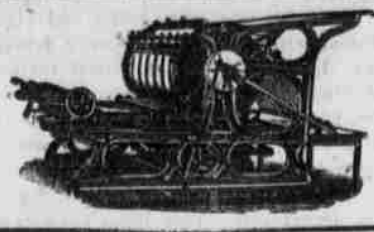


The Bloomfield Times.

NEW, BLOOMFIELD, PENN'A. Tuesday, May 14, 1872.



THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE at a meeting held in New York on Monday the 6th, decided to issue a call for the convention to nominate a candidate for President and Vice President.

THE CLERKS in the Surveyor General's Office had a jollification on last Monday evening, over the change in the head of that department. Gen. Campbell "was canned" the name being a very handsome one, purchased and presented by the clerk.

THE HON. T. M. SPEER has introduced a bill, in the House, providing that hereafter no person unsuccessfully contesting the seat of a member or senator shall receive any allowance whatever as costs, counsel fees, or expenses.

THE LABOR REFORM State Convention met at Williamsport on Tuesday last, and placed in nomination the following ticket: For Governor Col. Wm. P. Schell, of Bedford Co., formerly State Senator, and speaker of the House in 1853.

FOR JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT, Judge James Thompson.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL, E. Billingsfelt of Lancaster.

FOR CONGRESSMEN at large J. H. Hopkins of Allegheny, and G. W. Clark of Northumberland.

QUITE a number of Democratic papers have come out in support of Greeley for President. The St. Louis Republican (Democratic) says that for the Democratic National Convention to nominate a Democrat against him, will be to commit "an enormous folly," and to "displease the great mass of Democratic voters."

AT A MEETING of the Democratic editors of Illinois held on the 9th inst., the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That should the Democratic National Convention endorse the nominations of the Cincinnati convention we pledge ourselves to support the ticket.

IT WAS DECIDED to call a meeting of editors at Peoria, Ill., June 12th, and the meeting adjourned.

A Correction.

In consequence of a mistake made while correcting the proof last week the 5th and 6th resolutions of the Cincinnati platform were made ridiculous; we accordingly re-publish them in their proper corrected as follows:

Fifth. The Civil Service of the government has become a mere instrument of partisan tyranny and personal ambition, and an object of selfish greed. It is a scandal and reproach upon free institutions, and breeds a demoralization dangerous to the perpetuity of Republican government.

We, therefore, regard a thorough reform of the Civil Service as one of the most pressing necessities of the hour; that honesty, capacity and fidelity constitute the only valid claims to public employment; that the officers of the government cease to be a matter of arbitrary favoritism and patronage, and that public station becomes again a post of honor. To this end it is imperatively required that no President shall be a candidate for re-election.

Sixth. We demand a system of Federal taxation which shall not unnecessarily interfere with the industry of the people, and which shall provide the means necessary to pay the expenses of the government economically administered, pensions, the interest of the public debt, and moderate reduction annually of the principal thereof, and recognizing that there are in our midst honest but irreconcilable differences of opinion with regard to the respective system of protection and free trade; we remit the discussion of the subject to the people in their Congressional districts and to the decision of Congress thereon, wholly free of Executive interference and dictation.

Notice.

Owing to the overcrowded condition of the wards of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, at Harrisburg, no patient can be received after May 15th, 1872, from any quarter, unless a letter is first written to the superintendent and physician to ascertain whether accommodation can be provided for each person.

John Curwen, M. D., Superintendent and Physician. May 10, 1872.

Papers throughout the State will please copy.

N. F. English, of Hartland, Vermont, has patented a wax-wire thread, having, as its name indicates, a delicate wire in its centre, to be used in sewing boots and shoes and other manufactures of leather canvas, &c.

The Law as applied to Disturbances in Church.

