

Communications.

For the Bradford Reporter.
Ma. Editor:—In your paper of the 20th of August, I gave notice of my intention to contest the correctness of a late decision of the Supreme Court of this State, on the subject of the Road Laws.

In the Bradford Reporter, of the 30th July, the following article appears:
Road Law.—The Supreme Court, at Harrisburg, have made the following decision:—
1. When a road has once been opened by the supervisors, its location cannot afterwards be altered by another supervisor, for the purpose of placing it in what he may suppose to be its proper site.

2. All authority under the order to open is exhausted by the action of those to whom it is directed, and cannot be re-named, although the first location was not according to the report of the viewers.
3. But this rule does not prevent subsequent supervisors from clearing out a road to its proper width.

4. When a track has once been made on which the public can pass, the whole legal breadth of the road is to be taken as devoted to public use, and though the power to make another location is gone, the right and duty of the supervisors to remove obstructions from any part of it remains in full force.

The two first points, are well enough. The 3d is somewhat ambiguous, and as it will ultimately be seen, may be, under certain circumstances, either right or wrong. But the fourth is entirely erroneous, and in itself contradictory. For, if between fences it is to be only 20 feet, (and there is an hundred instances of the kind in Bradford county) and that extending some 50, 60, or 100 rods in length, on which side of the road will the supervisor act by removing the fence 10 feet, if he has no power to make a new location or part of one? Who is to be the judge where the old location was? Parol testimony? After a lapse of 20 years perhaps, as is frequently the case, and a new owner of land one side of the road, if the supervisor was a relative of one owner and an enemy to the other, would he not smash through fruit trees, and perhaps buildings, to make the 10 feet necessary, and place the road "on what may be supposed to be its proper site?" Is he to go and get a copy of the record to guide him? Would not this be "reopening authority?" Where is he to begin? Perhaps the starting point is a mile or two from the point of operation, and that removed long since as well as all other marks, and thus he would be compelled not only to correct discrepancies, if any existed, but to many instances to make an entire new location; for as has been acknowledged in a former decision, and can be very easily demonstrated that the record of the viewers and the roads as opened seldom or never correspond.

What then has the supervisor to guide him in his work of devastation? There may be one or two of the viewers alive, but it is the province of the supervisor to judge of the fallibility of their memories, the credibility of their testimony—and that too without the possibility of the persons whose rights are affected, being able to have any chance of being heard according to the constitution and laws of the country! "But the other contiguous parts of the road may guide him," some may say—may be so; and may be there is a gradual crook. Principles do not depend on "may be?" they operate alike through all time and circumstances, and like the great Author of them.

"Live through all life, extend through all extent; Spread undivided, operate unspent."
Or, if that should not be a true picture, let it be said they operate and extend through all circumstances without confusion or contradiction; and like all divine laws, never tend to nourish or encourage the evil passions of mankind.

I know an instance where the road was located on the bank of the river; and between the time of the view and the time for its approval in Court, the bank caved away and carried 40 rod or more of the location into the river. This was 25 years ago.—When the supervisor came to open the road, there was accidentally about 13 feet clear of the fence in the narrowest part which to open a path. He durst not move the fence, because the location by the order could not be made to reach it, and the land-owner was hostile to the location at all events. This had remained so ever since, and there may not be a solitary individual now who has any recollection of it. Now if a supervisor should go on and say, "There is a traveled track only 13 feet wide which I laid out public road—I don't know the bank has caved away—30 feet is the presumed width"—so says the Supreme Court—"away with the fence 17 feet farther into the lot—there is two or three apple trees in the way if it is true, but cut them down—I'm not going to favor the man; he has always been my enemy." Pray, how would a lawsuit on this matter terminate? Would it not, more or less, tend to interminable confusion?

