

The Bloomfield Times.

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NEW BLOOMFIELD, PENN'A.

Tuesday, November 29, 1870.

JOHNSTOWN is the eleventh city in the State in population. The order is thus: Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Allegheny, Scranton, Reading, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Erie, Allentown, Williamsport, Johnstown and Easton.

A SPECIAL Election will be held in the First Senatorial District on the 20th of December, to elect a State Senator in place of Mr. Watt, who died last week. This is a very important election, as since the death of Mr. Watt, both parties have an equal strength in the Senate, and consequently, whichever party is successful in this contest, will have control of that branch of the State legislature.

An important case under Constitutional law is about coming before the Kansas courts, and will, in any probability, be by those tribunals shifted to the Supreme Court, of the United States. In accordance with a proclamation forbidding the Mormons drilling as soldiers, members of the armed and uniformed militia-men of Brigham Young have been arrested. These persons claim that under the Constitution of the United States they are citizens and have the right to bear arms, and perfect themselves in military exercises.

THE Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., at the meeting on the 23rd inst., adopted a resolution pledging the Company to unite with the commercial, manufacturing and industrial interests of the city of Philadelphia in the establishment of a line of four steamships to ply between that port and some ports of Europe. It is proposed to ask the Legislature for a charter with a minimum capital of \$700,000, with power to increase to \$5,000,000. The railroad company will subscribe \$400,000 of the capital stock, provided the balance, \$300,000 be subscribed by other responsible parties.

The New York Express says: "Some time since, a scaffolding in the Albany shop of the Central railroad broke, and killed one man and crippled another. The cripple sued and received \$10,000. The widow of the dead man sued, and, although she introduced the same testimony that gave the cripple \$10,000, she was ordered out of court as having no cause for action. She has secured an order for a new trial, but if she wins that, her damages cannot exceed \$5,000, there being a statute limiting a verdict in favor of a person killed by an accident, in this State, to that amount. So we see the legal difference in the value of a man killed and a man crippled by a railroad company is extensive, and not in favor of the dead."

A young lady having read about a man having invented a stove which consumes its own smoke, hopes he will devise some method whereby tobacco smokers can be run on the same economical principle.

The Next Congress. Below we give a table showing the respective strength of the two parties in the 42nd Congress. Full returns may change the result in one or two districts:

Table showing the strength of the two parties in the 42nd Congress across various states like Arkansas, Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Nevada, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin.

States previously reported: Total 43 166 58 159 92 125

The following States have not yet elected members of the Forty-Second Congress: New Hampshire 3; Connecticut 4; Georgia 7; Texas 4; and California 3. To the Forty-First Congress, these States, not including Georgia, elected four Democrats and ten Republicans.

Serious Affair.

On Friday of last week, Mr. A. L. Mahaffey, who has been engaged in teaching school in Meigs township, was fatally stabbed by a young Jones, aged 14, son of William Jones, under the following circumstances:

On Thursday Mr. Mahaffey corrected the youth for the violation of the rules of the school, and on the next day (Friday) Mr. Mahaffey found it necessary to correct him again, for the same offense, and very improperly informed the lad that he could go home, which he accordingly did, and in a short time returned to the school house accompanied by his father, who invited Mr. Mahaffey out of the house. Immediately an altercation ensued, Mahaffey securing Jones in such a position as not to receive any hurt. Jones called to his son to stab him (Mahaffey) to the heart, which the boy obeyed, the knife entering four inches on the right side below the shoulder blade, and penetrating the cavity of the right lung.

Jones and his son were arrested by Constable Thoroman, and taken before Esquire Nixon for preliminary examination, and were held to bail in the sum of \$1,500. While hunting bail, the father and son made their escape from the custody of the constable and are now at large.

Mr. A. L. Mahaffey is one of the very best of the young men of our country, and has a splendid education, is a regular graduate of the Lebanon Institution, and could command the highest salary in the best schools of Ohio. He was only induced to take a country school that he might enjoy the society of his parents while pursuing his medical studies.—West Union Scion.