Below we give our readers the charge of Judge Junkin in the case of Com. vs. David Hench and others. It is a case of interest to every church goer in the land. After referring to the Act of Assembly on the subject of creating a disturbance in church &c., the Judge said:

First, then, it must be wilful, that is, not accidental, or unintended, for we can readily conceive, that there may be many disturbances of such meetings by an individual, not only unavoidable on his part—but arising from mere indiscretion. His physical appearance may be such as to attract general attention, and withdraw the thoughts of worshippers from the purposes they may have met to consider. It is a fact recorded of many comedians, that their mere look, and expression of features alone, were sufficient to provoke an audience to mirthfulness. The celebrated Thomas Corwin, so renowned as a Statesman and politician, and with whom I was intimate for several years, possessed such peculiar facial powers, that his mere look arrested general attention, and when disposed, he had but to stand silently before his audience, and all were compelled to laugh. So that were men possessing such powers, to forget themselves for a moment, and give play to their peculiarities of expression, any congregation would involuntarily burst out into laughter. So that the Act of Assembly has been guarded by requiring, that before a conviction takes place, it must appear that the act done, was done for no other purpose than of disturbing the meeting.

Then the Act says it must not only be wilful—but maliciously done—that is whatever is done must be done with a bad intention. A man might in a sudden passion strike another in such meeting and thereby disturb the congregation, yet while such persons would have in fact disturbed the meeting, still this disturbance would not be by design, but would flow from a motive different, as revenge upon the individual thus struck and in such case, the disturbance would be neither wilful nor malicious, for the purpose of the individual in this case could be readily ascertained.

But where no motive is discernible, and a man does an act and certain consequences flow from such act, it is a rule of law that the natural and probable consequences of every act, deliberately done, are presumed to have been intended by the actor.

So that when a man does an act from which certain consequences flow, the law concludes that just such consequences were intended.

Now apply these principles to the case in hand. These defendants voluntarily went to a religious meeting, a place they had a right to be, just so long as they behaved themselves. Good behavior in a church meeting, is a strict compliance with the rules and regulations laid down by the authorities of the congregation worshipping there; and the instant those rules and regulations are knowingly and wilfully and maliciously transgressed, that would be disturbing such meeting to a degree at least. Now what does disturb a meeting? What does the congregation meet for? Evidently to worship the Supreme Being. Then whatever interrupts, hinders, and withdraws the minds of the people from the object of their meeting, is a disturbance. Suppose a man or boy wilfully makes grimaces or faces, can there be any doubt, that such acts would amount to disturbances. Or suppose he purposely doth himself so as to arrest attention, and presents himself in church, can you doubt as to this being a disturbance of a meeting; and could any reasonable man doubt of the wilful intent and malice of the persons so doing?

Or suppose a man shuffles his feet, assumes postures smiles, laughs, provokes others to mirthfulness, and the attention of the congregation is thereby arrested and diverted from the business on hand, would not this be disturbing the meeting? For unless congregations can be protected against this quiet kind of fun, which young men think smart, and so secretly carried on, what watches have to be appointed to detect it, the legislature had better repeal these laws. It is not necessary, in order to commit the offence of disturbing a meeting, that the act or acts done, should assume the force and violence of a riot, assault, battery, wounding or any other crime attended with a breach of the peace. If such were the law then good people desirous of discharging their religious duties would have to meet under lock and key, or between a file of soldiers to avoid interruption. The rule then is plain and simple, that laughing purposely, wilfully and sportingly, at the persons having charge of such meeting or worshipping there, would be a disturbance of the meeting—is in fact disturbing or interrupting a meeting. Such conduct as young or old, whilst it may seem jolly fun, to the actors, is galling, vexatious and disturbing to all such as go there for good. Then do you find in the evidence of this prosecution that which satisfies you beyond a reasonable doubt that these defendants or any of them, wilfully laughed, and made sport of the person, or persons who at the time were conducting this prayer meeting? If you do, then convict such, one, or more of them, according to the proof. If, however, you find it doubtful as a matter of fact, whether the defendants are guilty, as charged in the bill of indictment, then we instruct you, that such doubt is the property of the defendants and entitles them to an acquittal at your hands.

In determining the guilt or innocence of these defendants you should give great weight to the uncontradicted evidence of the good character of these young men, and unless the proof is clear to your minds, and beyond a reasonable doubt that in the particular case in hand they did commit the offence with which they stand charged, it is your duty to acquit.

But you will consider well and candidly, the evidence adduced upon the one side, and the other, bearing in mind, that there is great difficulty in presenting by words in the month of witnesses before a court and jury, a scene occurring at a religious meeting, carried on cunningly, slyly watchfully taking advantage of the position of the congregation at the time, acting when backs are turned, and eyes diverted, and that too by persons bent on mischief, but with sufficient skill and genius to straighten faces, quiet feet, and assume the garb of "saints when most they play the devil." That under such circumstances, that which in

court seems tame and harmless, innocent and sportive may have been in its realization, in a prayer-meeting, exceedingly annoying, disturbing and vexatious. With these instructions we submit the facts to your determination.