And again, there is in another place, a traveled track only 20 feet wide between fences, that has remained so for 45 years. It was a road first made for the accommodation of neighbors. Viewers were appointed by an order of the Court of Luzerne Co. They surveyed this tract as a road. It may be 40 rods long, and nearly all that remains of that road has now been changed or vacated. On which side now should the supervisor throw the fence? If he was a friend to the owner of the land he would take the side that would do the least damage: If a enemy, he would take the other side. Is this establishing immutable principles?

"I could give an endless detail of similar cases; but prefer stating what the decision should have been; that the contrast between right and wrong may be seen.
It is not the necessary width, it is the duty of the supervisor to request the owner of the land to remove his fence and give the full width, with the 20 feet margin, which is prescribed by law in case of roads. If he fails to do this, then let him be prosecuted in the sessions, and the only evidence which would be necessary to convict, would be the fact of non-compliance. If the narrowness occurred where there were different owners, a new view would be necessary. If the narrowness had been occasioned by a removal of the fence by one of the owners, thereby encroaching upon the road, no adjustment for variance would be against him; and the fact of variance alone would convict. Thus it appears that every extent and circumstance

would flow in its proper channel. There could be no chance for uncertainty or confusion, by officers acting out of their capacity or jurisdiction.

The 3d point mentioned before, would only be correct where the owner of the land had removed his fence satisfactorily, and left the supervisor to make the road as clear as he chose. So much for the law on roads.

My object in commencing an attack thus publicly upon such decisions, is, that supervisors and others may know how to do their duties peaceably and quietly, and in consonance with the principles of our government; and it is my intention hereafter, to take notice of every erroneous decision I may see in the public journals upon any other subject;—that is, with the leave of the conductors of these journals.

For the prevention of like occurrences, nothing but the removal of the cause of these and past errors is adequate. What that cause is, the public generally might not so readily comprehend if it was mentioned; neither is there much probability that newspaper journals would be willing to publish, and still less probability that the public would be able to apply the proper remedy if known.—There are but two ways of correcting evil—the force of reason and the reasoning of force. It will therefore be a question of the power, of both or both of these whether error generally be stopped or not; and those who understand me make their arrangements accordingly.

It has now become necessary in my opinion, that a general overhauling or review of past decisions should be had. That erroneous ones be expunged and some others remedied, and that quite a different course should be pursued in the manner of administering justice. Whether it is too late now to attempt anything of the kind, would be another question; but I never knew it too late to do good, although sometimes it may be so to escape the consequences of past negligence or error. If our Rachel Parker cases are not significant enough, our readiness to fall in collision with other powers, may be—and the existence of a hostile feeling of one portion of our Union toward another on a particular subject, might be possibly construed into a meaning.

TOWANDA, Oct. 18, 1853.
EDITOR BRADFORD REPORTER.—Dear Sir:—The unexpected success which attended our first Agricultural Fair, has had a most excellent influence on almost everybody—it now seems to be a fixed fact that Bradford County is to be second to none in the character of her farms and farm products.
Our first Fair must be considered somewhat in the light of an experiment, and as such of course it will be impossible to please every one. The Executive Committee can hardly be said to have known exactly what to do, and yet it would be very difficult to find a Committee who could do better than they did. Experience is the best teacher, and now one fair having been held, the succeeding ones will be much easier. I beg leave to suggest to the exhibitors of rare plants and vegetables, that they should show willingness to distribute to their brother farmers the seeds and plants of such vegetables and grain, which seems to find congenial soil in our County.—Such a course would soon start us in a race of the most generous rivalry, and make our subsequent Fairs superior to those of any northern County. I beg to suggest to the Executive Committee, that when they fix the premiums hereafter, instead of distributing in money, a small sum to the winners, they give them some suitable book relating to some branch of husbandry, the rearing and feeding of stock, &c. &c. Such a course, while it will cost the Society no more, will tend still farther to advance the cause had in view, by disseminating useful information among the farmers through out the County. Another matter which claims attention, is the practice which has grown up, and in some Societies has been stopped, it is that of awarding premiums to stock raised in other States or Counties, and purchased and brought here just before the Fair, and which takes, in most cases, the first premiums. It does not seem exactly equitable, and is worthy of attention at all events.