A noted safe burglar named Scott, was arrested by chief of police Hayne, of Pittsburg, some days since, and lodged in the Beaver county jail for trial. On Tuesday, a despatch was received, in Pittsburg, stating that he, in company with another prisoner had escaped. The Pittsburg Commercial, of Wednesday, contains the following account of the affair: The escape took place a little before 7 o'clock on Sunday evening. Supper had been served, and the time came for putting up the prisoners for the night. The sheriff, or jailor, not feeling well, gave the keys to his wife, who, accompanied by her son, her hired girl, and her hired man, started into the jail, for the purpose of securing the prisoners in their cells. On entering, she beheld, as she supposed, all of them seated around the stove, but just as she opened the door leading into the corridor, Howard, who had gotten behind it, placed himself suddenly in front of her, and planting his feet between the door and facing, prevented her closing it. Just then Scott, or Cox as you please, left his seat near the stove, ran to the door, and striking the jailor's wife in the breast, landed her away from the door, both he and Howard darted through. Only a few steps had been taken, when they encountered the hired girl, and she was knocked down as was the hired man, and the son of the jailor. A large bull-dog belonging to the jailor, now seized Scott by the leg, and, despite the most strenuous exertions, he was unable to beat the poor animal off for awhile. During the worry with the dog, the hired girl, who had regained her feet, endeavored to cut off flight, by running through the hall, where the prisoners were, and closing and locking the

front door, but Scott got there just as she did, and knocked her down, afterwards knocking down the jailor's wife, near the same place. Opening the door, he did not wait to pass from the hall in the ordinary way, but leaped fully 18 feet, it is said the dog being almost carried with him before it released its hold. The scene was exciting in the extreme, and it seemed as if Scott and his companion were able to overcome every obstacle thrown in their way. A search of the neighborhood was at once instituted, but, of course, Scott and his companion could not be found—not even traces of them could be ascertained. He was to have been tried yesterday, which probably accounts for the desperate plan resorted to and carried out this his fifth or sixth escape from prison walls, or a felon's cell.

Suicide at Niagara.

A few days ago a woman came to the Falls, stopped at the Spencer House, and registered her name as Mrs. Hill, from Chicago. We do not learn that any time previous to the principal event of our story her deportment was such, as to attract attention and arouse suspicion; but yesterday (Sunday) morning, she walked out enveloped in a waterproof cloak, and proceeded to the bridge that spans the turbulent stream between Goat Island and the mainland.

Here she walked to and fro on the footpath for a few minutes, in a manner which showed she desired to attract the attention of somebody. Her singular actions did, very shortly, call the attention of a man employed in the vicinity. When she saw that he was watched, she ceased her promenade, halted a moment close to the railing of the bridge, and then climbed over it and stood on the extreme outer edge of the structure. The man who had been watching her at this juncture started to approach her, but before he could reach her, she raised her cloak, pulled it over her head, and plunged headlong into the waters below. All those who are acquainted with the spot will readily guess how rapidly the doomed woman was washed out of sight, and how useless to attempt to save.

The person who had seen the performance at once made known the circumstances. It coming to the ears of the landlord of the Spencer House, he at once went to her room. There he found two letters, one addressed to himself and the other addressed to a Mr. Avery, Chicago. The letter to the landlord informed him that in a drawer in the room he would find \$25, from which she wished him to take pay for her board, and asked him to forward the other letter to its destination. The letter was so sent, and a dispatch has been received from Mr. Avery requesting all the particulars of the sad occurrence. This is the extent of the present developments in the case.

But there must be a sequel, or rather a first chapter, to the melancholy story, yet to be opened and read.

Three Acres of Timber Land Suddenly Disappear Below the Surface.

The inhabitants of the Basket Station on the Delaware Division, Erie Railway, were treated to a first-class sensation. About two miles north of the place three acres of land heavily timbered with hemlock, occupying an elevated position, suddenly sank below the surface, disappearing in a manner similar to a load of dirt when the bottom is let out of the wagon. There was no apparent cause, but it has certainly sunk to the depth of about forty feet, leaving the tops of the trees just visible above the surface. The sinking was accompanied by a loud crash, which died away in a dead rumble, heard at a considerable distance. The trees are standing in their natural positions, having evidently experienced no particular injury in their descent.

It is usual when such freaks of nature occur for the sunken earth to be immediately submerged by volumes of water, but in this case no such phenomenon attends. The soil is of clayey nature, and the sides of the chasm formed by the sinking present a smooth and even appearance, as if a huge spade had been thrust down, and the earth thrown out.

The people at the Basket, and from the surrounding country for miles, visited the scene of the phenomenon on Sunday, and viewed it with awe and consternation. They don't like to be close to where the bottom seems to be dropping out of terrestrial things.—Port Jervis Gazette.

