The Bradford Reporter.

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JOB PRINTING, of every kind, in plain and fancy colors, done with neatness and dispatch. Handbills, Blanks, Cards, Pamphlets, Billheads, Statements, &c., of every variety and style, printed at the shortest notice. THE REPORTER office is well supplied with power presses, a good assortment of new type, and everything in the Printing line can be executed in the most artistic manner and at the lowest rates.

TERMS INVARIABLY CASH.

Professional and Business Cards.

CHAS. M. HALL,
Attorney-at-Law and Notary,
Will give careful attention to any business entrusted to him. Office with Patrick & Foyle, (over Journal Office), Towanda, Pa. [June7'77.

JAMES WOOD,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
mch9-76 TOWANDA, PA.

JOHN F. SANDERSON,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
OFFICE.—Means Building (over Powell's Store).
mch9-76 TOWANDA, PA.

S. W. & WM. LITTLE,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, TOWANDA, PA.
Office over Decker's Provision Store, Main Street, Towanda, Pa.] April 18, '76.

GEORGE D. STROUD,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW,
Office—Main-st., four doors North of Ward House.
Practices in Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and United States Courts.—Dec7.'76. TOWANDA, PA.

H. STREETER,
LAW OFFICE,
aug20. TOWANDA, PA.

OVERTON & MERCUR,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
TOWANDA, PA.
Office over Montanyes Store. (may25.
D. A. OVERTON. RODNEY A. MERCUR.

WM. MAXWELL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
OFFICE OVER DAYTON'S STORE, TOWANDA, PA.
April 12, 1876.

PATRICK & FOYLE,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.
Towanda, Pa.
Office, in Mercur's Block. jly17-73.

F. J. ANGLE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Office with Davies & Carnochan, Towanda, Pa.
Jan1.'77.

G. F. MASON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
TOWANDA PA.
Office first door south of C. B. Peck, Esq., second floor. Nov. 18, '75.

E. L. HILLIS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
TOWANDA, PA.
Office with Smith & Montanye. (nov11-75.

J. ANDREW WILT,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW,
Office over Cross' Book Store, two doors north of Stevens & Long, Towanda, Pa. May be consulted in German. [April 12, '76.]

McPHERSON & KINNEY,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
TOWANDA, PA. Office in Tracy & Noble's Block.
Towanda, Pa., Jan. 10, 1876.

E. F. GOFF,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Main Street (4 doors north of Ward House), Towanda, Pa. [April 12, 1877.

W. H. THOMPSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW, WYALUSING, PA. Will attend to all business entrusted to his care in Bradford, Sullivan and Wyoming Counties. Office with Maj. Porter. [nov19-74.

L. ELSBREE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
O.114-75] TOWANDA, PA.

C. L. LAMB,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
WILKES-BARRE, PA.
Collections promptly attended to. July 27, '76.

OVERTON & ELSBREE, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, TOWANDA, PA. Having entered into copartnership, offer their professional services to the public. Special attention given to business in the Orphan's and Register's Courts. E. OVERTON, Jr. (apr14-76) N. C. ELSBREE.

MADILL & CALIFF,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
TOWANDA, PA.
Office in Wood's Block, first door south of the First National bank, up-stairs.
H. J. MADILL. [jan5-73ly] J. N. CALIFF.

GRIDLEY & PAYNE,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
No. 1, TRACY & NOBLE'S BLOCK, MAIN STREET, TOWANDA, PA.
E. C. GRIDLEY. (1877) S. R. PAYNE.

JOHN W. MIX,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
AND
U. S. COMMISSIONER,
TOWANDA, PA.
Office—North Side Public Square. Jan. 1, 1875.

DAVIES & CARNOCHAN,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
MERCUR BLOCK
Dec 23-71. TOWANDA, PA.

H. PEET, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW. Is prepared to practice all branches of his profession.
Office, MERCUR BLOCK, (entrance on south side) TOWANDA, PA. [jan6-76.

DR. S. M. WOODBURN, Physician and Surgeon. Office over O. A. Black's Crockery store.
Towanda, May 1, 1872ly*.

E. D. PAYNE, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
Office over Montanyes' Store. Office hours from 10 to 12 A.M., and from 2 to 4 P. M. Special attention paid to diseases of the Eye and Ear.—Oct.19,'76-tf.

DR. T. B. JOHNSON,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
Office over Dr. Porter & Son's Drug Store, Towanda. Jan1;75tf.

M. D. L. DODSON, DENTIST. On and after Sept. 21, may be found in the original rooms on 2nd floor of Dr. Pratt's new office on State Street. Business solicited.
Sept. 6'76.