The judges too, should in all cases, require something more than the mere assertion of the exhibitor, to the amount of the crop raised by him—of corn, the certificate of one or more persons, who have measured the ground and helped to husk it, or of the manner of taking the average, and so of all other crops—by this means, little or no room would be left to cavil and dispute the yield, as will accordingly be the case under the system pursued of taking the say-so of the producer. These are only a few of the things which at first sight, seems to me, to claim the attention of the Society, and with others which will occur to the members, will I hope be adjusted by the time of the next Fair.

Yours faithfully,
E. M.

We paid a brief, but pleasant visit to Towanda last week, and was present at the Agricultural Fair. And a fine affair it was for the first of the season, showing conclusively, that notwithstanding the great rage of the Malaria Law, that our Bradford friends are a very spirited people, and especially so among the more highly social and cultivated community, can not be found in Pennsylvania or elsewhere, than the people of Towanda and Bradford county generally, we always admitted the place from our first acquaintance. The display of stock, grain, fruit, roots, poultry, implements of husbandry, &c., were very good indeed. The Ladies came in for a large share of attention and the highest premiums for their ingenious, fancy, ornamental and useful productions, and well they might; for we have rarely witnessed greater skill and taste displayed in embroidery and in all the departments of needle-work, than we saw there, as also in the domestic departments of their proper avocations.

Much interest was felt by the people, and quite a large number from different parts of the county were in attendance. An excellent address was delivered by Mr. Goyer. Bradford county is rapidly increasing in wealth and intelligence, and will soon rank among the first in the State in all respects.—Wyoming Democrat.

A SCENE ON A STEAMER.—The Savannah Republican has the following, touching the Florida, running hence to that city:—"On the last trip of the steamship Florida, as she was about to leave her wharf in New York, a rather generally dressed person presented himself to the steward of the vessel with a fine child of about two years of age in his arms, and requested him to take charge of it until he returned, stating that he wished to step ashore a few minutes. The few minutes however, have not yet expired with him, and perhaps never will; but the prattling infant is happily cared for, as the humane and generous steward cannot be prevailed upon to place it in "other keeping" than his own. During the passage the little fellow became quite an object of interest, and could be seen more than one protegee besides the worthy guardian, who feels a pride in his charge.

Gen. James Keenan, U. S. Consul at Hong Kong, China, sails from New York on Saturday next.



Bradford Reporter.
Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men
President of the Territory.
E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

Towanda, Saturday, October 22, 1853.
Terms of the Reporter.
\$5 00 per annum—paid within the year \$5 00 will be deducted for each year in advance.
Advertisements, per square of ten lines, 50 cents for the first and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion.
Office in the "Union Block," north side of the Public Square, next door to the Bradford Hotel. Entrance between Messrs. Adams and Ellwell's law offices.

North Pennsylvania Railroad.
The President of this Company, Thomas S. Faxon, Esq. has been spending some days in this place, upon business connected with this projected enterprise.
The survey of the North Pennsylvania Railroad having been made, and its route pretty clearly determined, it will soon become necessary to arrange the terms for the right of way. The farmers and land owners, in some of lower counties, where land is worth from \$100 to \$200 per acre, and where railroads and access to markets are no novelty, generously encouraged the exertions of the Company, in most instances, by permitting the railroad to be built, without demanding payment for their land.

In no part of the country is a Railroad more needed than here. We have all the elements of wealth, scattered in profusion within our borders—a fruitful soil, rewarding the toil of the husbandman by generous returns—mineral treasures in abundance, now hidden in the soil. A means of access to market, a demand which the creation of a Railroad always supplies, will develop these resources, as well as bring to the very doors of our farmers, the market for their crops, except in seasons of unusual demand, they languish.

