convey the delegates from New York to San Francisco via the Pennsylvania, Chicago and Northwestern, Union and Southern Pacific lines, to leave on January 14. Three stops of a day each will be made at Chicago, Denver and Salt Lake City. Delegates will have the privilege of taking one lady each.

Among the delegates will be included some of the most noted newspaper men of the world. It is also expected that delegates from the Press Clubs of England, France, Germany and Austria will accompany the great transcontinental excursion.

Gone Where the Woodbine Twineth.

The people of Duquesne Heights are very much surprised at the sudden disappearance of a boarding house mistress, who resided on Meridian street. When the occupants of the rooms returned home on last Saturday night the rooms were bare with the exception of their personal effects, the landlady moved no one knows where during their absence. On Monday an attachment was issued by the owner of the house, to whom was owed four months' rent, but there was nothing left but the personal effects of the boarders, who are now trying to induce the owner to withdraw the attachment so they can secure their goods.

The Yale Alumni Prize Winners.

The prize of $50 offered by the Yale Alumni Association, of this city, for the best entrance examination passed by any candidate from Allegheny county, for either of the undergraduate departments in the University in 1891, has been divided between Alexander Byers, Jr., '94 S., of Allegheny, and John B. Speer, '95, of Pittsburg.

The Farmers' Deposit National Bank

Invite the public to call and examine their new safe deposit vaults. Information concerning the renting of boxes and deposit of valuables cheerfully given. MWF

TO-DAY—Your attention is directed to the very large and complete assortment of women's winter skirts. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

R. & B.

Extraordinary genuine Alaska seal jackets, $125, $150 and $175 each. BOGGS & BUHL.

TO-DAY—$2 50 and $3 felt hats and bonnets now $2. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

MODERN WITCHCRAFT.

Hex Doctors at Reading Are Living Off Rural Superstition.

EVERY ILL IS LAID TO WITCHES.

An Unfortunate Farmer's Wife Must Bear the Brunt of It All.

SOME PECULIAR INSTANCES CITED

READING, Pa., Nov. 5.—Witches and witchcraft exist among the stony hills of Earl and Douglas townships, eight miles east of Reading. Strange as the statement may look in modern type, belief in this exploded delusion forms to-day as important an element in the life of the humble farmers there as it did in that of the Salem colony fanatics of the seventeenth century.

"Spells," "influence," "magnetism," "witchery," and the "evil eye" seems actually to pursue these people by day and haunt them by night, even exercising a more baneful influence than does voodooism in the black belts of the Southern States. What is worse, moreover, is the fact that half a dozen "witch doctors" in this very city carry on a nefarious practice among them, and seek to promote their own profit by fostering the strange error and extending it to other neigbborhoods. Tragic events have resulted within the past three months, and still more serious consequences may be looked for in the near future.

The Spells Cast by Witches.

Half a dozen families live within sight of one another in that wild locality. Greshville is the nearest village, two miles away. The houses and farm buildings are uniformly of stone, as are the fences inclosing the fields. Much sickness has prevailed thereabouts of late. For miles around persons suffering from various illnesses contend that they have had spells which ordinary physicians cannot cure, cast upon them by malevolent "hexes" or witches residing near by.

In one of these stone houses live a respectable and estimable couple, a middle-aged farmer and his wife. She is an invalid from an affection of the throat and lungs, and in consequence keeps a handkerchief tied around her head and bound over her mouth to prevent her from catching cold. She is accused of causing much of the sickness and suffering complained of, and her neighbors say the white band over her mouth marks her as a witch. They point the finger of scorn at her and remark to one another in whispers: "Look out, she's a hex!"

Charged With Many Evil Things.

A few days ago a 1-year-old child near by died of a mysterious malady, and this good lady was blamed for its death. Another child last week became lame in a curious way, and tacks and pins were found inside its shoe, whereupon neighbors insisted that the innocent woman had put an evil spell on the child.

A sick woman three houses away alleges that she is tortured bodily and mentally every night by this same woman in conjunction with another old woman a short distance off. The reputed "hex" is even held accountable for the diseases of people whom she never knew. Her aged mother, who died some years ago, was likewise accused of "witchery" in her time, and the calumnies against her are now transferred to her daughter. They are liable to drive her to self-destruction if they continue.