The defendants were found guilty, and at the request of the prosecutors, the sentence was made as light as the law would permit.

Remarkable Land Sink.

The Elkton Why states this singular circumstance:

A strange freak of nature has recently occurred in Elk Neck, near White Banks, by the sinking of about two acres of land on the mountain side. The scene of this phenomenon is about four hundred yards from the river bank. An area of the size above mentioned, covered with large forest trees, has sunk to the depths of the tree-tops. The sink has left walls almost as vertical as the sides of a house. Mr. Alexander Wilson, who examined the ground, states that no traces of water disturbances at the bottom are perceptible, and the strange occurrence is altogether unaccountable.

A Natural Curiosity.

In Carter county, Ky., there is a great curiosity called the "Natural Bridge." It spans a stream called Little Carry, which falls into Little Sandy river. This bridge is 219 feet in the span, 196 feet high 12 feet wide and 5 feet thick in the middle and 30 feet at the ends, being arched underneath and level on the top. One hundred feet below it there is a cascade with a fall of seventy-five feet, and two miles distant there is another cascade with a fall of two hundred feet. From the bottom of the ravine a spruce pine has grown up to the height of four feet above the bridge, making its entire height two hundred feet. The sides of the ravine are so rugged that, were it not for a natural stairway, a person on the top of the bridge wishing to get under it would have to walk two miles.

Miscellaneous News Items.

A lady in Iowa recently drew \$30,000 on the death of her second husband, having drawn \$20,000 from the same company when her first husband died.

A Russian lady named Freehoff, sues the Hudson River Railroad Company for \$100,000 for the alleged loss of a trunk containing a valuable heir-loom.

Patterson's saw-mill and four tenement houses were burned on the 7th inst. The occupants barely escaped with their lives. Loss, \$15,000; insured for \$6,000.

Some fiend, in human form, poisoned two milk cows, last week, for Henry W. Miller, Esq., of Huntingdon, one of which has since died.

On the night of the 6th, W. J. Bell, a farmer living six miles from Barlett, Tenn., was waylaid and murdered. No clue to the murderer.

A murder was committed in the Eastern Penitentiary on Tuesday last, by a convict who deliberately beat out the brains of his cell mate, and coolly told the keeper that he had committed the deed. Of course he is insane, all murderers are these days.

In an affray in Lunenburg county, Va., between a farmer named Davis, and a colored man named Kete, the latter was shot dead. Davis resisted a party of white citizens who went to arrest him, and was severely wounded before he was secured.

A little boy, who surprised his mates by the number of useful and helpful things which he did, explained by saying: "There is almost always time for what we are bent on; you see I pick up the minutes." The suggestion is a good one for old people.

On Saturday morning a week Mr. Riddles Patterson, a workman at the National Tannery, at Lewistown, Pa., after complaining of feeling unwell, suddenly fell to the floor dead. He had been for many years a citizen of that place, and his age was about 70 years.

A curious accident recently occurred at an English race. Two gentlemen were galloping in opposite directions, when the heads of their horses struck full tilt together, and both horses were killed, the riders being thrown into the air. One of them had his front teeth knocked out.

A singular accident occurred near Madison a few days ago. A young man named Will Smith shot a loon from the railroad bridge, hitting it very hard. The bird rose about a hundred feet in the air, and then fell straight, plump on the face of a babe, which a lady was carrying in her arms, greatly to the astonishment of the woman and child. The latter was insensible for some time, but finally recovered and does not appear to have been seriously injured. The loon weighed nine pounds.

Two weeks since we noticed the statement of a Rhode Island paper, that James O'Neil, who has been confined in a penitentiary in that State for eight years, for a crime which it is now proven he never committed, has been released. We now learn that the General Assembly of Rhode Island, in consideration of the labor performed by said O'Neil during those eight years, has voted \$200 to him, as compensation. Two hundred dollars to "compensate" a man for false imprisonment and hard labor! Whew! what a price! Twenty-five dollars a year for labor in the penitentiary.

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