There is no question but the gentlemen interested are willing and ready to build a Railroad from Philadelphia to the State line, if they are met with a spirit of encouragement and liberality by people residing along the route projected, whose interest in having this channel of communication, (both North and South) opened, are second to none other. To ensure its consummation, they must move in the matter as if they not only were desirous that the Road should be built, but as if they had faith, and were determined that every thing they could do, should be performed. A listless inactivity, a passive acquiescence in the efforts of others, will not do—as we are all vitally interested in its success, we should encourage the project, in every possible way.

The people residing along the immediate line of the Road have in their power to do much toward retarding or advancing the building of the Road. If they are aware of the immense advantage it will be to them, and with a corresponding spirit of liberality, are reasonable in regard to the land occupied in building the road, we have every confidence that ground will be broken for the Road between Athens and Pittston by next April. If on the contrary, they should be unjust and exacting in their demands—if they should expect to receive an enormous price for the right of way, they will probably lose both their exorbitant charge and the advantages which would result from the building of the Road. It is the experience of every section of the country, that the building of a rail-road, enhances the value of property for miles adjacent from 25 to 50 per cent. There is no farmer, along the proposed route of the North Pennsylvania Railroad, who would not be greatly the gainer, by giving the right of way over his property. We trust that those upon whom so much now depends, will be ready to extend to the Company every facility for opening for us the much needed channel of communication.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT LEWISBURG.—A fire broke out in Lewisburg, Pa., on Saturday night, at eleven o'clock, in the steam saw mill and boat yard of Frick, Sifer & Co., which destroyed a great deal of property. The new county bridge over Buffalo creek was burnt; also three or four boats just finished for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, together with a large quantity of boat and sawed timber. The loss of Frick, Sifer & Co. is about \$20,000, with an insurance of only \$2,500. The loss of the county on the bridge is about \$4,000.—no insurance. Eleven boats were saved uninjured. About thirty workmen lost each a chest of tools by the fire.

We see it stated in a Pittsburg paper that a gentleman from Philadelphia, attempted to commit suicide on the cars, on Friday evening last, as the train was approaching Greensburg, on its way to that city. He was sitting alongside his wife, when he drew a dirk knife from his pocket, and plunged it repeatedly in his side and breast. He was carried to Greensburg, where he is now lying in a dying state. Upwards of \$6000 were found on his person, which was placed in charge of his lady. His name had not been learned.

JAN. GORDON BENNETT, editor of the New York Herald, is said to be a disappointed applicant for the mission to France, his "antecedents" not being of a character to recommend him to a democratic President. This will account for the late attacks of the Herald on the National Administration.

Governor Thomas H. Seymour, the newly appointed minister to Russia, resigned his office of Governor of the State of Connecticut, at 12 o'clock, yesterday, and Hon. Charles H. Pond, Lieut. Governor, was sworn in as chief executive of the State, by Judge Ellsworth.

The majority for the Democratic State ticket will probably reach 30,000. We will publish the official table when it makes its appearance.

HONORIO NEZABAN, Free Dem., was on Monday elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of Vermont, by a vote of 119 to 85.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.

Of the General Election, held in the County of Bradford, October 22, 1853.

Table with columns for various offices: Judge of Sup. Court, Canal Comm'r., Auditor General, Surveyor General, Senator, Representatives, County Comm'r., District Attorney, County Surveyor, County Treasurer, County Auditor. Lists names and vote counts for each office across various townships.

Total, 2346 2215 2334 2203 2842 2180 2848 2193 2802 1999 2582 2382 2237 2272 2441 2949 2131 2803 2093 2549 2562 2066 2198
Democrats in Roman; Whigs in Italica. Mr. Booth ran as an Independent candidate, for the Probationary Law.