This unfortunate woman herself, although she energetically disvows all belief in witchcraft and talks ordinarily like an enlightened Christian, yet strangely enough entertains the idea, whimsical if you please, that somebody has maliciously bewitched her pet cow.

A Woman's Pet Cow Bewitched.

"That cow," said she one day this week to a reporter, "has behaved ever so queerly of late. She is mysteriously milked every night in the stable, but by what or by whom I don't know. She used to be very gentle, but now she holds her head high in the air, looks wildly out of her eyes and runs and jumps fences all-possessed, like a wild animal. I don't know what's after her, but something certainly is."

A few rods away lives another woman who relates that her husband was recently troubled by what he at first thought to be rheumatism, as he did not believe in witchcraft. He had been ailing all summer and was curiously afflicted. Each evening he felt perfectly well and active, but in the mornings he would be stiff all over and could not move. Three weeks ago he visited a Reading "witch doctor," who declared that he had been "magnetized," gave him some powders, and cautioned him particularly against giving or receiving anything from any of the neighbors, or talking to anyone suspected of magnetizing him, for the space of nine days. The husband did as directed, obeying the "doctor's" injunctions carefully, although several neighbors wanted him to receive things from them, and now he is entirely restored.

"My husband," said this woman, "was surely under a spell. I know it, and I'm sure, too, who's to blame for it. It's an old woman who lives yonder, across the hillside there. She's a hex!"

Consulting With the Witch Doctors.

The same Reading "witch doctor" is credited with curing a 14-year-old girl near Colebrookdale station, five miles northward, of a similar case of stiff "magnetism." A poor widow near Greshville, who lost her voice last spring, and who was told by a Reading "witch doctor" that, being "magnetized," the "influence" would have to be removed from her else it would kill her, has again lost her voice after a temporary recovery, and now is hourly in fear of being taken off by evil spirits. A score of other cases of like character might be mentioned as having developed lately in Earl township alone. When the "witch doctors" are consulted they shrewdly refrain from mentioning names as to the active personal cause of the alleged magnetism from which the patient suffers, and talk in such a way that the patients locate the responsibility to suit themselves.

And these are only a few of many instances of the inroads of this revamped old superstition among the simple-minded country folk.

TO-DAY—12,000 yards of Lupins French (46-inch) cashmeres, 50 shades, at 75c a yard ($1 quality.) JOS. HORNE & CO.'S Penn Avenue Stores.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

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Mail, Butler, Clarion, Kane	6:40 a m	11:0 a m
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Butler Accommodation	9:30 a m	3:35 p m
New Castle and Butler	3:05 p m	9:10 a m
Chicago Express (daily)	2:00 p m	11:55 a m
Zelienople and Butler	4:25 p m	9:30 a m
Butler and Foxburg	5:30 p m	7:00 a m

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New York & Chicago Limited of Pullman Vestibule Cars daily at 7.15 A. M., arriving at Harrisburg at 1.55 P. M., Philadelphia 4.45 P. M., New York 7.00 P. M., Baltimore 4.40 P. M., Washington 5.35 P. M.

Keystone Express daily at 1.20 A. M., arriving at Harrisburg 8.25 A. M., Philadelphia 11.23 A. M., New York 2.00 P. M.

Atlantic Express daily at 7.20 A. M., arriving at Harrisburg 9.20 A. M., Philadelphia 12.16 P. M., New York 3.30 P. M., Baltimore 12.00 P. M., Washington 1.03 P. M.

Harrisburg Accommodation daily, except Sunday, 5.25 A. M., arriving at Harrisburg 7.50 P. M.

Day Express daily at 8.00 A. M., arriving at Harrisburg 3.20 P. M. Philadelphia 6.50 P. M., New York 9.35 P. M., Baltimore 6.45 P. M., Washington 8.15 P. M.

Mail Express daily at 12.30 P. M., arriving at Harrisburg 10.00 P. M., connecting at Harrisburg with Philadelphia Express.

Philadelphia Express daily at 4.30 P. M., arriving at Harrisburg 1.00 A. M., Philadel