W. B. KELLY, DENTIST.—Office over M. E. Rosenfelgh's, Towanda, Pa. Teeth inserted on Gold, Silver, Rubber, and Aluminum bases. Teeth extracted without pain.
Oct. 24-72.

DR. C. M. STANLY, DENTIST, Having removed his Dental office into Tracy & Moore's new block, over Kent & Bliss' store, is now prepared to do all kinds of dental work. He has also put in a new gas apparatus.
m6'75.

H. C. WHITAKER,
BOOK BINDER.
REPORTER BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, TOWANDA.

C. S. RUSSELL'S
GENERAL
INSURANCE AGENCY
May26-70tf. TOWANDA, PA.

1864. 1876.
TOWANDA INSURANCE AGENCY.
Main Street, opposite the Court House.
NOBLE & VINCENT,
MANAGE
INSURANCE AGENCY.
The following
RELIABLE AND FIRE TRIED
Companies represented:
LANCASHIRE, PHENIX, HOME
ERCHANTS.
D. A. BLACK.

Furniture.

NEW GOODS
FOR THE
SPRING TRADE!

WE ARE NOW READY WITH A FULL STOCK OF FURNITURE AT PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES, OF OUR OWN

Judge Monhow and wife are visiting ...s in Illinois.
Mrs. Frank Rives and children, of ...ington, D. C., have been spending ...l weeks with Mrs. R.'s uncle, Gen. ...on, in this place. She returned to ...ington last week.
Miss Kate Mann is spending a few ... in this place as the guest of Mrs. Goodrich.
Rep. E. Overton and wife have ...n a pleasure trip to Niagara Falls ...er places of interest. They will ...ent about two weeks.
Miss Loomis, of Meshoppen, is visiting this place. She is the guest of Miss Lizzie Dodge.
D. A. Mercur is making quite an ...ive tour through the West. We ...ebted to him for copies of Chicago ...
Dr. and Mrs. Newell, of Wyalusing, ...ending this week at Minnequa.
Miss Louisa Jenks is visiting at S. Rogers'.
Mr. Gibson will spend the summer ... with her daughter in Hazleton. ...ll term of her school will open ... the first of September.
Mrs. J. W. Payne and daughter, of ...lamsport, are visiting at Mr. Dodge's.
Hamlin Russell, who is now an at-...

WHEN IN WANT OF ANY THING IN OUR LINE, GIVE US A CALL. REMEMBER THE PLACE, AT THE OLD STAND OF MAIN STREET.

J. O. FROST'S SONS.

Towanda, Pa., April 5, 1877.

Merchant Tailor.

THIS WAY FOR
SPRING SUITS
Made to order,
AND WARRANTED TO FIT!

J. L. McMAHON,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
OPPOSITE COURT HOUSE SQUARE,
Has just received a
NEW AND COMPLETE STOCK OF
CLOTHS,
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,
HATS, CAPS,
&c., &c., &c.

He is prepared to furnish to order, made to measure,
SPRING AND SUMMER SUITS,
OF
BEST QUALITY & LATEST STYLES,
At prices the most reasonable of any establishment in Towanda. Call and examine my stock.

J. L. McMAHON.

Towanda, Pa., April 5, 1877.

Heaters, &c.

HIGHEST AWARDS!
CETENNIAL EXHIBITION.

J. REYNOLDS & SON,
Northwest corner
THIRTEENTH AND FILBERT STS., PHLA.,
Manufacturers of patented
WROUGHT-IRON AIR-TIGHT HEATERS,
With Shaking and Clinker-Grinding Grates for burning Anthracite or Bituminous Coal.
CENTENNIAL
WROUGHT-IRON HEATERS.
For Bituminous Coal.
KEYSTONE
WROUGHT-IRON HEATERS,
Cooking Ranges, Low-Down Grates, Etc.
Descriptive circulars SENT FREE to any address
EXAMINE BEFORE SELECTING,
Philadelphia, April 26, '77-1y.

J. L. Kent.

J. L. KENT
(Successor to Kent & Bliss),
WILL OFFER FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS HIS ENTIRE STOCK OF DRESS GOODS, WHITE GOODS, LINEN GOODS, &c., &c., &c., &b., AT REDUCED PRICES.

GLOVES, HOSIERY, LACES, AND EMBROIDERIES IN GREAT VARIETY.

A LARGE STOCK OF SILK & WORSTED FRINGES JUST RECEIVED.

BARGAINS IN TABLE LINEN, NAPKINS, TOWELING, &c., &c.