North Pennsylvania Railroad.
We take the following from the money article of the Philadelphia Ledger, of the 7th inst, which will be read with interest by our readers:
The North Pennsylvania Railroad, between this city and the Lehigh river, near Bethlehem, have some nine hundred men at work. The Company, it will be seen, are in earnest. The means to complete the road, between the two points named, are already secured. Under the charter the Company have the right to extend their road through the northern coal fields of the State to Waverly, on the Erie Railroad, near Elmira, from which point the Canandaigua Railroad affords a direct outlet to Buffalo. The distance from Philadelphia to Elmira is 216 miles, and from New York City to the same point, 248 miles. The estimate cost, from Philadelphia to Buffalo, construction and equipment is within ten millions of dollars, on which sum the coal tonnage alone, it is estimated, will pay eight per cent. The following table of distances, and of the items making up the price of coal at Buffalo, if correctly set down, shows a fine margin for an active business in coal:

Table showing costs for North Pennsylvania Railroad: Charge for transportation at 1 1/2 cents per ton per mile, \$3 08; Cost of coal per ton in the cars at the mines, 1 00; Price at which it can be furnished at Buffalo, 4 08; The following are the prices for which anthracite coal has been selling at Buffalo, since September 1st, of this year: Lump, \$5 50 per ton; Foundry Lump, \$5 75 per ton; Large Egg, \$5 75 per ton; Small Egg, \$5 75 per ton; Stone, \$5 75 per ton; Nut, \$5 per ton.

Table showing costs for Erie Railroad: The distance from the Shamokin Mines via Sunbury, Williamsport and the Sunbury & Erie Railroad to Erie city, 30 miles. Charge for transportation at 1 1/2 cents per ton per mile, \$3 80; Cost of coal per ton, in cars at the mines, 1 00; Total cost at Erie, from Shamokin, \$4 80; " " Buffalo " Wyoming, 4 08; Difference in favor of Wyoming, 0 72.

We understand that the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company are about preparing an address to the public, in which the importance and advantages of the proposed road are fully set forth. We speak for it dispassionate consideration.

Seven Men Drowned.
This morning at about a quarter before ten o'clock, a shocking accident, which resulted in the loss of the lives of seven men, occurred on the Delaware, opposite Dock street.

The unfortunate men were laborers in the employ of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, and had been engaged in clearing the dock located at Walnut street landing. Two screws lodged with mud, had been made fast to the stem of the steamboat Washington, for the purpose of being towed to Camden. Nine men were in the scow.

Just as the steamboat and the scow reached the channel, the swell from the former swamped one of the screws, and it instantly sunk, sucking the other down with it. Seven of the men sank with the boat, and were seen no more.

Only two men, who acted as captains of the scow were saved. They were preserved by clinging to some matter which remained afloat.

The following are the names, &c., of the victims:— Francis Daily, aged about 25; lately married; bound at Clevely's in Water st.

Michael McGuigan, aged about 20; resides in Wilson st. below Christian, Southwark. He was the only unmarried man among those who were lost.

The State Central Committee.
We cannot pass by the present glorious Democratic triumph in our State without doing justice to the ability, zeal and industry displayed by the State Central Committee during the canvass.

From the commencement of the campaign down to the day of the election, their efforts were unceasing in counseling and perfecting an organization on a State basis in each county in the Commonwealth and the good effects of their labor can be seen in the unparalleled majorities which we are receiving for the State ticket.

There was no blundering for want of correct data on which to base calculations for the result. All was most ably attended to by the State Central Committee in a most thorough and masterly manner, and, therefore, the party was full armed and ready for the field.

ESCAPE OF IRISH EXILES.—The editor of the New York Times has been letters from Australia, giving full particulars of the escape of Mitchell and Martin, co-exiles of Meagher. American citizens were about appealing, through the Minister, Mr. Buchanan, to the humanity of England, in behalf of those suffering patriots.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.—Important developments relative to the design of England to Africanize Cuba, are leaking out. Some weeks ago, information was received here that Lord Howden, British Minister at Madrid, had succeeded in making, in June last, a treaty with Spain, by which Englanders are permitted to land men to search the plantations in Cuba on which slaves are suspected to have been carried from Africa.