One night last week the covering of an old well sixty feet deep in the street at Cincinnati, broke through and an old lady went down with the debris. All efforts to recover her body were unavailing.

Horrible Outrage and Robbery.

James F. Shoop, of Philipsburg, has been engaged during the summer in Huntingdon county, hauling bark. On the ninth inst., about 8 o'clock, P. M., on his return, within two miles of home, he was met by three men who ordered him to halt, and pointing a pistol at him demanded his money. They gagged him with a stout chestnut limb, bound his wrists with a halter chain, and then took from him his pocket-book containing \$423—the whole amount of his season's work, and the sale of one of his mules. After throwing his empty pocket-book into the wagon, they bent down a stout sapling, and inserted it under the chain between his wrists, and then let it spring back, the weight of Mr. Shoop barely sufficing to give him a foot hold upon the ground, his arms extended above his head by the tension, and his head thrown back by the gag. In this position they left him, and he was not discovered till 6 o'clock the next morning, having suffered terribly during the cold night. If these villains should be discovered they ought to be lynched.—Register.

Miscellaneous News Items.

Forty of the Baton Rouge rioters have been discharged.

Postmaster General Creswell is now "the oldest inhabitant" in the Cabinet—the only original member left.

Mr. Perry, of Michigan, traded his wife for an old shot-gun and \$5 to boot. He's a Perry-pathetic fraud.

"Never mind the obituary, judge," said a Montana culprit when the court became pathetic in pronouncing the sentence. "Let's fix the time for the funeral."

Twelve men under the sentence of death in Cuba were pardoned by De Rodas at the Havana celebration of the election of the Duke of Aosta to the Spanish throne.

The largest criminal list ever known before a court is being tried by the criminal court at Louisville Ky. No less than sixteen cases of murder have been returned by the grand jury and several yet to be investigated.

John McClellan, a Johnstown tinner, while engaged in clipping tin from the bottom of a wash boiler, was struck in the eye by a piece which flew up suddenly, and so badly injured that it is feared he will lose his sight.

The Conestoga Cork Factory, owned by Cadwell & Co., was burned at ten o'clock on the 19th inst. During the progress of the flames a wall fell burying five firemen, two of whom it is feared will die. The loss is estimated at \$30,000. It is insured for \$15,000. The fire is supposed to have been kindled by an incendiary.

A poor but honest youth at Wilmington, N. C., was recently encouraged to be good and virtuous by a reward of ten cents for finding and restoring to the owner a pocket-book containing \$435. The individual whose liberality was thus strikingly tested is said to be exceedingly wealthy.

Woman's ability to protect herself was again demonstrated in Kansas a short time since. A woman at Baxter Springs in that State, whose house had been attacked by a crowd of drunken Texan drovers, suddenly appeared in the hallway with a revolver, and kept up a steady fire on the ruffians until the arrival of the police.

At New York on the 19th inst., James Kelly, a wealthy and respectably connected man, was held in \$2000 on a charge of burglariously entering the residence of William L. Peck, adjoining Kelly's, in July last, while the family were absent, and stealing clothing valued at \$1000. Part of the stolen property was found in a bedroom in Kelly's house.

Mrs. Plank, of Killingly, Conn., claims to be the oldest woman in the United States who retains complete possession of her faculties. She was born on the 20th of October, 1755, and has a vivid recollection of very important events in the history of the Republic. Her father, John Graves, was a soldier of the Revolution. Mrs. Plank is probably the only centenarian in the country who does not claim the honor of having been on terms of intimacy with George Washington.

The Peck-Yorkson divorce case, now on trial in New York, is a nice family story to come before the public. Peck wanted money and his mother agreed to let him have \$30,000 if he would get rid of his wife. Then his wife, in order that he might get the \$30,000 agreed to make no plea against a divorce, provided he would marry her again. So as it stood it was a nice conspiracy to cheat the elderly Mrs. Peck, who deserved to be cheated. But Peck being free, did not feel like resuming his chains again, and hence the litigation.

Annie Miller, aged 14 years, in the employ of Henry Geoble, No. 1528 Mascher street Philadelphia, was so badly burned last Wednesday morning that her life is despaired of. She had lighted the fire in the stove, and to make it burn more rapidly, poured oil on it from a can. The flames communicated with the contents of the can, and, as a matter of course, there was an explosion. The scattering oil, in addition to burning the girl, set fire to the house. Annie was removed to St. Mary's Hospital.

1870 Nov'r. 1870

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