OUR STOCK OF CLOTHS AND CASHMERES IS UNEQUALED,

AND HAVING SECURED THE SERVICES OF HARRIS THE TAILOR,

WE ARE PREPARED TO CLOTHE ALL WHO MAY FAVOR US WITH THEIR PATRONAGE.

J. L. KENT.

Towanda, June 21, 1877.

Removed.

REMOVED! REMOVED!

THE BOSTON BOOT & SHOE STORE,
Has removed to
NO. 3 PATTON'S BLOCK, MAIN-ST.,
Two doors above Stevens & Long.

We have on hand a large stock of
FIRST-CLASS BOOTS & SHOES,
Which we will sell at
ASTONISHING LOW PRICES!
Come and see and be convinced.

All goods warranted as represented.
OUR MOTTO:—WE STUDY TO PLEASE!
All goods warranted from Ripping.
Respectfully Yours,
J. & M. SHEFTER.

Towanda, Pa., April 5, 1877.

Planing, &c.

GREATLY REDUCED PRICES!
The undersigned is doing
PLANING, MATCHING, AND RE-SAWING,
And all kinds of Planing-mill Work,
AWAY DOWN! DOWN!! DOWN!!!
So far you can't see it.

I have also on hand a large stock of
SASH AND DOORS,
Which I am selling at prices to suit the times.
WINDOW-BLINDS
Made promptly to order, at a low price, for CASH.
IF YOU WANT TO GET RICH QUICK,
Call and see my Goods and Prices.
Lumber brought here to be milled, will be kept under cover and perfectly dry until taken away. Good sheds for your horses, and a dry place to load.

L. B. RODGERS.

Towanda, Jan. 18, 1877.

Poetry.

(For the REPORTER.)

OUR MISSION.

Work, for the precious moments, passing,
Never more, can be recalled.
Work, for the Master's voice is calling,
"Go labor in my vineyard all."
The fields are ripe unto the harvest,
But the laborers are few.
Stand thou not here, in idle waiting,
For there's very much to do.

Sow the good seed in life's spring time,
Ere its golden hours depart.
Let love's motto guide thee ever,
And love's sunshine fill thy heart.
To thy brother, sister, mourning,
Speak a gentle, loving word;
That a little throb of gladness,
May in an aching heart be stirred.

Gently chide the wayward wanderer:
Tell him of a Saviour's love;
Of his ransom, freely offered,
Of a mansion bright, above.
Lend a hand to help the fallen,
Bear the burdens of the weak;
Learn each day the good of others,
And not all thine own to seek.

So shall thy heart be filled with gladness;
Thy fainting spirit be sustained,
Forgetting all thy thoughts of sadness,
Remembering not thy throbbing pain,
When the shades of evening gather,
And thy mission work is done,
Thou shalt hear the angels whisper,
"Come up higher, faithful one."

WHICH?

I know two maids, oh! wondrous pretty:
One has eyes of laughing blue,
Like the azure tint of heavens
Painted by an artist true.
Pouting lips, that rival cherries,
Coralin teeth so dazzling white
That the isles of the Pacific
Owned never pearls as bright.

Skin as fair as snow just fallen;
Tresses like fine-threaded gold
Veil her in thick, wavy masses
And their wealth of length unfold.
Voice, so musical and tender,
Like the summer zephyr falls,
And her sweet and magic presence
With its charm my soul enthralls.

But the other by her power
Breaks the chain and sets me free;
Yet alas! she binds them tighter
When her lovely form I see.
She's a brunette, tall and slender,
And her hair is like the cloud
When the storm at midnight rages
And the thunder peals loud.

Stately, grand her every motion;
But her heart is warm and light,
Oh! that I could see her only,
Or the other fairy bright.
Then my soul that one should worship,
Nor the other's presence crave.
But, ah me! their double beauty
Renders me a double slave.

—*A. H., in "The Transcript."*

Miscellaneous.

On the Right Road at Last.

After finishing my duties at the office, I have been in the habit of stepping into a lager beer saloon near by to indulge in a couple of glasses of that "mild beverage" as I then thought it, ere I took myself to bed. For some time past I had noticed a young man ordinarily seated at a particular table. What first attracted my attention was the inordinate quantity of strong liquor which he drank, and still he did not seem to become intoxicated while I remained, although I felt positively sure that he must reach that stage before the night would end. His dress was not one that showed care, nor was its texture the best, yet there was an air of respectability about him which led me to think he was one to whom his surroundings were alien. He seemed to hold aloof from those who frequented this place, which though reputable, was not patronized by many of the better classes. If any one chanced to address him, he answered politely, but in such a manner as not to induce him to continue the conversation. One evening, I saw as I entered that all the seats were occupied with the exception of one which was opposite this young man. I took the place, ordered my beer, and continued smoking a cigar that I had brought in with me. Feeling an inclination to talk I concluded to speak to the stranger. I began by referring to the good quality of the beer which our German saloon-keeper vended. He answered me civilly, and showed an inclination to continue the conversation. His manner was thoroughly well-bred, his language that of a man of education. We passed an hour pleasantly, then I arose and bid him good night, stating that I would be in on the following evening, and would be pleased to meet him again.