Some days since, reliable information was received here that Lord Howden was urging the Spanish Government with every prospect of success, a treaty, by which England offers to withdraw her cruisers from the coast of Cuba, and permit any number of slaves to be landed, provided they shall be made Emancipated for ten years, and that after several years the said contract must be executed along the shores, and great numbers witnessed the dreadful scene without being able to afford the slightest assistance.

Turkish Crisis.—Rumored Declaration of War.
The Atlantic, which arrived yesterday at noon, brings important intelligence from Eastern Europe. It is reported that a grand council of the Sultan's advisers had been held at Constantinople, at which they had agreed in recommending and signing a declaration of war against Russia; and this declaration had been signed by the Sultan. Some degree of doubt is thrown upon this intelligence from the fact that the Morning Chronicle of the 12th is the only London paper by which the telegraphic dispatch announcing it, was received, and the reported declaration of the Czar, at the London Conference, were favorable to the preservation of peace.

These reasons, however, do not seem to us sufficient to warrant the rejection of the news. The Chronicle has been uniformly prompt and reliable in its Eastern intelligence during the pending crisis, and its dispatch in this case is treated by the other journals as authentic. Indeed, they all concede the fact that a Grand Council of the Sultan's advisers was held, and that it recommended a declaration of war; the only point concerning which doubt is expressed, is that the Sultan has signed it. The English Ambassador would undoubtedly do all in his power to prevent such an act, or, at all events, to postpone its consummation.

It war has thus actually commenced, between Russia and Turkey, it is not easy to foresee its termination. At first it will doubtless be confined to the provinces on the borders of the Danube.—Let unless promptly driven back, the Russian troops will, without doubt, presently be put in motion towards the head of the country. England's endeavors will probably be to prevent the war from becoming general, and to keep out of herself.—She has no interest in preserving the Ottoman Empire, but only in preventing it from falling into the hands of Russia.

"The more dissolution of the Turkish Empire," says the Times, "would be of no greater moment to England than the dissolution of the Kingdom of Denmark." The maintenance "of the Ottoman Empire," it adds, "means the prohibition of Russian Encroachments and nothing else." This is unquestionably the view of the subject taken by the English Government, the one by which its action will be guided, so far as its sentiment in England will permit.

The outbreak of the war in Eastern Europe, and especially the involvement of Austria in it, will give Kossuth and Mazzini the opportunity they have been waiting for to renew their struggle. Kossuth will undoubtedly avail himself of the earliest possible chance to regain again his Hungary, and arouse the people against their oppressors. He will probably await an intimation from the Sultan that his aid and aid will be welcome: but in the event of the reappearance of Austria, it would be the heart of Hungary, in the midst of the people with whom he was all-powerful, and whose attachment to him has only been deepened by his exile, could not fail to produce important results. It might not alter the final result of the struggle, but would unquestionably change its character, and prolong its continuance. The coming year promises to be one of stirring interest in Eastern Europe.

Notice to Collectors.
ALL balances due the Treasury must be paid by the 1st week of December Court or Court will be made.
J. M. PECK, Deputy Trustee.
Towanda, Oct. 15, 1853.

DISSOLUTION.
NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership existing between the subscribers was dissolved by mutual consent on the 18th inst. The business will be settled by H. S. PAINE, who hereby gives warning to all indebted that they must give immediate attention if they wish to save themselves.
MONROE, October 20, 1853. D. P. LYON.

Auditor's Notice.
H. N. Terrett & Co. Bradford, Com Pleas No. 333, Dec. T. 1851.
James Brink.
THE auditor appointed by the Court to distribute money raised by Sheriff's sale of the property of the defendant in the above suit, will attend to business at the office of H. Booth in Towanda, Pa. on the 23rd day of November 1853, at 10 o'clock P. M. where all persons interested are required to present their demands also be debared from said fund.
Oct. 21, 1853. P. D. MORROW, Auditor.