The next night I found him occupying his usual seat. He greeted me with evident pleasure, and we resumed our conversation of the previous evening. I noticed that his face was very much flushed, and as we talked he had his glass replenished with brandy very frequently. His thoughts betrayed much ability, and he expressed himself in such a polished manner, that I said impulsively, "Pray do not drink so often; it grieves me to see a man of your culture drown a vigorous intellect." My impertinent speech was not illy received. He only answered sadly, "It is an inherited weakness, made worse through adverse circumstances."

"Why," I said, "you are a young man; you do not appear to be more than thirty years of age, if you are that, and to one no older, with your endowments, however cruelly the fates may have visited him, assuredly his career cannot be hopeless."

"Ah," he said, "Perhaps I am a moral coward, I presume I am. Nevertheless I have had much to try me. Let me give you a short sketch of my life. You are a perfect stranger, but I should judge that you are sympathetic, and I think there is the ring of true metal about you."

"I was born twenty-nine years ago. My father was a man of position, well connected, and also possessed of large means. My mother died when I was quite young, so that I remember but little of her. After that my father broke up housekeeping, for the reason that I was his only child, and placed me with his sister, a married lady with but one child, a daughter. Alice, her daughter, a lovely child with a disposition almost angelic, was nearly two years younger than I. We were reared the same as brother and sister, no partiality being shown by my aunt, who strove to treat me as if I were her own son. Her life was quiet and kindly; charitable works occupied much of the time which was not taken up by the care of her daughter, myself and her household. She saw but little society, although her wealth and family connections would have led an ordinary person to have sought that amusement. Her husband was a man of great natural abilities, and who was also well educated, a lawyer by profession. His great failing was a love for alcohol, of which he not unfrequently indulged to excess. This weakness on the part of uncle seemed to embitter the life of my aunt. She was kept in a constant state of alarm lest he should meet with some mishap. I was aware of my uncle's foible, and had been accustomed to it, but one evening when my father called, in a state of complete drunkenness, my grief was so great that it was scarcely controllable. My aunt consoled me, and with many pious precepts taught me that it was my duty to bear, as lightly as possible, a burden so grievous, and to learn a lesson from the misfortunes of others. A short while afterwards my father died, and then I learned that he had not only hastened his own death by intemperance but also had so worn upon my mother, through his infirmity, as to end an existence wholly wrapped up in his welfare. Although I was but fifteen, my father's fate made such an impression on me that I determined to be always an abstainer from alcoholic liquors. My father, after my mother's death, had speculated to such an extent, that there was little left of what was once a large fortune, yet there was enough to form the nucleus of another. I was only sixteen when my aunt advocated my entrance into Harvard College. I was admitted, and went to Cambridge to prosecute my studies. When I left home—as I always termed my aunt's residence—Alice and I parted with much sadness. We thought it the same as brother and sister separated. I have no doubt we felt so then. During my stay at Cambridge I only returned whenever there was a vacation. Each year Alice seemed to grow more beautiful, both in mind and person. We corresponded during my sojourn at college, and each time we wrote, the letters progressed in tokens of endearment. Although I was possessed of a large amount of animal spirits, I had escaped the ordinary dissipations of a student's life until the senior year of my course, when I met a young man to whom I became very much attached. His society was agreeable, and his vices so well concealed that ere I was aware of his vicious predilections, I was launched upon a career of dissipation. My first knowledge of how far I had advanced in that direction was the cognizance of the fact that I had been intoxicated. My remorse upon that occasion was sincere, and I believe had I listened to my conscience and not paid attention to the jests and sneers of my associates, I would to-day have been a successful man. It was otherwise; I harkened to the song of the syren, and ere long, instead of being considered one of the most orderly and studious of youths, I was looked upon as being a leader of college vice. It was but a short time before I was suspended, and soon afterwards I was expelled. I went home; my aunt's grief was intense. Alice felt my disgrace, fully, but displayed much sympathy. I remained home but a short time. During that time Alice consented to become my wife, with this proviso, that since it was not possible for me to finish my education at a college where I had so dishonored myself, I should go to Germany to accomplish that object. If, upon my return, I was wholly reformed, she would joyfully receive me as her affianced husband.

I accepted her terms; went to Heidelburg; there remained ten years; then returned to America. I found Alice happy and thankful. Our joys seemed unlimited. The day was appointed for our wedding. She was taken suddenly ill. The physician pronounced it typhoid fever. I prayerfully awaited the issue. One evening, exhausted by this antagonizing uncertainty, I started to take a short stroll about the immediate vicinity. I walked with my head bowed down in thought, when I collided with a man walking in an opposite direction. It was my old college chum. We conversed awhile, when he suggested our going to a cafe to continue the conversation. Great God! What weakness must have seized me. I accepted. The result was, I was in a short time completely under the influence of liquor. I left my friend—what a misnomer! I went home, opened the door; went to Alice's room; she was sleeping. The nurse did not see me. I staggered against the bedstead; it awoke Alice. She saw my condition, gave a scream, then fell sobbing. Before the sun rose she was dead. Killed by me! No! no! not by me, but through the instrumentality of alcohol! From that day to this my life has been but a sombre dream. I drink to drown my remorse, my sorrow. Several years have rolled by, yet still I linger here. The demon that ruined my parents, killed my affianced wife, saddened the best years of my kind and noble aunt, and destroyed my future, is slowly taking me to my grave. I have no ambition. Advise not. I have not the moral courage to face my past, my future. I wish this life to end as soon as possible. I do not dare to commit suicide instantly; I am doing that by degrees."

He ceased speaking, rested his head upon his hands, remained some time absorbed in his great grief and despair, ordered his glass replenished, drank with avidity, then reeled out of the room.

Several days afterwards I stepped into the same place to get a glass of beer. I looked about for my new acquaintance, but did not see him. I felt a greater interest in his case than ever before, and for that reason I would wait awhile, as he might possibly come in within a short time. I thought I would see if I could not use even my small influence in his behalf, by striving to induce him to try to regain his former position of sobriety. At this time there was a Temperance movement in some of the churches to which I had paid but slight attention. Providence had so ordained it that none of the immediate members of my family were at all addicted to the use of alcoholic liquors. Owing to this—which I am ashamed to confess was purely selfish—I had no interest in the undertaking. I was aware that the evil of intemperance was very great, but had no sympathy or charity for those who indulged in it to great excess. I had always been a moderate drinker, but never felt a craving for spirits; in fact they were somewhat nauseating; however, I liked beer and drank it.

I now began to view the subject from a different standpoint. I thought, here is a man filled with the best impulses, intended to be of great use to the world, possessing powerful intellectual faculties, having a thorough education, and yet an abject slave to drink. Nothing could save him from the gutter but death or the interposition of Divine Providence. I breathed a prayer to God that He might make me the instrument by means of which this young man could be saved for this world and for the great hereafter. I determined that if there was aught that I could do, either by precept or example, that I would leave nothing undone. I accused myself of having long pursued an evil course. Why had I, a man for whom liquor had no attraction, whom it did not benefit in the least—set such an example to young men? While I was sitting there, two young men—mere boys—were drinking beer and talking loudly; whilst I, a gray-headed, respectable "Christian man," was not only countenancing their destruction, but even adding my influence to the very cause that was so rapidly hastening them to a drunkard's life. I then and there determined that never again would I, by the grace of God, knowingly use as a beverage anything that contained one drop of alcohol.

Just then the object of my thoughts entered the room. His face, though flushed, was haggard. I felt that he must be under great mental suffering. Nevertheless, he smiled pleasantly, seated himself opposite me, and ordered his glass of brandy.

"Are you well-to-day?" I asked.

"Well!" he almost screamed, "Well! Great God! I am suffering the very tortures of the damned!"

I never before or since heard such a wail come from the human heart. The poor fellow sobbed like a child. I placed my hand on his shoulder and breathed in his ear all the comforts and assurances of religion that lay within my power. After awhile he became quite calm. I then told him if he would go with me to the meeting that was then being held we would sign the pledge together. After much persuasion he at last consented to go with me, and to make one last effort to reform. On our way, he repeatedly said, "I know I shall break it." "No, you will not. I feel positive. Put your trust in a higher Being, and He will give you strength. Learn to pray once more. When you feel weak appeal to Him. He will support you and protect you." With such assurances I encouraged him until we reached our destination.

When we arrived at the hall they were all bowed in prayer. The person offering up the petition to the Ruler of all things seemed inspired. The effect produced upon my friend was marvelous. When the prayer was finished he arose, with tears streaming down his cheeks, with outstretched hands and broken utterances, pledged himself to his Maker to be henceforth and forever an honest, sober, Christian man. It was the proudest moment of my life when I felt that I, a moderate drinker, had been the means by which so great a result had been accomplished. We then approached the table and both signed the pledge. I have never regretted the step which I then took. Never before had I filled the true role of the Christian. After the meeting I induced him to accompany me home where he remained several weeks, accompanying me frequently to my office and assisting me. I procured him a position on the reportorial staff of a paper in the West, where he is at present employed with much satisfaction to himself and his employers. I append a letter that I received from him recently:

DAYTON, Ohio, May 11, 1877.

MY DEAR FRIEND: First let me say, "God bless you, my more than friend—my benefactor." Since I last saw you I have kept my pledge of total abstinence, and need I add, I am now convinced that I have done so solely through the goodness and grace of Almighty God. These words may, and doubtless will, surprise you. Well, I may say they surprise me as well. I know not why, but I seem to have forgotten that I ever was an infidel in thought or word. Surely this is God's work, not mine. I have thought many times since I left you of our argument together over "moderate drinking." You may remember that "a man who could not stop without a pledge, had but little manhood in him." And later, that "I knew I had become a drunkard, but was not ready to surrender my manly independence by signing a pledge." I have changed my mind since then. I can now realize that "I have escaped from slavery by signing the pledge, and am now free; and oh, how happy! I repeat, "God bless you for your kind words and good advice." I am already pleasantly and permanently located in business, and have a prospect already of being promoted to a better position on the editorial staff of the paper. I am remember'd to old friends for whom I cared much. I am healthy, happy, and hopeful—hopeful of my temporal and spiritual; for, let me again surprise you, I am about to join the church, and hope, by a life of future usefulness, to atone in a measure for the follies and errors of the past. Write to me often, "my brother," (may I say?) and believe me,

Your ever grateful friend, J. R. W.

Reader, what argument have you to offer against the logic contained in the above life-sketch? Are you any stronger than was my well-meaning, kind-hearted chance acquaintance? Do you still stickle for your "liberty" to drink, and perchance become a drunkard? Take warning in time. Stop drinking. Stop while you can, ere it is too late. Place no reliance in your own weak nature, but appeal to the Master. Ask for aid from above. "Watch and pray," and you will live to bless the day when you became a total abstainer from the use of intoxicants.—*Temperance World.*

THE hog has gone out of the sausage business to attend to rooting up the garden.

THE report that Tom Thumb has grown to be a six-footer within the last three months by simply sitting under blue glass proves to be a canard. One can hardly believe half the stories one sees about blue glass, anyhow.

THE PUPPETS IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

BY ELISHA MULFORD, LL.D.

That the institution of the Electoral College for the election of the Executive should have lasted for an hundred years illustrates the deference of the American people for the forms of law. It is true that in the formation of the Constitution the different forms for the election of the Executive received careful and deliberate consideration. But the system of an Electoral College was adopted as having the highest traditional justification in political history. It made the least break from the precedents of old political constitutions. It approached more nearly to long-established forms. It had some slight correspondence to the Teutonic constitutions, in the election of an emperor by the College of Electors.

There was also an argument for it in the distrust of the Democratic principle. It was not evident that the people would possess the requisite knowledge of men that would keep them from imposition, or the capacity that would qualify them for action. The final voice was thus withdrawn from the people, and referred to a select company of men in each State, with whom it was presumed that the people would be acquainted and who were presumed to have the requisite capacity to act for the people. Thus an organization was made to correspond to that of the Senate, and not the House of Representatives.

But the process of the election of an Executive by a College of Electors has failed. It has been set aside from the start, and in a measure because it was not democratic. The people will not act in an election which is indefinite and impersonal. They will not resign invariably to any man or body of men the determination of the highest executive power in their political life. They will act with the largest freedom and the clearest determination which the limitation of necessary political forms will open to them. They will aim increasingly at the most definite expression of their will; and, though working through existing forms or toward better and ampler forms, will set aside all that may thwart their purpose or impair the execution of it. Thus in every election a name has been directly before the people.

There was also an argument for an Electoral College on the ground that it gave an apparent power to the separate states. There was in the minds of the leading men of that time, in Washington and Madison especially, a large and profound conception of the nation and of national rights and powers; but its organization is only attained in an historic life, and the power thus secured to the separate states is more apparent than real. It is only in a limited measure actual in the electoral representation which corresponds to the organization of the Senate, and this might be retained under a more perfect form.

The electors who were to constitute the College it was designed should be men of distinguished capacity and attainments. They were to be those who would act from wider knowledge and with larger reason and freedom than the common elector. They were to be those who were lifted above the influences which would confuse the judgment and restrain the freedom of the mass of men. They were, with higher qualifications, pre-eminently the electors. Their office was to elect a President.

The Constitution was so strict in guarding against any undue influence, that might not leave the elector free and unbiased in his action, that it regarded him as disqualified if he held the most obscure office of honor or emolument under the General Government; a condition which becomes, when the actual procedure of the College of Electors is considered, a piece of irony, which no line of the Greek Drama in its political satire could surpass.

The fact is that the practice under the Constitution has been the direct reverse of that which was intended by it, and this invariably. The electors who form the College exercise no deliberation; they are allowed no freedom. They are simply not the electors. There is no law to prevent their deliberation or to annul their freedom. On the contrary, the Constitution presumes this. This is the condition of the very act and end for which the Electoral College is constituted. But it is this act which has never been exercised, and this end which has never been realized. The electors have always acted only as the blind instruments to register and record the express will of the people. They have themselves, in the first instance, been designated by the people, as those who could most thoroughly be depended upon, to execute this express will in the election of a certain person. This understanding has been such as to form an unwritten contract of the most strict obligation. There could have been no greater affront to a principle of honor in politics than for an elector to have failed to vote in the Electoral College for the person whose name alone was before the people when the electors were chosen.

But in this actual procedure the electors thus act with no deliberation and are allowed no freedom. They simply bear a message to the Capital, over which they have no more actual control than the postboy over the letter which he delivers. Their action is simply mechanical. They move only as the puppets on the box of the showman. They have no self-movement. In the conception of the Constitution, they are invested with the highest power. In the procedure under the Constitution they are mere nondescripts. It was as good as a play, were it not one of the most significant of recent farces in politics, to hear the elaborate descriptions of the character and offices of an elector that were presented to the Electoral Commission. Mr. Stanley Matthews said of the electors in the election of a President: "There is a select body of men in each state who constitute the constitutional body who are to make the election; and I need not remind this tribunal that they have a right to make a selection, as well as an election. It is altogether, in my judgment, a mistake to suppose that the electoral bodies are delegates, representing the state or the people of a state, as agents to accomplish their will. They not only have the power, in the sense of might, but they have authority, in the sense of right, to vote upon the day named for the person who in their judgment ought to be, all things considered, the chief executive of the nation." This is good for mere theory—for the expression of an empty abstraction in politics which has no actualization. It is like the grammarian who lays down the rule prescribed to determine the usage of a language, but fails to add that there is no such usage of the language—that it has never been written or spoken in that way. It is like the geographer who defines the boundaries of a realm, but omits to add that it has never possessed the land. Mr. Evarts, the most eminent grammarian among all lawyers, then undertook to define the character of an elector. When Mr. Thurman asked, "Do you think that an elector is an officer at all?" Mr. Evarts said: "No. I do not think he is an officer. He certainly is not a state officer. I think he is an elector or voter, having qualifications; and his office is of the same kind as the office of the citizen who is elector, so-called within the Constitution." Mr. Campbell, in reply, said: "The learned counsel [Mr. Evarts] is able to tell what sort of a creature an elector is. I am not sure, from what he stated, that in his conception an elector is even a human being." But the fact is that in the actual procedure an elector is not to be regarded as a human being. A human being, in the words of an old dramatist, "has a will and faculties of choice and power to do or not to do"; but an elector has none. Mr Evarts, in a not very constitutional phrase, then described the electors as simply "state notables"; which, being proposed in a constitutional argument, "it were well to make note of." The fact is, as we have said, the office of an elector has no intrinsic character. The office in actual procedure is void, and that through a continuous and invariable precedent. It were as easy to define the office and functions, for instance, of a fifth wheel to a wagon, as of an elector. Mr Evart's phrase "state notable" does not give any indication of it, and it were as well to define it as simply "a state circumstance." The office has become so entirely stripped of all real character that it would seem doubtful if men of high individual character would long be willing to accept it. It is commonly given to men who are identified with a party, and whose character and position furnish the assurance that they will execute implicitly its behests.

The objection to the continuation of the Electoral College is in the fact that it is superfluous; and the superfluous is not merely of a negative import, but it may become an obstruction. It creates unnecessary complications. It is liable to disarrangement. It is a mere weight which retards action. It may be a hindrance to progress in larger and better methods.

Another objection is in the fact that it involves a variance between the Constitution and procedure under the Constitution. This tends to weaken the respect of the people for all forms of law and for the Constitution itself.

Again, if the system is to be retained, as the Republic begins another century, it should be made actual. But it is in vain to demand this. It would be a reverse in our political life. It would presume that the people are in a state of pupilage still, and must select guardians to whom they will entrust their most important political action.

The system for the election of the Executive which is most consistent with our historical antecedents—the system of electoral districts, in which each state is divided into districts, and the result in each district is determined by a plurality of votes, and the result in the nation is determined by the plurality in the number of districts—this has every advantage which there is in the present system and avoids its defects. The revision of the Constitution which would obviate the defects which have become apparent in the organization of the Electoral College has become an imminent political necessity.

In one respect we may not regret that the reference of the election of the Executive to a College of Electors has failed. It has disclosed, working beneath it and through it, a higher and more determinate political life. That it should have been thus superseded, and that the direct action of the people should have been of so high attainment, as in the line of the Presidents of the Republic, will aid toward the development of that democratic principle which bears in itself the hopes of the whole people and of the world.

HISTORIC LEGEND OF THE CEDAR OF LEBANON.

This ancient legend, the dream perhaps of a Syrian hermit, shows that the cedar of Lebanon, the timber-tree of the temple built on Zion, was held in the highest estimation, and exercised the fancy. The story relates that Seth received from the angels three seeds of that tree which he beheld still standing on the spot where sin had been first committed, but standing there blasted and dead. He carried the seeds home, placed them in the mouth of dead Adam, and so buried them. Their future history is curious. Growing on the grave of Adam in Hebron, they were afterwards most carefully protected by Abraham, Moses and David. After their removal to Jerusalem, the Psalms were composed beneath them; and in due time, when they had grown together and united in one giant tree, they, or it—for it was now one tree, a cedar of Lebanon—was felled by Solomon for the purpose of being preserved forever as a beam in the temple. But the design failed; the king's carpenters found themselves utterly unable to manage the mighty beam. They raised it to its intended position, and found it too long. They sawed it, and it then proved too short. They spliced it, and then found it wrong. It was evidently intended for another, perhaps a more sacred office, and they laid it aside in the temple to abide its time. While waiting for its appointed hour, the beam was on one occasion improperly made use of by a woman named Maximella, who took the liberty of sitting on it, and presently found her clothing on fire. Instantly she raised a cry, and feeling the flames severely, she invoked the aid of Christ, and was immediately driven from the city and stoned, becoming in her death a pro-Christian martyr. In the course of an eventful history, the predestined beam became a bridge over Cedron, and being then thrown into the pool of Bethesda, it proved the cause of its healing virtues. Finally, it became the cross, was buried in Calvary, exhumed by the Empress Helena, chopped up by a church, and distributed.

The mountains of Lebanon form a range, known in Scripture as to the north of Palestine. Lebanon signifies "white," or "exceeding white." It takes its name from the brilliance of its snow peaks, not, as some conjecture, from its gray limestone, which gives to so many parts of Palestine a faded appearance. Lebanon does not rise in groups or clusters like the Alps, or in one long ridge like the Apennines, but in two parallel ranges of very unequal height, running nearly north and south,—the western sloping gradually down, by many subordinate ridges and spurs, to the maritime plain of Phœnicia; the eastern, by a similar series of descents, to the sandy flats of ancient Aram that encircles Damascus.

According to the usual reckoning, Lebanon may be said to extend about eighty or ninety miles in length, and from fifteen to twenty in breadth; though, of course in estimating the breadth and length of such a range, it is not easy to give a precise measurement. The two ranges were well known to classical writers as Libanus and anti-Libanus, and though this distinction is not directly brought out in the Scripture, "toward the sun-rising" (Joshua xiii, 5,) is meant to indicate anti-Libanus.

Looking up the sloops of Lebanon from the maritime plains of Phœnicia, one is not struck with the fertility of the district; but when he ascends the barrenness disappears, and we find ourselves among cultivated slopes and terraces, covered with both fruit trees and forest trees. Many parts of Lebanon are verdureless, but others are rich in verdure. The heights are often barren, but the valleys are clothed with all kinds of trees—pines, oaks, mulberries, olives, and even figs and vines. The cedar is not so plentiful as it was three thousand years ago. There are allusions to several ridges or peaks of Lebanon in Scripture, but the identification of these with any modern name is difficult. The thunder storms of Lebanon are terrific; the thick clouds, the dashing rain, the wild mountain blasts, and the rapid lightning gleams, make a scene of terrific grandeur.

THE SUN IN FLAMES.

Concerning the oft-mooted question whether the sun may not some day come in collision with a comet, Professor Proctor says: "Supposing there really is, I will not say danger, but